Descriptive Finding Guide for Pearl Harbor Dispatches Special Collection
SDASM.SC.10112

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San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
11/11/2014
2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park
San Diego 92101
URL: http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
Title: Pearl Harbor Attack Dispatches Special Collection
creator: Pasewalk, Russ E.
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10112
Physical Description: 0.23 Cubic FeetOne 15“x2.5“x11“ box, containing 4 folders
Date (inclusive): 1941-1942
Abstract: On the morning of December 7, 1941, there was a surprise Japanese military strike against the US naval base, Pearl Harbor, in Oahu, Hawaii. This Collection contains dispatches reporting on the attack.

Conditions Governing Access
The collection is open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use
Some copyright may be reserved. Consult with the library director for more information.

Preferred Citation
[Item], [Filing Unit], [Series Title], [Subgroups], [Record Group Title and Number], [Repository “San Diego Air & Space Museum Library & Archives”]

Biographical / Historical
On the morning of December 7, 1941, there was a surprise Japanese military strike against the US naval base, Pearl Harbor, in Oahu, Hawaii. The attack on Pearl Harbor was intended to prevent the US fleet from interfering with Japanese military actions in the Pacific and led the United States into World War II. This collection was compiled by Russ E. Pasewalk who was on the USS Tennessee (BB-43) in Pearl Harbor during the attack. He had enlisted in the Navy about six years prior, joining shortly after his high school graduation. After the attack he remained in Pearl Harbor until late December then sailed to the West Coast of the United States serving on various ships through 1942 including the USS Pennsylvania (BB-38) and the USS Tennessee (BB-43). The collection is primarily about his time on these ships. The USS Tennessee (BB-43) was one of the eight battleships present during the attack on Pearl Harbor. She received two bomb hits, both on gun turrets. After being trapped at her berth for ten days, the Tennessee sailed to Puget Sound in late December. Once receiving permanent repairs in the Puget Sound Navy Yard, Washington, the Tennessee operated on the US West Coast through August 1942. The USS Pennsylvania (BB-38) was another of the battleships which received bomb hits during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Pennsylvania was in dry dock during the attack and therefore incurred only slight damage. On December 20, 1941 Pennsylvania sailed for San Francisco and operated along the US West Coast throughout 1942.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The materials in this Collection were donated to the San Diego Air and Space Museum.

Related Materials
Naval Aviation in San Diego and North Island Collection http://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/4841950314/
http://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/4841756864/in/set-72157624462715209
Related Research Institutions:
Secondary Sources:

Scope and Contents
One 15“x2.5“x11“ box, containing 4 folders. Items in this collection, from 1941-1942, consist of internal US Navy information. Information includes an early report by the compiler of the collection, Russ E. Pasewalk, of the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor and the days immediately after, a Sept. 4, 1941 memo on incendiary bombs, and information sheets from the USS Tennessee (BB-43), and Pennsylvania (BB-38).
Narrative of events contains references to Russell Pasewalk’s wife, Ellen of Los Angeles.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Pennsylvania (Battleship)
Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941
Naval Station Pearl Harbor (Hawaii)
Tennessee (Battleship)
Pasewalk, Russ E.
United States. Navy

Box 01
Folder 01 - Typewritten Narrative of Events December 7, 1941- August 9, 1942
  Physical Description: 1. Typed Narrative of Events with several taped newspaper documents.

Folder 02 - US Navy Yard Pearl Harbor Document - Incendiary Bombs
  Physical Description: 1. Memorandum, Capt. C.C. Baughman, USN, re: Incendiary Bombs, September 4, 1941.

Folder 03 - USS Tennessee Document - Information Sheet
Folder 04 - USS Pennsylvania Documents
  Physical Description: 1. USS Pennsylvania Information Sheet No. 1. 2. USS Pennsylvania Information Sheet No. 3. 3. USS Pennsylvania, Executive Officer’s Special Memorandum, Cdr. L.B. Schulten, January 13, 1942.