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Review of In the shadows of war :an American pilot's odyssey through occupied France and the camps of nazi Germany

Michael F. Russo

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College, mrusso1@lsu.edu

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LJ Review Cover Sheet and Survey

Your name: Michael F. Russo

Your affiliation: Louisiana State University Libraries—Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Phone: (225) 578-6823

E-mail address: mrusso1@lsu.edu

Title of the book: *In the Shadows of War: An American Pilot's Odyssey through Occupied France and the Camps of Nazi Germany*

Author or editor of the book: Thomas Childers

This book is recommended for: public & academic libraries

Comments for your editor:

Review

Author: Thomas Childers

Title: *In the Shadows of War: An American Pilot's Odyssey through Occupied France and the Camps of Nazi Germany*

Publisher: Henry Holt and Company

Release date: February 6, 2003

Number of pages: 464 pages.

Features: Black and white photographs; maps; bibliography

Format: Hard cover

ISBN: 0-8050-5752-8

Price: \$27.50

In June of 1944, American aviator Roy Allen's B-17 was shot out of the sky over the French town of Jouy, where he was sheltered for weeks by Colette Florin, a young schoolteacher. Allen, Florin and the courageous Pierre Mulsant, captain of the local resistance circuit, and the relationships that developed among them form the core of Childers' tale of World War II.

A true story of heroism and endurance that has been pieced together from records and interviews, *In the Shadows of War* is told in a novelistic style, employing multiple points of view combined with an omniscient narrator's ability to divine the thoughts and feelings of the characters. It's an effective technique that keeps the reader in suspense, rapidly turning pages, racing forward to see what will happen. In its ability to capture the reader and portray the emotions of war, *Shadows* is in a class with Jack Higgins' semi-fictional *The Eagle Has Landed*.

Public libraries will want to offer this book as a great read. Academic libraries may want to consider it as well, but more as an example of a different way of telling history than as history itself.

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Louisiana State University Libraries

Baton Rouge, Louisiana