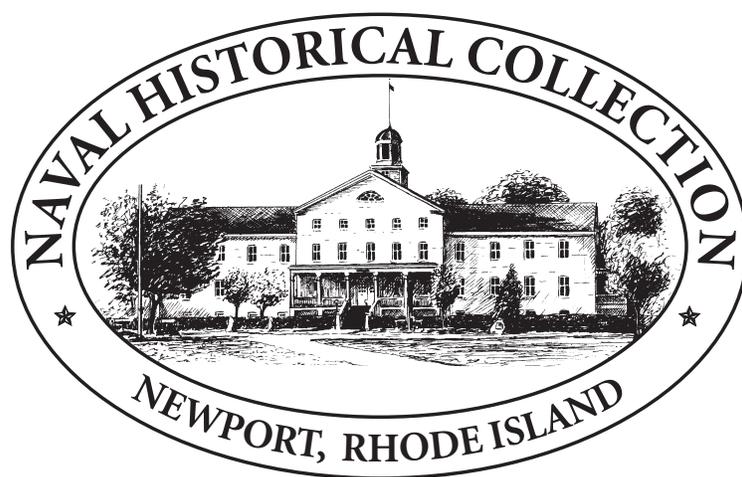


Register of the Joseph K. Taussig Papers



**Naval War College
Newport, RI**



REGISTER OF THE PAPERS OF JOSEPH K. TAUSSIG

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

**Manuscript Register Series
No. 18**

**Naval Historical Collection
Naval War College, Newport, RI
1989**

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Joseph Knefler Taussig, son of RADM Edward D. Taussig and Ellen Knefler, was born in Dresden, Germany on August 30, 1877. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in January 1899, where he was a track and football star and president of the Naval Academy Athletic Association during his senior year. As a naval cadet on the USS NEW YORK, he participated in the Battle of Santiago Bay.

After graduation, Taussig was assigned to the USS NEWARK on the Asiatic Station where he was wounded while participating in the Allied Peking Relief Expedition during the Boxer Rebellion. He was advanced four numbers in grade as a result, and in 1943 received the Purple Heart for the action at Tientsin. From there he went to the NASHVILLE in the Philippines, then to the CULOGA, and finally to the YORKTOWN, commanded by his father.

A series of ship assignments aboard the TOPEKA, AMPHITRITE and CELTIC as navigator followed. Assigned to the USS KANSAS in 1907, young Taussig prepared to sail with the Great White Fleet on their round the world cruise but in 1908 was detached to serve as aide to his father, then Commandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard and the Fifth Naval District. He went on to become aide to his former skipper Admiral Charles B. Vreeland, Commander of the Second and Fourth Divisions, Atlantic Fleet.

As World War I in Europe raged, Taussig, in 1915, was readying the USS WADSWORTH for commissioning. As commanding officer of Destroyer Division Six, he was stationed in Queenstown, Ireland, in 1917 where he uttered his famous phrase - "We are ready now, Sir" - in answer to Vice Admiral Bayly's query as to their readiness for sea duty. He returned to Europe again in 1917 as commander of the USS LITTLE, assigned to patrol the French coast.

With the war's end in sight, he was assigned in 1918 to the Navy Department's Bureau of Navigation. In 1919, he attended the senior course at the Naval War College in Newport, RI. This was followed by almost a decade of service at the Navy's senior educational institution on the shores of Narragansett Bay. Taussig served on the College staff from 1919 to 1920, then returned in 1923 for a three year term as chairman of the Strategy Department, followed by another three years as Chief of Staff. Command of the USS COLUMBIA and USS CLEVELAND and six months as Assistant Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Fleet also were assignments during the nineteen twenties. At this time, Taussig also began to make his mark in naval circles by writing articles for the U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, offering policy suggestions, many of which were later adopted.

In 1932, while serving as Chief of Staff to Commander, Battleships, Battle Force, Taussig was promoted to rear admiral. Prior to this, he commanded the Battleship MARYLAND. Although Taussig's dispute with former Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt over rehabilitating convicted sailors for sea duty hindered him from achieving a major command in the 1930's, he, nevertheless, served as Assistant Chief of Naval Operations; Commander, Battleship Division Three; Commander, Cruisers, Scouting Force; and finally, as a capstone to his career, he took over his father's former command, the Norfolk Navy Base and Fifth Naval District.

Prior to his retirement in 1941, Admiral Taussig, known for his outspokenness, testified before a Congressional Committee regarding the inevitability of war with Japan in the Pacific. His testimony caused an uproar and he received an official reprimand, which was rescinded after his son's injury in the NEVADA during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

During World War II, Taussig returned to active duty, serving on the Procurement and Review Board, the Naval Clemency and Prison Inspection Board, the Naval Discipline Policy Review Board, and finally with the Secretary of the Navy's office. He wrote *Our Navy: A Fighting Team*, which was published in 1943. He died in 1947.

Admiral Taussig received many medals during his career, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart, the Order of St. Michael and St. George (England), Order of Merit (Chile), Sampson Medal, Spanish Campaign Medal, China Relief Expedition Medal, Cuban Pacification Medal, Victory Medal, Second Nicaraguan Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, American Defense Service Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. In addition, the USS JOSEPH K. TAUSSIG was named in his honor and launched in 1956.

Taussig's survivors include his wife, Lilie Johnston Taussig, who resides in Washington, D.C. and Jamestown, RI; two daughters, Mrs. Emily Whitney Sherman of Newport, and Mrs. Margaret Philip Helmer of Irvine, California; and his son Captain Joseph K. Taussig, Jr. of Annapolis, MD.

CAREER OUTLINE

1877 Born, August 30, Dresden, Germany

1899 Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy

1899-1900 USS NEWARK

1901 Commissioned Ensign

1900-1901 USS NASHVILLE; USS CULOGA

1901-1902 USS YORKTOWN

1902-1905 USS TEXAS

1905 USS TOPEKA, Navigator

1905 USS AMPHITRITE

1906 USS CELTIC, Executive Officer and Navigator

1907-1908 USS KANSAS

1908-1909 Norfolk Navy Yard, Aide to Commandant

1909-1911 Fleet Commander, Aide and Flag Lieutenant, Second and Fourth Division, Atlantic Fleet

1911-1912 USS AMMEN, CO

1912-1915 Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department

1915-1917 USS WADSWORTH, CO; CO, Division Six, Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet; CO, Division Eight, Destroyer Force

1917-1918 USS LITTLE, CO

1918-1919 Bureau of Navigation, Head, Division of Enlisted Personnel

1919-1921 Naval War College, Newport, RI, Student and Staff Member

1921 USS COLUMBIA, CO

1922-1923 USS CLEVELAND, CO

1923-1926	Naval War College, Department of Strategy, Head
1926-1927	USS TRENTON, CO
1927-1930	Naval War College, Chief of Staff
1930-1931	USS MARYLAND, CO
1931-1932	Chief of Staff to Commander, Battleship Divisions, Battle Fleet
1932	Promoted to Rear Admiral
1933-1936	Assistant Chief of Naval Operations
1936-1937	Commander, Battleship Division Three, Battle Force, USS IDAHO
1937-1938	Commander, Cruisers, Scouting Force; Commander, Cruiser Division Five
1938-1941	Commandant, Fifth Naval District; CO, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va.
1941	Retired, September 1, promoted to Vice Admiral
1943-1947	Returned to Active Duty; Member, Procurement and Review Board; Naval Discipline Policy Review Board; and Naval Clemency and Prison Inspection Board
1947	Died, October 29

DESCRIPTION OF PAPERS

The papers of Joseph K. Taussig were presented to the Naval War College Foundation for deposit in the Naval Historical Collection by his wife in May 1988, through the good offices of their children, Mrs. William A. Sherman of Newport, RI, and Captain Joseph K. Taussig, Jr. of Annapolis, Md.

The collection consists of seven boxes of papers which document Taussig's naval career from 1914 through 1947. They are divided into six series: correspondence, diaries and journals, published and unpublished writings, fitness and medical reports, miscellaneous imprints, and photographs.

Series I, correspondence, contains letters sent and received regarding naval career matters. This segment is arranged chronologically. The great bulk of the correspondence, however, treats with the publicity created by Taussig's Senate testimony in 1940, where he predicted war with Japan in the Pacific. He received letters in support of his views and in response to his censure by President Roosevelt. These files, of both letters sent and received, are arranged alphabetically. There are several letters to Captain Paul B. Ryan from Taussig's son and daughter regarding his editing of the diary from the USS WADSWORTH; these complete this series.

Diaries and journals compose series II. They consist of original holograph diaries, and photocopies of same, kept on board the USS LITTLE, USS WADSWORTH, and USS TRENTON, 1917-1927. Two other diaries date from 1936 and continue through 1938. All of them are ledger size books that contain pictures, postcards, newspaper clippings, drawings, invitations and poems, as well as prose entries for the cruises or time periods involved.

Published and unpublished materials comprise the third series in the collection. There are several articles on naval topics in this segment, as well as Captain Paul Ryan's unfinished edited manuscript entitled *The Queenstown Patrol, 1917; The Journal of CDR Joseph K. Taussig*. Captain Ryan intended to have this World War I diary recounting convoy operation in the Atlantic published, but he died before the manuscript was completed.

Fitness and medical reports, series IV, cover Taussig's naval career from 1901-1947. Series V, miscellany, contains newspaper clippings about his career, the report of the Senate Committee on naval affairs, and biographies of classmates and officers who served on destroyers during World War I. Certificates and calling cards complete the series. Finally, career photographs and post cards form series VI, the last one in the collection.

An appendix to other research sources indicates Naval War College archival record groups that contain materials written by Taussig, as well as a list of articles he published in the U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*.

Ms.Coll.97

JOSEPH K. TAUSSIG

Series I

**Correspondence, 1914-1987
(1 box)**

Box	Folder	
1	1	Miscellaneous Naval & Career Correspondence, 1914-1917
	2	Miscellaneous Naval & Career Correspondence, 1918-1947
	3	Correspondence, Letters Sent & Received regarding Taussig's testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee, April-May 1940, A
	4	B
	5	C
	6	D
	7	E-F
	8	G
	9	H-J
	10	K-L
	11	M
	12	N-Q
	13	R-S
	14	T-V
	15	W-Z
	16	Correspondence, J.K. Taussig Jr., Paul Ryan & Emily Sherman, 1984-1987

Series II
Diaries & Journals, 1917-1938
(2 boxes)

Box	Folder	
2	1	Photocopy of Diary kept aboard USS WADSWORTH, April 6, 1917- November 29, 1917; pp. 1-99
	2	pp. 100-203
	3	pp. 204-397
	4	Additional copies, pp. 132-254
	5	Diary kept aboard USS LITTLE, April 6, 1918-August 23, 1918; Account of USS TRENTON'S visit to New Orleans, 1926
	6	Photocopy of USS LITTLE Diary
	7	Diary kept aboard USS TRENTON, February 1, 1927-May 13, 1927
3	1	Diary, June 1, 1936-July 28, 1937
	2	Diary, August 14, 1937-April 17, 1938

Series III

**Published & Unpublished Items 1917-1975
(1 box)**

Box	Folder	
4	1	<i>The Queenstown Patrol, 1917; The Journal of CDR Joseph K. Taussig, USN</i> edited by Captain Paul B. Ryan, USN (Ret.)
	2	“Destroyer Experiences during the Great War” by Captain J.K. Taussig, USN, U.S. Naval Institute <i>Proceedings</i> , January 1923, pp. 39-69
	3	“Queenstown Diary,” transcribed excerpts, pp. 1-99
	4	pp. 100-199
	5	pp. 200-311
	6	Unfinished Manuscript material by Captain Paul B. Ryan

Series IV

**Fitness Reports & Medical Reports, 1901-1947
(1 box)**

Box	Folder	
5	1	Fitness Reports, June 15, 1901-December 26, 1906
	2	Fitness Reports, December 31, 1906-May 31, 1915
	3	Fitness Reports, September 15, 1915-November 8, 1918
	4	Fitness Reports, January 1, 1919-October 22, 1921
	5	Fitness Reports, March 1, 1922-June 5, 1930
	6	Fitness Reports, July 22, 1930-March 31, 1935
	7	Fitness Reports, September 1, 1935-June 5, 1941
	8	Proceedings of Medical Boards, 1904-1947
	9	Hospital Tickets, 1900-1922
	10	Hospital Tickets, 1921-1947

Series V

**Miscellany, 1917-1945
(2 boxes)**

Box	Folder	
6	1	Report of Naval Investigation - U.S. Congress Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, April 20, 1922
	2	Biographies & Histories - VADM J.K. Taussig & USNA classmates & destroyermen, Europe, 1917
	3	Newspaper Clippings, 1917-1920
	4	Newspaper Clippings, 1920-1940
	5	Newspaper Clippings, April-May 1940
	6	Newspaper Clippings, April-May 1940
	7	Newspaper Clippings, April-May 1940
	8	Newspaper Clippings, April-May 1940
7	1	Newspaper Clippings, April-May 1940
	2	Newspaper Clippings, 1941-1942
	3	Newspaper Clippings, 1942-1944
	4	Newspaper Clippings, Clemency Board, 1944-1945
	5	Newspaper Clippings, Obituaries, 1947-1948
	6	Newspaper Clippings, Miscellany
	7	Newspaper Clippings, Duplicates
	8	Certificates, Calling Cards, Financial Balances

Series VI

Photographs (1 box)

Box	Folder	
7	9	Photographs & Postcards
Folio Items		Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings

APPENDIX TO FURTHER RESEARCH SOURCES

- Ms.Item 58 Letter to Samuel Bryant, November 7, 1946, regarding famous World War I quote "We are ready now, Sir."
- Record Group 2 Administrative Files
Correspondence regarding inclusion in Correspondence Course of Search Problems and Questions based on Scouting Manual FTP 146, November 13, 1934.
Letter to Captain Taffinder regarding allocation for War College additional funds for Advanced Course; September 26, 1933.
Correspondence regarding State Department Lecturers for Naval War College, December 20, 1933.
Letter from Admiral E.C. Kalbfus regarding entertainment fund, September 19, 1934.
Letter from Captain Brown regarding officers recommended for Advanced Course, November 24, 1933.
Dispatch from COMBATFOR, June 5, 1936.
Letter from Admiral E.C. Kalbfus regarding forwarding of Naval War College publications. June 29, 1935.
Letter regarding speech at Worcester Rotary Club, undated.
Invitation to lecture at Army War College on the Joint Maneuver, undated.
Correspondence with Admiral Kalbfus regarding request of Lieut. G.F. Degrave for outstanding action in which the U.S. Navy was engaged during World War I, August 19, 1935.
- Record Group 4 Publications
Memorandum in regard to comment on new light cruisers - speed versus protection - 3 April 1928.
Letter from Chief, Bureau of Navigation to Captain Taussig regarding report on curriculum of General Line Course, War College course and education of line officers, and memorandum from Captain Taussig to staff officers in regard to the same.

RG 8 Intelligence and Technical Archives

UNP 1916/176 Naval Personnel
BNG 1921/117 Torpedo Attack Tables
XTOT 1920/228 Torpedo Tactics Board
XTYV 1920/166 Proposed Characteristics for Destroyer Leaders
XSTP 1920/1333 Estimate of Blue-Orange Situation
XOGF 1920/126 Clear Range Indicator for Torpedo Control
UNL 1925/75 Task Group Names

RG 13 Student Theses

Taussig, Joseph K. "Policy - Its Relation to War and Its Bearing Upon Preparation for War." NWC Student Thesis. 2 copies, 23 pp. 1919.

RG 14 Faculty and Staff Presentations

Taussig, J.K. Army and Navy Problem, A Discussion of the Joint Problem Recently Played by the Naval War College and the Army War College, September 4, 1924.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- Taussig, J.K., Captain, U.S. Navy. "A Fighting Leader for the Fleet," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 48. (August 1922), 1389-1392.
- "Personnel," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 48, (December 1922), 2129-2138.
- "A Balanced Fleet for the United States Navy," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 51, (July 1925), 1107-1132.
- "Memories of a Blue-Jacket, 1872-1918," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 54, (April 1928), 333-335.
- "The Origins of the World War," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 55, (June 1929), 555-559.
- "Promotion by Selection," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 60, (October 1934), 1425-1429.
- "The Ramparts We Watch," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 65, (January 1939), 99-100.
- "The Line Officer Problem," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 66, (February 1940), 253-255.
- "Promotion Systems - Past, Present, and Future," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 66, (March 1940), 409-414.
- "Los Jardines (E.D.)," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 66, (May 1940), 867-868.
- "An Administrative Flagship for the United States Fleet," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 48, (August 1922), 1299-1313.
- "Admirals are Scarce," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 73, (June 1947), 647.
- "The Answer is 135,000 Men - A Just Man Armed Keepeth His House in Order," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 49, (October 1923), 1643-1654.
- "The Case for the Big Capital Ship," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 66, (July 1940), 929-940.
- "Destroyer Experiences During the Great War," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 49, (January 1923), 39-69.
- "Destroyer Experiences During the Great War," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 49, (February 1923), 221-248.

- "Destroyer Experiences During the Great War," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 49, (March 1923), 383-408.
- "The Enlisted Personnel of the Navy," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 41, (Nov.-Dec. 1915), 1781-1931.
- "Experiences During the Boxer Rebellion," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 53, (April 1927), 403-420.
- "A Destroyer Leader for the United States Fleet," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 52, (June 1926), 1111-1128.
- "A Destroyer Leader for the United States Fleet," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 52, (November 1926), 2297-2300.
- "The Tidal Wave and Earthquake at Arica, Peru, in 1868," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 52, (November 1926), 2300-2302.
- "A Destroyer Leader for the U.S. Fleet," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 53, (October 1927), 1113-1114.
- "A Fowl Diet," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 73, (May 1947), 543.
- "Hearing is Believing," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 74, (June 1948), 741.
- "How the Marines Became a Part of the Navy," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 73, (April 1947), 389.
- "Hypnotized by a Red Light," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 72, (September 1946), 1171-1173.
- "Is Enactment of the Britten Bill Desirable?" U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 53, (December 1927), 1256-1262.
- "Length of Service Retirement vs. Age in Grade Retirement," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 51, (June 1925), 919-933.
- "Lo, the Poor Admiral!" U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 74, (November 1948), 1349.
- "Naval War-Time Discipline," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 70, (July 1944), 859-865.
- "Naval War-Time Discipline and Rehabilitation," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 70, (October 1944), 1207-1215.

- . "Offenses Against Naval Discipline in War Time," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 70, (August 1944), 995-1004.
- . "The Old Navy," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 47, (January 1921), 1-6.
- . "The 'Old Man' is Hard to Beat," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 73, (October 1947), 1173.
- . "An Organization for the Navy Department," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 66, (January 1940), 52-57.
- . "An Organization for the United States Fleet," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 65, (May 1939), 639-652.
- . "A Study of Our Navy Personnel Situation," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 47, (August 1921), 1153-1200.
- . "A Study of Our Promotion and Graded Retirement Laws," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 50, (April 1924), 523-560.
- . "Shooting a Mirage," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 73, (September 1947), 1083.
- . "The Tidal Wave and Earthquake at Arica, Peru, in 1868," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 52, (July 1926), 1318-1329.
- . "A Unique Experience as Navigator," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 72, (December 1946), 1549-1551.
- . "Waiting for the Captain," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 73, (August 1947), 935.
- . "We Chopped Wood," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, Vol.No. 70, (June 1944), 639-643.

