

MIT LUFTPOST
PAR AVION
BY AIR MAIL

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Dear Sir Mrs.
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BAZNA, ELYESA - Nazi spy known as CICERO. He worked as a valet at England's embassy in Turkey where he furnished innumerable important documents to the German. Envelope signed at back and addressed by hand to world renowned U.S. nazi items collector STEPHEN W. BUMBALL (with whom I enjoyed correspondance.) LEE Extraordinarily Rare ~~_____~~

ELYESA BAZNA. Nazi spy in Turkey, known as "Cicero." An Albanian, Bazna started life as a juvenile delinquent, then worked as a fireman, locksmith, chauffeur, and finally as a valet. Fired by a German official who caught him reading his mail, Bazna eventually got a post as valet to the British ambassador in Turkey, an envoy with the preposterous name of Sir Hughe Knatchbull-Hugessen. Bazna had spent his life in taking advantage of every opportunity that came his way. A small man in his early forties, he had no intention of turning spy, but when the ambassador left the keys to his black dispatch box on his bedside table while taking a bath, Bazna could not resist the opportunity. He quickly made a wax impression of the keys.

A friend made the keys for Bazna. With access to the ambassador's black box and safe, the valet embarked on the greatest espionage feat of World War II—the mass photographing of top-secret British documents. He bought a camera with a 100-watt light bulb and a mount with four rods. Then he established a contact with the Nazi embassy in Turkey. The Nazis gave him the code name of "Cicero" and supplied him with film. For the first group of photos the Nazis cheerfully paid Cicero's price of 20,000 pounds. They laid out this sum cheerfully because they paid it in counterfeit money that had been run off in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.



**Elyesa Bazna (Cicero),
the master spy.**

After the first deal, Bazna hid the money under the carpet in his room, spreading it out so that it wouldn't make lumps. As he took more photos, he added more counterfeit bills to his store.

In Germany the documents photographed by Cicero were extremely useful. Hitler examined them personally. From July 1943 until March 1944 Cicero continued to supply the Nazis with vital information.

By early 1944 the British realized there was a leak in their security. They installed an alarm system in the embassy. Bazna had to remove a fuse in order to get to the ambassador's safe. Finally he suspected that he was being tailed. Cicero smashed his Leica and its mounting and threw the pieces into a river.