

Harry E. Yarnell

A Register of His Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Joseph K. Brooks



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2001

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2007**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007033>

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Harry E. Yarnell

Span Dates: 1909-1958

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1939-1945)

ID No.: MSS57448

Creator: Yarnell, Harry E. (Harry Ervin), 1875-1959

Extent: 875 items; 3 containers plus 1 classified; 1 linear foot

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Naval officer. Correspondence, memoranda, speeches, reports, articles, printed matter, and miscellaneous papers related to military aspects of United States China policy, reorganization of United States armed forces, naval and military strategy during World War II, and Yarnell's naval career.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Yarnell, Harry E., 1875-1959
Baldwin, Hanson Weightman, 1903- --Correspondence
Chiang, Kai-shek, 1887-1975--Correspondence
Eliot, George Fielding, 1894- --Correspondence
Forrestal, James, 1892-1949--Correspondence
Hart, Thomas Charles--Correspondence
King, Ernest Joseph, 1878-1956--Correspondence
Rhee, Syngman, 1875-1965--Correspondence
Soong, T. V. (Tzu-wen), 1894-1971--Correspondence
Yap, Alfred T. L.
Oregon (Battleship)
United States. Armed Forces--Reorganization
United States. Navy. Asiatic Fleet
United States. Navy--Officers
United States. War Dept. War Plans Division

Subjects:

Diplomatic and consular service, Chinese--United States
Lend-lease operations (1941-1945)
Merchant marine--China
Spanish-American War, 1898--Naval operations, American
Warships--China
Warships--United States
World War, 1914-1918--Naval operations, American
World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, American
World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, Chinese
World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, Japanese
China--Foreign relations--United States
United States--Foreign relations--China

Occupations:

Naval officers

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Harry E. Yarnell, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1977 and 1984 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Copyright Status:

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

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, Harry E. Yarnell Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1875, Oct. 18	Born, Independence, Iowa
1897	B. S. degree, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1899	Duty on <i>Oregon</i> (battleship) during Spanish-American War and on <i>Albay</i> (gunboat) during Philippine American War
1903	Married Emily Carroll Thomas
1915	Graduated, Naval War College, Newport, R. I.
1917	Commanded <i>Nashville</i> (patrol gunboat) in the Mediterranean Sea during World War I
1927-1928	Commanded <i>Saratoga</i> (aircraft carrier)
1928-1930	Chief, Bureau of Engineering, Navy Department
1933-1936	Commandant, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
1936-1939	Commander-in-chief, United States Asiatic Fleet
1939	Retired from United States Navy
1942	Promoted to full admiral (retired list)
1942-1944	Special advisor, Chinese Military Mission Assistant to vice chief of naval operations
1959, July 17	Died, Newport, R.I.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Harry Ervin Yarnell (1875-1959) in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection span the years 1909-1958 and consist of correspondence, speeches, articles, reports, printed matter, and miscellaneous material arranged alphabetically by type of material, personal name, or subject. The bulk of the papers relates to the post retirement period of Yarnell's career during World War II. During the war he was an advisor to the Chinese Military Mission to the United States and worked particularly closely with China Supplies, Inc., an arms procurement organ of the mission, on such projects as identifying alternate supply routes to China to replace those disrupted by the Japanese and obtaining lend-lease warships for the Chinese navy. Also during World War II, Yarnell served in the office of the vice chief of naval operations and as a senior advisor to Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal, in these capacities working on plans for the postwar demobilization of the navy and related war economy and participating in the controversy concerning the reorganization of the American military that eventually led to the establishment of the Department of Defense.

There is also material on the United States Asiatic Fleet that Yarnell commanded immediately prior to his retirement, on his Spanish-American War service aboard the *Oregon* (battleship), and on his service with the Navy's War Plans Division during and immediately after World War I.

General correspondence and memoranda comprise the bulk of the papers. Correspondents include Hanson W. Baldwin, Chiang Kai-Shek, George Fielding Eliot, James Forrestal, Thomas Charles Hart, Ernest J. King, Syngman Rhee, T. V. Soong, and Alfred T. L. Yap.

Related Materials

Also in the custody of the Library of Congress Manuscript Division is another collection of Yarnell's papers donated to the Library by Yarnell that documents his command of the Asiatic Fleet during the Sino-Japanese War.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material, personal name, or subject.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Biographical material, awards, and tributes, 1919, 1938-1944, n.d.
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	General
BOX 1	1919, 1932-1941
BOX 1	1942
BOX 1	Jan. 27 -Nov. 26 <u><i>See also Classified</i></u> (3 folders)
BOX 1	1943
BOX 1	Jan. 3 -Dec.15 (2 folders)
BOX 1	1944
BOX 1	Jan. 1 -July 17 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Aug. 2-Dec. 28
BOX 2	1945-1950, 1958
BOX 2	Memoranda, 1918-1944 (4 folders)
BOX 2	Indexes, 1942-1944
BOX 2	Miscellany, n.d.
BOX 2	Printed and near print matter, 1942-1944
BOX 2	Reports and notes
BOX 2	"Memorandum on the War Situation," 1942, n.d.
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1942-1944, n.d. <u><i>See also Classified</i></u>
BOX 3	Soong, T. V. and Sae-Kea A. Sze, 1942-1944
BOX 3	Speeches and writings, 1909, 1928-1933, 1939-1949, n.d. (4 folders)
BOX 3	United States Asiatic Fleet, dispatches and correspondence, 1938-1939, n.d.
BOX 3	Warships, <i>Albay</i> (gunboat) and <i>Oregon</i> (battleship), 1932, 1944-1945, n.d.
BOX CL 1	Classified material
BOX CL 1	Correspondence
BOX CL 1	General, Aug.3- Nov. 26, 1942 (Container 1)
BOX CL 1	Reports and notes
BOX CL 1	Miscellany, 1942-1944, n.d. (Container 3)