

Morton L. Deyo 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.
2008**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83060590>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008028>

Prepared by Laura J. Kells

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Collection Summary

Title: Morton L. Deyo Papers

Span Dates: 1911-1981

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1911-1954)

ID No.: MSS60590

Creator: Deyo, Morton L. (Morton Lyndholm), 1887-1973

Extent: 3,150 items

Extent: 9 containers

Extent: 3.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm83060590>

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, subject files, speeches and writings documenting Deyo's career in the Navy, particularly as a naval task force commander during World War II in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

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

Deyo, Morton L. (Morton Lyndholm), 1887-1973.

Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969.

Forrestal, James, 1892-1949.

Nimitz, Chester W. (Chester William), 1885-1966.

Stark, Harold R. (Harold Raynsford), 1880-1972.

Yarnell, Harry E. (Harry Ervin), 1875-1959.

Organizations

Japan. Kaigun--History.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--China--Shanghai.

United States. Navy--Officers.

United States. Navy. Asiatic Fleet.

United States. Navy. Naval District, 1st.

Subjects

Bombardment--France--Cherbourg.

Bombardment--France--Normandy.

Cherbourg, Battle of, Cherbourg, France, 1944.

Iwo Jima, Battle of, Japan, 1945.

Kamikaze airplanes.

Navy-yards and naval stations--Massachusetts--Boston.

Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945--Naval operations, American.

World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations, Japanese.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Atlantic Ocean.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--France--Normandy.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Japan--Okinawa Island.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Pacific Ocean.

World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, American.

Places

Japan--History--Allied occupation, 1945-1952.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Morton L. Deyo, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1982 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Morton L. Deyo were arranged and described in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Transfers

Some maps have been transferred to the Library's Geography and Map Division where they are identified as part of the Morton L. Deyo Papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Morton L. Deyo 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, Morton L. Deyo Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1887, July 1	Born, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
1911	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1911-1913	Served on <i>Virginia</i> (Battleship)
1913-1914	Served on <i>Duncan</i> (Destroyer)
1914-1915	Served on <i>Washington</i> (Heavy cruiser)
1915-1916	Served on <i>Jenkins</i> (Destroyer)
1916	Married Maria Ten Eyck Decatur Mayo
1916-1918	Served on <i>Allen</i> (Destroyer) Based in Queenstown, Ireland, as crew member of "Sim's Destroyers"
1918	Trained destroyer crews, First Naval District, Boston, Mass.
1918-1919	Served on <i>Northern Pacific</i> (Transport) Transported troops from Europe to United States
1919	Served on <i>Pretoria</i> (German ship taken over as transport)
1919-1920	Commanding officer, <i>Morris</i> (Destroyer), in Adriatic and Mediterranean
1920-1921	Aide to commandant, First Naval District, Boston, Mass.
1921-1923	Aide to military governor, Santo Domingo

1923-1925	Staff of commander in chief, Battleship Fleet, <i>California</i> (Flagship)
1925-1926	Staff of commander in chief, U.S. Fleet, <i>Seattle</i> (Flagship)
1926-1929	Instructor in seamanship and first battalion officer, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1929-1930	Commanding officer, <i>Sloat</i> (Destroyer)
1930-1931	Commanding officer, <i>Upshur</i> (Destroyer)
1931-1934	Student and staff officer, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1934-1936	Executive officer, <i>Milwaukee</i> (Light cruiser)
1936-1939	Operations and war plan officer, staff of commander in chief, United States Asiatic Fleet, <i>Augusta</i> (Flagship)
1939-1940	Assistant hydrographer, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.
1940-1941	Aide to secretary of the navy, Washington, D.C.
1941	Commanding officer, Destroyer Squadron II in Atlantic and Iceland Commanded first American escort of an Allied convoy to Iceland
1942	Commanding officer, <i>Monticello</i> (Auxiliary transport) Commanding officer, <i>Indianapolis</i> (Heavy cruiser), operated in the Aleutians, bombarded Kiska, and participated in covering operations for the Adak occupation force
1942-1943	Commanding officer, destroyers, Atlantic Fleet
1944	Commanding officer Ranger Task Group Atlantic Commanded bombardment forces in invasion of Normandy and southern France Commanded Cruiser Division Thirteen and task groups with the Third and Fifth Fleets Pacific
1945	Commanded Task Force Fifty-four, Okinawa campaign Commanded Task Forces Fifty-five and Fifty-six, surrender and occupation of Japan
1946-1949	Commandant, First Naval District, Boston, Mass.
1949	Retired from navy as vice admiral
1973, Nov. 10	Died, Portsmouth, N.H.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Morton Lyndholm Deyo (1887-1973) span the years 1911-1981 and relate to his career as a naval officer. The bulk of the collection dates from 1911 to 1954, corresponding to Deyo's career in the navy and his post-retirement speeches and writings on his experiences and naval topics. Deyo's papers are arranged in three series: [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), and [Speeches and Writings File](#).

The [Correspondence](#) series (1925-1972), contains letters sent and received. Although largely unofficial in nature, the correspondence relates mainly to Deyo's career and other naval topics. The largest section dates from 1944 to 1945 when he was in command of task forces during World War II. Topics include the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the loss of personnel due to attacks by Japanese kamikaze planes on ships under his command near Okinawa, Japan. Military and political figures represented include Dwight D. Eisenhower, James Forrestal, Chester W. Nimitz, Harold R. Stark, and H. E. Yarnell.

A substantial portion of the Deyo Papers is arranged according to subject. This [Subject File](#) series contains biographical information, including orders to duty, files on specific duty locations and battle campaigns, reports and memoranda on military policy and naval tactics, and material on political and national security issues. The largest section relates to Deyo's activities in World War II in both the Atlantic and the Pacific theaters. Files on the Normandy invasion cover his commands of the naval bombardment of Utah beach and Cherbourg, France. Documents on the Pacific relate to his command of a bombardment group supporting the marines on Iwo Jima, command of a task force supporting the Okinawa campaign, and his direction of the landing of occupation troops and oversight of the demilitarization of Japanese naval vessels in parts of Japan following the Japanese surrender. Other files relate to the Asiatic Fleet and cover his service as operations officer on the staff of the commander in chief, based in Shanghai, China, during the Sino-Japanese conflict in 1937. In the files is a holograph poem written to Deyo in 1965 by Ogden Nash regarding the conflict. Nash sent the poem in response to Deyo's forwarding him a 1938 clipping regarding Nash's poem on the subject.

The final series is a file of Deyo's [speeches and writings](#). Radio addresses and some of the speeches were given while he served as commandant of the First Naval District. Much of the writing dates from after his retirement, including narratives and stories about the Normandy invasion and kamikaze attacks during World War II. Original records from the events and accounts of other participants are included among the background material in these files.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1925-1972](#)
- [Subject File, 1911-1981](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1917-1970](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Correspondence, 1925-1972</u></p> <p>Personal and official correspondence. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 1-8	<p><u>Subject File, 1911-1981</u></p> <p>Reports, memoranda, correspondence, military records, notes, clippings, and other printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, topic, or type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 8-9	<p><u>Speeches and Writings File, 1917-1970</u></p> <p>Speeches, radio addresses, articles, essays, narratives, notes and other writings, background material, and related correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by type of writing and chronologically therein.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1925-1972 Personal and official correspondence. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1925-1926, 1932-1933, 1939-1972 (6 folders)
BOX 1-8	Subject File, 1911-1981 Reports, memoranda, correspondence, military records, notes, clippings, and other printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, topic, or type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 1	Adriatic and Mediterranean tour, <i>Morris</i> (Destroyer), 1919-1920, 1937, undated
BOX 1	Aleutians, <i>Indianapolis</i> (Cruiser), 1942, undated
BOX 1	Asiatic fleet
BOX 1	<i>Augusta</i> (Flagship), 1937-1938, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	<i>Augusta</i> (Flagship), 1937-1938, undated (6 folders)
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1931, 1937-1940, 1948, undated
BOX 2	Biographical information
BOX 2	Awards and citations, 1931-1950
BOX 2	General, 1928, 1939-1956, 1964, undated
BOX 2	Orders to duty, 1911-1950 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Communism, 1948-1959, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Culture and ideology, 1948-1955, undated
BOX 3	Dominican occupation, Santo Domingo, 1922, undated
BOX 3	Facts and statistics, 1943-1965, undated
BOX 3	Iceland, Destroyer Squadron Eleven, 1941, undated
BOX 3	Lists, 1943, 1949, undated
BOX 3	Military strength and national security, 1946-1965, undated
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1945-1970, 1981, undated
BOX 3	Nash, Ogden, 1938, 1965
BOX 4	Personnel
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1947-1949, undated
BOX 4	Training, strategic and tactical, 1937, 1943-1949, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Political and military policy, 1940-1971, undated (7 folders)
BOX 5	Ships

Subject File, 1911-1981

Container	Contents
BOX 5	<i>Decatur</i> (Destroyer), commissioning, Boston, Mass., 1956, undated
BOX 5	Various, 1943-1948, 1968, undated
BOX 5	Tactical memoranda and reports, 1925-1926, 1932-1947, undated
BOX 5	World War II
BOX 5	Atlantic
BOX 5	Normandy invasion, France
BOX 5	Anniversary commemorations, 1954, 1962-1964
BOX 5	Cherbourg bombardment, 1944, undated (7 folders)
BOX 6	Command organization, 1944, 1968, undated
BOX 6	Correspondence, 1952-1954, 1962
BOX 6	Gunnery observation, 1944, undated
BOX 6	Intelligence and planning, undated
BOX 6	Miscellany, 1944-1948, 1962-1969, undated
BOX 6	Naval gunfire support plan, 1944, undated
BOX 6	Reports
BOX 6	1944 (6 folders)
BOX 7	1951-1954, undated
BOX 7	Statistics, undated
BOX 7	Southern France, assault and invasion, 1944, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	Pacific
BOX 7	Iwo Jima, Japan, 1945, 1953, undated
BOX 7	Miscellany, 1945
BOX 7	Notes, circa 1945, undated
BOX 7	Occupation of Japan, 1945, undated (4 folders)
BOX 7	Okinawa, Japan, 1945, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8	Recommendations and awards, 1944-1945
BOX 8-9	Speeches and Writings File, 1917-1970 Speeches, radio addresses, articles, essays, narratives, notes and other writings, background material, and related correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by type of writing and chronologically therein.
BOX 8	Lecture notes
BOX 8	Berlin air lift, Berlin, Germany, 1948
BOX 8	Normandy invasion, France, 1944-1946, 1964, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8	Radio addresses, 1947-1949, undated
BOX 8	Speeches, 1946-1964, undated (4 folders)
BOX 8	Writings
BOX 8	Essays and articles, 1951-1954, undated
BOX 8	Ideas for articles, 1931-1937, 1945-1954, 1962, 1968-1970, undated

Speeches and Writings File, 1917-1970

Container

Contents

BOX 9	Kamikaze stories, 1945, 1956-1960, undated (3 folders)
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1932-1940, 1946-1950, 1958, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	"Naval Guns at Normandy," 1944, 1953-1956, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Notebooks, 1917, undated