MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS
USS Missouri Collection

Abstract: Photocopies of records and documentaries about the USS Missouri

Extent: ¼ cubic foot

Physical Description: Paper; VHS tapes; Photograph

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: PDF

Access Restrictions: VHS tapes are currently inaccessible

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [item description], [date]; USS Missouri Collection, Record Group 998.184; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift; Accession #1992-0010; #2018-0097

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 12/23/2016.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Quoted from p. 1 of the “Welcome Aboard” pamphlet in this collection:

“USS Missouri, ‘Mighty Mo,’ is the fourth ship and the second battleship to bear the name of the ‘Show Me’ state. The ship is also the last battleship built by the United States.

“The keel for the 58,000 ton Iowa-class battleship was laid in 1941 and Missouri was launched in 1944. The ship provided gunfire support in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa during World War II. On September 2, 1945 Battleship Missouri was the spot for the signing of a Formal Instrument of Surrender by Japan to the Allied Forces, ending World War II.
“*Missouri* was called on to participate in several shore bombardments off the coast of Korea between 1950 and 1953 before being decommissioned and placed in ‘mothballs’ at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington in 1955.

“*Missouri* was recommissioned in 1986 in San Francisco, California and departed on an Around-the-World Shakedown cruise – the first battleship to circumnavigate the world since President Theodore Roosevelt’s ‘Great White Fleet’ of 1907-1909. The ship is homeported in Long Beach, California.


In 1991 the battleship was deployed again to the Persian Gulf and provided US support in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. It fired a total of 783 rounds and launched 28 Tomahawk cruise missiles during the Desert Storm campaign.

The *USS Missouri BB-63* was ultimately decommissioned on March 21, 1992. It sat for a while in Bremerton, WA until the Navy moved it to the Pearl Harbor Memorial in Hawaii in 1998.

**ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION**

**Related Collections**

MS183 WWII Instrument of Surrender


Vertical File, Missouri State Archives

**Additional External Resources**

Battleship Missouri Memorial, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii: [https://www.ussmissouri.org/](https://www.ussmissouri.org/).

Naval Vessel Register:
http://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDetail_BB_63_5083.HTML
SERIES

*USS Missouri* Documents & Photograph, 1944-1990s

Scope and Content

This is a small collection consisting mostly of photocopies of original records. Materials include a brochure on the *USS Missouri*, certificates of appreciation, and documents regarding the silver dining service on board the ship.

Folders 4 & 5 are available as PDFs on Manuscript DVD #1 in the Reference Room.

Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pamphlet “Welcome Aboard” describing the history of the <em>USS Missouri</em> (2 copies)</td>
<td>c1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Photocopies of two certificates of congratulations from Lawrence C. Black of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to the members of the <em>USS Missouri</em> for successfully completing their missions in Desert Shield and Desert Storm</td>
<td>1990s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Photocopies of letters and other records related to the silver dining service set of the <em>USS Missouri</em> (copies obtained from the Truman Library)</td>
<td>1947-1986</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

See also MS192 Gerald R. Massie Collection Box 34 Folder 27 for additional materials.
SERIES

Documentaries, 1986-1991

Scope and Content

These are documentaries made of the *USS Missouri*. Format is VHS and the production company is unknown.

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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>USS Missouri BB-63 World Cruise</td>
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<td>USS Missouri BB-63 Recommissioning</td>
<td>05/10/1986</td>
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<td>USS Missouri Meeting the Challenge: A Call to Crisis, Operation Desert Shield/Storm</td>
<td>1990-1991</td>
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