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Ferrell, James L. (1927-), Collection, 1944-1947

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#57 Ferrell, James L. (1927-), Collection, 1944-1947
.2 linear feet

INTRODUCTION

A collection of service papers, photographs, a diary, newspapers, and German service badges pertaining to James Ferrell's service in the United States Navy on IE Shima.

DONOR INFORMATION

This collection was received by Pittsburg State University and the Leonard H. Axe Library from James Ferrell through Allan Eichorn of the Pittsburg American Legion Hall on 12 September 2008 (Accession No. 08-20). An addition to the collection was made by James Ferrell on 3 January 2011 (Accession No. 11-02).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James L. Ferrell was born 21 January 1927 in Hiwasse, Arkansas. He was raised in Pittsburg, Kansas. He entered the United States Navy at age 17 after completing 10 years of school. Ferrell enlisted in the Navy in May 1944 and served to September 1947. He was a member of the Mobile Communication Unit 17 and served as an Electrician, 3rd Class. Ferrell was stationed at IE Shima, an island in Okinawa Prefecture, Japan, in 1945 and remained there until 1947. Ferrell was also involved in the atomic bomb testing which took place at Bikini Island. He set up electrical generators on the ships that were destroyed during the bomb tests.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The James L. Ferrell Collection consists of Navy service papers, photographs, a diary of IE Shima and Pacific theater events for 1945, U. S. service newspapers, and German naval service badges collected during the atomic bomb tests. The collection is arranged into five series: **Service Papers, Photographs and Images, IE Shima Diary, Newspapers, and Service Badges.**

The **Service Papers Series** is composed of a biographical sketch of James L. Ferrell which lists the rank he held and describes various events that took place while he was serving in IE Shima. This series also includes a copy of Ferrell's National Service Life Insurance, his personal discharge papers, and a letter of thanks for his service. A roster of military personnel for Unit 17 is also included.

The **Photographs and Images Series** include personal photographs and a variety of postcards from IE Shima that document the landscape, Japanese art, and the living conditions of the Navy personnel. There are also pictures showing bomb explosions and the destruction caused by the atomic bombs. Photographs of the airplane that carried the Japanese surrender delegation to IE Shima and the monument for journalist Ernie Pyle, who was killed during the 1945 invasion of IE Shima, are also included.

The **IE Shima Diary Series** contains the day-by-day diary kept by the United States Navy in 1945 as military information came into IE Shima. This diary notes events which led to the end of the war, specific events pertaining only to IE Shima, and information about the impact of IE Shima on the course of World War II.

The **Newspaper Series** contains a copy of Harbor Highlights for October 20, 1945. This magazine was a Navy-based newspaper which was circulated among the Navy officers. There is also a copy of the Okinawan for February 24, 1946. This newspaper circulated among all of the armed forces in the Ryukyus. James Ferrell collected these items while in IE Shima.

The **Service Badges Series** contains cloth, German sailor badges associated with various individual trades in the Kriegsmarine. James Ferrell collected these service badges from a German ship during the testing of the atomic bombs.

FOLDER LIST

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- f. 2

Photographs and Images Series

- f. 3
- f. 4
- f. 5

IE Shima Diary Series

- f. 6

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Service Badges Series

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