



Pages of the Past

CELEBRATING
HISTORICAL FICTION

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In this issue:

- New Releases
- It Happened Then
- Books from the 1930s

From the Editor



Hello historical fiction lovers! Happy New Year! I think we're all excited to usher in the new year of 2021. The Covid19 virus has the world in a tailspin too. I often think of the days of the influenza of 1918 that I've read about and see so many similarities in these two pandemics. But one thing that they didn't have then was the world of social media that we have today. I don't know if this is a good thing for us, or if it would have been easier to navigate the days without all the social media influencing our lives. I guess there's pros and cons to each. Since we can't change it anyway, we may as well celebrate and tally forth into the new year.

Wishing you all a year filled with blessings and a life filled with the important things!

Stay tuned for future issues –In the weeks ahead we have author interviews scheduled with DS Elliston, Sylvia Broady, Gini Grossenbacher, and a lot more for the coming new year!

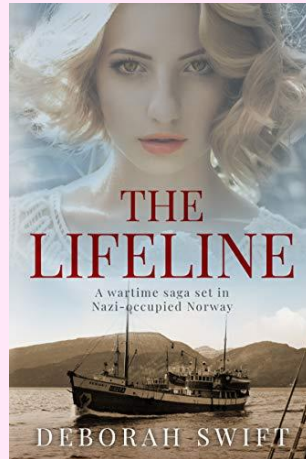
Trisha

New Releases

The Life Line

Deborah Swift

RELEASES JANUARY 5th!



1942, Nazi-occupied Norway

Schoolteacher Astrid Dahl has always kept out of trouble. But when she is told to teach the fascist Nazi curriculum, she refuses and starts a teacher's rebellion, persuading eight thousand teachers to go on strike.

The Germans arrest her, and terrified of what punishment her trial might bring, she is forced to go into hiding.

Astrid's boyfriend, Jørgen Nystrøm, has joined the Norwegian Resistance. When his cover is blown he escapes to Shetland where he is taken on as crew for the Shetland Bus; a dangerous clandestine operation of small fishing boats that supply arms and intelligence to war-torn Norway.

In Shetland, hearing Astrid is in trouble, Jørgen sets off through enemy waters to meet her.

But the Nazis have a spy on Shetland and have been tipped off about the Shetland Bus.

With the enemy in pursuit from both directions, will Astrid and Jørgen be able to find each other?

Or will they be separated forever by the brutal Nazi regime?

THE LIFELINE is a moving war & military saga following the separate stories of a young man and woman through the years of the Second World War as they fight for freedom in Norway and the Shetland Islands in Scotland.

It Happened Then

January 1st is a date that commemorates many significant events through the years. Here are a few happenings that ushered in new years from the past.



404 AD – The last known gladiatorial competition in Rome takes place

630 – Muhammad sets out toward Mecca with the army that captures it bloodlessly.

1502– The Portuguese first landed in what is now Rio de Janeiro. Hence the translation “January River.”

1515 – King Francis I of France (France’s first Renaissance monarch) succeeds to the French throne.

1772 – The first traveler’s cheques, which can be used in 90 European cities, go on sale in London.

1773– The world first heard “Amazing Grace” (then titled “1 Chronicles 17:16–17”), as it accompanied a sermon in Olney, England led by John Newton.

1788 – First edition of The Times of London, previously The Daily Universal Register, is published.

1800 – The Dutch East India Company (the first international mega-corporation) is dissolved.

1801– The United Kingdom was formed. Though England had been gradually acquiring control of Ireland since the mid-16th century, on January 1st, 1801 it was made official.

1804 – French rule ends in Haiti. Haiti becomes the first black republic and first independent country in the West Indies.

1808– The importation of slaves into the United States was declared illegal.

1818– Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein was published anonymously.

1853– The first horse-drawn fire engine entered service in the U.S.

1862– The first U.S. income tax is introduced. The taxation rates are 3% of incomes over \$600 and 5% of incomes over \$10,000.

1863– The Emancipation Proclamation went into effect.

1885– Time zones and the concept of standard time were adopted by 25 nations.

1892– Ellis Island opens. Millions of immigrants passed through the island before it closed in 1954.

1896– The world is introduced to x-rays. On New Year’s Day, Wilhelm Röntgen announced his discovery.

1898– The City of Greater New York was formed. While New York City had already annexed the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens (and later Staten Island) were brought in as boroughs.

1902– The first Rose Bowl took place in Pasadena. The game between Michigan and Stanford was the first American college football bowl game.

190 – President Theodore Roosevelt set a new record by shaking 8,513 hands in 1 day.

1908– The first ball dropped in Times Square at midnight this year.

1925– Our universe expanded. On January 1st, astronomer Edwin Hubble announced the discovery of galaxies outside the Milky Way.

1934– Alcatraz Island becomes a United States federal prison.

1956 – A new year event causes panic and stampedes at Yahiko Shrine, Yahiko, central Niigata, Japan, killing at least 124 people.

1959 – Fulgencio Batista, president of Cuba, is overthrown by Fidel Castro’s forces during the Cuban Revolution.

1962 – United States Navy SEALs established.

1971– Cigarette advertisements were banned from American television and radio. Although President Nixon signed the legislation on January 1st, the law didn’t take effect until the next day. The last televised cigarette ad ran at on January 1st, 1971 at 11:50 p.m. during The Johnny Carson Show.

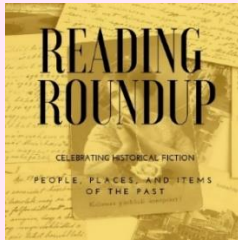
1985– VH1 debuted on television.

1999– The currency of the Euro was introduced.

2000– The world didn’t end. Midnight on New Year’s Eve 1999 came and went and Y2K didn’t destroy civilization as we know it.

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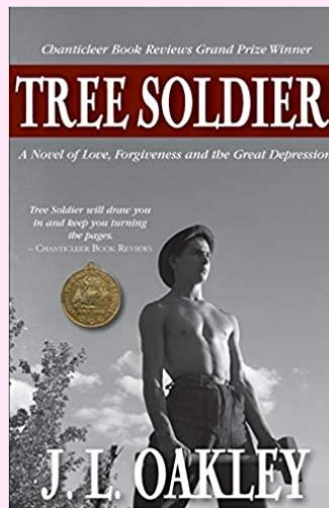
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The 1930s

Tree Soldier

Janet Oakley



One mistake can ruin a life. One mistake can transform it. A government forestry camp set deep in the mountainous forests of the Pacific Northwest might not seem the likely place to find redemption, but in 1935, Park Hardesty hopes for just that. Blaming himself for the fiery accident that caused his brother's disfigurement and the death of the bootlegging woman he loved, planting trees, building bridges and mentoring tough, homesick New Jersey boys brings him both penitence and the renewal of his own self-worth. When he wins the love of Kate Alford, a local naturalist who envisions joining the Forest Service, which allows only men, he also captures the ire of a camp officer who refuses to let her go. Just when he is ready to seek his brother's forgiveness, he is falsely accused of rape. Every aspect of his life he has tried to rebuild is put in jeopardy. In the end, the only way he can defend himself is to tell the truth about his brother, but he risks being kicked out of the camp. Worse, he could lose Kate's love forever.

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