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Remembering Pearl Harbor : A Researcher's Guide to the Collection

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

James Anthony Schnur

St. Petersburg Times (Firm)

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"Remembering Pearl Harbor"
A Researcher's Guide to the Collection

James A. Schnur

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

December 1992

INTRODUCTION AND PROVENANCE

In mid-1991 the *St. Petersburg Times* asked interested readers to submit their reminiscences of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and America's official entry into World War II. On December 4, 1991, the *Times* published a commemorative section which included many of these submissions. Three days later, Americans somberly observed the fiftieth anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. After publishing this special section, the *Times* donated this collection to Nelson Poynter Memorial Library for present and future scholarship.

The letters, journal entries, and clippings that comprise this collection occupy one document box. This collection includes no access, photocopy, or publication restrictions. Citations should credit the Special Collections Department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, University of South Florida at St. Petersburg.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A variety of books document America's entry into World War II. Search under the following Library of Congress subject headings for a selective list of works:

- World War, 1939-1945 -- United States
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal Narratives
- Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941

The Florida State Archives in Tallahassee retains primary sources materials that describe Florida during World War II. The papers of the State Defense Council (Record Group 191) include ledger books, official minutes, operational reference files, publication materials, and scrapbooks. Created in 1940 by Governor Frederick Cone, this body coordinated local and regional defense councils throughout the state under the leadership of wartime Governor Spessard Holland. The researcher should also consult the administrative correspondence of Gov. Holland (Record Group 102). Smaller collections also exist at the P.K. Young Library of Florida History at the Smathers Library, University of Florida, Gainesville.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

Materials in the "Remembering Pearl Harbor" manuscript collection fall into four distinct series. The finding aid and photocopies of the "Remembering Pearl Harbor" publication issued by the *St. Petersburg Times* comprise the first series. Subsequent series divide submissions by the locations described by the writers: Pearl Harbor, the territory of Hawaii in general, and the Pacific theatre of war; Florida; and other areas, including the European theatre of war.

This 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 Second World War. By describing their experiences, the contributors addressed a variety of issues. Various letters examine the role of women, wartime restrictions on homefront activities, and the difficulties encountered by prisoners of war, as well as recount the vivid memories of those Americans who witnessed firsthand the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Submissions vary in quality of presentation. Of special interest is a brief letter by U.S. Rep. Sam Gibbons, a long-standing Florida representative, whose efforts led to the creation of the University of South Florida in 1956.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

"Remembering Pearl Harbor" Special Section Series

Inclusive Dates: 1991-1992 Quantity: 1 folder

Container Listing:

Folder 1

Finding Aid

Photocopies of "Pearl Harbor Remembered" from the 4 December 1991 issue of the *St. Petersburg Times*.

Hawaii and Pacific Theatre Series

Inclusive Dates: 1991 Quantity: 3 folders

Subseries Arrangement: alphabetical by author; includes letters from Pearl Harbor, elsewhere in Hawaii, the Philippines, and other areas of the Pacific theatre of war.

Container Listing:

Folder 2 Letters "A" through "G"

Folder 3 Letters "H" through "O"

Folder 4 Letters "P" through "Z"

Florida Series

Inclusive Dates: 1991 Quantity: 1 folder

Subseries Arrangement: alphabetical by author

Container Listing:

Folder 5 Letters "A" through "Z"

Other Areas Series

Inclusive Dates: 1991 Quantity: 5 folders

Subseries Arrangement: alphabetical by author

Container Listing:

Folder 6 Letters "A" through "D"

Folder 7 Letters "E" through "J"

Folder 8 Letters "K" through "N"

Folder 9 Letters "O" through "R"

Folder 10 Letters "S" through "Z"