

Adolf Hitler: My Part in His Downfall

War Biography Vol. 1

A011.01 First edition, 1971

Author: Spike Milligan

Dedication: *I dedicate this book to Norma Farnes, my manager, who puts up with me.*

Publication Details: Michael Joseph Ltd London; illustrated edition edition (June 1, 1971)

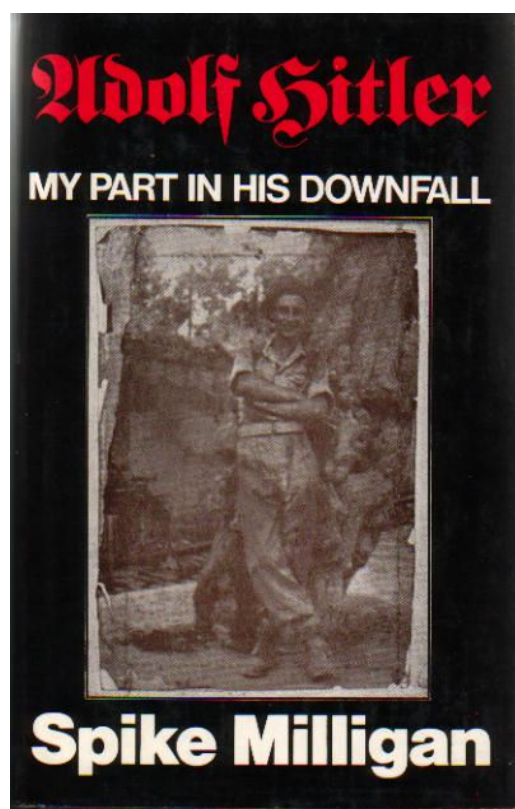
Format: Hardcover with dust jacket

Illustrations: Spike Milligan, includes photographs

Identifier: ISBN-10: 0718108663, ISBN-13: 978-0718108663 BNB: GB7114347

Physical Description: 146 pages, 225 x 143 x 20 mm, 335 g.

Publication Price: £1.50



Spike includes an interesting Prologue in the book. “After *Puckoon* I swore I would never write another novel. This is it ...”. In the Preface Spike predicts this is the first of a trilogy. Another pronouncement that proved incorrect. His war memoirs actually grew to seven volumes.

The book initial print run was 30,000 copies which sold out immediately. In their 1986 special Classic Edition the publishers, Michael Joseph, state that the book had been reprinted eight times.

Spike had started writing this book in 1967; he had decided to write his autobiography and chose to start with his war experience. At some point it became his war memoirs.

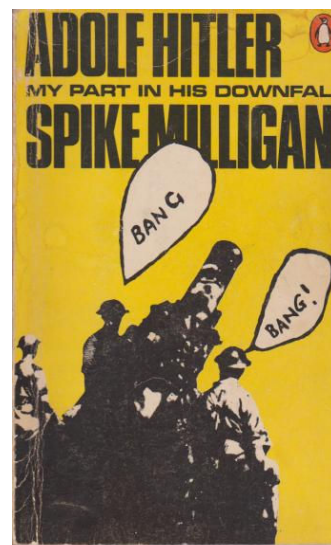
The birth of the book was not without drama. There was an argument over title *It'll All Be Over by Christmas* favoured by Spike versus *Adolf Hitler: My Part in His Downfall* favoured by Norma Farnes. (Farnes, 2003). There was also the difficult decision of a new publisher. The old publisher Jack Hobbs, while initially being taken aback at losing the book, actually introduced him to the new publisher Michael Joseph via Dick Douglas-Boyd. Hobbs becomes an editor.

This book got the full Milligan publishing treatment. Hardcover, soft cover, American hardcover, Book Club edition, Large Print edition, and eventually two French editions. The latest edition was published in May 2012 by Penguin who had published the first paperback edition in 1973.

A011.02 Penguin paperback edition, 1972

Publication Details: Penguin Books Ltd., 1972 (BNB, 2012)
Format: Mass Market paperback
Illustrations: Spike Milligan
Identifier: *ISBN 10:* 0140035206 *ISBN 13:* 9780140035209 BNB: GB7232036
Physical Description: 144 pp, 180 x 110 x 8 mm, 131 g.
Publication Price: 30p

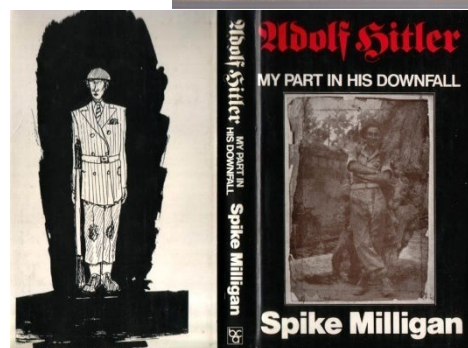
Penguin put the date of publication as 22 Feb 1973. (Penguin Books, 2015, p. 3)
The BNB: and my copy says it was first published in 1972. My copy also has 'Made and Printed at the Dominion Press, North Blackburn, Victoria which suggests it was printed in the U.K. and Australia simultaneously.



A011.03 Book Club Associates Edition, 1974

Publication Details: Book Club Associates, 1974
Format: Hardback
Illustrations: Spike Milligan
Identifier: No ISBN. (BCA books seemed to be exempt from the ISBN system)
Physical Description: 146 Pages, 225 x 143 x 20 mm, 322 g.
Notes: Same dust jacket as the original with BCA emblem on.

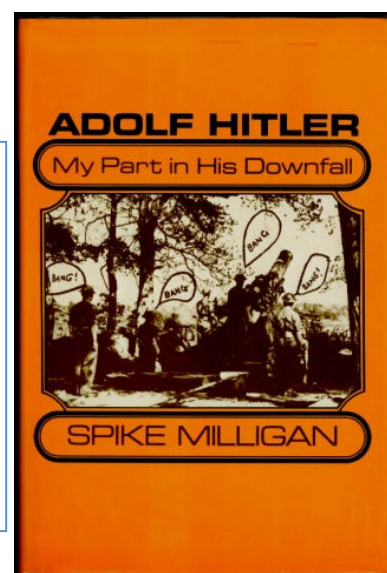
This is the first of what were to be many Book Club Associates editions of Spike's books. See page x.



A011.04 American edition, 1974

Publication Details: New York: Harper's Magazine Press in Association with Harper Row, New York. [1st U.S. ed.] 1974
Format: Hardback
Illustrations: Spike Milligan
Cover Design: Luba Litwak
Identifier: ISBN-10: 006126380X ISBN-13: 978-0061263804
Physical Description: 146 pages 208 x 145 x 20 mm, 350 g

This Harper's Magazine Press edition is another volume that feels good in the hand. The boards are reinforced at the spine, although the book's contents look identical with the original British version the fore pages, covers and jacket have been redesigned. It is a heavier book while having slightly smaller dimensions.



A011.05 Penguin Paperback Edition, 1974

Publication Details: Penguin Books Ltd., 1974

Format: Mass Market paperback

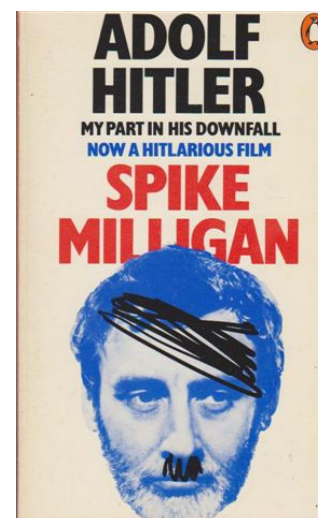
Illustrations: Spike Milligan

Cover Design: not credited

Identifier: *ISBN 10:* 0140035206 *ISBN 13:* 9780140035209

Physical Description: 144 pp, 180 x 110 x 8 mm, 131 g.

This edition introduced a new cover. My copy indicates this new cover came with the sixth or seventh reprinting in 1974.



A011.06 US Penguin edition, 1976

Publication Details: Penguin Group (USA) Incorporated 25 Mar. 1976 (Penguin Group (USA), 2014) (Amazon.com)

Format: Mass Market paperback

Illustrations: Spike Milligan

Cover Design: not credited

Identifier: *ISBN-10:* 0140035206, *ISBN 13:* 978-0140035209

Physical Description: 144 pp, . ill 180 x 110 x 8 mm, 131 g.

Publication Price: \$1.95(U.S.)

This publication date is often incorrectly given as the original publication date of the paperback edition. I presume the American paperback edition was the same format as the U.K. edition.

A011.07 Michael Joseph Classic Collection Edition, 1986

Publication Details: Michael Joseph First Thus edition (01 Sep 1986)

Format: Hardback

Illustrations: Spike Milligan

Cover Design: Phil Kay

Identifier: *ISBN-10:* 0718108863 *ISBN-13:* 978-0718108663

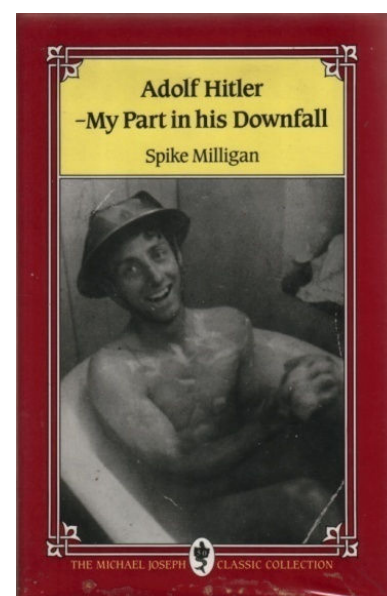
Physical Description: 146 pages 22.4 x 14.5 x 1.5 cms 350 gm

One of twelve books known as 'The Classic Collection' produced to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first books to be published by Michael Joseph Ltd. in 1936.

Quite a rare book, I have only seen one for sale which I bought.

There is an error in the ISBN on the copyright page, it differs from the one on the dust jacket, but looks like it may be a typo. Strangely a Google search of the incorrect ISBN still gets many hits of the book.

The blurb on the dust jacket still has the wrong year of Spike's birth.



A011.08 Penguin Paperback Edition, 1986

Publication Details: Penguin (Non-Classics) New Ed edition (30 Oct 1986)

Format: Mass Market paperback

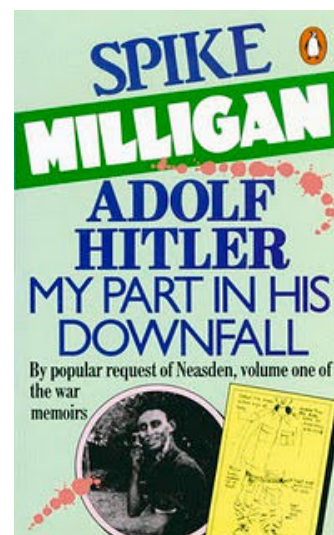
Illustrations: Spike Milligan

Cover Design: not credited

Identifier: ISBN-10: 0140035206 ISBN-13: 978-0140035209

Physical Description: 144 pages 180 x 110 x 8 mm.

In 1986 Penguin republished all of Spike Milligan's war memoirs with new covers. At this point there were five volumes. This style of cover was continued with volumes 6 and 7.



A011.09 Large print edition, 1987

Publication Details: Oxford: ISIS Large Print Books Large Print Ed edition (1987) (BNB, 2012) but most references give publication date of 01/07/1989

Format: Board cover

Illustrations: Spike Milligan

Cover Design: not credited

Identifier: ISBN-10: 1850891966 ISBN-13: 978-1850891963 BNB: GB8731686.

Physical Description: 145 pages large print ill., ports. 240 mm.

Publication Price: £8.95

I have not sighted this edition but the cover is most likely to be the same as the 1986 Penguin paperback edition.

A011.10 French paperback edition, 1999

Publication Details: Le Rocher Monaco ; [Paris], April 23, 1999 (BNF, 2012)

Translator: Beatrice Vierne

Series: Anatolia

Format: Paperback

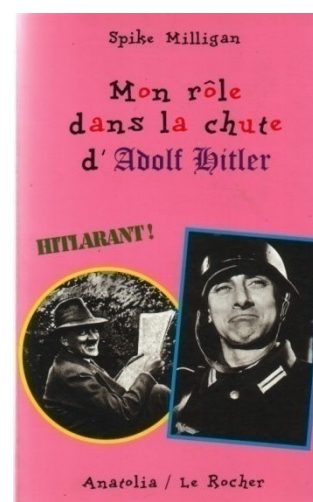
Language: French

Cover Illustrations: Courtesy Hulton Deutsch Collection and Adrian Rigelford for portraits of Spike Milligan. **Maquette Valérie Barranger.**

Identifier: ISBN 10: 2268031519 ISBN 13: 9782268031514

Physical Description: 170 pp, 220 x 140 x 13 mm. 210 gm

Publication Price: 120 FF.



Both French editions are printed without photographs or illustrations with the text. The only Spike illustration is the soldier at attention used on a fore page in the first edition and on the cover in the second edition.

The cover of the Le Rocher edition shows a smiling Milligan and a rare smiling Hitler. The rear cover an unrecognisable photo of Spike with a spider on his face. The Anatolia Series was the brain child of Samuel Brussell, a writer and publisher who lives in Belgium. The series included many English language authors such as Sylvia Plath, Aidan Higgins, Liam O'Flaherty and Shiva Napaul. This volume lists Spike's *Mussolini: son rôle dans ma chute* as an upcoming title in the series. It does not seem to have eventuated but instead, *Le règne hystérique de Siffoney 1er, roi d'Irlande, (The Looney)* was included in the series in 2000.

A011.11 New French paperback edition, 2008

Mon rôle dans la chute d'Adolf Hitler de Spike Milligan (Auteur),
Béatrice Vierne (Traduction)

Publication Details: Rivages (15 October 2008) (BNF , 2012)

Translator: Beatrice Vierne

Format: Paperback

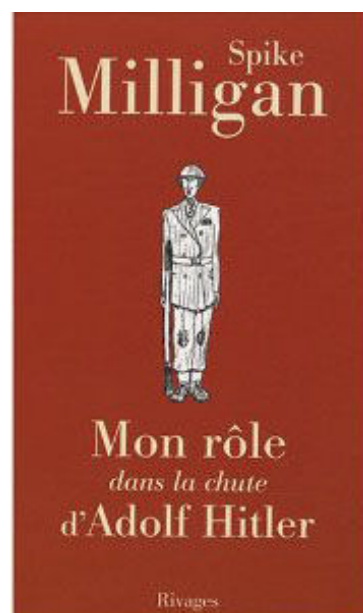
Language: French

Illustrations: Cover illustration Spike Milligan

Identifier: ISBN-10: 2743618728 ISBN-13: 978-2743618728

Physical Description: 244 pages, 195 x 120 x 20 mm, 246 g.

Publication Price: €12



A011.12 Penguin paperback edition, 2012

Publication Details: Penguin Books Ltd 28 May 2012

Format: Paperback, B format

Illustrations: Spike Milligan

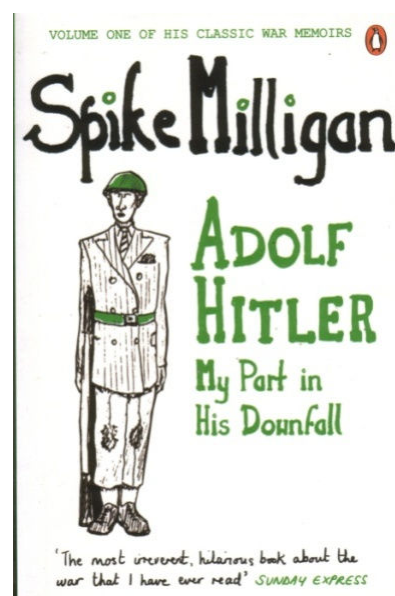
Cover Design: not Credited

Identifier: ISBN-10: 0241958091 ISBN-13: 978-0241958094 BNB
GBB214672

Physical Description: 144 pages 129 x 198mm 119 gm.

Publication Price: £8.99

Spike's drawing of a soldier standing to attention is on the cover of four editions of this book.



A011.13 Viking ePub eBook paperback edition, 2012

Publication Details: Viking Adult 13 Dec 2012

Format: ePub eBook

Illustrations: Spike Milligan

Cover Design:

Identifier: ISBN-13: 978-0241966150

Physical Description: 144 pages

Publication Price: £4.99

A011.14 New French paperback edition, 2017

Mon rôle dans la chute d'Adolf Hitler Spike Milligan (Auteur)

Publication Details: Wombat (16 March 2017)

Series: Les Insensés No. 32

Translator: Béatrice Vierne

Format: Paperback

Language: French



Illustrations: Cover illustration Emmanuel Guilbert, with 50 illustrations & photos by Spike Milligan
Identifier: ISBN-10: 2374980634, ISBN-13: 9782374980638
Physical Description: 224 pages, 12.6 x 2.1 x 18.7 cm, 256 g.
Publication Price: €18

A011.15 Wombat Editions ebook edition - 2017

Title: Mon rôle dans la chute d'Adolf Hitler Spike Milligan (Auteur)
Publication Details: Editions Wombat (24 mars 2017)
Translator: Béatrice Vierne
Format: Kindle eBook
Language: French
Illustrations: 50 illustrations & photos by Spike Milligan
Cover Illustrations: Emmanuel Guilbert
Identifier: ASIN 13: B06XRP4NVW
Physical Description: 216 p File size 5921 KB
Publication price: €11.99

Les Insensés is a series published the French publisher, Wombat in tribute to the Belgian writer Jacques Sternberg (1923-2006). As of 2023 there are 49 titles in the series promoted as 'dedicated to defend the best humorous literary texts: parody, pastiche, satire, nonsense, nonsense, black humour'. Sternburg wrote in the absurdist tradition and would seem to be a perfect fit with Spike Milligan.