

ALABAMA VETERAN BILL HARBERT:

"I just decided as soon as it was over that I wasn't going to dwell on the war. I just kind of figured, I went and did my part and now I was going to put it behind me. That chapter of my life was over and it was time to move on."

These words are from WWII veteran and Birmingham businessman Bill Harbert. His thoughts seem to sum-up the feelings of a generation of WWII vets. Like a lot of young men who found themselves thrust into the greatest era of human conflict the world has ever known, he did what his country called him to do, then came home and got on with his life. Harbert and men like him went and did their duty but never looked back. They conquered the world, then came home and turned the nation into the thriving place of business it is today.

"I saw plenty of destruction during the war, maybe that compelled me to want to see things being built and not torn down," he says of his early days in the construction business. Harbert's modest attitude characterizes thousands of other WWII vets. They saved the world, then came home to build a stronger nation.