



When Books Went to War: The Stories that Helped Us Win World War II

By Manning, Molly Guptill.

Houghton Mifflin. 1 Cloth(s), 2014. hard. Book Condition: New. America in World War II faced an enemy in Europe that had banned and burned more than 100 million books. In response, librarians launched a campaign that sent millions of donated hardcover books overseas with our troops, but something more was needed. Here the author of *The Myth of Ephraim Tutt* recounts how the War Department and the American publishing industry stepped in with an extraordinary program, ultimately producing 120 million small, lightweight paperbacks that could easily be carried in a pocket or pack. These Armed Service Editions helped rescue *The Great Gatsby* from obscurity, and made Betty Smith, author of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, into a national icon. Soldiers read the books in chow lines, in foxholes, and in field hospitals; they also wrote to the authors many of whom responded to every letter and returned home to help build a literate middle class. "A thoroughly engaging, enlightening, and often uplifting account of America's counterattack against Nazi Germany's wholesale burning of books . using the written word itself as a powerful reply to tyranny, thought control, absolutism, and perverse ideology. I was enthralled and moved." Tim O'Brien "Well written, carefully researched, and drawing..."



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