The Hugo Keesing Collection on the Gulf Wars

Special Collections in Performing Arts
University of Maryland Libraries

Processed by: Rachel Ace
Date Processed: Fall 2016
Size: 6.25 linear feet
Bulk dates: 1990–1992
Inclusive dates: 1979–2003
SCPA shelf location: A9-2-1 to A9-3-5
Important Information for Users of the Collection:

Restrictions: The collection is open for research use.
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Status: This collection is PROCESSED.

Historical Note:

In the summer of 1990, Saddam Hussein led the Iraqi army in an invasion of Kuwait, the small neighboring country that contains six percent of the world’s oil reserves. U.S. President George H. W. Bush saw the invasion as a threat not only to the international economy, but also to post-Cold-War international diplomacy. With support from the United Nations Security Council, Bush organized a coalition that included the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and Egypt among others, to send military forces into Kuwait, hoping to both expel Hussein’s army, and demonstrate the power of international cooperation.

The resultant Gulf War (also known as the Persian Gulf War or the First Gulf War) lasted from August 2, 1990 to February 28, 1991. It was fought in two stages. The first, codenamed “Operation Desert Shield,” involved the installation of allied troops in Saudi Arabia to secure the border. The second stage, initiated on January 17, 1991 and codenamed “Operation Desert Storm,” was the combat phase. The allied forces attacked first with air strikes, then on foot, culminating in a 100-hour land war that lasted from February 24 to February 28.

The majority of American civilians reacted to the Gulf War with enthusiasm. This confidence was due in part to a rise in patriotism following the 1979 Iran Hostage Crisis, in which 52 American diplomats were held hostage for 444 days by a group of Iranian students who seized the U.S. Embassy. In addition to exacerbating diplomatic tensions, the Crisis inspired both a surge of American nationalism and general wariness of the Middle-Eastern region. Twelve years later at the onset of the Gulf War, these attitudes resurfaced; support for American troops was expressed through public service announcements, display of yellow ribbons, and production of memorabilia such as Desert Storm trading cards, T shirts, and pins. Some popular musicians, most notably country artists, recorded songs in support of Bush’s cause. Other musicians used their music as a medium for protest. Songs such as the Rolling Stones’ “Highwire” and Jello Biafra’s spoken word piece “Die for Oil, Suckers” critique the United States’ involvement in Middle-Eastern affairs, and question Bush’s motivations for invading Kuwait.

After four days of combat Hussein’s forces were subdued, and the Coalition withdrew troops, earning Bush criticism for failing to remove Hussein from power. After the September 11 attacks in 2003, President George W. Bush led the United States in a second initiative against Iraq that resulted in the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. This invasion was the beginning of the Iraq War (also known as the Second Gulf War), in which the United States fought until 2011.
Abstract:

The Hugo Keesing Collection on the Gulf Wars consists of artifacts, collectibles, publications, sound recordings, and sheet music primarily related to the 1990 Gulf War, as well as the 1979 Iran Hostage Crisis and the 2003 Iraq War. Collected by Hugo Keesing, the bulk of the materials cover the period 1990–1992 in the years during and immediately following the First Gulf War. The collection has been separated into six series: realia, newspapers and magazines, clippings and ephemera, sheet music, audio recordings, and personal materials pertaining to Keesing and his research.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

The Hugo Keesing Collection on the Gulf Wars has been separated into six series, including realia, newspapers and magazines, clippings and ephemera, sheet music, audio recordings, and personal materials pertaining to Keesing and his research. The bulk of the materials cover the period 1990–1992, when the First Gulf War occurred. Other materials correspond to related events including the Iran Hostage Crisis and the 2003 Iraq War.

Custodial History and Acquisition Information:

Gift of Hugo Keesing received in a single shipment in 2015.

Processing Information:

Processed by Rachel Ace in Fall of 2016. Original order has been maintained where possible. All physical materials have been foldered when appropriate, and rehoused into archival boxes. All materials are processed and described at the item level.

Arrangement of Collection:

This collection is organized into six series.

Series 1: Realia
Series 2: Newspapers/Magazines
Series 3: Clippings/Ephemera
Series 4: Sheet Music
Series 5: Recordings
Subseries 1: Audiocassettes
Subseries 2: Compact Discs
Subseries 3: 7” Singles
Series 6: Personal

Series Descriptions:

This series contains artifacts from and propaganda relating to the 1991 Gulf War, including trading cards, pins, order-of-battle handbooks, and packaged military rations.

This series contains newspapers and magazines that include journalism relating to the Iran Hostage Crisis, the First Gulf War, and the 2003 Iraq War. Materials are arranged by publication title and chronologically.

This series contains newspaper clippings and ephemera relating to the First Gulf War, including advertisements, posters, and a handmade flyer.

This series contains printed sheet music for eight songs whose lyrics relate to the Iran Hostage Crisis, the First Gulf War, and the 2003 Iraq War.

Series 5: Recordings (132 items)
This series contains audio recordings of songs, radio broadcasts, and public service announcements relating to the Iran Hostage Crisis, the First Gulf War, and the 2003 Iraq War. The series is divided into three subseries: audiocassettes (32 items), compact discs (5 items), and 7” singles (95 items). Original order has been maintained.

Series 6: Personal (5 items)
This series contains postcards addressed to Keesing, a card thanking him for the use of his collection, research notes, and an inventory of songs about the Gulf War.

Box Inventory:


BOX 1
Folder 1: Operation Desert Shield Trading Cards Series, 1991
Folder 2: Topps Desert Storm Collector Cards Series I: Coalition for Peace, 1991
Folder 3: Topps Desert Storm Collector Cards Series II: Victory, 1991
Folder 5: Iraqi Most Wanted Playing Cards, ca. 2002–3
Folder 7: Heroes of the Persian Gulf Collectible Card Sets Limited 100,000 Set Edition: Set Number 26427, 1991
Folder 8: Desert Storm Trading Cards, 1991
Folder 9: Official Set of Operation Yellow Ribbon Desert Storm Trading Cards, 1991
Folder 10: Desert Storm Pro Set Trading Cards, 1991
Folder 11: Assembled Box: Desert Storm Pro Set Collectible Cards, 1991
  Item 1: Desert Storm Pro Set Collectible Cards Packaging, 1991 (6)
  Item 2: Troops Desert Storm Trading Cards Packaging, 1991 (5)
  Item 3: Operation Desert Shield Trading Cards, 1991
  Item 4: "Rambush" Trading Card in Plastic Casing, undated
Folder 13: Desert Storm Magic Color Mug, ca. 1991

BOX 2
Folder 1: “Vietnam Veterans of America” Yellow Plastic Shopping Bag, undated
Folder 2: Grey “Operation Desert Storm” T-Shirt, ca. 1991
Folder 3: Blue “Scudbusters” Desert Storm T-shirt, 1991
Folder 4: Pins (5)
  Item 2: “United States of America, Operation Desert Storm” pinback button, 1991
  Item 3: Pinback button depicting Saddam Hussein, ca. 2003
  Item 4: “USA KICKS BUTT” pinback button, 1990
  Item 5: “‘Til They All Come Home” pinback button, 1991
Folder 5: Veterans Crisis Line Rubber Bracelet, undated
Folder 6: "End Veteran Homelessness" Rubber Bracelet, undated

BOX 3
Folder 1: Meal, Ready-To-Eat – Menu No. 11, ca. 1991
Folder 2: Meal, Ready-To-Eat – Menu No. 12, ca. 1991

BOX 4
Folder 2: How They Fight: Desert Shield Order of Battle Handbook, September 1990 (2)
Folder 3: How They Fight: Desert Shield Order of Battle Handbook, November 1990
Folder 4: Identifying the Iraqi Threat Handbook, 1990 (3)
Folder 5: “I Buy Bonds” Yellow Ribbon Bookmark, undated
Folder 6: Bumper Stickers, (4)
  Item 1: WMZQ “Proud To Be An American” Bumper Sticker, undated
  Item 2: “Operation Desert Storm: Welcome Home” Bumper Sticker, undated
Item 3: “United States Central Command” Bumper Sticker, undated
Folder 9: Hallmark Paper Bag, ca. 1989
Folder 10: Greeting Card – “It takes a special person to serve our country…You must be proud knowing you're making a difference,” undated
Folder 11: Greeting Card – “This country will always need people like you...people who care and who are willing to put their beliefs into action,” undated
Folder 12: Greeting Card – “Always remember that I care about you...and I'm praying for your safe return,” undated
Folder 13: Greeting Card – “It isn't easy having you so far away from home...Don't ever forget how close in heart you are!” undated
Folder 14: Greeting Card – “I know God is keeping you safe...but I miss you anyhow!” undated
Folder 15: Flattened Box: Topps Desert Storm Trading Cards/Stickers, 1991
Folder 16: Flattened Box: Topps Desert Storm Victory Series Trading Cards, 1991
Folder 17: Flattened Box: Operation Desert Shield Trading Cards, 1991
Folder 19: Middle East: The Desert Storm War Zone Wall Map, 1990


BOX 5

Folder 1: Time Vol. 114, No. 21, November 19, 1979
Folder 2: Time Vol. 114, No. 22, November 26, 1979
Folder 3: Time Vol. 117, No. 5, February 2, 1981
Folder 7: Time Vol. 137, No. 6, February 11, 1991
Folder 8: Time Vol. 137, No. 7, February 18, 1991
Folder 10: Time Vol. 137, No. 9, March 4, 1991
Folder 14: Time Vol. 138, No. 5, August 5, 1991
Folder 18: Marines Vol. 20, No. 3, March 1991
Folder 26: *Newsweek* Vol. 117, No. 9, March 4, 1991

**BOX 6**

Folder 1: *National Victory Celebration*, June 8, 1991
Folder 2: *USA Today*, January 17, 1991
Folder 3: *USA Today*, March 7, 1991
Folder 5: *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 17, 1991 (2 copies)
Folder 7: *New York Post*, January 17, 1991

**Series 3: Clippings and Ephemera, 1990–1992, undated**

**BOX 5 (continued)**

Folder 30: Clippings: “Take Your Best Shot at Saddam Hussein” from *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*, undated
Folder 31: Clippings: Advertisement for military apparel, undated
Folder 32: Clippings: Advertisement for America West Airlines, 1991
Folder 35: Clippings: “Imported oil strengthens our ties to the Middle East,” undated
Folder 37: Clippings: Advertisement, “A Yellow Ribbon Homecoming,” undated
Folder 38: Clippings: “Intelligence Report,” *Parade*, April 19, 1992
Folder 41: Clippings: “Stand Up, Stand Out,” undated
Folder 42: “Post-War Student Forum” Flyer, March 14, 1991


**BOX 4 (continued)**

Series 5: Recordings


BOX 7


BOX 8


BOX 9

Hallmark, Rodger and Gresham. “Chicken Shites / I Married a Dog.” Moon Shine, [??].
Barnes, Max D. “Dear Mr. President / Patricia.” Ovation, 1979.
Chadbourne, Eugene. “Feel Like I’m Fixin’ to Die (Iraq) / National Bummer / Oil of Hate.”
Bad Religion. “Heaven Is Falling / Fertile Crescent / Noam Chomsky Political Analysis.”
Right Wing. “Gaddafi (Don’t Let Gaddafi Murder Me).” Polaris, 1986.
Kirby, Dave. “Gas (I Wish I Had a Friend in Iran).” Monument, 1979.
Allen, Dick. “Go to Hell, Ayatollah / Pickin’ Um Up and Layin’ Um Down.” Fig Lenny, 1979.
Storm The Tower. “Gods of War.” Honey Bear, [???].
Thompson, Randy. “Goodbye Tehran, Iran / Back to My Love.” Crazy Mamas, 1981.
Hicks, Duke. “I’ll Fight for Glory.” Badger, [???].

BOX 10

Harmon, Chris. “Mama’s Gone to War / When Mama Comes Marchin’ Home.” CCM, 1991
Hamilton Junior High. “An Open Letter to the President (I Believe in America) / Theme from The ‘White House.’” Chopper, 1980.
Hallmark, Rodger. “Pluck Khadafy Duck / America’s Hit Parade (Vocal Version) / Pluck Khadafy Duck / America’s Hit Parade (RapVersion).” Ronnie’s Records, [??].
Umfleet, Bill. “Return of Danny Boy / Mirror Behind the Bar.” Artist of America, [??].
An American. “Soldiers, Proud and True.” New Horizon, [??].
Oakwood / Shelley Looney. “It’s Nice to Believe / This is My Country, Thank You Canada.” Mercury, 1980.
English, Judge Roy. “Welcome Home (A Healing Song).” Earhtone, [??].
Mason, Don. “Where Are You Now When We Need You Ross Perot.” D, [??]
Barnhill, Gayle. “Where Did Daddy Go (Momma Can You Tell).” Fairplay, [??]

BOX 4 (continued)

Folder 28: Thank-You card addressed to Keesing, undated
Folder 30: Postcard: “The Art In War,” 2005
Folder 31: Research Notes: Handwritten lists of songs about the Iran Crisis, undated (2)
Folder 32: Keesing Subject Files: Popular music and Middle East region crises and conflict, 1979–2009

NAMES
Bin Laden, Osama. 1957-2011
Bush, George (Herbert Walker). 1924-
Bush, George W. 1946-
Hussein, Saddam. 1937-2006
Khomeini, Ruhollah. 1902-1989
Schwarzkopf, H. Norman. 1934-2012

SUBJECTS
Gulf War, 1990-1991
Gulf War illness
Iran Hostage Crisis, 1979-1981
United States. Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm
United States. Persian Gulf Command