William K. Romoser 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.
2002

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm00084707

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003067

Prepared by Laura J. Kells
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2003
Revised 2010 April
Collection Summary
Title: William K. Romoser Papers
Span Dates: 1922-1982
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1948-1961)
ID No.: MSS84707
Creator: Romoser, William K. (William Kilian), 1903-1986
Extent: 4,000 items
Extent: 15 containers
Extent: 6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm00084707

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
George VI, King of Great Britain, 1895-1952--Coronation.
Romoser family--Correspondence.

Organizations
Radford (Destroyer)
United States. Navy--Officers--Correspondence.

Subjects
Amphibious warfare.
Naval reserves.
World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, American.

Occupations
Naval officers.

Provenance
The papers of William K. Romoser, naval officer, were given to the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 2000.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William K. Romoser is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of William K. Romoser 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.
Biographical Note

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1903, July 21</td>
<td>Born, Baltimore, Md.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921-1922</td>
<td>Attended Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Graduated United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Married Elsie Augusta Kalkman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939-1940</td>
<td>Commanding officer, <em>Greer</em> (destroyer), North Atlantic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1942</td>
<td>Commanding officer, <em>Upshur</em> (destroyer), North Atlantic</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942-1943</td>
<td>Commanding officer, <em>Radford</em> (destroyer), South Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Received Navy Cross for heroism and ship was awarded Presidential Unit Citation for actions in Solomon Islands in July 1943</td>
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<tr>
<td>1944-1945</td>
<td>Commanding officer, Naval Training Schools, Hollywood Beach, Fla.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945-1946</td>
<td>Commanding officer, Destroyer Squadron Nine, Western Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946-1947</td>
<td>Staff of commander, Seventh Fleet, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950-1951</td>
<td>Commanding officer, naval station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951-1952</td>
<td>Commanding officer, <em>Salem</em> (heavy cruiser), Mediterranean</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952-1953</td>
<td>Chief of Staff, Battleship-Cruiser Force, Atlantic Fleet</td>
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<tr>
<td>1953-1955</td>
<td>Assistant chief of naval personnel for naval reserve, Washington, D. C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Appointed rear admiral, United States Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955-1956</td>
<td>Assistant chief of naval operations for naval reserve, Washington, D. C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1956-1958</td>
<td>Commanding officer, Amphibious Group Four, Mediterranean</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Commanding officer, Service Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Retired, United States Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986, Nov. 1</td>
<td>Died</td>
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Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Kilian Romoser (1903-1986) span the years 1922-1982 with the bulk of the material dating from 1948 to 1961. They pertain to Romoser's career as an officer in the United States Navy and focus heavily on the last decade of his career. The collection is organized in three series: Correspondence, Speeches and Statements, and Miscellany.

The **Correspondence** series is separated into official correspondence and personal correspondence. Personal correspondence, the largest portion of the Romoser Papers, consists of letters sent and received arranged by name of correspondent. Correspondents are primarily Navy colleagues but also include members of Romoser's immediate family.

The **Speeches and Statements** series contains texts of speeches, statements, and remarks made by Romoser as well as other military officers. The bulk of the speeches date from 1954 to 1961. Topics include the naval reserve, the amphibious training command, and issues of concern to the navy during that period. A list of most of the speeches is included.

The **Miscellany** series contains material relating to Romoser's activities in earlier periods of his naval career. A file on the coronation of George VI, King of Great Britain, contains programs, tickets, and other memorabilia from his coronation in 1937. As a crew member of the battleship *New York*, Romoser took part in the coronation review of the fleet. A file on the destroyer *Radford* contains items relating to a battle in Kula Gulf in the Solomon Islands in July 1943 in which the ship under Romoser's command rescued 440 crew members from a sunken cruiser despite the fact that the rescue efforts were
abandoned several times in order to attack and sink enemy vessels in the area. Included is a 1944 script from the radio program, “The First Line,” which dramatized these events. Romoser appeared on the program.

**Organization of the Papers**

The collection is arranged in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1948-1961](#)
- [Speeches and statements, 1947-1961](#)
- [Miscellany, 1922-1982](#)
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1-11</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1948-1961</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters sent and received.</td>
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<td>Arranged by official correspondence and personal correspondence. Official correspondence is arranged chronologically. Personal correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or organization.</td>
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<td>BOX 11-14</td>
<td><strong>Speeches and statements, 1947-1961</strong></td>
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<td>Speeches and statements with related correspondence.</td>
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<td>BOX 15</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1922-1982</strong></td>
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<td>Account book, certificates, official forms, itineraries, printed matter, press clippings, notes, two photographs, and a radio script.</td>
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## Container List

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<td>Personal</td>
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<td>Aid Association for Lutherans, 1953-1958</td>
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<td>Alford, William, 1954-1959</td>
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<td>Anderson, George W., Jr., 1953-1961</td>
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<td>Archer, F. P., 1955-1958</td>
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<td>“Ab-An” miscellaneous, 1953-1961, undated</td>
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<td>Burton, Dana and Co., 1957-1959</td>
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<td>Campbell, Robert L., 1956-1961</td>
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<td>Church, W. C. G., 1960-1961</td>
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<td>Cole, William M., 1951-1954</td>
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<td>Colson, Ralph H., 1954-1955</td>
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## Correspondence, 1948-1961

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| BOX 4     | Day, Karl S., 1955-1956  
Denniston, Alfred B., 1958-1960  
“D-E” miscellaneous, 1951-1961, undated  
(4 folders)  
Fields, Sidney, 1954-1956  
Finch, Vernon, 1959-1961  
Freed, Morris J., 1955-1958, undated  
“F” miscellaneous, 1951-1961, undated  
(3 folders)  
Gano, Roy A., 1953-1960  
Gash, Russell and Marian, 1954-1956  
Goff, Francis S. (1914- ), 1955  
Golinkin, Joseph W., 1955-1956  
Goodall, H. W., 1953-1954  
Grenfell, Elton W., 1953-1961  
Groverman, William Heald, 1953-1960, undated  
Gupton, Thurman M., 1955-1961  
“G” miscellaneous, 1948-1961, undated  
(4 folders)  
Hartman, C. C., 1955-1956  
Haun, Robert Charles, 1959-1961  
Hillenkoetter, R. H., 1955-1956  
Hobbs, Ira E., 1952-1957  
Hofheimer, Henry Clay, 1959  
Holloway, James L. (1898-1975), 1951-1960  
Hughes, F. Massie, 1959-1960  
Hyatt, J. Kenneth, 1955-1958  
“H” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated  
(6 folders)  
Investors Diversified Services, 1952-1960  
“I” miscellaneous, 1948-1960  
J. E. Caldwell and Co., 1957-1958  
Jackson, Alexander, Jr., 1954-1956  
Jacobi, Leon J., 1955-1956  
Jameson, Frank Gard, 1956-1960  
Jones, John A., 1955-1956  
“J” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated  
(2 folders)  
Kalkman, Marian E., 1954-1961  
Kempe, A. F., 1954-1957  
Kennedy, Lloyd F., 1954-1955  
Kenny, William T., 1952-1954  
Ketcham, Orm W., 1955-1957  
Kiland, Ingolf N., 1955-1956 |

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**William K. Romoser Papers**
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<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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| BOX 7 | Murphy, M. E., 1952-1956  
“M-N” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated  
(9 folders)  
O’Connell, Richard H., 1954-1955  
Olenick, Everett J., 1952-1959  
“O” miscellaneous, 1953-1961  
Palmer, Edward C., 1955-1956  
Parker, Edward N., 1948-1953  
Parkinson, George A., 1954-1956  
Paxton, Ann, 1952-1960  
Pierce, Stanley Harwood, 1954-1957  
“P” miscellaneous, 1951-1961, undated  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 8 | “Q” miscellaneous, 1954-1960  
Redman, John R., 1955-1956  
Roembke, James E., 1955-1956  
Romoser, Elizabeth, 1951-1953  
Romoser, Elsie, 1952  
Romoser, William K. (1934- ), 1951-1953  
Rosso, George A., 1954-1961  
Russell, James S., 1952-1960 |
“R” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated  
(4 folders)  
Sabin, L. S., 1954-1958  
Scherini, Otto A., 1955  
Schmeisser, William C. (1915- ), 1954-1956  
 Schoenecker, Rudolph A., 1955-1956  
Schumm, Brooke, 1952-1953  
Settle, T. G. W., 1953-1954  
Simmers, C. R., 1954-1959  
Skylstead, Elise, 1948-1952, 1959  
Smith, C. D., 1954-1955  
Smythe, Lawrence W., 1948, 1954-1960  
Stafford, Allison J., 1959-1960  
Startt, Clark W., 1956-1958  
Stedman, Giles, 1954-1956  
Stickney, William W., 1955-1956  
Stockholm, Carl, 1955-1956  
Stone, Ellery W., 1953-1955  
Stuhr, William S., 1954-1961  
Sullivan, Kenneth M., 1954-1955  
“S” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated  
(8 folders)  
Tate, J. C., 1961  
Taylor, Arthur H., 1954-1959  
Taylor, Edmund B., 1952-1956  
Taylor, John McN., 1954-1961  
Teal, Edward N., 1954-1955  
Thurmond, Strom, 1955  
Turner, Blaney C., 1954  
Tyree, David M., 1952-1956  
“T” miscellaneous, 1951-1961  
(4 folders)

BOX 9  
United Services Automobile Association, 1951-1961  
“U” miscellaneous, 1954-1961, undated  
Varian, Donald C., 1951-1953, undated  
Vissering, Norman H., 1958-1960  
Vohden, Carl F., 1954-1961, undated  
Von Heimburg, E. H., 1955-1956  
Von Kleeck, E. S., Jr., 1953-1954  
“V” miscellaneous, 1952-1961  
W. A. Shaeffer Pen Co., 1956-1959  
Walker, Robert J., 1953-1960  
Watson, Feltham, 1954-1956, undated  
Weeks, Raymond, 1954-1959  
Weimer, Robert B., 1955
Welch, W. Marriott, 1952-1956
Wellborn, Charles, Jr., 1957-1960, undated
Wev, Bosquet N., 1954-1959, undated
Whitehead, Richard F., 1953-1961
Wolfinger, Charles, 1954-1955
Woodley, William P., 1959-1961
Wooldridge, E. T., 1954-1959, undated
Wright, George C., 1952-1953
Wright, Jerauld, 1957-1960
“W” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated
(4 folders)

BOX 11
Yeager, H. A., 1953-1957, undated
“Y” miscellaneous, 1948, 1954-1961
“Z” miscellaneous, 1953-1960

BOX 11-14
Speeches and statements, 1947-1961
Speeches and statements with related correspondence.
Arranged chronologically by date of event. A list of most of the speeches is filed at the beginning of the series.

BOX 11
List, undated
1947-1954
(4 folders)
1955
Feb.-Sept.
(3 folders)

BOX 12
Oct.-Nov.
1956
(6 folders)

BOX 13
1957-1958
(7 folders)

BOX 14
1959-1961
(8 folders)

BOX 15
Miscellany, 1922-1982
Account book, certificates, official forms, itineraries, printed matter, press clippings, notes, two photographs, and a radio script.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 15
Account book, Midshipmen's Store, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., 1922-1926
Certificates, 1948-1961, undated
Coronation, George VI, King of Great Britain, 1937, 1982
(2 folders)
Itineraries, 1956-1959
Kelly, Walter K., excerpts from Russian history, undated
Official forms, 1945-1960, undated
Photographs, 1957, undated
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<tr>
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<td><em>Radford</em> (destroyer), 1943-1955</td>
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<td><em>Salem</em> (heavy cruiser), 1976</td>
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