

Samuel Eliot Morison 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/mm95083050>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009103>

Prepared by Bradley E. Gernand
Revised and expanded by Patrick Kerwin

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

Collection Summary

Title: Samuel Eliot Morison Papers

Span Dates: 1939-1972

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1942-1956)

ID No.: MSS83050

Creator: Morison, Samuel Eliot, 1887-1976

Extent: 78 items

Extent: 8 containers

Extent: 3.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm95083050>

Summary: U.S. naval officer and historian. Journals and research notebooks relating mainly to the oceanic theaters of World War II, antisubmarine warfare, and Morison's writings.

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

Blandy, William H. P. (William Henry Purnell), 1890-1954.

Cunningham of Hyndhope, Andrew Browne Cunningham, Viscount, 1883-1963.

Ingersoll, Royal E. (Royal Eason), 1883-1976.

MacArthur, Douglas, 1880-1964.

Moore, Henry Ruthven, Sir, 1886-1978.

Morison, Samuel Eliot, 1887-1976.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.

Spruance, Raymond Ames, 1886-1969.

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

Turner, Richmond Kelly, 1885-1961.

Subjects

Anti-submarine warfare.

Guadalcanal, Battle of, Solomon Islands, 1942-1943.

Kolombangara, Battle of, Solomon Islands, 1943.

Operation Dragoon, 1944.

Operation Galvanic, 1943.

Operation Neptune.

Operation Overlord.

Operation Torch, 1942.

Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Africa, North.

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

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Solomon Islands.

World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations.

Places

Casablanca (Morocco)--History.

Occupations

Historians.

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Samuel Eliot Morison, naval officer and historian, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1994 and converted to a gift in 1998. An addition was given by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1999.

Processing History

The papers of Samuel Eliot Morison were arranged and described in 1995. An addition was made to the collection in 2003 and the finding aid was revised in 2003.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Samuel Eliot Morison is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Samuel Eliot Papers 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, Samuel Elison Morison Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Samuel Eliot Morison (1887-1976) span the years 1939-1972, with the bulk of the material dated between 1942 and 1956. Journals kept during World War II and later updated relate to the oceanic theaters of the war. Some entries were written during battles, and others record interviews with William H. P. Blandy, Andrew Browne Cunningham, Royal E. Ingersoll, Douglas MacArthur, Henry Ruthven Moore, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Raymond Ames Spruance, Harold R. Stark, Richmond Kelly Turner, and other wartime leaders. Specific topics include the battles of Casablanca, Guadalcanal, Kombangara, and Pearl Harbor and operations Dragoon, Galvanic, Neptune, Overlord, and Torch. Notebooks compiled during Morison's research for his books are arranged alphabetically by book title. The journals are arranged numerically by journal number.

An addition consists of three journals Morison kept while in the Pacific theater, 1942-1943.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged as research notebooks, journals, and an addition.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Research notebooks
BOX 1	<i>The Caribbean as Columbus Saw It</i> , circa 1964, <i>European Discovery of America</i> , circa 1971, and <i>Samuel De Champlain: Father of New France</i> , circa 1972
BOX 1	<i>Harrison Gray Otis (1765-1848): the Urbane Federalists</i> , circa 1969 (2 folders)
BOX 1	<i>John Paul Jones: A Sailor's Biography</i> , circa 1959 (2 folders)
BOX 2	<i>Old Bruin: Commodore Matthew C. Perry</i> , circa 1967 (4 folders)
BOX 3	Journals
BOX 3	No. 1, Navigation book, <i>Buck</i> (destroyer), <i>Guinevere</i> (unclassified miscellaneous auxiliary), <i>Brooklyn</i> (light cruiser), <i>Washington</i> (battleship), <i>Baltimore</i> (heavy cruiser), 1942-1943
BOX 3	No. 2, Outward passage in <i>Buck</i> (destroyer) and stay in British Isles, 1942, June 30-July 17
BOX 3	No. 3, <i>Brooklyn</i> (light cruiser); Battle of Casablanca, 1942, Oct. 12-Nov. 8
BOX 4	No. 4, Battle of Casablanca, 1942, Nov. 8-11
BOX 4	No. 5, Diary; interviews regarding <i>Cole</i> (destroyer) and <i>Dallas</i> (destroyer), 1942, Nov. 8-11 1942, Nov. 8-11
BOX 4	No. 6, <i>Brooklyn</i> (light cruiser); Torch Operation, 1942, Oct.-Nov.
BOX 4	No. 7, <i>Brooklyn</i> (light cruiser); diary; African expedition; events after 1942, Nov. 8
BOX 4	No. 8, Torch Operation, undated
BOX 4	No. 9, Diary, 1943, Jan. 1-Oct. 17
BOX 4	No. 10, Torch Operation; AFAF, 1943, Mar. 2-6
BOX 4	No. 11, Interviews with Franklin D. Roosevelt (pages 25-35, 95), 1942, May 15-Sept. 25
BOX 4	No. 12 (Pacific III), Espiritu Santo Island, New Hebrides, Tulagi Island, Guadalcanal; <i>Honolulu</i> (light cruiser), 1943, Apr. 20-May 10
BOX 5	No. 13 (Pacific IV), SoWestPac; AirSoPac; Brisbane, Australia; amphibious operations and air raids on Tulagi Island; central Solomon Islands operations; Aleutian Islands; Gilbert Islands; Marshall Islands, 1942-1944
BOX 5	No. 14 (Pacific V), Japanese information in 1943, Guadalcanal; <i>McCawley</i> (transport); interviews with Lieutenant-Colonel Griffith of First Marine Raider Battalion, Tulagi Island, and Harry Kelly and Richmond Kelly Turner, circa 1943
BOX 5	No. 15 (Pacific VI), Guadalcanal and central Solomon Islands, 1943, May-July
BOX 5	No. 16 (Pacific VII), Australasia; Milner Bay, New Guinea, circa 1943
BOX 5	No. 17 (Pacific VIII), Battle of Kombangara, 1943, July
BOX 5	No. 18 (Pacific IX), aboard <i>St. Louis</i> (light cruiser) and <i>Baltimore</i> (heavy cruiser); Pearl Harbor; Komandorski, circa 1943
BOX 5	No. 19 (Pacific X); Pearl Harbor; Guadalcanal and Palau, 1943, Oct.-Nov.
BOX 5	No. 20 (Pacific XI), <i>Baltimore</i> (heavy cruiser); Galvanic, 1943, Nov.
BOX 5	No. 21 (Pacific XII), 1942, Sept.-1943, Dec.
BOX 5	No. 22 (Pacific XIII), Galvanic; Marshall Islands raid; wit and wisdom of Ralph Parker, circa 1943
BOX 6	No. 23, Antisubmarine warfare, Hooligan Navy, circa 1942
BOX 6	No. 24, Antisubmarine warfare, Murmansk, Russia, 1942

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 6	No. 25, Antisubmarine warfare, summary of enemy activities in western Atlantic, 1942, July, collusive sinkings; Battle of Casco Bay (1942, June 22), 1942, June-July
BOX 6	No. 26, Antisubmarine warfare, air attacks on submarines, circa 1942
BOX 6	No. 27, Antisubmarine warfare, organization of Boston, Mass., anti-submarine warfare unit at 150 Causeway; war diary for June 1942, circa 1942
BOX 6	No. 28, Antisubmarine warfare, Boston, Mass., antisubmarine warfare unit; conversations with Wilder D. Baker, circa Aug. 1942
BOX 6	No. 29, Antisubmarine warfare, new methods, gadgets, and procedures, 1942
BOX 6	No. 30, Antisubmarine warfare, accounts of attacks of submarines and sinkings by surface ships, 1942
BOX 6	No. 31, Antisubmarine warfare, data from First Naval District reports, 1942
BOX 6	No. 32, Antisubmarine warfare, air attacks on submarines, 1942
BOX 6	No. 33, Antisubmarine warfare, preliminary report of Killer Hunt for enemy submarines, 1942, June 10-14 June 10-14
BOX 6	No. 34, Antisubmarine warfare, conversations, 1942, Sept.
BOX 6	No. 35, Antisubmarine warfare, summaries, circa 1942
BOX 6	No. 36, Antisubmarine warfare, convoys, circa 1942
BOX 6	No. 37 (1944 Pacific 1), Gilbert Islands; Galvanic; Marshall Islands; Savo Island, 1944
BOX 6	No. 38 (1944 Pacific 2), Pearl Harbor; Gilbert Islands; Marshall Islands, 1944
BOX 6	No. 39 (1944 Pacific 3), <i>Montpelier</i> (light cruiser); Munda; Bougainville Island; start of Saipan operations; Kwajalein Island, 1944
BOX 6	No. 40 (1944 Pacific 4), <i>Honolulu</i> (light cruiser) during Saipan operation; Guadalcanal; Kula Gulf; Solomon Islands, 1944
BOX 6	No. 41 (1944 Pacific 5), Saipan operations; story of <i>Phelps</i> (destroyer), 1944
BOX 6	No. 42 (1944 Atlantic 1), <i>Joseph E. Campbell</i> (escortship); London, England; operation Overlord, Nov.-Dec. 1944,
BOX 6	No. 43 (1944 Atlantic 2), London, England; Naples, Italy, 1944, Dec.-1945, Jan.
BOX 6	No. 44 (1944 Atlantic 4), France, 1944, Dec-1945, Jan.; 1956, May
BOX 6	No. 45, Interview with Royal E. Ingersoll; Battle of the Atlantic, circa 1944
BOX 6	No. 46 (Gray Book), running estimate and summary covering 1941, Dec. 7-1942, May 31, by Captain Steele, circa 1944
BOX 7	No. 47, Joint Chiefs of Staff records; Marianas, 1943, May 8-1944, June 22
BOX 7	No. 48, Navigation notes, <i>Montpelier</i> (light cruiser), <i>Honolulu</i> (light cruiser); <i>Yorktown</i> (aircraft carrier) action report; Marianas operations, 1944
BOX 7	No. 49, Okinawa and Ryukyu operations, 1945, Mar.-June
BOX 7	No. 50 (1945 Pacific 1), western sea frontier/Pearl Harbor/Ulithi/Ryukyu operation, 1945, Mar.1-Apr. 1
BOX 7	No. 51 (1945 Pacific 2), Ryukyu operation, 1945, Apr. 1-10
BOX 7	No. 52 (1945 Pacific 3), Ryukyu operation, 1945, Apr. 11-May 5
BOX 7	No. 53 (1945 Pacific 4), Iwo Jima, 1945, circa Apr.
BOX 7	No. 54 (1945 Pacific 5), Okinawa, 1945, Apr.
BOX 7	No. 55 (1945 Pacific 6), interview with William H. P. Blandy regarding Iwo Jima and Okinawa, 1945, Jan. 1
BOX 7	No. 56, Washington, D.C., Nov. 1945-June 1947
BOX 8	No. 57, General wartime operations, circa 1946
BOX 8	No. 58, Notes and final additions and corrections to vol. 1 regarding Battle of the Atlantic, circa 1946
BOX 8	No. 59 (Notebook 1), Washington, D.C., 1946

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 8	No. 60 (Notebook 2), Panama, Newport, R.I., Washington, D.C., regarding fleet exercises nos. 1 and 2 at Calebra (1934-1936) and Guam (1941); Lieutenant General Crittenberger on Italian campaign; Mrs. John F. Shafroth on Ernest J. King; Midway; bombardment of Marcus Island; last breakfast with Raymond Spruance, 1946-1947
BOX 8	No. 61, Notes and final additions and corrections to vol. 8 regarding New Guinea and the Marianas, 1944, Mar.-Aug.; vol. 12 regarding Leyte, 1944, June-1945, Jan.; vol. 13 regarding liberation of Philippines, Luzon, Mindanao, and the Visayas, 1944-1945, circa 1952-1953
BOX 8	No. 62, Notes and final additions and corrections to vol. 9 regarding Sicily, Salerno, and Anzio, Italy, 1943, Jan.-1944, June; notes on trip in 1953; interview with Andrew B. Cunningham of the Royal Navy, 1953
BOX 8	No. 63 (Notebook 1), notes and final additions and corrections to vol. 10 regarding end of the Battle of the Atlantic, 1945, May; interviews on antisubmarine warfare with John P. W. Vest and Jack Slessor, 1954
BOX 8	No. 64 (Notebook 2), notes and final additions and corrections to vol. 10 regarding end of the Battle of the Atlantic, 1943, May-1945, May; interviews with Dr. Salagar, Konteradmiral Godt (Admiral Doenitz's operations officer), Sir Henry Moore of the Royal Navy, Marshall R. Greer, and Harold R. (Betty) Stark manuscript, 1955
BOX 8	No. 65 (Notebook 1), operations Neptune and Overlord, 1956
BOX 8	No. 66 (Notebook 2), operations Neptune and Dragoon, 1956
BOX 8	No. 67, Notes and final additions and corrections to vol. 12 regarding Leyte, 1944-1945.; vol. 13 regarding 1959 notes concerning liberation of the Philippines, Luzon, Mindanao, and the Visayas, 1944-1945; and vol. 14 regarding victory in the Pacific, 1945, 1957
BOX 8	No. 68, Pensacola, Fla., and Lake Success, and 1950 notes at Pearl Harbor, Japan, and Hiroshima, 1949-1950
BOX 8	No. 69, Tokyo book regarding interviews with Douglas MacArthur, Admiral Toyoda, Toshikazu Kase (member of Japanese foreign office), and Rear Admiral Deyo regarding Yamato, 1950
BOX 8	No. 70, Visits to Jamaica, N.Y., and Columbus, Ohio; Harry Truman, 1958-1960
BOX 8	Addition
BOX 8	Journals
BOX 8	Pacific I, 1942-1943
BOX 8	Pacific II, 1942-1943
BOX 8	Sea journal no. 2, 1942