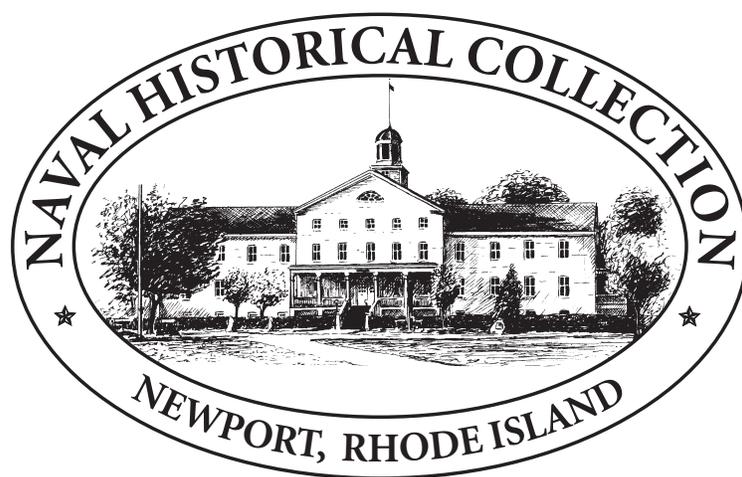


Register of the Robert K. R. Worthington Papers



**Naval War College
Newport, RI**



REGISTER OF THE PAPERS OF ROBERT K. R. WORTHINGTON

**Compiled by
Evelyn M. Cherpak, Ph.D.**

**Manuscript Register Series
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Table of Contents

	Page
Biographical Sketch	1
Career Outline	3
Description of Papers	5
Arrangement of Papers	7
Series	
I Biographical Data	7
II Naval Orders	7
III Correspondence	7
IV Writings	8
V Subject Files	8
VI War Patrol Logs	9
VII Miscellany	9
VIII Photographs	10
IX Films and Slides	12

Biographical Sketch

Robert Kemble Rittenhouse Worthington was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on March 25, 1915. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1938 near the top of his class and he ranked first in the Submarine School class of 1940 where he earned the Spears Prize. He was in the submarine service for the greater part of his naval career.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese, Worthington was an officer in the USS SILVERSIDES. The ship quickly retaliated and was responsible for sinking over 100,000 tons of enemy shipping, including two submarines, earning twelve battle stars. The daring exploits of the SILVERSIDES formed the basis for the movie "Run Silent, Run Deep." When the war ended, he was commanding officer of USS BALAO, which fired the last shots of the war when she sank an enemy freighter off Honshu, Japan. Worthington received the Silver Star, three Bronze stars, and the Navy Cross as well as many campaign and commendation ribbons for his heroism and leadership under fire. After the war, he received an M.S. in Physics and Electronics from UCLA and later attended the National War College.

Worthington went on to more dramatic exploits as captain of USS TUSK. In 1949, his ship was responsible for rescuing the crew of the USS COCHINO, which sank after a battery explosion in the Barents Sea off Norway. Additional sea duty followed in oilers and submarine tenders. His last assignment was on the staff of the Twelfth Naval District in San Diego. He retired from the Navy in 1962 and worked for Lockheed Corporation on the design and construction of the submersible DEEP QUEST, which submerged to a depth of 8000 feet during test dives.

After retirement from Lockheed in 1975, he sailed as master on several ocean vessels in Caribbean and Alaskan waters. He died on February 28, 1996, in San Diego after suffering a stroke. He is survived by his wife Anne P. Worthington, son Robert, and daughter Dr. Robin W. Woo. Worthington was a member of the Sub Vets of WWII and the Deep Submersible Pilots Association. He personified the heroism, dedication, and patriotism of the men of the submarine service throughout his naval career.

Career Outline

1915	Born, March 25
1938	Graduated U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD
1938	USS PHILADELPHIA (C-141), Junior Officer
1939–1940	USS TREVER (DD-339), Engineer
1940	Graduated, Submarine School, New London, CT
1941	Destroyer Sonar School, San Diego, CA USS POLLACK (SS-180), Sonar Officer
1942–1944	USS SILVERSIDES (SS-236), Gunnery & Torpedo Officer, Executive Officer
1944–1945	USS SEA POACHER (SS-406)
1945–1946	USS BALAO (SS-285), CO; USS SPINAX (SS-489), CO; USS ELOKOMIN (AO-55), Executive Officer
1946–1947	Postgraduate School, Annapolis, MD
1947–1949	University of California, Los Angeles, M.S. in Physics
1949–1951	USS TUSK (SS-426), CO
1950	Destroyer PCO-PXO Tactical Course, Key West, FL
1951–1954	Bureau of Ordnance, Mines, Depth Charges and Harbor Defense Branch, 1951–1954
1955	USS SPERRY (AS-12), Executive Officer
1955–1956	Submarine Division 31, San Diego, CA
1956–1957	National War College, Washington, DC
1958–1960	Weapons System Evaluation Group
1961	USS TOLOVANA (AO-64), CO
1962	Twelfth Naval District, Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics
1962	Retired, July 1
1962–1975	Lockheed Missile & Space Company
1996	Died, February 28, San Diego, CA

Description of Papers

The Robert K. R. Worthington papers were gifted to the Naval War College Foundation for deposit in the Naval Historical Collection by his wife, Anne, in 1998.

The collection consists of eight boxes that are divided into nine series. Series I, Biographical Data, contains Worthington's obituary and several official biographical statements. Series II, Naval Orders, 1938–1962, houses naval orders, memoranda, and fitness and medical reports covering his active military career. Series III, Correspondence, undated–1995, contains both letters sent and received, including correspondence regarding the daring COCHINO rescue. Series IV, Writings, has Worthington's wartime diary, 1941–1943, writings by other authors on submarines, and "The Silversides Story" by Frank Tannenbaum. Series V, Subject Files, has materials on USS SILVERSIDES, USS TOLOVANA, USS TUSK, USS COCHINO, and DEEP QUEST. Series VI, War Patrol Logs, contains the logs from ten war patrols of USS BALAO. Series VII, Miscellany, contains certificates, citations, calling cards, invitations, programs, rosters, newspaper clippings dealing with the COCHINO rescue and DEEP QUEST, memorabilia, and diplomas. Series VIII, Photographs, has photographs of a number of submarines, ships, submersibles, and people. Of special interest are photo albums of USS SILVERSIDES and USS BALAO. Series IX, Films and Slides, has videos of the BALAO, SARDA, TUSK, and SILVERSIDES. There are several reels of 16 mm film, including one entitled "The Silent Service."

Arrangement of papers

Series I Biographical Data

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Biographical information, obituary

Series II Naval Orders, 1938–1962

1	2	Memoranda, 1938
	3	Orders and memoranda, 1939–1941
	4	Orders and memoranda, 1942–1944
	5	Operation orders, USS BALAO (SS-285), 1945
	6	Orders, 1945–1946
	7	Fitness reports and medical report, 1947–1951
	8	Memoranda and personal history, 1952–1953
	9	Record of Proceedings of Supervisory Examining Board, regarding Robert K. R. Worthington, November 1, 1955
	10	Orders and memoranda, 1954–1955
	11	Orders and memoranda, 1956–1957
	12	Memoranda, 1959–1960
	13	Orders, 1961
	14	Memoranda, 1962
	15	Jacket copies of orders

Series III Correspondence, Undated–1995

1	16	Letter, draft, undated
	17	Letters, drafts, undated
	18	Telegrams regarding USS COCHINO (SS-345) rescue, 1949–1950
	19	Correspondence regarding USS COCHINO (SS-345) rescue, 1949

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	20	Correspondence regarding USS COCHINO (SS-345) rescue, 1949
	21	Correspondence regarding USS COCHINO (SS-345) rescue, 1950
	22	Correspondence, letters sent, 1951–1961
	23	Correspondence, letters received, 1945–1952
	24	Correspondence, letters received, 1953–1955
	25	Correspondence, letters received, 1956–1959
	26	Correspondence, letters received, 1961
	27	Correspondence, letters received, 1968–1995

Series IV Writings

1	28	Draft on submarines, undated
	29	Diary, November 30, 1941–June 11 1943
	30	Presentation on submarines by Roy Benson, 1950
	31	“Submarine Loss Rates in World War II Causing Tactical Changes,” 1951
2	1	“The Silversides Story” by Frank Tannenbaum, 1985

Series V Subject Files

2	2	USS SILVERSIDES (SS-236)
	3	USS SILVERSIDES (SS-236)
	4	USS COCHINO (SS-345), rescue of
	5	USS COCHINO (SS-345), report of War Patrol Two
	6	USS COCHINO (SS-345), rescue, press release
	7	USS TUSK (SS-426)
	8	USS TUSK (SS-426), collision, 1949
	9	USS TUSK (SS-426), collision, press release
	10	USS TOLOVANA (AO-64), newsletters and rosters, 1960–1961
	11	DEEP QUEST, articles, 1969

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	12	DEEP QUEST

**Series VI
War Patrol Logs**

2	13	USS BALAO (SS-285), War Patrol 1–5
	14	USS BALAO (SS-285), War Patrol 6–10
	15	USS BALAO (SS-285), War Patrol 8
	16	USS BALAO (SS-285), War Patrol 8–10
	17	USS BALAO (SS-285), War Patrol 9
3	1	USS BALAO (SS-285), War Patrol Log, 10

**Series VII
Miscellany**

3	2	USS TOLOVANA (AO-64) shoulder patch Silver napkin ring, with inscriptions
	3	Certificate of Burial at Sea, 1996
	4	Certificates, 1938–1990
	5	Letters of commendation, 1942–1946
	6	Citations, 1944–1947
	7	Calling cards
	8	Invitations, 1944
	9	Invitations, 1949
	10	Invitations, 1950
	11	Invitations, 1959
	12	Programs, 1949
	13	Programs, 1988
	14	Roster of U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1938
	15	Roster of Submarine Squadron Four, 1941
	16	Roster of various naval headquarters, 1951–1951

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
3	17	Passport application and passport, 1957
	18	Application for insurance, 1957
	19	Newspaper clippings, undated
	20	Newspaper clippings, 1941–1947
	21	Newspaper clippings, 1949
	22	Newspaper clippings, 1950
	23	Newspaper clippings, 1950
	24	Newspaper clippings, 1950
	25	Newspaper clippings, 1961–1969
	26	Newspaper clippings, 1988
4	Folio	
	1	Newspaper and magazine articles, “Submarines of Tomorrow,” <i>Chicago Tribune</i> , January 29, 1950
	2	“Miracle under the Arctic Sea,” <i>The Saturday Evening Post</i> , January 14, 1950
	3	“New Weapon for Sea-Searchers,” <i>California Living</i> , <i>The San Francisco Examiner</i> , June 16, 1968
	4	<i>The Lockheed Star</i> , March 1, 1968, February 7, 1969, March 29, 1968, October 16, 1970, February 6, 1970
	5	Commissioning Certificate to Lieutenant Commander, 1942; Commissioning Certificate to Captain, 1959
	6	Diploma, M.S., University of California, 1949
	7	Diploma, The National War College, 1957
	8	Diploma, U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, 1958
	9	Certificate, Operation Hardtack, 1958
10	Membership Certificate, Deep Submersible Pilots Association, 1969	

**Series VIII
Photographs**

11 Captain Robert K. R. Worthington

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
4	12	USS SKATE (SSN-578)
	13	USS NAUTILUS (SSN-571)
	14	USS TRITON (SSR(N)-586)
	15	USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSB(N)-598)
	16	USS SKIPJACK (SSN-585)
	17	USS SEAWOLF (SSN-575)
	18	USS TUSK (SS-426), entering Portsmouth, England, 1949
	19	USS TUSK (SS-426), 1949
	20	USS CATFISH (SS-339)
	5	1
2		LCDR Robert K. R. Worthington receiving the Gold Star, 1945
3		Negatives of Robert K. R. Worthington
4		VADM Charles Lockwood, USN
5		Group and class photographs, 1957–1968
6		USS SPERRY (AS-12), beach and party photographs
7		USS DAVIS (DD-395)
8		USS BONHOMME RICHARD (CV-31), USS HELENA (CL-50), 1960, USS TOLOVANA (AO-64), 1961
9		USS BALAO (SS-285) and crew, reunion, 1987
10		USS SEA POACHER (SS-406) and crew, 1941–1944
11		USS SEA POACHER (SS-406) Guam, 1945
12		USS SILVERSIDES (SS-236) and crew, 1941–1943
13		USS SPERRY (AS-12), negatives
14		USS SPERRY (AS-12) and crew, 1954–1959
15		USS SPINAX (SS-489), launching, 1945
16		USS TOLOVANA (AO-64), 1961
17		USS TOLOVANA (AO-64), Change of Command, 1961

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
5	18	USS TOLOVANA (AO-64), Change of Command, 1961
	19	USS TUSK (SS-426), and 1986 reunion
	20	B-29 Bomber
	21	USS ELOKOMIN (AO-55), USS POLLACK (SS-180), USS GRENADIER (SS-525), USS SKATE (SSN-578), USS SKIPJACK (SS-585), USS PHILADELPHIA (CL-41), RV SEAMARK, and unidentified submarine
	22	DEEP QUEST (SV) Trials
	23	DEEP QUEST (SV) Trials
	24	DEEP QUEST (SV) Press Releases, 1967–1968
	25	DEEP QUEST (SV) and Transquest ceremony, undated–1972
	6	1
7	1	Photograph Album of USS BALAO (SS-285)

**Series IX
Films and Slides**

8	1	Video, USS BALAO (SS-285), War Patrols, 1945
	2	Video, “Saving the <i>Silversides</i> ,” 1989 Convention
	3	Slides, Change of Command, September 1956
	4	Film, New London, 1951
	5	Film, USS SILVERSIDES (SS-236), Patrol Reports 1–14
	6	Film Project #3, Training, Iceland, COMSUPAC, USS BALAO (SS-285), 6th Run
	7	Film, unidentified
	8	Film, unidentified
	9	Film, unidentified
	10	Film, unidentified
	11	Film, USS TUSK (SS-426)
	12	Film, USS SARDA (SS-488)

