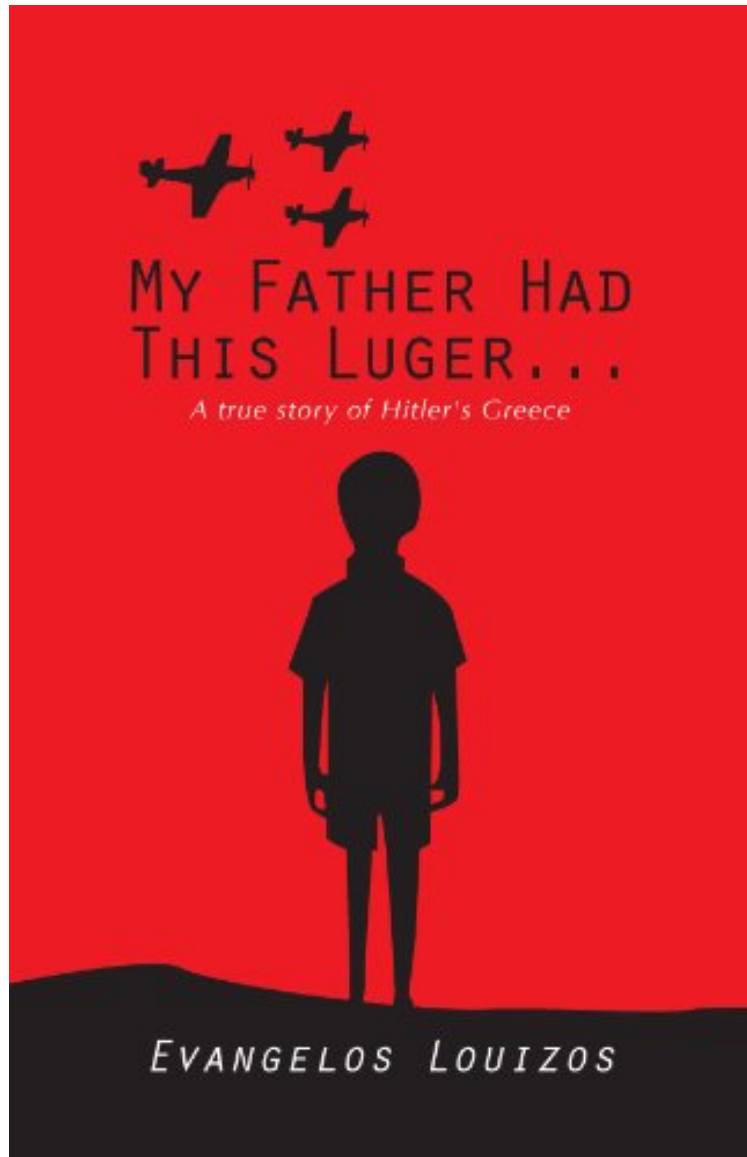


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Von Evangelos Louizos
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Von Evangelos Louizos : MY FATHER HAD THIS LUGER A True Story Of Hitler's Greece (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised MY FATHER HAD THIS LUGER A True Story Of Hitler's Greece (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Highly

recommendable Von Peter H., Germany It was the title of the book which arose my attention. I had never heard of a "Luger". Being German, I was somewhat ashamed about my lack of knowledge, when I found out that a "Luger" is a handgun used by German WWII soldiers. As I am very interested in personal memories from WWII, I bought the book and found that the author's father got hold of a "Luger" from a German prisoner in Athens. The "Luger" symbolically stands for all the misery the Germans afflicted upon the Greek people during WWII. But there is no hatred towards Germans, as little Louizos somehow even manages to make friends with some of the German soldiers on a military compound in his neighbourhood. The author describes in a very personal and detailed way what life under the German occupation was like for him as an 8-to 12-year-old boy, his parents and his three sisters. He paints such an interesting and vivid picture of what life in his hometown of Kallithea was like from 1941 to 1944. Curfews, food rationing, suffering from hunger and fear of American and British bombers chasing German military compounds shaped Greek life at that time. The only access to the outside world for the author's family was a radio which his father and his "war cabinet of dining room generals" (his father's neighbourhood friends) were furtively listening to (mostly BBC news), as the Germans occupants confiscated almost all radios (with above mentioned exception). The book is all the more trustworthy and authentic as its stories are told from a boy's perspective with all his fear, inquisitiveness and love for his family. Once you start reading the book, you don't want to lay it aside until you have finished the last page. It is more than a book on history.....it is much better.

Kurzbeschreibung "THE SWORD OF ZEUS PROJECT, which produced this book, is one of the most remarkable historical publishing undertakings of recent years. This work impressively confirms and reflects its high quality.- Aris Melissaratos, Senior Advisor to the President of Johns Hopkins University. World War II seen with a 21st-century sensibility. An enthralling, moving and true story of the Nazi occupation of Greece, it reads with the speed of a compelling novel as it sweeps you vividly through the war with unflagging narrative pace. It leaves you with a fresh understanding of the war and of the indomitability of the human spirit. It delivers suspense, endless surprises and twists, sharp characterizations, insights into human nature and the indestructibility of family ties, and a fascinating historical education along the way. Like Bryce Courtenay's THE POWER OF ONE, this book uses a boy's experiences as a way to embed the reader into incidents filled with thought-provoking moral nuance. The gripping story is packed with events from hilarious episodes, described with a child's honesty, through poignant moments to profound terror. The descriptions of wartime menace are frightening but soldiers of all sides, as well as civilians caught up in the drama of the war, are drawn with humanity and compassion. The book unfolds with a fine eye for detail. The rich historical backdrop is painted in an often poetic but always crystal-clear and unpretentious prose, as though the narrator is speaking to you alone. The book opens when Greece is invaded by Italy's dictator, Mussolini. The outnumbered Greeks repel the invasion and the boy Evangelos' father is assigned to run a Prisoner of War facility for captured Italians, bringing the child into close contact with the prisoners Mussolini calls in his ally, Hitler. One day Evangelos' father brings home a Luger pistol confiscated from a captured German. The Luger becomes a symbol of all that follows. Jackboots march through Athens, the swastika rises over the Acropolis, Wehrmacht troops are stationed across the road from Evangelos' home. He befriends German soldiers and learns to see them not just as soldiers but as men. His rooftop gives him a ringside seat of the coming and going of Luftwaffe planes. What he sees and learns and is made to experience, as the German noose grows tighter, makes him grow up more quickly than he had ever dreamed possible. And when the Allies eventually arrive to replace the Germans, their presence turns out to be shockingly different from the liberation that the besieged Greeks had expected. An eye-opening picture of the realities of war and its impacts on ordinary people, including those who never lose hope. Throughout it all, the small boy Evangelos slips through the neighborhood like a mouse, always underfoot, watching events from the unique vantage point of an ever-present witness. An unforgettable portrait of the heroism dwelling within ordinary people, an eloquent testimony to the power of human endurance, laughter and the will to survive.. Every age group, from young adults up, will find its own layers of meaning. Produced under the auspices of a history-as-literature project guided by experts including veteran Reader's Digest editors. "MY FATHER HAD THIS LUGER... is about timeless things that transcend war and which are as relevant today as the years in which the events of this story took place. This is a story of family, community and the ways in which countless small rituals and other shared things give human life its meaning. It is about loyalty and sticking together, about personal triumph, about hope, about the universality of childhood and the importance of imagination. It is about the ability of the human mind to find comedy even amid awful things, and take nourishment from it." - N.J. Slabbert, Literary Director, THE SWORD OF ZEUS PROJECT. Pressestimmen.. "a gripping 'non-fiction novel' that reads like a fast-paced thriller... This is a mesmerizing read ... it manages to present a complex, thought-provoking history lesson without ever being either dull or depressing... It succeeds in addressing its several audiences with equal ease and authority largely because of its tight storytelling and its crisp, plain language, devoid of frills." - Neo Magazine, USA .. "captivating, with a cinematic feel, and moments that are truly haunting and memorable ... Certain passages are thought-provoking while some are downright bone-chilling, yet all

unforgettable." - Neos Kosmos, Australia "This well-written book provides us with an insight into WWII's origin and meaning... An example of how the human spirit can survive and endure physical and material deprivation.... A good addition to The Sword of Zeus Project." - A. Vavoulis, founder, KFCF-FM Free Speech radio "An extraordinary account of the Axis occupation of Greece..." -- G. Harocopos, WW2 Historian and resistance fighter. "MY FATHER HAD THIS LUGER... is about timeless things that transcend war and which are as relevant today as the years in which the events of this story took place. This is a story of family, community and the ways in which countless small rituals and other shared things give human life its meaning. It is about loyalty and sticking together, about personal triumph, about hope, about the universality of childhood and the importance of imagination. It is about the ability of the human mind to find comedy even amid awful things, and take nourishment from it." - N.J. Slabbert, Literary Director, THE SWORD OF ZEUS PROJECT. A summer book choice of the Chicago-based Greek Star newspaper and the Boston-based Hellenic Voice.

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