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Elisa Beaver Desert Storm Letters Collection

Creator: Elisa Beaver
Dates: 1991
Quantity: 1 folder
Acquisition: Donated by Elisa E. Gerasin-Beaver, November 11, 2014
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Biographical Note

The Gulf War (August 1990 - February 1991) was a war waged by coalition forces from 34 nations led by the United States against Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. The air and ground conflict of early 1991 was codenamed Operation Desert Storm.

Elisa Beaver worked in downtown Chicago as a pension assistant at the time of the Gulf War. Her husband Bill was a veteran of the Vietnam War. This connection, as well as the trend of showing troops overseas homeland support, prompted Beaver to write to many anonymous soldiers during the Gulf War.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Elisa Beaver Desert Storm Letters Collection consists primarily of letters written by Elisa to and from soldiers serving in the Middle East during the Persian Gulf War, specifically during the air and ground combat phase codenamed Operation Desert Storm. Her two correspondents are SSG Scott R. Higgins and James Nash, in the

Army and Navy respectively. The letters sent were originally photo copied so that Beaver could retain her own records. All letters have been kept in original order, they are primarily in chronological order but diverge in some instances where a letter would not arrive until weeks after its postmark date. The collection also contains postcards, a greeting card, and a newspaper clipping.

Arrangement

The collection arrived in a binder and primarily in chronological order. Original order has been maintained.

Rights

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Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Subjects

Operation Desert Storm, 1990-1991.
Persian Gulf War, 1991.

Container List

800193001	Operation Desert Storm sign: We support our troops in the Persian Gulf - Come Home Soon - Please display with pride.	n.d.
800193002	Letter from: SSG Scott R. Higgins; To: Miss Gerasin-Beaver; Thanking for the support from back home. Tells of his family: Wife - Brenda, Son - Sterling, both in Kansas, parents in Ohio. Being bored during training is the biggest problem he's encountered so far.	1/5/1991

- 800193003 Letter from: Elisa Gerasin-Beaver; To: Scott; Excited to receive a return letter from a soldier (her first and only response so far). Received his letter on the day that bombings began there. Sending a picture of her and her cat. Elisa and her husband don't have children; she works as a secretary in Chicago where she commutes from Glen Ellyn. Everyone on the train was silent and sad when the announcement of bombing was announced. 1/17/1991
- 800193004 Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Has been watching the "War in the Gulf" on TV. Was going to send a newspaper, but heard that mail is limited to letters and audio cassettes. Says that support for the troops is very strong. Elisa's boss is postponing a trip to NY because of fear of terrorism on the plane. 1/21/1991
- 800193005 Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Watching CNN for news coverage lately. Thinking that there won't be any comparisons to Vietnam support or moral. Only negatives so far are that airlines are having problems; Eastern Air Lines filed for bankruptcy. 1/24/1991
- 800193006 Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Read in the newspaper about an English class writing to "Any Service Operation Desert Storm." Has heard about their poor living conditions, wonders what his expertise is in, and how women soldiers are doing there. Tomorrow is her and Bill's 10 year wedding anniversary. 2/6/1991
- 800193007 Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Prefaces the included card (not included) that she knows Scott isn't a sexist. Support is still very high; stores are running out of ribbons and flags. Included: "Desert Storm" poem by Barbara G. Hudson. 2/5/1991
- 800193008 Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Sending stickers (not included) of The Simpsons since she saw that General Powell was given a Bart Simpson doll and that is was the new mascot for Desert Storm. 2/11/1991
- 800193009 Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Having a snow blizzard in Chicago today. Elisa's office building put up a huge flag and yellow ribbons in the lobby. Planning a vacation to a dude ranch in Colorado. 2/14/1991

800193010	Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Hearing that a ground war is eminent. Talks about love of animals, outdoors, and taking trips to different places at least once a year.	2/20/1991
800193011	Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Mentions including articles that might interest him. Valentine's dinner was cancelled due to the blizzard. Hears that mail is on a five week delay.	2/21/1991
800193012	Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; The ground war has started and their hearing mixed results back home. Tells Scott of her background and family history.	2/27/1991
800193013	Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Easter greetings with note about Elisa painting eggs.	n.d.
800193014	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Says that it was nice to receive a second letter from her. Comments on terrorism threats being high and hoping that they are only threats. Things on the front are going well, bombing continuing.	2/17/1991
800193015	Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Received his second letter on March 4th, postmarked February 17. She's sent eleven letters so far and is keeping photo copies of the letters for her records and recollections. Hoping that he can visit Colorado when he gets back home. Wants him to call her when he does so they can talk about it; mentions leaving message on an answering machine if they aren't home.	3/5/1991
800193016	Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Anniversary greetings. Hoping he gets it in time for the March 26th anniversary.	3/5/1991
800193017	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Glad that Elisa is writing to him. Scott's wife teaches aerobics class for the Military Wives group. Wants Elisa to tell her husband that he is proud of what he did in Vietnam; knows it wasn't as supported as the Gulf War.	2/23/1991
800193018	Postcard from: James Nash; To: Elisa; Photo of U.S.S. America (CV-66). Thanking for her letter and that he too is from Chicago.	2/18/1991
800193019	Letter from: Elisa; To: James; Happy to receive his postcard on March 7, postmarked February 18. So appreciative for the war being over and won. News on TV show "Twin Peaks" being cancelled.	3/8/1991

800193020	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Talks about G-day (the start of ground operations) on 24th of February. Has heard that he may get to go home in either 3 day or 3 weeks. Greatly appreciates her writing to him during his time there.	3/3/1991
800193021	Letter from: James; To: Elisa; The mail is moving quicker now that the war is over. Navy was first in and will be last out; the ship he is on has four more months. Heading to Hurghada, Egypt now and maybe Toulon, France after.	3/14/1991
800193022	Letter from: Elisa; To: James; Asking if he is a reservist or has a career in the Navy. Explains her job at the Civic Opera house building downtown for New York Life.	3/21/1991
800193023	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Explaining the living condition and meals; having cold MRE's (Meal, Ready to Eat) and "Bird Baths" due to shortage in water. His expertise is in pharmaceuticals, trained at Academy of Health sciences at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.	3/5/1991
800193024	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Packing up and getting ready to head home. Likes new technology like video games, VCR's, and tape recorders. Talks about the Iraqi's are setting the Kuwaiti oil fields on fire.	3/6/1991
800193025	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Being told that they may not be leaving for another sixty to ninety days. Mentions he has a two year old son.	3/7/1991
800193026	Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Sorry to hear that he's going to be there longer; had originally stopped writing when she heard he was coming home. Saw the Kuwait oil field fires on the news. There have been a few tornados touchdown nearby recently.	4/2/1991
800193027	Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Talks about going to the Kane County Flea Market and Bill's sister coming to visit.	4/3/1991
800193028	Letter from: Elisa; To: Jim; Talks about recent tornados, Kane County Flea Market, and her cat's gingivitis.	4/3/1991
800193029	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Waiting to get to port to leave Saudi Arabia. His wife sent a tape recording on microcassette of her and their son's voice.	3/11/1991

800193030	Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Have been doing work on the house; carpet, wallpaper; bugs. Maybe would have sent a mini cassette player of her voice too.	4/9/1991
800193031	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; No one from his company was even injured in the war. Have been playing softball to pass the time. Upset he won't be home in time for his anniversary.	3/17/1991
800193032	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Thanking for her anniversary card. Got word that he should be home no later than May 28th. Hoping to visit Ohio once he returns since he missed his younger brother's wedding due to the war.	3/25/1991
800193033	Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Describes how tax season is going at her work. There was supposed to take place on her train today, but the court was able to stop it.	4/17/1991
800193034	Letter from: Elisa; To: Scott; Hoping he'll be home by the time he reads the letter. It was secretary's week at work and that her and Bill have been working in the yard. (Includes recipes for chowder).	4/23/1991
800193035	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Leaving present location on April 15th; should finally be home by May 12th. Writes a few lines in German.	4/13/1991
800193036	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Preparing vehicles to redeploy home. Tells how he met his wife.	4/19/1991
800193037	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Due to leave on May 9th, should be home before the letter reaches her. Wishing more people were as considerate as Elisa.	5/3/1991
800193038	Letter from: Scott; To: Elisa; Thinking he may have gotten her last letter as mail sent after April 24th will be redirected to Fort Riley. Tells about himself and his history in the military.	5/4/1991
800193039	Postcard from: Scott; To: Elisa; (Flags of the World) He should be home by the time she receives this. Wait to write until he knows his new address.	n.d.
800193040	Letter from: James; To: Elisa; Talks about his family; married with two kids. Says if he wins the lottery he'll send her and Bill on a cruise. Going to send pictures	3/27/1991

once he returns.

800193041	Letter from: Elisa; To: James; Describes how tax season is going at her work and the train strike.	4/17/1991
800193042	Postcard from: James; To: Elisa; Photo of Catania. Says he may show up anywhere (From New York)	n.d.
800193043	Newspaper clipping of photograph of U.S.S. America (CV-66)	2/28/1991
800193044	Christmas Card from: James; To: Elisa; Thinking this Christmas will be better than the last. Thanking again for her support during Desert Storm.	n.d.