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Kennedy's 'Mata Hari Lover'

New York

John F. Kennedy was almost kicked out of the Navy in 1941 because he was having a love affair with a Danish journalist who was under FBI surveillance as a suspected Nazi spy, the National Enquirer reported yesterday.

The torrid affair eventually resulted in Kennedy being shipped out for sea duty in the South Pacific, according to the Enquirer story condensed from a forthcoming book, "The Search for JFK," by Joan and Clay Blair Jr.

At the time, Kennedy was a young officer in naval intelligence in Washington and the Danish journalist, Inga Arvad, a columnist for the Washington Times-Herald.

Miss Arvad, was a former "Miss Europe" beauty queen turned correspondent for a Swedish newspaper who had managed three exclusive interviews with



INGA ARVAD
In a 1947 photo

Hitler and won his praise for her "Nordic beauty," according to the story.

Miss Arvad also had been the mistress of Axel Wenner-Gren, a Swedish industrialist on the U.S. State Department blacklist.

The article quotes Kennedy's superior officer at the time, Captain Samuel A.D. Hunter, as saying the Navy viewed Miss Arvad as a sort of Mata Hari.

"Their concern was that this woman was using Kennedy to find out all she could about what was going on in the Navy Department and the office of naval intelligence," Hunter is quoted as saying. "The Navy was convinced that Wenner-Gren's yacht was being used for refueling German U-boats.

"Captain Howard Kingman (then assistant director of the office of naval intelligence) called me in and said, 'we have a very serious problem on our hands and we have to get rid of Kennedy as soon as possible,'" Hunter said.

"He wanted to get Kennedy out of the Navy quickly.

"It seemed to me the best thing to do was transfer him to a seagoing unit."

Miss Arvad later became a Hollywood gossip columnist and from 1947 until her death from cancer in 1973 was the wife of cowboy movie star Tim McCoy.

"The affair got pretty heavy — awful damned heavy," the story quotes her son, Ronald McCoy, as saying.

"She wanted to marry him, but there were practical matters that just wouldn't work out. One of them was the old man — Joseph Kennedy. She would have married Jack if it hadn't been for the old man. He disapproved. She



JOHN F. KENNEDY
During World War II

just didn't want to put up with that."

In the meantime, the FBI had installed a bug in Miss Arvad's apartment and was monitoring her phone, the story said. When Kennedy eventually found it out, the angry couple went to see J. Edgar Hoover.

"Mother said Jack was furious, McCoy is quoted as saying. "Hoover told them his investigation showed that she was not a Nazi spy and had never been employed by the Nazis. So Jack asked Hoover if he would give them a letter saying she wasn't a Nazi spy. Hoover said he couldn't," McCoy said.

United Press