

Gift and Release Agreement

We Clifton Foster and Amy Foster
Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

do hereby give and grant to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History, Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at

Mr. Foster's home

on the date(s) of 3/27/95

for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

Clifton J. Foster

Interviewee's signature

Address

Columbus, Ms

Phone (606) 327-2387

Date

3/27/95

Amy Foster

Interviewer's signature

Address 15196 Westwind Dr

Northport, AL 35476

Phone (205) 339-7620

Date

3/27/95

Interviewee - Clifton Lee Foster
Interviewer - Amy Carol Foster
Date - March 27, 1995
Location - Mr. Foster's home
Subject -World War II

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Title ?

On March 27, 1995 I met with Mr. Clifton Lee Foster to discuss history. Mr. Foster was born on June 22, 1920 in Kennedy, Alabama. He is a resident of Columbus, Mississippi. When I arrived we discussed the questions that I would ask and the length of the interview. He was very nervous as you can tell from listening to the taped version of our interview. Mr. Foster was raised on a farm where he worked long hard hours. He believes that his discipline while growing up helped him survive the war and the miserable post-war conditions.

new *here* The Interview began with Mr. Foster's explanation of how he became part of the Air Corps in 1941. He enlisted because he knew the war was coming ~~on~~ and he was at the age of being drafted. He was in school at the time, but he was advised to join so that he could pick the division of the armed forces that he wanted ~~to be in~~. If he would not have enlist^{ed} the government would have drafted him. He joined the Air Corp^s and ~~he~~ was stationed in Jackson, Mississippi. Mr. Foster was one of the first one hundred men to be stationed at that base. He had three weeks of basic training, and he was then put with the thirty-eighth bomb group. This would enable him to be a bombateer. After doing some research I found out that the bombateers were the smaller men ^{who} ~~that~~ controlled the guns in the belly of the air fighters. On Thanksgiving Day 1941, Mr. Foster jumped out of the truck that took them to the mess hall. He blew out his knee that had been previously hurt in high school. This accident would keep Mr. Foster out of

combat. He was given a ^{waver} so that he could still be a part of the Air Corp^s, and he could train other men to be combat bombateers. He did not have to go in to the base every day. He did have to report in three times daily. Mr. Foster did not feel like the government gave them long enough to train the men ^{who} that were sent to his base. After the draft was enforced, men ^{who} that were not qualified were being sent to Mr. Foster to be trained. He did not feel like this was right. Mr. Foster was not happy with the job he was doing. He said that "men were being sent in, picking up a gun, and then being transferred out." However, Mr. Foster was very glad that he did not have to face true combat. He said that he did not dread his job with the Air Corp^s. He was later shipped out with thirty-five other ranked men ^{from} out of Jackson in route to Florida. The government wanted to eventually send them overseas. Mr. Foster was in charge of getting the men to the destination. He learned that the government was very disorganized after being misrouted and forgotten about. They rode a train that was supposed to be sent to Florida however they ended up in Birmingham. After finally arriving in Florida, they were left on the base for a week without receiving orders. This did not ensure a whole lot of faith in the U.S. government. Later, Mr. Foster was sent to another base with meager accommodations. When the time came for someone to be moved off that base

Choppy sentences

How!

Need some paragraphs

al

the candidates for transfer drew straws. Mr. Foster was the lucky man.

However, Mr. Foster's boat never made it to Europe. They sat in the middle of the ocean for weeks. They were served rotten food and were poorly accommodated. He ended up on a base in Shamay ^{← where is this} where he stayed nineteen months. Mr. Foster said that " in Shamay the men drank too much and partied too often." This led to many unnecessary deaths and crashes. I asked Mr. Foster how he felt toward the war and he said that he felt that there was not enough control on the men and that there was alot of chaos. He feels that the government did a good job but there was no way to please everyone. When Mr. Foster returned from the war he was extremely disappointed. There were no jobs for the veterans and there was no money in the economy. The South was not greatly affected because there were few jobs in the south before the war. Veterans were able to get money from the government, but it was not enough to prosper . Mr. Foster did get a labor job that was skillless. He was employed by Central Foundry. Mr. Foster was a very skilled and educated man, however, he was forced to fill wheelbarrows with sand for little money. I am sure that he felt cheated by his country because of the post-war treatment of the vets. Mr. Foster was glad to see the war come to an end as were many .But the post-war was not easy either. I believe that the government learned alot from the mistakes and accomplishments of the war. I enjoyed my interview with Mr. Foster. I learned alot about the war and about my grandfather.

Good info - use more quotes. Work on writing could be a bit longer - assignment asked for 5-8 pages - add some historical context 85

PROPOSAL

Amy Foster
TT/ TR 11:00-12:30

Clifton Lee Foster
406 10th Street S.
Columbus, MS. 39701
Born: June 22, 1920
Place: Kennedy, AL.
Interview Date: March 27, 1995
Location: 406 10th Street S. Columbus, MS.

Mr. Foster was an Uncommissioned officer in the United States Air Corps during World War II. He enlisted in the Air Corps in 1940 so that he could serve his country. Mr. Foster had many experiences that were significant to history. He was one of the very first members of the Air Corps, which later became the United States Air Force.

Questions

1. How did you become involved in World War II?
2. When did you become involved?
3. How did the war affect you?
4. Please explain your transfers within the Air Corps?
5. What were your feelings toward the war efforts?
6. How did the war affect the South?
7. After the war was over, how did you feel about it's efforts?