

Collection #
SC 1791
DVD 1066–1067
CT 2371–2372

JOHN P. DORN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 1980

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Processed by

Paul Brockman
January, 2017

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript folders; 2 DVD's; 2 Cassette Tapes

COLLECTION DATES: November, 1980

PROVENANCE: John P. Dorn via Wayne Sanford, Indianapolis, 1980

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1981.0826

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Pershing Dorn (1918–2000) was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and graduated from high school in 1936. After graduation, he began working for Bethlehem Steel Company as a rigger and a welder. In October, 1940, he enlisted in the Army and was given the rank of duty sergeant. After training in North Carolina, Dorn was stationed to Baer Field in Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, where he transferred to the Air Corps and given the rank of Flight Staff Sergeant and assigned to the 437th Troop Carrier Group. The unit's duties were to transport paratroopers and gliders to drop zones. Dorn served as a crew chief whose duty was to keep the C 47s in good operating condition. In addition to dropping troops, Dorn's group also dropped supplies. In addition to the D Day Invasion, Dorn's group flew missions to Northern France, Rome, Southern France, the Rhineland, Central Europe, and Northern Italy. A knee injury caused by a crash landing resulted in Dorn's return to the United States where he remained and recuperated until his discharge in September, 1945.

Dorn's love of aircraft continued after the war. He had a job in aircraft research in Phoenix, Arizona and with Lake Central Airlines in Indianapolis. In 1956 he was called back to active service in the Air Force. where he work with radio transmitters and receivers. Another injury resulted in his discharge in 1958.

John Dorn met his wife, Helen Strother (1924–2012) of New Castle, Henry County, Indiana, in 1941 a military parade at Fort Bragg. They were married in December, 1942. After Dorn's discharge, the couple returned to New Castle where they spent the rest of their lives.

Sources:

Information in collection.

Ancestry, Library Edition, accessed 27 January 2017.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

John Dorn's oral history interview was conducted at his home in New Castle, Henry County, Indiana. It was conducted by Wayne Sanford of the Indiana Historical Society's Military History Section. In the interview Dorn primarily speaks about his time in the U. S. Army Air Corps during World War II, 1941–1945. Topics discussed includes training, the Normandy Invasion, his duties as Flight Staff Sergeant, and the dropping of supplies to troops including those to Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge.

Other information in the interview includes his post war jobs in the aviation profession and return to the Air Force and how he met his wife. No information is discussed after 1956.

The collection includes both the oral history interview and the transcript.

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CONTAINER

Folder 1 of 2

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DVD 1066

DVD 1067

CT 2371

CT 2372