

Interview A Veteran

Talk to someone that you know who has served in the military. You may like to use a phone or computer to record your interview. Remember as an interviewer it is your job to make your interviewee feel comfortable, giving them time to speak, tell their own stories and nurture memories. Prepare yourself before you start an interview. Do you need to bring a map or atlas? Will your interviewee feel more comfortable if you share your questions with them first? Here are some sample questions you may choose to ask your interviewee, but remember it is not a checklist. Great interviewers listen and let the answers guide the next question.

- Why did you join the military?
- Which branch did you serve in?
- Did you choose which branch you served in?
- Do you remember your first day of service?
- Tell me about your training exercises / boot camp.
- Which war/s did you serve in?
- Where did you travel while serving?
- Do you remember arriving? What was it like?
- How did you stay in touch with people back home?
- Did you see combat?
- What was most memorable about your experiences?
- What was the food like?
- Did you have many supplies?
- What was your unit like? Did you make any close friends?
- How did you entertain yourselves?
- Did you ever play pranks on each other?
- Do you have any photos? Do you remember the people in the photographs?
- Did you keep a diary?
- Do you remember the day your service ended? Where were you?
- What did you go on to do as a career after the war?
- Do you think serving in the war has changed the way you think about war and serving in the military?
- Are you a part of a veterans organisation? What kind of activities do you do?
- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't had a chance to speak about?

Always remember to thank your interviewee for their time and for sharing his or her memories.