

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series VI. Afghanistan/Iraq Wars series, 2003-2011, .1 cu. ft.

Series Abstract/Description:

Oral histories from veterans who served in the wars in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom) and Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom), which were initiated in the wake of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and collectively known as "The War on Terrorism."

Materials (as of August 2014) primarily consist of oral histories. Two interviews are of special note: Jim Thurman, a civilian, performed search and rescue in the rubble of the World Trade Center in New York City immediately following 9/11. In addition, one interview is with the first female Veterans Affairs Commissioner for the state of Tennessee, Many-Bears Grinder, in which she describes her long career, including deployment to Afghanistan, as well as her personal experiences of also being a military family member, including the loss of her daughter-in-law.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the "War on Terrorism" were ongoing during the creation of the Veterans History Project. Although several efforts were made to reach out to veterans returning home from these conflicts, response was relatively low, probably due to the fact that many individuals were still in the military, or just recently out. Nevertheless, the persons who shared their stories provide an up-close and personal account of what it was like to serve in the military during this time. In addition to narrating their own personal experiences, they also provide commentary about the political and religious aspects of these conflicts, as well.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by veteran's last name.

Container List:

Baker, Judith Elizabeth (LeComte). Army Reserves, administrative specialist. Stateside.

See Other Conflicts and Peacetime Series

Blazer, Stephen Michael. Army, 82nd Airborne Division, 122nd Aviation Regiment, helicopter crew chief. Afghanistan.

Oral History: (digital recording – MP3 file) - VHPBlazerSM

Butler, David A. Jr. Army, 101st Airborne Division, 1/327 Infantry. Iraq.

Oral History: (digital recording – MP3 file) – VHPButlerD; transcript #509.

Couch, Arthur. RESTRICTION: *Materials closed until Jan. 1, 2022.*

Frisby, John L. Army, 3-69 Armor Infantry, C-2-7. Iraq (Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom).

Oral History: Tape 366, index available. Also available on CD in standard audio format – VHPFrisbyJ

Grinder, Many-Bears. Tennessee Army National Guard, stateside, colonel, various assignments. Afghanistan (2007-2008), Head of Secretariat, International Police Coordination Board. State Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, 2011+.

Manuscripts: Resume, 2 business cards, news article, email from Afghanistan

Oral History: (digital recording – MP3 file) – VHPGrinderMB; index available; extracts from portions of tracks 29-32 which are difficult to hear, partial transcript #558.

Herbst, Luke Robert. Army, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, (1-82), attached to C Troop of the 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, forward observer, sniper. Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq (2001-2005); "Black Sunday".

Manuscript: "Narrative of Significant Events of the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop in Operation Iraqi Freedom II," March 2004-Nov. 2004.

Oral History (first interview): (digital recording – MP3 file) – VPHHerbstL1 Wisconsin National Guard, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, convoy escort commander. Iraq (2006-2009).

Oral History (second interview): (digital recording – MP3 file) – VPHHerbstL2

Johnson, Samuel Manard. Navy, electrician's mate, *USS John F. Kennedy*, Sept. 11, 2001 from Florida to New York City; later, master-at-arms, stateside (various posts & time periods); Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion, Fort Suse and FOB Bucca, Iraq (2006); Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (2009).

Oral History: (digital recording – MP3 file) – VHPJohnsonS

Simonds, Gary Dawyne Jr. Army National Guard, 1/278th Regimental Combat Team. Iraq. (Operation Iraqi Freedom III) (2002-2007)

Oral History: Tape 373, index available.

Simpson, Pernell A. Tennessee Army National Guard. Stateside [?]

Oral History: Tape 381

Terry, Lucas J. Navy, Seabees. Iraq War (Operations Iraqi Freedom & Enduring Freedom). (2003-2004). Little Creek, Virginia; Iraq.

Oral History: Tapes 302 & 303, transcript. Also available on CD in standard audio format - VHP TerryL

Other: see *Administrative Files, Promotional and Educational Materials, Operation Stand Down 2004, student papers.*

Thurman, Jim. Civilian, search and rescue. New York City, Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Oral History: Tape 336, 337, & 338, index available (filed with transcripts). Also available in digital format (MP3 file) - VHPThurmanJ

Witter, Elizabeth Evelyn (Bailey). Army National Guard, 1071st Maintenance Company. Kuwait; Camp Caldwell, Ramadi, "TQ" Iraq.

Oral History: Tape 364, index available. Also available on CD in standard audio format - VHPWitterE