

February 12, 2026

Connecting Library of Congress Collections to Texas Libraries

American Folklife Center Resources: Texas

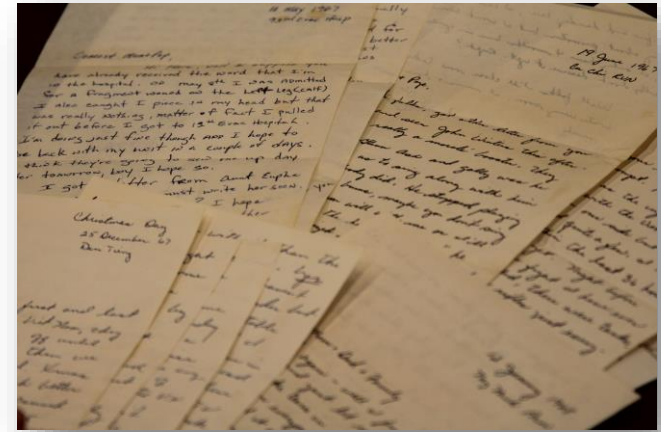


Veterans History Project

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Veterans History Project Collections

- More than 123,000 Veterans' Narratives
- 5,746 Texas Veterans' Collections
- Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Intergenerational Community Projects



Veterans History Project Participation

- **Experiential Learning Opportunities**
- **Intergenerational Community Projects**



Project Origins

- **Veterans' Oral History Project Act of 2000 -
Veterans of the U.S. Uniformed Services**
- **Gold Star Families Voices Act of 2016 -
Gold Star Veterans' Immediate Family
Members**



What We Collect

Oral histories and personal archives of U.S. military veterans who at any time, in any capacity, from World War One through the present.



Collections Access

- All Collections (~123,000) are accessible in the American Folklife Center Reading Room.
- More than 96,000 VHP collections are available online.

COLLECTION
Veterans History Project Collection

[About this Collection](#) [Collection Items](#) [Serving: Our Voices](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

Results: 1-25 of 95,485. | Refined by: [Part of: Veterans History Project Collection](#) [Available Online](#)

Refine your results

<input type="radio"/> Available Online	95,485
<input type="radio"/> All Items	123,099

Special Format


Interview Transcript	13,506
Digital Print	5,956
Biographical Information	4,187
Memoirs	3,858
Original Photographic Print	3,424
Personal Correspondence	1,876
Unit Histories	1,327
Maps	805
Creative Works	671
Diaries and Journals	602
More Special Formats >	


Online Format

World War, 1939 to 1945	48,676
Vietnam War, 1961 to 1975	22,899
Korean War, 1950 to 1953	12,175

Collection Items













View Sort By

 PERSONAL NARRATIVE
Donald Frederick Aagenes Collection
War or Conflict: World War, 1939-1945
Branch of Service: Army
Service Unit/Ship: 2nd Signal Detachment
Location of Service: Cuba; Panama Canal; Fiji Islands; Australia; Hollandia (New Guinea); Pacific Theater
Collection Number: AFC/2001/001/44002
Resource: Video, Interview / Recording, 01:01:49.0

 PERSONAL NARRATIVE
Thorvald Aanden Collection
War or Conflict: World War, 1939-1945
Branch of Service: Army
Service Unit/Ship: 47th Armored Infantry Battalion, Combat Command B, 5th Armored Division
Location of Service: England; Normandy, France; Le Mans, France; Germany
Collection Number: AFC/2001/001/44003
Resource: Video with Transcript, Interview / Recording, 00:33:07.0

Search Multiple Fields

- User-sourced service history
- Audio logs
- Photo Captions
- Transcripts

 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Harold Douglas Barker Collection</p> <p>Commander, Navy, Cold War - Long Beach, California; Monterey, California; Washington, DC; Groton, Connecticut; Naples, Italy; Norfolk, Virginia; Scotland.</p>	 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Logan D. Fitch Collection</p> <p>Major, Army, Cold War - Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Ord, California; Hanau, Germany; Fort Irwin, California; Fort Benning, Georgia; Berlin, Germany; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Mainz, Germany; Bad Tolz, Germany;...</p>	 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE William Archer Glenn Collection</p> <p>Officer Special Agent, Army, Cold War - Fort Holabird, Maryland; Austria; Germany, Commander, Navy, Vietnam War, 1961-1975 - Atsugi, Japan; Patuxent River, Maryland; Pacific; Korea; Chicago, Illinois; Washington, DC; Vietnam; California.</p>	 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Roland Liles Massey Collection</p> <p>Major, Marine Corps, Cold War - United States; Mediterranean; West Pacific; Beirut; Lebanon.</p>
 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Edward H. Mortimer Collection</p> <p>Captain, Navy, Cold War - Annapolis, Maryland; Pacific; Pearl Harbor, and Ford Island, Hawaii; New London, Connecticut; Charleston, South Carolina; United Kingdom; North Sea; Atlantic; Pacific; Guam (Mariana Islands).</p>	 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Agnes Helen Patterson Collection</p> <p>Airman First Class, Air Force, Cold War - Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming; Donaldson Air Force Base, South Carolina; Larson Air Force Base, Washington.</p>	 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Vincent William Patton, III Collection</p> <p>Master Chief Petty Officer, Coast Guard, Cold War - Cape May, New Jersey; Petaluma, California; New York City, New York; Detroit, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland, Ohio; Washington, DC; Portsmouth, Virginia; Port au...</p>	 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Hector Rafael Ponton Collection</p> <p>Colonel, Army, Cold War - Germany; Washington; Arlington, Virginia; Fort Polk, Louisiana; Nicaragua; Denver, Colorado; Far East; Korea; South America; Middle East, Corporal, Vietnam War, 1961-1975 - Vietnam.</p>
 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Melvin Edward Ratz Collection</p> <p>E-8, Air Force, Cold War - Europe; Middle East; Japan; Sweden; United States; Ankara, Turkey.</p>	 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Jerry Lynn Ross Collection</p> <p>Colonel, Air Force, Cold War - Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Edwards Air Force Base, California; Texas.</p>	 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Andree Monique Sutton Collection</p> <p>Chief Master Sergeant, Air Force, Cold War - Lowry Air Force Base and Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado; Vandenberg Air Force Base, George Air Force Base, March Air Reserve Base, and Norton...</p>	 <p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Tecumseh Nathaniel Underwood Collection</p> <p>Private First Class, Army, Cold War - West Berlin, Germany.</p>

Research Tools – Serving: Our Voices

- Quarterly online exhibit
- Collects multiple veterans' narratives connected to a common event or theme.
- Collections are completely digitized and interpreted for optimal research use.

Cold War (1947-1991)

SERVING OUR VOICES

Stories from the Veterans History Project

Military service encompasses far more than combat on a battlefield, and the Veterans History Project collects the stories of all veterans, including those who served during “peacetime”—though as veterans of the era can attest, the Cold War was anything but peaceful. The following curated presentations draw attention to collections relating to veterans who served during the Cold War.

Our [Research Guides](#), [StoryMaps](#), and [blog posts](#) provide additional ways to explore the collections.



Cold War Dispatches: Service Stories from 1947-1991

Motivated not only by love of country and family tradition but also by the opportunities for education and travel offered by the military, America's veterans serving during times of peace acted in a wide variety of non-combat roles. Here, we present stories of the Cold War, told by these veterans in their own words.

Research Tools – LibGuides

- Subject guides prepared by VHP staff.
- The Facilitate the discovery of collection material related to a particular topic.

6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion: A Guide to First-Person Narratives in the Veterans History Project

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was the only predominantly African American Women's Army Corps (WAC) unit deployed during World War II. This guide features oral histories and photographs that document the experiences of these veterans.

Introduction

Emma Jean Brown

Alyce Dixon

Violet Hill Gordon

Dorothy E. Johnson

Evelyn Clarisse Johnson

Fannie Griffin McClendon

Mary Crawford Ragland

Essie Dell Woods

Further Research

Introduction

This guide provides an introduction to [Veterans History Project \(VHP\)](#) holdings related to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. Collections from veterans of the 6888th consist primarily of oral history interviews, as well as photographs, which provide valuable insight into the personal experiences of members of this battalion. The biographical pages within this guide were compiled based on the veterans' VHP collections and are intended to present the veterans' stories in their own words as much as possible.

Background

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was established in March 1942 as part of the United States government's efforts to mobilize American society to fight in World War II. African American civic organizations and political leaders convinced the War Department to open the WAAC—later designated as the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in July 1943—to African American women. The War Department mandated that African American women be segregated into separate units and be assigned segregated quarters and facilities on Army bases. Due to the War Department's convoluted means of defining and enforcing segregation policies, segregated units often also included members of Hispanic and Caribbean descent.

African American women who wished to join the WAAC/WAC faced opposition and obstacles from the outset. Post office branches—which were mandated to provide enlistment applications to anyone who asked—often refused to assist African Americans. Many military recruiters likewise refused to work with African American applicants. Women of all ethnicities also faced ridicule and hostility from those who felt that women serving in the military did not comport with accepted gender roles.



[First African American members of the Women's Army Corps assigned to overseas duty get off a train at night in England], February 1945. Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division.

Veterans History

Ask
a Librarian

Research Tools – VHP Blog

- AFC and VHP share the "Folklife Today" blog.
- Contains more than 300 VHP blogs related to collections themes, exhibits, new acquisitions, and research outcomes.



Photographer's Mate Second Class Robert D. Anderson stands in front of the USS Enterprise CV-6 at Pearl Harbor in the late afternoon under a threatening sky. William Thomas Barr Collection, AFC2001/001/10509, Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

"Forged By the Sea": the Veterans History Project's Newest Online Exhibit

November 21, 2025

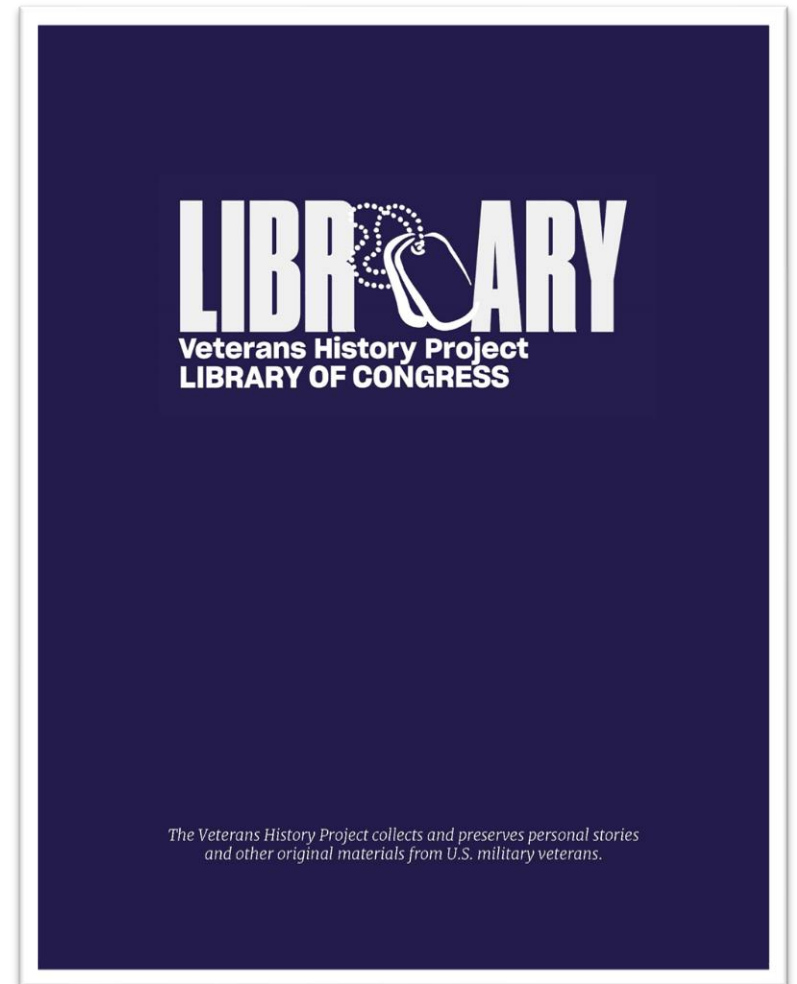
Posted by: [Megan Harris](#)

Share this post:



Contribute Local Narratives to VHP's Collections

- Email vohp@loc.gov and schedule a virtual or in-person, no-cost faculty or student workshop.
- Visit <https://www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project/how-to-participate/> for forms and instructions videos.



Student Participation

- Student interviewers and videographers must be in 10th grade or older.
- VHP hosts collection donation ceremonies for participating classrooms.



Veterans' Forms – Consent and Service History

Biographical Data Form (Required)
 To ensure inclusion in the Veterans History Project, this form must accompany each submission. Please use reverse or additional sheet if service was in more than one war or conflict.

Please Print Clearly

Veteran's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Birth Date: _____ (month/day/year) Death Date: _____ (month/day/year)

Next of Kin: Name and Address: _____

Race/Ethnicity (optional): _____ Male Female
Though you are not required to do so, providing this information will help researchers and ensure our collections accurately reflect the diversity of all who served.

Branch of Service or Wartime Activity: _____

Commissioned Enlisted Drafted Service dates: _____ to _____

Highest Rank: _____

Unit, Division, Battalion, Group, Ship, etc. (Do not abbreviate.): _____

War, operation or conflict: _____

Locations of military service: _____

Battles/campaigns (Names): _____

Medals or service awards (Please list as specifically as possible.): _____

Special duties/highlights/achievements: _____

Was the veteran a prisoner of war? Yes No

Did the veteran sustain combat or service-related injuries? Yes No

Interviewer (if applicable): _____

Veteran's Release Form (Required)
 (See reverse for Interviewer's Release Form)

To be Completed by Veteran (In cases of deceased veterans, to be completed by the donor of the material.)

I, _____, am a participant in the Veterans History Project (hereinafter "VHP") of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. I understand that the purpose of the VHP is to collect audio- and video-recorded oral histories of America's war veterans, as well as selected related documentary materials such as photographs and manuscripts, for inclusion in the permanent collections of the Library of Congress. These oral histories and related materials serve as a record of American veterans' wartime experiences and as a scholarly and educational resource for Congress and the general public.

I understand that the American Folklife Center plans to retain the product of my participation in the VHP including but not limited to my interview, presentation, video, photographs, statements, name, images or likeness, voice, and written materials ("My Collection") as part of its permanent collections.

I hereby grant to the Library of Congress ownership of the physical property comprising My Collection. Additionally, I hereby grant to the Library of Congress, at no cost, the perpetual, nonexclusive, transferable, worldwide right to use, reproduce, transmit, display, perform, prepare derivative works from, distribute, and authorize the redistribution of the materials in My Collection in any medium. By giving this permission, I understand that I retain any copyright and related rights that I may hold.

I hereby release the Library of Congress, and its assignees and designees, from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of My Collection, including but not limited to any claims for copyright infringement, defamation, invasion of privacy, or right of publicity.

Should any part of My Collection be found to include materials that the Library of Congress deems inappropriate for retention with the collection or for transfer to other collections in the Library, the Library may dispose of such materials in accordance with its procedures for disposition of materials not needed for the Library's collections.

Accepted and Agreed

Signature: _____ Date: _____ (month/day/year)

Printed Name: _____

Veteran's Address: _____

Veteran's Next of Kin: Name & Address: _____

Name of Interviewer (if applicable): _____

Relationship to Interviewer: _____

Library of Congress American Folklife Center VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer's Forms – Description

Example:

Minute Mark	Topics
1:00	introduction
2:30	enlisted with best friend
4:50	chose Signal Corps and reasons why
10:00	boot camp and early days, memorable instructor
22:40	on board troop ship to Europe
26:00	part of 2nd wave at Omaha Beach on D-Day
30:00	message for future generations

Minute Mark (estimated)	Topics (presented in order of discussion on recording)
1:00	Biographical information
4:00	Served in the Navy Nurse Corps, highest rank of Ensign
9:00	Enlisted after nurse training
12:00	Reported to Great Lakes Naval Station
15:00	Hearing about Pearl Harbor
20:00	Specifically chose Navy Nurse Corps because she was dating a Navy Lieutenant at the time
23:00	Other friends chose Army Nurse Corps
25:00	Married 2/14/1945
30:00	Commander wouldn't let her wear her wedding ring

Manuscript Data Sheet (Required with memoirs, letters, diaries or other written materials)

Guidelines for Writing a Memoir

Typewritten, double-spaced documents are easiest for researchers to read. Spark your memory by searching your home for documents and photographs from your service days. Use the [sample interview questions](#) from our website as a guide for developing chapters or a table of contents to help researchers locate specific topics in your memoir.

Guidelines for Submitting Letters and Other Written Materials

Identify, by name, the writers and recipients of the letters and other documents, and their relationship to the veteran whose name appears on the Biographical Data Form (p.7). Describe the most interesting/important topics and events mentioned in the letters or documents.

1. Name and address of donor.

Name of Donor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: () _____ Email: _____

Organization affiliation (if any): _____

2. Name and birth date of the veteran as it appears on the Biographical Data Form.

Name of Veteran: _____ Birth Date: _____

Type of Item: _____

Topic: _____

Description: _____

Quantity: _____ Number of Pages: _____

Type of Item: _____

Topic: _____

Description: _____

Quantity: _____ Number of Pages: _____

Type of Item: _____

Photograph Log

Do **not** use tape, glue, staples or paper clips on photographs. If the back of the photograph is too slick to label using a soft pencil, enclose each photograph in a labeled envelope. Do **not** use a pen or marker to label photographs.

List each person in photos from left to right (L-R) on description line.

Name of Veteran: _____	Birth Date: _____ <small>(month/day/year)</small>
Photograph #: _____	Location: _____ Date: _____
Description: _____	
Photograph #: _____	Location: _____ Date: _____
Description: _____	
Photograph #: _____	Location: _____ Date: _____
Description: _____	
Photograph #: _____	Location: _____ Date: _____
Description: _____	
Photograph #: _____	Location: _____ Date: _____
Description: _____	

Questions or Comments

- vohp@loc.gov
- Ask-A-Librarian: ask.loc.gov
- [Facebook.com/vetshistoryproject](https://www.facebook.com/vetshistoryproject)
- Email Owen Rogers
orog@loc.gov

