



National History Day®

Silent Heroes®:

Untold Stories of the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II



RESEARCHING WORLD WAR II MILITARY SERVICE



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About the Program

Since 2011, National History Day® (NHD) has led a variety of programs to engage teachers and students in the study of Silent Heroes®. Silent Heroes are the untold stories of history. While the majority of historical scholarship focuses on the leaders, NHD recognizes the value of studying the history of ordinary people.

In *Untold Stories from World War II Marines*, NHD students and teachers study the stories of World War II Veterans—their lives before the war, their communities, their military service in the World War II era, and their experience as Veterans in their communities. This process helps students understand the role of the military and the conflict through the eyes of a Veteran. This is a powerful opportunity to personalize history and help students see the past through the eyes of those who lived it.

The program engages students and teachers in historical inquiry, using secondary sources to establish historical context and content. Students and teachers seek primary sources to help document their Silent Hero's life experiences. This can include manuscript census pages, birth certificates, school records, military files, newspapers, photographs, oral histories, materials from local libraries, historical societies, or families, and obituaries. When possible, students and teachers connect with family members, and with their consent, interview them to learn details about their loved ones that are often only recorded in the memories of those who knew them.

Throughout the process students and teachers learn how to identify sources, determine the validity of sources, supply evidence to support their claims, and properly track and cite their sources. Their research is synthesized and the students and teachers visit the cemeteries where their Silent Heroes are interred to offer eulogies to honor their lives. Sometimes family members will accompany the students. Their work is synthesized and cross-listed on NHD's Silent Heroes website (NHDSilentHeroes.org) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Legacy Memorial (vlm.cem.va.gov).

This program is a powerful tool to help connect students with their home communities. As citizens of that community, they learn the importance of recognizing and honoring those from that community who served and sacrificed for the good of others.

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Need help? Have questions?

Please reach out to your research mentor! We're happy to help you through this process.

Introduction

All of the Veterans you are researching in this project served during World War II. While many served overseas posts, some served at a military base within the United States. Veterans are eligible to have “World War II” on their marker if they served on active duty within the time frame of the war.

Archival Records

What is the National Personnel Records Center?

The [National Personnel Records Center](#) (NPRC) is a part of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). It is the primary repository of personnel records for the military and civil service workers. For Veterans, these records include service records (enlistment, discharge, and service history), medical records, and awards or decorations received. Military personnel records are opened to the public 62 years after the service member’s separation from the military.

National Personnel Records Center Fire of 1973

On July 12, 1973, a massive fire broke out at the NPRC in St. Louis, Missouri. It took four and a half days and the collective efforts of 42 fire districts to put it out. Approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) were ultimately destroyed. Broken down by branch, the Army lost 80% of its files for personnel discharged between 1912 and 1960. The Air Force lost 75% of its files for personnel discharged between 1947 and 1964.¹ In the years since the fire, the NPRC has been able to collect auxiliary records to reconstruct basic service information.

What Records Might be Obtained from the National Personnel Records Center?

Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)

The Official Military Personnel File is a comprehensive record that documents a service member's career. It includes information about a service member’s enlistment, training, assignments, evaluations, promotions, awards and decorations, disciplinary actions, and separation or discharge from service. You can learn a lot about your Silent Hero using this file, including:

- ▶ **Military Career**
 - ▶ Outlines promotions, ranks held, and positions, allowing you to see how your Silent Hero’s career evolved.
 - ▶ Includes records of specialized training, offering you an understanding of their technical expertise.
 - ▶ Lists stations and deployments that can reveal their involvement in significant military operations or conflicts.
 - ▶ Military occupational specialty (MOS) title and number. Some of the most common MOS titles are listed below. Prior to June 1945, the U.S. Marines used the same codes as the U.S. Army, which can be [accessed here](#).

U.S. Marine Corps	
▶ Infantryman (INF) ▶ Artilleryman (ARTY) ▶ Tank Crewman (TANK) ▶ Combat Engineer (CE) ▶ Intelligence Analyst (INTEL) ▶ Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) ▶ Reconnaissance Marine (RECON) ▶ Medical Corpsman (HM)	▶ Aviation Support Specialist (AVSUP) ▶ Supply Sergeant (SUP SGT) ▶ Communications Technician (COMMS TECH) ▶ Logistics Specialist (LOGSPEC) ▶ Military Police (MP) ▶ Field Wireman (WIRE) ▶ Admin Clerk (ADMIN)

▶ Historical Context

- ▶ Shows hints of changes in military policies or structure over time—for instance, the integration of the armed forces, new training protocols, or shifts in strategies.
- ▶ Details about your Silent Hero's race, gender, or socioeconomic background, and how these factors potentially affected their service could provide insights into their experience.

▶ Military Awards and Honors

- ▶ Awards and commendations for bravery and leadership. This could include Purple Hearts, which indicate that the servicemember was injured in the line of duty.
- ▶ Campaign medals show you specific battles or campaigns in which your Silent Hero participated.

▶ Personal Experiences

- ▶ Outlines medical records and reports of injuries or illnesses, revealing the physical toll that military life and combat had on your Silent Hero.
- ▶ Revelations of personal struggles and successes can be seen in any evaluations and disciplinary records.
- ▶ Details about their separation or discharge can illuminate clues about the post-military life of your Silent Hero.

Report of Separation

This form summarizes a Veteran's service and is typically used by them to verify service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in Veteran organizations. In it, you can find:

- ▶ Dates of Service (from enlistment to discharge)
- ▶ Service Branch
- ▶ Rank/Grade: Final rank and pay grade
- ▶ Military Occupational Specialty
- ▶ Character of Service: Type of discharge
 - ▶ Honorable: Given when the service member completes their duties with good conduct.

- ▶ General Discharge Under Honorable Conditions: Given when the service was considered satisfactory, but there were minor disciplinary infractions.
- ▶ Other Than Honorable: Given when misconduct occurred, but it did not merit a court-martial.
- ▶ Bad Conduct: Given as a result of a court-martial for a serious offense (being drunk on duty, driving under the influence, committing adultery, an arrest for disorderly conduct, etc.)
- ▶ Dishonorable: Given as a result of a court-martial for a major criminal charge, such as murder, fraud, desertion, treason, sexual assault, etc.
- ▶ Medical: Given when a service member can no longer serve due to a medical condition or injury.
- ▶ Reason and Authority for Separation: Link [here to access a common list of codes](#).
- ▶ Awards and Decorations - These sources can help you understand common awards for different branches of service:
 - ▶ [Armed Forces Decorations and Awards](#)
 - ▶ [Military Medals Database](#)

Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF)

The Individual Deceased Personnel File documents the death of a service member who has died while in service. It provides information on the circumstances of their death, the efforts to recover and identify their remains, and the arrangements for burial or memorialization. Since your Silent Hero survived the war, you will not have one of these files.

Other Avenues of Research

Unit Histories

Some OMPFs will contain morning reports or unit diaries giving detailed information about significant battles or operations. However, not all files will contain this information. If you can identify the specific military unit that your Silent Hero served with, though, you can often learn more about what they did while they were deployed by searching unit histories. Unit histories can help you understand the battles, campaigns, and missions in which the unit participated. The resources below provide a good starting point.

U.S. Marine Corps

[*Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal: History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II* - Volume 1](#)

[*Isolation of Rabaul: History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II* - Volume 2](#)

[*Central Pacific Drive: History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II* - Volume 3](#)

[*Western Pacific Operations: History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II* - Volume 4](#)

[*Victory and Occupation: History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II* - Volume 5](#)

[*Special Marine Corps Units of World War II*](#)

[*The Right to Fight: African-American Marines in World War II*](#)

[*Free a Marine to Fight: Women Marines in World War II*](#)

Consider my example from the previous modules, Eugene Hilding Peterson. I know from his obituary that he was a combat wireman in the 12th Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division in the Pacific Theater. I also know that he was 19 when he registered, as indicated on his draft card, which I found on Ancestry. This most likely places him overseas in early 1943, given the time spent in basic training and his advanced training as a combat wireman.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER 240 1. NAME (Print) Eugene Hilding Peterson ORDER NUMBER 12657

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 7200 Jeffery Ave., Chicago Cook Illinois

3. MAILING ADDRESS Same

4. TELEPHONE Hyde 76505 5. AGE IN YEARS 19 years 6. PLACE OF BIRTH Chicago

DATE OF BIRTH June 19, 1923

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Russ Oliva Peterson 7823 Merrill Ave. (Aunt)

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS unemployed

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. M. S. FORM 1 (Revised 6-1-42) (over) 616-21630-3 Eugene Peterson (Registrant's signature)

I can use those details, even without a military file, to find information using the listed resources.

For instance, I opened the second e-book in the list, *Isolation to Rabaul*, and searched for the term 'Guam' (using the FIND command) since that was mentioned in his obituary. On the fourth instance of 'Guam', I found this document:

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
Washington.

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in commending the

TWELFTH MARINES, THIRD MARINE DIVISION

for service as follows:

"For outstanding heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Empress Augusta Bay Beachhead, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, from November 1, 1943, to January 12, 1944; and in the invasion and seizure of Guam, Marianas, July 21 to August 10, 1944. Divided for landing into small elements dispersed over 5000 yards of beach at Empress Augusta Bay, the TWELFTH Marines overcame perilous surf and beach conditions and an almost impenetrable wall of jungle and swampy terrain to land their pack howitzers, initial ammunition and equipment by hand, to occupy firing positions, emplace guns, set up all control facilities and deliver effective fire in support of the THIRD Marine Division beachhead by afternoon of D-Day. In action for 73 days while under continual Japanese air attacks, the TWELFTH Marines aided in smashing an enemy counterattack on November 7-8, silenced all hostile fire in the Battle of Cocoanut Grove on November 13, and delivered continuous effective fire in defense of the vital beachhead position. At Guam, they landed in the face of enemy mortar and artillery fire through treacherous surf and, despite extreme difficulties of communication, supply and transportation, and the necessity of shifting from one type of fire to another, rendered valuable fire support in night and day harassing fires, counterbattery fires and defensive barrages, including the disruption of an organized counterattack by seven Japanese battalions on the night of July 26-27. By their individual heroic actions and their skilled teamwork, the officers and men of the TWELFTH Marines served with courage and distinction during the THIRD Marine Division's missions to secure the Empress Augusta Bay Beachhead and to aid in the recapture of Guam, thereby enhancing the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

All personnel attached to and serving with the TWELFTH Marines during these periods are hereby authorized to wear the NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION Ribbon.

JAMES FORRESTAL,
Secretary of the Navy.

From this, I have a lot of new information about one part of my Silent Hero's military life that I can explore.

Oral Histories

Oral histories can give you an idea about particular job responsibilities or what it was like to serve in a certain area. Even if your Silent Hero doesn't have an interview listed, these can still be valuable to your research.

► [Library of Congress Veterans History Project](#)

Consider the example from the previous section. From the commendation, I know that from November 1, 1943, to January 12, 1944, my Silent Hero was at Bougainville and the Solomon Islands, and from July 21, 1944, to August 10, 1944, he was on Guam and Mariana. I will use that information to see if I can find any other Veterans who served with him and could provide insights into what that time was like.

Results: 1-2 of 2 | Refined by: [Part of: Veterans History Project Collection](#) [Wars & Conflicts: World War, 1939 to 1945](#) [Service Branch: Marine Corps](#) [Battles & Campaigns: Guam](#) [Service Unit/Ship: 3rd Marine Division](#) [Service Unit/Ship: 12th Marine Regiment, 3...](#)

Refine your results

- ☐ Available Online 2
- ☒ All Items 2

Special Format

- ☒ Interview Transcript 1

Online Format

- ☒ ☐

Wars & Conflicts

- ☒ World War, 1939 to 1945

Service Branches

- ☒ Marine Corps

Locations of Service

- ☒ Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands) 2
- ☒ Guam (Mariana Islands) 2
- ☒ Iwo Jima 2
- ☒ New Caledonia 2
- ☒ Pacific Theater 1

Battles & Campaigns

- ☒

Collection Items

View Sort By

PERSONAL NARRATIVE
Henry Karbin Collection
Sergeant, Marine Corps, World War, 1939-1945 - New Caledonia; Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands); Guam (Mariana Islands); Iwo Jima.
Contributor: Karbin, Marion - Karbin, Henry
Date: 1942
Resource: Audio, Interview / Recording, 00:27:37.0

PERSONAL NARRATIVE
Nick James Rock Collection
Sergeant, Marine Corps, World War, 1939-1945 - Pacific Theater; Guam (Mariana Islands); Iwo Jima; New Caledonia; Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands).
Contributor: Rock, Nick James - Legacies: Stories from the Second World War - Swope, Thomas A.
Date: 1943
Resource: Audio, Interview / Recording, 01:34:46.0

After narrowing down the search to only include:

- Battles & Campaigns: Guam
- Service Unit/Ship: 3rd Marine Division
- Service Unit/Ship: 12th Marine Regiment

I got back two results. These interviews helped paint a clearer picture of what life was like in the military for my Silent Hero, which is often difficult to convey in official military documents.

General Research Resources

We have also compiled a list of other helpful online resources (starting on page 13) that you can use to find specific information on your Silent Hero.

For example, after doing some digging on the Marine Corps University website, I found this book, [A Brief History of the 12th Marines](#). In it, I found several images that I could potentially use in my profile, as well as a command chronology at the end that could help guide further research.

Using the general [National Archives Catalog](#), I also found many documents related to Guam, including this video showing aerial footage of the airstrips.

Organizing Your Information

As you find information, add it to your Silent Hero folder (linked in Google Classroom). In the second subfolder, Military Life, we have placed an organizer file.

Just like before, there are two parts to this graphic organizer.

In the first part, you organize the information that you learn. Add in the answers to the questions, the source of your information, and, where possible, links to the images or files. Add any files you find to your folders (a photograph of the town's main street or newspaper articles). If you cannot fill in a row, that is ok. If you find the information later, come back and add it. If you find additional information that is not contained in one of the prompts, add rows at the end of your organizer to add that information. You also have a section where you can add questions that you have. That helps us because if we know what you are looking for, we might be able to help guide you to the answers. While we will never be able to answer all questions, you start by asking them.

Silent Hero Research Organizer - Military Life (U.S. Marine Corps)

Prompt	Response	Source of information	Link to Image/File
Was your Silent Hero drafted or did they enlist? When and where did they join the military?			
To which unit(s) or ship(s) was your Silent Hero assigned? See the chart below to help you track their service using muster rolls.			
What was your Silent Hero's job? What did that entail? What would daily job tasks include?			

In the second part of the graphic organizer, you input and track your sources. We have provided some of the most common sources you are likely to find. For each source, use the sample citation to write your citation on the right. If you find sources that are not on this list, do your best to create a Chicago-style citation for that source. If you're unsure how to do that, please ask us! Your research mentors can help. We're happy to review and help as you work.

Document Review List:

Here is a list of common documents that might help you answer the questions above. No one will have every one of these sources, but they might lead you down pathways to learn more.

When you find a source, please save a copy and create a Chicago style bibliography entry for it.

Source	Sample citation for this type of source:	Your citations:
Sources from the National Archives in St. Louis		
Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)	John Smith, Official Military Personnel File, Department of the Navy. National Archives and Records Administration - St. Louis.	
Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) - PARTIAL FILE	John Smith, Official Military Personnel File (partial), Department of the Navy. National Archives and Records Administration - St. Louis.	

World War II Military Research Resources List

General Resources

[Digital Public Library of America](#)

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) links sources available in digital archives and includes images, text, videos, sounds, and physical objects. Try searching “WWII” and a particular place or unit.

[Newspapers.com](#) (part of Ancestry Classroom)

Search for the names of people, units, or campaigns.

[Chronicling America](#), Library of Congress

While this database is stronger in earlier years (1880s-1920s), it has digitized several newspapers through the 1950s, including the Evening Star (Washington, D.C.), The Nome Nugget (Nome, Alaska), and The Daily Express (Dayton, Ohio), among others. Try searching for specific people, units, or campaigns.

[Fold3](#) (Through your Ancestry Classroom subscription): This is the wing of Ancestry devoted to military documents. Some highlights include:

- ▶ Military Yearbooks
- ▶ Marine Corps Muster Rolls
- ▶ *Stars & Stripes* newspaper

[National Park Service World War II Collections](#)

Explore the National Park Service's virtual collections related to World War II.

[Historical Government Publications from World War II](#)

A digital collection of 343 informational pamphlets, government reports, instructions, regulations, speeches, and propaganda material distributed by the U.S. Government Printing Office during World War II.

[National Collection of Aerial Photography](#)

Aerial photography organized by Operation.

Museums

[The National WWII Museum](#)

A massive digital collection of artifacts, photographs, documents, and oral histories related to World War II. You can search by branch of service, theater of operation, and more.

[The National Museum of American History](#)

A database of 1.7 million objects and 22,000 linear feet of archival documents. Great for finding images of uniforms, weapons, and personal items that your Silent Hero might have carried.

[Library of Congress: World War II Resource Guide](#)

A collection of digital resources, including military battle and campaign maps, photographs, posters, newspapers, etc.

[National Archives World War II Records](#)

A wide range of materials, including draft records, maps, photographs, and audio recordings.

[National Archives Office of War Information Collection](#)

The Office of War Information (OWI) was a government agency established during the 1940s that produced wartime news and American propaganda. In addition to military information, you might find resources to use in your home front section here.

[American Air Museum in Britain](#)

An interactive archive of images and information related to Britain and America's experience of the war.

[The Imperial War Museum](#)

It is a significant resource for researching World War I and II in the United Kingdom. It contains many artifacts, including uniforms, weapons, medals, and personal items. Additionally, extensive photo and film archives documenting the war will provide you with visual context for the events of your Silent Hero.

U.S. Marine Corps

[History Division of the Marine Corps Digital Book Collection](#)

[U.S. Marine Corps University Archives](#)

A collection of digitized documents, photos, and official reports on World War II campaigns and operations.

[U.S. Marine Corps in World War II - HyperWar](#)

Part of the HyperWar series. Covers all major campaigns with detailed battle-by-battle accounts.

Lesson Plan: Analyzing Military Records for Silent Hero Research

Objectives

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will:

- ▶ Learn how to use a DD-214 military file to gather essential information about their Silent Hero;
- ▶ Generate further research questions; and
- ▶ Utilize additional historical resources for deeper exploration of their Silent Hero's military service.

Documents Used

Primary Source

Robert Carper, Jr., Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), National Archives and Records Administration
nhd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Carper-OMPF-file.pdf

Secondary Source

Video, *Researching Marine Corps Official Military Personnel Files at the National Archives* [13:46]
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKqnWvP1Qqs

Teacher-Created Materials

- ▶ Silent Hero Research Organizer: Military Life
- ▶ Silent Hero Research Organizer: Military Life Teacher Answer Key

Lesson Preparation

- ▶ Organize students into pairs.
- ▶ Prepare printed or digital copies of Robert Carper, Jr.'s Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) for each student.
- ▶ Prepare printed or digital copies of the Silent Hero Research Organizer: Military Life for each student.
- ▶ Print one copy of the Silent Hero Research Organizer: Military Life Teacher Answer Key for teacher use.
- ▶ Review and test video.

Procedure

Activity One: Introduction and Video (15 minutes)

- ▶ Introduce the concept of an Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), an official file maintained by the military that provides detailed documentation of a service member's history.
- ▶ Play the video introducing the elements of a World War II Marine Official Military Personnel File and the types of documents it contains.
- ▶ Explain to students that they will be examining Robert Carper, Jr.'s OMPF and using information from it to complete a chart detailing his military service.

Activity Two: Guided Practice and Partner Work (35 minutes)

- ▶ Project one page from Robert Carper, Jr.'s OMPF showing how to pull out key information about Carper's military service (e.g. enlistment date, service number, etc.)
- ▶ Introduce and model how to enter that and other information into the correct spaces on the Silent Hero Research Organizer: Military Life.
- ▶ Allow partners time to read and identify key information from Carper's Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) and complete as many sections as possible on the Silent Hero Research Organizer: Military Life.
- ▶ Circulate and assist with abbreviations and difficult-to-read handwritten entries.

Activity Three: Discussion and Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)

- ▶ Ask each pair to share one interesting fact they learned about Robert Carper, Jr.'s military service from this lesson.
- ▶ Ask students: *What types of information were easiest to find? What information was hardest to find?*
- ▶ Remind students that OMPFs are powerful documents that require careful examination and interpretation to uncover information and piece together the story of a Silent Hero's military service.

Silent Hero Research Organizer: Military Life

Prompt	Response	Source (Title of OMPF doc, where info was found)
Part A: If you have received military files, start here		
Was your Silent Hero drafted or did they enlist? When and where did they join the military?		
To which unit(s) or ship(s) was your Silent Hero assigned? What was the job of that unit? Write out as much as you know.		
What was your Silent Hero's job? What did that entail?		
What rank was your Silent Hero? Did they ever earn a promotion? If so, which one(s)?		
Where did your Silent Hero receive military training?		
Was your Silent Hero part of a naval or Marine aviation crew?		
Did your Silent Hero serve on land or at sea?		
Did your Silent Hero leave the United States? If so, when? What was the point of departure? When did they return?		

Primary Source Analysis Graphic Organizer

Prompt	Response	Source (Title of OMPF doc, where info was found)
Where was your Silent Hero stationed before World War II began? After the war?		
Did your Silent Hero deploy overseas during the war? Where were they deployed?		
Which battles or campaigns did your Silent Hero participate in?		
Did your Silent Hero have a job before they enlisted or were drafted? If so, what was the job? Where did they work?		
Did your Silent Hero receive any military awards?		
When did your Silent Hero leave the military? What was their last military duty station?		
Any additional important information discovered		
What would you like to know about your Silent Hero that you have not uncovered yet? What questions do you have?		

Silent Hero Research Organizer: Military Life

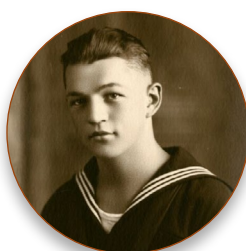
Prompt	Response	Source (Title of OMPF doc, where info was found)
Part A: If you have received military files, start here		
Was your Silent Hero drafted or did they enlist? When and where did they join the military?	Carper enlisted in the Marines in Des Moines, Iowa, on June 3, 1943 at the age of 17. His parents had to fill out paperwork providing permission as he was a minor. He was just 5'5" tall and 129 pounds upon enlistment. His serial number was 511055	Report of Separation Consent of Parents or Guardians to Enlistment of a Minor Personal Description form
To which unit(s) or ship(s) was your Silent Hero assigned? What was the job of that unit? Write out as much as you know.	Joined the Searchlight Battery, 7th Anti-Aircraft Battalion on May 21, 1944-July 25, 1945 On Aug. 13, 1945, he joined the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 6th Marine Division Joined 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines on Nov. 30-1945-Discharge Jan. 30, 1946.	Pay Account Record: Expeditions, Engagements, Distinguished Service Service Record Book
What was your Silent Hero's job? What did that entail?	His principal job was as a Generator Operator as of Dec. 27, 1943. Later, he became a Radar Operator on March 13, 1945.	Report of Separation Enlisted Man's Qualification Card
What rank was your Silent Hero? Did they ever earn a promotion? If so, which one(s)?	Promoted to Private First Class on Oct 13, 1943 after completing Radar Following Electronics Training at Camp Lejeune. Received promotion to Corporal on January 25, 1946 at Camp Pendleton right before his discharge.	Report of Separation Consent of Parents or Guardians to Enlistment of a Minor Personal Description form
Where did your Silent Hero receive military training?	Assigned to the 6th Recruit Battalion and attended basic training in San Diego. On Oct. 13, 1943, he attended Electronics School at the Signal Battalion Training Center, Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, and achieved the rating of Radar Technician	Conduct Record Service-Record Book
Was your Silent Hero part of a naval or Marine aviation crew?	N/A	
Did your Silent Hero serve on land or at sea?	On land for sure, not certain about sea other than transport.	Memos
Did your Silent Hero leave the United States? If so, when? What was the point of departure? When did they return?	Carper served in the South Pacific. Record show in August 1944 he departed from Oahu through the Marshall Islands, Admiralty Islands and Finally to Angaur, Paleu on September 25, 1944. Departed Yososuko, Japan, aboard the U.S.S. <i>Lumen</i> on December 29, 1945, and arrived in San Diego, California on January 18, 1946.	Searchlight Battery Memo Fourth Marines, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific Memo
Where was your Silent Hero stationed before World War II began? After the war?	He wasn't as the war was already happening when he enlisted in 1943. Prior to his military service, Carper was a student at Des Moines Roosevelt High School.	Report of Separation
Did your Silent Hero deploy overseas during the war? Where were they deployed?	Carper's overseas duty lasted 1 year, 11 months, and 22 days.	Report of Separation

Silent Hero Research Organizer: Military Life Answer Key

Prompt	Response	Source (Title of OMPF doc, where info was found)
Which battles or campaigns did your Silent Hero participate in?	Participated in the initial landings and occupation of Japan at Yokosuka Naval Base in Tokyo from August 15, 1945-December 3, 1945.	Report of Separation
Did your Silent Hero have a job before they enlisted or were drafted? If so, what was the job? Where did they work?	No, he didn't have a full-time job because he was a recent graduate of Des Moines Roosevelt High School. He did factory work and drove a truck part-time after school and in the summer	Headquarters, Third Batt. Memo
Did your Silent Hero receive any military awards?	No evidence provided	
When did your Silent Hero leave the military? What was their last military duty station?	Carper was honorably discharged on January 30, 1946, at Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, California	Report of Separation
Any additional important information discovered	Carper planned to become a doctor upon his discharge based on "interest and experience."	Report of Separation
What would you like to know about your Silent Hero that you have not uncovered yet? What questions do you have?		
Answers will vary.		



National History Day® (NHD) is honored to help students and teachers across the nation to honor and tell the stories of American men and women who served their nation and lost their lives either in service to the United States of America or after living as Veterans. We seek to teach the historical research process through these biographical profiles. The stories contained on NHSilentHeroes.org are gathered from NHD programs from 2012 to the present. To learn more about the program and discuss bringing it to your classroom, contact programs@nhd.org.



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National History Day
4511 Knox Road, Suite 205
College Park, MD 20740
301-314-9739