Sidney R. O'Neil Collection finding aid

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NPS-011
Sidney R. O’Neil Collection
1943

Reviewed & Approved
22 May 2015

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Collection Summary
Accession Number: NPS-011
Collection Title: Sidney R. O’Neil Collection
Dates: 1943
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Language: American English
Abstract: This collection is a legacy collection transferred to the Special Collections and Archives section of the Naval Postgraduate School’s (NPS) Dudley Knox Library (DKL) from the Public Affairs Office (PAO) in 2007. The collection consists of a World War II personal notebook compiled by Del Monte Pre-Flight School aviation cadet Sidney R. O’Neil. The notebook contains a cadet group photograph and training documents as well as personal correspondence from O’Neil to his mother in the early stages of WWII.

Administrative Summary
Access Restrictions: The collection is open to researchers. Researchers without access to NPS should contact the Special Collections and Archives Manager at least two weeks in advance to arrange campus access.
Physical Access: The collection is maintained on the grounds of a restricted access federal government facility.
Copyright Statement: The status of copyright for the unpublished documents is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).
Custodial History: This collection was created by Sidney O’Neil and donated to the Naval Postgraduate School Public Affairs Office around 1996. John Sanders transferred the collection from PAO to the DKL archives in 2007.
Acquisition Source: The collection was donated by Sidney O’Neil in 1996.
Accruals: This collection is unlikely to have future acquisitions.
Related Materials: The Del Monte Pre-Flight School Navaator newspaper
Other Finding Aids:
Original Locations:
Preferred Citation: Sidney R. O’Neil Collection, Special Collections & Archives, Dudley Knox Library, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, [day, month, year].
Processing Information: Collection was created by Sidney O’Neil and is in its original order. Archivist John Sanders digitized the cadet class photo and personal correspondence.
Revision: Finding aid revised by xxx .
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**Historical Note**

Sidney R. O’Neil was an aviation cadet in Battalion 6, Company L, Platoon 2 of the Del Monte Pre-Flight School. He reported to the aviation training command in April 1943 and his collection includes letters he wrote to his parents in April, May and June 1943. His cadet notebook holds course handouts for aerology and ship and aircraft identification and some handwritten class notes. O’Neil flew Avengers from escort carriers in the Pacific Theatre during WWII.

The Del Monte Pre-Flight School operated at Hotel Del Monte from February 1943-January 1944. It was the first Navy command to utilize the hotel on an emergency basis during World War II. After the war, the Navy later purchased the hotel and more than 600 acres and moved the Naval Postgraduate School to Monterey in two main phases between 1948 and 1952.

The Naval Postgraduate School is a graduate institution operated by the U.S. Navy and located in Monterey, California. NPS has had several names throughout its history, beginning as the School of Marine Engineering in 1909 at Annapolis; becoming the Postgraduate Department of the Naval Academy in 1912; then the Naval Postgraduate School in 1919. NPS moved from Annapolis to Monterey in two phases from 1948-1951 and formally dedicated its Monterey campus in February 1952. The university campus is the former site of the historic Hotel Del Monte, predecessor of today’s Pebble Beach. NPS provides graduate and executive programs for officers of all U.S. uniformed services, officers of about 50 allied nations, and U.S. homeland security professionals. Its curricula focus on advanced applied sciences and engineering; operations research; defense analysis; international and political relations; civil military relations; and business and management. Faculty and student research programs support the needs of the U.S. Navy and Department of Defense.

**Biographic Note**

Sidney R. O’Neil organized the materials in this collection. John Sanders catalogued the collection and created its first finding aid.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Sidney R. O’Neil Collection contains a cadet notebook with course handouts for aerology and ship and aircraft identification, handwritten class notes, a group photo of O’Neil with fellow aviation cadets in Battalion 6, Company L, Platoon 2 of the Del Monte Pre-Flight School. It also includes his cadet shoulder boards and personal letters he wrote to his parents in April, May and June 1943.

**Arrangement**

This is a small collection, mostly contained within one WWII three-ring binder with items maintained in the approximate original order established by O’Neil.