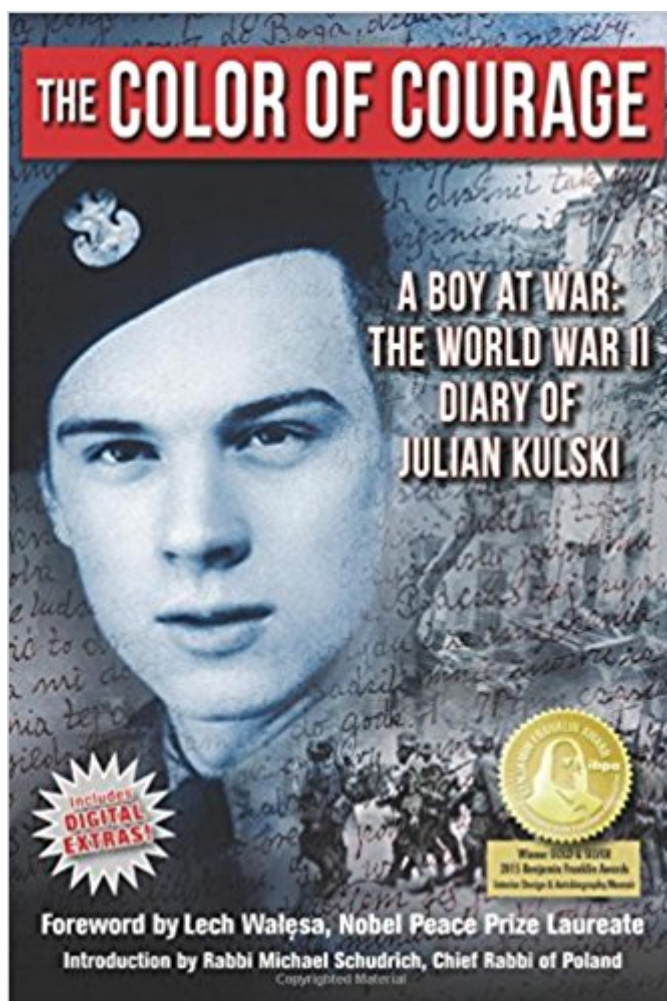


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The Color Of Courage: A Boy At War: The World War II Diary Of Julian Kulski



Synopsis

Winner GOLD AWARD for Interior Design, and SILVER AWARD for Autobiography/Memoir at the 2015 Benjamin Franklin Awards! Foreword by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lech Walesa. Introduction by Chief Rabbi of Poland. Includes 11 short videos of original historical film and audio material via QR code and URL; more than 150 photos, maps and illustrations. Free, downloadable Educators' Guide correlated to Common Core standards, grades 9-12. "At once absorbing, inspiring, and tragic." -- Publishers Weekly "Poignant, haunting, gritty, and bursting with realism...brings a deeply moving and unique perspective to World War II." -- Foreword Reviews "If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So writes Julian Kulski a few days before WWII begins, 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 an inspirational soul of indomitable will, courage and compassion. At age 12 Kulski is recruited as a soldier in the clandestine Underground Army by his Boy Scout leader, and at age 13 enters the Warsaw Ghetto on a secret mission. Arrested by the Gestapo at age 14 and sentenced to Auschwitz, he is rescued and joins the commandos. At age 15, Kulski fights in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. He ends the war as a German POW, finally risking a dash for freedom onto an American truck instead of waiting for Soviet "liberation." Also includes: 2 Appendices, Contextualizing historical material, Discussion Questions, and Index

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Part of a legend (The Washington Post) "An incredible book...compelling, forceful, educational and

filled with events that are written so vividly...a book of extreme historical significance." www.polandww2.com/images/MEDIA_ROOM/NewsAndReviews/2014/ColorofCourage-BookDivaReview2014-10-24highlighted.pdf ("An incredible book." Book Diva) "An inspiring read. The Color of Courage is for everyone – but particularly for young people, as they are maturing and searching for meaning in life and for the strength to stand up for what is good and meaningful. Kulski reminds us that freedom and human dignity transcend race, religion and age, and that our vigilance can never be relaxed." (Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland, "An inspiring read." Chief Rabbi of Poland) "This account, written from the heart and by the hand of an adolescent boy, gives us unique and moving insights into World War II. A superb lesson of humanity and patriotism." (Lech Walesa, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, "A superb lesson of humanity and patriotism." Nobel Peace Prize Laureate) "This gripping personal account brings a deeply moving and unique perspective to World War II Poland. Kulski's utterly wrenching, heartfelt, and visceral narrative spans the war years, 1939-1945. Kulski's writing style is not lyrical or literary, yet it includes thought-provoking philosophies and musings and is refined beyond any need to use its war-diary genre as excuse. In all, The Color of Courage is a compelling and polished read with its own irresistible momentum. Supporting photographs, maps, and documents interspersed throughout his chronicle make it quicker and faster-paced than its 400 pages would indicate. Poignant, haunting, gritty, and bursting with realism, Julian Kulski's diary of seven years in World War II Warsaw is a powerful eyewitness and participant accounting of a singular experience. Obviously for the fan of military history, The Color of Courage will likewise appeal to readers of memoir and broader-scope credible histories, and its emotional impact is sufficient to enthrall a diverse audience." www.polandww2.com/images/MEDIA_ROOM/NewsAndReviews/2014/Foreword-WinterIsue-2014-10-28Highlighted.pdf (Julia Jenkins, "Poignant, haunting, gritty, and bursting with realism." Foreword Reviews, November 7, 2014) Written in 1945, soon after he was released from a POW camp run by the Germans, Kulski's war diary is immensely accessible today and the account of a young teen's coming of age. How do we communicate to today's young people, especially the privileged in the Western world, about the threats of totalitarianism, racism, extremism? How can they who live lives with "safe spaces" understand what it is to take up the rifle at age 15? Kulski's account is fascinating because of its blend of attention to the persecution of Jews and his descriptions of the issues that non-Jewish Poles faced...Memoirs like this serve an essential purpose in binding together the history of the Holocaust and the countries in which it took place. The persecution of Jews was not some isolated event in a vacuum but part of the destruction of Europe.

It is not a Jewish issue only, as this book reminds us, but one that crosses boundaries of family and life. This account binds together Jewish and Polish history and speaks to the common struggle against tyranny and the fight for freedom that people sought in the 1940s and are still seeking today. www.polandww2.com/images/MEDIA_ROOM/NewsAndReviews/2016/JerusalemPost-Review2016-7-11-Highlighted.pdf (Seth J. Frantzman, "Immensely accessible today and the account of a young teen's coming of age." Jerusalem Post, July 11, 2016)"The writing is youthfully straightforward with a sense of wonder over the growing horror... Julian had Jewish friends; he himself claimed Jewish ancestry (great-great grandson of Rabbi Dov Beer Meisels.) The Polish resistance is presented here as largely sympathetic to the Jews, with whom he had clandestine dealings. He describes a harrowing secret mission to Warsaw Ghetto... Accounts of the Poles' sophisticated planned attacks are riveting. There are maps and photos; readers are directed to YouTube links of footage from German and Polish propaganda reels. Although this diary might do best in a general public library collection, Holocaust libraries might find this book useful for its insights into the role of the Polish underground. www.polandww2.com/images/MEDIA_ROOM/NewsAndReviews/2016/ColorofCourage-AJLReview-MayJune2017-highlighted.pdf (Hallie Cantor, Yeshiva University, NY, "Riveting... Holocaust libraries might find this book useful for its insights into the role of the Polish underground." Association of Jewish Libraries Reviews, May/June 2017)"There is an entire world that separates war while it is raging around you, and war that is analyzed years or decades later while looking through orderly archives and sitting at one's computer. As a boy, Julian witnessed the German takeover and saw everything he ever knew as liberty taken away. It was not just the material destruction of the city, but the calculated destruction of society, the debasement of the people, that made a huge impression on him. That he, his friends, and all Poles, were condemned to live without an education, were dispossessed, their educational, cultural, and historical institutions destroyed, his family and friends arrested or killed, these are the experiences that put an end to childhood. It was a very young human being who joined the resistance, but he was no longer a boy. War is not just a killer but also a thief; it steals all your possessions, including your childhood. In the aftermath, young Julian ended up the youngest prisoner in a POW camp and finally in a hospital in England where he was treated for PTSD. His doctors suggested he write about his experiences, as therapy; For Julian it was like reliving the nightmare, but it had to be done. This book is the dramatic, heartrending result. Published by Aquila Polonica with their usual high production values, The Color of Courage includes dozens of wartime maps and photographs, plus a list of digital extras, archival wartime films, that you can access either on your smartphone or by entering the

URL as indicated with each entry. Some of footage provided with these links has rarely, if ever, been available to the public. Highly recommended for history buffs.

www.polandww2.com/images/MEDIA_ROOM/NewsAndReviews/2014/ColorofCourage-CosmopolitanReview-2014-11-16.pdf ("Dramatic, heartrending...Highly recommended." *Cosmopolitan Review*, Fall 2014)

“In World War II, Warsaw rose against the Nazi occupation not just once but twice... Kulski provides a remarkable account of sacrifice and personal courage as remembered through his eyes and personal experience (including participation in the major 1944 uprising). Compelling, readable, and very moving!” (Zbigniew Brzezinski, "Compelling, readable, and very moving!" *Center for Strategic & International Studies*)

Kulski, a renowned architect, wrote the original manuscript in 1945 at age 16 as a means of dealing with post-traumatic stress. In a diaristic format, it chronicles his experiences as a child soldier in the Polish Army. Kulski's father was the acting mayor of Warsaw during the occupation, and, at the time, he had a Jewish girlfriend, with whom he remained in close contact until the Nazis isolated the Jewish ghetto from the rest of the city. Because of those two relationships, Kulski was able to give shape to the wider context of the Resistance movement, including the heroic fight of the Jewish insurgents in the monthlong Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of spring 1943. The story culminates with Kulski's participation, at age 15, in the 60-day Warsaw Uprising of August and September 1944. Kulski's youthful patriotism and optimism is evident throughout his story, which is at once absorbing, inspiring, and tragic. Designed to be useful in a classroom, this new edition includes links to relevant online material and includes a list of discussion questions classroom settings. B&w

photos.www.polandww2.com/images/MEDIA_ROOM/NewsAndReviews/2014/PublishersWeekly2014-9-15.pdf ("At once absorbing, inspiring, and tragic." *Publishers Weekly*, September 15, 2014)

“An exceptional coming-of-age story. Julian Kulski's true-life adventure as a teenage resistance fighter in Warsaw during World War II leaps off the page in this riveting diary. He is an amazing man and a real hero for freedom.” (Rita Cosby, "An exceptional coming of age story." *Emmy-winning TV host and bestselling author of 'Quiet Hero'*)

"Haunting and powerful—the unforgettable true story of a boy soldier in World War II." (Susan Eisenhower, "Haunting and powerful." *President, Eisenhower Group*)

Quite remarkable. (Quite remarkable. *The Boston Globe*)

"Julian E. Kulski is a great American and a great Pole." (Bronislaw Komorowski, "A great American and a great Pole." *President, Republic of Poland (2010-2015)*)

“Seldom in the annals of human history has the courage of a people shone through more brightly than that of the gallant Poles as they resisted not only the German onslaught, but the subjugation of the Soviets as well. The *Color of Courage* not only showcases the gallantry of one man, Julian Kulski, it

provides clear insights into spiritual and moral strength of an entire nation. — (John R. Allen, "Provides clear insights into the spiritual and moral strength of an entire nation." General, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.); Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL (2014-2015); Commander, NATO International Security Assistance Force (2011-2013)) "Truthful, compelling and readable. Highly recommended." (Wanda Urbanska, "Highly recommended." President, Jan Karski Educational Foundation) "Unique in the telling and perspective...honest portrayal of the challenges and motivations of very young person who was so actively engaged, and lived to tell the tale." ("Unique in the telling and perspective." Kurier Polski of Minnesota) "Kulski's memoir is particularly heart-wrenching and eye-opening. I highly recommend this book." www.polandww2.com/images/MEDIA_ROOM/NewsAndReviews/2015/ColorofCourage-BacktoBooksReview2015-3-28-highlighted.pdf ("Particularly heart-wrenching and eye-opening." Back to Books) "A rare and vivid day-to-day eyewitness account by a young boy who becomes a man far too soon." www.polandww2.com/images/MEDIA_ROOM/NewsAndReviews/2014/ColorofCourage-RuthfullyYoursBlogReview-2014-11-11-highlighted.pdf ("Rare and vivid." Ruthfully Yours) "The perfect holiday gift for the war hero in your life." www.polandww2.com/images/MEDIA_ROOM/NewsAndReviews/2014/ColorofCourage-UnconventionalLibrarianReview2014-11-11.pdf ("The perfect holiday gift for the war hero in your life." An Unconventional Librarian)

Might be considered a companion piece to Anne Frank's Diary, juxtaposing the constant question of survival with a child's fresh adolescence. Stirring account of the will to live and to fight. (Montgomery Advertiser) Heartening account. A touching story, one which shows a side of the Polish resistance not often reported. (Los Angeles Times) Deeply moving. (Jewish News) An amazing story. (The Jewish Veteran)

This book is a very good insight from an AK soldier who fought in the Warsaw uprising. Gives a great insight on how things were in Poland before during and a little after the war and how brutal atrocities were during this time. I won't write more and spoil the book. Take my word for it, and buy it. Excellent read.

I am first generation American, age 87. My father, and all his siblings were born in Poland, coming to America in 1905, through New York city. Kulski's book renewed in me the desire to learn more about my father, uncles, grandparents and their place of origin. The period of World War II and the

courage and spirit of resistance of the Polish people during the German and Russian occupation make me proud to say I am proud to be of Polish descent.

Fascinating true story. It's sad and my heart went out to all the people that were scorned and tortured. The writer did have courage and great up quickly.

My wife liked the book so much she never put it down. The only reason I gave it 4 stars is I lost her companionship until she finished it!!

great book

Great book and service.

Everything was as expected

Everyone should read

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