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## New Publications

George M. Eberhart

**The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt: War through a Woman's Eyes, 1939–1940**, by Rulka Langer (467 pages, September 2009), was first published in the United States



in 1942, not too long after Pearl Harbor. However, World War II started on September 1, 1939, when German troops and warplanes launched their assault on Poland. Warsaw, the city whose coat of arms is a mermaid wielding a sword, was besieged and finally succumbed on September 28. Langer, a working housewife with two children, was in the city waiting for an opportunity to join her husband Olgierd, who was working for the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Philadelphia. Her description of the blitz, the siege, and the occupation is personal, moving, laced with grim humor, and accessible to a modern audience. The only narrative like it is the long out-of-print *The Mask of Warriors* by Marta Korwin-Rhodes (Libra, 1964). This edition has added more

than 100 black-and-white photos and maps, explanatory footnotes, a timeline, and an epilogue by Langer's son George, who lives in Colorado. \$29.95. Aquila Polonica. 978-1-60772-000-3.