

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Wilbur Joffrion

COLLECTION: 4700.0639

IDENTIFICATION: Native Louisianian, attended LSU for three semesters (1942-1943). Attended West Point Academy from 1943-1946 and graduated from the US Military Academy. Received master's degree from Tulane University in 1953. Taught at West Point, New York. Retired from the Army Reserve after 35 years of active duty. Currently working as insurance agent in Baton Rouge.

INTERVIEWER: Mary Hebert

SERIES: University History – Ole War Skule

INTERVIEW DATES: November 27, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1940s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 928, Side A

Introduction; born on November 8, 1924 in Alexandria, Louisiana; parents' names and birthplaces; father a sugar chemist who worked in Guatemala; Finca Punta Leon (sugar plantation); first language was Spanish; father in cattle business and cotton buyer as well; mother went to Newcomb College and stayed home to take care of children; chores at home while growing up; job as soda jerk in high school; how Depression affected Rapides Parish; beggars would go by houses; not affected adversely by Depression because of father's job in Central America and jobs as cotton buyer and cattle businessman; attended public schools in Alexandria; West End Grammar School; Bolton High School; remembering the Pearl Harbor attack in high school; remembering President Roosevelt's speech; no ROTC in high school; set up Home Guard in high school; very interested in military; Alexandria as base location for camps; Camp Livingston; Camp Beauregard; Camp Clayborne; Camp Polk; race riots on Lee Street never fully disclosed; selling ice cream to soldiers on maneuvers; playing tennis with soldiers; uncle in military; grandmother; Delmar Plantation; was a good tennis player; active in Safety Council and National Honor Society in high school; father decided for Joffrion to go to LSU; wanted to go to college for a year or two before entering West Point; Joffrion family emphasizes education; some high school classmates enlisted in army immediately; LSU used to be very economical and affordable; first day at LSU; late graduation from high school so there was overlapping; F Company of the engineers; chemical engineering; Pentagon Barracks; hazing at LSU; barber pies; ROTC; LSU used to be a very military school; Colonel Hill; Carlos Spaht; favorite classes at LSU was military science; Delta Kappa Epsilon; wife a Kappa Kappa Gamma; fraternity life; Burt Turner; Ben Downing; Joe Bill Jackson; Chare Thibeaux (?); "smooch hollow"; how campus has changed; LSU experience helped career; LSU prepared Joffrion for West Point; West Point plebe year; Beast Barracks;

Tape 928, Side B

Admiral Arnold Braswell; Bill Wray; several Louisianians at West Point; Brigadier General Bigler; discipline at West Point; Glen Davis; Doc Blanchard; was in F-2 Company; strictness at the Academy; honor code; master's at Tulane in education; minor in political science; taught at West Point in Department of Military Topography and Graphics; taught topography, surveying and engineering drawing; went to Germany for three years; Berlin Airlift; Frankfurt; Augsburg; staff officer of squadron S-1; German reaction to American occupation; Berlin Crisis; Fort Polk; Colonel Abercrombie; Korean War; Fort Hood; married in 1951 in Baton Rouge; Army Cavalry; went to Korea in 1956; 38th Parallel; put in reserves; took over wife's family's insurance business; lieutenant colonel instructor at USAR school in 1964/1965; commander of 377th TAACOM; General Russell LeBlanc; COSCOM; 3221st MMC in Baton Rouge; deputy commander of 122nd R company in Little Rock; reserve units; end of interview;

TAPES: 1 (T928)**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 1 hour, 13 minutes**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 38 pages**OTHER MATERIALS:** Proper name lists, biographical sketches, interviewer's questions.**RESTRICTIONS:** None