

Albert Gore

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

Research Guide: World War II

This guide provides an annotated list of MTSU resources on the history of World War II, especially as it relates to the involvement of Tennesseans. Researchers should treat this guide as a starting point, rather than a comprehensive list of primary and secondary sources. All of the resources are located at the Albert Gore Research Center or James E. Walker Library, unless otherwise noted. Sarah Calise, Political and Regional Collections Archivist, developed this guide in the summer of 2018.

Primary Sources

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

- **Albert Gore, Sr. House Papers.** Gore's congressional papers include transcripts from his radio broadcasts with updates on the war effort, speeches, and some constituent mail.
- **Robert E. Alexander Papers.** Alexander served in the U.S. Army during the war. He trained in various states, and attended Photo Intelligence School in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He later served in photo intelligence while stationed in India. His papers largely contain correspondence, photographs, and slides.
- **Walter King Hoover Papers.** These papers contain the complete copies and original versions of Adeline King's *Smyrna Bulletin*, which was a newsletter she created and mailed to Middle Tennessee soldiers serving overseas during the war.
- **Vickie L. Riggan Collection.** Riggan collected these materials while researching women who served in uniform in World War II. This collection contains ephemera, newsletters, publications, scrapbooks, photographs, research materials, and some audio/visual material.



Tennesseans watch the Second Army conduct drills in Manchester. From the Tennessee Maneuver Photograph Collection, Albert Gore Research Center.

- **Marion Coleman Peck Papers.** Peck was an extraordinary woman. Her knack for writing eventually earned her a spot at the front lines of the U.S. Army maneuvers in Louisiana in 1941. She was the first woman to gain such a role, and became known for her ability to report the news with feeling and emotion. She also covered the Tennessee Maneuvers for the Associated Press' Nashville Bureau in 1943. She then worked for the Office of War Information as a caption writer, and she wrote many of the captions depicting Nazi war atrocities, including the liberation of concentration camps. Her papers include documents, original drafts of newspaper articles, photographs, and other items related to her time covering the maneuvers and her time with the Office of War Information.

- **James C. Hollon Papers.** Hollon served in the war at the young age of nineteen in Company M, 129th Infantry/29th Division. Throughout the remainder of his life, Hollon collected articles and publications about the Normandy landings and World War II in general. These papers contain subject file material pertaining to the Allied Invasion of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, referred to colloquially as "D-Day." There are also copies of *The Twenty-Niner* and *The American Legion*.

- **Elinor Folk Papers.** These papers contain photocopies of letters written by Folk to her mother and sister during her time in the US Navy. She was among the first WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services) to enlist. The letters document her experiences in the Navy from 1942-1944. The collection also contains publications on WAVES and the US Navy.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- **Tennessee Maneuvers Photograph Collection.** The Gore Center has acquired various photographs, either purchased or donated, that depict the large-scale war games known as the Tennessee Maneuvers, which occurred in the Middle Tennessee area, including Tullahoma, Manchester, Smyrna and other towns.

- **Eugene Sloan Papers.** Sloan's papers contain photographs taken by him of the Tennessee Maneuvers. A copy of his book, *With Second Army: Somewhere in Middle Tennessee*, is also in our collection.

- **Alumni Photograph Collection.** This collection contains photographs from MTSU alumni, typically about MTSU and Murfreesboro, but it also includes some photographs pertaining to the maneuvers and World War II.

ORAL HISTORIES

- There are numerous oral histories with World War II veterans and people involved in home front activities housed within the Gore Center's Middle Tennessee Oral History Project. Transcripts are available for most of them. [Explore our oral history collections.](#)
- You should also research the Library of Congress' [Veterans Oral History Project](#). The VHP of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

OBJECTS

- The Gore Center houses some three-dimensional objects that people donated with their collections or with their oral history. Some of these objects include military badges, medals, uniforms, flags, pillowcases, and more.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

- James E. Walker Library's digital collections house thousands of items from multiple campus and regional archives, museums, and cultural heritage institutions. Some of these items relate to World War II. You can search MTSU's digital collections at <http://digital.mtsu.edu/cdm>.

Secondary Sources

James E. Walker Library houses thousands of books and some documentaries about World War II. [You can search their catalog here.](#)

The Gore Center houses numerous reference books related to World War II. Here are a few selected readings from our reference section:

- Culpepper, Marilyn Mayer. *Never Will We Forget: Oral Histories of World War II*. Westport, CT: Praeger Security International, 2008.
- McMillin, Woody. *In the Presence of Soldiers: The 2nd Army Maneuvers & Other World War II Activity in Tennessee*. Nashville, TN: Horton Heights Press, 2010.
- Moye, J. Todd. *Freedom Flyers: The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II*. Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Sloan, Gene H. *With Second Army: Somewhere in Tennessee*. Murfreesboro, TN: Middle Tennessee State College, 1956.

- Suberman, Stella. *When it was Our War: A Soldier's Wife on the Home Front*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 2003.
- Suchanek, Jeffrey S. "*Star-Spangled Hearts*": *American Women Veterans of World War II*. Frankfort, KY: Broadstone Books, 2011.