

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Col. Edward Howard

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Howard, Edward, 1925-2017
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Col. Edward Howard,
Dates:	May 23, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:06:00).
Abstract:	General Col. Edward Howard (1925 - 2017) is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Howard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 23, 2013, in Alexandria, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_147
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

U.S. Army Colonel Edward B. Howard was born on September 13, 1925 in Washington, D.C. His father, Edward W. Howard, was an attorney; his mother, Edith B. Howard, an English teacher. Howard attended Grimke Elementary School and Garnet Patterson Jr. High School before graduating as valedictorian from Paul Laurence Dunbar Sr. High School in Washington, D.C. in 1943. He then attended Dartmouth College from 1943 to 1945 before being selected to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Howard went on to earn his B.S. degree in engineering from West Point in 1949 and his M.S. degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1960.

Throughout his thirty years of service, Howard has significant experience with engineering investigations and technical analysis. Howard began his military career in 1949 as a company grade officer, and was then assigned as a signal company commander occupying Germany until 1962. During the Vietnam War he received domestic and international assignments. Howard served as a communications officer in the National Military Command Center at Pentagon and then as an installation commander and staff officer in Bangkok, Thailand where he managed a program to train Thai engineers and directed a fixed communications facility. In 1971, Howard became chief the Frequency Branch in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and in 1973, he was assigned to the board of the Inspector General of the U.S. Army.

Howard served as a signal corps officer from 1967 to 1979 and then became a senior engineer for Flight Systems, Inc. While there, he recommended the criteria for prioritizing the U.S. Navy Engineering Change Proposal (ECP) and developed the U.S. Navy standard briefing for subcontractor manufacturing. From 1983 to 1990, Howard received several senior-level military and civilian appointments, including being named a senior scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), and the Army Corps of Engineers. He also provided engineering support the RAIL Company to develop the Unmanned Air Vehicle and Tactical Air Launched Decoy production models. In 1970, he was hired by ORI, Inc., and served as the lead engineer to review the Electromagnetic Interference/Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMI/EMC) plans,

specification and program documents.

Howard is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the Dartmouth Outing Club, and Methodist Men. For serving in the U.S. Army during a time of war, Howard was honored with the World War II Victory Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. His military decorations also include the Combat Infantry Badge, the Army Occupation Medal (Germany), the National Defense Medal with the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster, the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Howard married the late Willrene M. White Howard on April 8, 1950. They have one daughter, Edith H. Bostic.

Edward B. Howard was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 23, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Col. Edward Howard was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 23, 2013, in Alexandria, Virginia, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. General Col. Edward Howard (1925 - 2017) is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

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:

Howard, Edward, 1925-2017

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Howard, Edward, 1925-2017 --Interviews

African American soldiers--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

General

HistoryMakers® Category:

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 Col. Edward Howard, May 23, 2013. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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

Video Oral History Interview with Col. Edward Howard, Section A2013_147_001_001, TRT: 1:28:12 ?

Edward Howard starts the interview by slating, and describes his family's background. Howard's mother, Edith Brinkley, was born and raised in Portsmouth, Virginia. He talks about his grandmother, Alice Todd, and his grandfather, Isaac Brinkley, who worked as a barber. Edith Brinkley attended Howard University, and then Columbia University for graduate school where she trained as a teacher. Howard's father, Edward William Howard, was born and raised in Kittrell, North Carolina, where he attended Kittrell College. He studied at Boston University Law School and then went on to work as an attorney and then as a partner in the law firm of Kane, Brown & Howard. His father also served as an adjudicator for the Veterans Administration. Howard describes his parents' personalities and growing up in Washington, D.C. He also talks about his childhood interest in ping pong, gadgets and the soapbox derby.

African American families.

African American mothers--Virginia.

African American grandparents.

African American fathers--North Carolina.

Childhood--Washington (D.C.)

Video Oral History Interview with Col. Edward Howard, Section A2013_147_001_002, TRT: 2:28:29 ?

Edward Howard was raised in Washington, D.C., where his parents belonged to the community of black professionals. In 1931, Howard began school at Grimke Elementary School, where his favorite subject was math. He went on to attend Garnett Patterson Junior High School and Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School, where he joined the high school cadets. In his senior year of high school, Howard became the cadet colonel over three schools in Washington, D.C. He describes his early aspirations of becoming a medical doctor, and after graduating from Dunbar High School in 1943, he enrolled in a pre-med program at Dartmouth College. While there, Howard received an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point through Congressman William L. Dawson of Illinois. He talks about his decision to attend West Point instead of enlisting in World War II.

Childhood--Washington (D.C.)

Education--Washington (D.C.).

Dartmouth College.

Military education--New York (State)--West Point.

Video Oral History Interview with Col. Edward Howard, Section A2013_147_001_003, TRT: 3:30:37 ?

In 1943, after graduating from Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C., Edward Howard attended Dartmouth College as a pre-med major. In 1945, he began his military training at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he also pursued his interest in photography.

Howard talks about his experience at West Point, and how did not have any demerits during his training there. In 1949, after graduating from West Point, Howard attended Ground General School at Fort Riley, Kansas. He talks about his experience there and how he met his future wife, Billie White Howard. He also talks about the integration of the armed services in 1948, under President Harry S. Truman. Howard married his wife in 1950 in Wichita, Kansas, and soon after, was assigned to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Six months after his wedding, Howard was deployed to the Korean War, where he served in the Signal Corps.

Dartmouth College.

Military education--New York (State)--West Point.

Fort Riley (Kan.)

Fort Monmouth (N.J.)

Marriage.

Korean War, 1950-1953.

Video Oral History Interview with Col. Edward Howard, Section A2013_147_001_004, TRT: 4:30:18 ?

Edward Howard served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during the Korean War. In 1960, he began pursuing his master's degree in electrical engineering at Purdue University. Howard spent thirty years in the U.S. Military, and served as the Communications Watch Officer in the National Military Command Center at the Pentagon and Installation Commander and Staff Officer in the Vietnam War. He also served as Chief of the Frequency Branch in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Office of the Inspector General and on the Army Discharge Review Boards. Howard then retired as a full colonel in 1979 and led a productive career as an engineer in the civilian sector. In this section of the interview, Howard reflects upon his awards and commendations in the U.S. Army, and his legacy. He also talks about his daughter, Edith Howard Bostic, his grandson, Scott, and shares how he would like to be remembered.

Korean War, 1950-1953.

Purdue University.

Military administration--United States.

African American colonels.

Reminiscing.

Video Oral History Interview with Col. Edward Howard, Section A2013_147_001_005, TRT: 5:08:24 ?

Edward Howard describes his photographs.

Photographs.