

ness, or rather selfishness, is another; the willingness to lay down one's life for a friend or for a cause. Patriotism is another; willingness in the final analysis to lay down one's life for one's country. Leadership and faith in leadership. War tests these virtues out. It marks the difference between the men who have them and the men who don't. Without war or something similar these virtues would rot from disuse."

The captain speaking had a brother who was killed in a P 38 a day or two before. He had another brother who was in action who, he thought, might get it. He had lost most of his best friends and still he didn't think that would change his mind.

"Besides," he continued, "I don't say war is a good thing in itself. I don't know about that. I only know that under our present standard of virtues it seems to me, and as long as men continue to admire these virtues, there will be war, and I get sick and tired of all this talk about war being terrible and how we are going to stop it with a world police force. They might delay another war, but they won't stop it. It is our standard of virtues. If courage and chivalry and patriotism and leadership and faith in a cause or a country are virtues, are worthy of dying for, then war is partly a good thing for it keeps them alive and active. If they are not worth dying for, then war is certainly a terrible thing. But the only way we will stop it is to revise our standard of virtues."

"You are crazy", a bitter youth said slowly. "You're wrong. I can't tell you exactly where, but your reasoning is haywire somehow. War is wrong. That's all I know. I don't know about virtues."

Another captain said, "Well, I know there is no virtue in staying up all night listening to you guys argue. I am going to hit the sack. We've got another tough early mission in the morning."