

## *May Moment to Remember My Dad*

### **INTRODUCTION**

I was born in the first half of the last century on May 9...One of my great-granddaughters told me “*You are really, really old!*”...that was two years ago...

My dad was born 26 years before me in '05...His birthday May 12, the same day as Mother's Day

### **MAIN IDEA POSSIBLY — NO CLUE**

I don't remember anything before about age 3...that I can remember...  
and I had no clue what was going on in the adult world until Pearl Harbor Day...  
(December 7, 1941)...which started WWII “The War to End All Wars” but didn't.

### **HISTORY THAT WAS HAPPENING ANYWAY**

The “Great Depression”...I gradually learned it was a hard time...my dad lost his job and our house overlooking Lake Washington had to be given up...

The election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as President in 1932...

The New Deal...I forget what the Old Deal was...

Social Security...which has been a good deal...

The election of Adolf Hitler and rise of the Nazi Party in Germany...which was a bad deal

The Holocaust...which we only began to hear about after war ended in 1945...the absolute most horrible human deal in history

Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945 a terrible ending to a terrible war

### **GETTING A CLUE**

The War Years from 1941 through 1945...

My dad joined the Navy to serve on a destroyer in the South Pacific...

mom was in charge of 4 pre-teen boys...he survived terrible sea battles...

D-Day invasion — the beginning of the end for the Nazi war effort...

Observed June 6 over acres of white crosses on graves of guys  
who put a halt to the Third Reich

I earned my first A as a Junior in High School in American History....

learned that war is hell...that lots of bad things are done by all sides

felt guilty about how we treated our Seattle Japanese people...

Glad to have my dad home safe

### **NOW WONDERING WHAT MY DAD WOULD THINK**

He and his generation risked and gave lives to stop military dictators...

they put an end to the unthinkable murders of millions of Jews...

they tore down the swastikas of Nazi's.

I'm glad that he doesn't have to see armed militia's legalized in America...

or Fascist white supremacists parading in our streets...

or see the Swastika appear throughout our country...

flaunting away the sacrifice of countless guys like my dad.

He was a pragmatic historian...and might likely remind us...

nobody forced people to vote for Hitler...or any other president...

human inhumanity is always possible if we allow it.

### **CONCLUSION**

I think of history in my life-time and in my own country right now...

I think of what my great-grandchildren are receiving from us...

It makes me angry, it scares the hell out of me,

it makes me want to cry.

*Art Morgan, May 12, 2019*