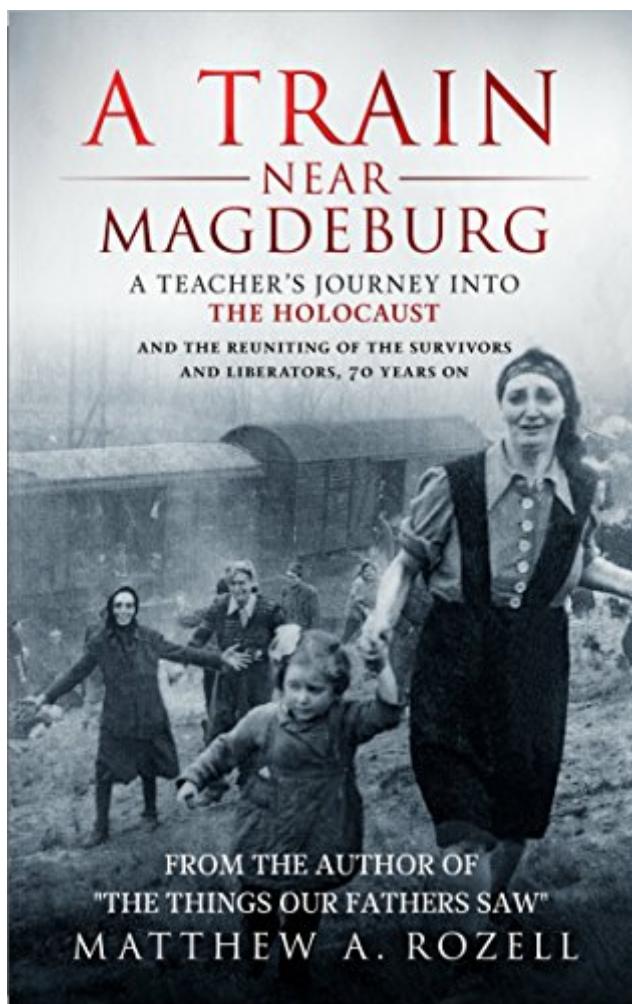


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# A Train Near Magdeburg • The Holocaust, The Survivors, And The American Soldiers Who Saved Them



## Synopsis

What do you do if you are a reluctant soldier, having been shot at, seen your friends killed, and can no longer even remember what your own mother looks like? As a combat soldier fighting your way across Europe, what is the plan when you come across a Holocaust train full of suffering humanity that shocks you to your core, even after you think you have seen it all? And what happens when you get to meet the survivors face to face, two generations later?~ 'After I got home I cried a lot. My parents couldn't understand why I couldn't sleep at times.'-Walter 'Babe' Gantz, US Army medic ~From the author of 'The Things Our Fathers Saw' World War II eyewitness history series~ In this book, the true story behind an iconic photograph taken at the liberation of a DEATH TRAIN deep in the heart of Nazi Germanyâ "brought to life by the history teacher who discovered it, and went on to reunite HUNDREDS of Holocaust survivors with the actual American soldiers who saved them! ~ 'I grew up and spent all my years being angry. This means I don't have to be angry anymore.'-Paul Arato, Holocaust Survivor ~THE HOLOCAUST was a watershed event in history. Drawing on never-before published eye-witness accounts, survivor testimony and memoirs, wartime reports and letters, Matthew Rozell takes us on his journey to uncover the stories behind the incredible 1945 liberation photographs taken by the soldiers who were there. He weaves together a chronology of the Holocaust as it unfolds across Europe and goes to the authentic sites of the Holocaust to retrace the steps of the survivors and the American soldiers who freed them. His mission culminates in joyful reunions on three continents, seven decades later. Rozell offers his unique perspective on the lessons of the Holocaust for future generations, and the impact that one person, a teacher, can make.~ 'I survived because of many miracles. But for me to actually meet, shake hands, hug, and cry together with my liberatorsâ "the 'angels of life' who literally gave me back my lifeâ "was just beyond imagination.'-Leslie Meisels, Holocaust Survivor -Featuring testimony from 15 American liberators and over 30 Holocaust survivors-73 photographs and illustrations, many never before published-10 custom maps -502 pages-extensive notes and bibliographical references ~ 'People say it cannot happen here in this country; yes, it can happen here. I was 21 years old. I was there to see it happen!'-Luca Furnari, US Army Included:BOOK ONE-THE HOLOCAUSTBOOK TWO-THE AMERICANSBOOK THREE-LIBERATIONBOOK FOUR-REUNION~ 'It's not for my sake, it's for the sake of humanity, that you will remember.'-Steve Barry, Holocaust Survivor

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

As a daughter and daughter-in-law of US WWII infantrymen, I was very interested in this book. It was a very thought-provoking and troubling read. I fear that much of what happened during WWII is fading from our national memory. Books like this one by Matthew Rozell are very important to help preserve and remind all of humanity what we, as humans, can be capable of doing. Throughout history, genocide of one type or another has happened and still happens today; think ISIS, Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge, Rwanda, and the list continues. When we don't learn about what really happened and hear people like the Holocaust deniers gaining national voices in the news, we are doomed to allow this to happen again. Another note that strikes me here; my father was a POW, courtesy of the Nazi's. He spent the winter of 1944-45 starving to death and freezing in a German prison camp. He was liberated on April 14, 1945, one day after the Jews on the train near Magdeburg were also liberated. He too faced an uncertain recovery post starvation. Food caused him to vomit and he had to be hospitalized and fed very gradually to keep him alive. He had endured this severe winter without adequate clothing and many in his camp died of hypothermia and/or suffered frostbite and loss of toes and fingers. I shuddered to read of the 150 American POW's who were massacred by the SS rather than transported to a POW camp in Mr. Rozell's book. He could have suffered this fate, as many of the ill-fated Jews also suffered. We need to demand this subject be taught in our schools and make sure our children are aware of what can

happen via propaganda and people not being willing to step up and speak up. As of now, I have encountered American college students, in the community college where I teach nursing, who could not tell me what decade the second world war occurred or what nations were involved. Sad, to be sure. Wake up America and the rest of the world as well. Please make sure we don't repeat this history again. Thank you!

Tell him about the train ...In July 2001, history teacher Matt Rozel initiated a project to create testimonies of World War II veterans, as part of a course to teach history to his students. When interviewing Carol Walsh, he learned of the story about how they came to a place where there was a long train of boxcars. As it turned out, it was full of concentration camp victims, transported from Bergen-Belsen to an unknown location. Unbeknownst to them, they were scheduled to be blown up on a bridge spanning the Elbe. But the Americans intervened, and the German SS guards had left the night before. They were free. This is how it all started. Matthew Rozell put this story on his website and thought nothing of it. However, he was suddenly contacted by a 'child survivor', who found his website and decided to contact him. This set things in motion: Matthew Rozell was contacted by more and more survivors and decided to set up a reunion, to get the liberators and the people they liberated in contact. This book describes the experience of not only Matthew Rozell, but the survivors and their liberators. Matthew wanted to do justice of the narrative by the Holocaust, as evidenced by this microcosmic event of the liberation of the train in the backdrop of the vastness of the macrocosm of the Holocaust. He utilizes the voices of those who were there, both of the survivors and their liberators. This book gives a dramatic and emotional account of how the lives of people - both survivors and liberators - were impacted by the events. It gives a good overview of the impact of the Holocaust in the eyes of simple people who just happened to be Jewish, but were people all the way. The book is roughly divided in three parts, glued together into the narrative of the author. The first part deals with the Holocaust, the experiences for the people involved. The second part deals with their Liberators, how they experienced the discovery of the train. And the third part deals with the effort from Matthew Rozell, who set up the first reunion and the many more that were to follow, giving the survivors the chance to thank their liberators. One might think why this book should be read: there are so many books about the Holocaust and yes, we know it happened. But in no book that I have read up to this day, the story comes to life in such a personal way. How the lives of innocent people were impacted, what they went through and how they were formed by their experience. By zooming in on this particular event, you get to know what it was like - not only for the victims, but also for their liberators. Or, as quoted in the book: It is important to have the past in front

of you - not in the rearview as one moves forward.

A Must Read. A real tribute to the survivors and liberators.I could not put this book down.Highly recommended as a required reading for anyone taking or teaching Holocaust HistorySuited for high school / college / adult education settings.I strongly urge Hebrew Schools Synagouge Temples order this book for their library as wellHave this required reading and contact the author for speaking engagements!

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