

NINETEENTH-CENTURY

SAINTS

AT WAR

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Edited by

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER
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To All Generations of Latter-day Saints at War

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I RECENTLY FINISHED READING the book *1776*, by renowned scholar and historian David McCullough. It was an inspiring opportunity to relive the American Revolution. Going into the experience, I anticipated an excellent treatment on the strategies of war, the great battles fought, and the key moments of victory and defeat during the Revolution. I was not as prepared for the emotional journey that this book would take me on as I felt so much of the agony and suffering of war. I didn't anticipate the poignant feelings I would have towards that brave generation of patriots. It deepened my feelings of love for my country and for freedom. Who would

say that those who fought in that war were not members of a greatest generation—just as Tom Brokaw dubbed the World War II generation. For that matter, could it not be said of any generation where soldiers of any nation fought for the protection or extension of freedom they too should be remembered as a greatest generation?

Prior to his passing, I had the privilege of interviewing Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles about his wartime experiences as a youth in World War II. When I asked him if his was the greatest generation, he turned back the compliment, labeling the title as “praise too effusive.” When pressed to name a greatest generation, he suggested that perhaps the generation of youth of our day could be that greatest generation. So to the Latter-day Saint soldier in every conflict of the past who answered the call of their country to assist in preserving freedom—thank you. To those of the generations going forward who may yet be called upon to defend our freedoms, we say thank you ahead of time. God bless the faithful soldier whose defense of freedom is placed ahead of the preservation of his own life.

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Acknowledgments

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WE ARE DEEPLY INDEBTED to each author who contributed to this volume. All have contributed to present important perspectives in the areas of their individual expertise. Each has produced a scholarly yet faithful treatment of his subject. In the editing process, every effort has been made to retain the message of each author while dealing with sometimes sensitive issues which the topic of war is inclined to produce. Each author has been flexible and supportive in this regard. We hope that the product of this collaborative effort will be a volume that can fill a useful niche in Latter-day Saint historical literature.

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