Albert Gleaves 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.

2010

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70050104

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010025

Prepared by John P. Butler
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
Collection Summary

Title: Albert Gleaves Papers
Span Dates: 1803-1946
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1877-1937)
ID No.: MSS50104
Creator: Gleaves, Albert, 1858-1937
Extent: 6,000 items
Extent: 21 containers
Extent: 10 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70050104
Summary: Naval officer and historian. Correspondence, diaries, journals, speeches, articles, books, scrapbooks, reports of the Asiatic Fleet, notebooks, photographs, newspaper clippings, biographical material, poetry, printed matter, and other papers relating to Gleaves's naval career and his 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
Allman, Norwood F. (Norwood Francis), 1893-1987--Correspondence.
Baldrige, Harry Alexander, 1880-1952--Correspondence.
Benson, William Shepherd, 1855-1932--Correspondence.
Blakeslee, Edward G.--Correspondence.
Boggs, J. Lawrence (John Lawrence), 1865--Correspondence.
Bowes, Julian W.--Correspondence.
Breckinridge, Joseph Cabell, 1842-1920--Correspondence.
Breckinridge, Louise D. (Louise Dudley), 1849-1911--Correspondence.
Brownson, Willard H. (Willard Herbert), 1845-1935--Correspondence.
Chack, Paul, 1876-1945--Correspondence.
Chadwick, French Ensor, 1844-1919--Correspondence.
Constien, E. T.--Correspondence.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Dewey, George, 1837-1917--Correspondence.
Eller, Ernest M., 1903-1992--Correspondence.
Fales, DeCoursey, 1888-1966--Correspondence.
Fox, Charles Eli, 1870-1926--Correspondence.
Gardiner, William Howard, 1875-1952--Correspondence.
Gavin, Gertrude Hill, 1883-1961--Correspondence.
Gibbons, John Henry--Correspondence.
Gleaves, Albert, 1858-1937.
Gleaves, Albert, 1858-1937. James Lawrence, captain, United States navy, commander of the "Chesapeake." 1904.
James, Jules, 1885-1957--Correspondence.
Jones, Hilary Pollard, 1863-1938--Correspondence.
Knox, Dudley Wright, 1877-1960--Correspondence.
Lawrence, James, 1781-1813.
Luce, Stephen Bleecker, 1827-1917--Correspondence.
Maxwell, Edith Rolfe, 1886-1963--Correspondence.
Percy, J. C. (James Campbell), 1869-1928--Correspondence.
Phelps, W. W.--Correspondence.
Polk, Frank L. (Frank Lyon), 1871-1943--Correspondence.
Post, Charles K.--Correspondence.
Post, Waldron Kintzing, 1868-1955--Correspondence.
Price, Ernest Batson, 1890--Correspondence.
Putnam, George Haven, 1844-1930--Correspondence.
Rockenbach, S. D. (Samuel D.), 1869--Correspondence.
Rodgers, Raymond Perry, 1849-1925--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.
Sellers, David Foote, 1874-1949--Correspondence.
Shearer, M. E.--Correspondence.
Sicard, Montgomery, 1836-1900--Correspondence.
Slocum, Joshua, 1844-1909--Correspondence.
West, Clifford Hardy, 1846-1911--Correspondence.
Wood, Spencer Shepherd, 1861-1940--Correspondence.

Organizations
Alabama (Battleship : BB-8)
Cushing (Torpedo boat)
Czecho slovak ia. Armá da.
Dolphin (Gunboat and dispatch vessel)
Japan. Rikugun.
Mayflower (Patrol vessel)
United States Naval Torpedo Station (Newport, R.I.)
United States. Navy--History
United States. Navy.

Subjects
Communism.
Naval history.
Spanish-American War, 1898.
Torpedoes.

Places
China--Foreign relations--United States.
Czechoslovakia--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.
East Asia--History--20th century.
Japan--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.
Japan--Foreign relations--United States.
Russia--History--20th century.
Siberia (Russia)--History--1917-
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--Czechoslovakia.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--Japan.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.
Soviet Union--History--Revolution, 1917-1921.
United States--Foreign relations--China.
United States--Foreign relations--Japan.
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.
United States--History, Naval.

Occupations
Historians.
Naval officers.

Provenance
The papers of Albert Gleaves, naval officer and historian, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1950 by the Naval Historical Foundation. A second installment was added to the original deposit in 1955. The collection was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History
The papers of Albert Gleaves were arranged and described in 1967. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Additional Guides
In 1968 the Library published Albert Gleaves: A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress.

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

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Albert Gleaves 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, Albert Gleaves Papers, Naval Historical Foundation, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1858, Jan. 1</td>
<td>Born, Nashville, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877</td>
<td>Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877-1878</td>
<td>Duty in Hartford (sloop), South Atlantic Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878-1879</td>
<td>On leave from the United States Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Appointed midshipman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Duty in Plymouth (sloop), North Atlantic Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879-1883</td>
<td>Duty in Nipsic (gunboat), European Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>Commissioned ensign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883-1884</td>
<td>Duty in Trenton (screw steamer), Asiatic Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884-1886</td>
<td>Duty in Monocacy (gunboat), Asiatic Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Duty in Trenton (screw steamer), Asiatic Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886-1887</td>
<td>Duty in Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887-1889</td>
<td>Duty in Naval Ordnance Proving Grounds, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Married Evelina Heap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1889-1891 Duty in *Dolphin* (gunboat and dispatch vessel)
1891-1892 Duty in *Boston* (cruiser), Pacific Station
1896 Duty in navy yards in Washington, D.C., New York, California, and Virginia
1897-1898 Commanded *Cushing* (torpedo boat)
1900-1901 Duty in *Alabama* (battleship)
1901-1902 Commanded *Dolphin* (gunboat and dispatch vessel)
1902-1904 Commanded *Mayflower* (patrol vessel converted yacht)
1904 Published *James Lawrence, United States Navy, Commander of the "Chesapeake."* New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons
1904-1908 Inspector of ordnance, Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I.
1909-1910 Aide to assistant secretary of the navy
Served on General Board under Admiral George Dewey
1910-1911 Commanded *North Dakota* (battleship)
1911-1912 Commanded Second Naval District
1912-1914 Commanded Third Naval District
1914-1915 Commanded *Utah* (battleship)
1915 Promoted to rear admiral
1916-1917 Commanded Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet
1917-1918 Commanded Cruiser and Transport Force, Atlantic Fleet
1918 Promoted to vice admiral
1919 Promoted to admiral
1919-1921 Commanded Asiatic Fleet
1921 Commanded First Naval District
Published *A History of the Transport Service. . .* New York: George H. Doran Co.
1925 Published *Life and Letters of Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce, United States Navy, Founder of the Naval War College.* New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons
1928-1931 Governor of the Naval Home, Grays Ferry, Philadelphia, Pa.
1937, Jan. 6 Died, Haverford, Pa.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Albert Gleaves (1858-1937) span the years 1803-1946 with the bulk of the papers dating from 1877 to 1937. The papers are organized into the following series: *Diaries, Journals, and Notebooks; Official Correspondence; General Correspondence; Records of the Asiatic Fleet; Speech, Article, and Book File; Scrapbooks; Newspaper Clippings; Photographs;* and *Miscellany.*

Like all midshipmen of his time, Gleaves was required to maintain a professional journal of his duties and stations aboard ship. Gleaves continued this practice all during his career. Twenty-two of his personal diaries and journals, covering the years from 1902 to 1936, record his interests and activities in detail during that period.

Gleaves was an intensive reader and carried on extensive correspondence about his reading with friends and colleagues in and out of the navy. His four books, published between the years 1904 and 1925, document his interest in naval biographical research and historical authorship. In his diaries and journals are marginal annotations showing his reading habits formed during long passages at sea. Also noted are lists of reading material to be included in his personal "stores" before departing on a cruise or an anticipated tour of duty at an overseas station.

For the ten-year period after graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1877, Gleaves served at sea in both the Atlantic and the Pacific Fleets. The collection contains official and personal correspondence as well as diaries and journals to document this period of his life. For the next decade he alternated between duties afloat and ordnance billets in various...
naval yards around the country. For the period from about 1885 to 1897 there is only minimum documentation. Only a few diaries, a scrapbook, and a file of correspondence with John Henry Gibbons cover his service for these years.

The beginning of the Spanish American War in 1898 found Gleaves in command of the Cushing, carrying dispatches between Florida and Cuba. His ship was anchored close to the Maine the night before it was blown up in Havana harbor. There is material in both the official and general correspondence files to document Gleaves's actions immediately preceding and during the war.

After the war and a brief tour of duty as navigator on board the battleship Alabama, Gleaves commanded the Dolphin and then the Mayflower, both of which were used as presidential yachts by Theodore Roosevelt. In the collection are occasional exchanges of correspondence between the two men on naval, professional, and social matters.

Following duty in the presidential yachts, Gleaves assumed command of the Naval Torpedo Station, where his first reports to the secretary of the navy resulted in a review of torpedo ordnance. After a trip to Europe in 1907 to inspect foreign ordnance installations, Gleaves returned home to help persuade the Navy Department to establish its own facilities for manufacturing torpedoes independent of private or foreign sources. Typically, the details of his investigations in Europe and his part in the establishment of these facilities are incorporated in a small notebook labeled "Torpedoes, Mines, and Nets."

His activities and observations are recorded in a 1907 personal narrative-type diary. For his period as inspector of ordnance in Newport there is an exchange of letters in the correspondence files with the Navy Department.

After a tour of duty in the office of the assistant secretary of the navy with collateral duty as a member of the General Board, Gleaves was again ordered to sea in 1910. From 1911 to 1914 he was stationed ashore as commander of the Second and then the Third Naval District.

In 1916 Gleaves was promoted to flag rank and ordered to command the Torpedo Flotilla and later the entire Destroyer Force of the Atlantic Fleet. Material readiness reports from the squadrons, plus orders, dispatches, and letters from his flagship, the Birmingham, document the preparation of the Destroyer Force for combat readiness. After a convoy system got under way, Gleaves was detached from the Destroyer Force and assigned as commander of the cruiser and transport force for the duration of World War I.

The war years and postwar period are documented by correspondence, diaries and journals, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles in his scrapbooks. Gleaves was promoted to vice admiral in 1918 and less than one full year later, to admiral. In September 1919 he was assigned to be the commander of the Asiatic Fleet.

Topics of importance in the Records of the Asiatic Fleet series concern the Japanese Army in Russia after the war, the Communist takeover in Siberia, the evacuation of Czechoslovakian troops from Russia, and the general state of affairs in Russia at the time of revolutionary unrest. The collection also includes firsthand observations on the status of the United States in the Far East and other intelligence information. His diaries, typed each day aboard his flagship, contain source material on the conditions in that part of the world between the wars. Correspondents for the years 1919 to 1922 include Norman E. Allman, Lee Yek Cheng, Ernest Batson Price, C.P. Sah, and T.K. Yaw.

Included in the papers are copies of most all of Gleaves's speeches, articles, radio broadcasts, lectures, and pamphlets. This material covers a variety of topics, usually naval, generally delivered or addressed to civic, patriotic or service groups. In the Speech, Article, and Book File is correspondence concerning his publications, especially the book James Lawrence. Correspondents include J. Lawrence Boggs, Julian W. Bowes, George Dewey, Stephen Bleecker Luce, and Gertrude Hill Gavin. Also in the series are typescripts that Gleaves intended to use as a basis for an autobiography. In the Miscellany series are stories and anecdotes he collected for his memoir or other writings.

The scrapbooks and newspaper clippings in the collection relate mainly to Gleaves's career or to notable incidents in naval history. Correspondence concerning his decorations, awards, and promotions to flag rank, a file of biographical material, and poetry file completes the collection.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in nine series:

- Diaries, Journals, and Notebooks, 1877-1936
- Official Correspondence, 1875-1931
- General Correspondence, 1879-1946
- Records of the Asiatic Fleet, 1919-1922
- Speech, Article, and Book File, 1803-1944
- Scrapbooks, 1878-1919
- Newspaper Clippings, 1892-1937
- Photographs, 1877-1933
- Miscellany, 1812-1944
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-5</td>
<td><strong>Diaries, Journals, and Notebooks, 1877-1936</strong></td>
<td>Writings, observations, and notes by Gleaves on naval and other subjects. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6-7</td>
<td><strong>Official Correspondence, 1875-1931</strong></td>
<td>Orders to duty and other official correspondence. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 8-9</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1879-1946</strong></td>
<td>Letters received and a few copies of letters sent, mostly of a personal and quasi-official nature. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10</td>
<td><strong>Records of the Asiatic Fleet, 1919-1922</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence, memoranda, notes, general orders, interview records, printed matter, newspaper clippings, drafts of articles, maps, and a few photographs. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 11-13</td>
<td><strong>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1803-1944</strong></td>
<td>Drafts, typescripts, near-print, and printed copies of Gleaves's speeches, articles, radio broadcasts, book reviews, and personal narratives. Also typescript material for an autobiography and files concerning his published works. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 14-16</td>
<td><strong>Scrapbooks, 1878-1919</strong></td>
<td>Newspaper clippings, printed matter, invitations and calling cards, memorabilia, and a few pieces of attached correspondence. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 17-18</td>
<td><strong>Newspaper Clippings, 1892-1937</strong></td>
<td>Clippings about Gleaves or subjects of interest to him. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 19</td>
<td><strong>Photographs, 1877-1933</strong></td>
<td>Photographs pertaining primarily to Gleaves or his tours of duty. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 20-21</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1812-1944</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence concerning awards and decorations, letters of congratulation, maps, a collection of anecdotes, biographical material, printed matter, copies of historical documents, a poetry folder, invitations and calling cards, notes, reports, memoranda, and other assorted material. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1-5   | **Diaries, Journals, and Notebooks, 1877-1936**  
Writings, observations, and notes by Gleaves on naval and other subjects.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | 1877, journal |
| BOX 1     | 1877, Aug.-1878, Sept., *Hartford* (sloop), journal, |
| BOX 1     | 1882, Aug.-1883, Mar., *Nipsic* (gunboat), journal |
| BOX 1     | 1881, Nov.-1883, Mar., *Nipsic* (gunboat), diary  
(2 vols.) |
| BOX 1     | 1891-1897, *Nipsic* (gunboat), diary |
| BOX 2     | 1883, Sept.-1886, Apr., *Trenton* (screw steamer) and *Monocacy* (gunboat), journal |
| BOX 2     | 1885, Mar.-1886, Jan., *Monocacy* (gunboat), journal |
| BOX 2     | 1886, May-1891, Mar., journal |
| BOX 2     | 1901, *Dolphin* (gunboat and dispatch vessel), journal |
| BOX 2     | 1901-1904, journal |
| BOX 2     | 1902, order book, *Mayflower* (patrol vessel converted yacht), journal |
| BOX 3     | 1902-1914, diary  
(7 folders) |
| BOX 3     | 1914-1918, diary  
(3 vols.) |
| BOX 4     | 1917, extracts from war diaries |
| BOX 4     | 1918-1921, diary  
(6 folders) |
| BOX 5     | 1921-1936, diary  
(6 folders) |
| BOX 5     | Undated |
| BOX 5     | Notebook on torpedoes, mines, and nets |
| BOX 5     | Notebook on miscellaneous ship data |
| BOX 6-7   | **Official Correspondence, 1875-1931**  
Orders to duty and other official correspondence.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 6     | 1875-1906  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 7     | 1907-1931  
(6 folders) |
| BOX 8-9   | **General Correspondence, 1879-1946**  
Letters received and a few copies of letters sent, mostly of a personal and quasi-official nature.  
Arranged chronologically. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 8     | 1879-1918  
(20 folders) |
| BOX 9     | 1919-1946, undated  
(17 folders) |
| BOX 10    | **Records of the Asiatic Fleet, 1919-1922**  
Correspondence, memoranda, notes, general orders, interview records, printed matter, newspaper clippings, drafts of articles, maps, and a few photographs.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 10    | 1919-1922, undated  
(15 folders) |
| BOX 11-13 | **Speech, Article, and Book File, 1803-1944**  
Drafts, typescripts, near-print, and printed copies of Gleaves's speeches, articles, radio broadcasts, book reviews, and personal narratives. Also typescript material for an autobiography and files concerning his published works.  
Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically. |
| BOX 11    | Copies of speeches, articles, radio broadcasts, and book reviews, 1917-1939, undated |
| BOX 11    | Typescripts of personal narratives, 1914-1919 |
| BOX 12    | Typescript material for an autobiography, 1934 |
| BOX 13    | Book file |
| BOX 13    | *James Lawrence, United States Navy, Commander of the "Chesapeake"* (1904) |
| BOX 13    | Copies of historical documents, 1803-1881 |
| BOX 13    | Correspondence, 1903-1944 |
| BOX 13    | Newspaper clippings, 1904-1941 |
| BOX 13    | Miscellany |
| BOX 13    | *The Life of an American Sailor: Rear Admiral William Hensley Emory, United States Navy* (1923) |
| BOX 13    | *Life and Letters of Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce, United States Navy* (1925) |
| BOX 13    | Correspondence, 1924-1927 |
| BOX 13    | Miscellany |
| BOX 14-16 | **Scrapbooks, 1878-1919**  
Newspaper clippings, printed matter, invitations and calling cards, memorabilia, and a few pieces of attached correspondence.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 14    | 1878-1881, 1890-1894, 1903-1904  
(3 vols.) |
| BOX 15    | 1908-1918  
(2 vols.) |
| BOX 16    | 1917-1919  
(3 vols.) |
| BOX 17-18 | **Newspaper Clippings, 1892-1937**  
Clippings about Gleaves or subjects of interest to him.  
Arranged chronologically. |
### Container | Contents
--- | ---
BOX 17 | 1892-1922
 | (27 folders)
BOX 18 | 1922-1937
 | (16 folders)
BOX 19 | **Photographs, 1877-1933**
Photographs pertaining primarily to Gleaves or his tours of duty.
Arranged chronologically.
BOX 19 | 1877-1933, undated
 | (8 folders)
BOX 20-21 | **Miscellany, 1812-1944**
Correspondence concerning awards and decorations, letters of congratulation, maps, a collection of anecdotes, biographical material, printed matter, copies of historical documents, a poetry folder, invitations and calling cards, notes, reports, memoranda, and other assorted material.
Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 20 | Awards and decorations, 1903-1920
BOX 20 | Letters of congratulation
BOX 20 | Atlantic convoy, 1917
BOX 20 | Appointment as vice admiral, 1918
BOX 20 | Appointment as admiral, 1919
BOX 20 | Maps of China, 1920
BOX 20 | Collection of anecdotes, undated
BOX 21 | Biographical material, undated
BOX 21 | Printed matter, 1875-1940, undated
BOX 21 | Copies of naval historical documents, 1812-1919, undated
BOX 21 | Poetry, undated
BOX 21 | Invitations and calling cards, 1906-1939, undated
BOX 21 | Notes, 1934-1938, undated
BOX 21 | General miscellany, 1897-1944, undated