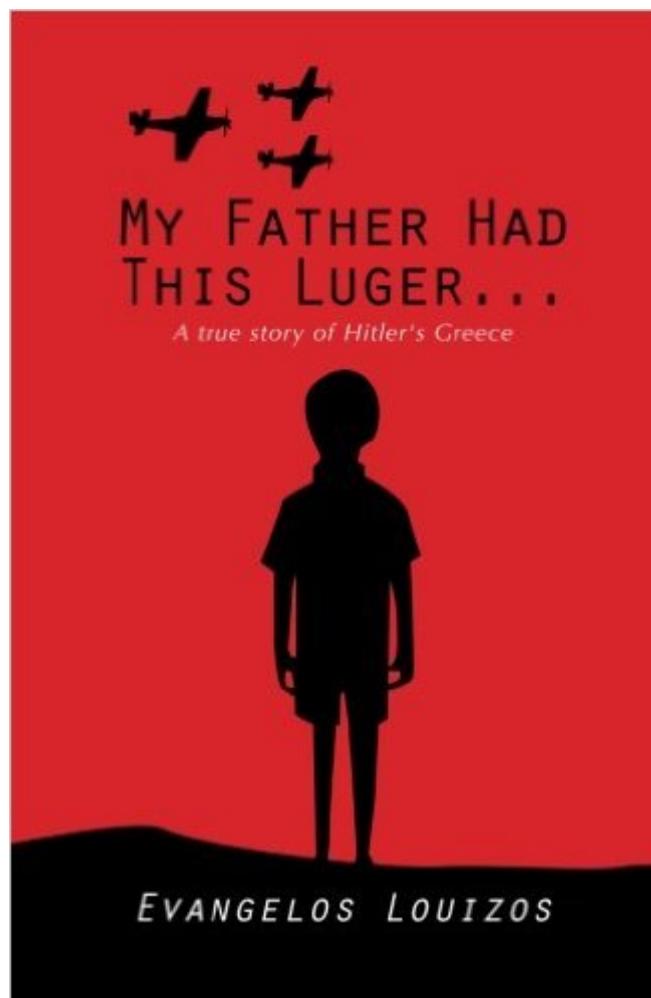


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# My Father Had This Luger... A True Story Of Hitler's Greece: A True Story Of Hitler's Greece



## Synopsis

"THE SWORD OF ZEUS PROJECT, which produced this book, is one of the most remarkable historical publishing undertakings of recent years. This work impressively confirms and reflects its high quality."- Aris Melissaratos, Senior Advisor to the President of Johns Hopkins University. "A fresh spotlight on the idea that Germans owe Greeks billions in unpaid war reparations." - Summer book choice, The Greek Star, Chicago and the Boston-based Hellenic Voice. "Captivating, with a cinematic feel, and moments that are truly haunting and memorable ... Certain passages are thought provoking while some are downright bone chilling, yet all unforgettable." -Neos Kosmos, Australia "This well-written book provides us an insight into WWII's origin and meaning... An example of how the human spirit can survive and endure physical and material deprivation. Mr. Louizos should be commended for honoring his family and the Greek people ... A good addition to The Sword of Zeus Project." -- A. Vavoulis, founder, KFCF-FM Free Speech radio. "An extraordinary account of the Axis occupation of Greece..." -- G. Harocopos, WW2 Historian and resistance fighter. "Reads like a fast-paced thriller... with the visual impact of a movie..." This is a mesmerizing read .- NEO Magazine, New York. World War 2 seen with a 21st century sensibility. An enthralling, moving and true story of the Nazi occupation of Greece, it reads with the speed of a compelling novel as it sweeps you vividly through the war with unflagging narrative pace. It leaves you with a fresh understanding of the war and of the indomitability of the human spirit. It delivers suspense, endless surprises and twists, sharp characterizations, insights into human nature and the indestructibility of family ties, and a fascinating historical education along the way. The gripping story is packed with events from hilarious episodes, described with a child's honesty, through poignant moments to profound terror. The rich historical backdrop is painted in often poetic but always crystal-clear and unpretentious prose. The book opens when Greece is invaded by Italy's dictator, Mussolini. The outnumbered Greeks repel the invasion and the boy Evangelos' father is assigned to run a Prisoner of War facility for captured Italians, bringing the child into close contact with the prisoners Mussolini calls in his ally, Hitler. Jackboots march through Athens, the swastika rises over the Acropolis, Wehrmacht troops are stationed across the road from Evangelos' home. He befriends German soldiers and learns to see them not just as soldiers but as men. His rooftop gives him a ringside seat of the coming and going of Luftwaffe planes. What he sees and learns and is made to experience, as the German noose grows tighter, makes him grow up more quickly than he had ever dreamed possible. And when the Allies eventually arrive to replace the Germans, their presence turns out to be shockingly different from the liberation that the besieged Greeks had expected. Every age group, from young adults up, will find its own layers of meaning.

Produced under the auspices of a history-as-literature project guided by experts including veteran Reader's Digest editors. "MY FATHER HAD THIS LUGER... is about timeless things that transcend war and which are as relevant today as the years in which the events of this story took place. This is a story of family, community and the ways in which countless small rituals and other shared things give human life its meaning. It is about loyalty and sticking together, about personal triumph, about hope, about the universality of childhood and the importance of imagination. It is about the ability of the human mind to find comedy even amid awful things, and take nourishment from it." - N.J. Slabbert, Literary Director, THE SWORD OF ZEUS PROJECT.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

My Father Had This Luger..., by Evangelos Louizos, is a fabulous read, filled with intrigue, humor, suspense, history, sadness, joy, and triumph! As I read, it was as if I was right there with him, experiencing his childhood at his side. I felt his raw emotions -- laughing with him, crying with him, having fun with him at school and while he explored the neighborhoods of his homeland -- even feeling the perplexity of a child experiencing war first hand. The hunger, the pain, the fear, and asking the why of it all, in an effort to understand the chaos of the world around him. Written with creative expression throughout, one would think that this was a novel, but no, this true story is thought provoking and entertaining from beginning to end. It is a fascinating read. I could not put it down! If ever a book could be a "time machine" that takes you back to World War II Europe through the eyes of a child, this is it! As I read, the vivid descriptions and historical notes were simultaneously captivating and enlightening. Louizos' words capture the love and spirit of the lives of

his family, friends, and compatriots, as they resisted and endured invasions by the forces of Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler. He makes it clear that hope was the spark that lit the fire of their hearts that kept them going until the war was over. Children suffer enough in this world, without having to be subjected to the horrors of war. This book will make you laugh and make you cry. It will make you respect the courage and tenacity of the Greek people. They changed the course of history!

It was the title of the book which arose my attention. I had never heard of a "Luger". Being German, I was somewhat ashamed about my lack of knowledge, when I found out that a "Luger" is a handgun used by German WWII soldiers. As I am very interested in personal memories from WWII, I bought the book and found that the author's father got hold of a "Luger" from a German prisoner in Athens. The "Luger" symbolically stands for all the misery the Germans afflicted upon the Greek people during WWII. But there is no hatred towards Germans, as little Louizos somehow even manages to make friends with some of the German soldiers on a military compound in his neighbourhood. The author describes in a very personal and detailed way what life under the German occupation was like for him as an 8-to 12-year-old boy, his parents and his three sisters. He paints such an interesting and vivid picture of what life in his hometown of Kallithea was like from 1941 to 1944. Curfews, food rationing, suffering from hunger and fear of American and British bombers chasing German military compounds shaped Greek life at that time. The only access to the outside world for the author's family was a radio which his father and his "war cabinet of dining room generals" (his father's neighbourhood friends) were furtively listening to (mostly BBC news), as the Germans occupants confiscated almost all radios (with above mentioned exception). The book is all the more trustworthy and authentic as its stories are told from a boy's perspective with all his fear, inquisitiveness and love for his family. Once you start reading the book, you don't want to lay it aside until you have finished the last page. It is more than a book on history....it is much better.

This is a fantastic book that gives you a first hand look at history through the eyes of a child that lived in occupied Greece during WWII....I down loaded it on my Kindle and found the photographs amazing and the story compelling. This is a story that should be made into a movie. The author E Louizos has a wonderful way of bringing you into his real life experience as a child in WWII. I highly recommend this book for an enjoyable journey in history.

I have always been immensely proud of my Greek heritage but more so after reading this account of the German Occupation of Greece and its aftermath. As a child I remember Evangelos Louizos

being a frequent visitor to my home in Yuba City, California. He was a college friend of my brother. At that time, I thought he was larger than life. After reading his account of his family and friends during the Occupation I am convinced of this. Mr. Louizos has translated the thoughts of a little boy's wanderings through the streets of the Athenian suburb of Kallithea where he lived into an extraordinary account of fear, deprivation, abject hunger and everlasting friendships but most profoundly, courage. His accounts of his family and friends brought me to tears so many times and a little laughter more than once. This is an extraordinary account of what the war was like for a little boy and his family. His precise recollections of the characters who wove the fabric of his life are without equal. This is a book which I will read again and again because it stirs my soul and warms my heart for the struggles and sacrifices of the Greek people.

This book, about a young boy growing up in Athens during WWII, and the suffering, death, and destruction at the hands of the Germans is depicted in this book. It is a VERY interesting read. Of special interest to me was the author's account of the Greeks fighting the Italians starting in late October 1940. I always knew the Greeks successfully drove the Italians out of northern Greece and back into Albania, but I didn't realize what a struggle it was. The fighting was in the mountains, in very cold, snowy weather. The Greeks were out-numbered, and had limited and out dated weapons. But the country rose up as one, determined to oust the invaders, and they succeeded, but it wasn't easy. One has to wonder about the outcome of WWII if Mussolini had been successful in the Greek invasion, and Hitler had not found it necessary to send in thousands of German troops to Greece to save face. Certainly he could have used more troops in Russia or Africa. It is also curious why so many German troops were kept in mainland Greece. I understand that Crete was a strategic island geographically and the Nazi desire to occupy the island, but to have so many troops in mainland Greece is hard to figure. Anyway I highly recommend this book. Unlike Inside Hitler's Greece, which is very informative, this book makes the German occupation very very personal and touching.

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