

Collection #  
SC 2357

**ROBERT W. LONG  
PAPERS, 1942-1945**

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Processed by

Charles Latham  
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**USER INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1942-1945

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Robert W. Long (b. 1923) was born at Maywood in southwest Indianapolis. After working for a time as a mechanic in a gas station, he enlisted in the Coast Artillery in December 1942. He was stationed first at Camp Wallace, near Galveston, Texas. where he went to motor mechanics school; then at Camp Edwards in Massachusetts, where he was put in charge of the motor pool.

Long went overseas in May 1943, landing at Oran in Algeria. With the Germans already in retreat, his unit crossed North Africa to Bizerte in Tunisia, then to Sardinia, and finally to Anzio, where artillery fire pinned them down on the beach for three months. Finally proceeding north of Rome, he was put in charge of a mule pack manned largely by Italian soldiers. His duties took him into the high Apennines and into the Po valley. At one point he was called on to inspect the Tower of Pisa for booby traps.

At the end of the war Long transported several truckloads of mules to Czechoslovakia. He took courses at the University of Florence for several months, then ran a hotel for generals in Naples. After his discharge he became a teacher.

As Long describes his wartime career, he clearly had the initiative, resilience, and sense of humor to land on his feet whatever the situation.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection is the transcript of an interview with Long conducted by his son in 1990 as part of an academic course. Long is a good story teller, and he makes his unusually varied experiences into an interesting account.

#### CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Long, Robert W., 1923-

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Soldiers--Indiana--Indianapolis  
World War, 1939-1945--Indiana--Indianapolis--Personal  
narratives  
World War, 1939-1945--Anti-aircraft artillery operations  
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Africa, North  
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Italy