



Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Herbert Carter

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Herbert Carter |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Carter, |
| Dates: | March 18, 2007 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2007 |
| Physical Description: | 4 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:41:00). |
| Abstract: | Academic administrator and tuskegee airman Herbert Carter (1919 -) flew seventy-seven combat sorties against the German and Italian Air Force in the Northern Africa, Sicilian Italian and European campaigns of World War II with the 99th Fighter Squadron. He received the Chevalier Legion of Honor, France's highest honor and most prestigious award for his service during World War II. Carter also served as Associate Dean of Student Services and Administration at Tuskegee University between 1969 and 1985. Carter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 18, 2007, in Tuskegee, Alabama. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2007_097 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Academic administrator and Tuskegee Airman Herbert E. Carter was born on September 27, 1919 in Amory, Mississippi to parents Willie Ann Sykes Carter and George Washington Carter. He graduated from Tuskegee High School in 1941 and went on to join the United States Army in July of 1942 as a member of the 99th pursuit unit, which was one of the units that became known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

While in World War II, he flew seventy-seven combat missions against the German and Italian Air Force in the Northern Africa, Sicilian Italian and European campaigns. The 99th Squadron achieved the outstanding record in Close Tactical Ground Support of the Allied Army. After the war ended, Carter went on to receive his B.S. degree in industrial education in 1955 from Tuskegee University and his M.A. degree in administration and supervision in 1969.

Carter retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force after twenty-six years of commissioned service in 1969. After his retirement, he served at Tuskegee University as Associate Dean of Student Services and Administration until 1985, and continued to visit troops who were deployed overseas.

On June 6, 2006, Carter received the Chevalier Legion of Honor, France's highest honor and most prestigious award. The award was presented to him by Jacques Chirac, former President of the French Republic, for his outstanding service during the liberation of France during World War II. In March 2007, President George W. Bush honored the Tuskegee Airmen with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Herbert Carter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 18, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Herbert Carter was conducted by Denise Gines on March 18, 2007, in Tuskegee, Alabama, and was recorded on 4 Betacam SP videocassettes. Academic administrator and tuskegee airman Herbert Carter (1919 -) flew seventy-seven combat sorties against the German and Italian Air Force in the Northern Africa, Sicilian Italian and European campaigns of World War II with the 99th Fighter Squadron. He received the Chevalier Legion of Honor, France's highest honor and most prestigious award for his service during World War II. Carter also served as Associate Dean of Student Services and Administration at Tuskegee University between 1969 and 1985.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Carter, Herbert

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Herbert Carter--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Tuskegee University

United States. Army Air Forces. Fighter Group, 332nd.

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

MilitaryMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Carter, March 18, 2007. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/14/2011 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage, March 18, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Carter, Section A2007_097_001_001, TRT: 0:28:40
2007/03/18

Lt. Col. Herbert E. Carter slates the interview and talks about his parents. His mother was Willie Anne Sykes Carter, and she was born in Aberdeen, Mississippi. His father, George Washington Carter, was also born in Mississippi. Mr. Carter briefly discusses his maternal grandparents, and states that his great-great grandmother, Margaret Dillworth, who lived to be 104 years old, was a member of the Mississippi Band Choctaw Indians. Her daughter, Emma Dillworth, was a midwife and she birthed all ten of her great grandchildren in Amory, Mississippi. He also talks about growing up in Amory, Mississippi, which was a railroad town operated by the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company. He mentions the different jobs his neighbors held for the railroad company and remembers how he felt when he went to Tuskegee Institute boarding school at fourteen years old.

African Americans--Employment.

African American railroad employees.

Railroads--United States--Employees.

St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company.

Kansas City, Memphis, and Birmingham Railroad Company.

African American families.

African American midwives--Mississippi.

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi.

Tuskegee University.

Boarding schools--United States.

Cities and towns--Mississippi--United States.

Railroads--Mississippi--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Carter, Section A2007_097_001_002, TRT: 0:30:40
2007/03/18

Herbert E. Carter continues his discussion about his initial experiences at Tuskegee Institute. He states that Tuskegee was like a little cultural oasis in the South and the academic opportunities were far superior to what he was exposed to in Amory, Mississippi. While at Tuskegee, Carter was exposed to different sports, like tennis, and gymnastics, and heard Roland Hays and Marion Anderson speak during chapel. He has very fond memories of the faculty at Tuskegee Institute, and says that the faculty led by example for the students. He also talks about his interactions with the draft board during the 1940s and gives a detailed history of the 99th pursuit unit and their role in Operation Shingle during World War II. He explains how their service led to the creation of the 332nd fighter group and he believes that it led to the eventual desegregation of the United States Military.

United States. Army Air Forces. Fighter Group, 332nd.

United States. Army Air Forces. Fighter Group, 33rd. Fighter Squadron, 99th.
World War, 1939-1945.

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, African American.

World War, 1939-1945 Campaigns Italy.

Tuskegee University.

African Americans--Education (Higher).

Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Carter, Section A2007_097_001_003, TRT: 0:31:10

2007/03/18

Herbert E. Carter continues to discuss some of his fellow Tuskegee Airmen especially Daniel “Chappie” James, Jr. He states that Daniel “Chappie” James, Jr. did not see combat during World War II, but was able to earn his rank because of his service in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He explains his duties during his military career after World War II and talks about continuing his education at Tuskegee University. In 1965 Carter returned to Tuskegee University as a professor in aerospace studies while working with the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps. After he retired from the military in 1969, he became the social dean for student services at Tuskegee University, where he was responsible for recruitment of high school students. Carter also talks about the medals he received for his service in the military, and the youth programs that the Tuskegee Airmen work on.

United States. Army Air Forces. Fighter Group, 332nd.

World War, 1939-1945.

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, African American.

Tuskegee University.

United States. Air Force.

Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Carter, Section A2007_097_001_004, TRT: 0:10:30
2007/03/18

Herbert E. Carter concludes his interview by saying how he would like to be remembered and narrating some photographs that he brought to the interview.