

Robert M. Briggs Papers MS-0453

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Special Collections & University Archives

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Contributing Institution: Special Collections & University Archives

Title: Robert M. Briggs Papers

Creator: Briggs, Robert M.

Identifier/Call Number: MS-0453

Physical Description: 0.38 Linear Feet

Date (inclusive): 1943-2004

Date (bulk): 1943-1945

Language of Material: English .

Scope and Contents

The *Robert M. Briggs Papers* (1943-2004) document Brigg's 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.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Source of Acquisition

Robert M. Briggs

Accruals and Additions

2005-059. Additions were made on January 26, 2005.

Related Materials

World War II San Diego State College Servicemen's Correspondence Collection, 1941-1945

Military Order of the World Wars, San Diego Chapter Records, 1949-2002

Leonard Fierro Papers, 1927-1995

Haakon Maurice Chevalier Diary, 1945-1946

Kramer J. Rohfleisch Papers, 1935-1945

World War II German Manuscript Collection, 1937-1945

Hitler Memorabilia Collection, 1932-1977

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

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 his 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, he became a professor of secondary education at San Diego State University where he taught for nearly thirty years, retiring in 1985. Briggs passed away in 2005.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Photographs

Personal Papers

box 1, folder 1	Interview with Kathy Neal, Special Collections Librarian Folder 1 September 16, 2004
box 1, folder 2	"Reflections" - illustrated poetry and essays by Robert Briggs Folder 2
box 1, folder 3	World War II Scrapbook Folder 3 circa 1943-1945
box 1, folder 4	World War II Scrapbook Folder 4 circa 1943-1945
box 2, folder 1	Oversize Watercolors and Bockscar Plane Insignia Collage Folder 1 circa 1943-1945