

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://lcn.loc.gov/mm84061740>

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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://lcn.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

United States. Navy--History.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of H. Kent Hewitt in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress is governed by the Copyright Law of the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

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

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

Container	Series
BOX 1-6	<p><u>Correspondence, 1908-1962</u></p> <p>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.</p>
BOX 6-9	<p><u>Naval Operations, 1943-1944</u></p> <p>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.</p>
BOX 9-10	<p><u>Subject Files, 1903-1972</u></p> <p>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.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><u>Oversize, 1943-1946</u></p> <p>Maps and diagrams. Organized and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
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 Jan.1908-Jan. 1909; Oct. 1919 July-Dec. 1931
BOX 2	Jan. 1932-Dec. 1944 <i>See also Oversize</i> (10 folders)
BOX 3	Jan. 1945-Feb. 1946 (9 folders)
BOX 4	Mar. 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 <i>See also Oversize</i> (7 folders) Annexes, 1944 A
BOX 8	B-S <i>See also Oversize</i> (7 folders) Operation Avalanche, notebook, 1943

Naval Operations, 1943-1944

Container	Contents
	Parts 1-2, <i>See also Oversize</i> (2 folders)
BOX 9	Parts 3-5, <i>See also Oversize</i> (3 folders) 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 <i>Keuffel v. Pickett</i> , 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 <i>See also Oversize</i>
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 (<i>Container 2</i>) Naval Operations Operation Anvil Planning memoranda No. 13, panoramic sketch of German-defended coast, 1944 (<i>Container 7</i>) Annexes H, appendix G, map of assault convoy routes in Mediterranean, 1944 (<i>Container 8</i>) Operation Avalanche

Oversize, 1943-1946

Container	Contents
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- Part 1
 - Appendix 1, allied and enemy aircraft, 1943 (*Container 8*)
 - Appendix 3, map, airdomes-Italy, 1943 (*Container 8*)
 - Part 3, map of coast defense batteries, Gaeta-Naples-Salerno, 1943 (*Container 9*)
- Subject File
 - Trips
 - Turkey, map, funeral procession, 1946 (*Container 10*)