

# Todd Family Scholarship Veterans Interview Project

## Suggested Questions for a Veteran of World War II (Army)

Use these suggestions as a starting point and make your own outline for the interview. Remember, each interview will be different and not all questions will apply.

### Introduction

Begin your interview by stating the following:

- Date
- Location (city, state)
- Your name
- Interviewee's name

Example: Today's date is August 1, 2019. My name is John Smith and this is an interview with Jane Doe in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

- Where were you born?
- When is your birthday?
- Who was your father?
- And your mother?
- What was her maiden name?
- Where did you start school?
- Who was your favorite teacher?
- When and where did you graduate high school?
- What were the major stores in your town?
- Describe the house you lived in.
- How did the Great Depression affect you and your family?
- What chores did you do around the house of the farm?
- Was there a movie theater in your town?
- What was the name of the theater?
- How often would you go to the movies?
- Do you remember when Japan invaded China?
- Do you remember when Germany invaded Poland in 1939?
- Theaters would often show *News of the World* and color cartoons. What did you think when you saw what Japan was doing in China, and what Germany was doing in Europe?
- What did you do after high school?
- Where were you December 7, 1941?
- What did you think when you heard about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?
- After the war started, did you help with the scrap metal drives or rubber drives?

### Entering the Military

- Did you enlist or were you drafted?
- If you enlisted, why did you choose the service branch you joined?
- Where did you go for boot camp or basic training?

- How did you travel there?
- Tell me about basic.
- What type of training did you have in basic?
- Did you pull kitchen patrol (KP)?
- Tell me about KP.
- What is your most vivid memory of basic training?
- Tell me about your drill instructors.
- How long did basic last?
- Where did you go after basic?
- Tell me about your infantry (communication, transportation, mechanic) training.
- Were you on a troop train?
- Where did you sleep on the train?
- When the train stopped, were you allowed to get off?

### **Military Service**

- What unit were you assigned to?
- What was your job in the unit?
- Tell me about going overseas.
- Do you recall the name of the ship you were aboard?
- When did you leave the United States?
- What were you thinking when the ship was leaving the United States?
- You left from what port?
- If you left from New York City, what did you think when you passed the *Statue of Liberty*?
- If you left from San Francisco, what did you think going under the Golden Gate Bridge?
- Tell me about the trip.
- Where did you sleep on the ship?
- What were you told to do in case the ship was torpedoed and started sinking?
- Where did the ship land?
- What did you do in your unit overseas?
- Did you go into combat?
- If you were in combat, what happened?
- When did you see your first enemy soldier?
- What type of quarters did you have overseas?
- What was the weather overseas?
- How did you travel when you were overseas?
- What is your most vivid memory of being overseas?
- Where were you on V-E or V-J Day?
- When you heard about the atomic bombs, what did you think?
- Tell me about coming home.
- When were you discharged?
- What did you do after you were discharged?
- Would you join the military again?
- How do you want to be remembered?