Unknown Story of WWII Heroism Wins 2013 Benjamin Franklin Award
‘The Auschwitz Volunteer’ Recounts Undercover Mission at Notorious Death Camp


“We are proud that The Auschwitz Volunteer has won this prestigious award,” said Terry Tegnazian, co-founder of Aquila Polonica Publishing. “It will help bring recognition to an amazing story of heroism that was suppressed for decades by the communists.”

The Auschwitz Volunteer is the firsthand report of Polish Army officer Witold Pilecki, who volunteered for an almost certainly suicidal secret undercover mission as a prisoner at Auschwitz in order to tell the world what was happening there and to build a resistance organization among the prisoners.

The Auschwitz Volunteer has been acclaimed by reviewers in numerous publications, including the New York Times, the Atlantic and the Los Angeles Jewish Journal. Writing in The New Republic, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anne Applebaum noted, “Pilecki’s depiction of life in Auschwitz and his description of opposition in Auschwitz deserves to be read alongside the accounts of Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel.”

Every one of Aquila Polonica’s previously published titles has won Benjamin Franklin Awards. They include: 303 Squadron: The Legendary Battle of Britain Fighter Squadron, by Arkady Fiedler (Gold Award for History and the Silver Award for Interior Design); The Ice Road: An Epic Journey from the Stalinist Labor Camps to Freedom, by Stefan Waydenfeld (Silver Award for Autobiography/Memoir); Maps and Shadows, by Krysia Jopek (Silver Award for Historical Fiction); and The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt: War Through a Woman’s Eyes 1939-1940, by Rulka Langer (Silver Award for Best First Book, Nonfiction).

Earlier this year, The Auschwitz Volunteer won the 2012 PROSE Award for Biography & Autobiography, given by the Association of American Publishers to honor excellence in scholarly and professional publishing. Aquila Polonica was the only independent publisher to win a PROSE Award out of more than 40 categories.

About Aquila Polonica Publishing
Aquila Polonica Publishing is dedicated to publishing, in English, the Polish experience of World War II with first-hand accounts, memoirs, photographs, artwork, poetry, literature and historical studies. For more information on the company, which is based in Los Angeles, California, please visit www.aquilapolonica.com.

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