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Outwitting The Gestapo



Synopsis

Lucie Aubrac (1912-2007), of Catholic and peasant background, was teaching history in a Lyon girls' school and newly married to Raymond, a Jewish engineer, when World War II broke out and divided France. The couple, living in the Vichy zone, soon joined the Resistance movement in opposition to the Nazis and their collaborators. Outwitting the Gestapo is Lucie's harrowing account of her participation in the Resistance: of the months when, though pregnant, she planned and took part in raids to free comrades—including her husband, under Nazi death sentence—from the prisons of Klaus Barbie, the infamous Butcher of Lyon. Her book is also the basis for the 1997 French movie, *Lucie Aubrac*, which was released in the United States in 1999.

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Customer Reviews

The stirring memoir of a French Resistance member was a BOMC and a History Book Club selection in cloth. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A suspenseful rendering of Aubrac's experiences as a French Resistance fighter during WW II. This memoir owes its existence to the 1983 extradition to France of Klaus Barbie, the "Butcher of Lyon": In order to refute Barbie's defenders and former collaborators, Aubrac told her story publicly for the first time—and it became a bestseller in France. Focusing on a nine-month period that begins with the conception of her second child, Aubrac looks back 40 years at experiences of enduring

intensity. During the war, the author, her Jewish husband Raymond, and other "resistants" published and distributed underground newspapers, found new identities and homes for fugitives, forged permits, stole guns, and blew up roads and bridges--all routine Resistance activities. What makes this account special, however, is Aubrac's irrepressible energy and resourcefulness, and the graceful way in which she interweaves her separate but parallel lives. As a mother and wife struggling in a wartime economy, she bartered for hard-to-find items; as a devoted schoolteacher, she applied the lessons of history to current events; as a secret member of the Resistance, she couldn't disclose her true identity even to her most trusted colleagues, switching names and identities like a quick-change artist. Three times, she helped free her husband from prison. The last incarceration was the most harrowing: Walking into a trap, Raymond was arrested, tortured, and sentenced to die by Barbie himself. Despite her anguish, Aubrac tricked her husband's captors into meetings and masterminded an intricate rescue. The Aubracs' escape by airlift to London, where their baby was born, is tremendously exciting. A breathtaking account that feeds the soul as much as it satisfies the appetite for vicarious danger. (Seven b&w photographs--not seen) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The personal tale of one who was there and yes "Done that!". A wonderfully written biography detailing the all or every-day of spending one's time trying to outwit a smart enemy with a world of help behind them...a wonderful example of the horrors, despair and seeming hopelessness that can meld to drive one on...especially one with children and expecting another! She takes you with her on every shadowy step, or that is how it read to me...an exciting experience indeed.

I love reading a serious yet engrossing memoir, in this case about a woman of the French Resistance. Most of us know of the time & some of the activities---often those of men. Here, Lucie Aubrac is not only a serious resistance figure, she's an amazing author. Her book was even more fast-paced than the subsequent film made from it! I can only compare it favorably to Irene Nemirovsky and her *Suites Francaise*, published after her death in Auschwitz. If you are a history who needs time off from battle maps and generals, read Aubrac's memoir.

Dealing with the Gestapo in Vichy France was a challenge but Aubrac was equal to the task and seems to have not only enjoyed it but I think she even misses the exciting times she and her husband went through. There's a hint of the romantic in her descriptions and she clearly enjoyed

sticking it to the Germans. It's as if she were born for the task and hasn't the slightest empathy with the German soldiers she killed. Aubrac is one tough cookie.

A memoir well written and without rancor or self-pity. Recommend to anyone interested in the personal stories of surviving WWII.

Aubrac goes into great detail about her life surrounding her escapades in harassing Gestapo in France during WWII. It is an unusual portrayal since it is written from a female viewpoint. She is totally open about her personal relationship with her husband in bombing German installations as well as her life at home with husband and kids. Interesting reading.

story of survival against grim odds. I loved the photos and would like to have seen more of the family in different stages

Very well written account of fear and courage in the midst of a very difficult time

This is a great book, true facts about what the people went through during WWII, the things they were able to accomplish, was a feat, also their courage under fire was something most of us never have to face.

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