

2017

# Black Military Oral History Project

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**BLACK MILITARY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**ALLEN, CLIFFORD (ca. 1920- )**  
**Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army (Retired)**

**BMOH 1**

One of six officers who completed training as part of the Test Platoon of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, known as the "Triple Nickles", the first group of Black paratroopers in World War II. Recalls his recruitment for paratrooper school, training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and the Battalion's assignment to Oregon and northern California to thwart the Japanese threat of incendiary bomb attacks. Also discusses smoke jumping and forest firefighting duty. Discusses the role of the Black Press in lobbying for Black pilots, paratroopers and combat troops. Chronicles his career after World War II.

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: July 5, 1990 Cassette  
Format: tape 60 minutes  
Tape length: Standard  
Restrictions:

**BEAVERS, Clarence (1921-**

**BMOH 2**

One of sixteen enlisted men who completed training as part of the Test Platoon of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, known as the "Triple Nickles", the first group of Black paratroopers in World War II. Discusses enlistment in the 369th Infantry Regiment of the National Guard in New York City, an all-Black unit; and describes its political significance. Describes recruitment for Test Platoon, basic and advanced paratrooper training, sleeping and eating arrangements and assignment to northwest for smoke jumper and forest firefighter duty. Comments on problems encountered during assignment to 555th.

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: July 6, 1990  
Format: Cassette tape  
Tape length: 60 minutes  
Restrictions: Standard

**BIGGS, Bradley (1920- )**  
**Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army (Retired)**

**BMOH 3**

One of six officers who completed training as part of the Test Platoon of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, known as the "Triple Nickles", the first group of Black paratroopers in World War II. Chronicles the history and activities of the 555th from its activation on December 31, 1943 to its integration into the 505th as the third Battalion on November 27, 1947, under the

**command of General James Gavin. Comments on the significance of General Gavin's decision. Discusses his post-War military and civilian career.**

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: July 3, 1990  
Format: Cassette tape  
Tape length: 90 minutes  
Restrictions Standard

**BROWN, Robert A. (n.d.)**

**BMOH 5**

Former officer in the 366th all-Black Infantry Regiment which fought in Italy in World War II. Discusses his tour of duty with the Regiment from March 1941 to its deactivation in Italy in March 1945. Comments on the leadership of General Ned Almond, Commanding General of the 92nd Division. Recalls a number of racist incidents that occurred while serving in Italy.

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: October 28, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 26 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions Standard

**CHASE, Hyman Y. (1902-1983)  
Colonel, U. S. Army (Retired)**

**BMOH 6**

Scientist, educator and career Army officer who was assigned to the 366th Infantry Regiment during World War II. Recalls world events leading to the outbreak of World War II. Describes the 366th Regiment's training for combat, stateside assignments, and garrisons in Virginia and Indiana. Details its progress, assignments and combat performance in the European theatre of operations.

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: 1982  
Format:  
Tape length: Transcript, 21 pages; tape not available  
Restrictions:  
Standard

**CLARKE, Charles (n.d.)**

**BMOH 7**

Memoir of World War II veteran who served in the all-Black 366th Infantry Regiment. Discusses his military experience.

Recorded by: John Thomas Martin  
Date: April 25, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 3 pages; tape not available

Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment,  
9 9 pp.

**CLARKE, Charles (n.d.)**

**BMOH 8**

World War II veteran who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment. Repeats most of earlier memoir.

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: May 15, 1982  
Format: Transcript, 3 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Comments of 366th Infantry Veterans Attending Their 41st Reunion at Fort Devens, Massachusetts and The Presentation of the Distinguished Service Cross to Mrs. Arlene Fox, Widow of Lieutenant John R. Fox, 11 pp.

**DABNEY, Forrest (n.d.), joint with  
HUBBARD, Hezekiah**

**BMOH 10**

World War II veterans who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment, reminisce about their military experience.

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: October 9, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 12 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment,  
9 9 pp.

**DRYDEN, Charles W. (1920- )  
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Air Force (Retired)**

**BMOH 11**

One of the original members of the famed 99th Fighter Squadron trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field. Discusses his Tuskegee experience and his combat training in North Africa. Recalls incidents of racism during World War II, particularly the effort of "Negro" pilots to integrate the Officers' Club at Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan. Comments on the leadership skills of Noel Parrish, the commander of Tuskegee Army Air Field, and Benjamin O. Davis Jr. who commanded the 99th Fighter Squadron and later the 332nd Fighter Group. Discusses military career up to his retirement in the early 1960s and his civilian career.

Interviewer: Elinor D. Sinnette  
Date: March 17, 1982  
Format: Transcript, 156 pages; tape not available

Tape length: Restrictions:  
Standard

**FARMER, William (n.d.)**

**BMOH 7**

Memoir of a World War II veteran who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment.

Recorded by: John Thomas Martin  
Date: April 25, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 3 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment,  
9 9 pp.

**FRENCH, Lloyd (n.d.)**

**BMOH 8**

World War II veteran who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment. Discusses his combat duty in Italy.

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: May 15, 1982  
Format: Transcript, 5 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Comments of 366th Infantry Veterans Attending Their 41st Reunion at Fort Devens, Massachusetts and The Presentation of the Distinguished Service Cross to Mrs. Arlene Fox, Widow of Lieutenant John R. Fox, 11 pp.

**HAMILTON, West Alexander (1886-1985)  
Colonel, U. S. Army (Retired)**

**BMOH 12**

The senior Black officer assigned to the 366th Infantry Regiment in 1941. Discusses the activation of the all-Black Regiment at Fort Devens, Massachusetts and its assemblage just before the outbreak of World War II. Recalls his later assignments as a professor of military science at various Black colleges.

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: 1982  
Format:  
Tape length: Transcript, 14 pages; tape not available  
Restrictions  
Standard

**HENDERSON, Ernest, Sr. (1917- )**

**BMOH 13**

Flight instructor at Tuskegee Army Air Field. Describes his early years in Laurens County, South Carolina, his matriculation at

Hampton Institute, his selection for the first Civilian Pilot Training Program at Tuskegee Institute and his employment as a flight instructor at the facility during World War II. Details the program syllabus, the equipment, names of colleagues in the flying school and the ground crews. Chronicles his business and educational careers after returning to South Carolina.

Interviewer: Serena L. Staggers  
Dates: February 22-March 22, 1986  
Format: Transcript, 81 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard

**HOGG, Richard (n.d.)**

**BMOH 7**

Memoir of a World War II veteran who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment.

Recorded by: John Thomas Martin April 25, 1981  
Date: Transcript, 3 pages; tape not available  
Format:  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment, 99 pp.

**HUBBARD, Hezekiah (n.d.), joint with  
DABNEY, Forrest**

**BMOH 10**

World War II veterans who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment reminisce about their military experience.

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: October 9, 1981  
Format:  
Tape length: Transcript, 12 pages; tape not available  
Restrictions: Standard

Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment, 99 pp.

**JAMISON, Thurston (n.d.)  
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army (Retired),**

**BMOH 16**

Veteran of the 366th Infantry Regiment in World War II. Recalls his service with the all-Black regiment in Italy. Relates incidents that occurred during his combat duty, including the one for which Lt. John Fox was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Discusses his Korean service and the changes that he experienced after the integration of the Armed Forces in 1948.

Interviewer: Robert A. Brown  
Date: April 25, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 31 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry- Regiment  
, 9 9 pp.

**LEE, Andrew (n. d.)**

**BMOH 7**

Memoir of World War II veteran who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment.

Recorded by: John Thomas Martin  
Date: April 25, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 3 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment,  
9 9 pp.

**LEE, James Reynolds (n.d.)**

**BMOH 17**

Memoir of a World War II veteran who served with the 366th Infantry Regiment as an officer. Includes introduction by Lieutenant Colonel Thurston E. Jamison, retired.

Recorded by: Thurston E. Jamison May 3, 1981  
Date: Transcript, 3 pages; tape not available  
Format:  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment, 99 pp

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**MARTIN, John Thomas (1920**

**Colonel, U. S. Army9M<0Helfijted)**

Veteran who served with the 366th Infantry Regiment in World War II. Provides, in memoir form, a brief introduction to and history of the all-Black regiment. Recalls the names of several officers and enlisted men who served in the 366th and went on to distinguished military and civilian careers.

In second interview, details his experience in the 366th. Discusses his assignments in occupied Germany, the Korean Conflict, the Pentagon, and as Director of Selective Service for the District of Columbia.

Interviewers: John Thomas Martin, Elinor Des Verney Sinnette  
Date: May 19, 1981; September 21, 1982  
Format: Transcripts, 9 pages; 34 pages; tape not available

Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Oral Recordings of Colonel John Thomas Martin, August 1990.

**MORRIS, Walter (1921-**

**BMOH 2**

One of sixteen enlisted men who completed training as part of the Test Platoon of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, known as the "Triple Nickles". The first group of Black paratroopers in World War II. Discusses his pre World War II military service, the attitudes of white officers and his efforts to become a paratrooper. Details career through separation from the service including graduation from Officers' Candidate School.

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: July 6, 1990 Cassette  
Format: tape 60 minutes  
Tape length: Standard  
Restrictions

**PARRISH, Noel F. (1909-1987)**

**BMOH 20**

**Brigadier General, U. S. Air Force**

Career officer. Third of four commanders of Tuskegee Army Air Field. Describes his early life, education, military career prior to Tuskegee and experiences that influenced his racial attitude. Comments on the quality of the flight cadets, the content of the training program, the controversially high "wash-out" rate, and the combat successes of program graduates. Discusses his personal opposition to the Army Air Force's segregation policies and recalls his frustrated attempts to alleviate them. Details problems he encountered with the Black Press, the local government and superiors and other base commanders.

Interviewer: Woodrow W. Crockett  
Date: May 1982  
Format:  
Tape length: Transcript, 128 pages; tape not available  
Restrictions Standard

**PORTER, William E. (n.d.)**

**BMOH 21**

Memoir of a World War II veteran who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment.

Recorded by: John Thomas Martin  
Date: April 25, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 3 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard



Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment,  
9 9 pp.

**REDDING, Samuel (n.d.)**

**BMOH 7**

Memoir of a veteran of World War II who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment.

Recorded by: John Thomas Martin  
Date: April 25, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 2 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment,  
9 9 pp.

**ROBINSON, Thomas (n.d.), joint with  
JAMISON, Thurston**

**BMOH 24**

Former Army captain who served with the 366th during World War II. Discusses combat experience in Italian campaign. Recalls tensions between the 366th Infantry Regiment and the 92nd Division to which it was assigned. Comments on the deactivation of the 366th and assignment of its officers and men to the Quartermaster Corps.

Interviewer: Robert A. Brown  
Date: April 25, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 26 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment,  
9 9 pp.

**ROSS, Samuel (n.d.)**

**BMOH 7**

Memoir of a World War II veteran who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment.

Recorded by: John Thomas Martin  
Date: April 25, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 3 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment,  
9 9 pp.

**STEVENSON, Dudley Wardell (n.d.)  
Colonel, U. S. Air Force (Retired)**

**BMOH 25**

Career officer who serve with both the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group in World War II. Recalls experiences in

training at Chanute Air Force Base, Rantoul, Illinois and as a Communications Officer who served with both the 99th Fighter Squadron and 332nd Fighter Group in Italy during World War II. Discusses his post-War assignment to Lockbourne Air Force Base, Columbus, Ohio under the command of then Colonel Benjamin O. Davis Jr.

Interviewer: John Thomas Martin  
Date: August 3, 1982  
Format:  
Tape length: Transcript, 69 pages; tape not available  
Restrictions Standard

**THOMPSON, Sidney (n.d.)**

**BMOH 7**

Memoir of a World War II veteran who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment.

Recorded by: John Thomas Martin  
Date: April 25, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 5 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment, 99 pp.

**TUCKER, Samuel W. (n.d.)**

**BMOH 21**

Memoir of a World War II veteran who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment.

Recorded by: John Thomas Martin  
Date: April 25, 1981  
Format: Transcript, 4 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Narratives of World War II Veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment, 99 pp.

**RELATED MATERIALS**

**"AMERICAN BLACKS IN AVIATION"**

**BMOH 27**

Recorded symposium held at the National Air and Space Museum February 25, 1983, focussing on the years 1939 to 1949.

Recorded by: The National Air and Space Museum  
Date: February 25, 1983

Format: Cassette tapes  
Tape length: 240 minutes  
Restrictions: Reproduction of tapes prohibited

**DAVIS, Benjamin O.**

**BMOH 28**

**Brigadier General, U. S. Army (Retired)**

Oral history memoir recorded for the Nonprint Media Department of Adelphi University.

Recorded by: Adelphi University, Garden City, New York  
Interviewer: J. Clay Smith  
Date: March 18, 1980  
Format: Cassette tape  
Tape length: 90 minutes  
Restrictions: Reproduction of tape prohibited

**FOX, John R. ( -1944)**  
**Lieutenant, U. S. Army**

**BMOH 8**

Member of Cannon Company, 366th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Division who was killed in combat on 26 December 1944. Recorded military ceremony in which Lt. Fox was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for exhibiting extraordinary heroism against the enemy which precipitated his death.

Date: May 15, 1982  
Format: Transcript, 2 pages; tape not available  
Tape length:  
Restrictions: Standard  
Bound in Comments of 366th Infantry Veterans Attending Their 41st Reunion at Fort Devens, Massachusetts and The Presentation of the Distinguished Service Cross to Mrs. Arlene Fox, Widow of Lieutenant John R. Fox, 11 pp.

**GRAVELY, Samuel**  
**Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy (Retired)**

**BMOH 30**

Speech recorded at the Washington Navy Yard on February 6, 1990.

Recorded by: Scott W. Baker  
Date: February 6, 1990  
Format: Cassette tape  
Tape length: 60 minutes  
Restrictions: No Duplication

**"ORIGINAL BLACK MILITARY"**

**BMOH**

Ceremony to install the Diary of Colonel Wendell T. Derricks and the memoirs of the Black Military Oral History Project at the

Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

Recorded by: Moorland-Spingarn Research Center  
Date: March 22, 1985  
Format: Cassette tapes  
Tape length: 120 minutes  
Restrictions: Standard