

5-1-2007

Jessamine County Middle School - Desert Storm Collection (MSS 166)

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http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/44

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Descriptive Inventory

**MSS 166 JESSAMINE County, Kentucky Middle School –
Desert Storm Collection**

3 boxes. 22 folders. 539 items. 1990-1992. Originals.

1992.180.1

COLLECTION NOTE

The bulk of this collection consists of photocopies of eight albums of letters sent to students at Jessamine County Middle School in Nicholasville, Kentucky, from soldiers serving in the Persian Gulf War (referred to as Operation Desert Storm prior to 1991). The majority of the letters were sent by soldiers serving in Saudi Arabia. The students wrote letters to the soldiers, but only a few of the student letters are included in the collection. The albums, or scrapbooks, also contain newspaper clippings about the war.

The project was headed by Jessamine County Middle School teacher, Melinda D. Lewis. The project started when Ms. Lewis created a writing project for her classes that involved writing letters to her cousin, Timothy Cassell, who was serving in Saudi Arabia as a Special Forces Green Beret Sergeant. The first 130 letters drafted by the students were sent to Cassell at the rate of one per day. The middle schoolers also sent an American flag and other items of support. The school supported the project in a big way, and eventually each student adopted a soldier and wrote to him; the number of soldiers who were sent letters eventually totaled 1,418. The project received widespread media attention, and copies of articles related to the endeavor are included in the collection. The letters from soldiers discuss military life—both the excitement and the boredom—and ask questions about the lives of the students. They also answer inquiries made by the students in their letters. The collection also includes several videos related to the project, including one of three soldiers, who had received letters, visiting with students at Jessamine County Middle School.

The collection also contains several videos, one of which includes some of the soldiers visiting Jessamine County Middle School.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1		1990-1991	362 items
Folder 1	Inventory	n.d.	2 items
Folder 2	Correspondence with Soldiers – Album One	Sept. 19, 1990 – Dec. 23, 1990	66 items
Folder 3	Correspondence with Soldiers – Album Two	Oct. 9, 1990 – Feb. 5, 1991	71 items
Folder 4	Correspondence with Soldiers – Album Three	Sept. 29, 1990 – Dec. 23, 1990	50 items
Folder 5	Correspondence with Soldiers – Album Four	Oct. 1, 1990 – Jan. 4, 1991	52 items
Folder 6	Correspondence with Soldiers – Album Five	Sept. 22, 1990 - Dec. 29, 1990	58 items
Folder 7	Correspondence with Soldiers – Album Six	Oct. 10, 1990 – Jan. 30, 1991	63 items
BOX 2		1990-1991	114 items
Folder 1	Correspondence with Soldiers – Album Seven	Dec. 29, 1990 - July 2, 1991	36 items
Folder 2	Correspondence with Soldiers – Album Eight	Jan. 1, 1991 - May 9, 1991	50 items
Folder 3	Correspondence with Soldiers – Album Eight	Feb. 13, 1991 – March 14, 1991	23 items
Folder 4	Letters (Video)	n.d.	1 item
Folder 5	Tom's Visit on TV (Video)	n.d.	1 item
Folder 6	Chesteen 426 101 Airborne (Video)	Nov. 1990	1 item
Folder 7	Asbury tape (Video)	Feb. 16, 1991	1 item
Folder 8	Soldiers visit – Tim, Jamie, and George (Video)	April 12, 1991	1 item

BOX 3		1990-1992	63 items
Folder 1	Correspondence	Oct. 12, 1990 – Apr. 16, 1992	21 items
Folder 2	1991-1992 Handbook Calendar	1991-1992	1 item
Folder 3	Melinda Lewis' Class	Oct. 1990 – May 17, 1991	9 items
Folder 4	National Middle School Association – NMSA	Jan. 15, 1971 - Nov. 11, 1991	8 items
Folder 5	<u>Lexington Herald-Leader</u> issue on Desert Storm	Jan. 17, 1991	8 items
Folder 6	Newspaper Clippings	Sept. 19, 1990 – Apr. 18, 1991, n.d.	14 items
Folder 7	Desert Storm stickers and buttons	n.d.	2 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 166 JESSAMINE County, Kentucky Middle School – Desert Storm Collection 1990-1992

Correspondence between students at Jessamine County Middle School in Nicholasville, Kentucky, to soldiers serving in Operation Desert Storm. The project was supervised by eighth grade English teacher, Melinda D. Lewis. Most of the soldiers were serving in Saudi Arabia.

2 ½ boxes. 22 folders. 539 items. Photocopies.
1992.180.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Cassell, Timothy – Related to, 1990-1992
 Jessamine County Middle School – Nicholasville, 1990-1992
 Lewis, Melinda D. – Relating to, 1990-1992
 Persian Gulf War, 1991 – Letters
 Persian Gulf War, 1991 – Military life
 Persian Gulf War, 1991 – Saudi Arabia
 Saudi Arabia – Persian Gulf War, 1990-1991

Schools – Jessamine County – Related to, 1990-1992
Schools – Nicholasville – Related to, 1990-1992

Jeffrey 5/2007