

# **William K. Romoser Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress**



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Prepared by Laura J. Kells

## Collection Summary

**Title:** William K. Romoser Papers

**Span Dates:** 1922-1982

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1948-1961)

**ID No.:** MSS84707

**Creator:** Romoser, William K. (William Kilian), 1903-1986

**Extent:** 4,000 items ; 15 containers ; 6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** United States naval officer. Correspondence, memoranda, speeches, certificates, account book, radio script, and printed matter relating to Romoser's career in the United States Navy.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

George VI, King of Great Britain, 1895-1952--Coronation.

Romoser family--Correspondence.

Romoser, William K. (William Kilian), 1903-1986.

### Organizations

Radford (Destroyer)

United States. Navy--Officers--Correspondence.

### Subjects

Amphibious warfare.

Naval reserves.

World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, American.

### Occupations

Naval officers.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of William K. Romoser, naval officer, were given to the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 2000.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William K. Romoser is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

### Access and Restrictions

The papers of William K. Romoser are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William K. Romoser Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1903, July 21	Born, Baltimore, Md.
1921-1922	Attended Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.
1926	Graduated United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1930	Married Elsie Augusta Kalkman
1939-1940	Commanding officer, <i>Greer</i> (destroyer), North Atlantic
1940-1942	Commanding officer, <i>Upshur</i> (destroyer), North Atlantic
1942-1943	Commanding officer, <i>Radford</i> (destroyer), South Pacific Received Navy Cross for heroism and ship was awarded Presidential Unit Citation for actions in Solomon Islands in July 1943
1944-1945	Commanding officer, Naval Training Schools, Hollywood Beach, Fla.
1945-1946	Commanding officer, Destroyer Squadron Nine, Western Pacific
1946-1947	Staff of commander, Seventh Fleet, China
1948-1950	Served in Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, D. C.
1950-1951	Commanding officer, naval station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
1951-1952	Commanding officer, <i>Salem</i> (heavy cruiser), Mediterranean
1952-1953	Chief of Staff, Battleship-Cruiser Force, Atlantic Fleet
1953-1955	Assistant chief of naval personnel for naval reserve, Washington, D. C.
1954	Appointed rear admiral, United States Navy
1955-1956	Assistant chief of naval operations for naval reserve, Washington, D. C.
1956-1958	Commanding officer, Amphibious Group Four, Mediterranean
1958-1960	Commanding officer, Amphibious Training Command, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, Little Creek, Va.
1960	Commanding officer, Service Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet
1961	Retired, United States Navy
1986, Nov. 1	Died

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Kilian Romoser (1903-1986) span the years 1922-1982 with the bulk of the material dating from 1948 to 1961. They pertain to Romoser's career as an officer in the United States Navy and focus heavily on the last decade of his career. The collection is organized in three series: [Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Statements](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Correspondence](#) series is separated into official correspondence and personal correspondence. Personal correspondence, the largest portion of the Romoser Papers, consists of letters sent and received arranged by name of correspondent. Correspondents are primarily Navy colleagues but also include members of Romoser's immediate family.

The [Speeches and Statements](#) series contains texts of speeches, statements, and remarks made by Romoser as well as other military officers. The bulk of the speeches date from 1954 to 1961. Topics include the naval reserve, the amphibious training command, and issues of concern to the navy during that period. A list of most of the speeches is included.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains material relating to Romoser's activities in earlier periods of his naval career. A file on the coronation of George VI, King of Great Britain, contains programs, tickets, and other memorabilia from his coronation in 1937. As a crew member of the battleship *New York*, Romoser took part in the coronation review of the fleet. A file on the destroyer *Radford* contains items relating to a battle in Kula Gulf in the Solomon Islands in July 1943 in which the ship under Romoser's command rescued 440 crew members from a sunken cruiser despite the fact that the rescue efforts were abandoned several times in order to attack and sink enemy vessels in the area. Included is a 1944 script from the radio program, "The First Line," which dramatized these events. Romoser appeared on the program.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1948-1961](#)
- [Speeches and statements, 1947-1961](#)
- [Miscellany, 1922-1982](#)

## Description of Series

*Container*

*Series*

BOX 1-11

**Correspondence, 1948-1961**

Letters sent and received.

Arranged by official correspondence and personal correspondence. Official correspondence is arranged chronologically. Personal correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or organization.

BOX 11-14

**Speeches and statements, 1947-1961**

Speeches and statements with related correspondence.

Arranged chronologically by date of event. A list of most of the speeches is filed at the beginning of the series.

BOX 15

**Miscellany, 1922-1982**

Account book, certificates, official forms, itineraries, printed matter, press clippings, notes, two photographs, and a radio script.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-11</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1948-1961</b> Letters sent and received. Arranged by official correspondence and personal correspondence. Official correspondence is arranged chronologically. Personal correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or organization.
<b>BOX 1</b>	Official, 1948-1961 (3 folders) Personal Aid Association for Lutherans, 1953-1958 Alford, William, 1954-1959 Anderson, George W., Jr., 1953-1961 Archer, F. P., 1955-1958 "Ab-An" miscellaneous, 1953-1961, undated "Ar-Az" miscellaneous, 1953-1961, undated Baker, Milton G., 1955-1956 Baltimore Federal Savings and Loan Association, Baltimore, Md., 1952-1961 Baruch, Bernard M. (1902-1992), 1955-1956 Beauchamp, Edward L., 1954-1959, undated Bergen, John J., 1954-1956 Bisbee, C. L., 1954-1955 Bledsoe, A. M., 1953-1956 Briscoe, Robert P., 1956-1959, undated Brown, Charles R., 1956-1960 Buchanan, Charles A., 1953-1959 Burke, Arleigh, 1954-1960 Burke, Charles F., 1955-1959 (2 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	Burrowes, Thomas, 1953-1961 Burton, Dana and Co., 1957-1959 "B" miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated (8 folders) Campbell, Robert L., 1956-1961 Church, W. C. G., 1960-1961 Cole, William M., 1951-1954 Colson, Ralph H., 1954-1955 Conner, John L., 1956 Craig, Kenneth, 1953-1957 Crawford, G. C., 1949, 1955-1956
<b>BOX 3</b>	"C" miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated (5 folders) Davidson, J. F., 1953-1961

## Correspondence, 1948-1961

### Container

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	Day, Karl S., 1955-1956
	Denniston, Alfred B., 1958-1960
	“D-E” miscellaneous, 1951-1961, undated (4 folders)
	Fields, Sidney, 1954-1956
	Finch, Vernon, 1959-1961
	Francis I. duPont and Co., 1958-1961
	Freed, Morris J., 1955-1958, undated
BOX 4	“F” miscellaneous, 1951-1961, undated (3 folders)
	Gano, Roy A., 1953-1960
	Gash, Russell and Marian, 1954-1956
	Gillies, L. A., 1954-1956
	Goff, Francis S. (1914- ), 1955
	Golinkin, Joseph W., 1955-1956
	Goodall, H. W., 1953-1954
	Grenfell, Elton W., 1953-1961
	Groverman, William Heald, 1953-1960, undated
	Gupton, Thurman M., 1955-1961
	“G” miscellaneous, 1948-1961, undated (4 folders)
	Hartman, C. C., 1955-1956
	Haun, Robert Charles, 1959-1961
	Hillenkoetter, R. H., 1955-1956
	Hobbs, Ira E., 1952-1957
	Hofheimer, Henry Clay, 1959
	Holden, Edward C. (1896-1970), 1954-1956
BOX 5	Holloway, James L. (1898-1975), 1951-1960
	Hughes, F. Massie, 1959-1960
	Hyatt, J. Kenneth, 1955-1958
	“H” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated (6 folders)
	Investors Diversified Services, 1952-1960
	“I” miscellaneous, 1948-1960
	J. E. Caldwell and Co., 1957-1958
	Jackson, Alexander, Jr., 1954-1956
	Jacobi, Leon J., 1955-1956
	Jameson, Frank Gard, 1956-1960
	Jones, John A., 1955-1956
	“J” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated (2 folders)
	Kalkman, Marian E., 1954-1961
	Kempe, A. F., 1954-1957
BOX 6	Kennedy, Lloyd F., 1954-1955
	Kenny, William T., 1952-1954
	Ketcham, Orm W., 1955-1957
	Kiland, Ingolf N., 1955-1956

## Correspondence, 1948-1961

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Kinney, Sheldon H., 1954-1960  
Kirk, O. G., 1954-1956  
Knoll, Denys W., 1957-1961  
"K" miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated  
(3 folders)  
LaBarge, Charles L., 1954-1956  
Laemmar, Jack W., 1955-1956  
Laing, F. W., 1952-1957, undated  
Lange, Karl L., 1955-1956  
Larson, Harold O., 1953-1954  
Lettardy, Sara, 1949-1956  
Liepman, Louis, 1954-1959, undated  
Ludewig, Joseph W., 1954-1955  
Lyman, Charles H., 1953-1960  
"L" miscellaneous, 1948-1961, undated  
(3 folders)  
Makeig, Daniel C., 1952-1954  
McConnell, Anne, 1957-1960  
McConnell, Samuel B., 1954-1955  
McCorkle, Francis D., 1953-1960  
McManes, Kenmore M., 1954-1957  
McQuiston, Irving M., 1955-1959  
Melson, Charles L., 1953-1961  
Mendenhall, G. W., 1955  
Murphy, M. E., 1952-1956  
"M-N" miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated  
(9 folders)  
O'Connell, Richard H., 1954-1955  
Olenick, Everett J., 1952-1959  
"O" miscellaneous, 1953-1961  
Palmer, Edward C., 1955-1956  
Parker, Edward N., 1948-1953  
Parkinson, George A., 1954-1956  
Paxton, Ann, 1952-1960  
Pierce, Stanley Harwood, 1954-1957  
"P" miscellaneous, 1951-1961, undated  
(2 folders)

BOX 7

BOX 8

(2 folders)  
"Q" miscellaneous, 1954-1960  
Redman, John R., 1955-1956  
Roembke, James E., 1955-1956  
Romoser, Elizabeth, 1951-1953  
Romoser, Elsie, 1952  
Romoser, William K. (1934- ), 1951-1953  
Rosso, George A., 1954-1961  
Russell, James S., 1952-1960

## Correspondence, 1948-1961

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- “R” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated  
(4 folders)  
Sabin, L. S., 1954-1958  
Scherini, Otto A., 1955  
Schmeisser, William C. (1915- ), 1954-1956  
Schoenecker, Rudolph A., 1955-1956  
Schumm, Brooke, 1952-1953  
Settle, T. G. W., 1953-1954  
Simmers, C. R., 1954-1959  
Skylstead, Elise, 1948-1952, 1959  
Smedberg, William R., III, 1955-1961  
Smith, C. D., 1954-1955  
Smythe, Lawrence W., 1948, 1954-1960  
Snackenberg, J. A., 1955-1957  
Stafford, Allison J., 1959-1960  
Startt, Clark W., 1956-1958
- BOX 9**
- Stedman, Giles, 1954-1956  
Stickney, William W., 1955-1956  
Stockholm, Carl, 1955-1956  
Stone, Ellery W., 1953-1955  
Stuhr, William S., 1954-1961  
Sullivan, Kenneth M., 1954-1955  
“S” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated  
(8 folders)  
Tate, J. C., 1961  
Taylor, Arthur H., 1954-1959  
Taylor, Edmund B., 1952-1956  
Taylor, John McN., 1954-1961  
Teal, Edward N., 1954-1955  
Thurmond, Strom, 1955  
Turner, Blaney C., 1954  
Tyree, David M., 1952-1956  
“T” miscellaneous, 1951-1961  
(4 folders)
- BOX 10**
- United Services Automobile Association, 1951-1961  
“U” miscellaneous, 1954-1961, undated  
Varian, Donald C., 1951-1953, undated  
Vissering, Norman H., 1958-1960  
Vohden, Carl F., 1954-1961, undated  
Von Heimburg, E. H., 1955-1956  
Von Kleeck, E. S., Jr., 1953-1954  
“V” miscellaneous, 1952-1961  
W. A. Shaeffer Pen Co., 1956-1959  
Walker, Robert J., 1953-1960  
Watson, Feltham, 1954-1956, undated  
Weeks, Raymond, 1954-1959  
Weimer, Robert B., 1955

## Correspondence, 1948-1961

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	Welch, W. Marriott, 1952-1956
	Wellborn, Charles, Jr., 1957-1960, undated
	Wev, Bosquet N., 1954-1959, undated
	Whitehead, Richard F., 1953-1961
	Wolfinger, Charles, 1954-1955
	Woodley, William P., 1959-1961
	Wooldridge, E. T., 1954-1959, undated
	Wright, George C., 1952-1953
	Wright, Jerauld, 1957-1960
	“W” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated (4 folders)
BOX 11	Yeager, H. A., 1953-1957, undated
	“Y” miscellaneous, 1948, 1954-1961
	Zumwalt, Elmo R. (1920-2000), 1957-1958
	“Z” miscellaneous, 1953-1960
BOX 11-14	<b>Speeches and statements, 1947-1961</b> Speeches and statements with related correspondence. Arranged chronologically by date of event. A list of most of the speeches is filed at the beginning of the series.
BOX 11	List, undated 1947-1954 (4 folders) 1955 Feb.-Sept. (3 folders)
BOX 12	Oct.-Nov. 1956 (6 folders)
BOX 13	1957-1958 (7 folders)
BOX 14	1959-1961 (8 folders)
BOX 15	<b>Miscellany, 1922-1982</b> Account book, certificates, official forms, itineraries, printed matter, press clippings, notes, two photographs, and a radio script. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 15	Account book, Midshipmen's Store, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., 1922-1926 Certificates, 1948-1961, undated Coronation, George VI, King of Great Britain, 1937, 1982 (2 folders) Itineraries, 1956-1959 Kelly, Walter K., excerpts from Russian history, undated Official forms, 1945-1960, undated

**Miscellany, 1922-1982**

*Container*

*Contents*

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Photographs, 1957, undated  
*Radford* (destroyer), 1943-1955  
*Salem* (heavy cruiser), 1976