Armed Forces at UBC Oral History Project Collection

Compiled by Christopher Hives (2000, revised 2004)

University of British Columbia Archives
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- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)
Collection Description

13 cm of textual records.
27 audio reels.

Administrative History

It appears that the Armed Forces at UBC oral history project was developed at the University of British Columbia in conjunction with the Aural History Institute in Victoria to document the history of military training on campus. Interviews were conducted by Allen Specht during the summer of 1973 and spring of 1974 with fourteen prominent individuals who participants in campus military organizations such as the Canadian Officers' Training Corps.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of audio recordings and transcripts created from interviews conducted as part of an oral history project to document the evolution of military training on campus. Interviewees discuss campus military organizations and student participation in war as well as peace movements at UBC. In addition the interviews provide information about campus life at the University as well as the interviewees' general experiences in the Canadian Armed Services.
Each interview was originally recorded on a reel-to-reel tape. Cassette reference copies have been made and typescript interview transcripts are available for all but one of the interviews. Each transcript also includes a handwritten form with a brief interview summary. The interviews have been arranged by tape number.

Digitized copies of the audio recordings and the transcripts are also available by clicking the links under each tape number.

Note: Audio tapes have been removed and are stored with the UBC Audio Tape Collection.

List of Abbreviations:

C.O. - Commanding Officer
C.O.T.C. - Canadian Officers' Training Corps
O.T.C. - Officers' Training Corps
R.U.S. - Reserve University Squadron, R.C.A.F.
U.N.T.D. - University Naval Training Division

ARTHUR LORD (1900-1982)

AT_177


Interview Transcript  /  Listen to recording (Side 1, Side 2)

AT_178


2. World War I and II students compared: value of military training on campus.

Interview Transcript  /  Listen to recording (Side 1, Side 2)
GORDON SHRUM (1896-1985)

AT_179


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

AT_180


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

AT_181


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

ROBERT BONNER (b. 1920)

AT_182


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

AT_183


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording (Side 1, Side 2)

GEOFFREY RIDDEHOUGH (1900-1978)

AT_184


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

H.F.G. LETSON (b. 1896)

AT_186
1. Family background: high school cadets: formation of C.O.T.C. World War I:
   President Wesbrook: 196th Battalion: France, Vimy Ridge: returns UBC 1918:
disbandment: views on anti-military feeling on campus.

   Gallipoli lectures: "My Foreign Legion": philosophy of C.O.T.C.: personal
   feelings: interest in history.

Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

AT_187

1. Incidents in 1919 of student opposition: 1941 military attacks in Washington: 1942
   Adjutant General in charge of recruitment: problems of recruitment World
   War II: story by Sam Hughes: explanation of World War II policy of dividing
   Canadian army.

2. General McNaughton and autonomy issue: post - World War II Committee for
   Military Policy: views on disbandment of C.O.T.C.: views on integration:
support of C.O.T.C.

Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

JOHN MCLEAN (b. 1911)

AT_188

1. UBC student 1927: attitude to C.O.T.C. when student: student opposition:
   international developments to 1930s: C.O.T.C. cadet 1939: Seaforth

   across Canada: quotas issue: disbandment: individuals who fought to save
   units.

Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

LAWRENCE E. RANTA (b. 1910)

AT_189
1. Family background: medical career: Mississauga Horse Guards: Finnish background: international developments 1930s: wartime research at UBC

2. Wartime research UBC: field craft instruction: views on benefits of C.O.T.C.

Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

AT_190


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

AT_191


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

ALAN H. FINLAY

AT_192

(tape only - no transcript)

Listen to recording
FINLAY MORRISON (b. 1917)

AT_369


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

RAY HERBERT (b. 1924)

AT_370-1


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording (Side 1, Side 2)

AT_370-2


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

AT_370-3

Interview Transcript  /  Listen to recording

ALBERT LAITHWAITE

AT_371


Interview Transcript  /  Listen to recording (Side 1, Side 2)

MAURICE YOUNG (b. 1912)

AT_372-1


Interview Transcript  /  Listen to recording

AT_372-2


Interview Transcript  /  Listen to recording
FRANK TURNER (b. 1916)

AT_373-1


Interview Transcript  /  Listen to recording

AT_373-2

1. Value of training program to individual. Group activity, cooperation and competition. Personal philosophy. Dean Gage's contributions to society.

Interview Transcript  /  Listen to recording

NORMAN A.M. MACKENZIE (1894-1986)

AT_374-1


Interview Transcript  /  Listen to recording

AT_374-2


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording

AT_374-3

1. Description of C.O.T.C., UBC. Dr. Shrum. Armoury. President’s house. Opinion on value of O.T.C. Discussion of C.O.s at UBC. Pipe Band.


Interview Transcript / Listen to recording