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It is New Year's Eve 1942 – Things are not going well

Friday, January 01, 2021



This is the first time Times Square has been empty on New Year's Eve since celebrations began in 1907. The lights are out. The ball did not drop. There is a wartime blackout.



Fatigue is setting in. A dictator is still in charge of the continent. London has endured the blitz. In the US, up until 1 year ago, the views of the "America First" organization were supported by a significant segment of society. Britain stood alone.

I've been watching a lot of WWII movies and documentaries, especially the ones made DURING the conflict. Stories about fighting on the front lines and life on the "home front." These were produced when they were uncertain of the outcome. Many focused on the question: "Will America now unite and pull together for the sake of the world as well as themselves?"

New Years Eve 2020

This time our enemy is invisible, but we hear the same attitude expressed. Fatigue is setting in. We've been going through this now for almost a year. I'm just so tired of all of this. I'm just gonna do whatever I want to do.

I bet after one year of fighting, our troops were also "so tired of all this." Those on the home front were tired too. Rationing, worrying about loved ones, women working outside the home, many for the first time at occupations formerly considered "men's work"

This is the photo of the 1942 Christmas Party of a family-owned manufacturing company in Brooklyn, NY

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The arrow points to my Dad



My Dad was a welder. He had a deferment because of his plant's war production. Then he enlisted. I wonder what his parents thought of their youngest son following his 3 older brothers into the military?

Dad joined the company in 1940. He was trained as a welder in a government NYA camp during the depression.

The arrow points to him in the cropped Christmas party picture from that year. I guess the new guys were the cooks.



The parties were held on the plant floor then. There was no party in December 1941. Sometimes events require postponement of tradition.

I wonder what the "Greatest Generation" would think of our "fatigue" today. We praise them for securing the freedom we have today.

I hope we will honor them by using it wisely.

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CHERIRIDDELL

What a striking analogy. I can see I am going to be spending some time reading catching up on all of your blogs. I have found everyone I have read compelling. Thank you!

115 days ago



PATRICIAANN46

I am so lucky to be able to listen to my Mom's stories of this time period. My Dad was 17 when he joined the Navy. My Mom graduated from High School in 1942 and worked on the Rationing Board and also at Badger Ordnance in Baraboo making ammunition. She is now 96 and remembers that time period better than yesterday. She has been comparing all of her experiences to the past 4 years with a President who cared only for himself.....not for Americans.....very evident by his behavior; to going through WW 2; Polio; Viet Nam My brother served there; going through cancer; and now the Pandemic where she is quarantined to her Assisted Living Apartment and has been since March. At her age, the Pandemic has affected her the most.

150 days ago



LGRIF22

Your dad could have been my dad. Although my dad was too young to fight in WW1 and too old for WW2, he was sidelined by the war. Went to work in Nevada for the military. Didn't last long, and went through several jobs moving around the country. History has a way of repeating itself, and so often we don't learn the lessons. Let's hope this is a short-lived pandemic and that life returns to be better than before! Thank you for your insight and the pictures. I grew up across the river from NYC...love the skyline pic!

153 days ago



JWINKSLLC

This daughter of a Holocaust survivor thanks you.

153 days ago



TOMATOCAFEGAL

Wonderful analogy. Thank you

153 days ago



SENIORSAXLADY

Wonderful blog and pictures. Thank you for sharing pictures of your Dad with us and the stories behind the group pictures. My Dad was in the Army during WW II. He lived to be 93.

154 days ago



MARKSMOM3

THANK YOU!

154 days ago



WOOFERCOALBOY

Thanks for this.

154 days ago



HEDSTS58

We will get through this with doing what is right and following the rules.

154 days ago



SELFCARE2023

History is continuous. It never ends. Thank you for sharing.

154 days ago



Comment edited on: 1/3/2021 7:55:16 PM



ALIHIKES

Great blog and so true. There are always a few selfish people. Ignorance and misinformation seems to be in vogue among a certain (too large) group. We can do this if enough of us follow the guidelines.

154 days ago



LOVIJO20

Great Post. My DH often equates mask wearing to the blackouts of that era...you do it for everyone. You don't open the curtains (or take off your mask) because it endangers others.

154 days ago





SPARKPEOPLE1951



I love history. It is too bad we can't learn from it. We need leadership in this country that will unite us instead of divide us. We all need to wear masks. We need to work together and get our Covid vaccine when it is offered. I want to be able to enjoy my life, instead of being afraid every time I just go grocery shopping.
154 days ago



SUSANYOUNGER



154 days ago



SABLENESS



I come from a line of long lived and stubborn old ladies, and it's a great heritage.
154 days ago



NEBRASKANNIE



I always said I wanted to grow up to be just like my Grandma and Aunt Catherine. They were tough women. They survived the flu epidemic, but lost people. They survived world wars, but lost people. Their men fought and came back different. They lost husbands and children. They survived the Great Depression, lived on very little, and knew how to be good neighbors. They made do. Now I have the chance. My husband died from Viet Nam, I know what it is to go through hardship that no one else can understand. I'm proud of my heritage and my life and what being a good neighbor is, but it amazes me that others don't know or care the the hardships others go through. Like others here, I feel so lucky to have the technology to stay safe and still in contact.
155 days ago



SHERRI1BEE



Thank you for sharing!
155 days ago



JSTETSER



So inspiring!
155 days ago



THINCPL2004



I hope to that we can honor the greatest generation!
155 days ago



DCWILLIAMS831



Great use of history. I hope that anyone who read your blog realizes that staying home, keeping a safe distance if you must go out, and wearing a mask to protect both yourself and others is nothing compared to what previous generations endured.
155 days ago



ELSCO55



Great
155 days ago



SAMMILESSACH



So well written.
Right my granddad fought Wwl, we are being asked to stay at home, when going out wear a mask, keep 6 feet apart. Job hunting right now is not one of the easy things we have been asked to do, but I am not giving up.
I Thank God everyday for my health, always have but this past year, I really stress it.
155 days ago



PATRICIAAK



amen!
Well Said!
155 days ago



LINDA!



I agree. I hate the apathy of this generation.
155 days ago



LSIG14



Beautifully written and I love the pictures - thank you for sharing. My Dad worked for Boeing Aircraft and enlisted with his 2 brothers and they all were overseas during the war. My grandmother kept a scrapbook for each of them and it is fascinating reading. What is happening now truly does mirror that time in many ways. People worked together to survive the hard times -

should we not do the same now? Please consider others and stay safe and healthy!
155 days ago



TERRIJ7
Interesting...
155 days ago



AZMOMXTWO
intresting facts awesome photos
Happy new year
155 days ago



NOTALOSER1
For the greatest generation, the ones who sacrificed life and limb to preserve democracy for the world, today's generation of Americans must leave the few still alive shaking their heads in sadness and disgust. Selfish and entitled where no sacrifice shall stand in the way of their parties or ability to gather. "It's my right" they'll claim. You're dad also had the right to stay home and support the war effort as a welder.. But he didn't. He chose a different path. A more dangerous path. The closest we have to those brave men and women are those who currently serve. The others are just watered down versions of their parents and grandparents. The shame of it all. We owe those who have sacrificed, even in a small way. All 1% of us.
155 days ago



POLSKARENIA
Interesting blog! There seem to be many parallels with the time we are living in...
155 days ago



CD26768754
My mom is 97 years old. She married my Pop right before he shipped overseas to WWII. We talk about current events because she's a lot sharper than I am about some things. She keeps telling me that this "is nothing". She lived through the Great Depression with little to no food as a kid, and WWII with on-going rationing of food, gas, and activities. She doesn't understand the connection between wearing masks and violation of freedom. Even back then when the government came out with all the rationing back in the day, she never looked at it that way (and neither did my Pop) it was more of a working together and helping each other to the other side. I don't know where--as an American--we lost that ideation. Where we lost that empathy for other people.
155 days ago



VHALKYRIE
I have watched so many WWII movies and stories over the years. While watching these films these days, I wonder why we are failing to rise to the occasion now. Thank you for sharing the story and the pictures.
155 days ago



NETKNIGHT
I have often thought of the men and women of WW2 during this pandemic, and how much they had to sacrifice during that period of time. I feel that our "sacrifice" of social distancing and having to wear a mask is such a small thing compared to what they endured.
155 days ago



JPPERSELL
I loved your blog especially pics of your dad. Thanks for the history lesson. You are amazing!
155 days ago



JUNETTA2002
Thanks for sharing.
155 days ago



JUDYD207
Well Said! **KEEP SPARKING!**
155 days ago



THOMS1
Great blog with some wonderful pictures. Thank you for sharing Eileen. Well done!



155 days ago





GRAMPIAN

Well Said!

Wise words.
155 days ago



ETHELMERZ

Powerful words! Weird how we came to have a tyrannical leader, too. So much ignorance now, seems like ignorance is a virtue now. Our parent's suffered and family members died, so we immigrated here. Who would have thought that some of the same things would be allowed to happen here? Because of money lust?
155 days ago



SMILINGLADY3

I am thankful to the greatest generation. I am honored to have a career that focuses on seniors.
155 days ago



NANANANA

Well Said!

My dad was also deferred. He took time off work to go for his physical. By the time he got there, his company had already notified them that he was critical to the war effort because he designed airplanes.

I always knew he wanted to be in the service because he said so. He had been in ROTC. It wasn't until 2 or 3 years ago, going through my mother's things, I found a letter from her brother stationed in the Pacific. It was dated 1945. He was very explicit in telling my mother to keep her husband at home with their 2 small children. He told about seeing war correspondent Ernie Pyle killed. I thought I felt the horror of war. Then 2 years ago I visited the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. The European side was civilized compared with the War in the Pacific. Going through the exhibits made it feel like I was there experiencing the jungles, the heat, and the horrors.

156 days ago



DONNALEE-53

Well Done!

156 days ago



RHOOK20047

What a great tie-in of the past to the present. I think we are better off this year than 1941, however I can attest for being done with this pandemic. I look so farward to the day of some sense of normalcy to return to our world.
156 days ago



1DAY-ATA-TIME

Well done. I like the way you brought the past into the present. While the particulars may be different, the struggle is the same and it's real. It also illustrates that with perseverance, faith (religious, political, etc), and courage humankind can prevail. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and photos.
156 days ago



UPTOIT59

The greatest generation, like those that came before would have little good to say about the selfishness displayed by what is going on now. I think every generation criticizes the ones that come after but what is going on now is multigenerational. There is so much disregard for anyone other than themselves going on. It is very disheartening and often depressing. Having family in the medical field and watching them go into "battle" every day is scary- sorry, I went off. Your blogs are well thought out and mind is stream of consciousness!



156 days ago



BABSABWRITER

This is so true. I really appreciated all the pictures. I am always interested in learning about life on the "home front."

I am tired--I'm tired but I know that by keeping on doing what I'm doing, life will be able to get back to normal. I have relatives who aren't obeying the guidelines--and a lot of them are people who are very unlikely to survive if they get COVID. I wonder how they would feel if they lose someone all because it was more important to have a Christmas party in person than to do it by phone/internet.

We are so blessed that we can stay in contact with people by internet--we have all these ways to be together virtually when people in the past waited weeks for letters from a loved one on another continent. And we complain because we can't see someone in person? I am so grateful for technology that allows me to speak to my best friend in Montreal every evening--we talk for 2



hours on video chat-something we didn't do before all this started. Instead of keeping us apart, it has made us grow even closer together.

156 days ago



PLCHAPPELL

Thoughtful and thought provoking

156 days ago



LIS193

We have many blessings to be grateful for!



156 days ago



SHAKERATTLEROLL

THANK YOU!

for sharing your family Christmas photos from the past.

156 days ago



MARYJEANSL

I wish I had more pictures of my father from that era. My sister has one photo from the war (WWII) and that's about it. There are many more pictures (and not really many in the absolute sense) of him as a child than as a young man because of the war.

156 days ago



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