

Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis

1. What sparked Hunter Scott's interest in the sinking of the USS Indianapolis?
2. What steps did Hunter first take to "right the wrong" after his initial research? What stumbling blocks did he face? How did he overcome them?
3. Morgan Mosely, one of the survivors said, "In a life-or-death situation, a person's mental and spiritual condition determines whether he will survive" (Nelson xv). What did some of the veteran sailors do to help the mental conditions of the younger ones?
4. What were some of the greatest threats to their survival?
5. What led to the Japanese surrendering on Wednesday, August 15th?
6. What was the average age of a soldier during WWII? (This will involve research).
7. What is communiqué 622? When was this issued? Why is it important?
8. Define the term scapegoat. How did the navy make McVay, as captain of the ship, a scapegoat for their mistakes?
9. What concerns did Forrestal have about the Navy's future? Explain how this might affect Captain McVay?
10. Who is Thomas Brophy? Is he a friend or foe of Captain McVay? Explain.
11. Why was the Japanese sub commander Hashimoto questioned at McVay's trial? Was his testimony helpful or hurtful? What is revealed later about his testimony?

12. How are the survivors of the USS Indianapolis eventually rescued?
13. What is post traumatic stress disorder? What are the symptoms?
14. Gibson and Smith, two survivors of the USS Indianapolis, state in the book that the ones who “went down with the ship” were the lucky ones. What do you think they mean?
15. What was found in McVay’s hand when he died? How could this be significant? Explain.
16. As he fought to clear Captain McVay’s name, what career aspirations did Hunter realize? What is Hunter doing today? (Do the research).
17. “In the final showdown, you need the biggest guns” (Nelson 162). What were Hunter’s big guns?

View YouTube video clip: Watch the following video clip (approximately 10 minutes). It is an interview with three USS Indianapolis survivors. Write five details you learned about them and their story of survival.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6zzX-Qgd_4

If the link is inoperable, search for “Central Illinois World War II Stories - USS Indianapolis Survivors” in YouTube

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