Pontius, Earl John, 1913-1980 (MSS 425)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Earl John Pontius was born 4 March 1913 in Twin, Preble County, Ohio, the older of John Levi and Ida May (Heeter) Pontius’s two sons. His brother Ralph M. Pontius was born in 1916. Earl worked on the family farm until he entered the army in January 1942. He was stationed in Fort Thomas, Kentucky as a member of a military police unit until June 1944. He then served as an orderly in medical facilities in Camp Ellis, Illinois, and Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Earl Pontius died 30 March 1980 in Dayton, Ohio, and is buried with his brother and parents in Sugar Grove Cemetery, West Alexandria, Preble County, Ohio.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists chiefly of the World War II correspondence of Earl John Pontius and his mother, Ida May (Heeter) Pontius. The bulk of the letters are from Mrs. Pontius, Lewisburg, Preble County, Ohio. She relates activities on the family farm such as planting, harvesting, butchering, and canning and preserving. Weather, prices, and rationing are common topics. She writes of the health of friends and family members and worries about the possibility of Earl having to serve overseas. She also sends programs to him from their Lutheran Church. Earl describes his stateside army service as a member of the military police in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, and later as an orderly in a medical unit stationed in Camp Ellis, Illinois, and Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The collection also includes a few letters to Earl from the pastor of the Lutheran Church and other friends and family members.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1  Earl John Pontius  1942-1944  267 items

Folder 1  Inventory  1 item
Folder 2  Correspondence  Jan-Sept. 1942  24 items
Folder 3  Correspondence  Oct.-Dec. 1942  23 items
Folder 4  Correspondence  Jan.-April 1943  39 items
Folder 5  Correspondence  May-Dec. 1943  65 items
Folder 6  Correspondence  Jan.-Aug. 1944  50 items
Folder 7  Correspondence  Sept.-Dec. 1944  61 items
Folder 8  Correspondence  n.d.  4 items

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS  PONTIUS, Earl John, 1913-1980                  1942-1944  
425          Correspondence of Earl Pontius, on stateside military service during World War II, and his mother, Ida May (Heeter) Pontius, Lewisburg, Preble County, Ohio. Pontius was stationed at Fort Thomas, Kentucky as part of a military police unit, and at Camp Ellis, Illinois, and Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as a hospital orderly.  
1 box. 8 folders. 267 items. Originals.  
SC2012.2.19  

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Fort Bragg, North Carolina – Relating to, 1944  F7  
Fort Thomas – Relating to, 1942-1944  F2-6  
Fox, Earl G.      F5,7  
Getter, H. C.      F2-4  
Greeting cards, [1940s?]   F8  
Pontius, Ida May (Heeter), 1882-1956 – Correspondence   F2-7  
Trinity Lutheran Church – Lewisburg, Ohio – Relating to   F2-7  
Valentines, 1940s?   F8  
World War II, 1939-1945 – Hospitals – Relating to   F6-7  
World War II, 1939-1945 – Military life
World War II, 1939-1945 – Military police – Relating to     F2-6
World War II, 1939-1945 – Soldiers from – Ohio

Lile/Jeffrey  02/18/2013