

US Legacies, PO Box 533 Rockport, Indiana 47635



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Interview for Family Member of Combat Soldier

The following is a sample set of questions for a family member of a combat soldier.

- 1) Would you tell me your name? (Have them spell out any unusual or difficult names)

- 2) When and where were you born?

- 3) If you were alive during any war, give us a little background on your life prior to the war. Were you in school, working, etc. We would like some details on your actions and plans or dreams for the future.

- 4) Tell me about your reaction and feelings, the first time you discovered our country was at war. How did you learn we were at war?

- 5) Would you tell us the name of the family member that fought in the war name? (Have them spell out any unusual or difficult names)

- 6) Do you have any old photographs of your family member wearing a uniform? If so, may we get a copy of it that we can share with others?

- 7) When and where was your family member born?

- 8) Give us a little background on the life of their family member, prior to the war. Were they in school, working, etc. We would like any details on their actions and plans or dreams for the future.

- 9) Tell us about anything you know, relating to your family members feelings, thoughts and expectations when they joined the Armed Services.

- 10) Where did they go for basic training? What outfit were they attached to and what type of training did they get?
- 11) Tell us about your thoughts, feelings and expectations when you found out they were going to be shipped overseas.
- 12) Did they ever tell you about their experiences on the ship as they were being transported overseas?
- 13) Did they ever tell you about the first day they arrived on foreign soil. Where did they land, what outfit were they with and what was the date?
- 14) Did they ever tell you about things they saw in combat, including where they were and any dates?
- 15) Did you ever get any letters from them while they were away at war, and if so, would you tell us what your fears, thoughts and expectations were?
- 16) Did they ever share any stories about friends in their unit that were wounded or killed? If so, please include their name, the date and unit they were in as well as any details about how they were injured. This information is for their relatives.
- 17) Was your family member injured, killed or taken prisoner, and if so, please let us know what town or location they were at, the date the injury, death or capture occurred, the outfit they were attached to, as well as any details known about the battle being fought.
- 18) If they were injured or captured, do you know where they were taken and what happened after they got there?
- 19) Tell us about the ribbons, citations and medals they received, including what campaign they were for, and the dates they were involved in these campaigns.
- 20) Are there any other stories they ever shared about their time on foreign soil?

21) Tell me about your thoughts, feelings and expectations when you discovered they were going to be shipped home.

22) What are the long term effects of having a family member involved in a war? What type of effect did their time fighting the war have on the rest of their life, your life and the lives of your children?

23) Are there any other details or thoughts you would like the children of today or future generations to know about the war or to learn about how a war affects a persons life?

The whole world owes you a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices and price you personally paid for our freedom. We can never repay you, however by conducting this interview, a part of your life, memories and heroism will live on forever. We thank you.

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