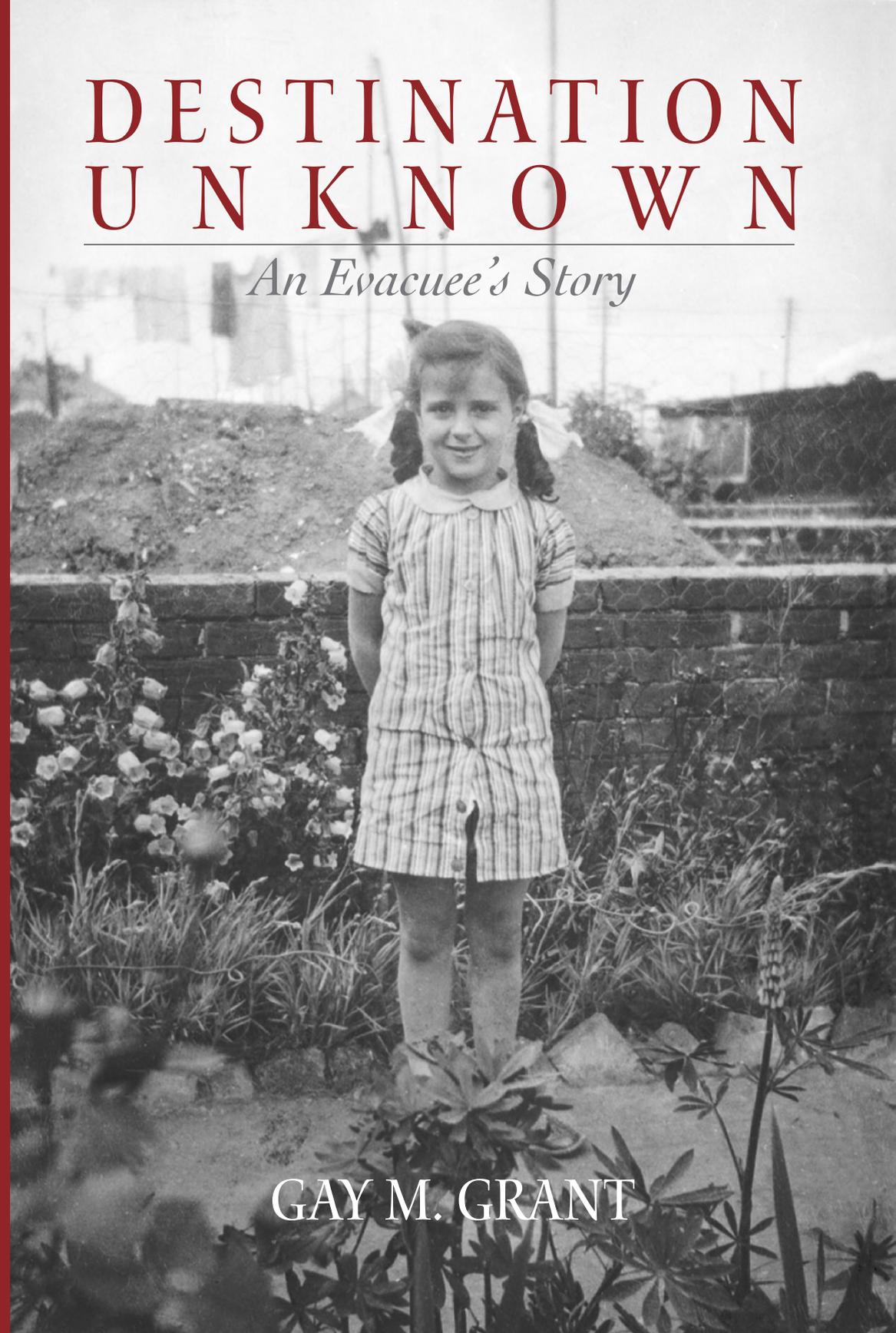


# DESTINATION UNKNOWN

*An Evacuee's Story*



DESTINATION UNKNOWN *An Evacuee's Story*

GAY M. GRANT

In Great Britain, the Second World War was declared on the day Patricia Phillips turned seven years old. A year later, she and her older brother, John, became “evacuees” when their parents made a life-or-death choice to send them to live with strangers in order to escape the Nazi bombs in their hometown of Portsmouth. Like millions of other British children, the government’s wartime evacuation scheme helped ensure Pat’s safety, but left deep emotional scars. It took an unlikely friendship with an American writer a generation her junior for Pat to bring back the traumatic memories and heal the wounds of a life forever changed by war. This inspiring memoir, written as creative nonfiction, is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the healing power of friendship.

“Far too often, children become the unanticipated collateral during wartime. *Destination Unknown* should be a “must read” on any school reading list. You will remember Patricia Phillips’s experiences long after finishing her story and wonder about the destination of all the other children displaced during these very dark days of the war. Sadly, the correlation of a war fought 75 years ago and the wars being raged today highlight the fact that children bear the brunt and the scars of war.”

—ANNE DAVIS, Director of Library and Information Services,  
Gardiner Public Library

“*Destination Unknown* brings alive the World War II of everyday people. The meticulously researched narrative follows a young girl who left everything – her parents, her friends, her world – to live with a unknown couple in an unknown town. She met with coolness, kindness and, one day, unspeakable evil. In these pages I came to know Pat and to love her.”

—DORCAS S. MILLER, Author of *Adventurous Women*

ON THE COVER: In 1939, Patricia Phillips, age 7, stands next to the back garden wall of her family’s home at 41 Highgate Road, Portsmouth, England. The earthen mound in the background covers the “Anderson” bomb shelter in their next-door neighbor’s garden. Pat’s father served in the Royal Marines and he carried this snapshot in his wallet throughout the war.

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For more on the author, visit:  
[www.grantwriteway.com](http://www.grantwriteway.com)

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