



# WAR STORIES

DISPATCHES FROM THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
WAR AND SOCIETY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

Fall 2015  
csws.utk.edu  
865-974-0128



B-25 MEDIUM BOMBER

## New Digital Veterans Oral History Project is Launched

We are now celebrating the launch of a marvelous new resource, the result of cooperation between the Center for the Study of War and Society and the University of Tennessee Special Collections Library. This is a new digital collection of World War II interviews conducted by CSWS over the last 25 years. The World War II Oral Histories Project was made possible by grant funding through the National Historical Publication and Records Commission (NHPRC). We are immensely proud of the result and want to share this achievement with our friends!

The audiotapes were digitized and mounted online for the broadest possible dissemination by UT Libraries. Now this new research and teaching tool is ready for use by historians and students! This is a previously unavailable historical trove now accessible to all, from professional military history authors to high school students working on class projects.

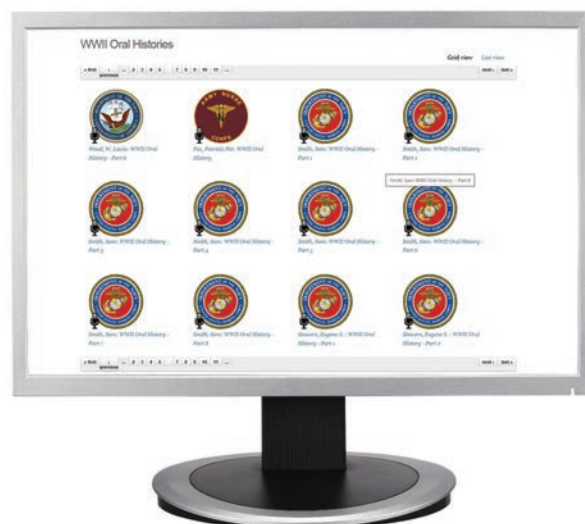
A search can be conducted for the name of an interviewee, specific subject headings, and various other keywords. Also the interviews can be browsed by

### CSWS STAFF

- VEJAS G. LIULEVICIUS, director
- CYNTHIA L. TINKER, program coordinator
- ROSEMARY B. MARINER, scholar-in-residence
- RYAN GESME, graduate assistant

## Oral History Project *(continued)*

interview (respondent), personal name, geographic region, or subject. Please note that not all of the 167 interviews on the digital collection have been transcribed yet (some are only available in audio now--the donations of friends of the Center allow us to transcribe more, so please donate if you support this ongoing work!). To see if a transcript is available please go the CSWS website at <http://csws.utk.edu>. CSWS faculty and staff have recorded more than 300 hours of oral history interviews focusing on individual veterans' remembrances throughout the war, both at home and abroad. The WWII oral history interviews uniquely capture the experiences and memories of the veteran beginning with their lives before combat, motivations to enlist, wartime, and readjusting to civilian life afterwards. To visit the digital collection please visit: <http://digital.lib.utk.edu/collections/wwiioralproject>.



### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We have had a productive fall semester at the Center. We welcomed a new graduate assistant, Ryan Gesme, who is a doctoral student in modern European history. Ryan's precursor in this post is Jordan Kuck, who (we are delighted to report) took a new position as assistant professor at West Virginia Wesleyan (see article nearby). Ryan launched the Center onto Facebook, expanding our social media reach. Please "friend" and "like" us on Facebook and check out our new feature: talented undergraduate interns report on their experiences with oral histories of American veterans!

Find us on 

We continue our successful "AfterWars" faculty research seminar which we have hosted since 2009: our first event this fall was a roundtable discussion of apocalyptic thought in modern Germany. Most of all, we are grateful for the continuing support and donations of Friends of the Center like yourself!

—*Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius, Director*

## CSWS Spends Veterans Day With A Local WWII Veteran

The Veterans Day holiday originated with the historic close of the First World War: at 11am on November 11, 1918, the guns at last fell silent on the Western Front, and the day was set aside ever since to recall sacrifice. On November 11, we again marked Veterans Day. At the University of Tennessee Center for the Study of War and Society, our remembrance takes the concrete form of work to preserve oral histories of American veterans and public service education highlighting the themes of conflict and peace. CSWS spent the morning interviewing David E. Richer, a U.S. Army veteran who served with the 65th Division in General Patton's 3rd Army. Born in the Bronx to European immigrant parents, Richer moved to Knoxville with his family as a teen and he attended the University of Tennessee until his enlistment in 1943. He saw combat in Germany and Austria and was awarded the Bronze Star. Mr. Richer, now 92 years of age, shared his story and treasure trove of memorabilia and photographs taken during the war. It was an honor to spend the day with one of America's World War II heroes.



L-R: UNDERGRADUATE INTERN, ELISE M. PLACHER, CSWS PROGRAM COORDINATOR, CYNTHIA L. TINKER, AND WWII VETERAN DAVID E. RICHER (NOT SHOWN IN PHOTO, CSWS GRADUATE ASSISTANT, RYAN GESME)

# Another CSWS Success Story! Kuck Accepts Position in West Virginia

The Center for the Study of War and Society has more good news to share about the career achievements of its current and former graduate assistants. Our most recent successful alumnus, Jordan Kuck, Ph.D, worked at the Center from 2012 to 2014, and this past spring accepted a tenure-track position at West Virginia Wesleyan College, one of the preeminent private colleges in the mid-Appalachian region. In his new position, Kuck teaches European and world history, in addition to contributing to the college's International Studies Program.

Kuck's new job continues the tradition of sustained excellence shown by the Center's graduate assistants over the past decade. During his time in the doctoral program he received a number of prestigious awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship to Latvia, a U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, and the University of Tennessee Chancellor's Extraordinary Professional Promise Award, among others.

Kuck reports that his experiences at the Center proved immensely helpful on the job market. Many universities and colleges now stress undergraduate research, and as a result of his mentoring and advising the Center's undergraduate interns during their work on the veterans' oral history project, Kuck was able to provide hiring committees with impressive examples of his pedagogical skills. For example, one Center intern, whom he worked with and advised, has gone on to a graduate program in public history, having discovered his love of the field while working at the Center.

Thanks to the generous support of friends of the Center, Kuck gained invaluable administrative and teaching experiences at the Center—and he will now be able to build on those in his new position.



FORMER GRADUATE ASSISTANT  
JORDAN KUCK

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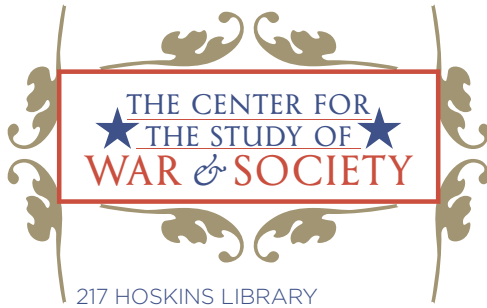
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