World War II: Refugee Stories of Young Americans

World War II was a time of great upheaval and displacement, and many young Americans found themselves fleeing their homes and seeking refuge in other countries. These young refugees faced many challenges, but they also showed great courage and resilience. Here are some of their stories.



Rebekkah's Journey: A World War II Refugee Story (Tales of Young Americans) by Ann E. Burg

4.3 out of 5

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Young Americans in Exile

When World War II broke out in Europe in 1939, many American families began to make plans to evacuate their children to safer countries. Some families sent their children to live with relatives in Canada or England. Others sent them to boarding schools in Switzerland or Sweden. Still others sent them to live with friends or family in the United States.

For many of these young Americans, leaving their homes and families was a traumatic experience. They were often scared and confused, and they

didn't know what the future held. But they also knew that they had to be brave, and they were determined to make the best of their situation.

In their new countries, these young refugees faced many challenges. They had to learn new languages and customs. They had to make new friends and adjust to new schools. And they had to deal with the constant fear that their parents or siblings might be killed in the war.

Despite these challenges, these young refugees showed great courage and resilience. They learned to adapt to their new surroundings, and they made new friends and families. They also found ways to contribute to the war effort, such as by volunteering for the Red Cross or working in factories.

The Kindertransport

One of the most famous examples of young American refugees during World War II is the Kindertransport. The Kindertransport was a rescue operation that brought more than 10,000 Jewish children from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia to Great Britain. The children were mostly between the ages of 6 and 17, and they were often orphans or refugees who had been separated from their families.

The Kindertransport was organized by a group of British citizens who were concerned about the plight of Jewish children in Nazi-occupied Europe. The children were brought to England on a series of trains, and they were placed in foster homes or orphanages. Many of these children never saw their parents again, but they were grateful for the opportunity to escape the horrors of the Holocaust.

The Lost Boys of Sudan

Another group of young American refugees who faced great challenges during World War II were the Lost Boys of Sudan. The Lost Boys were a group of orphaned and abandoned boys who fled their homes in southern Sudan during the Second Sudanese Civil War.

The Lost Boys walked for months through the desert, and they faced many dangers along the way. They were attacked by wild animals, they were robbed by bandits, and they were even bombed by government forces. But they refused to give up, and they eventually made it to safety in neighboring Kenya.

The Lost Boys lived in refugee camps in Kenya for many years, and they faced many challenges. They were often hungry and sick, and they had little access to education or medical care. But they also found ways to help themselves and others. They built schools and hospitals, and they started businesses.

Eventually, many of the Lost Boys were able to resettle in the United States. They brought with them their courage, their resilience, and their determination to succeed. They are now proud American citizens, and they are making a positive contribution to their communities.

The stories of young American refugees during World War II are stories of courage, resilience, and hope. These young people faced great challenges, but they never gave up. They made new friends and families, they contributed to the war effort, and they built new lives for themselves. They are an inspiration to us all.



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