

# Harry E. Yarnell Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress



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

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lccn.loc.gov/mm81057448>

Prepared by Joseph K. Brooks

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Harry E. Yarnell Papers

**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

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

**Summary:** 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.

### People

Baldwin, Hanson Weightman, 1903-1991--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.

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

### Organizations

Oregon (Battleship)

United States. Navy--Officers.

United States. Navy. Asiatic Fleet.

United States. War Department. 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.

### Places

China--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Armed Forces--Reorganization.

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.

## Related Material

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.

## 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.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Harry E. Yarnell 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.

## 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>Albatross</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.

## 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, undated
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	General
BOX 1	1919, 1932-1941
BOX 1	1942
BOX 1	Jan. 27 -Nov. 26 <i>See also Classified</i> (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, undated
BOX 2	Printed and near print matter, 1942-1944
BOX 2	Reports and notes
BOX 2	“Memorandum on the War Situation,” 1942, undated
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1942-1944, undated <i>See also Classified</i>
BOX 3	Soong, T. V. and Sae-Kea A. Sze, 1942-1944
BOX 3	Speeches and writings, 1909, 1928-1933, 1939-1949, undated (4 folders)
BOX 3	United States Asiatic Fleet, dispatches and correspondence, 1938-1939, undated
BOX 3	Warships, <i>Albay</i> (gunboat) and <i>Oregon</i> (battleship), 1932, 1944-1945, undated
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, undated (Container 3)