

George C. Dyer

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

Prepared by Kathleen M. Dondanville



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2008

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

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Collection Summary

Title: George C. Dyer Papers

Span Dates: 1898-1988

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1935-1959)

ID No.: MSS79426

Creator: Dyer, George C. (George Carroll), 1898-1987

Extent: 3,500 items; 10 containers; 4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: United States Navy officer. Correspondence, memoranda, diary, speeches and lectures, research files, reports, biographical material, photographs, and printed matter relating to Dyer's naval career and to his publications, primarily his biographies of navy admirals during the World War II era.

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.

Personal Names

Akers, George--Correspondence.

Bull, Harold Roe, 1893-1976--Correspondence.

Carney, Robert Bostwick, 1895-1990--Correspondence.

Dyer, George C. (George Carroll), 1898-1987.

Forrestel, Emmet Peter, 1898---Correspondence.

Hooper, Edwin Bickford--Correspondence.

Low, Francis S. (Francis Stuart), 1894-1964.

Richardson, James O. (James Otto), 1878-1974--Correspondence.

Smith, Theodora--Correspondence.

Organizations

Astoria (Cruiser : CL-90)

National War College (U.S.)

Navy Relief Society.

United Nations Blockade and Escort Force.

United Nations--Armed forces.

United States. Congress. Joint Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack.

United States. Navy--History--World War, 1939-1945.

United States. Navy--Officers.

United States. Navy. Naval District, 11th.

Subjects

Admirals--United States--Biography.

Korean War, 1950-1953--Naval operations.

Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941.

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

Related Names

Richardson, James O. (James Otto), 1878-1974. James O. Richardson papers (1898-1975)

Occupations

Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of George C. Dyer, author and United States Navy vice admiral, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1989. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History:

The George C. Dyer Papers were arranged and described in 1991. The register was revised in 2008.

Transfers:

Sound recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the George C. Dyer Papers.

Copyright Status:

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

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, George C. Dyer Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1898, Apr. 27	Born, Minneapolis, Minn.
1918	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1919-1924	Served in command of submarines D-9, L-10, and S-15
1921	Married Mary Adaline Shick
1931	Graduated, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1931-1934	Commander, <i>Widgeon</i> , one of the first submarine rescue ships Commander, <i>Gamble</i> (destroyer)
1936-1937	Served on staff of Commander Destroyers Scouting Force
1938-1939	Commanded Submarine Division Eight Served on staff of Commander Battle Force
1940-1942	Served on staff of commander in chief of the United States Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations
1942	Promoted to captain
1943	Chief of staff to Commander Amphibious Bases Northwest Africa Wounded by German airplane gunfire, Salerno, Italy

1944-1945	Commanded the <i>Astoria</i> (cruiser) during the Philippine, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa campaigns Awarded Legion of Merit with three gold stars Awarded Bronze Star with Combat V
1945-1946	Served as chief of Logistic Plans, and chief of General Plans, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Promoted to rear admiral
1947-1948	Served in command of the Tenth Cruiser Division, Atlantic Fleet
1949-1951	Deputy commander, National War College, Newport, R.I.
1951-1952	Commander, United Nations Blockade and Escort Force, Korea
1953-1955	Served in command of the Eleventh Naval District, San Diego, Calif.
1955	Promoted to vice admiral Retired from United States Navy
1958	Published <i>On the Treadmill to Pearl Harbor: The Memoirs of Admiral James O. Richardson as told to George C. Dyer</i> . Washington, D.C.: Naval History Division, U.S. Department of the Navy.
1960	Published <i>Naval Logistics</i> . Annapolis, Md.: U.S. Naval Institute.
1968	Published <i>The Amphibians Came to Conquer: The Story of Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner</i> . Washington, D.C.: Naval History Division, U.S. Department of the Navy.
1987, June 24	Died, Annapolis, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of George Carroll Dyer (1898-1987) span the years 1898-1988, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period from 1935 to 1959. The collection primarily documents Dyer's military career, particularly his service during World War II and the Korean War. Also encompassed in the papers are records relating to his writing projects and publications, most notably biographies of navy admirals of the World War II era. The collection consists of the following series: [Personal File](#), [Military File](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), and the [James O. Richardson File](#).

The [Personal File](#) primarily contains incoming and outgoing letters between Dyer and naval colleagues and officials, friends, family members, and the general public. Much of the correspondence pertains to his military activities as commander of the United Nations Blockade and Escort Force during the Korean War. In these letters, Dyer discusses the activities of the eight-nation force under his command, which apart from the blockade of the North Korean coastline, was engaged in surface ship and small carrier warfare against the Chinese and North Korean communists.

Other correspondence relates to Dyer's public speaking engagements, his work with the Navy Relief Society, family health problems, and other personal matters and interests. Correspondence dated after 1955 pertains mostly to Dyer's writing projects, particularly his work on the memoirs of James O. Richardson, who was the commander in chief of the United States Fleet prior to World War II. Biographical materials, articles, newspaper clippings, and other personal miscellany complete the series.

The [Military File](#) is comprised of memoranda, reports, rosters, printed matter, and other materials documenting Dyer's naval service. The bulk of the series pertains to his commissions as commander of the *Astoria* (cruiser) during World War II, commander of the United Nations Blockade and Escort Force during the Korean War, and deputy commander of the National War College. Military issues of special interest to Dyer, such as wartime discipline and morale, naval uniforms, logistics training, and the development of overseas bases, are documented by memoranda and reports dispersed throughout the series. Also included is a diary recording Dyer's daily activities as commandant of the Eleventh Naval District, San Diego, California.

The [Speeches and Writings](#) File contains speeches, papers, articles, and lectures written or given by Dyer, mostly in an official military capacity. Included are inspirational speeches dating from 1944 to 1945 designed to disseminate war news and boost morale aboard the *Astoria* (cruiser), and papers written as a student at the Naval War College. Photographs, illustrations, and interview notes pertaining to several of Dyer's published works are also included.

The final series contains the papers of Admiral [James O. Richardson](#). Dyer obtained these documents in order to write the Richardson memoirs; consequently, the papers have been retained as part his collection. Consisting of a variety of personal and military records, the series primarily documents Richardson's lengthy naval career. Of special interest are correspondence, reports, and articles relating to his testimony at the congressional hearings of the Joint Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack. Admiral Richardson testified at the hearings that in 1940, he and President Franklin D. Roosevelt held a conference at which Richardson advised the president to return the fleet to the West Coast where it could be readied for possible action against the Japanese. Roosevelt overruled him, deciding to base the fleet at Pearl Harbor, and relieved Richardson of his command.

Prominent correspondents in the Dyer collection include George Akers, Harold Roe Bull, James O. Richardson, Robert Bostwick Carney, Francis S. Low, Emmet P. Forrestel, Theodora Smith, and Edwin Bickford Hooper.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Personal File, 1939-1988](#)
- [Military File, 1935-1959](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1927-1958](#)
- [James O. Richardson File, 1898-1975](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-5

Personal File, 1939-1988

Correspondence, speaking engagements, historical writings, biographical material, newspaper clippings, certificates, and poems.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 6-7

Military File, 1935-1959

Memoranda, correspondence, reports, orders, officer rosters, printed matter, and a diary documenting Dyer's naval career.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 7-9

Speeches and Writings, 1927-1958

Drafts of speeches and lectures, research notes, articles, papers, photographs, and illustrations relating to Dyer's writing projects and public speaking activities. Speeches and papers written by others and collected by Dyer are included in this series.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 9-10

James O. Richardson File, 1898-1975

Correspondence, military records, reports, articles, newspaper clippings, biographical materials, notes, and writings relating to the naval career of Admiral James O. Richardson.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic and therein chronologically.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-5	Personal File, 1939-1988 Correspondence, speaking engagements, historical writings, biographical material, newspaper clippings, certificates, and poems. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Articles regarding Dyer and family, 1942-1960, n.d.
BOX 1	Biographical material, 1988, n.d.
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Aug. 1939-Sept. 1951 (7 folders)
BOX 2	Oct. 1951-Aug. 1953 (7 folders)
BOX 3	Sept. 1953-Mar. 1954 (7 folders)
BOX 4	Apr.- Oct. 1954 (7 folders)
BOX 5	Nov. 1954-Jan. 1975 (6 folders)
BOX 5	Miscellany, 1943-1952, n.d.
BOX 6-7	Military File, 1935-1959 Memoranda, correspondence, reports, orders, officer rosters, printed matter, and a diary documenting Dyer's naval career. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 6	Diary, commandant of Eleventh Naval District, 1953-1955
BOX 6	Memoranda and reports
BOX 6	1935-1952 (6 folders)
BOX 7	1953-1959, n.d.
BOX 7	Newspapers
BOX 7	<i>Astoria</i> (cruiser), 1945
BOX 7	<i>Indianapolis</i> (cruiser), 1941, n.d.
BOX 7	Officer rosters, 1941-1953
BOX 7	Orders, 1941-1954, n.d.
BOX 7-9	Speeches and Writings, 1927-1958 Drafts of speeches and lectures, research notes, articles, papers, photographs, and illustrations relating to Dyer's writing projects and public speaking activities. Speeches and papers written by others and collected by Dyer are included in this series. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 7	Books
BOX 7	<i>The Amphibians Came to Conquer</i> , photographs and illustrations, n.d.

Speeches and Writings, 1927-1958

Container

Contents

BOX 7	<i>On the Treadmill to Pearl Harbor: The Memoirs of Admiral James O. Richardson as told to George C. Dyer</i>
BOX 7	Notes, n.d.
BOX 8	Photographs and illustrations, n.d.
BOX 8	Lectures, 1949-1952, n.d.
BOX 8	Papers
BOX 8	By Dyer, 1930-1931, n.d.
BOX 8	By others, 1927, 1956
BOX 8	Speeches
BOX 8	By Dyer, 1944-1954, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 9	By others, 1949, 1958
BOX 9-10	James O. Richardson File, 1898-1975 Correspondence, military records, reports, articles, newspaper clippings, biographical materials, notes, and writings relating to the naval career of Admiral James O. Richardson. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic and therein chronologically.
BOX 9	Articles and newspaper clippings, 1940-1974, n.d.
BOX 9	Biographical material, n.d.
BOX 9	International Military Tribunal for the Far East, 1946, 1963
BOX 9	Joint Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack (United States Congress), 1945
BOX 9	Military files
BOX 9	Correspondence, 1903-1946, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 9	Officer rosters, 1928-1936
BOX 10	Orders, 1902-1946 (2 folders)
BOX 10	Personal correspondence, 1898, 1917-1975 (2 folders)
BOX 10	Speeches, 1913-1942, n.d.
BOX 10	United States Naval Academy, study notes, 1900-1902
BOX 10	Writings
BOX 10	Memoir notes, 1937, n.d.
BOX 10	Thesis papers, 1934, n.d.