1. Record Nr. UNINA9910157585103321

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Titolo Wingless Victory: The Story of Sir Basil Embry's Escape from Occupied

France in the Summer Of 1940

Pubbl/distr/stampa Bielefeld:,: Pickle Partners Publishing,, 2024

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Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (234 p.)

Soggetti Prisoner-of-war escapes

Prisoners of war - France

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Sommario/riassunto

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

WINGLESS VICTORY is the story of an audacious and desperate man on the run, the record of one of the first wartime escapes through Occupied France. It reads like a first-class thriller and, as one critic puts it, "leaves fiction gasping far behind." On May 27, 1940, Wing-Commander Basil Embry (later Air Chief Marshal Sir Basil Embry, and Commander, Allied Air Forces in Central Europe 1953-56), although appointed to a higher command, decided to lead his old squadron into battle for the last time. Within the hour he was shot down in France and found himself alone, unarmed, and in uniform. Capture was inevitable. He was, in fact, captured three times, but refused to submit. Once he broke from a column of prisoners under the muzzle of a German machine-gun. Another time he fought his way out, killing three Germans with a stolen rifle and then hiding in a manure heap for nearly six hours. But perhaps the most amazing of all his exploits was the occasion on which, in the role of a fanatical member of the Irish Republican Army, he shook his fist under the nose of a German inquisitor, yelling hatred and abuse of Britain until his captors finally turned him loose to find his own way home. At this period there was little of escape technique to guide him and he had no opportunity to lay plans or prepare equipment. Yet, by sheer courage and wit, he found

his way back to Britain to fight and fly again. He won the D.S.O. and three bars, and the D.F.C."The author succeeds in communicating vividly, yet unpretentiously, the sensations of a man on the run....About ten times as exciting as a fictional thriller."--Sunday Times"A thrilling and authentic escape story--will prove a classic."--Daily Herald"The records of World War II have no wilder or stranger story to tell."--Tatler"It is an extremely exciting story, but well spiced with humour as well."--Illustrated London News