

William Edward Riley 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.
2009

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70014944>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009010>

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Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: William Edward Riley Papers

Span Dates: 1941-1948

ID No.: MSS14944

Creator: Riley, William Edward, 1897-

Extent: 800 items

Extent: 5 containers

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70014944>

Summary: Marine Corps officer. Correspondence, operation plans and reports, memoranda, notes, maps, photographs, and other papers relating to Riley's World War II service on the staff of Admiral William Frederick Halsey, commander of South Pacific Area and commander in chief of the United States Navy 3rd Fleet; invasions of the Philippines and Ulithi (Micronesia); and United States Marine Corps and United States Navy demobilization efforts after the war.

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

Forrestal, James, 1892-1949.

Halsey, William F. (William Frederick), 1882-1959.

Kinkaid, Thomas C. (Thomas Cassin), 1888-1972.

Leahy, William D.

Riley, William Edward, 1897-1970.

Royall, Kenneth C. (Kenneth Claiborne), 1894-1971.

Organizations

United States. Marine Corps--Demobilization.

United States. Marine Corps--Officers.

United States. Navy--Demobilization.

United States. Navy. Fleet, 3rd.

Subjects

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

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

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

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

Places

Ulithi (Micronesia)

Occupations

Marine Corps officers.

Provenance

The papers of William Edward Riley, Marine Corps officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1968. An addition was received from the Naval Historical Foundation in 1976. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

A preliminary description of the collection was prepared in 1971. An additional item, received in 1976, was incorporated into the collection in 1997. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Edward Riley is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Edward Riley 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, William Edward Riley Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Edward Riley (1897-1970) span the years 1941-1948 and consist of correspondence, memoranda, operation plans, reports, speeches and speech material, maps, photographs, notes, printed matter, and other material. The papers relate to Riley's World War II service on the staff of Admiral William Frederick Halsey, commander of South Pacific Area and commander in chief of the U.S. Navy 3rd Fleet; invasions of the Philippines and Ulithi (Micronesia); and U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy demobilization efforts after the war. Also included are copies of speeches by James Forrestal, William Frederick Halsey, Thomas Cassin Kinkaid, William D. Leahy, and Kenneth Claiborne Royall.

Arrangement of the Papers

The papers are organized into a subject file, arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material, and a miscellany file, arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Subject file
BOX 1	Armed services, unification, 1946-1948
BOX 1	Demobilization notebook, 1944-1947 (4 folders)
BOX 1	Hull, Cordell, 1948
BOX 1	Leyete operations, Philippine Islands, 1944
BOX 1	Maps
BOX 1	Australia, 1942
BOX 1	Bismarck Archipelago and Solomon Islands, 1943, undated
BOX 1	Central Pacific and Philippine Islands, 1944, undated
BOX 1	Germany, 1944
BOX 1	Japan, 1944, undated
BOX 1	New Calédone, undated
BOX 1	New Guinea, undated
BOX 2	Southeast Asia, 1944, undated
BOX 2	Southwest Pacific area, undated
BOX 2	Yokohama, port, 1945
BOX 2	Marine Corps tables of organization, deviations, 1945
BOX 2	<i>New Jersey</i> (battleship), action reports, 1944
BOX 2	Prisoner of war interrogation report, 1945
BOX 2	South Pacific operations, 1942-1944 (5 folders)
BOX 2	Third Fleet, 1943-1944
BOX 2	Ulithi Islands, 1944
BOX 2	United States Atlantic Fleet, organization of, 1948
BOX 2	Yap Islands, 1944
BOX 3	Miscellany
BOX 3	Article, "Why We Lost," by a German commander, 1945
BOX 3	Photographs, South Pacific forces, 1944, undated
BOX 3	Printed matter
BOX 3	1941-1944 (8 folders)
BOX 4	1945 (9 folders)
BOX 5	1945 (3 folders)
BOX 5	1946-1947 (4 folders)
BOX 5	Speech file
BOX 5	Defensive combat, 1945
BOX 5	Forrestal, James, Victory Day statement, 1946
BOX 5	Halsey, William Frederick, duties of a theater commander, 1946-1947

Container List

Container

Contents

BOX 5	Kinkaid, Thomas C., Victory in Japan Day celebration, 1946
BOX 5	Leahy, William D., 1946
BOX 5	Postwar military establishment and manpower problems, 1947
BOX 5	Royall, Kenneth C., 1947