Edwin Bickford Hooper

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Laura J. Kells

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: Edwin Bickford Hooper Papers
Span Dates: 1842-1986
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1931-1986)
ID No.: MSS78221
Creator: Hooper, Edwin Bickford
Extent: 4,850 items; 11 containers plus 1 oversize; 5.5 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Naval officer and historian. Correspondence, writings, research notes, speeches, reports, orders, organizational charts, rosters, printed materials, photographs, and other papers primarily relating to Hooper's naval career and to his research in U.S. naval history.

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
Hooper, Edwin Bickford.

Organizations
Naval Historical Center (U.S.)
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.
United States. Navy Dept. Bureau of Ordnance.
United States. Navy--History--Vietnam War, 1961-1975.
United States. Navy--History.
United States. Navy. Pacific Fleet.
Washington (Battleship : BB-56)

Subjects
Amphibious warfare.
Antiaircraft artillery.
Fire control (Naval gunnery)
Guadalcanal, Battle of, Solomon Islands, 1942-1943.
Logistics, Naval.
Nuclear weapons--Testing.
Ordnance, Naval.
Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Naval operations, American.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Pacific Ocean.

Locations
Eniwetok Proving Grounds (Marshall Islands)
United States--History, Naval.

Related Names
Hooper, Edwin Bickford. United States naval power in a changing world (1988)

Occupations
Naval historians.
Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Edwin Bickford Hooper, naval officer and historian, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1989 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History:

The papers of Edwin Bickford Hooper were arranged and described in 1993. The finding aid was revised in 2007.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edwin Bickford Hooper is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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, Edwin Bickford Hooper Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	***Event***
1909, Feb. 26	Born, Winthrop, Mass.
1931	Graduated from United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1931-1936	Served on *Pensacola* (Heavy cruiser)
1934	Married Elizabeth Withers Patrick
1936-1938	Served on *Cushing* (Destroyer)
1938-1939	Attended Naval Academy Post-Graduate School and took a newly established fire control ordnance course
1940	Master of science degree in electrical engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1941-1944	Served on *Washington* (Battleship) Became gunnery officer in 1942
1944-1945	Executive officer on *Alaska* (Battle cruiser)
1945	Officer in charge of ordnance, maintenance, and improvement on the staff of Commander, Service Force, United States Pacific Fleet
1946-1947	Antiaircraft officer, Operations Readiness Section, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.
1947-1949	Served in Division of Military Application, Atomic Energy Commission
1949-1950	Commanding officer on *Waccamaw* (Oil tanker)

1950-1952	Assistant for nuclear applications, Bureau of Ordnance
1952-1953	Attended National War College, Newport, R.I.
1953-1954	Chief of staff commander, Destroyer Flotilla Three in the Western Pacific
1954-1955	Commanding officer on *Sierra* (Destroyer)
1955-1958	Assistant chief, Bureau of Ordnance for Research Director of research and development, Bureau of Ordnance for Research
1958-1959	Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty-six
1959	Temporarily promoted to rear admiral
1959-1961	Director of Naval Long-Range Studies Project and first director of the Institute of Naval Studies, Cambridge, Mass.
1961-1962	Commander, Amphibious Group One Commander, Seventh Fleet Amphibious Force Commander, Amphibious Group Western Pacific
1962	Permanently appointed rear admiral
1962-1964	Director, Anti-Submarine Warfare Research and Development, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.
1964	Assistant chief of naval operations (development)
1965	Deputy chief of naval operations (development)
1965-1968	Commander, Service Force, United States Pacific Fleet
1968-1969	Assistant deputy chief of naval operations (logistics)
1969	Appointed vice-admiral
1969-1970	Senior navy member of the Joint Logistics Review Board
1970, June	Retired from the navy
1970, Aug.	Returned to active duty as director of naval history and curator of the Department of the Navy
1972	Published *Mobility, Support, Endurance: A Story of Naval Operational Logistics in the Vietnam War, 1965-1968*. Washington, D.C.: Department of the Navy
1976	Retired from the United States Navy Published with Dean C. Allard and Oscar P. Fitzgerald *The United States Navy and the Vietnam Conflict*. Vol. 1. Washington, D.C.: Department of the Navy

1978	Published *The Navy Department: Evolution and Fragmentation*. Washington, D.C.: Naval Historical Foundation.
1986, Sept. 12	Died, Annapolis, Md.
1988	Publication of Hooper's *United States Naval Power in a Changing World*. New York: Praeger.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edwin Bickford Hooper (1909-1986), naval officer and later naval historian, span the years 1842-1986 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1931 to 1986. The papers focus almost exclusively on naval topics, either relating to Hooper's career or to naval history in general.

At the start of his career Hooper specialized in ordnance and later studied fire control in his postgraduate education. He did ordnance work on a battleship during World War II. Following the war he developed his knowledge of antiaircraft and nuclear weapons and directed research and development work in these areas. From 1947 to 1949, he served in the Military Applications Division of the newly established Atomic Energy Commission where he was involved in the development of nuclear weapons programs and in planning nuclear weapons tests at the Eniwetok Proving Grounds in the Marshall Islands. His later career assignments involved amphibious warfare and logistical operations, and from 1958 to 1968 he served as commander of the Service Force, United States Pacific Fleet during a period when the escalating Vietnam War caused that position's duties to expand rapidly. He later wrote a history of American naval logistics during the Vietnam War, entitled *Mobility, Support, Endurance*. Hooper retired from the navy in June 1970 but returned to active duty one month later to take the position of director of naval history and curator of the Department of the Navy, which he held until his second retirement in 1976.

The Correspondence series is divided into personal correspondence, official correspondence, and orders to duty. These documents trace Hooper's career in the navy and his work in naval history which continued after his retirement. In his personal correspondence, Hooper reviewed and commented on other people's historical studies, often including personal recollections of events and people covered in those works. Similar comments are found in the Subject File as well. His official correspondence contains a run of memoranda to unit commanders and commanding officers in his position as commander of the Service Force, United States Pacific Fleet during the Vietnam War. Other material relating to his work during the war is contained in the Subject File, the Speeches and Writings series, and in the clippings and printed matter sections of the Miscellany series.

The Subject File relates primarily to naval historical topics and includes background materials and notes on Vietnam and the history of the United States Navy, which Hooper used to prepare historical studies, including the first volume of the navy's history of its involvement in the Vietnam conflict coauthored by Hooper while he was director of naval history. In creating the subject files, Hooper copied documents dating from 1842 and collected historical studies related to events from the American colonial period to the 1970s. The material on United States naval history and early Vietnamese history is separated into historical periods, but for the most part, date spans given in the folder listings relate to the dates of Hooper's notes, not to the period covered. In addition to Hooper's historical research, the subject files also cover other phases of his naval career, including his work on logistics and research and development.

The Speeches and Writings series contains copies of Hooper's published articles, his master's thesis, papers written during his studies at the National War College, unpublished papers, and speeches relating mainly to the Vietnam War and naval history. Also included is an early draft of Hooper's final book, *United States Naval Power in a Changing World*, which was edited and published posthumously. Since the text was edited and footnotes were prepared by others following Hooper's death, his draft manuscript was retained to allow for comparison with the final product.

The Miscellany series contains biographical material, including Hooper's reminiscences about different phases of his career. A particularly lengthy piece relates to his activities during World War II and his experiences on the USS Washington in the Guadalcanal campaign. There are also record books which Hooper used to write down thoughts about articles and reports he read and ideas about tasks. The first book dates from 1955 to 1958 and includes thoughts on his upcoming position as director of research and development in the Bureau of Ordnance and the Bureau's organization and management. The books from 1970

to 1974 focus on naval history and the Naval Historical Center and its visitors. Rosters, certificates and mementos, clippings, and programs provide additional details about Hooper's naval career.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- Correspondence and Orders to Duty File, 1927-1986
- Subject File, 1842-1986
- Speeches and Writings, 1940-1986
- Miscellany, 1933-1986
- Oversize, 1953-1985

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-2	**Correspondence and Orders to Duty File, 1927-1986** Personal correspondence, official correspondence, and orders to duty. Arranged chronologically within each category.
BOX 2-8	**Subject File, 1842-1986** Printed matter, correspondence, comments on manuscripts, background material and notes for historical studies, primarily related to naval topics. Arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 8-10	**Speeches and Writings, 1940-1986** Published articles, book manuscripts, book reviews, reports, speeches, student papers, master's thesis, and unpublished papers. Arranged by type of writing and chronologically therein.
BOX 10-11	**Miscellany, 1933-1986** Biographical material, certificates and mementos, clippings, oral history transcripts, printed matter, programs, record books, and rosters. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX OV 1	**Oversize, 1953-1985** Oversize organizational charts, photographs, rosters, and printed matter. Arranged and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.

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	Arranged chronologically within each category.
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BOX 4	Klachko, Mary, biography of Adm. William S. Benson, 1977-1985
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BOX 4	Rickover, Hyman G., *How the Battleship Maine was Destroyed*, 1975-1977, n.d.
BOX 4	United States Navy salvage history, 1986
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BOX 8	"Reorganizing & Maintaining Momentum," *Armed Forces Management*, 1959
BOX 8	"The Warfare of Inner Space," *Signal*, 1963
BOX 8	"Director of ASW R&D Looks Toward 1973," *Data*, 1963
BOX 8	"Oceanographic Data Links," *Signal*, 1963
BOX 8	"Logistics for Vietnam," *Navy Magazine*, 1966
BOX 8	"Support of Forces in Vietnam," *CNO Newsletter to Flag Officers*, 1967
BOX 8	"1815-42, Developing Naval Concepts: The Early Years," *Defense Management Journal*, 1976
BOX 8	"Over the Span of 200 Years - Technology and the United States Navy," *Naval Engineers Journal*, 1976
BOX 8	"Naval Ordnance," "Navy Yards," *Dictionary of American History*, 1976
BOX 8	"Observances from the Floor," *Maritime Dimensions of the American Revolution*, 1977
BOX 8	"The Spectrum of History," *Versatile Guardian*, 1979
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