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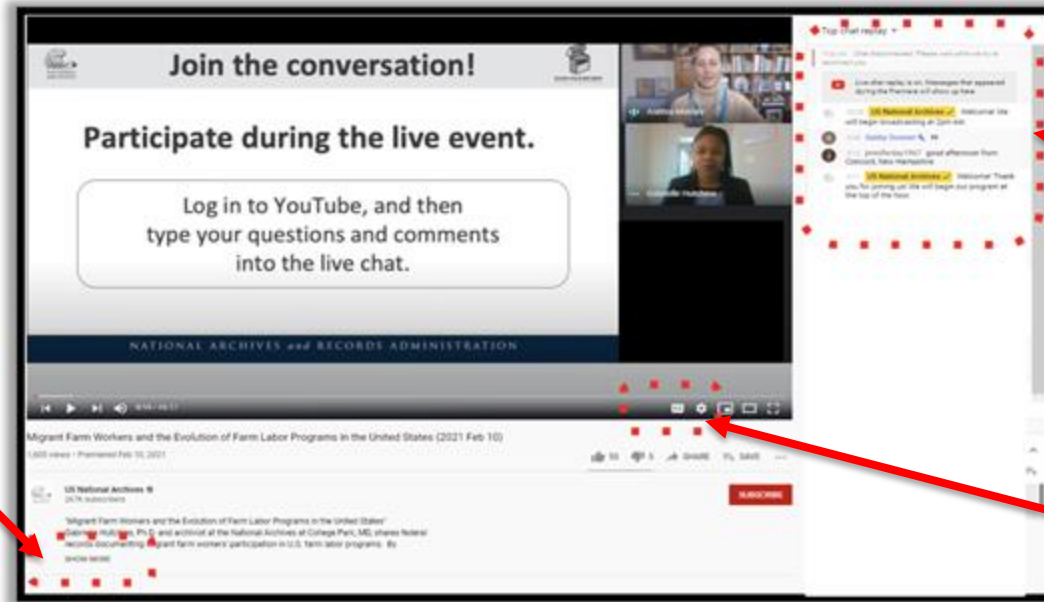
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Session Overview

Researching Court-Martial Records at the National Archives at St. Louis

Courts-martial are trials convened to try members of the armed forces or other countries' prisoners of war (POWs). Records of these trials can cover cases ranging from petty theft to conscientious objection to murder. Our presenters will give a history of court-martial records, examples of record content found at the National Archives at St. Louis, and step-by-step guidance on requesting these publicly available records.

Presenter Biographies



Kayla Dawkins

Kayla Dawkins (she/her) is a reference archives specialist for the National Archives at St. Louis, where she has been employed for eight years. She has a bachelor of arts in English Language and Literature from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville as well as a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Presenter Biographies



Kat Terry

Katherine Terry (Kat, she/her) is an archives technician with the National Archives at St. Louis. Starting at the National Archives in 2015, Kat joined Archival Reference in 2020. Her current work involves providing access to the individual personnel records for civilian employees of the federal government and former military. She holds a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in political science with a specialization in international affairs, and a minor in museum studies.



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Researching Court-Martial Records at the National Archives at St. Louis

Kayla Dawkins

Reference Archives Specialist

National Archives at St. Louis

Katherine Terry

Reference Archives Technician

National Archives at St. Louis

History and Provenance

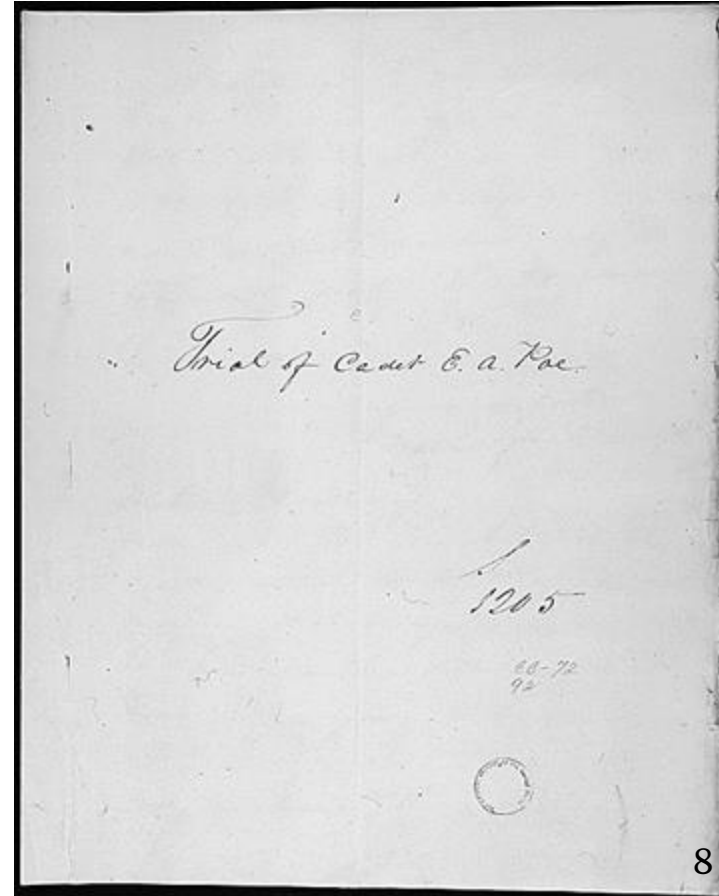
The Beginning

In April 1775, the Provisional Congress of Massachusetts Bay adopted the 1774 British Articles of War, which gave instructions for conducting courts-martial and for otherwise maintaining military discipline. This was the American military's first written military code, the Massachusetts Articles of War. This code laid out two military courts: a "general" court-martial and a "regimental" court-martial (used for ranks other than commissioned officers who were charged with lesser offenses).

Where Are They Now?

- Starting in 2013, many Army, Navy, and Marine Corps records of courts-martial were accessioned by the National Archives at St. Louis, the destination location for most record collections related to military or civilian federal service
- Record series like this can now be used to supplement information that was lost in [the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center](#)
- Locations of court-martial records not in St. Louis can be found in the handout

Record Group 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army);
Series: Court Martial Case Files
National Archives at Washington, DC - Textual Reference
National Archives Identifier (NAID): [301660](#)



Types of Court-Martial Records

- **Summary Courts-Martial**
 - For minor offenses, convictions not treated as criminal convictions by civil jurisdictions
 - Highest level of punishment = 30 days confinement, reduction in rank, forfeiture of fraction of pay for a month

- **Special Courts-Martial**
 - Equivalent to a misdemeanor state court conviction (petty theft, possession of drugs or controlled substances, vandalism, intoxication, etc.)
 - Highest level of punishment = Bad Conduct Discharge and one year of confinement
 - Special Court-Martial records that did not result in a bad conduct discharge are not considered permanent records

- **General Courts-Martial**
 - Highest level of trial court; equivalent to felony in a federal district court or state criminal trial court
 - Charges brought by an officer “convening authority” (prosecution)
 - Charges are prosecuted by a judge advocate “trial counsel” (defense)
 - Consists of 5 jurors (12 if the death penalty is a mandatory sentence)
 - Cases of the highest offenses (murder, sexual assault, threat to national security)
 - Highest levels of punishment = life in confinement, forfeiture of pay and allowances, dishonorable discharge,

Arrangement and Description

- Court-martial records are filed sequentially by case number
- The index cards are arranged alphabetically and can contain variable amounts of identifying information including: service number, unit, court-martial case number, date of court-martial trial, appeal dates, and sentencing information

COMM: PFC/IC 008679	NAME OF ACCUSED TOBIN, Francis L.	2 of 8 of 1
	DATE OF BIRTH	SERVICE NUMBER 1115514
COURT-MARTIAL CONTROL CARD - NAVJAG-422		<input type="checkbox"/> NAVY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARINE
CHARGE(S)		FINDING(S)
LARCENY & WINGPL APPRO (UCMJ, ART 121) Spec. \$900.00		G E
SENTENCE BCD, conf/hl/9mos, forf \$40/mo/9mos, red to FVT.		
PLACE OF TRIAL USMRS, Washington, D. C.		TYPE OF COURT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCM <input type="checkbox"/> SPCH <input type="checkbox"/> TCM
DATE OF BIRTH	SERVICE OR SERIAL NO. 1115514	DATE RECEIVED 1/25/54
NAME TOBIN, Francis L.	BRANCH BR-1BR-2BR-3BR-4BR-5BR-6BR-7	DATE OF TRIAL 12/21/53

1377846	1304133	FLEMING HARRY
ARMY SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	A-52-57
75 COL 201546 ARND DIV	ORGANIZATION	CGM OR SPCH ORDER
AW CF OFFENSE	AW CF OFFENSE	AW CF OFFENSE
1343	A203	
SENTENCE	COMPONENT	FINE OR FORFEITURE
1		

NAME OF ACCUSED LIVINGSTON, Willard Keith	DATE OF BIRTH 8/8/55	DOCKET NO. SCM55 04193
SERVICE NO. 302 21 15	DATE RECEIVED 8/8/55	DATE OF TRIAL 6/2/55
COURT-MARTIAL CONTROL RECORD (ADC CONTROL) NAVJAG-476 (1-34)		
BOARD OF REVIEW CASE	COURT OF MILITARY APPEALS CASE	
DATE REC'D IN BIC 8/19/55	PETITION HUMPHREY	DATE 8/19/55
DATE OUT 8/19/55	EXTENSION	DATE RECEIVED
DATE BLVD. TO S. S.	DATE LONG HEARING	LONG OPINION
OTHER APPEALS, MOTIONS, OR FURTHER PROCEEDINGS (Collapsing on Reverse)		
2es	Promulgated 9/14/55	
AC	17 AUG 1955	
sh	Finish File	

TAC Det SCU 1127		(Organization)
a. c. m. o. 272	First Service Command	1945
C. M. Record No.		
278502		
APR - 6 1945		
Registered by J. A. G. O.		
OVER		
W. D. J. A. G. Form No. 9	INDEX TO RECORD OF TRIAL BY GENERAL COURT MARTIAL	SPD 2-5433



Research Services

Arrangement and Description (cont.)

Important Takeaway for Any Researcher

Court-martial records can only be searched by:

1. Court-martial number
2. Defendant's name
3. Depending on service branch, additional information may be required

Without this information, we *cannot* locate the file.

COMM: PFC:0		NAME OF ACCUSED TOBIN, Francis L.		2 of 8 81	
008679		DATE OF BIRTH	SERVICE NUMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARINE
CPL		1115514			
COURT-MARTIAL CONTROL CARD - NAVJAG-422					
CHARGE(S)		PLEA(S)		FINDING(S)	
LARCENY & WINGPL APPRO (UCMJ, ART 121) Spec. \$700.00		G E		G E	
<p>SENTENCE BCD, conf/hl/9mos, forf \$40/mo/9mos, red to FVT.</p> <p>CLONKNEY</p>					
PLACE OF TRIAL USMRS, Washington, D. C.		TYPE OF COURT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCM <input type="checkbox"/> SPCH <input type="checkbox"/> TUCM			
DATE OF BIRTH	SERVICE OR SERIAL NO.	SERVICE	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF TRIAL	
CPL	1115514	AVMC	1/25/54	12/21/53	
NAME TOBIN, Francis L.		BR-1BR-2BR-3BR-4BR-5BR-6BR-7 I II III IV M			

1377846		1304133		FLEMING HARRY	
SCM OR SPCH RECORD NO.		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER		NAME	
75		201546		A-52-57	
AGE		RANK		ORGANIZATION	
75		COL		ARND DIV	
DATE REG. BY JAG		COM OR SPCH ORDER			
1343		A203			
SENTENCE		COMPONENT		FINE OR FORFEITURE	
1		1		C 51815402154	

NAME OF ACCUSED LIVINGSTON, Willard Keith		DATE OF BIRTH	DOCKET NO.
SA		8/19/55	SCM55 04193
SERVICE NO.		DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF TRIAL
302 21 15		8/19/55	6/19/55
COURT-MARTIAL CONTROL RECORD (ADC CONTROL) NAVJAG-476 (19-34)			
BOARD OF REVIEW CASE		COURT OF MILITARY APPEALS CASE	
DATE REC'D IN FILE	COUNCIL REVISIONS	PETITION DATE	DERIVED DATE
8/19/55	HUMPHREY	8/19/55	8/19/55
DATE OUT	EXTENSION	DATE REPLY DUE	EXTENSION
8/19/55			
ADC BRIEF	DATE FILED TO COM	DATE LONG HEARING	LONG OPINION
OTHER APPEALS, MOTIONS, OR FURTHER PROCEEDINGS (Check as Applicable)			
2es		Promulgated 9/14/55	
AC		17 AUG 1955	
sh		Finish File	

TAC Det SCU 1127		(Organization)
a. c. m. o. 272		First Service Command
		1945
C. M. Record No.		
278502		
APR - 6 1945		
Registered by J. A. G. O.		
OVER		
INDEX TO		
W. D. J. A. G. RECORD OF TRIAL BY GENERAL COURT MARTIAL		
Form No. 9		

Types of Court-Martial Records

- Army/Air Force General and Special Court-Martial Records (1917–1938)
- Army/Air Force General Records (1939–1976)
 - Army/Air Force Special Court-Martial Records with Bad Conduct Discharges (1939–1976)
- Navy and Marine Corps General and Special Court-Martial Records (1951–1976)



Army/Air Force General and Special Court-Martial Records (1917–1938)

- Record Group (RG) 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army)
- National Archives Identifier (NAID): [5916929](#)
- This series contains records of general court-martial, courts of inquiry, and military commissions
- **What can be found in a court-martial record?**
 - Documents describing the organization and personnel of the courts
 - Charges, pleas, and arraignments of defendants
 - Witness statements and exhibits submitted for consideration of the courts
 - Transcripts of proceedings, findings, and sentences of the courts
 - Reports of the reviewing authorities, statements of action, and related correspondence

Army/Air Force General and Special Court-Martial Records (1939–1976)

- RG 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army)
- NAID: [12459579](#)
- *All* general courts-martial and *only* special courts-martial resulting in bad conduct discharge
- **Appeals**
 - Guilty verdicts may be contested through a military court of appeals
 - The appeals proceedings and results are included in the court-martial (unless specified under a new court-martial number)
 - May have resulted in a change of character of discharge, but still worth a search



Navy and Marine Corps General and Special Court-Martial Records (1951–1976)

Request for Immediate Execution of the
 [Name] discharge adjudged
 [Rank/Grade] by special court-
 martial convened by [Judge/Officer]
 [Branch/Service] (Judge/Officer)
 [Branch/Service] (Judge/Officer)
 [Branch/Service] (Judge/Officer)
 [Branch/Service] (Judge/Officer)
 [Branch/Service] (Judge/Officer)

1. I, the undersigned, the accused in the above captioned case, hereby request the immediate execution of the above described discharge and my release from the naval service.

2. I received a copy of the decision of the Board of Review in my case on [Date].

3. I have had fully explained to me and I understand my right, under Article 67(c) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, to petition the United States Court of Military Appeals for a grant of review within thirty days from the date I received my copy of the decision of the Board of Review.

4. I do not know an appeal pending before the United States Court of Military Appeals at this time, nor do I now intend to appeal, however, I understand that if this request is granted, it will not affect my right to appeal if I later change my mind and decide to appeal.

5. I have discussed this matter with [Name, Rank, Service Branch] [Name, Rank, Service Branch] counsel of my own choice.

[Signature]
 [Name, Rank, Service Branch]

1. The undersigned officer of the rank, file number, and branch of service below stated, verify that the above named accused personally appeared before me this [Date] day of [Month], [Year], at Marine Barracks, U. S. Naval Station, Treasure Island, San Francisco, California. I explained to him his right, under Article 67(c) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, to petition the United States Court of Military Appeals for a grant of review and I read aloud to him the foregoing request and he thereupon signed the same in my presence and acknowledged that he did so as his free and voluntary act.

[Signature]
 [Name, Rank, File Number, Branch of Service]

ENCLOSURE (7)

- RG 125: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Navy)
- NAID: [38982845](https://www.archives.gov/naid/38982845)
- This series contains records of general court-martial, special court-martial resulting in bad conduct discharges, courts of inquiry, and military commissions for both the Navy and Marine Corps
- In most ways similar to the series of records kept by the U.S. Army
- It is worthwhile to know the following information when making a request:
 - Year
 - Location
 - Or unit, which may be used to determine location



Research Services

Court-Martial Records Not Located at the National Archives at St. Louis

170868
RESERVE

NAME: Dave
BORN: 17 October 1890
AT: Buckhart, Mo.
NEXT OF KIN: Eddie Lawson-BRYNER
Buckhart, Mo.
APPLIED: December 2, 1926
AT: Atlanta, Ga.
ENLISTED: December 2, 1926
AT: Atlanta, Ga.

26 Aug 18-20 Aug 26-USD-REGIMENT
24 Nov 18-20 Nov 20-USD-REGIMENT
24 Nov 20-26 Nov 22-USD-VIRY GOOD
21 Nov 22-24 Nov 26-USD-VIRY GOOD
25.252. Newport, S.I. Dec 2, 1926

U.S. ARMY NO 6 ...
"Stealing civilian clothes"
Possession of Market of another
A.O.L. 100 ...
S.O.W. APPROV 16 ...
ALL AT 4 hrs
Discharge

NOV 17 1926

San Diego, Calif.

RECORD OF COURTS-MARTIAL LOSS OF PAY, UNDER ARTICLE 45B, N. L. 1915.

U.S. ARMY NO.	DATE OF APPROVAL	LOSS OF PAY AMOUNT	APPROVED OFFICER	MONTHS FORGIVEN	PAY DUE ON OTHER ACCOUNTS	REMARKS	DATE OF APPROVAL	LOSS OF PAY AMOUNT	APPROVED OFFICER	MONTHS FORGIVEN	PAY DUE ON OTHER ACCOUNTS	REMARKS
D.C.	Aug 27 1926	4.17	Aug 27		75.00	San Diego, Calif.	10/29/26	10.00	10/29		San Diego, Calif.	A
D.C.	Aug 27 1926	5.00	Aug 27		75.00	San Diego, Calif.	10/29/26	10.00	10/29		San Diego, Calif.	A
D.C.	Aug 27 1926	5.00	Aug 27		75.00	San Diego, Calif.	10/29/26	10.00	10/29		San Diego, Calif.	A
	May 1 1927	20.00	7.67	May 11		San Diego, Calif.						C
	May 1 1927	20.00	12.00	July 15		San Diego, Calif.						C
	May 1 1927	30.00	10.00	July 15		San Diego, Calif.						C
		30.00	6.33	Nov 15		San Diego, Calif.						D
		30.10	.67	Nov 15		San Diego, Calif.						D
S.C.M.	17 Aug 24	40.00	4.67	Aug 29		San Diego, Calif.						E
S.C.M.	17 Aug 24	40.00	10.00	Sept 29		San Diego, Calif.						E

170868

TO THE ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR,
U. S. MARINE CORPS, HEADQUARTERS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECK COURT MEMORANDUM

Company [75 Co. 1 Bn. 5th Regt.
Post or ship] Name: LAWSON, Dave
Rank: Private
Date of enlistment: 9 December, 1926
Date of trial: 8 August, 1927
On or about 4 Aug. 1927, did
Offense: wrongfully, unlawfully and
without proper authority, have in
his possession one blanket, the
property of one Edward Selmer,
Cpl. USMC, this is violation of
Finding: Art. 122 (3) M.C.
and specification not
Sentence: PROVED.
Acquitted.

Approved by: C.A. 9 August, 1927.
Approved by: [Signature]
[Signature]

This specimen of what records which involve deck
courts-martial, etc., are not located at the
National Archives at St. Louis, and are
being held at the National Archives at
San Diego, California.

(Sig.) Louis O'Connell
Louis O'Connell
Captain, U.S. M.C.
Commanding 25th Co.
U.S. M.C. 510-141

- Special courts-martial not resulting in bad conduct discharge
- Summary courts-martial
- Deck courts-martial

Record Group 127: Records of the U.S. Marine Corps;
Series: Official Military Personnel Files, 1905-1998;
Lawson, Dave, Service Number 000170868
National Archives at St. Louis

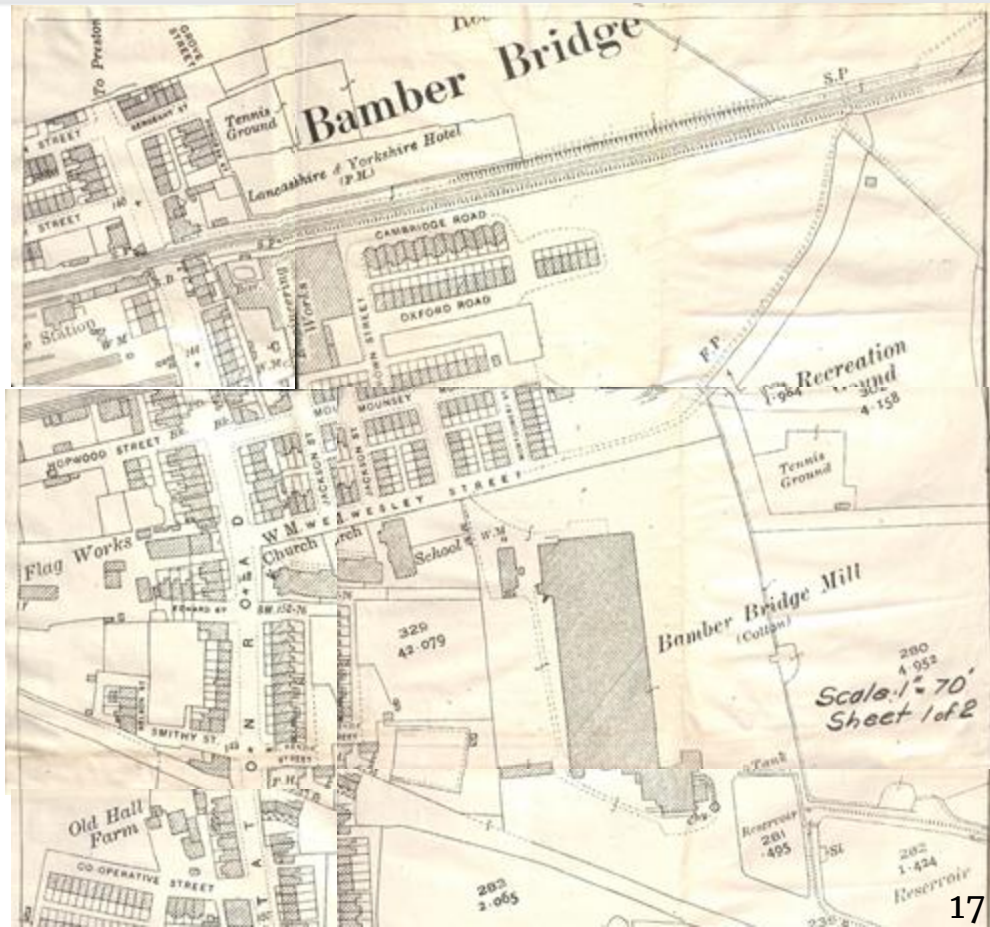
The Battle of Bamber Bridge

On June 24, 1943, Pvt. Eugene Nunn stopped by a popular local pub in Bamber Bridge, England, wearing his field uniform. A Black man, Private Nunn was stopped by two white officers who attempted to rebuke him for not wearing his dress uniform. White locals and Black soldiers stepped in to defend Private Nunn. After a beer bottle was thrown, the officers promised to return with reinforcements.

They did—and by the morning of June 25, at least 400 shots had been fired, and one Pvt. William Crossland was dead.

Record Group 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army); Series: Army General Court-Martial Records of Trial;

NAID: [290085122](#), [290085135](#)





Research
Services

Jackie Robinson

Library of Congress, LC-00048



In July of 1944, Robinson was taken into custody by Military Police after refusing to move to the back of an Army bus.

After Robinson's commander refused to authorize the legal action, he was transferred to a new unit where the commander quickly consented to charges.

Court-martial convened in August 1944, after charges against Robinson had been reduced to two counts of insubordination during questioning.

Robinson was acquitted by an all-white panel of nine Officers. After his acquittal, he was transferred to Camp Breckinridge, KY, where he served as a coach for Army athletics until receiving an honorable discharge in November 1944.

Jackie Robinson's Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) is also available digitally in the Catalog under NAID: [57308498](#).

Statement of 2d Lt JACK E. BISHOP, O-10116 Company B, 701st Tank Battalion, Camp Hood, Texas, taken in the Military Police Detachment, Camp Hood, Texas, 20th July 1944, after having been the 14th Major, Assistant Provost Marshal, Camp Hood, Texas and after having been duly sworn by CAPTAIN GEORGE W. BISHOP, to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth:

I left McAllister General Hospital, Temple, Texas, about 1730, 6 July 1944, and went to Temple, Texas on the City Bus. I got on another bus and went out to the Officers Club, Camp Hood, Texas, the address of which is 12042 Street. I arrived there at approximately 1915. I was in the bus for sometime. While in the bus I saw Captain Mahoney, Lt. Louis, Captain BRECKINRIDGE and Captain White.

I remained at the Officers Club until approximately 23 hours later. At approximately 2300 I got on the bus at 17200 Street and Detachment, I believe, just outside the colored officers club. I got on the Camp Hood bus. I entered at the front of the bus and moved toward the rear and saw a colored girl sitting in a seat at the middle of the bus. I sat down beside the girl. I knew this girl before. Her name is Mrs. Jones. I don't know her first name. She's an officer's wife or nurse on the post. I sat down there and we were approximately five or six blocks on the bus and the bus driver turned around and told me to move to the rear which I did not do. He said he said if I don't move to the rear he will make trouble for me when we get to the bus station, and I told him that was up to him, that if he wanted to make trouble for me that was up to him. Then we got to the bus station a lady got off the bus before I got off, and she told me that she is going to make charges against me. That was a white lady. And I said that's all right, too. I don't know if she prefers charges against me. The bus driver asked me for identification papers. I refused to give my identification papers. He said that was all right, but he said that he was going to take me to the hospital and told the people that he was taking me to the hospital and told the people that he was taking me to the hospital. I told the bus driver to stop making trouble for me, so he got the rest of the men around there and started talking to him and some of the men. Outside of telling this lady that I didn't care if she preferred charges against me or not. I don't know if they were around or not, sir, I was speaking direct to the bus driver, and just as I told the captain, including Captain BISHOP, (Camp Officer of the Day) if any one of you called on a nigger I would be the same thing, especially from a general or anybody else. I would call him the same thing. I told him, I'm just using a general, sir general, if anybody calls me a nigger, I don't know the definition of it. That's just the way I would call you something you don't know what is. The colored girl was going to Selton, her name, and she got off the bus like I got off. The only time I made any statement was when this fellow called me a nigger. I didn't have any loud or boisterous conversation. That's the only conversation I had on the bus. I don't know if the record by Captain BISHOP that was vulgar and vile language is. Robinson said: That's vulgar, it is, that's vile language. I would like to see that statement. The private over is that new? Did he call me a private, your name is the name I didn't know I would have the name. (The private referred to was later called to the 1st Cavalry Group and identified as being 1st Sgt. BISHOP, O-10116, Company B, 701st Tank Battalion, Camp Hood, Texas.)

1st Lt. JACK E. BISHOP, O-10116
2d Lt. GEORGE W. BISHOP, O-10116
Company B, 701st Tank Battalion,
Camp Hood, Texas.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of July 1944.

1st Lt. GEORGE W. BISHOP,
CAPTAIN, GMP
Summary Court.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:
Major G. W. Bishop
Major G. W. Bishop
Major G. W. Bishop

RECORD OF TRIAL
(Printed)

of _____
of _____

General Court-Martial
Appointed by the Commanding Officer

Headquarters, 701st Tank Battalion
Camp Hood, Texas

2 August 1944

1st Lt. JACK E. ROBINSON,
O-10116, Cavalry, Company C,
701st Tank Battalion.

Present Age: 25 1/2 years.
Commissioned: 28 Jan 1943.

CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS

CHARGE I: Violation of AF 43.
Specification: Behaving with disrespect toward Capt Gerald M. Bear, CPT, his superior officer.

CHARGE II: Violation of AF 44.
Specification: Willful disobedience of lawful command of Capt Gerald M. Bear, CPT, his superior officer.

An examination of the record of trial discloses that legally constituted and had jurisdiction of the person and the issues presented were issues of fact. The court, as trier of fact that accused was not guilty of the offenses charged or of not included therein. While the basis for this conclusion is not stated, the determination of disputed fact issues is peculiar province of the court, whose members had the opportunity to be to observe their demeanor on the witness stand, and to attach the evidence as it deemed proper.

The record is legally sufficient to support the finding. No action by the reviewing authority is required. The result will be promulgated in general court martial.

Attached to the record is a certificate of mailing of the record by the Trial Judge Advocate. Accused, not being a native, mailing was the only practical method of serving the

1st Lt. GEORGE W. BISHOP,
CAPTAIN, GMP
Summary Court.

HEADQUARTERS 701ST TANK BATTALION

1st Lt. JACK E. ROBINSON,
O-10116, Cavalry, Company C,
701st Tank Battalion.

Present Age: 25 1/2 years.
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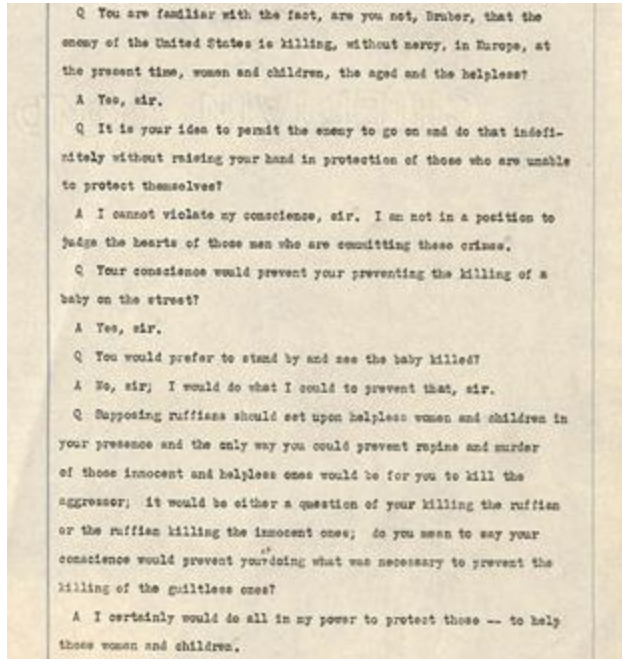
Attached to the record is a certificate of mailing of the record by the Trial Judge Advocate. Accused, not being a native, mailing was the only practical method of serving the

1st Lt. GEORGE W. BISHOP,
CAPTAIN, GMP
Summary Court.

Record Group 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army); Series: Army General Court-Martial Records of Trial; NAID: [362767956](#)

Harold E. Bruber, Conscientious Objector

Private Harold E. Bruber, a member of Army Co. F, 352nd Infantry, was charged in January 1918 with desertion. Pvt. Bruber pleaded Not Guilty on grounds of being a conscientious objector. He was sentenced



Record Group 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army); Series: Army General Court-Martial Records of Trial; Bruber, Harold E. CM #108735

to 15 years for desertion, but his sentence was reduced after a board of inquiry was convened to look into dozens of convicted conscientious objectors.

Record Group 129: Records of the Bureau of Prisons; Series: Inmate Case Files; NAID: [83859327](#)





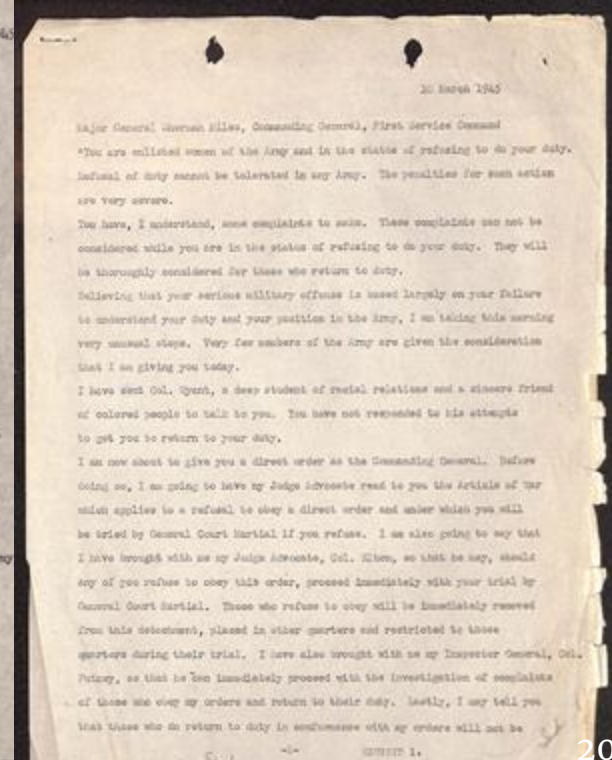
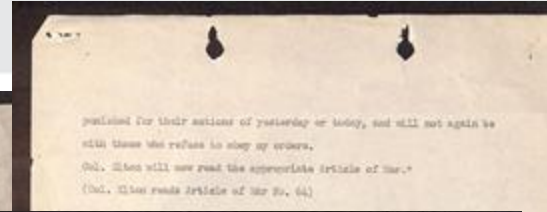
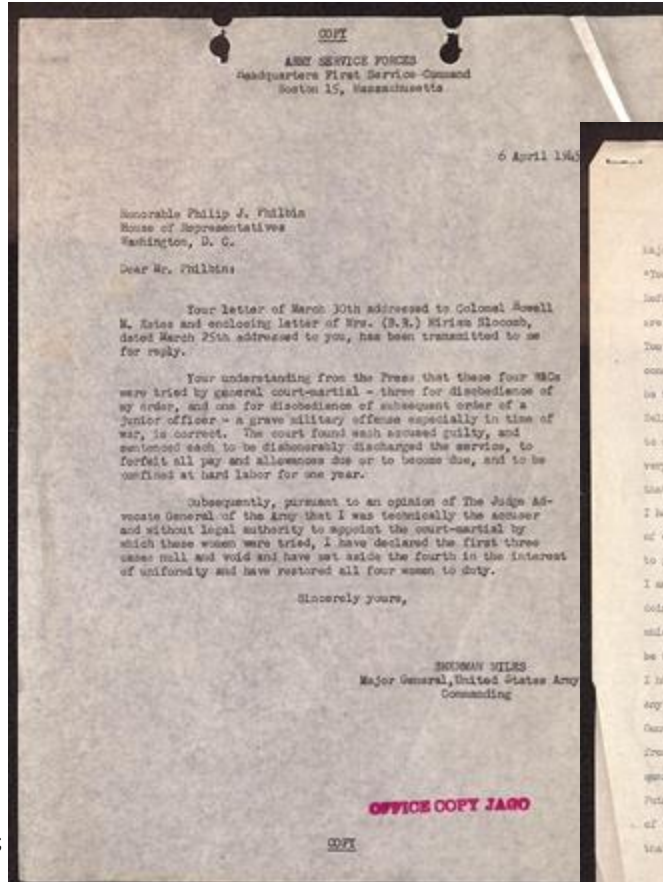
Research
Services

The Black Women's Army Corps (WAC) Strike at Fort Devens, 1945

On March 9, the WAC detachment at Fort Devens staged a walkout. Their commanding officers threatened them with court-martial for insubordination. Fifty of them decided to return to work, but four others—Privates Anna Morrison, Mary Green, Alice Young, and Johnnie Murphy—refused.

They were tried by court-martial on March 19, 1945, and all were found guilty of insubordination. It was a “grave military offense” according to Major General Sherman Miles.

Record Group 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army); Series: Army General Court-Martial Records of Trial; Young, Alice; Morrison, Anna; Green, Mary; Murphy, Johnnie, CM #278502





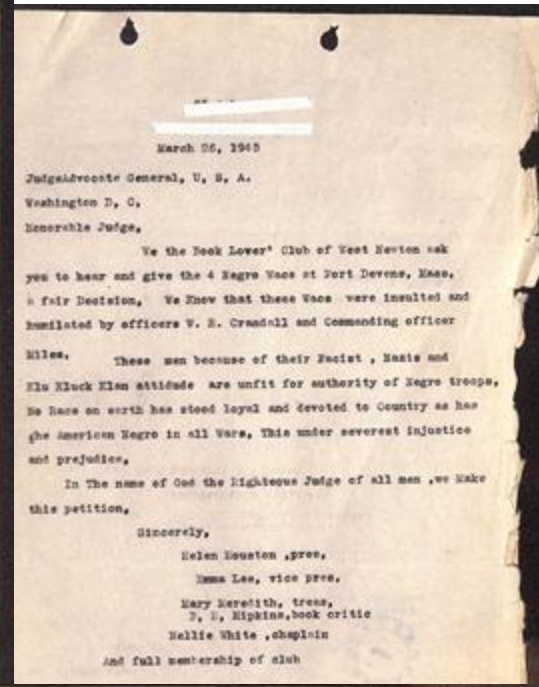
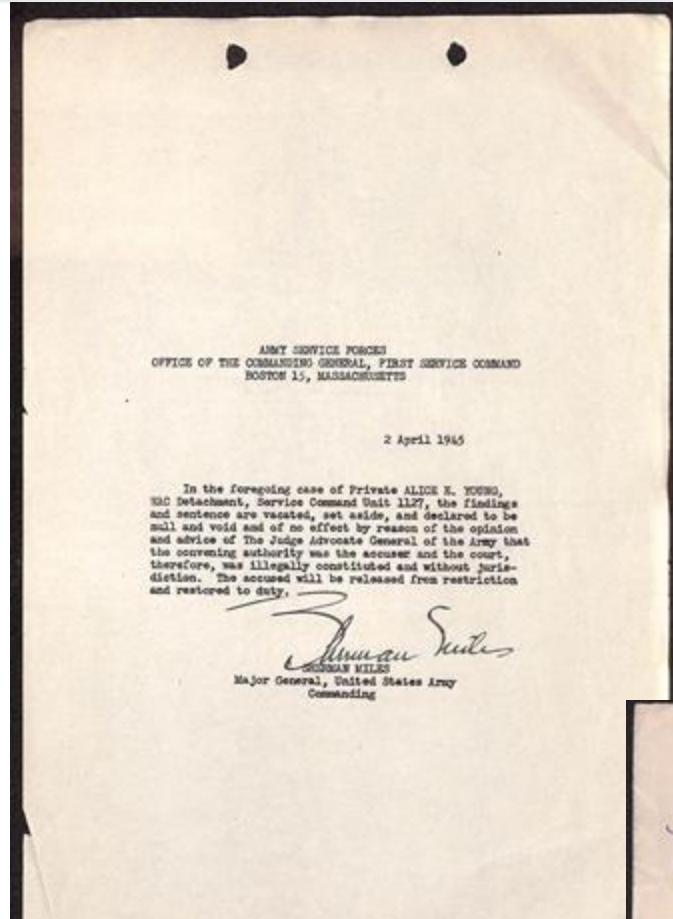
The Black Women's Army Corps (WAC) Strike at Fort Devens, 1945 (cont.)

Their story made national news, and family, friends, and strangers rallied to the women's defense.

Anxious to calm the storm, the Judge Advocate General of the Army decided to dismiss the charges against the women and revoke their sentences.

“...the convening authority was the accuser and without jurisdiction.”

Record Group 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army); Series: Army General Court-Martial Records of Trial; Young, Alice; Morrison, Anna; Green, Mary; Murphy, Johnnie, CM #278502



Lothar Witzke, German Spy

Lothar Witzke (alias: Pablo Waberski) was a German Naval officer who became a spy for the Secret Service System of the Imperial German Government during World War I.

After his Naval warship was caught and sunk, he was interned in Chile but escaped in 1916. Under an assumed name he succeeded in reaching the U.S., where the German Consul General put him in touch with a leading spy based in Mexico, Kurt Jahnke.

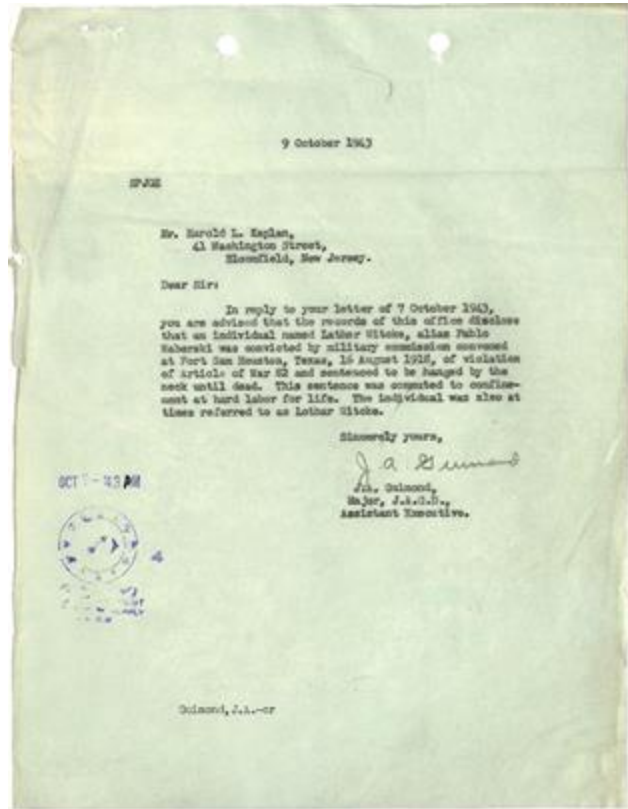
Together, Jahnke and Witzke were suspected of scheming attacks on the U.S. and of being responsible for several explosions at munitions plants and fomenting labor strikes.

Witzke was arrested at the Mexican border in 1918. He claimed to be the Russian-American "Pablo Waberski" returning to San Francisco.

A cryptogram was cracked to reveal his true identity.



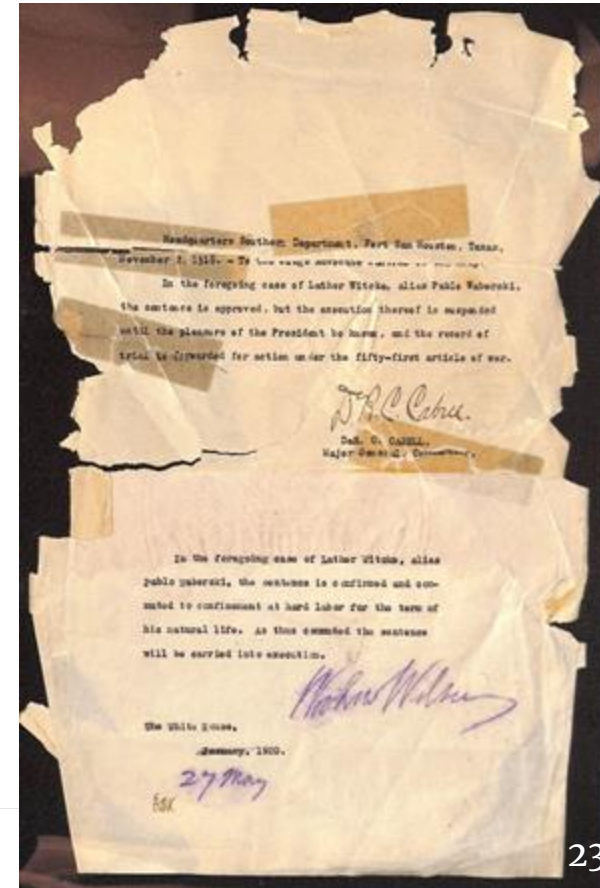
Lothar Witzke, German Spy (cont.)



Witzke was convicted by a military court at Fort Sam Houston and sentenced to death.

President Woodrow Wilson commuted Witzke's death sentence to life imprisonment.

Ultimately, he was released with the Armistice of November 11, 1918, and deported back to Berlin.



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- Date of court-martial
- Location of court-martial
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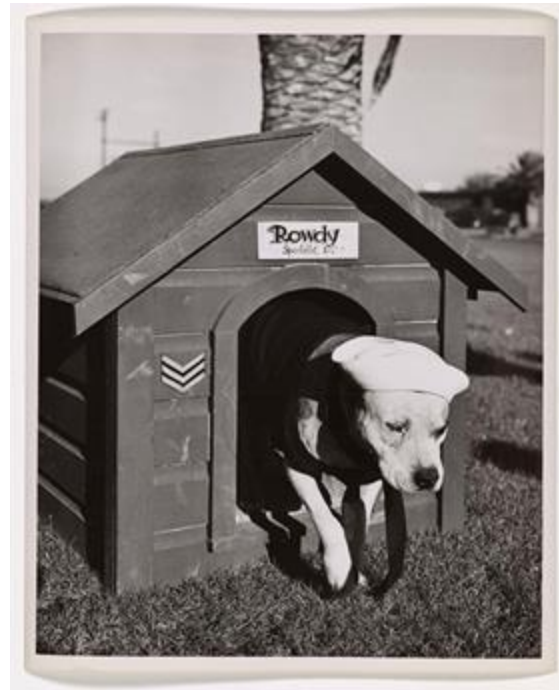
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Questions?



“Wearing a ‘sad sack’ expression, ‘Rowdy’ heads for his court martial at the San Diego, Calif., U.S. Coast Guard patrol Base. For being AWOL three hours while on sentry duty the Coast guard pooch was demoted from first class to second class specialist, lost extra rations, and given time in the brig. Tender hearts caused restoration of his first class rating the following day.”

Record Group 26: Records of the U.S. Coast Guard
Series: Photographs of Activities, Facilities, and Personalities
National Archives at College Park - Still Pictures
NAID: [205582937](https://www.foia.gov/205582937)



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