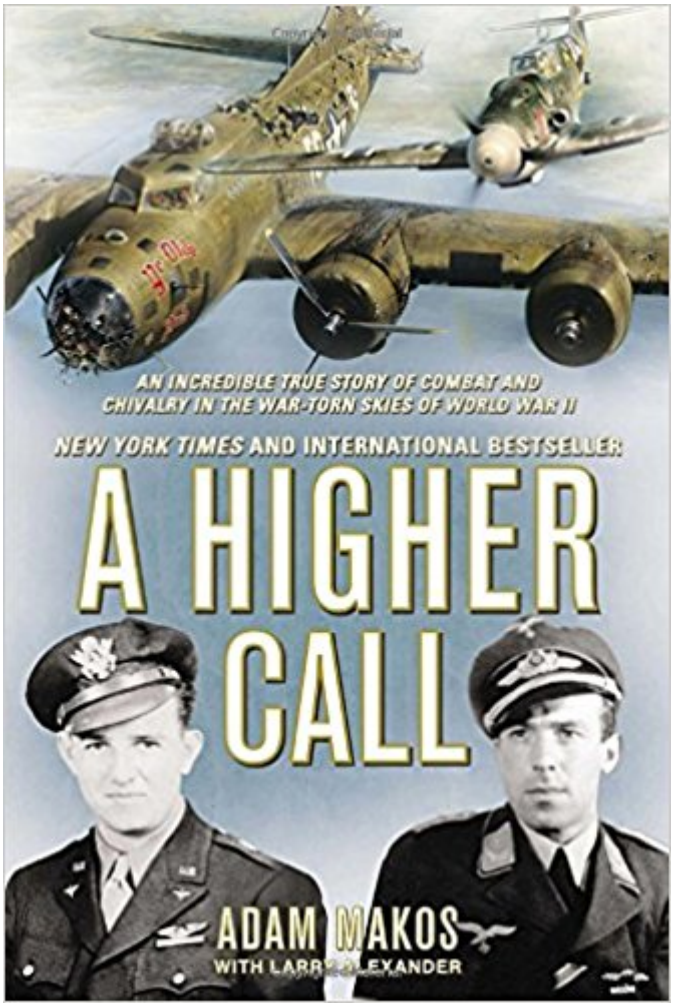
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A Higher Call: An Incredible True Story Of Combat And Chivalry In The War-Torn Skies Of World War II



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Synopsis

THE NEW YORK TIMES AND INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLERDecember, 1943: A badly damaged American bomber struggles to fly over wartime Germany. At the controls is twenty-one-year-old Second Lieutenant Charlie Brown. Half his crew lay wounded or dead on this, their first mission. Suddenly, a Messerschmitt fighter pulls up on the bomberÃ¢â ¬â„¢s tail. The pilot is German ace Franz StiglerÃ¢â ¬â •and he can destroy the young American crew with the squeeze of a trigger...What happened next would defy imagination and later be called Ã¢â ¬Å“the most incredible encounter between enemies in World War II.Ã¢â ¬Â•The U.S. 8th Air Force would later classify what happened between them as Ã¢â ¬Å“top secret.Ã¢â ¬Â• It was an act that Franz could never mention for fear of facing a firing squad. It was the encounter that would haunt both Charlie and Franz for forty years until, as old men, they would search the world for each other, a last mission that could change their lives forever.INCLUDES PHOTOS

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Ã¢â ¬Å“A remarkable story...worth retelling and celebrating.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •USA TodayÃ¢â ¬Å“Beautifully told.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •CNNÃ¢â ¬Å“A riveting story of humanity and mercy set against the ghastly backdrop of war.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly Ã¢â ¬Å“Oh, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a good one!Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Fox News Ã¢â ¬Å“Deeply felt by its author and deeply affecting to read.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Times, LondonÃ¢â ¬Å“A truly awe inspiring story of wartime chivalry.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Daily Mail Ã¢â ¬Å“Incredible.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •New York Post Ã¢â ¬Å“Inspiring.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus ReviewsÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“From the horrors of the most

savage war in history emerges this beautiful story of a brotherhood between enemies. Simply told, splendid, and well worth the read.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Joe Galloway, co-author of the #1Ã Â New York Times bestsellerÃ Â We Were Soldiers Once...and YoungÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“This book grips you like a movie. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s partÃ Â Top Gun, partÃ Â Valkyrie, and more.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Marcus Brotherton, co-author of theÃ Â New York TimesÃ Â bestsellerÃ Â Tough as They ComeÃ¢â ¬Å“It is often said that Ã¢â ¬Ëœwar is hellÃ¢â ¬â„¢Ã¢â ¬â •and it isÃ¢â ¬â •however, this story reveals how the human spirit can shine in the darkest hours.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Colonel Charles McGee, Tuskegee Airman, WWIIÃ¢â ¬Å“A Higher Call exemplifies beautifully the brotherhood of warriors and will forever change how you look at World War II.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Eric Blehm, author of the New York Times bestseller, Fearless Ã¢â ¬Å“Can good men be found on both sides of a bad war? The author asks the question and delivers the answer. A powerful, haunting read.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Chuck Tatum, author of Red Blood, Black Sand

Adam MakosÃ Â is the author of the New York Times and international bestseller A Higher Call. In his sixteen years of work as a journalist in the military field, Makos has interviewed countless veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and present-day wars. In pursuit of a story, Makos has met with presidents, had tea with Prince Charles, accompanied a Special Forces raid in Iraq, and organized an expedition into North Korea in search of an MIA American serviceman. A native of Pennsylvania, he currently lives in Denver, Colorado.Larry Alexander is the author of the New York Times bestselling biography Biggest Brother: The Life of Major Dick Winters, the Man Who Led the Band of Brothers. He is also the author of Shadows in the Jungle: The Alamo Scouts Behind Japanese Lines in World War II and In the Footsteps of the Band of Brothers: A Return to Easy Company’s Battlefields with Sgt. Forrest Guth. Alexander has been a journalist and columnist for the Intelligencer Journal in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for nearly twenty years and has won numerous state-level awards for excellence in journalism.

I loved this book.I thought I knew the premise of the story before downloading it, but by the end of the first few chapters I realized this was so much more then the brief first encounter of the main characters. It’s a story of two young men, on opposites sides of the war, sharing the same experiences- fighting to keep sane and survive the horrors of WWII.You are introduced to Franz (the German pilot) first and then Charlie’s story (the American pilot) is intertwined later on. There is no way to read Franz’s portion without being in awe of what he survived-multiple bail outs, crashes, and over 480 missions. Being introduced to Franz first makes his run-in with Charlie’s plane all the

more remarkable - here was this battle-hardened pilot who showed unbelievable compassion, knowing if he were caught it would mean his own life.The authors do a fantastic job of seamlessly moving between the characters and you get so attached to them that I found myself hesitating when turning the pages because I wanted the ones I liked to live a bit longer. I finished it hours ago, but I know I'm going to reread my favorite chapters before bed tonight!

First, I need to let all readers know that I worked on this book, supplying Adam with some of my research and interview materials. When I reviewed the manuscript, he had already created a solid work. The book is completely factual, all parties and events mentioned are depicted as they were, and I knew and interviewed all the persons mentioned with exception to Charlie Brown.Franz was an excellent pilot, a great man, a humanist, who hated the war and despised the Nazi Party, but loved flying. His Catholic background and his having been exposed to the honorable men he flew with, such as Ludwig Franzisket, Gustav Rodel, Werner Schroer, Johannes Steinhoff, Eduard Neumann, Emil Clade, Friedrich Korner, Adolf Galland, and especially Hans-Joachim Marseille reinforced that sense of chivalry, and code of honor among these airmen that is often overlooked in the post war propaganda and the maelstrom of uneducated bias.I suggest that this book, which is ironically in competetion with The Star of Africa, written by my wife and I, be read in public schools and by the average American. Even if you are not an aviation or history enthusiast, the human element and drama should be enough to justify your time. What the readers will also learn is that Franz, despite his humanist streak, was not that unusual among the men of the Luftwaffe. His experiences with JG-27 in North Africa, and the exposure he had to the previously mentioned men, especially Marseille, and the impressions left upon him, helped mold his attitude.I highly recommend this book, and I hope that this work receives all of the positive recognition that it deserves. Franz and Charlie were not unique men, but they were both very fortunate to have crossed paths. Their post war friendship, much like that of Col. Joe Peterburs who shot down Oberleutnant Walter Schuck in his Me-262, is something special. This book points this fact out. Once the guns fall silent, the professional warriors set aside their differences. That is what Edu Neuman called the ingredient "that separates us from the animals." Highly recommended as a History and Military Book Club selection.

A Higher Call by Adam Makos: Review by Tom GauthierHow often do you have trouble reading the last page of an action packed war story because of the blur of tears? First time for me, as I finished Adam Makos new book A Higher Call.After eight years of painstaking research, Makos has

produced a singular piece of work: the true and incredible story of two pilots who locked eyes--and I feel locked souls--across a span of deadly sky over Nazi Germany in 1943, changing the fortunes and the futures of all who were there.Adam Makos provides us a close-up of the American experience, before during and after this incident. But he also, and in marvelously rich detail, gives us a rare look into the machinations of the Luftwaffe, again, before the war and through to the very end..... Engines failed, damage was extensive to flight surfaces, yet under the strong hands of their young pilot, Charlie Brown, the ship remained precariously in the air. Back in the plane's fuselage the crew was bravely caring for each other--some with grievous wounds. As they approached the European coastline, Charlie knew that any moment the coastal flak guns would open up and finish them off.Suddenly, from behind and below them a FW-109 climbed up from the treetops and began its attack run on the helpless Pub. With all guns frozen the crew could only watch with the resignation of pending death. At the controls of the 109, Franz Stigler, an experienced ace saw the target that would raise his "kill" count. But he didn't kill. I will not herein tell you what transpired in the minds of the American airman or the German pilot. It is something you must read for yourself and let it sink in to your soul, as I did.Charlie Brown and Franz Stigler survived the war. There was no official mention of Stigler's saving Ye Olde Pub in American records. In Germany, he could say nothing and hope no one recognized his plane from the ground--or it would be a firing squad for him.The story of their meeting decades later and the ability to share the personal feelings of all who were touched by the incident near Christmas 1943 over Germany. Here's where I began to tear up.Adam Makos has brought us an action packed adventure story. But he has done it through the eyes, souls, fears, and personal travails of both the Germans and the Americans. Yes it's a war story, but more than that it's a warriors' story--humanized but not trivialized like we've never seen before. Vicious and deadly battle could not snuff chivalry and a higher call. It's is so good to be reminded of this through a real life story.A Higher Call is a must read.Dr. Tom Gauthier, MBA, Psy.D.International Award Winning NovelistCo-host of Military Author RadioMmilitary Writers' Society of AmericaU.S. Air Force Veteran

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