

Collection #
SC 3638

**HERBERT L. BRUMMEL
COLLECTION, 1944-1987**

Collection Information	1
Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	3

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 Manuscript Folder (3 items)

COLLECTION DATES: 1944-1987

PROVENANCE: Shelia S. Brummel, Roslyn Heights, New York, October, 2020

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: USS *Indianapolis* Collection (M 0645)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2020.0180

NOTES:

SKETCHES

Herbert L. Brummel (1922-1990) was born in New York City and spent his entire life in the Roslyn Heights, New York. In July, 1943, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served until February, 1946. After enlisting, he attended NROTC training at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and in May, 1944 was assigned to the heavy cruiser USS *Indianapolis* (CA 35) as assistant damage control officer and served until he was transferred to an aircraft carrier in April, 1945. In 1951 he married Margery Netter.

The heavy cruiser USS *Indianapolis*, CA 35, was commissioned in November 1932. It saw its first combat of World War II in the South Pacific Theater in February 1942. The *Indianapolis* became the flag ship for the 5th Fleet and it saw extensive combat duty in the South Pacific, receiving ten battle stars for action in numerous engagements including the assault on the Marianas ("The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot"), June-August 1944, the covering of the Iwo Jima landings, February-March 1945, and the pre-invasion bombardment of Okinawa, March 1945.

On 16 July 1945 the ship departed from Mare Island Navy Yard in California on a secret cargo mission to Tinian Island in the Marianas. The cargo mission entailed carrying several parts for the assemblage of the atomic bomb, including uranium. After successfully delivering its cargo on 26 July, the ship was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine between Guam and Leyte four days later. Because of the secret nature of its mission, there was some confusion after the ship's sinking and it was four days before all the survivors were rescued. Of the 1,196 men on board only 316 survived, many perishing because of the elements while waiting to be rescued. The ship's commander, Captain Charles Butler McVay, III, was court martialled and found guilty of negligence in failing to issue the order to "zig-zag" in hostile waters. McVay was the first officer in the history of the United States Navy to be court martialled for losing his ship to the enemy in time of war. He was sentenced to lose one hundred numbers in his temporary grade of Captain and also in his permanent grade of Commander. The Navy granted McVay clemency in February 1946.

Sources:

Information in Collection
Ancestry, Library Edition, accessed 10 November 2020

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of three items relating the heavy cruiser USS *Indianapolis* from Herbert L. Brummel: a photocopied “plan of the day” for the ship from 24 July 1944; an article by Brummel from the U. S. Navy magazine *Proceedings* from April, 1987 entitled “Commanding the Golden Hours;” and a letter from Senator Richard Lugar to Brummel regarding the USS *Indianapolis* Memorial in Indianapolis, 5 May 1987.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Brummel/*Indianapolis* Items, 1944-1991

CONTAINER

Folder 1 of 1