<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>page 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>303 Squadron: The Legendary Battle of Britain Fighter Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Arkady Fiedler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>page 4  NEW!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Color of Courage—A Boy at War: The World War II Diary of Julian Kulski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Julian Kulski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>page 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt: War Through a Woman’s Eyes, 1939-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Rulka Langer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>page 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps and Shadows: A Novel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>page 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Auschwitz Volunteer: Beyond Bravery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Captain Witold Pilecki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>page 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siege: World War II Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filmed and narrated by Julien Bryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVD Video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>page 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ice Road: An Epic Journey from the Stalinist Labor Camps to Freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Stefan Waydenfeld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>page 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquila Polonica Publishing About Us</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kulski, the son of the Deputy Mayor of Warsaw, is a 10-year-old Boy Scout when the Germans invade Poland in September 1939. He soon begins waging his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At 13, he accompanies his commander on a secret mission into the Warsaw Ghetto to liaise with leaders of the Jewish resistance.

Arrested by the Gestapo at age 14, Kulski is incarcerated in the notorious Pawiak Prison, beaten, interrogated at Gestapo headquarters, and sentenced to Auschwitz. After being rescued, he joins the Ninth Commando Company of the Underground Army, and at age 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising. Taken prisoner by the Germans, 16-year-old Kulski ends the war in a POW camp, finally risking a dash for freedom onto an American truck instead of waiting for “liberation” by the Soviets.

“If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it.”

—Julian Kulski, age 10

So writes Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. As the war unfolds through his eyes, we are privileged to meet a rare soul of indomitable will, courage and compassion.

THE COLOR OF COURAGE
A Boy at War: The World War II Diary of Julian Kulski
By Julian Kulski

Foreword by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lech Walesa
Introduction by the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Rabbi Michael Schudrich

Kulski, the son of the Deputy Mayor of Warsaw, is a 10-year-old Boy Scout when the Germans invade Poland in September 1939. He soon begins waging his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At 13, he accompanies his commander on a secret mission into the Warsaw Ghetto to liaise with leaders of the Jewish resistance.

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“Unique and moving insights...a superb lesson of humanity.”
— Lech Wałęsa, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

“Compelling, readable, and very moving!”
— Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Center for Strategic & International Studies

“Poignant, haunting, gritty, and bursting with realism...brings a deeply moving and unique perspective to World War II.”
— Foreword Reviews

“Showcases the gallantry of one man...provides clear insights into spiritual and moral strength of an entire nation.”
— General John R. Allen, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)
Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL

AUTHOR BIO

Julian E. Kulski, born in 1929 in Warsaw, Poland, is descended from a 19th century Chief Rabbi of Warsaw, Dov Beer Meisels, and an 18th century King of Poland, Stanisław Leszczyński.

After the war, Kulski studied architecture in England and the U.S., receiving his B.Arch. in 1953 and M.Arch. in 1955 from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in Urban Planning in 1966 from the Warsaw Institute of Technology. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA) (an honor bestowed upon less than 2 percent of American architects) and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Now semi-retired from a distinguished architectural career, Kulski led the urban and regional planning programs at Notre Dame University and at George Washington University, and later established the first city planning program at Howard University. For twenty years he served as a consultant to the World Bank, traveling around the world designing buildings in twenty-nine developing countries.

Kulski has authored several books, published more than a hundred articles in professional journals, and produced an award-winning documentary about World War II, titled Legacy of the White Eagle. Kulski is a frequent speaker to audiences ranging in age from junior high school to adult.

A member of the Board of Trustees of the Kościuszko Foundation, Kulski is the recipient of numerous decorations awarded by the Polish government, including the highly prestigious Cross of Valor, the Commander’s Cross with Star of the Order of Merit, Silver Cross of Merit with Swords, the Home Army Cross, the Polish Army Medal (four times), and the Cross of the Warsaw Uprising.

Kulski and his wife live in Washington, D.C.

“An inspiring read.”
— Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland

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— Rita Cosby, Emmy-Winning TV Host and Bestselling Author of Quiet Hero

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— Publishers Weekly

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DIGITAL EXTRAS

“Julian Kulski’s wartime diary stayed with me long after I had finished reading it—I knew we had something special here, which deserved special treatment,” says Aquila Polonica Publishing president Terry Tegnazian.

“First, we gave the book a fresh, contemporary look with lots of white space, use of pull quotes that draw the reader through the text, and organic placement within the text of more than 150 photos, maps and illustrations—but we also did something revolutionary.

“We spent several months researching and licensing original historical film and audio material, then worked with film and sound editors in Los Angeles to create 11 short videos that we call ‘Digital Extras.’ They’re stored online, but incorporated into the print book by an innovative use of thumbnail images and QR codes that can be scanned by your smartphone to go directly to the video. We also include URLs for those who prefer to use their browser.

“These historical multimedia elements pack a powerful visual punch that brings an exciting new dimension to the story.”

“I can’t say I really want to die, but I can see now that there are times when one has to be prepared to do just that.”
— Julian Kulski, age 12

“One of the most extraordinary war memoirs we have ever seen.”
— Rafael Goldkorn, Editora Valentina

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The summer of 1940 and the Battle of Britain—the darkest days of World War II. France, Poland, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Norway had all been crushed by the powerful Nazi German war machine. Great Britain stood alone, fighting for its life.

303 Squadron is the thrilling story of the celebrated squadron of Polish fighter pilots whose superb skill in the air helped save England during its most desperate hours. They were the highest-scoring Allied fighter squadron in the Battle of Britain, downing three times the average RAF score while incurring only one-third the average casualties. Dashing and gallant 303 Squadron was lionized by the British press, congratulated by the King, and adored by the British public.

With an immediacy that vividly brings to life those harrowing days, Fiedler paints the bravery, the poignancy, the breathtaking gambles with death risked daily by this exceptional group of young men far from home, who fought to preserve freedom for all.

“Had it not been for the magnificent material contributed by the Polish squadrons and their unsurpassed gallantry, I hesitate to say that the outcome of the battle would have been the same.” — British Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding

Category: Nonfiction • History • World War II

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September 19, 1940. With calm deliberation, Polish Army officer Witold Pilecki walked into a Nazi German street round-up in Warsaw…and became Auschwitz Prisoner No. 4859.

Pilecki had volunteered for a potentially suicidal secret undercover mission for the Polish Underground: smuggle out intelligence about this new German concentration camp, and build a resistance organization among the prisoners.

Barely surviving nearly three years of starvation, disease and brutality, Pilecki accomplished his mission before escaping in April 1943.

His clandestine intelligence reports from Auschwitz, received by the Allies beginning in 1941, were among the earliest, including the full horrors of daily life inside the camp, the killing of Soviet soldiers taken as prisoners of war, the building of gas chambers and the mass extermination of Jews brought to the camp.

Pilecki’s most comprehensive eyewitness report on Auschwitz, suppressed by the postwar communist regime in Poland for nearly fifty years, is being published here in English for the first time.

The secret undercover mission at Auschwitz

“A historical document of the greatest importance.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES, Editors’ Choice

“Extraordinary memoir. Extraordinarily powerful prose. Deserves to be read alongside the accounts of Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel.”

— THE NEW REPUBLIC

“A fascinating first-hand account of virtually all aspects of life inside the camp.”

— THE ATLANTIC

“A work of supreme importance.”

— TABLET MAGAZINE

“The Auschwitz Volunteer
Beyond Bravery
By Captain Witold Pilecki

Transcribed from Pilecki’s original 1945 Auschwitz Report, translated by Jarek Garliński
Introduction by Professor Norman Davies, FBA
Foreword by the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Rabbi Michael Schudrich

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“A shining example of heroism that transcends religion, race and time. Essential reading for anyone interested in the Holocaust.”
— Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland

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“A work of supreme importance.”
— TABLET MAGAZINE

“Earthshaking. A book which I hope will be widely read.”
— Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Center for Strategic & International Studies

“This remarkable book may shock but will surely enlighten. A portion of the Auschwitz story that needed to be told.”
— Professor Gerhard L. Weinberg, author of A World at Arms: A History of World War II

ONE MAN DID THE UNTHINKABLE

CAPTAIN WITOLD PILECKI (1901–1948), a cavalry officer in the Polish Army, was one of the founders of a resistance organization in German-occupied Poland during World War II that quickly evolved into the Polish Underground Army.

Pilecki is the only man known to have volunteered to get himself arrested and sent to Auschwitz as a prisoner. After escaping from Auschwitz in April 1943, he continued his work in the Polish Underground Army High Command. He fought in the Warsaw Uprising (August–October 1944), was taken prisoner by the Germans and ended the war in a German POW camp.

In late 1945, Pilecki, who was married and the father of two children, volunteered to return undercover to Poland, where conditions were chaotic at war’s end as the communists were asserting control. His mission: to liaise with anti-communist resistance organizations and report back on conditions within the country.

He was captured by the postwar communist regime in Poland, tortured and executed in 1948 as a traitor and a “Western spy.” Pilecki’s name was erased from Polish history until the collapse of communism in 1989.

Pilecki was fully exonerated posthumously in the 1990s. Today he is regarded as one of Poland’s heroes.

“The game which I was now playing in Auschwitz was dangerous. This sentence does not really convey the reality; in fact, I had gone far beyond what people in the real world would consider dangerous...”
— Captain Witold Pilecki
In a forgotten chapter of history, 1.5 million Polish civilians—arbitrarily arrested by Stalin as “enemies of the people” following the Soviet invasion of Poland at the beginning of World War II—were deported to forced labor camps throughout the most inhospitable forests and steppes of the Soviet Union.

The Ice Road
An Epic Journey from the Stalinist Labor Camps to Freedom
By Stefan Waydenfeld
Foreword by Professor Norman Davies, FBA

• 416 pages • More than 70 black & white photos, maps and illustrations
• Contextualizing historical material • Interview with the author
• Reading Group Guide

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The Ice Road is the extraordinary story of 14-year-old Stefan Waydenfeld and his family, who in 1940 were forcibly deported by cattle car to Siberia.

A master storyteller, Waydenfeld carries us from his carefree childhood near Warsaw; to a frozen life of forced labor, building “ice roads” to transport logs over the snow where “he who does not work, does not eat”; to his crazy raft ride to freedom and the long, circuitous journey to join the Polish Army training with the British in the Middle East.

Coming of age was never so dangerous—but Waydenfeld recounts the experience with a teenager’s irrepressible curiosity, sense of adventure and subversive humor.

Category: Nonfiction • History • World War II
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“Haunting, well researched. Recommended to those who like their historical fiction autobiographical and real.”
— HISTORICAL NOVELS REVIEW

“Jopek shows how very talented she is.”
— The Nightreader

“Absolutely fascinating...very vivid. An extremely eye-opening look at a not so familiar aspect of World War II’s history.”
— Back to Books

MAPS AND SHADOWS
A Novel
By Krysia Jopek

Four voices. Four lives. Four paths. One family.

Vivacious Helcia, fifteen years old, with flowing molasses-colored hair, loves poetry and history. Cocky Henryk, at twelve, is already testing the limits of manhood. Their father, Andrzej, veteran of an earlier war to defend their Polish homeland, proudly built the family farm from the ground up. Zofia, their mother, sings as she works in the home she loves, gazing out the kitchen window to admire their land, their crops, their thriving children.

February 1940: A pounding Russian fist on the door in the middle of a frozen night—and they will never see their land again.

Swept into a World War II odyssey that spans the map from Poland to Siberia, on divergent paths to Persia, Palestine and Italy, to Uzbekistan and Africa, converging in England and finally settling in America, the family endures…and ultimately triumphs.

A far-ranging saga illuminated from four points of view, this stunning debut novel from poet Krysia Jopek takes a fresh stylistic approach to storytelling, fusing a minimalist narrative with lush lyricism.

Category: Fiction
During the opening months of World War II, Vassar-educated career woman Rulka Langer (1906–1993) risked her life and relied on her wits to keep her two small children and elderly mother out of harm’s way.

The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt is a rare eyewitness account of the early, chaotic days of World War II—the Nazi German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, the Siege of Warsaw and the first few months of the Occupation—written by a young working mother. Langer’s engaging, clear-eyed chronicle sparkles with fresh and lively storytelling and a brilliant eye for detail.

Weaving her story with a masterful use of humor, an occasional bite of sarcasm and a large dose of honesty, Langer paints a vivid picture of this virtually unknown aspect of World War II—and at the same time illuminates universal truths about average, ordinary people faced with war.

“Moving, laced with grim humor, and accessible to a modern audience.” — College & Research Libraries News

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During the opening months of World War II, Vassar-educated career woman Rulka Langer (1906–1993) risked her life and relied on her wits to keep her two small children and elderly mother out of harm’s way.

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Category: Nonfiction • History • World War II
Audiobook available from Audible.com

See the Lifetime TV interview! The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt
www.polww2.com/MermaidLifetime

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“First-rate camera reportage.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Unforgettable insights into living in the midst of death. A reporter with the soul of an artist.”

—Film News

“The historic film of the fall of Poland tells a story with a moral as relevant today, as then. A powerful and timely documentary.”

—Landers Film Review

SIEGE
DVD Video

Filmed and Narrated by Julien Bryan

Newly restored black & white newsreel • Run time: 10 minutes

PLUS SPECIAL FEATURES

• 26 vibrantly colored screens: still photos, maps and illustrations, contextualizing historical material
• Historic 4-minute audio essay by photojournalist Julien Bryan for Edward R. Murrow’s famous “This I Believe” 1950s radio series
• Original music by Marek Zebrowski, performed by the Vilnius Chamber Orchestra

A “must-have” for every World War II collection. Siege, the powerful newsreel of original film footage of the Siege of Warsaw in September 1939, rarely seen since its initial release in 1940, has been newly restored and is now available on DVD for the first time.

American photojournalist Julien Bryan arrived in Warsaw with 6,000 feet of raw film a week after the German invasion of Poland that began World War II. The only neutral reporter left in the city, he risked his life over and over again to record the massive destruction of Warsaw during two weeks of merciless attacks by the German Luftwaffe.

Bryan had to smuggle his precious footage out of Europe in the chemical container of a gas mask. It was worth the risk.

His film footage and still photos were the first, and among the most memorable, to come out of World War II. The images of destruction shocked the American public into awareness of the devastation of this unprecedented new form of warfare—Blitzkrieg, Hitler’s “Lightning War”—and the looming danger as the Nazis conquered country after country in Europe.

Category: Nonfiction • History • World War II
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Taking that “bringing alive” element one step further, in our newest book, The Color of Courage, we’ve included a multimedia element in the print book itself, which we call “Digital Extras.” They’re short videos that we created from original historical film and audio material, which are accessed directly by smartphone via QR codes or in your browser via URL.

Thanks for your interest in our titles! We welcome questions and suggestions, so please feel free to email us.

Happy Reading!

Best,

Terry Tegnazian
President & Publisher
Aquila Polonica Publishing
AQUILA POLONICA PUBLISHING is an award-winning independent publisher based in Los Angeles, which specializes in publishing the Polish World War II experience in English—a part of World War II that is virtually unknown in the West.

This amazingly heroic and tragic story of one of the Western Allies was suppressed for decades by the postwar communist regime in Poland, as part of its strategy for controlling the country. Only since the fall of communism in 1989 have the true facts begun to resurface.

Aquila Polonica (which means “Polish Eagle” in Latin) has built a solid reputation for quality. The company holds an enviable record: every Aquila Polonica book has won one or more awards. Its books have attracted rave reviews from major media such as the New York Times. They’ve been licensed as audiobooks, translated to foreign languages, and selected by the History Book Club®, the Military Book Club®, and the Book-of-the-Month Club.


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PUBLISHER

Aquila Polonica President and Publisher, Terry Tegnazian, practiced law in Los Angeles for twelve years. A graduate of Brown University and Yale Law School, she specialized in complex transactions of motion picture financing before leaving to pursue other business and creative endeavors.

Although not Polish by heritage, Tegnazian became interested in the Polish experience of World War II as a result of research for a book she was working on, involving a Polish airman in the Battle of Britain. While reading memoirs of key Polish Underground leaders, she was moved by the stories of the Poles’ incredible courage during World War II—which she soon realized was a little-known aspect of the war.

Tegnazian co-founded Aquila Polonica because she believes it is important to restore such lost stories to history and the wider world.

In addition to being a hands-on publisher involved in all aspects of each Aquila Polonica title, Terry has written about Poland in World War II for the Wall Street Journal Europe and the Warsaw Business Journal, she’s been interviewed on national television, and has presented numerous live programs in a wide range of venues.

In 2012, Terry was awarded the Knight’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland by decision of the President of Poland. In 2014, she received the Polonia Award from the Polish American Congress of Southern California. In early 2015 the Polish American Historical Association awarded Terry the Amicus Polanaie Award, and the Los Angeles City Council honored her with the 2015 Pioneer Women of the Year Award.
“PUBLISHING THE WORLD WAR II EXPERIENCE OF POLAND.”