

**EPISODE GUIDE TO ACCOMPANY
KEN BURNS' DOCUMENTARY "THE WAR"**

**MATERIALS FROM THE NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DIVISION**

Ken Burns' film about World War II concentrates on the cities of Mobile, Alabama; Waterbury, Connecticut; Luverne, Minnesota; and Sacramento, California, but did you know that an excellent resource to learn more about the war is available to you, right here in Nashville? The Veterans History Project materials are an excellent source to further explore World War II history firsthand, from people who were there. To learn more about events described in Ken Burns' new documentary, visit the Special Collections Division at the Nashville Public Library, downtown.

Since 2002, as a local partner of the nationwide Veterans History Project headquartered at the Library of Congress, the Nashville Public Library has been collecting stories and materials about Nashville's veterans. Items consist of recorded oral histories, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and other materials. These materials are made available to the public through the Special Collections Division at the Main Library, downtown. The materials do not circulate and must be used on-site in the Special Collections Division.

The following guide is only a brief overview of some of the individuals who have participated in the Veterans History Project. Please consult the library catalog and search for the title: "Veterans History Project" for more information about library holdings. Some selections from the Veterans History Project can also be accessed through our Digital Collections link from our homepage. Overall, more than 300 persons are represented in the Veterans History Project, and the project includes other wars besides World War II. Most items highlighted in this guide are from the Veterans History Project Collection, though references to other library collections are included as well. The format type is listed in parenthesis following each personal description. See detailed finding aids for more information.

To learn more about the individuals highlighted below, or other stories from the Veterans History Project Collection at the Nashville Public Library, please call the Special Collections Division at (615) 862-5782.

The following outline uses subjects from Ken Burns' documentary *The War* to show connections to materials in the Veterans History Project Collection and other collections at the Nashville Public Library.

Overlooked Subjects in World War II History:

The Veterans History Project at the Nashville Public Library also has substantial holdings which describe service in the China, Burma, India (CBI) Theater of Operations, particularly in the Army Air Corps, and holdings relating to persons who were in the Merchant Marine during World War II. Women's involvement in the conflict – both as members of the armed services, as well as civilians on the homefront - are also part of the collection.

EPISODE 1 (Dec. 1941-Dec. 1942)

Pearl Harbor

Cornelia Fort - (Civilian). Fort, a Nashville debutante and flying instructor, was giving a flying lesson near Honolulu, Hawaii, on the morning of 7 December 1941 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. She landed safely, though under fire. Fort later died in a mid-air collision in 1943, becoming the first woman pilot to be killed in the line of duty. (Fort Family Papers)

Jacqueline Horridge - (Civilian). Horridge was 13 years old and was sick in a military hospital at Hickman Field in Hawaii when Pearl Harbor was attacked. She describes the chaos as her family tries to reach her, and as her father, an Army officer, must leave behind his family in the midst of the bombing to report for duty. She also tells about the shock and confusion in the hospital as wounded soldiers and sailors begin to arrive. (oral history)

Richard MacDonald - (Navy). MacDonald was aboard the *USS Pyro*, an ammunition ship docked at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack in 1941. He recounts that he was too busy to be scared. (oral history)

Paul Madden - (Navy). Madden was doing gunnery training at Little Creek, Virginia when Pearl Harbor took place. He tells about his and his classmates' reactions to hearing the news. (oral history, transcript)

Rubin Ratkin - (Navy). Ratkin tells about the astonishment he felt when his ship first sailed into Pearl Harbor in late 1943, and he saw remnants of the devastation from the attack of December 7, 1941. (oral history, transcript)

Bataan, Philippines

Aaron Clyde Hopper - (Army). Hopper was serving on the Bataan Peninsula when it was overrun by the Japanese. He was captured in the Philippines and later moved to Manchuria, China. There, he endured severe living conditions while working for the Japanese in their machine

plants – though he and his fellow prisoners found ways to sabotage their work. (oral history, transcript; memoir)

U-boat sightings

Yvonne (Cornu) Balls - (Navy). Balls served in the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) during World War II and specialized in communications. She provides some details about her communications duties and recalls one incident when she saw smoke from a German submarine that was sinking off the coast. (oral history)

John Henry - (Civilian). Henry recounts his service in the Civil Air Patrol during World War II, including spotting an enemy submarine off the Florida coast. (oral history, transcript)

Dorothy Richards Rand - (Army). Rand tells about the difficulties she and her shipmates had in crossing the Atlantic Ocean. It took them three attempts to get across; once their ship was grazed by a torpedo from a U-boat. (oral history)

Gordon Shivas - (Army Air Corps). After completing basic and advanced training in the Army Air Corps specializing in bomb sight maintenance, bombardier work and navigation, Shivas was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in June 1943. He was then assigned to flying B-25-Gs, patrolling the Caribbean waters looking for German submarines. (oral history, transcript)

Guadalcanal

Rodney R. Burns - (Marine Corps). Burns served in F Company 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines of the 1st Marine Division and saw action at Guadalcanal. (oral history)

Thomas Grady Gallant, Jr. - (Marine Corps). Gallant served in the Marines in the Pacific Theater of Operations. He was among those that made the initial landings on Guadalcanal. (oral history)

Robert Allan Leftwich - (Marine Corps). Leftwich was an aviation crew chief on Guadalcanal from September 1942 to February 1943. He tells about the losses his squadron sustained from enemy action. (oral history)

EPISODE 2 (Jan. 1943-Dec. 1943)

North Africa, Kasserine Pass

Alice (Martin) Huffman Bugel - (Army). In 1942, at the age of 25, Bugel landed in Casablanca and performed nursing duties as part of the Army Nurse Corps there for several months. (oral history)

Victor Cooley - (Coast Guard). Cooley served aboard the destroyer escort, *USS Mosley* (DE-321), one of several Navy vessels manned by Coast Guard crews. The *USS Mosley* served on patrol in the Mediterranean, primarily in the vicinity of Tunisia and French Morocco. Images show life aboard ship, including drills, deck guns, and refueling operations, and there are numerous, mostly unidentified, photographs of crew members. (photographs)

Paul Madden - (Navy). Madden was an armed guard aboard a merchant marine ship in North Africa. He was in Alexandria when the Germans took Tobruk and came down to El Alamein. He returned to North Africa for a second tour in Casablanca. He tells about various experiences aboard ships making supply runs from the U.S. to Europe and North Africa as well as supply runs between various North African ports. (oral history, transcript)

James H. Neese - (Army). Neese writes home to friends and family about his experiences in the Army infantry serving in Africa and Italy from 1943 to 1945. His letters are supplemented by an oral history interview. (oral history, transcript; letters.)

Edward E. O'Connor, Jr. - (Army Air Corps). O'Connor served as a ball turret gunner on the B-24 bomber, "Hubba Hubba," part of the 415th Bombardment Squadron of the 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy). He was stationed in North Africa. Photographs and correspondence tell about his experiences. (photographs, manuscripts.)

Morris R. Phelps - (Navy) Phelps tells about the threat from German submarines in the Mediterranean and the method the U.S. fleet would use to target them. (oral history, transcript)

Lacie Blevins - (Navy). Blevins served in the naval aviation aboard B-24 bombers. He tells about patrolling for submarines in the Mediterranean. (oral history)

Homefront manufacturing, women enter workforce

Pearlene Bell - (Civilian). Bell was the first female African American welder at the Jeffboat Shipyard in Jeffersonville, Indiana. She quickly learned her trade and earned the respect of many of her co-workers. Some, however, did not welcome her. She tells of her duties and

responsibilities as a welder, and describes both the hostility and support she received from some of the other employees. (oral history)

James A. Colin - (Civilian). Colin was exempted from military service because he was working in an industry that directly supported the war effort. He was at Bethlehem Steel in Pennsylvania, which made gun barrels for large artillery pieces used by the Army and Navy. (oral history)

Nashville Bridge Company - During World War II, the Nashville Bridge Company refocused its efforts onto building combat vessels and barges for the Army and Navy. (Businesses Ephemera Subject Files)

John A. Thoman - (Civilian). Thoman was employed by Vultee Aircraft. He tells about the difficulty he had finding the plant. He also tells about working for Emerson Electric in St. Louis, Missouri and other aspects of homefront conditions. (oral history, transcript)

Vultee Aircraft- This Nashville plant opened in 1941 building P-38 Lightning fighters and the Vultee Vengeance dive bombers during World War II. (Businesses Ephemera Subject Files)

Christine Wasson - (Civilian). Wasson worked at the Army Air Classification Center near Thompson Lane in Nashville. She was assigned as clerk-stenographer and interviewed cadets being tested for military service. (oral history; photographs; manuscripts)

Europe – bombing raids

Joe Thompson, Jr. - (Army Air Corps). Thompson was a reconnaissance pilot in Europe during World War II, taking aerial photographs of bombing targets and bomb damage. While off duty, he took nearly 600 photographs documenting various aspects of life in the service. These photographs are supplemented by a series of interviews. (oral histories, transcripts; reconnaissance photographs; photographs)

Harry G. Williams, Jr. - (Army Air Corps). Williams, at the age of 18, became a pilot of a B-17 bomber. He was based in England and flew missions into Germany. He provides vivid and detailed descriptions about his experiences. (oral history, transcript)

Sicily, southern Italy, Rome

Alice (Martin) Huffman Bugel - (Army). Bugel was sent to Naples as a member of the Army Nurse Corps with the 8th Evacuation Hospital to nurse and care for frost-bitten soldiers. From Cacerta, north of Naples,

she was sent to fifteen different places, providing intensive care in mobile hospitals for the wounded. (oral history, transcript)

Wilfred E. Dillard, Sr. - (Army). Dillard was an African American medical mess sergeant in Italy. (oral history)

William Bailey “Bill” Hughes - (Merchant Marine). Hughes discusses duties on board the *USS Joseph Hamilton* hospital ship in the Mediterranean. (oral history)

Edward E. O'Connor, Jr. - (Army Air Corps). O'Connor served as a ball turret gunner on the B-24 bomber, "Hubba Hubba," part of the 415th Bombardment Squadron of the 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy). He was stationed in North Africa and flew missions into Italy. Later, his squadron moved to a base in Italy. Photographs and correspondence tell about his experiences. (photographs; manuscripts)

EPISODE 3 (Nov. 1943-June 1944)

Solomon Islands

Rodney Burns - (Marine Corps). Burns served with F Company 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines of the 1st Marine Division and fought in the campaign for the Solomon Islands. (oral history)

E. Wallace Haynes - (Navy). Haynes describes his experience of being aboard the *USS John Penn* when it was sunk off the coast of Guadalcanal in August 1943. (oral history, transcript)

Robert Yazzie - (Marine Corps). Yazzie was a member of the second group of Navajo Code Talkers to be organized during the war. He was sent first to Guadalcanal, which by this time was securely in Allied hands. From Guadalcanal, he was sent straight to Bougainville where he faced light fire from Japanese, including a close call when a Japanese bullet whizzed by just above his head. He was then sent to Guam where he was one of four Code Talkers assigned to a regimental headquarters communications center located behind the front lines. (oral history)

New Guinea

Reuben Brinton - (Navy). Brinton served as a signalman aboard the newly-commissioned aircraft carrier *USS Langley*, serving in the Pacific as part of Task Force 58 and Task Force 38. He tells about the function of Task Force 58 to go in a few weeks ahead of the ground assault troops and “soften up” the battle site by bombarding it from the air as well as shelling it from the sea. He talks at length about his experience on the

Langley in the battles for the Marshall Islands, New Guinea and the Mariana Islands. (oral history, manuscripts, photographs)

Alfred Harvey Sanders - (Army). Sanders was a member of the 122nd Field Artillery Band, part of the 33rd Infantry Division. He was trained not only to develop and direct a musical band for his unit, but also to serve as a combat infantryman. His regiment was engaged in the fighting against the Japanese from Australia and New Guinea all the way up to the battles in the Philippine Islands. Although he was engaged in heavy fire and close contact with the Japanese particularly in New Guinea and later in the Philippines, few in his unit were wounded, and none were killed. (oral history)

Tarawa

Melvin Eugene Hacker - (Navy). Hacker served as a radar operator aboard the the *USS Zeilin* during the battle of Tarawa. (oral history; manuscripts.)

Floyd Melvin Hooper - (Army Air Corps). Hooper was a tail gunner aboard the B-25 Mitchell bomber, the “Coral Princess”. His unit, the 105th Observation Squadron, later part of the 820th Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 41st Bombardment Group, 7th Air Force, was stationed in the vicinity of the Gilbert Islands after they were secured from the Japanese. (snapshots)

War Economy, Factories

Pearlene Bell - (Civilian). Bell was the first female African American shipyard welder at the Jeffboat Shipyard in Jeffersonville, Indiana during the second World War. She discusses her journey into the profession and her relations and interactions with the other welders. (oral history, transcript)

Nashville Bridge Company - During World War II, the Nashville Bridge Company refocused its efforts onto building combat vessels and barges for the Army and Navy. (Businesses Ephemera Subject Files)

Myrtle Qualls-Wulf - (Civilian). Qualls-Wulf applied at AVCO (later Vultee) and was tested, accepted, and worked on the assembly line as a literal “Rosie the Riveter,” responsible for assembling the tail-gunner seat and mounting it on the B-24s that were in production at that time. (oral history)

Vultee Aircraft – The Vultee Aircraft manufacturing plant opened in Nashville in May 1941, and produced P-38 Lightning fighters and parts for

B-24 Liberator bombers for the U.S. Army Air Force, as well as other aircraft. (Businesses Ephemera Subject Files)

Racial Issues and Discrimination in the Military

Wilfred E. Dillard, Sr. - (Army). Dillard served as mess sergeant with a segregated medical company in France, Germany, Italy, and in the Pacific theater of operations. He took great pride in his work of providing hot food on board ship, and behind the front lines in Europe. (oral history)

Rebecca (Landers) Jennings - (Army). Jennings served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) (later the Women's Army Corps (WAC)) during World War II. She joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps after her husband joined the army and was sent to Europe. She spent the bulk of her time as an X-ray technician at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. (photograph; oral history)

Charles McGruder - (Army Air Corps). McGruder was drafted into the Army, but his entrance test scores were high enough to get him transferred into the Army Air Corps which was for the "best and the brightest." He tells about how white troops and black troops were kept completely separate during training at Keesler Field, Mississippi. He was sent to Amarillo, Texas for aircraft mechanics training. He was assigned to the 477th Bomb Group, one of the first all-black bomber organizations, where he worked as an aircraft mechanic at duty stations in Kentucky, Indiana and South Carolina. He also had a short training tour in Florida where he attended gunnery school and earned his aircraft gunner's wings. (oral history; manuscripts, photographs)

Thomas Southall - (Navy). Southall volunteered for the Navy when he received his draft notice for the Army. After his initial training, he was assigned for the remainder of the war to the Navy base in Portland, Maine, where he first ran a maintenance shop and then was assigned to duty on board one of the ships. His ship was charged with guarding the entrance to the harbor. Both of these duty assignments are especially significant to him, because as an African-American in the segregated U.S. military, he was put in charge of a maintenance shop composed largely of white sailors and assigned to duty on board a ship in a role that blacks were traditionally excluded from. (oral history)

Italy – Monte Cassino

James H. Neese - (Army). Letters by Neese, which he wrote to his parents and brother in Nashville, mostly express his concern and interest in his family and affairs back home but occasionally provide details about his experiences in the Army in Italy as a member of the 34th Infantry

Division. His oral history interview provides more details about the nature of the fighting against the Germans in Italy. (oral history, transcript; letters.)

Anzio

James H. Neese - (Army). Letters by Neese, which he wrote to his parents and brother in Nashville, mostly express his concern and interest in his family and affairs back home but occasionally provide details about his experiences in the Army in Italy as a member of the 34th Infantry Division. His oral history interview provides more details about the nature of the fighting against the Germans in Italy. (oral history, transcript; letters.)

Lemuel Tanksley - (Navy). Tanksley took specialized training in amphibious landing crafts, on LSTs, LCTs, and LCIs. He trained further for duty in the engine room of an LCT, and left Norfolk with his crew of ten, joining a convoy to North Africa in preparation for a big invasion of Italy. He describes the mammoth landing at Anzio Beach over a 3-week period in which his LCT was never hit or damaged. (oral history, transcript.)

Liberation of Rome and other events in Italy

John McGonagle - (Army Air Corps). McGonagle was a member of the 319th Bomb Group, 440th Squadron and flew bombing missions over Italy. His plane was shot down in October 1944 near Lake Como, Italy by German Messerschmitts. He bailed out, was taken prisoner, and spent the remainder of the war in German hands. (oral history)

Edward E. O'Connor, Jr. - (Army Air Corps). O'Connor served as a ball turret gunner on the B-24 bomber, "Hubba Hubba," part of the 415th Bombardment Squadron of the 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy). He was stationed in Italy, and was shot down and declared missing in April 1944, near the Austria/Yugoslavia border. After a month, he made his way back to American lines, with the aid of Tito's partisans. Photographs, correspondence, and other materials tell about his experiences. (photographs; manuscripts.)

Alvin H. Raff - (Army). In the late winter/early spring of 1944, Raff's unit was shipped to Italy where they engaged in night operations, getting close to an enemy position and playing recorded sounds of loud tanks and troops in an attempt to convince the enemy that they were surrounded and outnumbered. Raff also tells of witnessing the desecration of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini's corpse by Italian partisans and civilians,

including grieving and enraged women who were mourning the deaths of their sons. (oral history)

EPISODE 4 (June 1944 – Aug. 1944)

Normandy Invasion

Harold Anderson - (Army). Anderson received specialized training with British Commando units and went into Omaha Beach in advance of the invasion to take out a German pillbox located on one of the cliffs. He tells about the carnage he saw from his vantage point high above the landing beaches. (oral history, transcript)

City Road Methodist Church. This church in Madison, Tennessee announced special services for when word was first received about the Invasion of Europe. The Hayes Young Adult Sunday School class produced a special newsletter during the war called “Contact,” and their June issue tells about what it was like to receive news of the invasion in Nashville. (manuscripts; see also Edward E. O’Connor, Jr.)

Hanson E. “Bud” Farmer - (Navy). Farmer was in an LST in the second wave of assault boats at Utah Beach during the Normandy Invasion. His craft took over 17 hits from enemy fire making it unseaworthy. He received five shrapnel wounds and was evacuated, eventually returning to the U.S. for recuperation. (oral history, transcript. Manuscripts.)

Paul Gomer - (Navy). Gomer was aboard the *USS Nevada*, a battleship that shelled German positions on the Normandy beaches during the invasion. (oral history)

Walter R. Lee - (Army). Lee served in the 320th Infantry Regiment of the 35th Division of the U.S. Army and was stationed in Europe during the Second World War. During his service he saw action in five major battles including St. Lô, Metz, and Bastogne. (oral history, transcript)

Paul Madden - (Navy). Madden served as a member of the Navy Armed Guard on a merchant ship which brought supplies to the Normandy beaches (both Omaha and Utah) one day after the invasion. He describes seeing the carnage from the day before. (oral history, transcript)

Joe Thompson, Jr. - (Army Air Corps). As a reconnaissance pilot, Thompson took aerial photographs of wreckage on the Normandy beaches two weeks after the invasion. He also took captivating photographs during his off-duty time of troops gearing up for the Normandy invasion and anxious crowds of airmen in England gathered around radio sets listening to the latest news. His photographs are

supplemented by a series of interviews. (oral histories, transcripts; reconnaissance photographs; photographs)

Normandy hedgerow fighting

Harold Anderson - (Army). Anderson was involved in action at St. Lô where almost 6000 Allied troops were lost. (oral history, transcript)

Norbert Borck - (Army). Borck, a member of the 313th Infantry Battalion, 79th Infantry Division, writes about his service in Normandy in his unpublished memoir. (memoir)

Fred Carnahan - (Army). Carnahan served with the 320th Infantry Regiment, 35th Division in Europe, and along with fellow soldier Raymond Barnett of Texas, he describes the hedgerow fighting in Normandy. (oral history)

Joe Thompson, Jr. - (Army Air Corps). As a reconnaissance pilot, Thompson took aerial photographs of the French countryside which show the hedgerow terrain and German defenses faced by ground troops. In his off-duty time, he took captivating photographs of French civilians and his friends on base. These photographs are supplemented by a series of interviews. (oral histories, transcripts; reconnaissance photographs, photographs)

Saipan

Reuben Brinton - (Navy). Brinton served as a signalman aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Langley*, which was involved with the invasions of the Mariana Islands, including Saipan. (oral history, manuscripts, photographs)

David Marshall Stewart - (Navy). Stewart served as a communications officer aboard the *USS Saranac*, a tanker which carried gasoline, oil, and high octane fuel to refuel ships and carrier-based airplanes at sea. During the invasion of Saipan, the ship and another tanker were virtually abandoned by the rest of the fleet, thus leaving them almost defenseless. However, the ships had anti-aircraft guns and shot down many attacks from Japanese bombers. One enemy plane made it through however, and scored a hit on the *Saranac*'s engines before the plane was shot down. (oral history)

Breakout from Normandy

James Ladd - (Army). Ladd's tank battalion landed at Omaha Beach in Normandy in July of 1944, when the southern part of France was under

Allied control. From that point on, much of the story he tells is devoted to his tank battalion's many combat encounters with German forces as they proceeded northward into the occupied portions of France. (oral history)

Walter Lee - (Army). Lee served with the 320th Infantry Regiment of the 35th Division in five battles in Europe, including St. Lo. After two days of fighting in France his company of 200 men was reduced to 24 effectives, but he says he never wavered in his desire to avoid killing. (oral history, transcript)

Lawrence Nickell - (Army). Nickell served in a mortar company of the 2nd Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division in Europe. He tells of action during the breakthrough at St. Lo. (oral history, transcript)

William Wells - (Army Air Corps). As a member of the 20th Fighter Group, Wells was detailed to a special secret mission – an attempt to direct a plane full of TNT onto a German position that launched “buzz bombs” into England. The mission failed, and the plane of TNT exploded mid-air. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., one of the pilots on the plane, was killed; Wells was in a separate plane, flying escort, and describes the experience. (oral history, transcript)

Liberation of Paris

Harry Stanley Blum Jr. - (Army). Blum served in the 110th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division in Europe. He describes the experience of being among 15,000 infantrymen marching through Paris as a method of showing strength to quell any problems with the French. (oral history)

Dorothy Richards Rand - (Army). Rand served as a supply sergeant with the 174th Headquarters Company (Women's Army Corps or WAC) and was assigned to General Eisenhower's headquarters, known as Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF). Rand was stationed at Versailles after the liberation of Paris and tells about an assassination attempt on Eisenhower. (oral history, transcript)

Joe Thompson, Jr. - (Army Air Corps). In his off-duty time, Thompson took photographs of jubilant French civilians in Paris and U.S. troops as they marched through the city. His photographs are supplemented by a series of interviews. (oral histories, transcript; reconnaissance photographs, photographs)

EPISODE 5 (Sept. 1944-Dec. 1944)

Hürtgen Forest

Harry Stanley Blum, Jr. - (Army). Blum served as a radio operator in the 110th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division of the Army during World War II. He saw action in Normandy, Northern France, and Germany and was wounded in the Hürtgen Forest campaign. (oral history)

Warren King - (Army). King was assigned to the Army Medical Corps, 4th Infantry Division in France during World War II. He served as a medic in the Ardennes until he was captured by German soldiers in Hürtgen Forest on 3 December 1944. (oral history)

Fighter pilots in Europe

John B. Corbit - (Army Air Corps). Corbit served in the Army Air Corps and was a member of the 493rd Fighter Squadron, 48th Fighter Group, 9th Air Force during the Second World War. He flew P-47 Thunderbolt fighters on 95 combat missions from D-day to VE-day in England, France, Belgium and Germany. (oral history)

Enoch Stephenson - (Army Air Corps). Stephenson served in the Army Air Corps and was a member of the 338th Fighter Group, 8th Air Force during the Second World War. He was stationed in the European theater of operations where he served as a fighter pilot and escorted B-26's to their targets in Holland and Germany. In a portion of his interview Stephenson discusses the difficulty he experienced trying to mentally prepare for missions. (oral history)

William W. Wells - (Army Air Corps). Wells served in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War and was stationed in the European theater of operations where he carried out flight missions as a fighter pilot in England, Poland, Italy and Russia. (oral history, transcript)

Peleliu

Fitzgerald “Jerry” Atkinson - (Marine Corps). Atkinson served in the Marines and was a member of the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division in the Pacific during the Second World War. He saw action at Peleliu and Okinawa. (oral history)

John Morgan - (Marine Corps). Morgan served as a combat photographer attached to 4th Amphibious Corps, 1st Marine Division during World War II. He saw his first combat on Peleliu where he was among the first waves to attack. (oral history)

MacArthur returns

Allen S. Eskind - (Navy). Eskind spent three years in the Navy as an officer in the Pacific theater of operations during the Second World War. His chief assignment was as executive officer commanding an LCI (Landing Craft Infantry), which took him into military landings and enemy action in Hollandia, New Guinea, and the Philippines. He tells about the controversy over the landing strategy in which General Douglas MacArthur went against the judgment of admirals and other commanders, because he insisted upon returning to the Philippines in order to fulfill his “I shall return” speech. (oral history, transcript)

Irving Waugh - (Civilian). Waugh was a civilian correspondent for Nashville radio station WSM during World War II. He began his radio career covering local military activities, such as soldiers stationed in and around Nashville. In the summer of 1945 he went overseas where he covered the 32nd Division's activities on Luzon and was a member of General Douglas MacArthur's press corps. He followed events in the Philippines, at Okinawa, and just prior to the Japanese surrender, made the first network broadcast from Japan aboard a B-17 on the Atsugi airfield. He witnessed the Japanese surrender aboard the *USS Missouri*. (oral history)

Leyte landing

Allen S. Eskind - (Navy). Eskind spent three years in the Navy as an officer in the Pacific theater of operations during the Second World War. His chief assignment was as executive officer commanding an LCI (Landing Craft Infantry), which took him into military landings and enemy action in Hollandia, New Guinea, and the Philippines. His LCI took part in the invasion at Leyte Gulf, which was full of mistakes by the Japanese and difficulties due to weather. (oral history, transcript)

Thurman L. Randolph - (Navy). Randolph was drafted into the Navy in December 1943 and served in the amphibious forces aboard LST 739 during World War II. He participated in five invasions in the Pacific, including Leyte and Okinawa. (oral history)

Mary Spear Stamps - (Civilian). Stamps was ten years old at the beginning of World War II. Her father, Lt. Col. Frank A. Spear, served as a Chaplain in the Pacific theater and was part of the Leyte Landing campaign. She recalls his experiences at Leyte, Red Beach and with the Kamikaze pilots. (oral history, transcript)

William R. Wilcox - (Army). Wilcox joined the Army ROTC program while attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology and entered active duty as a lieutenant after graduating in 1942. He was a member of the 85th Mortar Battalion of Chemical Warfare Service and assigned to service

in the South Pacific. On October 20, 1944, Wilcox was wounded in the invasion of Leyte when his landing craft was hit by Japanese artillery. (oral history, transcript)

Philippines – months of fighting

Reuben Brinton - (Navy). Brinton served in the U.S. Navy from January 1943 to February 1946. After completing basic training, he was assigned as a signalman aboard the newly-commissioned aircraft carrier *USS Langley* and served in the Pacific as part of Task Force 58 and later as part of Task Force 38. He saw action in the battles for the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. (oral history, manuscripts, photographs)

Orrie Couch - (Army). Couch served in the Army as a member of the 185th Infantry Regiment of the 40th Infantry Division during the Second World War. In the early part of 1944 his unit was transferred to the southern part of the Philippines. There he served as a combat physician at a battalion aid station near the front lines where his job was to treat the wounded that were brought in straight from the battlefield. Couch administered first aid, stabilized the wounded and prepared the injured to be sent to a field surgical hospital for further treatment. (oral history)

Margaret Gooch Duffy - (Civilian). Duffy joined the American Red Cross as Director of the Home Services Department in 1941. She worked in the field director's office in Sydney, Australia for two years until the war's end, when she went to Manila to work with POW's who were returning home. She remained in Manila for some time while troops were being sent home. (oral history)

Allen S. Eskind - (Navy). Eskind spent three years in the Navy as an officer in the Pacific theater of operations during the Second World War. His chief assignment was as executive officer commanding an LCI (Landing Craft Infantry), which took him into military landings and enemy action in the Philippines. He tells about the controversy over the landing strategy, in which General Douglas MacArthur went against the judgment of admirals and other commanders, because he insisted on returning to the Philippines to fulfill his "I shall return" speech. (oral history, transcript)

Gilbert S. Fox - (Navy). Fox, a Jewish Nashville native, served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed aboard the *USS LSM 80* during the Second World War. His ship was assigned to the South Pacific where he visited a number of islands including the Philippines. (oral history, transcript)

Samuel M. Hayden - (Navy). During World War II Hayden served as a clerk-typist in the 323rd Ordnance Ammunition Company of the U.S. Army. He performed office duties for his company in the U.S., France, the

Philippines and finally in Japan. He was never involved in combat with the enemy, but faithfully performed his duties as chief clerk within his company. (oral history)

William R. Wilcox - (Army). Wilcox joined the Army ROTC program while attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology and entered active duty as a lieutenant after his graduation in 1942. He was a member of the 85th Mortar Battalion of Chemical Warfare Service and saw action in Leyte and the Philippines. (oral history, transcript)

EPISODE 6 (Dec. 1944-Mar. 1945) **Ardennes (Belgium and Luxemburg)**

Harold Anderson - (Army). Anderson served in the U.S. Army as a Commando with the 36th Division during the Normandy invasion and later as a member of the 423rd Infantry Regiment of the 106th Division. Following the invasion of Normandy, Anderson saw action in St. Lô, the Ardennes Forest, and the Battle of the Bulge. When most of his division was forced to surrender, Anderson spent a week behind enemy lines evading capture until he eventually linked up with General Omar Bradley's 1st Army in friendly territory. (oral history, transcript)

Verner "Red" Dean - (Army). Dean served as a frontline combat medic in the U.S. Army and was a member of the 422nd Regiment of the 106th Division during the Second World War. His unit was operating near the Belgian/German border in the Ardennes Forest when the Battle of the Bulge broke out in mid-December. About four days into the battle, his unit "took a wrong turn" and wandered just inside Germany where they were surrounded by the enemy and forced to surrender. For over five months Dean was held as a prisoner of war until he was liberated by Russian troops in late May 1945. (oral history)

Warren King - (Army). King was assigned to the Army Medical Corps, 4th Infantry Division in France during World War II. He served as a medic in the Ardennes until he was captured by German soldiers in Hürtgen Forest on 3 December 1944. (oral history)

Battle of the Bulge

Harold Anderson - (Army). Anderson served in the U.S. Army as a Commando with the 36th Division during the Normandy invasion and later as a member of the 423rd Infantry Regiment of the 106th Division. He saw action in the invasion of Normandy, St. Lô, the Ardennes Forest, and the Battle of the Bulge. When most of his division was forced to surrender, Anderson spent a week behind enemy lines evading capture until he

eventually linked up with General Omar Bradley's 1st Army in friendly territory. (oral history, transcript)

Samuel Brannon - (Army). Brannon served in the U.S. Army as a member of the 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion. He completed basic training and was then sent to Luxembourg in the winter of 1944 immediately following the Battle of the Bulge. (oral history)

John M. Frase - (Army). Frase served in the European theater of operations as a member of the 354th Infantry Regiment of the 89th Division under the command of General Patton. He saw action in the Battle of the Bulge and recalls the unbearable cold weather conditions during the battle. (oral history, transcript.)

James R. Ladd - (Army). Ladd volunteered for service in the U.S. Army in March of 1943 and was assigned to the 738th Tank Battalion Special. He provides a vivid, detailed account of action "in the thick" of the Battle of the Bulge during December 1944. (oral history)

Walter R. Lee - (Army). Lee served in the 320th Infantry Regiment of the 35th Division of the U.S. Army and was stationed in Europe during the Second World War. During his service he saw action in five major battles including the Battle of the Bulge. (oral history, transcript)

Otis J. McKeehen - (Army). McKeehen was a member of the Army Signal Corps during World War II. He served in behind-the-lines radar support during the Battle of the Bulge and then followed the U.S. Army into occupied Germany. (oral history, transcript)

Charles McNish - (Army). McNish served in the Army as a member of the 99th Infantry Division during the Second World War. In November of 1944, he was sent to Belgium where he served in General George Patton's Third Army. He faced combat in the infamous Battle of the Bulge, and he tells about what a ferocious experience it was to be on the front lines. He went on to serve in the occupation forces in Germany until December of 1945. (oral history; manuscripts, photographs.)

Jessie (Wallace) McNutt - (Army). McNutt joined the U.S. Army as a dietician and served with the 100th General Hospital in Wales, England and France. In late 1944, she was transferred to the 77th Evacuation Hospital in Belgium. While there McNutt witnessed German infiltrators parachuting from planes, heard the dying cries of a Red Cross worker who was killed when a bomb hit the hospital, and was forced to take cover when the hospital was strafed several times by German airplanes during the Battle of the Bulge. (oral history, transcript)

Hugh Mott - (Army). Mott served as a combat engineer with the 9th Armored Division of U.S. Army during World War II. He was stationed in Europe and saw action in both the Battle of the Bulge and later in the move toward the Rhine River against the retreating German army. (oral history, transcript)

Joe Thompson, Jr. - (Army Air Corps). Thompson served in the 109th Observation Squadron of the Army Air Corps as a reconnaissance pilot in Europe during World War II. He flew missions over the Normandy coast, and into Belgium and Germany and took aerial photographs of bombing targets and bomb damage as well as photographs that document various aspects of life in the service. These photographs are supplemented by a series of interviews. (oral histories, transcript; reconnaissance photographs; photographs)

Prisoners of the Japanese

Margaret (Gooch) Duffy - (Civilian). Duffy joined the American Red Cross as Director of the Home Services Department in 1941. She worked in the field director's office in Sydney, Australia for two years until the war's end when she went to Manila to work with POW's who were returning home. She remained in Manila for some time while troops were being sent home. (oral history)

Aaron Clyde Hopper - (Army). Hopper served in the U.S. Army as a member of the 192nd Tank Battalion during the Second World War. He was serving on the Bataan Peninsula when it was overrun by the Japanese and he was captured in the Philippines and later moved to Manchuria, China. He describes in detail the awful conditions of life under the Japanese, both in the Philippines and in Manchuria, and relates examples of the indomitable American spirit he and others displayed while sabotaging Japanese machinery. (oral history, transcript; manuscript)

Bombing raids over Germany

William W. Wells - (Army Air Corps). Wells served in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War. He was stationed in the European theater where he served as a fighter pilot and carried out flight missions in England, Poland, Italy and Russia. In one account Wells tells of flying into Russia, where he observed some of the devastation of the Eastern Front, and where he came under fire from both German and Russian forces. (oral history, transcript)

Iwo Jima

Reuben Brinton - (Navy). Brinton served in the U.S. Navy and was assigned as a signalman aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Langley*. He served in the Pacific as part of Task Force 58 and later as part of Task Force 38 and saw action in the battles for the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Brinton recalls experiencing attacks by Japanese kamikazes and by Japanese torpedo bombers, and describes many of the battle actions in detail. (oral history, manuscripts, photographs)

Clay Coble - (Marine Corps). Coble served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a member of the 3rd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment of the 5th Division during World War II. He saw his first combat action in the assault on Iwo Jima, which he describes in vivid and explicit detail. One especially memorable story he tells is that of seeing a Japanese soldier in the act of committing ritual suicide as Coble's unit was overrunning the Japanese position. He says he just stood and watched as the soldier committed hari kari, deciding to let the soldier take his own life rather than shoot him. At Iwo Jima, he witnessed the famous flag-raising on Mt. Suribachi from just 300 yards away. (oral history)

Thomas Grady Gallant - (Marine Corps). Gallant served in World War II with the U.S. Marines from September 1941 to November 1945. He saw action in an assault on Iwo Jima and recalls the totality of bloody war that he witnessed on Iwo Jima. His reflection on this battle was that the whole island of Iwo Jima should have been made into a shrine in memory of both Japanese and American soldiers who suffered there. (oral history, transcript)

Melvin Eugene Hacker - (Navy). Hacker served in the U.S. Navy as an operator aboard the *USS Zeilin* and the *USS Warren* in the Pacific theater of operations during the Second World War. His ships brought troops, armament, and supplies to such major Pacific battles as Tarawa, Guadalcanal, and Iwo Jima. (oral history; manuscripts.)

Wyeth "Slim" Hartwell - (Marine Corps). Hartwell served as a radio operator and amphibious tractor unit driver in the South Pacific during World War II. He was part of the 6th wave to attack Iwo Jima and ferried supplies from an LST to the beach. (oral history)

E. Wallace Haynes - (Navy). Haynes served in the U.S. Navy aboard both the *USS John Penn* and the *USS President Jackson* during the Second World War. He saw action in the assault on Iwo Jima and witnessed the first flag-raising on Iwo Jima. (oral history, transcript)

Ross Taggart - (Navy). Taggart served aboard the first aircraft carrier, the *USS Langley* during World War II. He was wounded at Iwo Jima and

spent a year and a half recuperating at a veterans' hospital. (oral history, transcript)

Crossing the Rhine (also Ludendorff Bridge and Remagen)

Samuel Brannon - (Army). During the Second World War Brannon served in the U.S. Army as a member of the 1258th Engineer Combat Battalion. He recounts his experience crossing the Rhine, including the sight of bodies floating in the river. (oral history)

Robert Duval Baskette - (Army). Baskette served as a gunner in the 90th Chemical Mortar Battalion of the U.S. Army during World War II. His battalion was involved in the seizure of the bridgehead at Remagen, where fire from his battalion helped the Allies in their efforts to build a bridge that, in turn, enabled supplies and troops to cross the river and secure the opposite shore. (oral history, transcript)

John M. Frase - (Army). Frase served in the European theater of operations as a member of the 354th Infantry Regiment of the 89th Division under the command of General Patton. He saw action in the Battle of the Bulge and recounts two days of deadly assaults across the Rhine, where his unit sustained 50% casualties. (oral history, transcript.)

Charles McNish - (Army). McNish served in the Army and was a member of the 99th Infantry Division during the Second World War. In November of 1944, he was sent to Belgium where he served in General George Patton's Third Army. He was stationed in Remagen and recounts his experience crossing the Rhine River. (oral history; manuscripts, photographs)

Hugh Mott - (Army). Mott served as a combat engineer with the 9th Armored Division of U.S. Army during World War II. He saw action in the Battle of the Bulge and later in the move toward the Rhine River against the retreating German army. At the Ludendorff Bridge, near Remagen, Germany, on March 7, 1945, in the midst of machine gun fire and sniper shooting from the Germans, his team walked and climbed all over the bridge to cut wires and remove TNT charges placed there by the Germans. (oral history, transcript)

Joe Thompson, Jr. - (Army Air Corps). Thompson served in the 109th Observation Squadron of the Army Air Corps as a reconnaissance pilot in Europe during World War II. He flew missions over the Normandy coast, and into Belgium and Germany and took aerial photographs of bombing targets and bomb damage as well as photographs that document various aspects of life in the service. These photographs are supplemented by a

series of interviews. (oral histories, transcript; reconnaissance photographs; photographs)

EPISODE 7 (Mar. 1945-Dec. 1945)

Okinawa

Fitzgerald "Jerry" Atkinson - (Marine Corps). Atkinson served in the U.S. Marines as a member of the 1st Tank Battalion of the 1st Marine Division in the Pacific during the Second World War. At Okinawa, on June 17, 1945, he sustained seven wounds, (earning him the nickname, "The Sieve") and rescued a fellow marine from a burning tank. For his actions on that day, he was awarded the Navy Cross. (oral history)

Reuben Brinton - (Navy). Brinton served in the U.S. Navy from January 1943 to February 1946. He was assigned as a signalman aboard the *USS Langley* and stationed in the Pacific as part of Task Force 58, and later as part of Task Force 38. Brinton saw action in Okinawa and recalls experiencing attacks by Japanese kamikazes and by Japanese torpedo bombers. (oral history, manuscripts, photographs)

James Carlew - (Navy). At the age of fifteen with parental consent, Carlew decided to drop out of school and enlist in the U.S. Navy. In 1945, he shipped out for Okinawa where his first assignment was to bury dead Japanese soldiers. (oral history)

William Corlew - (Navy). Corlew volunteered for the Navy and was assigned to the *USS Okanogan (APA 200)* in the South Pacific. While on assignment in Okinawa he transported troops and removed casualties. (oral history, transcript. Manuscripts, photographs.)

Wilfred Dillard - (Army). Dillard served as mess sergeant with a segregated medical company in France, Germany, Italy, and in the Pacific theater of operations. He took great pride in his work of providing hot food on board ship and behind the front lines in Germany, France, and Italy, to support the front line troops. As the war in Europe concluded, he was shipped out in 1945 to the Marshall Islands and Okinawa. (oral history)

Gilbert S. Fox - (Navy). Fox, a Jewish Nashville native, served in the Navy and was stationed aboard the *USS LSM 80* in the Pacific theater of operations during the Second World War. At Okinawa his ship sent tanks onto the beach, performed ship-to-shore duties, and carried out supplies, troops and the wounded. (oral history, transcript)

Paul Gomer - (Navy). Gomer served in the U.S. Navy aboard the battleship *USS Nevada* during World War II. He was later reassigned to

service in the amphibious corps, and participated in cargo landings at Okinawa. (oral history, transcript)

Arthur A. Hall - (Navy). During the Second World War, Hall served in the Pacific as a mechanic aboard the *USS Bowers* (DE 637). He describes his experience serving in the engine room when the ship was struck by a kamikaze at Okinawa. The attack resulted in the wounding or killing of nearly half of the ship's crew. Hall mentions several of his shipmates by name, and tells of their fate. (oral history, transcript)

John Morgan - (Marine Corps). Morgan served as a combat photographer attached to 4th Amphibious Corps and 1st Marine Division in the South Pacific during World War II. He saw action at Peleliu as well as Okinawa, where he shot both still photographs and motion picture film. (oral history)

Thurman L. Randolph - (Navy). Randolph was drafted into the Navy in December 1943 and served in the amphibious forces aboard the *USS LST 739*. He participated in five invasions in the Pacific, including Leyte and Okinawa, and his gun was credited with shooting down three suicide planes. (oral history, transcript)

Lemuel A. Tanksley - (Navy). Tanksley served in the U.S. Navy and participated in specialized training for amphibious landings on LSTs, LCTs, and LCIs. After seeing action at the Anzio landing, he was assigned to the Pacific fleet. While in the Pacific he hauled tanks to Okinawa and Saipan, which would later be used in the invasion of the main Japanese islands. His units saw no action, due to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which ended the war. (oral history, transcript.)

Irving Waugh - (Civilian). Waugh was a civilian correspondent for Nashville radio station, WSM during World War II. He began his radio career covering local military activities, such as soldiers stationed in and around Nashville. In the summer of 1945 he went overseas, where he was a member of General Douglas MacArthur's press corps. He followed events in the Philippines, at Okinawa, and witnessed the Japanese surrender aboard the *USS Missouri*. (oral history)

Robert Yazzie - (Marine Corps). During the Second World War Yazzie served in the U.S. Marines as a member of the Navajo Code Talkers. He was part of the second group of Navajos to be sent to code talking school. After spending time in the Solomon Islands, Yazzie was transferred to Okinawa where he was placed on "standby" status in a communications center until he was eventually transferred back to Guam where he was when the war ended. (oral history)

Carrier Planes Begin Bombing Japan

Reuben Brinton - (Navy). Brinton tells about carrier strikes from planes based aboard his ship, the *USS Langley*, against Japanese forces in Hong Kong in early 1945. (oral history, manuscripts, photographs)

Paul Stevens - (Navy). Stevens tells about his missions as a naval aviator in the Pacific, including patrols against Japanese-occupied China and elsewhere in the vicinity of the Japanese home islands. On one mission, an engine on his plane was knocked out by fire from a ship. He tells about missions against enemy ships including a heavy cruiser and shooting down a plane carrying Japanese officer Admiral Yamagata. He and his squadron were highly decorated for their actions. (oral history)

Death of Pres. Roosevelt

Ann (Stevens) Roberts - (Marine Corps). Roberts was a member of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve and recounts her memories of being in Washington, D.C. when she heard about the death of President Roosevelt. (oral history)

Encountering Concentration Camps

Samuel Brannon - (Army). Brannon saw the concentration camp at Dachau shortly after it was captured by the Allies. He explains that the generals had ordered different companies to go see these camps because they were afraid that people wouldn't believe places like these existed. Brannon describes what he saw inside the camp and declares: "It was there and it was horrible." (oral history)

John Frase - (Army). Frase tells about what he saw when his unit entered the concentration camp at Ohrdruf. (oral history, transcript)

Eric Rosenfeld - (Army). Rosenfeld, a German Jew, fled Europe prior to America's entrance into World War II. He describes his journey through several countries to make his escape and also says that he did not find out about concentration camps until after the war. (oral history)

Atomic Bombs

William D. "Bill" Corlew - (Navy). Corlew served aboard the *USS Okanagan (APA 200)*. After having seen action at Okinawa, Corlew was relieved in hearing news of the atomic bombs and the Japanese surrender. He believes that the bombs were necessary, brought the war to

a close, and saved lives by avoiding the bloodshed of both American and Japanese forces that would have taken place during an invasion of the Japanese home islands. (oral history, transcript; manuscripts, photographs.)

Ward DeWitt - (Navy). DeWitt was an eyewitness at the Bikini Atoll atomic tests after the war. He describes what it was like to watch the detonation of an atomic bomb. (oral history, transcript)

William Wesley “Bill” Dillon III - (Navy). Dillon served aboard a destroyer, and after Japan surrendered, his ship anchored in the harbor at Tokyo. The crew went ashore and in effect, became part of the very first Allied occupation forces on the Japanese mainland. Dillon tells of a near-miss from a kamikaze attack that took place on August 13, 1945 - just four days after the second atomic bomb was dropped on Japan. (oral history)

Gilbert S. Fox - (Navy). Fox tells about entering a Japanese harbor shortly after the surrender, not knowing whether there would be a hostile reception from Japanese civilians or the military. As they came near the landing site, they were astounded at the reception from the Japanese people. Hundreds of civilians - no troops - were lined up with their cameras taking pictures of the incoming American troops and ships! After landing his crew discovered mounds - like haystacks - on the beach containing hundreds of bows and arrows, guns, and other firearms. In the event of the invasion of the islands by the U.S. troops, every civilian was ready to fight and to die for the honor of the emperor and their homeland. (oral history, transcript)

Joseph R. O'Donnell - (Marine Corps). O'Donnell was a Marine Corps photographer, assigned to duty in the Pacific theater. He took pictures of the two Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki just after the atomic bomb blasts. He lived wherever he could find shelter, and created his own darkroom to develop film and prints. Along with his photography work, he interviewed Japanese civilians and came to appreciate them and their tragic losses. He believes it was wrong for America to drop the bomb on innocent civilians. (oral history, transcript)

Occupation Duty

William Bailey “Bill” Hughes - (Army Air Corps). Hughes describes many aspects about the defeated German people and his duty in that country after the surrender. (oral history)

Margaret (Gooch) Duffy - (Civilian). Already serving overseas when the war ended, Duffy went to Manila and worked with POW's who were returning home. She also helped the Filipino Red Cross prepare for

independence. In 1946 she was asked to help the Japanese Red Cross restore their programs in Tokyo, and helped introduce the idea of volunteerism into Japanese society. She also worked in Korea to help them recover from Japanese occupation. (oral history)

Robert “Bob” Macon - (Army). Macon worked with German police units, merchants, farmers, parish priests and others as part of the occupation forces helping them to rebuild. He was also aided by his wife, a German woman, whom he married earlier during his service in Germany. (oral history)

Otis McKeehen - (Army). McKeehen, assigned to occupation duty in Japan after having served in Europe, tells about his friendship with an English-speaking Japanese family in Yokohama, and joining them for a special Christmas dinner. (oral history, transcript)