

The Search For Major Plagge The Nazi Who Saved Jews By Michael Good

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on april 11 2005 in jerusalem karl plagge will be named a righteous among the nations hero by the state of israel he joins oskar schindler and some 380 other similarly honored germans who protected and saved jews during the holocaust karl plagge's story is of a unique kind of courage that of a german army officer who subverted the system of death to save the lives of some 250 jews in vilna lithuania one of those he saved was michael good's mother haunted by his mother's stories of the mysterious officer who commanded her slave labor camp michael good resolved to find out all he could about the enigmatic major plagge for five years he

wrote hundreds of letters and scoured the internet to recover in one hard earned bit of evidence after another information about the man whose moral choices saved hundreds of lives this unforgettable book is the first portrait of a modest man who simply refused to play by the rules interviewing camp survivors opening german files untouched for more than fifty years and translating newly discovered letters good weaves an amazing tale an engineer from darmstadt plagge joined and then left the nazi party in vilna in whose teeming ghetto tens of thousands of jews faced extermination he found himself in charge of a camp where military vehicles were repaired time after time he saved jews from prison ss death squads and the ghetto by issuing them work permits as indispensable laborers essential to the war effort karl plagge never considered himself a hero describing himself as a fellow traveler for not doing more to fight the regime he said that he saved jews and others because i thought it was my duty this book also reminds us of the many ways human beings can resist evil there are always some people pearl good said of the man who saved her life when he didn't have to who decide that the horror is not to be

when the search for major plagge was published last spring the world finally learned about a unique hero and about one american doctor's extraordinary journey to tell karl plagge's story part detective story part personal quest michael good's book is the story of the german commander of a lithuanian work camp who saved hundreds of jewish lives in the vilna ghetto including the life of good's mother pearl who was this enigmatic officer pearl good had spoken of so often after five years of research interviewing survivors assembling a team that could work to open german files untouched for fifty years following every lead he could good was able to uncover the amazing tale of one man's remarkable courage and in april 2005 karl plagge joined oskar schindler and 380 other germans as a righteous among nations honored by the state of israel for protecting and saving jewish lives during the holocaust this expanded edition features new photographs and a new epilogue on the impact of the discovery of karl plagge especially the story of 83 year old alfons von deschwanden who after fifty years of silence came forward as a veteran of plagge's unit his testimony is now part of this growing witness to truth

in the summer of 2016 acclaimed archaeologist richard freund and his team made news worldwide when they discovered an escape tunnel from the ponar burial pits in lithuania this holocaust site where more than 100 000 people perished is usually remembered for the terrible devastation that happened there in the midst of this devastation the discovery of an escape tunnel reminds us of the determination and tenacity of the people in the camp and the hope they continued to carry the archaeology of the holocaust takes

readers out to the field with Freund and his multi disciplinary research group as they uncover the evidence of the holocaust focusing on sites in Lithuania Poland and Greece in the past decade using forensic detective work Freund tells the micro and macro histories of sites from the holocaust as his team covers excavations and geo physical surveys done at four sites in Poland four sites in Rhodes and 15 different sites in Lithuania with comparisons of some of the work done at other sites in Eastern Europe the book contains testimonies of survivors photographs information about a variety of complementary geo science techniques and information gleaned from pin point excavations it serves as an introduction to the holocaust and explains aspects of the culture lost in the holocaust through the lens of archaeology and geo science

As the holocaust passes out of living memory future generations will no longer come face to face with holocaust survivors but the lessons of that terrible period in history are too important to let slip past how was it possible edited and introduced by Peter Hayes provides teachers and students with a comprehensive resource about the Nazi persecution of Jews deliberately resisting the reflexive urge to dismiss the topic as too horrible to be understood intellectually or emotionally the anthology sets out to provide answers to questions that may otherwise defy comprehension this anthology is organized around key issues of the holocaust from the historical context for antisemitism to the impediments to escaping Nazi Germany and from the logistics of the death camps and the carrying out of genocide to the subsequent struggles of the displaced survivors in the aftermath prepared in cooperation with the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous this anthology includes contributions from such luminaries as Jean Ancel Saul Friedlander Tony Judt Alan Kraut Primo Levi Robert Proctor Richard Rhodes Timothy Snyder and Susan Zuccotti taken together the selections make the ineffable fathomable and demystify the barbarism underlying the tragedy inviting readers to learn precisely how the holocaust was in fact possible

this book enables readers to learn about upstanders partisans and survivors from first hand perspectives that reveal the many forms of resistance some bold and defiant some subtle to the Nazis during the holocaust what did those who resisted the Nazis during the 1930s through 1945 known now as the Righteous do when confronted with the holocaust how did those who resorted to physical acts of resistance to fight the Nazis in the ghettos the concentration camps and the forests summon the courage to form underground groups and organize their efforts this book presents a comprehensive examination of more than 150 remarkable people who said no to the Nazis when confronted by the holocaust of the Jews they range from people who undertook armed resistance to individuals who

risked and sometimes lost their lives in trying to rescue jews or spirit them away to safety in many cases the very act of survival in the face of extreme circumstances was a form of resistance this important book explores the many facets of resistance to the holocaust that took place less than 100 years ago providing valuable insights to any reader seeking evidence of how individuals can remain committed to the maintenance of humanitarian traditions in the darkest of times

in the late 1980s holocaust literature emerged as a provocative but poorly defined scholarly field the essays in this volume reflect the increasingly international and pluridisciplinary nature of this scholarship and the widening of the definition of holocaust literature to include comic books fiction film and poetry as well as the more traditional diaries memoirs and journals ten contributors from four countries engage issues of authenticity evangelicalism morality representation personal experience and wish fulfillment in holocaust literature which have been the subject of controversies in the us europe and the middle east of interest to students and instructors of antisemitism national and comparative literatures theater film history literary criticism religion and holocaust studies this book also contains an extensive bibliography with references in over twenty languages which seeks to inspire further research in an international context

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at leizer bart s funeral one of the mourners told his son michael that the gravestone should include a reference to the freedom fighters of nekamah to honor his late father s involvement in the jewish resistance movement in vilna now vilnius lithuania at the end of world war ii michael had never heard his parents referenced as freedom fighters following his father s death and with his mother in failing health michael embarked on a ten year research project to find out more details about his parents time in the vilna ghetto where they met fell in love and married and about their activities as members of the jewish resistance until our last breath is the culmination of his research and his parents story of love and survival is seamlessly tied into the collective story of the vilna ghetto the partisans of vilna and the wider themes of world history zenia bart s mother was born and raised in vilna leizer fled there to escape the nazi invasion of his hometown of hrubieshov in poland they were married by one of the last remaining rabbis ninety days before the liquidation of the ghetto leizer was friends with zionist leader abba kovner and became a member of the vilna ghetto underground shortly before the total liquidation of the ghetto zenia and leizer along with about 120 members of the underground were able to

escape to the rudnicki forest about 25 miles away they became part of the jewish partisan fighting group led by abba kovner known as the avengers which carried out sabotage missions against the nazi army and eventually participated in the liberation of vilna until our last breath is intensely personal and painstakingly researched a lasting memorial to the jews of vilna including the resistance fighters and the author s family

a chilling examination of how genocide divides us into perpetrators rescuers and bystanders

in the mid 1960s gomulka s government adopted an antisemitic stance in consequence of which nearly 15 000 jews left the country effectively ending jewish life in the country for over a decade these events long ignored by scholars are now increasingly seen as an important step in the process that led to the collapse of communism this volume illuminates the events that triggered the crisis the crisis itself and its consequences

a former prisoner of the gestapo kulka leads us through the horror of the nazi death camps describing such unbearable conditions as the over crowded ghettos where jewish minorities were left to starve separation of families in cases where parents were brought to one concentration camp and children to another and fear of an unknown fate such as the gas chambers of auschwitz few people escaped from auschwitz and fewer survived such escape attempts from personal experience as well as accounts from other survivors kulka details the only successful escape led by siegfried lederer where all those involved survived

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most people are unaware of the german nazis relationship to black people and how it constantly penetrated their consciousness the reasons for this are cited german nazi attitudes and racial principles were applied to blacks as they were to other interior groups by comparing the treatment of blacks with jews the author developed a german nazi concept of the black jew as well as his own the

solicitous and legal concepts of the treatment of animals also is developed with homosapiens coming out second best a stress is placed upon the human condition which makes these extermination policies possible also stressed are current black jewish relations personal and vicarious experiences with the human condition chapter 10 a quasi biographical enumentaion which attempts to throw light on the former it is the author s hope that black jewish relationship can be reestablished from former times as the demography currently underway makes this a vital concern and goal

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