
Special Collections & University Archives

Overview of the Collection
Collection Title: Robert M. Briggs Papers
Dates: 1943-2004
Bulk Dates: 1943-1945
Identification: MS-0453
Creator: Briggs, Robert M., d. 2005
Physical Description: 0.38 linear ft
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua
Email: scref@rohan.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-6791

Biographical Information:
Robert M. Briggs was born and raised in Colorado. While in high school he worked as a ranger for the Rocky Mountain National Park. At 19, Briggs joined the military and worked as a sharpshooter and communications sergeant during the Second World War. He was stationed primarily in the Pacific Theatre, where he made sketches and watercolors of other servicemen, battleships, local people, and landscapes. Many of sketches were displayed in the mess hall and at the Officer's Club. Briggs also painted insignias on military planes, including the insignia on Bockscar, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

After returning from the Pacific, Briggs received a master of arts from Stanford University, and later obtained a doctorate of education from the Colorado State College of Education. In 1957, Briggs became a professor of secondary education at San Diego State University where he taught for thirty years. He retired in 1985. Briggs passed away in 2005.

Access Terms
This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Genre/Form of Material:
Personal Papers
Photographs

Accruals:
Additions were made on January 26, 2005.

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Conditions Governing Access:
This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation:
Identification of item, folder title, box number, Robert M. Briggs Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

**Related Materials:**
- World War II San Diego State College Servicemen's Correspondence Collection, 1941-1945
- Leonard Fierro Papers, 1927-1995
- Haakon Maurice Chevalier Diary, 1945-1946
- Kramer J. Rohffleisch Papers, 1935-1945
- World War II German Manuscript Collection, 1937-1945
- Hitler Memorabilia Collection, 1932-1977

**Scope and Contents**
The *Robert M. Briggs Papers* (1943-2004) document Briggs' military duty during the Second World War and his paintings and personal writings. Highlights include Briggs' scrapbook of photographs, newspaper clippings, sketches, and watercolors of fellow servicemen, local Okinawans, landscapes, and battleships during World War II. Briggs drew many of the sketches rapidly while under enemy fire and painted them in later. Filed alphabetically, the collection consists of newspaper clippings, photographs, sketches, watercolors, poems, essays about WWII and the Rocky Mountains, and an interview with Kathy Neal, Special Collections Librarian, discussing his experiences during WWII. The majority of materials date from 1943-1945.

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