



RELEASE

WPSU-TV PREMIERES WWII DOCUMENTARY FEATURING LOCAL VETS

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA (September 17, 2007) - One and a quarter million of the armed forces in World War II came from Pennsylvania, a state that supplied both young men and women, and raw materials for the war effort. Many of those Pennsylvanians who returned from the service considered themselves the "lucky ones." From hometowns across the state—Erie, Lock Haven, Altoona—they served; they survived. These World War II experiences of Pennsylvania veterans are shared in this WPSU-TV documentary, "Pennsylvania War Stories: The Lucky Ones," premiering on Sunday, September 30, at 7 p.m. on WPSU-TV.

From the attack on Pearl Harbor, to the Battle of the Bulge, to the celebratory shouts when the end of the war was announced, "Pennsylvania War Stories: The Lucky Ones" recounts the stories of Pennsylvanians who experienced WWII firsthand.

The documentary weaves World War II era films and stills with personal accounts of life both on the home front and in the trenches. A veteran describes how young boys in his patriotic small town wanted to sign up and get into the fight, influenced by movie stars like John Wayne, and by government-produced newsreels. An airman remembers what it was like to be shot down, captured and imprisoned in a German prison camp. One Navy man survived the Battle of Midway with only rope burns on his hands, while another dive-bomber pilot watched the raging inferno caused by a kamikaze attack on his aircraft carrier.

For a war that took the lives of more than 400,000 Americans, including over 26,000 Pennsylvanians, these remaining veterans remember the epic event.

Seldom-seen archival films relate the events, milestones, and turning points in the war. These films were produced for the War Department by the U.S. Signal Corps, a communications unit for the armed forces. Some of the films are part of the 8th Air Force Archives in the Special Collections at the Pennsylvania State University Libraries. Others are government-produced movies from other collections. The Pennsylvania Military Museum provided information as well as photographs and 8mm movies of Pennsylvania's own 28th Infantry Division.

WPSU serves central Pennsylvania with programming, educational services and community outreach. This public media service produces, acquires and distributes programs that address local interests and reflect the diverse cultural, political, geographic and demographic characteristics of an audience within central Pennsylvania.

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