

MEXICAN AMERICAN VETERANS  
COPH OHP\_115



Center for Oral and Public History  
California State University, Fullerton

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## Descriptive Summary

**Title**

Mexican American Veterans [OHP 115]

**Date(s)**

2002-2006

**Creator**

Miguel A. Garcia

**Extent**

Seventy-eight (78) oral histories. Sixty-one (61) narrators.

**Collateral:**

Miguel A. Garcia's manuscript, *Forgotten Patriots: Voices of World War II Mexican American Veterans of Southern California* (2007)

[Located in project file]

**Repository**

Center for Oral and Public History  
California State University, Fullerton

**Project Abstract**

This project is a compilation of oral histories from mostly Mexican American Veterans that partook in World War Two or Korean War and their experiences, as well as women that remained on the Homefront and talk about their experience.

Miguel Garcia was a grad student at the time and was working towards his masters. Garcia was able to gather oral histories with the help of Dr. Wendy Elliot-Scheinberg and Dr. Art Hansen, whom had their historical writing classes conduct interviews. Thus, including some of the student's final class papers available for reading among the folders.

**Narrators:**

Edmund Ponce  
Mike Alex  
Don Richards  
Peter “Rocky” Martinez  
Eva Vera  
Delores Martinez  
Harvard Bitter  
Oscar Romo  
Irene Romo  
William Dixon  
N. Howard Brandt Jr.  
Walter Truxler  
Elbert Duran  
Andrew Ortega  
Wayne Kegous  
Shirley Kegous  
George Lewis  
Lenore Lewis  
Howard Edwards  
Dorothy Edwards  
James Yakura  
Sam Crstiano  
Richard Painter  
John Armendariz  
Tony Lujan  
Robert Chavez  
Lawrence Haslett  
Jack Solis  
Eric Martinez  
Joseph Rhoades  
Diego R. Moreno  
Robert Villegas  
Arthur Molina  
Alfred Aguirre  
Henry Barbosa  
Manuel J. Grajeda  
Joe Lopez  
Reynaldo Aparicio  
Nick Alvarez

Jack Aguilar  
Ben De Leon  
Leonard J. Garcia  
Noe Espindola  
Leon Vasquez  
Charles "Chuck" Rodriquez  
Manuel A. Herrera Sr.  
Rafaela Garcia  
Phil L. Montano  
Edna De Leon  
Siguel Caro  
Celia B. Salas  
Dennis M. Diaz  
Charles F. Rodriguez  
Marti Flores  
Ezekiel Grandos  
Virginia Benavides  
David Fuentes  
William Sanchez  
Paul Arzate Gomez  
Robert Villalobos  
Joe Lopez

**Glossary of Terms:  
Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project**

AL	American Legion
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps
CYO	Catholic Youth Organization
FDR	Franklin Delano Roosevelt
MP	Military Police
LULAC	League of United Latin American Citizens
POW	Prison of War
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
WWII	World War Two

## Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project

**OH # 1139.2**

**Narrator:** EDMUND PONCE (1936-2017)  
**Interviewer:** Pedro Paz  
**Date:** September 19, 2003  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Cassette  
**Length:**  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Final; 22 pp  
**Ephemera:** All with 1139.1 folder

### **Abstract:**

An oral history with Edmund Ponce, a former Placentia City Clerk and probation officer and resident of Placentia, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the City of Placentia and its social, economic, and education changes from the 1940s-[to the] early 2000s, and how events like war and presidents help influence the city dynamic; he mentions the segregation of schools and the mistreatment of Mexican American children in school; he talks about being drafted into the military 1959-1961 and his time in the country of Greenland; and he recalls his experience as a probation officer and helping children in need.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** Mexican American, Placentia, Orange County, War, Racial Inequalities

**OH # 1139.3****Narrator:** EDMUND PONCE (1936-2017)**Interviewer:** Pedro Paz**Date:** November 22, 2003**Location:****Language:** English**Project:** Mexican American Veterans**Audio Format(s):** Digital**Length:** 00:46:58**Transcript:** Digitized. Final; 19 pp**Ephemera:** All pictures located in 1139.1 folder.**Abstract:**

An oral history with Edmund Ponce, a former Placentia City Clerk and probation officer and resident of Placentia, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veteran Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. This interview is a follow up interview from an earlier date [September 19, 2003]; he mentions his early childhood education; the difference between a segregated and non-segregated school in the area; he vividly remembers the details on the Mendes case and conspiracy on why Mexican American parents were unaware that segregation was illegal and why they were never told; he talks about other ways minorities were prevented from continuing their education by making segregated schools last until the 10<sup>th</sup> grade; and he describes his collegiate career.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.**Keywords:** Mexican American, Segregated Schools, Placentia



**OH # 2988**

**Narrator:** MIKE ALEX (1917-2012)  
**Interviewer:** Dale H. Sawyers  
**Date:** April 14, 2002  
**Location:** Upland, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:13:31  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Final; 8 pp  
**Ephemera:** Obituary, interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Mike Alex, a World War Two veteran and resident of Upland, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the experience of being a b-25 pilot bomber of the Pacific Theater during the Second World War; he recalls his flight training and when he eventually deployed to the Pacific Theater; he tells about his combat missions during the war; vividly recalls being shot down by the Japanese around the Philippines in 1943 and being injured; talks about his return to the United States and joining the reserves; he briefly mentions the death of FDR and the atomic bombing and his opinion on it; and his life after war.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pacific Theater

**OH # 2989**

**Narrator:** DON RICHARDS (b.1926)  
**Interviewer:** Dale H. Sawyers  
**Date:** April 11, 2002  
**Location:** Riverside, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Cassette

**Length:**

**Transcript:** Edited; 15 pp

**Ephemera:** Interviewer final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Don Richards, a World War Two veteran and resident of Hemet, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his time in the Navy during World War Two; he describes what his childhood was like and provided background information on his life; he recalls hearing about the war in Europe; expresses his opinion of FDR's presidency; he explains his reasoning on voluntarily joining the Navy in 1943; he mentions his school and daily life in the military, including witnessing a kamikaze fly into a ship; he talks about life after the military; discusses the bombing on Pearl Harbor and expresses his opinion on the atomic bombing on Japan.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Navy Ship, Pearl Harbor, Atomic Bomb

**OH # 2993**

**Narrator:** PETER "ROCKY" MARTINEZ  
**Interviewer:** Gerald Martinez  
**Date:** March 21, 2002  
**Location:** East Los Angeles, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 1:00:00  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 31 pp  
**Ephemera:** Journal entry, time log, interviewer final paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Peter "Rocky" Martinez, a World War Two veteran and resident of Los Angeles, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his time in the Pacific front of the war; he explains his reasoning behind voluntarily enlisting in the Army, life and schooling in the military, and his combat experience; he mentions racism in the military; he talks about the bombing of Pearl Harbor and his opinion on the dropping of the atomic bombs; he briefly mentions General MacArthur; he recollects the passing of President FDR; talks about the hanging of General Yamashita; and he expresses that World War Two had positive contributions for the Mexican race.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Racism, Pearl Harbor, Atomic Bomb, General Yamashita

**OH # 2994**

**Narrator:** EVA VERA  
**Interviewer:** Gerald Martinez  
**Date:** March 22, 2002  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 1:02:52  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 26 pp  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry, time log, interviewer final paper in OH 2993 folder

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Eva Vera, a wife to a World War Two veteran and resident of Monterey Park, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her life while her husband was in the service; she talks about life on the home front and what she did to keep herself busy with her children; she mentions women in the workforce; she briefly talks about racism during the war; she describes post-war life and her husband returning from war; and she expresses how the war had a positive impact on America.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Homefront, Post-War Life, Riveters

**OH # 2995**

**Narrator:** DELORES MARTINEZ  
**Interviewer:** Gerald Martinez  
**Date:** March 21, 2002  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 0:58:04  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 28 pp  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry, time log, interviewer final paper in OH 2993 folder

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Delores Martinez, a daughter of a World War Two veteran and resident of Los Angeles, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the life of a child during the Second World War; she talks about her biological father fighting in Europe and her step-father fighting in the Philippines; she explains the daily life of a child, like going to school and working after school; she talks about the air raid drills and the curfew associated with it; she recalls the propaganda of hatred towards the Japanese but not towards the Germans and Italians; she remembers the horrors of the telegram calls; and she mentions the post-war opportunities for everyone including Mexicans.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-1950.

**Keywords:** Children during the Second World War, Air Raids, Propaganda, Telegram Calls

**OH # 2996**

**Narrator:** HARVARD BITTER  
**Interviewer:** Chris Mastrobuono  
**Date:** May 12, 2002  
**Location:** Glendora, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:44:31  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Verbatim; 13 pp  
**Ephemera:** Time log, news article, interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Harvard Bitter, a World War Two Veteran and resident of Idaho Falls, Idaho. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information on a B-24 bomber in the Air Force during WWII; he talked about the bombing of Pearl Harbor; he described his training and being deployed; he mentions the missions and fighting in the Pacific Theater; he recalls encountering the kamikazes; and he expresses what it was like returning home from the war.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pearl Harbor, Air Force, Kamikazes, B-24 bomber

**OH # 2997**

**Narrator:** OSCAR ROMO (1922-2009)  
**Interviewer:** Chris Mastrobuono  
**Date:** April 14, 2002  
**Location:** Torrance, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:29:30  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Verbatim; 11 pp  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry and final class paper in OH 2996 folder

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Oscar Romo, a World War Two Veteran and resident Torrance, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was gather information regarding his experience in the Air Force during WWII; he talks about where he grew up; he described his experience in the military including daily life, missions, and leisure activities; he mentions meeting his wife and writing home; he describes his marriage, family, and life post-war.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Air Force

**OH # 2998**

**Narrator:** IRENE ROMO  
**Interviewer:** Chris Mastrobuono  
**Date:** April 14, 2002  
**Location:** Torrance, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:19:11  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Verbatim; 11 pp  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry and final class paper in OH 2996 folder

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Irene Romo, a wife to a World War Two Veteran and resident Torrance, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her life during the Second World War; she talks about meeting her husband; her time working during the war; she mentions the letters she will receive from her deployed husband; and she reflects post-war life.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Military Wife, Riveter, Homefront



**OH # 2999****Narrator:** WILLIAMS DIXON (1919-2007)**Interviewer:** Christopher Small**Date:** March 17, 2002**Location:** Corona, California**Language:** English**Project:** Mexican American Veterans**Audio Format(s):** Digital**Length:** 01:02:18**Transcript:** Verbatim; 21 pp**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper, obituary**Abstract:**

An oral history with William Dixon a resident of Corona, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his time working in the war industry during the Second World War, specifically in the steel industry; he talked about feeling pressure of going off to war however never being drafted; he talks about his experience working for Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation; he talks about getting married and having children; he mentions working for Ford Dealership post-WWII; and he expresses the differences between Pearl Harbor to September 11, 2001.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.**Keywords:** World War Two, War Industry

**OH # 3000****Narrator:** N. HOWARD BRANDT JR. (b.1920)**Interviewer:** Christopher Small**Date:** May 6, 2002**Location:** Corona, California**Language:** English**Project:** Mexican American Veterans**Audio Format(s):** Digital**Length:** 00:31:38**Transcript:** Verbatim; 13 pp**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry and final class paper in OH 2999 folder, time log**Abstract:**

An oral history with Howard Brandt a resident of Rochester, Minnesota. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his time working in the war industry during the Second World War; he talks about his contribution to the atomic bomb and the role of women working alongside him; he explains his frustration on being drafted and joining the Air Cadets; he tells about minorities in the military and being segregated; he extensively talks about the comparison between Pearl Harbor and September 11, 2001.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.**Keywords:** World War Two, War Industry, Atomic Bomb

**OH # 3001**

**Narrator:** WALTER TRUXLER  
**Interviewer:** Gregory Hoiland  
**Date:** March 23, 2002  
**Location:** Mission Viejo, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Cassette

**Length:**

**Transcript:** Digitized, Edited and Verbatim; 24 pp.

**Ephemera:** time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper, atomic video

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Walter Truxler a World War Two Veteran and resident of Mission Viejo, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experiences during and after World War II; he briefly mentions his early childhood and enlisting in the Navy during high school; he talks about his military career including life at sea on both USS West Virginia and USS Indiana; he mentions his opinion on the Atomic bomb and Japanese surrender; and he explains what he did post-war.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Navy, Atomic bomb

**OH # 3005.1**

**Narrator:** ELBERT DURAN  
**Interviewer:** Vanessa Valenzuela  
**Date:** April 4, 2002  
**Location:** Fullerton, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:18:33  
**Transcript:** Edited; 32 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Field notes, interviewer journal entry and final class paper, photographs, time log

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Elbert Duran a World War Two Veteran and resident of Fullerton, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his time in the 517<sup>th</sup> parachute combat team and involvement in WWII; he explains what he was doing before being drafted; he talks about his airborne training; he mentions what the war was like in Europe including Italy and France; he briefly mentions the Battle of The Bulge; he remembers his time being injured and describes his survival story; he recalls meeting his wife and talks about his marriage and daughter.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Airborne, European Front, Battle of the Bulge

**OH # 3005.2**

**Narrator:** ELBERT DURAN  
**Interviewer:** Gerardo Rodriguez  
**Date:** October 21, 2002  
**Location:** Fullerton, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:12:20  
**Transcript:** None.  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer final class paper and two other papers, time log

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Elbert Duran a World War Two Veteran and resident of Fullerton, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience during World War Two; he briefly mentions his childhood; he remembers the attack on Pearl Harbor; he describes his military training and joining the Paratroopers; he talks about participating in the Battle of the Bulge and German tactics; he talks about his multiple injuries and when he finally broke down and cried; he explains what it was like to be discharged and returning home on the Queen Mary; using his GI Bill to go to Jewelry school but did not like it so eventually opened a Zoot Suit Store; he mentions that he did not feel like he was discriminated; and he explains his approval for using the Atomic Bomb and his disapproval for Japanese Internment.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Airborne, Battle of the Bulge, Zoot Suit, Atomic Bomb, Japanese Internment

**OH # 3006.1**

**Narrator:** ANDREW ORTEGA  
**Interviewer:** Vanessa Valenzuela  
**Date:** May 21, 2002  
**Location:** Fullerton, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:03:36  
**Transcript:** Edited; 32 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry, field notes, and interviewer final class paper in OH 3005 folder, time log

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Andrew Ortega a World War Two Veteran and resident of Anaheim, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience during WWII; he recalls what he was doing when Pearl Harbor was bombed; he discusses getting drafted for the war and his training; he references D-Day; he talks about getting injured in combat; he remembers being in contact with German prisoners; he briefly mentions the Battle of the Bulge; he remembers German soldiers dressing as American soldiers; he talks about his time in Europe and eventually being discharged from the Army.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, European front, Battle of the Bulge, D-Day

**OH # 3006.2**

**Narrator:** ANDREW ORTEGA  
**Interviewer:** Dale McLaren  
**Date:** March 21, 2003  
**Location:** Anaheim, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:52:34  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 11 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Andrew Ortega a World War Two Veteran and resident of Anaheim, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience on the D-Day invasion; he talks about his experience in Europe and preparing for D-Day; he recalls the day of the attack; and briefly discusses the Battle of the Bulge

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, D-Day, Battle of the Bulge

**OH # 3007**

**Narrator:** WAYNE KEGOUS  
**Interviewer:** Erin Bova  
**Date:** May 16, 2002  
**Location:** Claremont, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:22:45  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Verbatim; 12 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Wayne Kegous a resident of Claremont, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience as a teenager during the Second World War; he recalls the attack on Pearl Harbor; he explains life during the war including blackouts and rationing; he talks about being drafted in 1945 and his brief time in the service; he compares the September 11, 2001 attacks to what happened in Pearl Harbor; and he mentions VJ-Day and VE-Day.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** Children during WWII, Pearl Harbor, September 11, 2001



**OH # 3008**

**Narrator:** SHIRLEY KEGOUS  
**Interviewer:** Erin Bova  
**Date:** May 16, 2002  
**Location:** Claremont, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:35:25  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Verbatim; 18 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry and final class paper in OH 3007 folder

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Shirley Kegous a resident of Claremont, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her time as a child during the Second World War; she recalls what she was doing when Pearl Harbor was attacked; she mentions what life was like including rationing and blackouts; she remembers VJ-Day and VE-Day; she talks about her husband brief time in the service; she talks about her mother's trip to Hawaii; and she compares the September 11, 2001 attacks to the Pearl Harbor attacks.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** Children during WWII, Pearl Harbor, September 11, 2001

**OH # 3009**

**Narrator:** GEORGE LEWIS

**Interviewer:** Daniel Boswell

**Date:** May 23, 2002

**Location:**

**Language:** English

**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):**

**Length:**

**Transcript:**

**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry, interviewer final class paper

**Abstract:**

Missing.

**Bulk Dates:**

**Keywords:**

**OH # 3010**

**Narrator:** LENORE BOSWELL  
**Interviewer:** Daniel Boswell  
**Date:** May 23, 2002  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):**

**Length:**

**Transcript:**

**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry and interviewer final class paper in OH 3009

**Abstract:**

Missing.

**Bulk Dates:**

**Keywords:**

**OH # 3011**

**Narrator:** HOWARD EDWARDS  
**Interviewer:** Daniel Boswell  
**Date:** April 21, 2002  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):**

**Length:**

**Transcript:**

**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry and interviewer final class paper in OH 3009

**Abstract:**

Missing.

**Bulk Dates:**

**Keywords:**

**OH # 3012**

**Narrator:** DOROTHY EDWARDS  
**Interviewer:** Daniel Boswell  
**Date:** April 21, 2002  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):**

**Length:**

**Transcript:**

**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry and interviewer final class paper in OH 3009

**Abstract:**

Missing.

**Bulk Dates:**

**Keywords:**

**OH # 3077**

**Narrator:** JAMES YAKURA  
**Interviewer:** Cristiano Sam  
**Date:** March 7, 2003  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):**

**Length:**

**Transcript:**

**Ephemera:**

**Abstract:**

Missing.

**Bulk Dates:**

**Keywords:**

**OH # 3078**

**Narrator:** CRISTIANO SAM (b.1926)  
**Interviewer:** David Uribe  
**Date:** April 12, 2003  
**Location:** Montebello, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:59:32  
**Transcript:** Floppy disk  
**Ephemera:** None.

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Cristiano Sam a World War Two veteran and Korean War veteran and a resident of Montebello, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experiences serving in the military; he expresses his feelings on the attack on Pearl Harbor; his experience with other Navy men and Japanese soldiers; he compares the differences between the Korean War and WWII; he remembers experiencing typhoons; and he talks about his journey returning home.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Korean War, Pearl Harbor, Japanese Soldiers, Typhoons

**OH # 3079**

**Narrator:** RICHARD PAINTER (1927-2005)  
**Interviewer:** Kelli Currier  
**Date:** March 16, 2003  
**Location:** Moreno Valley, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:40:41  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 11 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry, obituary

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Richard Painter a World War Two veteran and a resident of Moreno Valley, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience in World War Two; he talks about his early childhood; he recalls hearing about the attack on Pearl Harbor; he mentions enlisting in the Navy and the recruitment process; he recalls his time in the Pacific Theater and participating in the invasion of Okinawa; his reaction to the Atomic Bomb being dropped; and his post-WII life.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pacific Theater, Pearl Harbor, Battle of Okinawa



**OH # 3080**

**Narrator:** JOHN ARMENDARIZ (1925-2015)  
**Interviewer:** Raymond Alvarez  
**Date:** April 24, 2003  
**Location:** Whittier, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:55:26  
**Transcript:**  
**Ephemera:** Time log, obituary

**Abstract:**

An oral history with John Armendariz a World War Two veteran and a resident of Whittier, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience in World War Two; he talks about his early childhood growing up; he expresses his eagerness to enlist into the Marine Corps; he recalls any prejudice he experienced growing up; he remembers that battles he experienced in war, specifically the Battle of Iwo Jima; he mentions his post-war life including family, G.I. Bill, and schooling.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pacific Theater, Iwo Jima

**OH # 3082.1**

**Narrator:** TONY LUJAN (1924-2015)  
**Interviewer:** Dale McLaren  
**Date:** March 21, 2003  
**Location:** Santa Ana, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 1:02:35  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 12 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, obituary

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Tony Lujan, a World War Two veteran and resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience in D-Day; he briefly mentions his early military career; he describes the preparation for D-Day; he mentions some POWs he captured; he talks about participating in the Battle of the Bulge; he recalls injuries he obtained from combat; and he remembers the journey returning home post war.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, European front, D-Day, Battle of the Bulge

**OH # 3082.2**

**Narrator:** TONY LUJAN (1924-2015)  
**Interviewer:** Jon Witcher  
**Date:** May 5, 2002  
**Location:** Santa Ana, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:34:13  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 40 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Obituary in OH 3082.1 folder

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Tony Lujan, a World War Two veteran and resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience as a paratrooper and soldier in the war; he briefly mentions his childhood; he discusses joining the military and participating in D-Day; he recalls his first jump as a paratrooper; he describes what it was like at the Battle of the Bulge; he talks about his injuries and getting discharge from the military; he talks comments on segregation and discrimination; and he talks about what life was like post-military.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, European front, D-Day, Battle of the Bulge

**OH # 3082.3**

**Narrator:** TONY LUJAN (1924-2015)  
**Interviewer:** Jon Aguado  
**Date:** November 24, 2002  
**Location:** Santa Ana, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:20:49  
**Transcript:** None.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer final class paper, obituary in OH 3082.1 folder

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Tony Lujan, a World War Two veteran and resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience as a paratrooper and soldier in the war; he briefly mentions his childhood; he discusses joining the military his training; he discusses his D-Day jump; he discusses his Holland jump; he talks about the Battle of the Bulge; he talks about being discharge from the military and his life post-war; discusses trip back to Europe and visiting locations he was in battle in; and he remembers the discrimination that took place in the military;

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, European Front, D-Day, Battle of the Bulge

**OH # 3082.4**

**Narrator:** TONY LUJAN (1924-2015)  
**Interviewer:** Sebastian Gomez  
**Date:** October 11, 2003  
**Location:** Santa Ana, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:35:19  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 10 pp. (incomplete)  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer field notes, time log, interviewer final class paper, obituary in OH 3082.1 folder

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Tony Lujan, a World War Two veteran and resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience in World War Two; he talks about being drafted to the army and joining the paratroopers for extra income; he tells stories he remembers while being in combat; he talks about the major battles he was in including Battle of the Bulge and D-Day; recalls being in combat for over two months in Holland; he talks about having contact with the Germans; he remembers his injuries from combat; he gives a brief description of life post-military; explains why the movie *Saving Private Ryan* is a close interpretation of what it was like in Europe during WWII; and briefly mentions medals he received.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, European front, D-Day, Battle of the Bulge

**OH # 3082.5**

**Narrator:** TONY LUJAN (1924-2015)  
**Interviewer:** Humberto Sanchez  
**Date:** October 26, 2002  
**Location:** Santa Ana, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** 8mm Video; No Audio.

**Length:**

**Transcript:** Verbatim; 19 pp.

**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer final class paper, obituary in OH 3082.1 folder

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Tony Lujan, a World War Two veteran and resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience in World War Two; he talks about the Battle of the Bulge; he talks about Fort Benning and Jump school; tells a brief story about a friend (Sergeant Smitty); he talks about the battle in Holland; he mention his trip returning to Europe since the war; he discusses the lack of minorities [Mexican-Americans] in films; and a brief mention of life post-war.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, European front, D-Day, Battle of the Bulge

**OH # 3083**

**Narrator:** ROBERT CHAVEZ (b.1926)  
**Interviewer:** Michael Junior Chavez  
**Date:** October 18, 2002  
**Location:** Fullerton, Ca; Baton Rouge, LA (telephone interview)  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:29:20  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 13 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer final class paper.

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Robert Chavez a World War Two Veteran and resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience in the military during the Second World War; he talks about enlisting in the Navy; his experience with discrimination in the military and back home; his response to the dropping of the Atomic Bombs; and returning to civilian life and using the G.I. Bill.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, discrimination, Atomic Bombs

**OH # 3084**

**Narrator:** LAWRENCE HASLETT  
**Interviewer:** Jorge Cruz  
**Date:** April 5, 2003  
**Location:** Fullerton, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:48:05  
**Transcript:** None.  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer rough draft paper, newspaper article

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Lawrence Haslett an Army photographer whom photographed the Pearl Harbor bombing and a resident of Fullerton, Californian. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience as an Army photographer; he briefly mentions his childhood; he talks about enlisting in the Army as a photographer; he criticizes the 2001 *Pearl Harbor* movie; he compared his photography equipment from the army to his modern equipment now; he describes leisure activity in the military; he comments on his post-war life; he talks about his love for elevators; and he discusses the type of photography he likes to capture.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Army photographer, Pearl Harbor



**OH # 3086.1**

**Narrator:** JACK Y. SOLIS (1923-2010)  
**Interviewer:** Sebastian Gomez  
**Date:** March 19, 2003  
**Location:** La Mirada, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:34:38  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 19 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer final class paper in OH 3082.4 folder, time log

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Jack Solis, a World War Two veteran and resident of La Mirada, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his combat fighting in Guadalcanal; he explains the different battles he participated in in Guadalcanal; he briefly mentions what a typical day in the Marine Corps was like; recalls an experienced he had at Tarawa; he describes the weather in Guadalcanal and in Iceland; he remembers encountering his brother in Guadalcanal; he explains the racial differences between a *Tejano* and a Mexican; and he talks about how being in the military made him a stronger individual.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Guadalcanal, Tarawa

**OH # 3104**

**Narrator:** JOSEPH RHOADES (b.1927)  
**Interviewer:** Justin Rhoades  
**Date:** April 1, 2003  
**Location:** Downey, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:42:17  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 24 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Joseph Rhoades, a World War Two veteran and resident of Downey, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his service in World War Two; he talks about being drafted in the Army and basic training; he describes what it was like to arrive in Japan and being begged for food by the Japanese civilians; he talks about becoming a M.P. (military police) and the duties associated with it; he describes what it was like to witness the destruction the Atomic Bomb left behind; and he mentions the behavior between US Soldiers and the Japanese civilians.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-1950.

**Keywords:** WWII, Japan, Atomic Bomb

**OH # 3105**

**Narrator:** DIEGO R. MORENO  
**Interviewer:** Abigail Haselton  
**Date:** October 15, 2002  
**Location:** Fullerton, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:34:07  
**Transcript:** None.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, photographs, interviewer journal entry and final class paper, newspaper articles

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Diego Moreno, a World War Two veteran and resident of Fullerton, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his service in World War Two; he describes his early childhood and how Orange County was during the 1930s and 1940s; he talks about being drafted in the Army and what training was like; he describes being discriminated for being a Mexican-American; he talks about his involvement in Germany; he reflects on battles he participated in including: Battle of the Bulge and Rhineland; he discusses Orange County and what it was like post-war; he describes his life post-military including his marriage and the effect the war had on it; and he compares the Pearl Harbor attack to the September 11, 2001 attacks.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Battle of the Bulge, Discrimination, Pearl Harbor, September 11

**OH # 3106**

**Narrator:** ROBERT VILLEGAS  
**Interviewer:** Abigail Haselton  
**Date:** October 14, 2002  
**Location:** Fullerton, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:52:50  
**Transcript:** None.  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry and final class paper in OH 3105 folder,

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Robert Villegas, a Korean War veteran and resident of Anaheim, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his service in the Korean War; he mentions his early childhood and family life; he discusses his brother Ishmael a Riverside County Congressional Honor Recipient; he describes the changes he noticed in Orange and Riverside county following the Korean War; he discusses what he did after the war including schooling and work; he talks about his children and grandchildren; he comments about his involvement with a Korean women; and he compares December 7, 1941 to September 11, 2001

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** Korean War, Pearl Harbor, September 11

**OH # 3107**

**Narrator:** ARTHUR MOLINA  
**Interviewer:** Rebekah Butorac  
**Date:** October 25, 2002  
**Location:** Diamond Bar, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digitized  
**Length:** 00:15:50  
**Transcript:** Partial Transcript; 2 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Arthur Molina, a Korean War veteran and resident of Diamond Bar, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his service in the military; he talks about his enlistment into the military and relatives that were also in the military; he comments on his perspective on the United States entering the war; he discusses the discrimination and prejudice he experienced in the war; he talks about returning home after the war and getting a job and starting a family; and he recalls war propaganda.

**Bulk Dates:** 1950-2000.

**Keywords:** Korean War, Discrimination, War Propaganda

**OH # 3112.1**

**Narrator:** ALRED V. AGUIRRE (b.1920)  
**Interviewer:** Gregory Hoiland  
**Date:** September 2, 2002  
**Location:** Placentia, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:32:29  
**Transcript:** Digital. Final: 29 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Photographs, Program from 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Alfred V. Aguirre, a Mexican American veteran of the US Army Air Corps 1901st Engineer Aviation Battalion and resident of Placentia, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his personal background and his experiences on Okinawa during World War II; he discusses being born in Placentia, California; he briefly talks about the pool hall's importance in the community; he states as the oldest of ten children he was responsible for helping in his father's barber shop and he earned money to buy clothes by shining shoes in the pool hall, especially before dances; he recalls after the early death of his father in 1934, that he had to leave high school and work picking oranges in Placentia and Corona, California; he talks about how he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps to "plant trees and fight fires" and took advantage of the good food and educational opportunities it provided; recalls attending a dance in Hollywood when news of Pearl Harbor bombing came and describes how he was glued to the radio for days listening to reports; discusses how he got defense work at Vultee Aircraft and learned to operate the drop hammer used in making airplane parts before he was drafted; comments on going through basic training at Buckley Field in Colorado, but he was sent back to Vultee for a short time to run the drop hammer so they could meet the demand for plane part; talks about how he eventually sailed from Seattle to Honolulu and joined a convoy of sixty-three ships sent to Okinawa; recounts how his unit remodeled the Kadena Airfield there to accommodate B-29s; he states that he personally felt no racial discrimination but did protect Jewish members in his unit from harassment, proudly states that he did not blindly follow commands but "used his common sense."

**Bulk Dates:** 1920–1950.

**Keywords:** Civilian Conservation Corps (US), Vultee Airplanes, Military Education, World War II, Discrimination, Jewish People, Kadena Airfield

**OH 3112.2**

**Narrator:** ALFRED V. AGUIRRE (b.1920)  
**Interviewer:** Carissa Miller  
**Date:** October 15, 2002  
**Location:** Placentia, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital.  
**Length:** 01:11:05  
**Transcript:** None.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, program from 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party, interviewer final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Alfred V. Aguirre, a Mexican American veteran of the US Army Air Corps 1901<sup>st</sup> Engineer Aviation Battalion and resident of Placentia, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his personal background and his military experiences in World War II; he remembers attending a segregated school, even though a new one had to be built after the 1933 earthquake because orange growers did not think the Hispanic children could handle the same classes as the white students; he talks about working at Vultee Aircraft after the Pearl Harbor attack and waited for the draft; he expressed going back to the Vultee company after basic training to help build planes for the war effort; talked about returning to the army air corps for more training and serving in the Pacific arena; he expressed his feelings about segregation in the military; he detailed his post-military life including starting a family and he led the fighting against the local segregated schools; he talked about Joining LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens); and he describes finding Veterans and Citizens of Placentia as the bargaining unit who met with school board to arrange school desegregation.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** Desegregation in Education; Vultee Airplanes; Citrus; Integration, Racial

**OH # 3112.3**

**Narrator:** ALFRED V. AGUIREE (b.1920)  
**Interviewer:** Kortney Kelly and Carissa Poules  
**Date:** December 10, 2002  
**Location:** Placentia, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 03:04:53  
**Transcript:** None.  
**Ephemera:** Interviewers journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Alfred Aguirre, World War Two veteran and resident of Placentia, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his service the military and community involvement post-war; he discusses his early childhood in Placentia; he talks about the bombing of Pearl Harbor and waiting to get drafted; he comments on getting a job for Vultee Aircraft; he recalls meeting his wife; he describes his duties and what it was like being a part of 1901<sup>st</sup> Engineer Aviation Battalion; he talks about ship life and bombing Japan from the ships; he discusses witnessing kamikazes and Japanese tactics; he discusses his post-military life including his children's education and the importance of an education; he mentions LULAC and the importance it contributed to the community; he briefly mentions the Mendez v. Westminster case; and he talks about organizing the Veterans and Citizens of Placentia;

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Vultee, Japan, LULAC



**OH # 3112.4**

**Narrator:** ALFRED V. AGUIRRE (b.1920)  
**Interviewer:** Nicole Webber  
**Date:** November 20, 2003  
**Location:** Placentia, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 02:07:42  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Verbatim; 28 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, 80<sup>th</sup> birthday program, photograph

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Alfred Aguirre, World War Two veteran and resident of Placentia, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his service in the military; he talks about the start of the war and working for Vultee Aircrafts; he discusses the Airforce training and the Battle of Okinawa; he recalls his childhood in Placentia; he remembers being on ship and getting seasick; he talks about being in the hospital; and he describes what it was like to return home.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Vultee, Japan, Battle of Okinawa, Ship Life

**OH # 3112.5**

**Narrator:** ALFRED V. AGUIRRE (b.1920)  
**Interviewer:** Jorge Valles Jr.  
**Date:** December 1, 2005  
**Location:** Placentia, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:23:18  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Edited; 22 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, 80<sup>th</sup> birthday program, field notes

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Alfred Aguirre, World War Two veteran and resident of Placentia, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of the interview is to gather information on his post war experience in integrating schools for Mexican-American children; he talks about his post-war life; he discusses joining the Mexican American Movement with Ted Duran; he mentions those Mexican-Americans that avoided the draft by fleeing to Mexico; he describes LULAC and the contribution it did on the community; he comments on his son Rick and him being enrolled in Bradford Avenue School; he discusses discrimination towards the Mexican American community; Alfred recalls going to jail; and he states what it was like being a Councilman.

**Bulk Dates:** 1950-2000.

**Keywords:** LULAC, Integration, Racial-Prejudice

**OH # 3121**

**Narrator:** HENRY BARBOSA  
**Interviewer:** Jon Witcher  
**Date:** November 29, 2002  
**Location:** Irwindale, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:21:21  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 35 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer field notes, interviewer final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Henry Barbosa, a World War Two veteran and resident of Downey, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his time in the military; he talks about being drafted despite his non-citizenship; he discusses his military training and schooling; he remembers discrimination that occurred against the Black soldiers; he recounts his experience being on ship; he describes his flying combat missions; he expresses why World War Two needed to happen; and he explains why he will not join the war again if he had a choice.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-1950.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Discrimination, European Front

**OH # 3176**

**Narrator:** MANUEL J. GRAJEDA (b.1920)  
**Interviewer:** Molyka Kim  
**Date:** October 21, 2002  
**Location:** Long Beach, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:59:51  
**Transcript:** Partial Transcript; 3 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Manuel J. Grajeda, a World War Two veteran and resident of Long Beach, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his time in the military; he talks about what his life was prior to being drafted; he expressed how his parents felt about him going off to war; he described the discrimination Americans felt towards minorities; he discussed the friendship he had with Japanese-Americans; he recounts losing his brother because of the war; and he explains the opportunities he received because of serving in the military.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Discrimination, Minorities

**OH # 3177**

**Narrator:** JOE V. LOPEZ  
**Interviewer:** Tracy Blalock  
**Date:** October 12, 2002  
**Location:** Whittier, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:56:56  
**Transcript:** Verbatim; 13 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Joe Lopez, a World War Two veteran and resident of Whittier, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his time in the military; he discusses what he was doing prior the war and being drafted for the military; he remembers the attack on Pearl Harbor; he talks about racial discrimination in the military; briefly mentions the Zoot Suit Riots; he recalls fighting in the front lines in Europe; he talks about the medals he received; and he describes what his life post-military was like.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pearl Harbor, Zoot Suit Riots, discrimination

**OH # 3178.1**

**Narrator:** REYNALDO APARICIO  
**Interviewer:** Wyatt Lough  
**Date:** October 28, 2002  
**Location:** Corona, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:11:36  
**Transcript:** Partial Transcript; 3 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Reynaldo Aparicio, an Air Force veteran that never went overseas and a resident of Corona, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his time in the states during the Second World War; he recalls a story about going to the public pools to learn to swim and being told to return on the day for Mexican Americans; he remembers working in the Orange fields when he was younger; he talks about a riot that occurred in Orange County regarding the farmers and workers; he tells about taking his wife to an Anglo hospital to deliver instead of the Mexican American hospital; and he talks about cofounding a Mexican-American American Legion.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** Discrimination, American Legion

**OH # 3178.2**

**Narrator:** REYNALDO APARICIO  
**Interviewer:** Susan Brewer  
**Date:** November 12, 2002  
**Location:** Corona, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digitized  
**Length:** 01:09:03  
**Transcript:** N/A  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Reynaldo Aparicio, a World War Two veteran and a resident of Corona, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his time serving in the military during the Second World War; he talks about his early childhood growing up and being taken to Mexico by his father and eventually returning to Orange County; he discusses wanting to better his future and decides to further on his education; he comments on being drafted into the Army and his experience with training, including swimming lessons; he mentions being assigned to 448<sup>th</sup> Squadron; he briefly talks about March Air Force Base; he explains what he did after the war which was teaching in Pomona, California; he discusses discrimination that occurred against minorities; he comments on the Bracero Program; and he gives advice to the younger generation in regards to further on their education.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** Discrimination, March Air Force Base, Bracero Program

**OH # 3179.1**

**Narrator:** NICK ALVAREZ (b.1919)  
**Interviewer:** Timothy Norman  
**Date:** October 10, 2002  
**Location:** Yorba Linda, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:25:30  
**Transcript:** Partial Transcript; 3 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Interviewer research notes and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Nick Alvarez, a World War Two veteran and resident of Yorba Linda, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience in Normandy, France; he talks about being drafted into the military and the military training he received; he describes tanks and their roles in the war; he recalls the battles he participated in Europe, specifically D-Day; he remembers capturing two German soldiers and how they reacted; and he expresses that he did not really witness discrimination within his division.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-1950.

**Keywords:** World War Two, D-Day, European Front



**OH # 3179.2**

**Narrator:** NICK ALVAREZ (b.1919)  
**Interviewer:** Edson Choi  
**Date:** October 25, 2002  
**Location:** Yorba Linda, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Cassette

**Length:**

**Transcript:** Digitized. Partial Transcript; 10 pp.

**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer final class paper, photographs

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Nick Alvarez, a World War Two veteran and resident of Yorba Linda, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience during the Second World War; he talks about entering the war and the battalion he was assigned to; he questions his reasoning for fighting in the war; he discusses segregation and treatment of minorities in the military; he describes what everyday life was like being overseas; he recounts events that occurred in war and in Germany regarding fog; he talks about his injuries he obtained during the war; and he describes what it was like to return home when the war ended.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, European Front

**OH # 3180**

**Narrator:** JACK AGUILAR (b.1930)  
**Interviewer:** Ryan Woods  
**Date:** September 21, 2002  
**Location:** Santa Ana, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:51:19  
**Transcript:** Partial Transcript; 2 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Jack Aguilar, a Korean War veteran and resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience serving in the Korean War; he discusses his early childhood and volunteering for the Korean War; he explains why he regrets working on the tanks during the war because he did not see any action; he mentions that he never experienced any discrimination because of his race; and he expresses that he did not understand why the United States was at war with Korea.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** Korean War

**OH # 3181**

**Narrator:** BEN DE LEON (b.1919)  
**Interviewer:** Brooke Lange  
**Date:** October 4, 2002  
**Location:** Santa Ana, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital

**Length:**

**Transcript:** Digitized. Partial Transcript; 5 pp.

**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Ben De Leon, a World War Two veteran and resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience serving in the Second World War and being exposed to any discrimination; he describes his early childhood from jobs he had and his education before enlisting in the military; he expresses how he felt about the United States entering the war; he explains whether or not propaganda had any influence over his life and describes what and how propaganda was like during the war; he talks about his wife being a “Rosie”; he mentions discrimination he received after the war while working as the first Latino Department Head; he describes his life after the war including benefits, advancements, and using the G.I. Bill; and he explains how WWII help change the United States.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Discrimination, Riveter

**OH # 3182**

**Narrator:** LEONARD J. GARCIA (b.1919)  
**Interviewer:** John-Paul Vargas  
**Date:** October 11, 2002  
**Location:** Diamond Bar, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 1:00:17  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Partial Transcript; 7 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Leonard J. Garcia, a World War Two veteran and resident of Diamond Bar, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience serving in the Second World War; he talks about enlisting in the military and his training; he briefly mentions the Zoot Suits Riot; he explains his feelings on the attack on Pearl Harbor, he mentions keeping in contact with family; he describes daily life in the military including leisure activities; and he talks about his siblings and how they also served in the war.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-1950.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Zoot Suit Riot; Pearl Harbor

**OH # 3194**

**Narrator:** NOE ESPINDOLA  
**Interviewer:** Nikki Severin  
**Date:** November 22, 2002  
**Location:** La Habra, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Casette

**Length:**

**Transcript:** Digitized. Verbatim; 14 pp.

**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Noe Espindola, a World War Two veteran and resident of La Habra, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience serving in the Second World War; he talks about being born in Mexico and moving back and forth from California to Mexico; he mentions his education and job before quitting to enlist into the military; he briefly mentions the Zoot Suits; he describes how he never experienced discrimination but did witness it occurring to other races; he talks about being airborne and his time in the Philippines; he discusses the invasion of Japan and the Battle of Okinawa; and he describes what it was like returning home after the war and joining the American Legion.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Zoot Suites, Pacific Theater, American Legion.

**OH # 3195**

**Narrator:** LEON VASQUEZ  
**Interviewer:** Mike Rodriguez  
**Date:** March 12, 2002  
**Location:** Anaheim, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:52:31  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Partial Transcript; 6 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Leon Vasquez, a World War Two veteran and resident of Anaheim, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience serving in the Second World War; he talks about his early childhood, moving to California from Mexico and losing his parents at a young age and education; he remembers working on a farm when he was young and working as a construction worker; he recounts when Pearl Harbor was attacked; he discusses his military training and everyday life including leisure activities and work as an artillery man; and he talks about his post-war life.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-1950.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pearl Harbor

**OH # 3196**

**Narrator:** CHARLES “CHUCK” RODRIGUEZ  
**Interviewer:** Mike Rodriguez  
**Date:** May 1, 2003  
**Location:** Orange, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:59:11  
**Transcript:** None  
**Ephemera:** Time log

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Charles “Chuck” Rodriguez, a World War Two veteran and resident of Orange, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience serving in the Second World War; he talks about his early childhood and growing up in orange county; he discusses his job and education before being drafted into the military; he recounts the attack on Pearl Harbor; he comments on what it was like being in the military, his everyday activities, being sent to New Guinea and the battles he participated in; he mentions the death of a sibling and the effect it had on him; and he explains what life post-war was like.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pacific Theater

**OH # 3197**

**Narrator:** MANUEL HERRERA  
**Interviewer:** Mike Rodriguez  
**Date:** May 20, 2003  
**Location:** Placentia, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:04:48  
**Transcript:** None  
**Ephemera:** Time log

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Manuel Herrera, a World War Two veteran and resident of Placentia, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experience serving in the Second World War; he talks about his early childhood and family history and what it was like living in Placentia before the war; he recalls the attack on Pearl Harbor; he remembers being drafted, but being allowed to wait a year to help out his father support the family; he mentions the loss of a sibling because of the war; he describes his duties in England during WWII working at military hospitals; and he explains what he did once the war ended and returning home, including getting married and starting a family

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Military Hospitals, European Front



**OH # 3198**

**Narrator:** RAFAELA GARCIA  
**Interviewer:** Marina Villavicencio  
**Date:** November 26, 2002  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:01:45  
**Transcript:** None  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Rafaela Garcia, a civilian during World War Two and resident of Orange, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her time living in the states during the war; she talks about her family background and being segregated during school; she remembers life before the war and job opportunities; she recalls all the movements she was involved in for Mexican-Americans; she talks about meeting her husband and starting a life with him; she mentions the Bracero program; and she briefly states why her parents left Mexico to come to the United States.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two Homefront, Discrimination, Bracero program

**OH # 3199**

**Narrator:** PHIL L. MONTANO  
**Interviewer:** Mike Rodriguez  
**Date:** December 3, 2002  
**Location:** Orange, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:11:25  
**Transcript:** None  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Phil Montano, a World War Two veteran and resident of Orange, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his time serving in the military during World War Two; he talks about his family history and what it was like living in Placentia; he recalls being drafted into the military and his time serving overseas including his duties and everyday life; he remembers the places he visited and some missions; he briefly mentions the dropping of the Atomic Bomb; and he remembers returning home after the war and his experience being a civilian.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Atomic bomb

**OH # 3200**

**Narrator:** EDNA DE LEON  
**Interviewer:** Angela Barrientos  
**Date:** December 5, 2002  
**Location:** Orange, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:02:33  
**Transcript:** None  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper, photographs

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Edna De Leon, a resident of Orange, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her time living in the United States during World War Two; she discusses her early family history including when her parents migrated to the United States and their occupations; she recounts going to a segregated school; she remembers the beginning of World War Two and the attack on Pearl Harbor; she talks about her brother [Arthur De Leon] and him being drafted into the war and his experience at the Battle of the Bulge; she explains how life was during the war including the leisure activities and rationing; she mentions the Bracero Program; she discusses the medias interpretation of the war; and she talks about her brothers return and life after the war.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two Homefront, Orange County, Segregation, Bracero Program

**OH # 3201**

**Narrator:** SIGUEL CARO (b.1926)  
**Interviewer:** Brion Bromley  
**Date:** December 12, 2002  
**Location:** Pico Rivera, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 02:03:28  
**Transcript:** None  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Siguel Caro, a World War Two Veteran a resident of Pico Rivera, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his time serving overseas as a paratrooper during World War Two; he talks about his early childhood and growing up during the Great Depression; he discusses finally being drafted into the military and volunteering to be a paratrooper; he comments being sent to the Philippines and being a prison guard and the racial tension between blacks and whites and the feelings towards the Japanese prisoners; he recalls returning to the states after the war and getting married as well as using his G.I. Bill; he discusses his brothers shell shock (PTSD); he talks about his parents feelings about having their sons go off to war; and he mentions the start of the Vietnam war and having his son being drafted for that.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Vietnam War, Prison Guard, Discrimination, Paratrooper, Pacific Theater

**OH # 3202**

**Narrator:** CELIA B. SALAS  
**Interviewer:** Tabitha Frost  
**Date:** December 3, 2002  
**Location:** Anaheim, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 01:00:37  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Partial Transcript; 8pp.  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Celia Salas, a “Rosie” during World War Two and a resident of Anaheim, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her time living in the United States during World War Two; she talks about her early childhood including family life, education, and entering the workforce; she comments on the type of work she did during the war; she discusses segregation and discrimination for being a Mexican; she remembers a boyfriend she had that was in the military; she explains how life was after the war including marrying, having children and she mentions seeing her old boyfriend again; and she gives advice for the younger generation.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two Homefront, Riveter, segregation

**OH # 3203**

**Narrator:** DENNIS M. DIAZ  
**Interviewer:** Joshua D. Bobbitt  
**Date:** December 10, 2002  
**Location:** Anaheim, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:54:20  
**Transcript:** None  
**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Dennis M. Diaz, a World War Two Veteran a resident of Anaheim, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his in the military during World War Two; he talks about his early childhood and moving to California, he comments on entering the military and basic training and cadet training; he discusses his bombing missions; he recalls being transfer to Guam to teach gunnery; he discusses the end of the war and returning home and marrying his girlfriend; he mentions segregation in the military and in Orange County; he briefly mentions his parents and life before the war; he talks about what he did after the military and what his current life is like.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Gunnery, Guam, Orange County, Segregation

**OH # 3204**

**Narrator:** ARTHUR C. DE LEON  
**Interviewer:** Lauren Hood  
**Date:** December 2, 2002  
**Location:** Orange, California  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Cassette

**Length:**

**Transcript:** None

**Ephemera:** Time log, interviewer journal entry and final class paper

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Arthur De Leon, a World War Two veteran and resident of Orange, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his service in the military; he talks about his early childhood growing up in orange county; he mentions attending a segregated school and working in the orange groves; he discusses being drafted into the army and his training; he comments on being sent to Europe and the what his experience was like including all the places he went to; he recalls the Battle of Magdeburg; he describes what it was like returning home after the war and visiting his relatives in Mexico; and he comments on the medals and awards he received for his service.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, European front, Battle of Magdeburg

**OH # 3398****Narrator:** CHARLES F. RODRIGUEZ**Interviewer:** Charlene Riggins**Date:** March 12, 2002**Location:****Language:** English**Project:** Mexican American Veterans**Audio Format(s):** Digital**Length:** 04:45:36**Transcript:** Digitized. Edited; 34 pp.**Ephemera:** Interviewer journal entry and final class paper, photographs**Abstract:**

An oral history with Charles F. Rodriguez, a World War Two Veteran a resident of Orange, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his involvement with Merrill Marauder; he talks about his early childhood and growing up; he discusses segregation in schools; he briefly mentions the zoot suits; he discusses leaving with his father and working in the fields to support him; he recounts being drafted into the military and the training and secret missions he partook in; he mentions being in Burma; he recalls his first combat battle; talks about his campaign with Merrill's Marauders; and he remembers returning home from the war and getting married and starting a family.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.**Keywords:** World War Two, Merrill Marauders, Burma



**OH # 3777**

**Narrator:** MARTY FLORES  
**Interviewer:** Miguel Garcia  
**Date:** June 22, 2005  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digital  
**Length:** 00:57:31  
**Transcript:** Final; 9 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Photographs

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Marty Flores, one of the many female workers that took up manufacturing jobs during WWII and resident of West Covina, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding her experience in World War Two Homefront; she talks about her upbringing in a Navy family; she discusses living through the Great Depression; she mentions losing her mother to cancer at a young age; she talks about completing her schooling during the outbreak of the war; she states how Pearl Harbor affected her Japanese American schoolmates; she mentions losing her boyfriend Albert in the fighting overseas; she talks about working as a riveter for Lockheed Martin in Los Angeles, and facing sexual harassment in the workplace; she described the independence that came with earning her own income; her happiness at the end of the war despite being laid off; how she made more money during and then after the war than her father and husband, respectively; how her husband Joe - a "macho" type - forced her to quit her job and how she felt about it then and now.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two Homefront, Riveter, Pearl Harbor

**OH # 3803**

**Narrator:** EZEKIEL GRANDOS  
**Interviewer:** Miguel Garcia  
**Date:** March 18, 2005  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** N/A  
**Length:** N/A  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Verbatim; 5 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Photographs

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Ezekiel Grandos, a World War Two veteran and resident of Santa Fe Springs, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding him serving with the 44th Infantry Division in the Pacific Theater; he talks about his "baptism of fire" during the invasion of Biak, an island off the coast of New Guinea, and other battles; his contraction of malaria; the rations he received; he describes what he did during down time; he remembers his experience guarding a group of Korean laborers in the Philippines; he mentions how he dealt with death and combat; he talks about what it was like serving in the occupation of Japan and meeting the survivors of Hiroshima; and how he felt about going home.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pacific Theater, Japan

**OH # 3804**

**Narrator:** VIRGINIA BENAVIDES  
**Interviewer:** Miguel Garcia  
**Date:** March 18, 2005  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** N/A  
**Length:** N/A  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Partial Transcript; 3 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Photographs

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Virginia Benavides, a resident of Whittier, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding her time growing up during the Great Depression and World War Two; she talks about her experience growing up during the Great Depression; she mentioned being concern with looking nice, Frank Sinatra, and 40s music all while finishing school and working night shifts to support her family; she remembers how she was treated in a community made up of Anglo, Jewish, and Russian neighbors; she talks about her experience working for shirt makers, hat designers, and in the manufacturing industry as a riveter; she recalls being the only person in her family to graduate high school; how she learnt about and dealt with the war; how President FDR motivated Americans during the tough times; her experience of the Zoot Suit Riots; and how her family coped with the war and the loss of her brothers in the Pacific.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two Homefront, Riveter, segregation, Zoot Suit Riots

**OH # 3805.1**

**Narrator:** DAVID FUENTES  
**Interviewer:** Miguel Garcia  
**Date:** March 8, 2005  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** N/A  
**Length:** N/A  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Partial Transcript; 3 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Photographs

**Abstract:**

An oral history with David Fuentes, a resident of Los Angeles, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his time serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in the US military Pacific Theater; he describes what his duties consisted of in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry; he mentions what the jungles in Hollandia were like; he discusses his doubts on whether we would make it out alive; he remembers the encounters he had with the Japanese; and he mentions Hideki Tojo.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-1950.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pacific Theater, Hideki Tojo

**OH # 3805.2**

**Narrator:** DAVID FUENTES  
**Interviewer:** Miguel Garcia  
**Date:** June 21, 2005  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** N/A  
**Length:** N/A  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Partial Transcript; 9 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Photographs in 3805.1 folder

**Abstract:**

An oral history with David Fuentes, a World War Two veteran and a resident of Los Angeles, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his time serving in the military during the Second World War; he discusses his early childhood in East Los Angeles and Beverly Hills during the Depression and how his father managed to take care of the family financially; he mentions how his Japanese neighbors and classmates were unjustly treated after Pearl Harbor; he discusses being drafted into the war and being sent to basic training; he talks about his time in the Philippines; he comments on his feelings about killing Japanese soldiers and Japanese war crimes and the difficulties posed by Japanese snipers and land mines; he recalls how he and his unit responded to the propaganda of Tokyo Rose; he remembers hearing about the end of the war; his role in the capture of General Tomoyuki Yamashita and the capture of Prime Minister Hideki Tojo after his suicide attempt; he discusses his life after the war including seeing his parents again and using the G.I. Bill to attend a tailoring school; he mentions his view of the war as a Mexican American, how he sees Japanese people today, and his current volunteer work in a Japanese museum.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pacific Theater, Hideki Tojo, Tokyo Rose, General Tomoyuki Yamashita

**OH # 3806**

**Narrator:** WILLIAM SANCHEZ  
**Interviewer:** Miguel Garcia  
**Date:** June 21, 2005  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** N/A  
**Length:** N/A  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Partial Transcript; 11 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Photographs

**Abstract:**

An oral history with William Sanchez, a World War Two veteran and a resident of Monterey Park, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his time serving in the military during the Second World War; he talks about losing both his parents at the age of 8 and receiving a scholarship to UCLA, prompting him to avoid the draft by voluntarily serving for 2 years in the Philippines; he mentions how recruit training was like in Fort Mills Corregidor; he discusses what it was like to work around General Douglas MacArthur; he recalls Fort Corregidor suffering more casualties than Pearl Harbor just hours after the attack and how they had to surrender to the Japanese five months after the start of the war; he remembers what it was like to be a prisoner of war after the surrender, being forced to collect the bodies of American casualties and burning them to prevent the spread of disease; his experience of the "the death marches, the death camps, and the hell ships" that they used to transport POWs; he describes the "tricks" he learned for survival in Japanese prisons and how the Red Cross used to visit them; he comments on how he and other POWs reacted to the war news propaganda of their captors; he talks about the atomic bomb and how it lead to his release and the process of release from the military entailed; and his reaction to the welcome home ceremony in the US, completing his education at USC and going on to international business for the remainder of his working years.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pacific Theater, POW, Atomic Bomb

**OH # 3807**

**Narrator:** PAUL ARZATE GOMEZ (1926-2007)  
**Interviewer:** Harvie Reyes  
**Date:** November 12, 2006  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digitized. Video  
**Length:** 01:17:24  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Verbatim; 12 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Photographs, obituary

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Paul Arzate Gomez, a World War Two veteran and a resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his time serving in the military during the Second World War; he talks about life growing up during the Depression the activities young people used to engage in for fun at that time; he remembers selling newspapers for money; his reaction to Pearl Harbor; he recalls what it was like for families on his street to lose their sons to the draft; he discusses what basic training was like in Camp Roberts, California; he remembers going on a 36 day trip to the Philippines with the 24th Infantry Division; he comments on being rewarded both the Silver and Bronze Stars; he talks about getting malaria and how penicillin saved his life; he talks about dropping of the atomic bomb; and he describes what life was like post-war including getting married and working as a general contractor after he returned from the service.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Pacific Theater, Atomic Bomb

**OH # 3808**

**Narrator:** ROBERT VILLALOBOS (b.1923)  
**Interviewer:** Harvey Reyes  
**Date:** October 12, 2006  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** Digitized. Video  
**Length:** 00:44:17  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Verbatim; 7 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Photographs

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Robert Villalobos, a World War Two veteran and a resident of Anaheim, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his time serving in the military during the Second World War; he talks about his early childhood and being forced to work in the fields; he comments on being drafted into the military and looked forward to it; he recalls being shipped off to Europe a week after the invasion of Normandy; he remembers being shot in the neck in Germany shortly before the end of the war and became depressed as a result; he discusses his return to the US and his wife; he mentions on what it was like to make the decision to retain the bullet in his neck for the rest of his life in order to avoid the risk of further injury; he comments on racial discrimination and how it made it difficult to find a job, but his status as a veteran eased the process with other veterans in higher places; and he mentions his family outgrowing their home in Anaheim and eventually built another.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, European Front, Discrimination



**OH # 3809.1**

**Narrator:** JOE LOEZ (b.1921)  
**Interviewer:** Miguel Garcia  
**Date:** March 16, 2005  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** N/A  
**Length:** N/A  
**Transcript:** Partial Transcript; 7 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Photographs

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Joe Lopez, a World War Two veteran and a resident of Whittier, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his time serving in the military during the Second World War; he discusses being a part of the 91<sup>st</sup> Division, 362 Regiment; he remembers what it was like being in a convoy; he talks about the Germans and what it was like fighting against them; he recalls the Battle of Monte Cassino; he briefly mentions Mussolini; and he talks about how the war affected him.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, Italy, Mussolini, Battle of Monte Cassino

**OH # 3809.2**

**Narrator:** JOE LOEZ (b.1921)  
**Interviewer:** Miguel Garcia  
**Date:** June 23, 2005  
**Location:**  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** Mexican American Veterans

**Audio Format(s):** N/A  
**Length:** N/A  
**Transcript:** Digitized. Partial Transcript; 6 pp.  
**Ephemera:** Photographs in 3809.1 folder

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Joe Lopez, a World War Two veteran and a resident of Whittier, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his time serving in the military during the Second World War; he talks about his early childhood including his parents and growing up during the depression; he discusses the good times and the struggles of living during the depression; he comments on being a part of the Civilian Conservation Corps; he remembers being discriminated against both as a soldier and as a civilian; he talks about meeting Dolores and eventually marrying her; he talks about being drafted into the war and his basic training; he remembers his time spent in North Africa; and he describes life post-war including working for O'Keefe and Merritt.

**Bulk Dates:** 1940-2000.

**Keywords:** World War Two, North Africa Campaign, Discrimination, CCC