

Fading Fast: Capturing the Stories of Our Nation's Veterans Before They Fade Away into History

The Jerry Falwell Library

Kenny Rowlette

- Special Projects Coordinator for the Jerry Falwell Library
- Scholarly Communications Assistant for the Jerry Falwell Library
- Son of World War Veteran
- English and Latin Teacher for Seven Years
- English Professor for Thirty Three Years
- Director of the National Civil War Chaplains Museum
- History Buff

Introduction

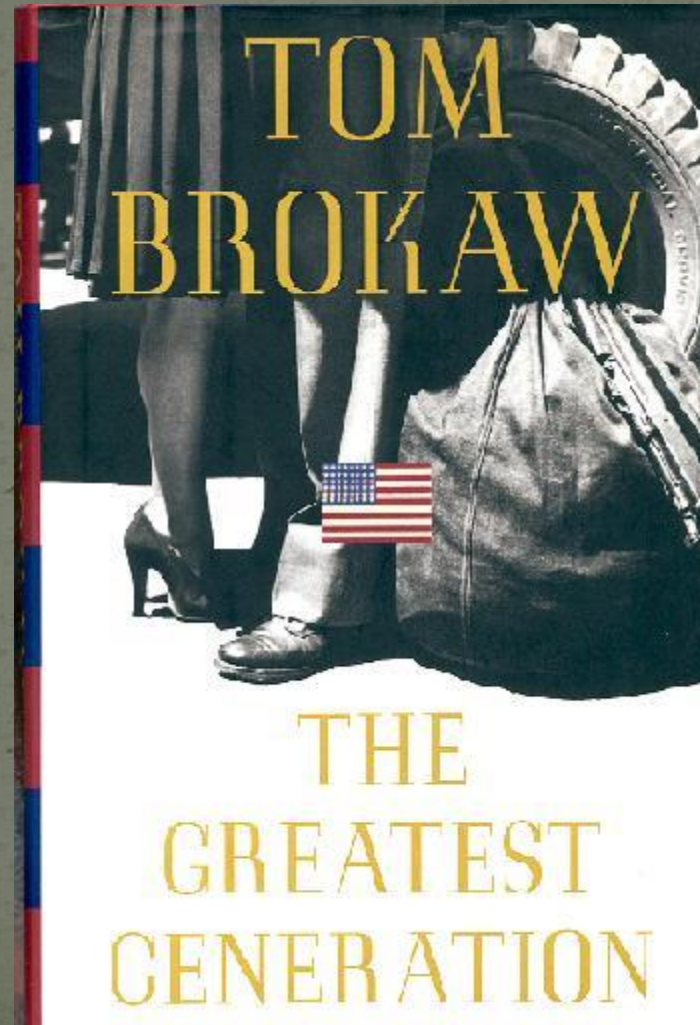
The purpose of this presentation is to give an overview of the Jerry Falwell Library's Veterans Oral History Project:

- The rationale for the project
- The Veterans Oral History Project team
- The scope of the project
- The project stakeholders
- The cost of the project
- Marketing the project
- Screening potential interviewees
- Pre-interview talks
- Conducting the interviews
- Digitizing pertinent images and documents
- Uploading interviews on Digital Commons

The Rationale for the Project



“The Greatest Generation”



TOM BROKAW

The
**GREATEST
GENERATION
SPEAKS**

LETTERS *and* REFLECTIONS



NATIONAL BESTSELLER

FLYBOYS



A TRUE STORY OF COURAGE

JAMES BRADLEY

AUTHOR OF *Flags of Our Fathers*

"A gripping story." —*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

ONE AMERICAN TOWN'S ULTIMATE D-DAY SACRIFICE

**THE
BEDFORD
BOYS**



Alex Kershaw

The Loss of a Generation of Heroes



16 MILLION

Americans Served in WWII

430

Dying Each Day

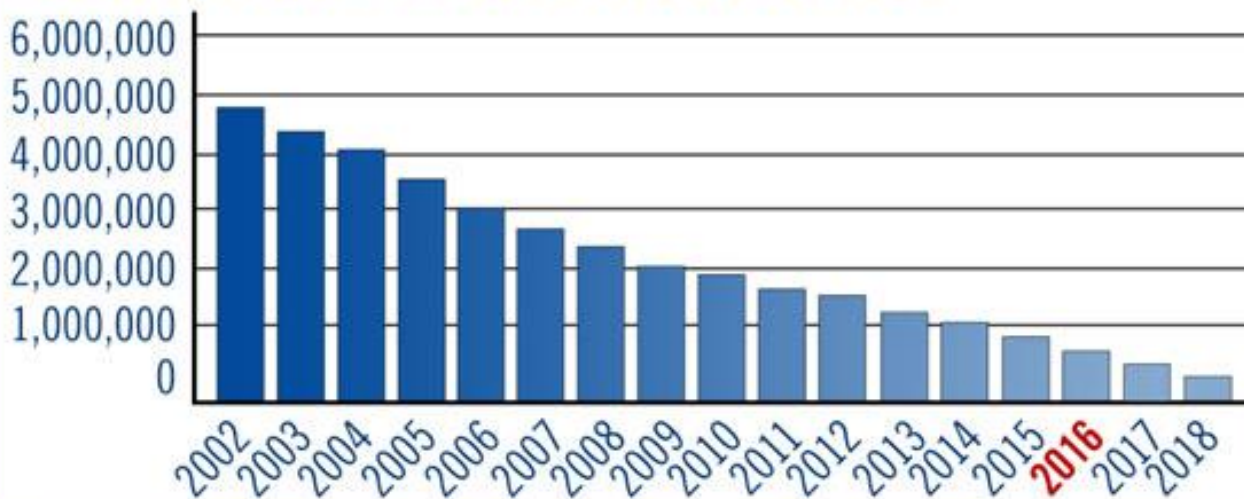


697,806

WWII Veterans Today



SURVIVING WWII VETERANS



WWII THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM | LIVING WWII VETERANS BY STATE 2016

Alabama.....	10,419	Maine.....	4,040	Pennsylvania.....	37,154
Alaska.....	1,110	Maryland.....	11,738	Rhode Island.....	2,580
Arizona.....	20,753	Massachusetts.....	16,089	South Carolina.....	11,389
Arkansas.....	7,604	Michigan.....	22,890	South Dakota.....	2,048
California.....	61,891	Minnesota.....	12,320	Tennessee.....	13,410
Colorado.....	10,790	Mississippi.....	5,543	Texas.....	43,350
Connecticut.....	8,581	Missouri.....	14,964	Utah.....	5,582
Delaware.....	2,692	Montana.....	3,328	Vermont.....	1,698
D.C.....	1,041	Nebraska.....	4,356	Virginia.....	17,238
Florida.....	65,069	Nevada.....	6,924	Washington.....	17,727
Georgia.....	16,748	New Hampshire.....	4,278	West Virginia.....	5,282
Hawaii.....	3,287	New Jersey.....	17,991	Wisconsin.....	13,116
Idaho.....	4,611	New Mexico.....	5,012	Wyoming.....	1,453
Illinois.....	24,172	New York.....	35,716	Puerto Rico.....	2,247
Indiana.....	14,126	North Carolina.....	20,027	Is. Areas & Foreign.....	2,625
Iowa.....	7,819	North Dakota.....	1,582		
Kansas.....	6,510	Ohio.....	28,316	▶ Grand Total.....	697,806
Kentucky.....	8,892	Oklahoma.....	9,417		
Louisiana.....	8,501	Oregon.....	11,759	▶ Deaths Per Day.....	430

The Forgotten War





The Veterans Oral History Project Team

- Kenny Rowlette--Chair of Task Force, contacts outside agencies about our efforts, participates in recording sessions, coordinates script for any interviews done by news agencies
- Abigail Sattler – Archivist, oversees recording sessions, oversees transcribing of sessions - How many hours will be needed? We will need to add student position accordingly.
- Mike Cobb – Electronic Resources Librarian, coordinates writing proposal, works with LU History Department on questions for interviews, and works to see if history department wishes role in transcription

The Veterans Oral History Project Team

- Julie Elms – Graphics and Media Specialist, works on graphics for marketing and advertising of recording work
- Tim Siegel – Systems Librarian, adds marketing materials to library webpages
- Josh Waltman – Scholarly Communications Assistant, adds recording sessions and transcriptions to Digital Commons

Project Stake Holders

- Jerry Falwell Library managers, librarians, and staff
- History majors—both undergraduate and graduate
- Jerry Falwell Library customers (principally students and faculty)
- The interviewees and their families
- Veterans' organizations—i.e., the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Military Order of the World Wars, the 29th Division Historical Society, the Marine Corps League, and the Vietnam Veterans of America
- Broader academic community—through first hand, primary source materials being made available for future research
- Professional and amateur historians
- The general public

Costs

- Marketing—None
- Mailing—Under \$150 per year
- Radio Studio Time—\$17.50 per hour x 18 two hour sessions for a total of \$630.00
- Digitization of Images and Documents—None
- Transcription—Student CSER workers and library staff workers
- Other—water bottles and gift bags from the LU Visitors Center

The Interview Process--Networking

- Networking with local veterans' groups:
 - The American Legion
 - The Veterans of Foreign Wars
 - The Military Order of the World Wars
 - The 29th Division Historical Society
 - The Marine Corps League
 - The Vietnam Veterans of America
- Networking with Liberty University
- Networking with local individuals
- Other

The Interview Packet

- Welcome Letter
- What to Bring List
- Oral History Release Form
- Biographical Form
- Sample Biographical Information
- Sample Basic Questions
- Introduction to the Interview Team

Research for the Pre-Interview Meeting

- The interviewee's Biography
- The interviewee's Military Unit
- Battles in Which the Interviewee Participated
- Off Limits Topics
- Sensitive Topics
- Other

The Interview Process— the Pre-Interview Meeting

- Introduction of myself
- General overview of the project
- Review of the interviewee's biography
- Review of the interview questions
- Review of the sample questions
- Additions or deletions of topics and questions
- Digitization of images and documents
- Other

Generating the Interview Questions/Script

- General Knowledge of US Military history
- The interviewee's biography
- The interviewee's military unit
- Battles in which the interviewee participated
- Revisions

Meeting for the Interview

- Meeting at the Liberty University Visitors Center
- The trip to the recording studio
- Meeting the recording engineer
- Seating
- Introduction to the recording equipment
- Alert for break times
- Inclusion of mate in the interview process?
- Editing of commentary
- Inclusion of new or spontaneous questions

Conducting the Interview

- Welcoming the audience to the interview
- Welcoming the interviewee
- Following the interview script
- Spontaneous questions
- Allowing for pauses from the interviewee
- Off limits topics
- Sensitive topics
- Strategic breaks
- Closing remarks
- Redacting parts of the interview
- Interview photos

Images, Documents, and Artifacts

- Scanning images
- Scanning documents
- Photos of artifacts
- Other
- Turn around time to return items to interviewees

The Transcription Process



Oral History Transcript Format

- Type the transcript in Microsoft Word.
- Set the font to *Times New Roman* size 12.
- Title the file “(last name of interviewee) (date of interview in mm/dd/yy format) ”.
- Have the standard 1” margins on the page.
- Make the line spacing 1.15.

Oral History Transcript Title and Header

- Title the document as follows: Oral History Interview of (Name of Interviewee) Center the title and bold.
- The header should be left aligned and include all of the following:
 - Time of interview (write out the full month name, day date and year)
 - Location of interview
 - Name of the interviewee
 - Name(s) of the interviewers
 - Name of the transcriber,
 - Total length of the sound file, notes.

Uploading to the JFL Digital Commons Page

- Save audio or video to a server or YouTube.
- Create a photo gallery of the Interviewees.
- Save interview transcript as a PDF.
- Create a map showing the veterans' hometowns.
- Create a map of the veterans' theaters of conflict.
- Create an event community in Digital Commons.
- Upload the info via Be Press onto the JFL's Digital Commons home page.

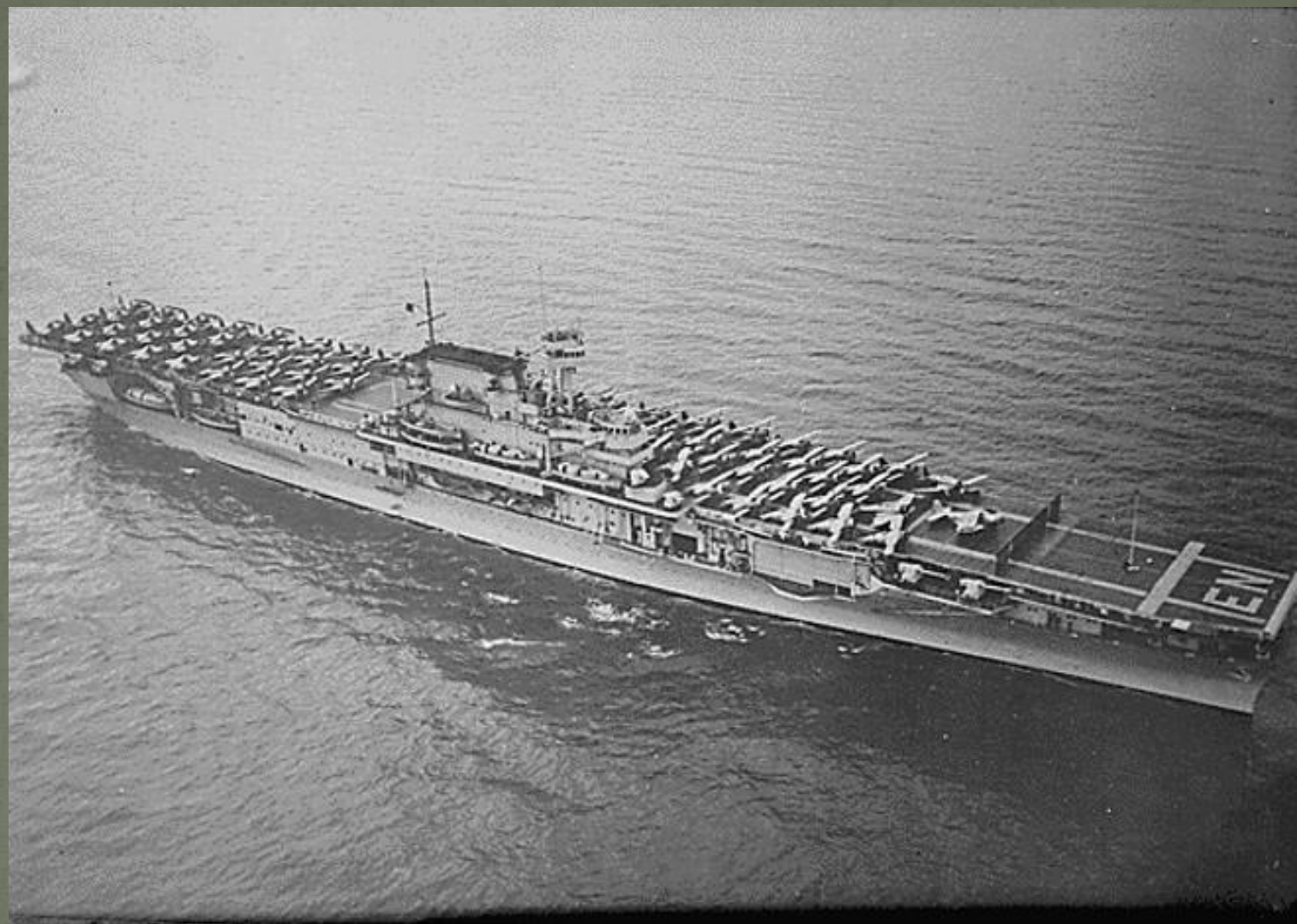
The Veteran's Oral History Project's Interviewees



Jack Norberg













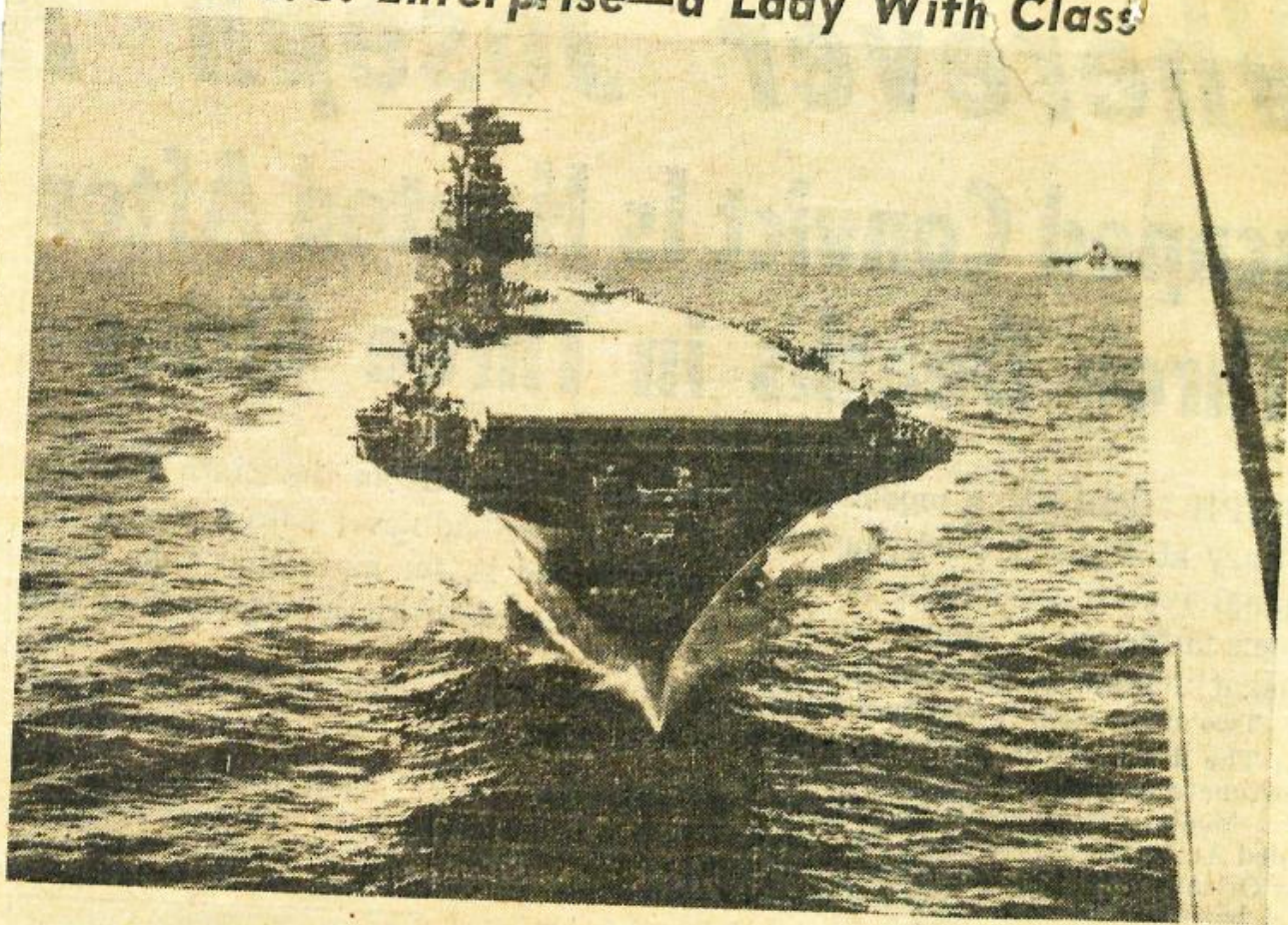








U. S. S. Enterprise—a Lady With Class



5C • SUNDAY NEWS, MARCH 18, 1945

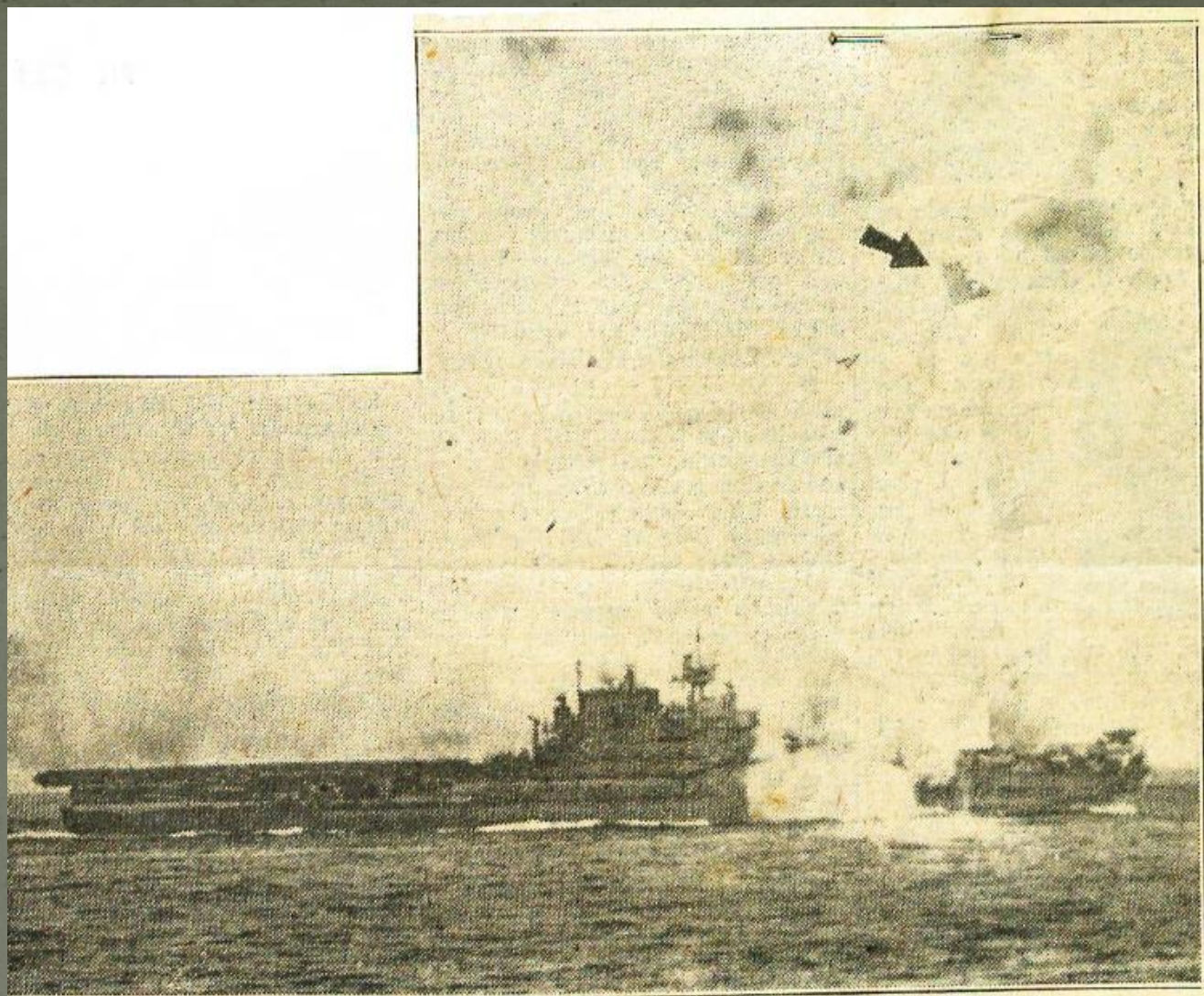
The Enterprise on the prowl in the Pacific.

(Official U. S. Navy foto)

SOLE SURVIVOR of her class and holder of a Presidential citation, the U. S. S. Enterprise is still on the trail of the enemy. She is responsible for some of the first American blows against

enemy territory after Pearl Harbor. She escorted the Hornet to within 800 miles of Tokyo for Jimmy Doolittle's daring air raid. At Santa Cruz she and the Hornet destroyed 135 enemy planes,

damaged two carriers, two battleships and three cruisers before the Hornet was mortally hit. In the battle of Leyte Gulf the Enterprise hit a battleship and sank a carrier and a cruiser.



(Official U. S. Navy foto via Aeme)

'GALLOPING GHOST.' Reported sunk six times by the Japs, the carrier U. S. S. Enterprise is still afloat. On May 14, a suicide plane dived into flight deck blasting elevator (arrow) 400 feet into the air.

Edward Pappert







Landing EDWARD PAPPERT

Was the Easy Part

The Yamato



Mac McConn



The D-Day Landings



Robert W. Brooks, Jr.





Jack Shields



US M-16 “Quad 4” Half Track



Doris Albertson



The Fall of Berlin



Robert Bowser



The Battle of Remagen Bridge



Bowser Artifacts















Seymour Woodnick



M-8 Armored Car “Greyhound”



Harry Honig





Certificate of Honorable Service



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

HARRY HONIG

WAS EMPLOYED BY THE
UNITED STATES NAVY
at the
PEARL HARBOR NAVY YARD
 FOR A PERIOD OF 26 MONTHS
 WHERE HIS SERVICES CONTRIBUTED TO THE MISSION
 OF THAT PACIFIC NAVAL BASE IN SUPPORT OF THE
UNITED STATES FLEET

FOR HIS FAITHFUL WORK AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE WINNING OF THE WAR

HE IS AWARDED THIS
**CERTIFICATE OF HONORABLE SERVICE
 TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**



August

1945

William R. Twining

Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Commandant



AMERICAN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE

TRANS TO M.P.'S
AFTER THE WAR
THIS IS A WAR CRIM-
INALS CAMP.
BELOW IS WHERE
WE WERE HOUSED
DEWEY BLVD
1945
MORE PHOTOS NEXT PAGE



General Homma



The Bataan Death March



The Trial of General Homma



Victor Oppleman











"Roll call" just before going on duty



Take his picture

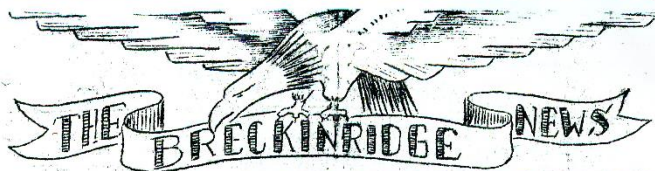


all the fellows in apt. 21 plus houseboy "charlie"

these who sleep in our apt. k. to R.
Clarence Kirkland - Ala.
Dave Lewis - Ill.
Vic Appelman - Va.
George Mickle - Mass.
Bill Killough - "



Charlie the house boy



Stateside

September 30, 1945

Stand By USA

THE GOOD SHIP BRECKINRIDGE HAS BRUNG HOME THE BACON. CHINA DUTY NOT THE BEST BUT GRIPES AREN'T LOUD. HERE'S A BRIEF PICTURE OF CONDITIONS IN THE STATES.

Well, the good ship Breckinridge has brung home the bacon, and the bacon in this case happens to be you and me. Of all the ships in the Navy this one will be remembered long after the others are duly recorded in the dull history of the sea.

She started out crawling and heading in the wrong direction. Most of us thought we were going by the Japanese for the first few days of the voyage. We sailed by the coast of Japan, picked up a little speed in the Jap Stream, and headed West.

We almost stopped dead in the middle of the Pacific for a week, but crossed the International Date Line and cut the distance to Panama in half.

Everybody had an arrival date scheduled for the locks in Panama, and we finally pulled in Tuesday morning, September 24. The Wakefield salts, who had seen the Canal before, gave us the stretch dope on everything...or just about everything.

They forgot to tell us about the liberty to expect. Many of us found the dock liberty there was the best we had ever pitched.

From Panama to Norfolk the trip was short and sweet, but now it's all OVER!!!!

Most of the Marines aboard pulled duty in China. It wasn't the best in the world nor the worst. Many men didn't care for the flies, the muddy streets, the open meat shops and the heat.

There was plenty of Oriental vodka to get soused with and enough girls to take care of those who wanted them. But quantity doesn't necessarily mean quality, and the quality wasn't very high.

The souvenir hunters either wised up in a hurry or were going around in scivvie. Will pay sky. You couldn't leave a jeep or a poncho without a lock and chain.

Some men found Chinese friends and were fortunate. The majority of them slept in their barracks, picked up a few phrases and beat their chops. It was only natural that people so different from us in all ways should find it difficult to make themselves seen fine fellows.

The Chinese thought the Marines hot headed and drunk. The Marines felt Chinese were thieves and liars.

But time will throw a rosier light on our tour in China and discharge is bound to throw a shining light on everything.

Stand by for the USA. Some of us are coming back for the first time in years, some for the first time in months, everybody for the first time in a long time.

We all want to know what's happening and just how we will fit into the proceedings. Let's take a look.

Prices are sky high. Inflation is not really rampant, but it is bad for the blood of small salaries. Many luxuries and necessities are still hard to get. Clothes is one example, and if you don't take off your khaki for a month or so, don't be surprised.

Those of you going back to get educated will find the colleges jam-jammed with students.

And that brings you face to face with another problem-----living room. Apartments, homes, and tents are jammed. Finding a place to take off your shoes may be difficult unless you're lucky.

Prices are still on a war time level or higher. But they won't go very far if you like to step out... and who doesn't?

In the rough that's a picture of the States. It's not exactly fouled up but things are rather confused. Not that we care, because we are HOME!!!!

SOUVENIR EDITION

AUGUST 6, 1946

THE NEW

Marines To Stay In China And Will Resist Attacks

By Spencer Moss

Shanghai, Aug. 4 (AP)—The Marines are staying in China at their present strength of 22,000 to 23,000 and will "shoot back" if attacked, Adm. Charles M. Cooke, Jr. declared today in answer to speculation concerning the July 29 battle between Marines and Chinese Communists.

Cooke, commander of the U. S. Seventh Fleet which includes the Marines in China, told a news conference there had been some reductions in Marine personnel in the past, but "none are now in process or ordered."

Accuse Marines

The Chinese Communists, who long have been agitating for withdrawal of the Marines, continued their campaign of accusing the Marines of new aggressions in North China.

A pro-government newspaper in Nanking published Sunday a rumor that President Truman had ordered General Marshall to prepare plans for withdrawing all American forces from China to avoid further incidents such as that near Peiping July 29, in which Communists ambushed a Marine motor convoy and killed four Marines and wounded 11.

President Truman's secretary said he knew of no withdrawal order, and Admiral Cooke confirmed that the Marines were sticking. The Admiral said he had discussed the ambush with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, government chief, with General Marshall, Special Envoy to China, and with John Leighton Stuart, U. S. Ambassador.

Besides the Marines, the United States has in China the small Seventh Fleet and a scattering of Army service troops.

Admiral Cooke said the Marines were sent to China to aid in repatriating Japanese and assist in restoring stabilized, peaceful conditions. He said the Japanese now had been repatriated from China Proper—although not from Manchuria, with which the Marines have nothing to do—but that other Marine tasks remained.

These, he said, included support of the Peiping Executive Headquarters which is striving to implement a Chinese truce, protection of Marine property and installations, and of the American training establishment for the Chinese Navy at Tientsin, base of the Seventh Fleet.

The entire problem of illegal immigration into Palestine, reportedly facilitated by a pipeline from Germany through Austria and Italy, and across the Mediterranean, illegal immigrant ships currently being intercepted are permitted to discharge passengers whose numbers are applied against the 1500 monthly quota of immigrants.

He declined to confirm that the Marines would stay in China as long as the Peiping Executive Headquarters existed and refused to discuss future prospects, saying simply that there had been no change in Marine policy, which was to fire only when fired upon.

The Executive Headquarters announced in Peiping that it had appointed a Communist, a government man, and U. S. Col. Michael F. Davis of San Antonio, Tex., to investigate the recent battle.

Claim Self Defense

The Communists, who acknowledge fighting the Marines but insist it was self-defense, broadcast sharp criticism of the week-long interval before beginning an investigation.

In addition, the Communist radio at Yenai accused the Marines of having shelled a village 30 miles northeast of Tientsin on July 27. It continued to harp on the government bombing of Yenai last Friday with American-made planes.

The Communist radio also reported that churches representing 20,000 Christians in Chihai Province had telegraphed a protest to General Marshall "denouncing the action of U. S. forces in infringing on Chinese sovereignty as an act against the will of God."

TECH GETS STAR

Richmond, Va. (AP)—

Missing Marines Object Of Search By Motorized Unit

Peiping, July 30 (AP)—Three hundred motorized U. S. Marines armed with howitzers spread through a cornfield battleground near Peiping today looking for an undetermined number of comrades missing after a clash with Chinese Communists in which four Marines were killed and 19 wounded.

The heavily-armed patrol, supported by warplanes, sped out of Tientsin Monday upon the first flashed word that a 100-man truck convoy had been ambushed 35 miles southeast of Peiping and was outnumbered three to one.

The relief force did not arrive, however, until the four-hour engagement was over and the convoy had escaped from the danger zone in a storm of rifle fire from Chinese in the corn rows.

With a dozen mobile 105-mm howitzers, ready just in case the attackers returned in force, the patrol fanned out through the countryside looking for possible survivors or wounded.

Communist Statement

Gen. Chou En-lai, head of the Communist delegation in Nanking, asserted the clash resulted from "Marine provocation" and "the Communists have absolutely no intention of unleashing a conflict." He said the Communists had been provoked by Marine intrusions into their areas.

Marine sources in Peiping said a Marine patrol recently exchanged fire with Communist troops in the area southeast of Peiping and the Communists probably were retaliating.

Marine sources said the four dead had yet to be identified and that two of the 19 were wounded so badly they may die. They were checking their lists to see how many others were unaccounted for.

Erupts Quickly

Chinese sources said two of the 100 men in the motorized unit were officers in the command car who fell in the first volley that struck the convoy as it wound up the road, carrying the wounded men to the hospital and placements from Tientsin for medical treatment.

Some 100 men with the convoy.

Nav S&A Form 550
Revised

MUSTERING OUT PAYMENT
COMMANDING OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE

I certify that the below named person is being discharged or released from active duty

_____ and that he has had active duty in the Armed Forces (LESS THAN) (MORE THAN)
(Mark Out One)

60 Day, and is entitled to payment under MOP Act 1944. SERVICE RECORD (DOES) (DOES NOT)
OPPLEMAN, VICTOR MURRELL PFC. (Mark Out One)

553479 USMCR SSN 521

show service outside the continental limits
of the U.S. or in Alaska.

1 HURON AVE.

LYNCHBURG, VA. GR S614

Name, Rank, No., Home Address

E. Oglesby

Commanding

I certify that I have made no previous application for MUSTERING OUT PAYMENT under MOP Act 1944. I am aware of the fact that duplicate application makes it a criminal offense under the U. S. Criminal Code. Have you served outside the continental limits of the U. S. or in Alaska?

Yes or No

SEPARATION BATTALION
CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.

Victor M. Oppleman

(Signature of Applicant)

Disbursing Officer's payment Data

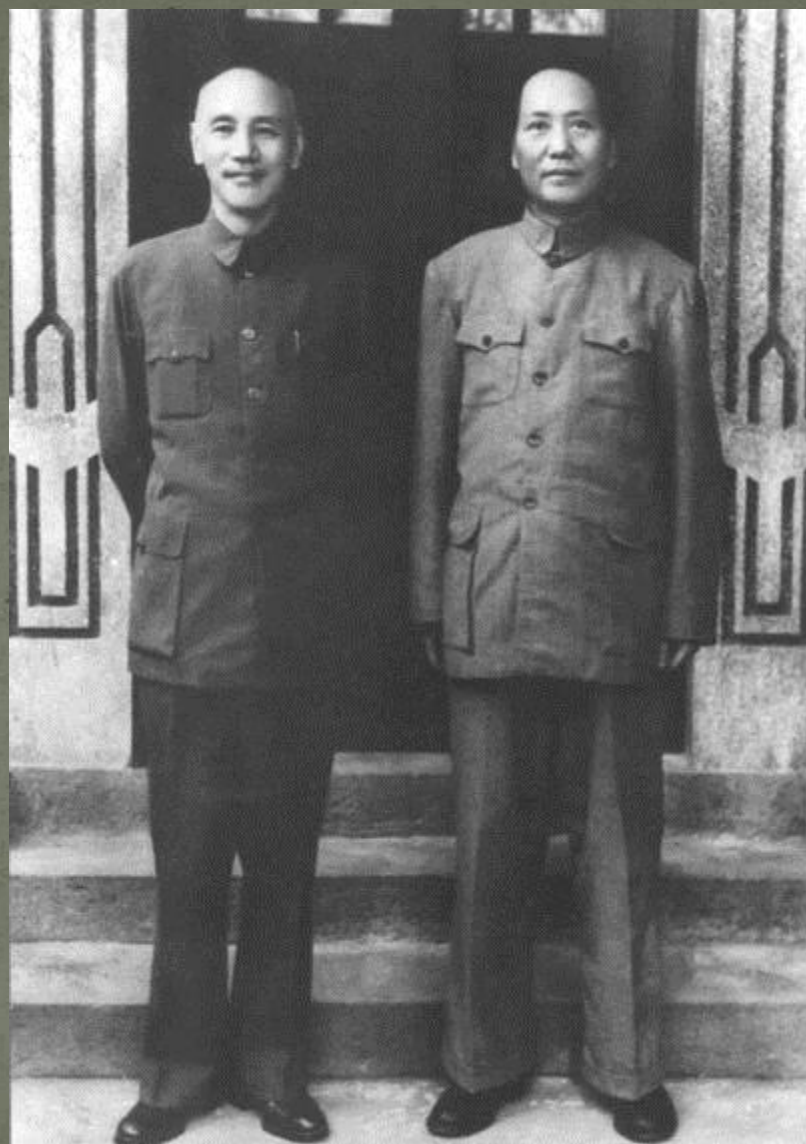
MUSTERING OUT PAYMENTS

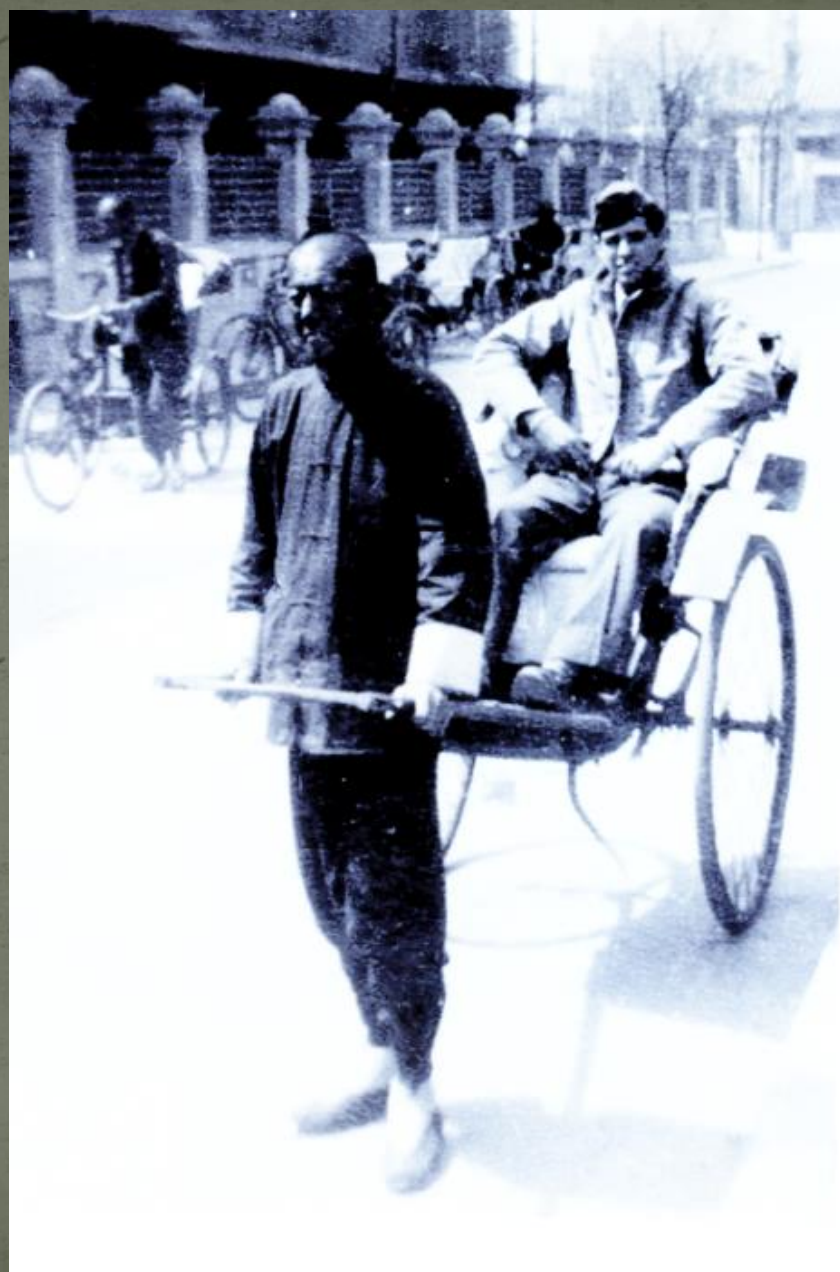
Paid \$100.00 MOP, CK# 80186 Dated 8 OCT 1946

DIVISION DATA

W.M. Mc Makin, Jr. 53,492

Name and Symbol No. Of Disb. Officer making initial
Payment









U.S.



MARINES



IN SERVICE

Samuel Mosley







Liberty University Digital Commons Home Page

Digital Commons

The mission of Liberty University's [Digital Commons](#) is to capture, preserve, and freely distribute the scholarship of our community. Within this repository are a variety of works by LU faculty, including articles, presentations, and book reviews. The Digital Commons also houses student theses and dissertations as well as several scholarly journals edited by Liberty faculty and students.

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HISTORY PROJECT PAGES



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COMPANION
VIDEO

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

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March 11, 2016

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The Cres Com Bank Center for Military and Veterans Studies at Coastal Carolina University



Sources

- Surviving WWII Vets Chart: The National World War II Museum—
<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/honor/wwii-veterans-statistics.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/>
- Living WWII Veterans by State 2016 Chart: The National World War II Museum—
<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/honor/wwii-veterans-statistics.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/>

Important Resources

- The National World II Museum:
<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/visit/index.html?referrer=http://www.nationalww2museum.org/honor/wwii-veterans-statistics.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/>
- The National D-Day Memorial:
<https://www.dday.org/>
- The Museum of World War
<http://museumofworldwarii.org/> I Boston
- The Eldred WWII Museum:
<http://eldredpawwiimuseum.com/>