



## Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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### **“EYEWITNESS” EXHIBIT TO OPEN NATIONAL TOUR AT CARTER LIBRARY**

*First Time Many Items Shown Outside National Archives*

**ATLANTA, GA.** – The National Archives’ highly acclaimed exhibition “Eyewitness- American Originals from the National Archives” opens at the Carter Presidential Library on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Carter Library was selected to be the first in a six-city tour for the exhibit which the *New York Times* calls “haunting and illuminating.” **An opening ceremony featuring National Archives curator Stacey Bredhoff will begin at 10 am on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Carter Presidential Museum.**

“Eyewitness” draws on rarely-displayed documents, audio recordings and film footage culled from the extensive holdings of the National Archives and its Presidential Libraries and Regional Archives. History books describe the slaves’ fight for freedom or the liberation of concentration camps at the end of World War II, but the power of the original accounts written or recorded by players in these dramas enable visitors to be transported back in time to these events, almost as if they are experiencing them firsthand. Many of the documents come alive in the free audio tour, in which visitors hear actors speaking the words written in the documents.

These 25 gripping, firsthand accounts of historic events are vivid and intensely personal, offering the visitor a unique view of history ranging from stunning stories of adventure to grisly tales of war:

*“The King list’ned to every Word I said with Dignity but with an apparent - Emotion—whether it was the nature of the Interview or whether it was my visible agitation, for I felt more than I did or could express, that touched him I cannot say—but he was much affected and answered me with more Tremor than I had spoken with...”*

Letter from John Adams, America’ first Minister Plenipotentiary to Britain, describing his private audience with King George III, 1785.

*“...as we came to the center of the city we met a train with a wrecked engine – about fifty cars long. Every car was loaded with bodies. There must have been thousands of them – all obviously starved to death. This was a shock of the first order, and the odor can best be imagined. But neither the sight nor the odor were anything compared with what we were still to see...”*

Letter from Pfc. Harold Porter, a medic with the 116<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital, to his parents, May 7, 1945, describing the horrors he encountered at the Dachau concentration camp.

*“I cast one last look over my shoulder and saw in the President’s car a bundle of pink, just like a drift of blossoms, lying on the back seat. I think it was Mrs. Kennedy lying over the President’s body...”*

Transcript of Lady Bird Johnson’s audio diary describing the events of November 22, 1963.

*“The vast loneliness up here of the moon is awe inspiring and it makes you realize just what you have back there on Earth. The Earth from here is a grand [oasis] to the big vastness of space.”*

Jim Lovell, crew member of the *Apollo 8* spacecraft, December 24, 1968

The Carter Presidential Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am until 4:45 p.m. and on Sunday from noon until 4:45 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors (60+), \$6 for military and students with ID’s. Those 16 years old and younger are free. Parking at the Carter Center is also free.

**Editors Note: Images of the exhibit and audio clips are available by contacting the public affairs office at 404-865-7109**