

African American Soldiers in World War II Collection

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Prepared by Connie L. Cartledge

Collection Summary

Title: African American Soldiers in World War II Collection

Span Dates: 1918-2018

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1997-2010)

ID No.: MSS86243

Extent: 7000 items ; 20 containers ; 8.0 linear feet ; digital files

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Correspondence, memoranda, oral history interviews, government documents, reports, notes, books, subject files, a scrapbook, photographs, newspaper clippings, printed matter, digital files, and other material documenting the World War II participation of African American soldiers of the 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions of the United States Army.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Morehouse, Maggi M., 1953- Fighting in the Jim Crow Army : black men and women remember World War II.

Morehouse, Maggi M., 1953- Maggi M. Morehouse papers.

Quarterman family.

Quarterman, Lee Sinclair, 1914-1991.

Organizations

United States. Army--African American troops.

United States. Army. Infantry Division, 92nd.

United States. Army. Infantry Division, 93rd.

Subjects

African American soldiers.

African American veterans--Education.

African American veterans--Employment.

African American veterans--Interviews.

African American veterans.

African Americans--Civil rights.

African Americans--Segregation.

African Americans--Social conditions--20th century.

Civil rights movements--United States.

Civil rights--United States.

Race relations.

Veterans' families--Interviews.

Veterans--Education--Law and legislation--United States.

Veterans--Education--United States.

Veterans--Legal status, laws, etc.--United States.

Veterans--United States.

World War, 1939-1945--Europe.

World War, 1939-1945--Pacific Area.

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

World War, 1939-1945--United States.

World War, 1939-1945--Veterans--United States--Economic conditions.

World War, 1939-1945--Veterans--United States--Social conditions.

World War, 1939-1945--Veterans--United States.

Places

Fort Benning (Ga.)--History.

Fort Bragg (N.C.)--History.

Fort Huachuca (Ariz.)--History.

United States--Race relations.

United States--Social conditions--20th century.

United States--Social conditions--21st century.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The African American Soldiers in World War II Collection was given to the Library of Congress by Maggi M. Morehouse in 2018.

Transfers

Audiotapes and videotapes have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the African American Soldiers in World War II Collection.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of Eugene E. Johnston and the records of the [United States Army 92nd Infantry Division Collection](#).

Copyright Status

The donor dedicates to the public domain such intellectual property as the donor may own in the African American Soldiers in World War II Collection.

Access and Restrictions

The African American Soldiers in World War II Collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Digital Format

Digital files were received as part of the African American Soldiers in World War II Collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for more information.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or digital ID number, African American Soldiers in World War II Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Organizational History

The 92nd Infantry Division and the 93rd Infantry Division were segregated units of the United States Army during World War I and World War II. Nicknamed the "Buffalo Soldier Division," the 92nd was the only African-American division in World War II to see combat in Europe as part of the Fifth Army. The 93rd Division, known as the "Blue Helmet" Division, acquired that sobriquet when the division fought in France in World War I. The 93rd Division served in combat in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Scope and Content Note

The African American Soldiers in World War II Collection spans the years 1918-2018, with the bulk of the collection dating from 1997 to 2010. It consists of correspondence, memoranda, oral history interview transcripts, reports, government documents, books, notes, photographs, articles, maps, a scrapbook, newspaper clippings, printed matter, digital files, and other material utilized by Maggi M. Morehouse to document the service primarily of two African American combat divisions in World War II, the 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions of the United States Army. The 92nd infantry Division saw heavy combat during the Italian campaign from 1944 to 1945. The 93rd Division was reactivated in 1942 at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and served in the Pacific Theater chiefly in construction work and in combat support positions. The collection is in English and is arranged into four groups: interviews and related material, Maggi M. Morehouse's personal file, subject files, and digital files.

Morehouse began researching the service of black soldiers in World War II in 1995 for a graduate history seminar. She continued to study the topic for her masters thesis and dissertation which later became a book entitled *Fighting in the Jim Crow Army: Black Men and Women Remember World War II*. She has written a number of articles and papers about the subject. This collection documents her research using secondary sources and primary sources. The topic also had a personal connection for Morehouse because her father, Lee Sinclair Quarterman, served as a white officer in the 93rd Infantry Division.

Almost one half the collection is comprised of interviews by Morehouse with World War II veterans. The interview files include transcripts, correspondence, government documents, notes, photographs, unit histories, newspaper articles, and other material relating to the individual interviewed. Although both the 92nd and 93rd divisions were trained for battle, many of the men were assigned non-combat duties. Some of the training locales mentioned are Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Benning, Georgia, and Fort Huachuca, Arizona. In the interviews the soldiers describe what it was like to serve in a segregated army and the racial attitudes they encountered at home and abroad. They describe life before and after the army. Serving in the military allowed the soldiers to experience the world outside their segregated communities and to obtain an education using the G. I. Bill. As a result many became part of the middle class and were active in the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s.

Represented in the interviews are two women veterans, Susan Adams, who served in Germany in the Army Dental Corps, and Madine Davis Lane, who served as a nurse at Fort Huachuca, and in Burma, China, India, Egypt, Europe, and Okinawa. Some interviews include the participation of a soldier's spouse, and a few interviews consist solely of children discussing their father's military service. Filed at the beginning of the interviews are alphabetical lists of the soldiers interviewed by Morehouse. The lists also include a brief synopsis of the interview. One of the lists noted that there was an interview of Morehouse's father in the interview files. The Library, however, did not receive it. Quarterman's interview file does contain extensive military papers about his service and some original photographs of him.

Morehouse's personal file features her correspondence with veterans and research institutions pertaining to her research, her presentations, and writings about African Americans' participation in World War II, particularly her dissertation and book, and her work on an exhibit and book project entitled *A War on Two Fronts: Fighting for Victory at Home and Abroad*. Also included is a scrapbook relating to Morehouse's father that features government documents, family papers, and photographs pertaining to his army career.

The subject files provide further documentation of Morehouse's research and include files about African American history, military units, and the integration of the armed forces. Subject files featured are the 93rd Infantry Division and Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and the Buffalo Soldiers (92nd Infantry Division). The nickname Buffalo Soldiers was given by native Americans to African American cavalymen who served in the American West in the nineteenth century. The most comprehensive files are those about Fort Huachuca and the Buffalo Soldiers. Most of the photographs are copies from the 1940s. Photographs from the 1990s and 2000s mainly document reunions of the veterans.

The digital files appear to be mainly audio and video files of interviews by Morehouse with veterans. These files are currently unprocessed and unavailable.

Arrangement of the Papers

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