

Saved

By Dr. R. Pletsch



Have you ever heard of Ben Hall? Not very many have, but he has a book being released this week titled *Saved*. This gentleman has a remarkable story to share. A year ago, March 2022, he was working as a war correspondent covering the war in Ukraine. The car that he and four others were riding in pulled up to an abandoned checkpoint. While they were waiting there, the car was fired upon by Russian missiles. The first one landed several feet in front of the car and all the passengers were injured.

After the explosion, Ben was hurt with several severe wounds to his legs, hand, head and eye. He blacked out. Out of the complete blackness of being unconscious, he saw his daughter, Anna, come to him saying "Daddy you must get out of that car." He pulled himself out the door that his friend had left open, leaving parts of his body behind. After he was out he was near a friend, Pierre Zakrzewski (his cameraman), who was still able to talk and warned Ben of Russian drones and said let's try and get farther away from this car. In a minute another missile came

even closer to the car. It left Ben as the only survivor. He was in terrible shape and surrounded by Russians, who were trying to surround the city.

Ben was unable to tell time or day because his head trauma was causing him to go in and out of consciousness. Sometime later he saw a car coming down the hill, but it did not stop. Ben forced himself up to his elbows, picked up rocks when the Russian car came back he hit the rocks against the car. It stopped and went back and they got out, pulled Ben in their car. Next thing he knew, he was in an ambulance going to a Russian hospital. This is where he says they treated him well, but the Russian guards were all carrying weapons. A Russian doctor intervened and was able to save his legs that were to be amputated.

He had several visitors demanding info and his name. The ID he had was international press, but it appeared they did not believe him. Then a couple days later he was visited by an American, who knew his name and asked Would you like to go home? Ben still remembers saying Whatever it takes to get home, I'm with you. This is all incredible, but not finished yet. The Russians felt he was a spy or CIA. The injuries were only a cover story. Then the story continues. A group that many civilians have never heard of was "Save our Allies". This group of former military personnel were informed. They were able to find what hospital he was in. They entered the hospital and told him We are Americans and will get you home. This heroic group had found him but they didn't have an exit plan. The news bureau which is in the Pentagon was given information that the Prime Minister of Poland was in Ukraine meeting with Mr. Zelinski.

Contact was made with the Polish Prime Minister, and breaking all protocol the Prime Minister said they would take him and get him home. They then drove him to the train, but because of heightened security, having both these leaders in proximity, they were stopped by every Ukrainian security officer thinking they were Russian hit men. In doing the job the security forces even opened up Ben's wounds to make sure he was really wounded. They got to the official state train of Poland. Ben made it to Poland safely and was brought to tears when he could see right across the border the 82nd Airborne to escort him across Poland to Germany. There was still fear of Russian reaction. Then with the military's cooperation, the Americans allowed him to use the military hospitals who are the best in the world in treating traumatic injuries. After spending time in the German military hospital he came back home to the San Antonio Military hospital.

If you are interested in the story about this adventure we hope never to be on, and about the heroes of Save our Allies, it tells of a story of survival and how this small group has helped return many Americans from the war zones, including many from Afghanistan. The book also talks about the many people who helped bring this citizen home. Thank God for people with the character to step up when needed.