

Thomas H. Robbins 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/mm98084346>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008088>

Prepared by Melinda K. Friend

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Collection Summary

Title: Thomas H. Robbins Papers

Span Dates: 1918-1971

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1920-1962)

ID No.: MSS84346

Creator: Robbins, Thomas H. (Thomas Hinckley), 1900-1972

Extent: 2,250 items

Extent: 11 containers plus 1 classified

Extent: 4.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm98084346>

Summary: United States naval officer. Correspondence, duty orders, logbooks, biographical material, speeches, and other papers relating to Robbins's naval career and emphasizing his specialty in naval aviation.

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

Robbins, Thomas H. (Thomas Hinckley), 1900-1972.

Organizations

Sandpiper (Minesweeper)

United States. Navy--Aviation.

United States. Navy.

Subjects

Aeronautics.

Aircraft industry--Military aspects.

Airplanes, Military.

Military intelligence.

Military weapons.

Naval aviation.

Naval history, Modern--20th century.

Navies.

Warships.

Places

Aleutian Islands (Alaska)--Surveys.

Europe--Politics and government.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Thomas H. Robbins, U.S. naval officer, were given to the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Thomas H. Robbins were arranged and described in 1999 and the finding aid revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Thomas H. Robbins is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Thomas H. Robbins 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.

Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified materials.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Thomas H. Robbins Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1900, May 11	Born, Paris, France
1919	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1919-1922	Served consecutively aboard the <i>Kroonland</i> (liner), <i>Utah</i> (battleship), and <i>Sturtevant</i> (destroyer)
1922-1924	Served aboard the <i>Scorpion</i> (patrol vessel converted yacht) in Turkish waters
1923-1924	Served aboard Submarine Chaser No. 96 in the Black Sea
1924-1925	Served consecutively aboard the destroyers <i>MacLeish</i> and <i>MacFarland</i>
1925-1927	Instructor, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1928	Served aboard the <i>Utah</i> (battleship) Ordered for flight training and designated naval aviator, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.
1928-1929	Scouting Squadron Five-S (aviation unit), <i>Concord</i> (light cruiser)
1929-1931	Executive officer, Scouting Squadron Six-S (aviation unit) aboard the <i>Cincinnati</i> (light cruiser)
1930	Married Barbara Little
1931-1932	Assistant operations officer, Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D.C.
1932-1933	Aide to the chief of Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.
1933-1935	Commander, <i>Sandpiper</i> (minesweeper)
1935-1936	Scouting Squadron Four-B, <i>Langley</i> (aircraft carrier)
1936-1937	Attended Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1937-1939	Aviation officer, Naval War College and Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I.
1939-1940	Navigator, <i>Lexington</i> (aircraft carrier)
1940-1941	Aviation officer, staff of Commander Scouting Force and Commander Task Force Three
1941	Liaison officer between the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the commanding general, Army Air Force Command, Washington, D.C.

1942	Liaison officer between Headquarters, Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, and Army Air Force Combat Command, Washington, D.C.
1942-1943	Aviation plans officer, Headquarters, Commander in Chief, United States Fleet
1943-1944	Naval aviation officer, Army and Navy College, Washington, D.C.
1944	Received letter of commendation with authorization to wear the commendation ribbon Temporary duty, Air Force Pacific Fleet aboard the <i>Essex</i> (aircraft carrier)
1945	Commanding officer, <i>Lexington</i> (aircraft carrier) Received Legion of Merit with Combat Distinguishing Device "V"
1945-1948	Assigned consecutively to Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and Office of the Secretary of the Navy
1948-1949	Commander, Carrier Division Seventeen
1949-1952	Navy member, Joint Strategic Survey Committee, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C.
1952-1953	Commander, Carrier Division Two
1953-1956	Chief of staff and later president, United States Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1957-1960	President, Navy Discharge Review Board, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.
1960-1962	Commandant, Potomac River Naval Command, Naval Weapons Plant, Washington, D.C.
1962	Awarded a gold star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit Retired from the navy
1972, Dec. 12	Died, New London, Conn. [?]

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas Hinckley Robbins (1900-1972) span the years 1918-1971, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1920-1962. The collection reflects a career devoted to naval aviation from the 1920s to the 1960s. Featured in the papers are official and personal correspondence, orders for duty, naval aviation log books, biographical information, speeches, and material relating to Robbins's service aboard the minesweeper *Sandpiper*.

Robbins's official correspondence contains routine information on examinations, appointments, naval personnel, and naval aviation. Of note in the correspondence are memoranda to naval intelligence on the inspections of airplanes by foreign dignitaries, foreign aviation activities, espionage, foreign ships and armaments, and meetings with individuals such as Rachid Montan Pacha, a Syrian leader visiting New York in 1925 to sell jewels. A majority of the personal correspondence is written to and from naval personnel relating to naval aviation, aircraft, aircraft companies, and European politics.

Material relating to the *Sandpiper* covers the period 1933-1935 when the ship sailed in Alaskan waters and participated in the Aleutian Islands survey expedition of 1935. Robbins's personal operations diary and narratives for this time are supplemented by newspaper articles written about the *Sandpiper*.

Arrangement of the Papers

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

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Awards and certificates, 1949-1954, 1962, 1969-1971
BOX 1	Biographical information, 1930, 1943, 1953-1959, undated
BOX 1	Cartoons by John Thomason, 1938, undated
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Official
BOX 1	1918-1954 (6 folders)
BOX 2	1955-1965 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Personal
BOX 2	1927-1939 (5 folders)
BOX 3	1940-1946 (6 folders)
BOX 4	1947-1952 <i>See also Classified</i> (6 folders)
BOX 5	1953-1955 (6 folders)
BOX 6	1956-1957 (5 folders)
BOX 6	1958 (1 folder)
BOX 7	(2 folders)
BOX 7	1959 (2 folders)
BOX 7	1960 (2 folders)
BOX 8	(1 folder)
BOX 8	1961-1964 (5 folders)
BOX 8	<i>Lexington</i> (aircraft carrier), 1939-1940, undated
BOX 9	Log books for aviation, 1928-1959
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1946, undated
BOX 9	Naval newspapers, 1921-1923
BOX 9	Orders for duty
BOX 9	1919-1953 (3 folders)
BOX 10	1954-1964
BOX 10	<i>Sandpiper</i> (minesweeper)
BOX 10	Correspondence re Aleutian Islands survey expedition, 1935
BOX 10	Narrative of activities, 1933-1935
BOX 10	Newspaper clippings, 1934-1935

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 10	Personal operations diary, 1934-1935
BOX 10	Speeches
BOX 10	1946-1955 (2 folders)
BOX 11	1956-1962
BOX 11	Writings, 1939, 1956
BOX CL 1	Classified material
BOX CL 1	Correspondence
BOX CL 1	Personal
BOX CL 1	1952
BOX CL 1	20 Oct. (Container 4)
BOX CL 1	4 Dec. (Container 4)