

# Coulter, John A., Collection on Richard T. Shea, Jr.

John A. Coulter Collection on Richard T. Shea, Jr.

1944-2001



## Title Statement

Coulter, John A., Collection on Richard T. Shea, Jr. John A. Coulter Collection on Richard T. Shea, Jr., 1944-2001  
Ms.2000.090

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.2000.090

### Unit Date

1944-2001

### Unit Date

(bulk 1944-1955)

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

The collection contains information gathered by Lieutenant Colonel John A. Coulter II while he was researching the life and military service of Richard T. Shea, Jr. The materials include biographical information about Shea from the 1940's and 1950's and writings from the second half of the 20th century about him and the Battle of Pork Chop Hill.

### Creator

Coulter, John A., 1953-

**Extent**

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box

**Repository**

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open for research.

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**Source of Acquisition**

The John A. Coulter Collection on Richard T. Shea, Jr. was donated to Special Collections in 2000.

**Processing Information**

The processing, arrangement, and description of the John A. Coulter Collection on Richard T. Shea, Jr. was completed in January 2016.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], John A. Coulter Collection on Richard T. Shea, Jr., Ms2000-090, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

## Biographical Note

First Lieutenant Richard T. Shea, Jr. was born on January 3, 1927 in Portsmouth, Virginia and died on July 8, 1953 during the Battle of Pork Chop Hill in Sokkogae, Korea. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1944-45 before entering the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated from West Point in 1952 before serving in the United States Army. At the time of his death he was a First Lieutenant and was Executive Officer for Company A of the 17th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army. The circumstances surrounding his death during the July 1953 Battle of Pork Chop Hill in Sokkogae, Korea led to his being posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Lieutenant Colonel John A. Coulter, II was born July 15, 1953 in Prince George, Virginia. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1976. During the 1990s, Coulter wrote a number of articles on the history of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. In 2001, he published a book about Virginia Tech's Medal of Honor recipients and took over the role of Corps Historian.

## Scope and Content

The collection contains information gathered by Lieutenant Colonel John A. Coulter II while he was researching the life and military service of Richard T. Shea, Jr. The materials include biographical information about Shea from the 1940's and 1950's and writings from the second half of the 20th century about him and the Battle of Pork Chop Hill. The earliest materials concern Shea's time in military academies including Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the United States Military Academy (West Point). These include academic records and descriptions of Shea's performance on the West Point track team. Also included are declassified records of Shea's military service and historical information about the Battle of Pork Chop Hill during the Korean War. There are multiple memorials about his life and service including the text of the memorial from the ceremony where he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. There is also a draft of Chapter 15 "Bells of Love, Sounds of War" from Coulter's book *Ut Prosim "Above & Beyond": The Story of Virginia Tech's Medal of Honor Recipients*. Most of the items in the collection are photocopies of original documents.

## Related Materials

A copy of John A. Coulter's book, *Ut Prosim "Above & Beyond": The Story of Virginia Tech's Medal of Honor*

*Recipients*, is available in the Rare Book Collection (call no. LD5655.A5 C5 2001).

## Keywords

Korean War, 1950-1953

Medal of Honor

Students and alumni

University History

Shea, Richard T., Jr., First Lieutenant, 1927-1953

Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)

## Rights Statement for Archival Description

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in files by subject and the files are in roughly chronological order.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Time in school

**Unit Date** 1944-1990

**Unit Date** (bulk 1944-1959)

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

### Photographs

**Unit Date** n.d.

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

### Military records

**Unit Date** 1935-1953

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

### Battle of Pork Chop Hill

**Unit Date** 1953, n.d.

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

### Correspondence

**Unit Date** 1992-1998

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

### Newspaper articles

**Unit Date** 1955

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Book chapters****Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Memorials****Unit Date** 1955-1991**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Draft of Chapter 15 from Ut Prosim "Above & Beyond": The Story of Virginia Tech's Medal of Honor Recipients****Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)