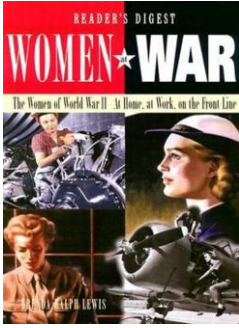


Featured book Review



Lewis, Brenda Ralph. *Women at War The Women of World War II – At Home, at Work, on the Front Line*. Digital Image. Klahowya Secondary School Library. Web. 23 Jan. 2012. <<http://kls.cksd.wednet.edu/Library/>>.

Women at War *The Women of World* *War II- At Home, at* *Work, on the Front line*

By:

Brenda Ralph Lewis

Reviewed by:

Samantha Jean-Ann Earls



Earls, L. *Samantha E.* 2011. Photograph. Bremerton, WA.

“Thousands of women joined the women’s uniformed services in World War II. There was, inevitably, resistance to the idea of women in uniform, but their contribution was vital” (Lewis, 117). The book *Women at War: The Women of World War II – At Home, at Work, on the Front Line* you “experience” what the women of World War II had to go through. Brenda Ralph Lewis explains the fight for America through the women’s eyes like never before. You will learn about more than just what women put up with at home, you will learn about what happened on the home front, on the frontline, and even a little bit about what happened behind enemy lines. This book explains the jobs of women as civilians, and the jobs of women in the military. This is a book filled with important information on the importance of women during the war, and most people could read it (However some parts are a little bit graphic).

“World War II gave women a unique opportunity to prove themselves beyond their traditional domestic roles; for them, the future was going to be very different from the past” (Lewis 243).

During World War II, the need for women’s help was inevitable. In this book you read that without women, production in factories would have come to a near standstill. “The men’s jobs still had to be done, and war factories were in overdrive compared to peacetime production as hostilities absorbed vast quantities of munitions” (Lewis, 64) So the women were the only option if factories wanted to continue providing munitions, and parts for aircrafts/other transportation. Women also worked to fight for the country, and without that help, it might have been much more difficult to win the war. “Women were thought to have advantages over men in this role; they were considered less noticeable and less likely to arouse suspicious attention” (Lewis, 143). Another example would be “In World War II, nurses tending the wounded in makeshift hospitals near the front line lived in constant danger as they worked to preserve life while everything happening around them was designed to destroy it” (Lewis, 91). The women that kept America in the hands of the Americans had to often sacrifice their own lives at home, but it was well worth it. When reading, you also need to keep in mind the type of people that should be reading this book.

The book *Women at War: The Women of World War II – At Home, at Work, on the Front Line* is a very helpful book for those interested in what happened in World War II; however some of the information contained in this book is a bit graphic. So as long as your stomach is decently strong, you can read this book. (If you are easily upset or disgusted I recommend skipping the next two or three lines) “A woman lay dead or dying by the roadside. Her baby however was still alive. Hearing its cries, a Japanese soldier tossed it high in the air and speared it on his bayonet as it descended. The child died instantly. Allen saw its blood trickling down the bayonet and saw, too, how the soldier smiled with satisfaction” (Lewis, 169). Another example of how only strong stomached people and people who are not easily upset should read this book would be ““there was no furniture,’ Keith wrote, ‘and we slept and ate on the floor.... Centipedes lived under us, and rats lived over us. The rats were so numerous that the noise of their fighting, playing, eating and copulating kept us awake at night”” (Lewis, 175). The book also touches some more sensitive subjects of imprisoned women during the war (example – rape).

I do highly recommend this book; it is filled with interesting, educational, and important information. However this book does have some content that I would recommend to people with strong stomachs, and to people who do not easily upset. Even if you are not one of the two types of people described, you might still be able to read it; only a very select few spots are bad. This book is filled with information on how important to the war effort the women were, and some of the information in this book is even like what women do today. This book is an interesting fact filled book, and I do so recommend it to those interested in the women of the war.