

SONS OF WAR SYNOPSIS

Through the years I have, from time to time, wondered who I am and what influenced my thought process and behavior. Without question much of who we are is a direct result of the influences derived from our parents resulting from their life's experiences.

SONS OF WAR is a film that deals with those influences and the relationship that existed between my Father and me with respect to his wartime experience as a tank crewman with the US Army during World War Two and his refusal to discuss that time of his life with an insatiably curious son.

I would ask an innocent question regarding his service and without hesitation he would turn his back and walk away. Why? I soon began to wonder how post war relationships were effected by events he witnessed and participated in on the muddy roads and in the dark forests of Belgium and Germany. How much of his mind was forever occupied with images from that time? I often wondered if the tolerance he displayed toward others was a direct result of the intolerance he was exposed to. To what degree and in what context were those influences passed on to his sons?

Narrative for this production is by way of a letter I have written to him since his passing ten years ago. Many of the questions I had through the years I ask again. I travelled through the same places in Belgium and Germany that he experienced in an effort to grasp a sense of that time in his life. I can honestly say the journey was a success. I returned home with a much greater understanding of him and me.

This story is by no means unique to me. There are millions of us, sons and daughters of men and women who have fought in wars and refuse to share the experience. I believe that if they had, we would better understand those we come from and who we are. My hope is that SONS OF WAR will evoke a similar curiosity among the millions who, I know, share my experience.

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