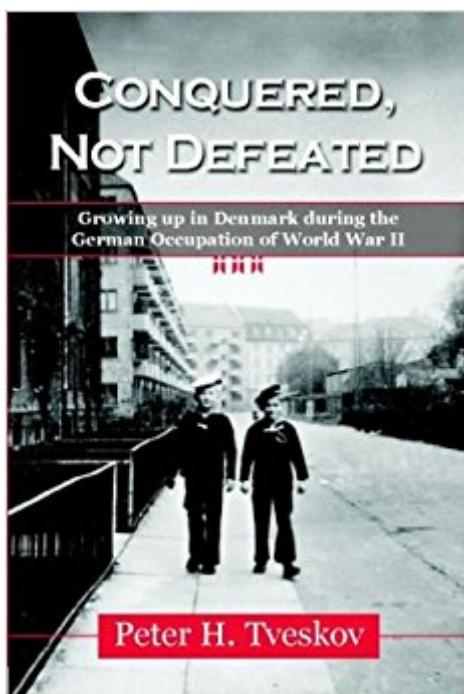


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Conquered, Not Defeated: Growing Up In Denmark During The German Occupation Of World War II



Synopsis

On the morning of April 9, 1940, Peter Tveskov awoke to the roar of airplanes flying low overhead; more airplanes than he'd ever heard or seen before. The invasion leading to the five-year German occupation of Denmark had begun. The Occupation was a dark and difficult time for the Danish people, but for five-year-old Peter, it was an exciting adventure that would in many ways shape both his future and that of his beloved country. In Conquered, Not Defeated, Peter Tveskov blends vivid childhood memories with historical fact to tell the story of how the occupying army of the Third Reich tried; and ultimately failed; to crush the customs, will, and spirit of the Danish people. It is a story not often told nor easily forgotten. Includes 12 pages of rare photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peter Tveskov was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, and lived there until three days after his fourteenth birthday in 1948, when he and his mother moved to Venezuela where he completed his secondary education. After returning to the States, he studied Mechanical Engineering at Yale University and earned the degree of Bachelor of Engineering in 1956. Following ten years working in the oil fields of West Texas, Venezuela, and Brazil, he became the physical plant manager first at Yale University and later at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. Later in his career, he served as a consultant in facilities operations that took him to assignments at Brown University, Connecticut College, and elsewhere. He retired in 1997 and currently lives in Connecticut.

I purchased this book because I am going to Denmark in the Fall and also with all the horrors of WWII, the Danish Resistance seemed to provide a positive story. Saving 95% of their Jewish population, the strong Danish resistance did something that other nations were unable to achieve (for various reasons). The book is realistic in that not all Danes were resistance to the German occupation, but, by and large the majority of Danes resented the Nazis and created tactics to derail their occupation. What I liked most about this book was its simplicity in explaining a country's occupation during WWII. It gave me the impression that for the most part in Denmark during WWII, you were a Dane first and whatever else you were (Jewish, etc) was secondary. Ultimately, regardless of differences, you were a Dane and deserving of help. King Christian X stayed during the occupation, rode his horse through the streets of Copenhagen, without any bodyguards and 'cooperated' with the Nazi, but only up to a certain point. Somehow the Danes saved their Jewish population to Sweden and King Christian and the Queen survived-- bright spots in an otherwise horrible moment in history.

Perspective of a man thinking back on his boyhood in occupied Copenhagen. This book has some insightful observations on the life lived in that time, and fills in some background on the overall broad picture of the culture of the Danes relating to their occupation.

Tveskov's "Conquered, Not Defeated" is a touching look at Denmark during WWII through the eyes of a boy but also with the perception through which the events in that country can be viewed with adult eyes years after the fact. With skill, he takes the reader into the fascinating world of Copenhagen during the war - the occupation and, more importantly, the incredible people who lived and died during that dark period of their history. Theirs is a story worth the telling - and worth the remembering. These true recollections of a middle class boy and his family make the reader realize the profound impact of a war that tore Denmark apart and then united her in ways that no one could foresee. "Conquered, Not Defeated" is a testament to the resiliency, the independence and compassion of the Danish spirit, deftly told . . . a story the reader will not soon forget.

A surprising book about growing up in German controlled Denmark during WWII. Who would have thought that the bases were joint-operated through the 1st half of the occupation, and that King Christian ruled through the entire war? Also it shows that Denmark also sent volunteers to the German army, to fight communism.

Perhaps the best of kind about what the Danes had to go through during the war. Highly recommended. The author's knowledge and integrity permeate the pages.

Bought this as a birthday gift! Arrived quickly! I think she will love it and thank you again, this is wonderful.

Coming from a danish family i can tell you that this seemingly simple read really gives a good feel of the times through a childs eye. Mr. Tvestov gives just enough extra information to be able to understand the times in which he grew up in addition to his personal experience. It's also an entertaining, if slightly repetitive read.

If you want a concise, factual account of what it was like to be Danish during the German occupation, this is the book for you.

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