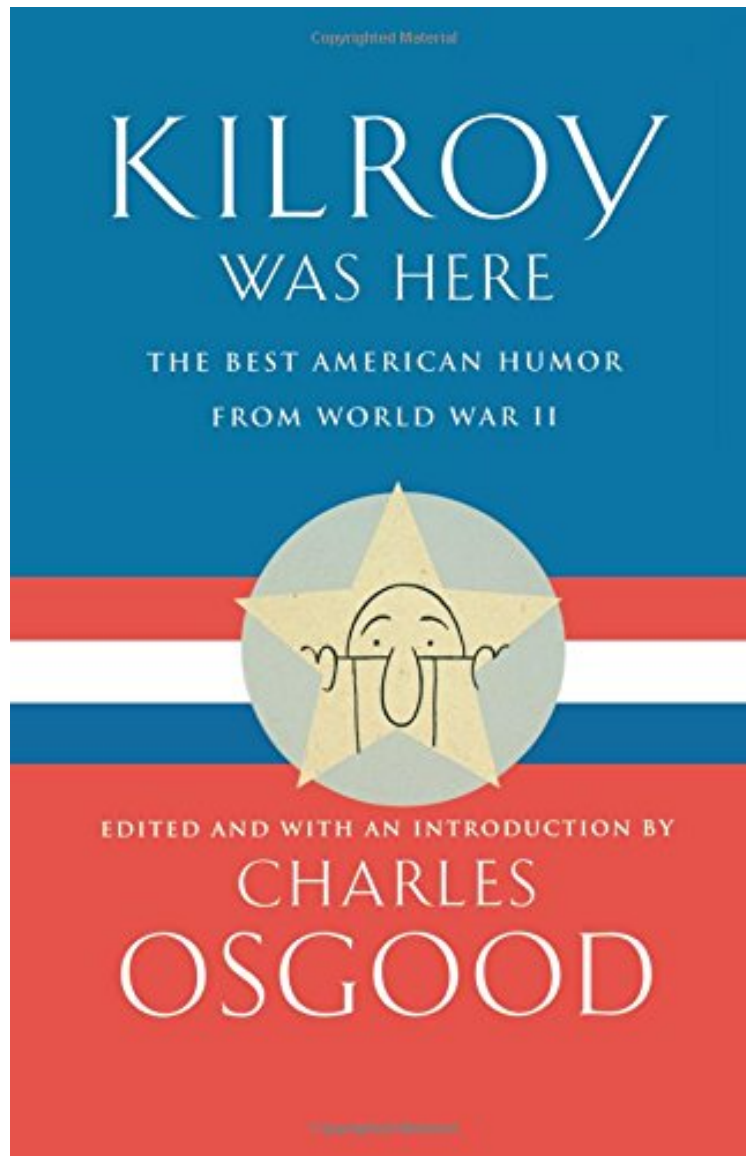


(Ebook pdf) Kilroy Was Here: The Best American Humor from World War II

Kilroy Was Here: The Best American Humor from World War II

Charles Osgood

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Charles Osgood : Kilroy Was Here: The Best American Humor from World War II before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kilroy Was Here: The Best American Humor from World War II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and people's remembrances from those times are likely colored by the good and the bad things

By WryGuy2 Sometimes, when something lived a long time ago, you can no longer view the creature, you can only look at what was left behind to try and learn about it, such as an extinct dinosaur's footprints in the ground that calcified and are still visible today. World War II ended over 65 years ago, and while there are an ever-diminishing number of people who lived and fought from that time frame, the war itself is only a memory, and people's remembrances from those times are likely colored by the good and the bad things, while the day-to-day is likely forgotten. In "Kilroy Was Here", radio and television journalist Charles Osgood has edited together a collection of stories, anecdotes, and cartoons of World War II humor, primarily written during the war itself. Like viewing the dinosaur's footprints, reading the book gives you a glimpse into wartime American and Americans. People often make fun about things that annoy them, guise unpleasant things with a humorous cloak, or see the funny side of a situation. By reading the articles, you get an indirect view of what things were like ... funny stories about basic training, for example, usually are only slightly exaggerated from what was actually happening. This is a strong, representative collection of pieces and cartoons from the war, and it did give me some insight into what was going on inside the minds of Americans of the day. While there are a lot of funny bits in the book, more than a few anecdotes or stories were of the "you had to be there to appreciate it" vein. But even the stories that weren't funny in and of themselves still gave me perspective of wartime America. My favorite part of the book was a several page dictionary of wartime slang ... for example "armored cow" was a can of milk. I recommend the book. It won't necessarily have you rolling in the aisles laughing, but it does have some laugh-out-loud moments and is a good, indirect glimpse into the past.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love authentic historical items and I will show her this ...

By DCI've been interested in "Kilroy" for many years. My mother has a vintage hardwood Kilroy that attaches to a pocket and since I was a kid I wondered what it was and it's meaning. It has been put away somewhere in her house but she can't remember where. My mother is 86 and I asked her if I may please have the Kilroy as it has significance and history from WWII. I love authentic historical items and I will show her this book and the wonderful history of Kilroy.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good and informative book.

By Greg Blalock Very good and informative book.

Inspired by a ubiquitous piece of graffiti that U.S. servicemen left behind during World War II, Emmy Award-winning television journalist Charles Osgood has collected an assortment of classic stories and comic tales that buoyed the spirits of Americans who served on land, at sea, and in the air.

From Publishers Weekly

Originating as a chalked inspection notice in a Quincy, Mass., shipyard, the sketch of bald-headed Kilroy launched a thousand ships and eventually became the most familiar globe-trotting graffiti of World War II. The ubiquitous Kilroy was "a joke that everybody was in on," notes Osgood, the Emmy and Peabody Award-winning broadcast journalist-anchor on CBS Radio (The Osgood Files) and TV (CBS Sunday Morning). Selecting Kilroy as an icon emblematic of the humor that surfaced during the war, lifting spirits in the midst of tragic events, Osgood has assembled a barrage of WWII's amusing essays, stories, jokes, cartoons, poems and short satires. Selections range from heavy artillery (Reader's Digest's "Humor in Uniform" and Bob Hope's I Was There) to the small-arms fire of lesser-known writers. The opening salvo, "A Dictionary of Military Slang: 1941-1944" (compiled from Harold Hersey's More G.I. Laughs and Paris Kendall's Gone with the Draft), is followed by a parade of thematic chapters. Drinking from the same canteens, Osgood repeatedly excerpts from the same handful of mid-1940s publications. Oddly, he ignores the great Dave Breger of the Army weekly Yank, who coined the term G.I Joe for a cartoon series so popular it ran simultaneously in that outlet and in American newspapers. Osgood offers a half-dozen of Bill Mauldin's famed "Willie and Joe" cartoons but only a single George Baker "Sad Sack" strip and one cartoon by the stylish Irwin Caplan, a prolific contributor to the slick postwar magazines. Still, Osgood's book makes good on its effort to remind readers that humor was one of the leading boosters to troops' morale and deserves recognition. With the Osgood name behind it, it may march onto some bestseller lists. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Award-winning radio and television journalist Osgood (See You on the Radio) is better known for the CBS radio program The Osgood File and his CBS TV program Sunday Morning than for his books. "When we think of the Second World War, the word 'humor' is not exactly the first thing that springs to mind," he says here. Yet he has assembled an appealing collection of stories and anecdotes that present the "funny" side of war, from army slang to Bill Mauldin cartoons and veterans' stories the humor that helped many Americans cope with the tragedy of world conflict. In addition, he has compiled a hilarious assortment of magazine and newspaper coverage of GI humor. The title comes from the James J. Kilroy character made famous by GI graffiti. Those who lived through the war years might find this book a more pleasant way to remember their experiences. Osgood's introductory essay is worth reading, and "The Dictionary of Military Slang" is a gem. The stories of "secret weapons" are witty and entertaining, as are the collected thoughts and stories of Bob Hope and other celebrities. Recommended for all public and general collections. David Alperstein, Queens Borough P.L., Jamaica, NY Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A hilarious assortment of magazine and newspaper coverage . . . witty and entertaining." -- Library

