

Guide to the David Andrew Hunter Papers

MS 1486



compiled by Logan Hill

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Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
(203) 432-1735
(203) 432-7441

beinecke.library@yale.edu

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1486

CREATOR: Hunter, David Andrew, 1904-1958

TITLE: David Andrew Hunter papers

DATES: 1942-1958

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, topical files and photographs. Correspondence and topical files document David Hunter's attempts to prove that his post-war illnesses were service-related and to gain compensation. The photographs are of the Far East during World War II.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1486>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1486>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of David A. Hunter, Jr., 1988.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

David Andrew Hunter Papers (MS 1486). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

David Andrew Hunter was born on March 24, 1904 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He graduated from Warren Easton High School in 1921. He studied for one year at Tulane University and eventually worked at Kessler Insurance Company in New Orleans. He married Belle Watson in 1930. Their son, David Andrew Hunter, Jr. was born in 1931. David Hunter, Sr. enlisted in the Army on June 23, 1942 in New Orleans. As an Intelligence Officer in the Office of Strategic Services, Hunter served in Burma, India, China and Thailand. Hunter received an honorable discharge on April 6, 1946, and returned to New Orleans. Thereafter, he became ill with dysentery and malaria. He attempted to prove his illness was service-related in order to receive compensation, but was unsuccessful. David Andrew Hunter died on May 19, 1958.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, topical files and photographs. Correspondence and topical files document David Hunter's attempts to prove that his post-war illnesses were service-related and to gain compensation. The photographs are of the Far East during World War II.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in three series: Series I. Correspondence, 1942-1958. Series II. Topical Files, 1942-1958. Series III. Photographs, 1958, undated

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1942-1958

Correspondence is arranged in two sections: "Family" and "Other." Within each section, letters are arranged chronologically. The "Family" section contains letters written by Hunter to his wife and son during his service in World War II. The letters reveal very little about the course of the war or Hunter's role in it. Hunter comments mainly on family matters and foreign culture and landscapes. The "Other" section primarily includes letters written by non-family members on behalf of Hunter in his attempt to gain compensation for his illnesses. Typically, the writers address the capacity in which they were familiar with Hunter and praise his character. Copies of Hunter's solicitations for such assistance are frequently attached.

Family		
1942		1942
b. 1, f. 1	June 27–July 30	June 27–July 30
b. 1, f. 2	August 1–September 30	August 1–September 30
b. 1, f. 3	October 1–December 30	October 1–December 30
1943		1943
b. 1, f. 4	January 7–March 23	January 7–March 23
b. 1, f. 5	April 1–June 30	April 1–June 30
b. 1, f. 6	July 3–August 26	July 3–August 26
b. 1, f. 7	September 6–December 5	September 6–December 5
1944		1944
b. 1, f. 8	March 6–May 31	March 6–May 31
b. 1, f. 9	June 1–August 29	June 1–August 29
b. 1, f. 10	September 4–November 1	September 4–November 1
b. 1, f. 11	1949-1956, undated	1949-1956, undated
b. 1, f. 12	Other	1942 December 2-1958 April 8

Series II: Topical Files, 1942-1958, undated

This series is arranged alphabetically. Most materials relate to Hunter's medical problems and attempts to obtain compensation from the Red Cross, Social Security Administration and Veteran's Administration. The "Medical record" file is the most informative pertaining to his illnesses. "Military record" provides extensive biographical information. "Memos and directives" includes information on Hunter's military transfers and duties. "Prisoners of War, Siam" contains a draft by Hunter of a work that describes the American prisoners of war he evacuated from Siam in August, 1945.

b. 2, f. 1	American National Red Cross	1956-1957
b. 2, f. 2	Finances	1942 October - 1958 June 16
b. 2, f. 3	Medical [background reference file]	1948, undated
b. 2, f. 4	Medical record	1944-1956
b. 2, f. 5	Memos and directives [military]	1942-1953
b. 2, f. 6	Military record	1946-1953
b. 2, f. 7	Miscellaneous	1942, undated
b. 2, f. 8	Newspaper clippings	1942-1945
b. 2, f. 9	Postcards [Seminole in Florida]	Undated
b. 2, f. 10	Prisoners of War, Siam	Undated
b. 2, f. 11	Rangoon [victory celebrations]	1945
b. 2, f. 12	Social Security Administration	1958, undated
	Veteran's Administration	
b. 2, f. 13	Affidavits	1948-1956
b. 2, f. 14	Claims and compensation ratings	1947-1958

Series III: Photographs, 1958, undated

Photographs are arranged in two sections: "Identified" and "Unidentified." Within these sections they are arranged alphabetically by topic. The majority are undated. They are comprised of black and white photographs, 2" x 3.5", 3" x 5", and 8" x 10". On the whole, the photographs are in good condition, but some have faded. A few of the 8" by 10" photographs are of superior quality. This is the most interesting series in the collection. It contains hundreds of photographs of the landscape, culture, indigenous peoples and American soldiers in the Far East during World War II.

Identified		
b. 3, f. 1	Ba Maun Chain	1958
b. 3, f. 1	Battle Creek Hotel	Undated
b. 3, f. 1	Bunker, Japanese	Undated
b. 3, f. 1	Donovan, General William and Colonel Ray Peers	Undated
b. 3, f. 1	Hunter, David A.	Undated
b. 3, f. 1	Hunter, David A., General William Donovan and Colonel Ray Peers	Undated
b. 3, f. 1	Peers, Colonel Ray	Undated
b. 3, f. 1	Photograph in 'Behind the Burma Road' [aerial]	Undated
b. 3, f. 1	Unidentified	Undated
b. 3, f. 2	Aerial	
b. 3, f. 3	Airplanes	
b. 3, f. 4	Celebrations	
b. 3, f. 5	Cities	
b. 3, f. 6	Civilian	
b. 3, f. 7	Commissary	
b. 3, f. 8	Construction	
b. 3, f. 9	Corpses	
b. 3, f. 10	Hunting	
Indigenous peoples		
b. 3, f. 11-12	General	
b. 3, f. 13	Children	
b. 3, f. 14	Girl	
b. 3, f. 15	Troops	
b. 3, f. 16	Women	

Unidentified (continued)

b. 3, f. 17	Japanese flags
b. 3, f. 18	Landscapes
b. 4, f. 19	Medical [war hospitals]
b. 4, f. 20	Skulls, enemy [American display]
b. 4, f. 21	Soldiers, United States
b. 4, f. 22	Soldiers, United States with indigenous peoples
b. 4, f. 23	Torture victims
b. 4, f. 24	Villages
b. 4, f. 25	War damage

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Military pensions
Veterans -- Medical care
Veterans -- United States
World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Burma

Geographic Names

Burma -- History -- Japanese occupation,
1942-1945

Names

Hunter, David Andrew, 1904-1958

Corporate Body

United States. Office of Strategic Services