



Home Front Baltimore: An Album of Stories from World War II

Gilbert Sandler

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In July 1942, American prisoners of war were performing *Julius Caesar* on a jury-rigged stage in Burma at about the same time that Tommy Dorsey and his famous orchestra played the Hippodrome Theatre on Eutaw Street. In June 1944, more than 3,000 U.S. Marines died capturing the Mariana Islands in the western Pacific Ocean while fans back in Baltimore were cheering the International League Orioles in their successful bid for a championship.

These are just two of the startling juxtapositions that Gilbert Sandler writes about in his account of life on the home front in Baltimore during the Second World War. While poring through the wartime archives of local newspapers, Sandler was struck by the contrast between what was happening over there, in the war, and over here, back home in Baltimore. Some of these contrasts seem ironic; some provide sobering perspective. Together they make up an album of vivid and engaging stories, many told by people who lived through them.

Home Front Baltimore struggles, along with the reader, to make sense of these two worlds, thousands of miles apart, and gives readers a deeper understanding of what the city was really like during the war. Rarely seen photographs from the *Baltimore Sun*, the *News-American*, and the *Afro-American* bring to life the rich, personal anecdotes of wartime Baltimoreans and transport readers back to an indelible era of Baltimore history.

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