

One of the “FIVE BEST” books on wartime secret missions.

— WALL STREET JOURNAL

“The most extraordinary intelligence report you will ever read.”

— THE INTELLIGENCER: JOURNAL OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE STUDIES

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

— THE ATLANTIC

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

— THE NEW REPUBLIC

“Suspenseful, inspiring, recounting bravery that few of us can imagine.

His words are of extreme importance to Jews and to any other community that suffered at the hands of the Nazis.”

— THE JEWISH WEEK, New York City

“Extraordinary.”

— MACLEAN'S, Canada

“Certain to become a standard reference work in every major Holocaust library collection.”

— JEWISH NEWS, Virginia

“We have few, if any, descriptions that compare to this one—and, therefore, it's a priceless document.”

— PROFESSOR TIMOTHY SNYDER,

Bird White Housum Professor of History at Yale University, author of *Bloodlands*



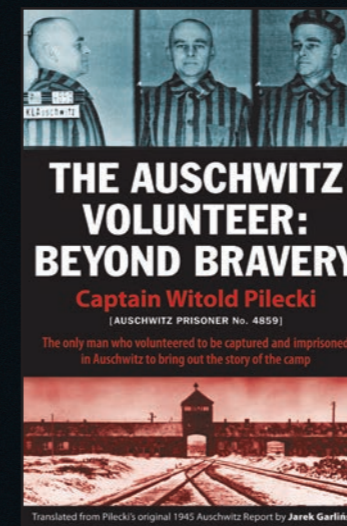
Available at fine bookstores, online retailers and major wholesalers.
Distributed by National Book Network, www.nbnbooks.com
Translation rights available for most territories.

Aquila Polonica Publishing
310-470-0770 (U.S.A.)
info@aquilapolonica.com

www.AquilaPolonica.com

“One man
volunteered
for Auschwitz,
and now
we have
his story...”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES, Editors' Choice



**THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER:
Beyond Bravery**

By Captain Witold Pilecki

“A historical document of the greatest importance.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES, Editors' Choice



**Winner: PROSE Award
for Biography & Autobiography**



**Winner: Benjamin Franklin SILVER
Award for Autobiography/Memoir**

Featured Selection of the HISTORY BOOK CLUB®

Selection of the BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB®
and the MILITARY BOOK CLUB®

THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER: Beyond Bravery

By Captain Witold Pilecki

Translated by Jarek Garliński

Introduction by Professor Norman Davies, FBA

Foreword by Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland

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.

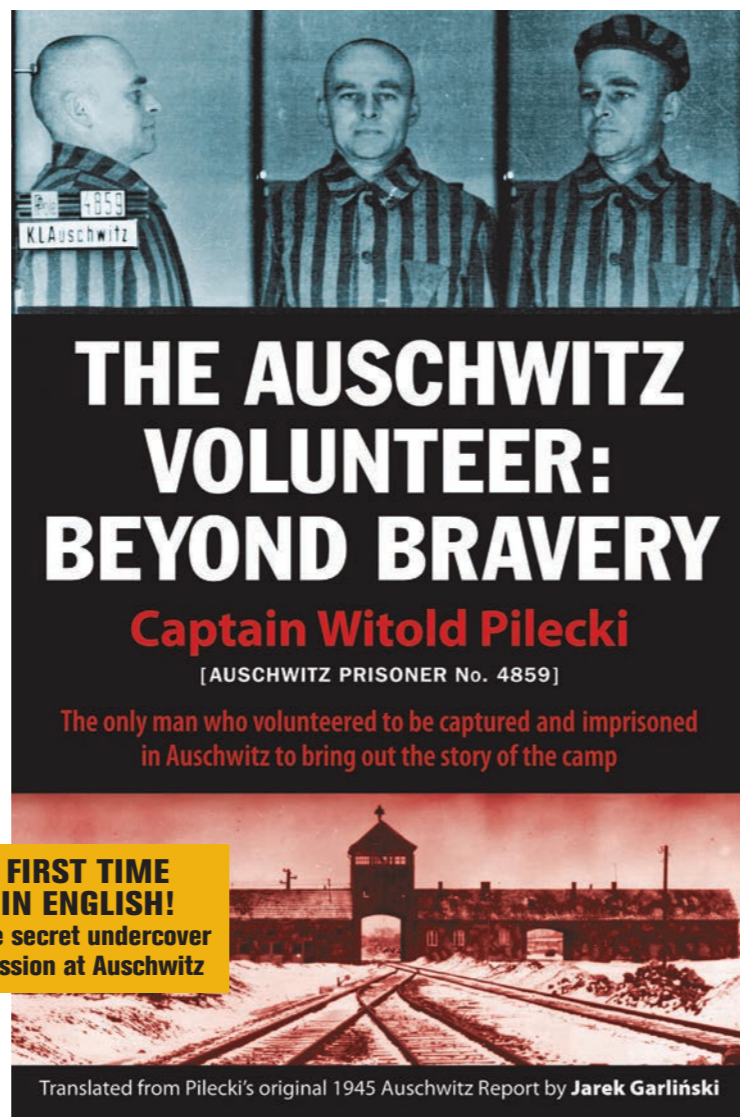
Barely surviving nearly three years of starvation, disease and brutality, Pilecki accomplished his mission before escaping in April 1943.

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.



Watch the trailer on YouTube!
**The Auschwitz Volunteer:
Beyond Bravery**



Category: Nonfiction • History • World War II • Holocaust
ISBN 978-1-60772-009-6 (Hardcover, \$42.95)
ISBN 978-1-60772-010-2 (Trade Paperback, \$34.95)
ISBN 978-1-60772-014-0 (Ebook, all major formats)
Audiobook available from:
Audible.com and Brilliance Audio

**“Earthshaking.
A book which I hope
will be widely read.”**

— DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI,
Center for Strategic & International Studies

- 460 pages
- 6" x 9"
- More than 80 black & white photos, maps and illustrations
- Contextualizing historical material
- Selected highlights of the Report
- Four appendices
- Discussion questions
- Index

“Remarkable exploits. Perhaps because he wrote in factual, unemotional language, perhaps because he wasn't a Jew, his observations continue to carry an irrefutable weight.”

— JEWISH JOURNAL, Los Angeles

“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

“Vibrant with fresh perspectives. It is an extraordinary book.”

— MARTIN AMIS, bestselling author of
Time's Arrow and *Lionel Asbo: State of England*

“Remarkable revelations.”

— PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

“A real contribution to our understanding of the history of Poland under Nazi occupation.”

— ANTONY POLONSKY, Albert Abramson
Professor of Holocaust Studies at Brandeis University,
author of *The Jews in Poland and Russia*

“An Allied hero.”

— PROFESSOR NORMAN DAVIES, author of *Vanished Kingdoms*

“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*

“A work of supreme importance.”

— TABLET MAGAZINE



ONE MAN DID THE UNTHINKABLE

“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

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.