

PRESERVING LCT HISTORY

The Veterans History Project

Motivated by the urgent need to collect the stories and experiences of war veterans while they are still among us, the U.S. Congress created the Veterans History Project in October 2000. The legislation calls upon the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to collect and preserve audio- and video-taped oral histories, along with documents such as letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and home movies, of America's war veterans and those who served in support of them during World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars.

All Americans are invited to participate in this project. The Folklife Center currently issues a "Project Kit" with instructions on how to go about interviewing and recording a veteran. Individuals and organizations such as our own LCT reunion group are then encouraged to donate these materials to the Center and become an Official Partner in the Project.

Veterans themselves are being asked to consider creating their own recordings or have family and friends assist them in these "interviews".

For more information and a "project kit", contact the Veterans History Project by writing to them or by accessing their website:

The Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave., SE, Wash. D.C. 20540-4615. Their *website*:

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/about.html>

LCT Flotillas of WWII Projects

Our own group has embarked on several projects to preserve and tell the stories of the LCTs of WWII. As most of you are aware, we are encouraging all of you to send in your written recollections and stories along with your wartime photo and any other photos, maps, or other materials that illustrate life on the LCTs. We are publishing several of these stories in each issue of this newsletter provided they include a clear photo of yourself taken in uniform during the War.

In addition, we will consider all donated material for our upcoming book on the LCTs. All of the donated items will be archived by our group and it is our hope to include as much as possible on our LCT website.

Another project will get started at our next reunion where we will set up video equipment and record short 5-minute interviews to be edited into our very own film documentary on the LCTs. These short comments

on video will be interspersed with original wartime photos and movie footage of the LCTs in action. Please consider volunteering a few minutes of your time at New Orleans to share a story or two with us. More details will be posted in our next issue.

Finally, our group will continue to collect official records of the LCTs from the National Archives and other sources. The LCT Flotillas of WWII will also become a "partner" and donate what we can to the Veterans History Project.

What YOU Can Do Right Now

Get your memoirs written (see page 14), tape record some of your wartime recollections, and bring to the reunion or mail us your stories and photos! For those of you who have already done so, we thank you, but most have *not* included a wartime picture of themselves in uniform (like on page 6). Please *please* send in your portrait, guys--originals will be returned ASAP--or send in a good clear copy.

As all our archival work is being handled by only a few volunteers, please be patient with us and if you need a response or any items returned, best to send a self-addressed and stamped envelope (SASE).

For all stories, photos and other materials to be submitted for the newsletter or website, send to either Ron Swanson or Rich Fox. All monies must be sent to Bud Farmer for reunion fees and newsletter dues. We currently are being bombarded with letters and e-mails asking for very specific info on certain LCTs and their crews. We do NOT have crew lists but may have some very basic data on your LCT or flotilla. Please allow plenty of time for a response (and include a SASE).

Other sources you may want to look into include Stephen Ambrose who is looking for oral histories, memoirs and diaries from Pacific vets. Send items to Stephen Ambrose, P.O. Box 1713, Helena MT 59624. Or e-mail at: militaryregistry@usa.com

The VFW Magazine is collecting the personal experiences of WWII vets--go to HBO's website at: www.hbo.com and click on *Band of Brothers*.

At our 2002 LCT reunion in New Orleans we will have some written material available on all these projects as well as various forms you will need to get copies of your service records and other VA items. Do consider contributing to these worthwhile projects--it's how you can help preserve the saga of the LCTs.