

LISTENING GUIDE

Service: Veteran Stories of Hunger and War

EPISODE 1: WE GAVE THEM THE FOOD FROM OUR MESS KITS

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PRE-LISTENING:

PREDICTING: How might your experiences as a service member or civilian influence your expectation of what you're about to hear? Begin the **Predicting and Reflecting** worksheet for Service.

THINK ABOUT IT: This is the first episode of the podcast Service: Veteran Stories of Hunger & War, and it introduces us to World War II history and the role individuals and communities played in it.

1. What comes first to mind when you think of World War II? Who were the “good guys”? Who were the “bad guys?”
2. As we'll hear, the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 (the draft) eventually required men between 18-45 to register with local draft boards. Complete the **Broadening an Experience** worksheet to ponder how this would have affected your family and community.
3. The title of this episode is, “We Gave Them the Food From Our Mess Kits.” Who might you presume “Them” to be? List three possibilities.

KEY TERMS:

Mess Kit: a collection of silverware and cookware used during camping and backpacking, as well as extended military campaigns

Pullman: a railroad car affording special comfort, especially one with sleeping compartments

NAME:

DATE:

DURING LISTENING:

[Timestamps may vary slightly depending on listening platform]

CCSS.ELA-INFORMATIONAL.RI.II-I2.1

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

CCSS.ELA-INFORMATIONAL.RI.II-I2.3

Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.

CCSS.ELA-INFORMATIONAL.RI.II-I2.5

Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging.

1. Food writer, producer, and host Jacqueline Raposo says she was uncomfortable talking to the veterans in her life about their experiences. What does she say was the reason for this?
2. What subject becomes the shared point of conversation to help her connect? How does the subject help veterans and civilians find common ground?
3. How would you characterize Pat D'Ambrosio's childhood in Keene, NH? What details support your assessment?
4. Describe how the D'Ambrosio family got and stored produce during Pat's childhood. How is that similar or different from how your family gets and stores produce?
5. How common was it in Keane to have family members in the military? How do you think that shaped the town and the people in it?
6. Summarize how the term "Gold Star Family" came to be.
7. Why does Hansine hate parades to this day?
8. Hansine talks about her cousin Mickey who had flat feet and wasn't going to be accepted into the military. What does Mickey do as a result?
9. Why do you think he did this? What does this say about the sense of patriotism for those who lived during this time?
10. Pat is stationed throughout the Philippines during the latter part of the war. How is his life saved by the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan?

DURING LISTENING (continued):

11. When Pat is stationed on Mindoro, in the Philippines, he is introduced to “balut.” Explain what that is.
12. At first, how are the Filipinos getting food from the American troops?
13. Why, does he say, are the Filipino people so destitute for food?
14. How did the American troops change the way that they were transferring food to the Filipino people?
15. Pat says that he liked the food in the army. At the same time, his descriptions are not very appetizing, “They used to have something like brown hamburger, used to call it shit on a shingle - SOS.” Why do you think he enjoyed this but wouldn't eat the balut?
16. Pat says that the macaroni wasn't really like the macaroni [that he had at home]. Imagine that your only option for your favorite food is a not very good version of your favorite food. Would you eat it or not? Explain.
17. Jacqueline cites Pat's “unsettling gratitude” for having survived the war because of the drop of the atomic bombs as a reason why he didn't speak about his Service afterward. Describe a time when something that impacted you in a positive way impacted someone else in a negative way. How did that make you feel?
18. How can sitting together with someone over a shared meal make it easier to talk about things? Describe a time that you have experienced this (maybe a first date, a first day at a new school, meeting an estranged relative for the first time).

AFTER LISTENING:

- Complete the bottom of the **Predicting and Reflecting** worksheet.
- Complete the **Write a Veteran** worksheet or **send Pat a message online**.
- **Make your voice heard!** Review Service with this **worksheet** or **online**.
- Complete the **Analyze a Photo** worksheet.