

Segment 1: Jogging Memory

1. What knowledge did you have of the war in Europe prior to Pearl Harbor?
2. What were you doing on December 7, 1941?
3. Where were you living, and what work were you doing, at that time?
4. Why did you join the Armed Forces?
5. Were you drafted, or did you enlist?
6. Why did you pick the service branch you joined?
7. Tell me about leaving home. What were the goodbyes like?
8. What did the “war” mean to you before you left?
9. Tell me about boot camp.
10. How did you get through it?
11. What was the trip overseas like?

Segment 2: Experiences

1. Where did they send you, and when did you find out where that would be?
2. Tell me what it was like upon arriving.
3. What was your military occupation specialty, and how did you put it to use?
4. Tell me, only if you feel comfortable, what your first combat experience was like.
5. Did you miss any events while you were gone? (i.e. births, death)
6. What were some of the biggest differences between yourself and the people overseas?
7. Tell me a couple of your most memorable experiences.
8. Were you a prisoner of war?
9. If so, tell me about your experiences in captivity and when freed.
10. If you were awarded any medals or citations please share how you got them.

Segment 3: Life

1. How did you stay in touch with your family?
2. What would you write in the letters you sent home?
3. What was one of the most memorable letters you received?
4. Do you associate any smells or tastes with your service time overseas? Please explain.
5. What was the food like? Did you eat C-rations or K-rations?
6. What was your supply situation like?

7. Were you aware that the supplies were being shuttled to the front by black troops?
How did that affect your perception of the race after the war?
8. Did you feel pressure or stress?
9. What was your favorite music during the war years?
10. Did you have a favorite movie before you left for the war?
11. Did you have a favorite sports team? Did you keep up with them while abroad?
12. Was there something you did for "good luck?"
13. What did you carry in your backpack?
14. What did you do when on leave?
15. Was it hard to go on the front after coming off it? Explain.
16. Do you recall any humorous or unusual events?
17. What did you think of your officers and fellow soldiers?
18. Tell me about any pranks you may have pulled.
19. How did you feel about women in the Military? Working in the factories?

Segment 4: After Service

1. Do you recall the day the war ended both VE-Day and VJ-Day?
2. Where were you, and what were you doing?
3. What did you do in the days and weeks afterwards?
4. Did you work or go back to school?
5. Was your education supported by the G.I. Bill?
6. How did you make a living after the war?
7. Did you make any close friends in the service?
8. Tell me what about them was special to you.
9. Do you continue any of these relationships today?
10. Did you join a veteran's organization? If so, why?
11. Do you attend reunions? If so, why?
12. How did your service and experiences overseas affect your life?

Segment 5: Later Years

1. Why is it important that students study history?
2. What has changed in a sense of community over the last 60 years? In other words, are we still each others brothers keeper?
3. What are your views on technology in today's society?
4. Have you had a child go to war? If yes, what were your feelings having been in one yourself?
5. What are your thoughts on the concept of war as means of resolving conflict?

- 6.** Did your military experience influence your thinking about war or about the military in general?
- 7.** In your own words, what is a democracy?
- 8.** What does being a citizen mean?
- 9.** What are the responsibilities of citizenship?
- 10.** What is liberty to you?
- 11.** What is the most relevant problem our democracy is facing today, and what is the greatest hope for democracy?
- 12.** What are your thoughts on apathy in today's society?
- 13.** If you could share a piece of wisdom with coming generations what would it be, and why?
- 14.** Is there anything you would like to add that we have not covered in this interview?