Finding Aid for the Christopher Smith Second World War correspondence 2014.013.w.r

Andrew Harman
Center for American War Letters Archives
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Leatherby Libraries
Chapman University
Orange, CA 92866
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URL: http://www1.chapman.edu/library/archives/
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Center for American War Letters Archives
Title: Christopher Smith Second World War correspondence
creator: Smith, Christopher
source: DeBonte, Barbara
Identifier/Call Number: 2014.013.w.r
Physical Description: 2 Linear Feet(4 document boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1942-03-1945-12
Abstract: This collection consists of correspondence to and from Captain Christopher Smith, United States Army during the Second World War. The collection also includes photographs and ephemera, as well as a code key letter written at the time for the family to be able to avoid the censors.
Leatherby Libraries
Storage Unit: 1-4
Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Barbara DeBonte
Arrangement
This collection is arranged by material type: Series 1, Code Key-- Series 2, Correspondence-- Series 3, Photos-- Series 4, Ephemera
Biographical / Historical
Capt. Christopher Smith, USA was born July 4, 1917 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His family soon moved to Atlantic City, New Jersey where they lived until he was 17 years old. After his father died, his mother remarried and they moved to Washington D.C. His letters are addressed to his mother, Mary, and step-father, Edwin, as well as his maternal grandparents Curt and Carrie Cratzer. He lived in Bari, Italy and Tunis during his service. He attended Officers Candidate School at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. He was assigned to Fort Benjamin Harison in Fort Wayne, Indiana and spent some time in Texas before deploying to Europe. Cpt. Smith died in 2002.
Preferred Citation
[Item title], Christopher Smith Second World War correspondence (2014.013.w.r), Center for American War Letters Archives, Chapman University, CA.
Content Description
This collection contains correspondence to and from Capt. Christopher Smith, USA during the Second World War. In this collection there is a separate folder with a letter that described a system of communication between Smith and his family as a way to share information that might have been censored.
Inventory:
515 correspondence, personal 1942-1945,
34 photographs,
42 ephemera.
Conditions Governing Use
There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Correspondence -- World War, 1939-1945
World War II
World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945 -- Equipment and supplies
World War, 1939-1945 -- Homefront
World War, 1939-1945 -- Italy
United States. Army.
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folder 1  
**Series 1, Code Key**  
Physical Description: 0.025 Linear Feet(1 folder)  
Scope and Contents  
This series contains a letter that described a system of communication between Capt. Christopher Smith, USA and his family as a way to share information that might have been censored.

folder 2-20  
**Series 2, Correspondence 1942-03-1945-12**  
Physical Description: 1.75 Linear Feet(18 folders)  
Scope and Contents  
This series contains correspondence to and from Capt. Christopher Smith, USA during the Second World War, from March 1942 to December 1945 (one folder contains unknown dates). The letters are addressed to "Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Cotts" (Mary his "mother" and step-father "pop" Edwin) in Washington D.C., as well as to Curt and Carrie Cratzer (his maternal grandparents, Pop and Tag) from various stations as a Lieutenant and Captain. The locations in order: Indianapolis, Oklahoma City, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Italy and Tunisia (V Mail and Air Mail), South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri.

folder 21-22  
**Series 3, Photographs**  
Physical Description: 0.025 Linear Feet(1 folder)  
Scope and Contents  
This series contains two folders of photographs:  
Folder 1-- several photos sent in letters from Capt. Christopher Smith, USA during the Second World War war. They include photos of Capt. Smith as a child and in uniform at various stations.  
Folder 2--photo negatives.

folder 23-24  
**Series 4, Ephemera 1942-1945**  
Physical Description: 0.05 Linear Feet(2 folders)  
Scope and Contents  
This series contains ephemera consisting of newspaper clippings, a birthday card, a cartoon birthday message, price list, programs admission tickets and various ephemera sent home by Capt. Christopher Smith, USA while on duty. These include two folders separated by year, one envelope from 1942, and one from 1945.