

THE WAR STORY
OF SOLDIER 124280



Mike Sadler

"History is the essence of innumerable biographies"
(Thomas Carlyle)

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Original Photographs

The personal story of a young man
training for war,
his action in battle and then his life as a
prisoner of war.
1939 to 1945

The true and first-hand account of an
ordinary young soldier who served in
the South African Artillery and fought
at Tobruk during World War II.

"I have told my story as I saw it and as I remember it. it is my hope that the book which you hold in your hands will prove to be not merely informative, but also occasionally amusing and entertaining."

WHO WAS SOLDIER 124280?

Mike Sadler joined the army at the tender age of 17 as a signaller in the South African Artillery. This is his story, of why and how he volunteered, his experiences under training, and his part in World War II in North Africa. He was stationed in Tobruk when it fell in June 1942 to Rommel's advance near the end of the Battle of Gazala. Mike was not yet 20 years old when he was captured and handed over to the Italian forces.

His story details his adventures as a prisoner of war, first in North Africa, and then in Italy and finally in Austria in Stalag 18A&C before release and freedom finally came.

An inspiring, touching and personal account of his own physical and spiritual journey, as well as a deep insight into the many men and women he met over this historic time.

Mike Sadler (1922-2002) was an educator working mostly in Central and Southern Africa and the author of specialised textbooks and educational works.

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