

THE HOME FRONT

December 7. My brother, his friend and I had gone to the show to see "Sun Valley Serenade" with John Payne and Sonja Henie. Afterward we walked down by the Grill. There were these guys standing outside—at the time, I thought they were older but they were probably in their 20s—and they proceeded to tell us that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. The whole avenue, the whole picture of that day still sticks in my mind.

Before an official declaration of war, Greenfield's men were already involved in the European conflict: they worked at the steel mills that supplied America's allies with much needed tools and weapons. The involvement became official when the Pearl Harbor Naval Base in Hawaii was hit in a surprise attack by 353 Japanese bomber planes. President Roosevelt declared war against Japan and the United States joined its European allies in World War II.

Young men in Greenfield enlisted, or were drafted, to serve their country.

I was a telephone lineman in the field artillery, strung wire from the main headquarters to the firing battalions so the commanders could get firing orders back and forth. Artillery fire is always scary because you can't do anything about it, they're just blowing holes all around you.

Being 18 years old, you didn't really know any better. You need young men there, people who do things before they think about them. You're better off if you don't think about it too much.

Skilled millhunks who would be hard to replace were given deferments and did their part for the war effort by keeping the tools and weapons coming. Women worked in factory and mill jobs vacated by men off at war. Patriotic youngsters were eager participants in scrap drives, collecting tin cans,

