

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

OUTERBRIDGE, WILLIAM W.: Papers, 1923-69

Accessions 70-28 and 71-24
Processed by: BSR
Date Completed: August 1970

The papers of William W. Outerbridge were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by Admiral Outerbridge in August 1969. An accretion was received from the First Shot Naval Vets of St. Paul, Minnesota, in August 1970.

Linear feet:	4.5
Approximate number of pages:	8,850
Approximate number of items:	3,000

Admiral Outerbridge signed an instrument of gift for the papers on August 12, 1969. Literary rights in the writings of William W. Outerbridge in this collection and in all other collections of papers donated to the Eisenhower Library were retained by Admiral Outerbridge until his death in September 1986, and then passed to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of William W. Outerbridge.
2. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of others persons who have had correspondence with William W. Outerbridge.
3. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.
4. Papers containing statements made by or to the donor in confidence unless in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library the reason for the confidentiality no longer exists.

All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

William W. Outerbridge was born in 1906 and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1927. For the next several years he held a variety of naval positions on ships and ashore. In 1941 he became commander of the destroyer USS Ward based at Pearl Harbor. Early on the morning of December 7, 1941, the Ward, while on patrol near Hawaii, discovered a Japanese submarine that was attempting to sneak into Pearl Harbor. The Ward opened fire with one of the deck guns and sank the sub. This happened just a few hours before Japanese forces commenced their attack on Pearl Harbor. The action by the Ward crew was widely considered to be the first naval action by U.S. forces in World War II. A plaque commemorating the event was placed on the Ward's deck gun in 1958.

Outerbridge was transferred to the USS O'Brien in 1944 and took up a station near England. On D-Day the O'Brien stood off the coast of Normandy and helped protect Allied forces landing in Normandy by using its guns to attack German defenses near the beach. A few days later the O'Brien performed a similar action at the French port of Cherbourg, which helped Allied forces capture the city.

Following World War II Outerbridge continued his naval service in a variety of positions, including commander of the cruiser USS Los Angeles from 1953 to 1955. He retired in 1957 with the rank of Rear Admiral, and died in 1986.

The papers of William Outerbridge were received at the Eisenhower Library in two shipments. The bulk of the collection was donated by Admiral Outerbridge in August 1969. This contains extensive correspondence and subject files covering his entire naval career. His service on the Ward, the O'Brien and the Los Angeles is especially well documented. There are also a few files on his service in China in the late 1930s.

A small accretion to the collection was received from the First Shot Naval Vets of St. Paul, Minnesota in August 1970. This was a private organization of naval veterans who had been at Pearl Harbor and they had collected extensive material on the attack of December 7, 1941. Outerbridge gave them most of his files about the attack on the USS Ward. The organization loaned to the Eisenhower Library the files they had obtained from Outerbridge. The original papers were returned to the organization after being copied by the Library staff. This accretion contains information on the history of the Ward, official correspondence and reports about the attack on the Japanese submarine, and the dedication of the plaque on the deck gun in 1958.

CHRONOLOGY

April 14, 1906 Born, Victoria, Hong Kong, China

1923-27 Attended the U.S. Naval Academy

December 15, 1928 Married Grace Fulwood (three sons: William, Thomas, and Robert)

1928-40 Served in various capacities on ships and ashore, including 3 ½ years on the China station (1937-40) aboard the USS Augusta

1940-41 Executive Officer, destroyer USS Cummings

1941-42 Commanding Officer, destroyer USS Ward

1942-43 Office of the Chief of Naval Transportation, Washington, DC

1943-45 Commanding Officer, destroyer USS O'Brien

1945-46 Commander, Destroyer Division Forty-Two

1946-49 Staff, Naval War College

1949-50 Commander, Destroyer Squadron Four

1950-51 Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander, Destroyer Flotilla Four

1951-52 Staff, Industrial College of the Armed Forces

1952-53 Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans, Operations and Intelligence, Naval Forces, Far East

1953-55 Commanding Officer, cruiser USS Los Angeles

1955-57 Head, Transportation and Petroleum Branch, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics, Plans)

1957 Retired, promoted to Rear Admiral

September 1986 Died, Tifton, Georgia

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Original Collection (A70-28)
	Naval Academy - Grade Cards, 1924-1927
	Official Papers - Aviators Flight Log Book, 1927
	Official Papers, <u>USS California</u> , 1927
	Official Papers, 1928
	Personal Correspondence, 1928
	Personal Correspondence, 1929
	Official Papers, <u>USS Philip</u> ; <u>USS Buchanan</u> , 1930
	Personal Correspondence, 1930
	Official Papers - Change of Duty, 1931
	Official Papers - Change of Duty, 1932
	Personal Correspondence, 1932
	Official Papers - Post Graduate Courses, 1933
	Personal Papers re birth of 2nd son, 1933
	Standard Organization Bill for 1100-1200 Ton Destroyers, 1933
	Official Papers - Change of Duty from <u>USS Arctic</u> to Naval Academy, 1934
	Official Papers, 1934
	Personal Correspondence, 1934
	Official Papers, 1935
	Financial Records, 1935
	Official Papers, 1936

- Personal Correspondence, 1936
- Financial Records, 1936
- Official Papers, USS Augusta, 1937
- Personal Correspondence, 1937
- Personal Correspondence with his wife, Shanghai, China, USS Augusta, Aug. 16 - Sept. 10, 1937
- Official Papers, USS Augusta, 1938
- Financial Records, 1938
- Official Papers, USS Augusta, 1939
- Financial Records, 1939
- Miscellaneous Memorabilia, 1939
- 2 Official Papers, USS Augusta, 1940
- Official Papers, Change of Duty from USS Augusta to USS Cummings, Oct.- Nov. 1940
- Financial Records, 1940
- Miscellaneous Memorabilia, 1940
- Official papers, Change of Duty from USS Cummings to USS Ward, 1941
- Official Papers, USS Ward, Dec. 1941
- Honor Gun - copies of plaque attached to USS Ward gun for shot of Dec. 7, 1941
- Financial Records, 1941
- Miscellaneous Memorabilia, 1941
- Will, unsigned copies, 1941
- Letters from WWO to his wife, Mar.-Apr.; Nov.-Dec. 1941
- Letters to WWO from his wife, Dec. 5-14, 1941

- Official Papers, USS Ward, Jan.-Sept. 1942
- Official Papers, Change of Duty, USS Ward to OPNAV, Washington, DC, Oct. 1942
- Official Papers, OPNAV, Washington, DC, Oct.-Dec. 1942
- Personal Correspondence, 1942
- Financial Records, 1942
- 3 Letters from WWO to his wife (USS Ward), 1942 (1)(2)
- Letters to WWO from his wife, 1942
- Official Papers, OPNAV, 1943
- Personal Correspondence, 1943
- Financial Records, 1943
- Letters from WWO to his wife (Misc. temporary duties) Mar.-May 1944
- Letters from WWO to his wife (USS O'Brien), 1944 (1)(2)
- Official Papers, OPNAV and West Coast Sound School in San Diego, 1944
- Personal Correspondence, 1944
- Financial Records, 1944
- Action Report on USS O'Brien, Normandy Invasion and bombardment at Cherbourg, May-June, 1944
- War Diary, USS O'Brien, June 1944-March 1945
- 4 Letters from WWO to his wife, USS O'Brien, Jan.-Apr. 1945
- Occupation Currency, Japan and the Philippines, 1945
- Official Papers, USS O'Brien, Misc. temporary duties, and USS Vogelgesang, 1945
- Personal Correspondence, 1945

Senate Military Affairs Committee, copies of statements made before the [October 1945 testimony re unification of the armed services and national defense by Admiral Ernest J. King, General Alexander A. Vandegrift and Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal]

Official Papers, USS Vogelgesang and Naval War College, 1946

Personal Correspondence, 1946

Financial Records, 1946

Official Papers, Naval War College, 1947

Personal Correspondence, 1947

Financial Records, 1947

Thesis, Naval War College, "Relations Between Russia and the United States, and Their Influence on U.S. Foreign Policy," 1947

5 Official Papers, Naval War College, 1948

Miscellaneous memorabilia, 1948

Official Papers, Change of Duty from Naval War College to Commander, Destroyer Division Forty-One, 1949

Official Papers, Commander, Destroyer Squadron Four, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, USS Gearing flagship, 1949

Personal Correspondence, 1949

Official Papers, Commander, Destroyer Squadron Four with additional duties as Commander, Destroyer Division Forty-One, January-June 1950

Official Papers, Change of Duty from Commander, Destroyer Squadron Four to Chief of Staff, Destroyer Flotilla Four, June 1950

Official Papers, Chief of Staff, Destroyer Flotilla Four, USS Sierra flagship, June-December 1950

Personal Correspondence, 1950

Official Papers, Chief of Staff, Destroyer Flotilla Four, Correspondence, Jan.-June 1951

- Official Papers, Change of Duty from Chief of Staff, Destroyer Flotilla Four to Industrial College of the Armed Forces, August 1951
- Financial Records, 1951
- Miscellaneous memorabilia of Cruise Comdesflot Four USS Robert A. Owens, 1951
- Official Papers, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, 1952
- Official Papers, Change of Duty from Industrial College to Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans, Operations and Intelligence, Naval Forces, Far East, 1952
- Official Papers (C.O.'s Personal Files), Staff Commander Naval Forces, Far East, 1952
- Miscellaneous memorabilia, 1952
- Official Papers, C.O.'s Personal Files, Staff, Commander Naval Forces Far East, January-June 1953
- Official Papers, Change of Duty from Staff, Commander Naval Forces Far East to C.O., USS Los Angeles, July 1953
- Official Papers, C.O.'s Personal Files, USS Los Angeles, July-December 1953
- 6 Album, "Our Cruise, 1953-54," USS Los Angeles
- Christmas cards to WWO received aboard the USS Los Angeles, December 1953
- Financial Records, 1953
- Personal Correspondence and memorabilia re USS Los Angeles, 1953
- Printed materials re USS Los Angeles, 1953-54
- Official Papers, C.O.'s Personal Files, USS Los Angeles, Jan.-May 1954
- Official Papers, C.O.'s Personal Files, USS Los Angeles, June-Dec. 1954
- Mare Island Centennial, September 16-19, 1954
- Christmas cards to WWO received aboard the USS Los Angeles, December 1954

- 7
 - Financial Records, 1954
 - Miscellaneous Memorabilia, 1954
 - Official Papers, C.O.'s Personal Files, USS Los Angeles, 1955
 - Miscellaneous Memorabilia, 1955
 - Miscellaneous Memorabilia, 1956
 - Official Papers, Retirement, 1957
 - Correspondence, 1957
 - Correspondence, 1958
 - Correspondence, 1959
 - Correspondence, 1960
 - Correspondence, 1961
 - Correspondence, 1965
 - Correspondence, 1966
 - Correspondence, 1967
 - Correspondence, 1968
 - Awards, citations, commissions, 1927-69 (1)(2)

- 8
 - Books removed from collection
 - Museum objects removed from collection
 - Genealogy charts and correspondence relating to the Outerbridge family
 - Taxes, WWO, 1937-51
 - USS Ward, "All Hands" articles
 - Miscellaneous city maps and brochures
 - Miscellaneous memorabilia (1)(2)

- 9 Miscellaneous memorabilia - newsclippings, 1934-42
Miscellaneous memorabilia - newsclippings, 1942
Miscellaneous memorabilia - newsclippings, 1943-49
Miscellaneous memorabilia - newsclippings, 1951
Miscellaneous memorabilia - newsclippings, 1953
Miscellaneous memorabilia - newsclippings, 1954-55
Miscellaneous memorabilia - newsclippings, 1966

- 10 U.S. Naval Academy, "My Memory Book," 1923-27 (half-suit box)
U.S. Naval Academy, "Memory and Fellowship Book," 1926-29

- 11 Poster - "R/Adm. William Woodward Outerbridge, 1927-57" [on retirement]
(full-suit box)

Poster - Destroyer Flotilla Four

Posters - Destroyer Squadron Four

Miscellaneous oversized materials

Miscellaneous Materials Removed From Box 7

- 12 Material from First Shot Naval Vets (A71-24)

Cover letters on the collection

History of the USS Ward

Log, USS Ward, 7 December 1941

Messages not sent, USS Ward, 7 December 1941

Statements concerning the attack, 7 December 1941 (1)(2)

Summary of Attacks, USS Ward, 7-17 December 1941; C.O., USS Allen Report, 3 January 1942

C.O., USS Ward, Report with forwarding endorsements by CDD 80 and ComInPat

List of Officers and Crew, USS Ward, December 1941

Miscellaneous correspondence concerning the USS Ward

Address by Rear Admiral Forrestel at dedication of the Honor Gun, 9 May 1958

13 Oversized items removed from Box 7 (full-suit box)

END OF CONTAINER LIST