

**LSU PERSHING RIFLES RECORDS**

Mss. 5192

Inventory

Compiled by

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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2022

**CONTENTS OF INVENTORY**

CONTENTS OF INVENTORY ..... 2  
SUMMARY ..... 3  
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE ..... 4  
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE ..... 5  
LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES ..... 6  
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS ..... 7  
INDEX TERMS ..... 8  
CONTAINER LIST ..... 9

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	3.0 linear feet
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Baton Rouge, La., Shreveport, La., San Antonio, Tex., Daleville, Ala.
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1940-1978
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1963-1971
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	The LSU Pershing Rifles Records contains photographs, news clippings, <i>Gumbo</i> yearbook page photocopies, magazines, training manuals, bylaws, drill movements, recruitment posters and scrapbooks.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	None
<b>Reproduction Note</b>	Contents may be reproduced.
<b>Copyright</b>	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries.
<b>Related Collections</b>	None.
<b>Citation</b>	LSU Pershing Rifles Records, Mss. 5192, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	11:1-2

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

The Pershing Rifles is a national military honors society for ROTC cadets and midshipmen that participates in military drill exercises. It was established in 1894 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It was originally named Varsity Rifles but was renamed after US Army General John J. Pershing, who wanted to start a group dedicated to precision marching. Pershing founded the organization during his time working at UN-Lincoln as a military instructor. Due to the First World War, the program was disbanded, but reformed as a national organization in 1919 as a quasi-fraternal order for ROTC programs.

Among the most notable members of the Pershing Rifles are actor James Earl Jones and the late General Colin Powell.

At LSU, the Pershing Rifle Corps detachment was established in 1940.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The seven boxes of materials contained in these records were donated by a former member of LSU's Pershing Rifle Corps. The collection is comprised of photographs, news clippings, magazines, instruction manuals, posters, bylaws, *Gumbo* yearbook page photocopies, scrapbooks, a guidon flag and a unit patch. All items date from the mid-twentieth century.

**LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES**

**Series I. Printed and Graphic Materials, 1940-1978, undated**

**Series II. Scrapbooks and Memorabilia, 1963-1971, undated**

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

The materials in the LSU Pershing Rifles Records are divided into two series: Printed and Graphic Materials (1940-1978, undated) and Scrapbooks and Memorabilia (1963-1971, undated).

The first series is made up of paper materials from LSU's Pershing Rifles detachment. It contains five copies of the Pershing Rifleman magazine, a manual for "Bedbugs," or inductees into the order (the manual contains hazing instructions), and photocopies of every *Gumbo* yearbook entry related to the order from 1940-1978. It also contains photographs from around LSU's campus (including one with Bob Hope) and recruitment posters. This series also contains a list of casualties during conflicts from WWII to Vietnam, comprised of former members of LSU's Pershing Rifles. The contents of series one makes up the first box of the records, except for folder 1, which is a part of the second series.

The second series contains scrapbooks and other memorabilia from LSU's Pershing Rifles Corps. The photographs in these scrapbooks contain members of cadre (professional military personnel in charge of training), cadet leadership, female sponsors (Pershing Rifles did not include women until the 1971 school year, and not at LSU until later in the 1970s), drill team events, parties, initiations into the order, and practices on the Parade Grounds. There are five scrapbooks, dating from 1963-1971 (the 1967-1968 and 1968-1969 school years are not present). This series also contains a guidon, which is a type of pennant that denotes the standard of a particular regiment, dating to the 1960s. The scrapbooks are arranged chronologically and housed individually in boxes 2-6. The guidon can be found in box 7. The unit patch is in the first folder of box 1.

**INDEX TERMS**

**Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.**

<b>United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps</b>	<b>I-II</b>
<b>United States. Air Force ROTC</b>	<b>I-II</b>
<b>National Honorary Society of Pershing Rifles</b>	<b>I-II</b>
<b>Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948</b>	<b>I-II</b>
<b>Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.)</b>	<b>I-II</b>



CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
				<b>I. Printed and Graphic Materials, 1940-1978, undated</b>
	11:2	1	2	Pershing Rifleman magazines, 1964-1968
			3	Pershing Inductees "Bedbug" Manual, undated, likely from 1960-1969
			4	Parade Drill Instructions and News Clippings, undated, likely from 1960-1969
			5	Death of Captain Edward Schiele, Jan 15-March 21, 1952
			6	LSU Pershing Rifles list of former cadets killed in action from WWII-Vietnam, undated
			7	<i>Gumbo</i> yearbook photocopies, 1940-1978
			8	Newspaper clippings, 1960-1969
			9	Proposed bylaws of the alumni association, drill movement instructions, 1967
			10	Recruitment posters, 1965-1967
			11	Photographs (1/2), 1960-1969
			12	Photographs (2/2), 1960-1969
				<b>II. Scrapbooks and Memorabilia, 1963-1971, undated</b>
	11:2	1	1	Unit patch, undated, likely from 1960-1969
			2	Scrapbook, 1963-64
			3	Scrapbook, 1964-65
	11:1	4	--	Scrapbook, 1966-67
			5	Scrapbook, 1969-70
			6	Scrapbook, 1970-71
			7	Pershing Rifles, Co. D-6, Guidon (Flag), likely from 1960-1969