Walter Leo Pitts Papers  
(R1389)

Collection Number: R1389

Collection Title: Walter Leo Pitts Papers

Dates: 1944-1945

Creator: Pitts, Walter Leo, 1925-2015

Abstract: The Walter Leo Pitts Papers contain photocopies of four form letters belonging to Walter Leo Pitts during World War II. The letters describe the role the USS Texas played in Operation Overlord, and Operation Dragoon on the coast of France; and the Battle of Iwo Jima in the Pacific.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot  
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla. If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Walter Leo Pitts Papers (R1389); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were loaned for photocopying to the University of Missouri by Susan Middaugh on June 1, 1992 (Accession No. RA0540).

Processed by: Processed by Erin Smither, June 28, 2018
Historical Note:

Walter Leo Pitts was born August 13, 1925, the son of Frank S. Pitts and Ruth Mae Pitts in Cook Station, a small town in Crawford County, Missouri. Walter was the fourth child of nine. Walter served in the United States Navy during World War 2. He mustered in March 31, 1944, and served aboard the USS Texas. Leo participated in several major engagements, including the invasion of Normandy in the European Theater, and Iwo Jima and Okinawa in the Pacific Theater. After the war, Leo returned home and resumed civilian life. On November 3, 1956, Walter married Dolores Frances Smith. Together they had two daughters, Susan and Jayne. Walter Leo Pitts passed away in St. James, Missouri, on June 1, 2015, and was buried in Wesco Cemetery in Crawford County, Missouri.

The USS Texas (BB-35) was launched on May 18, 1912. After serving in the North Sea during World War I, the Texas was called to duty again in 1941, after the United States entered World War II. The Texas began the war escorting war convoys across the Atlantic. Later, the Texas participated in the North Africa campaign, shelling beaches to prepare for troop landings. The Texas offered the same support during the Normandy invasion in 1944. Late in 1944, the Texas was transferred to the Pacific Theater, where it offered naval gunfire support for the battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The Texas was decommissioned in 1948, and was the first naval vessel to be established as a museum attraction. She is the only surviving World War I dreadnought battleship in the United States and is currently moored at the Houston Ship Channel in the San Jacinto State Park.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in chronological order in one folder.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists of photocopies of four form letters belonging to Walter Leo Pitts during World War II. The letters describe the role the USS Texas played in Operation Overlord and Operation Dragoon on the coast of France, and the Battle of Iwo Jima in the Pacific.

Container List:

Box 001  f. 1    Form Letters, 1944-1945

Index:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index Term</th>
<th>Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pitts, Walter Leo, 1925-2015</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Texas (Battleship)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World War, 1939-1945</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>