Neil Sheehan Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm93080429

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009054

Prepared by Nan Thompson Ernst with the assistance of John R. Monagle and Thelma M. Queen

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2018 November
Collection Summary

Title: Neil Sheehan Papers
Span Dates: 1920-1993
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1960-1993)
ID No.: MSS80429
Creator: Sheehan, Neil
Extent: 110,000 items
Extent: 239 containers plus 8 classified and 1 oversize
Extent: 129 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm93080429

Summary: Author and journalist. Correspondence, drafts of writings, notes, research material, interview transcripts, and other papers relating to Sheehan's writings concerning the Vietnam War, especially his books, A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam (1988) and After the War Was Over: Hanoi and Saigon (1992), and to publication of the Pentagon Papers.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Alsop, Joseph, 1910-1989--Correspondence.
Braestrup, Peter. Peter Braestrup interview.
Colby, William Egan, 1920-1996--Correspondence.
Ellsberg, Daniel--Correspondence.
Ellsberg, Daniel. Daniel Ellsberg interview.
Halberstam, David--Correspondence.
Halberstam, David. David Halberstam interview.
Harkins, Paul D. (Paul Donal), 1904-1984--Correspondence.
Huỳnh, Văn Cao--Correspondence.
Huỳnh, Văn Cao. Văn Cao Huỳnh interview.
Kissinger, Henry, 1923-2023--Correspondence.
Komer, R. W.--Correspondence.
Krulak, Victor H. Victor H. Krulak interview.
Krulak, Victor H.--Correspondence.
Lansdale, Edward Geary, 1908-1987--Correspondence.
Ly, Tông Bá. Tông Bá Lý interview.
Nguyễn, Văn Thiệu, 1923-2001--Correspondence.
Ngô, Dzu. Dzu Ngô interview.
Sheehan, Neil.
Sheehan, Neil. After the war was over: Hanoi and Saigon. 1992.
Taylor, Maxwell D. (Maxwell Davenport), 1901-1987--Correspondence.
Trần, Ngọc Châu, 1924- --Correspondence.
Trần, Ngoc Chau, 1924- Ngoc Chau Tran interview.
Vann, John Paul. John Paul Vann papers.

Organizations
Martin Marietta Corporation.
United Press International.
United States. Agency for International Development.
United States. Army--Officers.
United States. Department of Defense.
Vietnam (Republic). Quân lực.

Subjects
Journalists--Indochina.
Journalists--Vietnam.
Journalists--Washington (D.C.)
Presidents--United States--Election--1964.

Places
Hanoi (Vietnam)--History.
Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)--History.
United States--Armed Forces--Periodicals.
United States--Foreign relations--Vietnam.
Vietnam--Foreign relations--United States.

Titles
Current news; early bird edition.
New York times.
Pentagon Papers.

Occupations
Authors.
Journalists.

Provenance
The papers of Neil Sheehan, author and journalist, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Sheehan between 1990 and 1994. The papers deposited before 1993 were processed as the Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection, and the John Paul Vann papers, principally in Containers 25-57, were converted to a gift in 1994. Included in the Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection is a compilation of Current News, a Defense Department publication given to the Library in 1992 as an addition to the Sheehan Papers by Peter Braestrup. Papers received in 1994 remain on deposit and have been organized as a separate series entitled Professional File.

Processing History
The papers of Neil Sheehan were processed in 1993 and 1994. The finding aid was revised in 2009.
**Additional Guides**


**Transfers**

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some maps have been transferred to the Library's Geography and Map Division. Sound recordings of interviews have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints & Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Neil Sheehan Papers.

**Copyright Status**

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Neil Sheehan in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

**Access and Restrictions**

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

**Security Classified Documents**

Government regulations control the use of security classified items in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified material.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Neil Sheehan Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Biographical Notes**

**Neil Sheehan**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961-1962</td>
<td>Night editor, Asian bureau, United Press International, Tokyo, Japan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1971 Pentagon Papers excerpted in the *New York Times*


1972 Published *The Arnheiter Affair* (New York: Random House. 304 pp.)

Began leave of absence from the *New York Times* to write a biography of John Paul Vann

1975 Resigned from the *New York Times*

1988 Published *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam* (New York: Random House. 861 pp.)

Received National Book Award

1989 Awarded Pulitzer Prize

1992 Published *After the War Was Over: Hanoi and Saigon* (New York: Random House. 131 pp.)

**John Paul Vann**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1924, July 2</td>
<td>Born John Paul Legay, Norfolk, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939-1942</td>
<td>Attended Ferrum Training School and Junior College, Ferrum, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Changed name to John Paul Vann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Enlisted in army; assigned to Army Air Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Graduated, Navigation School, receiving rank of second lieutenant, Army Air Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Married Mary Jane Allen (divorced 1971)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Commissioned, Regular Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Attended Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Transferred to infantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Supply and evacuation officer, Twenty-fifth Infantry Division, Korean War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950-1951</td>
<td>Commander, Ranger Company, Twenty-fifth Infantry Division, Korean War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952-1954</td>
<td>Attended Rutgers University Business School, New Brunswick, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957-1958</td>
<td>Instructor, Reserve Officer Training Corps, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958-1959</td>
<td>Attended Army Comptrollers School, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y., completing M.B.A. in statistics and residency requirements for a doctorate in public administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Staff advisor, III Corps Headquarters, Saigon, South Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Senior advisor, Seventh Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, with headquarters in My Tho, South Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963-1965</td>
<td>Assigned to the Pentagon</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Sales representative, Martin Co., a division of Martin Marietta Corp., Denver, Colo.</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>Province representative, Agency for International Development, Hau Nghia, South Vietnam</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>Manager, Revolutionary Development Cadre Project, Vung Tau pacification training center, South Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966-1969</td>
<td>Deputy director for field operations and director, Office of Civil Operations (OCO), Region III, South Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969-1971</td>
<td>Deputy, Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), Region IV, South Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Senior Advisor with power of command over military forces, Region II, South Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972, June 9</td>
<td>Died in a helicopter crash near the Montagnard hamlet of Ro Uay, South Vietnam</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Scope and Content Note**

The Neil Sheehan Papers span the years circa 1920-1993 with the bulk of the material ranging from 1960 to 1993.

The collection is organized into two series. Material relating to Sheehan's prize-winning history, *A Bright Shining Lie*: 

The Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection includes publication records for A Bright Shining Lie, a research file, interviews and notes, official documents, and a Current News file containing issues of the Defense Department's compilation of press clippings published during the war. The arrangement reflects the organization established by Sheehan as he studied and wrote about the Vietnam War and John Paul Vann.

The biographical element of A Bright Shining Lie is based on Vann's personal papers given to Sheehan by the family. Declassified copies of documents relating to Vann were acquired by Sheehan through the Freedom of Information Act from the United States Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Vann's papers document his activities in Vietnam, his military career prior to Vietnam, his family and personal life, his civilian work for the Martin Company in Denver, and his political affiliations, especially his involvement in the 1964 presidential campaign. Vann's correspondents include Joseph Alsop, Huynh Van Cao, Tran Ngoc Chau, William Egan Colby, Daniel Ellsberg, David Halberstam, Paul D. Harkins, Henry Kissinger, Robert W. Komer, Victor H. Krulak, Edward Geary Lansdale, Richard M. Nixon, Maxwell D. Taylor, and Nguyen Van Thieu.

Papers documenting Vann's military career primarily concern his service in Vietnam as an army lieutenant colonel appointed senior advisor to the South Vietnamese army (ARVN) in the Mekong River delta. Reports and memoranda for the Ap Bac battle and Dan Tien operations in 1962-1963, along with Vann's correspondence and press accounts by Sheehan and David Halberstam, document Vann's criticism of the South Vietnamese government and armed forces and his advocacy of political reform and direct military intervention by the United States. Viewed with increasing disfavor by the American command staff, Vann retired from the army soon after completing his Vietnam tour of duty in 1963.

The war remained a central concern for Vann, and in 1965 when American combat troops were sent to fight in southeast Asia, he joined the action as a State Department pacification official. Vann's Agency for International Development records document his work with the pacification program from 1965 to 1972. Vann and his colleagues wanted to "harness" a social revolution to the United States war effort, and their proposals (see especially, "Harnessing the Revolution" in container 48), policy statements, reports, training manuals, and correspondence document the instruction given to the Vietnamese in self-defense, fighting insurgents, intelligence gathering, and suggestions for efficient representative government.

Vann's quick rise through the ranks of the pacification program was based on his grasp of military objectives and his extensive field knowledge of war developments. In 1971 he was appointed to an unprecedented civilian command of troops defending the Central Highlands against a long-awaited attack by North Vietnamese regular forces. Records for the defense of Kontum, Pleiku, and other battles of the North Vietnamese army's 1972 Easter offensive are in the Vann subseries, Region II files. Supplemental documentation can be found in the Vietnam subseries under North Vietnam offensives and the Individuals subseries in files for soldiers who worked with Vann to defend the Central Highlands.

Sheehan's primary sources on the Vietnam War for A Bright Shining Lie include the Pentagon Papers and other official documents, supplemented by interviews and supporting records provided by key participants. When Sheehan was a reporter for the New York Times in 1971, he obtained copies of the Pentagon Papers from Daniel Ellsberg. The term "Pentagon Papers" was coined by the New York Times to describe the forty-seven volume "History of U.S. Decision-Making Process on Vietnam Policy, 1945-1967" compiled at the Pentagon upon the request of Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. This multivolume work is an annotated compilation or summary of relevant government documents, most of them classified, with introductory essays by various government analysts. Sheehan's Pentagon Papers file, listed as part of the Official Documents subseries, includes photocopied portions of government documents which remain classified and thus are stored separately. His copy of volumes one and two of the House Committee on Armed Services Pentagon Papers edition, published as United States-Vietnam Relations, 1945-1967, is annotated to mark censored passages. Notes relating to the Pentagon Papers can be found in Bright Shining Lie publication records and throughout the Research File especially under Ellsberg in the Individuals subseries and in the Subject File subseries. Publication of the Pentagon Papers by the New York Times in 1971, and subsequently by Bantam Books and Beacon Press, is documented in the second series of the collection, the Professional File.

Sheehan's Research File of papers from military and civilian personnel includes government memoranda and documents, letters, orders, command guidance, and studies dealing with Vann and the Vietnam War. Richard Ziegler gave his journal documenting the ARVN Seventh Infantry Division in 1962-1963, and Daniel Ellsberg provided Sheehan with

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copies of reports and position papers, as did other RAND analysts such as Charles Benoit. Papers were contributed by Tran Ngoc Chau, a Vietnamese politician who was tried for treason by the Nguyen Van Thieu government in South Vietnam. Sheehan also obtained reports from Vann's commanders and copies of documents from various archives. Fellow news correspondents, especially David Halberstam, gave Sheehan copies of interview notes. These materials, along with Sheehan's notes and clippings, are distributed by subject throughout the Research File.

While writing A Bright Shining Lie, Sheehan interviewed more than four hundred Americans, Vietnamese, and foreign news correspondents. The interviews are documented in nearly two hundred stenographic notebooks, six hundred audiocassette tapes, and typed summaries of more than one hundred interview tapes. Correspondence clarifying points raised in interviews and other supporting documentation can occasionally be found in the Research File. Among those interviewed were generals Ly Tong Ba, Huynh Van Cao, William E. DePuy, Pham Van Dong, Ngo Dzu, Victor H. Krulak, Edward Geary Lansdale, William C. Westmoreland, and Robert H. York; reporters Joseph Alsop, Peter Braestrup, and David Halberstam; White House and executive branch officials, including Ellsworth Bunker, George Christian, William Egan Colby, Philip Charles Habib, Robert W. Komer, and Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr; analysts such as Daniel Ellsberg; and politicians such as Tran Ngoc Chau.

The Professional File in the collection documents Sheehan's broader career as a journalist and author. The Books and Articles subseries contains publication records and research files. Material relating to After the War Was Over includes interviews conducted in 1989 of Vietnamese who were consulted by Sheehan years earlier for A Bright Shining Lie. Sheehan's New York Times file documents his career with the newspaper. His first assignment was with the metropolitan desk, but he was soon reassigned to Indonesia where he reported on the crisis surrounding President Achmed Soekarno and the military's suppression of a communist-led uprising in 1965. Sheehan then returned to Vietnam as a war correspondent. After 1966, he covered the war from Washington. As a Pentagon and national security reporter, Sheehan was responsible for Defense Department issues in general and for the war in Vietnam from a political perspective.

The New York Times file reflects the conflict and symbiosis inherent between a democratic government and the press. It also documents the evolution of Sheehan's own stand on the Vietnam War. Sheehan's position evolved from the stance he espoused in a widely read 1966 article, "Not a Dove But No Longer a Hawk," to more thorough opposition to the war later, especially after reading and reporting on the Pentagon Papers.

The New York Times file documents aspects of the decision to publish excerpts of the Pentagon Papers and the bitter legal battle which ensued. The Books and Articles file includes publication records for the one-volume Bantam Books version, edited by Sheehan, and later reissued by Quadrangle Press. Sheehan's copy of volumes 1-3 of the Beacon Press publication of the Pentagon Papers, known as the "Senator 'Mike' Gravel" edition, is annotated to mark censored passages. The files include correspondence, memoranda, notes, speeches, and records of legal proceedings, the Justice Department investigation, press coverage, and journalism prizes.

The United Press International–Indochina subseries includes business records of the Saigon bureau but is predominately a file of Sheehan's dispatches from South Vietnam for 1962-1964. Sheehan's dispatches are in the form of telegraphic transmissions some of which are coded. As a cost-saving measure, routine news was sent by cast account; urgent stories and bulletins were sent as cables. The dispatches offer a detailed record of war reporting during the period when United States advisors, including John Paul Vann, assisted the South Vietnamese government in combating insurgents.

Vietnamese names in the collection are alphabetized by the last part of the given name. The family name is the first element, as in Ngo and Vo for Ngo Dinh Diem and Vo Nguyen Giap. Sheehan followed tradition in referring to the Vietnamese by the last part of their given names, as in Diem and Giap. His alphabetization has been preserved even though it differs from name authority standards of the Library of Congress which cite family names first.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in twelve series:

- Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: Interviews and Notes, 1972-1987

Neil Sheehan Papers 7
• Professional File: Books and Articles, 1964-1992
• Closed, 1937-1985
• Oversize, 1962-1971
• Classified, 1960-1972
• Top Secret, 1961-1969
Description of Series

Container | Series |
----------|--------|
BOX 1-25  | Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: *Bright Shining Lie, 1963-1993*  
Drafts by Sheehan for *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam* with supporting files of correspondence, outlines, excerpts, photographs, records of sources, and working files of notes and documentation.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject.  
BOX 25-57 | John Paul Vann, circa 1920-1984  
BOX 25-30 | Correspondence, circa 1950-1984  
Correspondence to and from Vann and occasionally to and from Sheehan concerning Vann.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or subject.  
BOX 30-36 | Family and Personal Papers, circa 1920-1983  
Correspondence, legal and financial papers, photographs, school and church papers, death and funeral records, and clippings arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.  
BOX 36-39 | Military Service, 1942-1964  
Vann's service records, including personnel and efficiency reports, medical and military police investigation records, photographs, promotion orders, security clearances, and teaching records. Records from the Seventh Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, include after-action reports, briefings, correspondence, clippings, interviews, and photographs. Interspersed in the files are notes and material composed by Sheehan, including correspondence.  
Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.  
BOX 40 | Civilian Activities, 1961-1971  
Correspondence, personnel records, printed material, clippings, and records of security reviews during Vann's employment by the Martin Company, Denver, Colo., and correspondence and printed matter concerning his political activities and speaking engagements.  
Arranged alphabetically by subject.  
BOX 41-55 | State Department, Agency for International Development, Vietnam, 1964-1984  
Correspondence, memoranda, reports, briefings, photographs, position papers, policy statements, planning guides, printed material and clippings, training manuals, and other administrative records of Vann's work as a pacification officer for AID in South Vietnam, 1965-1972. Also includes Vann's diaries and notebooks, most of which are incomplete, award certificates, personnel records, and speech transcripts. Notes and correspondence by Sheehan are interfiled with Vann's papers.  
Arranged alphabetically by subject.  
BOX 55-57 | Subject File, 1964-1984  
Notes by Sheehan, clippings, photographs, and printed material concerning Vann.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

**BOX 58-83**

**Individuals, 1957-1991**

Correspondence, notebooks, journals, position and strategy papers, briefings, after-action reports, general reports, book and article manuscripts and other writings, trial transcripts, interview notes, maps, photographs, press releases, administrative records, training guidelines, and printed material collected by Sheehan, together with his notes. Material concerns individuals involved in the Vietnam War and background to the conflict in world history.

Arranged alphabetically by name of individual and thereunder by subject or type of material.

**BOX 83-103**

**Vietnam, 1953-1990**

Printed matter, maps, photographs, and notes by Sheehan concerning Vietnamese history.

Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

**BOX 103-107**

**Subject File, 1950-1985**

Notes by Sheehan and material he collected including reports, article manuscripts, clippings and other printed material.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

**BOX 108-122**

**Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: Interviews and Notes, 1972-1987**

**BOX 108-119**

**Notebooks, 1972-1987**

Notes by Sheehan on interviews, documents, and other sources compiled in spiral notebooks.

Arranged as numbered by Sheehan. A card index and inventory are placed at the beginning of the series.

**BOX 120-122**

**Tape Summaries, 1973-1975**

Typed summaries of selected interviews recorded by Sheehan on audiocassette tapes, with occasional annotations by Sheehan. Arranged alphabetically by name of person interviewed.

**BOX 123-132**


Documents collected by Sheehan from the Ellsworth Bunker Papers, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, the Pentagon Papers, and the State Department.

Arranged alphabetically according to source.

**BOX 133-152**


Organized by year and month.

**BOX 153-163**

**Professional File: Books and Articles, 1964-1992**

Drafts, research files, interviews, and notes for Sheehan's 1992 book *After the War Was Over*, and drafts, correspondence, notes, award citations and nominations, legal documents, and other material concerning various writings about the Vietnam War, most notably the publication of the Pentagon Papers.

Files are arranged alphabetically by title, thereunder by document type or subject.

Fact sheets, information kits, press releases, printed matter, photographs, reports, statements, and other background material collected in the course of Sheehan's work as a reporter, along with his byline clippings and copy submissions, correspondence, memoranda, and notes.

Files are arranged alphabetically by assignment as Defense Department correspondent, Metropolitan desk staff, Indonesia correspondent, office files, Vietnam correspondent, and White House correspondent. Thereunder, folders are arranged alphabetically by subject or name of person. The office files are general in nature and include chronological files of byline clippings, copy submissions, correspondence, memoranda, notes, and miscellaneous items, such as records of speeches and public appearances.


An office file of background material, correspondence, financial records, notes, and carbon copies of dispatches from Sheehan's tenure as bureau chief in Saigon, South Vietnam.

Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and chronologically thereunder.

BOX X 1-X 7  **Closed, 1937-1985**

Interview notes and summaries of taped interviews, along with audiocassette tapes, and subject files for Vann family members and other designated persons.

Organized alphabetically by type of material and thereunder by name.

BOX OV 1  **Oversize, 1962-1971**

Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection material including photographs, award certificates, and maps.

Organized and described according to the series, box, and folder from which the items were removed.

BOX CL 1-CL 7  **Classified, 1960-1972**

Material containing security classified information organized and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the items were removed.

BOX TS 1  **Top Secret, 1961-1969**

Material containing top secret information.

Organized and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the items were removed.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1-25</td>
<td><strong>Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: Bright Shining Lie, 1963-1993</strong>&lt;br&gt;Drafts by Sheehan for <em>A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam</em> with supporting files of correspondence, outlines, excerpts, photographs, records of sources, and working files of notes and documentation.&lt;br&gt;Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject.</td>
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| BOX 1     | Book text<br>Drafts<br>First<br>Chapter 1, "The Funeral," 1976<br>Chapter 2, "The Beginning," undated<br>Chapter 3, "A Battle and a Resignation," undated (2 folders)<br>Chapter 5, "The Boy and His Origins; The Man and His Times"
   Notes, queries, and revisions, 1979-1980, undated (2 folders) |
| BOX 2     | (3 folders)<br>Text, 1977, undated (5 folders) |
| BOX 3     | Notes on Robert Loomis's comments, 1976<br>Second<br>Chapter 1, "The Funeral," undated<br>Chapter 2, "The Beginning"
   Notes, 1979, undated<br>Text, undated<br>Chapter 3, "Antecedents to a Confrontation"
   Notes, 1978-1980, undated<br>Partial text, undated<br>Chapter 4, "The Battle of Ap Bac"
   Notes, undated<br>Text, undated<br>Chapter 5, "Taking on the System"
   Notes and revisions, 1977, undated (1 folder) (2 folders) |
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| BOX 5     | Fact checking and revisions, undated  
          | Queries, undated  
          | Text, undated  
          | Book I, "Going to War"  
          | Editing notes, 1988, undated  
          | Queries and revisions, undated  
          | (1 folder)  |
| BOX 6     | Text, undated  
          | (2 folders)  |
| BOX 7     | Book II, "Antecedents to a Confrontation"  
          | Editing notes, 1987-1988, undated  
          | |
| BOX 8     | Fact checking, notes, and revisions, undated  
          | Further revisions, 1982, undated  
          | Queries, 1980, undated  
          | Text, undated  
          | Book III, "The Battle of Ap Bac"  
          | Editing notes, 1986-1988, undated  
          | Queries and revisions, undated  
          | Text, undated  
          | Book IV, "Taking on the System"  
          | Editing notes, 1987-1988, undated  
          | Fact checking, undated  
          | Final changes, undated  
          | Further revisions, 1982, undated  
          | Queries, undated  
          | Revisions, undated  
          | Text, undated  
          | (1 folder)  |
| BOX 7     | Book V, "Antecedents to the Man"  
          | Catalog of interviews, undated  
          | Critiques and comments, 1982  
          | Editing notes, 1987-1988, undated  
          | Fact checking and revisions, undated  
          | Further revisions, undated  
          | (2 folders)  
          | Notes, 1981-1982, undated  
          | Text, undated  |
| BOX 8     | Book VI, "A Second Time Around"  
          | Critiques and comments, 1984  
          | Editing notes, 1987, undated  
          | Fact checking, undated  
          | Further revisions, 1975-1983, undated  
          | Revisions, undated  
          | Schematics, 1983, undated  
<pre><code>      | Text, undated  |
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<td>BOX 10</td>
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<td>Birth site and Norfolk, Va., neighborhood, 1981</td>
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<td>Raby, Melvin L., album, circa 1940s</td>
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<td>Vann, Aaron Frank, circa 1930s-1968</td>
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<td>Vann, Aaron Frank, Jr., and Eugene (brothers) circa 1940</td>
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<td>Vann, Patricia, baby pictures, 1946</td>
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**Military Service, 1942-1964**

Vann's service records, including personnel and efficiency reports, medical and military police investigation records, photographs, promotion orders, security clearances, and teaching records. Records from the Seventh Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, include after-action reports, briefings, correspondence, clippings, interviews, and photographs. Interspersed in the files are notes and material composed by Sheehan, including correspondence.

Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

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Vietnam, 1965-1972. Also includes Vann's diaries and notebooks, most of which are
incomplete, award certificates, personnel records, and speech transcripts. Notes and
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United States Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., photocopies of John Paul Vann papers, 1966-1972 (3 folders) |
| BOX 51    | North Vietnam offensives  
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   Correspondence, 1968  
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| BOX 52    | Photographs  
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| BOX 54    | Transparencies, 1965-1972, undated |
| BOX 55    | Speech transcripts  
1965, Oct. 5, School of International Studies, University of Denver, Denver, Colo. |
1966, June 7, School of International Studies, University of Denver, Denver, Colo.
1967
   Nov. 27, Naval Reserve Intelligence Unit, Denver, Colo.
   Nov. 28, School of International Studies, University of Denver, Denver, Colo.
1969, Feb. 19, School of International Studies, University of Denver, Denver, Colo.
1971, Mar. 19, Monterey Institute of Foreign Studies, Monterey, Calif.
1972, Jan. 8, Vincent Davis home, Lexington, Ky.

BOX 55-57

Subject File, 1964-1984
Notes by Sheehan, clippings, photographs, and printed material concerning Vann.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

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1962-1963 period, undated
1964 period, 1972, undated
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Nha Trang headquarters, 1972
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   Miscellaneous, 1963-1976
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Vanity, undated
Vietnamization, 1968-1976, undated
Watergate, 1973-1975, undated

**BOX 58-83**

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Correspondence, notebooks, journals, position and strategy papers, briefings, after-action reports, general reports, book and article manuscripts and other writings, trial transcripts, interview notes, maps, photographs, press releases, administrative records, training guidelines, and printed material collected by Sheehan, together with his notes. Material concerns individuals involved in the Vietnam War and background to the conflict in world history.

Arranged alphabetically by name of individual and thereunder by subject or type of material.

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   General, 1970-1975
   Vann, John Paul, 1969-1972
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"B" miscellaneous, 1973-1985
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Cao, Huynh Van, 1963-1987
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Cassidy, Richard, 1972
Chambers, Willard, 1972
Chapelle, Dickey, 1962
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Dong, Pham Van, 1972-1979  
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Drummond, James B., 1979  
Dunn, John M. ("Mike"), 1976-1979  
Dzu, Ngo, 1971-1977  
"D" miscellaneous, 1972-1984  
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Watergate, 1976-1982  
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"E" miscellaneous, 1973-1982
Fall, Bernard B., 1973
Franjola, Matthew, 1972-1976
"F" miscellaneous, 1972-1974, undated
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Gasset, Silas, 1977-1982
Giap, Vo Nguyen, 1971-1984
Goodwin, Richard, 1975
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Grinter, Lawrence, "Bargaining between Saigon and Washington: Dilemmas of Linkage during War," 1974

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      Helms, Richard, 1975, undated
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Hollingsworth, James, 1972-1976
Hopkins, Garland, 1959-1982
Hoyt, Palmer, 1964-1966
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"H" miscellaneous, 1972-1979
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|           | Kennedy, Edward M., 1979-1983  
|           | Kennedy, John F.  
|           | Biographical material, 1964-1984  
|           | Notes for *Bright Shining Lie*, 1977, undated  
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|           | Documents, 1961-1963  
|           | Kennedy, Robert F., 1968  
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|           | Khanh, Nguyen, 1962-1977  
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|           | Komer, Robert W.  
|           | Biographical material, 1967-1985  
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|           | Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, Austin, Tex., 1957-1967  
|           | Relationship with Vann, 1972-1974, undated  
|           | Writings, 1966-1975  
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|           | Correspondence, 1984-1986  
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|           | Notes for *Bright Shining Lie*  
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|           | Lake, Anthony, 1972-1984  
|           | Lansdale, Edward Geary, 1962-1987  
|           | Lawrence, T. E., 1974-1976  
|           | Leslie, Jacques, notebooks, 1971-1972  
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|           | Loan, Nguyen Ngoc, 1976-1979  
|           | Lodge, Henry Cabot, Jr., 1973-1985, undated |
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"O" miscellaneous, 1965-1975, undated
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<td>Sihanouk Norodom, 1979-1983</td>
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<td>Taylor, Maxwell D., 1961-1980, undated</td>
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<td>Columbia Broadcasting System libel trial, 1984-1985</td>
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<td>Interview for &quot;Hearts and Minds,&quot; 1973</td>
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Futrell, Robert, "The United States Air Force in Southeastern Asia: The Assistance and Combat Advisory Years, 1950-1965"
Dissertation typescript, 1972
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Automat Kalashnikov (AK)-47 rifle, 1980-1981, undated
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Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: Interviews and Notes, 1972-1987

Notes by Sheehan on interviews, documents, and other sources compiled in spiral notebooks.
Arranged as numbered by Sheehan. A card index and inventory are placed at the beginning of the series.

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Documents collected by Sheehan from the Ellsworth Bunker Papers, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, the Pentagon Papers, and the State Department.  
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Johnson, Lyndon Baines, papers, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, Austin, Tex.  
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Correspondence with library, 1974-1986  
Documents released (1965-1968 copies), 1976  
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| BOX 130 | State Department cables  
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<td>Professional File: Books and Articles, 1964-1992 Drafts, research files, interviews, and notes for Sheehan's 1992 book <em>After the War Was Over</em>, and drafts, correspondence, notes, award citations and nominations, legal documents, and other material concerning various writings about the Vietnam War, most notably the publication of the Pentagon Papers. Files are arranged alphabetically by title, thereunder by document type or subject.</td>
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Drafts  
Initial, undated  
Random House copy editing, undated  
Sheehan, Susan, comments, undated  
Fact checking, 1992  
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#### New Yorker article, "A Reporter at Large in Vietnam"

- **Drafts**
  - By Neil Sheehan
    - Part I, "The North"
      - Working draft and queries, 1990
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- By Neil Sheehan
  - Ap Bac, undated
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  - Miscellaneous, circa 1991
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    - (5 folders)
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#### Subject file

- Amerasians, 1989, undated
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|            | Hanoi  
|            | Christmas 1972 bombing, 1972-1989  
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|            | Miscellaneous facts, 1985-1989, undated  
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|            | Telephone conversations, 1988-1992  
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|            | Correspondence and notes, 1969  
|            | Letters to Edward M. Kennedy (photocopies), 1969  

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<td>Files are arranged alphabetically by assignment as Defense Department correspondent, Metropolitan desk staff, Indonesia correspondent, office files, Vietnam correspondent, and White House correspondent. Thereunder, folders are arranged alphabetically by subject or name of person. The office files are general in nature and include chronological files of byline clippings, copy submissions, correspondence, memoranda, notes, and miscellaneous items, such as records of speeches and public appearances.</td>
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(2 folders)
Printed material, 1960-1964, undated
(2 folders)

BOX 201
Reports, 1963-1965
(2 folders)
Byline clips, 1965
Copy submissions
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(2 folders)
Mailers, 1965
Messages, 1965
Notes, outlines, and drafts, 1965
(2 folders)
Correspondence, 1965
Map of central Java, 1965

BOX 202
Notebooks, undated
(39 vols.)
(3 folders)

BOX 203
Photographic negatives, 1965
Preparation for assignment, 1965
Briefing notes
Correspondence and miscellany

Office file
Appointment book, 1970
Blair Summer School for Journalism, Blairstown, N.J., 1967
Book manuscripts for comment
Halberstam, David, [*One Very Hot Day*], 1967
(3 folders)

BOX 204
Stafford, Peter, "Dickerings," 1971
(2 folders)
Walt, Lewis, "America Faces Defeat," 1972
(2 folders)
Chronological file
Byline clippings, 1966-1971, undated
(5 folders)
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(11 folders) |
| BOX 206   | Jan.-May 1968  
(3 folders)  
Sept.-Oct. 1968  
(2 folders)  
Jan.-Apr. 1972 |
| BOX 207   | Correspondence  
1966-1967  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 208   | 1968-1971  
(9 folders) |
| BOX 209   | 1972-1973  
(3 folders)  
Undated  
Memoranda, messages, and notes  
Briefing policy, 1971  
Miscellaneous  
1966-1970  
(7 folders)  
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| BOX 210   | (2 folders)  
Naval War College, Newport, R.I., talk, 1970  
Parking violations, 1969-1972  
Television news show appearances, 1971-1972  
Vietnam correspondent  
Background  
Briefings, bulletins, and press releases, 1965-1966  
Cables, 1966, undated  
Clippings, 1964-1966, undated  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 211   | (6 folders)  
Notes, 1963-1966, undated  
Printed material, 1966, undated  
Reports, 1962-1966, undated  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 212   | Copy submissions  
Ia Drang battle  
Byline clips, 1965  
Correspondence and notes, 1992-1993  
Dispatches, 1965  
Draft for unpublished magazine article, 1965-1967  
Miscellaneous  
Byline clips, 1965-1966  
Drafts, circa 1965-1966  
Correspondence with readers, 1966
   (2 folders)
Editorial changes and galleys, 1966
Notes and drafts, 1966, undated
Published article, 1966
   (2 folders)
Reprints, 1967
U.S. Marine Pacification in I Corps, circa 1965-1966
Correspondence and memoranda
   General, 1965
Kurtz, Howard, 1966, undated
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BOX 213
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BOX 214
   (3 folders)
BOX 215
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   Johnson, Lyndon B.
   Administration
      General
         Background, 1963-1970, undated
            (2 folders)
         Byline clips, 1968-1969
         Copy submissions, undated
         Correspondence and notes, 1968, undated
         Notes, 1968, undated
            (2 folders)
      (1 folder)
    Press releases, 1967-1968, undated
       (3 folders)
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   Background, undated
   Copy submissions, undated
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BOX 216
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   Goldberg, Arthur J., resignation, 1971
   Nixon, Richard M.
   California trip
      Background clips, 1969, undated
      Copy submissions, 1969, undated
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BOX 217
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Presidential election campaigns
1964, notes on Barry Goldwater
1968, notes on Eugene J. McCarthy
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   McCarthy, Eugene J.
      Background
      Copy submissions
      Notes
   Miscellaneous
      Background
      Notes
      (2 folders)

Wallace, George, assassination attempt
Presidential libraries
General
   Background material, 1969-1970
      (2 folders)
   Copy submissions, undated
   Notes, 1970, undated
      (2 folders)
   Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, Austin, Tex., 1965-1969

An office file of background material, correspondence, financial records, notes, and carbon
copies of dispatches from Sheehan's tenure as bureau chief in Saigon, South Vietnam.
Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and chronologically thereunder.

Background
   Notes, 1963-1964, undated
      (4 folders)
   Printed material, 1963, undated
   Press releases and statements, 1963-1964, undated
   Reports
      1962

Cambodia
   1963-1964, undated
      (4 folders)
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<td>BOX 223</td>
<td>Correspondence 1961-1963 (6 folders)</td>
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<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 230</td>
<td>December</td>
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<td></td>
<td>January</td>
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Neil Sheehan Papers
Cables
(2 folders)
Casts
(2 folders)
February
Cables
(2 folders)
Casts
(2 folders)
March
Cables
(2 folders)
Casts
(3 folders)
April cables
Undated

BOX 231
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(4 folders)
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About dispatches, May 1962-Mar. 1963
(2 folders)
Photograph captions, undated
(2 folders)

BOX 232
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BOX X 1-X 7
Closed, 1937-1985
Interview notes and summaries of taped interviews, along with audiocassette tapes, and subject files for Vann family members and other designated persons.
Organized alphabetically by type of material and thereunder by name.

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Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection
Notes and tape summaries
Bach, Nguyen Thi Minh ("Juliette"), 1972-1985
Buhl, Jack, 1972
Buhl, Patricia Vann, 1972-1973
Duong, My Phuong, Marlene ("Lee"), 1972-1974
Farnham, David, 1972-1985
(3 folders)
Vann, Jesse
1972-1977

BOX X 2
1977
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(2 folders)
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| BOX X 3   | Vann, Mary Jane, 1972-1978  
(4 folders)  
Vann, Peter, 1973  
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Subject file  
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Duong, My Phuong, Marlene ("Lee"), 1965-1975  
Farnham, David, 1969-1973  
Vann, Jesse, 1968-1972  
Vann, Mary Jane  
Correspondence with James A. Herbert, 1972  
Miscellaneous, 1937-1979  
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Condolences upon death of John Paul Vann  
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Miscellaneous, 1972  
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| BOX X 5   | Audiocassette tapes of interviews  
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Buhl, Patricia Vann, 1 July 1972, 12 Jan. 1973  
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Duong, My Phuong, Marlene ("Lee"), 14 Sept. 1972, 10 Dec. 1973 (14 tapes)  
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(15 tapes) |
| BOX X 6   | Vann, Jesse, 6 July, 26 Nov. 1972 (48 tapes) |
| BOX X 7   | Vann, John Allen, 30 June 1972, Mar. 1973 (22 tapes)  
Vann, John Allen, and Edward C. Story, 10 Feb. 1973  
(2 tapes)  
Vann, Mary Jane, 2-7 July 1972 (50 tapes)  
Vann, Peter, 6 Jan. 1973 (5 tapes)  
Vann, Thomas, 4 Jan. 1973 (5 tapes) |
| BOX OV 1  | **Oversize, 1962-1971**  
Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection material including photographs, award certificates, and maps.  
Organized and described according to the series, box, and folder from which the items were removed. |
Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection, circa 1920-1993, undated

*Bright Shining Lie*

Photographs
Published reproductions, undated (Container 21)

Research File
John Paul Vann
Military Service
Awards
31 July 1963, certificate of appreciation, Department of the Army (Container 37)
1 August 1963, certificate of retirement, Army of the United States of America (Container 37)

State Department, Agency for International Development, Vietnam
Vietnam
Awards
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Vietnamese government, Dan-Vu Boi-Tinh, 1971 (Container 46)

Individuals
Halberstam, David
Photograph, circa 1962 (Container 67)
Ziegler, Richard G.
Dan Tien operations
After-action reports, maps, 1962 (Container 82)

Vietnam
North Vietnam
Offensives
1972 Easter
Tan Canh battle, map with firebases plotted, undated (Container 96)

Material containing security classified information organized and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the items were removed.

Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection, circa 1920-1993

*Bright Shining Lie*, 1963-1993, undated

Working files
Book IV, "Taking on the System"
Civilian casualties, undated (Container 23)

Research File, circa 1920-1991, undated

John Paul Vann, circa 1920-1984, undated
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<td>Porter, William J., 1969 (Container 29)</td>
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<td>After-action report, 1962 (Container 39)</td>
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<td>Farewell message, 1963 (Container 39)</td>
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<td>Reports, 1963 (Container 39)</td>
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<td>State Department, Agency for International Development, Vietnam, 1964-1984, undated</td>
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<td>Duc Hoa subsector weekly activities, 1965 (Container 41)</td>
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<td>Policy statements, 1971 (Container 43)</td>
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<td>Region III</td>
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<td>Memoranda, 1966-1967 (Container 44)</td>
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<td>Civilian casualties and destruction of civilian property, 1970-1972 (Container 47)</td>
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<td>United States Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., photocopies of John Paul Vann papers, 1955-1966 (Container 50)</td>
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<td>Individuals, 1957-1991, undated</td>
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<td>Bernard, Carl F., 1969 (Container 58)</td>
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<td>Krulak, Victor H. (&quot;Brute&quot;), 1963 (Container 70)</td>
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<td>Wheeler, Earle, 1963 (Container 81)</td>
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<td>Ziegler, Richard G.</td>
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<td>After-action report, 1963 (Container 82)</td>
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<td>After-action reports, 1962 (Container 82)</td>
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<td>BOX CL 2</td>
<td>Air war</td>
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<td>F lurell, Robert, &quot;The United States Air Force in Southeastern Asia: The Assistance and Combat Advisory Years, 1950-1965&quot;</td>
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<td>Dissertation typescript, 1972</td>
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<td>Footnotes for Ap Bac battle, undated</td>
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<td>BOX CL 3</td>
<td>Army and Air Force of the Republic of Vietnam, 1963 (Container 87)</td>
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<td>Casualties</td>
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<td>Civilians and damages to civilian property</td>
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**BOX CL 4**
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    Censored material, 1961-1969 (Container 125)
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**BOX CL 5**
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  (9 folders)

**BOX CL 6**
(7 folders)

**BOX CL 7**
Working files of documents, questions, records of material, undated (Container 128)
  (5 folders)

**BOX TS 1**
**Top Secret, 1961-1969**
Material containing top secret information.
Organized and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the items were removed.

**BOX TS 1**
Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection, circa 1920-1993
  Research File, circa 1920-1991, undated
    Individuals, 1957-1991, undated
      Wheeler, Earle, 1963 (Container 81)
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        Notes by army historian, undated (Container 87)
    Conference, secretary of defense, Honolulu, Hawaii, 1962 (Container 90)
  Official Documents, 1961-1986, undated
  Pentagon Papers
    Censored material, 1961-1969 (Container 125)
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>I Corps</td>
<td>Northern military region in South Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II Corps</td>
<td>Central military region in South Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Corps</td>
<td>Military region in South Vietnam for Saigon and environs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV Corps</td>
<td>Southern military region in South Vietnam Mekong River delta</td>
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<tr>
<td>AID</td>
<td>Agency for International Development (or USAid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARVN</td>
<td>Army of the Republic of Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Combat Development Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>CG</td>
<td>Civil Guard</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIDG</td>
<td>Civilian Irregular Defense Groups</td>
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<td>CORDS</td>
<td>Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>COSVN</td>
<td>Central Office for South Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMAC</td>
<td>Delta Military Assistance Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRV</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GVN</td>
<td>Government of Vietnam (South)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAAG</td>
<td>Military Assistance Advisory Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACV</td>
<td>Military Advisory Command, Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>NVA</td>
<td>North Vietnamese Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCO</td>
<td>Office of Civil Operations [pacification]</td>
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<tr>
<td>RD</td>
<td>Revolutionary (or Rural) Development cadres</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDC</td>
<td>Self Defense Corps, South Vietnamese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USOM</td>
<td>United States Operations and Missions</td>
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<tr>
<td>VC</td>
<td>Vietcong: guerilla members, usually in South Vietnam, of the Vietnamese communist movement</td>
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<td>VNAF</td>
<td>South Vietnamese Air Force</td>
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