

Pitts, Ardesa L. Coffee Letters

Ardesa L. Coffee Pitts Letters

1944 February- June



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Author: Mariaelena DiBenigno, SCRC staff.

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spcoll@wm.edu

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00233

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1944 February- June

Mixed Materials

1 (Box)

Language

English

Creator

Pitts, Ardessa L. Coffee

Extent

0.25 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Biographical / Historical

Ardessa L. Pitts (nee Coffee) was an African American woman born in Rhine Dodge, Georgia who lived in Baltimore, Maryland during World War II while her husband was stationed at Douglas Army Air Field in Arizona. Pitts worked as a Colored Assembler for Westinghouse and boarded with relatives.

Content Description

About 70 letters, telegrams and greeting cards from Ardessa (Dess) L. Coffee Pitts to her husband, Private Madison F. Pitts, who served with the 335th Aviation Squadron at Douglas Army Air Field (D.A.A.F) in Arizona during World War II. Most of the letters are personal in nature and express Ardessa's loneliness and desire for children. She also shared physical ailments and how she felt stress aged her. The letters include pledges of fidelity and sexual innuendos. Ardessa also frequently mentioned sending money to Madison.

Madison Pitts' younger sister Susie Mae Nixon and her baby Rosalyn lived with Ardessa in Baltimore in April 1944; a letter from Madison's other sister Rosa mentioned rumors about Susie Mae's pregnancy and how she married quickly. Ardessa discussed her job as a Colored Assembler with Westinghouse and her plan to take vacation time. She also shared her USO fundraising efforts with a local lodge, possibly the Hiram Grand Lodge. In May 1944 Ardessa saw entertainer Paul Robeson at a military event. In June 1944, she traveled to Arizona (via Chicago) to stay with Madison.

7 letters from family include queries about Madison's location and why he was not in touch more often. His sister Rosa's letter explained Susie Mae's situation and Susie Mae herself wrote to thank Madison and Ardessa for their hospitality.

Letters are arranged chronologically. Typed letter transcriptions (at front of box) are not in chronological order.

Keywords

World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945--African Americans
Douglas Army Air Field (Ariz.)

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/269136

Unit Date 1944 February 21 - March 20

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/278613

Unit Date 1944 March 22 - March 26

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Language English

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/278614

Unit Date 1944 March 27 - March 31

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Language English

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/278615

Unit Date 1944 April 3 - April 5

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Language English

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/278616

Unit Date 1944 April 7 - April 10

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Language English

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/278617

Unit Date 1944 April 12 - April 16

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Language English

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/278618**Unit Date** 1944 April 17 - April 24**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 7 (Folder)**Language** English**Correspondence****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/278619**Unit Date** 1944 April 25 - April 30**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 8 (Folder)**Language** English**Correspondence****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/278620**Unit Date** 1944 May 1 - May 11**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 9 (Folder)**Language** English**Correspondence****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/278621**Unit Date** 1944 May 12 - May 22**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 10 (Folder)**Language** English**Correspondence****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/278622**Unit Date** 1944 May 24 - May 29**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 11 (Folder)**Language** English**Correspondence****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/278623**Unit Date** 1944 May 30 - June 2**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 12 (Folder)**Language** English**Correspondence****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/278624**Unit Date** From Family, 1944 February - September**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 13 (Folder)**Language** English

Correspondence, Telegrams**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/278625**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 14 (Folder)**Language** English**Correspondence, Greeting Cards****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/278626**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 15 (Folder)**Language** English