When the Germans opened Auschwitz in June 1940, it was a concentration camp for political prisoners, who were told on arrival that they would live no longer than three months. Two years later, the Germans expanded Auschwitz to also become a death camp for Jews. Underground resistance appeared at Auschwitz very quickly, spearheaded in 1940 by one of the bravest men ever to live, Polish army officer Captain Witold Pilecki.

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Emeritus Professor of Holocaust Studies, Brandeis University, and Chief Historian, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw

FIGHTING AUSCHWITZ: The Resistance Movement in the Concentration Camp
by Józef Garliński
Introduction by Prof. Antony Polonsky
Foreword by Prof. M. R. D. Foot

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In this meticulously researched and highly readable work, Józef Garliński traces the evolution and operations of the principal prisoner resistance organizations (including communist as well as non-communist groups). He delves into the relationships among these groups, as well as their relationships with the various political and multinational factions in the prisoner population, including both male and female, and with the underground outside the camp. He describes their efforts against the brutal SS men and informers.

In parallel, he documents the growth and evolution of Auschwitz itself, and the horrors of the industrialized death factory for Jews created by the Germans.

Garliński, a member of the Polish underground during World War II, was himself a prisoner at Auschwitz.

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Józef Garliński (1913–2005) was a preeminent author, historian and chronicler of World War II, and particularly Poland’s little-known role as one of the Western Allies. Many of his books, such as *Fighting Auschwitz* and *Intercept: The Enigma War*, broke new ground, disclosing hitherto unknown aspects of World War II to the public readership for the first time.

Garliński brought to his work a keen intellect, careful attention to detail in research and writing, doggedness in pursuing sources across national boundaries and even through the Iron Curtain, and multilingual ability that enabled him to read source materials in the original Polish, German, Russian and English. But he also brought something that very few, if any, historians can claim: he had lived through the times and events, and in many cases had firsthand experience and/or personally knew people involved in the very topics he wrote about.

Garliński’s work has both the objectivity of a true historian, and the irreplaceable depth of understanding imparted by firsthand experience—a combination rare in most historians today. On many topics, his work was seminal, laying the foundation for later research and histories.

Garliński’s books have been out of print for several decades. Working in cooperation with Garliński’s son, Jarek Garliński, Aquila Polonica Publishing is proud to begin bringing these important books back into print as *The Garliński Collection*. 