WORLD WAR II IS THOUGHT OF AS THE GOOD WAR.

WORLD WAR II IS SUCH AN ENORMOUS THEATER. I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT ALL THE BIG FIGURES.

ONE OF THE GENIUSES OF FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT IS THAT ABILITY TO ARTICULATE WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR. HE GAVE THE FOUR FREEDOMS SPEECH.

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM FROM FEAR... FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION... FREEDOM OF RELIGION, FREEDOM FROM WANT ALL, EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

"WORLD WAR II" ON A BIOGRAPHY OF AMERICA.

[Captioning sponsored by ANNENBERG/CPB]

ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 7, 1941 A JAPANESE AIR ARMADA ATTACKED THE AMERICAN NAVAL BASE AT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII KNOCKING OUT HALF THE U.S. NAVY IN A FEW HOURS.

THE NEXT DAY, PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT WENT BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS AND GOT A DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST JAPAN A COUNTRY IN THE GRIP OF MANIACAL WARLORDS.

A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY. THREE DAYS LATER, HITLER'S GERMANY AND MUSSOLINI'S ITALY DECLARED WAR ON THE UNITED STATES.

THAT WEEK, THE EUROPEAN WAR THAT HAD BEGUN WITH THE NAZI INVASION OF POLAND BECAME A WORLD WAR.

IT WAS ALREADY A TOTAL WAR A WAR WAGED AGAINST INNOCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

AS WELL AS MEN IN ARMS.

IT WOULD BE AMERICA'S FIRST EXPERIENCE
WITH THIS KIND OF WARFARE.

IN THE CIVIL WAR, UNION

GENERALS, GRANT AND SHERMAN

HAD CARRIED THE FIGHT

TO THE HOMES AND FARMS

OF THE SOUTH

BUT CIVILIANS WERE

RARELY FIRED UPON

EXCEPT, AS AT VICKSBURG

WHEN TRAPPED WITH ARMIES

IN A SIEGE SITUATION.

IN WORLD WAR II, CIVILIANS

WERE DELIBERATELY ATTACKED.

JAPANESE AND GERMANS

MARKED THE WAY IN 1937

THE JAPANESE WITH

THE RAPE OF NANKING

AND THE GERMANS,

IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

WITH THE BOMBING OF GUERNICA

AN ATROCITY CAPTURED ON CANVAS

WITH TERRIFYING POWER

BY PABLO PICASSO.

IN THE ANCIENT CITY OF NANKING

JAPANESE SOLDIERS SHOT, STABBED,

BEHEADED, HUNG, CASTRATED

AND RAped TENS OF THOUSANDS

OF NON-RESISTING MEN,

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

A HIDDEN HOLOCAUST.

THE WORLD WAR THAT FOLLOWED

TWO YEARS LATER

WAS FOUGHT WITH VINDICTIVE

FURY BY BOTH SIDES.

AS ROOSEVELT ASSURED

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

"THE MILITARISTS OF BERLIN

AND TOKYO STARTED THIS WAR

"BUT THE MASSED, ANGERED

FORCES OF COMMON HUMANITY

WILL FINISH IT."

AND THEY DID,

ANNIHILATING FROM THE AIR

OVER 50 GERMAN

AND JAPANESE CITIES

BEFORE DROPPING ATOMIC BOMBS

ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

IN AUGUST 1945.

ENDING THE WAR IN THIS WAY

THE UNITED STATES BEGAN

A NEW ERA IN HISTORY

AS WELL AS IN WARFARE.

HUMANKIND'S POWERS OF REASON

AND CAPACITY FOR IRRATIONALITY

REMAINED UNCHANGED
ON THE EVE OF WORLD WAR II.

WHAT CHANGED WAS THE TECHNOLOGY OF DESTRUCTION--SHIPS AND TANKS AND PLANES OF PRODIGIOUS POWER.

A CASCADE OF DESTRUCTIVE FORCE CULMINATING IN THE ATOMIC BOMB.

WORLD WAR II WOULD BE THE MOST TERRIBLE WAR.

MAYBE THE MOST TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE IN THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY.

OVER 50 MILLION PEOPLE DIED, MOST OF THEM CIVILIANS.

SIX MILLION OF THEM KILLED IN A HOLOCAUST.

THAT HAD NO DIRECT CONNECTION TO THE FIGHTING.

AND OVER 400,000 AMERICAN SERVICEMEN.

LOST THEIR LIVES AS WELL.

WORLD WAR II IS SO ENORMOUS IN ITS SCOPE AND SAVAGERY IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE LET ALONE ENCOMPASS IN A SHORT LECTURE.

WHAT FOLLOWS IS LESS A LECTURE THAN A MEMORY BOOK.

WHICH TRY TO CAPTURE THE WAR.

AND WHAT IT MEANT TO ORDINARY AMERICANS WHO EXPERIENCED IT.

THIS IS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO AN AROUSED DEMOCRACY.

THE MOST POWERFUL ON EARTH.

WHEN IT WAS FORCED TO WAGE A WAR IT DIDN'T DESIRE.

BUT CHOSE TO FIGHT, WITHOUT LETUP, TO THE FINISH.

IT'S ALSO A STORY THAT TOUCHEr ME PERSONALLY.

I WAS BORN TOO LATE TO EXPERIENCE THE WAR.

BUT I GREW UP IN A WORKING-CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD.

OF A PENNSYLVANIA TOWN.

IN WHICH NEARLY EVERY YOUNG MAN SERVED IN THE WAR.

AND DOZENS OF WOMEN WORKED IN WAR INDUSTRIES.

MY MOTHER WORKED AT JACOB'S AIRCRAFT WHICH PRODUCED PARTS FOR THE PLANES FOR THE AIR ARM.

WHO EXPERIENCE THE WAR.
MY FATHER SERVED IN.
AND MY GRANDFATHER WORKED
IN A STEEL MILL
THAT FORGED ARMAMENTS FOR
GENERAL GEORGE PATTON'S ARMY.
THAT ARMY SWEEP ACROSS
EUROPE AND INTO GERMANY
WHERE MY UNCLE JOHN, SERVING
AS A G.I. IN PATTON'S BLITZKRIEG
WAS CAPTURED AS
A PRISONER OF WAR.
BEFORE THAT, HE HAD Fought
ON OMAHA BEACH ON D-DAY.
EXCEPT FOR THOSE LIKE HIM
WHO SAW COMBAT
AMERICANS DIDN'T DIRECTLY
EXPERIENCE THE PLAGUE OF WAR.
WE WEREN'T INVADED
AS OTHER COMBATANTS WERE
NOR WERE OUR GREAT CITIES
TURNED TO RUBBLE.
AMERICA WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY
IN THE WORLD TO GROW FATTER
MORE PROSPEROUS DURING THE WAR.
YET AMERICANS AT HOME
DID SUFFER.
I'M NOT TALKING
ABOUT THE ENFORCED RATIONING
OF BUTTER, COFFEE OR GASOLINE,
MINOR INCONVENIENCES.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE GREATEST
SACRIFICE A FAMILY CAN MAKE--
THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE.
ENGRAVED IN MY MIND
OF OUR NEIGHBORS, THE ADAMSES
TURNED FOR MANY YEARS
AFTER THE WAR INTO A SHRINE
FOR THE BOY WHO NEVER CAME BACK.
MY FATHER WAS PRESIDENT
OF THE CATHOLIC
WAR VETERANS POST
THAT WAS NAMED
AFTER FRANCIS ADAMS.
AND IT'S THERE AT THE BAR,
OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS
THAT I COAXED AND
PULLED STORIES OF THE WAR
OUT OF VETERANS
WHO WANTED TO FORGET.
THEN I STARTING READING
THE MEMOIRS OF MEN
WHO HAD BEEN IN BATTLE.
ONE OF THESE MEN
IS E.B. SLEDGE
"SLEDGEHAMMER" TO HIS
OLD MARINE CORPS BUDDIES.

HISTORIAN STUDS TERKEL INTERVIEWED SLEDGE FOR HIS FABULOUS BOOK, *THE GOOD WAR*.

SLEDGE HAD THIS TO SAY:

"MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME THE VALUE OF HISTORY.

DURING MY THIRD DAY OVERSEAS I THOUGHT I SHOULD WRITE ALL THIS DOWN FOR MY FAMILY.

WE WERE TOLD DIARIES WERE FORBIDDEN...

"BECAUSE IF WE WERE KILLED OR CAPTURED ANY DIARY MIGHT GIVE THE JAPANESE INFORMATION.

SO I KEPT LITTLE NOTES WHICH I SLIPPED INTO THE PAGES OF MY GIDEON'S NEW TESTAMENT."

LATER, SLEDGE TRANSFORMED THESE SLIPS OF PAPER INTO THE MOST SEARING ACCOUNT OF WAR WITH THE OLD BREED AT PELELIU AND OKINAWA.

THERE WAS A LOT OF CENSORSHIP IN WORLD WAR II BOTH OF THE LETTERS OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN AND OF THE DISPATCHES OF WAR CORRESPONDENTS LIKE THE LEGENDARY ERNIE PYLE.

THE MILITARY DIDN'T WANT THE FOLKS AT HOME TO KNOW HOW TERRIBLE THE WAR WAS.

AND PYLE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WANTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WAR BY BOLSTERING HOME FRONT MORALE.

NOT BY TWISTING THE TRUTH, BUT BY NOT TELLING EVERYTHING.

OR AS THE PLAYWRIGHT ARTHUR MILLER SAYS OF PYLE "AS MUCH OF WHAT HE SAW AS PEOPLE COULD READ WITHOUT VOMITING."

IF MEMORY AND HISTORY ARE TO BE USED FOR A BETTER FUTURE ONE PROBLEM HISTORIANS HAVE IN RECREATING THE PAST IS

THAT READERS KNOW
HOW IT WILL TURN OUT.

158 01:08:17:17 01:08:20:12 SO EVENTS OFTEN SEEM INEVITABLE, BUT THEY'RE NOT.

159 01:08:20:14 01:08:22:19 AN ALLIED VICTORY WAS NOT PREORDAINED.

160 01:08:22:21 01:08:24:21 A THOUSAND THINGS COULD HAVE GONE WRONG.

161 01:08:24:23 01:08:26:08 CONSIDER JUST ONE--

162 01:08:26:10 01:08:29:05 NAZI SCIENTISTS, INSTEAD OF OURS, DEVELOP THE ATOMIC BOMB.

163 01:08:30:12 01:08:32:08 IN THE SPRING OF 1942, IN FACT A THOUSAND THINGS COULD HAVE GONE WRONG.

164 01:08:32:10 01:08:35:03 CONSIDER JUST ONE-- NAZI SCIENTISTS, INSTEAD OF OURS, DEVELOP THE ATOMIC BOMB.

165 01:08:35:05 01:08:37:17 HITLER WAS MASTER OF CONTINENTAL EUROPE.

166 01:08:37:19 01:08:41:05 AND HIS ARMIES WERE THREATENING CAIRO AND THE SUEZ CANAL.

167 01:08:41:07 01:08:43:13 AND JAPAN'S EMPIRE DWARFED HITLER'S.

168 01:08:43:15 01:08:45:29 AFTER PEARL HARBOR, THE JAPANESE OVERRAN THE UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

169 01:08:46:01 01:08:48:20 THE UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

170 01:08:48:22 01:08:51:21 FORCING COMMANDER DOUGLAS MacARTHUR TO EVACUATE.

171 01:08:51:23 01:08:53:04 LEAVING HIS MEN IN GRISLY PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS.

172 01:08:53:04 01:08:56:00 LEAVING HIS MEN IN GRISLY PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS.

173 01:08:56:00 01:09:01:05 THEN IN A SERIES OF LIGHTNING-LIKE STRIKES THE JAPANESE OVERRAN THE UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

174 01:09:01:07 01:09:03:02 OF ALMOST ONE-SEVENTH OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

175 01:09:03:02 01:09:05:28 OF ALMOST ONE-SEVENTH OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

176 01:09:05:28 01:09:08:07 ALL OF IT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC.

177 01:09:08:09 01:09:11:02 AT THAT TIME, OUR ARMY HAD MORE HORSES THAN TANKS.

178 01:09:11:04 01:09:14:17 AND DIDN'T HAVE A SINGLE COMBAT UNIT CONFRONTING THE ENEMY.

179 01:09:14:19 01:09:16:27 AND AMERICA WASN'T EVEN ABLE TO FUNCTION.

180 01:09:16:29 01:09:19:25 AS IT HAD UP TO THEN, AS THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY.

181 01:09:19:27 01:09:22:26 SUPPLYING ARMAMENTS TO ENGLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION.


183 01:09:25:07 01:09:27:11 WITH SHOCKING EASE.

184 01:09:27:13 01:09:29:22 MANY OF THESE MERCHANTMEN WERE SUNK WITHIN SIGHT OF SHORE.

185 01:09:29:24 01:09:32:01 BECAUSE COASTAL CITIES LIKE NEW YORK AND MIAMI.

186 01:09:32:03 01:09:33:27 REFUSED TO ENFORCE A BLACKOUT.

187 01:09:33:29 01:09:36:10 FEARING A LOSS OF THEIR TOURIST TRADE.

188 01:09:36:12 01:09:40:08 THEIR BRIGHT LIGHTS GAVE U-BOAT
CAPTAINS A PERFECT BACKGROUND

189 01:09:40:10 01:09:42:26 TO SITE AND SINK SHIPS HEADED FOR EUROPE.
190 01:09:45:08 01:09:48:05 THAT SPRING, THE AMERICAN TASK WASN'T VICTORY.
191 01:09:48:07 01:09:49:25 IT WAS HOLDING OFF DEFEAT.
192 01:09:49:27 01:09:53:12 IT TOOK A TREMENDOUS EXERCISE OF AMERICAN WILL AND POWER.
193 01:09:53:14 01:09:54:20 TO TURN THE TIDE.
194 01:09:54:22 01:09:57:08 A NATIONAL MOBILIZATION SUCH AS THIS COUNTRY HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE, AND MAY NEVER SEE AGAIN.

195 01:10:00:09 01:10:02:06 AND FUELING IT WAS RAW REVENGE RETRIBUTION FOR THE HUMILIATING DEFEAT AT PEARL HARBOR.
196 01:10:02:08 01:10:05:22 PEARL MIGHT BE THE GREATEST AMERICAN VICTORY OF THE WAR.
197 01:10:05:24 01:10:08:17 IT AWOKE A SLEEPING GIANT.
198 01:10:08:19 01:10:10:16 BUT IT TOOK ALMOST NO TIME TO RE-TOOL THE ECONOMY.
199 01:10:14:01 01:10:16:21 FOR WARTIME PRODUCTION.
200 01:10:16:23 01:10:19:10 THE WORLD'S GREATEST AUTOMOBILE SOCIETY STOPPED MAKING CARS DURING THE WAR.
201 01:10:19:12 01:10:22:03 AT HENRY FORD'S GIGANTIC NEW PLANT AT WILLOW RUN.
202 01:10:22:05 01:10:23:18 AN ASSEMBLY LINE A MILE LONG POURED OUT B-24 BOMBERS EVERY 63 MINUTES.
203 01:10:23:20 01:10:26:16 THE INDUSTRIALIST HENRY J. KAISER USED WOMEN WELDERS AND FORD'S ASSEMBLY LINE TECHNIQUES TO BUILD LIBERTY SHIPS.
204 01:10:26:18 01:10:28:23 AT A RATE OF A PLANE OF EVERY IMAGINABLE INSTRUMENT OF MOBILE WARFARE.
205 01:10:28:25 01:10:30:24 NEW PLANT OUTSIDE DETROIT.
206 01:10:30:26 01:10:33:15 AN ASSEMBLY LINE A MILE LONG Poured out B-24 BOMBERS.
207 01:10:33:17 01:10:35:06 THE NAVY'S NEW CONVOY SYSTEM.
208 01:10:35:08 01:10:38:05 SLOW, UNGAINLY LOOKING SHIPS THAT CARRIED PRODIGIOUS AMOUNTS OF MILITARY CARGO TO THE WAR.
209 01:10:38:07 01:10:40:19 AND IT WAS KAISER WHO CONVINCED ROOSEVELT TO USE SMALL ESCORT CARRIERS AGAINST THE U-BOAT MENACE.
210 01:10:40:21 01:10:42:13 KAISER BUILT THESE BABY FLATTOPS, AS HE CALLED THEM.
211 01:10:42:15 01:10:44:17 THESE WERE THE MODEL Ts OF THE SEAS.
212 01:10:44:19 01:10:47:07 AGAINST THE U-BOAT MENACE.
213 01:10:47:09 01:10:48:26 KAISER BUILT THESE BABY FLATTOPS, AS HE CALLED THEM.
214 01:10:51:07 01:10:53:14 AND THEY, ALONG WITH THE NAVY'S NEW CONVOY SYSTEM.
DROVE OFF NAZI WOLF PACKS FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN WATERS AND OUT INTO THE CENTRAL ATLANTIC OPENING SEA LANES TO THE ALLIES. GERMANY'S ARMAMENTS MINISTER WROTE HITLER AN INTERESTING MEMORANDUM DESCRIBING THE WAR AS A CONTEST BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT SYSTEMS THE GERMAN SYSTEM, BASED ON SKILLED, HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTION AND THE AMERICAN SYSTEM BASED ON UNSKILLED, HIGH-VOLUME PRODUCTION. UNLESS WE CHANGE, HE WARNED THE FUHRER THE AMERICANS WILL BURY US. BUT AMERICANS NEEDED TIME TO BURY GERMANY BY THE RUSSIAN ARMY ON GERMANY'S EASTERN FRONT WHICH SUFFERED MORE THAN THREE MILLION CASUALTIES IN 1941 ALONE. AMERICA WAS A THIRD-RATE MILITARY POWER IN 1940. BY 1945, IT WAS PRODUCING MORE WEAPONS AND FIREFLAME THAN THE REST OF THE WORLD PUT TOGETHER. TO TAKE THESE NEW WAR-PRODUCTION JOBS OVER 15 MILLION AMERICANS CHANGED THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE A GREAT NUMBER OF THEM MOVING TO THE WEST COAST. THE WAR LURED BLACK PEOPLE BY THE MILLIONS FROM COTTON FIELDS IN THE SOUTH TO NORTHERN INDUSTRIAL CENTERS. AND IN A WAR AGAINST THE WORLD'S MOST VICIOUS RACIST BLACKS WERE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN WAR WORK. OVER 15 MILLION AMERICANS CHANGED THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE. A GREAT NUMBER OF THEM MOVING TO THE WEST COAST. THE WAR LURED BLACK PEOPLE BY THE MILLIONS FROM COTTON FIELDS IN THE SOUTH TO NORTHERN INDUSTRIAL CENTERS. AND IN A WAR AGAINST THE WORLD'S MOST VICIOUS RACIST BLACKS WERE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN WAR WORK. 16 MILLION AMERICANS SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES IN THE WAR AND THAT OPENED UP JOBS FOR WOMEN AS WELL. WOMEN MADE AIRPLANES,
BOMBS AND SHIPS

253 01:12:38:10 01:12:40:18 AND PERFORMED SECRET ADMINISTRATIVE WORK
254 01:12:40:20 01:12:42:08 ON THE ATOMIC BOMB PROJECT.
255 01:12:42:10 01:12:44:20 THEY JOINED THE WACs AND THE WAVES
256 01:12:44:22 01:12:46:11 AUXILIARY FORCES OF THE ARMY AND NAVY.
257 01:12:46:13 01:12:49:27 AND SOME 12,000 WOMEN SERVED WITH THE LESSER-KNOWN WASPs
258 01:12:49:29 01:12:51:26 THE WOMEN AIR FORCE SERVICE PILOTS.
259 01:12:51:28 01:12:54:29 THE WASPs PILOTED BOMBERS FROM ASSEMBLY LINES TO AIR FIELDS
260 01:12:55:01 01:12:56:07 IN THE UNITED STATES
261 01:12:56:09 01:12:58:03 TAUGHT MALE PILOTS HOW TO STRAFE AND BOMB
262 01:12:58:05 01:12:59:27 AND FLIGHT-TESTED REPAIRED AIRCRAFT
263 01:12:59:29 01:13:02:25 BEFORE Sending them back into service.
264 01:13:02:27 01:13:05:04 THEY WERE EAGER TO FLY IN COMBAT
265 01:13:05:06 01:13:07:16 BUT ONLY THE SOVIET UNION WOULD LET WOMEN FIGHT.
266 01:13:09:19 01:13:11:23 FOR MANY AMERICANS, WARTIME PROSPERITY
268 01:13:14:10 01:13:15:25 WAS AN ABSOLUTE MIRACLE.
269 01:13:15:27 01:13:19:06 WORKING WITH HER MOTHER AND SISTER IN A SHELL-LOADING PLANT
273 01:13:35:27 01:13:39:01 BUT AT THIS POINT, PEGGY TERRY PAUSES AND ADDS:
277 01:13:52:07 01:13:55:00 "WHEN HE CAME BACK, HE WAS AN ABSOLUTE DRUNKARD.
279 01:13:57:20 01:14:00:08 "HE'D GET UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND START SCREAMING.
280 01:14:00:10 01:14:01:17 "I'D JUST SIT THERE FOR HOURS
281 01:14:01:19 01:14:03:16 "AND HOLD HIM WHILE HE JUST SHOOK.
282 01:14:03:18 01:14:06:09 "THEN HE STARTED TO BEAT ME AND THE KIDS.
283 01:14:06:11 01:14:10:23 "COMBAT DOES THINGS
LIKE THAT TO MEN.

"MY GRANDFATHER, ON MY FATHER'S SIDE, RETURNED FROM THE TRENCHES OF WORLD WAR I, WHERE HE HAD BEEN WOUNDED, A BROKEN MAN UNABLE TO KEEP HIS LIFE OR HIS MARRIAGE TOGETHER.

"ONE EVENING, WHEN MY FATHER WAS VERY YOUNG HE SLIPPED AWAY AND NEVER CAME BACK."

AT THAT TIME, MILITARY STRATEGISTS WERE DETERMINED NOT TO FIGHT ANOTHER WORLD WAR I A LONG WAR OF ATTRACTION AND SENSELESS SLAUGHTER.

THEY WERE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SHORTEN WAR BY RETURNING THE ADVANTAGE TO THE OFFENSE WHICH FROM THE DAYS OF THE CIVIL WAR HAD BEEN BATTERED ALMOST EVERY TIME THEY ATTACKED DUG-IN POSITIONS.

THE SOLUTION THE STRATEGISTS CAME UP WITH WAS AIR POWER-- WINGED VICTORY.

THE EUROPEAN THEORISTS INSISTED THAT THE NEXT WAR WOULD BE SHORT AND TOTAL. IT WOULD BE WON FROM THE SKIES WITH AIR FLEETS OF LONG-RANGE BOMBERS WHOSE CHIEF TARGETS WOULD BE CIVILIANS.

PULVERIZING ENTIRE CITIES WOULD SHATTER CIVILIAN MORALE AND LEAD TO A MERCIFULLY QUICK CAPITULATION.

IN WORLD WAR II, FIRST THE GERMANS, THEN THE BRITISH IN RETALIATION, ATTACKED ENEMY CITIES FROM THE SKY.

BUT WHEN AMERICA'S EIGHTH AIR FORCE ENTERED THE WAR OVER EUROPE IN 1943, IT HAD ITS OWN IDEAS ABOUT AIR POWER.

THE KEY TO IT WAS THE TOP-SECRET NORDEN BOMBSIGHT WHICH PILOTS SAID COULD GUIDE A BOMB INTO A PICKLE BARREL FROM 25,000 FEET.

THIS WOULD ALLOW AMERICANS
TO BOMB CITIES WITH SURGICAL PRECISION
TARGETING ONLY STRATEGIC ECONOMIC POSITIONS LIKE ARMAMENTS FACTORIES.
FEW LIVES, FRIEND OR FOE, WOULD BE LOST.
THE ULTIMATE WEAPON OF STRATEGIC BOMBING WAS THE B-17 BOMBER "THE FLYING FORTRESS."
IT WAS A FEARSOME AIR MACHINE BRISTLING WITH MACHINE GUNS AND THE EQUALLY FORMIDABLE B-24 LIBERATOR
THE WAR COULD BE WON, THE BOMBER BARONS ARGUED WITHOUT TERRIBLE SLAUGHTER ON THE GROUND AN IDEA THAT APPEALED TO AMERICANS BACK HOME.
STRATEGIC BOMBING WAS WARFARE PERFECTLY SUITED TO THE AMERICAN CHARACTER.
THE PROBLEM WAS, IT DIDN'T WORK.
YOU MUST BOMB IN CLEAR DAYLIGHT.
SO IT WAS AGREED THE BRITISH WOULD GO INTO GERMANY AT NIGHT AND TERROR BOMB ENTIRE CITIES.
AND THE AMERICANS WOULD GO IN BY DAY AND TERROR BOMB ENTIRE CITIES.
AND THE AMERICANS WOULD GO IN BY DAY AND TERROR BOMB ENTIRE CITIES.
GERMAN MILITARY PRODUCTION ACTUALLY INCREASED IN 1943 AFTER THEIR STRATEGIC TARGETS.
RIGHT OFF, THE AMERICANS RAN INTO PROBLEMS--
RECURRING CLOUD COVER OVER TARGETS AND HEAVY ENEMY RESISTANCE FROM FIGHTER PLANES AND GROUND-BASED ARTILLERIES.
PINPOINT BOMBING BECAME AN OXYMORON.
GERMAN MILITARY PRODUCTION ACTUALLY INCREASED IN 1943 AND STRATEGIC BOMBING TURNED OUT TO BE DEADLY DANGEROUS.
A FLYER HAD ONLY ONE CHANCE IN THREE OF SURVIVING A TOUR OF DUTY.
GOING ON A DEEP-PENETRATION BOMB RUN OVER GERMANY
The crew's first battle was with the cold. Temperatures dropped to 50 degrees below zero at 20,000 feet. Since the planes weren't pressurized, the crews had to wear ill-fitting oxygen masks. Saliva, or vomit from airsickness, would sometimes get in the mask and freeze the hose, causing men to pass out and even die from oxygen deprivation. When a gun jammed in the chaos of combat, men would forget and pull off their gloves to try to clear the jam. Their cold hands would freeze to the bare metal of the gun and to pull them away they had to tear off the flesh.

Combat usually began when the limited-range fighters peeled off and left the bomber fleets. Then came the luftwaffe, climbing out of the sun. German pilots discovered that the "forts" were inadequately armed in the nose section. So the Germans attacked the bomber formations head on in packs, wing to wing, wing tip to wing tip, blazing away. Coming in so close one crewman said he could see a German pilot as if in "a movie close-up." Bodies without chutes would tumble out of shattered planes. As machine gunfire ripped through your fuselage, it was at moments like this that many airmen resigned themselves to the certainty of their own death, usually without panicking. Then the fighters would leave, and it would get quiet. The airmen knew then that they were entering...
THE DREADED FLAK FIELD.

THIS WAS A SECTION OF THE SKY OVER THE TARGET THICK WITH BURSTING ARTILLERY SHELLS EACH HURLING SHARDS OF STEEL THROUGH THE AIR.

THE BOMBERS, BUMPING AND SHUDDERING COULDN'T EVADE THESE DEADLY SHELLS.

THEY HAD TO HOLD FORMATION RIGHT TO THE TARGET POINT.

AS ONE PILOT SAID, "THAT'S WHEN YOU LEARNED THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO SWEAT AT 30 DEGREES BELOW ZERO."

WHEN BOMBERS HIT THEIR TARGETS AND THE MEN SAW THE COLUMNS OF SMOKE THE LEAD PILOT WOULD SHOUT INTO THE INTERCOM, "OKAY! WE'RE FIGHTING FOR US NOW. LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE."

ONE CREW LEARNED AT ITS MORNING BRIEFING THAT IT WAS BEING SENT BACK TO THE GERMAN TARGET WHERE ITS FORMATION HAD LOST 20% OF ITS PLANES.

AFTER THIS BRIEFING, SOME OF THE FLIERS WENT BACK TO THE BARRACKS TO WRITE A LAST LETTER OR PUT ON CLOTHING SUITABLE FOR SURVIVING CAPTURE OR FOR BURIAL.

IN LATE 1943, THE AMERICAN BOMBER BARONS SUSPENDED RAIDS BEYOND FIGHTER-ESCORT RANGE.

THE EUROPEAN WAR WOULD BE WON ON THE GROUND.

AFTER KNOCKING THE GERMANS OUT OF NORTH AFRICA AND PUSHING THEM BACK TO NORTHERN ITALY, THE ALLIES UNDER SUPREME COMMANDER DWIGHT EISENHOWER LAUNCHED AN AMPHIBIOUS INVASION OF THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT ON JUNE 6, 1944: D-DAY. IT WAS THE MOST SPECTACULAR DISPLAY OF MILITARY MIGHT IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

WHEN MY UNCLE JOHN FOUGHT HIS WAY OFF OMAHA BEACH
AND LOOKED BACK AT THE AWESOME ARMADA DELIVERING MEN
HE THOUGHT TO HIMSELF:
"I MAY GET SHOT BUT SURE AS HELL, WE'RE NOT GOING TO LOSE THIS WAR."
WHEN THE INVADERS GAINED A BEACHHEAD THEY BEGAN SLUGGING THROUGH GERMAN DEFENSES
SUFFERING A NEAR CALAMITOUS SETBACK NEAR THE GERMAN BORDER
AT THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.
AFTER TURNING BACK THAT FURIOUS GERMAN COUNTEROFFENSIVE
THE ALLIED ARMIES STORMED INTO GERMANY
WHILE THE RUSSIANS MOVED RELENTLESSLY ON BERLIN
FROM THE EAST.
IN THE GROUND WAR ON THE WESTERN FRONT
AMERICAN AIR POWER DID FINALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
BEFORE D-DAY, AMERICANS DEVELOPED A FAST, LONG-RANGE FIGHTER, THE P-51 MUSTANG.
WITH P-51 ESCORTS, AMERICAN BOMBERS COULD FLY DEEP INTO GERMAN AIR SPACE AND KNOCK OUT VITAL OIL REFINERIES DEPRIVING BOTH THE GERMAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE OF FUEL
THEY DESPERATELY NEEDED TO STOP THE ALLIED GROUND OFFENSIVE.
IN A SENSE, HITLER LOST THE WAR BECAUSE HE RAN OUT OF GAS.
AS AMERICAN BOMBERS HIT TARGETS LIKE BERLIN THE GERMAN FIGHTERS HAD TO DEFEND
P-51 ESCORTS DECIMATED THE LUFTWAFFE.
THIS GAVE THE INVADING ALLIED ARMIES COMPLETE AIR SUPERIORITY.
AS EISENHOWER ASSURED HIS D-DAY TROOPS:
"IF YOU SEE FIGHTING AIRCRAFT OVER YOU, THEY WILL BE OURS."
WHEN THE AMERICAN ARMY REACHED THE ELBE RIVER
AND THE RUSSIANS CLOSED IN ON BERLIN
HITLER, COWERING
IN A BERLIN BUNKER

439 01:21:38:02 01:21:39:18 ENDED THE 1,000 YEAR REICH
THROUGH HIS SKULL.
441 01:21:42:00 01:21:46:08 GERMANY SURRENDERED
ON MAY 8, 1945: V-E DAY.
443 01:21:48:28 01:21:51:01 WRITTEN EVEN BEFORE
AMERICA ENTERED THE WAR:
444 01:21:51:03 01:21:54:19 "HITLER SHOULD BEWARE THE FURY
OF AN AROUSED DEMOCRACY."
445 01:21:59:09 01:22:02:09 THERE IS A MYTH THAT HAS GROWN
UP AROUND THE CITIZEN SOLDIERS
446 01:22:02:11 01:22:03:28 WHO KNOCKED OUT THE FASCISTS--
447 01:22:04:00 01:22:06:06 THAT THEY Fought NOT
FOR FLAG AND COUNTRY
448 01:22:06:08 01:22:08:24 NOT FOR A HIGH PURPOSE;
BUT FOR THEIR BUDDIES.
YOU STORM THE BEACHES
TO FAIL YOUR BUDDIES.
452 01:22:16:22 01:22:18:21 THERE'S A SPECIAL SENSE
OF KINSHIP."
WHAT THEY WERE IN THIS FOR.
WOULd HAVE BEEN A CATASTROPHE
456 01:22:26:03 01:22:27:17 IF HITLER WOULD'VE WON."
STOPPED," SAID ANOTHER.
460 01:22:34:23 01:22:36:19 THAT THEIR SACRIFICE MEANT
SOMETHING
TOWN AFTER DELIRIOUS TOWN
WERE LIBERATING THE GERMANS.
464 01:22:47:10 01:22:49:08 "WHY ARE YOU MAKING
WAR AGAINST US?"
AN AMERICAN PRISONER
466 01:22:51:09 01:22:53:07 WHO HAPPENED TO SPEAK GERMAN.
467 01:22:53:09 01:22:54:14 HIS UNFORGETTABLE REPLY WAS:
468 01:23:04:18 01:23:07:01 THEN THERE WAS THE LIBERATION
OF THE PRISONERS
469 01:23:07:03 01:23:08:14 OF THE NAZI DEATH CAMPS.
470 01:23:08:16 01:23:10:23 AMERICA'S COMPLETE FOCUS
ON THE WAR
471 01:23:10:25 01:23:12:22 AND ITS CLIMATE
OF ANTI-SEMITISM
LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

STOPPED IT FROM DOING WHAT IT SHOULD HAVE DONE:

PUBLICIZE HITLER'S GENOCIDAL POLICIES, TURN AMERICA INTO A REFUGEE FOR PERSECUTED JEWS, AND MOUNT RESCUE MISSIONS.

YET WHEN OUR ARMY ENTERED GERMANY AND BEGAN ENCOUNTERING CONCENTRATION CAMP VICTIMS, THESE WALKING SKELETONS TEARFULLY GREETED THE SOLDIERS AS THEIR LIBERATORS.

DID NAZI EVIL SUCH AS THESE MEN SAW JUSTIFY THE TERROR BOMBING OF GERMAN CIVILIANS?

I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER HAVE AGREEMENT ON THAT.

PERHAPS THE MOST SENSELESS ALLIED ACT OF THE WAR WAS THE FIREBOMBING OF DRESDEN, A GERMAN CULTURAL CAPITAL.

OF NO GREAT MILITARY VALUE.

DRESDEN MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIT IN EARLY 1945 BECAUSE THE ALLIES HAD SIMPLY RUN OUT OF FRESH TARGETS TO BOMB.

THE BRITISH ROYAL AIR FORCE DID MOST OF THE DAMAGE BUT THE AMERICANS PARTICIPATED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF OVER 30,000 PEOPLE BY FIRE AND SUFFOCATION.

THE NOVELIST KURT VONNEGUT WAS THERE, AND HE SAID THAT THE FIRE BOMBING OF DRESDEN DIDN'T SHORTEN THE WAR BY ONE MINUTE. NOW, THAT'S TRUE BUT MANY OF THOSE WHO BOMBED IT HAD NO REGRET.

HERE'S LIEUTENANT JOHN MORRIS. "I DON'T REJOICE AT THE 30,000 GERMANS KILLED. "I DOUBT THAT THERE WERE MANY JEWS IN THAT NUMBER."

THE GOOD BURGHERS OF DRESDEN HAD SHIPPED THEM ALL OFF TO AUSCHWITZ."

AND, AS MORRIS SAYS, DRESDEN WAS NOT UNIQUE.

BERLIN AND LEIPZIG WERE HIT EVEN HARDER BY THE AMERICANS AND THE BRITISH.

THE TARGETS OF BERLIN AND
LEIPZIG WERE INDUSTRIAL

505 01:24:45:11 01:24:49:00 BUT SINCE THE WEATHER WAS BAD, IT AMOUNTED TO TERROR BOMBING.

506 01:24:49:02 01:24:52:28 THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HAD CROSSED A MORAL THRESHOLD.

507 01:24:53:00 01:24:56:13 BOTH EISENHOWER AND ROOSEVELT WENT ALONG WITH THIS.

508 01:24:56:15 01:24:59:27 IKE PREFERRED PRECISION BOMBING BUT WANTED TO END THE WAR

509 01:24:59:29 01:25:01:15 AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

510 01:25:01:17 01:25:04:19 AND ROOSEVELT BELIEVED THAT THE GERMAN PEOPLE MUST BE COMPELLED

511 01:25:04:21 01:25:06:16 THIS TIME, AS OPPOSED TO THE LAST WAR

512 01:25:06:18 01:25:09:28 TO RECOGNIZE THEIR DEFEAT AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY

513 01:25:10:00 01:25:13:20 FOR THE HORRORS THEIR COUNTRY HAD INFlicted ON THE WORLD.

514 01:25:13:22 01:25:17:18 WHAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR IS MORALLY JUSTIFIABLE TO WIN A WAR

515 01:25:17:20 01:25:20:03 AGAINST A RUTHLESS ENEMY?

516 01:25:20:05 01:25:21:20 THIS QUESTION WOULD SURFACE AGAIN

517 01:25:21:22 01:25:23:02 WITH EVEN GREATER URGENCY


519 01:25:25:19 01:25:27:15 THERE, IN THE NORTHERN PACIFIC

520 01:25:27:17 01:25:30:00 TOTAL WAR WOULD MERGE WITH RACIAL HATRED

521 01:25:30:02 01:25:33:08 TO PRODUCE FIGHTING OF UNIMAGINABLE FEROCITY

522 01:25:33:10 01:25:37:16 AND DESTRUCTION SUCH AS THE WORLD HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

523 01:25:42:19 01:25:46:15 [Captioned by The Caption Center WGBH Educational Foundation]