

AT THE FRONT • PHOTO ESSAY

FOR MANY GIS, service in World War II ultimately came down to facing an enemy who was trying hard to kill you, and overcoming him with deadly force. It was a terrifying reality, whether you were an army or marine infantryman ducking bullets and shrapnel on the ground,

a bomber crewman watching flak rip through your plane high above the earth, or a sailor or coast-guardsman dodging torpedoes, aerial bombs, and kamikazes at sea. The experience would haunt veterans for the rest of their lives, and set them apart forever from those who never witnessed battle firsthand.