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Veterans: Faces Of World War II



Synopsis

Ichiro Sudai trained to be a kamikaze. Roscoe Brown was a commander in the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African American military aviators. Uli John lost an arm serving in the German army but ultimately befriended former enemy soldiers as part of a network of veterans — "people who fought in the war and know what war really means." These are some of the faces and stories in the remarkable *Veterans*, the outcome of a worldwide project by Sasha Maslov to interview and photograph the last surviving combatants from World War II. Soldiers, support staff, and resistance fighters candidly discuss wartime experiences and their lifelong effects in this unforgettable, intimate record of the end of a cataclysmic chapter in world history and tribute to the members of an indomitable generation. *Veterans* is also a meditation on memory, human struggle, and the passage of time.

Book Information

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Princeton Architectural Press (May 2, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1616895780

ISBN-13: 978-1616895785

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

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Nicola Struzzi Rome, Italy. Ioanna Koutsoudaki & Rena Valyraki Chania, Greece. Agostino Floretti Udine, Italy. Shiv Dagar New Delhi, India.

Anna Nho Almaty, Kazakhstan. Sidney Owen Kenrick Warwick, England. Ichiro Sudai

Takayama, Japan. Thomas Blakey New Orleans, LA, United States.

Robert Quint Paris, France. Jack J. Diamond Miami, FL, United States. Anna Potapova
Kharkiv, Ukraine. Alexei Georgiev Moscow, Russia.

"Fifty-three full-page color portraits of 54 survivors (including eight from the U.S., five from Japan, two from Germany - and seven women) prove the Ukrainian-American photographer's points: Diverse views enlighten, and the photographs (digital Canon) bring "intense visual engagement and reflection." Words help, too..Their experiences resonate today. A Polish survivor of a German concentration camp waits 'five years to get a visa to go to America.' An Austrian goes to fight at 15, returns at 28 and feels like "a foreigner in my own land." A U.S. sailor survives Pearl Harbor with 'no animosity whatsoever. I drive a Japanese car.' " - Military Times

"Veterans is a story of survival. Actually, it's 54 stories of survival from people who survived World War II. There are soldiers, sailors, and airmen. There are children, nurses, spies, guards, resistance fighters, and various unfortunates who happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. Massive interviewed and photographed each survivor at his or her residence. Many revealed secrets, facts, and incidents long forgotten. For history students and especially scholars to World War II, Veterans is an intriguing read." - America in WWII

"The word 'veteran', at least to Americans, is likely to elicit an image of a reverent man, chin held high. But, as photographer Sasha Maslov illustrates in his new book, Veterans: Faces of World War II, veterans from a single, recent war include a huge swath of people, with wildly different perspectives." - Huffington Post

"The last remaining veterans of World War II are scattered across the world, from mainland Europe to North America and Asia. But in the new book Veterans...the photographer Sasha Maslov has compiled the photographs and stories of 53 men and women who actively participated in the war in a single place..Maslov, who was born in the Ukraine and moved to New York eight years ago, traveled to 20 different countries across five years in order to document the stories of these elderly veterans, many of whom have passed away in the time since they sat for their portraits. Their testimony is a reminder of one of the most devastating wars in human history. The photographs that accompany transcriptions of each person's individual story are striking portraits of the veterans in their present-day home." - Fast Company

"On a trip to Moscow in 2010, [photographer Sasha Maslov] began to contact local veterans, asking if anyone would be willing to tell his story and sit for a portrait. Over the next six years, Maslov traveled to 22 different countries, interviewing more than 100 people. The result is the remarkable Veterans: Faces of World War II." - Air & Space/Smithsonian

"In a new book, "Veterans," the Ukrainian-born

photographer Sasha Maslov brings memories of World War II to life in moving, and incredibly personal, detail. Maslov presents 53 vivid portraits of the veterans of the war - who were stationed all over the world, and whose experiences are starkly different. Each vet is pictured in the context of his or her own home, and their portraits are presented alongside in-depth interviews. Among them are Surhan Singh, of New Delhi, India, who was deployed in Burma; Michele Montagano of Compobasso, Italy, who was captured by the Germans and asked to betray his country - and Jack J. Diamond, of Miami who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. The project is, as Maslov writes, "a mosaic of people who were all engaged in this incredible tragedy at one moment and in the next were living their separate lives in different corners of the planet." Of the interviews he conducted with the veterans, Maslov adds, "There was an incredible power of forgiveness, no matter how big the atrocities were that they had endured, and it was clear to me how much one's perspective changes with time." " - T Magazine

Sasha Maslov is a Ukrainian photographer who lives and works in New York City. His work has been exhibited in various photo galleries and art spaces around Europe and the US. He is a regular contributor to the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Observer, and elsewhere.

I knew I'd love this book after just reading the description, since the premise is so special. The interviews are very poignant & detailed, and the photos are a treasure. Kudos to Sasha Maslov for this huge undertaking! For those of you in metro NYC, Mr. Maslov will be giving a slideshow talk about the book at the 92nd Street Y on May 17 at 12 p.m. It's advisable to purchase tickets in advance.

Brilliant photographer and interesting retrospectives of a period of life that is slipping from our word of mouth and into the history books. The diversity of experience herein, in photos and in narrative, is important and a triumph in adding to the story of the past and the now.

This was a Father's Day gift to my husband. It's beautifully put together and the stories of these brave men are amazing!!!

This book is impactful, beautifully done and excellent quality.

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