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The Things Our Fathers Saw—The Untold Stories Of The World War II Generation—Volume II: War In The Air—From The Great Depression To Combat





Synopsis

Dying for freedom isn't the worst that could happen. Being forgotten is. "You flew with what I would call 'controlled fear'. You were scared stiff, but it was controlled. My ball turret gunner—he couldn't take it anymore | I guess he was right. He's dead now. But he had lost control of the fear. He never got out of that ball turret; he died in that ball turret." B-24 bombardier ~THE LONG-AWAITED SEQUEL IN THE BEST SELLING 'The Things Our Fathers Saw' SERIES~How soon we forget. Or perhaps, we were never told. That is understandable, given what they saw. "I spent a lot of time in hospitals. I had a lot of trouble reconciling how my mother died [of a cerebral hemorrhage] from the telegram she opened, saying I was [shot down and] 'missing in action'. I didn't explain to her the fact that 'missing in action' is not necessarily 'killed in action'. You know? I didn't even think about that. How do you think you feel when you find out you killed your mother?" B-24 bombardier At the height of World War II, LOOK Magazine profiled a small upstate New York community for a series of articles portraying it as the wholesome, patriotic model of life on the home front. Seventy years later, a history teacher tracks down the veterans with a connection to 'Hometown, USA' who fought the war in the air over Europe, men who were tempered in the tough times of the Great Depression and forged in battle. He rescues and resurrects firsthand accounts of combat and brotherhood, of captivity and redemption, and the aftermath of a war that left no American community unscathed. Here are the stories that the magazine could not tell, from a vanishing generation speaking to America today. "I was in the hospital with a flak wound. The next mission, the entire crew was killed. The thing that haunts me is that I can't put a face to the guy who was a replacement. He was an 18-year old Jewish kid named Henry Vogelstein from Brooklyn. It was his first and last mission. He made his only mission with a crew of strangers." B-24 navigator By the end of 2018, fewer than 400,000 WW II veterans will still be with us, out of the over 16 million who put on a uniform. But why is it that today, nobody seems to know these stories? Maybe our veterans did not volunteer to tell us; maybe we were too busy with our own lives to ask. But they opened up to the younger generation, when a history teacher told their grandchildren to ask. "The German fighters picked us. I told the guys, 'Keep your eyes open, we are about to be hit!' I saw about six or eight feet go off my left wing. I rang the 'bail-out' signal, and I reached out and grabbed the co-pilot out of his seat. I felt the airplane climbing, and I thought to myself, 'If this thing stalls out, and starts falling down backwards, no one is going to get out...'" B-17 pilot This book brings you the previously untold firsthand accounts of combat and brotherhood, of captivity and redemption, and the aftermath of a war that left no American community unscathed. As we forge ahead as a nation, we owe it to

ourselves to become reacquainted with a generation that is fast leaving us, who asked for nothing but gave everything, to attune ourselves as Americans to a broader appreciation of what we stand for. " A must-read in every high school in America. It is a very poignant look back at our greatest generation; maybe it will inspire the next one. • Reviewer, Vol. I

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Customer Reviews

Great book! My Dad served in Europe during WWII, U.S. Army Infantry. Like so many others, he never talked about his experiences. I have some old photos, but his Army records were destroyed in the fire at the records center in 1972. We tend to forget that The Greatest Generation were just every day Americans who responded to their nation's call to fight. Some were good, some bad, some rebellious, but they served and did their part with the goal of not letting their friends down in the heat of battle. Thank you Mr. Rozelle, for preserving this history and I am looking forward to your next book.

I have to thank the author for this book, and the previous book about the Pacific War. Getting to

know the individuals and they're personal stories, experiences, and training they went through was very interesting and gratifying for me, I had family that served in WW2 but never knew they're stories, many vets do not wish to remember those days of they're lives. The stories in these books have provided glimpses into the lives of the WW2 veterans and only served to strengthen my respect and love for them, all Americans should take the time to know them and increase they're knowledge of The Greatest Generation.

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