Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Title: Ira M. Britton papers
creator: Britton, Ira M.
Identifier/Call Number: 6097
Physical Description: 0.42 Linear Feet 1 box
Date (inclusive): 1941-1945
Abstract: The Ira M. Britton papers consist of letters, photographs, certificates and notebooks created and collected by American serviceman Ira Britton during World War II. Britton served in both the the Royal Canadian Air Force and the United States Navy. Together, the photographs and letters describe the experience of Americans who served in the RCAF.

Biographical / Historical
Ira Martini Britton was born in Franklin, Pennsylvania in 1920. After receiving a letter from an American friend who had joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, Britton decided to enlist as well. He left for Canada in the fall of 1941. By December, he had washed out of the program and returned to the United States. He then enlisted in the United States Navy where he worked in aircraft maintenance. On November 19, 1945, Britton was honorably discharged from the Navy with the rank of Aviation Machinist's Mate First Class.

Biographical / Historical
When Canada joined the war on September 10, 1939, Americans who wished to fight before the United States entered the war got their opportunity in the Royal Canadian Air Force. When joining the RCAF, recruits were required to pledge allegiance to the British monarch. For American recruits, this pledge could mean forfeiture of their American citizenship. In order to work around this issue, the Canadian government passed an Order in Council that allowed foreign recruits to instead agree to obey RCAF rules and discipline during the course of the war. When the United States entered the war, many Americans returned home to serve in the United States military.

Scope and Contents
This collection consists of Ira M. Britton's World War II documents. The letters reveal information about the lives of Americans who served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II and about Britton's experiences in the Navy in the United States. The collection includes many photographs. Some are of various servicemen and highlight life in the military. There are some group pictures of men in the RCAF and the Navy. Others are of friends and family members back home. Some appear to have been sent to Britton while he was in the service and others include him as well. Other documents in the collection, including records and notebooks, show details of life in the RCAF and Navy.

Conditions Governing Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE. Advance notice required for access.

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
[Box/folder no. or item name], Ira M. Britton papers, Collection no. 6097, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Purchased from Walkabout Books, December 18, 2014.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Soldiers -- California -- 20th century -- Archival resources
Soldiers -- Canada -- 20th century -- Archival resources
Canada -- Armed Forces -- Military life -- 20th century -- Archival resources
United States -- Armed Forces -- Military life -- 20th century -- Archival resources
Certificates
Letters
Notebooks
Photographs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th><strong>Photographs - Servicemen</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td><strong>Photographs - Military Life</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td><strong>Photographs - Landscapes/Scenery</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td><strong>Photographs - Negatives</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td><strong>Photographs - People</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Box 1, Folder 6 | **Royal Canadian Air Force photograph**  
**Scope and Contents**  
Includes the names of those pictured |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | **Royal Canadian Air Force notebooks**  
**Scope and Contents**  
Britton's notebooks from his time in the RCAF; one labeled Air Craft Recognition; one labeled Navigation; Air Navigation Examination |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | **US Navy photographs**  
**Scope and Contents**  
2 photographs; one includes names, hometowns, and stations of some of those pictured handwritten on the back |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | **Photographs from Chicago**  
**Scope and Contents**  
Britt and Judy; photographs from Chicago's Latin Quarter and Joker Joe's Typhoon Club |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | **Photograph of boy in a baseball uniform**  
**Scope and Contents**  
In a plastic picture frame |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | **Photograph of Judy**  
**Scope and Contents**  
In color |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | **Request to Judy for photographs** |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | **Personal Documents**  
**Scope and Contents**  
Part of Britton's medical report; invoice from La Habra Hardware Company; newspaper coverage of Mary Nina Leta and Paul Andrew King's wedding |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | **VR-10 Maintenance Instruction No. 10-45 1945-08-04**  
**Scope and Contents**  
Naval Air Transport Command Air Transport Squadron Ten |
Japanese government-issued Philippine fiat pesos banknotes 1942-1945

Scope and Contents
Four 10 pesos notes; four 5 pesos notes; one 1 peso note; five 1 centavo notes

Biographical / Historical
During its occupation of the Philippines, the Japanese government issued fiat currency, which derives its value from government regulation or law. The guerilla currency was outlawed so that those in possession of it could be arrested. Since the bills were essentially worthless, they were often referred to as Mickey Mouse money.

Announcements and cards
Scope and Contents
Holiday cards; congratulatory cards; baby announcements

Correspondence (1) 1941-09-09-1942-07-04
Scope and Contents
Primarily from other men in the military; some from women

Correspondence (2) 1942-07-31-1942-12-28
Scope and Contents
Primarily from other men in the military; some from women

Certificate of Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Ira Martini Britton 1945-11-19
Scope and Contents
Britton was released from the Navy on November 19, 1945 with the rank of Aviation Machinist's Mate First Class

Empty photograph envelopes