

World War II Oral History Programs

ACTIVE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

American Airpower Heritage Museum

Stan Spurgeon, Oral History Program, P.O. Box 62000, Midland TX 79711-2000. 432/563-1000 x.2257. oralhistory@aa hm.org. <http://www.airpowermuseum.org>. The museum has a collection of more than 4,200 oral histories from World War II, conducts interviews on site and also offers an oral history kit and instructions for conducting interviews. See search at <http://www.airpowermuseum.org/oralhistory/index.shtml>.

General Land Office

Paul Sturrock, 512/936-1948, 800/252-VETS (800/252-8387). vlbinfo@glo.state.tx.us. <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/vlb/vov.html>. The state agency sponsors the Voices of Veterans oral history program, open to any Texas veteran who served in combat from World War I to the present. Interviews are by phone or in person in Austin.

National Museum of the Pacific War

Jeff Hunt, The National Museum of the Pacific War, 340 East Main Street, Fredericksburg TX 78624, 830/997-4379 x.226. jeff.hunt@tpwd.state.tx.us. <http://www.nimitz-museum.org/oralhistory.htm>. The museum has had an active oral history program since 1988, with more than 2,000 interviews. Not all the interviews are transcribed, but they are available to researchers by appointment. Most interviewees come to Fredericksburg, but a nationwide network of volunteers assist in conducting interviews elsewhere. The museum can also provide a list of questions for families to ask relatives who are veterans.

South Texas Archives and Special Collections

Cecilia Hunter, James C. Jernigan Library, MSC 197, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville TX 78363-8202, 361/593-4154. kflgh00@tamuk.edu. <http://archives.tamuk.edu/release.htm>. The Veterans History Project website includes a project kit with forms to download for a successful oral history interview. More than 200 of the interviews in the collection pertain to World War II; some are in English and some are in Spanish. None are transcribed, but all are available to researchers. New interviews are generally conducted by Texas A&M-Kingsville students.

Texas A&M University – Commerce

Dr. Jim Conrad, James G. Gee Library, P.O. Box 3011, Commerce TX 75249, 903/886-5720. <http://www7.tamu-commerce.edu/library/oral/oralgeehome.htm>. The library has an oral history collection and is actively seeking interviewees in association with the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress.

Texas Tech University

David Marshall or Daniel Sanchez, Texas Tech University Libraries, Southwest Collection, Box 41041, Lubbock TX 79409-1041, 806/742-3749. http://www.swco.ttu.edu/Oral_History/oralhistory.asp. A search of the more than 2,800

interviews on the collection website yields more than 500 hits for World War II. The Southwest Collection recently became the repository for the statewide chapter records of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Other veterans groups, as well as men and women affected by the war at home and abroad, are encouraged to provide personal accounts to document this important period in history. No interviews are transcribed, but all have abstracts. Trained associates in all counties around Lubbock can conduct field interviews.

Texas Woman's University

Tracey McGowan, TWU Blagg-Huey Library, P.O. Box 425528, Denton TX 76204-5528, 940/898-3743. tmacgowan@mail.twu.edu. <http://www.twu.edu/wasp/oral.htm>. More than 140 women and men have been interviewed since 1992, recording the experiences of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) in their own words. Interviewees describe their personal backgrounds, interest in flying, army training, various bases and post-war activities. The focus is on women who participated in all branches of the service, including the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES.) Primarily phone interviews conducted. Also contact Dr. Kate Landdeck, 940/898-2140 or klanddeck@twu.edu, for interviews.

U. S. Latino & Latina World War II Oral History Project

Yazmin Lazcano, School of Journalism, University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station A1000, Austin TX 78712, 512/471-1924. latinoarchives@www.utexas.edu. <http://www.utexas.edu/projects/latinoarchives/>. The collection has more than 400 oral interviews conducted in Texas and three other states since 1999. The UT-Austin Journalism Department also published a periodical, *Narratives*, from 1999 to 2004, and they are indexed on the website. The focus is on Latinos/Latinas of all branches of the service. Volunteer interviewers around the country can conduct field interviews; a questionnaire kit is also available. The collection is in the process of moving to the Benson Latin American Collection at UT-Austin by fall 2005, so it is currently unavailable to researchers.

University of North Texas

Glen Johnson, University of North Texas Oral History Program, P.O. Box 311214, Denton TX 76203, 940/565-2549. <http://www.library.unt.edu/ohp/>. More than 1,560 interviews available through university archives (940/565-2766), all transcribed. The focus is on Pearl Harbor survivors, former prisoners-of-war, Pacific naval war, air offensive in Europe, and Holocaust survivors.

University of Texas at El Paso – Institute of Oral History

Kristi Navarro, Liberal Arts Building Room 334, El Paso TX 79968-0532, 915/747-7052, knavarro@utep.edu. <http://dmc.utep.edu/oralh/>. In operation since 1972, the institute's collection represents one of the largest border-related oral history projects in the United States, focusing on El Paso-Ciudad Juárez and communities along the U.S.-Mexico border. Current holdings include nearly 1000 interviews and more than 20,000 pages of transcriptions. One third of the interviews are in Spanish. Ninety-six of the interviews cover World War II and the home front (see <http://dmc.utep.edu/oralh/oraldb/Text.html>).

War Eagles Air Museum

Terry Sunday, 8012 Airport Road, Santa Teresa NM 88008, 505/589-2000, mail@war-eagles-air-museum.com. <http://www.war-eagles-air-museum.com/>. The museum is dedicated to collecting, restoring and displaying historic aircraft of World War II and the Korean Conflict. Exhibits on Texas veterans include Bill Crombie, World War II ace from El Paso. The museum is currently participating in the Veterans History Project in association with the Library of Congress.

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES

AARP History and Memories

A website with a series of instructions and lessons, as well as a self-test for conducting oral history interviews, and related links.

<http://www.aarp.org/learntech/histories/Articles/a2003-04-21-veteransoralhistory.html>.

Baylor University – The Texas Collection

Tom Charlton, Director, the Texas Collection, One Bear Place #97142, Waco TX 76798, 254/710-1268. The archive of military oral histories includes more than a dozen interviews and information on the 56th Evacuation Hospital in World War II, as well as interviews from World War I veterans and prisoners of war from Vietnam.

Living Legacies Historical Foundation

<http://www.tellmeyourstories.org/>. The foundation is a nonprofit organization formed to increase the opportunities for elderly people to tell their life stories and to create projects that allow young people to learn history through the interviews. The website has useful research ideas and links to oral history programs.

Oral History Association

OHA is an international organization of local historians, librarians archivists, students, journalists, teachers and academic scholars concerned with the collection, preservation, dissemination and uses of oral testimony. Their website, <http://www.dickinson.edu/oha/>, has links and useful information.

Stephen F. Austin State University

East Texas Research Center, Box 13055, SFASU Station, Nacogdoches TX 75962-3055, 936/468-4100. AskETRC@sfalib.sfasu.edu.

<http://libweb.sfasu.edu/etrc/COLLECT/ORLHSTRY/Orlmain.htm>. Nineteen transcribed oral histories in the collection pertain to World War II (see

<http://libweb.sfasu.edu/etrc/COLLECT/ORLHSTRY/orlmain1.htm#wwii>).

Texas A&M University

University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives, 77843-5000, 979/845-1951.

http://ednetold.tamu.edu/vgn/portal/tamulib/content/renderer/0,2174,1724_556661,00.html. The collection has more than ninety oral histories from 1980 to the present, nearly all

transcribed, covering World War II through Vietnam War service. The “Aggies to Generals” collection includes interviews with alumni who became general officers and retired in Texas. The individual's military career is investigated in detail. Interviews range from Charles Bond of the Flying Tigers to Heri Bert Bartscht of the German Wehrmacht.

Texas Military Forces Museum

P.O. Box 5218, Austin TX 78763-5218. 512/782-5659.

museum@agd.state.tx.us. <http://www.kwanah.com/txmilmus/>. Located at Camp Mabry in Austin, the museum is dedicated to the history of the military forces of the State of Texas. Museum exhibits include the 36th Division in Europe, the 112th Cavalry in the Pacific and the 124th Cavalry in China-Burma-India. The museum website includes information on the World War II histories of Texas National Guard units (<http://www.kwanah.com/txmilmus/wwiunit.htm>).

Texas Oral History Association

A statewide network founded in 1983 for oral historians in Texas and surrounding states. TOHA publishes a newsletter and a journal, the *Sound Historian*, and holds an annual meeting in conjunction with the Texas State Historical Association. See their website at <http://www3.baylor.edu/TOHA/Welcome.html>.

University of Texas at Arlington

Special Collections, Central Library, 702 College Street, P.O. Box 19497, Arlington TX 76019, 817/272-3000. <http://libraries.uta.edu/tejanovoices/>. The Tejano Voices project includes an interview with Rogelio Sanchez, who served with the U.S. Army in the South Pacific during World War II.

The Institute of Texan Cultures

Sarah Z. Gould, 801 East Cesar Chavez Blvd, San Antonio TX 78205-3209. 210/458-2312. www.texancultures.com. There are more than 1,000 total interviews in the collection, and nearly 300 pertain to World War II topics. Oral history transcripts available online

(<http://digital.utsa.edu/cdm/search/collection/p15125coll4/searchterm/Institute%20of%20Texan%20Cultures%20Oral%20History%20Collection/mode/exact>) including that of Brigadier General Lillian Dunlap, a San Antonio native who joined the Army Nurse Corps and served for 33 years.

Veterans History Project

202/707-4916, 888/371-5848. vohp@loc.gov. <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/>

The VHP is sponsored by the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress. A search of the existing database of oral histories and submitted stories yields more than 1,200 pertaining to Texas. The “List of Partners” page includes an extensive number of links to groups actively seeking oral interviews.