

Thomas T. Craven 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.
1992

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm84061733>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007037>

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Collection Summary

Title: Thomas T. Craven Papers

Span Dates: 1842-1969

Bulk Dates: 1917-1945

ID No.: MSS61733

Creator: Craven, Thomas T. (Thomas Tingey), 1873-1950

Extent: 500 items

Extent: 2 containers plus 1 oversize

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/mm84061733>

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, family papers, and subject files relating primarily to his convoy duty and command of United States Naval Aviation Forces in Europe during World War I, and his command of a gunboat flotilla on the Yangtze River in China during 1929-1931.

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

Byrd, Richard Evelyn, 1888-1957--Correspondence.
Cone, Hutchinson Ingham, 1871-1941--Correspondence.
Cooke, Morris Llewellyn, 1872-1960--Correspondence.
Craven, Thomas T. (Thomas Tingey), 1873-1950.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Earle, Ralph, 1874-1939--Correspondence.
Hooper, Stanford Caldwell, 1884-1955--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
Kimmel, Husband Edward, 1882-1968.
Knox, Dudley Wright, 1877-1960--Correspondence.
Knox, Frank, 1874-1944--Correspondence.
Sarnoff, David, 1891-1971--Correspondence.
Sims, William Sowden, 1858-1936--Correspondence.
Watson, Edward H. (Edward Howe), 1873-1942.

Organizations

New York State Maritime Academy.
United States Naval Academy--Curricula.
United States. Bureau of the Budget. Federal Coordinating Service.
United States. Navy--Foreign service--China--Yangtze River.
United States. Navy. Destroyer Squadron 11.
United States. Navy. Naval Aviation Forces.
United States. Navy. Pacific Fleet.

Subjects

Aircraft carriers.
Budget--United States.
Courts-martial and courts of inquiry.
Fisheries--Alaska.
Gunboats.
Merchant marine--United States.
Naval convoys--Atlantic Ocean.

Naval convoys--Mediterranean Sea.
Navy-yards and naval stations, American--Corrupt practices.
Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941.
Radio--Law and legislation--United States.
Shipwrecks--California--Honda, Point.
World War, 1914-1918--Naval operations, American.
World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, American.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Thomas T. Craven were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1984 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Thomas T. Craven is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Thomas T. Craven 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, Thomas T. Craven Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1873, July 8	Born, Vallejo, Calif.
1896	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1901	Married Antoinette Merritt
1908	Served as gunnery officer, <i>South Carolina</i> (battleship)
1915	Attended Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1916-1918	Commanded <i>Sacramento</i> (gunboat)
1918	Commanded United States Naval Aviation Forces in Europe
1919-1921	Director of naval aviation; ordered conversion of the <i>Jupiter</i> (collier) into the <i>Langley</i> (aircraft carrier)
1922	Commanded Destroyer Squadron Fifteen in early charting of Atlantic Ocean floor using sound equipment
1923	Defended Edward H. Watson in court-martial resulting from mass shipwreck at Point Honda, Calif.
1927-1928	Director of naval communications
1928	Promoted to rear admiral; commanded Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill.
1929-1931	Commander, Yangtze Patrol, China

1931-1933	Chief coordinator, Federal Coordinating Service, Bureau of the Budget
1935	Commander, Battleship Division One
1937	Commandant, Thirteenth Naval District, Bremerton, Wash.
1937	Retired from active naval service
1942-1946	Recalled to active duty; superintendent, New York State Maritime Academy, Fort Schuyler, N.Y.
1950, Apr. 5	Died, St. Albans, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas Tingey Craven (1873-1950), naval officer, span the years 1842-1969, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1917-1945. Craven is noted as the director of naval aviation who ordered the conversion of the coal-carrying ship *Jupiter* into the *Langley*, the United States Navy's first aircraft carrier. The collection is organized into family papers, general correspondence, subject files, and writings. The family papers include biographical and genealogical material, clippings, and correspondence. Of special interest are a letter of 1842 written by Craven's grandfather and namesake Thomas T. Craven, and a letter from Craven to his wife Antoinette relating his experiences and impressions during the 1908 visit of the battleship *South Carolina* to Japan.

Well represented in the Subject File are documents related to Craven's World War I convoy duty in Atlantic and Mediterranean waters while captain of the gunboat *Sacramento* from 1917 to 1918, his command of the United States Naval Aviation Forces in Europe in 1918, and his command of a gunboat flotilla on the Yangtze River in China from 1929 to 1931. Documents relating to Craven's World War I service include convoy sailing orders, reports about naval accidents and incidents, and correspondence and memoranda relating to United States Naval Aviation Forces in Europe. Correspondents from the latter period include Hutchinson I. Cone and Ralph Earle. As commander of the Yangtze Patrol (1929-1931), Craven corresponded with diplomats, missionaries, military colleagues, and Chinese officials. Correspondents from this period include Morris Llewellyn Cooke, H. G. C. Hallock, Lieu Ven Tae (or Liu Wen-tau), M. Yonai, Marshal Liu Hsiang, and Allen N. Cameron. Other topics include Craven's service as defense counsel in the court-martial of Edward H. Watson, commander of a destroyer squadron that shipwrecked at Point Pedernales (or Point Honda) on the California coast in 1923, resulting in the loss of twenty-three men and seven ships; and Craven's efforts in behalf of a protégé, Husband E. Kimmel, who was under investigation after the 1942 Japanese attack on his Pacific Fleet command at Pearl Harbor.

The General Correspondence includes letters discussing Craven's service as chief coordinator of the Federal Coordinating Service during the Herbert Hoover administration, curriculum reform at the United States Naval Academy, the New York State Maritime Academy, the Merchant Marine, Alaska fisheries, aircraft carriers, radio communications policy, corrupt practices in naval shipyards, and other topics. Correspondents not already cited include Richard E. Byrd, Josephus Daniels, Stanford C. Hooper, Herbert Hoover, Dudley W. Knox, Frank Knox, David Sarnoff, and William S. Sims.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Family papers
BOX 1	Biographical material, 1921-1943, undated
BOX 1	Craven, Antoinette (wife), 1924-1950, undated
BOX 1	Family history material, 1920-1969, undated
BOX 1	Letters
BOX 1	1842, 1872, with cover letter, 1944
BOX 1	1908-1931, undated
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	"B-G" miscellaneous, 1914-1945
BOX 1	Hooper, Stanford C., 1922-1937
BOX 1	Hoover, Herbert, 1927-1943
BOX 1	"H-J" miscellaneous, 1908-1945, undated
BOX 1	Kimmel, Husband E., 1936
BOX 1	Knox, Dudley W., 1931-1945
BOX 1	"K-P" miscellaneous, 1907-1945, undated
BOX 1	"R-Y" miscellaneous, 1920-1945, undated
BOX 1	Subject file
BOX 1	Aircraft carriers, 1943
BOX 1	Awards, medals, and honors, 1919-1921
BOX 1	Convoy duty, sailing orders, and related material, 1917
BOX 1	<i>Nahma</i> (armed yacht) incident, 1917
BOX 1	Naval cruises, souvenir books, and rosters, 1908-1925
BOX 1	<i>Olympia</i> (cruiser) grounding, 1917
BOX 1	Passport, 1918
BOX 1	Pearl Harbor attack investigation, 1942-1944
BOX 1	Point Honda (Calif.) naval disaster, 1923
BOX 1	Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash., 1936-1937
BOX 1	Retirements, 1937, 1944-1945
BOX 1	United States Naval Aviation Forces in Europe
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1918-1919
BOX 2	Notebook, undated
BOX 2	Whiting, Kenneth, 1943
BOX 2	Yangtze Patrol, 1929-1931 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Writings, 1919-1953, undated
BOX OV 1	Subject file
BOX OV 1	Yangtze Patrol, 1929 (Container 2)