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## Aton, Paul Douglas, 1948-1968 (MSS 82)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 82      ATON, Paul Douglas, 1948-1968**

1 box. 9 folders. 265 items, 1948-2007.  
 Originals, photographs, reel-to-reel audio tape.

1991.109.1

***BIOGRAPHY***

Paul Douglas Aton, only child of Loyd Simpson Aton and Roberta Patricia Townsend Aton (1916-1955), was born in El Paso, Texas, on 9 October 1948. After attending Franklin-Simpson High School in Franklin, Kentucky, Paul enlisted in the United States Army at Nashville, Tennessee, on 25 October 1967. Completing basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in January 1968, Paul received training also at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Arriving in Vietnam in April 1968, Paul studied Viet Cong tactics and maneuvers at the 199<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade's Training Center REDCATCHER. Serving as radiophone operator for the Forward Artillery Observation Officer with the Headquarters and Service Battalion, 40<sup>th</sup> Artillery, Paul drowned under combat conditions on 29 July 1968. After a full military funeral at the gravesite on 10 August 1968, interment occurred at the Hebron Cemetery, Graves County, Kentucky.

***BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES***

The Collection.  
*The Courier-Journal.*

***COLLECTION NOTE***

The collection consists of fifteen letters received by Paul's father, Loyd Simpson Aton, after his arrival at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in November 1967, until nine days prior to his death on 29 July 1968. The telegrams and letters, 1968 (21 items), detail the information the family received following Paul's death. Related materials include certificates for the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, photographs, military papers and published army regulations.

**SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>ATON, Paul Douglas</b>	<b>1948-1991</b>	<b>265 items</b>
Folder 1	Biographical data, inventory and separation sheet	1948-2004 n.d.	14 items
Folder 2	Letters to father; letter to friend, May 17, 1968; photographs; military currency	1967-1968	15 items
Folder 3	Letters and telegrams to Loyd Aton concerning his son's death; two letters about Paul's basic training and work as colonel's orderly	1967-1968;	24 items
Folder 4	Photographs and certificates	1968	145 items
Folder 5	Certificates and news clippings	1948-1989	10 items
Folder 6	Military papers – Scores, equipment requisitions, etc.	1967-1968	23 items
Folder 7	Funeral book and U.S. Army publications	1964-1968	7 items
Folder 8	Miscellaneous items	1967-2007	20 items
Folder 9	Drawings	1968	5 items
Folder 10	Aton's Gideons New Testament	1968	1 item
Folder 11	Reel-to-reel recording of popular music during the Vietnam War era marked "Sounds of War and Peace"	1968	1 item

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS ATON, Paul Douglas, 1948-1991  
82 1948-1968

Vietnam War letters written by Paul Douglas Aton to his father Loyd Aton, of Franklin, Kentucky, documenting his training at Fort Campbell, Fort Gordon, and Fort Sill and his war experiences, 9 November 1967 to 20 July 1968. Includes family's notification of his death and burial information.

1 box. 8 folders. 265 items. Originals, photographs, and reel-to-reel audio tape.  
1991.109.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Aton, Loyd Simpson, 1911-2004  
Aton, Loyd Simpson, 1911-2004 – Photos F4  
Aton, Paul Douglas, 1948-1968 – Photos F2&4  
Aton, Roberta Patricia (Townsend), 1916-1955 – Photos F4  
Bibles F10  
Drawings F9  
Fort Campbell, 1967  
Funeral books – Aton, Paul Douglas, 1948-1968 F7  
Medals, Military and naval  
Military currency, 1968 F2  
Military education – Basic training, 1967  
Military funerals, 1968  
Military supplies, 1968  
Motion pictures and the war – Vietnam War, 1961-1975 F2  
Powers, Lonnie  
Report cards – Mount Clemens, Michigan F2  
Report cards – L-Anse Creuse, Michigan F2  
Simpson County – Vietnam War, 1961-1975 – Soldiers from Soldiers, 1967-1968  
Soldiers' bodies, Disposition of, 1968  
United States – Army – Artillery  
United States – Army – Handbook, manuals, etc. F7  
United States – Medals, badges, decorations, etc.  
United States – Army – Pay, allowances, etc.  
Vaccinations – Relating to F1  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975 – Desertions  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975 – Motion pictures and the war

Vietnam War Memorial – Washington, D.C. – Relating to F8  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975 – Photographs F4  
War – Psychological aspects, 1968

Jeffrey 02/20/2020