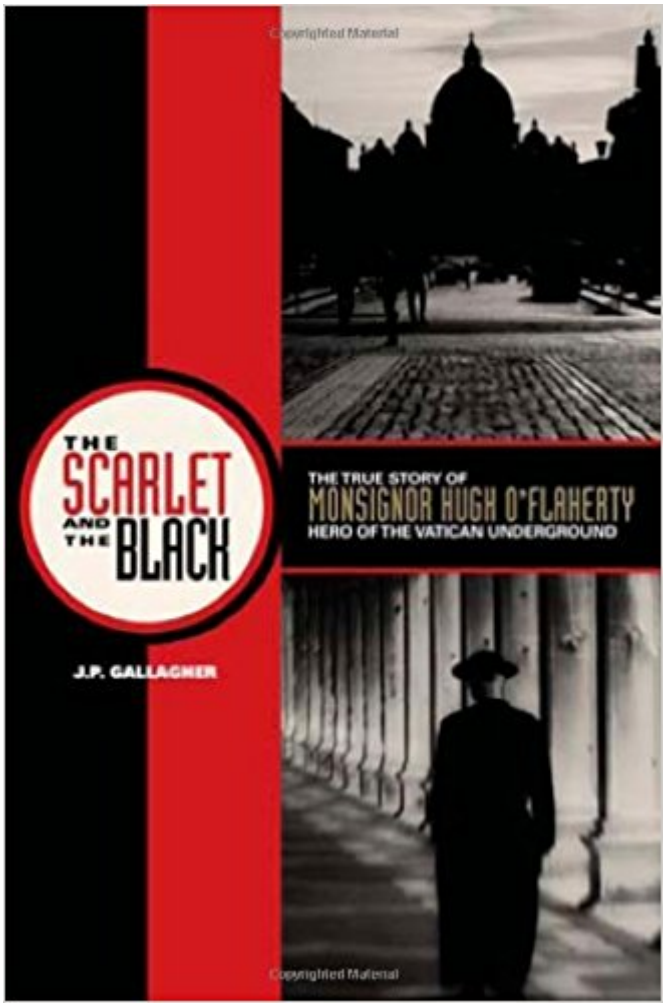
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The Scarlet And The Black: The True Story Of Monsignor Hugh O Flaherty, Hero Of The Vatican Underground



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Synopsis

It has all the hallmarks of a best-selling fictional thriller: espionage, conspiracy, a struggle against evil powers, undercover work by dark of night... but it’s all true. The Scarlet and the Black tells the astonishing and heroic true story of Monsignor Hugh O’Flaherty, the man dubbed "The Scarlet Pimpernel of the Vatican" during World War II. Born in Killarney, Ireland, Hugh O’Flaherty was an avid athlete-becoming a formidable boxer, handball player, hurler, and golfer. From an early age, however, he knew his calling was to the priesthood. After his ordination, he served first as an Apostolic Delegate in Egypt, Haiti, Santo Domingo, and Czechoslovakia, then in Rome at the Holy Office (now the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith). It was here in Rome that his greatest work began. After the surrender of Italy in 1943, Rome came under the command of Nazi Colonel Herbert Kappler of the dreaded SS, who began the deportation of Italian Jews to Auschwitz. Kappler was a notorious hater of the Jews, persecuting them at every turn. As a top man in the Vatican Holy Office, Msgr. O’Flaherty sprang into action, organizing a sophisticated team that included men and women of many nationalities, religions, and political views. There was one goal-to save Jews and POWs from the Nazi machine. Despite Kappler’s numerous attempts to assassinate him, O’Flaherty persisted, and his efforts saved thousands of Jews and POWs. Using private homes and apartments, churches and monasteries, the effort was all orchestrated by Msgr. O’Flaherty. Each day his familiar figure would stand on the steps of St. Peter’s -neutral ground that even the Nazis wouldn t violate - to welcome any fugitives who might be sent his way. All told, of 9,700 Roman Jews, most were saved, with 1,007 shipped to Auschwitz. The rest were hidden, 5,000 of them by the official Church - 3,000 at the Pope s Castel Gandolfo, 200 or 400 (estimates vary) as "members" of the Palatine Guard, and some 1,500 in monasteries, convents and colleges. The remaining 3,700 were hidden in private homes, including Msgr. O’Flaherty’s network of apartments. After the war, O’Flaherty was honored by various Allied countries with awards and decorations for his heroic acts to save Jews and POWs.This classic account by J.P. Gallagher was adapted into the acclaimed television movie, The Scarlet and the Black, starring Gregory Peck as Msgr. O Flaherty and Christopher Plummer as Colonel Kappler.

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Customer Reviews

A superbly researched and finely written book that tells the story that was unknown to me prior to my watching Gregory Peck in the made for TV movie ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Scarlet and the BlackÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• which was based on this book (a fine move that follows the book closely). I found an original hardbound copy of the book in good shape to give to my 86 year old mother who loves the history of the Catholic Church. I read the book, cover to cover, in two evenings before sending it on. My mother and I both were enthralled in the telling of the cat and mouse game between the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Scarlet Pimpernel of the VaticanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and the Gestapo. I bought another paperback copy of the book that was retitled with the name of the movie to share with my wife who loves murder mysteries and she too was gripped by the telling of the story of the near misses and the tragic losses of those who stood between the innocents and the Gestapo. 6 stars out of 5!!!

What a remarkable man this was. Many will be familiar with the story through the portrayal of this Monsignor by Gregory Peck. Typically, as remarkable as the movie is, the true story is even moreso. The book makes a great companion to the film to sort out fact from fiction and fictionalized facts.This is the story of a Catholic priest, more, about one man’s personal campaign against evil and he did not care what uniform it wore. He was not in partnership with any nationality. His first loyalty was to Rome and the Vatican. But, he waged his campaign knowing that the system could only go so far in sheltering him and those who worked with him and unselfishly, he never let personal risk deter him from doing what he saw as right.One need not be a Catholic or Christian to appreciate the lengths he went to and risks he took in opposing the greatest evil of the last century. Do not let religious bias stay you from reading this. As the man himself was big, his story is bigger than that.

This is an adventure story of a little-known figure who made a big impact on the lives of many in World War II in Italy. This story of the Irish Catholic priest Msgr. Hugh O'Flaherty working in the Vatican's Holy Office relates his extensive efforts to find hiding places in areas around Rome for Allied soldiers and flyers on the run from the Nazis. It is quite a story, easy to read, and very engaging. (As one who is currently teaching middle school history, I think it might even be a good book for teens. And for adult readers as well, of course.)My only disappointment was that there are no footnotes identifying the sources of the information in the text and there is no Index to help the reader find information in the book. I would also have found it helpful to have a "Cast of Characters" to help keep the people straight in my mind. (For readers wanting a more scholarly approach to the same topic, perhaps Stephen Walker's "Hide and Seek" would be an option, which I have also read and reviewed.) And I do like a few more photos than were included here as they help to make connections. But all considered, I highly recommend this book as it sheds light on a little-known aspect of World War II.I read this book after viewing the DVD by the same name on the same subject. Gregory Peck plays Msgr. O'Flaherty in the movie and is a much more dashing figure than Msgr. O'Flaherty in real life, but such is Hollywood!

I had searched for this book for years before trying . I even tried here several years ago. I was not disappointed. It was a great read, a complement to the movie of the same name. It is always enjoyable to read the true story of a movie and this one did not disappoint. Filled with details the movie could not relate, this is the factual account of not just Father O' Flaherty, but an entire network of people from all walks of life banded together to frustrate the Nazi war machine. The suspense of a group of people trying to outwit an enemy who knew what they were doing, as well as little-known details of the Vatican itself, made this a hard-to-put-down read. If true suspense and espionage is your area of interest, this book is for you.

True heroes don't consider themselves to be one. Thank good J. P. Gallagher was able to get enough info from Monsignor O'Flaherty and the others involved in this adventure of history. I was so happy to see this book back in print. I love the TV movie with Gregory Peck that was based on this book. Overall, the movie is true to the book. However, when you see the photo of the real Monsignor O'Flaherty, you'll think of Karl Malden.

Great true story it deserved better,ore polished writing. Well worth the the read and all the respect

possible for Monsenior OFlaraty.

This is a book of mostly anecdotes about Msgr. O'Flaherty's activities before and during the Nazi occupation of Rome. By all measures, this man is a hero whose daring approaches to rescuing Allied military as well as Italian anti-fascists, and protecting their whereabouts made for a fascinating story. I've walked by his residence at Vatican City many times and now that I know a bit more about him, I'll always remember his exploits, those of a true hero.

The Hiding Place. Shindler's List. Bonnhoeffer. Heroic sacrifice for others. If you have done unto the least of these, my brothers, you have done it unto me.

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