

Winner: 2011 Benjamin Franklin SILVER AWARD for AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

**“A THRILLING ADVENTURE,
all the more remarkable for being true.”**

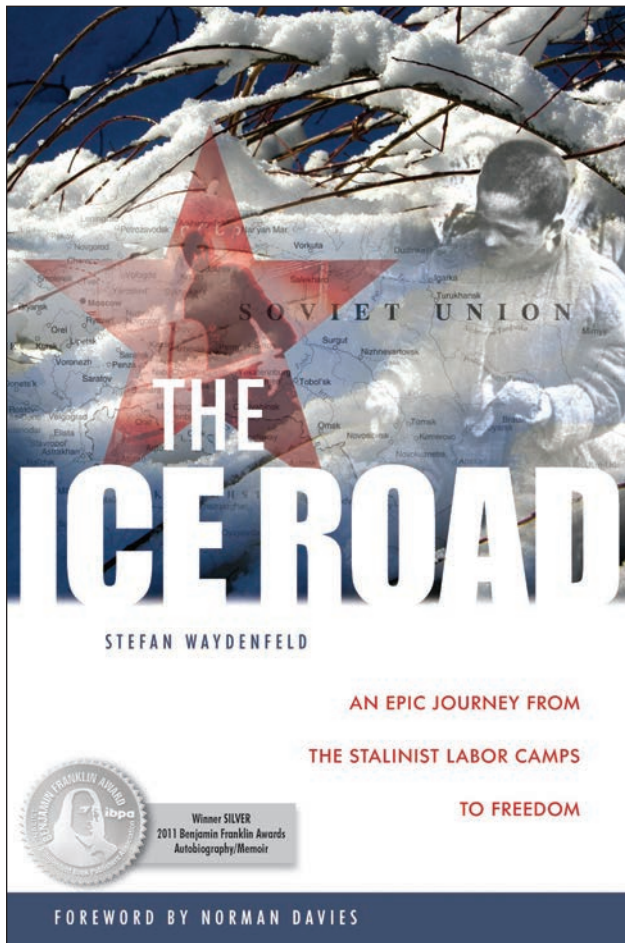
— Professor Norman Davies, author of *Europe: A History*

**“An extraordinary memoir...textured with
fascinating personalities and subplots.”**

— *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

“Within the first paragraphs of *The Ice Road* I knew I would be captivated.”

— *The Sunday Times, London*



THE ICE ROAD **An Epic Journey from the Stalinist Labor Camps to Freedom**

By Stefan Waydenfeld

Foreword by Professor Norman Davies, FBA

In a forgotten chapter of history, 1.5 million Polish civilians—arbitrarily arrested by Stalin as “enemies of the people” following the Soviet invasion of Poland in September 1939 at the beginning of World War II—were deported to forced labor camps throughout the most inhospitable forests and steppes of the Soviet Union.

The Ice Road is the extraordinary story of 14-year-old Stefan Waydenfeld and his family, who in 1940 were among those civilians forcibly deported by cattle car to Siberia.

A master storyteller with a fluid, engaging style, Waydenfeld carries us from his carefree childhood in the pre-war health resort of Otwock near Warsaw; to the Nazi German invasion of Poland; his attempts to join the Polish army; the Soviet invasion from the east; Poland’s surrender; escaping the brutality of the German occupation, only to be caught in the Soviet deportations; to a frozen life of forced labor, building “ice roads” to transport logs over the snow where “he who does not work, does not eat”; to his crazy raft ride to freedom and the long, circuitous journey to join the Polish army training with the British in Persia.

Coming of age was never so dangerous—but Waydenfeld recounts the experience with a teenager’s irrepressible curiosity, sense of adventure and subversive humor.

Category: Nonfiction • History • World War II
ISBN 978-1-60772-002-7 (Hardcover, \$28.95)
ISBN 978-1-60772-003-4 (Trade Paperback, \$18.95)
ISBN 978-1-60772-017-1 (Ebook, all major formats, \$12.99)
Audiobook available from Audible.com

400 pages • 6” x 9” • More than 70 black & white photos, maps and illustrations
• Supplemental material to set this riveting account in its historical context • Interview with the author • Reading Group Guide
Available at fine bookstores, online retailers and major wholesalers.
Distributed by National Book Network, www.nbnbooks.com
Translation rights available.

**Selection of the
HISTORY BOOK CLUB® and
the MILITARY BOOK CLUB®**

“A compelling story.”

— *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*



**AQUILA
POLONICA
PUBLISHING**

“TRULY AN EXTRAORDINARY BOOK.”

— Ann Applebaum, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Gulag*



AUTHOR BIO

Dr. Stefan Waydenfeld (1925–2011) was fourteen when Nazi Germany invaded his home country of Poland in September 1939, beginning World War II. Seventeen days later, the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the east.

Within a few months, young Waydenfeld and his parents, like a million and a half other Polish civilians, were forcibly deported to one of the Soviet labor camps in the frozen Russian north. Only about half such deportees survived; Stefan Waydenfeld was one. When Hitler turned on his erstwhile ally Stalin and invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, Stalin released the surviving Poles as part of his price for joining the Allied effort in fighting the Germans. Waydenfeld went on to fight with the Allies as an officer in the Polish Army, taking part in a number of battles, including Monte Cassino.

Following the end of the war, Waydenfeld studied medicine at the University of Bologna, Italy; the University of Paris, France; and graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, Ireland. He decided to settle in England. A member of the British Medical Association, he was retired from his general medical practice and living in London when he passed away in October 2011.

Fluent in English, Polish, Russian, French and Italian, Waydenfeld translated many books and articles, both medical and non-medical, for several publishers, in addition to writing his own spellbinding story in *The Ice Road*.

Upon the U.S. release of *The Ice Road*, Dr. Waydenfeld was invited to do an author blog on the Huffington Post, at <http://bit.ly/IceRoadHuffPost>.

“People don’t have stories like his to tell any more.”

— *Literary Review*

“His masterful recounting spares nothing except self-pity.”

— *World War II Magazine*

“A remarkable tale.”

— *Library Journal*

