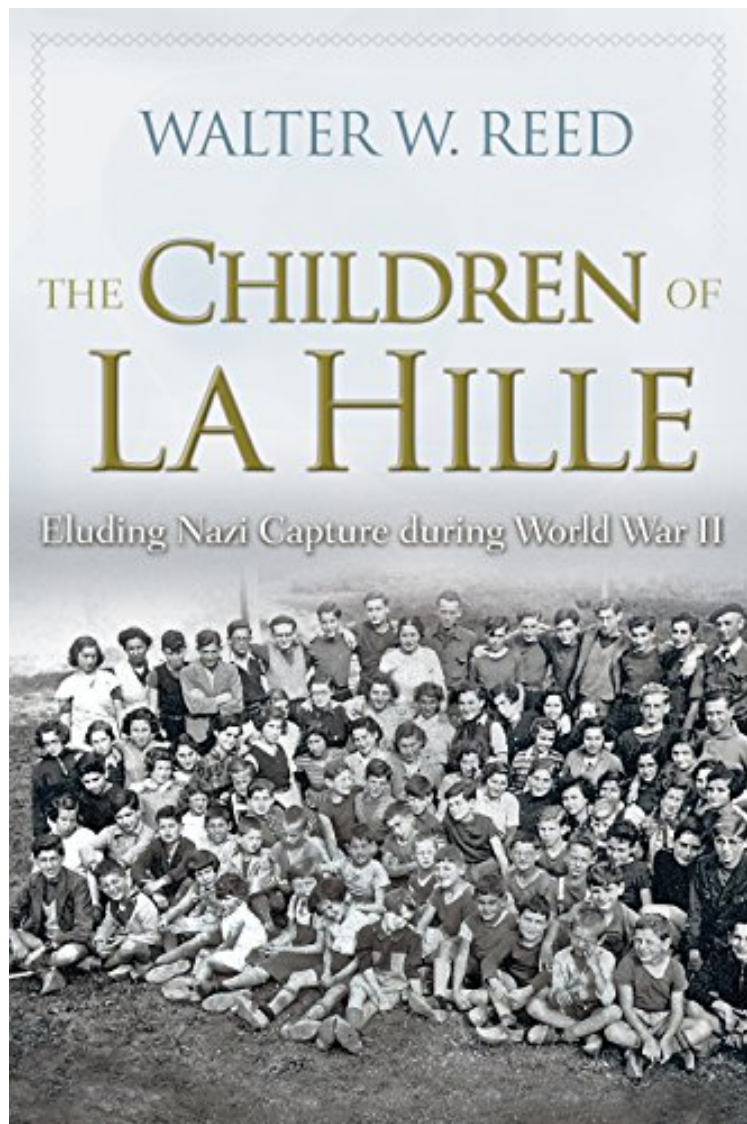


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The Children of La Hille: Eluding Nazi Capture during World War II (Modern Jewish History)

Walter W. Reed

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#1069310 in Books Reed Walter W 2015-11-19Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.11 x .70 x 5.96l, .95
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Walter W. Reed : The Children of La Hille: Eluding Nazi Capture during World War II (Modern Jewish History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Children of La Hille: Eluding Nazi Capture during World War II (Modern Jewish History):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great addition to scholarship of Jewish Children during WWII
By Carol Zsolnay
This is an amazing book that is easy and clear to read for its story, but also for its scholarship. It is a behind the scenes look at the selfless individuals and groups who kept Jewish children (who were not their own) alive during WWII, and the experiences of the children themselves. Reed does a terrific job of assembling documents and information from a wide range of sources--childrens' personal diaries to official gov't docs-- to illuminate the situation of and impact on the Children of La Hille. Another aspect of note is how the children, displaced from their families, towns and even their language, created a positive community where they each had roles to keep the whole functioning. I could see many aspects of this work being turned into epic films. I could also see this work as beneficial in academic and scholarly settings in the research of war, refugees, and organizations that work under duress.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An inspiring story of bravery and determination in the face of mortal danger
By David Sprehe
The extensive research Walter Reed conducted into Nazi persecution and the courageous efforts of Belgian, Swiss, French, American and Spanish patriots to rescue innocent children from the grips of a diabolical regime are inspiring. The reader will come away with the conviction that there were many good people in this horrible historical period. Mr. Reed demonstrates that he was a man on a mission in the way he found many of the survivors of La Hille and eloquently brought their stories and experiences into the light. This book should be an important addition to the library of those who want to know the truth about the evil of Nazism and the heroic resistance to it which a few people mounted. Unfortunately, Walter Reed passed away unexpectedly in January 2016 just before his 92nd birthday.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The book explores a previously untold history, as it ...
By Alan Meyers
The book explores a previously untold history, as it chronicles the lives of 100 children who were shielded from the Nazis in southern France over a period of years, from their living first in an unheated warehouse, then later in a chateau in the village of La Hille, and their escape (and in some cases failed escape and death) into Switzerland. Meticulously researched and thorough, it makes an important contribution to the annals of the Holocaust.

Following the horrors of Kristallnacht in November of 1938, frightened parents were forced to find refuge for their children, far from the escalating anti-Jewish violence. To that end, a courageous group of Belgian women organized a desperate and highly dangerous rescue mission to usher nearly 1,000 children out of Germany and Austria. Of these children, ninety-three were placed on a freight train, traveling through the night away from their families and into the relative safety of Vichy France. Ranging in age from five to sixteen years, the children along with their protectors spent a harsh winter in an abandoned barn with little food before eventually finding shelter in the isolated Chateau de la Hille in southern France. While several of the youngest children were safely routed to the United States, those who remained continued to be hunted by Nazi soldiers until finally smuggled illegally across the Swiss Alps to safe houses. Remarkably, all but eleven of the original ninety-three children survived the war due to the unrelenting efforts of their protectors and their own resilience. In *The Children of La Hille*, Reed narrates this stunning firsthand account of the amazing rescue and the countless heroic efforts of those who helped along the way. As one of the La Hille children, Reed recalls with poignant detail traveling from lice-infested, abandoned convents to stately homes in the foothills of the Pyrenees, always scrambling to keep one step ahead of the Nazis. Drawing upon survivor interviews, journals, and letters, Reed affectionately describes rousing afternoon swims in a nearby natural pond and lively renditions of Moliere plays performed for an audience of local farmers. He tells of heart-stopping near misses as the Vichy police roundups intensified, forcing children to hide in the woods to escape capture. *The Children of La Hille* gives readers an intimate glimpse of a harrowing moment in history, paying tribute to ordinary people acting in extraordinary ways.

Walter Reed provides a gripping account of the experiences which the children of La Hille endured as targets of the Nazis murder machine experiences which marked their lives and influenced their attitudes and behaviors. Through poignant description, Reed shares both the horrors and loss and the camaraderie of children who came together in their quest to live against the backdrop of the Holocaust. (Susan L. Abrams, CEO of Illinois Holocaust Museum Education Center) Walter Reed has done an admirable job of reconstructing the collective biography of the Children of La Hille, a group of some 100 youngsters, of which he was one, sent from Nazi Germany... riveting, inspiring and moving. (Michael Berenbaum, Director Sigi Ziering Institute) This stands by itself among the very few books and films that address the stories of children who survived the Holocaust. Reeds story tells his own tale; but along with it comes the constant and poignant tale of those Jewish parents, including his own, who knew they were virtually certain to die and wanted only the chance that their children might survive. (Richard P. Unsworth, senior fellow at the Kahn Liberal Arts Institute at Smith College) The book underscores the challenges overcome by all parents, children, rescuers in making it possible for most of these children to survive . . . a singularly detailed account of collective survival, and a fascinating one. (Pierre Sauvage, producer and director of the award-winning documentary film *Weapons of the Spirit*) Reed is to be commended for the careful archival work and the wide range of primary sources he was able to gather to reconstruct the stories of the nearly 100 children that sought refuge at La Hille as well as the adults that cared for them and helped facilitate their survival. (Shannon L. Fogg, author of *The Politics of Everyday Life in Vichy France: Foreigners, Undesirables, and Strangers*) *The Children of La Hille* offers the treasure of an insiders intimate knowledge

with the key added dimension of deep research. Drawing upon archival records, documents in private collections that have never been used before, as well as his own recollections, Walter Reed has pieced together a stunning rescue story that arced over the Atlantic. (Debrah Dwork, Director, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University)About the AuthorWalter W. Reed (originally Werner Rindsberg) grew up in a Bavarian village near Wrzburg and experienced Nazi persecution of Jews, including arrest as a fourteen-year-old on Kristallnacht. After immigrating to New York in 1941, he served as an American soldier from 1943 to 1946, and as an interrogator of German prisoners in General Pattons Third Army, starting after the liberation of Paris in 1944. A graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, he pursued a forty-year career in public relations. Since 1998, he has been a frequent speaker about the Holocaust in the United States and in Europe.