

LE TRAIN DE MICHEL

A true story as told by Jed Falby

MICHEL HOLLARD

“THE MAN WHO LITERALLY SAVED LONDON”

(Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks KCB DSO MC)

One week after the D-Day landings on Tuesday, 13 June 1944, Hitler launched his first “Vengeance Weapon” against London, planning to finally destroy the city that would not give in. Jed Falby, a ten-year old boy, lived in London then – a most unwilling observer of this new Blitz. At the same time, in occupied France, a forty-year old Frenchman worked to save both young Jed and the old City of London. Yet very few French or English know his name: Michel Hollard.

Jed and Michel. This is the story of both of them.

Halsgrove’s first entry into the hugely popular world of the graphic novel comes in the form of this true story of French Resistance hero, Michel Hollard, who was almost single-handedly responsible for revealing the Nazi plan for their ‘Vengeance’ rocket attacks on Britain; risking life and limb to get blueprints and photographs of the V1 and V2 sites into the hands of the Allies. Superb illustrations reminiscent of Herge’s famous hero Tintin bring this little known story to vivid life, and place Michel Hollard among one of the true unsung heroes of the Second World War.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Before being twice evacuated from London to Devon during the Second World War Jed Falby was given a ringside seat as witness to the bombing of London and the arrival of Hitler’s V1 and V2 rockets, the Nazi’s last throw of the dice in their battle to conquer Britain. Later, as an aerial photographer in the RAF, working on animation in Canada, and working in commercial film production both in the US and France, Jed honed his observational and drawing skills which even today sees him recording everyday incidents in one of hundreds of his ‘diary sketchbooks’.

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