

FOREWARD

The reason for this book is to recall the stories of sacrifices made by the men from Cayuga County, New York, who served their country during World War II. These men, in particular the 267 men who lost their lives in service, are the subject of this book which preserves their stories for future generations. A recent article in *Newsweek* magazine about the war in the Pacific illustrates this need, i.e. "...there are teenagers today so ahistorical in both Japan and the United States that they are unaware that Japan and the United States fought a war."

Men born in the first two decades of the 20th Century, who came of age during the Great Depression, answered their country's call to arms and measured up to the tasks they were asked to perform. It is now sixty-four years since America went to war. The veterans of the war, called the "Greatest Generation," are passing on at the rate of 1500 per day. It is important that their role in the world conflict, the dimensions of which have never been exceeded, not be forgotten.

They were young and came from every walk of life. They served in far-flung lands: the jungles and volcanic islands of the Pacific, the tundra of Alaska, the sands of North Africa, the mountains of Italy, the fields of France and Germany, here in the States, and in the skies above and on the seas around the world.

These were the men on whose shoulders fell the burden and the viciousness of combat with the enemy. As James Stokesbury summed it up in his book *A Short History of World War II*: "The whole world was locked in the throes of the greatest war ever seen and the future boiled down to thousands of young men in aluminum cylinders in the sky, steel compartments in the sea and holes in the ground."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mrs. Wait and Mrs. Clapp headed up a group called the Mothers of Fighting Men, and during the war kept scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, letters, and maintaining contact with the mothers who had sons in the service. Without their efforts this book would have been nearly impossible to undertake.

Cayuga County Historian's Office for the loan of the scrapbooks.

The Cayuga County Veterans Service Agency also proved to be invaluable by making available their records.

Colonel Bill Saavedra (Ret) U.S. Army Air Force and volunteers from the Air Force History Office who researched all of the airmen and provided, if available, the circumstances of their deaths.

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Several family members who supplied photographs and other information.

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NOTE TO READERS

Many sources were examined in the compilation of this book, all of which are cited in the Acknowledgements and Bibliography. Freedom of Information laws prevented obtaining some records available only to family members.

A file is available on each veteran and can be viewed at the Cayuga County Historian's Office.

In the cases of many of the U.S. Army casualties, the time, place and circumstances of death are deduced from the unit histories researched at the U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle, PA. Air Force, Navy and Marine casualty records were more specific. In any case, the author feels confident of his conclusions as to the time and place of death. Should the reader discover any mistakes, please call or write The Cayuga County Veterans Service Agency, County Office Building, 160 Genesee Street, Auburn, NY 13021, telephone 315-253-1281.

There were five men listed on a War Department listing of those who died from Cayuga County, but who were not listed on our roster. Neither were those five listed on the County's roster, nor could any information on them be found in local archives. Therefore, they are not listed in this book.

ORGANIZATION OF TEXT

The text is divided into three main chapters: A. The Asiatic-Pacific Theater, B. The European-African-Middle Eastern Theater, and C. The American Theater. Within the three chapters the text is further divided into sub-Theaters or major engagements within which the individual stories are presented in alphabetical order. The Index of names, in alphabetical order, regardless of Theater or location appears in the back of the book.

RAYMOND E. KEEFE

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