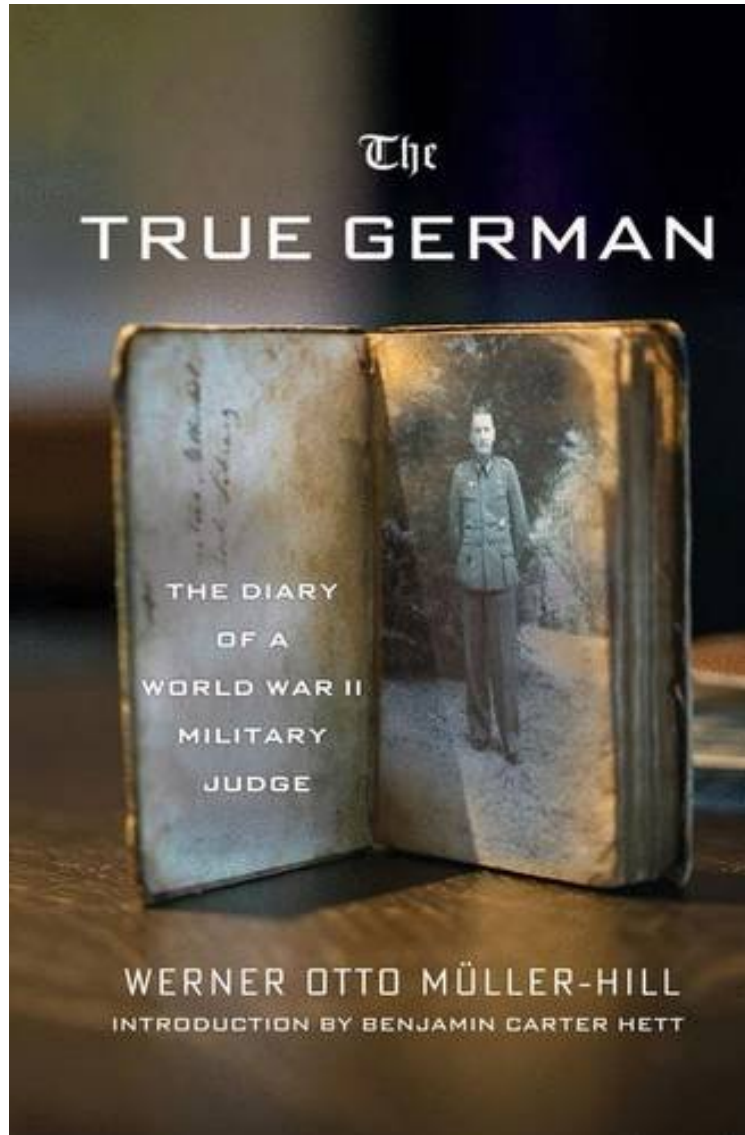


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The True German: The Diary of a World War II Military Judge

Werner Otto Mueller-Hill

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Werner Otto Mueller-Hill : The True German: The Diary of a World War II Military Judge before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The True German: The Diary of a World War II Military Judge:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Lindel H. Littongreat book4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. DISAPOINTEDBy Allen R. JohnsonI ordered this book hoping that it would provide a first person insight of life in side the 1933 - 1945 Germany. I was disappointed to find that it was just the ranting and

raving of a judicial official during the last year or so of World War II. If you have nothing else to do and you have seen all of the re-runs on TV then you might find the book does occupy time. There are much better first person books about this time period in the marketplace disappointed! 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Fascinating Primary Source By Pam THE TRUE GERMAN is a diary that covers the time frame between March 1944 to June 1945. It was written by a military judge, Werner Otto Muller-Hill. Muller-Hill was in his late 50's as the war began. Too old, and really too valuable to be sent to either front, he sat instead as a military judge, and for our purposes this puts him in a unique position of being an insider to the social and political structure of the fall of the 3rd Reich, as he was able to hear information from military and political leaders, as well as common soldiers and civilians. Since I'm not a student of this era, I found much of the content new and interesting. I learned a great deal about the German mindset. How they viewed the French, British, Americans and Russians. [He writes at one point that Americans do not enjoy fighting against determined resistance. But only attacks after he has ground down his enemy by his air force.] And it was fascinating to see parallels to modern events. For just like modern politicians, some Germans held onto their beliefs so firmly that they could not imagine that events would not turn out the way they wanted. So there was always the hope for a secret weapon to turn the tides. And with their own powerful internal media, they only heard the feedback they wanted to hear. Defeat was inconceivable. THE TRUE GERMAN is not a book just about politics and military maneuvers. There's insight into what daily life was like. Herr Muller-Hill had a wife and young son. And he writes about how they all adjust to war; everything from picnics, the shortage of shoes, bombings, as well as how he was treated for a heart condition. He also writes about things that I hadn't considered before. For example, one doesn't read much or hear much about what the Germans might have thought would be their fate once they lost the war. The author writes about this frequently. In terms of whether Germany would be broken up, or allowed to remain whole. He also writes about retribution from the Jews -- something that had never crossed my mind. Quote: "From now on until the end of the war, we will get to read every day about what our enemies plan to do with us after our defeat. As impartial voices, the authors cite the two pro-Nazi newspapers in Switzerland, DI TAT and DAS VATERLAND. It is clear that Jewry, which we have mistreated so badly, is determined to get revenge of the Old Testament sort. If they had their way, as many Germans would be murdered, as we killed Jews in cold blood in Poland and Russia." THE TRUE GERMAN is very readable. The author was erudite and writes in a personal and chatty fashion. If you have more than a passing interest in WWII, I would highly recommend this work. I thought it was a fascinating look into German life during the last stages of the war.

Werner Otto Muller-Hill served as a military judge in the Wehrmacht during World War II. From March 1944 to the summer of 1945, he kept a diary, recording his impressions of what transpired around him as Germany hurtled into destruction. What he thought about the fate of the Jewish people, the danger from the Bolshevik East once an Allied victory was imminent, his longing for his home and family and, throughout it, a relentless disdain and hatred for the man who dragged his beloved Germany into this cataclysm, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party. Muller-Hill calls himself a German nationalist, the true Prussian idealist who was there before Hitler and would be there after. Published in Germany and France, Muller-Hill's diary has been hailed as a unique document, praised for its singular candor and uncommon insight into what the German army was like on the inside. It is an extraordinary testament to a part of Germany's people that historians are only now starting to acknowledge and fills a gap in our knowledge of WWII.

From Booklist In March 1944, as the tide of the war was beginning to turn against the Germans, Muller-Hill, a Wehrmacht military judge, started a secret diary. In it he records news items, fumes about Nazi propaganda, and wonders aloud about the future. At one point he mentions that the diary may one day be of interest to his son, Benno (age 11 at the time), but, given his legal acumen and increasingly strong belief that the war was already lost, one wonders if he also wrote to begin a paper trail. It quickly becomes clear, however, that Muller-Hill wrote primarily to voice doubts and fears that could only be voiced in secret. At times, his words drip with sarcasm. A fellow of infinite jest, he says, describing the senseless demagoguery of a Goebbels radio address. Viewed today, certain passages would seem to contradict some of the more sweeping hypotheses that have been suggested regarding ordinary Germans' complicity with respect to the Holocaust. Other passages, however, reflect an ambivalent and perhaps contradictory patriotism. This is both an important historical document and an engrossing read. --Brendan Driscoll

Otto Werner Muller-Hill, "the true German," was the rare individual who tried to tell and to remember the truth about the violence the Nazis meted out and the lies they told, even as the Allies approached the borders of his beloved Germany. A very valuable document about a mind not held captive. Peter A. Fritzsche, author of *Life and Death in the Third Reich*

Perfectly clear-headed. An important document *Le Figaro* This document confirms that German officials knew about the final solution. *Le Nouvel Observateur* The diary casts a spell over the reader from the first to the final page. A disconcerting and highly informative book. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* Werner Otto Muller Hill's "war diary" provides answers and is particularly worth reading for its insightful analysis. *Klner Stadt-Anzeiger* As his wartime diary shows, the military judge Werner Otto Muller-Hill was one of the few people who thought for themselves in Germany. His sober, prescient assessments of the situation back then make this historical document an

informative read. Stuttgarter Zeitung About the Author Werner Otto Miller-Hill was a military judge in the Wehrmacht who began a diary in the last days of World War II. He survived the war and went on to become a prosecutor. He died in 1977.