

and forces us to make decisions that go against our most basic tenets. Our ideology transforms such that preservation of life comes second to taking the life of our enemies. On the individual level however, it is clear that war most often boils down to kill or be killed. Although each of the people we have learned about have their own narrative, they all experienced the gambit of potential death. Whether they had to make decisions about who was saved or to save their own lives with deadly force, they have to ultimately take responsibility for those actions. Years later, the excuse of following orders seems to leave a bad taste in their mouths and the men in these stories only wish that the war never happened.

Who knows what fate could have held for these men. These men would have been allowed to pursue their economic, scholarly, or religious dreams, if their nations had not pressed them into service for god and country. Regardless of their uniform, these men share the same ties with humanity. They have wives, kids and parents. All of those who have fought in a war have experienced some level of detachment from these ties as a result of following orders. The solution to reconciling those two sides of mankind are still elusive. We are still carrying on our curious legacy of preserving life on the one hand, while taking it away with another.

Close this window

 Moodle Docs for this page

a pleasure to read!
Sounds as if you might be working/studying
on a graduate thesis here.