



WI. VETERANS MUSEUM

Getting to Know a U.S. Service Member

Grade Level: 3-5

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Use primary sources to think like a historian to conduct inquiries on a Wisconsin soldier during WWII
- Learn to “read” photographs, using all visible details to make educated guesses about the story behind the photograph
- Use an oral history from a Wisconsin WWII veteran to gain knowledge about veteran’s service
- Learn more about the D-Day invasion of Normandy and invasion of Japan during WWII, from the point of view of a soldier.
- Standard SSInq1: Construct meaningful questions that initiate an inquiry.
- Standard SSInq2: Gather and evaluate resources.
- Standard SSInq3: Develop claims using evidence to support reasoning.

BACKGROUND

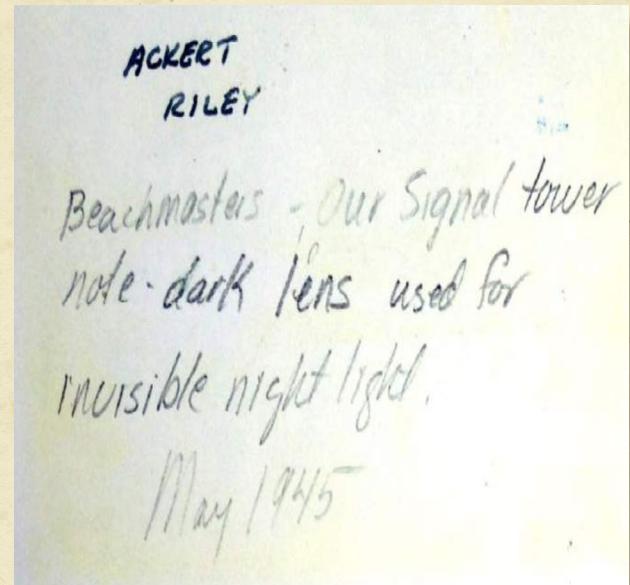
Included in this lesson plan are reproductions of photographs from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum’s Archives (archives=paper and photograph based collections). The collection of photographs belongs to **Martin Gutekunst**. Gutekunst was a Milwaukee Native who served with the 2nd Beach Battalion during the Normandy Invasion on D-Day as well as in the Pacific during the invasion of Japan.

RESOURCES

- Gutekunst’s Oral History Transcript from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Oral History Collection: (Caution: some language in these transcripts may be today considered racist and unsuitable. Teachers are strongly advised to review the transcript before sharing any part of it with students.)
<https://wisvetsmuseum.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Gutekunst-Martin-OH665.pdf>
- Photographs belonging to Gutekunst from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Archives (See Below)
- D-Day: <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/d-day>

DIRECTIONS

1. Review the resources given above before starting the lesson. Print or prepare the photographs so they can be distributed to students.
2. Divide students into small groups or pairs and distribute or assign photographs or groups of photographs.
3. Ask students to study the photographs. Inform them they are to figure out as a group as much information about Martin Gutekunst as they can from these photographs. Remind students to look at all parts of the photographs including the writing on the back. Students can make a list of these facts and questions they gather from their photographs and share them with the rest of the class.
4. Discuss as a group, the students' thoughts about the photographs. Some possible discussion questions might be:
 - What surprised them about the photographs?
 - What was interesting?
 - What do they wish they could know more about?
5. After the class has discussed their findings and has created a list of questions, share with them parts of the Martin Gutekunst Oral History Transcript. It may be best to prep only the parts about actual service in the Pacific Ocean to share what an oral history can look like and how to use it as evidence for research. As a class attempt to answer any of the questions you've listed.





MART
Milw 1944
Full battle gear
used in landing
Utah Beach -

648



a note from Lois OKINAWA 1945
SIGNAL STATION
MARTIN
MOTOR GENERATOR
AT RIGHT



OKinawa 1945
Planes shot down near
our tent.
Navy guns shot ~~B60~~
down more US planes
than Japanese



Martin
8 YOKOHAMA JAPAN
ME 1945
NAVY OCCUPATION



OKINAWA 1945

#1

Panoramic view -
note the # of ships



LEFT TO RIGHT BACK
HONEYCUTT, NETHERINGTON, MAHONEY, JAFFE
HOOP, GRECO

MIDDLE ROW
HEDTKE, HALASY, GUTEKUNST

FRONT
MCCLURE, HOWARD, INGRAM

Most of this group were part of
the UDT (Demographic Team)
in Normandy

OS



OKINAWA 1 MONTH
AFTER D-DAY 1945

860



#2

SEARCH AREA

BAKER - MIKE

FLAGS