

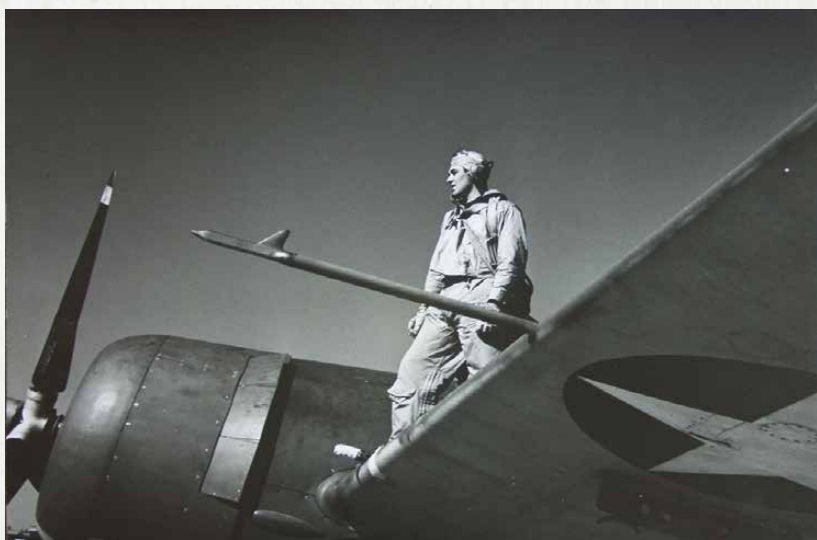
Maritime Museum of San Diego at Arts District Liberty Station

Quarters D, 2675 Rosecrans Street, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92106

Located near the corner of Dewey and Rosecrans

MEMORIES OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

Images from
the War
in the Pacific
by
Edward Steichen



MARITIME MUSEUM of SAN DIEGO

AT ARTS DISTRICT LIBERTY STATION | sdmaritime.org



THIS EXHIBIT IS PART OF AN ONGOING EFFORT by the Maritime Museum to make its collections accessible and available to a broader public. *Memories of the Greatest Generation* features multiple limited-edition photographs by the famed World War II-era photographer Edward Steichen and his fellow photographers.

Steichen and a select group of photographers were commissioned by the US Navy in 1942 to document the war in the Pacific and show the American people the efforts being made by the US Navy – sailors and marines – in that theater. Steichen photographed the daily lives of military personnel, the ships on which they served, and the actions they participated in. His work vividly captures life on board

aircraft carriers, combat in the skies, and the brutal nature of island-hopping warfare. These images reveal not only conflict but also humanity, with poignant portraits of both ordinary enlisted men and famous officers. The result is a lasting tribute to the lives and deeds of these members of the greatest generation.

Steichen and his team created 15,000 photographs over a four-year period starting in 1942. In 1980, in honor of his birth, these photographs were allocated to several museums nationwide. The Maritime Museum of San Diego received over seventy limited-edition prints, some of which are featured in this exhibit.

Biography

Steichen was born in Luxembourg in 1879 and migrated with his family to America two years later. After completing his schooling in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he became apprenticed to a lithographic company. He won his first photographic exhibit in 1899. He moved to Paris and studied both painting and photography. During the First World War, he volunteered for the US Army and established the first photographic reconnaissance division within the Signal Corps. He also helped found the division of aviation photography.

In the inter-war years, Steichen pursued his career as a professional photographer, with his works featured in *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair* earning him national recognition. The Museum of Modern Art and the Baltimore Museum of Art hosted exhibitions featuring his images.

In the wake of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the entry of the United States into the war 1942, Steichen once again enlisted – at the age of sixty-two. He became head of the Navy's Naval Aviation Photographic Unit. With a reputation as one of the United States' most important photographers, Steichen was able to gather around him a group of talented proteges – Wayne Miller, Horace Bristol, Victor Jorgensen, Fenno Jacobs, Barrett Gallagher, Charles Kerlee, and Paul Dorsey. The Navy realized the vital importance of visually recording the monumental struggle with the empire of Japan, and of the power of photography for sustaining the morale of the population at home as well as military personnel. Steichen and his team contributed to some of the most evocative images of time.

The Exhibit

Memories of the Greatest Generation provides a glimpse of the Maritime Museum of San Diego's collection of limited-edition photographs associated with Edward Steichen. This collection was originally displayed at MMSD in the 2007-2008 exhibition in the Gould Eddy Gallery: *The War Through Steichen's Eyes*. Since then, the photographs have been kept in secure climate-controlled storage. A small selection is now offered for public view.

It should be noted that Edward Steichen is not the only photographer featured in this mini-exhibit. The collection actually includes the work of a number of other photographers who worked closely with Steichen, and under his direct supervision.



Opens August 2nd. Select Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



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