

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Commander Ernest T. Maxey

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Maxey, Ernest T., 1922-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Commander Ernest T. Maxey,
Dates:	March 4, 2022
Bulk Dates:	2022
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:29:56).
Abstract:	Commander Ernest T. Maxey (1922 -) is a retired Commander of the United States Coast Guard and the former Executive Officer of the Chicago Unit, the highest-ranking black officer in the Coast Guard Ninth District. He also was the first black detective of the Chicago Park District. Maxey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 4, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2022_021
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Commander Ernest T. Maxey was born on October 1, 1922, in Chicago, Illinois, to Ernestine and Homer Maxey. He received his degree in business administration from Roosevelt University in Chicago.

In 1942, Maxey enlisted in the United States Coast Guard, completing his basic training at the Coast Guard Training Center in Manhattan Beach, New York. He was then stationed at Fort Trumbull, in New London, Connecticut, where he worked in the galley. After passing examinations, he was promoted to Seaman First Class and was transferred to the Signalman School in Manhattan Beach, where he trained to become a signalman. Maxey was promoted to Signalman Third Class and stationed at a lighthouse in Long Island Sound, New York. He was then promoted to Signalman Second Class and transferred to the *USS General W.H. Gordon* at Ellis Island, New York, to be deployed overseas. His tour on the *USS General W.H. Gordon* ended in 1945, with limited exposure to combat. After his return to the United States, Maxey was honorably discharged from the Coast Guard, and returned to Chicago, Illinois.

In the 1950s, Maxey took various jobs, returned to school, and became state director of Chicago's South End Junior Chamber of Commerce. He then returned to the Coast Guard, serving in the Coast Guard Reserve, stationed on the *USCGC Mackinaw*. He also became a revenue auditor, instructor, and supervisor for the State of Illinois at this time. In the Coast Guard, Maxey rose from Chief Warrant Officer to Lieutenant Commander in 1980. He was promoted to Commander, and shortly thereafter retired from the Coast Guard, in 1983, as Executive Officer of the Chicago Unit, the highest-ranking black officer in the Coast Guard Ninth District. In civilian life, Maxey joined the Chicago Park District, where he served first as a patrolman and then as the District's first black detective. Maxey is a member of the Retired Legion and the American Legion of Retired Officers.

Maxey lives in Chicago, Illinois, and has one living son and three daughters.

Commander Ernest T. Maxey was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 4, 2022.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Commander Ernest T. Maxey was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 4, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Commander Ernest T. Maxey (1922 -) is a retired Commander of the United States Coast Guard and the former Executive Officer of the Chicago Unit, the highest-ranking black officer in the Coast Guard Ninth District. He also was the first black detective of the Chicago Park District.

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:

Maxey, Ernest T., 1922-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Maxey, Ernest T., 1922---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

United States Coast Guard

Occupations:

Commander

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 Commander Ernest T. Maxey, March 4, 2022. 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 Commander Ernest T. Maxey, Section A2022_021_001_001, TRT: 1:30:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Commander Ernest T. Maxey, Section A2022_021_001_002,
TRT: 2:29:21 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Commander Ernest T. Maxey, Section A2022_021_001_003,
TRT: 3:30:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Commander Ernest T. Maxey, Section A2022_021_001_004,
TRT: 4:29:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Commander Ernest T. Maxey, Section A2022_021_001_005,
TRT: 5:30:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Commander Ernest T. Maxey, Section A2022_021_001_006,
TRT: 6:31:29 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Commander Ernest T. Maxey, Section A2022_021_001_007,
TRT: 7:29:33 ?