

Far from Hitler: The Scattergood Hostel for European Refugees, 1939–43, by Michael Luick-Thrams. Mason City: TRACES for the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, 2004. 49 pp. Illustrations, tables. \$7.50 paper.

Reviewer Terrence J. Lindell is professor of history at Wartburg College. His research interests include World War II, especially the U. S. homefront.

In 1939 the American Friends Service Committee oversaw the creation of a hostel for refugees fleeing Nazi Germany at Scattergood, a vacant Quaker boarding school near West Branch. Before the facility closed in 1943, 186 European refugees passed through its doors on their way to building new lives in America. This brief work is the catalog for a traveling exhibit sponsored by the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. It is composed of a series of essays, most a single page long, each of which examines an aspect of the Scattergood story. These include the oppression that forced people to flee Europe, the troubles they had reaching America, the organization of the hostel, profiles of the staff and refugees who made up the community, facets of Scattergood life, the hostel's closing, and Scattergood's meaning for those who sojourned there. A page of illustrations from the exhibit accompanies nearly every essay. The work also includes lists of Scattergood refugees and staff.

Few of the publication's nearly 200 illustrations—mostly photographs, with some documents, artwork, and small objects—have captions. The lack thereof often leaves the reader wondering who the people portrayed are, if they are the ones referred to in the accompanying essay, and sometimes what they are doing.

Far from Hitler serves as a short introduction to the Scattergood story. Readers interested in a full treatment should consult Luick-Thrams's 1996 book, *Out of Hitler's Reach: The Scattergood Hostel for European Refugees, 1939–43*.

Camp Papers/Lagerzeitungen: The German POW Newspapers at Camp Algona, Iowa, 1944–1946, edited by Michael Luick-Thrams. Mason City: TRACES, 2003. iv, 168 pp. Illustrations. \$17.50 paper.

Reviewer Chad William Timm is a high school history teacher in Des Moines, a Ph.D. candidate at Iowa State University, and the author of a master's thesis, "Axis Prisoners of War in Iowa, 1943–1946: Harvesting Fields of Dreams" (Iowa State University, 2002).

In this fascinating piece of Iowa history, Michael Luick-Thrams contends that enemy prisoners of war "underwent pivotal changes as individuals and as a group—thus fundamentally influencing postwar German values and institutions" (i). Through vivid primary documents, Luick-Thrams depicts the growth and transformation of Ger-

man soldiers in two German prisoner of war newspapers published at Camp Algona, Iowa, during World War II. With the help of a team of German-language translators, Luick-Thrams offers a captivating look into the daily lives of German POWs, from art and poetry to sports and literature. These newspapers are presented in the words of the German prisoners who wrote them, initially the 1944 pro-Nazi paper *Drahtpost*, and then later, in 1945, the anti-Nazi paper *Lagerzeitung*.

Not only does *Camp Papers/Lagerzeitungen* give casual readers an intriguing firsthand look at German POWs in Iowa, but the colorful POW descriptions of life and labor in many of Iowa's smaller branch camps, from Eldora to Muscatine, also contribute significantly to historical scholarship on the subject. Luick-Thrams states, "Ultimately, *Camp Papers/Lagerzeitungen* is about human growth" (168), but it may be more about the success of the U.S. government's secret attempt to reeducate enemy prisoners of war. Luick-Thrams found that Algona's POW newspapers shifted from an overtly pro-Nazi position to an anti-Nazi position. In 1945 the Provost Marshall General's Office cited that shift as "fitting the purpose of the re-education program" (Arnold Kramer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, 205). Although it does not explicitly tackle the subject of reeducation, this book, like Ron Robin's *The Barbed-Wire College: Reeducating German POWs in the United States during World War II* (1995) and Arthur L. Smith's *The War for the German Mind: Re-Educating Hitler's Soldiers* (1996), demonstrates the U.S. government's successful attempt to build the foundation for a democratic Germany here in the United States.

Only the Least of Me Is Hostage: Midwest POWs in Nazi Germany, edited by Michael Luick-Thrams, with text and illustrations by Pat Schultz. 2 volumes. 270 + 171 pp. Illustrations by Pat Schultz and Rayf Schmidt. Mason City: TRACES, 2004. \$17.50 paper each or both for \$30.00.

Behind Barbed Wire: Midwest POWs in Nazi Germany, edited by Michael Luick-Thrams and Pat Schultz, with illustrations by Pat Schultz and Rayf Schmidt. 60 pp. Mason City: TRACES, 2004. \$5.00 paper. Both publications available only through www.TRACES.org.

Reviewer Arnold Kramer is professor of history at Texas A&M University. He is the author of numerous books and articles on World War II and prisoners of war, including *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*; *Hitler's Last Soldier in America* (with Georg Gaertner), and *Undue Process: The Untold Story of America's German Enemy Internees*.

How fascinating to view the Second World War through Iowa's eyes—through the eyes of our friends and neighbors and relatives who left

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