



Memory book



00-Getting Ready-005



00-Getting Ready-007



00-Getting Ready-009



02-Buffer_001



02-Buffer_006



02-Buffer_008



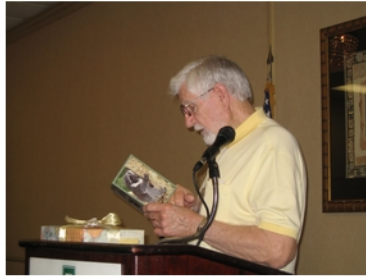
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Memory book



02-Bufferet_023



02-Bufferet_026



02-Bufferet_028



02-Bufferet_031



02-Bufferet_032



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02-Bufferet_034



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02-Bufferet_037



02-Bufferet_040



02-Bufferet_041



09-banquet001



09-banquet002



09-banquet003



09-banquet004

Memory book



09-banquet005



09-banquet006



09-banquet007



09-banquet008



09-banquet009



09-banquet010



09-banquet012



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09-banquet013



09-banquet014



09-banquet015



09-banquet016



09-banquet017



09-banquet018



09-banquet019



09-banquet020

Memory book



BR Video-114



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09-banquet020



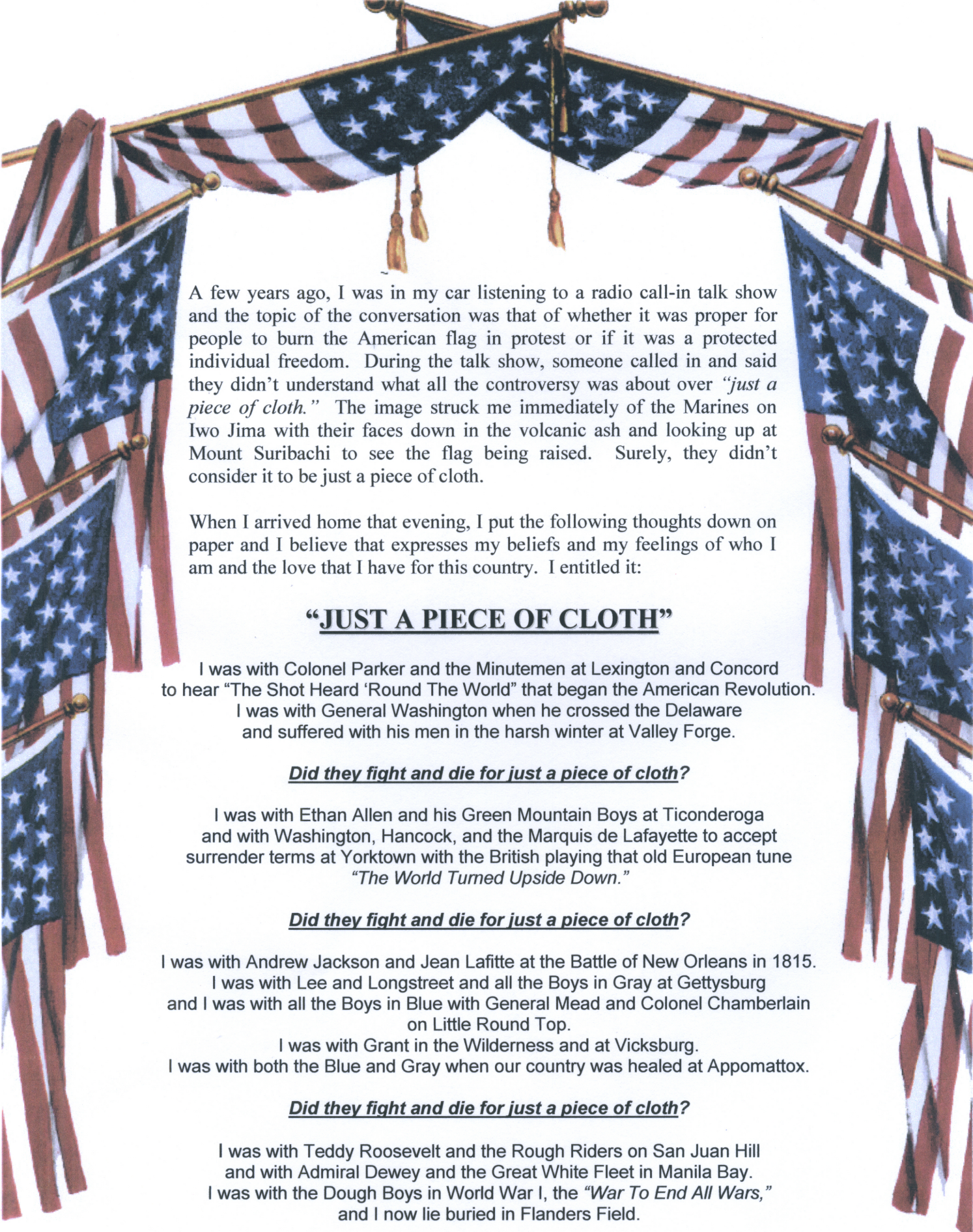
09-banquet019



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A few years ago, I was in my car listening to a radio call-in talk show and the topic of the conversation was that of whether it was proper for people to burn the American flag in protest or if it was a protected individual freedom. During the talk show, someone called in and said they didn't understand what all the controversy was about over "*just a piece of cloth.*" The image struck me immediately of the Marines on Iwo Jima with their faces down in the volcanic ash and looking up at Mount Suribachi to see the flag being raised. Surely, they didn't consider it to be just a piece of cloth.

When I arrived home that evening, I put the following thoughts down on paper and I believe that expresses my beliefs and my feelings of who I am and the love that I have for this country. I entitled it:

"JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH"

I was with Colonel Parker and the Minutemen at Lexington and Concord to hear "The Shot Heard 'Round The World" that began the American Revolution.

I was with General Washington when he crossed the Delaware and suffered with his men in the harsh winter at Valley Forge.

Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?

I was with Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys at Ticonderoga and with Washington, Hancock, and the Marquis de Lafayette to accept surrender terms at Yorktown with the British playing that old European tune "*The World Turned Upside Down.*"

Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?

I was with Andrew Jackson and Jean Lafitte at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815.

I was with Lee and Longstreet and all the Boys in Gray at Gettysburg and I was with all the Boys in Blue with General Mead and Colonel Chamberlain on Little Round Top.

I was with Grant in the Wilderness and at Vicksburg.

I was with both the Blue and Gray when our country was healed at Appomattox.

Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?

I was with Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders on San Juan Hill and with Admiral Dewey and the Great White Fleet in Manila Bay. I was with the Dough Boys in World War I, the "*War To End All Wars,*" and I now lie buried in Flanders Field.

Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?



Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?

I was with Admiral Isaac Kidd aboard the ARIZONA
that fateful Sunday morning in 1941.
I was with the infantry that landed on beaches so far away named
Omaha, Juno, Utah, Sword, and Gold.

Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?

I was with General Wainwright on Corregidor.
I was with Admiral Fletcher in the Battle of the Coral Sea.
I was aboard the ENTERPRISE, the HORNET,
and the YORKTOWN at Midway.

Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?

I fought at Kwajalein, the Battle of Leyte Gulf, at bloody Tarawa,
Guadalcanal, and Iwo Jima
and served on destroyers on picket duty off Okinawa.

Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?

I flew *Saber* jets in MIG Alley on North Korea
and I was with the Marine Corps at Chosin Reservoir.
I was with the Navy at Inchon Harbor and fought on hills called
Bloody, Heartbreak, Old Baldy, and Porkchop.

Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?

I flew bombing missions over Hanoi and was on Rat Patrol in the Mekong Delta.
I was with the Navy on Yankee Station in the Tonkin Gulf.
I flew night missions over Baghdad and was with the battalions in Desert Storm.

Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?

Freedom is not free. It has a price and it has been paid many times by many people.
I am a product of my past. I am what you have made me. I am an American and I am free.

H. Maury Drummond
Ex. Director, USS KIDD Veterans Memorial
Baton Rouge, LA
Past President, Historic Naval Ships Assn.