

Why Martin Bormann didn't die in Berlin in 1945...

Written by Andy Owen



Martin Bormann was the smartest man in the Third Reich - by a considerable distance.

He was immensely powerful, whilst remaining very much in the background. He was rarely photographed.

He gained his power within the Third Reich, by using his position as Adolf Hitler's private secretary. He assumed the role in 1935, but was only officially appointed in 1943, at which time he had de facto control over all domestic matters

He created an extensive bureaucracy, which included the control and flow of information to and from Hitler, together with access to him.

He was accepted into Hitler's inner circle, and accompanied him everywhere, providing briefings and summaries of events and requests.

He also was in total control of all aspects of Nazi wealth, which was vast and growing. This included cash, gold, stocks, bonds, shares and priceless works of art.

As part of this, he controlled all the Swiss bank accounts and other key bank information around the world.

Yes, Bormann was very talented - and an extremely clever man. And, very powerful too, because of his personal knowledge of - and access to - unimaginable wealth.

He was always one step ahead. *Always.*



That's why, in my humble opinion, he would have had an escape plan for the end of the war. That was Marin Bormann's way.

History tells us he walked out of the Fuhrerbunker into the sheer horror and devastation of Berlin's streets, with Russian troops a few hundred yards away.

The story goes that he was in 'Breakout Group 3' who left the bunker on May 1st 1945. The group also included Hans Baur, Hitler's personal pilot, Ludwig Stumpfegger, Hitler's surgeon - and Artur Axmann, Head of Hitler Youth.

Something is very wrong with that, in my book. Bormann was too smart. He was always master of his own destiny.

Why would he change so significantly at this key moment in his life and walk out into that hellhole, knowing almost certainly that he would die?

There are many theories of how he did survive. Some believable and some less so.

But, I am going to tell you about one particular event, that has taken my particular fancy since 1996. It is simply astonishing.

But, incredible as it is, I believe it has more credence than anything I have seen, read or heard on the Bormann subject, before or since.

It was called Operation James Bond. Yes, you read that right. OPJB.

It was a successful covert commando operation that rescued Martin Bormann from Berlin on May 1st 1945 and brought him back to the UK.

The operation was personally approved by **Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, Lord Louis Mountbatten and King George VI.**

And guess who headed that commando operation? None other than Commander Ian Fleming, who was, at that time, working for Desmond Morton in British Naval Intelligence at the very highest level.

Desmond Morton was to Churchill what Bormann was to Hitler. And, as it became clear in late 1944 that the war was turning in the allies favour, the two private secretaries were in constant touch.

Bormann was a necessary account signatory who could identify and release billions in Swiss bank accounts and safety deposit boxes, plus all sorts of stolen treasures.

He was the one the Allies wanted. And he was the one who could offer unimagined riches to whoever could get him out of Germany.

Bormann agreed with Morton that his death needed to be faked, to kill off post-war questions about what had happened to the Nazis' looted billions.

So, plans were discussed and finally agreed in the early months of 1945.

As the Third Reich crumbled, Morton and Bormann fleshed out a rescue operation and Operation James Bond was put in place.

Fleming's second-in-command on OPJB, was a certain John-Ainsworth Davis, who Fleming later admitted was the man who he based the James Bond character on.

In fact, it was Ainsworth-Davis that alerted the world to this amazing operation in 1996, when he published the sensational book called 'OPJB' under the name of Christopher Creighton.

The book has proof that he was instructed by both Churchill and Lord Louis Mountbatten to reveal the truth of all the ops in which he was a participant - including OPJB - 25 years after the death of both.

Below is Churchill's Letter to Ainsworth Davis, followed by Ian Fleming's letter to him in 1963, which makes reference to the operation (as well as James Bond).



MOST SECRET

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall,

October, 1954

Dear John,

Lord Ismay has told me of your wishes but I am afraid that it is still impossible for anything to be done and you must not now speak of these matters. When I die, then, if your conscience so allows, tell your story for you have given and suffered much for England. If you do speak, then speak nothing but the truth, omitting of course those matters which you know can never be revealed. Do not seek to protect me for I am content to be judged by history. But do, I pray you, seek to protect those who did their duty honestly in the hope of a future world with freedom and justice for all.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Churchill

John Ainsworth-Davis,

16 Victoria Square
London S.W.1.

14th October, 1963.

To: Commander "James Bond" R.N.

He has always been my very dear friend and wartime comrade-in-arms, John Ainsworth-Davis.

The enclosed contribution comes with my grateful thanks and vivid remembrance of our operation "James Bond", in which "Piglet", Martin Bormann, was clandestinely transported from wartime Berlin to England via the German waterways in April/May 1945. This eventually resulted in the recovery of some 90% of the Nazi assets plundered from occupied Europe, which had been deposited in neutral countries, mainly Switzerland.

Without any doubt, you and our operation were my secret inspiration for all that followed; a secret that I have never revealed to anyone else. It gives me great pleasure to tell you now.

I have missed you, and your bloody piano.

As ever,

Your most secret friend,

Sam Fleming

If you do go ahead with a book on the subject, you may use this note any way you will. Publish it, if it helps you.

There was another letter from Lord Mountbatten dated 16 December 1976, on notepaper from Mountbatten's home, Broadlands, Romsey, Hampshire. It read:

'Dear John

As you know, I am most concerned that the vast amount of cover established to guard against any possible verification of the very gallant part you played in secret intelligence operations both during and after the war, may well result in your never receiving proper recognition.

However, since you already have Churchill's permission, and indeed mine, to 'tell your story', subject to security clearance, I am going to let you have memoranda setting out in precis your main operations and your part in them.

If you decide to publish your story, then you also have my consent to publish this letter and any relevant memoranda to confirm the truth of your incredible career.

As always, my very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Mountbatten of Burma'

Accompanying this letter was a memorandum from Mountbatten, dated 9th January 1977.

In the memo, 'Operation James Bond' is mentioned and confirmed in precise detail.

It recognises the fact that the 'Morton Section had established that the vast Nazi wealth plundered from occupied Europe had been transferred to the security of the Swiss Banking System.'

It then repeated the information that Ainsworth-Davis's 'private relationship' with Ribbentrop, had created an agreement for Bormann to hand over all Nazi external assets 'in exchange for Bormann's safe conduct to England and absolute protection for his future life here in comfort and security as a British immigrant.'

The memorandum also listed the personnel engaged in Operation James Bond who carried out *'an incursion into the Berlin lakes, unobserved by the enemy'*.

It also stated, 'On May 2nd, you escorted Martin Bormann out of the bunker and made your escape downstream on the Rivers Spree and Havel, arriving on the West Bank of the Elbe to the safety of Allied forces there on May 11th'

'I wish to record once more, my great admiration for Commander Fleming and yourself, and the men and women of your command for the great skill, courage and enterprise which you exhibited during this extremely hazardous and difficult operation... '

The memorandum is signed personally by Mountbatten.

I personally feel the evidence that this operation really happened, is extremely strong.

And, what an operation it was...

Fleming and Ainsworth-Davis decided that the most effective way of bringing Bormann out of Berlin, was by using the many waterways that run through and around the German capital.

A large model of these waterways was built with every island, stream and bridge identified. Everyone taking part were told to study, digest and memorize every element.

What's more, they had to become adept at the assembling, disassembling and manoeuvring of the kayaks, which were to be their main means of transportation.

After their parachute drop, the command group stayed in one of their safe houses, until they were carried by kayaks to the Chancellery where, after being challenged a number of times, the safeguards arranged by Ribbentrop enabled them to reach a cell-like room in one of the air-raid shelters.

After waiting three days in their confined quarters, Bormann arrived on 30th April. He told them that Hitler was dead and that the breakout would take place the next evening.

The group left the bunker close to midnight on May 1st and headed carefully for the rendezvous. It was extremely dangerous, as the Russians were very close.

When they arrived, they found out that four of the group had been killed in a shooting exchange with the Russians. This had no serious effect on the operation, as they had expected casualties and built them into the contingency plans.

This meant the party was down to 12, including Bormann. They left in six kayaks and proceeded down the Spree and down the Havel towards the Elbe, to deliver their valuable prize.

There were many very tricky moments. But, they made it without further loss of life.

The objective of Operation James Bond had been carried out and Hitler's Deputy, Martin Bormann, was handed over to a commando escort, accompanied by Desmond Morton in civilian clothes, at a designated rendezvous on the banks of the Elbe.

The book, describes all aspects of this extraordinary operation in incredible detail. And, of course, what happened to Bormann, from the time he arrived in the UK - and afterwards - which is a fascinating story in itself.

Whether you believe this story or not, I would strongly recommend you get the book and read it. It's a rollickingly good read.