

The Things Our Fathers Saw: The Untold Stories of the World War II Generation

The World War II era is often romanticized and portrayed through Hollywood movies and stories that focus on heroics and triumphs. However, beneath the surface of grand narratives lies a collection of untold stories – stories of ordinary individuals who experienced the horrors and sacrifices of war firsthand. These stories are often passed down from generation to generation, but they rarely find a wider audience.

"The Things Our Fathers Saw: The Untold Stories of the World War II Generation" is a remarkable book written by Matthew Rozell that brings these forgotten stories to light. In this article, we will explore the captivating narratives contained within this powerful collection and understand why it is essential to cherish and honor the memories of our fathers and grandfathers who fought in World War II.

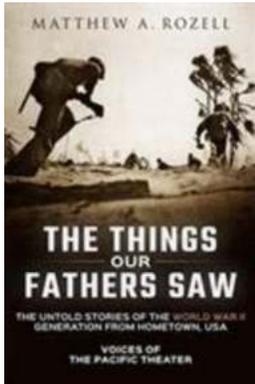
The Power of Personal Stories

History is not just about facts and figures; it is about people and their experiences. Personal stories have the power to humanize historical events, providing a deep understanding of the emotional and psychological impact of war on individuals and their loved ones. "The Things Our Fathers Saw" delves into the personal accounts of World War II veterans, giving a voice to those who often went unheard.

The Things Our Fathers Saw—The Untold Stories of the World War II Generation-Volume III: War in the Air—Combat, Captivity, and Reunion

by Matthew Rozell (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 772 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 226 pages
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Through detailed interviews and first-hand testimonies, Rozell offers readers a glimpse into the realities of war – the fear, the camaraderie, the loss, and the triumphs. The book leaves no stone unturned, covering a wide range of experiences, from soldiers storming the beaches of Normandy to prisoners enduring the hardships of captivity.

The Untold Stories of Heroism and Sacrifice

Within the pages of "The Things Our Fathers Saw," readers will find stories of unimaginable courage and selflessness. These accounts go beyond the conventional narratives of war heroes and delve into the daily struggles faced by ordinary men and women who found themselves thrust into an era of chaos and uncertainty.

The book highlights stories of bravery in the face of adversity, such as that of Medal of Honor recipient Edward Carter, an African-American soldier who fought valiantly despite facing discrimination both on and off the battlefield. Rozell also shines a light on the experiences of women who served in various capacities during the war, challenging traditional gender roles and expectations.

Through these vivid and personal accounts, "The Things Our Fathers Saw" pays homage to the countless individuals who made unimaginable sacrifices for the sake of freedom. Their stories remind us of the debt we owe to the past and the importance of preserving the memory of those who came before us.

A Testament to the Greatest Generation

The World War II generation, often referred to as the "Greatest Generation," faced enormous challenges and hardships, yet demonstrated resilience, determination, and unwavering patriotism. "The Things Our Fathers Saw" serves as a testament to their strength and the indelible mark they left on history.

By sharing these untold stories, Rozell honors the men and women who fought for the values we hold dear today. Their sacrifices shaped the world we live in and deserve to be remembered and celebrated.

Inspiring Future Generations

"The Things Our Fathers Saw" not only invites readers to appreciate the sacrifices of the World War II generation but also serves as an inspiration for future generations.

The book imparts invaluable lessons about resilience, courage, and the power of collective action. It reminds us of the importance of unity in the face of adversity and encourages us to stand up for justice and equality.

As we encounter new challenges in our modern world, the stories contained within "The Things Our Fathers Saw" remind us that the indomitable human spirit can overcome even the darkest of times.

Preserving the Legacy

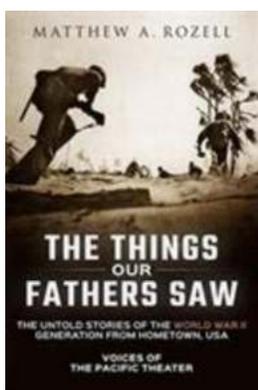
It is our responsibility to ensure that the sacrifices made by the World War II generation are never forgotten. By preserving their stories, we can pass down the lessons they learned and honor their memory.

Rozell's meticulous research and dedication to capturing these stories in "The Things Our Fathers Saw" ensure that future generations can learn from and be inspired by the experiences of those who lived through World War II.

The untold stories of the World War II generation serve as a testament to the human spirit and remind us of the sacrifices made in the fight for freedom. "The Things Our Fathers Saw" by Matthew Rozell encapsulates the power and importance of personal narratives in understanding history.

Through this captivating collection, readers gain a profound appreciation for the courage, resilience, and sacrifices displayed by ordinary men and women during this tumultuous era.

"The Things Our Fathers Saw" is not simply a book; it is a tribute to the Greatest Generation and an invitation to learn from their experiences. By uncovering these untold stories, Rozell ensures that the memory of the World War II generation lives on, inspiring future generations to carry their legacy forward.



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WHAT DO YOU FILL YOUR POCKETS WITH when you're rousted awake in the middle of a freezing German night to be death-marched across Germany?

WHEN YOUR BUDDY STAGGERS AND FALLS by the side of the road, and no longer even knows who you are, do you keep moving to keep yourself alive? — “The next day we marched almost twenty hours, so now we were coming up to a town, now everybody is falling over, but I was in a group where everybody made a pledge to watch each other. I found myself off the side of the road and I lay in the snow and I said to myself, ‘Wow, this is so warm.’ I was so damn cold, I didn’t know my name or anything, or where I lived—I was gone!” —B-24 bombardier, shot down, taken prisoner
Dying for freedom isn’t the worst that could happen. Being forgotten is.

— “We got shot down around noontime by a Messerschmitt. I was in the top turret shooting at them, and I could see [their faces] as clearly as I'm looking at you. They wiped us out completely. I'm following him with the top turret gun and you could see bits of the plane coming off his tail section, but not enough to bother him. As I'm turning, the electrical cord on my flying suit got caught underneath the swivel of the turret. I ducked down, I untangled it... now I got back into my turret. Fellas, the turret wasn't there anymore. That son-of-a-gun who had been eyeing me came in and he hit his 20mm gun, took the top of that Plexiglas and tore it right off!

The fighters made another pass. They hit a couple of our engines; they made another pass and they shot away our controls! We peeled off into one of these spirals—you've seen them on television where the plane will come over on its back and just spiral into the ground. Trees are coming up at me; I had my hand on the ripcord and out I went, headfirst.” —B-17 engineer

Maybe our veterans did not volunteer to tell us their stories; perhaps we were too busy with our own lives to ask. But they opened up to a younger generation, when a history teacher taught his students to engage.

— “I was standing on the train in Paris right next to an SS colonel—he had a satchel handcuffed to his arm, and a guard with a Sten gun. The train started up, and the SS colonel bumped into me. And he turned around to me and said, 'Pardonne moi.' I thought, 'Oh, my God!’” —B-17 crewman/evadee, shot down on his first mission

As we forge ahead as a nation, do 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?

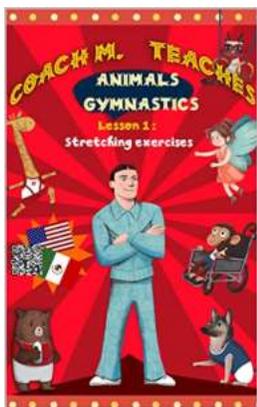
This is the third book in the masterful WWII oral history series, but you can read them in any order.

— “What made me cry was this is a guy from Texas, and even if he didn't like blacks, or he didn't like Jews, or Catholics, or whoever, no German was going to tell him what to do—no general was pushing him around! He says, 'We are Americans in this camp, and we are all the same.' They asked him for a list of all Jews, and he said, 'You're not going to get it—if you're going to shoot them, you're going to shoot us all, because we are not going to tell you which ones to pick out.' So these are the things that make me feel damn proud to be an American!” —Lead navigator, PoW It's time to listen to them. Read some of the reviews below and **REMEMBER** how a generation of young Americans truly saved the world.

Or maybe it was all for nothing?

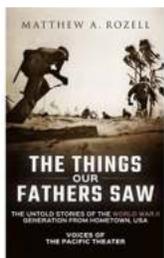
— “A must-read in every high school in America. It is a very poignant look back at our greatest generation; maybe it will inspire the next one.”

Reviewer, Vol. I



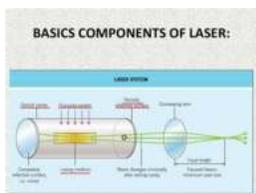
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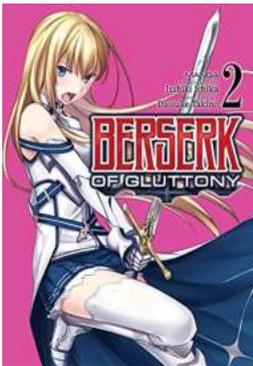
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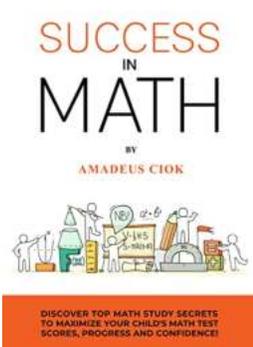
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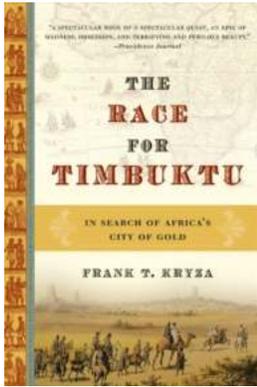
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