

U.S. Security Measures Rapp



PETER TOMPKINS
... spy game cools

By Richard Corrigan
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A spy who weathered the heat of World War II says the intelligence game has turned cold since it was captured by computers.

"The Resistance worked so wonderfully," said agent-turned-author Peter Tompkins in an interview in his basement studio here, "because we worked on faith. One guy trusted another.

"You see the difference between that," he said, "and a man who has just been 'passed by Security?'"

A good man will "face hell-fire rather than break a trust," said Tompkins, a former OSS agent who ran a wartime intelligence network in Rome. "But only half-trust him and you've got nothing. You've got a broken piece."

Tompkins called present U.S. security methods barbarous, and said the intelligence field is being taken over by "petty bureaucrats trying to run an organization with computers."

A lean, sharp-eyed and bearded man with thinning hair who became a war corre-

spondent at 20, Tompkins also had some harsh words for new-style agents.

"A nice Yale man," said the fellow who quit Harvard, "who's worked a bit on Madison Avenue—no matter how many language courses he's taken, he's going to be a fish out of water in a foreign country.

"Unless you've lived in a country and been an honest friend to the people who live there," he said, "how are you ever going to understand what motivates them?"

In his new book, "The Mu-

ed by Ex-Agent

THE WASHINGTON POST Thursday, April 22, 1965 E11

der of Admiral Darlan" (Simon and Schuster, 272 pp., \$5.95), Tompkins writes that the United States helped bring about its current difficulties with French President de Gaulle by supporting the wrong man in a devious situation. The Admiral was assassinated in Algiers in 1942 by anti-Vichy forces after the Americans had supported him despite his Axis leanings.

"It's almost unbelievable that we should get involved in conspiracies like this and not learn anything from them," he said.

As for the current popularity of spy stories, he said, "I think people are beginning to catch on to the fact that most history is made behind the scenes... countries are taken over, governments are toppled... the secret conspiracies on a high level are fantastic. But it takes years to put them together."

Tompkins doesn't mind spending his time that way. "I write books because it costs me \$1.29 for paper," he said, "and I'm completely free." And he doesn't miss the old

days too much, he said in his home at 318 A st. ne., where he lives with his family. He's only half a block from the Li-

brary of Congress, he said, and "to me, there's nothing more exciting in the world than the Library of Congress."