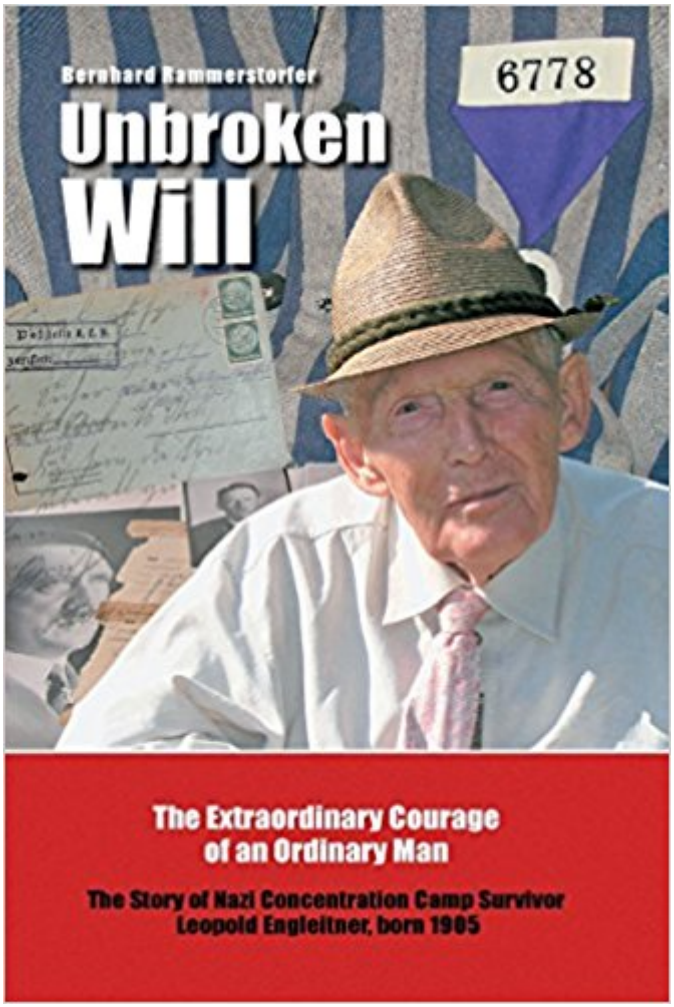
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Unbroken Will: The Extraordinary Courage Of An Ordinary Man The Story Of Nazi Concentration Camp Survivor Leopold Engleitner, Born 1905




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Synopsis

"History / World War I / World War II / Nazi Concentration Camp Survivor / Holocaust / Biography ""This book is a milestone in recording the horrors of National Socialism. It is essential reading, and I am delighted that the translation has already received such keen attention in the United States."" -Heinz Fischer, president of the Republic of Austria ""This book is not only an enthralling read; every detail in it has also been thoroughly researched. From a scientific point of view, it is one of the most reliable biographies of a victim of National Socialism."" -Professor Walter Manoschek, political scientist, University of Vienna ""You have given current and future generations a priceless gift by recording Mr. Engleitner's life story. His experiences remind us of the strength of the human will to overcome even the most horrible and challenging circumstances."" -Arnold Schwarzenegger, governor of California WHEN LEOPOLD ENGLEITNER WAS NINE YEARS OLD, an event of historical significance for the world that initiated the First World War took place in his hometown. Moreover, although Leopold Engleitner and his contemporary Adolf Hitler, who was sixteen years his senior, grew up in the same province (Upper Austria) and shared the same cultural background and educational system, the convictions and attitudes they developed were diametrically opposed. Whereas Adolf Hitler caused untold suffering to millions as a merciless mass murderer, Leopold Engleitner devoted his life to peace, refusing to buckle even in the face of death. The ordinary farmhand found the extraordinary courage to follow his conscience. He refused to serve in Hitler's army and did not even use the Nazi greeting ""Heil Hitler!"" Suffering unspeakable cruelty in three concentration camps he grew so thin that he weighed less than sixty-two pounds. Yet nothing and no one could break his will. Astoundingly, he could easily have had his freedom: all he had to do was sign a paper renouncing his religious convictions as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, but he steadfastly refused. And he never lost his optimism. In the concentration camp, he even bought a suitcase for the journey home it seemed impossible he would ever make. His unshakable faith in God helped Engleitner to lead a full and happy life despite constant rejection, and he never lost his zest for life as he became the oldest and one of the best known male concentration camp survivors in the world. His unexpected rehabilitation was achieved thanks to an extraordinary friendship. Though already far advanced in years, he travelled more than ninety-five thousand miles across Europe and the USA, between 1999 and 2012, testifying as a witness of history to ensure the past is not forgotten; as such, he became a model of tolerance and peace. Letters written by Engleitner during his internment and believed lost for nearly sixty years were discovered; and their combination with original minutes of police and court proceedings, reports from the concentration camps, and personal accounts of traumatic childhood incidents from one hundred years ago constitutes an

impressive firsthand history. "

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bernhard Rammerstorfer, born in 1968, has produced a number of publications and award-winning films relating to National Socialism that have appeared in various languages and countries. He has given lectures at schools, universities, and memorial sites in Europe and the United States, including Columbia University, Harvard University, and Stanford University. www.rammerstorfer.cc or www.unbrokenwill.com

Wonderful story about a strong brother in a weak body. As one of Jehovahs Witnesses we well know what our brothers experienced in Nazi Germany. This shows how our faith keeps us strong.

When Leopold Engleitner was released from the concentration camp in which he was interred he weighed 54 pounds, his body was covered with sores from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet, his scalp was half eaten off by lice, and, most importantly, he was as determined to keep his integrity as the day he entered the camp. How? How is it possible that the entire weight of the Nazi state being brought to bear on this humble farmer from Austria did not break him? That is the story that is told with such fidelity in the pages of "Unbroken Will".Leopold Engleitner’s story almost passed into history without ever being told. This humble man, through a chance encounter with an author in a park, BEGAN this journey of sharing his story in his late 90’s. It is a good thing this ordinary man has an extraordinary lifespan, since our world would be certainly be the poorer if this man went unnoticed. He has now traveled the world and shared his experiences with countless

people - university students, the Sioux nation, heads of state, parliaments - all AFTER he turned the century mark.Here is the story of a man who could have escaped the most horrific treatment of his life with a simple signature on a piece of paper. This treatment was reserved for Jehovah's witnesses only. Yet, that signature would have represented a repudiation of everything that he held dear. What would you do? What would I do? For that matter, what are you doing now to resist the evil in this world? Here is an example of a real follower of Christ's teachings, one who stood firm while all other religions played the harlot to the Nazi regime. Yes, on the outside Leopold Engleitner may have appeared an ordinary man, but what his experience proves is that no person who truly applies the teachings of Christ is ordinary in this world.

I was disturbing but great. I'm a witness, so it portrayed what can happen within a relatively short time frame. History teaches that. So, I recommend this book.

This book tells of the unfathomable experiences of a man who lived during a period in history filled with pure evil. Unfortunately, the author presents the details as just that, details. The reader completes the book knowing the facts, but never is taken into the story. The facts are there, but they are presented without creating the necessary emotion to bring the reader into the events.

I picked up the book on a Friday morning and had it finished by the next afternoon, wishing I could buy the DVD ASAP to view this incredible "little Austrian" and hear his story. This simple, ordinary, unassuming man survived the most unspeakable barbarity and cruelties in numerous concentration camps, all the while maintaining his principles, integrity, hope and faith as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. He set an example we wish all of mankind could imitate: one of peace, kindness, love and tolerance. I only wish I could meet him in person. A "must read" for young and old, it could be a life changing read.

I had the privilege of meeting Leopold Engleitner in person at the Austrian Embassy in Washington DC last year. The Austrian government was belatedly honoring him for his stand against Nazi brutality over 60 years ago. Though in a wheelchair and nearly one hundred years old, he exuded an inner strength that compelled him to share his experiences, while he still had a chance to do so. This book does a nice job of letting you get to know Leopold without having to go to Austria to do so.

Or physically unfit but mentally extraordinary! Loved this book so much .... Read many Holocaust

books but this one is the best. Faith strengthening and moving in every way

It was slow reading - but not sorry I bought it. Good information and worth buying.

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