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Center for American War Letters Archives  
8/17/2016  
Leatherby Libraries  
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Orange, CA 92866  
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URL: http://www1.chapman.edu/library/archives/
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Center for American War Letters Archives
Title: Daniel Dietrich Vietnam War correspondence
creator: Dietrich, Daniel Harvey, Jr., March 28, 1925-August 7, 1990
source: Dietrich, Rebecca (Becky)
Identifier/Call Number: 2016.131.w.r
Physical Description: 0.025 Linear Feet(1 folder)
Date (inclusive): 1945-1968
Abstract: This collection contains correspondence from Colonel Daniel Dietrich, United States Army, to his wife during the Second World War and the Vietnam War.
Leatherby Libraries, Center for American War Letters.
Storage Unit: Vietnam 1
Storage Unit: 1-2
Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Rebecca (Becky) Dietrich, 5/22/2014 and 3/9/2014. This is a legacy collection from Andrew Carroll.
Preferred Citation
[Item title, Box number, Folder number], Daniel Dietrich War correspondence (2016.131.w.r), Center for American War Letters Archives, Chapman University, CA.
Content Description
This collection contains correspondence from Col. Daniel Dietrich, USA to his wife during the Second World War and while stationed in Saigon during the Vietnam War. The collection consists of two V-Mail from 1945 and two compact discs of audio recordings made by Col. Dietrich in 1968. Of interest are recordings made before and during the Tet offensive.
Conditions Governing Use
There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions.
Arrangement
This collection is arranged by material type and date: Series 1: Second World War correspondence--Series 2: Vietnam War correspondence.
Biographical / Historical
Daniel Harvey Dietrich was born on March 28, 1925 in Baltimore, Maryland and enlisted in the United States Army in July 1943. He served in Germany until after the war and left the Army in 1946. He re-enlisted in the Army and earned a commission in 1950, eventually earning the rank of Colonel and served once more in the Vietnam War. He was in Saigon during the Tet Offensive of 1968 and continued to serve until his retirement in 1974. Col. Dietrich passed away on August 7, 1990.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975
Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Personal narratives, American
Correspondence -- World War, 1939-1945
Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Personal narratives, American
World War II
World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945 -- Germany
World War, 1939-1945 -- Homefront
World War, 1939-1945 -- Protest movements
World War, 1939-1945 -- Protest movements -- United States
Series 1, Second World War correspondence 1945-04-1945-09

Physical Description: 0.025 Linear Feet (1 folder)

Scope and Contents
This series contains two photocopies of V-Mail sent by Private First Class Daniel H. Dietrich, Jr. to Rebecca Owens, his future wife, during the Second World War. He wrote the first letter while stationed in Germany with Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 406 Infantry in April, 1945. The second letter was written 14 September, 1945 and requests that the people back home complain enough to get the soldiers sent home from their occupation duties overseas.

Series 2, Vietnam War correspondence 1968

Physical Description: 0.025 Linear Feet (1 folder)

Scope and Contents
This series contains two compact discs of audio recordings made by Col. Dan Dietrich, USA for his wife while stationed in Saigon during the Vietnam War. According to the donor, the audio was transferred to CD from a reel-to-reel tape. Several tracks of interest:

CD 1:
Track 2; Details flight to Camh Ran Bay - about a minute or so in...
Track 6; Beauty of US Embassy (doesn't think highly of Saigon), and the beautiful and personality of a bar maid killed by Military Police fire while crossing a river on the way home, which affected him deeply.
Track 12-13; Jan. 23--Fireworks fired and explanation of those as a pre-Tet celebration and the fear they engender.
CD 2:
Track 8; Jan. 28--Fireworks can be heard in the background, he comments that he is aware that the VietCong are planning to use the fireworks as cover for a largescale offensive, doesn't blame them. Admits how scary it can be. “Makes the ‘pucker factor’ go up about 300%”
Track 9; Jan. 31—Tet Offensive news reports. Explains that he wants to send this on because of its possible historical value. Long recording of firecrackers but explains that it was the same time as the infiltration of the capital.
Track 15-16; Noise and comments about helicopter air strike about a mile away.