

## Ken Burns *The War* Episode 1: A Necessary War

**Directions: Answer the following questions based on the movie. The questions are listed in the order they appear in the film. You do not need to use complete sentences.**

### Part 1:

1. Why did Glenn Frazier join the military in 1941 and why did he think he would be safe when he was assigned to the Philippines?
2. What did Sam Hynes say about a “good war”? What does he call WWII?
3. How many people died in WWII between 1939 and 1945? Were the majority of these killed soldiers or civilians?
4. What happened to the American economy as the fighting of WWII went on and what would America become by the end of the war?
5. Why does Agatt Ryland know what it's like to see vast sections of a city ripped to ruin? What did she say when she visited Minnesota in 1941?
6. What did Quentin Aenenson in Luverne Minnesota dream about as he did his farm work in his fields? Where would he eventually find himself fighting in WWII?
7. How many Japanese Americans lived in Sacramento, CA before WWII began? What did Sasumu Satow enjoy watching as he grew up there?
8. What was the town of Waterbury Connecticut proudly called by its citizens? What kind of population did this city have?
9. What was the main industry in Mobile, AL before the war? What was life like for African Americans like John Gray?
10. What did Daniel Innouaye of Honolulu, Hawaii see when he went outside Sunday morning, December 7, 1941? What did he think when he saw this?
11. How many Americans were killed at Pearl Harbor? How did many Americans react to this event and how did our government react?
12. What did Japan's allies do shortly after the US declared war on Japan? What did Americans ask themselves when this happen?
13. What had the Axis powers do to several nations throughout the 1930's? How much did many Americans know about what was happening at this time?
14. What did the motives of Germany, Italy, and Japan have in common? How did the Axis leaders feel about the US and why?
15. What did Glenn Frazier initially feel about killing people and what changed him?

16. How many Japanese soldiers invaded the Philippines in 1941? Where did Americans living in the Philippines go after the American Army was defeated by January 1942?
17. Why did Sam Hynes of Minnesota join the military when WWII began?
18. Why did Sydney Phillips join the Marines? How did his mother react to this?
19. How many men registered for the draft in WWII? How many were rejected on medical, dental, or moral grounds? Why did the army drop the requirement of being able to read and write?
20. How was the experience of being in WWII different for Black soldiers than White soldiers?
21. What were American soldiers shown in their training films and what did most soldiers feel about these films? What did they realize about the films by the end of the war?
22. What did pictures that came out of Poland in 1942 show about what would happen if the Axis powers won WWII? How was the war going in early 1942?
23. What did a German sub do off the coast of New York city on the evening of January 13, 1942?

## **Part 2**

24. How many men surrendered to the Japanese in the Philippines in 1942? What did the Japanese general tell General King about how his men would be treated?
25. How did the Japanese treat the Americans and Filipinos as they marched out of the Bataan?
26. Why did Glenn Frazier throw one of his sets of dogtags into the mass grave at Camp O-Donnell?
27. What did Sam Hynes see in Seattle in 1942? Where were these people going?
28. What was Sasumu Satow's biggest worry when he was deported to the camps?
29. Why did the Japanese plans for the island of Midway not work out for the Japanese? What was the final result of this battle?
30. How much did WWII cost America (and what is this in today's dollars)? How was this money raised?
31. How many German Divisions (a division is usually around 10,000 men) fought in Russia in the spring of 1942?
32. What did Sydney Phillips and his comrades attack in August of 1942? What did the men call this operation because of the reduced rations and other supplies?
33. What was the first American casualty on Guadalcanal? How did the marines who landed on this island get stranded there?

34. What happened to the marines on Guadalcanal on the night of August 21<sup>st</sup>? How many casualties did the Japanese take vs the US Marines?
35. How US many soldiers died in the fighting in Guadalcanal? What did Japan lose and what was this battle considered for the US?
36. By December of 1942, who was the tide of Victory in the Pacific turning to?
37. What new song by Irving Berlin did Bing Crosby introduce in the movie *Holiday Inn* in the Christmas of 1942? How did American troops like this song?
38. How many Americans had been killed in fighting in WWII by the end of 1942?
39. What branch of military did William Lansford join in 1942? How did he feel at first but how did that change by the end?
40. What group did Lansford join? What was the motto of this group? What famous person was also a member of this group?
41. What was the job of Carlson's Raiders at the Solomon Islands?
42. What did Lansford's squad do to the captured Japanese soldiers after the Japanese killed and mutilated their friends?
43. How many men did Carlson's Raiders lose on the Solomon Islands? How many Japanese did they kill?

**Short Essay:**

*Episode 1 of the Ken Burns series "The War" documents the first year America fought in WWII. For many years, Americans had watched the unfolding destruction of Europe and Asia on their newsreels, but had not paid much attention because of the distance of these places from America. The Axis powers held Americans in contempt and believed them to be weak, but by the end of America's first year of involvement in WWII, the Axis was held in check and was even beginning to retreat in many areas. After watching this film, write a short essay of 1-2 paragraphs on how Americans adjusted from peacetime to becoming a nation at war. Why did the unprepared Americans do better than the Axis thought they would?*