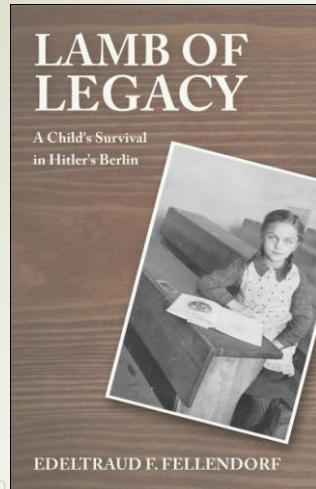


LAMB OF LEGACY REVIEW



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This work, 'Lamb of Legacy', is critically important. Those born after 1945 grew up never having known war and childhoods were lived out untouched by it and were too young to understand the blood and suffering of the Korean War. This generation's ideas of what war is, was a composite of carefully filtered images seen through television, and... from those 'family friendly' war films viewed in movie theaters during Saturday afternoon matinees. So it was a terrific shock to most when the evening news began showing us near real-time graphic images of a new war, one half a world away, in Vietnam. The shock of this drove many into the streets in protest while others sought to resolve things by enlisting.

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As the Vietnam War continued, so did awareness of what war, any war, meant and so after Vietnam came a re-evaluation of recent wars past, World War 2 and the Korean War. And we asked our fathers, "What did you do during the war, Dad? What really happened?". The media, sensing our desire to know, gave us movies like 'Schindler's List' and books such as 'The Greatest Generation', while 'The Diary of Anne Frank' became mandatory reading in our schools, and when our own children grew old enough to see the monuments and memorials in our

nation's capital, we also took them to see the newly opened Holocaust Memorial Museum as well.

But even so our understandings of what had actually happened in the wars past remain incomplete. Though we gained information from our parents, we still tend to visualize what had happened from our unique American victors perspective, a view which yet remains heavily tinted by Hollywood's depictions of events. **This book, this memoir, 'Lamb of Legacy', is critically important to our understanding. Yes, it is a well written and riveting childhood and a coming-of-age story of a young woman in a war torn country, a story of a young girl struggling to survive the unimaginable, but it also provides us all a priceless and unique ground level viewpoint of the time and of events that occurred at the one place at which hinged some of the more pivotal moments of World War 2, and it does this through the vivid memories of a child who lived through it, who was changed and marked by these events again and again and yet survived it all to come out the other side a grown woman who still continued to hope, and who in the end, found love and a new life.**

During my childhood I attend those Saturday afternoon matinees, saw many of those 'family safe' war movies from Hollywood, and inevitably in them there would always come a point in the movie where the director would cut away to show us actual wartime camera footage of our bombers raining bombs down upon Berlin, or some other German city. And as I watched again and again bombs dropping from the bellies of Allied bombers, seeing the distant explosions below, the buildings falling in great clouds of smoke, I had always felt a great sorrow for those on the ground and wondered what it must have been like for them, for the women and children in those buildings, for I knew they were there in them. The movie always ended with triumphant Allied aviator heroes flying off into the glorious sunset, but I always left the theater feeling a heavy sense of disquiet knowing that only half of the story had been told, that something important had been left out.

'Lamb of Legacy' helped me fill in a great deal of that missing story, and now I know some of things I had only previously wondered about. There are books you read and then forget right away, and then there are books you read and afterward you find your thoughts turning to again and again. 'Lamb of Legacy' is of the first water of this latter kind. In the weeks following having read it my thoughts repeatedly re-visited first one part of the book then another. Realizing

this I paused to ask myself why and after a bit of consideration came to a few conclusions. **First, this book is a doubly-heroic story. Heroic in the first count because it is a story of survival and growth which occurred in a time and place where neither growth nor even survival was likely at all, and then it is doubly heroic because of something else too, something that the reader soon becomes aware of. You see, this book, as a memoir, is one in which the 'this is what happened' is often told in what might be considered a reserved factual German style, except one becomes aware that throughout it all is a strong subtext conveying an undercurrent of emotions, emotions which you realize are being held in check only with considerable difficulty and control, and so that by putting on this factual air that this is the only way in which these events could be recounted or could have been told to us at all. And then it fully hits you that what you are reading is truth, not embellished fabrications, but an accurate recounting of the truth of War as seen through the eyes of a young girl whose painful war experiences are now being related to us by the woman she had survived to become, and who is now having to relive those times to be able to tell us of them. And so, any veteran of any war who reads this book will know its truth, that 'the thousand yard stare' is not seen only in just the faces of those who hold the weapons.**

This book is a gift, a gift to us all. Read it and you'll never think of war in quite the same way, and neither will you forget the story of one young girl who grew and came of age in the darkest hours of that World War 2 and yet triumphed to find love and happiness. As a younger man I read 'The Diary of Anne Frank' and was deeply affected. Anne Frank wrote "letters" to an imaginary friend, but I tell you this, 'Lamb of Legacy' is the kind of book Anne Frank might have written some 60+ years after the fact, had she survived. Yes, the book did much to help me answer many of those things I had so long puzzled over.

So much so in that regard that in the end I had to rethink a good deal of my own understanding of that time. **But the book did more than supply missing facts and perspectives, it also gave me a story of hope and survival that I will carry in my heart for a very long time, one I will never forget, and if you read it, neither will you.**