



'A riveting read! I read it in one session and was transfixed by it...It is such a powerful story, and beautifully edited and thought through.'
Joanna Bourke, Prof of History Birkbeck College

We Were Young And At War

**The first-hand story of young lives lived and lost
in World War**

Sarah Wallis & Svetlana Palmer

Harper Collins Pbk June 2010

We were Young and at War follows the stories of sixteen teenage boys and girls who write with disarming directness about their reactions to and experiences of a very adult war.

Their diaries and letters have been brought together for the first time to create an insightful portrayal of what it was like growing up surrounded by the horrors and struggles of World War II.

These heart-rending stories shows us life from all sides of the conflict. From a British boy writing to his American pen pal about his time in the Home Guard, a precocious French girl flirting with soldiers from both sides and a Russian teenager succumbing to hunger during the siege of Leningrad to a headstrong soldier in Hitler's army and a bright Japanese teenager who becomes a kamikaze pilot.

All these young people were forced to grow up quickly in a war which dramatically shaped their lives.

This is their story.