

# Mark W. Olver Collection

AFC 2001/001/121137



American Folklife Center, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2024

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

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022655454>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadvhp.vh024002>

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Finding aid encoded by Justina Moloney, August 2024

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Mark W. Olver collection, 1966-1968, 2019 : Veterans History Project (U.S.)

**Inclusive Dates:** 1966-2019

**Bulk Dates:** 1966-1968

**Call No.:** AFC 2001/001/121137

**Extent (correspondence):** 218 items

**Extent (correspondence):** 8 items: digital

**Extent (military papers):** 3 items

**Extent (periodicals):** 3 items

**Extent (clippings):** 8 items

**Extent (photographs):** 50 photographs: black and white, color

**Extent (slides):** 32 slides : color

**Extent (slides):** 66 slides : digital

**Language:** Collection material in English.

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022655454>

**Summary:** Mark W. Olver served as an infantry soldier in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Collection includes correspondence, clippings, military papers, periodicals, photographs, slides, as well as digital files.

## Acquisition

Accessioned, 2021.

## Copyright Status

Duplication of collection materials may be governed by copyright and other restrictions.

## Access and Restrictions

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

## Preferred Citation

Mark W. Olver Collection (AFC/2001/001/121137), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

## Biographical Note

Mark Olver was born October 8th, 1947, in Damascus, Pennsylvania to Wayne Olver and Inez Olver. Growing up in a small rural community, Olver decided to forgo college and move to New Jersey when he was eighteen in 1966. Not long after, he received his draft notice for the U.S. Army. Olver deployed to Vietnam in September 1967 and served as a private first class with D Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Division, 1st Infantry Division.

While stationed in Vietnam, Olver was primarily located in Phouc Vinh where he and his unit routinely went on search-and-destroy patrols experiencing combat with North Vietnamese forces. On August 28th, 1968 Olver was wounded during a search and destroy operation by an enemy mortar attack. He was evacuated to the 24th Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh with a depressed skull fracture. After recovering, Olver was medically discharged from the Army as an E-4 in 1969.

After his service, Olver worked with his father in a farm-oriented equipment business, eventually becoming a carpenter. He later married his wife, Deborah Olver.

## Scope and Content

Collection includes correspondence, clippings, military papers, periodicals, photographs, slides, as well as digital files. The bulk of the collection is predominately correspondence between Olver and his mother, Inez Olver. A bound volume of Olver's letters includes transcriptions of most of the correspondence between Olver and his mother, in addition to Olver's perspective on his service in Vietnam in 2017. Photographs and slides include scenes of base camp life in Phuc Vinh and Quan Loi, as well as Olver recuperating in the 24th Evac Hospital after being wounded. Digital files include scans of correspondence and slides, as well as slides not found within the collection in the analog format.

## Arrangement

Collection is arranged in three series: manuscripts, photographs, and computer files

## 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

Olver, Mark W.  
Olver, Mark W., creator.  
Olver, Mark W.--Correspondence.  
Olver, Mark W.--Photographs.

### Organizations

American Folklife Center  
United States. Army Infantry Division, 1st.  
United States. Army.  
Veterans History Project (U.S.)

### Subjects

Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Personal narratives, American.  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Veterans--Florida.  
War casualties.

### Places

Vietnam.

### Form/Genre

Clippings.  
Correspondence  
Manuscripts.  
Memoirs.  
Photographs.  
Slides.

## Description of Series

Container

Series

Series I: Manuscripts

Series II: Photographs

Series III: Computer Files

# Container List

Container	Contents
	<b>Series I: Manuscripts</b>
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> MSS3074/1-5	Correspondence, December 9, 1966-May 7, 1968  <a href="#">Digital content available</a> MS01: Letters from Olver to his family, predominately his mother, Inez Olver, documenting Olver's Army service in the United States and Vietnam. Topics include: basic training, excelling at riflery, combat training, descriptions of serving in Phouc Vinh, "short timers," hearing about anti-war feelings stateside and the "win the war and get out" attitude in country, witnessing a soldier have a mental break, thoughts on just trying to survive his year in country, search and destroy missions, describing what a patrol is like, conflicted feelings surrounding burning a Viet Cong village, loosing two good friends in the same month, becoming wounded in the head due to ambush.
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> MSS3074/6	Correspondence, 1966-1968  <a href="#">Digital content available</a> MS02: Letters from family, friends, and well-wishers for Olver, the majority of which relate to notes of condolence after he was wounded in combat in Vietnam.
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> MSS694/1	Correspondence, 1966-1968  <a href="#">Digital content available</a> MS03: Self-published collection of transcribed correspondence with annotations and memoirs Olver co-authored with Regina Tubbs produced in 2019. Includes images of photographs and documents Olver created while in Vietnam.
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> MSS3074/7	Clippings, 1967-1968  <a href="#">Digital content available</a> MS04: Newspaper articles about 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry in Vietnam compiled by Olver's mother, Inez. Also includes articles about Olver following his injuries sustained while in Vietnam.
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> OVZ369/1	Military Papers, July 1967-May 11, 1968  <a href="#">Digital content available</a> MS05: Two training schedules for Olver's unit at Fort Polk (07/1967) and an inventory of belonging when Olver was in the hospital (05/11/1968)
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> OVZ187/1	Periodicals, 1967-1968  <a href="#">Digital content available</a> MS06: Issues of The American Traveler of the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam.
	<b>Series II: Photographs</b>
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> OVZ413/1	Original Photographic Print, 1967-1968  <a href="#">Digital content available</a> PH01-PH02: Images of Olver in uniform, immediately before deploying to Vietnam.
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> MSS3074/8	Original Photographic Print, 1967-1968  <a href="#">Digital content available</a> PH03: Mark Olver with Fess Parker, Long Binh, Vietnam, 4/25/1965 PH04: Olver with unidentified soldier. PH05: "Easter 1969, April 6" Olver Standing with his father. PH06: Olver in dress uniform with unidentified soldier. PH07: Soldier walking through Vietnam forest

## Series II: Photographs

### Container Contents

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PH08: Olver, Vickers, and Johnson, Phuoc Vinh, Nov. 1967  
PH09: "August 1967" Olver sitting on a bed with a helmet in his lap.  
PH10: "Mark Viet Nam, January 1968"PH11: "Air Strike"  
PH12: "VC Village" Unidentified man with a dog  
PH13: "Richard Davidson 'Bird' of Granite City, Illinois"  
PH14: "William Bradley 'Best friend' of Louisiana"  
PH16: "William Bradley"  
PH17: "Vietnamese village"  
PH18: "Vietnam 1968, Turner, Schmidt, Martin"  
PH19-PH21: View of platoon camp in Vietnam  
PH22: "C-123 Caribou"PH23: "Huey Gun Ship"  
PH24: Group of soldiers sitting under of a tent  
PH25: Two unidentified soldiers  
PH26: "Mark, Sgt. Vickers, Sgt. Johnson"  
PH27: "Bunker line"  
PH28: "Weekend pass from Basic, Ft. Knox"  
PH29: View of unidentified farm land in Vietnam  
PH30: Unidentified soldier standing next to artillery weapon  
PH31: "Ft. Polk"  
PH32: Unidentified soldier standing next to artillery weapon  
PH33: "Jak Kanabinis, Vickers, Sgt. Johnson"  
PH34: "mortor platoon"  
PH35: "Phouc Vinh, 81 mm mortar tube"  
PH36: "Basecamp somewhere"  
PH37: Fort Polk, LA  
PH38: "Trevino, Arizona"  
PH39: "Tent City, July 1967, Ft. Polk, LA"  
PH40: Image of unidentified human remains  
PH41: ""Basic Training Ft. Knox 1966"  
PH42: "Captured Ak 47"  
PH43: "Pick up for Air Assault"  
PH44: Image of helicopter receiving flight crew  
PH45: Image of platoon camp, tent and chow  
PH46: "Detainee"  
PH47: "Mark with Fess Parker, taken April 24, 1968 at the 24th Evac. Hospital"  
PH48: "Sept. 1967 Phouc Vinh, Viet Nam"  
PH50: "Guess Who? Sept 1967, Phouc Vinh, Viet Nam"

#### BOX-FOLDER MSS3074/9 Slides, 1967-1968

##### [Digital content available](#)

PH51: "Martin & Davidson, 1968"  
PH52: "Prentis Martin shaving, 1968"  
PH53: "Cobra, 1968"PH54: "Mail call, 1968"  
PH55: "Endless sand bags, '68"  
PH56: "Richard Davidson 'Bird', '68"  
PH57: "John Galus of W. Springfield, MA"  
PH58: "Hwy 13 open, 1968"  
PH59: "Latrines at Phouc Vinh"  
PH60: "Mark Olver, always digging, 1968"  
PH61: "Mark Olver with 11th Cav"  
PH62-PH68: Images of Phouc Vinh camp  
PH69: "Quan Loi, 1968"PH70: "Phuoc Vinh, 1968"  
PH71: "Holes on perimeter, 11th Cav"  
PH72: "Interpreter with detainee, 1968"

### Series III: Computer Files

Container	Contents
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PH73-PH82: Images of Olver's platoon and base camp

#### Series III: Computer Files

**BOX-FOLDER** FLD-69/1 Correspondence, 2019

[Digital content available](#)

CF01: Contains 8 digital files of MS03 correspondence.

**BOX-FOLDER** FLD-69/2 Photographs, 1967-1968

[Digital content available](#)

CF02: Contains digital images of slides created by Olver while in Vietnam. Some duplicates found in PH52-PH82