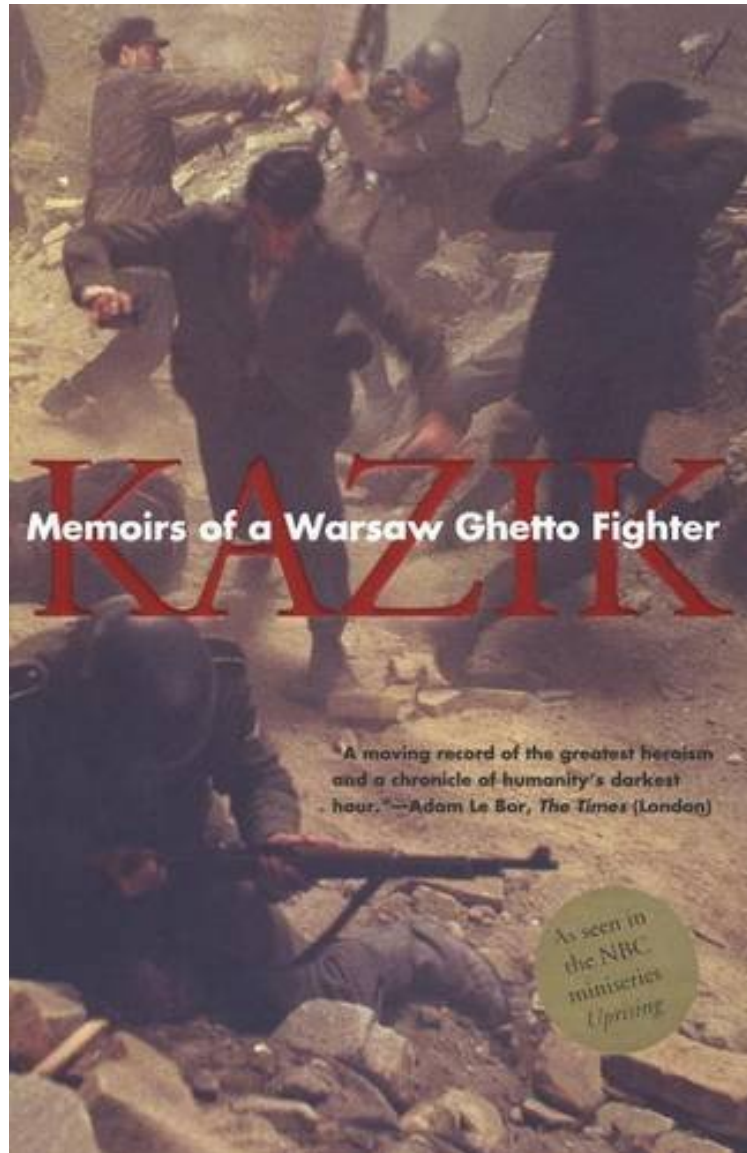


(Library ebook) Memoirs of a Warsaw Ghetto Fighter

## Memoirs of a Warsaw Ghetto Fighter

*Kazik (Simha Rotem)*

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**Kazik (Simha Rotem) : Memoirs of a Warsaw Ghetto Fighter** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Memoirs of a Warsaw Ghetto Fighter:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An honest memoir By Gopal This was a book written from one man's point of view and as such suffered from the lack of the big picture. The story of Warsaw is available in other books. The author has not produced great literature but rather described in gritty, powerful, and unsparing prose an important part of the war effort I knew very little about, the WWII Warsaw uprising. Some courageous young people chose to

resist the Nazis attempt to exterminate an entire people who had lived in Warsaw for hundreds of years. While there were almost no survivors these youngsters saved lives and inflicted an unexpected cost on an arrogant and cold-blooded adversary. Kazlik didn't fill all the plot holes from that period but neither did the author intend to. He told a simple story of strong-willed young warriors fighting a guerilla war against an intractable and evil enemy. Many of his friends died, some horribly. To his surprise he survived and lived to tell his story. His narrative reads like a diary. Kazlik does not brag, embellish or pull punches. It seems to me he wrote this reluctantly as a duty rather than for recognition or praise. I suspect he suffered much pain in reliving those horrible days. He describes waking up screaming after it was over. Reading inside the lines one can sense his courage and commitment to his people in this amazing tale of a war against impossible odds where the victories were small but meaningful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Personal History of a Ghetto Fighter By BearwifeChoppily written because it is an expanded, ghost written version of a much shorter account by Rotem, but fascinating too. A very interesting look at the second Warsaw ghetto uprising and the activities of the ZOB afterward. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent story of the courage of jews holding up against ... By scott savage Excellent story of the courage of jews holding up against such evil put to them by the nazis. How people can be so wrong against another for no reason, it's sad. These few jews had great courage to do what they did and fight against the tyranny in those days. A moving story.

"In the first three days [of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising], the Germans didn't take a single Jew out of the buildings. After their attempts to penetrate the Ghetto had failed, they decided to spare themselves casualties by destroying it from outside with cannon and aerial bombings. A few days later the Ghetto was totally destroyed. . . . The 'streets' were nothing but rows of smoldering ruins. It was hard to cross them without stepping on charred bodies." Kazik When the Nazis decided to liquidate the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943, five hundred young Jewish fighters within the Ghetto rose up to defy them. With no weapons, no influence, and no experience in warfare, they managed to resist the Germans for almost a month. In the end, when the battle was lost, the surviving Jews were led out of the ruins through the sewers by a nineteen-year-old fighter known as Kazik. As head courier of the Jewish Fighting Organization (ZOB), which had planned and executed the uprising, Kazik spent the rest of the war helping to care for the several thousand Jews who still remained in Warsaw. This book an extraordinary story of courage and perseverance is Kazik's wartime memoir. In stark, spare detail, Kazik reports on the efforts to prepare for the defense of the Warsaw Ghetto, the calamitous battle with the Germans, and the rescue of the few Jews who were still alive after the Ghetto was destroyed. He describes how he assumed a false Aryan identity in order to pass through the city as he collected money and found hiding places for the survivors. Constantly on guard, fearful of informers, his life always in danger, he nevertheless plotted resourcefully to aid his fellow Jews. He tells how he joined the Poles during their ill-fated uprising against the Nazis in Warsaw in 1944, had further brushes with death assisting the Polish underground, and returned to Warsaw to watch its liberation by the Russian army. Suspenseful, moving, and remarkably heroic, Kazik's memoir is only the second source to be published on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. It will help demolish the image of Jews as submissive victims in the Holocaust.

From Publishers Weekly As a courier protected by his gentle looks and false identity papers, and as a leader of the daring group of 500 poorly armed, untrained men and women of the Jewish Fighting Organization (ZOB), the author, known as Kazik, helped stave off the Nazi liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto for a month in 1943, an operation the Germans expected to complete within three days. This affecting account recalls the terror and danger of the period and how, after the battle for the ghetto was lost, 19-year-old Kazik led the escape of fighter-survivors through the sewers to safe houses on the Aryan side or to a nearby forest. He later fought with the Polish underground in their unsuccessful 1944 uprising against the Germans to free Warsaw. He and his family now live in Israel. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA? Readers share the horrific account of the Nazi destruction of Warsaw's Jewish Ghetto as told by Kazik (Simha Rotem). Kazik was a 19-year-old freedom fighter who helped resist the Nazi takeover and helped smuggle the surviving Jews out of the ghetto through the sewers of Warsaw. Most died, as did the teenage heroes and heroines who had the strength and conviction to fight to the death for freedom. He "conveys things as I saw them," leaving readers to reflect on the times and the courage of the Jews. Kazik writes to honor those gone and help those remaining to appreciate freedom. ? Linda Vretos, West Springfield High School, Springfield, VA Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A moving record of the greatest heroism and a chronicle of humanity's darkest hour." Adam Le Bor, The Times "This memoir is the most gripping account of wartime guerilla survival against all the odds that I have ever read. It is impossible to put the book down." Robert Carver, The Scotsman "It had me transfixed. I could do nothing else until I finished it and could think of nothing else after I put it down." Chaim Bermant, Literary