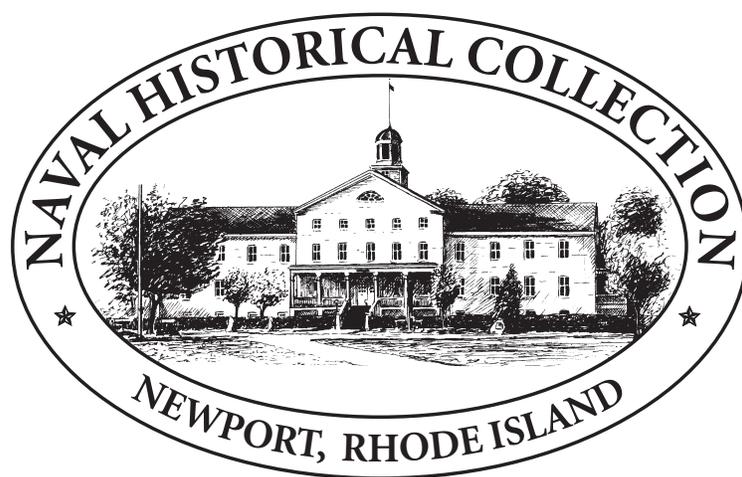


Register of the William L. Kabler Papers



Naval War College
Newport, RI



**REGISTER OF THE PAPERS
OF
WILLIAM L. KABLER**

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

**MANUSCRIPT REGISTER SERIES
No. 26**

**Naval Historical Collection
Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1996**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Biographical Sketch.....	1
Chronology of Naval Service.....	3
Description of Papers.....	4
Arrangement of Papers.....	5
Series I, Correspondence.....	5
Series II, Naval Records.....	5
Series III, Subject Files.....	6
Series IV, Miscellany.....	6

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Leverette Kabler was born on September 24, 1908, in Roanoke, Virginia, to Elijah and Etna L. Kabler. In 1925, he entered the United States Naval Academy where he graduated with the class of 1929.

After serving on the battleship MARYLAND, he began flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and earned his wings as a naval aviator in 1931. For the next seven years he was attached to squadrons in the LEXINGTON, OKLAHOMA, and LANGLEY, respectively. In 1938, he returned to Pensacola where he was officer in charge of the Navigation Division and compiled an Aircraft Navigation Textbook published later as HO 216.

In 1940, he was assigned as commanding officer of the USS HERON which, on December 31, 1941, was the first United States ship to down a Japanese aircraft after being attacked in the Netherlands East Indies by fifteen enemy planes. The HERON successfully defended herself from this attack, shot down one airplane, and damaged several others. Kabler was awarded the Navy Cross and the Army Distinguished Unit Badge with Ribbon and was advanced seventy-five numbers in grade by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his heroism during this action.

During 1942-1943, he was with the Bureau of Ordnance Fleet Maintenance Division where he was involved in supplying aircraft munitions. He was in the USS TICONDEROGA during the Battle of Leyte Gulf in 1944 and saw action in the South China Sea and at Iwo Jima and Okinawa in the USS ENTERPRISE.

Various post-war aviation billets with the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets and in the Office of the CNO followed. While in Washington, D.C., he studied law for two years at the Columbus University School of Law of Catholic University.

In 1949, Kabler graduated from the Senior Course of the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and then reported as naval attaché and attaché for air in Ankara, Turkey, for two years.

During the early fifties, he held a number of ship commands, including the USS RENDOVA, the USS SITKOH BAY and the USS KEARSARGE. He was aide to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air in 1953-1954. In September 1955, he began his last active duty assignment as Chief of Staff to Commander Carrier Division One. He retired on November 1, 1957, and was promoted to rear admiral on the basis of combat awards.

An administrative position with the Westinghouse Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, beckoned next and he remained there for the next fifteen years. In 1972, Admiral Kabler retired to Annapolis, Maryland, where he was a member of the Annapolis Yacht Club and the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association. He died of Alzheimer's disease in 1990, leaving his wife, Patricia, and a daughter, Vivian Garlinghouse.

Admiral Kabler's medals include the American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Philippine Defense Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Philippine Independence Ribbon, the China Service Medal, as well as the Navy Cross, Army Commendation

Ribbon with Medal Pendant, Navy Commendation Ribbon, Army Distinguished Unit Badge and Ribbon and Navy Unit Commendation.

CHRONOLOGY OF NAVAL SERVICE

1908 **September 24, Born in Roanoke, Virginia**

1929 **Graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy**

1929-1930 **USS MARYLAND (BB-46)**

1930-1931 **NAS, Pensacola, Florida, Flight training**

1931-1933 **USS Lexington (CV-2), Torpedo Squadron One, Bombing Squadron One**

1933-1938 **NAS, Coco Solo, Canal Zone, Patrol Squadron Two; USS OKLAHOMA (BB-37) Observation Squadron One; USS LANGLEY (AC-3) Patrol Squadron 12**

1938-1940 **NAS, Pensacola, Florida, Navigation Division Ground School**

1940-1942 **USS HERON (AVP-2), CO**

1942-1944 **Bureau of Ordnance, Washington D.C.**

1944 **USS TICONDEROGA (CV-14), Navigator**

1944-1945 **USS ENTERPRISE (CV-6), Executive Officer**

1945 **Staff Commander Air Support Control Units, Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet**

1946 **Staff, Commander, Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet**

1946-1948 **Staff, Chief of Naval Operations, Liaison Officer for Aviation**

1949 **Graduated from Senior Class, U.S. Naval War College, Newport, R.I.**

1949-1951 **U.S. Naval Attaché, and U.S. Naval Attaché for Air, Ankara, Turkey**

1952-1953 **USS RENDOVA (CVE-114), CO**

1953 **USS SITKOH BAY (T-CVE-86), CO**

1953-1954 **Aide to Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air**

1954-1955 **USS KEARSARGE (CVA-33), CO**

1955-1957 **Staff, Commander Carrier Division One, Chief of Staff**

1957-1972 **Westinghouse Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA.**

1990 **May 27, Died, St. Mary's County, MD.**

DESCRIPTION OF PAPERS

The papers of Rear Admiral William L. Kabler were a gift to the Naval War College Foundation for deposit in the Naval Historical Collection by his daughter, Vivian Garlinghouse of Brutus, Michigan, in 1991. The collection consists of four boxes, and is divided into four series: Correspondence, Naval Records, Subject Files and Miscellany.

Series I, Correspondence, covers the years 1942 to 1990 and includes official correspondence, both letters sent and received, when Kabler was naval attaché in Turkey from 1949 to 1951. Most of the letters are in English; however, there are several letters both sent and received, in Turkish, French and Arabic. The correspondence deals with Kabler's travels, providing assistance to American naval officers, the visits of the U.S. Sixth Fleet to Turkey and foreign navies, thank you letters, letters of congratulations and appreciation, and invitations.

Other official correspondence contains both letters sent and received regarding U.S. Navy matters as well as letters of thanks, appreciation and acknowledgement, and invitations during his assignment as naval aide to Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air and CO, USS KEARSARGE (CVA-33). Miscellaneous correspondence, telegrams (when he was commanding officer of USS RENDOVA and USS KEARSARGE) and letters of commendation, promotion and retirement from Westinghouse Corporation are found here as well.

Series II, Naval Records, consist of naval orders, leave requests, resumés, awards, appointments, and Kabler's service record.

In Subject Files, Series III, are letters, memoranda, telegrams, newspaper clippings, booklets, articles, maps and log extracts for various ships commanded by Kabler or in which he served. The most extensive materials are from the USS HERON (AVP-2), a seaplane tender, which he commanded in the early forties in Asiatic waters.

The last and fourth series, Miscellany, contains photographs of USS BENNINGTON (CV-20), KEARSARGE (CV-33), USS RENDOVA (CVE-114), and USS SITKOH BAY (CVE-86) as well as photographs of Turkey and the change of command on the USS KEARSARGE. Newspaper clippings from the USS HERON, the USS BENNINGTON and from Turkey form part of this series as well. Invitations, programs, rosters, directories, diplomas, certificates and commendations are included here. His Naval War College thesis entitled "Relations Between Russia and the United States and Their Influence on U.S. Foreign Policy", Senior Class of 1949, and the class photograph and the graduation program are the last items in this series.

This collection documents the career of a mid-twentieth century high ranking officer who saw service in the Pacific in World War II, had various significant peacetime assignments, and commanded aircraft carriers and aircraft carrier escorts. It is a fine collection of personal and official papers.

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION 121

ARRANGEMENT OF PAPERS

SERIES I

CORRESPONDENCE (3/4 BOX)

Box	Folder	
1	1	Official Correspondence, Letters sent and received as naval attaché to Turkey, 17 January-31 December, 1949
	2	4 January - 27 December, 1950
	3	2 January - 28 September, 1951
	4	27 March - 31 December 1953
	5	5 January - 29 December 1954
	6	4 January, 1955 - 21 February 1956
	7	Personal Correspondence, Letters Sent and received, 21 August 1961 - 20 October 1978
	8	Letters and Telegrams, 3 January 1953 - 14 September 1954
	9	Letters of Commendation, Promotion and Retirement, 8 January 1942 - 17 November 1972

SERIES II

NAVAL RECORDS (1/4 BOX)

1	1	Naval Orders, Requests for Leave, 1940 - 1956
	2	Naval Orders, 1929 - 1937
	3	Naval Orders, 1938 - 1949
	4	Naval Orders, 1949 - 1954
2	5	Service Record, March 11, 1940 - October 22, 1957
	6	Record, Promotions, Appointments, Awards, Change of Duty, 1942 - 1985 Service

Box Folder

- 2 7 Resumé
8 Letters of Recommendations for Awards, 1942 - 1972

SERIES III

SUBJECT FILES (1/2 BOX)

- 1 USS HERON, Telegrams, Excerpts from Deck Logs, Notes, Ships' History, Maps, Newspaper Clippings, 1942 - 1977
2 USS HERON, Letters, Telegrams, Poems, 1942
3 USS HERON, Newspaper, Poem, Letters, Memoranda, Unpublished Articles, 1942 - 1977
4 USS HERON, Published Articles, Press Releases, Correspondence, 1941 - 1975
5 USS HERON, Correspondence, 1942 - 1980
6 USS KEARSARGE, Correspondence, Newspaper Clippings, Cruise Book, 1954 - 1955
7 USS RENDOVA, Booklet, Newspaper Clippings, Calling Cards, Menus, 1952 - 1953
8 USS RENDOVA, Correspondence, Memoranda, 1952 - 1953
9 USS TICONDEROGA, Correspondence, Photograph, Sheet Music, 1947
10 U.S. Sixth Fleet Booklet by VADM John J. Ballentine, 1950

SERIES IV

MISCELLANY (1/4 BOX)

- 2 1 Invitations and Programs, 1954 - 1961
2 Newspapers, USS BENNINGTON, December 14, 1955
3 Newspaper Clippings re: USS HERON, 1942
4 Newspaper Clippings, Turkey, 1949 - 1951
5 Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings, 1956 - 1971

SERIES IV

MISCELLANY (2 BOXES)

Box	Folder	
3	6	Miscellany, Rosters and Directories, 1951 - 1956
	7	Photographs, Official Navy Photographs
	8	Carrier Division I, USS BENNINGTON (CVA-20), 1956
	9	USS KEARSARGE (CVA-33), 1954
	10	USS RENDOVA (CVE-114), 1952
	11	USS SITKOH BAY (CVE-86), Change of Command, 1953
	12	Assignment in Turkey
	13	Photograph Album of Change of Command, USS KEARSARGE (CVA-33), 10 September 1955

SERIES IV

MISCELLANY

4	14	Miscellany, Diplomas, Certificates and Citations, 1939-1979
	15	Naval War College Thesis, Graduation Program and Class Photograph, 1949. Also contained in NWC Archives Record Group 13, Student Theses.
	16	Plaques from Naval Aviation Museum Foundation and Watergate Village Yacht Club, 1974-1975.

