



# National Museum of Health and Medicine

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## Otis Historical Archives

### OHA 241 Mills (Robert H.) Collection

**Accession number:** AFIP 908531

**Date of Records:** 1909-1946

**Size:** 1 box, .5 linear feet

**Processed by:** Laura Cutter (2014)

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**Biographical Note:** Brigadier General Robert Hilliard Mills was born on July 29, 1883 and graduated with a degree in dental surgery from the University of Maryland in 1907. In 1909 he worked as a contract dental surgeon in Rhode Island and was assigned to the Philippines between 1910 and 1913. He was appointed a dental surgeon in the Regular Army in 1911. Between 1913 and 1918 Mills was stationed in Texas, Kansas, and Georgia.

In 1919 he sailed to France where he served as chief dental surgeon to the Army Artillery of the First Army and then for the Advance Section of the Service Supply. Upon his return to the United States, he was stationed in Boston, Massachusetts until 1924, when left to teach military science and tactics at Northwestern University for one year. Between 1925 and 1929 Mills was stationed in the Philippines and was appointed to the post of Chief of Dental Service at the Sternberg General Hospital in Manila. In 1932 Mills served as the Director of the Army Dental School in Washington, DC. After his tenure at there, Mills was transferred to the Presidio of San Francisco to act as service command dental officer of the Ninth Service Command.

On March 17, 1942 Mills was appointed Director, Dental Division, OTSG, Assistant Surgeon General, and ninth Chief, Army Dental Corps. Mills was promoted 7 October 1943 to the temporary rank of major general, becoming the first dental officer to hold this rank. During wartime, Mills expanded dental care to cover more than 8.2 million service personnel in the Army and Air Force. He retired in 1946 and died on March 31, 1965.

**Series/Scope and Content Note:** This collection includes all (or nearly all) service records of Robert H. Mills, from his enlistment in 1909 to his retirement in 1946. The types of records consist almost entirely



of orders, as well as a small amount of correspondence and letters of commendation. There is one newspaper clipping.

## **BOX AND CONTENT LIST**

### **Box 001:**

- 00001: Orders and correspondence, 1909-1917
- 00002: Orders and correspondence, 1918-1924
- 00003: Front and back covers of bound orders and correspondence, 1909-1924
- 00004: Orders and correspondence, 1925-1938
- 00005: Orders and correspondence, 1939-1946
- 00006: Newspaper clipping, undated