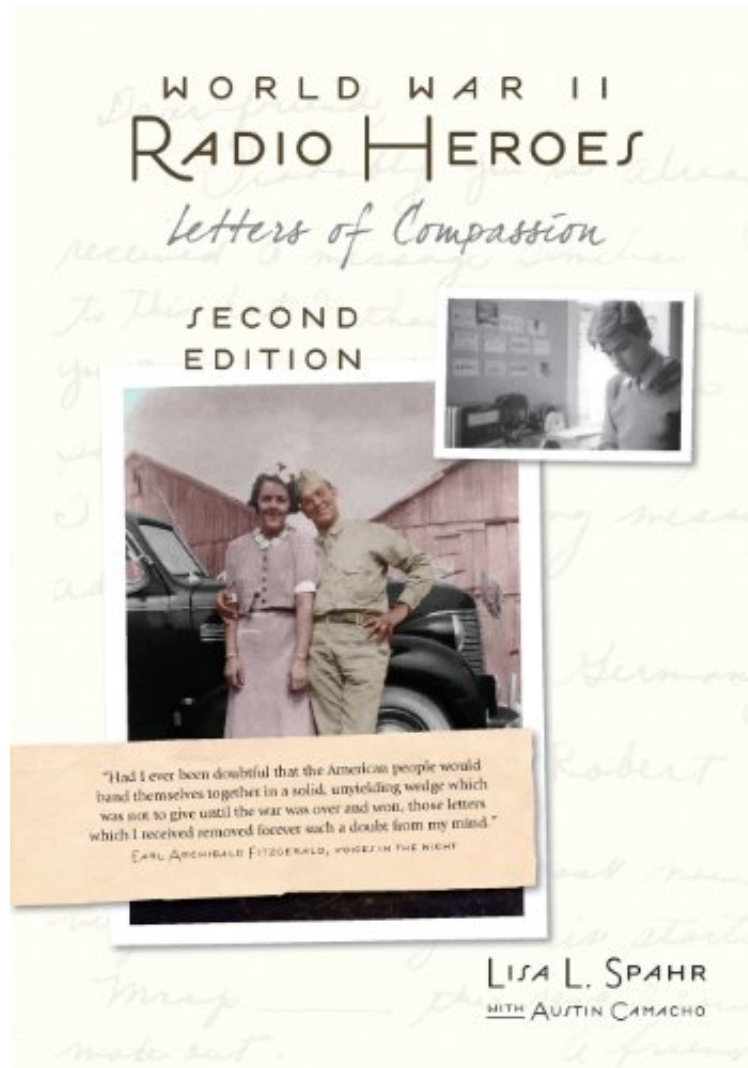


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World War II Radio Heroes: Letters of Compassion, 2nd Edition

Lisa L. Spahr

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Lisa L. Spahr : World War II Radio Heroes: Letters of Compassion, 2nd Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised World War II Radio Heroes: Letters of Compassion, 2nd Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is GREAT!!!By CustomerThis book talks about parts of WW II I never knew existed and how people communicated. We all take for granted how easy it is to communicate w/ each other today. I can't even imagine learning your loved one was in a POW camp. This book is very respectful and well written.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Kindle edition commentsBy Dr. Andy WLet me separate my comments into two categories: what is written and how the book appears in the Kindle edition.THE

WHAT. Radio Heroes is a one-of-a-kind compilation of radio relay stories linking captured American prisoners to their families at home. I am both amateur radio operator and student of World War II history. As a "ham," I've made many radio relays myself. I know first-hand what it's like to pass along good news from some remote corner of the world to anxious family members. Remember - this was before cell phones, satellite communications, and email. Ms. Spahr's writing is unsophisticated, but I think that style is appropriate. The author could have gotten in the way of the stories, but like the radio, she is the medium, not the message. The idea, the research, the assembly - all well done. My only criticism is the lack of technical information. THE HOW. Unfortunately, the Kindle edition is poorly done. (I have the Kindle 2.) I don't know much about the conversion process, but the breakdown had to have occurred with or the publisher or both, but it is not a short-coming of the author. The problems are in the formatting and the images - the words are there, but they often are fragmented, compacted together when spaces are dropped, and, in some cases, missing. Many images appear simply as grey rectangles - no photograph or image scan - just ghostly grey. Other images have something there, but even with magnification, it is impossible to make out content. BOTTOM LINE. Print edition 4 stars (based on the story) :: Kindle edition 2 stars :: Average 3 stars. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. WWII Shortwave Listeners: Unsung Heroes By Edward J. Insinger Lisa Spahr has uncovered the story of untold Americans during the Second World War who used the medium of shortwave radio as an instrument to boost and reach out to family members of servicemen captured and imprisoned. She unfolds the story of her grandfather, a POW in Germany in 1943 and the efforts of Americans back home who diligently listened to shortwave broadcasts from Radio Berlin, an enemy propagation station. The German authorities allowed the reading of names and messages from POW's, in an effort to demoralize the families of the captured servicemen. Quite to the contrary, this turned out to be most beneficial to families in the states. Using shortwave radios and letter writing, a group of dedicated listeners made every effort to contact the families of names heard on the shortwaves. These letters proved to be beneficial in letting next of kin know that their loved ones were indeed alive. I have been a shortwave listener for forty years and can relate well to the challenges these listeners faced, due to the constantly changing conditions experienced with the propagation of radio waves sent over long distances. This is yet another tribute to America's greatest generation and a testament to their strong will and unceasing efforts to help the cause of their fellow Americans back home. Although Lisa Spahr mentions the Shortwave Amateur Monitors Club in Chapter 5, I would have enjoyed additional information relating to the shortwave radio equipment listeners used in the 1940's. Further information of a technical nature relating to shortwave listening (presented in laymen's terms) would also have further enhanced the challenges, obstacles and painstaking efforts of these radio heroes. Perhaps this will appear in another edition of this interesting saga.

More than 60 years had passed before I found them. Dozens and dozens of letters written to my family during WWII - from total strangers - to tell my great-grandmother that her son had been captured and was being held as a POW. How did they know this? Well, it seems the short-wave radio had held all the answers. POWs were allowed to state their names and hometowns on the radio, and sometimes relay a short message to their families. Scores of Americans, listening to the German propaganda from so far away, heard my grandfather's information, and took it upon themselves to write to my great-grandmother. All of these dear people wanted to give my great-grandmother a measure of comfort to know her son was alive. That was only the beginning of my journey. The second edition of World War Radio Heroes: Letters of Compassion was published in May 2013 with three times as much content and even more amazing stories.