

Todd Family Scholarship Veterans Interview Project

Suggested Questions for a Veteran of World War II (Marines)

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. When is your birthday?

- 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

- When did you join the marines?
- Where did you go for boot camp?
- How did you travel there?

- Tell me about the trip on the train.
- Where did you sleep on the train?
- Tell me about boot camp.
- What type of training did you have in boot camp?
- What weapon did you train with at boot camp?
- What is your most vivid memory of boot camp?
- How long did boot camp last?
- Tell me about your drill instructors.

Military Service

- What unit were you assigned to?
- Did you go overseas?
- If so, what ship were you on?
- You left the United States from what port?
- Tell me about the trip overseas.
- Where were your quarters on the ship?
- How were the meals on the ship?
- Where did the ship land?
- What did you do after the ship landed?
- Did you go into combat and if you did, what happened?
- When did you see your first enemy soldier?
- Where were you when the war ended?
- When you heard about V-E Day (V-J Day), what did you think?
- Tell me about coming home.
- Where did the ship land?
- What did you think when you went under the Golden Gate Bridge?
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- When were you discharged?
- What did you do after you were discharged?
- Would you join the marines again?
- How do you want to be remembered?