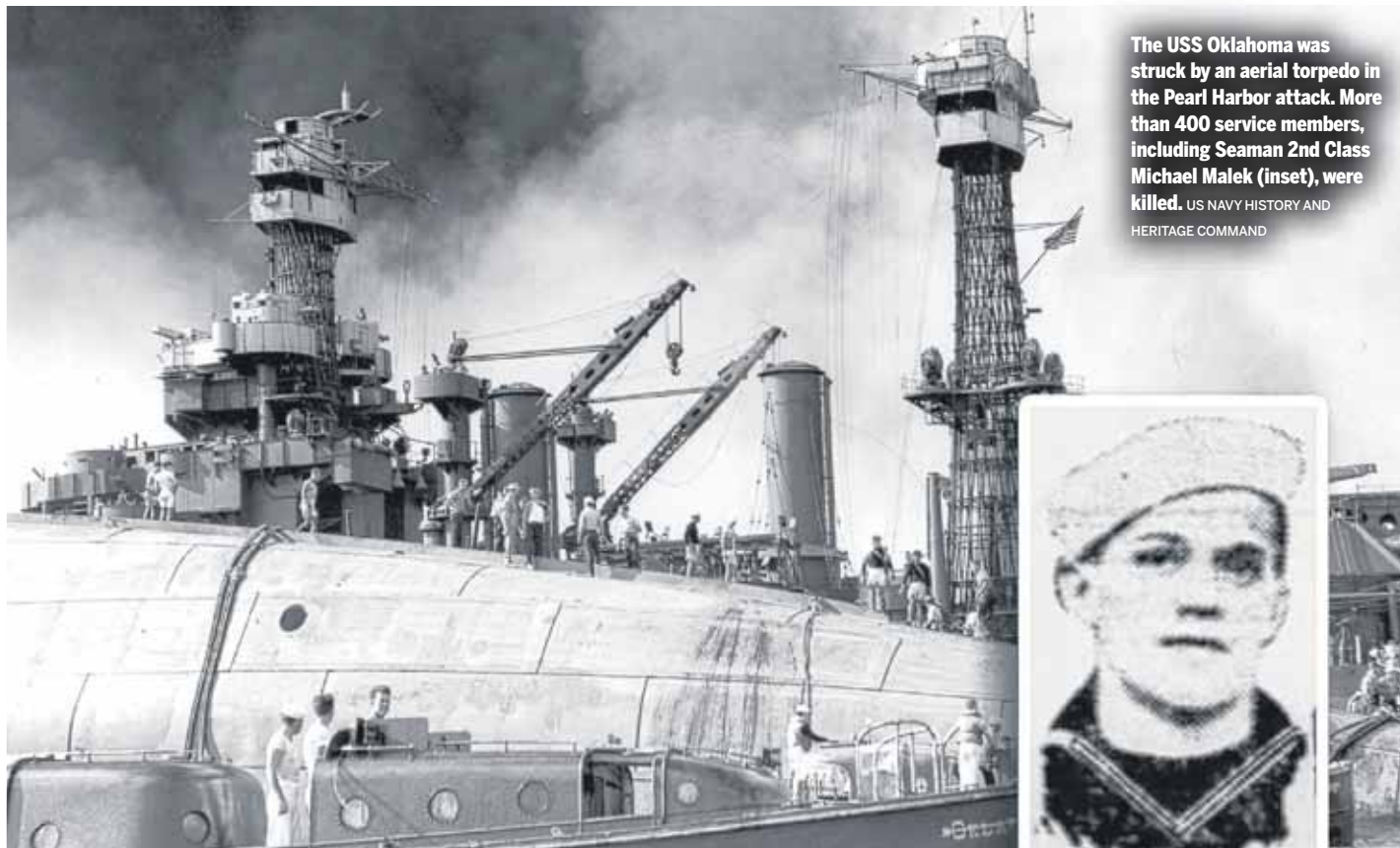


CHICAGO SUN-TIMES



\$2 CITY/BURBS \$3 ELSEWHERE

LATE SPORTS FINAL



The USS Oklahoma was struck by an aerial torpedo in the Pearl Harbor attack. More than 400 service members, including Seaman 2nd Class Michael Malek (inset), were killed. US NAVY HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND



MITCHELL ARMENTROUT/SUN-TIMES

STATE SENATE VOTES 38-21 FOR \$53 BIL. BUDGET

TINA SFONDELES REPORTS, PAGE 4

Pro-Palestinian student says U. of C. is withholding degrees from four student protesters

VIOLET MILLER REPORTS, PAGE 10



Maluma

ALEX WROBLEWSKI/FOR THE SUN-TIMES

A few shows go on at Sueños despite rain cancellations

CONCERT REVIEWS, PAGE 18

LOST AND FOUND

Chicago sailor Michael Malek, listed as missing for decades after the USS Oklahoma was bombed in Pearl Harbor, will be buried with honors after his remains were found recently

VIOLET MILLER REPORTS, PAGE 8



Republic Bank

WHY IS EVERYTHING SO COMPLICATED?

Get the financing you want and the momentum you need at Republic Bank of Chicago.

Business Checking | Business Loans | Treasury Management



888-808-1964
rbankchicago.com



'LOOKING THROUGH MY DAD'S EYES'

Chicago vet's photos from front lines of World War II published in son's tribute

BY JESSICA MA, STAFF REPORTER
jma@suntimes.com | @JessicaGraceMa

Fred Brems grew up captivated by the tales his father shared from his days serving in World War II.

"The way he talked about it, he knew what he was doing out there," said Brems, 75. "There was an element of luck."

Now, Brems hopes to share those stories with others as his way of honoring his father, who died in 2014. He spent 18 years compiling his father's photos and stories from the war into a book titled "Knights of Freedom."

"I really love these pictures, because it was my dad taking them," Brems said. "He was always telling stories."

His father, Lt. Col. Frederick C. Brems, from Belmont Cragin, loved photography "from the get-go" and helped sell cameras at a Chicago department store. He took his Rolleiflex camera to war, documenting everything from burning vehicles to portraits of his comrades.

"The camera was part of him," his son said.

Brems preserved those pictures in a box, totaling around 900. But for the longest time, Brems could not see much detail in them because they were such small pictures — 2¼-by-2¼ inches.

That changed after his cousin, a professional photographer, digitized them. The cousin took the "little dinky photos and blew them up to 12 megabytes," he said.

"When they were blown up, I was amazed," Brems said. "I realized I was looking through my dad's eyes. I saw what he saw when he took those photos."

Brems' father served in the 2nd Armored Division, which he called his "home." The division, nicknamed "Hell on Wheels," was one of the most renowned units of military history, serving in North Africa, Germany, France and more.

Michael Bell, executive director of the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, said the 2nd Armored Division



Fred Brems with his father, Frederick C. Brems, who served in the 2nd Armored Division. "The way he talked about it, he knew what he was doing out there," says Fred Brems. "There was an element of luck."

COURTESY OF FRED BREMS

had "an amazing record" in combat. The division inflicted eight times the casualties on the enemy than it received, he said.

"It's a division that always had an incredible reputation of high standards and great performance," Bell said.

The 2nd Armored Division was a key unit in the Allied invasion of Germany, a difficult campaign known for high casualty rates, Bell said.

Bell said firsthand accounts are crucial to learning about the day to day of soldiers' lives.

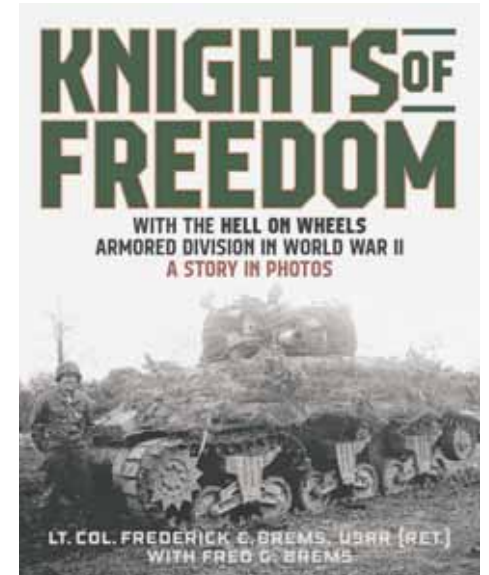
"Their memories are so incredibly vivid

that we can get insights that you can't otherwise understand," Bell said.

Karen Dellinger's father, Ray Stewart, served alongside Brems' father. Though Stewart died this year, his daughter said she learned about him from reading Brems' book.

"I could care less about guns," Dellinger said. "The book does a good job of the everyday. Some of it's mundane. Some of it's interesting. Some of it's courageous."

Brems was "research driven" in his writing, she said. Her father advised Brems to tell the stories "like it happened," even if the sto-



Knights of Freedom was published in January 2024, serving as Fred Brems' tribute to his father.

COURTESY OF STACKPOLE BOOKS

ries were emotionally difficult.

"A lot of these guys go through experiences they don't repeat," Dellinger said. "If we don't reach out to younger people and let them know the stories, they will be forgotten."

For his service, Brems' father was honored with a Silver Star and a Bronze Star. Brems' father eventually commanded a tank company.

Bell said high casualties required leaders to step up and assume responsibilities quickly.

"I'm sure it's an amazing story," Bell said. "It's a testament to identify the soldier to do that and move forward."

After the war, Brems said his father worked at a paper company near the Merchandise Mart for 40 years. He also served in the reserves until 1977.

Later, his father moved to Wood Dale, where Brems was born in 1948, and Algonquin. Since then, his stories have carried on through his son.

"My dad's my hero, and he always has been," Brems said.

CS★T

Vol. 77, No. 93 ©2024

CONTACT US

Main switchboard: (312) 321-3000

Newspaper: metro@suntimes.com

Letters to the editor:

letters@suntimes.com

MANAGE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Call: (888) 848-4637

Online: suntimes.com/service

Email: customerservice@suntimes.com

TV WEEKLY DELIVERY

TV Weekly is delivered on Friday.

Call 1-800-945-5000 for a replacement.

To order, call 1-888-584-6688

or visit iwantmytvmagazine.com.

SUN-TIMES PRICES

Mon.-Sun.: \$25/week

Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun.: \$14/week

Sun. only: \$7/week

Your subscription entitles you to unlimited access to suntimes.com and the Sun-Times E-Paper. Visit suntimes.com/subscribe.

The Chicago Sun-Times (USPS No. 103-920) is published daily except Sundays by Chicago Sun-Times Media Inc., 848 E. Grand Avenue, Chicago IL 60611. The Sunday Sun-Times is published weekly. See Sunday's edition for identification information. Periodical postage paid at Chicago, IL. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Chicago Sun-Times Media Inc., 848 E. Grand Avenue, Chicago IL 60611, or call 888-848-4637.

INDEX

Bridge.....20
Classified.....24
Comics.....22-23, Classified
Crosswords.....22, 27
Dear Abby.....19
Entertainment.....18
Horoscopes.....19

Lottery results.....21
Money.....14-15
Rick Morrissey.....42-43
Nation/World.....29
Obituaries.....28
Opinion.....16
Sudoku.....23
TV listings.....21
Weather.....20