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Remembering 'D-Day' Collection [finding aid]

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

James Anthony Schnur

St. Petersburg Times (Firm)

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Remembering 'D-Day'
A Researcher's Guide to the Collection

James A. Schnur

**Special Collections
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
University of South Florida at St. Petersburg**

Remembering 'D-Day' Collection

Special Collections, USF St. Petersburg Library

INTRODUCTION AND PROVENANCE

In April 1994, the *St. Petersburg Times* asked interested readers to submit their recollections of the Allied invasion of Normandy during World War II. The *Times* compiled the submissions and published a special section in the May 25, 1994, paper to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day (June 6, 1944). The newspaper donated some of the letters, journal entries, and clippings used in the *D-Day Remembered* section to the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library in August 1994.

The materials in the Remembering 'D-Day' Collection occupy a half-size document box and reside in Special Collections. This collection includes no access, photocopy, or publication restrictions. Citations should credit Special Collections, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, University of South Florida at St. Petersburg.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A variety of books document the United States's involvement in the Second World War. Search under the following Library of Congress headings for a selective list of works:

Operation Overlord
World War, 1939-1945 -- United States
World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal Narratives
World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns--France--Normandy

Many books on the Normandy invasion reside in the call number area: D756.5.N6.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

Materials in the Remembering 'D-Day' Collections fall into two distinct series. This finding aid, other background and secondary material, and the publication printed by the *Times* comprise the first series. A second series includes first-hand accounts by participants in the D-Day liberation, as well as a handful a primary accounts from those who fought in other theatres of the Second World War. The collection offers a glimpse of the memories of a specific population: namely, current residents of the Tampa Bay area who wrote about their involvement in, or reaction to, the D-Day invasion of 1944. Submissions vary in quality of presentation.

2.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Background Information Series

Inclusive Dates: 1994

Quantity: 1 folder

Container Listing:

Folder 1 Finding Aid, Background Information, Second-Hand Accounts

Finding Aid

Clipping Soliciting Submissions, *Times*, 9 April 1994, 12A

D-Day Remembered, *Times*, 25 May 1994, 24pp. (2 copies)

"50 Years On: The Searing Memories of War Remain" by Eugene
Patterson, *Times*, 5 June 1994

Miscellaneous submissions, 3 items

D-Day Memories Series

Inclusive Dates: 1994

Quantity: 5 folders

Container Listing:

Folder 2 First-Hand Accounts of Participants

Submissions by participants, A-G, 16 items

Folder 3 First-Hand Accounts of Participants

Submissions by participants, H-R, 22 items

Folder 4 First-Hand Accounts of Participants

Submissions by participants, S-Z, ?, 16 items

Folder 5 First-Hand Accounts on Other Theatres of War

Submissions by participants, 9 items

Folder 6 Miscellaneous, Comments, Contacts, and Sources

12 items

Collection Status Report

Collection Title: "Remembering D-Day" Collection
Provenance: Local and Regional History Collections
Date of Report: 15 August 1994 **Submitted by:** Jim Schnur

Present Status of Collection:

"Remembering D-Day" letters reside in one half-size Hollinger document box in Special Collections. The *St. Petersburg Times* solicited written memories to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the invasion of Normandy. Many of the letters appeared in edited form in a special retrospective section published by the *Times*. Correspondence was preserved and donated to the Poynter Library in August 1994. Arrangement is by geographical location of the writer during World War II.

The brief finding guide includes a statement of provenance, a listing of additional sources of information, a scope and contents analysis, and series description with a container listing. The collection requires no further rearrangement or storage modification.

Short-Term Concerns:

Create a NOTIS holding record with "archive-mss" designation: A single NOTIS record should describe the collection from the finding aid's scope and contents note. Item level description is not necessary, because the finding aid offers a comprehensive portrait of the holdings.

Ongoing Assessment:

Examine collection periodically to assure materials remain in proper order: A quick inspection of the "Remembering D-Day" materials should occur after every 5-8 uses of the collection to assure that materials remain in proper order.

Long-Term Goals:

Strengthen the relationship between this collection and the Oral History initiative: This collection offers a source that complements interviews found in the *Oral History of Modern America* collection.