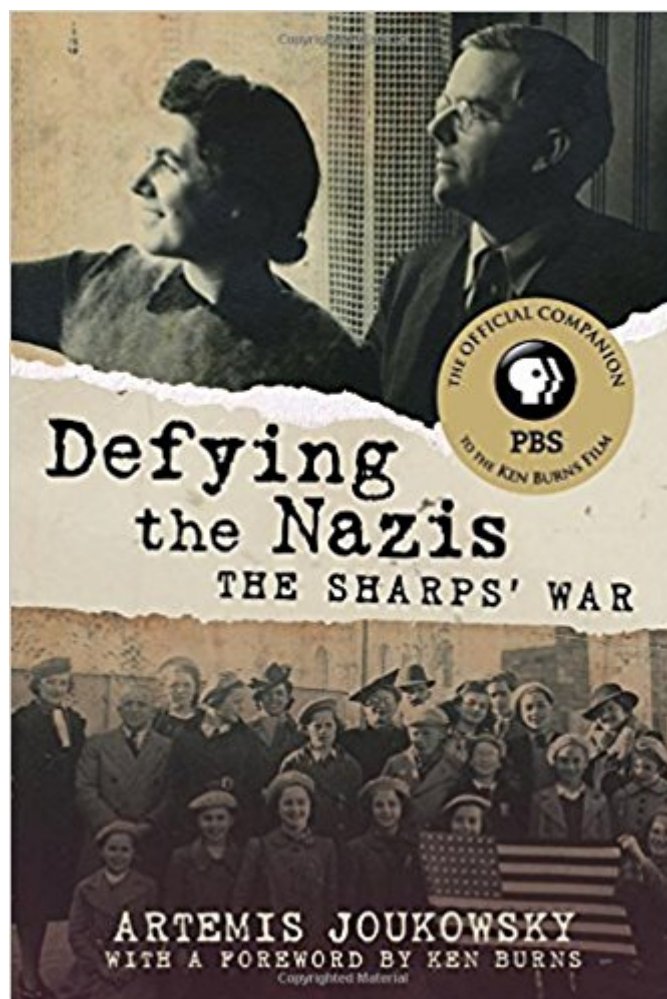


The book was found

Defying The Nazis: The Sharps' War



Synopsis

Official companion to the Ken Burns film premiering September 20, 2016, on PBS tells the little-known story of the Sharps, an otherwise ordinary couple whose faith and commitment to social justice inspired them to undertake dangerous rescue and relief missions across war-torn Europe, saving the lives of countless refugees, political dissidents, and Jews on the eve of World War II. In 1939, the Reverend Waitstill Sharp, a young Unitarian minister, and his wife, Martha, a social worker, accepted a mission from the American Unitarian Association: they were to leave their home and young children in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and travel to Prague, Czechoslovakia, to help address the mounting refugee crisis. Seventeen ministers had been asked to undertake this mission and had declined; Rev. Sharp was the first to accept the call for volunteers in Europe. Armed with only \$40,000, Waitstill and Martha quickly learned the art of spy craft and undertook dangerous rescue and relief missions across war-torn Europe, saving refugees, political dissidents, and Jews on the eve of World War II. After narrowly avoiding the Gestapo themselves, the Sharps returned to Europe in 1940 as representatives of the newly formed Unitarian Service Committee and continued their relief efforts in Vichy France. A fascinating portrait of resistance as told through the story of one courageous couple, *Defying the Nazis* offers a rare glimpse at high-stakes international relief efforts during WWII and tells the remarkable true story of a couple whose faith and commitment to social justice inspired them to risk their lives to save countless others. A companion documentary film was directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Beacon Press (September 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 080707182X

ISBN-13: 978-0807071823

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,003 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Unitarian Universalism](#) #4 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Philanthropy & Charity](#) #6 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Germany](#)

Customer Reviews

This book began as a ninth grade social studies project for the author. It was the only A he got in high school, and it triggered a life-long passion as family historian. The effort to research his ancestral past is quite commendable. This is the story of Artemis Joukowsky's grandparents and the sacrifices they made as Unitarian missionaries in World War II Prague in 1939. They were selected to help a refugee organization run by the American Unitarian Association, and they accepted the challenge, leaving their two young children behind. They didn't realize the danger the endeavor would entail until shortly after they got there, but both were determined to help for as long as possible. They helped many escape, but there are also some who, sadly, didn't make it. The success and failures are both touching. Failures didn't stop these two, however. Once they were in Europe to help those to get out of the Nazi hold, they found themselves devoted to the cause for the rest of the war. The story at times reads scholarly, but this is due to the extensive research the author and his crew of hired help conducted to dig into the past. His grandmother had left all the documents behind, and survivors and witnesses were interviewed to get quotes and other details. Dates, times, locations and names are fastidiously documented here. At other times the narrative reads like a spy thriller. Both grandparents, Waitstill and Martha Sharp, had kept their activities silent from their grandchildren. Why? The author's mother was aware of what they had done, but the story was never passed down to the grandchildren. The Sharps' actions early in the war continued in other areas of humanitarian relief, something that impacted their lives after the war.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War Outrunning the Nazis: The Brave Escape of Resistance Fighter Sven Somme (Great Escapes of World War II) Wine and War: The French, the Nazis, and the Battle for France's Greatest Treasure The Book of Perfectly Perilous Math: 24 Death-Defying Challenges for Young Mathematicians Sterling Biographies: Harry Houdini: Death-Defying Showman Teacher Created Materials - TIME For Kids Informational Text: Defying Gravity! Rock Climbing - Grade 4 - Guided Reading Level R (Time for Kids Nonfiction Readers: Level 4.4) Bridges: Three Thousand Years of Defying Nature The Upside of Irrationality: The Unexpected Benefits of Defying Logic at Work and at Home Defying Destiny: Forsaken Sinners MC Series, Book 3 Rescuing Da Vinci: Hitler and the Nazis Stole Europe's Great Art - America and Her Allies Recovered It Hiding from the Nazis The Perfect Horse: The Daring U.S. Mission to Rescue the Priceless Stallions Kidnapped by the Nazis (Random House Large Print) Gold Run: The Rescue of Norway's Gold Bullion from the Nazis, 1940 Fromms: How Julius Fromm's Condom Empire Fell to the Nazis The

Perfect Horse: The Daring U.S. Mission to Rescue the Priceless Stallions Kidnapped by the Nazis
The Orpheus Clock: The Search for My Family's Art Treasures Stolen by the Nazis Road to Valor: A
True Story of WWII Italy, the Nazis, and the Cyclist Who Inspired a Nation The Forger's Spell: A
True Story of Vermeer, Nazis, and the Greatest Art Hoax of the Twentieth Century (P.S.) Hitler's Art
Thief: Hildebrand Gurlitt, the Nazis, and the Looting of Europe's Treasures School for Barbarians:
Education Under the Nazis (Dover Books on History, Political and Social Science)

[Dmca](#)