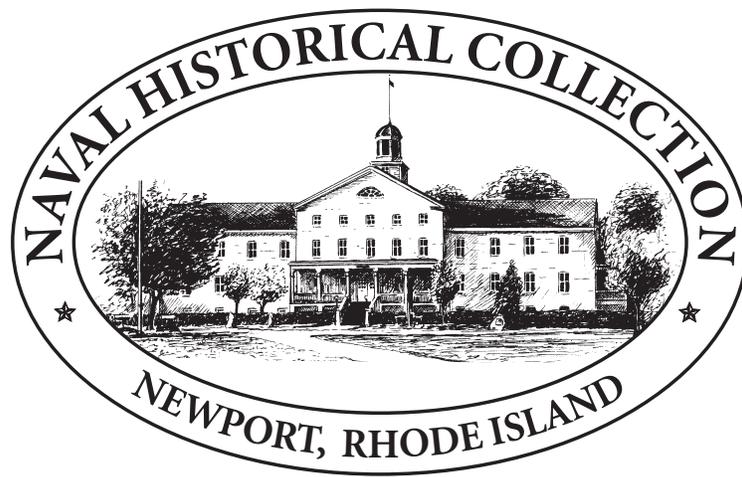


Register of the H. Kent Hewitt Papers



**Naval War College
Newport, RI**



REGISTER OF THE PAPERS OF H. KENT HEWITT

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

**Manuscript Register Series
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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Admiral H. Kent Hewitt was born on February 11, 1887, in Hackensack, New Jersey, to Robert and Mary Kent Hewitt. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy as a member of the class of 1907, but due to a shortage of junior officers in the fleet graduated in September 1906 and was immediately assigned to the USS MISSOURI. There he developed an interest in gunnery practice and improvement which he pursued as his career progressed. In 1907, the MISSOURI joined the Great White Fleet in its thirteen month cruise around the world. During the voyage Hewitt gained invaluable experience in seamanship and command as he served as assistant navigator and signal officer. Along with an extended period at sea, he experienced the thrill of visiting exotic ports along the way.

For the next three years he served in the battleships CONNECTICUT and FLORIDA as watch and division officer and in the destroyer FLUSSER as executive officer and navigator under then Lieutenant William F. Halsey. In 1913, Hewitt married Floride Hunt of San Francisco, California, whom he had met five years earlier at a Monterey ball during a port call of the Great White Fleet. Shortly thereafter Hewitt was assigned as a mathematics instructor at the Naval Academy, the first of several rewarding tours of duty there. On August 27, 1915, the couple's first child, Floride Hunt, was born in Annapolis.

In June 1916, Hewitt's tour of shore duty ended and he was ordered to command the USS EAGLE, a converted yacht outfitted for surveying work. Hewitt spent some six months in Cuban waters carrying out surveying assignments and protecting American lives and property on the island after a revolution occurred in 1917.

When the United States entered World War I in April 1917, Hewitt received a destroyer command, the USS CUMMINGS, which was assigned to convoy duty in Brest, France. After the war's end, he served in USS LUDLOW, which functioned as a plane guard for the NC-4 flights. That same year he returned to the Academy as an instructor in engineering and physics, a position he held for the next two years. Hewitt always enjoyed a return to academe and was an excellent teacher.

His next assignment as gunnery officer in the PENNSYLVANIA was a formidable one, but one which did much to advance his career. The PENNSYLVANIA had not performed well in battle practice or gunnery trials and Hewitt was tasked with improving the ship's record. For the next two years he worked diligently, and by 1923 the ship won the battle efficiency pennant.

His success earned him a three year assignment as Head of the Gunnery Section of Fleet Training under the Chief of Naval Operations. Before he departed for Washington in 1923, his second daughter, Mary Kent, was born on July 5. From 1926 to 1928, he was again assigned to gunnery billets on the staff of Commander Battleship Divisions and then as fleet gunnery officer in the Pacific Fleet under the command of VADM Louis R. de Steiguer.

In 1928, Hewitt was ordered to the Naval War College in Newport, RI, as a member of the senior class of 1929. He stayed on for two additional years as a member of the Department of Operations, Strategy and Tactics. His war college years were both enjoyable and profitable professionally, as they provided him with a good background for future command positions. In 1976, four years after his death, the Naval War College named the third building of a new and modern academic complex after him.

For the next five years he held a variety of ship and shore assignments, including the command of Destroyer Division 12, Operations Officer for the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, and a return three year stint as Head of the Department of Mathematics at the U.S. Naval Academy.

In 1936, Hewitt was given command of USS INDIANAPOLIS. The INDIANAPOLIS had been selected to take President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Pan American Conference at Buenos Aires, Argentina, that year. Hewitt handled this delicate assignment with aplomb. With the President and Commander-in-Chief on board, everything had to go well; even the slightest mishap would reflect badly on his career. Fortunately, the cruise went smoothly and Hewitt received a letter of congratulations from Roosevelt complimenting him on his "smart ship."

In 1937, he reported as Chief of Staff to VADM Joseph Taussig, Commander Cruiser, Scouting Force. Taussig gave Hewitt command of his own cruiser division and thus he spent another rewarding year at sea. A two year assignment as commander of the Naval Ammunition Depot in Puget Sound, Washington, followed. During that time he was promoted to rear admiral. In 1940, he took command of the Special Services Squadron stationed in Panama and conducted a special reconnaissance mission to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. This interesting assignment was of short duration as the Squadron was disbanded after three months.

In November 1940, Hewitt took command of Cruiser Division 8, an assignment he welcomed. Based in Pearl Harbor, the ships were maintained at maximum wartime readiness at all times. Command of Task Force 7, consisting of a cruiser and a battleship division along with destroyers, beckoned next. The Task Force was involved in neutrality patrols and amphibious exercises as President Roosevelt had declared a state of national emergency by then. Just prior to and immediately after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hewitt's force was escorting convoys bound for England.

In April 1941, Hewitt was named Commander of the Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet, with Headquarters in Hampton Roads, Virginia. There he was deeply involved in organizing and planning for forthcoming amphibious landings. As CO of the Western Naval Task Force, Hewitt's role in successfully implementing Operation Torch, the landings on the coast of Morocco in November 1942, was monumental. The mission was an unqualified success and a major contribution to the allied effort in the European Theatre.

Hewitt returned home to a promotion to vice admiral and to even greater responsibilities in the ensuing years. As Commander of the Eighth Fleet, he led the Allied amphibious forces at Sicily and Salerno in 1943 and southern France in 1944. All three of these operations, Husky, Avalanche and Dragoon-Anvil, were major factors in the eventual defeat of the Axis powers in Europe by May 1945. Although Hewitt, a reserved man by nature, never received the publicity and renown of other more flamboyant military leaders, he emerges as one of the great operational planners and commanders of World War II.

In the immediate post-war period Hewitt commanded U.S. Naval Forces, Western Europe, and the Twelfth Fleet. He returned to the United States in 1946 and was assigned to special duty at the Naval War College for a year. Prior to his retirement in 1949, he served as naval representative to the UN Military Staff Committee.

Hewitt spent his retirement years living quietly in Foretop, his home in Orwell, Vermont. He wrote a number of articles and book reviews for the U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* and was awarded an honorary degree by Middlebury College in 1949. He died on September 15, 1972, and was buried in the U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis, MD.

Admiral Hewitt's direct descendents include his two daughters: Mrs. Floride Taylor, the wife of Captain Leroy Taylor, USN (Ret.), who resides in Middletown, RI, and Mrs. Mary Kent Norton, the wife of Captain Gerald Norton, USN (Ret.), who lives in Falls Church, Virginia.

Hewitt's medals and decorations include the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal (both Army and Navy), the Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre with palm (France), the Order of Kutuzov (USSR), the Order of the Bath (England), the Order of the Southern Cross (Brazil), the Order of Abdon Calderon (Ecuador), the Order of Nichan Iftikhar (Tunisia), the Order of King George I (Greece), the Order of Sts. Maurizio and Lazare (Italy), the Order of Orange-Nassau (the Netherlands), the Order of Leopold and Croix de Guerre (Belgium). His campaign medals include the Naval Expeditionary Medal, the Dominican Medal, the Victory Medal, the American Defense Medal, the American Area Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Area Campaign Medal. Hewitt was also a member of the Chevaliers du Tastevin, a society of wine lovers and gourmants devoted to the wines and food of Burgundy, France. His clubs were the Army-Navy, the University and the Century.

CHRONOLOGY OF NAVAL SERVICE

- 1887 Born, Hackensack, New Jersey, February 11.
- 1906 Graduated from U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
- 1907-09 USS MISSOURI (BB-11), U.S. Atlantic Fleet around the world cruise, Assistant Navigator, Signal Officer.
- 1908 Promoted to Ensign.
- 1910 USS CONNECTICUT (BB-18), Watch and Division Officer.
- 1911 USS FLUSSER (DD-20), Executive Officer and Navigator; Promoted to Lieutenant, j-g.
- 1912 USS FLORIDA (BB-30), Watch and Division Officer.
- 1913-16 U.S. Naval Academy, Instructor in Department of Mathematics; Promoted to Lieutenant.
- 1916-17 USS EAGLE (PY), CO; Promoted to Lieutenant Commander.
- 1918 USS CUMMINGS (DD-44), CO; Promoted to Commander.
- 1919-21 USS LUDLOW (DD-112), CO; U.S. Naval Academy, Department of Electrical Engineering and Physics.
- 1921 USS PENNSYLVANIA (BB-38), Gunnery Officer.
- 1923-26 Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Division of Fleet Training, Head of Gunnery Section.
- 1926 Commander Battleship Division, Battle Force, Battleships Division Gunnery Officer and Aide.
- 1927 Battle Force, Battle Force Gunnery Officer and Tactical Officer.
- 1928-1931 Naval War College, Newport, RI, Student and Staff Member.
- 1932 Commander of Battle Fleet, Assistant Chief of Staff; Promoted to Captain.
- 1933-36 U.S. Naval Academy, Department of Mathematics, Head.
- 1936-1937 USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA-35), CO.
- 1937 Commander Cruisers Security Force, Chief of Staff and Aide.
- 1938-1940 U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot, Puget Sound, WA; CO.

1939 Promoted to Rear Admiral.

1940 USS Special Services Squadron, CO.

1940 USS PHILADELPHIA (CL-41), Commander Cruiser Division Eight.

1942 Atlantic Fleet, Amphibious Force, CO; Promoted to Vice Admiral.

1943-44 U.S. Naval Forces in North West African Waters, CO.

1945 U.S. Eighth Fleet, CO; Promoted to Admiral; U.S. Twelfth Fleet, CO.

1946-1947 Naval War College, Newport, RI, Special Duty.

1947 UN Military Staff Committee, U.S. Naval Representative.

1949 Retired from U.S. Navy, March 1.

1972 Died, September 15, 1972, Middlebury, Vermont.

DESCRIPTION OF PAPERS

While the bulk of the papers of Admiral Hewitt form part of the collections of the Naval Historical Foundation in Washington, D.C., the Naval War College Naval Historical Collection houses a small but interesting segment of Hewitt materials. The papers were presented to the College through the Naval War College Foundation in three separate lots. Mrs. Floride Hunt Hewitt, the Admiral's wife, presented the first accession in October 1973, while the second and third accessions were presented by Admiral Hewitt's daughter, Mrs. Floride Taylor, in January and June 1976 respectively.

The collection focuses mainly on the illustrious wartime career of Admiral Hewitt, although there are materials from both earlier and later time periods. The materials are contained in seven boxes, several photograph albums and a folio file drawer. They measure 6.8 linear feet and are divided into three series: correspondence, writings and miscellany.

Series I, official correspondence, consists of letters, memoranda and telegrams, both congratulatory and informational, dealing with the various amphibious operations which Admiral Hewitt commanded. They include Operations Torch, Husky, Avalanche and Dragoon-Anvil. Correspondents were from the highest military and civilian echelons and include General Dwight D. Eisenhower, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Admiral Ernest J. King. Other correspondence deals with President Roosevelt's voyage in USS INDIANAPOLIS to the Pan American Conference in Buenos Aires in 1936, and in the post-war period with reminiscences of World War II. Correspondents from this time period include Winston Churchill, Admiral Sir John Cunningham, RN, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The second series, writings, contains the unpublished memoirs of Admiral Hewitt. The memoirs contain a ten page chronology of his life and career as well as a full autobiographical treatment.

Finally, series III, miscellany, consists of citations, honorary degrees, invitations, programs, typescripts of oral history interviews, single photographs of Admiral Hewitt in career situations as well as albums of Amphibious Force Operations in French Morocco in 1942 and his cruises as CO, Twelfth Fleet in 1946. Folio items are part of this category too, and consist of diplomas, certificates, U.S. naval commissions, and photographs.

An appendix to other research sources lists Naval War College archival record groups which contain materials about or by Hewitt as well as oral histories, published works and materials in other repositories.

ARRANGEMENT OF PAPERS

Series I

Correspondence, 1936-1961 (1/4 box)

Box Folder

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | 1 <i>Official Correspondence</i> , Letters, memoranda, naval messages and telegrams received from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and William Dawson, 1936-1943. |
| | 2 Telegrams regarding operations in Northwest African waters, 1942. |
| | 3 Letters, memoranda and telegrams from Admiral Harold R. Stark, James Forrestal, Lieutenant General A.M. Patch, USA, et. al., 1944. |
| | 4 Letters, memoranda from Brigadier General Edgar E. Hume, Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, Louis Joannides, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, RN, et. al., 1944-1945. |
| | 5 Letters and memoranda from VADM Ronarch, General Mark Clark, Admiral Ernest J. King, and Admiral Harold R. Stark, 1945. |
| | 6 Letters from Jacques Moreau, Lawrence Moore and Winston Churchill, 1945-1947. |
| | 7 Letters from Admiral Sir John Cunningham, RN, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1957-1961. |

Series II

Writings (3/4 box)

Box Folder

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | 8 <i>Writings</i> , Unpublished memoirs of ADM H. Kent Hewitt. |
|---|--|

Series III
Miscellany, 1963-1974
(5 boxes)

Box	Folder	
2	1	<i>Miscellany</i> , citations accompanying American and foreign medals, honorary degrees, diplomas, 1920-1950.
	2	Invitations and Programs, 1908-1946.
	3	Midshipman's Notebook, ca. 1906.
	4	U.S. Naval Academy Lucky Bag, 1907.
	5	Newspapers, <i>La Republique</i> , April 6, 1946.
	6	Program booklets, 1946.
	7	Typescript copy of oral history interviews conducted by Professor John Clagget with Mary Kent Norton, 1968.
	8	Typescript copy of remarks at commissioning of USS HEWITT (DD-966), September 14, 1974.
3	1	<i>Miscellany</i> , photographs of Admiral Hewitt in career situations including WWII, 1903-19.
4	1	<i>Miscellany</i> , photographs of Admiral Hewitt in career situations and framed photograph of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
5		<i>Miscellany</i> , photograph albums of Amphibious Force Operations, French Morocco, November 8-11, 1942, volumes 1 & 2.
6		<i>Miscellany</i> , photograph albums of Amphibious Force Operations, French Morocco, November 8-11, 1942; Aerial views of Atlantic Coast of French Morocco, volumes 3 & 4.
7		<i>Miscellany</i> , photograph album of Admiral Hewitt's visit as CO of the Twelfth Fleet to Athens, Greece, April 1946.
		Photograph album of U.S. Naval Academy days, 1903-1906.
		Photograph album of USS INDIANAPOLIS cruise, 1936-1937.
		Volume of addresses of President Franklin D. Roosevelt given during his trip to South America, 1936.

Box Folder

- 8 *Miscellany*, photograph album of European visit of U.S. Twelfth Fleet, 1946.
Photograph albums of cruise of U.S. Twelfth Fleet Units, 1946. 4 vols.
Photograph albums of cruises of U.S. Twelfth Fleet, 1946. 2 vols.
Photograph albums of Admiral Hewitt's visit to the Aya Sofya Museum, Turkey, 1946.

Folio Items

Appointment as Midshipman, 1903
Appointment as Cadet Petty Officer, First Class, 1906
Certificate of Graduation, 1906
Certificate of Graduation from USNA, 1908
Commission as Ensign, 1909
Commission as Lieutenant, j.g., 1911
Commission as Lieutenant, 1916
Commission as Lieutenant Commander, 1919
Commission as Commander, 1923
Commission as Captain, 1932
Commission as Rear Admiral, 1941
Commission as Admiral, 1945

Photograph of USS FLUSSER (DD-20)
Photograph of Admiral Luke McNamee
Photograph of Esperee Lewis
Photograph of Admiral Louis R. de Steiguer
Unidentified photographs

Appendix: Further Source Materials

Naval War College Archives:

RG-2 Administrative Records

Correspondence of CDR H.K. Hewitt to U.S. Navy Department Hydrographer on Mooring and Maneuvering Board, method for use of, November 23, 1929.

Correspondence regarding lecture on Naval Gunfire in Support of Landing Operations of Admiral H. Kent Hewitt at Marine Corps School, Quantico, Va. January 20, 1931.

Orders directing Lt(jg) George Gaffney, USN, to duty as Aide for Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, October 12, 1946.

RG-8 Intelligence and Technical Archives

Fighting Strength Comparisons, 1929-69, XTAV

Value of Submarines in Service of Information and Security, 1930-162, XTYU

RG 14 Faculty and Staff presentations.

"Naval Gunnery," October 10, 1924, July 24, 1925.

"The Navy in the European Theater of Operations in World War II." January 4 and 7, 1947.

RG 15 Lectures

"Strategy and Tactics," April 1, 1931.

"The Strategic Employment of the Allied Forces in the Mediterranean in World War II." December 15, 1952.

Other Repositories:

Papers of Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, 1907-1950, 10 ft., Naval Historical Foundation Repository, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

Oral History:

NWC Oral History 17. Admiral H. Kent Hewitt. Columbia University Oral History Research Office, New York, NY., 1961. Interviewer: John T. Mason. Microfiche.

Published Works:

Clagett, John. "Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, U.S. Navy: Part I—Preparing for High Command." *Naval War College Review*, 27 (Summer 1975), 72-86.

_____. "Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, U.S. Navy: Part II—High Command." *Naval War College Review*, 28 (Fall 1975), 60-86.

Hewitt, H.K. "Possible Improvement in our Gunnery Training." *USNIP*, 274 (December 1925), 2234-2238.

_____. "Tidal Wave and Earthquake at Arica, Peru in 1868." *USNIP*, 283 (September 1926), 17092.

_____. Book Review of *Struggle for the Mediterranean 1939-1945* by RADM de Belot in *USNIP*, 589 (March 1952), 325-327.

_____. Comment on *A Sailor's Odyssey*, autobiography of Fleet Admiral Viscount Cunningham in *USNIP*, 591 (May 1952), 553-555.

- Hewitt, H.K. Comment on *Air Power at Salerno* by Lt. F. Miles Day in *USNIP*, 613 (March 1954), 333.
- _____ . "Planning Operation Anvil-Dragoon." *USNIP*, 617 (July 1954), 731-745.
- _____ . "Executing Operation Anvil-Dragoon." *USNIP*, 618 (August 1954), 897-911.
- _____ . "Naval Aspects of the Sicilian Campaign." *USNIP*, 626 (April 1955), 454-455.
- _____ . Comments on USS EAGLE. *USNIP*, 882 (August 1956), 882.
- _____ . Book Review of *The Italian Navy in WWII* by Marc A. Bragadin, *USNIP*, 654 (August 1957), 897-899.
- _____ . "Meeting the JEAN BART's Commander." *USNIP*, 655 (September 1957), 1005.
- _____ . Book Review of *What Happened at Pearl Harbor* edited by Hans L. Trefousse. *USNIP*, 674 (April 1959), 111-113.
- _____ . Comment on *Hitler Confronts England* by Walter Ansel. *USNIP*, 700 (June 1961), 106.
- _____ . Comment on *The Watery Maze: the Story of Combined Operations* by Bernard Fergusson. *USNIP*, 705 (November 1961), 118-120.
- _____ . Comment on *Winston Churchill: the Valiant Years*. *USNIP*, 712 (June 1962), 122-123.
- _____ . Comment on *Command at Sea Insigne*. *USNIP*, 717 (November 1962), 119.
- National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, Vol. 57, Clifton, N.J.: James T. White Co., 1977, 165-166.
- Spiller, Roger J. (ed.) *Dictionary of American Military Biography*, Vol. II H-P Westport, Ct.: Greenwood Press, 1984, 466-469.
- U.S. Navy Department. Narrative Statement of evidence at Navy Pearl Harbor Investigation before Admiral Thomas Charles Hart, the Navy Court of Inquiry and Admiral H.K. Hewitt. Vol. 3. Appendix. Washington, D.C., 1946.

