

# The Forgotten Hostages by Linda Bastide. An untold story of American & British civilian prisoners in France during WW2

French author and poet Linda Bastide, "Académie Française" laureate, uncovers a poignant and little-known chapter of history in her book *The Forgotten Hostages* (*Les Otages Oubliés* in French), published by Rencontre des Auteurs Francophones Editions.

## THE FORGOTTEN HOSTAGES

The untold story  
of imprisoned American and British civilians  
in Nazi-Occupied France

This story takes place between 1905 and 1982. Linda Bastide did not want to do the work of a historian here. She built his story in a particular form: a double novel.

«Once upon a time in our life», that Rifka Sachs, his mother-in-law Polish Jew, English, stateless, French, finally, him told: his eternal escape with Jacob Knobel, his young husband, from their native Poland and passing through Palestine; to Paris where they are rounded up and locked up for five years in separate camps, serving as bargaining chips and guarantee of peace with America.

In total immersion, Linda Bastide offers us a second story, the one, incredible, that she is in the process of to describe; and which it indicates by terms borrowed from the movie theater.

She sprinkles her text with authentic, extremely rare and priceless family documents, which she offered to the Shoah Museum, which had been running after it for 75 years.

*This story finally revealed is like a journey of the soul, to absolutely read.*

Sylvestre Clancier  
President of the PEN Club of France

Since her first Jean Cocteau poetry prize (1962), **Linda Bastide**, laureate of the French Academy, has never stopped writing. In this fourth book, she reconnects the threads of a story lost in the memory of mankind.

Cover: Grande Caserne Saint-Denis internment camp, 1942, drawing by a prisoner for Jacob Knobel, number 108/111.

ISBN : 978-1-962371-17-9  
\$22

LINDA BASTIDE

Linda Bastide

## THE FORGOTTEN HOSTAGES

The untold story  
of imprisoned American and British civilians  
in Nazi-Occupied France

*Historical biographical novel*



Preface by Jean-Noël Cordier



**New York City, New York Jan 29, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](http://IssueWire.com)) - Release of the landmark book: *The Forgotten Hostages* by Linda Bastide**  
**An untold story of American and British civilian prisoners in France during the Occupation**

French author and poet **Linda Bastide**, laureate of the "Académie Française", uncovers a poignant and little-known chapter of history in her book *The Forgotten Hostages* (*Les Otages Oubliés* in French), published by **Rencontre des Auteurs Francophones Editions**.

This biographical work, based on true events, sheds light on the plight of American and British civilians, the majority of whom were Jewish, imprisoned in France during World War II.

**A forgotten story brought back to life**

During the Occupation, these men, women, and children were interned in French camps, often for years, to eventually be used as bargaining chips in prisoner exchanges with the Germans. Linda Bastide uncovered this deeply personal and universal story in a bag filled with documents preserved by her mother-in-law.

These archives, entrusted to her with the instruction, "Do not open until after my death," revealed the story of her husband Bernard, who survived these harrowing trials as a young child.

### **A unique documentary book**

The result of two years of research and writing, *The Forgotten Hostages* draws on hundreds of authentic documents, most of which have been entrusted to the **Mémorial de la Shoah** in Paris to ensure the preservation of this memory for future generations. With a cinematic approach and a captivating narrative, Linda Bastide recounts with precision and emotion the lives shattered by war.

### **A work beyond history**

*The Forgotten Hostages* serves as a tribute to the forgotten victims of the war and as a bridge between historical memory and contemporary literature.

Prefaced by **Jean-Noël Cordier**, the book is a must-read for understanding this overlooked aspect of World War II.

### **Biography of Linda Bastide**

Linda Bastide divides her time between Narbonne, the city of her childhood, and Montmartre, her adopted neighborhood for over 50 years. Once a model and actress in Italy, Greece, and France, she graced the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival in 1964, appearing alongside Catherine Deneuve for her lead role in the movie "La Dérive", which received the Ciné-Clubs Prize.

Shortly after, she returned to her true passion: writing.

Linda transitioned to the other side of the artistic mirror, publishing three collections of poetry that have since been translated into English, Spanish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, and more. She has won 12 poetry prizes since 1962, when she received the Jean Cocteau Prize.

Over the years, she has authored 16 works, including four novels.

In 2020, she was awarded the François-Paul Victor Hugo Prize for her poem "13 Pas dans le Sable". Her latest novel, *The Forgotten Hostages*, continues this tradition, showcasing her talent for storytelling and her dedication to bringing untold histories to light.

### **Book Details**

- **Title:** *The Forgotten Hostages* (Les Otages Oubliés)
- **Author:** Linda Bastide
- **Publisher:** Editions Rencontre des Auteurs Francophones
- **Available Languages:** English and French
- **Length:** 400 pages, enriched with 150 photos and archival documents
- **Genre:** Historical Biographical Novel

### **Availability**

The book is available worldwide via the Rencontre des Auteurs Francophones online bookstore:  
<https://www.rencontredesauteursfrancophones.com/product-page/the-forgotten-hostages-imprisoned-american-and-british-civilians-in-france>

For more information or to arrange an interview with Linda Bastide, please contact our press team at:  
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Source : Rencontre des Auteurs Francophones Editions for Linda Bastide Author

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