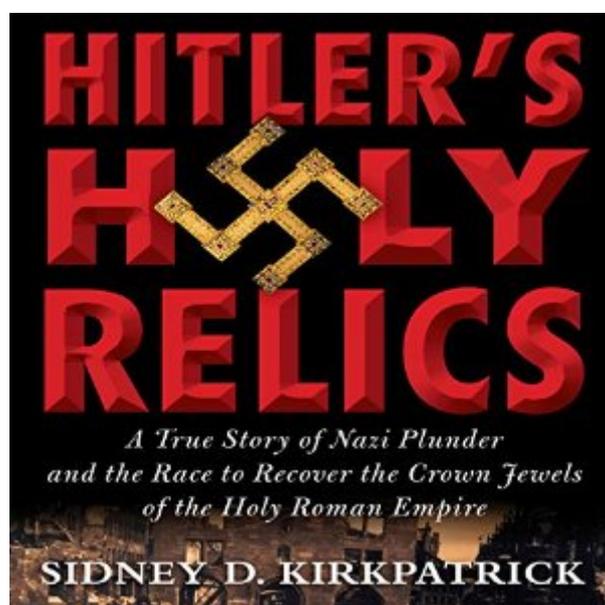


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# Hitler's Holy Relics



## Synopsis

Had Hitler succeeded in conquering Europe, he would have crowned himself Holy Roman Emperor. The Nazis had in their possession priceless artifacts that would give Hitler legitimacy in his subjects' eyes: the Crown Jewels of the Holy Roman Empire including the Spear of Destiny, alleged to have pierced Christ's side at the Crucifixion. Looted from the royal treasury in Vienna, Austria, the Crown Jewels were hidden in a secret bunker deep beneath Nürnberg castle, known to few but Heinrich Himmler, his staff-and a captured German soldier whose family lived above it. As luck would have it, the officer in charge of interrogating the soldier was First Lieutenant Walter Horn, art history professor. Following his report to General Patton, Horn would be assigned to recover this ancient treasure. Would he find it before covert Nazi agents could use it to revive the defeated regime? Based on recently discovered and previously unpublished documents and interviews with all remaining living participants, this is a tale that surpasses fiction: part thriller, part detective story, all true. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am a great fan of Sidney Kirkpatrick's writings. A Cast of Killers is one of my top 10 True Crime books and Hitler's Holy Relics is a worthy addition to that list. Kirkpatrick's success results, in large part, from his uncanny ability to pick a great story to tell. He then offers up the facts in a lively and suspenseful narrative with a fully-realized setting and a list of engaging characters. The story--the fundamental story--is what really delivers the goods here. A young American lieutenant is sitting in

Belgium, interrogating German POW's. One comes in and, very willing to please, offers to tell him a story. The story concerns the Nazi appropriation of the crown jewels of the Holy Roman Empire and their hidden location in Nurnberg. What are the odds that the American lieutenant would be: a former German citizen, fluent in the language; a Ph.D. in art history who studied under Erwin Panofsky and, before the war, was a member of the UC-Berkeley faculty? And when the report of the jewels' existence and sequestration was sent up the chain of command, where it was likely to be lost in an endless bureaucratic shuffle . . . what are the odds that the pertinent senior commander would be George S. Patton, Jr., who would not only know the nature of the materials themselves but also appreciate the myth/ritual/political uses to which such individuals as Hitler and Himmler might put them? The book then explores the search for the jewels and accompanying materials (including the lance tip reputed to have been used to pierce the side of the crucified Christ), a story that occupies a few weeks of calendar time but involves a long list of complex details, interrogations, side trips and cultural analysis.

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