

PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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SFC Peter Ruplenas Collection

Creator: John Paul Ruplenas
Dates: 2003, n.d.
Quantity: 1 folder
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Biographical Note

Peter Ruplenas was born in 1918 to Lithuanian immigrants, John and Dorothy in Boston, Massachusetts. Ruplenas enlisted in the in the Army on June 24, 1941 and was quickly trained at the department of photography.

During Ruplenas time in World War I, he photographed German targets, followed the 486 heavy bomb group, photographed air crashes and bomb sites, and honed the practice of one-hour development.

Ruplenas reenlisted for the Korean War, and shot the Inchon landing, Seoul, and Yalu river conflicts. Ruplenas was well decorated during the Korean War, being awarded: Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with Metal Pendant, and the title of third best cameraman for three months in 1951; first best in April, 1951.

While photographing the Vietnam War, Ruplenas traveled from Hawaii to Saigon and would eventually receive the nickname "Old Rupy" for being the veteran in the group.

Peter met his future wife, Hazel, on a blind date during his early days in the service, and they were wed seven weeks later. They were together until Hazel's death in 1986.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The SFC Peter Ruplenas Collection consists of newspaper clippings concerning SFC Peter "Rupy" Ruplenas and his time serving in the United States Army during World War II, The Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The articles also discuss his career as a photographer during the wars.

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:

Korean War, 1950-1953--United States.
United States.--Army--Photographers
Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975--United States.
War photographers--United States
World War, 1939-1945--Photography

Container List

	Newspaper Clippings	2003, n.d.
800187001	"Lensman recalls battle memories" by Erienne Greene	n.d.
800187002	Newspaper photograph of the Vietnam Veterans featured in <i>Unsung Heroes</i>	n.d.
800187003	Peter Ruplenas biography from Staff Reports	n.d.

800187004	The Journal's advertisement for Unsung Heroes: Remembering those who served Vietnam War.	11/10/2003
800187005	"Three war, untold images: Photographer and veteran Peter Ruplenas documented tragedy and triumph during WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War" by Karen Hartsog	n.d.
800187006	"We Remember Our Courageous Veterans: Proud to Honor Our Country's Veterans" with blurb on Ruplenas	11/11/2003