

# **Donald J. MacDonald 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/mm97084120>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008057>

Prepared by T. Michael Womack

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Revised 2010 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Donald J. MacDonald Papers

**Span Dates:** 1930-1997

**ID No.:** MSS84120

**Creator:** MacDonald, Donald J. (Donald John), 1908-

**Extent:** 1,200 items

**Extent:** 6 containers

**Extent:** 2.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm97084120>

**Summary:** Rear admiral. Correspondence, biographical material, and military papers relating primarily to the naval career of Donald J. MacDonald.

## 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

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

MacDonald, Charles H., 1915-

MacDonald, Donald J. (Donald John), 1908-1997.

### Organizations

Bath Iron Works.

California (Battleship : BB-44)

Heermann (Destroyer)

Helena (Heavy cruiser)

Missouri (Battleship : BB 63)

O'Bannon (Destroyer : DD-450)

Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972.

United States. Army Air Forces.

United States. Navy--Officers.

Williamsburg (Ship)

### Subjects

Diplomatic and consular affairs, American--Great Britain.

Military attachés--Great Britain.

Presidential yachts.

Shipbuilding industry--Maine.

World War, 1939-1945--Amphibious operations.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Germany.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Rhine River Valley.

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

World War, 1939-1945--Comic books, strips, etc.

World War, 1939-1945--England--London.

World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations.

### Occupations

Naval officers.

## Provenance

The papers of Donald J. MacDonald, rear admiral, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1997 and converted to a gift in 1998.

## Processing History

The papers of Donald J. MacDonald were arranged and described in 1999. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Donald J. MacDonald is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Donald J. MacDonald 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, Donald J. MacDonald Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Donald John MacDonald (1908-1997) span the years 1930-1997 and consist of biographical material, bulletins, correspondence, histories of naval vessels, memoranda, newsletters, newspaper and magazine clippings, orders, organization books, pictorial logs, regulations, reports, rosters, writings, and other miscellaneous material. The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and chronologically therein.

Biographical material consists of appointments and certificates, official navy biographies, citations for awards, an oral history interview, an obituary, and orders.

Correspondence in the collection chronicles most of MacDonald's naval career. Subjects of interest include his tour as special naval observer at the American embassy in London, 1940-1942; his involvement with the fitting out of the USS *O'Bannon* at the Bath Iron Works Corporation in 1942 and subsequent command of the ship in combat against Japanese forces in the South Pacific from 1942 to 1943; his attachment to the staff of General Dwight D. Eisenhower from June to November 1945 when MacDonald he worked with the army in accomplishing the effective crossing of the Rhine River; and his command of the presidential yacht, the USS *Williamsburg*, from 1948 to 1951.

The largest section in the collection is composed of military service material which is arranged in two parts. U.S. Army material documents MacDonald's temporary assignment to that branch in 1945. U.S. Navy items consist of material relating to the six vessels which MacDonald commanded, the *California*, *Heermann*, *Helena*, *Missouri*, *O'Bannon*, and *Williamsburg*. MacDonald's combat record in the South Pacific is particularly well documented in material related to the destroyer *O'Bannon*. Two issues of popular comic books from the era feature the battle readiness of the ship and the heroism of her commander. Harry S. Truman's trips to Key West, Florida, on the presidential yacht are chronicled in the pictorial logs of the USS *Williamsburg*.

Among the miscellany is biographical material relating to MacDonald's brother, Charles H. MacDonald.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Biographical material
BOX 1	Appointments and certificates, 1934-1959
BOX 1	Biography and obituary, 1951, 1959, 1997
BOX 1	Citations for awards, 1942-1945
BOX 1	Oral history interview, transcript, and correspondence, 1972, 1984, 1990
BOX 1	Orders, 1931-1959 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1930-1964 (7 folders)
BOX 2	1965-1995 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Military service
BOX 2	U.S. Army
BOX 2	"Military Government Weekly Information Bulletin," 1945, Aug.-Nov. (2 folders)
BOX 2	Telephone directory, U.S. Forces, Frankfurt, Germany, 1946
BOX 2	Writings
BOX 2	Feuer, Bud, with Donald J. MacDonald, "How the Navy Helped the Army Cross the Rhine--1945," draft, undated
BOX 2	Houghton, Norris, "The Story of Landing Craft and the Rhine," draft, undated
BOX 2	MacDonald, Donald J., review of <i>Meeting at Potsdam</i> , by Charles L. Mee, draft, 1975
BOX 2	U.S. Navy
BOX 2	<i>California</i> (Battleship)
BOX 2	Executive officer's memoranda, orders, and ship's outstanding orders
BOX 2	1933
BOX 2	1934
BOX 2	Jan.-Aug. (2 folders)
BOX 3	Sept.-Dec. (2 folders)
BOX 3	1935 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Gunnery department: battle bill and instruction book, 1935 (3 folders)
BOX 4	(1 folder)
BOX 4	Organization and regulations, 1936 (2 folders)
BOX 4	<i>Heermann</i> (Destroyer)
BOX 4	Command of destroyer squadron thirty-four, "Commodore's Dope," informal memoranda to all flotilla, squadron, and division commanders, 1955
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1956

## Container List

### Container

### Contents

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BOX 4	<i>Helena</i> (Heavy Cruiser), 1995, undated
BOX 4	<i>Missouri</i> (Battleship)
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1954
BOX 4	Truman, Harry S.
BOX 4	Trip, pictorial log, 1947
BOX 4	<i>Whistle Stop</i> , Harry S. Truman Library Institute newsletter, 1975
BOX 4	<i>O'Bannon</i> (Destroyer)
BOX 4	Administrative material
BOX 4	Action reports, 1943
BOX 4	Naval messages, 1942
BOX 4	Organization and regulations, 1942
BOX 4	Roster, 1944
BOX 4	Historical material
BOX 4	Comic books
BOX 4	<i>Hero Comics</i> (featuring the ship <i>O'Bannon</i> ), No. 29, 1945, Mar.
BOX 4	<i>Real Life Comics</i> (featuring Donald J. MacDonald), No. 22, 1945, Mar.
BOX 4	History, undated
BOX 4	Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1943-1944, 1953, 1972, 1984, 1990-1993
BOX 5	Poems, 1943-1944, undated
BOX 5	Reunion, 1974-1975
BOX 5	Speech, undated
BOX 5	<i>USS O'Bannon Shipmates Association</i> , newsletter, 1977-1988
BOX 5	Writings by MacDonald
BOX 5	Foreword to <i>Action Tonight: The Story of the Destroyer O'Bannon in the Pacific</i> , by James D. Horan, draft, undated
BOX 5	"They Went to Hell and Back with Me," draft, 1944
BOX 5	Unidentified draft, undated
BOX 5	<i>Williamsburg</i> (Ship)
BOX 5	Christmas dinner menus, 1948-1951
BOX 5	Guest book, 1948-1952
BOX 5	History, "The Presidential Yacht: <i>USS Williamsburg</i> (AGC-369)," undated
BOX 5	Information bulletins, 1981-1992
BOX 5	Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1950, 1980-1993
BOX 5	Rosters, 1980-1989
BOX 5	Truman, Harry S.
BOX 5	Trips, pictorial logs
BOX 5	1948-1949
	(4 folders)
BOX 6	1950-1951
	(2 folders)
BOX 6	<i>Whistle Stop</i> , Harry S. Truman Library Institute newsletter, 1988
BOX 6	Miscellany
BOX 6	Banquet programs, 1939-1941
BOX 6	MacDonald, Charles H. (brother of Donald J. MacDonald)
BOX 6	Miscellany, 1946, 1958, 1993-1994, undated
BOX 6	<i>Pacific Sweep</i> , undated
BOX 6	<i>Satan's Angels</i> , 1946