

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. **"The test of man's character is what it takes to make him quit" (Nelson xvi).** Who said this quotation and how does this quote relate to Hunter Scott and his efforts to find justice for Captain McVay?
3. 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?
4. **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?
5. What were some of the greatest threats to their survival?
6. **"Leadership is a matter of intelligence, trustworthiness, humaneness, courage, and sternness" (Nelson 101).** How did Captain McVay exhibit these leadership characteristics?
7. What led to the Japanese surrendering on Wednesday, August 15th?
8. What was the average age of a soldier during WWII? (This will involve research).
9. What is communiqué 622? When was this issued? Why is it important?
10. Define the term **scapegoat**. How did the navy make McVay, as captain of the ship, a scapegoat for their mistakes?
11. What concerns did Forrestal have about the Navy's future? Explain how this might affect Captain McVay?
12. Who is Thomas Brophy? Is he a friend or foe of Captain McVay? Explain.
13. If this incident, the sinking of the *USS Indianapolis*, would have happened in today's world, would the survivors have been treated any differently upon their return home? Explain.
14. 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?
15. What is post traumatic stress disorder? What are the symptoms?
16. 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?
17. What was found in McVay's hand when he died? How could this be significant? Explain.

18. As he fought to clear Captain McVay's name, what career aspirations did Hunter realize? What is Hunter doing today? (Do the research).

19. **"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 six minutes thirty seconds) from USS *Indianapolis* survivor Dick Thelen. **Write five details you learned from hearing his story of survival.**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovk-HA79DP4>