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You can always record your stories on audiotape and/or videotape, or you can talk to your computer, thanks to voice recognition software. (I'm hoping to use this new technology to "write" my next book.)

After you select the story idea from your binder "Table of Contents," create a list of talking points – or questions, if someone can be there as an interviewer.

Limit each recording session to one short story (or one segment of a longer story) to avoid over talking.

7. What do you do with the recordings?

An excellent Oral History can be produced from the audio recordings with careful editing.

Video histories are more complex but can certainly be produced with the help of someone with the proper expertise.

Speech-recognition software is supposed to put your mouth in charge of the computer, As one computer guru put it: *To control your computer by voice, or even just navigate within a text document, you need to memorize verbal commands for moving around, formatting text and so on. Capable typists probably have the biggest adjustment to make. But non-typists may find it paradise – even if it's not quite "Star Trek" caliber.*

Well, we'll see. Stay tuned.

If you want to convert your audio recordings into a print manuscript, the next step is to have a typist listen to the tape as he or she:

- 1) keys it into a computer 2) creates a transcript

In either case, you can now edit your manuscript. Please know freelancers are available in most markets to type,

copyedit, and/or proof-read your manuscript. But first, enlist the help of children or interested grandchildren. They have the most to gain from your stories.

8. How does one convert a typed manuscript into a printed memoir?

When your final copy edits are completed and you've inserted any maps and photos, it's decision time. How do you want to reproduce and distribute your memoir.

Two key considerations: .

- A) Is it primarily for family and friends'? If so, how many copies will you need? B) Do you want to pursue a publisher for national distribution? Or should you self-publish?

Suggestion: Start with option "A," You can always move up to "B" later. After all, it's *your* story.

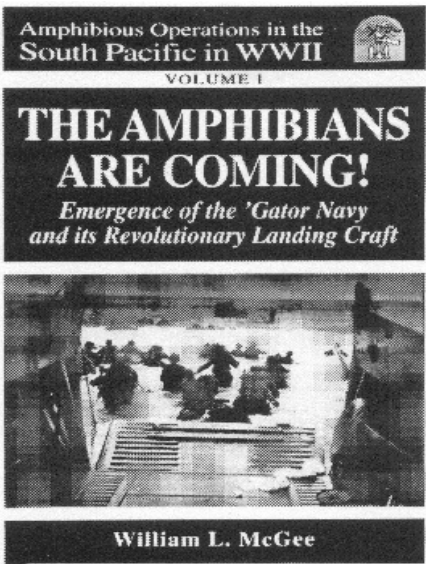
Talk to your local Kinkos, or their equivalent, and evaluate their duplicating and binding options and costs.

If you decide to go for wider distribution, self-publishing offers you two options. Both require a digital disk;

- 1) Print Quantity Needed (PQN) 2) Printing On Demand (POD)

This is neither the time nor place to go into these printing options. Should self-publishing become a serious consideration for you, allow me to recommend my favorite author on the subject: Dan Poynter's *The Self-Publishing Manual – How to Write, Print and Sell Your Own Book*. Call 1-800-727-2782.

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