



## The Great Starvation Experiment: Ancel Keys and the Men Who Starved for Science

By *Todd Tucker*

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“The Great Starvation Experiment is wide-ranging, weaving progress in the war into the day-to-day suffering of the hungry volunteers.” —Saint Paul Pioneer Press

“Fascinating . . .” —Minneapolis Star Tribune

Near the end of World War II, thirty-six conscientious objectors volunteered to be systematically starved for renowned scientist Ancel Keys’s study at the University of Minnesota in the basement of Memorial Stadium. Aimed to benefit relief efforts in war-ravaged Europe and Asia, the study sought the best way to rehabilitate starving citizens. Tucker captures a lost moment in American history—a time when stanch idealism and a deep willingness to sacrifice trumped even basic human needs.

“Tucker provides a fascinating and moving history of the experiment, centering on the lives and experiences of the volunteers and the formidable obstacles they overcame. Tucker tells the story with verve and economy. . . . Keys, his experiment and his 36 starving men form a compelling combination.”  
—Publishers Weekly

Todd Tucker is the author of several books, including *Notre Dame vs. the Klan: How the Fighting Irish Defeated the Ku Klux Klan* (2004). He served on the legendary Navy submarine USS Alabama before moving to Valparaiso, Indiana.

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## **The Great Starvation Experiment: Ancel Keys and the Men Who Starved for Science** By Todd Tucker **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As WWII neared an end, 36 idealistic conscientious objectors, members of the Civilian Public Service, volunteered to be systematically starved. The project, headed by Dr. Ancel Keys, was designed to develop an understanding of the physiology and psychology of starvation and to provide strategies to manage the mass starvation that might follow the war's end in Europe. Tucker (*Notre Dame vs. the Klan*) provides a fascinating and moving history of the experiment, centering on the lives and experiences of the volunteers and the formidable obstacles they overcame. Tucker tells the story with verve and economy, providing provocative discussions on subjects ranging from the ethical problems inherent in the use of human volunteers to the history of cannibalism and the conscientious objector movement. One strength of the book is the tension and drama evident as the subjects struggle with their hunger. Another strength is the charismatic Dr. Keys (who invented the K ration), an accomplished man who combined compassion and intelligence with an unquenchable desire to advance learning (he later raised the first alarms about the dangers of cholesterol and fat in the American diet). Keys, his experiment and his 36 starving men form a compelling combination. 8 pages of b&w photos. (May 2)

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From [Booklist](#)

The heroic men of the title were 36 conscientious objectors who, at the end of World War II, volunteered to take part in a yearlong experiment on starvation. They were assigned to the Civilian Public Service Corp. Dr. Ancel Keys, the inventor of the K-ration, headed the experiment. For six months, the men ate a rigorously restricted diet similar to the wartime rations of Europeans. Many of these people, especially survivors of the concentration camps, were dying from malnutrition. During the next six months, Dr. Keys studied their rehabilitation in an effort to understand how best to help feed the starving people after the war. Tucker interviewed 12 of the volunteers and Dr. Keys, and this book chronicles their arduous undertaking and recounts the knowledge gained from the study. Bizarre but true. *George Cohen*

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Review

"Not only has Todd Tucker uncovered an extraordinary and virtually unknown story from World War II, he has told it in a masterful way. *The Great Starvation Experiment* is absolutely first-rate."

-- Andrew Carroll, editor of the national bestselling *War Letters* and *Behind the Lines*

"*The Great Starvation Experiment* is a gracefully written account of one of the most inspiring stories of moral and political courage to emerge from the Second World War. Tucker explores questions about the nature of heroism and sacrifice that are particularly provocative and relevant now, when Americans are again waging war and facing difficult moral choices."

-- Thurston Clarke, author of *Ask Not: The Inauguration of John F. Kennedy and the Speech That Changed America*

"Courage comes in many vessels. This captivating book recalls a team of conscientious objectors who wouldn't fight -- but they would starve in the service of humanity. Part science, part philosophy, and pure human drama."

-- David Von Drehle, author of *Triangle*

"Unique and absorbing."

-- Alex Kershaw, author of *The Longest Winter* and *The Bedford Boys*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Joel Fallis:**

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for all of us. The book *The Great Starvation Experiment: Ancel Keys and the Men Who Starved for Science* had been making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The book *The Great Starvation Experiment: Ancel Keys and the Men Who Starved for Science* is not only giving you more new information but also for being your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with all the book *The Great Starvation Experiment: Ancel Keys and the Men Who Starved for Science*. You never sense lose out for everything when you read some books.

#### **Tamela Campbell:**

This book untitled *The Great Starvation Experiment: Ancel Keys and the Men Who Starved for Science* to be one of several books which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retail store or you can order it via online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this guide from your list.

#### **David Fern:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a new book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent all day every day to reading a publication. The book *The Great Starvation Experiment: Ancel Keys and the Men Who Starved for Science* it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book features high quality.

#### **Mary Lewis:**

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