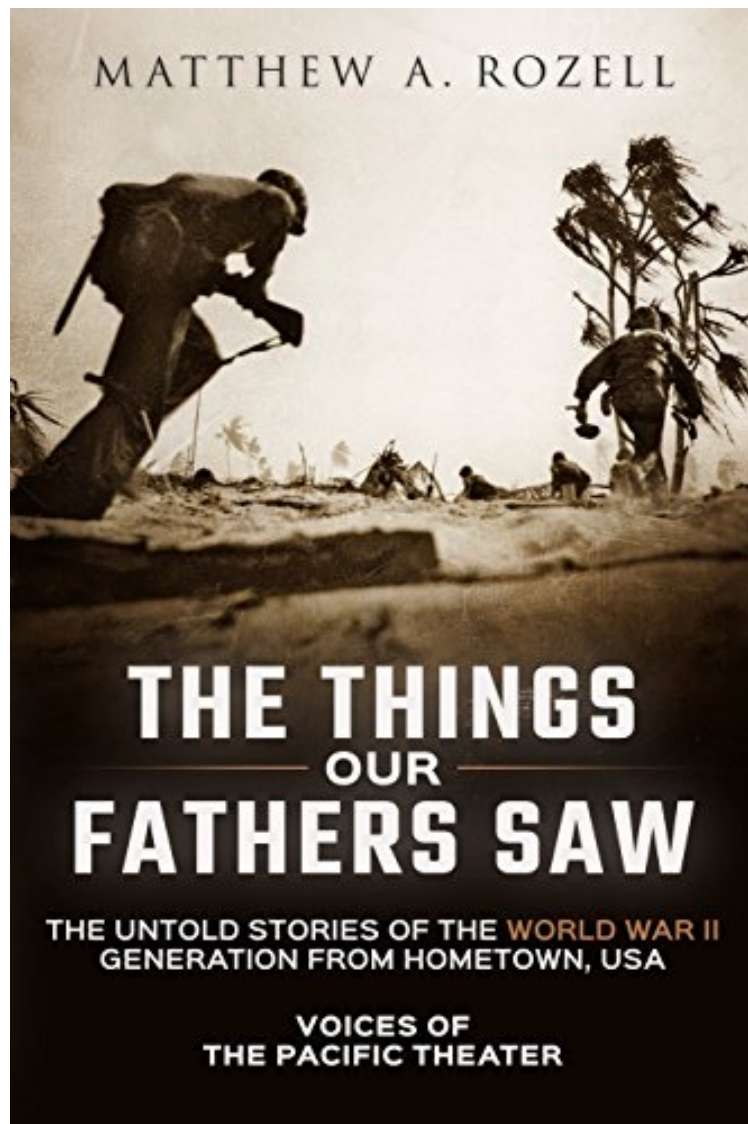


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## The Things Our Fathers Saw: The Untold Stories of the World War II Generation from Hometown, USA-Voices of the Pacific Theater

*Mr. Matthew A. Rozell*

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**Mr. Matthew A. Rozell : The Things Our Fathers Saw: The Untold Stories of the World War II Generation from Hometown, USA-Voices of the Pacific Theater** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Things Our Fathers Saw: The Untold Stories of the World War II Generation from Hometown, USA-Voices of the Pacific Theater:

50 of 53 people found the following review helpful. The things our fathers saw and couldn't forget. By Martin Q. 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. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Rozell's work for my oldest grandson who has been raised to love this country. By M. Alexander This work is so important and I thank Matthew Rozell for his contribution to the legacy of so many who sacrificed so much for us. I'm 66 and a 27 year USAF veteran. My father fought in WWII with the 82nd Airborne. He was badly wounded in the invasion of Italy and was partially paralyzed the rest of his life. I had tears in my eyes through major portions of this volume. I'm well read on the history and strategies of WWII. But books such as Mr Rozell's that capture the personal war are absolutely precious to the memory of these men who gave their youth and lives for the rest of us. I've visited many of our WWII cemeteries in Europe and make a habit of whispering aloud the names on the headstones I pass as a small gesture to these men that they are not forgotten. This book is just such a whisper. I've bought hard copies of Mr. Rozell's work for my oldest grandson who has been raised to love this country. Reading these books will reinforce just why remembering is so important. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perhaps the best book on World War II I've read. By Bill Hart I've read many books on World War II, but none made me feel like I'd been there with these men. There were times I waste sure whose story I was reading, but it didn't matter as each kept my interest. What I perhaps enjoyed the most was the stories are told as if the man was telling you in person. The book also gave me information I'd not heard before like how many prisoners died in route to Japan. I would recommend this book to anyone.

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 3½ 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.

A selection of comments left by reviewers: "Great book that is easy to follow. I felt like I was the one sitting across the

table talking to the people being interviewed. Will definitely be reading the next book." "I have been a student of this war for over 60 years and the author made me want to read more of these types of books. Mr. Rozell constructed the living memories of heroes of the Pacific War into a striking and amazing narrative." "The survivors of WW2 are the generation of ultimate self sacrifice but also dignified silence. Remarkable men and women, thank you one and all." "If you are looking for blood, guts and glory, look elsewhere. However, if you are looking for tales of normal people undertaking extraordinary tasks then read on, and be humbled." "Patriotism, for many of these veterans, took a back seat to the responsibility they felt to their compatriots. They fought, not so much against the enemy, but rather for the guys next to them. And they brought that spirit back home with them. Young people should not see them only as heroes but as models of what they can become, who set aside their differences to stand beside each other as Americans." "I was sorry to reach the end, and that is a rarity." "This book should be 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." "My father, a member of 'The Greatest Generation', would never talk to me about the serious events in his deployment to the South Pacific. Then, after I myself went to war and came home, I asked him how he dealt with certain things. He had me open his old foot locker from which he took a TOPOG map. He unfolded it, pointed to a grid and said 'that is where I lost my first two men.' He no longer talked to me like his boy but like a fellow warrior. The things he told me could have been right out this book; the same words, the same descriptions of horrible sights, the same sorrow for friends lost...the same guilt for having survived. Mr. Rozell, THANK YOU for this book." "An absolutely absorbing read. It would seem a simple concept, to let the people who were there tell their story. Rozell gives us background, structure and scope without ever falling in love with his own voice or stealing the limelight, and that is no simple task. Well done!" "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. "I finished reading the book last night. The stories of sacrifice and service of the men included impacted me deeply and I have a renewed respect for what they did. How men so young could face the horrors of the war?! How did they endure torture and hard work with hope and faith?!" "Awesome writing and very intriguing stories. Thank you for capturing some of the details that will soon be lost forever. Shall we never forget!" "This is one of the best WWII books I have ever read. I really enjoyed the way the writer framed the book with time vs. one story at a time, then jumping back to another. Very vast in the story range, not just ground troops." "Now I know why [my father] didn't talk about his war, his four years in New Guinea. I now have a much better understanding of why." "My father was wounded during the war in Europe. Your book helped me understand, a little better what my father faced - the fear, horror and suffering that is most personal to each soldier. Thank you for writing this excellent book." "History is best learned and remembered when it is humanized. Rozell's book does just that. It gives faces and names and stories to some of battles I read about in my high school textbooks--I couldn't tell you much about what I learned from them, but I could go on about the things I learned from this book. "