H. Kent Hewitt Papers
A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the
Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1996

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm84061740

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms001023

Prepared by Karen Linn Femia with the assistance of Sherralyn McCoy
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2001
Revised 2010 April
Collection Summary
Title: H. Kent Hewitt Papers
Span Dates: 1903-1972
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1940-1949)
ID No.: MSS61740
Creator: Hewitt, H. Kent (Henry Kent), 1887-1972
Extent: 2000 items
Extent: 10 containers plus 1 oversize
Extent: 4.6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm84061740
Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, naval planning memoranda, writings, and newspaper clippings documenting Hewitt's naval career, especially as commander of United States naval forces in the Mediterranean during World War II.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Hewitt, H. Kent (Henry Kent), 1887-1972.

Organizations

Subjects
Operation Dragoon, 1944.
Salerno, Battle of, Salerno, Italy, 1943.
Voyages around the world.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--France.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Italy.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Mediterranean Region.
World War, 1939-1945--Military intelligence.
World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, American.

Places
United States--History, Naval.

Occupations
Naval officers.

Provenance
The papers of H. Kent Hewitt, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1984 and 1992 and converted to gift in 1998.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of H. Kent Hewitt in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).
Access and Restrictions

The papers of H. Kent Hewitt are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, H. Kent Hewitt Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1887, Feb. 11</td>
<td>Born, Hackensack, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903-1906</td>
<td>Attended United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., graduated as Passed Midshipman; received degree in 1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906-1909</td>
<td>On board Missouri (Battleship); sailed around the world as part of the Great White Fleet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Commissioned ensign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Transferred to Connecticut (Battleship) as watch and division officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Assigned to Flusser (Destroyer) as executive officer and navigator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commissioned lieutenant (junior grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Married Floride Louise Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promoted to lieutenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913-1916</td>
<td>Mathematics instructor, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Commander of the Eagle (converted yacht) for survey and patrol work in the Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Ordered to Europe; escorted convoys as commander of the Cummings (Destroyer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-1921</td>
<td>Instructor, electrical engineering and physics, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Gunnery officer aboard the Pennsylvania (Battleship)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Promoted to commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-1931</td>
<td>Naval War College, Newport, R.I., first as student, then on staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Commander, Destroyer Division Twelve, Battle Fleet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933-1936</td>
<td>Head, Department of Mathematics, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Commander of the Indianapolis (Heavy Cruiser); carried President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Pan-American Conference at Buenos Aires, Argentina, Nov.-Dec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Promoted to rear admiral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941-1942</td>
<td>Commander, Atlantic Fleet Task Groups carrying out neutrality patrols and convoy escorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Commander, Amphibious Force Atlantic Fleet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commander, Western Naval Task Force; established United Stated Army troops ashore in Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promoted to vice admiral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Established and commanded the United States Naval Forces in North West African Waters (Eighth Fleet) headquartered in Algiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commander, American half of the invasion of Sicily, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commander, Allied Combined Forces which established the Allied Army at Salerno, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Carried out the assault landing of troops at Anzio, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moved Eighth Fleet headquarters to Naples, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commander, Allied Forces which established the Seventh Army on shore in southern France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Promoted to admiral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945-1947</td>
<td>Returned to the United States for special duty with Pearl Harbor investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advisor, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1947-1949   Head, American Naval Mission to the United Nations; served on the Military Staff Committee of the Security Council
1949       Retired; moved to Orwell, Vt.
1972, Sept. 15    Died, Middlebury, Vt.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Henry Kent Hewitt (1887-1972) span the years 1903-1972 with the bulk of the material dating from the 1940s. The papers consist primarily of correspondence, naval planning memoranda, news clippings, and writings. Hewitt commanded United States naval forces in the Mediterranean during World War II and led naval operations and invasions in northern Africa, Sicily, southern Italy, and southern France. The Naval Operations series documents the logistical planning and intelligence gathering conducted in preparation for the invasions of southern France (Operation Anvil) and southern Italy (Operation Avalanche). The items were placed in notebooks and have been kept in their original order.

Hewitt divided his correspondence into official and personal correspondence. The Correspondence series has retained that division, although most items in the personal file deal with navy matters. Of special interest are the lengthy letters Hewitt wrote to his mother in 1908-1909 while voyaging around the world with the Great White Fleet.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

• Correspondence, 1908-1962
• Naval Operations, 1943-1944
• Subject Files, 1903-1972
• Oversize, 1943-1946
### Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-6</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1908-1962</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Divided into official and personal correspondence. Official correspondence is further divided into a chronological file and files related to decorations, awards, and orders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Items are arranged chronologically within their category.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6-9</td>
<td><strong>Naval Operations, 1943-1944</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notebooks of orders, plans, and memoranda.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organized alphabetically by name of operation. Items have been removed from notebooks, but the original order within each notebook has been maintained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 9-10</td>
<td><strong>Subject Files, 1903-1972</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>News clippings, biographical material, speeches and writings, travel documents, Naval Academy scrapbook, and printed matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1943-1946</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maps and diagrams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organized and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1-6   | **Correspondence, 1908-1962**  
Divided into official and personal correspondence. Official correspondence is further divided into a chronological file and files related to decorations, awards, and orders. Items are arranged chronologically within their category. |
| BOX 1     | Official  
Chronological, 1929-1952  
(4 folders)  
Decorations and awards, 1945-1950  
(2 folders)  
Orders, 1933-1945  
Personal  
July-Dec. 1931  
BOX 2     | Jan. 1932-Dec. 1944 *See also Oversize*  
(10 folders)  
BOX 3     | Jan. 1945-Feb. 1946  
(9 folders)  
BOX 4     | Feb. 1946-Mar. 1947  
(9 folders)  
BOX 5     | Apr. 1947-May 1948  
(9 folders)  
BOX 6     | June 1948-Dec. 1962  
(5 folders)  
BOX 6-9   | **Naval Operations, 1943-1944**  
Notebooks of orders, plans, and memoranda. Organized alphabetically by name of operation. Items have been removed from notebooks, but the original order within each notebook has been maintained. |
| BOX 6     | Operation Anvil  
Miscellaneous memoranda, 1943-1944  
(2 folders)  
Planning memoranda, 1944  
Front matter  
Nos. 1-5  
BOX 7     | Nos. 6-42 *See also Oversize*  
(7 folders)  
Annexes, 1944  
A  
BOX 8     | B-S *See also Oversize*  
(7 folders)  
Operation Avalanche, notebook, 1943 |
Naval Operations, 1943-1944

<table>
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<tr>
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| BOX 9     | Parts 1-2, See also Oversize  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 9     | Parts 3-5, See also Oversize  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 9     | Orders, 1944  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 9-10  | Subject Files, 1903-1972  
News clippings, biographical material, speeches and writings, travel documents, Naval Academy scrapbook, and printed matter.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of topic. |
| BOX 9     | Biographical material  
News clippings  
   - English language, 1939-1950, 1967, undated  
   - French language, 1943-1946  
   - Photograph and résumé, 1945, 1972  
Certificate of identification, 1918  
Formations and Maneuvers of Destroyers, U.S. Fleet, 1932  
*Keuffel v. Pickett*, 1936, 1948, undated  
Printed matter  
   - Miscellany, 1924-1927, 1946, 1958  
   - News clippings re military topics, 1945 |
| BOX 10    | Rosters of officers, 1938-1950  
Scrapbook, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., 1903-1905  
Speeches and writings, 1925, 1931, 1945-1951, 1967, undated  
(2 folders)  
Trips  
   - Germany, 1946  
   - Portugal, 1946  
   - South America, 1936  
   - Turkey, 1946 See also Oversize |
| BOX OV 1  | Oversize, 1943-1946  
Maps and diagrams.  
Organized and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed. |
| BOX OV 1  | Correspondence  
Personal  
   - 21 Oct. 1942, from Hewitt to Petrie, attachment (Container 2)  
Naval Operations  
   - Operation Anvil  
     Planning memoranda  
     No. 13, panoramic sketch of German-defended coast, 1944 (Container 7)  
     Annexes  
     H, appendix G, map of assault convoy routes in Mediterranean, 1944 (Container 8)  
   - Operation Avalanche |
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Part 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appendix 1, allied and enemy aircraft, 1943 <em>(Container 8)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appendix 3, map, airdomes-Italy, 1943 <em>(Container 8)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Part 3, map of coast defense batteries, Gaeta-Naples-Salerno, 1943 <em>(Container 9)</em></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Subject File</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turkey, map, funeral procession, 1946 <em>(Container 10)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>