



Swords into plowshares: Minnesota's POW camps during World War II

Dean B Simmons

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SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES: Minnesota's POW Camps during World War II, by Dean B. Simmons, Foreword by George H. Lobdell · ~Through exhaustive research in a wide variety of primary and secondary sources, Dean B Simmons has produced the most comprehensive study of Minnesota's experience with foreign prisoners of war during World War II. As a significant contribution to Minnesota's historical literature. It will enhance understanding of a fascinating chapter in the state's history. Anyone interested in World War II should find it to be not only instructive, but enjoyable as well. -William Lass, Ph.D. Professor of History, Mankato State University and Director of the Southern Minnesota Historical Center · ~When Minnesota veterans returned home in the fall of 1945, they were surprised to find thousands of German and Italian prisoners of war harvesting the state's crops. Twenty-one POW camps, housing Axis soldiers captured in Europe and North Africa, were established in Minnesota between 1943 and 1945. Prisoners from these camps proved to be a valuable source of manpower for agriculture, logging, and small businesses. Based on archival material in the United States and Europe, as well as interviews with former German prisoners, "Swords into Plowshares" recreates an absorbing episode in Minnesota's history.

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