



Chiselbury Publishing

The Moon in Splinters

Searching for Maurice Pertschuk, British Secret agent in the French Resistance

Anne Whiteside

Description

One moonless night in 1942, a handsome 20-year-old British SOE lieutenant, Maurice Pertschuk, rowed ashore on the Côte d'Azur with orders to report to the French resistance. Three years later he'd be hanged at Buchenwald, just 13 days before its liberation, within earshot of approaching Allied guns. Friends rescued the sheaf of poems he'd scribbled on scavenged paper and published them in 1946 as "*Leaves of Buchenwald*."

What had happened, his young niece wondered, to this young poet? A seemingly impenetrable silence hung around the subject.

Only after her mother's death did this niece dare look for answers. In *The Moon in Splinters* she revisits Maurice's haunts, tracks down survivors and interviews their families. A portrait emerges of a slight, brilliant, romantic intellectual; of gentle disposition, yet tough, full of "imaginative audacity," who organized a vast, yet to date largely forgotten, resistance network in southern France.

After the Germans occupied the whole of France, London ordered his team to blow up a Toulouse explosive factory, but a double agent caught wind of the plot. Maurice and 16 others were betrayed, arrested, tortured and deported to Buchenwald.

The Moon in Splinters follows twists and turns in the discoveries, the disappointments and the revelations - all interwoven with Maurice's reconstructed story. It leads to a surprise ending, even more sinister than the one historians tell.

Biography

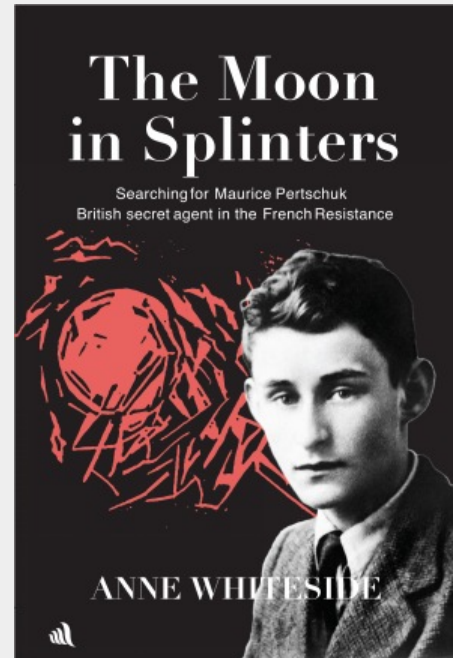
Anne Whiteside first studied Franco-British relations listening in on conversations between her French mother and British father. She's spent the last 10 years researching her mother's brother's work in the French resistance. Early on she studied art, anthropology, then did a doctorate in educational linguistics, about which she's written/edited a number of articles and books.

For over 30 years she taught English to immigrants, teachers at San Francisco State University and undergraduates at U.C. Berkeley; she's lectured in Ireland, Spain, Algeria and France, and had a Fulbright teaching/research fellowship in Mexico.

The Moon in Splinters is her first book of literary non-fiction.

Review

Advance Information



Publication date: 1 September 2025

152 x 229mm

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Thema

DNXM: True war and combat stories

Keywords

WW2; French Resistance; Buchenwald; hero; war poet; sacrifice

Chiselbury Publishing is a subsidiary of Woodstock Leasor Limited
14 Devonia Road, London NI 8JH United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7703 537721
E-Mail: info@chiselbury.co.uk web: www.chiselbury.co.uk



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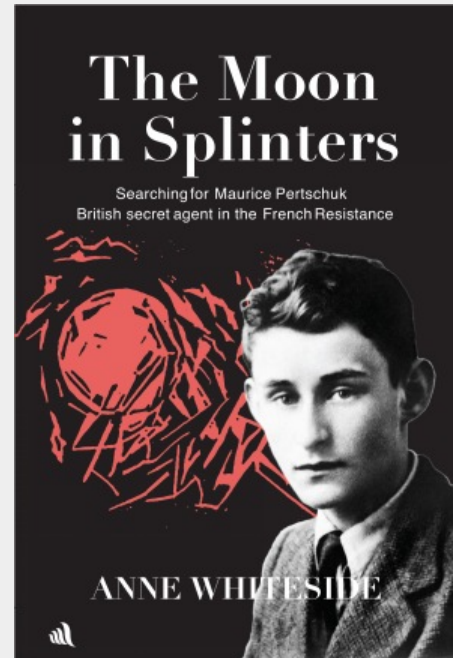
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