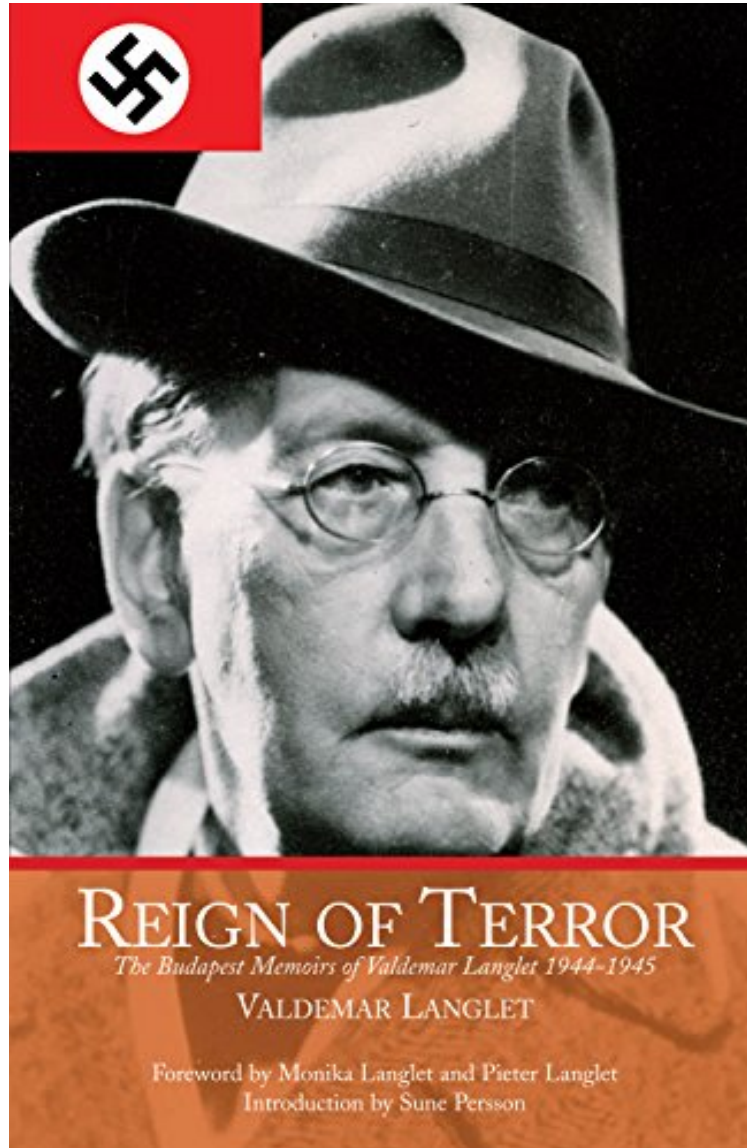


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## Reign of Terror: The Budapest Memoirs of Valdemar Langlet 1944-1945

*Valdemar Langlet*

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**Valdemar Langlet : Reign of Terror: The Budapest Memoirs of Valdemar Langlet 1944-1945** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reign of Terror: The Budapest Memoirs of Valdemar Langlet 1944-1945:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Tribute to One Mans' Effort By ntpilot Like to read about real

people and their actions during WW2. Always wonder how I would have acted in the same situation. Easy to assume courageous but one never really knows until put to the test. Thankfully there were people who were willing to assist those in desperate need. People such as this gentleman are truly heroes. It enforces the belief that just one person can make a difference. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. One Man Who, with his wife, Saved Thousands - By Loyd Eskildson The horror of the Holocaust is very difficult to understand; it is also very difficult to fully believe that fellow humans would do such to each other, especially at the scale involved. As a result, periodically I read credible reports of the horrors involved. On the other hand, I also very much enjoy reading about exceptional individuals who risked their lives to save others from the Holocaust. 'Reign of Terror' is one of those books - documenting first a tiny bit of Raoul Wallenberg's extreme bravery to help save fellow humans. Raoul Wallenberg, in the last months of WWII saved the lives of tens of thousands of Jews - for that we became the second man awarded honorary U.S. citizenship. Another valiant savior of many was another Swede, Valdemar Langlet, born 12/17/1872, which this book is about. Langlet and his wife moved to Budapest in 1931 and stayed there until the end of WWII while teaching Swedish at a local university. From 1941 on, Hungary fought against the Soviet Union as an ally of Nazi Germany. They refused, however, to deport their approximately 800,000 Jews. Then Germany occupied Hungary, and with the assistance of Hungarian authorities, rounded up opponents to the war. The Hungarian Regent, Admiral Horthy, stopped deportations 7/6/1944 following strong international pressure - including a very harsh letter from the King of Sweden. Then on 20/15/1944, Horthy announced an armistice with the Soviets - he was arrested by the Germans who then installed the Hungarian Fascist party as the new government. Deportations and massacres of Jews was renewed. Valdemar Langlet was now age 72, and with his wife began frantic work to save persecuted Hungarians. By April 1944, they had accepted so many escapees who now hid in their residence that Valdemar had to sleep in a friend's house. In May, Langlet started producing 'letters of protection' containing texts in Swedish, Hungarian and German that constituted a kind of identity card, imitating normal passports with a photograph, personal data, and a Swedish Red Cross stamp, and signed by him. Efforts by the Swedish Red Cross to dismiss Langlet were blocked by the Swedish minister. A range of apartments, houses, castles, estates, and convents were placed at the disposal of Langlet and his Red Cross - total capacity of 3,000, possibly more. These 'letters of protection' had no real legal status at all, simply a bluff. Estimates of the number of 'letters of protection' issued range from 2,000 (Hungarian government) up to 25,000 (Langlet's wife). On 12/11/1944, Langlet was forced to stop these activities after a series of threats and an ultimatum from the Fascist government. By mid-January 1945 the Soviet army liberated the part of the city where Langlet lived. Langlet and his wife finally were able to return to Sweden on 12/2/1945, totally destitute. He was awarded the Swedish Red Cross Medal in 1946 and became a Knight of the Swedish North Star in 1949. In 1965 he was also recognized, along with his wife, by an Israeli group. 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. To bad, that he did not get the same Media ... By mobile woman During the whole time, I was reading that book, I felt sympathy to this noble man and his humanitarian cause. To get Jewish people into hiding from the Nazis, was a huge and dangerous mission. To bad, that he did not get the same Media coverage, as the more flashy and younger Wallenberg had. Both came from the same background and town in Sweden. He was forced to fund it all himself, as he was not able to get the funds from his office. The way, how he wrote about it, is rather dry. But what he and his wife accomplished, will never be forgotten!

The memoirs of a man who saved thousands from the Nazi death camps. Although not as well-known as Raoul Wallenberg, Valdemar Langlet was the savior of thousands of Jews in Budapest in the last two years of World War II. Entirely without the permission or the financial support of the Swedish Red Cross, he issued so-called Letters of Protection, which were passport-like documents with official-looking stamps that frequently saved Hungarian Jews from deportation to the death camps. Then chaos broke out in the streets and the Germans put their Arrow Cross allies in power. With the approaching Red Army threatening to turn the city into a battleground, Langlet risked his life to shelter Jews and other refugees in safe houses throughout Budapest. A gifted linguist, Langlet was able to deal directly with Hungarian officials, who were often themselves eager to have the protection of the Swedish Red Cross emblem on their own houses as the war drew closer to the capital. Later, he communicated with the Soviet commanders who took control after fierce fighting had destroyed much of Budapest. This is a unique and fascinating memoir of a man who saved thousands of lives during one of the most terrible episodes in world history without official authority or support from his own country. Skyhorse Publishing, along with our Arcade, Good Books, Sports Publishing, and Yucca imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. Our list includes biographies on well-known historical figures like Benjamin Franklin, Nelson Mandela, and Alexander Graham Bell, as well as villains from history, such as Heinrich Himmler, John Wayne Gacy, and O. J. Simpson. We have also published survivor stories of World War II, memoirs about overcoming adversity, first-hand tales of adventure, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

About the AuthorValdemar Langlet was born in Lerbo, south of Stockholm, in 1872. A gifted linguist and early supporter of Esperanto, he traveled widely in Europe and Russia and worked as a journalist for a leading newspaper, visiting the new Soviet Union in 1923. In 1931 he moved to Budapest with his second wife, Nina, where he taught Swedish at the university and became an unpaid cultural attach at the Swedish Legation. After the war, he returned to Sweden. He was awarded the Swedish Red Cross Medal in 1946 and in 1949 was made a Knight of the Swedish North Star.