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**Finding Aid for the Harry F. Smith, Jr. Second World War correspondence  
2015.111.w.r**

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Center for American War Letters Archives

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Leatherby Libraries

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**Language of Material:** English

**Contributing Institution:** Center for American War Letters Archives

**Title:** Harry F. Smith, Jr. Second World War correspondence

**source:** Smith, Harry F., Mr., Jr.

**Identifier/Call Number:** 2015.111.w.r

**Physical Description:** 1 Linear Feet(2 document boxes)

**Date (inclusive):** 1944-1946-05

**Abstract:** This collection contains the correspondence and other material from Storekeeper Third Class Harry F. Smith, Jr., United States Navy to his family during the Second World War.

Leatherby Libraries, Center for American War Letters.

**Storage Unit:** H.F. Smith 1

**Storage Unit:** 1-5

**Storage Unit:** H.F. Smith 2

**Storage Unit:** 6-13

**Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Gift of Harry Fay Smith, Jr., 10/29/2015.

**Preferred Citation**

[Item title, Box number, Folder number], Harry F. Smith, Jr. Second World War correspondence (2015.111.w.r), Center for American War Letters Archives, Chapman University, CA.

**Content Description**

This collection contains the correspondence from SK 3/c Harry F. Smith, Jr., USN to his family during the Second World War. The collection also contains photographs, ephemera, booklets, empty envelopes, and a map of San Diego. The photographs, ephemera and two of the booklets were sent along with correspondence.

The correspondence details the service of SK 3/c Smith during his training and deployment in the Pacific theater. He began training in April 1945 at the United States Naval Training Center (USNTC) at Camp Decatur in San Diego, Ca. He detailed the training program for his parents up until departure out of San Diego Harbor on the Cruiser Biloxi on July 19. After the censors had eased at the end of the war, in a letter dated September 4, 1945, he wrote a letter detailing his travel by ship to Pearl Harbor and then to Guam in the Marianas Islands chain. This includes training in the Pacific of simulating planes dive-bombing their ship. After writing as a Seaman First Class for most of his service, he was promoted to Storekeeper Third Class on March 3, 1946 and departed Guam for the United States on May 23, 1946 aboard the Billy Mitchell. His last letter to his parents was dated the day before his departure.

**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.

**Arrangement**

This collection is arranged by material type and date: Series 1: Correspondence from Harry--Series 2: Booklets--Series 3: Map of San Diego.

**Biographical / Historical**

Harry Fay Smith, Jr. was born in Los Angeles in 1927 to his parents, Harry Fay Smith, Sr. and May J. Smith. He joined the United States Navy at the age of 18 in April 1945. He continued to serve and deployed to the Pacific theater until after the war when he returned to the United States in May 1946.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Correspondence -- World War, 1939-1945

World War, 1939-1945

United States Navy

Smith, Harry F., Mr., Jr.

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document-box H.F.  
Smith 1,  
folder 1-5,  
document-box H.F.  
Smith 2,  
folder 6-11

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**Series 1, Correspondence from Harry 1945-04-1946-05**

**Physical Description:** 1 Linear Feet(11 folders)

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains correspondence from SK 3/c Harry F. Smith, Jr. to his family during the Second World War. Almost all correspondence is to his parents, together and some separately, and there are two letters to an unidentified woman named Peggy, as well as a series of empty envelopes in Folder 11. Also part of this series are three air mail packages. Letters contained within those packages have been moved to their proper chronological order and booklets have been moved out of series. Of particular note are the photos of the Japanese surrender. Package inventory:

Air Mail Package #1 (large envelope dated Jan. 24, 1946):

Folder 6:

1 booklet, "Bet Your Boots: The Story of Recruit Training," by Ritter Gadbois

1 booklet, "Helpful Hints to the Navy Recruit

1 correspondence, to parents, 5 August 1945 (no #)

1 correspondence, to parents, 17 August 1945 (#40)

1 memo, U.S. Navy Recruiting Station for Harry Fay Smith, 26 February 1945

1 schedule, Recruit Training Command, Advanced Operations Schedule, 16-17 June, 1945

1 list, Requirements for Navy Enlistment

1 diagram, Aviation Cadet Training, Air Crew

1 clipping, "Guam to be our Greatest Base," by John S. Knight, in The Communicator, 28 October, 1945

1 medical note, Harry Fay Smith, Camp Farragut Dispensary

1 program, Official Opening of The Crossroads, Joint Communications Activities, Guam, Marianas Islands, 31 October, 1945

1 medical note, H.F. Smith placed on No Duty status

1 photo envelope, Blue Jay Drug

1 clipping, article to the Editor, from "The gang at JCA"

1 clipping, "Valley Boys to Don Navy Blue"

1 clipping, cartoon, "The Sad Sack"

Air Mail Package #2 (large envelope dated Feb 26, 1946):

Folder 8:

18 photos, b/w, various scenes around Guam

1 correspondence, to parents, 23 January, 1946

1 clipping, situation report from the island, "Thursday morning at 1100"

1 clipping, short paragraph about a sailor in a latrine

1 clipping, "Opening Night Attracts 2000 to 'Crossroads'"

1 clipping, News in Brief, Navy News, Guam Edition, April 2, 1946

1 clipping, Navy News, Guam Edition, April 14, 1946

2 photo pages, b/w, photos taped to thin paper, inspection on Guam

1 photo, b/w, chapel

4 photo pages, b/w, photos glued to thick paper, various scenes on Guam, surrender of Japanese to MacArthur and Nimitz

Air Mail Package #3 (large envelope dated February 21, 1946):

Folder 8:

1 correspondence, to parents, 23 February, 1946 (#278)

57 cartoons, Boondockers, by Jack Davis

1 clipping, "Navy Hospital Order Bans Wave Kissing"

1 cartoon, Grin and Bear it, by Lichty

1 clipping, Sports, Softball, 30 January, 1946, The Communicator

1 certificate, Navy Training Course Certificate, H.F. Smith, promotion to SK 3/c, 6 Feb. 1946

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document-box H.F.  
Smith 2, folder 12

**Series 2, Booklets 1944-1995**

**Physical Description:** 0.05 Linear Feet(1 folder)

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains four booklets related to the service of SK 3/c Harry F. Smith, Jr. during the Second World War. Inventory:

Bet Your Boots: The Story of Recruit Training, by Ted Ritter and Bob Gadbois, 1944 (sent in Air Mail Package #1)

Helpful Hints to the Navy Recruit, 1944 (sent in Air Mail Package #1)

U.S.S. Biloxi Souvenir Folder, 1944

Reader's Digest, September 1995, highlighted article: "Caught in a Swirling Deathtrap," pg. 102, similar to experiences in letters #118-119, October 15-17, 1945

document-box H.F.  
Smith 2, folder 13

**Series 3, Map of San Diego 1945**

**Physical Description:** 0.025 Linear Feet(1 folder)

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains one map of San Diego with labeled locations pertinent to a sailor "Ashore in San Diego." The map was created and given to SK 3/c Harry F. Smith, Jr. in 1945 while training. The bottom caption says, "This map is your property. Save it or mail it home as a souvenir of your first liberty."