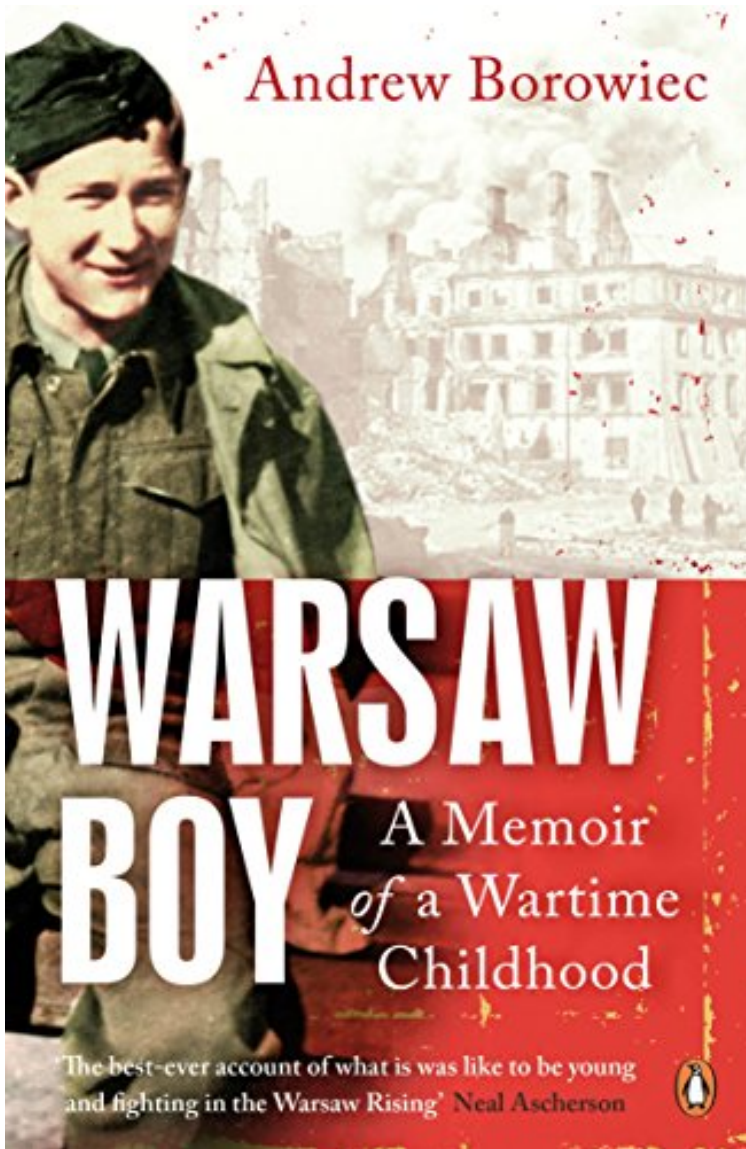


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Warsaw Boy: A Memoir of a Wartime Childhood



Par Andrew Borowiec
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurWarsaw Boy is the remarkable true story of a sixteen-year old boy soldier in war-torn Poland. Poland suffered terribly under the Nazis. By the end of the war six million had been killed: some were innocent civilians - half of them were Jews - but the rest died as a result of a ferocious guerrilla war the Poles had waged. On 1 August 1944 Andrew Borowiec, a fifteen-year-old volunteer in the Resistance, lobbed a grenade through the shattered window of a Warsaw apartment block onto some German soldiers running below. 'I felt I had come of age. I was a soldier and I'd just tried to kill some of our enemies'.The

Warsaw Uprising lasted for 63 days: Himmler described it as 'the worst street fighting since Stalingrad'. Yet for the most part the insurgents were poorly equipped local men and teenagers - some of them were even younger than Andrew. Over that summer Andrew faced danger at every moment, both above and below ground as the Poles took to the city's sewers to creep beneath the German lines during lulls in the fierce counterattacks. Wounded in a fire fight the day after his sixteenth birthday and unable to face another visit to the sewers, he was captured as he lay in a makeshift cellar hospital wondering whether he was about to be shot or saved. Here he learned a lesson: there were decent Germans as well as bad. From one of the most harrowing episodes of the Second World War, this is an extraordinary tale of survival and defiance recounted by one of the few remaining veterans of Poland's bravest summer. Andrew Borowiec dedicates this book to all the Warsaw boys, 'especially those who never grew up'. Andrew Borowiec was born at Lodz in Poland in 1928. At fifteen he joined the Home Army, the main Polish resistance during the Second World War, and fought in the ill-fated Warsaw Uprising. After the war he left Poland and attended Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. He lives in Cyprus with his English wife Juliet.

Revue de presse A subtle, well observed autobiography. Beautifully paced (The Times) A timely, angry, terribly moving and drily amusing account of an especially dark period in Poland's often tragic history (Telegraph) Excellent, hugely engaging. For all the horrors that Borowiec describes, his is an affectionate, wryly amusing account punctuated by episodes of warmth and humanity (Financial Times) In this packed, wise memoir, Borowiec describes a journey that is nothing less than an odyssey through the most harrowing of circumstances. Given the fate of many of his fellow Poles, that there was a happy ending for Borowiec is remarkable (The National) A highly readable and engaging first-hand account of the tribulations of a country for which Britain went to war in 1939, and about which most of us still know far too little (Roger Moorhouse, author of 'The Devils Alliance: Hitler's Pact with Stalin') A uniquely personal and harrowing description of one of the most tragic events in the country's twentieth century history (Cyprus Mail) A story of defiance, bravery and survival. Warsaw Boy is a real-life Boy's Adventure Story - Eat your heart out, Indiana Jones (Shirley Conran) This account of the Warsaw Uprising is both harrowing and full of human and even humorous touches . . . The result is an important addition to our understanding of what was happening in Poland during the war years (Denis MacShane The Tablet) Borowiec is at his best when describing his own experiences - his excitement at throwing his first grenade; crawling through the sewers to move from one sector to another; and the surreal moments when normal life seemed to be continuing amid the carnage . . . Most striking, perhaps, amid all the horror, is just how exciting he found it all (Literary) An engaging memoir of wartime childhood . . . It is the fresh, often humorous voice of Borowiec that stands out throughout. Warsaw Boy is valuable for the story it tells of what a boy made of the war and what the war made of him (TLS) Meticulously researched, fascinating. It is the immediacy of Borowiec's boyhood memories which makes this account special (Artslink) The best-ever account of what it was like to be young and fighting in the Warsaw Rising (Neal Ascherson Sunday Herald, 'Books of the Year') *Présentation de l'auteur* Warsaw Boy is the remarkable true story of a sixteen-year old boy soldier in war-torn Poland. Poland suffered terribly under the Nazis. By the end of the war six million had been killed: some were innocent civilians - half of them were Jews - but the rest died as a result of a ferocious guerrilla war the Poles had waged. On 1 August 1944 Andrew Borowiec, a fifteen-year-old volunteer in the Resistance, lobbed a grenade through the shattered window of a Warsaw apartment block onto some German soldiers running below. 'I felt I had come of age. I was a soldier and I'd just tried to kill some of our enemies'. The Warsaw Uprising lasted for 63 days: Himmler described it as 'the worst street fighting since Stalingrad'. Yet for the most part the insurgents were poorly equipped local men and teenagers - some of them were even younger than Andrew. Over that summer Andrew faced danger at every moment, both above and below ground as the Poles took to the city's sewers to creep beneath the German lines during lulls in the fierce counterattacks. Wounded in a fire fight the day after his sixteenth birthday and unable to face another visit to the sewers, he was captured as he lay in a makeshift cellar hospital wondering whether he was about to be shot or saved. Here he learned a lesson: there were decent Germans as well as bad. From one of the most harrowing episodes of the Second World War, this is an extraordinary tale of survival and defiance recounted by one of the few remaining veterans of Poland's bravest summer. Andrew Borowiec dedicates this book to all the Warsaw boys, 'especially those who never grew up'. Andrew Borowiec was born at Lodz in Poland in 1928. At fifteen he joined the Home Army, the main Polish resistance during the Second World War, and fought in the ill-fated Warsaw Uprising. After the war he left Poland and attended Columbia University's Graduate

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