

Annotated Bibliography

Bigman, Jeff. "Honoring the Navajo Code Talkers Act." Speech.

(Digital version of the bill) <https://www.congress.gov/bill/106th-congress/senate-bill/2408/text>
 This primary source was the act that allowed the President to present the Navajo Code Talkers with Congressional Gold/Silver Medals. The text of all the accomplishments that the code talkers had achieved in order to be worthy of the medals and made us realise that these people were important to the war.

Produced by: students of Winona, Minnesota and Tsaile, Arizona, Navajo Nation. **Bill Toledo- Navajo Code Talker- Living History.** 2015

As Bill Toledo talked in this Interview we learned so much of what it would have been like to be a Navajo Code Talker back in the 1940's, not only a code talker, but also a Navajo. He talked about what the boarding schools were like, and why so many Navajos wanted to join the war, as well as after the war when he had to keep his work as a Navajo code talker a secret.

Congress, Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2006, Doc. No. 110th, at 4 (Oct. 15, 2008).

A document to enact the Act honoring Native American code talkers. It gave us insight on the opinions of the work done by Native American code talkers like the Navajo.

The Camera Tells the Truth. Produced by Audrey Amidon. 2018.

<https://unwritten-record.blogs.archives.gov/2018/11/19/the-camera-tells-the-truth-camera-rolls-frm-the-battle-of-tarawa/>

This collection of videos contains raw footage of the battle of Tarwa, it shows us exactly what any soldier would have been living during that and many similar battles. This relates to the code talkers, because they had to live though that but they also had to stick to their jobs and do their best. It must have been quite scary for them.

Hearing before the Committee on Indian Affairs United States Senate : Hearings Before the committee on indian affairs U.S Senate, 2004 Leg., 108th Sess. (D.C. Sept. 22, 2004).

The Hearing before the Committee on Indian Affairs United States Senate was helpful to us in the form of that it stated loud and clear what the achievements of the code talkers were throughout the war. If it were not for this source we might have missed a very important achievement in the Navajo code talkers history. It also helped us realize that we had to be thorough in our research, because one thing could change it all.

The International Journal of Humanities and Peace. *Senate Oks Bill Honoring Navajo Code Talkers | Original WWII Trainer Dies at 89.* N.p.: The International Journal of Humanities and Peace, 2001.

We used this source to learn about how the Navajo Code Talkers were recognized once their acts were made public. It talks about how the U.S Senate approved a proposal to reward the Code Talkers with honorary medals.

"Keith Little- Navajo Code Talker Living History." Video file. Accessed April 6, 2014.

<https://navajocodetalkers.org/keith-little-real-code-talker-interview/>.

The interview with Keith Little that we found was an ultra valuable source for us because Keith Little was a Navajo Code Talker and gave us first hand information about what it was like to live the life of a code talker. There were many interesting stories from him that changed our perspective on how we saw the Navajo Code Talkers as well.

A letter from General Vogel to the Marine Corps. Image. March 6, 1942. Digital file.

This is the letter the General Vogel sent to the Marine Corps after the preliminary code talker presentation, the one that requested 200 code talkers.

This letter was quite but also informative. The letter told the readers about why the Navajo would be the best people to become code talkers. It detailed all sorts of things, like availability of men, the complicated oral language, and the fact that the tribe had not been infiltrated by German spies.

Marder, Murry, Srgt. "Navajo Code Talk Kept Foe Guessing: Indians with Marines, Using Rare Native Tongue, Insured Secrecy of Messages." *Marine Corps Gazette* (New York, NY), September 19, 1945, pg, 9. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

This is probably the only newspaper article from 1945 that was written about the Navajo code talkers because of the secrecy of the whole operation. It talks about the fact that the Navajo code was so unique among codes and that it just sounded like a bunch of gargling though the radio to the Japanese.

WWII Reunion: Navajo Code Talkers 1. 2004. Accessed May 27, 2004.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-8185/>.

Interesting in all aspects, this interview/video features 3 Navajo code talkers. Over the course of about an hour they talk about their lives as code talkers. They each take turns telling their stories, and recounting war stories to one another. They also explain the symbolism behind the Navajo Code Talkers association symbol.

WWII Reunion: Navajo Code Talkers 2. 2004. Accessed May 30, 2004.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-8194/>.

Much the same as the first WWII Reunion: Navajo Code Talkers, this features the same 3 Navajo code talkers, recounting stories from their lives, their war times, and their modern day, day to day lives.

A black and white photo of Navajo children learning English. Photograph. Digital file.

This photo really helped us to understand and put a visual to what happened at the government owned Navajo schools, we used this to envision what being a young Navajo in those days was like.

A black and white photo of the Navajo people on the Long Walk. Photograph. Digital file.

This photo of the Navajo people during the long walk made us realize that this was an important part of their history, because nobody can suffer that much and just forget about it when it is over. It made us realize that if we were going to make a project about the Navajo people, we needed to include these important parts of their history to understand the uniqueness of the situation.

An official black and white photo of Philip Johnston. Photograph. Digital file.

A face behind the idea, that is what we found when we discovered this picture of Philip Johnston, he was the person that created the idea of the Navajo code talkers, he is the root of the whole thing, and therefore is a vital part of telling the Navajo code talkers story.

An official color photo of Chester Nez, . Digital file.

Chester Nez was one of the original 29 Navajo code talkers, he was also the last surviving among them, he talked a lot about his work as a code talker, we even used quite a few quotes from him. It is always good to put a face to the people whose words you are reading.

It is a military photo of the 382 platoon, which was the code talker platoon. Photograph. Digital file.

The Navajo code talker platoon was the 29 original Navajo code talkers, was the beginning of the journey, it was where it all started for them, it's important to capture the beginnings as well as the ends for all things. What this picture helped us to understand about the Navajo code talkers was the beginnings are important because they show the before picture, and then you can compare them to the after picture.

It is an official photo of Senator Jeff Bingaman. Photograph. Digital file.

Senator Jeff Bingaman was the senator that first initiated and sponsored the “Honoring the Navajo Code Talkers” act, he was the one that gave the Navajo code talkers the recognition that they deserved, he was important to this story because he gave the code talkers credit when credit was due.

It is a sample of the Navajo code with translations for the first half of the alphabet. Photograph. Digital file.

This sample of what the Navajo code was made us that more appreciative of what the code talkers did, they had to memorize all of that and much, much more as well, it made us realize that what the Navajo code talkers did was a truly incredible thing, and that they broke so many barriers throughout their story.

John Brown Jr. receives the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush at a Ceremony. Photograph. July 6, 2001. Digital file.

The next two pictures have similar meanings behind them, they are both pictures of the Navajo code talkers receiving their Congressional Medals, though seeing this process

captured in a picture, instead of reading the words, it made us realize that this actually happened and it encouraged us to find out what they did to deserve these medals.

President George W. Bush saluting the Navajo code talkers as he their Congressional Medals.
Photograph. Digital file.

This photo is much like the Former, the simple fact that the president of the United States is presenting the Navajo code talkers shows what an impact that they must have had on the country, the did an amazing thing, and they got rewarded for it.

Secondary Sources

Aaseng, Nathan. *Navajo Code Talkers*. New York, USA: Walker Publishing Company Inc., 1992.

This book was incredibly detailed on the Japanese code breaking side of things, as well as on the entire story of the code talkers. It showed us really just how much America was in need of a code language, by showing us battle statistics, and then showed us how the Navajo Code Talkers turned the tides of the war by showing the readers battle statistics after they came into the picture.

Baker, Brynn. *Navajo Code Talkers*. North Mankato, Minnesota: Capstone Press, n.d. 2016

This book contained maps, visuals, diagrams, and valuable words, while not containing more than just an overview on the topic, it was still important to our research, it mixed with all of the other sources that we used for background information and created the foundation for our topic.

Brown, Bryan. "The Code That Couldn't be Broken." *The New York Times Upfront*, February 19, 2018, 18-21.

This was a book that gave us a good starting place with some basic background information on the code that the Navajo Code Talkers created. It thoroughly detailed why the code worked so well.

Calnan, Sarah. *Native Americans from the 1930's to the 1940's*. 2014. Accessed January 7, 2019.

https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1001&context=acs_students.

This was a stellar book for us. It was great for gaining background information on numerous Native American traditions. This helped us in our research because it was the whole reason that the Navajos became the Navajo code talkers in the first place.

Holm, Tom. "The Navajo Code Talkers."

<https://online.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=100860&itemid=WE43&articleId=190603>

This website was in depth and provided valuable knowledge of the code talkers before and during the war from a military point of view. We learned about the code talkers' experience with boot camp, about the creation of the code and why it was so successful. It also shared their stories and their struggles while in battle on various ocean islands.

Infobase Learning. "History." 2019

This is a database we found while researching. It explains the struggles and achievements the Navajo Code Talkers' experienced which gave us lots of good background information.

In Search of History- Navajo Code Talkers . 2016.

this documentary was enormously helpful to us because it contained pieces and parts of several different interviews with Navajo code talker experts. It also contained many visuals that helped us along. the way we used this to further our research is that we used this to add to our growing knowledge of the specifics, it helped the puzzle pieces fit together in our heads, with historical context, and with world context, it helped us realize that the other things happening in the world at that time also affected their lives.

The Legendary Navajo Code Talkers.

<https://www.nativevillage.org/Inspiration-/List%20of%20Names%20of%20Navajo%20Code%20Talkers.htm>

seeing all of the names on this resource page that contained the names of every Navajo that served as a code talker, it opened our eyes and made us realize that these people were very much real, and the stories that we read about them, were other people's lives. we saw just how many people were living this reality of being a Navajo code talker. It was super helpful to know the names of all of the code talkers so that we could figure out each individual code talker's accomplishments.

Lindig, Wolfgang. *Navajo*. New York, NY: Facts on File, Inc., 1993.

This was a book we looked at which explained different Navajo culture. It also wrote about a little bit of Navajo words and vocab.

the Long Walk . Last modified 2011.

http://www.crowcanyon.org/educationproducts/peoples_mesa_verde/historic_long_walk.asp

knowing the history behind the events of the past always change the way that you view something, we never knew that the Navajos didn't have a good relationship with the Americans, we learned this though this website, but fitting that in with the rest of our knowledge, we now realise that what the Navajo code talkers did was that much more meaningful and important to the Americans, making them that much more heroes, this also helped us make another connection to the theme, because though this we realised that the

Americans broke barriers as well by just asking the Navajos if they would become Navajo Code Talkers.

Meili, Dianne. *{footprints} Chester Nez: Last of code talkers fought war of words*. N.p., 2014.
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tNtSpmDApY07B_8xLxsICgWVu3GAv44K.
 This book page includes quotes from Chester Nez, describing what the war was like, and examples of the code. He even talked about the after effects of the war and how haunting it was.

Memorandum Regarding the Enlistment of Navajo Indians. Accessed September 23, 2016.
<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/code-talkers>.
 this website had it all. It contained the reason that the military needed a code in the first place, it explained about Philip Johnston's idea, how it was executed, it walks the reader through each stage of the code talkers story, it also shows the reader why the military had to keep the code a secret for so long.

National Museum of American Indian. "Native Words Native Warriors." americanindian.si.edu.
 Accessed September 23, 2019. <https://americanindian.si.edu/education/codetalkers/html/>.
 This was our most helpful digital, secondary source. It had quotes from real code talkers, and it had tabs for each area of the Navajo code talkers story, it went into lots of detail explaining why and how everything turned out the way that it did as well.

"Navajo Code Talkers." Video file. Accessed March 28, 2014.
<https://navajocodetalkers.org/historical-perspective-video-of-navajo-code-talkers/>.
 Even though this video is a secondary source, most of what is said in the video is an audio recording of what we assume to be the president while presenting the Navajo code talkers with the Congressional Medals. It explains why they were such a big deal and why they were so important to the success of WWII.

"Navajo Code Talkers and the Unbreakable Code." cia.gov. Last modified November 6, 2008.
 Accessed September 23, 2019.
<https://www.cia.gov/news-information/featured-story-archive/2008-featured-story-archive/navajo-code-talkers/>.
 It set in our heads the way that we thought about the Navajo code talkers when we read this website, with everything else that we had learned up until this point added with this new intake of information, this was the turning point from learning general things about the Navajo code talkers, trying to grasp the bigger picture, to really focusing in on the really important bits

"Navajo Code Talkers: A Select Bibliography." Naval History and Heritage Command. Last modified January 28, 2019. Accessed January 7, 2020.
<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhnc/research/library/bibliographies/navajo-code-talkers-a-select-bibliography.html>

Navajo code talkers association website. . <http://www.navajocodetalkers.codes/>.

This website was really great because it was the official site of the Navajo code talkers. It had amazing information about the Navajo code talkers and had unique information that was not available to us anywhere else on the internet. it had lots of great visuals as well, it was really cool to see pictures of code talkers now in modern times, as well as black and white ones from the 1940's in the same place.

Navajo Code Talkers created an unbreakable code. It helped win World War II. Last modified July 11, 2018. Accessed August 5, 2019.

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2018/07/11/navajo-code-talker-facts-unbreakable-code/460262002/>.

This website gave us some good visuals to look at and to get a good understanding of the Navajo code talkers background. it also answered more of our questions that we were having. It was an excellent way to get the pieces of the puzzle to fit together as well.

Navajo Indians Long Walk. <http://nativejewelrylit.com/navajo-long-walk.html>.

The Long Walk for the Navajos was much like a trail of tears, it was an extremely important part of the Navajos history and could not be ignored when it came to making a project that involved Navajo people. This website was crafted beautifully and told the sad story of the Long Walk as such. There were many important elements that this website told very well.

Navajo Relief fund. http://www.nativepartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=nrf_index

this source was hugely helpful to us because it had multiple different sections one the areas that we really thought were important to know about, for example they had a different section for the Navajo boardings schools, and a section for the Navajos Long Walk, as well as a section dedicated to just the Navajo code talkers in general.

Navy & Marine Corps WWII Commemorative Committee. "Navajo Code Talkers World War II Fact Sheet." Naval History and Heritage Command. Last modified September 2, 2016. Accessed January 2, 2020.

<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/n/code-talkers.html>.

Nez, Chester, and Judith Schiess Avila. Code Talker. New York, USA: Berkeley Books, 2011

this was by far, the most helpful source that we had, this book was the memoir of the late Chester Nez, the last surviving of the original 29 Navajo code talkers. it gave detailed explanations on each of the battles that the Navajo code talkers served in. It also gave us new insights into what life was like for the Navajo code talkers before and after the war. things like what it was like to keep the secret, and how the harsh boarding schools affected them.

OUR HEROES Native American Soldiers in Our Midst.

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nnavm/heroes/>.

After the war, the Navajo code talkers program was kept a secret for a long time, so what this website helped us understand was the legacy that the code talkers left behind. It showed us the way that they influenced Native American involvement in the military today, it also gave us some more details about the medal of honor.

"Semper fidelis, code talkers". Accessed December 17, 2017.

<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2001/winter/navajo-code-talkers.html>.

Getting background information on your topic is extremely important, it's what you build all of your other knowledge off of, that is why "Semper fidelis, code talkers" is such an important source, it was the best article that we found that gave us the background information that we needed to further our research. It talked about everything from the day that the idea for the code talkers was born in Philip Johnson's head, to the presentation of the Congressional Gold/Silver Medals to the Navajo code talkers.

ThoughtCo. Navajo Code Talkers. Accessed February 22, 2019.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/navajo-code-talkers-1779993>.

Containing 4 different sections and a summary, this website was extremely important in furthering our research, it had a whole meaty paragraph about each aspect of the Navajo code talkers story, the idea, the beginnings, the code, and the battle success. It was instrumental in us being able to see the bigger picture, and the timeline.

A 'Warrior Tradition': Why Native Americans continue fighting for the same government that tried to wipe them out. Last modified November 15, 2019.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2019/11/15/a-warrior-tradition-why-native-americans-continue-fighting-for-the-same-government-that-tried-to-wipe-them-out/>.

Were it not for this source, which itself is a secondary source but it contains valuable quotes from actual code talkers, we would still be asking some very shallow questions about the code talkers, this website was made up of a written version of an interview with a few of the code talkers which answered some important questions that we had, like for instance, what made them want to join the Marine Corps? And how were they treated in the military? This got us into a mindset of asking more questions and learning more about the code talkers.

Weadon, Patrick. *Origins of the Navajo Code Talkers*. Accessed 2002.

https://www.nsa.gov/Portals/70/documents/about/cryptologic-heritage/historical-figures-publications/publications/wwii/navajo_codetalkers.pdf

In this brochure we found a treasure trove of important information on what happened before the war and what happened leading up to the success of the code, it talks about Philip Johnson's idea, and the early stages of the code. It gave us a platform to build the rest of our research off of.

White, Cody. "John Werito Goes to War; A Story of a WWII Diné [Navajo] Code Talker." Entry posted January 29, 2019.
<https://text-message.blogs.archives.gov/2019/01/29/john-werito-goes-to-war-a-story-of-a-wwii-dine-navajo-code-talker/>.

It was really interesting when we found this website because we had never really found something this in depth about a code talker before this point in our research, it really gave us insight into these Navajo code talkers lives and really showed us what it was like to be a Navajo code talker, from how they wound up in the Marine Corps, to the battles that they fought. It also had lots of this code talkers personal records which was really helpful in understanding his story. It really focused on the things that they did and provided information that we could not have found any other place.

WW2 History: Navajo Code Talkers. Last modified February 24, 2009.

<http://lehihighhistory.blogspot.com/2009/02/navajo-code-talkers.html>

This website really helped us understand why the code that the Navajo code talkers created was so successful. While most codes that the Japanese were able to decipher had ways that they could be recorded, like an alphabet, the Navajo code was only verbal, and was something that Japanese had never heard of before. It also explains that that code was convenient compared to other forms of code, which took hours to encode and decode.

Navajo-Code talkers of World War II "Journey of Remembrance." Directed by George A. Colburn, Dr.

This documentary helped us understand why the Navajo Code Talkers went into battle and how strongly they fought for their land. The director interviews six Navajo Code Talkers who explain about the different battles they fought in.