

U.S. Army Military History Institute
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WWII War Era Service Survey Questionnaire

PLEASE NOTE, IF YOU NEED MORE ROOM TO FULLY ANSWER A QUESTION, USE THE CONTINUATION SHEET AT THE LAST PAGE AND NUMBER EACH CONTINUED RESPONSE TO CORRESPOND TO THE QUESTION.
FEEL FREE TO ATTACH AS MANY CONTINUATION SHEETS AS YOU NEED.

ARMY SERVICE EXPERIENCES QUESTIONNAIRE
PART I - GENERAL MILITARY SERVICE

1. Name: _____ Highest rank or grade held: _____
Present Address: _____ Apartment: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Co/Trp/Btry you served in: _____ Commanded by: _____
Of Battalion: _____ Commanded by: _____
Of Regiment: _____ Commanded by: _____
Of Division: _____ Commanded by: _____
- 2a. Enlistment date: _____ Age: _____ Length of Service: _____
- b. Place of Enlistment: _____
- c. Previous occupation? How useful was it to you in the Army, if at all? _____

- d. If you had previous service in the Regulars, Volunteers, National Guard, Organized Reserve, Civilian Military Training Camps, or Civilian Conservation Corps, please indicate when and where. _____

- e. How and why did you join the service? _____

- f. Please describe the local enlistment or draft process with which you were Involved. _____

- g. At that time, did you feel that the 1940 draft was necessary and fair? _____

h. What did you feel about later wartime draft policies? _____

i. Has your opinion of the World War II draft changed since then? If so, how? _____

3a. Describe the circumstances in which you first heard of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

b. What was your reaction to that attack? _____

4a. What were your initial reactions to entering military service? _____

b. Please recount your leave-taking from family and friends. _____

5a. Where did you train as a recruit? _____

b. In what specialties were you trained? _____

c. Were you trained in first aid, signaling, radio, or the use of any special equipment? If so, what kind? _____

d(1). Did you apply for Ranger, Paratroop, or other voluntary additional training? If so, what kind? _____

(2). Why did you seek such training? _____

(3). What were your experiences while undergoing such special training? _____

e(1). If you entered an Officers' training program, how were you selected for it? _____

e(2). What were your experiences while undergoing such training? _____

f(1). If you were ever enrolled in the Army Specialized Training Program, where did you attend? _____

f(2). How did you feel about its cancellation?

g. Did your training prepare you for your service overseas? _____

h. What further training , if any, did you receive overseas? _____

6. At what posts were you stationed during your stateside service? _____

7a. If you were shown the film series "Why We Fight," what was your reaction to it?

b. Why did you fight? _____

8a. What was your opinion of the weapons you saw or used in the service? _____

b. Were they reliable? _____

9a. What were your opinions of the equipment, clothing, and rations you were issued?

b. How adequate were they for the climate and weather conditions you encountered?

c. How responsible were the supply services to your unit's needs? _____

10a. What did you think of the quality of leadership while you were in the service?

b. How did officers commissioned through various means (service academies, ROTC, OCS, National Guard, and battlefield promotions) compare? _____

c. Please describe instances of good or bad leadership. _____

d. Who were the "real" leaders - officers, noncoms, or enlisted men? Please explain. _____

e. How often did you see senior commanders in your company or battalion area? Please describe such visits. _____

f. Please recount any cases of soldier violence directed against officers. _____

11a. What did you think of the discipline at the time (lax, moderate, fair, strict, harsh)? Please comment. _____

b. Please recount any particular punishments for breaches of discipline.

c. What did you think about military courts and justice? _____

12a. If there was any desertion in your unit, what caused it? _____

b. Was there much theft from one another in your unit? _____

13a. What forms of off-duty recreation were common? _____

b. What was your opinion of Special Services, (USO shows, movies, reading material,

personal education opportunities)? _____

c. What, if any, materials did you read in your leisure time? _____

14. How did you and your comrades get along with civilians in the U.S.? _____

15a. How adequate was medical care? _____

b. Describe the health of your unit. _____

16. For what did soldiers use their pay? _____

17a. Was drinking a problem in your unit? If so, how were the beverages obtained?

b. Was drug use a problem in your unit? If so, which drugs and how were they obtained? _____

18. Was there much gambling? If so, what types? _____

19. What songs were popular during your military service? _____

20. What military slang words or phrases were popular during your military service?

21. Did you note any instances of ethnic, racial, or religious discrimination?

Please explain. _____

22. When you first learned you would go overseas, what was your reaction? _____

23a. At what point in your movement did you learn your real destination? _____

b. What difficulties, if any, did your unit experience in getting ready to move overseas? _____

24a. Please identify your port of embarkation: _____

b. Please identify the name of your transport: _____

c. Please identify your port of arrival: _____

d. Please describe your travel experiences (by railroad, plane, truck, or ship):

25. What information, if any, did the Army give you about the countries in which you served? _____

26a. What were your first impressions of service abroad? _____

b. How, if at all, did your views change? _____

27. How did you and your comrades get along with civilians overseas before, during, and after hostilities? _____

28. Was there much fraternizing with local women? _____

29. Please describe any looting by soldiers of which you are aware. _____

30a. How was the morale of your unit? (Consider such things as mail from home, living conditions, general homesickness, etc.) _____

b. What effect did combat have on morale? _____

c. What factors helped improve morale? _____

d. What factors contributed to a decline in morale? _____

e. What was your opinion of Army Troop Information programs? _____

f(1). What enemy propaganda, if any, did you see or hear? _____

f(2). What was your reaction to it?

f(3). What was its general effect on your unit?

31a. How and to what extent were religious convictions expressed in your unit? _____

b. How, if at all, did these convictions seem to influence performance? _____

32a. If you were sent forward as an individual replacement into a unit already at or near the front, what was your reaction on first joining that unit? _____

b. How did the veterans receive you? _____

33a. If you remained with your original unit, how did you feel about individual replacements who later joined your unit? _____

b. How did your fellow veterans feel about them? _____

34a. How effective were the individual replacements in combat? _____

b. How did your unit integrate replacements into its ranks? _____

35a. Did you know or observe any newspaper or radio war correspondents? Which ones and under what circumstances? _____

b. What did you think of wartime civilian newspaper, magazine, or radio coverage of the war and of your unit? _____

c. Did you receive and read Army news publications such as Stars and Stripes or your unit newspaper? _____

d. What did you think of them? _____

PART III - COMBAT SERVICE

36a. Did you take part in any combat action? If so, where, when and against whom (German, Italian, Japanese)? _____

b. What were you thinking and experiencing at the time? _____

c. Please describe your "baptism of fire" and your reaction to that experience.

d. Please describe a "typical" day when your outfit was committed to the front lines. _____

e. How effective was the fire support your unit received from other combat arms (infantry, armor, artillery), from the air, and from naval gunfire? _____

f. If you ever came under enemy air attack, please describe the circumstances and your reaction to that attack. _____

37. How would you characterize your unit's combat performance? Was it the result of leadership, discipline, unit camaraderie, and cohesion, individual courage or fear, or other factors? Please explain. _____

38a. If you were ever wounded in action, please recount the circumstances. _____

b. Did you personally experience or know of others killed or injured as a result

of "friendly" fire? Please explain. _____

c. Did you personally experience or know of others who experienced "shell shock" or psychological stress in combat? Please explain. _____

d. How effective was medical care at the front and behind the lines? _____

e. Were you able to rejoin your unit? If so, when? _____

f. If you were not able to rejoin your unit, were you able to perform light military duty? If so, what and where? _____

g. Do you still suffer any effects resulting from your wounds? _____

39. Did you ever participate in cooperative operations with a sister service? Please explain. _____

40a. Was your unit (Co/Bn/Regt/Div) ever attached to a regular Allied Command? If so, which one, where, and when? _____

b. What special procedures, if any, were adopted to facilitate operating with Allied troops? (Consider such things as attachments of interpreters, liaison officers or NCOs, special training, familiarization courses, etc. _____

c. How did their arms and equipment differ from those of U.S. soldiers? _____

d. What problems did these differences in arms, equipment, communications, or staff procedures cause, if any? Please explain. _____

e. Even if not attached to an Allied unit, did you meet Allied soldiers in

staging areas or in post-war occupation service? If so, when, where, and which Allies (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Holland, New Zealand, South Africa, USSR, etc)? _____

f. What were your opinions of the individual soldiers of our Allies? _____

g. What were their opinions of U.S. forces? _____

41a. Did you ever work with or alongside Allied or foreign auxiliary, irregular, resistance, or guerrilla troops? If so, when, where, and which ones? _____

b. How effective were they? _____

c. What were your opinions of them? _____

d. What was their attitude toward U.S. forces? _____

e. What problems, if any, occurred between such troops and U.S. forces and why?

42. Please describe a "typical day" in reserve when your unit was not committed to the front lines. _____

43. Please recount your experiences, if any, in the gathering of intelligence.
(Consider such activities as scouting, interrogating prisoners, patrolling, etc.)

44a. How did you and your comrades regard enemy troops (Germans, Italians, Japanese) as fighters? _____

b. How well-trained, well-led, and well-armed did they seem to be? _____

c. How effective were their weapons? _____

d(1). What did you think of the enemy as people? _____

(2). How, if at all, did your original opinion of enemy soldiers change after you encountered them in battle? _____

(3). How, if at all, did your original opinion of enemy soldiers change after you encountered them in the post-war period? _____

45a. Were you ever a prisoner of war? If so, when and where were you captured?

[If not, please go to Question 46] _____

b. How were you treated by the soldiers who captured you? _____

c. Where were you held? _____

d. How were you treated by the prison guards? _____

f. How, if at all, did your previous military training prepare you for prison life? _____

g. What factors influenced morale in the POW camp? _____

h. Please describe your experiences in captivity? _____

i. Did you ever try to escape from captivity? If so, please explain how and what

happened? If not, please explain why. _____

j. How and when were you liberated? _____

k. What was your first reaction to being freed? _____

46a. Did you capture any enemy prisoners? If so, please describe the circumstances.

[If not, please go to Question 47] _____

b. How were enemy prisoners treated by U.S. forces? _____

c. What training did you receive in regard to treating enemy POWs? _____

d. Was the training adequate? _____

e. How, if at all, did your contact with enemy POWs affect your view of that enemy? _____

47a. Did you help liberate enemy prison camps or concentration camps? If so, which ones? [If not, please go to Question 48] _____

b. How had the enemy treated the U.S. and Allied prisoners you freed? _____

c. How had the enemy treated civilian internees you freed? _____

d. What were your initial reactions upon seeing conditions in enemy prison camps and concentration camps? _____

48a. What were your and your unit's reaction to VE Day? _____

b. What were your and your unit's reaction to VJ Day? _____

49a. Please describe any rumors you heard about the Atomic Bomb before its use. _____

b. What was your opinion in August, 1945, on the use of the Atomic Bomb? _____

c. Has that opinion since changed? If so, how? _____

PART IV - OCCUPATION AND DEMOBILIZATION

50a. If you assisted in the establishment of Civil Affairs governments in liberated friendly countries, please describe your experiences. _____

b. If you assisted in the establishment of Military Government in occupied enemy countries, please describe your experiences. _____

c(1). What efforts were made to root out the defeated enemy system of government such as the de-Nazification program in Germany? _____

(2). What part, if any, did you have in such efforts? _____

(3). What did you think about those efforts at the time? _____

(4). How do you feel about those efforts now? _____

51a. How were local civilians treated by American and other Allied soldiers? _____

b. How were local civilians treated by the Allied military administrations? _____

52a. If you encountered Displaced Persons, from which countries or ethnic groups did they predominantly come? _____

b. How were they treated by American and other Allied soldiers? _____

c. How were they treated by the Allied military administrations? _____

d. What impression did the DPs make upon you. (Consider such things as living conditions and physical well-being). _____

53a. How was the morale and discipline of your unit after the end of hostilities? _____

b. What efforts were made to maintain your unit's morale and discipline after the end of hostilities? _____

c. What demonstrations or disturbances, if any, did you witness by soldiers seeking to get home sooner? _____

d(1). How did the "point system" for demobilization affect your unit and you personally? _____

(2). In your opinion, was the "point system" fair or unfair? Please explain. _____

54a. What awards and decorations did you receive? _____

b. In your opinion, were awards and decorations distributed fairly? _____

55. Please describe your welcome home to the United States. _____

56a. How long did you remain in service after the end of hostilities? _____

b. Why did you choose to remain in military service or to leave the service? _____

c. Please provide your date and place of discharge. _____

57a. What did you do after you were discharged? _____

b. How, if at all, were your military skills or military education transferrable to civilian life? _____

c. Please describe the ease or difficulty with which you readapted to civilian life and the influence your overall military experience had on that readjustment.

d(1). Before the war, had you graduated from high school? _____ When? _____

If you attended or graduated from college or trade school before the war, please name the school _____ Dates attended _____ Degree _____

(2). If you went to college or trade school under the GI Bill after the war, name the school _____ Dates attended _____ Degree _____

(3). Would you have pursued such post-war schooling without the GI Bill? _____

(4). What does the GI Bill mean to you? _____

58a. What were your expectations of civilian life upon leaving the service? (Consider such things as post-war America, GI benefits, educational and career opportunities, marriage and family life. _____

b. To what extent have those expectations been realized? _____

59a. Did you join the National Guard or Organized Reserves after the war? If so, how soon after the war did you join and for how long did you belong? _____

b. Please identify your Guard or Reserve unit. _____

c. Were you ever called up for active service? _____

d. If yes, when were you called up, for how long, and with what unit? _____

60a. Please indicate any national or unit veterans' association(s) to which you have belonged. _____

b. How soon after the war did you join such associations? _____

c(1). To which association(s) do you still belong? _____

(2). Why have you remained with it (them)? _____

(3). If you have dropped membership in any such associations, please explain why. _____

d. Please describe what your veterans' association(s) mean(s) to you. _____

61. With whom do you feel most comfortable discussing your wartime experiences? Why? _____

62. If you have read any histories, articles, or other post-war writings on campaigns in which you participated, what is your opinion as to their accuracy? _____

63. World War II was a significant national experience. What, if anything, did it teach you about America or Americans. _____

64a. What were your expectations at the end of the war as to prospects for world stability? _____

b. What were your expectations at the end of the war as to America's place and influence in the world? _____

c. To what extent have those expectations been realized over the ensuing decades?

Do you have any historical material to contribute to the Military History Institute?

Diaries? Memoirs? Books? Letters/V-Mail? Films?

Photographs Insignia/Unit Patches? Camp/Unit newspapers?

Other Items?*

* Other items include: _____

If so, we would be grateful if you would please send it to us along with your completed

questionnaire. Or, if you desire further information about this questionnaire or about what we seek, please write us. We would welcome hearing from you.

We recognize that this questionnaire is by no means exhaustive. If you desire to explain or comment on matters not specifically asked, please feel free to do so on the "continuation" sheet. If you discover that you have insufficient space to comment fully on a specific question, please continue your comments on the "continuation" sheet indicating thereon the question number. Please feel free to add more sheets if you care to provide specific details on any aspects of your military service. Again, your recollections are an important source of information for historians and researchers. Thus, we sincerely appreciate your taking the time and effort to complete this questionnaire.

