NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS

Additional Resources

Books for Further Reading
The following titles provide an overview of American Indian Code Talkers, Native participation in the U.S. military, and the life experienced by many Native soldiers in federally sponsored Indian boarding schools.

Books for Adults
American Indians in World War I

American Indians in World War II


American Indian Code Talkers

Navajo Code Talkers


Comanche Code Talkers
**Codes and Ciphers**


**Indian Boarding Schools**


**Books for Young People**

**American Indian Code Talkers**

Eboch, M. M. *Native American Code Talkers*. Minneapolis: ABDO, 2015. [ages 11 and up]


**Codes and Ciphers**


**Indian Boarding Schools**


**Films**

American Indian Code Talkers have been featured in a number of documentary film presentations.


Description: This movie provides viewers with personal insights from a group of Native American war heroes regarding their service on behalf of the United States and the Navajo Nation.

**Resources Online**

**Code Talkers**


Description: This site gives more detail on the U.S. Marine Corps Navajo Code Talker program, highlighting Maj. Gen. Clayton B. Vogel’s March 26, 1942, memo recommending the recruitment of Navajo men for the project.


**American Indian Languages**

There are many websites now devoted to American Indian languages. The links below provide a sampling of sites related to Code Talking languages. The sites vary in their offerings. Some sites include audio samples and lesson plans, while others are more general. Exploration is encouraged.


**Bibliography (sources used in the development of this website)**


Meadows, William C. “‘They Had a Chance to Talk to One Another . . .’: The Role of Incidence in Native American Code Talking.” Ethnohistory 56, no. 2 (Spring 2009): 269.


Use of the Term “Code Talker”
The U.S. Marine Corps appears to have originated the term “code talker.” During World War II, the U.S. Marine Corps Manual of Military Occupational Specialties defined “code talker” as “one who transmits and receives messages in a restricted language by radio and wire. Sends and receives messages by means of semaphores and other visual signal devices. May perform field linemen, switchboard operator, or other communications duties.”

As early as 1919, newspapers had referenced Indians’ work using their languages during military service. Reports at the end of World War I identified Sioux and Choctaw Indians by tribe and described what they had done (used their languages as “code” over the radio).

Early in World War II (as early as December 1940—a full year before the attack on Pearl Harbor), there were more reports of Indians being trained to use their languages over the radio. In February 1941, four articles appeared in at least three different newspapers about Indians being trained for communications work. In 1943, one New York Times article referenced “Indian communications men” on Guadalcanal. On September 18, 1945, two weeks after the surrender of Japan, an article appeared in the Washington Post calling Navajo men who used their language in the Marine Corps “Navajo Talkers.” The following day the New York Times ran a different article that called these men “code talkers.”

Many publications since that time have used the term “code talker” to refer to Indian men who used their Native languages during their service in the U.S. military. William Meadows, author of The Comanche Code Talkers of World War II, uses the term “Type One” code talker to describe those Native men who used a coded version of their language to relay military messages. “Type Two” code talker refers to soldiers who used their Native languages in a straightforward manner to transmit military messages. Although the U.S. military and the national press did not usually capitalize this term, we capitalize “Code Talker” throughout Native Words, Native Warriors as a mark of respect for those who served the United States in this capacity.