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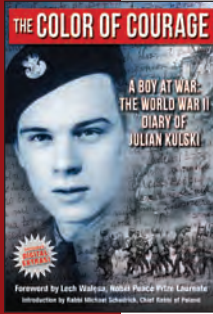
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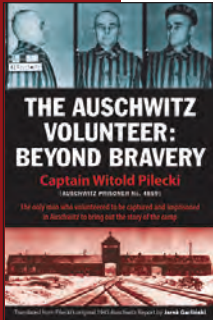
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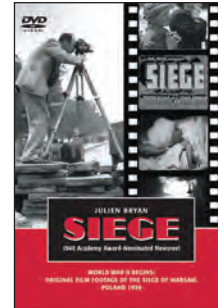
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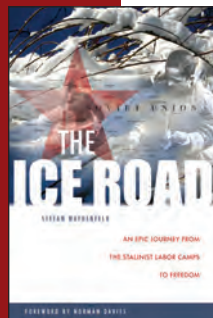
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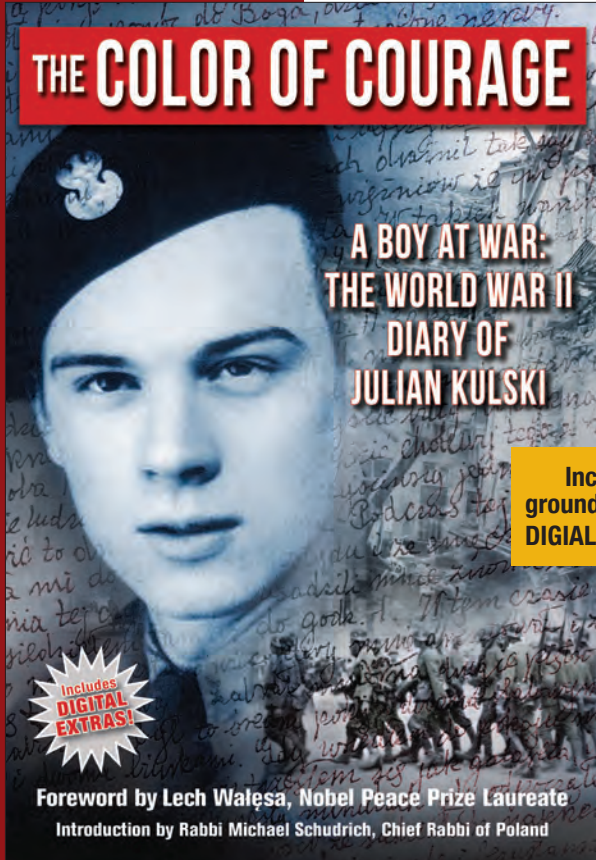
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“If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it.”

—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.



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By Julian Kulski

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

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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.

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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.



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Chief Rabbi of Poland

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— *Publishers Weekly*

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“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

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Editora Valentina

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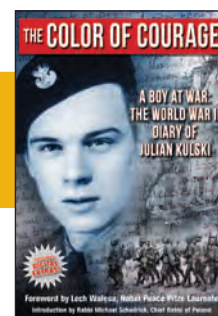
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The summer of 1940 and the Battle of Britain—the darkest days of World War II. France, Poland, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Norway had all been crushed by the powerful Nazi German war machine. Great Britain stood alone, fighting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

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Captain Witold Pilecki

[AUSCHWITZ PRISONER No. 4859]

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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.

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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.



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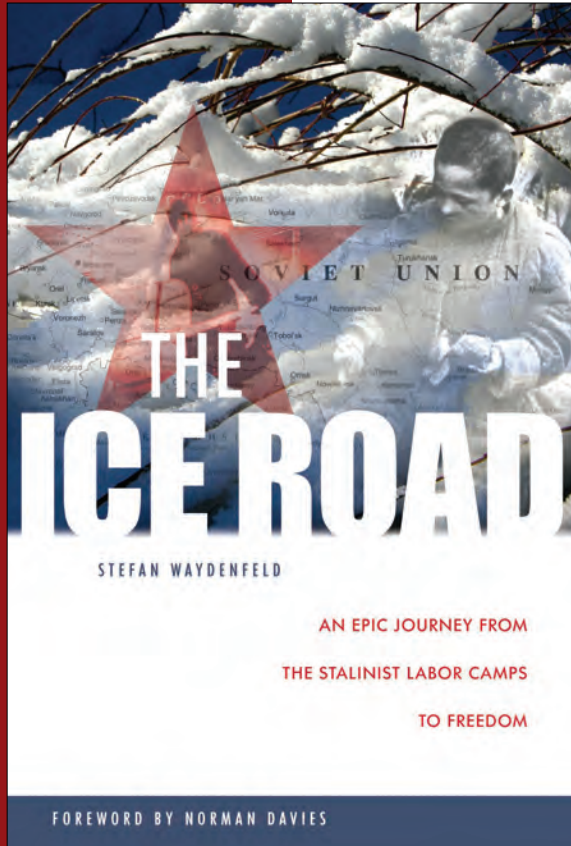
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In a forgotten chapter of history, 1.5 million Polish civilians—arbitrarily arrested by Stalin as “enemies of the people” following the Soviet invasion of Poland at the beginning of World War II—were deported to forced labor camps throughout the most inhospitable forests and steppes of the Soviet Union.

The Ice Road 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.

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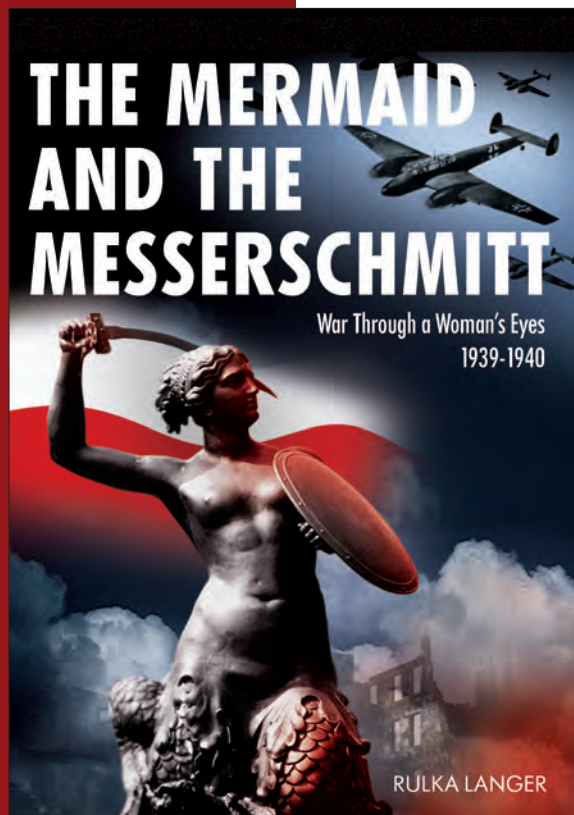
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During the opening months of World War II, Vassar-educated career woman Rulka Langer (1906–1993) risked her life and relied on her wits to keep her two small children and elderly mother out of harm's way.

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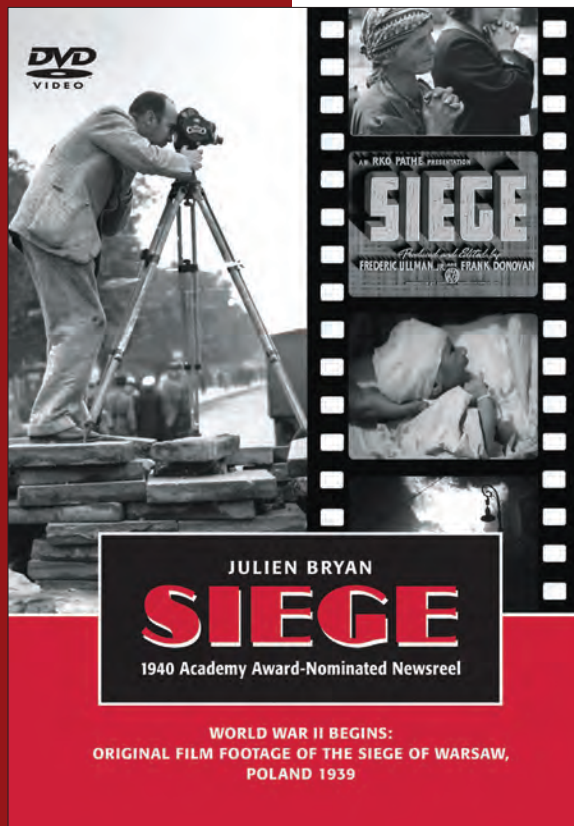
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Bryan had to smuggle his precious footage out of Europe in the chemical container of a gas mask. It was worth the risk.

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.

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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

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