

Naval War College Review

Volume 41
Number 1 *Winter*

Article 10

1988

Research in the Naval Historical Collection: Gifts and Acquisitions

Evelyn M. Cherpak

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Cherpak, Evelyn M. (1988) "Research in the Naval Historical Collection: Gifts and Acquisitions," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 41 : No. 1 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol41/iss1/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

RESEARCH IN THE NAVAL HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Gifts and Acquisitions

Evelyn M. Cherpak

Research opportunities for naval historians and scholars in allied fields have been enhanced recently by the addition of several large and important manuscript collections to the holdings of the Naval Historical Collection at the Naval War College. The collections have been deposited through the Naval War College Foundation, a private, nonprofit corporation which serves to enhance the educational and cultural resources of the college. The papers of Rear Admiral Edwin T. Layton, coauthor of *And I Was There: Pearl Harbor and Midway—Breaking the Secrets*, is one such collection. The manuscripts were presented to the Naval War College in two separate accessions: the first, donated in 1986 by Layton's widow, consists of his personal papers; the second, research source materials that he collected, was also presented by his widow through the good offices of coauthor Captain Roger Pineau, U.S. Naval Reserve (Retired). Since the college's Chair of Intelligence is named in Layton's honor, Mrs. Layton felt that the admiral's papers would best be placed here.

Early on in his career, in 1932, Layton received instruction in the Japanese language while serving in the Office of the Naval Attaché in Tokyo and then was sent to the American Legation in Peiping, China as an assistant naval attaché. He served several tours of duty in the Navy Department's Office of Naval Intelligence prior to his 1941 appointment as Pacific Fleet Combat Intelligence Officer on the staff of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet. During the Korean war, from 1951-1953, he again served as Pacific Fleet Intelligence Officer. In 1958 Layton was appointed Director of the Naval Intelligence School at the Naval Receiving Station in Washington, D.C., his last active duty post before retirement in 1959.

The bulk of the materials, research source materials on naval intelligence in the Pacific during World War II, consist of the Japanese War History series,

Dr. Cherpak is Curator of the Naval War College Naval Historical Collection.

Senshi Sōsho; National Security Agency cryptographic documents, including translations of Japanese naval messages, attaché messages, radio intelligence summaries, and diplomatic messages; National Security Agency histories of radio intelligence, Japanese grand fleet maneuvers, communications intelligence activities, and mobile radio intelligence unit reports. Also available in this collection are strategic planning maps, oral history tapes and transcripts, notes, notebooks, correspondence, and a typescript copy of the Layton memoir. These materials are a treasure trove for those interested in the documentary evidence behind the story of our intelligence failure at Pearl Harbor, our subsequent success at Midway, the conflicts within the naval intelligence communities, and the personalities involved.

Brigadier General Paul Sherman, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired) and Mary Sherman, brother and sister of the late Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, recently donated their collection of his papers to the college. As a young lieutenant, Sherman attended the Naval War College, graduating in 1927, and in 1949 became Chief of Naval Operations, the youngest flag rank officer appointed up to that time. During a 1951 trip to Europe to negotiate U.S. basing rights with Spain, he suffered a heart attack and died in Naples, Italy.

His papers consist of letters sent to his parents and his sister, Mary, during World War II along with diplomas, certificates, pamphlets, and programs documenting his naval career. These documents are a useful supplement to the Sherman Papers held by the Naval Historical Center's Operational Archives in Washington, D.C.

The Bern Anderson Papers, donated by the admiral's widow who lives in nearby Jamestown, Rhode Island, are a fascinating collection that offers insights into the life and career of a naval officer who was both a scholar and a consummate professional. The collection consists of nine boxes and is divided into four major series: correspondence, writings, subject files, and miscellany. Some of the more significant contents are Anderson's correspondence with the noted naval historian Samuel Eliot Morison, 1952-1960, with whom he worked as a research associate in compiling *The History of U.S. Naval Operations in World War II*, a project based here at the Naval War College during those years. The correspondence gives the reader an in-depth view of the problems involved in writing a comprehensive, multivolumed history and is a fine complement to the Morison Papers at the Harvard University Archives.

Writings form the second major series and contain copies of Anderson's articles published in the U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, his Naval War College student thesis, and term papers written while a doctoral candidate at Harvard University. This series also contains research materials for his major published works: *By Sea and River: The Naval History of the Civil War* and *Surveyor of the Sea: The Life and Voyages of Captain George Vancouver*.

Subject files, the third series, contains documents pertaining to Operation Hollandia, the 1944 invasion of New Guinea, and other Seventh Fleet

amphibious operations in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, 1942-1944, when Anderson was on the staff. The miscellany series contains diaries which Anderson kept during his naval career, 1919-1944, as well as diplomas, certificates, photographs, and newspaper clippings of Japanese incursions into Shanghai in 1932.

The college was fortunate in being recently selected as the official depository for the manuscripts and memorabilia of members of the Peter Tare Association of World War II PT boat officers. This is especially apropos as PT boat training facilities were located on the Naval Base in nearby Melville during the Second World War. Materials pertaining to PT Squadrons 2, 3, 6, 31, and 42 have been received to date.

In response to a concerted effort by staff to document the recent history and development of the Naval War College, the papers of Frederick H. Hartmann, Academic Advisor to Naval War College presidents and Alfred Thayer Mahan Professor of Maritime Strategy, 1966-1987, were presented as additions to the collection's manuscript holdings. Perspectives and insights into college academic plans, policies, and programs during a critical period in its history can be gleaned from an examination of these materials. Documents pertaining to the career of Professor Philip L. Gamble, holder of the Theodore Roosevelt Chair in Economics from 1968-1974 were also donated to the college in 1987.

The Naval Historical Collection, a division of the Naval War College Library and the college depository for archives and manuscripts, is located on the first floor of Mahan Hall. The collections, which focus on the history of the institution, naval warfare studies, and the Navy in Narragansett Bay, are open to scholars and interested researchers, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on Federal holidays. Collection guides and manuscript registers may be obtained by writing to the Curator, Naval Historical Collection, Naval War College, Newport, R.I. 02841-5010 or by calling (401) 841-2435 (Autovon 948-2435).

