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The Last Mission (Laurel-Leaf Historical Fiction)



Synopsis

In 1944, as World War II is raging across Europe, fifteen-year-old Jack Raab dreams of being a hero. Leaving New York City, his family, and his boyhood behind, Jack uses a false I.D. and lies his way into the U.S. Air Force. From their base in England, he and his crew fly twenty-four treacherous bombing missions over occupied Europe. The war is almost over and Hitler near defeat when they fly their last mission -- a mission destined for disaster. Shot down far behind enemy lines, Jack is taken prisoner and sent to a German POW camp, where his experiences are more terrifying than anything he'd ever imagined.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

In 1944, as World War II is raging across Europe, fifteen-year-old Jack Raab dreams of being a hero. Leaving New York City, his family, and his boyhood behind, Jack uses a false I.D. and lies his way into the U.S. Air Force. From their base in England, he and his crew fly twenty-four treacherous bombing missions over occupied Europe. The war is almost over and Hitler near defeat when they fly their last mission -- a mission destined for disaster. Shot down far behind enemy lines, Jack is taken prisoner and sent to a German POW camp, where his experiences are more terrifying than

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In 1944, as World War II is raging across Europe, fifteen-year-old Jack Raab dreams of being a hero. Leaving New York City, his family, and his boyhood behind, Jack uses a false I.D. and lies his way into the U.S. Air Force. From their base in England, he and his crew fly twenty-four treacherous bombing missions over occupied Europe. The war is almost over and Hitler near defeat when they fly their last mission -- a mission destined for disaster. Shot down far behind enemy lines, Jack is taken prisoner and sent to a German POW camp, where his experiences are more terrifying than anything he'd ever imagined.

I suspect the author has a good insight into World War II and the feelings of the country at that time. The story is of an underage Jewish boy who enlists in the Army, winds up on a combat crew of a B-17 flying missions over Europe. His large size and appearance get him through the training and missions without detection and he functions well in the military. During that war I too was too young to go but grew up large and looked old enough. I remember walking down the street and people calling me 4-F and asking why I wasn't in uniform. I was only 15 at the time and felt ashamed. At that time everyone went. So different now when only a small percent of our young people serve and suffer and most of us go on as if nothing is happening. The boy in this story goes underage and does well. The author either went through the combat part of the story or listened to one who did. Well done. I think the conclusion was good and presented an excellent commentary on war which no one really listens to.

My son loved the book!

The Last Mission will appeal to many, even those who usually don't read war stories. Mr. Mazer's wrote about characters who have personalities, can think and bring the story to life. I was fascinated with the detail involved in undertaking a bombing mission over Germany and/or her allies. Very realistic and believable. Thank you Harry for an enjoyable read. Beth Bristow

Great quick captivating book read it in 1 day. Leaves you with deep thoughts. I recommend all readers looking for something to read to read this book.

My 12 yo grandson really enjoyed reading this, understood everything.

A great book for young adults interested in the people of WWII.

Great Christmas Gift, my 16 year old son loved it!

Very good story

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