

Vincent Simonelli collection

AFC 2001/001/25749

Guides to the Collections in the Veterans History Project



**Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
November 2015**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2015655449>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadvhp.vh015004>

Prepared by Christy Chason and Victoria Donnellan

Finding aid encoded by Rachel Telford, November 2015

Collection Summary

Title: Vincent Simonelli collection, 1963-1967: Veterans History Project (U.S.)

Inclusive Dates: 1963-1967

Call No.: AFC 2001/001/25749

Creator: Simonelli, Vincent, 1944-

Extent (Items): 100 items.

Extent (Folders): 9 folders.

Extent (Photographs): graphic images: 36 photographic prints : black and white, color ; various sizes.

Extent (manuscripts): manuscripts: 63 items (112 pages).

Extent (artifacts): artifacts: 2 items.

Language: In English.

Location: Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2015655449>

Summary: The Vincent Simonelli collection consists of clippings, correspondence, military papers, printed matter, photographs and artifacts relating to Simonelli's service in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

Online Content: The Vincent Simonelli collection is available on the Library of Congress web site at <http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.25749/>.

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

Simonelli, Vincent, 1944-

Organizations

American Folklife Center.

United States. Army. Infantry, 5th. Battalion 1st

Veterans History Project (U.S.)

Subjects

Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Personal narratives, American.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Veterans--New Jersey.

Form/Genre

Clippings.

Correspondence.

Manuscripts.

Photographs.

Arrangement

Arranged in three series: Manuscripts, Photographs, Artifacts. Manuscripts are arranged alphabetically by type of material. Photographs are arranged in the donor's original order.

Acquisition

Accessioned, 2005.

Copyright Status

Duplication of collection materials may be restricted.

Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research; access restrictions apply. To request collection materials, please contact the Veterans History Project at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Online Content

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Preferred Citation

Vincent Simonelli Collection (AFC/2001/001/25749), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

Biographical Note

Vincent Simonelli was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1944, to Bill and Connie Simonelli. He graduated from the New York School of Printing in 1962, and was drafted into the United States Army in October 1965. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and additional training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. In April 1966, he deployed to Vietnam, where he served near Cu Chi as a Mortar Platoon Squad Leader with A Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. In April 1967, he returned to the United States, and served at Fort Carson, Colorado, and Fort Riley, Kansas, until he was discharged in October 1967.

Scope and Content

The Vincent Simonelli Collection consists of clippings, correspondence, military papers, printed matter, photographs and artifacts. The bulk of the collection consists of letters written by the veteran, mostly to his brother and sister-in-law, William and Cathy Simonelli. They cover the period of the veteran's training in the United States, his deployment to Vietnam, and stateside duty. The veteran is very articulate in his descriptions of his missions in Vietnam. The letters also show the veteran's love of sports, as he follows the hockey and baseball seasons.

Description of Series

Container

Series

Series I: Manuscripts

BOX-FOLDER MSS839/1

Clippings, 1966

MS01: Three articles on an incident in Chu Chi, South Vietnam, in which the veteran's tank was attacked; article on Elaine Reininger receiving the Samuel W. Marsh Foundation Award for 1966.

BOX-FOLDER MSS839/2-4

Correspondence, 1965-1967

MS02: Letters from the veteran, primarily to his brother and sister-in-law, William and Cathy Simonelli. Topics covered include: training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; duties, including fire guard, security watch and KP; the Northeast blackout of November 1965; rifles and equipment issued; sent to Fort Polk, Louisiana; favorite teams in the National Hockey League (NHL); physical tests; bivouac; shooting practice; compass training; detailed description of 6-day mission; being in Vietnam; feelings on Vietnam War and Vietnamese people; warfare equipment and techniques used by the Vietcong; division hit by mortar attack in Cu Chi; rest and recuperation (R&R) in Taiwan; following the National and American Baseball League; interviewed by a New York newsman; case of friendly fire; 12-day mission in Bo Loi Woods; Tay Ninh Province; describes action and casualties at Ho Bo Woods; ran into enemy base camp; Operation Junction City; loves Kool-Aid sent from home; air drop of supplies; sent to Fort Carson, Colorado; purchased movie projector; loaned to Fort Riley, Kansas, to help train a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) group; sent to driver training; discusses what type of car he'll buy when he gets out.

BOX-FOLDER MSS839/5

Correspondence, undated

MS03: Handwritten letter written to the veteran from the parents of his best friend, who was killed in action (KIA), thanking him for the Mass card, and wishing him well; typewritten letter from the President of the New York Printing Press Assistants & Offset Workers Union No. 23 to the veteran's parents, enclosing a copy of a news clipping.

BOX-FOLDER MSS839/6

Military Papers, undated

MS04: Papers include: Statement of acceptability for induction into service; reassignment orders; orders listing the veteran as having earned the 1st Class Gunner Badge; orders listing the veteran as having earned the Marksman Badge; promotion orders for the veteran to Private First Class; orders listing the veteran as earning the Combat Infantryman Badge; orders listing the veteran as earning the Purple Heart; posthumous award of Bronze Star Medal to veteran's best friend, PFC Ruhl; orders for assignment of the veteran to his battery; letter of appreciation to the veteran upon termination of his duties as Squad Leader; Port Call Instructions - Air Travel list of servicemen to go back to the States; orders for promotion of the veteran to Sergeant; Transmittal of Promotion Orders for the veteran to rank of Sergeant; Temporary Change of Station Orders for the veteran to go to Fort Riley, Kansas; military pay voucher; Physical and Mental Status on Release From Active Service form; Bronze Star presentation letter; transfer to Standby; notice to register with the Selective Service upon leaving active duty; assignment of USAR Control Group Standby.

BOX-FOLDER MSS839/7 **Printed Matter, 1966**

MS05: Burial service program for Robert Ruhl, the veteran's best friend; Menu for Christmas dinner held in Vietnam, 1966; Postcard of Old Abilene, Kansas.

Series II: Photographs

BOX-FOLDER MSS839/8 **Photographic Prints, 1963-1967**

PH01-PH36: Images of the veteran during training; the veteran and fellow soldiers in Vietnam; family photographs.

Series III: Artifacts

BOX-FOLDER MSS839/9 **Artifact, undated**

AR01: Vietnamese paper money; military payment certificate.

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Series I: Manuscripts

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1 folder

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BOX-FOLDER MSS839/9 Artifact, undated

1 folder

AR01: Vietnamese paper money; military payment certificate.