



Guide to the Major General Lloyd Brinkley Ramsey photograph albums of service in South Korea, 1959 July-1960 May

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Summary

Collection Title:

Major General Lloyd Brinkley Ramsey photograph albums of service in South Korea, 1959 July-1960 May

Creator:

Ramsey, Lloyd Brinkley, 1918-2016

Abstract:

Lloyd Brinkley Ramsey was a U.S. Army three-star general who served in South Korea from 1959-1960 as Senior Military Advisor to the Korean National War College in Seoul, South Korea. The three spiral-bound albums house over 300 black-and-white mounted photographs, chiefly in 4x5 and 8x10 sizes, all with typed captions and commentary. The images document the War College campus, Ramsey's quarters, South Korean and American officers in group portraits and in military meetings, dinners, and parties, as well as official tours and visits, including to the DMZ and a U.S. guided missile base; and visits to Seoul streets and tourist sites, rice fields and markets, and to Tokyo, Japan. Ramsey often appears in event photographs. There are a few snapshots of Ramsey's family. Also includes about 20 close-range photographs documenting the violence and bloodshed at student and civilian street protests in Seoul against President Syngman Rhee, known as the April Revolution of 1960.

Extent:

1.5 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

Language:

English .

Collection ID:

RL.11889

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1xh97>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Major General Lloyd Brinkley Ramsey photograph albums of service in South Korea, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The three spiral-bound photograph albums in the collection were assembled by U.S. Army Major General Lloyd Brinkley Ramsey, and feature over 300 black-and-white gelatin silver mounted photographs, chiefly in 4x5 and 8x10 sizes, with typed captions and commentary by Ramsey about people, events, and settings. The albums measure approximately 11x13 inches. The photographs, mostly taken by Ramsey but also by other unidentified individuals, chiefly focus on Ramsey's service and travels, and include images of the National War College (renamed the Defense College in 1961) and its personnel; many meetings, dinners, and parties attended by South Korean and U.S. military officers and attaches; official military visits to the DMZ and to U.S. installations, including the newly developed guided missile system base. One set of images documents Military Armistice Commission (MAC) meetings held in August and October 1959 between North and South Koreans and American military officers. Ramsey often appears in snapshots of social events and meetings. Other images document Seoul streets, parks, palaces, markets, a women's school, and rice fields; and scenes from trips to Inchon, South Korea, rural areas, and Tokyo, Japan.

The album includes about 20 close-range photographs of violent student riots and civilian street demonstrations in Seoul against President Syngman Rhee, known as the April Revolution of 1960. The photographer is unidentified. Note: these photographs include potentially disturbing images of bloodied and dying demonstrators, and street violence.

Biographical/Historical

Major General Lloyd Brinkley Ramsey (1918-2016) came to South Korea in July 1959 to serve as the U.S. Army Senior Military Advisor to the National War College (later the National Defense College). Born in Somerset, Kentucky, Lloyd began his military career after graduating from the University of Kentucky in 1940. During World War II he served as aide-de-camp to General Harold Alexander, and Ground Commander under General Eisenhower in the North African Campaign. He also served as a battalion executive officer in the 3rd and 7th Infantry; and served as Senior Advisor, Republic of Korea, 1959-1960, and Commanding General, 23rd Infantry Division (American), Vietnam. He served as the Provost Marshall General, Washington, D.C., until his retirement in 1970. He died in 2016.

[Source: Find-A-Grave site biographical note, viewed April 2, 2021]

Biographical/Historical

The Korea National Defense University (Kukpang Taehakkyo) is currently located in Nonsan, South Korea. It was founded in 1955 as the National War College; in 1961 it was renamed the National Defense College. U.S. military officers served as advisors in its earliest years. The university was situated in Seoul from its founding until its relocation to Nonsan in 2017. In 2000 it merged with the Research Institute on National Security Affairs (RINSA) to become the National Defense University.

Biographical/Historical

The South Korean mass civilian protests in April 1960, known as the April Revolution, were organized chiefly by students reacting to widespread vote-rigging in presidential elections by then-President Rhee Syngman. The protests and riots lasted approximately two weeks, and later led to the downfall of the Rhee government that had ruled the country for 12 years.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Major General Lloyd Brinkley Ramsey photograph albums of service in South Korea were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2020.

Processing Information

Processed and described by Paula Jeannet, April 2021. Accession(s) represented in this collection guide: 2020-0064.

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Names and Subjects

- Demonstrations -- Korea (South) -- Photographs
- Military assistance, American -- Korea (South)
- Student movements -- Korea (South) -- Photographs
- Korea (South) -- Description and travel
- Korea (South) -- Foreign relations -- United States
- Korea (South) -- History -- 1948-1960
- Korea (South) -- History, Military
- Korea (South) -- Photographs
- Korea (South) -- Social life and customs
- Seoul (Korea) -- Photographs
- Tokyo (Japan) -- Photographs
- Black-and-white photographs
- Gelatin silver prints
- Photograph albums
- Ramsey, Lloyd Brinkley, 1918-2016
- United States. Military Advisory Group in Korea
- Kukpang Taehakkyo (Korea) -- Photographs
- Korea (South). Yukkun -- Officers
- United States. Army -- Officers

Collection Inventory

Lloyd Brinkley Ramsey photograph album #1, 1959 July-October

Scope and Contents

This spiral-bound album houses approximately 121 page-mounted and 5 loose sleeved photographs with typed captions and dates from July to October, 1959. Then-Colonel Ramsey came to Korea to serve as the U.S. Army advisor to the Korean National Defense College, near , South Korea, in July 1959.

The photographs are numbered. The first group is from Ramsey's first days at the National Defense College and includes shots of campus exteriors and interiors, and his quarters. There are images from side trips to rice paddies, the "Chang Duk Palace"(Changdeok Palace), Chang Gyung Won Gardens (part of present-day Changgyeong Palace), a visit by Miss Korea 1959, and August and October, 1959 Military Armistice Commission (MAC) meetings attended by North and South Koreans and U.S. personnel. There is a brochure and map of one of the palaces. Small panoramic shots of Seoul are included.

Many group photographs of officials are present. There is one image of Major General Lloyd Ramsey where he is described as a new Senior Advisor of the National Defense College in the Korean Republic. There are also images of Korean Generals Kyung Nok Choi, Lim Hang Bak, and Woo Joo Chang.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Almost none of the photographs are numbered. Most are sized 3 1/8 inches square. There are several gaps where single photographs are missing.

Box 1

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Lloyd Brinkley Ramsey photograph album #2, 1959 October-1960 February

Scope and Contents

This album includes approximately 82 photographs with typed captions and some newspaper clippings, and dates from October 1959 through March 1960. It includes many group photographs of Korean and American military officers, including officials from the Chinese embassy, as well as many snapshots of then-Colonel Lloyd Ramsey. Other images show interiors at the National War College near Kisan, Korea, including the NDC library, auditorium, typing room, and leadership's offices. There is one photo of General Paik Sun-yup, Korea's first four-star general, who died at 100 on July 10, 2020. In Korea, Paik's death sparked a controversy on his pro-Japanese activities during the colonial period.

A small sticker on the cover is labeled "Orig. Honest John," referring to a newly-developed missile visible in several images during a visit to the 4th U.S. Guided Missile Command. Other visits were to Ewha University, a women's school, and to a market.

There are many images of dinners, meetings, and parties chiefly hosted by Korean military officials, along with Korean women referred to as "hostesses." There are some family snapshots of Ramsey's wife and children.

One clipping documents meetings of the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group (PROV-MAAG-K) in 1959.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Almost none of the photographs are numbered. They are all mounted, and are chiefly 4x5 inches in size, with a fair number of glossy 8x10 inch and 3/ 18 inch square prints.

Box 2

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Lloyd Brinkley Ramsey photograph album #3, March-May 1960

Scope and Contents

This album includes approximately 134 photographs with typed captions and commentary. They chiefly document South Korean and American military personnel during meetings, relaxing in quarters, and posing for snapshots and group portraits. Events documented include the Korean Military and Naval Academies graduations. There are also many images from touristic trips to towns, to the Chang Gyung Won (Changgyeong Palace) Gardens, and to Tokyo, Japan, just before Ramsey departed for the U.S. from Taiwan. The first photograph is the only color image in the collection - a snapshot of Korean children playing with a seesaw on the street. Included is a large brochure for the Atami Hotel in Tokyo as well as a publicity magazine about the Tokyo Tower, a record-height communications structure built in 1958.

On pages 6-8 there are twenty black-and-white images of the April Revolution in 1960, most taken at close range and which include potentially disturbing images of bloody and dead protesters and violent clashes with police. The photographer is unidentified. The two-week mass civilian protests, spearheaded by students protesting widespread vote-rigging in presidential elections by then-President Rhee Syngman, later led to the downfall of the Rhee government that had ruled the country for 12 years.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

The photographs are numbered, with a few gaps in the order. They are mostly 4x5 inches, with one color photograph that starts out the album. A few are missing.

Box 3

Guide to the Major General Lloyd Brinkley Ramsey photograph
albums of service in South Korea, 1959 July-1960 May

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