Guide to the Tokyo and Bloody May Day Riots photograph album MS.M.063

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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries
Title: Tokyo and Bloody May Day Riots photograph album
Identifier/Call Number: MS.M.063
Physical Description: 0.8 Linear Feet(1 flat box)
Date (inclusive): circa 1950-1953
Physical Description: Very good, although some photo mounting corners have come loose. Photographs that were received loose are housed in separate envelope inside flat box.
Abstract: Photograph album created by an unidentified U.S. servicemember who was stationed in Tokyo during the U.S. Occupation of Japan. Includes images of Tokyo scenery and daily life, as well as 11 images of the Bloody May Day Riots of May 1, 1952.

Collection Scope and Content Summary
Photograph album created by an unidentified U.S. servicemember who resided in Japan between 1950 and 1953. Note on verso of photograph of a ship indicates that the creator (named "David") traveled to Seattle to Tokyo on December 8, 1950. The album contains images depicting Tokyo people and points of interest including the Shrines and Temples of Nikko, the Dai-Ichi Seimei Building (where Douglass MacArthur held his headquarters during the U.S. Occupation), Doolittle Field and Ueno Park, as well as many candid images of street scenes and pedestrians. Also included are some images of Mount Aso, the Aso Kanko Hotel, Gamagori, Hiroshima and the 1951 new years celebrations outside the Tokyo Imperial Palace.

Most notable are a series of 11 images of the Bloody May Day Riots of May 1, 1952 in which a faction of demonstrators belonging to the Japanese Communist Party clashed with police in front of the Tokyo Imperial Palace following the implementation of the Treaty of San Francisco on April 28, 1952. Includes images of protestors carrying signs and banners, car fires and overturned vehicles, police deploying tear gas and using truncheons to subdue crowds, and demonstrators laying on the ground, suffering the effects of tear gas.

Oblong quarto, string-bound album with an embroidered U.S. General Headquarters (GHQ) patch pasted on the cover. Album contains 96 corner-mounted black and white prints. Also includes an envelope filled with 12 additional loose photographs (one of which is a duplicate print of an image in the album) and 1 small painting of a mother and her children.

Access
The collection is open for research.

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