

Voices from the Sand: An Oral History of the North African Campaign 1940-1943

Much has been written about the Desert War. Many former generals and scholars have written about tactics and operations during the North African Campaign, yet we still know little about how ordinary soldiers experienced the fighting, and how they made sense of it in their private lives. Luckily, both in Britain and the U.S. hundreds of veterans have been interviewed since the 1970s. These interviews, most of them made available online to researchers either as transcripts or audio files, offer fantastic insights into commemoration at the personal level and how these private accounts relate to or clash with mainstream public commemoration of the war after 1945. Thus, the Desert War is an ideal topic for any Master's student who is interested in exploring the possibilities of oral history and the history of memory in her/his thesis.

Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Treacherous Italians, noble Germans? How British and American soldiers viewed their Axis enemies
- A war without hate? The North African Campaign and the problem of war crimes
- Conventional war or colonial war? Race, ethnicity, and the local populations