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KNOW YOUR RECORDS
National Archives and Records Administration

Welcome!

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

THE KNOW YOUR RECORDS PROGRAM
provides information on how to access and
conduct research using U.S. federal
government records held at the National
Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records

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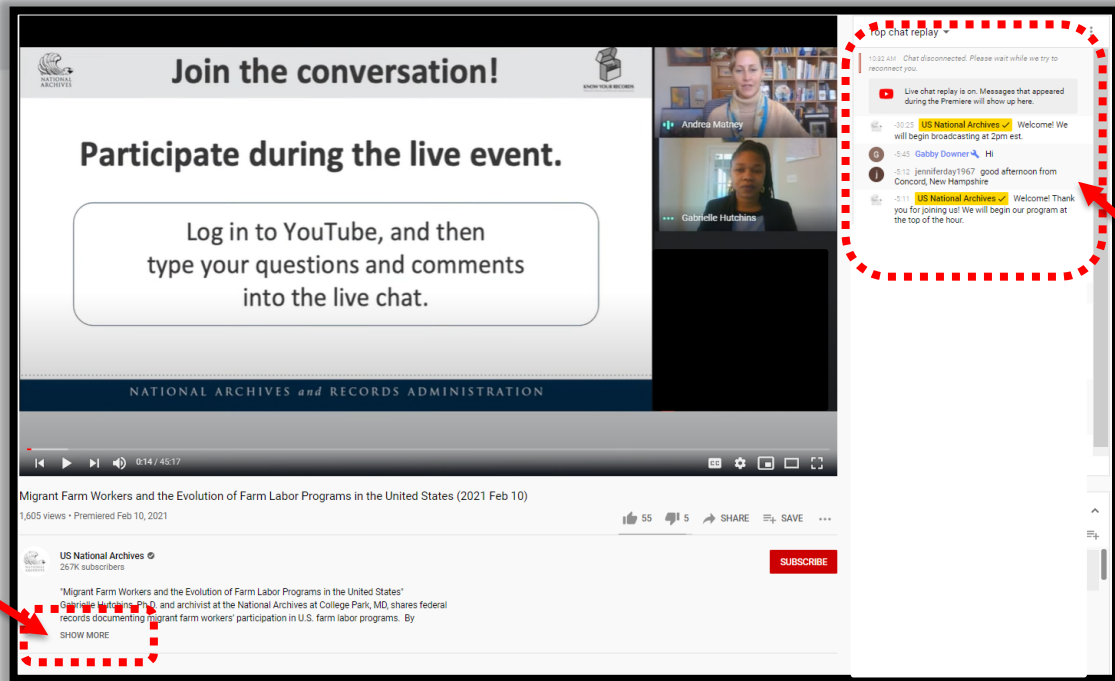
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Instructions



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NATIONAL ARCHIVES and RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Migrant Farm Workers and the Evolution of Farm Labor Programs in the United States (2021 Feb 10)

1,605 views • Premiered Feb 10, 2021

US National Archives 257K subscribers

"Migrant Farm Workers and the Evolution of Farm Labor Programs in the United States"

Archivist at the National Archives at College Park, MD, shares federal records documenting migrant farm workers' participation in U.S. farm labor programs. By

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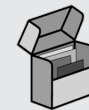
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**Video and presentation materials
remain available after the premiere date.**



Sound Recordings of World War II



You have probably seen famous newsreel footage of World War II (WWII) held at the National Archives. But have you heard the audio recordings? For many contemporary people, news of the war was primarily a listening experience. Breaking news, radio dramas, speeches, and music reached the ears of the civilian and soldier alike. This presentation explores WWII audio holdings of the National Archives Moving Image and Sound Branch.

Presenter's Biography



Ashley S. Behringer
Archivist

Ashley S. Behringer has worked at the National Archives since 2016. She is an archivist in the Moving Image and Sound Branch (RRSM). Before that, she worked as a contractor for the National Park Service processing textual, photographic, and film materials. She holds an M.L.S. and M.A. in history from the University of Maryland.



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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Sound Recordings of World War II

AUGUST 10, 2023



Ashley S. Behringer, Archivist
Moving Image and Sound Branch (RRSM)
College Park, MD

Unique Aspects of RRSM

- We do not serve original recordings in the research room. Each recording has a least one preservation copy (P) and, as needed, we make intermediate (I) and reference (R) copies
- Copies used for:
 - P: long-term preservation. May or may not be the original format received from the agency, as not all analog media are suitable for long-term preservation.
 - I: duplication, for example, digitization in our audio lab or by a vendor.
 - R: on-site or remote reference. Can be any format, including reel-to-reel tape, audio cassette, CD, or MP3.

Unique Aspects of RRSM (continued)

- RRSM maintains more donated materials than many other branches. These include commercial recordings donated by companies that may or may not have transferred rights to the government.
- We describe our holdings on the item level whenever possible. An item may be a single title, regardless of number of reels, or a single reel (asset) containing multiple or partial titles.
- Each item has a local identifier consisting of the following:

Record Group	Series Designator	Item Number
306	FDRa	135

Sound Recording Technologies During WWII

Most of the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA's) World War II audio recordings predate the common use of magnetic tape. They were captured on transcription discs in many formats, including lacquer, metal, and glass. Many were transferred to 1/4" open reel tapes in the 1980s.



Broken glass
disc from ABC-
ABCa

Sound Recording Technologies During WWII

- Some radio broadcasts of the 1940s were on shortwave and could be heard across much greater distances than today's AM and FM stations.
- Many of the foreign radio broadcasts in our holdings were recorded off the airwaves at monitoring stations in the United States using transcription discs.
- The most common form of battlefield radio communication remained Morse code, although the war saw the first deployment of VHF (Very High Frequency) backpack radios that gained the nickname "walkie-talkies."
- Because creating sound recordings in the field was difficult, most of our recordings are formal in some way and include radio programs, speeches, and interrogations.

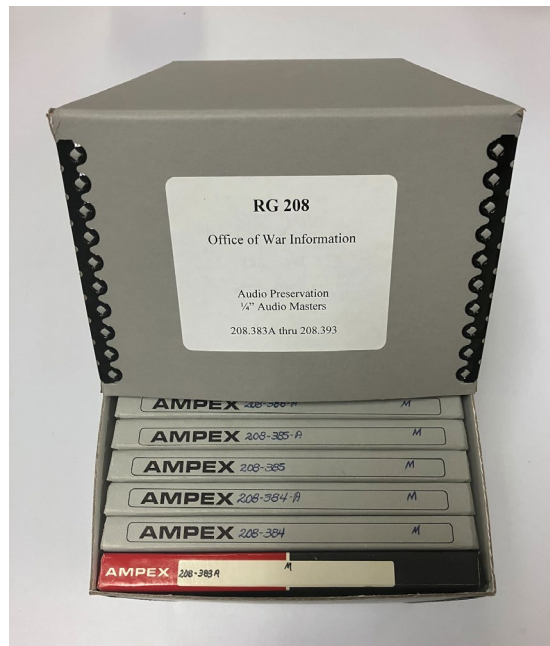


Key Series for Researchers Interested in World War II Audio



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Office of War Information's Sound Recordings Relating to World War II

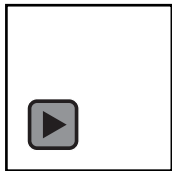


208-GENERALa

- 1,234 titles
- Most are digitized and available online in the National Archives Catalog
- Office of Emergency Management series, such as “Three-Thirds of a Nation,” “You Can’t Do Business with Hitler,” and “Victory Volunteers”
- Speeches, President Roosevelt’s fireside chats, and talks by military personnel

Listening Time

- “Watson Davis Reports on New Electronic Calculator at Harvard University,” c. August 1944
- Local identifier 208.313 – the period stands for GENERALa. Note that we are moving away from the period abbreviation as it can be confusing.
- The small “a” at the end of series designators stands for audio and is used to differentiate moving image and sound series. Use has not historically been consistent so you will find it missing in some Catalog descriptions and file names.



[click to activate]



Voice of America Series

306-FDRa, 306-VJa, 306-VEa, 306-D-DAYa, 306-Ea

- Voice of America (VOA) and the Armed Forces Radio Service both began during WWII. Unfortunately, the production libraries they sent to NARA mostly postdate the war.
- VOA did collect five series of WWII-related materials centered on FDR, VJ-Day, VE-Day, D-Day, and WWII miscellanea.
- The FDR series is the largest at 168 items.



Army General Staff Council's Sound Recordings Relating to World War II Operations

165-GENERALa

This eclectic series of 280 titles includes:

- Radio Luxembourg
- Subject interviews conducted by the Military Intelligence Service
- Woodrum Committee on Compulsory Military Training

This is one of several series in this presentation not described at the item level in the Catalog. Audio preservation binders containing this information can be found in our research room in College Park, MD. Most of the binders have been digitized.

Department of the Interior's Sound Recordings Relating to Conservation, ca. 1939–1946

48-GENERALa

- 805 titles
- As the date range suggests, the area of conservation covered in these recordings is wartime resources, such as metals and rubber.
- The Department also collected radio recordings unrelated to their mission, including morale talks by pilots and army band music.



Still from 306-LSS-1445

Enemies

Sound Recordings of Speeches of Axis Leaders and Other Propaganda Material: 242-GENERALa

- Not itemized in Catalog. Lengthy title listing available in preservation binder
- Italian and German materials collected for war crimes trials, but never introduced as evidence
- See 131-GENERALa for similar Nazi materials seized from the German American Bund

Sound Recordings of Shortwave Broadcasts: 262-GENERALa

- Not itemized in Catalog. Lengthy title listing available in preservation binder
- Italian, German, and Japanese
- Also contains some broadcasts by Americans and Allies



Treason Investigations

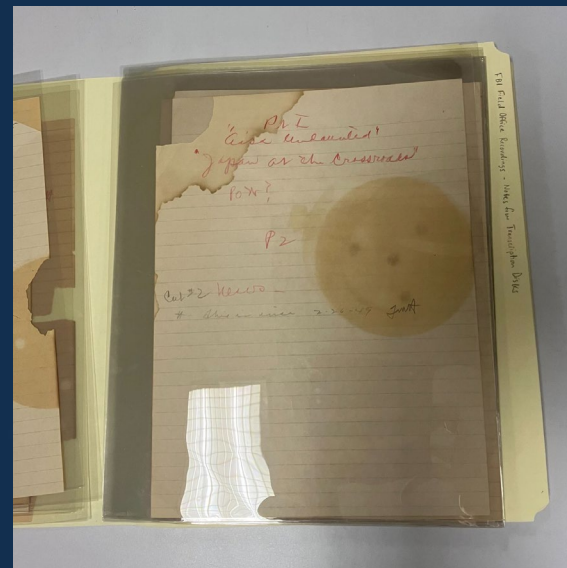
Class 61 (Treason) Recordings of Foreign Radio Broadcasts: 65-TRa and 65-TRFa

- Collected by FBI investigations of Iva Toguri D'Aquino (aka "Tokyo Rose"), John David Provoo, and Herbert Erasmus Moy
- TRFa is considerably larger at 110 titles

Radio Broadcasts Relating to Tokyo Rose: 118-GENERALa

- Most are digitized and available online in the Catalog
- Submitted as evidence in U.S. v. Iva D'Aquino

All three series on this slide were collected as monitored shortwave broadcasts and have poor sound quality.



65-TRa transcription disk and notes

Audio Recordings Relating to World War II War Crimes Trials



Still from 111-ADC-10017

238-GENERALa

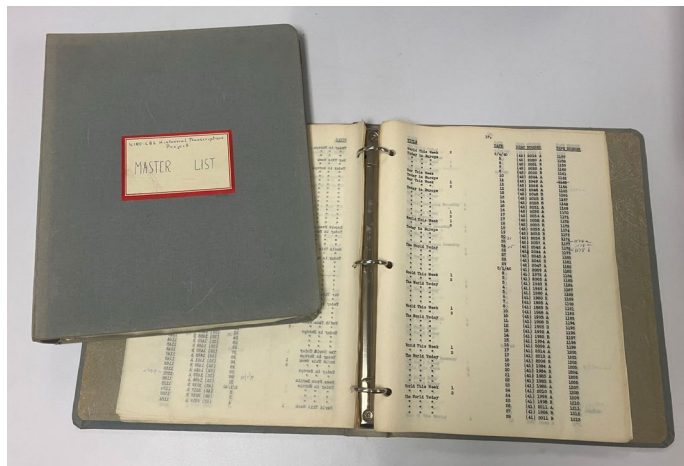
- This is the group of trials known as the Nuremberg Trials.
- 3,936 digital recordings are available in the Catalog.
- Subsequent war crimes trials can be found in 238-STIa.

Milo Ryan Phonoarchive of Radio Newscasts Relating to World War II

MR-MRa

- 4,221 titles
- A donated collection, with titles mostly from CBS and still under copyright
- Milo Ryan uncovered KIRO's treasure trove of acetate discs of World War II-era recordings
- The University of Washington has digital copies and allows on-site access for research purposes:

<https://guides.lib.uw.edu/miloryan>





John R. Hickman Audio Collection

HICK-HICKa

- 300 titles
- Donated by a vintage audio collector
- Includes government programs, such as “This is Our America” and “This is War,” and programs created by the Office of Facts and Figures
- Commercial recordings include many materials from the now-defunct Mutual Radio Network
- Includes postwar material

Japanese-American Internment



Radio repair shop at Heart Mountain
Relocation Center, 210-G-E655

Sound Recordings Relating to the
Relocation of Japanese-Americans
During World War II: 210-GENERALa

- 14 recordings from during the war

Sound Recordings Relating to U.S.
Relocation and Internment of Japanese
- American and Aleutian Civilians,
1981-1983: 220-CWRICa

- 18 postwar recordings

Mixed Media: Radio on Film

- Filmed footage of radio operators, performers, and listeners can be found in various series.
- “Army-Navy Screen Magazine” repeatedly filmed radio shows popular with troops. 111-ANSM-30 features the Black show “Jubilee.” Other episodes feature Abbott and Costello and Bob Hope.
- Other footage of radio shows includes “Toscanini: Hymn of the Nations” (306.197) and “Armed Forces Network Story” (111-ADC-5554).



111-ANSM-30
[click to activate]



Rights Issues



Use: Possibly Restricted

Use of these archival materials may be restricted for the following reason:

- Copyright

Due to contractual agreements between Army, AFRTS, and the entertainment and music industry, portions of the recordings featuring musical performances may not be reproduced for commercial or broadcast purposes without permission.

335-AHN, Army Hour-NBC Network Sound Recordings, 1942-1945

- Rights issues are not limited to donated collections.
- Many of our WWII radio recordings feature popular music still under copyright or commercial broadcasts from ABC, CBS, or NBC.
- The digital files of some network radio dramas in 208-GENERALa have been withheld from the Catalog.



Links and Contact Us

- Rights issues:
www.archives.gov/research/motion-pictures/permissions
- Reproduction orders:
www.archives.gov/research/motion-pictures/order-copies
- Visit us:
www.archives.gov/research/motion-pictures/contact



Reference questions:
email mopix@nara.gov

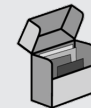
Feedback

We value your opinion.

Please take a minute to complete a short evaluation. Your comments help us maintain the quality of our services and plan future programs. Thank you!

Event Evaluation:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval



After the broadcast . . .

Email questions to
inquire@nara.gov

Video recording and downloadable handouts
will remain online at
www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records

Questions & Answers in Chat

Please stay if you have questions.

Although this concludes the video portion of the broadcast, we will continue to take your questions in **chat** for another 10 minutes.