



A Higher Call: An Incredible True Story of Combat and Chivalry in the War-Torn Skies of World War II

By Adam Makos, Larry Alexander

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THE NEW YORK TIMES AND INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

December, 1943: A badly damaged American bomber struggles to fly over wartime Germany. At the controls is twenty-one-year-old Second Lieutenant Charlie Brown. Half his crew lay wounded or dead on this, their first mission. Suddenly, a Messerschmitt fighter pulls up on the bomber's tail. The pilot is German ace Franz Stigler—and he can destroy the young American crew with the squeeze of a trigger...

What happened next would defy imagination and later be called “the most incredible encounter between enemies in World War II.”

The U.S. 8th Air Force would later classify what happened between them as “top secret.” It was an act that Franz could never mention for fear of facing a firing squad. It was the encounter that would haunt both Charlie and Franz for forty years until, as old men, they would search the world for each other, a last mission that could change their lives forever.

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“Beautifully told.”—*CNN*

“A riveting story of humanity and mercy set against the ghastly backdrop of war.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Oh, it’s a good one!”—*Fox News*

“Deeply felt by its author and deeply affecting to read.”—*The Times*, London

“A truly awe inspiring story of wartime chivalry.”—*Daily Mail*

“Incredible.”—*New York Post*

“Inspiring.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“From the horrors of the most savage war in history emerges this beautiful story of a brotherhood between enemies. Simply told, splendid, and well worth the read.”—Joe Galloway, co-author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*

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“Can good men be found on both sides of a bad war? The author asks the question and delivers the answer. A powerful, haunting read.”—Chuck Tatum, author of *Red Blood, Black Sand*

About the Author

Adam Makos is the author of the *New York Times* and international bestseller *A Higher Call*. In his sixteen years of work as a journalist in the military field, Makos has interviewed countless veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and present-day wars. In pursuit of a story, Makos has met with presidents, had tea with Prince Charles, accompanied a Special Forces raid in Iraq, and organized an expedition into North Korea in search of an MIA American serviceman. A native of Pennsylvania, he currently lives in Denver, Colorado.

Larry Alexander is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling biography *Biggest Brother: The Life of Major Dick Winters, the Man Who Led the Band of Brothers*. He is also the author of *Shadows in the Jungle: The Alamo Scouts Behind Japanese Lines in World War II* and *In the Footsteps of the Band of Brothers: A Return to Easy Company's Battlefields* with Sgt. Forrest Guth. Alexander has been a journalist and columnist

for the *Intelligencer Journal* in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for nearly twenty years and has won numerous state-level awards for excellence in journalism.

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