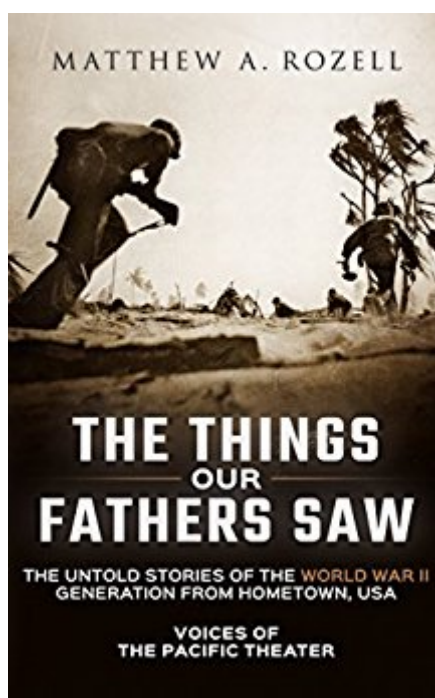


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The Things Our Fathers Saw The Untold Stories Of The World War II Generation From Hometown, USA-Volume I: Voices Of The Pacific Theater



Synopsis

The telephone rings on the hospital floor, and they tell you it is your mother, the phone call you have been dreading. You've lost part of your face to a Japanese sniper on Okinawa, and after many surgeries, the doctor has finally told you that at 19, you will never see again. The pain and shock is one thing. But now you have to tell her, from 5000 miles away. So I had a hard two months, I guess. I kept mostly to myself. I wouldn't talk to people. I tried to figure out what the hell I was going to do when I got home. How was I going to tell my mother this? You know what I mean?

~Jimmy Butterfield, WWII Marine veteran ~From the author of 'The Things Our Fathers Saw' World War II eyewitness history series~ How soon we forget. Or perhaps, we were never told. That is understandable, given what they saw. I was talking to a shipmate of mine waiting for the motor launch, and all at once I saw a plane go over our ship. I did not know what it was, but the fellow with me said, 'That's a Jap plane, Jesus!' It went down and dropped a torpedo. Then I saw the Utah turn over.

~Barney Ross, U.S. Navy seaman, Pearl Harbor

At the height of World War II, LOOK Magazine profiled a small American community for a series of articles portraying it as the wholesome, patriotic model of life on the home front. Decades later, author Matthew Rozell tracks down over thirty survivors who fought the war in the Pacific, from Pearl Harbor to the surrender at Tokyo Bay. Rage is instantaneous. He's looking at me from a crawling position. I didn't shoot him; I went and kicked him in the head. Rage does funny things. After I kicked him, I shot and killed him.

~Thomas Jones, Marine veteran, Battle of Guadalcanal

These are the stories that the magazine could not tell to the American public. I remember it rained like hell that night, and the water was running down the slope into our foxholes. I had to use my helmet to keep bailing out, you know. Lt. Gower called us together. He said, 'I think we're getting hit with a banzai. We're going to have to pull back. 'Holy God, there was howling and screaming! They had naked women, with spears, stark naked!

~Nick Grinaldo, U.S. Army veteran, Saipan

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; 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. I hope you'll never have to tell a story like this, when you get to be 87. I hope you'll never have to do it.'

~Ralph Leinoff, Marine veteran Iwo Jima, to his teenage interviewer

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. After 3 years of starvation and brutal

treatment, that beautiful symbol of freedom once more flies over our head! Our POW camp tailor worked all night and finished our first American flag! The blue came from a GI barracks bag, red from a Jap comforter and the white from an Australian bed sheet. When I came out of the barracks and saw those beautiful colors for the first time, I felt like crying!

— Joe Minder, U.S. Army POW, Japan, 1945

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. Featuring over a dozen custom maps and never-before published veteran portraits. Extended notes and website.

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Customer Reviews

The author has put together stories told by those who participated in the Pacific theater during World War 2. Included are reports from the Pearl Harbor experience, island battles including Peliileu, Iwo Jima, the Philippines, and the surrender of the Japanese aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Stories from the air corps, army, navy and Marines will not only hold your interest, but will verify the horrors of war.

A telling story related by those who lived it, members of the "Greatest Generation." The Pacific theater of war was along and brutal time where the pure ugliness of war shown very brightly. The tenacity and cruelty of the enemy to the courage, stamina, and hope of the Allied soldiers who fought in this theater are vividly retold during the numerous interviews conducted for this book. One could never understand what war actually does to a person unless you experience it for yourself, however, the of retelling of their time in the war gives one a glimpse of what horror war can be. I enjoyed the book, but wished for more photographs to help visualize who these individuals are and how they looked back during the war. Recommended reading for any student of WWII.

The author has done a great thing by getting into print the stories of those who fought and died to confront a great evil. There was no confusion. about the morals of that war, that would come later. I am the daughter of a veteran, but his war was in the Pacific. He would never speak about it, but later my brother and I found letters from his unit commander, and the 4 Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star. Looking back I can see he was troubled. Reading this book helped me understand him and his generation better.

My own father was one of the first to be caught in the first draft. It was called the fish bowl draft. The year was 1939 and he was 19 years old. His time in the service was almost at an end, but then Pearl Harbor happened, and he was in for the duration. He too, was in the Pacific, but to his dying day he would NEVER talk about his experiences in the service. I didn't understand why until I, too, went to Vietnam, and now I understand. My father was a member of The Greatest Generation, and their sacrifices made it a possibility for those who came behind to learn from them and not make the mistakes that brought the world to where it was in their time.

This book is full of stories that you have not heard before about things that happened during WW II. I think practically every WW II "GI" has a story about something that he was involved in or witnessed or one of his friends got caught up in that he has not shared with anybody since he returned home but he hasn't forgotten about it. My Dad was in France right after D day and he had talked about his experiences over the years especially right after I was home after my four year enlistment ended but thirty years later I was sitting with him, he had been sick for quite a while, he told me about losing some of his friends. I had never heard anything at all about it and it was a terrible story and we both shed some tears. The next morning he was dead.

Wow! I felt like I was sitting in the room with a group of WWII veterans, hearing their stories of hardship, fear, and what they had to do for their country, for their family and friends, fighting for what they believed in. I could not put this book down, so very well written to engage the reader and share experiences of war. Heroes abound in this book and everyone should read and be thankful for those who sacrificed so much for the rest of us. Thank you Matthew for capturing these experiences and presenting them in a compelling manner. Also, thank you for giving back to your community by making history real for your students and readers!

While no civilian can ever imagine the horrors of combat, this book captures the narrative of those who lived through it and gives the rest of us a perspective as to the cost of war. I especially liked the first person accounts given by those whose stories are recounted, it's as if they were speaking to the reader. My father, a WWII South Pacific Navy veteran, would recount what his ship went through and some of the stories from the Marines who fought on the islands. It would pain him at times, but I'm glad he shared some of what he went through. The stories in this book remind me of those times with my Dad. Thank you to all who served.

As one who has personally been told first-hand accounts by WWII and Korean War veterans similar to those shared in this book, my admiration and love for these hometown heroes only grows. My father was one who only talked of big-picture issues and actions he was part of in the European Theater of Operations, never about his individual involvement or the Bronze Star he was awarded during the Battle of the Bulge or his participation in the liberation of Dachau. What made those real to me was awakening to his shouting and screaming in the middle of the night, followed by mom's assurances that "daddy will be ok, he's just having nightmares again. Go back to sleep." 'Sure Mom' I would think as I'd lay in bed freaked out and wondering if dad really would be ok. Matthew Rozell has filled in some of the holes left by my father's not sharing his stories. My heart aches for the hearts of all veterans and their families as they live with so many untold stories.

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