

# LISTENING GUIDE

Service: Veteran Stories of Hunger and War

EPISODE 5: FOOD SERVICE WITHIN THE SERVICE

[EPISODE PAGE](#) - [EPISODE ON ITUNES](#) - [ALL EPISODES](#)

## 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:** What do you know about segregation and its impact on soldiers and the military in World War II? Complete the [Activating Prior Knowledge worksheet for Episode 5](#).

## KEY TERMS:

**Mess attendant/messmen:** a navy enlisted man who serves the food and clears the tables for officers and crew.

**Hold (noun):** a large space in the lower part of a ship or aircraft in which cargo is stowed.

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.

NAME:

DATE:

## DURING LISTENING:

[Timestamps may vary slightly depending on listening platform]

1. List two reasons the Navy was not the most welcoming branch for African American men at the start of the war.
2. Why did William love school? List the reason you hear as most important to him.
3. Listen closely to the sound effects as William describes the jobs he and his stepfather did during his childhood. Use three adjectives to describe what you think it must have been like to grow up in his household/with these jobs happening around him.
4. What happened when William went to the YMCA with his neighbors? What do you hear as the worst part of this memory for William? Why will he never forget it?
5. Why did William choose to join the Navy?
6. List two circumstances when Williams remembers black sailors receiving unequal treatment compared to their white counterparts.
7. When ferrying supplies in the Pacific theater, William says, "We were never directly attacked, but we were always in situations where we could be." Listen to the sound effects as William explains how they transported supplies during this time. Use three adjectives to describe how you might feel if this was your job in the Navy during World War II.
8. When William speaks about their rations on board ship - things like flour, eggs, and beer - does he talk about them in regard to pleasure or survival? Explain.
9. Why did Walker say that he got a lot of respect from blacks, whites, and officers? How was this respect limited between him and the white sailors and officers?
10. What conditions had to be in place for him to retain that respect?
11. William mentions survival in the context of his childhood during the Depression and then in observing the residents of the islands they were supplying. Describe those two circumstances. How were they similar? How different?

## DURING LISTENING (continued):

12. How did these experiences shape William's feelings about his job of "Food Service within the Service?" What adjective does he use to describe his contribution?

13. How does this change your appreciation for those who do such jobs? Explain.

14.[17:40] What does William most miss about the food from home?

15. How do the sound effects behind William's sharing of this time in his life - what he misses about home and his mother - add to the understanding of his emotions during this time? Explain.

16. [18:45] Listen closely to the different kinds of sounds you hear as we approach the end of the war, when William says, "I was in Leyte Gulf..."

- During his interview, William never used specific phrases about the end of the war, like, "At the end of the war...." or "On VJ-Day...." What sound effects do you hear that help us understand that this is the end of the war?
- How does listening to this combination of narration, music, sound effects, and historical audio in this podcast help you understand this moment in history differently than you would if reading this information in a history book?
- What can you better understand or relate to?

17. Today we think of veterans as people who should be treated with respect. How was William treated when he came home? Of the situations he shares, describe the situation that you find to be the worst. Why do you feel it is so? Explain.

18. How did William's experience in the Navy help him succeed at Ohio State University?

19. How did growing up in the Great Depression affect how much food is in William's house today?

## AFTER LISTENING:

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