

Honorable Mention Division I – Writing

Cohen Mork, Grade 7

Saviors

Copley-Fairlawn Middle School

Jennifer Adair, Instructor

Word Count 843

Saviors

One day I was walking home from school when I decided I wanted to stop by the thrift store and see if there was anything interesting there. I arrive at the thrift store and start looking at the shelves when out the corner of my eye I saw a really worn out book that looks like nobody has touched it in the last eighty years, I pick up the book despite it being dusty and it says: property of Heimdal Meuler. I head over to the counter where I give the cashier nine euros for the book, take the book home and open to the first page and that's when I realize it's a journal with the first entire being 23/4/1937. I say to myself "This thing really hasn't been touched in eighty years." I proceed on with the text and it says:

23/4/1939

One day I was playing with Hans when we decided to go inside because of the blistering heat, but right before we reached the door we heard shouting coming from inside his house. Hans looked at me puzzled and said "That doesn't sound like a voice I recognize, let's go to your house." So we went to my house until Hans had to go home.

30/4/1939

After last week's experience me and Hans haven't played for a while, I haven't even heard a word from him. Earlier today I heard people marching down the street which is unusual for our area in Poland, and when I asked my mother if I could go see Hans and play with him my mother said "No, he's one of those jews." I asked my mother "what's wrong with that?" She yelled at me to go to my room.

7/5/1939

Today I heard people slamming on the door and screaming for us to get down stairs. My mom sternly told me to stay in my room and to not go downstairs whatsoever so I listened and what followed was terrifying. They said to my mother, "You have jewish ancestors come with us." I heard my father start screaming and sobbing. I don't know why though. After that happened my father came upstairs to get me and said "We're moving to Denmark, pack what you want but leave everything else here." I tried to ask why but he cut me off and said "Just be quiet and hurry."

8/4/1940

It's been about a year since I moved to Denmark and I still havent seen my mother again. I heard over the radio that German forces are gathering nearby but I can't figure out why. The older kids at school are saying that we are about to go to war but we don't have a good military so I'm worried. I've made many jewish friends here in Denmark and after hearing what the Germans are doing to jewish people I'm afraid I might lose my friends.

26/4/1940

It's been 17 days since Germany invaded but they are already starting to formulate laws against the Jewish. I asked my father if there was any way we could fight back but he said he doesn't know of any possible ways. I want to join the military of a country fighting Germany but it's nearly impossible to leave Denmark right now. I feel trapped with no ways out.

5/12/1940

They took my father today saying he was investigated and they found that his mother's side of the family was Jewish which made him a Jew by law. But I've heard some rumors from friends that there is a resistance fighting the Germans and destroying the concentration camps. I want to find out more and maybe I'll join and fight off the Germans before any of my friends get taken.

24/12/1940

I was able to locate a member of the resistance and I followed him back to his base of operations where he introduced me to a lot of others. When I went to talk to someone and asked them why they were doing this they said that they don't care about what's happening and all they want is plain old revenge on the Germans who killed his best friend in a bombing raid in Copenhagen.

1/8/1943

We started to rescue Jews from Denmark and we sent them across the river between Denmark and Sweden. It started about a month ago but here's how it first started. One day we got a tip from a German official on how the Germans were planning to raid Jewish homes and send them to camps to be prisoners or to be killed. After we heard that we decided to take action over the next few weeks we were secretly transporting Jewish people from hospitals and homes and all of them were headed to the same place, Sweden. We had asked many fishermen if they would be willing to transport the Jews and thankfully they said yes. This was all possible thanks to everybody who helped transport the Jews to neutral Sweden.

Works Cited

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