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NEWS RELEASE

THE SHAME OF SURVIVAL

Working Through a Nazi Childhood

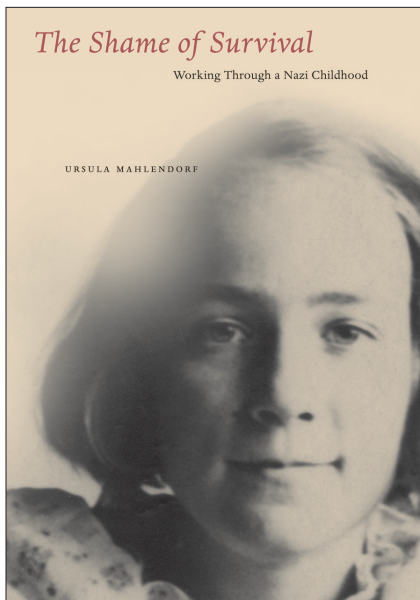
Ursula Mahlendorf

“An eye-opening, honest and absorbing account of how evil takes root and flourishes among ordinary people.”

—***Publishers Weekly***

“If we are to understand how genocide was possible, it is the behavior of the perpetrators, both primary and secondary, that we need to understand, far more than the behavior of the victims.”

—**Harold Marcuse**, Associate Professor of History,
University of California, Santa Barbara



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University Park, PA—Contrary to the denials by ultra-conservative bishops in recent months, most of us are painfully familiar with images of the Holocaust and all associated with it. Today, there are memorials and museums, here and abroad, to help us remember and educate. *The Shame of Survival* is yet another small piece to the puzzle in understanding one of the darkest times in our history. It is an honest account of surviving under Nazism and coming to terms with the ideologies inflicted on a young, impressionable mind.

Ursula Mahlendorf was born in Germany at the height of the Great Depression. After her father's death in 1935, she found herself in the Hitler Youth at age 11. Because of the turbulent events of her childhood, Mahlendorf has little or no record of her early years in Germany. She retains few pictures of herself or family and friends. *The Shame of Survival* offers her own detailed sketches of maps of Germany and Silesia and her childhood geography.

- more -

NEWS RELEASE (CONTINUED)

Mahlendorf writes with an informed, feminist perspective after a lifetime of reflection. She concludes with a moving Epilogue, and discloses how she learned to accept and cope emotionally with the shame that haunted her from her childhood allegiance to Nazism and the self-doubts it generated.

“The Shame of Survival is a compelling memoir of a girl’s experiences growing up in Nazi Germany that analyzes the life-long implications of Nazi indoctrination on a sensitive, thoughtful young woman. It shows how a reluctant, shy, frightened, and naïve bdm member becomes swept up in Nazi ideology and documents the life-long psychic ramifications of living with that legacy: feelings of guilt and shame, a need to work through these experiences and to take responsibility for and mourn the past. Focusing on both class and gender, Mahlendorf’s memoir offers a unique and valuable perspective on a growing body of emergent belated narratives on Nazi Germany by German émigré academics.”

—**Anna Kuhn**,
University of California, Davis

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Illustrations
Acknowledgments
Introduction

Chapter 1	My Family and the Nazis, 1929–1936
Chapter 2	A Small Quarry Town, 1936–1938
Chapter 3	Kristallnacht and the Beginning of World War II, 1938–1940
Chapter 4	Today Germany Belongs to Us—Tomorrow, the Whole World, 1940–1941
Chapter 5	You Are the Future Leadership of the Hitler Youth, 1941–1942
Chapter 6	Between Conformity and Rebellion, 1942–1944
Chapter 7	In the Belly of the Beast: The Teacher Seminary, 1944–1945
Chapter 8	The Big Wheels Are Leaving for the West, January–March 1945
Chapter 9	We Don’t Kill, We Heal: The Russian Invasion, 1945
Chapter 10	My Hometown Becomes Polish, 1945–1946
Chapter 11	Refugee in the Promised Land of the West: Return to School, 1946–1948
Chapter 12	Finding an Intellectual Home: University, 1949–1954

Epilogue
Books Consulted
Index

THE AUTHOR

Ursula Mahlendorf earned her Ph.D. in German Literature from Brown University in 1958 and spent the rest of her professional life teaching in the German Department and Women’s Studies Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she retired as Professor Emerita of German, Slavic, and Semitic Studies.