Just a Boy from Pakistan

How would you feel if you were forced to risk your life for a country you didn't even live in? Hydar Khan was not only a hero—but a teenage boy who was put into a military training camp in England and had no idea why. When Hydar Khan was 19 years old, he was forced to drop everything in his life to fight in the war. Hydar Khan worked as a fabric maker in Pakistan, but that didn't matter to him when he joined the war. The only thing that mattered was whether or not his training would be enough to protect himself from getting killed. Hydar Khan witnessed a lot in the war. However, when he arrived home, he said the hardest thing to see was the soldiers that would pray to make sure their moved ones were safe and lived happy lives.

Hydar Khan was from a well known family in the town of Dadu where he was born. His family made fabric for most of the people in the town. When Hydar Khan was 10 years old, he was supposed to work with his family, but instead worked at a bakery with little pay. By the age of 17, Hyder worked at more than 15 places, but when he turned 18 he decided to join his family in making fabric because he thought that he would last in that field of work. He continued to work there for a year, until he was shipped off to England to fight in World War II. Hydar was scared because he was just a 19 year old kid from Pakistan who hadn't even seen a gun before in his life.

The journey from Pakistan to England was long and dangerous. During the trip, a large storm occurred and it frightened Hydar. Thankfully the crew and the ship remained intact after the storm. Hydar wasn't the type to make friends easily, but he had met this one soldier named Mustafa Mustafi and they instantly became friends. Hydar stated that with his time in the war, he had made a brother. Mustafa and Hydar kept each other sane and combat ready. Hydar made it to England. He was confused because everyone had “funny” accents that he had never heard before. When he arrived in England, he had just began to realize where he was sent—and he was terrified. He never thought once in his life that he would have to fight in the war. Hydar and Mustafa were put in the same squadron. Alas, they were terrified, yet happy, because they were together. The general was very hard on Hydar and Mustafa because they wouldn't go anywhere without each other. In anger, the general separated them and put them in different squadrons. Hydar was furious, but couldn't speak up because he was even more scared of the general. The general told Hydar that there is no time for friends in the war just soldiers. Hydar listened and became quieter than he already was. Hydar eventually forgot about Mustafa and started the training. The training was very hard for Hydar, but when he finished he became a completely different person. He was angrier all the time and he wanted to kill. The day finally came where he was sent off to fight. At this point Hydar was ready and eager to fight. When they arrived, they came on horses Hydar led the way and fought hard. He witnessed bloodshed all around him but it didn't stop him. He and his squadron won the battle and were sent back to England for more training. When the war was finally over Hydar and Mustafa were reunited and were shipped back to Pakistan to be with their families, Mustafa moved his family to Dadu where Hydar and his family lived. During the war Hydar sent his family a letter that wrote: “Assalamuakum, I have arrived to England. We are about to go off to war. Don't be scared I will survive this and I will come home. It has been hard training but now I am prepared for the battle. I will be home soon.”

After the war Hydar Khan went back to Pakistan to resume his life. By this time Hydar had been away for a couple years. All he wanted to do was to see his mother. When he found his mother, he gave her a bear hug and never let go. He had come to hear that his oldest sister had a child, she named her son Hydar Khan because he was her hero. Hydar met my great grandmother and they married after 1 year. They were married 36 year before Hydar passed, but he had 7 children one of them being my Grandmother. Hydar didn't talk about the war until 20 years later after Mustafa passed. It was his eldest son who got him to confess. Hydar told his whole family the story about his time in the war and his story has been passed through generation after generations.

Hydar Khan was my Great Grandfather. He was a hero. Hydar Khan was seen as the hero of the town where he lived. After hearing the story about my Great Grandfather I have come to realize that World War II affected even small town people but after the war it was difficult to the soldiers to explain their journeys. My life was affected by his heroics because if he hadn't went to war, I probably wouldn't have been born so. This is a thank you to Hydar Khan for ensuring that I have a safe life. Hydar Khan was not only a Hero but he was a great man. His story helped me answer my question, how would you feel if you were forced to risk your life for a country you didn't even live in? The answer to the question is that no matter where you lived you had to help fight.