

Collection #
SC 3509

**THOMAS C. CRAIG
SIGNAL CORPS PAPERS, CA. 1942–2000**

Collection Information	1
Biographical and Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

Meaghan Jarnecke
September 2018

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Four manuscript folders, three printed items

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1942–2000

PROVENANCE: Thomas C. Craig

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000.1049

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL SKETCH

Thomas C. Craig was born 31 March 1923 in Whiteland, Indiana. Craig served in World War II as a Corporal in the U.S. Army Air Force Signal Corps. He enlisted in the military in January 1943, when he was twenty years old. Craig completed his U.S. Army Radio School training in Valparaiso, Indiana, at the Dodge Telegraph and Radio Institute housed at the Valparaiso Technical Institute.

The Signal Corps has a long history of being utilized in war. The corps was created in 1860 by Albert J. Myer and was first used during the Civil War. Throughout its history, it has been used to manage communication and information systems, including military intelligence, weather forecasting, and aviation.

Similar to its earlier history, the Signal Corps in World War II was responsible for maintaining communications, including the Army's signal security and intelligence activity. Students in the Signal Corps learned about radio, wire, and radar systems and once finished with the program they were expected to provide and coordinate communication for air, ground, and naval troops. The Signal Corps also developed radar that would detect approaching aircrafts, mobile communications, and deciphering machines.

During WWII, the Signal Corps had some difficulty finding adequate students to take on this type of work. Eventually, students were selected for this work based on their Army General Classification Test (AGCT) scores. Throughout the war, there was a shortage of men in the Signal Corps, as the demand was so great. African American soldiers were utilized in the Signal Corps as early as 1941, but were mostly used for construction duties, such as erecting pole lines. In January of 1943 women were permitted to join the Signal Corps as members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and the Women's Army Corps (WAC). These women would perform duties such as message clerks and switchboard operators, which freed up men to attend to other duties.

Sources:

Material in the collection.

Ancestry.com

Raines, Rebecca Raines, *Getting the Message Through: A Branch History of the U.S. Army Signal Corps*. Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History United States Army, 1996.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains books Thomas C. Craig used in his training for the U.S. Army Air Force Signal Corps. These books are from the U.S. Army Radio School and include the Principles of Electricity and Elements of Radio. Another book is a technical manual for radio equipment.

This collection also includes some of Craig's personal items from his training courses, including a manual and notebook about the SCR-584 Radar and an operator's license. There are also two issues of The Sawback Gazette, a newsletter about WWII Veterans of the Signal Aircraft Warning Battalions, from 1998–2000.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

U.S. Army Radio School: Principles of Electricity,
1942

U.S. Army Radio School: Elements of Radio, 1942

Radio Equipment RC-184, 1944

SCR-584 Radar Manual Part I, 1945

SCR-584 Notebook, 1945

Loose Items from Notebook, 1945, n.d.

The Sawbuck Gazette, 1998–2000

CONTAINER

General Collection:
2000.1049

General Collection:
2000.1049

General Collection:
2000.1049

Folder 1 of 4

Folder 2 of 4

Folder 3 of 4

Folder 4 of 4