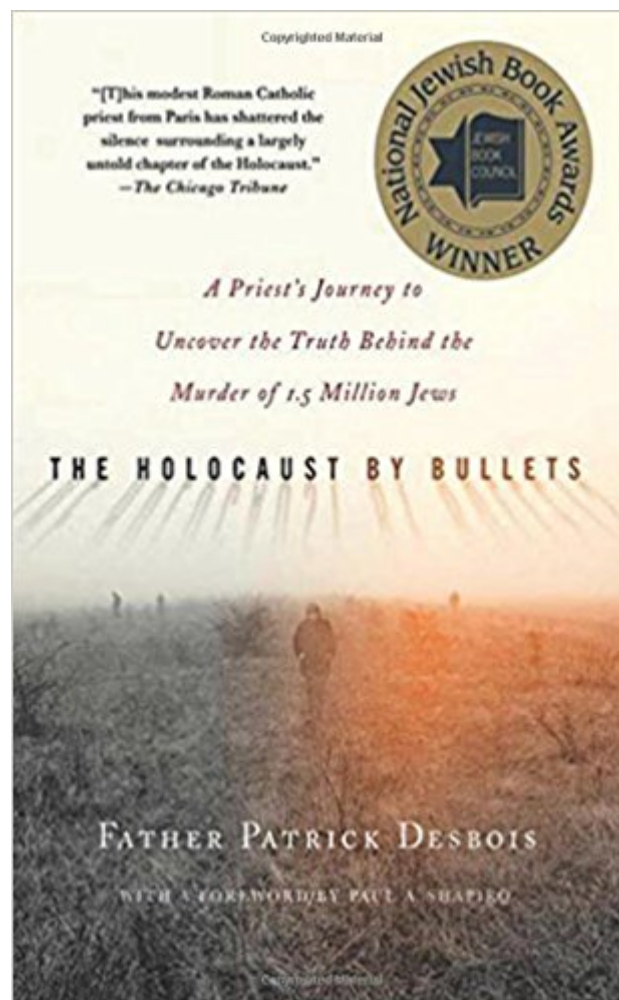




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The Holocaust By Bullets: A Priest's Journey To Uncover The Truth Behind The Murder Of 1.5 Million Jews



Synopsis

The poignant story of how a Catholic priest uncovered the truth behind the murder of one and a half million Ukrainian Jews. Father Patrick Desbois documents the daunting task of identifying and examining all the sites where Jews were exterminated by Nazi mobile units in the Ukraine in WWII. Using innovative methodology, interviews, and ballistic evidence, he has determined the location of many mass gravesites with the goal of providing proper burials for the victims of the forgotten Ukrainian Holocaust. Compiling new archival material and many eye-witness accounts, Desbois has put together the first definitive account of one of World War II's bloodiest chapters. Published with the support of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "[T]his modest Roman Catholic priest from Paris, without using much more than his calm voice and Roman collar, has shattered the silence surrounding a largely untold chapter of the Holocaust." --The Chicago Tribune

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In "The Holocaust by Bullets," Father Patrick Desbois, a French Roman Catholic priest, embarks on a sacred mission with the help of many others who are also deeply committed to the ideals of truth and justice. His goal is to uncover the facts concerning the slaughter of roughly 1.5 million Jews in the former Soviet Union by the Nazis and those who collaborated with them. Among the murdered were many young women and children, as well as the elderly. The Jews were usually transported by cart to an area within or just outside the villages where they lived and then made to undress before they were shot and thrown into pits. Father Desbois and his team traveled to such towns as Rawa-Ruska, Lisinitchi, Busk, Khvativ, and Ternivka to videotape the testimony of often reluctant

witnesses who, even after more than six decades, still remember every detail of the massacres that they observed. Their testimony, along with microfilmed documents stored in the archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, is bringing renewed attention to "an ocean of extermination" that reached across the Ukraine. Desbois had heard stories about the Second World War from his relatives, and he was especially riveted by the anecdotes of his grandfather, Claudius, who was imprisoned by the Germans in 1942. Claudius proclaimed that no matter how much he suffered, "it was worse for the others!" Patrick later found out that "the others" were the Jews who were methodically exterminated in villages and towns in full view of their non-Jewish friends and neighbors. This book is a nightmarish look at man's inhumanity to man.

Several years ago, Father Patrick Desbois, a French Catholic priest, traveled to the Ukraine. He and his team of ten individuals, from different backgrounds, interviewed hundreds of Ukrainians who had witnessed the massacre of Jews in their villages. He recorded testimonies from those people who had witnessed the genocide of 1938-1941. One and a half million Jews were murdered by the Germans, their Axis allies and local collaborators in the towns and villages of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. The massacres were public, witnessed and sometimes assisted by the locals. Patrick's closest witness was his grandfather Claudius Desbois, a French POW held at a forced labor camp during the war. Although many mass graves of the hundreds of thousands of murdered Jews are untraceable; Father Patrick Desbois reached several fields or ravines where he could touch with his hands protruding bones, scattered in the grass, which belonged to men, women and children of all ages. He confronted chapters of a gruesome history that many chose to deny, ignore or forget. In the USSR the focus on the Jewish specificity of the Holocaust was unacceptable. The murder of the Jews was characterized as the killing of "heroic Soviet resistance fighters" rather than the genocidal extermination of the Jewish people. The Germans invaded my hometown of Chrzanów, Poland in September 1939. My life as a Jewish boy was immediately and adversely affected. I was persecuted, subjected to many discriminating and ominous German decrees. During the Holocaust, I saw the Germans looting, expropriating, mocking, beating, torturing, shooting and hanging innocent people. I had been subjected to unimaginable acts of extreme wickedness, as reflected in my autobiography *From a Name to A Number*.

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