

# PEGGY MUNRO SCHOLBERG

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author | WWII enthusiast | story teller

## MEDIA PRESS KIT



*Peggy Munro Scholberg*

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Nancy Ewing Munro

# PEGGY MUNRO SCHOLBERG

Peggy Munro Scholberg is an author and WWII enthusiast. She is delighted to bring her mother's telling of her story from World War II to publication. Peggy and her husband Bill live in Apple Valley, Minnesota, where they raised two sons. Together, they retraced her parents' European travels and delved into World War II history. Following her career as a pharmacy manager, Peggy now revels in retirement. Mirroring her mother's passion, Peggy delights in culinary experimentation, while inheriting her father's fondness for sports.

*Peggy Munro Scholberg*

Peggy Munro Scholberg | Author



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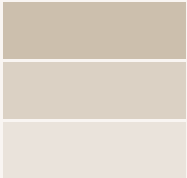


# BRANDING



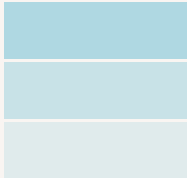
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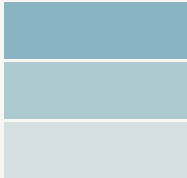
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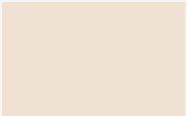
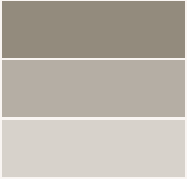
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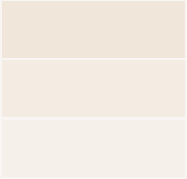
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“*Girls in a World at War* resists contemporary clichés about the Greatest Generation to expose the good and the bad, the nobility and the meanness, of people thrown together with the fate of the world at stake.”

# PRESS RELEASE

*GIRLS IN A WORLD AT WAR*  
Peggy Munro Scholberg &  
Nancy Ewing Munro (in memorial)

**A NEW AND DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON WORLD WAR II BY AUTHOR PEGGY MUNRO SCHOLBERG, AS SHE BRINGS HER MOTHER'S RIVETING STORY TO PUBLICATION**

## About the Book:

After visiting a friend who returned from World War II confined in a body cast, Kathy Collens felt compelled to enlist in the war effort. In 1944, at the age of 23, she joined the Army. Despite her background as a college-educated dietician from an affluent family, and having attended the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Kathy discovered nothing could fully prepare her for the realities of war.

*Girls in a World at War* offers a firsthand account of Kathy and four other young women who served in the 223rd General Hospital. Stationed in France, they operated out of a converted horse barn situated near the 82nd Airborne quarters and in close proximity to the Battle of the Bulge. Their patients included survivors released from the Dachau concentration camp.

The narrative unfolds with vivid descriptions of crossing the Atlantic, lodging in a castle, working with German prisoners of war, and attempts to make dehydrated food and Spam taste good. The book describes the experiences of weddings, a paratroopers' jump-off dance, and the surprise of a baby's birth, immersing readers in the narrative. Their adventures included interludes in Switzerland, sailing in the Mediterranean, and the jubilation of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. The story also touches on visits to Paris, Biarritz, and trips to the magnificent Reims Cathedral to see 'The Angel of the Smile' statue and attend a memorable Christmas Eve service. Romantic entanglements add another layer of complexity to the girls' wartime journey.

Throughout their trials, these women provided invaluable support to each other, navigating the tragedies of war with resilience and camaraderie. As readers engage with their stories, they'll find themselves laughing and perhaps shedding a tear, gaining a rare insight into the female perspective of war, grounded in real-life events.



## What People are Saying:

Based on a 67-year-old autobiographical manuscript, *Girls in a World at War* offers a far-too-rare view of war from a smart, adventurous, and independent-minded woman serving as a WAC dietician in an Army General Hospital in France. There, she learns first-hand the grim realities of war, a world tipped in a precarious balance between military rigidity and lawless savagery. True to its original author's voice and experience, *Girls in a World at War* resists contemporary clichés about the Greatest Generation to expose the good and the bad, the nobility and the meanness, of people thrown together with the fate of the globe at stake.

**~Todd DePastino is the author of *Bill Mauldin: A Life Up Front* and Executive Director of Veterans Breakfast Club.**

## About Peggy:

Peggy Munro Scholberg is delighted to bring her mother's telling of her story from World War II to publication. Peggy and her husband Bill live in Apple Valley, Minnesota, where they raised two sons. Together, they retraced her parents' European travels and delved into World War II history. Following her career as a pharmacy manager, Peggy now revels in retirement.

She mirrors her mother's passion while inheriting her father's fondness for sports, Peggy delights in culinary experimentation.

Title: *Girls in a World at War*

Author: Peggy Munro Scholberg &  
Nancy Ewing Munro (in memoriam)

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**WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
THE COVERAGE!**

# GIRLS IN A WORLD AT WAR

## PEGGY MUNRO SCHOLBERG & NANCY EWING MUNRO (IN MEMORIAM)

### 01. about the book

After seeing a friend return from WWII in a body cast, 23-year-old dietician Kathy Collens enlisted in 1944. *Girls in a World at War* follows Kathy and four other women in the 223rd General Hospital in France during the Battle of the Bulge and find themselves treating Dachau survivors. The book details their Atlantic crossing, life in a castle, work with German POWs, and efforts to make dehydrated food taste good. It also covers weddings, a paratroopers' dance, a surprise birth, and adventures in Switzerland and the Mediterranean, with highlights including visits to Paris, Biarritz, and a Christmas Eve service at Reims Cathedral. The story reveals the female perspective on WWII through romance, support, and resilience amidst tragedy.

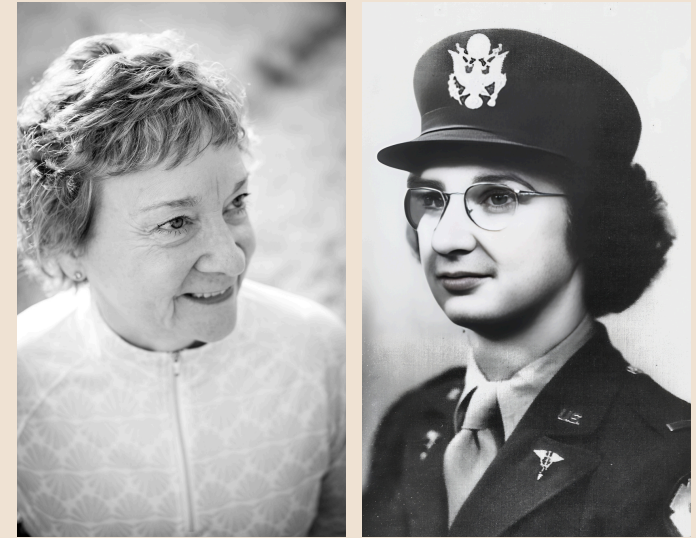
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Based on a 67-year-old autobiographical manuscript, *Girls in a World at War* offers a far-too-rare view of war from a smart, adventurous, and independent-minded woman serving as a WAC dietician in an Army General Hospital in France. There, she learns first-hand the grim realities of war, a world tipped in a precarious balance between military rigidity and lawless savagery. True to its original author's voice and experience, *Girls in a World at War* resists contemporary clichés about the Greatest Generation to expose the good and the bad, the nobility and the meanness, of people thrown together with the fate of the globe at stake.

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Peggy Munro Scholberg & Nancy Ewing Munro



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# EXCERPT FROM CHAPTER 10

## GIRLS IN A WORLD AT WAR

### PEGGY MUNRO SCHOLBERG & NANCY EWING MUNRO (IN MEMORIAL)

“Is there a Lieutenant Collens here?” a man shouted into the barn. The nightingale’s song quieted to chirps, and a tall man in an officer’s uniform without insignia came into her office. “Lieutenant Collens?” he asked.

“Yes.”

“Fred Collen’s niece?”

“Yes. You know Uncle Fred? How is he?” This must be the “Times” war correspondent. He could bring her news from home.

The reporter said, “I presume he’s as busy as ever. It’s been a year since I’ve seen him, but I had a cable three weeks ago. I’m Mark Skaw, foreign correspondent from the “Times.” Fred said to look you up; there’d be a story. I didn’t expect to find you working so soon. Bravely working! Got up from your sick bed to help the wounded soldiers. You must be suffering.”

“Uncle Fred must have cabled you in journal-ese. That’s not quite right. The Army has a new theory; the sooner the patient gets out of bed; the quicker he recovers. They made me get up. I wasn’t brave, I was cross. Yet I must admit they were right; I am recovering.” Kathy picked up her papers. “Want to see our mess while I take these to the cooks before dinner? Then I’m through for the day. We have 15 German PWs...”

“What?” he interrupted, “Where are the guards?” Mr. Skaw followed her around the kitchen.

“Outside. They are around somewhere. We don’t need many.”

“You’re the only American here? No one to protect you?”

“Usually, the mess Sergeant or the GI cook is here. Sarge will be back in a minute, then we can go to chow.”

He pointed to the knife rack. “Butcher knives! Cleavers! The danger! The Germans could grab knives and escape.”

“They use knives for slicing bread, cleavers for opening cans. They never have tried to escape that I know. Guess they like to eat.”

“I admire your courage. Working right with these monsters. These Nazis are desperate men who will stop at nothing. When I was with the VII Army Corps cleaning up the Breton ports near Normandy after the invasion, I saw four Germans escape...”

Mr. Skaw didn’t ask her what she thought of the Germans. Instead, he talked several minutes about the Breton ports. Then, “You have French girls working here. How they hate the Germans.”

“I don’t think most people hate for long.” She thought of Sue’s forgiveness of Rolf, but he wasn’t interested in Sue and Rolf.

The door opened and in paraded Sir Galahad. He raised one arm in a sweeping knightly salute, and kicked the door shut behind him. He stepped forward three paces, and knelt before Kathy. She graciously put out her hand on Sir Galahad’s raised arm.

“Lady Kathryn, star of my sky, the night has been black until this moment that I behold you.”

“You want a candle?” asked Kathy.

“Love of my life, let your love flow with the milk of human kindness and lighten my coffee.”

“You want a can of milk! Granted. Oscar can give it to you.”

“Oscar. I shall accept it only from your fair hand, to touch the can that your hand has touched... ah, sweet ecstasy!”

Kathy brought him a can of milk.

When he had gone, Mr. Skaw wrote in his notebook. “That Corporal said he loves you. He just used the can of milk as an excuse to touch your hand.”

“I might agree if he asked me for a date, but he doesn’t. He just makes wild speeches. If he sees me at all, it’s as a symbol, a projection of an answer to his own needs and dreams. If he saw the real me, he’d be disillusioned—maybe that’s why he doesn’t ask for a date.”

Mr. Skaw wrote on. “The soldiers love you. That scene could inspire girls to volunteer.”

“Do you want to know where the real inspiration comes from? From the wounded soldiers.”

He scribbled in his notebook. “You carry on bravely, sing songs, tell cheerful little jokes, give confidence too—telling the patients you’ll get them patched up.”

“Not quite.” Kathy wanted to explain what the patients thought of false cheer, but this was not what Mr. Skaw wanted to hear, and he would not listen.

When Sarge returned, Kathy introduced him to Mr. Skaw. Sarge looked suspiciously at Mr. Skaw and offered to lock up for Kathy while she took Mr. Skaw to chow.

“Come on,” said Kathy to Mr. Skaw. “You can talk to the glamor boys clamoring for girls. See if you think it’s romantic.”

They walked in the dark, feeling their way along the crunching gravel sidewalks. “How do you find your way?” he asked.

“We’re used to blackouts. There’s a little light from the moon and stars.” There was a sliver of a new moon. “Do you mind waiting just a minute while I change into a Class A uniform? There are usually some of the 82nd Airborne paratroopers around the front door between jumps. Their camp is ten miles away.”

“The 82nd Airborne is right here?” Mr. Skaw asked.

“Yes,” Kathy responded. “They were moved here to serve in the Battle of the Bulge.”

“I just did an article on them. They are some of the finest soldiers in the Army. Tough as nails. Always dropped from the sky into the most dangerous places. On D-Day, they parachuted in the dark behind German lines well before the beach landings. In the Battle of the Bulge, paratroopers from both the 82nd and 101st not only helped stop the German offensive, they actually turned them back.”

“They certainly have stories to tell.” Kathy said “They’re cocky, brash, daring. They are the kind of boys who could jump from a plane into German territory, or love a gal and leave her.

“You actually know some of them?”

“A few. Most of the girls have dated them and sometimes invited them to dinner. They’re a generous lot. They give the girls looted German cameras, radios, silver, jewelry, and sometimes an old nylon parachute.

One of the paratroopers flicked on his flashlight. He directed the beam, a yellow path in the blackness, on Kathy, then over to Mr. Skaw, then back to Kathy’s face and slowly down to her ankles.

“I like ankles,” he boomed in a bass monotone.

“I like hips,” sang another, a note higher, turning on his light.

“I like shoulders,” sang a third, from behind a third light.

“I like lips,” a tenor spotlighted her face.

“We like American girls,” the four chorused in harmony, all lights on Kathy.

“Blackout, blackout.” Kathy held her arms up, shielding her eyes from the lights. “Everything you do is being witnessed by the press, so behave. Meet Mr. Skaw of the ‘Times.’”

The lights gave Mr. Skaw a momentary glance. “No sex appeal,” said the tenor, and directed his light back on Kathy.

“How about a date tonight, Lieutenant?”

“Come dance with me,” sang the bass, now standing on the hood of a Jeep.

“A fifth of Scotch to kill,” sang the tenor, holding up a bottle before her with one hand, slapping Kathy’s seat with the other. Another grabbed Kathy’s wrist.

“No sir. You can find a French girl more willing than I.” She shouldn’t have said that, for most French girls were decently and vigilantly chaperoned in their homes and in convents. Only a few untidy wenches hung around camps, willing to drink any soldier’s liquor and sleep with him.

“We want an American girl,” they harmonized.

“Enough’s enough. Tell Mr. Skaw your stories while he waits.” She shook her arm loose and ran in the front door, where the men were prevented from following by the MP on duty at the door.

Later, at dinner, Mr. Skaw marveled. “I can see those men love you! Idolize you! They crowd around you like the mobs around a Hollywood queen at a premiere. Just to touch you is a thrill!”

Kathy had never been a movie queen, nor even a campus queen. At first Kathy had been flattered as they didn’t beg Mathilda or Sue for dates. The paratroopers were handsome, vigorous men. A month ago, very weak, Kathy had envied these girls who had energy to dance all night. It was tough to stay at home with her book, watching the girls dashing off in jeeps on their exciting dates. Kathy had initially been sympathetic, knowing the next day these men would be jumping behind enemy lines and dangling from a parachute, a defenseless target. She had been truly sad she had not yet recovered the strength to personally give them one last good time.

But in less than a month, the girls had wearied of the fast life of drinking, of dancing turned into wrestling, and kisses dangerously uninhibited. They were disillusioned with the fast driving that caused minor accidents and threatened major ones. The girls soon preferred quiet evenings at the officers’ club with the older married doctors to the riotous nights offered, until only Vivienne regularly dated a paratrooper.

Vivienne’s favorite date was a Captain Ross. Ross was engaged, and so was Vivienne, but he wanted a good time before giving his life for his country. She was too kind-hearted to deny it to him. Besides, Vivienne had a practical capability that could control any situation with any man.

Even though they could no longer pick up dates, the paratroopers continued to come. They would not consider that any girl would resist them. They sat in their Jeeps or on the grass confident that their virility was the reason these girls had joined the Army or the Red Cross. They were not easily discouraged and used added inducements of precious Scotch or 1936 champagne. They preferred girls from a hospital, free of disease. By now Kathy had heard their pleas too often and recognized them not as a tribute to her sparkling personality, but only to her female body. Perhaps she was judging the many by the few, but Kathy was not about to test their intentions.

Mr. Skaw said “What a story! This will inspire girls to join the Nurse Corps the WACS and the Red Cross! No girl like an American girl! A life of service adored by the men you serve.”

This was not quite what Kathy would have written. It would not be patriotic to say what she thought. She would not want to discourage nurses from joining the Army. The patients certainly did need them.

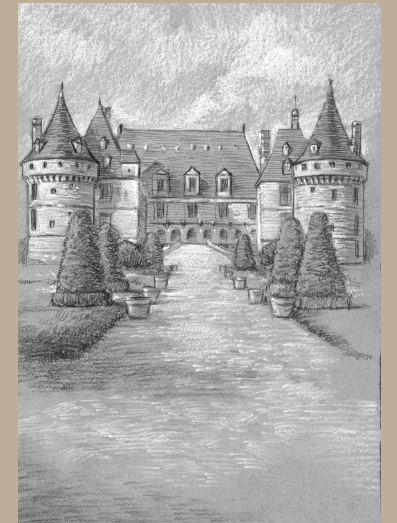
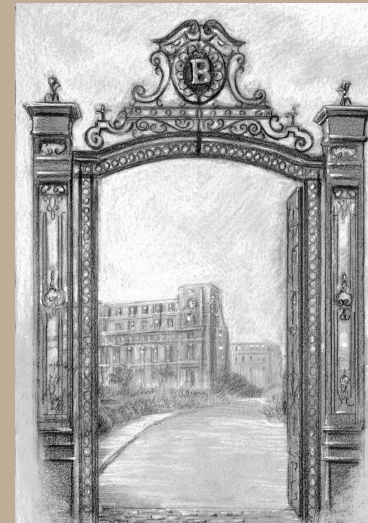
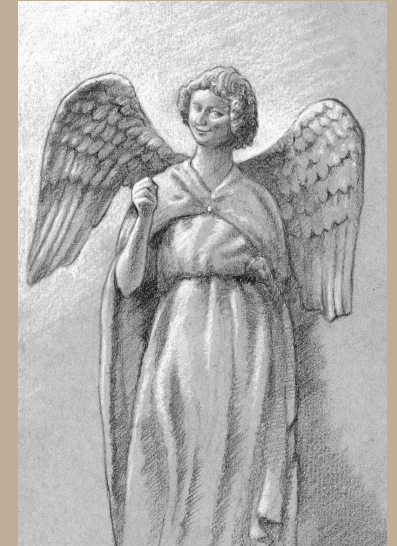
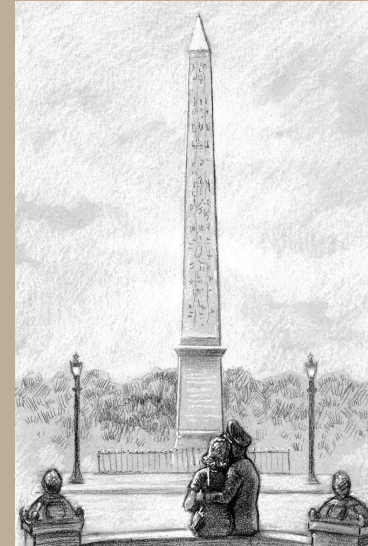
She introduced Mr. Skaw to the other girls at dinner, suggesting he might learn more from them. Kathy excused herself and went back to her barracks. Finally, she would be able to get some rest.

# FROM THE PRESS

*Girls in a World at War* immerses readers in vivid descriptions of wartime experiences, from crossing the Atlantic and lodging in a castle to working with German prisoners of war. The narrative includes colorful anecdotes of attempts to make dehydrated food and Spam palatable, weddings, a paratroopers' jump-off dance, and the surprise of a baby's birth amidst the chaos of war. Kathy's adventures also take readers through interludes in Switzerland, sailing in the Mediterranean, celebrating Victory in Europe (VE) Day, and visiting Paris, Biarritz, and the magnificent Reims Cathedral.

A remarkable aspect of the book is its depiction of the camaraderie and resilience among the women who served in the 223rd General Hospital. Stationed near the 82nd Airborne quarters and in close proximity to the Battle of the Bulge, these women navigated the tragedies of war with unwavering support for one another. Their patients included survivors released from the Dachau concentration camp, adding another layer of depth to their service.

WILL WIGHT,  
LIMITLESS MEDIA



# 13 REASON TO READ THE BOOK

- **Witness the Impact of Culture Shock in the Army:** Follow the journey of a strait-laced young lady who enters an Army world where Southern Comfort, not milk, is the drink of choice, and late-night parties are the norm. Her struggle to fit in and reconcile her big ideas for helping patients with strict Army regulations and her supervisor's rules will captivate you.
- **Discover Wartime Romances and Weddings:** Discover the unique challenges and unusual stories of wartime romances. Can couples survive being transferred to different continents? Can a lover-by-letter romance endure? Explore the dynamics of relationships between enlisted soldiers and female officers.
- **Experience Transatlantic Journey:** Experience the seven-day crossing of the Atlantic from New York to France in January 1945, one of the coldest winters on record. Travel on a military ship filled with 10 women and three thousand men, moving in a convoy of 39 ships, and adapt to life in a 15th-century chateau with an equally ancient heating system.
- **Recognize the Dieticians' Dedication:** Witness how a group of dedicated dieticians worked together in a renovated barn, with German POWs as helpers, to nourish soldiers and heal wounds. Learn about their creativity with dehydrated foods and K rations during food shortages and rationing, and their efforts to feed starved patients recently liberated from Dachau.
- **Observe a French Family's Resilience:** Meet a French family in a village that endured four years of Nazi occupation. Gain a unique perspective on the war through their centuries-old viewpoints, contrasting with the American experience.
- **Encounter Parisian Life and Style:** Visit Paris and meet its people before the war, after liberation, and during recovery. Discover which couple would be the best dressed at the grand Opera House after the war, and the designer behind the outfit.

- **Take in the stories of the 82nd Airborne Paratroopers:** Hear untold stories of the famed 82nd Airborne Paratroopers, some of the toughest soldiers in the Army. These daring, glamorous men found American women attractive, which created intriguing dynamics. Would or could a woman say no to these men?
- **Observe a Polish Refugee's Strength:** Meet Krystyne, a Polish refugee whose family was killed by the Germans and whose home was destroyed. Learn how she maintained her dignity, wearing the same blue woolen skirt and shoes without socks for months, and what gave her the strength and desire to rebuild her homeland.
- **Immerse yourself in a special Midnight Christmas Eve Service:** Attend a midnight Christmas Eve service at Reims Cathedral. Imagine sitting amidst cold stone walls on ancient wooden pews and visualize the scene when the electricity goes out and flashlights go on. Hear the impactful sermon delivered to the soldiers.
- **Discover the amazing L'Ange au Sourire:** Discover L'Ange au Sourire, the Angel of the Smile, a mesmerizing statue at Reims Cathedral. Learn how this statue has captivated people for centuries and its significant impact on the individuals in the story.
- **Discern the intriguing War Crimes Investigations:** Hear about the beginnings of the war crimes investigations in Paris. Learn from an investigator about the true extent of Nazi evil and the challenges of bringing justice to the perpetrators.
- **Explore the Biarritz and the American University:** Explore Biarritz, a posh seaside destination for 19th-century royalty, and learn about the "American University" established there for GIs waiting to return home. Discover how this initiative became a precursor to the GI Bill.
- **Revel in a Woman's Endurance:** In the end, learn about the strong beliefs one woman clings to when her health falters, her morality wanes, and her daddy's money proves useless in the face of war's challenges.



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*Thank you so  
much for the  
opportunity.*

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