

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2009

Local Author Wins Eric Hoffer Award

WARRENTON, Ore. – Local Author, Brian D. Ratty, announced today that his book, ***Dutch Clarke: The War Years***, was selected an award winner in the General Fiction category of the 2009 Eric Hoffer Awards. With more than 1800 books entered in 15 categories, ***Dutch Clarke: The War Years*** was judged as the categories second place winner with 6 other winners as honorable mentions. The overall category winner was, ***The Demise of Luleta Jones*** by Mark Boone and published by Blacksmith Books. The Eric Hoffer Award for short prose and books was established at the start of the 21st century as a means of opening a door to writing of significant merit. It honors the memory of the great American philosopher Eric Hoffer by highlighting salient writing, as well as the independent spirit of small publishers.

More Information: www.hofferaward.com

Dutch Clarke: The War Years, published by AuthorHouse, is also a finalist in ForeWord Magazine's 2008 Book of the Year Awards. Winners will be announced at BookExpo in New York City on May 29. More Information: www.forewordmagazine.com

The War Years is an action adventure story based around WWII combat photography and the infamous Office of War Information (OWI). According to Ratty, "OWI was the propaganda arm of the military during the war years, and produced thousands of films, images and stories about the war." This little-known government agency also recruited, conducted war bond drives and helped Hollywood produce many features films with war themes.

Ratty says that, as a professional photographer, he had always wanted to do a story about combat photography:

When I started doing the research, I kept finding interesting information about OWI, with all of its shady behind-the-scenes activities. The further I went, the more these two subjects just seemed to fit together, so I developed my story around them both. To my knowledge, this is the first novel about OWI and combat photography, so it was a challenge to research and write the story accurately. When I completed the manuscript, some three years later, I decided to dedicate it to all the men and women who gave their sweat and spilled their blood during the struggle of World War II. No greater generation ever walked the face of this Earth. We share our tomorrows because of their yesterdays.

Praise for *Dutch Clarke: The War Years*:

This book was captivating from the first paragraph. A wonderful twist to the "common" stories about WWII. Following the experiences of Dutch Clarke, as a photographer with the US Marines, was very informative and insightful. This book has it all.....from the glitter of Hollywood to the devastating conditions and treatment in a POW camp. I can't wait until the next Dutch Clarke book is published!

Reviewer: Kathy Beebe.

More Information: www.DutchClarke.com

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