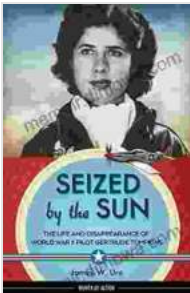


The Life and Disappearance of World War II Pilot Gertrude Tompkins

Gertrude Tompkins was born in 1920 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of a doctor and a nurse, and she grew up in a middle-class family. Tompkins was a bright and curious child, and she loved to learn. She excelled in school, and she was particularly interested in science and math. After graduating from high school, Tompkins attended the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied engineering. In 1942, the United States entered World War II, and Tompkins decided to join the war effort. She applied to the US Army Air Forces, and she was accepted into the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). Tompkins was one of the first women to fly for the US Army Air Forces, and she went on to become a decorated pilot.



Seized by the Sun: The Life and Disappearance of World War II Pilot Gertrude Tompkins (Women of Action Book 19) by SparkNotes

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2813 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 208 pages
Lending : Enabled

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Tompkins's first assignment was to fly transport planes. She flew supplies and personnel to troops overseas, and she also evacuated wounded soldiers from the front lines. Tompkins was a skilled pilot, and she quickly earned the respect of her fellow soldiers. In 1944, Tompkins was assigned to the 8th Air Force, and she flew bombing missions over Germany. Tompkins was awarded the Air Medal for her bravery and service.

In 1945, Tompkins was assigned to a mission to bomb a German oil refinery. Her plane was shot down over enemy territory, and she was forced to bail out. Tompkins landed safely, but she was soon captured by German soldiers. Tompkins was held prisoner for several months, and she was eventually liberated by Allied forces. After the war, Tompkins returned to the United States, where she was awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In 1947, Tompkins disappeared without a trace. Her plane was never found, and her fate remains unknown. There are many theories about what happened to Tompkins, but none of them have been proven. Some people believe that she was killed by enemy fire, while others believe that she was captured by the Russians. Still others believe that she simply crashed her plane and died in the wilderness.

The disappearance of Gertrude Tompkins is one of the great mysteries of World War II. Her story is a reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of the women who served in the war, and it is a testament to the enduring power of the human spirit.

Legacy

Gertrude Tompkins is remembered as one of the most decorated women in the history of the US military. She was a pioneer for women in aviation, and her story continues to inspire women today. Tompkins's legacy is also preserved in the Gertrude Tompkins Memorial Award, which is given annually to a female pilot who has made significant contributions to aviation.

Image Gallery



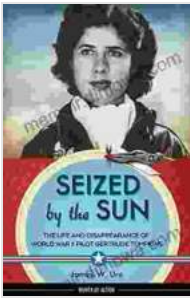


Gertrude Tompkins flying a plane



Further Reading

- Gertrude Tompkins: A Trailblazing Woman in Aviation
- Gertrude Tompkins: A Pioneer in Women's Aviation
- The Mysterious Disappearance of WWII Pilot Gertrude Tompkins



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