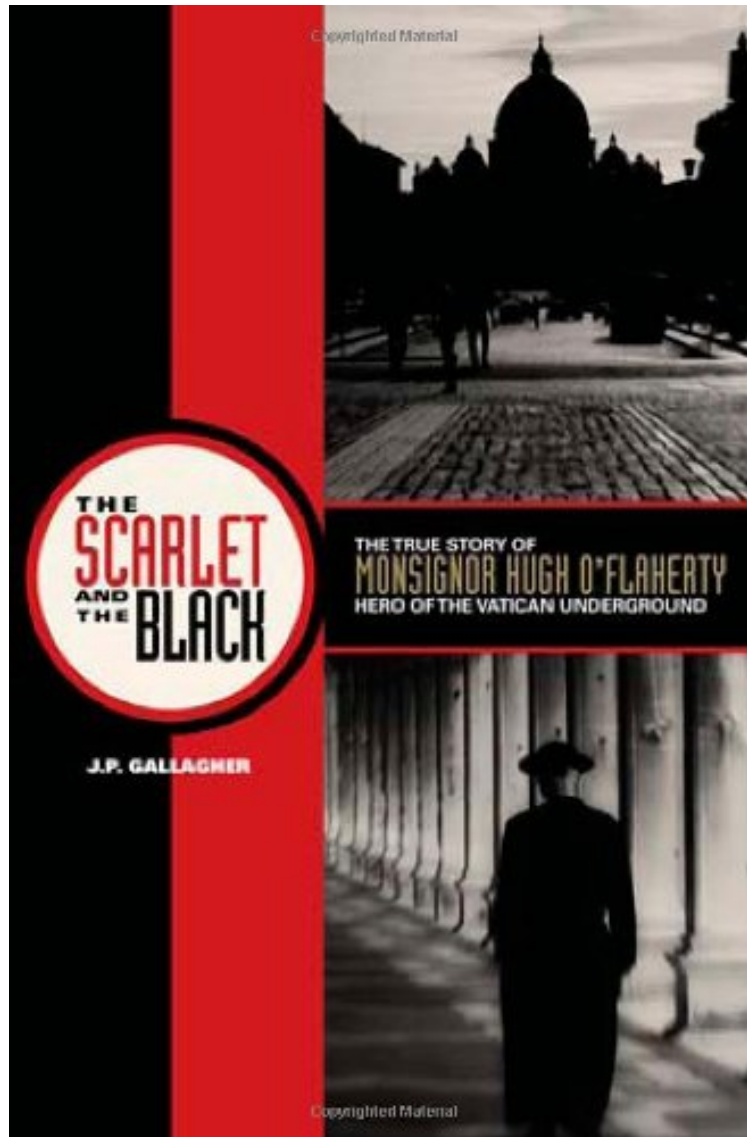


(Read free) The Scarlet and the Black: The True Story of Monsignor Hugh O Flaherty, Hero of the Vatican Underground

The Scarlet and the Black: The True Story of Monsignor Hugh O Flaherty, Hero of the Vatican Underground

J.P. Gallagher

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J.P. Gallagher : The Scarlet and the Black: The True Story of Monsignor Hugh O Flaherty, Hero of the Vatican Underground before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Scarlet and the Black: The True Story of Monsignor Hugh O Flaherty, Hero of the Vatican Underground:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellently researched and telling of a little known history of

WWII By Paul Nolan A superbly researched and finely written book that tells the story that was unknown to me prior to my watching Gregory Peck in the made for TV movie "The Scarlet and the Black" which was based on this book (a fine movie that follows the book closely). I found an original hardbound copy of the book in good shape to give to my 86 year old mother who loves the history of the Catholic Church. I read the book, cover to cover, in two evenings before sending it on. My mother and I both were enthralled in the telling of the cat and mouse game between the "Scarlet Pimpernel of the Vatican" and the Gestapo. I bought another paperback copy of the book that was retitled with the name of the movie to share with my wife who loves murder mysteries and she too was gripped by the telling of the story of the near misses and the tragic losses of those who stood between the innocents and the Gestapo. 6 stars out of 5!!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent story By Jay What a remarkable man this was. Many will be familiar with the story through the portrayal of this Monsignor by Gregory Peck. Typically, as remarkable as the movie is, the true story is even moreso. The book makes a great companion to the film to sort out fact from fiction and fictionalized facts. This is the story of a Catholic priest, more, about one man's personal campaign against evil and he did not care what uniform it wore. He was not in partnership with any nationality. His first loyalty was to Rome and the Vatican. But, he waged his campaign knowing that the system could only go so far in sheltering him and those who worked with him and unselfishly, he never let personal risk deter him from doing what he saw as right. One need not be a Catholic or Christian to appreciate the lengths he went to and risks he took in opposing the greatest evil of the last century. Do not let religious bias stay you from reading this. As the man himself was big, his story is bigger than that. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It was said of O'Flaherty, "There goes a true saint" (p. 187). By Anthony Bosnick This is an adventure story of a little-known figure who made a big impact on the lives of many in World War II in Italy. This story of the Irish Catholic priest Msgr. Hugh O'Flaherty working in the Vatican's Holy Office relates his extensive efforts to find hiding places in areas around Rome for Allied soldiers and flyers on the run from the Nazis. It is quite a story, easy to read, and very engaging. (As one who is currently teaching middle school history, I think it might even be a good book for teens. And for adult readers as well, of course.) My only disappointment was that there are no footnotes identifying the sources of the information in the text and there is no Index to help the reader find information in the book. I would also have found it helpful to have a "Cast of Characters" to help keep the people straight in my mind. (For readers wanting a more scholarly approach to the same topic, perhaps Stephen Walker's "Hide and Seek" would be an option, which I have also read and reviewed.) And I do like a few more photos than were included here as they help to make connections. But all considered, I highly recommend this book as it sheds light on a little-known aspect of World War II. I read this book after viewing the DVD by the same name on the same subject. Gregory Peck plays Msgr. O'Flaherty in the movie and is a much more dashing figure than Msgr. O'Flaherty in real life, but such is Hollywood!

It has all the hallmarks of a best-selling fictional thriller: espionage, conspiracy, a struggle against evil powers, undercover work by dark of night... but it's all true. The Scarlet and the Black tells the astonishing and heroic true story of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, the man dubbed "The Scarlet Pimpernel of the Vatican" during World War II. Born in Killarney, Ireland, Hugh O'Flaherty was an avid athlete-becoming a formidable boxer, handball player, hurler, and golfer. From an early age, however, he knew his calling was to the priesthood. After his ordination, he served first as an Apostolic Delegate in Egypt, Haiti, Santo Domingo, and Czechoslovakia, then in Rome at the Holy Office (now the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith). It was here in Rome that his greatest work began. After the surrender of Italy in 1943, Rome came under the command of Nazi Colonel Herbert Kappler of the dreaded SS, who began the deportation of Italian Jews to Auschwitz. Kappler was a notorious hater of the Jews, persecuting them at every turn. As a top man in the Vatican Holy Office, Msgr. O'Flaherty sprang into action, organizing a sophisticated team that included men and women of many nationalities, religions, and political views. There was one goal-to save Jews and POWs from the Nazi machine. Despite Kappler's numerous attempts to assassinate him, O'Flaherty persisted, and his efforts saved thousands of Jews and POWs. Using private homes and apartments, churches and monasteries, the effort was all orchestrated by Msgr. O'Flaherty. Each day his familiar figure would stand on the steps of St. Peter's -neutral ground that even the Nazis wouldn't violate - to welcome any fugitives who might be sent his way. All told, of 9,700 Roman Jews, most were saved, with 1,007 shipped to Auschwitz. The rest were hidden, 5,000 of them by the official Church - 3,000 at the Pope's Castel Gandolfo, 200 or 400 (estimates vary) as "members" of the Palatine Guard, and some 1,500 in monasteries, convents and colleges. The remaining 3,700 were hidden in private homes, including Msgr. O'Flaherty's network of apartments. After the war, O'Flaherty was honored by various Allied countries with awards and decorations for his heroic acts to save Jews and POWs. This classic account by J.P. Gallagher was adapted into the acclaimed television movie, The Scarlet and the Black, starring Gregory Peck as Msgr. O'Flaherty and Christopher Plummer as Colonel Kappler.