

# In the Footsteps of My Grandfathers

Dear Epoch VIP,

Sometimes when I look around and see our staff working hard out in the field or back at the office, I can't help but think of my grandfathers. One was a paramedic and the other a paratrooper in World War II, fighting for the freedoms we cherish.

While our goal is to report the news and inform readers of important events as they unfold, the tasks involved are many and the skills required are diverse. Producing a daily newspaper requires a great deal of coordination and discipline. At times it feels like we too are fighting a battle, one against a powerful force of misinformation.

Like soldiers, much training is involved as we become proficient with investigating stories, shooting photos, and planning each day's reports to be informative and engaging.

Some challenges we face also seem like impossible missions. For instance, in the early days we stayed up all night working on the paper's inaugural and subsequent editions. Another challenge was finding enough funding to keep growing our readership as the vast majority of advertising dollars go to a few giant tech firms. But no matter how hard it's been, it's been worth it.

There's something special to me about working at this newspaper that goes beyond the sacred responsibility of informing the public. The Epoch Times provides me with an endless pursuit of self-improvement and elevation in my skills. Jobs like this are becoming harder to find.

**Though what I'm doing is nowhere near as intense as jumping out of a plane or taking enemy fire, I like to think that the reason my grandfathers fought, and the reason why I fight today, is the same:** to resist tyrannical propaganda and defend against the devastation of socialism and communism. I get inspired whenever I'm reminded of the fact that, in my own small way, I am carrying on in my grandfathers' footsteps.

As an opinion editor, I hold our editorials to the same rigorous standards of fact-checking as we do with our news. It's important to hear from a variety of perspectives, but these opinions must have a basis in fact. **One key thing we strive for in our opinion section is to focus only on issues, and to avoid criticizing or attacking people.** We aim to help people understand the important issues of our time, not to make enemies.

It's sad to think that the noble profession of newspaper journalism could be on the verge of extinction. That's why I'm grateful to be surrounded by a staff of professionals who not only take their craft seriously, but who constantly strive to improve their skills and enrich the newspaper we produce every day. This process starts by putting the reader first in all that we do.

With your continued support, we'll innovate a new way forward based on hard work and determination. After all, it's what got us this far.

You the reader also play an important role in shaping our paper. You are what holds us up and keeps us going. By listening to you, we learn where we can do better. You are a critical part of our improvement cycle, and we hope you continue to watch us grow and move forward in pursuit of the truth.

Most of all, you remind us of the great responsibility we have and that countless eyes are watching. I enjoy reading all the letters you send. I look forward to hearing from each and every one of you.

Thank you for your trust.

*In truth and tradition,*

Adam Ainsworth  
The Epoch Times



**Adam  
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Opinion Editor