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A Vatican Lifeline '44



Synopsis

The Vatican enclave in Rome was technically a neutral country in World War II, and was utilized by various Allied agents and refugees, as revealed in this previously unknown account.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As much as we talk, write and create visual and performing art about World War II Italy, it is not widely known that seventy thousand Italians came to the aid of thousands of Allied prisoners of war in spite of Fascism and Nazi occupation. These courageous heroes hid, fed and clothed POWs, risking their own lives in order to save those of people they had never met. Captured in Tobruk and transported to Italy in 1942, Major William Cook Simpson first became part of this remarkable movement when he jumped from a German prison truck and went into hiding. Taken in by brave Italians in Sulmona and covertly transferred into Rome, Simpson soon became an integral part of Roman and Vatican efforts to provide POWs with safe haven and evade Gestapo raids until Allied troops arrived. A VATICAN LIFELINE is well written and engaging, and Simpson seems to find the humor in even the most solemn situations. As a result, he manages to convey both the gravity of the time and the camaraderie of this underground movement without taking on the overwhelmingly dismal tone that pervades many accounts of wartime efforts. This book is an enlightening and enjoyable read that will charm history buffs and romantics alike.

Good shape

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