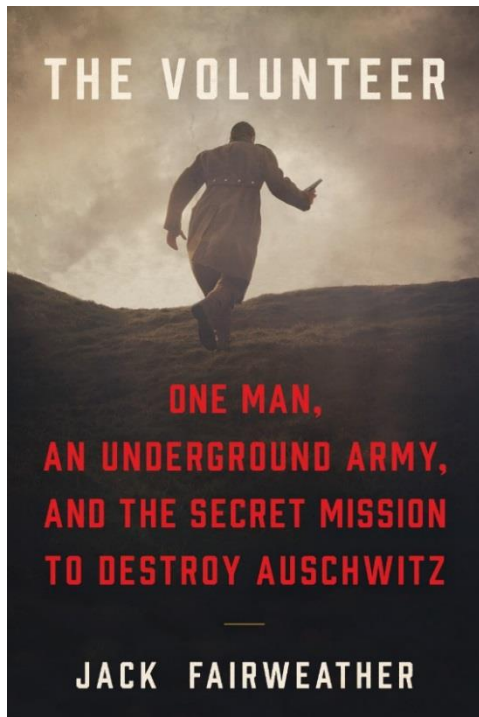




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## THE VOLUNTEER

One Man, An Underground Army, and the  
Secret Mission to Destroy Auschwitz

by Jack Fairweather

To be published June 25, 2019

Featuring maps, drawings, and more than 200 original photographs from the 1930s and 40s that detail the breathtaking journey of Witold Pilecki.

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“Superbly written and breathtakingly researched, *The Volunteer* smuggles us into Auschwitz and shows us—as if watching a movie—the story of a Polish agent who infiltrated the infamous camp, organized a rebellion, and then snuck back out. Fairweather has dug up a story of incalculable value and delivered it to us in the most compelling prose I have read in a long time.”

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"A riveting account of human heroism in the face of overwhelming odds, and Fairweather’s storytelling is simply masterful."

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How do you keep fighting in the face of unimaginable horror? **THE VOLUNTEER**, by Jack Fairweather (Custom House; June 25, 2019), is the untold story of one of the greatest heroes of the Second World War. In the Summer of 1940, after the Nazi occupation of Poland, Witold Pilecki, an underground operative accepted a mission to uncover the fate of thousands of people being interred at a new concentration camp on the border of the Reich. His mission was to report on Nazi crimes and raise a secret army to stage an uprising. The name of the camp—Auschwitz. It was only after arriving at the camp that he started to discover the Nazi's terrifying designs. Over the next two and half years, Witold forged an underground army that smuggled evidence of Nazi atrocities to the West, culminating in the mass murder of over a million Jews. His reports from the camp were to shape the Allies' response to the Holocaust.

Completely erased from the historical record by Poland's Communist government, Pilecki remains almost unknown to the world. Now, with exclusive access to previously hidden diaries, family and camp survivor accounts and recently declassified files, Jack Fairweather reveals Witold's exploits with vivid, cinematic bravura. He also uncovers the tragic outcome of Pilecki's mission, in which the ultimate betrayal came not on the Continent, but England.

**THE VOLUNTEER** is an enthralling story of resistance and heroism against the most horrific circumstances, and one man's attempt to change the course of history.

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Jack Fairweather is a graduate of Oxford University and has been a correspondent for the *Washington Post* and the *Daily Telegraph*, where he was the paper's Baghdad and Persian Gulf bureau chief.



While living in Baghdad as the *Daily Telegraph's* bureau chief, Jack met his wife-to-be and lived in the house of Saddam's former perfume supplier alongside other reporters. As the violence escalated in Iraq Jack was fortunate to survive a suicide bomb attack, a kidnapping attempt, and almost daily mortar attacks around their house.

His reporting while an embedded reporter during the Iraq invasion won him the British Press Award (the British equivalent to the Pulitzer Prize.) He now lives a quieter life, writing history books while raising his three daughters in Vermont. He the author of *A War of Choice*, and *The Good War*.

## THE VOLUNTEER

Jack Fairweather

Custom House | June 25, 2019

Hardcover ISBN 9780062561411 | \$28.99

Will also be available as an ebook and as digital audio