Crider, Stephen Bayes, b. 1940 (MSS 380)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Stephen Bayes Crider was born on 31 August 1940 in Atlanta, Georgia to Marvin and Jimmie B. Crider. The Crider family first moved to Kentucky in 1950 when Marvin was transferred by the Southern Bell Telephone Company; they located to Louisville in 1955.

Stephen entered Western Kentucky State College in 1958 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1962. While at college, Stephen was a member of the ROTC unit, and he entered service at Fort Knox, Kentucky, following his graduation. After completing Officer Basic Training, Stephen was sent to Paratrooper School at Fort Benning, Georgia, which he completed in 1963. The following month he was assigned to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Baumholder, Germany, where he served a three-year tour of duty. Stephen was then transferred to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. In July, 1966, his unit was rotated to Vietnam. Stephen completed a one-year tour of duty there and was reassigned to the Automotive Department of the U.S. Army Armor School in Fort Knox. Stephen left the service in 1968 to return to school and received a Master of Science degree in Zoology from Western Kentucky University in 1970.


COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists chiefly of letters written by Stephen Bayes Crider to his family (parents and siblings still at home) during his military service from 1962 to 1967. The letters cover his training at Fort Benning, Georgia and his tours of duty in Baumholder, Germany, Fort Meade, Maryland, and Vietnam. He writes of his paratrooper training and military activities, and of recreational trips to France and Switzerland. While in Germany he also writes of family life and his impressions of the east-west divide in that country (Folder 3).

While in Vietnam, Crider writes of day-to-day military life, casualties and military operations, including Operation Cedar Falls, a major assault by U.S. forces near Saigon in January 1967 (Folder 7). He comments on a visit to the troops by actress Lana Turner and is
highly critical of boxer Muhammad Ali's refusal to report for military service (Folder 7).
Photographs in the collection relate mostly to Vietnam and include Crider and his comrades,
military bases and the Vietnamese countryside.

**SHELF LIST**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS CRIDER, Stephen Bayes, 1960-2003
380 b. 1940

Letters of Stephen Bayes Crider, written mostly to his parents while Crider was serving with the U.S. Army at Fort Benning, Georgia; Baumholder, Germany; Fort Meade, Maryland; and in Vietnam.
1 box. 8 folders. 178 items. Originals, photographs.
1991.136.1
SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Ali, Muhammad, b. 1942 – Comments about, 1967 F7
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Switzerland – Photos, 1964 F4
Turner, Lana, 1921-1995 – Comments about, 1967 F7
Turner, Lana, 1921-1995 – Photo F7
Vietnam War, 1961-1975 – Photos F7-8

SEE or SEE ALSO

Clay, Cassius Marcellus, Jr., b. 1942
See also:
Ali, Muhammad

Reed, Margy, 1916-1994
See:
Raye, Martha

Turner, Julia Jean, 1921-1995
See:
Turner, Lana

Crowley/Jeffrey 01/24/2012