

Claude Charles Bloch 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.
2004

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70012419>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009012>

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson
Revised by Brian McGuire

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Claude Charles Bloch Papers

Span Dates: 1926-1945

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1937-1941)

ID No.: MSS12419

Creator: Bloch, Claude Charles, 1878-1967

Extent: 1,400 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/mm70012419>

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, printed matter, and other material relating to Claude Charles Bloch's naval career before and during World War II, including his command at Pearl Harbor.

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

Bloch, Claude Charles, 1878-1967.

Edison, Charles A., 1890-1969--Correspondence.

Forrestal, James, 1892-1949--Correspondence.

Jahncke, Ernest L. (Ernest Lee), 1877-1960--Correspondence.

Johnson, Hiram, 1866-1945--Correspondence.

Knox, Frank, 1874-1944--Correspondence.

Leahy, William D.--Correspondence.

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

Sarnoff, David, 1891-1971--Correspondence.

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

Swanson, Claude Augustus, 1862-1939--Correspondence.

Wheeler, Burton K. (Burton Kendall), 1882-1975--Correspondence.

Woodring, Harry Hines, 1887-1967--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Navy.

United States. Navy. Naval District, 14th.

United States. Navy. Office of the Judge Advocate General.

Subjects

Naval districts--United States.

Navy-yards and naval stations--Hawaii--Pearl Harbor.

Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941.

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

Occupations

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Claude Charles Bloch, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1968. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The Bloch Papers were processed in 1973. The finding aid was revised in 2004.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Claude Charles Bloch is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Claude Charles Bloch 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, Claude Charles Bloch Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1878, July 12	Born, Woodbury, Ky.
1898	Duty in <i>Iowa</i> (battleship), Spanish-American War
1899	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1900	Member of the China Relief Expedition, Boxer Rebellion
1903	Married Augusta Kent
1911-1913	Ordnance officer, <i>Delaware</i> (battleship)
1918	Commanded <i>Plattsburg</i> (troop transport)
1918-1921	Assistant chief, Bureau of Ordnance, United States Navy
1923-1927	Chief, Bureau of Ordnance, United States Navy
1927-1929	Commanded <i>California</i> (battleship)
1930	Commandant, United States Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.
1931	Promoted to rear admiral
1931-1933	Commander, Training Squadron, Scouting Force
1934-1936	Judge advocate general, United States Navy
1937	Commander, Battle Force
1938-1940	Commander in chief, United States Fleet
1940-1942	Commandant, 14th Naval District and Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
1942	Retired, United States Navy
1942-1945	Recalled to active duty Chairman, Navy Board for Production Awards
1967, Oct. 4	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Claude Charles Bloch (1878-1967) span the years 1926 to 1945, with the bulk of the material between 1937 and 1941. They consist of general correspondence, a journal, and a subject file.

The journal covers the period during which Bloch served as judge advocate general in the United States Navy. Bloch recorded legal cases, courts-martial, hearings before House and Senate naval affairs committees, and contracts for building ships.

The greater part of the collection concerns Bloch's roles as commander in chief of the United States Fleet, 1938-1940, and commandant of the 14th Naval District, Pearl Harbor, 1940-1942. Correspondence with William D. Leahy, Chester W. Nimitz, and Harold R. Stark and material in the subject file concern a court of inquiry following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Correspondents include Charles Edison, James Forrestal, Ernest Lee Jahncke, Hiram W. Johnson, Frank Knox, William D. Leahy, Chester W. Nimitz, David Sarnoff, Harold R. Stark, Claude A. Swanson, Burton K. Wheeler, and Harry Hines Woodring.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	Andrews, Adolphus, 1936-1938
BOX 1	"A" miscellaneous, 1936-1941
BOX 1	"B" miscellaneous, 1926-1942
BOX 1	Callaghan, Daniel J., 1938-1939
BOX 1	Carpender, Arthur S., 1941
BOX 1	"C" miscellaneous, 1926-1945
BOX 1	"D" miscellaneous, 1930-1941
BOX 1	Earle, Ralph, 1936-1938, undated
BOX 1	Edison, Charles, 1937-1940
BOX 1	"E" miscellaneous, 1931-1941
BOX 1	Field, Marshall (1893-1956), 1939
BOX 1	Forrestal, James, 1941-1945
BOX 1	Furlong, William R., 1939
BOX 1	"F" miscellaneous, 1938-1942
BOX 1	"G" miscellaneous, 1936-1945
BOX 1	Hart, Thomas C., 1931, 1941
BOX 1	Hepburn, Arthur J., 1937-1945
BOX 1	Holcomb, Thomas, 1941
BOX 1	Holmes, Ralston S., 1931-1939
BOX 1	"H" miscellaneous, 1937-1943, undated
BOX 1	Ingram, Jonas H., 1936-1940
BOX 1	"I" miscellaneous, 1936-1941, undated
BOX 1	Jacobs, Randall, 1942
BOX 1	Jagoe, Claude E., 1937-1938
BOX 1	Jahncke, Ernest Lee, 1931-1932
BOX 1	Johnson, Alfred W., 1936-1939
BOX 2	Johnson, Edwin C., 1941
BOX 2	Johnson, Hiram W., 1938
BOX 2	Jones, Issac H., 1938-1941
BOX 2	Kalbfus, Edward C., 1938
BOX 2	Kimmel, Husband E., 1938-1941
BOX 2	King, Ernest J., 1937-1945
BOX 2	Kleinsmid, Rufus B. von, 1937-1939
BOX 2	Knox, Frank, 1940-1942
BOX 2	"K" miscellaneous, 1937-1940
BOX 2	Leahy, William D., 1937-1941, undated
BOX 2	"L" miscellaneous, 1937-1943
BOX 2	"M" miscellaneous, 1927, 1934, undated
BOX 2	Nimitz, Chester W., 1936-1942
BOX 2	"N" miscellaneous, 1931-1941

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 2	O' Brien, Joseph J., 1939
BOX 2	Oddie, Tasker L., 1932
BOX 2	Oman, Charles M., 1937-1941
BOX 2	"O" miscellaneous, 1931-1945
BOX 2	Peoples, Christian J., 1936-1940
BOX 2	Pickens, Andrew C., 1936-1940
BOX 2	Poindexter, Joseph B., 1940-1942
BOX 2	Pope, Bentley H., 1936-1941
BOX 2	Potocki, George, 1938
BOX 2	"P" miscellaneous, 1930-1942
BOX 3	"Q" miscellaneous, 1936-1939
BOX 3	Richardson, James O., 1936-1942, undated
BOX 3	"R" miscellaneous, 1937-1941
BOX 3	Sarnoff, David, 1938-1941
BOX 3	Sexton, Walton R, 1937-1939, undated
BOX 3	Short, Walter C., 1941
BOX 3	Simons, Manley H., 1937-1939
BOX 3	Snyder, Charles P., 1931, 1937-1940
BOX 3	Soiland, Albert, 1938-1940
BOX 3	Spear, Ray, 1939-1942
BOX 3	Standley, William H., 1937-1940
BOX 3	Stark, Harold R., 1936-1942, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Stayton, William H., 1937-1939
BOX 3	Swanson, Claude A., 1936-1938
BOX 3	"S" miscellaneous, 1931-1942 (3 folders)
BOX 4	"T" miscellaneous, 1931-1941
BOX 4	"U" miscellaneous, 1931-1939
BOX 4	Vosburgh, H. E., 1937-1941
BOX 4	"V" miscellaneous, 1936-1941
BOX 4	Walsh, David I., 1931-1939, undated
BOX 4	Watts, William C., 1937-1939
BOX 4	Wheeler, Burton K., 1940
BOX 4	Woodring, Harry Hines, 1937
BOX 4	Woodward, Clark H., 1936-1941
BOX 4	"W" miscellaneous, 1932-1942, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Yarnell, Harry E., 1936-1938
BOX 4	"Y" miscellaneous, 1936-1941
BOX 4	Zanuck, Darryl, 1939
BOX 4	"Z" miscellaneous and unidentified, 1935-1939, undated
BOX 4	Journal 1934-1936 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Subject file
BOX 5	Battle of Midway, 1942

Container List

Container

Contents

BOX 5	Court of Inquiry, Pearl Harbor, 1940-1945 (3 folders)
BOX 5	14th Naval District
BOX 5	Defense plans, 1941
BOX 5	General, 1941-1942
BOX 5	Invitations, 1932-1942
BOX 5	Japanese carriers, <i>Ise</i> and <i>Hyuga</i> , undated
BOX 5	Maury, Matthew Fontaine, 1929-1931
BOX 5	"The Naval Actions of 10-26 Oct. 1944 and Their Relations to Sea Power," report, undated
BOX 5	Printed matter, 1944-1945 (3 folders)