

'Precious Freedom – A True Story of the Polish Underground (AK) WWII'

Precious Freedom is an inspirational true adventure story of the life of a Polish boy, Kazik, who developed into manhood during WWII. The tragedies, traumas and challenges he faced as he worked for the survival of his family and for his country. Joining the Polish Underground movement, AK, forced responsibility beyond his years onto Kazik's shoulders. However, throughout the terrible times, he never lost his dream of gaining freedom.

Kazik was only 15 years old when the war began in 1939. His early life in the historic and beautiful city of Krakow was free and happy with his loving family. However, from the first moment, when his home city of Krakow was invaded by the Germans, his life changed. He found himself running away with thousands of others to escape the unknown terror, and after he returned to his home this terror became reality.

His brother was among the first prisoners sent to Auschwitz, his father was picked up by the Gestapo and died as a consequence, and his brother-in-law was forced to flee Poland. This left the teenage Kazik as the sole male to support himself and his family.

After Kazik joined the Polish Underground resistance movement he traded on the black market to make money for himself and the AK and learnt how to sabotage German transport. His natural ability with drawing and fine detail made him an excellent forger of ID cards – Kennkarte, and in so doing he saved many lives.

As a wanted man by the Germans and then by the Russians he had to find ways to escape on many occasions, even over the roof tops. He was living on his nerves and his wits.

Despite the grim situation, Kazik studied and completed Technical College in Electrical Engineering and became an Officer in the AK.

During the war years, he would watch the sun setting in the west and say – 'There is freedom. That is where I want to be.' In 1945 he escaped to the West, and in 1950 migrated to Australia. He achieved his dream of freedom and now lives with his family on the Gold Coast of Australia.

Despite the accuracy of detail and the sometimes gruesome factual accounts of what happened in this crucial theatre of war between 1939 and 1945, Kazik's determination, courage and sense of humour make this book an uplifting, inspirational and at times amusing story. It is a first person account that needs to be told, and one that could well become required reading for teenagers in schools so that the adults of the future can learn from the mistakes of the past, and also be inspired by the courage of those who fought to gain 'Precious Freedom'.

http://joansmallpoetryandbooks.com/book_store.html

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