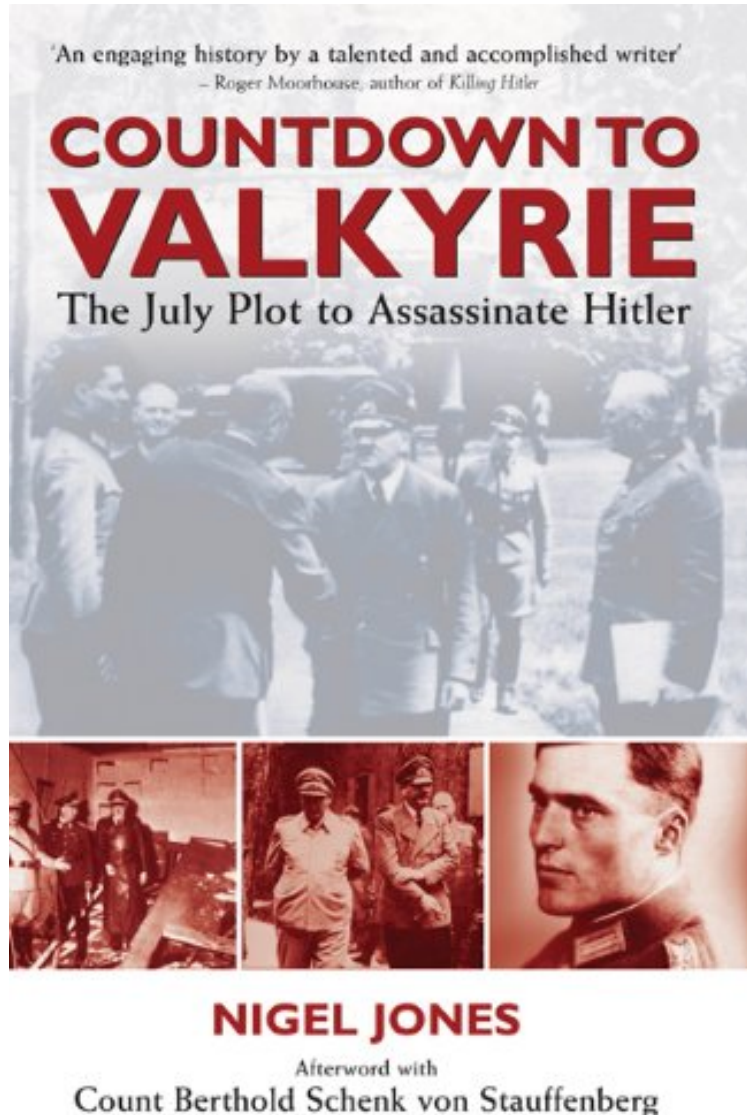


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Countdown to Valkyrie: The July Plot to Assassinate Hitler

Nigel Jones

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Nigel Jones : Countdown to Valkyrie: The July Plot to Assassinate Hitler before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Countdown to Valkyrie: The July Plot to Assassinate Hitler:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ode to ValkyrieBy CustomerThis is even better than the book I read twenty-five years ago called Hitler Must Die! Nigel Jones has given a valuably descriptive narrative to the most suspenseful and honor-bound conspiracy of World War Two with his wonderfully detailed history of the men who plotted to kill the most hated and feared man in history, chief among them the plot's greatest hero and martyr Colonel

Count Claus von Stauffenburg. The Count was the only man brave enough to physically end Hitler's life, but was himself executed that very evening in Berlin after the failure of the assassination attempt at the Wolf's Lair in East Prussia. This is an ideal companion to the Tom Cruise film *Valkyrie*, and will hold the reader on tenterhooks until its bittersweet end. A fitting tribute to those somewhat long-forgotten but legendary, heroic officers, nobility, and German gentlemen.²¹ of 22 people found the following review helpful. I Would Consider This Book to be A Must Read
By Bill Emblom
This book is vastly superior to the recent movie. Author Nigel Jones initially covers some of the previous assassination attempts on Adolf Hitler. Hitler always credited "Providence" for his survival, and confirmation that he was to continue with his plan for Germany. The book really picks up its interest when Count Claus von Stauffenburg and his cohorts realized the war was lost with the D-Day invasion at Normandy, and put together their plan to show the world they wanted to save Germany before it was totally destroyed. Bad luck, "Providence" according to Hitler, always seemed to raise its ugly head whenever there was an attempt on Hitler's life, and with the attempt at the Wolf's Lair that nearly succeeded Hitler was determined to extract revenge upon the perpetrators. With Hitler's demise in doubt following the bombing some of those involved vacillated regarding their loyalty. Colonel-General Friedrich Fromm ordered the immediate execution of Claus von Stauffenburg and others to cover up his own involvement. Taking this action into his own hands angered the Nazis, and Fromm faced execution himself the following year. The section of the book on "Retribution" goes into detail on the torture, trial, and execution of those thought to be involved. Judge Roland Freisler relished his role in demeaning defendants on trial. Raving Roland would scream insults from his bench at defendants as they stood before him. Various tortures are described in this section of the book as well. The last section of the book covers each of the characters in the book and what happened to them. After watching the disappointing movie, at least to me, this book was a very pleasant surprise for me and I intend to give it a permanent place in my library.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is amazing how many times he escaped death by pure luck
By Customer
Very informative and well researched book on the several attempts to assassinate Adolf Hitler. Describes in detail the hatred and resentment within the German Military Hierarchy to the brutal methods endorsed by Hitler and the Nazis towards the Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, and the mentally ill banished to the many concentration camps. It is amazing how many times he escaped death by pure luck. Some 15 attempts were made on his life and they all failed. This book is a very good read and gives you a great insight into the forces at work within the Third Reich.

Although there were more than 40 plots to assassinate Adolf Hitler, none came closer to success than the July Plot of 1944. The attempt was masterminded by Count von Stauffenburg, a member of the German General Staff, who had been rushed back from Africa after losing his left eye and right hand. For his injuries, he had been decorated as a war hero. Never a supporter of Nazi ideology, he was increasingly attracted by the approaches of the German resistance movement. After an attempt to assassinate Hitler in November 1943 failed, Stauffenburg developed a new plot to kill him at the Wolf's Lair Headquarters on 20th July 1944. Besides the Fuhrer's assassination, Stauffenburg organized plans to take over command of the Germany forces and sue for peace with the Allies. The attempt ultimately failed. Only one bomb was detonated and Hitler was only injured: his life was probably saved because the bomb, hidden in Stauffenburg's suitcase, had been placed behind a heavy table leg which reduced the impact of the blast. In remarkable detail, with photographs, explanatory maps and diagrams, author Nigel Jones dissects the lead up to the attempt, the events of the day in minute-by-minute detail, and the aftermath in which the conspirators were hunted down. No other work on the July Plot contains such accessible detail and full explanation of this attempt on Hitler's life. In addition to a forensic analysis of the day, the book includes short biographies of the key characters involved, the first-person recollections of witnesses, and a 'what if' section explaining the likely outcome of a successful assassination.

From Publishers Weekly
Jones enhances his developing reputation as a writer on the Third Reich with this compelling, fast-paced account of the July 20 conspiracy to assassinate Adolf Hitler (its code name publicized by the release of Tom Cruise's latest movie). While up-to-date on the latest scholarship, the book succeeds admirably in presenting for a general audience not only the doomed course of Operation Valkyrie but its background: the failures of other assassination plots, the difficulties of organizing resistance in a totalitarian state, the desperate courage of the men and women who risked their lives. From the charismatic Count Claus von Stauffenburg down, the conspirators belonged to the German establishment. Their plan was for a coup to supplant Nazism with a civil-military government under the rule of law and end a war that was destroying Germany physically and morally. Jones traces the plot's unfolding and unraveling, first day by day, then hour by hour. Hitler's survival condemned the conspirators to an obscene vengeance. Their heroic sacrifice, says Jones, snatched the soul of their tortured country from the pit—and saved it. Photos, map. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "the fullest, most detailed account yet of this key episode in the history of WWII." (WWII History Magazine)
About the Author
Nigel Jones is a historian, journalist and biographer. A former deputy editor of *History Today* magazine and reviews editor of *BBC History Magazine* he has initiated and presented several BBC TV and radio documentaries. He writes and reviews regularly for *The Times*, *Telegraph*, *Daily Mail* and *Literary*. His latest book, *Countdown to Valkyrie*, has

already proved a great success and has received commendations from public and the media alike. Nigel lives with his partner and three children in Sussex.