

A SOLDIER'S MEMOIR

In majestic form and substance, silent eulogy stand the Memorials to WWII, Korea and Vietnam in Washington D.C. As a soldier in these I probably need to make time, visit and soon. A clairvoyant or more probably a statistician reports 1000 WWII veterans are dying daily. It is said Ken Burns drew his inspiration from this to perpetuate his creation: "The War, an intimate portrait 1941-5". PBS has shown.

As recently noted in this paper, 4 towns were selected to represent the veterans of WWII: Mobile, Sacramento, Luverne, Minnesota, and Waterbury, Connecticut. At a promotional showing, I spent a few minutes with Mobile veteran, Colonel Glenn Frazier and learned he had been on the Bataan Death March. Frazier now living in Daphne, Alabama epitomizes the 'Greatest Generation'. Each town is represented by men and women who remember the time and circumstance. Credible evidence, though difficult to ascertain actual numbers, 400,000 US service members died in this war while something like 60 million-all deaths in WWII. Historians have argued that if war could ever be good, this was one. A more likely scenario would be 'a necessary war' from those interviewed by Burns. He would agree that a more likely version: 'kill or be killed' with little decorum or concern over morality, ethics and the like. It was more brutality versus brutality than good versus evil as the moment tends to lead to this.

Yesterday when we were young as the song depicts found me in University High School in WLA, California in Junior ROTC. I was 14 and the date was 1 September, 1939...the day when Germany attacked Poland and the war was on.....