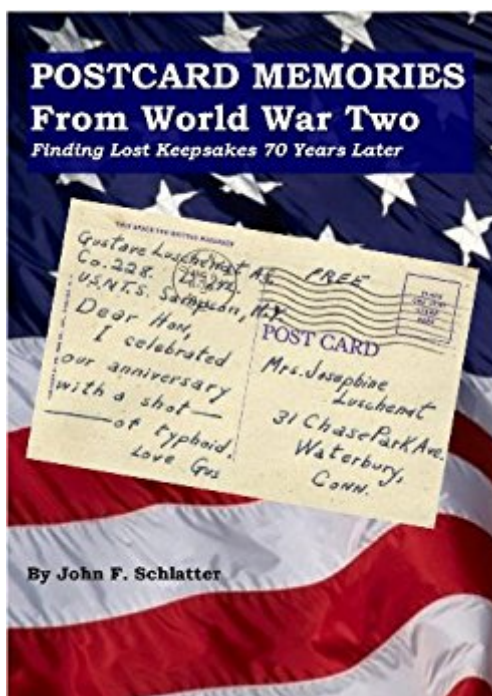


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# Postcard Memories From World War II



## Synopsis

During World War II, American soldiers used postcards to keep in touch with loved ones. Seven decades later, many of those cards gather dust in antique stores or are sold on eBay. The author began collecting such cards in 2003. One day he realized that these cards were priceless mementos for the soldiers' families. Using resources of the National Archives, Ancestry.com, and FindAGrave.com, he began locating the soldiers or their families and returning the postcards to them free of charge. This book chronicles the author's quest to return these keepsakes and tells the inspiring stories of the men and women who wrote the postcards. The stories are as varied as the people who served in WWII:-- A sailor sent his wife in Connecticut a humorous greeting on their anniversary. She kept the card and other mementos after the war, but it was lost in a flood in 1955. In 2012 the card showed up on eBay. The author bought it, tracked down the wife (now a widow) in Florida, and returned the card to her nearly 70 years after she first received it.-- A soldier sent a postcard to his little sister in Nebraska apologizing because he forgot to send her chewing gum. The author returned the card to the little sister, now 80+ years old and a great-grandmother.-- A young woman wrote a postcard to her soldier boyfriend, recalling their tearful farewell at New York's Penn Station. Their wartime marriage lasted 64 years. They have passed away and are buried side by side in the California wine country.-- A young pilot from Maryland wrote a postcard to his little sister. He was later killed in the Battle of the Bulge. The author found the card on eBay and returned it to one of his relatives. Just months before his death, the pilot married a Welsh girl. The family still searches for his beautiful war bride, who visited his parents in 1946 then disappeared.-- Two Army lieutenants from North Dakota became friends while attending Officer Candidate School. When the wife of one of the men gave birth to a son in 1943, the other wrote a letter from North Africa welcoming the child to "this complex world." The letter writer went on to be a noted journalist. The baby boy is now a retired Los Angeles police officer. The author returned the letter to him.-- A man from Pennsylvania sent a card to his future wife's family. He became a B-24 tail-gunner, was shot down over German territory and threatened with execution after being captured by the enemy. The author returned the postcard to him just weeks before he passed away. -- A soldier from Michigan sent his bride a postcard full of loving thoughts. He had only a fleeting time with her before shipping off to Europe, where he was killed in action in the closing days of the war. The author returned the card to his sister, who told how the family learned of his death the day before Germany surrendered. Until being contacted for this book, she didn't know where her brother was buried. -- Another soldier from Michigan sent a postcard to his cousin. The card led to the story of two brothers killed in the war, their courageous double-gold-star mother, and the nephews who bear

their names. As the ranks of the "Greatest Generation" dwindle (two of the men who wrote these postcards passed away just before this book was published), these are the stories of ordinary Americans who were called on to do extraordinary things and the families who still honor their memory after all these years.

## **Book Information**

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World War II

## **Customer Reviews**

This book is a very interesting look into small intimate moments of a soldier's free time where they find a quiet place to write a letter to someone back home. I've found it intriguing, even humorous to read my own letters home to my mother and family. My sister laughs when she shares when she, my mother and grandmother sat around a cheap tape recorder I sent with an inaudible message from me and how they cried anyway not knowing what I was saying. It's not so much the information contained in the message, it's knowing who it was from, knowing who touched the paper and manipulated the pen. Families, especially mothers, hunger for any correspondence from children in military service. The postcards Mr. Schlatter shares with us reveal much more than a "Hello, I'm doing fine." How would I characterize it? I don't know, but you will be moved reading them and the

life stories about the 'authors.' What I found appealing and joyous was reading how a family member felt after Mr. Schlatter 'returned' the postcards to them. I find it extremely curious as to the motivation Mr. Schlatter has in devoting so much time in his research with this book and his latest, "Died On the Fourth of July." Of course, he wishes to sell books, but it's also interesting how he chooses his topics....they're all about discovery...and he invites us along to take a peek into these people's lives. Not as a voyeur, but to bare witness to lives that, although cut short in some cases, were filled with love and life. Do buy this and especially, "Died On the Fourth of July." You won't be sorry! Robert V.

This book brings to life postcards that soldiers wrote to loved ones during WWII. The author gets the postcards in various ways and then searches for the author or recipient of the postcard and tracks them down to return the postcard. In the process he learns the story behind the writer and shares them with the reader. What an incredible thing to do—returning postcards to the author or family member after they have been lost, not because he was asked to, but because he wanted to return a piece of history to those who it would mean a lot to.

I made it to page seven before I couldn't read past the tears in my eyes. Reuniting these precious remembrances to their families is a really cool "hobby". If this book doesn't put a lump in your throat, nothing will.

The author has a fascinating hobby collecting old postcards from the WW II era and reuniting them with living family members. His stories are both unique and heart warming. I highly recommend it.

The power of the pen through postcards written during World War Two is very entertaining, but can be touching and sad. So many lost so much. This is an easy to read book with true short writings from personal post cards.. A must read. LDS III

Loved this book....Made me feel good knowing what John did for others. Would recommend this book to everyone. Thank you, John.

Fantastic stories behind the postcards. Beautifully written by the writer who investigated the stories behind his finds.

Love this book - my cousin wrote it! But it is so interesting and touching that I would love it even if the author was NOT my cousin. :)

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