

RICHES of Central Florida

Regional Initiative for Collecting the Histories, Experiences, and Stories of Central Florida

This is list of potential topics and questions- it is not meant to be followed exactly. It is best when interviewers formulate their own questions based on their research and the unique situation of the person they are interviewing.

- 1. A Few Biographical Details.
 - Where and when the veteran was born
 - Family details: parents' occupations, number and gender of siblings.
 - What veteran was doing before entering the service.
 - Other family members who served in the military.
- 2. Early Days of Service.
 - How veteran entered service-draft or enlistment.
 - If enlistment, why and the reason for choosing a specific branch of service.
 - Departure for training camp, early days of training.
 - Specialized training if applicable.
 - Adapting to military life: physical regimen, barracks, food, social life.
- 3. Wartime Service.
 - Where veteran served.
 - Details of the trip abroad, if applicable.
 - Action witnessed, or duties away from the front line.
 - If applicable, emotions relating to combat- witnessing casualties, destruction.
 - Friendships formed and camaraderie of service.
 - How veterans stayed in touch with family and friends back home; communication from home.
 - Recreation or off-duty pursuits.
- 4. War's End, Coming Home.
 - Where veteran was when war ended.
 - How he or she returned home.
 - Reception by family and community.
 - Public reception of homecoming.
 - Readjustment to civilian life.
 - Contact with fellow veterans over the years; membership in veterans' organizations.
- 5. Central Florida.
 - Changes throughout Central Florida before and after enlistment.
 - Comparison/contrast of the place in which the veteran served with Central Florida hometown.
 - Central Florida's active support or resistance of war efforts, if applicable.
 - How the war or conflict in which the veteran served affected Central Florida, if applicable.
- 6. Reflections.
 - How wartime experiences affected veteran's life.
 - Life lessons learned from military service.