




10-2018

MS-234: Richard Buchter '54 Papers

Joy Zanghi
Gettysburg College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/findingaidsall>

 Part of the [Asian History Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.

Zanghi, Joy. "MS-234: Richard Buchter '54 Papers" (October 2018). Special Collections and College Archives Finding Aids. Special Collections and College Archives, Musselman Library, Gettysburg College.

This finding aid appears in Gettysburg College's institutional repository by permission of the copyright owner for personal use, not for redistribution. Cupola permanent link: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/findingaidsall/206>

This open access finding aid is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact cupola@gettysburg.edu.

MS-234: Richard Buchter '54 Papers

Description

This collection includes newspaper clippings, photographs, Vietnamese leaflets relating to the Psychological Operations of the Vietnam War, other military-related documents, and Vietnamese paraphernalia Buchter gathered during his service as the Base Operations Officer in Da Nang during the Vietnam War. Possible research interests lie in the Vietnam War, specifically PSYOPs and the Air Force.

Special Collections and College Archives Finding Aids are discovery tools used to describe and provide access to our holdings. Finding aids include historical and biographical information about each collection in addition to inventories of their content. More information about our collections can be found on our website <https://www.gettysburg.edu/special-collections/collections/>.

Keywords

Vietnam War, Richard Buchter, US Airforce, Psychological Operations

Disciplines

Asian History | History | Military History | United States History

**Guide to the
MS-234: Richard Buchter '54 Papers**



**Joy Zanghi Class of 2021
October 2018**

MS – 234: Richard Buchter '54 Papers

(1 box, .10 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1943-1971

Bulk Dates: 1971

Processed by: Joy Zanghi '21

October 2018

Provenance

Items in this collection were donated to Special Collections by Richard Buchter '54 in September 2018.

Biographical Note

Richard Buchter '54 was born in 1933. He lived in Copiague, New York before he attended Gettysburg College from 1951-1954. During his time in Gettysburg, Buchter was a member of the fraternity Sigma Chi and majored in Biology. After graduating in 1954, Buchter joined the Air Force by 1956 and he later served in the Vietnam War.

In the Vietnam War, Richard Buchter served in the United States Air Force as the Base Operations Officer at the Da Nang Air Base. His duties during the war consisted of running Gunfighter Airlines for the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing which worked as a humanitarian airlift support. They would transport blood from Bangkok to Da Nang to German hospital ship for wounded civilians on both sides of the war.¹ He also worked to keep the Da Nang Air Base, nicknamed "Rocket City" for the frequent Viet Cong rocket attacks, operational. The Da Nang Air Base included the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing, the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron which ran PSYOPS, H-53 Helicopter Search and Rescue operations, Air America Operations, and various other air squadrons, all of which Buchter had the responsibility to maintain during his service in Vietnam.²

Historical Note

The Da Nang Air Base was a base in which Psychological Operations in Vietnam (PSYOPS) took place from. PSYOPS consisted of American aircrafts flying over the Vietnamese countryside with leaflets and loudspeakers spreading propaganda that encouraged Vietnamese civilians to oppose the Viet Cong.³ Leaflets from PSYOPS can be seen in this collection.

¹ Steve Conaway, "Floating German Hospital Brightens Viet," *Pacific Stars & Stripes*, March 18, 1971.

² Information Courtesy of Richard Buchter

³ Robert J Kodosky, "Leaflets, Loudspeakers, and Radios, Oh My!", *Air Power History* 64, no. 3 (Fall 2017): 5-12.

Buchter's duty running "Gunfighter Airlines" brought blood to the German hospital ship, the Helgoland. A German airline, Lufthansa, would transport the blood to Bangkok for it to be flown to the ship in Da Nang.⁴ Converted from a German ferry to a hospital in 1966, the Helgoland was sent to Vietnam to provide aid. By 1971, eight medical staff members provided services on the ship for the 170-bed hospital, giving support to wounded Vietnamese citizens who would not otherwise have it.⁵

Scope and Content Notes

This collection includes newspaper clippings, photographs, Vietnamese leaflets relating to the Psychological Operations of the Vietnam War, other military-related documents, and Vietnamese paraphernalia Buchter gathered during his service as the Base Operations Officer in Da Nang during the Vietnam War. Possible research interests lie in the Vietnam War, specifically PSYOPs and the Air Force.

Subjects

Vietnam War
U.S Air Force

Series Description

This collection is divided into three Series. **Series 1:** Vietnamese Documents, **Series 2:** Newspaper Clippings, **Series 3:** Military Documents

Box List

Box 1

1-0 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

Series 1 Vietnamese Documents

- 1-1 Vietnamese Documents
- 4 Vietnamese Leaflets with English Translations
 - 57 Vietnamese Leaflets without Translations
 - Packet of Vietnamese Leaflets with English Translations
 - Vietnamese Leaflet with Photo

⁴ Information courtesy of Richard Buchter

⁵ Steve Conaway, "Floating German Hospital Brightens Viet," *Pacific Stars & Stripes*, March 18, 1971.

- 5 Vietnamese Dong

Series 2 Newspapers

1-2 Newspapers

- Pacific Stars & Stripes Clipping – June 5, 1971
- Pacific Stars & Stripes Clipping – April 21, 1971
- Pacific Stars & Stripes Clipping – March 18, 1971
- Pacific Stars & Stripes Clipping – Date Unknown

Series 3 Military Documents

1-3 Military Documents

- Gunfighters From Da Nang Military Business Card
- 4 Military Payment Certificates
- Department of the Army Document – Assessment of the Results of Lam Son 719 – March 31, 1971
- 8"x10" "Gunfighter Country" Collage – May 1971
- B-17F Flight Log – 8th Air Force, 385th Bomb Wing – September 5, 1943 - February 21, 1944 (Included in the donation for unknown reasons)

Related Collections

MS-051: The Letters of Richard A. Moore to his Wife during the Vietnam War

MS-044: Stephen H. Warner Collection

MS-069: The papers of John W. Vannorsdall

MS-221: Captain Robert L. Morris '66 Papers

MS-222: Lt. John M. Colestock '65 Papers