

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

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com  |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Carter, Herbert, 1919-2012  |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Carter,  |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | March 18, 2007  |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2007  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:41:00).   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Academic administrator and tuskegee airman Herbert Carter (1919 - 2012 ) flew seventy-seven combat missions with the 99th Fighter Squadron, against the German and Italian Air Force in the Northern Africa, Sicilian Italian and European campaigns of World War II. He received the Chevalier Legion of Honor, France's highest 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. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2007_097   |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.   |

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## 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.

Carter passed away on November 8, 2012 at age 93.

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## **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 Betacame SP videocassettes. Academic administrator and tuskegee airman Herbert Carter (1919 - 2012 ) flew seventy-seven combat missions with the 99th Fighter Squadron, against the German and Italian Air Force in the Northern Africa, Sicilian Italian and European campaigns of World War II. He received the Chevalier Legion of Honor, France's highest 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.

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## **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®.

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## **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.

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## **Controlled Access Terms**

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

### **Persons:**

Carter, Herbert, 1919-2012

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Carter, Herbert, 1919-2012--Interviews

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## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Tuskegee University

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

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## **Occupations:**

Academic Administrator

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Tuskegee Airman

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

EducationMakers|MilitaryMakers

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## **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 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Carter, Section  
A2007\_097\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:40 2007/03/18

Herbert Carter was born on September 27, 1919 in Amory, Mississippi to Willie Ann Sykes Carter and George Washington Carter, Sr. His maternal great-great-grandmother, Margaret Dilworth, was Choctaw. Her daughter, Emma Dilworth, was a well-regarded midwife in Amory, and delivered Carter and his siblings. Carter's mother was born in Aberdeen, Mississippi, and attended high school at Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi. His father moved to Amory to work as a telephone linesman, and then as an electrician. Carter's parents married in 1910, and raised ten children in a well-populated neighborhood of Amory, where many of their black neighbors worked on the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway in positions such as Pullman porter or fireman. During his childhood, Carter recalls playing sports with his siblings, and listening to radio shows like 'Your Hit Parade.' At the age of fourteen years old, he joined his two elder brothers, who were students at Tuskegee Institute High School in Tuskegee, Alabama.

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 Carter grew up during the Great Depression in Amory, Mississippi. At fourteen years old, he left home to attend Tuskegee Institute High School in Tuskegee, Alabama, where he played several sports, and attended lectures by campus visitors like concert singers Roland Hayes and Marian Anderson. Carter graduated in 1941, and entered college at Tuskegee Institute, where he planned to study animal science in preparation for a veterinary career. He also entered a civilian pilot training program, where he met his wife, Mildred Hemmons Carter. When the U.S. Army notified Carter that he had been drafted, he enlisted in the Army Aviation Cadet Program, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1942. He was assigned to the 99th Pursuit Squadron, which was first deployed overseas in 1943. During World War II, Carter flew seventy-seven combat missions in North Africa and Italy. After the integration of the U.S. military in 1948, Carter chose to remain in the U.S. Air Force, where he served until 1969.

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 Carter served as a Tuskegee Airman in the 99th Pursuit Squadron during World War II, where his fellow pilots included Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dryden, George S. Roberts, Lemuel R. Custis and Erwin B. Lawrence, Jr., who was killed in action in Yugoslavia. The squadron was commanded by Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Carter received the French Legion of Honour and the Air Medal for his service. After World War II, he remained in the newly integrated U.S. Air Force as an aircraft maintenance officer at bases such as the Erding Air Base in Germany and Loring Air Force Base in Maine. During the 1950s and 1960s, he learned to fly and repair jet aircraft models. From 1965 to 1969, Carter directed the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. He then remained at the Tuskegee Institute as a professor and associate dean for student services, until retiring in 1985. In his retirement, Carter worked to inspire young people to pursue aerospace careers.

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 Carter describes how he would like to be remembered, and concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.