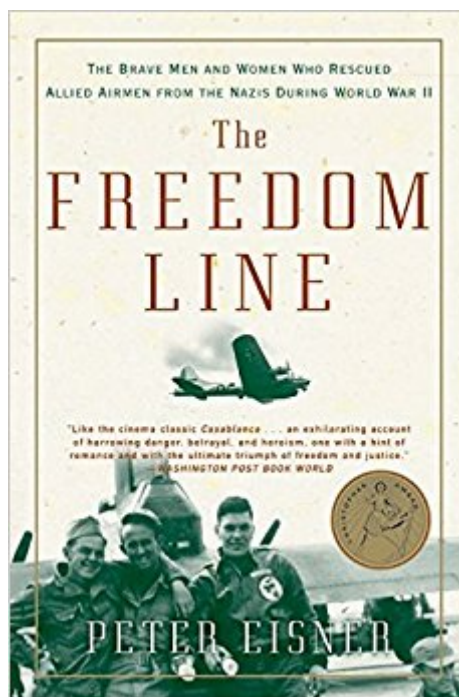




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The Freedom Line: The Brave Men And Women Who Rescued Allied Airmen From The Nazis During World War II



Synopsis

Compared to *Casablanca* by the Washington Post, this a pageâ€“turning story of a group of resistance workers who secreted downed Allied fighter pilots through France and into safety in Spain during World War II. As war raged against Hitler's Germany, an increasing number of Allied fliers were shot down on missions against Nazi targets in occupied Europe. Many fliers parachuted safely behind enemy lines only to find themselves stranded and hunted down by the Gestapo. The *Freedom Line* traces the thrilling and true story of Robert Grimes, a 20â€“yearâ€“old American Bâ€“17 pilot whose plane was shot down over Belgium on Oct. 20, 1943. Wounded, disoriented, and scared, he was rescued by operatives of the Comet Line, a group of tenacious young women and men from Belgium, France, and Spain who joined forces to rescue the Allied aircrews and take them to safety. And on Christmas Eve 1943, he and a group of fellow Americans faced unexpected sudden danger and tragedy on the border between France and Spain. The road to safety was a treacherous journey by train, by bicycle, and on foot that stretched hundreds of miles across occupied France to the Pyrenees Mountains at the Spanish border. Armed with guile and spirit, the selfless civilian fighters of the Comet Line had risked their lives to create this underground railroad, and by this time in the war, they had saved hundreds of Americans, British, Australians, and other Allied airmen. Based on interviews with the survivors and inâ€“depth archival research, *The Freedom Line* is the story of a group of friends who chose to act on their own out of a deep respect for liberty and human dignity. Theirs was a courage that presumed to take on a fearfully powerful foe with few defences.

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Customer Reviews

This is a perfect book for the present situation the world is experiencing today. This really shows how men and women who appreciate freedom sacrifice and put themselves in harms way. Peter Eisner is to be complimented and this book should be in every school library and a must read for all.

This is a well-researched and well-written book. The author writes it almost as though it is a novel, with conversation taken from interviews, journals, and other source documents. This is an amazing story of how some regular people from all walks of life risked their lives and the lives of their family members to rescue allied airmen who had parachuted to safety over occupied France and Belgium. This is a must read for anyone who is interested in the French or Belgian Resistance, the Allied air war over Europe, or general WWII history in the ETO. Recommended.

Great book about a little know piece of resistance movement in Belgium, France, Spain and Gibraltar. The courage of people during that time to risk their lives to save allied pilots who parachuted out planes being shot down is truly amazing

This is a wonderful book that describes a part of the European Theater in World War II that many Americans know little about. I sent a copy of the book to a friend and his wife who were in the resistance in Holland in WW II. They also loved the book and said it was an absolutely accurate and riveting account of the underground resistance movement in Europe. A wonderful read...far better than any contrived fiction. The folks who saved our downed Allied aircrew members and guided them to safety are true heros. Theirs is an amazing story of sacrifice and dedication.

My mother and I both read this book and neither of us could pit it down. She, having lived through WWII, enjoys the memories. My family lived outside of Paris in the late 50s and loved stories from the French neighbors who worked with the Resistance and were forced from their chateaux by the Nazis. I was born in Paris during their time there and have heard those stories all my life. We visited in the early 80s and I got to see for myself the history of the place. This book was like taking another trip there.

Great read on courageous people who risked their lives helping allied airmen escape Nazi held territory. One of those books you do not want to put down. I have an extensive library of WW II history. This ranks up with the best. Ties in nicely with works on the OSS and SOE spy networks.

I first became aware of WW2 escape organizations and The Comet Line in particular from the excellent historical novel, NIGHT OF FLAMES, by Douglas W Jacobson. I was intrigued by the bravery and sacrifice made by these very ordinary people in Belgium (many of them young women and teenagers). THE FREEDOM LINE is an excellent historical account of this remarkable chapter in WW2 complete with detailed stories of the Belgian agents as well as the Allied pilots who were rescued. It is an inspiration for everyone.

Bob Grimes was twenty years old, a pilot in a B-17 on the way back from bombing Germany on October 20, 1943 when an FW-190 shot off the tail of his plane. Wounded he bailed out of the stricken plane. On the ground he was incredibly lucky. He fell into the hands of The Comet Line. This was a network of people from Brussels to Spain that helped downed British and American air crew to escape. This book uses the story of Grimes to tell the story of the Comet Line itself. The Comet Line was the creation of an elegant young Belgian woman Dedee de Jongh. She ran the organization until she was captured and sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp; she survived the war. Parts of this story are seen in the movie "The Great Escape" where one of the escapees travels down the line to Spain. True, this is a dramatic story of people at their best in very dangerous situations.

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