

“ANDRÉE’S WAR”

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“I began writing the book because my mother Andrée became ill with Alzheimer’s and someone had once told me that when you are upset about something in life it can help to write about it. I decided, however, that rather than write about my worries and my problems I would write about what to me had been the most extraordinary day in my Mother’s life and that was what happened to her on the 17/7/1944 when she was arrested by the Werhmart, subsequently questioned by the Gestapo and then how she talked her way out of what she was being accused of.

This was the basis from which the whole book evolved i.e The way in which Andrée’s resistance group came about, what the other resistance fighters were doing and then I used her journals written at the time to describe how she, her family and her friends were living during the war. The diaries do not describe the resistance work but there are bits I have used to piece together some of the exploits.

She describes in the journal staying in a brothel because she had missed a train. I know she was on a resistance trip because she told me in a recorded interview. I use the book as a platform to raise money for research into Alzheimer’s and to date have raised over £ 50 000 from book sales and donations.

I have given a large number of talks where I sell books for £16.99 and the £10 profit on each book sold goes to research into Alzheimer’s. I set up the Andrée Griotteray Charitable Trust.. Half way through the talk I remind everyone why I have written the book and ask the audience whether they might know of any way they could help me but I am very careful always to stick to the story of the Resistance and not talk about Alzheimer’s.”

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