



The Vatican Pimpernel: The Wartime Exploits of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty

Brian Fleming

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Vatican Pimpernel: The Wartime Exploits of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty

Brian Fleming

The Vatican Pimpernel: The Wartime Exploits of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty Brian Fleming

During the German occupation of Rome from 1942 to 1944, Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty devoted his time and energy to running an escape organisation for Allied POWs and civilians. By the time the Allies entered Rome, he had saved over 6000 lives. Brian Fleming describes the life of the man who became known as 'the Pimpernel of the Vatican'.

The Vatican Pimpernel: The Wartime Exploits of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty Details

Date : Published July 1st 2008 by Collins Press

ISBN : 9781905172573

Author : Brian Fleming

Format : Paperback 212 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Biography, War, World War II

 [Download The Vatican Pimpernel: The Wartime Exploits of Monsigno ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Vatican Pimpernel: The Wartime Exploits of Monsig ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Vatican Pimpernel: The Wartime Exploits of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty Brian Fleming

From Reader Review The Vatican Pimpernel: The Wartime Exploits of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty for online ebook

Jason Townsend says

I tend to agree with others who feel that while this particular book isn't such an engaging read, it's subject matter certainly is.

The Catholic world needs good priestly role models and Mgr. O'Flaherty proved just how much of an impact a good priest can have.

Adrienne Swindeman says

Monsignor O'Flaherty saved the lives of so many thousands of Jews, British escapees from Prisoner of War camps and others with the help of many brave men and women who hid people in their homes at great risk to their lives and the lives of their families. Many were hidden in the Vatican and the Vatican properties. The Pope must have given approval as he surely knew what was happening but the Vatican had to be silent as they had been given neutrality in the city of Rome and they were also dependent on the water supply from Rome. Despite the fact that the Germans were aware of his activities, the Monsignor continued to help people, often going out in disguise when the Germans were watching, hoping to capture him. When so many German soldiers, Italian soldiers etc. could be so cruel and sadistic, hunting down people, a few of the Germans seemed to me, to turn a blind eye to the aid being given to the people being hidden. They could have been worse, as far as the Vatican was concerned, and they were getting worse as the end of the war approached and the Vatican and the Monsignor were in even more danger. A great book.

Harleen says

Well researched and a well deserved accolade to an relatively unknown and unsung hero.

Jane Royal says

Years ago, I believe it was ABC made a film starring Gregory Peck as The Vatican Pimpernel. The film was excellent so when I found this book... must read. As an educator of Political History who has taught The Holocaust, I recommended the film to students. Now I recommend this book. How people risk their lives to do "the ethical thing" in times of mass horror. Highly recommend both the book and the film which is available. Enjoy!!!!

Nancy says

I enjoyed learning about the Monsignor, Who help hide prisoners of war, who had escaped prison, as well as

Jews, who were hiding from the Gestapo, and any other people who needed to hide during World War II. He risked his life many times. The book isn't very well written, but it tells a story, that was important to be told, about the people in Italy, who hid, feed, and gave money to support those people in hiding.

Nina says

An Irish priest in the Vatican saved thousands of escaped POWs and Jews in Rome during WWII, assisted by extraordinarily brave local civilians, other priests, and some of the escaped POWs themselves who worked tirelessly on behalf of others in this little known story of heroism. The sheer logistics were daunting. The huge numbers of people had to be moved around constantly, always one step ahead of the Gestapo investigators. And - money had to be raised, black market food sourced, and food and clothing distributed daily for years without detection. Pretty amazing, but I had to give the book only 3 stars because it wasn't that well written. It's too bad, because the people who ran this covert operation deserved better.

David says

This is quite the interesting and delightful biography. If this is an accurate portrait for the man, then Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty would be one of the most Christian men of his generation and many others. This biography is built primarily from sources other than the Monsignor himself who only gave one interview concerning his risky activities during World War II. There are other books concerning the escape organization from Italy during the War, written by the participants, but none by the Monsignor. It appears that those that worked with him in the organization held him in great reverence. It's also clear that despite temptation that he lived mostly other than his love of golf, which he was apparently quite good at. The book is very concise but draws a full picture of the man. I can see why he was honored by so many nations for his work.

John says

This is a dramatic story about a humble and heroic individual and many others who supported his efforts to aid and rescue those sought (allied servicemen, partisans, draft evaders, Jews, political opponents of the regime, etc) by the Fascist or Nazi gestapo . The book also gives a fascinating view of the complexities and dangers faced by the Vatican, embassies of neutral countries, Red Cross, allied governments operating within Rome before the liberation in June of '44.

Cynthia T Cannon says

I am so pleased to find out about this heroic man

In the past, having been born into the Catholic faith, as to what the Papal Office may have done to help during the Holocaust. I had no idea that so many of the clergy had secretly have put themselves in harm's way in service to mankind. In particular I am awed by the Christian example set by Father Oflarety. I recommend this heartily.

Darcy says

So many biographies suffer from the problems of this book. There is a great story there, but the author gets so caught up in stuffing in every name and date that they lose the dynamics of the story. The same events in the hands of a true storyteller would have been much better. However, I found myself in awe of the sheer bravery displayed by the real people described in this book. I was interested to learn what World War II was like in Italy, since I had never read anything from that perspective before. So, in the end, I am glad I read it.

Nancy says

I think the story of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, the Irishman who organized an escape plan in German-occupied Rome, is an interesting and inspiring one. The story could have been better written.

It is believed, that with the help of other nuns, priests, and Italian residents, Msgr. O'Flaherty saved the lives of over 6,500 people, including Jews and Allied soldiers. The only consideration Msgr. O'Flaherty and his co-conspirators gave was they were people in harm's way of the Gestapo.

O'Flaherty often had papers forged to pass people through German checkpoints, disguises made for them and safe houses secured. He wasn't above disguising himself as a coalman or other civilian so that one could escape as a priest and he could go on his way as an everyday Roman citizen. This earned him the title also given to the book: The Vatican Pimpernel.

For all his organizational efforts and for risking his life on a daily basis, Msgr. O'Flaherty was recognized and honored by Italy, Britain and the United States.

Those who like honor and bravery and espionage would like this book.

Kevin says

This is the story of a very brave Irish priest who, at considerable risk, assisted over 6,000 civilians and British escaped POW's get out of Rome during the war. Fast paced true life adventure that will, at times, leave you breathless.

Jean says

I found this to be a fascinating story about an event I knew little about. I do remember in several of W.E.B.

Griffin's historical novels he mentioned a Vatican priest that was rescuing allied soldiers and Jews. I did not follow up and check to see if he was a fictional character or not.

The book is a biography of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty (1898-1963). He was an Irish Roman Catholic priest and senior official of the Roman Curia in Rome and a significant figure in Catholic resistance to Nazism. During WWII, he was responsible for saving 6500 allied soldiers and Jews from the Nazi.

Fleming covers his early life but details most excitedly the cat and mouse game between O'Flaherty and the Gestapo and Sicherheitsdienst. He evaded the Gestapo traps so successfully they called him "The Scarlet Pimpernel of the Vatican."

Ireland was a neutral country during WWII and had the only English speaking Embassy in Rome. The wife of the Ambassador, Delia Murphy, was a key helper of O'Flaherty's at great risk to herself and the Embassy.

Apparently they made a T.V. movie of this story starring Gregory Peck in 1983, titled "The Scarlet and the Black". I shall have to check Amazon and see if they have it; I think I would like to watch it after reading this exciting book.

I read this as an e-book download from Amazon using the Kindle app on my iPad. It came as a whispersync to the audio format with Brian Troxell narrating it. The e-book is 224 pages and the release date is 2012.

Ken Domanski says

Fascinating people and history

This book is a fascinating true and well researched accounting of a remarkable Priest and the many others with him who risked their lives to save others in WWII Rome. For anyone interested in stories about real heroes and heroines who go above and beyond, this book is a page turner not to miss.

Kathy says

A hero

This was an intriguing book. I couldn't put it down. This Monsignor was brave and faced many chances at being killed in the hands of Germans. But his sharpness and intelligence made him a hero to all he hid throughout Rome and Vatican territory from Germans killing them. There were at least six thousand. People who were caught lived in poor conditions lack of food. Killed just because they were Italian Jewish etc. Germany wanted to take over Europe. But this Irish man Hugh O Flaherty won out. He should be a Saint for his heroism.
