



# **A Snippet from the Greatest Generation: A Memoir by David F. Howland**

*David F. Howland*

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David F. Howland's "A Snippet from the Greatest Generation" can be seen as a blend of two literary genres: what the 20th - century American writer Truman Capote called the non-fiction novel, and the German Enlightenment's "Bildungsroman," literally "novel of formation" - or more broadly, a novel whose major narrative is the moral and psychological growth of its protagonist. A Snippet is the restrained, understated, powerfully affecting narrative of a man whose childhood was scarred by the premature death of his beloved father and the want and deprivation of the Great Depression; whose manhood and character were forged in the crucible of military service in World War II; and who, like so many of his comrades-in-arms in the Greatest Generation, returned - the same, yet forever changed - to marriage, college, fatherhood, a successful career. In his mature years, David Howland earned the respect and affection of his fellow citizens in the small New England village of which he became and remains a pillar. Readers will understand the how and the why of that estimate when they have finished "A Snippet of the Greatest Generation," a story of one man and Everyman. Donald C. Freeman, Heath Massachusetts (Emeritus Professor of English, University of Southern California) "Howland describes his family life, until he interrupts it with "A Story." This device, which I liked, comes up often. It allows him to spend more time on an important moment in his life. Veterans of World War II will be able to relate to Howland's experiences. Most of the book reads like someone's diary." Irmarie Jones, "The Recorder" Greenfield, Massachusetts

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