

MILITARY COLLECTION MISSION

“Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men.”

—George S. Patton, *Cavalry Journal* (Sept. 1933)

The mission of the Military Collection of the State Archives of North Carolina is to document and preserve records detailing the state of North Carolina’s rich military history, from the state’s period as a British colony in the seventeenth century to the present day.

The Military Collection collects, arranges, describes, preserves, and makes accessible to the public historical materials that document the history and development of North Carolina’s military history for all military conflicts involving its citizens, residents, and enlisted military personnel in North Carolina.

As the largest collection of records detailing North Carolina’s military heritage in the country, the State Archives’ Military Collection works to ensure the state’s citizens a professionally-curated research collection of military history; to support public and educational programming; scholarly and student research; and the public interest in relation to the mission of the State Archives of North Carolina.

The Military Collection’s primary focus is collecting original historical materials concerning the military history of the people and events occurring or involving the state of North Carolina (and, prior to its statehood, the North Carolina colony). Original historic materials offer unique insights into the life and experiences of their owners, especially regarding materials from military servicemen and servicewomen.



Portrait of Lt. Thomas J. Bullock of Henderson, N.C. Bullock was killed in action on September 2, 1918, in France (WWI 14.B7.F80.1)

Military Veterans Oral History Program

A major component of the Military Collection is the operation of a continuous oral history program to interview North Carolina military veterans about their service in military conflicts of the twentieth century up to the present day. The goal of this program is to provide primary accounts of the state’s servicemen and servicewomen’s experience in military combat and general military service, to benefit the public, students, and scholars.

The Military Collection Archivist coordinates a statewide program to interview veterans who served from or live in North Carolina, or who were stationed at North Carolina military installations for extended periods.

FORMS OF MATERIALS COLLECTED BY THE MILITARY COLLECTION

The Military Collection at the State Archives has within its collections and has the ability to responsibly store, manage, and provide access to historical materials dealing with the military history of North Carolinians, which are in the following media and informational formats:

- ◆ Personal papers: including letters, service records, military paperwork, and personal memories and reminiscences of service
- ◆ Photographs, negatives, and slides picturing soldiers, military camps, military combat, peacetime military service, home front activities, and military-related events and movements
- ◆ Military training manuals
- ◆ Moving images: containing original military-related content and war-time home front activities
- ◆ Posters: local, state, and national recruitment posters; military propaganda posters; veterans’ affairs advocacy posters; etc.
- ◆ Maps, architectural drawings, and engineering drawings related to military installations, military vehicles, and defense structures
- ◆ Born-digital materials (documents and audiovisual materials)
- ◆ Select published materials
- ◆ Other assorted paper documents
- ◆ Veterans oral history interviews