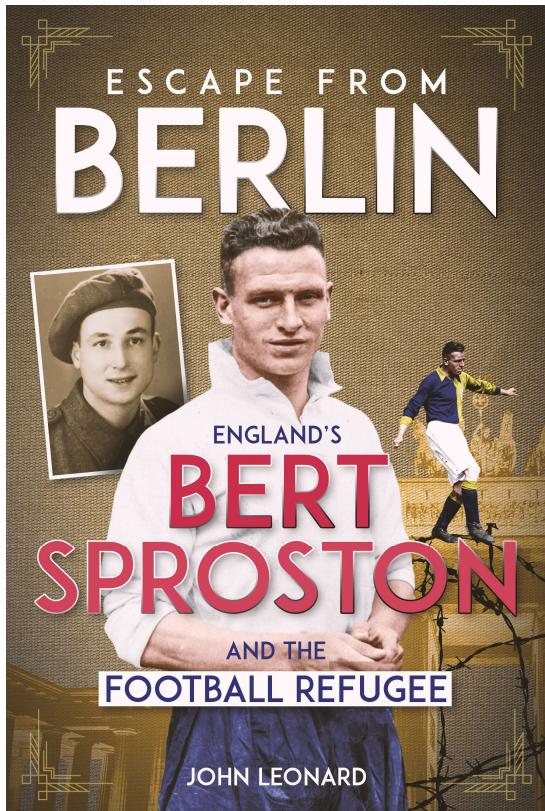




Title information



Escape from Berlin

England's Bert Sproston and the Football Refugee

By John Leonard

Key features

- Examines how and why the pair met at Berlin's Olympiastadion after England's Nazi salute and explores their contrasting war stories
- Discover how Bert Sproston put aside his own personal loss from the Munich air disaster to inspire Bolton Wanderers in the 1958 FA Cup Final
- Written in co-operation with Bert Sproston's family and Ralph/Rolf Freeman's family
- Author gained exclusive access to family photos and documents to produce this account
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

Description

Escape from Berlin: England's Bert Sproston and the Football Refugee is an inspiring footballing tale of redemption. Leeds United full-back Bert Sproston is controversially forced to make the Nazi salute along with the other England players in Berlin in 1938. But as he leaves the Olympiastadion he befriends a refugee who wants to escape the Nazis. How were their lives entwined in dealing with tragedy and triumph? This gripping book explores Bert Sproston's struggles to establish himself in non-league football before moving to Leeds, Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City. It examines his role as Bolton Wanderers' trainer in their 1958 FA Cup triumph despite his own personal loss in the Munich air disaster. And, most importantly, it reveals how one determined and defiant footballer fought intolerance with the spirit of tolerance. This is no ordinary football story.

Details

Publication: 11 May 2026
Price: £25.00
ISBN 13: 9781836802792
Format: 240mm x 160mm
Binding: Hardback
Extent: 240 pages
Category: Football

Trade Orders to:

Macmillan Distribution (MDL),
Cromwell Place, International Business Park,
Lime Tree Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8YJ

Telephone: 01256 302692
Email: orders@macmillan.co.uk