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Veterans History Project
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



**Collect
Preserve
Make Accessible**



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A PROJECT OF THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



PROGRAM

Veterans History Project

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A special collection of the American Folklife Center.

Folklife Today

The official blog of the American Folklife Center and Veterans History Project.

Facebook

Keep up with news, events, and watch videos on our Facebook page.

Subscribe

Receive notifications about VHP events, activities, and online resources.

Related Resources

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[Library Events](#)

Ask a Librarian

Call us at (202) 707-5426 or Ask a Librarian. View our [Contact and Visit Us](#) page for more information.

About



on for the Library of
to-follow guidelines.

Search & Discover

Experience veterans' vivid
through thematic and cur
[Learn more](#)

The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress collects, preserves and makes accessible the firsthand recollections of U.S. military veterans who served from World War I through more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service.

Explore the VHP Collections



Jamie Fox
Staff Sergeant, Air Force, Afghan
War, 2001-2021. [Video Interview](#).



Albert Hassenzahl
Captain, Army, World War, 1939-
1945. [Audio Interview and Photos](#).



Kimberly Mitchell
Lieutenant Commander, Navy, War
on Terrorism, 2001-2009. [Video
Interview and Photos](#).

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT



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Request a Field Kit
download and print a Field Kit at: loc.gov/vets. Or
please mail or fax this form to make a request.
FAX: 202-252-2046

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Status: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please send _____ Field Kit(s).

Email:
vohp@loc.gov

Mail:
Veterans History Project
The Library of Congress
301 Independence Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20540-4615

Fax:
202-252-2046
No cover sheet is necessary.

Deceased Veterans
Next of kin may
donate original
photographs,
letters, diaries and
unpublished memoirs
of a deceased
veteran (standard
collections minimums
apply). Please submit
the Biographical Data Form and a Veteran's
Release Form on behalf of the deceased veteran.



Gold Star Families
Under the Gold Star
Families Voices Act
(Public Law 114-246),
VHP also accepts
oral histories by
immediate family
members (parent,
spouse, sibling or
child) of members of the Armed Forces who
died as a result of their service during a period of
war. Due to the sensitive nature of Gold Star oral
histories, VHP requires a minimum age of 18 for
both the interviewers and the interviewees.



Group Participants
In addition to
individual volunteers,
VHP accepts
collections from
organizations around
the country interested
in participating in a
grassroots community
project. They include high school, university and
college classrooms; libraries; veterans service
organizations; places of worship; retirement
communities; Scout troops; local businesses; and
professional associations.



connect with VHP to
learn about hosting
free workshops for
your group or community

vohp@loc.gov
or
888-371-5848

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Frances E. Willis Thorpe Collection
World War II
Veterans History Project
Library of Congress
AFG/200100107683

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FOLKLIFE

The United States Congress created the Veterans
History Project (VHP) in 2000 as part of the
American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.
VHP collects, preserves and makes accessible the
 firsthand remembrances of U.S. military veterans
 from World War I through the most recent conflicts.
 Anyone, including students ages 15 or older, can
 volunteer to participate. It's that easy to make history!
 Download a how-to Field Kit at loc.gov/vets and get
 started right away.

Participate
Create a collection at the Library of Congress
 with, and for the veteran in your life. Contribute a
 minimum of:



30 minutes or longer unedited audio or video
 recording of an interview with a veteran



20 pages or more of original, unpublished memoirs,
 journals or diaries



10 or more original photographs, letters or
 2 dimensional art works

Connect with VHP
web: 202-707-4716 email: vohp@loc.gov
toll-free: 1-888-371-5848 web: www.loc.gov/vets
fax: 202-252-2046
Facebook: www.facebook.com/veteranshistoryproject
blog: <http://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/category/veterans-history-project/>

Local Contacts for this program are:

Tom Born (tborn@comcast.net)

Danielle Rusano (drusano35@gmail.com)

Disclaimer: Veterans History Project collections are not intended to be a substitute
 for an official record of the United States government or of military service. These
 materials are the property of the Library of Congress and are loaned to participating
 institutions. The Library of Congress does not accept the responsibility for the accuracy
 of the information provided.

Printed using soy ink.

Ship Your Collection

Use a commercial carrier (e.g., FedEx, UPS, etc.) to ship
 your unedited, original materials and required forms to
 VHP. Do not use the U.S. Postal Service. Remember to
 keep a copy for yourself and the veteran. Expedited service
 is unnecessary; ground service is fine.

Veterans History Project
The Library of Congress
301 Independence Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20540-4615

Hand Deliver Your Collection

Stop by our Information Center weekdays between
 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., and a VHP representative will
 assist you. Please call 202-707-4716 in advance to ensure
 schedule availability.

VHP Information Center
The Library of Congress
Jefferson Building
Room 1J-G51

Contacts for this program are:

Tom Born (tborn@comcast.net)
Danielle Rusano (drusano35@gmail.com)

View VHP Collections

The VHP website, loc.gov/vets, contains a
 Biographical Information and Service History
 record for each veteran who contributes. This page
 includes the veteran's name, military service details and
 donor/interviewer affiliation. Some collections
 include digitized content that is easily viewable
 online. Digitized collections are identified by a "VIEW
 DIGITAL COLLECTION" button. Click on Search
 the Veterans Collections to access the database.

To view collections in person, you must make
 an appointment with research staff at least 10 working
 days in advance of your visit. We are unable to serve
 collections on demand. Email vohp@loc.gov or call
 202-707-4716 to schedule.

Visit us online at loc.gov/vets and click on our
 Frequently Asked Questions.



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Draft General Veterans History Project Suggested Questions:
INTERVIEW

It is the interviewer's job to make the interviewee feel comfortable and to be a good listener. Each
 interview session will be unique. The following is an outline (not a script) to help the interviewer guide
 the veteran through the conversation. Tailor the questions as you and the veteran see fit, and focus on
 asking thoughtful follow-up questions on topics of conversation that might be of interest to historians
 and researchers.

1) **Introduction**
The interviewer must begin the recording by stating his or her name and organization affiliation
 (if any), the veterans full name, the date and general location in which the interview is being
 conducted. Please do not disclose private information such as home addresses, military serial
 numbers or Social Security numbers.

2) **Biographical Details**
a. Where were you born?
b. Who are/were your parents and what are/were their occupations?
c. Who are/were your siblings? Names and genders? Which, if any, serve/served in the
 military?
d. What were your parents' or siblings' feelings about you joining the service?
e. What primary and secondary schools or college did you attend?
f. Did you hold any jobs before entering the service?

3) **Early Days of Service**
a. Can you tell us about when you went into the military? Were you drafted, or did you
 enlist?
b. (If enlisted) Why did you join?
c. What or who did you leave behind (family, child, pet) when you left to serve?
d. In which branch did you enter?
e. (If enlisted) Why did you choose that branch?
f. How did you get to your initial point of entry?
g. What type of training or schooling did you have? (Advance Course Warrant Officer Basic,
 Warrant Officer Advance, Warrant Officer Senior Course, "Boot-camp" Command and
 General Staff College or equivalent, War College or equivalent (getting a degree-either
 Bachelor's, Masters or PhD).
h. What is your most vivid memory of your time training or in school? What was the best
 part?
i. Does any particular instructor stand out in your mind? If yes, why?
j. What was your first assignment after basic training?
k. Did you receive any specialized training? If so, what?
l. Do you recall your instructors? If so, what were they like?

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Explore the Collections

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Explore the Collections



Researchers working with VHP collections in the American Folklife Center Reading Room. Photo credit: Shawn Miller

Thanks to the generosity of our participants, the Veterans History Project archive includes thousands of personal narratives of individual veterans. These narratives take the form of oral history interviews as well as original manuscript material, such as memoirs, letters, diaries, and artwork, as well as original photographs.

Rich in scope and content, these first-person accounts are fascinating primary historical sources that enrich and enrich our understanding of the military service experience. Use our curated resources to discover the vast array of experiences, topics, and materials contained in our collections. Or, dive straight into the collection yourself and conduct your own customized searches.

[Search the VHP Collections >](#)

Discover VHP Collections



Serving Our Voices

Browse curated presentations featuring VHP collections by themes and areas of service. These presentations were formerly called *Experiencing War*.



Research Guides

These guides provide more comprehensive ways to explore VHP collections and act as companions to past publications, exhibitions, and film series.



Story Maps

Take an immersive journey through the diverse stories found in the VHP collections through narrative, multimedia, and interactive maps.

Follow Us



[Take our survey Q!](#)

COLLECTION

Veterans History Project Collection

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Results: 1-25 of 113,998 | Refined by: [Part of: Veterans History Project Collection](#)

Refine your results

☐ Available Online 85,940
☒ All Items 113,998

Original Format

Manuscript/Mixed Material 113,902
 Personal Narrative 113,902
 Film, Video 65,016
 Photo, Print, Drawing 34,322
 Audio Recording 31,995
 Software, E-Resource 8,391
 3D Object 997
 Web Page 95

Online Format

Video 56,723
 Audio 28,815
 Image 16,465
 PDF 3,998

Wars & Conflicts

World War 1918 to 1945 87,012

Collection Items

View Sort By



Veterans History Project

PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Mixed audio and manuscript 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation Collection

Army Air Forces/Corps, World War, 1939-1945.

Contributor: Blagg, Margaret - 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation, Mixed Audio and Manuscript - 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation



PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Donald Frederick Aagenes Collection

Master Sergeant, Army, World War, 1939-1945 - Cuba; Panama Canal; Fiji Islands; Australia; Hollandia (New Guinea); Pacific Theater.

Contributor: American Legion Auxiliary Unit, Fertile, Minnesota - Aagenes, Donald Frederick - Larson, Carole

Date: 1942-01-01

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VHP is reliant on the voluntary participation of people around the country interviewing the veterans in their lives and communities.

ESTABLISH A COLLECTION

CDs/DVDs, USBs, Mini DV Tapes, Cassette Tapes * One interview per piece of media



30



20



10

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DO YOUR PART

Our history's future is in your *hands*.



WHY ORIGINALS?

"It was a good thing that I sent the originals to you, or they would now be destroyed.

Hurricane Katrina put 5 1/2 ft. of water in our home here in Pass Christian, MS. His diary, and records, were kept in a small case in our closet, along with the family bible. Don't know how long the water (rain and salt water) was in the house, but the contents were mostly useless. So, I'm glad the Library of Congress has them. Thank you again."

-SHIRLEY CARPENTER



Albert John Carpenter



Albert J. Carpenter [8/1917]

War: World War I, 1914-1920

Branch: Army

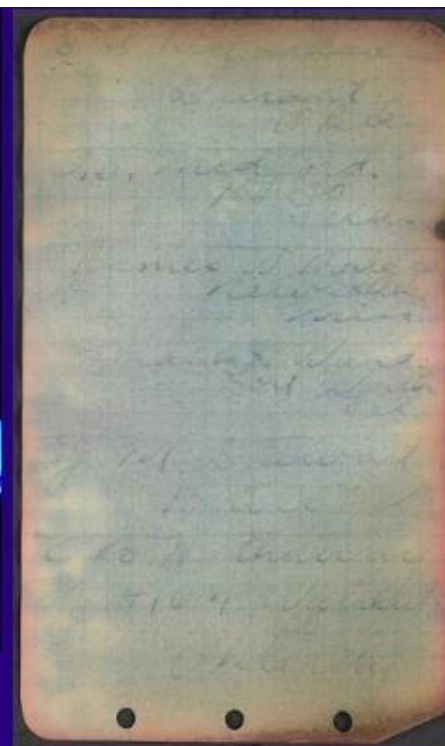
Unit: Headquarters Company 142nd
Infantry, 36th Division

Service Location: Camp Bowie,
Texas; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; France

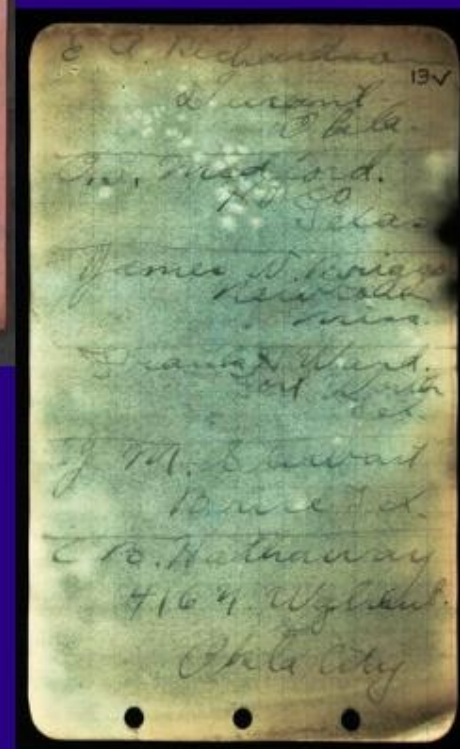
Highest Rank: Private

Place of Birth: Kingfisher, OK

[VIEW FULL DESCRIPTION](#)



VISIBLE



ULTRAVIOLET

ULTRAVIOLET EXAMINATION



POST INTERVIEW

SEND. RECEIVE. REVIEW. CONFIRM.

Send to VHP via commercial carriers.
Allow 8-12 months for processing.
Bio is available online.



“ I barely wanted to talk about my service to my husband and family, never mind putting it out there for the ENTIRE world to view on the web! [But my interview] was one of the most cathartic experiences I have had. ... I no longer hide the fact that I am a Veteran. ”

Heather Sandler
U.S. Navy
1995-2005

ACCESSIBLE.



HONORED.



USED.





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QUESTIONS? THANK YOU

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Jefferson Building LJ-51
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