

# **Neil Sheehan Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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Washington, D.C.**

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009054>

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Neil Sheehan Papers

**Span Dates:** 1920-1993

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1960-1993)

**ID No.:** MSS80429

**Creator:** Sheehan, Neil

**Extent:** 110,000 items ; 239 containers plus 8 classified and 1 oversize ; 129 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Author and journalist. Correspondence, drafts of writings, notes, research material, interview transcripts, and other papers relating to Sheehan's writings concerning the Vietnam War, especially his books, *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam* (1988) and *After the War Was Over: Hanoi and Saigon* (1992), and to publication of the Pentagon Papers.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Alsop, Joseph, 1910-1989--Correspondence.

Alsop, Joseph, 1910-1989. Joseph Alsop interview.

Braestrup, Peter. Peter Braestrup interview.

Bunker, Ellsworth, 1894-1984. Ellsworth Bunker interview.

Christian, George, 1927- George Christian interview.

Colby, William Egan, 1920- William Egan Colby interview.

Colby, William Egan, 1920- --Correspondence.

DePuy, William E. (William Eugene), 1919-1992. William E. DePuy interview.

Ellsberg, Daniel--Correspondence.

Ellsberg, Daniel. Daniel Ellsberg interview.

Habib, Philip Charles, 1920- Philip Charles Habib interview.

Halberstam, David--Correspondence.

Halberstam, David. David Halberstam interview.

Harkins, Paul D. (Paul Donal), 1904-1984--Correspondence.

Huỳnh, Văn Cao--Correspondence.

Huỳnh, Văn Cao. Văn Cao Huỳnh interview.

Kissinger, Henry, 1923- --Correspondence.

Komer, R. W.--Correspondence.

Komer, Robert, 1922-2000. R.W. Komer interview.

Krulak, Victor H. Victor H. Krulak interview.

Krulak, Victor H.--Correspondence.

Lansdale, Edward Geary, 1908-1987--Correspondence.

Lansdale, Edward Geary, 1908-1987. Edward Geary Lansdale interview.

Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1902-1985. Henry Cabot Lodge interview.

Lý, Tông Bá. Tông Bá Lý interview.

Nguyễn, Văn Thiệu, 1923-2001--Correspondence.

Ngô, Dzu. Dzu Ngô interview.

Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994--Correspondence.

Phạm, Văn Đồng, 1906-2000. Văn Đồng Phạm interview.

Sheehan, Neil.

Sheehan, Neil. After the war was over: Hanoi and Saigon. 1992.

Sheehan, Neil. Bright shining lie : John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam. 1988.

Taylor, Maxwell D. (Maxwell Davenport), 1901-1987--Correspondence.

Trần, Ngọc Châu, 1924- Ngọc Châu Trân interview.  
Trần, Ngọc Châu, 1924- --Correspondence.  
Vann, John Paul. John Paul Vann papers.  
Westmoreland, William C. (William Childs), 1914-2005. William C. Westmoreland interview.  
York, Robert H. (Robert Howard), 1913- Robert H. York interview.

### **Organizations**

Martin Marietta Corporation.  
United Press International.  
United States. Agency for International Development.  
United States. Army--Officers.  
United States. Department of Defense.  
Vietnam (Republic). Quân lực.

### **Subjects**

Journalists--Indochina.  
Journalists--Vietnam.  
Journalists--Washington (D.C.)  
Presidents--United States--Election--1964.  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975.

### **Places**

Hanoi (Vietnam)--History.  
Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)--History.  
United States--Armed Forces--Periodicals.  
United States--Foreign relations--Vietnam.  
Vietnam--Foreign relations--United States.  
Vietnam--Politics and government--1945-1975.

### **Titles**

*Current news; early bird edition.*  
*New York times.*  
*Pentagon Papers.*

### **Occupations**

Authors.  
Journalists.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Provenance**

The papers of Neil Sheehan, author and journalist, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Sheehan between 1990 and 1994. The papers deposited before 1993 were processed as the Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection, and the John Paul Vann papers, principally in Containers 25-57, were converted to a gift in 1994. Included in the Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection is a compilation of *Current News*, a Defense Department publication given to the Library in 1992 as an addition to the Sheehan Papers by Peter Braestrup. Papers received in 1994 remain on deposit and have been organized as a separate series entitled Professional File.

### **Processing History**

The papers of Neil Sheehan were processed in 1993 and 1994. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

### **Additional Guides**

A description of the Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection portion of the Sheehan Papers appeared in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1990*.

## Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some maps have been transferred to the Library's Geography and Map Division. Sound recordings of interviews have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints & Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Neil Sheehan Papers.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Neil Sheehan in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

## Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified items in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified material.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Neil Sheehan Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Notes

### Neil Sheehan

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1936, Oct. 27	Born, Holyoke, Mass.
1958	B.A., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1961-1962	Night editor, Asian bureau, United Press International, Tokyo, Japan
1962-1964	Saigon bureau chief, United Press International, Saigon, South Vietnam
1964-1965	Metropolitan desk and general assignment reporter, <i>New York Times</i> , New York, N.Y.
1965	Indonesia correspondent, <i>New York Times</i> , Djakarta, Indonesia
1965-1966	Vietnam correspondent, <i>New York Times</i> , Saigon, South Vietnam
1966-1968	Defense Department correspondent, <i>New York Times</i> , Washington, D.C., bureau
1968	White House correspondent, <i>New York Times</i> , Washington, D.C., bureau
1969	National security affairs correspondent, <i>New York Times</i> , Washington, D.C., bureau

- 1971           Pentagon Papers excerpted in the *New York Times*  
Published *The Pentagon Papers as Published in the New York Times, Based on Investigative Reporting by Neil Sheehan* (Toronto and New York: Bantam Books. 677 pp.); reissued as *The Pentagon Papers as Published in the New York Times* (New York: Quadrangle Books. 810 pp.)
- 1972           Published *The Arnheiter Affair* (New York: Random House. 304 pp.)  
Began leave of absence from the *New York Times* to write a biography of John Paul Vann
- 1975           Resigned from the *New York Times*
- 1988           Published *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam* (New York: Random House. 861 pp.)  
Received National Book Award
- 1989           Awarded Pulitzer Prize
- 1992           Published *After the War Was Over: Hanoi and Saigon* (New York: Random House. 131 pp.)

**John Paul Vann**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1924, July 2	Born John Paul Legay, Norfolk, Va.
1939-1942	Attended Ferrum Training School and Junior College, Ferrum, Va.
1942	Changed name to John Paul Vann
1943	Enlisted in army; assigned to Army Air Corps
1945	Graduated, Navigation School, receiving rank of second lieutenant, Army Air Corps Married Mary Jane Allen (divorced 1971)
1946	Commissioned, Regular Army Attended Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.
1947	Transferred to infantry
1950	Supply and evacuation officer, Twenty-fifth Infantry Division, Korean War
1950-1951	Commander, Ranger Company, Twenty-fifth Infantry Division, Korean War
1952-1954	Attended Rutgers University Business School, New Brunswick, N.J. Instructor, Reserve Officer Training Corps, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.
1957-1958	Attended Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
1958-1959	Attended Army Comptrollers School, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y., completing M.B.A. in statistics and residency requirements for a doctorate in public administration

1962	Staff advisor, III Corps Headquarters, Saigon, South Vietnam Senior advisor, Seventh Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, with headquarters in My Tho, South Vietnam
1963	Assigned to the Pentagon Retired from the army
1963-1965	Sales representative, Martin Co., a division of Martin Marietta Corp., Denver, Colo.
1965	Province representative, Agency for International Development, Hau Nghia, South Vietnam
1966	Manager, Revolutionary Development Cadre Project, Vung Tau pacification training center, South Vietnam
1966-1969	Deputy director for field operations and director, Office of Civil Operations (OCO), Region III, South Vietnam
1969-1971	Deputy, Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), Region IV, South Vietnam
1971	Senior Advisor with power of command over military forces, Region II, South Vietnam
1972, June 9	Died in a helicopter crash near the Montagnard hamlet of Ro Uay, South Vietnam

## Scope and Content Note

The Neil Sheehan Papers span the years circa 1920-1993 with the bulk of the material ranging from 1960 to 1993. The collection is organized into two series. Material relating to Sheehan's prize-winning history, *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam*, is organized as the Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection. Material relating to Sheehan's career as a journalist for United Press International in Asia, 1961-64, and the *New York Times*, 1964-1972, and as an author of other books and articles on the Vietnam War, 1964-1992, is organized in a Professional File.

The Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection includes publication records for *A Bright Shining Lie*, a [research file](#), [interviews and notes](#), [official documents](#), and a *Current News* file containing issues of the Defense Department's compilation of press clippings published during the war. The arrangement reflects the organization established by Sheehan as he studied and wrote about the Vietnam War and John Paul Vann.

The biographical element of *A Bright Shining Lie* is based on Vann's personal papers given to Sheehan by the family. Declassified copies of documents relating to Vann were acquired by Sheehan through the Freedom of Information Act from the United States Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Vann's papers document his activities in Vietnam, his military career prior to Vietnam, his family and personal life, his civilian work for the Martin Company in Denver, and his political affiliations, especially his involvement in the 1964 presidential campaign. Vann's correspondents include Joseph Alsop, Huynh Van Cao, Tran Ngoc Chau, William Egan Colby, Daniel Ellsberg, David Halberstam, Paul D. Harkins, Henry Kissinger, Robert W. Komer, Victor H. Krulak, Edward Geary Lansdale, Richard M. Nixon, Maxwell D. Taylor, and Nguyen Van Thieu.

Papers documenting Vann's military career primarily concern his service in Vietnam as an army lieutenant colonel appointed senior advisor to the South Vietnamese army (ARVN) in the Mekong River delta. Reports and memoranda for the Ap Bac battle and Dan Tien operations in 1962-1963, along with Vann's correspondence and press accounts by Sheehan and David Halberstam, document Vann's criticism of the South Vietnamese government and armed forces and his advocacy of political reform and direct military intervention by the United States. Viewed with increasing disfavor by the American command staff, Vann retired from the army soon after completing his Vietnam tour of duty in 1963.

The war remained a central concern for Vann, and in 1965 when American combat troops were sent to fight in southeast Asia, he joined the action as a State Department pacification official. Vann's Agency for International Development records document his work with the pacification program from 1965 to 1972. Vann and his colleagues wanted to "harness" a social revolution to the United States war effort, and their proposals (see especially, "Harnessing the Revolution" in container 48), policy statements, reports, training manuals, and correspondence document the instruction given to the Vietnamese in self-defense, fighting insurgents, intelligence gathering, and suggestions for efficient representative government.

Vann's quick rise through the ranks of the pacification program was based on his grasp of military objectives and his extensive field knowledge of war developments. In 1971 he was appointed to an unprecedented civilian command of troops defending the Central Highlands against a long-awaited attack by North Vietnamese regular forces. Records for the defense of Kontum, Plieku, and other battles of the North Vietnamese army's 1972 Easter offensive are in the [Vann](#) subseries, Region II files. Supplemental documentation can be found in the [Vietnam](#) subseries under North Vietnam offensives and the [Individuals](#) subseries in files for soldiers who worked with Vann to defend the Central Highlands.

Sheehan's primary sources on the Vietnam War for *A Bright Shining Lie* include the Pentagon Papers and other official documents, supplemented by interviews and supporting records provided by key participants. When Sheehan was a reporter for the *New York Times* in 1971, he obtained copies of the Pentagon Papers from Daniel Ellsberg. The term "Pentagon Papers" was coined by the *New York Times* to describe the forty-seven volume "History of U.S. Decision-Making Process on Vietnam Policy, 1945-1967" compiled at the Pentagon upon the request of Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. This multivolume work is an annotated compilation or summary of relevant government documents, most of them classified, with introductory essays by various government analysts. Sheehan's Pentagon Papers file, listed as part of the [Official Documents](#) subseries, includes photocopied portions of government documents which remain classified and thus are stored separately. His copy of volumes one and two of the House Committee on Armed Services Pentagon Papers edition, published as *United States-Vietnam Relations, 1945-1967*, is annotated to mark censored passages. Notes relating to the Pentagon Papers can be found in [Bright Shining Lie](#) publication records and throughout the [Research File](#) especially under Ellsberg in the [Individuals](#) subseries and in the [Subject File](#) subseries. Publication of the Pentagon Papers by the *New York Times* in 1971, and subsequently by Bantam Books and Beacon Press, is documented in the second series of the collection, the Professional File.

Sheehan's [Research File](#) of papers from military and civilian personnel includes government memoranda and documents, letters, orders, command guidance, and studies dealing with Vann and the Vietnam War. Richard Ziegler gave his journal documenting the ARVN Seventh Infantry Division in 1962-1963, and Daniel Ellsberg provided Sheehan with copies of reports and position papers, as did other RAND analysts such as Charles Benoit. Papers were contributed by Tran Ngoc Chau, a Vietnamese politician who was tried for treason by the Nguyen Van Thieu government in South Vietnam. Sheehan also obtained reports from Vann's commanders and copies of documents from various archives. Fellow news correspondents, especially David Halberstam, gave Sheehan copies of interview notes. These materials, along with Sheehan's notes and clippings, are distributed by subject throughout the [Research File](#).

While writing *A Bright Shining Lie*, Sheehan interviewed more than four hundred Americans, Vietnamese, and foreign news correspondents. The interviews are documented in nearly two hundred stenographic notebooks, six hundred audiocassette tapes, and typed summaries of more than one hundred interview tapes. Correspondence clarifying points raised in interviews and other supporting documentation can occasionally be found in the [Research File](#). Among those interviewed were generals Ly Tong Ba, Huynh Van Cao, William E. DePuy, Pham Van Dong, Ngo Dzu, Victor H. Krulak, Edward Geary Lansdale, William C. Westmoreland, and Robert H. York; reporters Joseph Alsop, Peter Braestrup, and David Halberstam; White House and executive branch officials, including Ellsworth Bunker, George Christian, William Egan Colby, Philip Charles Habib, Robert W. Komer, and Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr; analysts such as Daniel Ellsberg; and politicians such as Tran Ngoc Chau.

The Professional File in the collection documents Sheehan's broader career as a journalist and author. The [Books and Articles](#) subseries contains publication records and research files. Material relating to *After the War Was Over* includes interviews conducted in 1989 of Vietnamese who were consulted by Sheehan years earlier for *A Bright Shining Lie*. Sheehan's [New York Times](#) file documents his career with the newspaper. His first assignment was with the metropolitan desk, but he was soon reassigned to Indonesia where he reported on the crisis surrounding President Achmed Soekarno and the military's suppression of a communist-led uprising in 1965. Sheehan then returned to Vietnam as a war correspondent. After 1966, he covered the war from Washington. As a Pentagon and national security reporter, Sheehan was responsible for Defense Department issues in general and for the war in Vietnam from a political perspective.

The *New York Times* file reflects the conflict and symbiosis inherent between a democratic government and the press. It also documents the evolution of Sheehan's own stand on the Vietnam War. Sheehan's position evolved from the stance he espoused in a widely read 1966 article, "Not a Dove But No Longer a Hawk," to more thorough opposition to the war later, especially after reading and reporting on the Pentagon Papers.

The *New York Times* file documents aspects of the decision to publish excerpts of the Pentagon Papers and the bitter legal battle which ensued. The Books and Articles file includes publication records for the one-volume Bantam Books version, edited by Sheehan, and later reissued by Quadrangle Press. Sheehan's copy of volumes 1-3 of the Beacon Press publication of the Pentagon Papers, known as the "Senator 'Mike' Gravel" edition, is annotated to mark censored passages. The files include correspondence, memoranda, notes, speeches, and records of legal proceedings, the Justice Department investigation, press coverage, and journalism prizes.

The United Press International–Indochina subseries includes business records of the Saigon bureau but is predominately a file of Sheehan's dispatches from South Vietnam for 1962-1964. Sheehan's dispatches are in the form of telegraphic transmissions some of which are coded. As a cost-saving measure, routine news was sent by cast account; urgent stories and bulletins were sent as cables. The dispatches offer a detailed record of war reporting during the period when United States advisors, including John Paul Vann, assisted the South Vietnamese government in combating insurgents.

Vietnamese names in the collection are alphabetized by the last part of the given name. The family name is the first element, as in Ngo and Vo for Ngo Dinh Diem and Vo Nguyen Giap. Sheehan followed tradition in referring to the Vietnamese by the last part of their given names, as in Diem and Giap. His alphabetization has been preserved even though it differs from name authority standards of the Library of Congress which cite family names first.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in twelve series:

- Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: *Bright Shining Lie*, 1963-1993
- Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: Research File, circa 1920-1991
- Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: Interviews and Notes, 1972-1987
- Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: Official Documents, 1961-1986
- Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: *Current News (Early Bird Edition)*, 1964-1975
- Professional File: Books and Articles, 1964-1992
- Professional File: *New York Times*, 1956-1993
- Professional File: United Press International–Indochina, 1961-1964
- Closed, 1937-1985
- Oversize, 1962-1971
- Classified, 1960-1972
- Top Secret, 1961-1969



## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-25	<p><b><u>Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: <i>Bright Shining Lie</i>, 1963-1993</u></b></p> <p>Drafts by Sheehan for <i>A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam</i> with supporting files of correspondence, outlines, excerpts, photographs, records of sources, and working files of notes and documentation.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject.</p>
BOX 25-107	<p><b><u>Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: Research File, circa 1920-1991</u></b></p>
BOX 25-57	<p><b><u>John Paul Vann, circa 1920-1984</u></b></p>
BOX 25-30	<p><b><u>Correspondence, circa 1950-1984</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence to and from Vann and occasionally to and from Sheehan concerning Vann.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or subject.</p>
BOX 30-36	<p><b><u>Family and Personal Papers, circa 1920-1983</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence, legal and financial papers, photographs, school and church papers, death and funeral records, and clippings arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.</p>
BOX 36-39	<p><b><u>Military Service, 1942-1964</u></b></p> <p>Vann's service records, including personnel and efficiency reports, medical and military police investigation records, photographs, promotion orders, security clearances, and teaching records. Records from the Seventh Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, include after-action reports, briefings, correspondence, clippings, interviews, and photographs. Interspersed in the files are notes and material composed by Sheehan, including correspondence.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.</p>
BOX 40	<p><b><u>Civilian Activities, 1961-1971</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence, personnel records, printed material, clippings, and records of security reviews during Vann's employment by the Martin Company, Denver, Colo., and correspondence and printed matter concerning his political activities and speaking engagements.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 41-55	<p><b><u>State Department, Agency for International Development, Vietnam, 1964-1984</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, briefings, photographs, position papers, policy statements, planning guides, printed material and clippings, training manuals, and other administrative records of Vann's work as a pacification officer for AID in South Vietnam, 1965-1972. Also includes Vann's diaries and notebooks, most of which are incomplete, award certificates, personnel records, and speech transcripts. Notes and correspondence by Sheehan are interfiled with Vann's papers.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 55-57	<p><b><u>Subject File, 1964-1984</u></b></p> <p>Notes by Sheehan, clippings, photographs, and printed material concerning Vann.</p>

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 58-83

**Individuals, 1957-1991**

Correspondence, notebooks, journals, position and strategy papers, briefings, after-action reports, general reports, book and article manuscripts and other writings, trial transcripts, interview notes, maps, photographs, press releases, administrative records, training guidelines, and printed material collected by Sheehan, together with his notes. Material concerns individuals involved in the Vietnam War and background to the conflict in world history.

Arranged alphabetically by name of individual and thereunder by subject or type of material.

BOX 83-103

**Vietnam, 1953-1990**

Printed matter, maps, photographs, and notes by Sheehan concerning Vietnamese history. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

BOX 103-107

**Subject File, 1950-1985**

Notes by Sheehan and material he collected including reports, article manuscripts, clippings and other printed material.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 108-122

**Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: Interviews and Notes, 1972-1987**

BOX 108-119

**Notebooks, 1972-1987**

Notes by Sheehan on interviews, documents, and other sources compiled in spiral notebooks.

Arranged as numbered by Sheehan. A card index and inventory are placed at the beginning of the series.

BOX 120-122

**Tape Summaries, 1973-1975**

Typed summaries of selected interviews recorded by Sheehan on audiocassette tapes, with occasional annotations by Sheehan. Arranged alphabetically by name of person interviewed.

BOX 123-132

**Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: Official Documents, 1961-1986**

Documents collected by Sheehan from the Ellsworth Bunker Papers, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, the Pentagon Papers, and the State Department.

Arranged alphabetically according to source.

BOX 133-152

**Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: Current News (Early Bird Edition), 1964-1975**

Issues of the early bird edition of *Current News*, the Defense Department publication containing reprinted press clippings for the period of the Vietnam War.

Organized by year and month.

BOX 153-163

**Professional File: Books and Articles, 1964-1992**

Drafts, research files, interviews, and notes for Sheehan's 1992 book *After the War Was Over*, and drafts, correspondence, notes, award citations and nominations, legal documents, and other material concerning various writings about the Vietnam War, most notably the publication of the Pentagon Papers.

Files are arranged alphabetically by title, thereunder by document type or subject.

BOX 163-220

**Professional File: New York Times, 1956-1993**

Fact sheets, information kits, press releases, printed matter, photographs, reports, statements, and other background material collected in the course of Sheehan's work as a reporter, along with his byline clippings and copy submissions, correspondence, memoranda, and notes.

Files are arranged alphabetically by assignment as Defense Department correspondent, Metropolitan desk staff, Indonesia correspondent, office files, Vietnam correspondent, and White House correspondent. Thereunder, folders are arranged alphabetically by subject or name of person. The office files are general in nature and include chronological files of byline clippings, copy submissions, correspondence, memoranda, notes, and miscellaneous items, such as records of speeches and public appearances.

BOX 221-232

**Professional File: United Press International-Indochina, 1961-1964**

An office file of background material, correspondence, financial records, notes, and carbon copies of dispatches from Sheehan's tenure as bureau chief in Saigon, South Vietnam.

Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and chronologically thereunder.

BOX X 1-X 7

**Closed, 1937-1985**

Interview notes and summaries of taped interviews, along with audiocassette tapes, and subject files for Vann family members and other designated persons.

Organized alphabetically by type of material and thereunder by name.

BOX OV 1

**Oversize, 1962-1971**

Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection material including photographs, award certificates, and maps.

Organized and described according to the series, box, and folder from which the items were removed.

BOX CL 1-CL 7

**Classified, 1960-1972**

Material containing security classified information organized and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the items were removed.

BOX TS 1

**Top Secret, 1961-1969**

Material containing top secret information.

Organized and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the items were removed.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-25	<b>Vann-Sheehan Vietnam War Collection: <i>Bright Shining Lie</i>, 1963-1993</b> Drafts by Sheehan for <i>A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam</i> with supporting files of correspondence, outlines, excerpts, photographs, records of sources, and working files of notes and documentation. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject.
BOX 1	Book text Drafts First Chapter 1, "The Funeral," 1976 Chapter 2, "The Beginning," undated Chapter 3, "A Battle and a Resignation," undated (2 folders) Chapter 5, "The Boy and His Origins; The Man and His Times" Notes, queries, and revisions, 1979-1980, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	(3 folders) Text, 1977, undated (5 folders)
BOX 3	Notes on Robert Loomis's comments, 1976 Second Chapter 1, "The Funeral," undated Chapter 2, "The Beginning" Notes, 1979, undated Text, undated Chapter 3, "Antecedents to a Confrontation" Notes, 1978-1980, undated Partial text, undated Chapter 4, "The Battle of Ap Bac" Notes, undated Text, undated Chapter 5, "Taking on the System" Notes and revisions, 1977, undated (1 folder)
BOX 4	(2 folders) Queries, 1972-1978, undated Text, undated (2 folders) Comments of Robert Loomis and Robert Lescher, 1979 Third [Introduction], "The Funeral," 1981 Editing notes, 1986, undated

	Fact checking and revisions, undated
	Queries, undated
	Text, undated
	Book I, "Going to War"
	Editing notes, 1988, undated
	Queries and revisions, undated
	(1 folder)
BOX 5	(1 folder)
	Text, undated
	(2 folders)
	Book II, "Antecedents to a Confrontation"
	Editing notes, 1987-1988, undated
BOX 6	Fact checking, notes, and revisions, undated
	Further revisions, 1982, undated
	Queries, 1980, undated
	Text, undated
	Book III, "The Battle of Ap Bac"
	Editing notes, 1986-1988, undated
	Queries and revisions, undated
	Text, undated
	Book IV, "Taking on the System"
	Editing notes, 1987-1988, undated
	Fact checking, undated
	Final changes, undated
	Further revisions, 1982, undated
	Queries, undated
	Revisions, undated
	Text, undated
	(1 folder)
BOX 7	(1 folder)
	Book V, "Antecedents to the Man"
	Catalog of interviews, undated
	Critiques and comments, 1982
	Editing notes, 1987-1988, undated
	Fact checking and revisions, undated
	Further revisions, undated
	(2 folders)
	Notes, 1981-1982, undated
	Text, undated
BOX 8	Book VI, "A Second Time Around"
	Critiques and comments, 1984
	Editing notes, 1987, undated
	Fact checking, undated
	Further revisions, 1975-1983, undated
	Revisions, undated
	Schematics, 1983, undated
	Text, undated

	Book VII, "John Vann Stays" Critiques and comments, 1986 Editing notes, 1987, undated Fact checking, undated Further revisions, 1984-1987 (2 folders)
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Arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Arranged alphabetically by subject.

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**BOX 58-83**

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Correspondence, notebooks, journals, position and strategy papers, briefings, after-action reports, general reports, book and article manuscripts and other writings, trial transcripts, interview notes, maps, photographs, press releases, administrative records, training guidelines, and printed material collected by Sheehan, together with his notes. Material concerns individuals involved in the Vietnam War and background to the conflict in world history.

Arranged alphabetically by name of individual and thereunder by subject or type of material.

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    - Center for National Security Studies, conference, Washington, D.C., 1974
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  - Stalin, Joseph, 1979-1982, undated
  - Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C., working papers
    - Holloway, David, "The Soviet Decision to Build the Atomic Bomb," 1979
    - MacIsaac, David, "The Air Force and Strategic Thought, 1945-51," 1979
    - Wells, Samuel, "Sounding the Tocsin: NSC 68 and the Soviet Threat," 1979
- Counterinsurgency publications, United States Army, 1962-1965
- Cuba, race problems and revolution, 1979
- El Salvador, parallels with Vietnam, 1983
- "The Establishment," 1976-1979
- Foreign aid position papers, 1961
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  - "White Anglo-Saxon Protestant" (WASP) elite, 1980, undated
  - Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C., colloquia
    - Drake, Paul, "The Origins of United States Economic Supremacy in South America," 1979
    - Henrikson, Alan, "Pictures in Their Heads . . . The Geographical 'Mental Maps' of American Foreign Policy Makers," 1979
- BOX 106** Indochina
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**BOX 108-119**                    **Notebooks, 1972-1987**

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**BOX 109**                    Inventory and index by name and number  
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BOX 119	Nos. 172-186, 1980-1987 (3 folders) Unnumbered, 1975
BOX 120-122	<b>Tape Summaries, 1973-1975</b> Typed summaries of selected interviews recorded by Sheehan on audiocassette tapes, with occasional annotations by Sheehan. Arranged alphabetically by name of person interviewed.
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Patton, George S., III, undated  
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	Interview, Canadian Broadcasting Corp., 1971
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BOX 204	Stafford, Peter, "Dickerings," 1971 (2 folders)
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<b>BOX 212</b>	"Not a Dove, But No Longer a Hawk," <i>New York Times Magazine</i> , 9 Oct. 1966

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- BOX X 5** Audiocassette tapes of interviews  
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- BOX X 6** (15 tapes)  
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- BOX X 7** Vann, John Allen, 30 June 1972, Mar. 1973 (22 tapes)  
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      - Ziegler, Richard G.
        - Dan Tien operations
          - After-action reports, maps, 1962 (Container 82)
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            - Tan Canh battle, map with firebases plotted, undated (Container 96)

- BOX CL 1-CL 7 **Classified, 1960-1972**
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      - United States Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., photocopies of John Paul Vann papers, 1955-1966 (Container 50)
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    - Air war
      - Futrell, Robert, "The United States Air Force in Southeastern Asia: The Assistance and Combat Advisory Years, 1950-1965"
        - Dissertation typescript, 1972
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	Organized and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the items were removed.
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## Abbreviations and Acronyms in the Collection

Abbreviation/ Full Name

Acronym

I Corps	Northern military region in South Vietnam
II Corps	Central military region in South Vietnam
III Corps	Military region in South Vietnam for Saigon and environs
IV Corps	Southern military region in South Vietnam Mekong River delta
AID	Agency for International Development (or USAid)
ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam
CDC	Combat Development Command
CG	Civil Guard
CIDG	Civilian Irregular Defense Groups
CORDS	Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support
COSVN	Central Office for South Vietnam
DMAC	Delta Military Assistance Command
DRV	Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North)
GVN	Government of Vietnam (South)
MAAG	Military Assistance Advisory Group
MACV	Military Advisory Command, Vietnam
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
OCO	Office of Civil Operations [pacification]
RD	Revolutionary (or Rural) Development cadres
SDC	Self Defense Corps, South Vietnamese
USOM	United States Operations and Missions
VC	Vietcong: guerilla members, usually in South Vietnam, of the Vietnamese communist movement
VNAF	South Vietnamese Air Force