

Dudley Wright Knox Papers

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



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Washington, D.C.

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LC Online Catalog record:

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Prepared by John P. Butler
Revised and expanded by Brian McGuire

Collection Summary

Title: Dudley Wright Knox Papers

Span Dates: circa 1864-1960

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1921-1946)

ID No.: MSS50070

Creator: Knox, Dudley Wright, 1877-1960

Extent: 6,550 items ; 24 containers ; 9 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Naval officer and historian. Correspondence, subject files, speeches, articles, book file, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and other material relating to Knox's activities as director of the United States Office of Naval Records and Library, as secretary of the Naval Historical Foundation, and as an author of books and articles on naval affairs.

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

Adams, J. H. (John Haslup), 1871-1927--Correspondence.
Babcock, John V. (John Vincent)--Correspondence.
Balch, Earle Henry, 1893- --Correspondence.
Baldrige, Harry Alexander, 1880-1952--Correspondence.
Baldwin, Hanson Weightman, 1903-1991--Correspondence.
Baxter, James Phinney, 1893-1975--Correspondence.
Bittinger, Charles, 1879-1970--Correspondence.
Brown, Wilson, 1882-1957--Correspondence.
Brownson, Howard G. (Howard Gray), 1886- --Correspondence.
Brownson, Willard H. (Willard Herbert), 1845-1935--Correspondence.
Buell, Raymond Leslie, 1896-1946--Correspondence.
Burt, Charles Perry, 1876-1949--Correspondence.
Castleman, Kenneth G. (Kenneth Galleher), 1876-1954--Correspondence.
Cerf, Bennett, 1898-1971--Correspondence.
Clark, William Bell, 1889-1968--Correspondence.
Cluverius, Wat Tyler--Correspondence.
Colvocoresses, George P. (George Partridge), 1847-1932--Correspondence.
Cox, Albert Lyman, 1883-1965--Correspondence.
Cox, Leonard M. (Leonard Martin), 1870-1943--Correspondence.
Craven, Thomas T. (Thomas Tingey), 1873-1950--Correspondence.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Davis, Ralph E.--Correspondence.
DeWeerd, Harvey A. (Harvey Arthur), 1902-1979--Correspondence.
Dillon, Philip Robert, 1868- --Correspondence.
Earle, Ralph, 1874-1939--Correspondence.
Falk, Edwin A. (Edwin Albert), 1894- --Correspondence.
Ford, Guy Stanton, 1873-1962--Correspondence.
Foss, George Edmund, 1863-1936--Correspondence.
Frothingham, Thomas Goddard, 1865-1937--Correspondence.
Furer, Julius Augustus, 1880-1963--Correspondence.
Gardiner, William Howard, 1875-1952--Correspondence.
Gosnell, Harpur Allen, 1890- --Correspondence.
Grabhorn, Edwin E.--Correspondence.

Green, Fitzhugh, 1888-1947--Correspondence.
Greenfield, Kent Roberts, 1893-1967--Correspondence.
Griffith, F. (Frederick)--Correspondence.
Hartwig, John George--Correspondence.
Hasbrouck, Jan--Correspondence.
Helmer, N. A.--Correspondence.
Hoffman, Roy, 1869- --Correspondence.
Hogan, James J.--Correspondence.
Hooper, Franklin Henry, 1862-1940--Correspondence.
Howe, Alfred G. (Alfred Graham), 1878-1970--Correspondence.
Johnson, Hiram, 1866-1945--Correspondence.
Kent, Ira Rich, 1876-1945--Correspondence.
Knox, Dudley Wright, 1877-1960.
Knox, Dudley Wright, 1877-1960. History of the United States Navy (1936)
Knox, John Crawford--Correspondence.
Koehler, Warren B.--Correspondence.
Langdon, William Chauncy, 1871-1947--Correspondence.
LaPorte, Robert J. S.--Correspondence.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
Moses, Stanford E. (Stanford Elwood), 1872-1950--Correspondence.
Mumm, Orson D.--Correspondence.
Pope, R. E. (Ralph Elton), 1875-1959--Correspondence.
Robinson, Charles N. (Charles Napier), 1849-1936--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1914-1988--Correspondence.
Sims, William Sowden, 1858-1936--Correspondence.
Spafford, Edward E. (Edward Elwell), 1878-1941--Correspondence.
Springer, J. D.--Correspondence.
Stark, Harold R. (Harold Raynsford), 1880-1972--Correspondence.
Strauss, Lewis L.--Correspondence.

Organizations

Naval Historical Foundation.
United States. Navy--Aviation.
United States. Navy--History.
United States. Office of Naval Records and Library.

Subjects

Disarmament--Congresses.
International trade.
Merchant marine.
Military readiness.
Naval aviation.
Naval history--Societies, etc.
Naval libraries.
Sea-power--Congresses.

Places

East Asia--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--East Asia.
United States--History, Naval.

Occupations

Historians.
Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Dudley Wright Knox, naval officer and historian, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1953 and 1981 and converted to gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Dudley Wright Knox were arranged and described in 1967. The collection was expanded and revised in 1998 and the finding aid revised in 2009.

Additional Guides

In 1971, the Library published an earlier edition of the Knox finding aid in a publication entitled *Dudley Wright Knox, A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress and a Register of the Collection of Mary Edith Powell, Naval Historical Foundation Collection*.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Dudley Wright Knox 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, Dudley Wright Knox Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1877, June 21	Born, Walla Walla, Washington Territory
1896	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Duty on board the <i>Massachusetts</i>
1898	Commissioned ensign Duty on board the <i>Maple</i> , <i>Independence</i> , and <i>Yorktown</i>
1898-1901	Commanded the <i>Albany</i> and <i>Iris</i>
1901-1902	Inspector of ordnance, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1903-1907	Commanded the <i>Shubrick</i> , <i>Wilkes</i> , and <i>Decatur</i>
1907	Duty on board the <i>Nebraska</i>
1908	Married Lily Hazard McCalla
1908-1909	Duty at Mare Island Navy Yard, Calif.

1909-1911	Fleet ordnance officer, Atlantic Fleet and later the Pacific Fleet
1912-1913	Student, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1913-1914	Aide, staff of the commander, Atlantic Torpedo Flotilla
1914-1916	Duty in the Office of Naval Intelligence, Washington, D.C.
1916-1917	Commanded Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba
1917-1919	Aide, staff of the commander of the naval forces operating in Europe
1919-1920	Taught, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1920-1921	Commanded the <i>Brooklyn</i> and <i>Charleston</i>
1920-1923	Naval editor, <i>Army and Navy Journal</i>
1921	Transferred to retired list
1921-1946	Active duty, officer in charge of the Office of Naval Records and Library, Washington, D.C.
1922	Published <i>The Eclipse of American Sea Power</i> . New York: American Army & Navy Journal
1924-1929	Naval correspondent, <i>Baltimore Sun</i>
1926-1946	Secretary, Naval Historical Foundation
1929	Naval correspondent, <i>New York Herald Tribune</i>
1930-1946	Curator, Navy Department
1932	Published <i>The Naval Genius of George Washington</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin
1936	Published <i>A History of the United States Navy</i> . New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons
1939	Published William H. Meyers's <i>Naval Sketches of the War in California; Reproducing Twenty-eight Drawings Made in 1846-1847</i> , with text by Knox. New York: Random House
1944-1946	Deputy director of naval history
1945	Promoted to commodore
1946	Retired from active duty
1946-1959	Vice president and chairman, executive committee of the Naval Historical Foundation
1960, June 11	Died, Bethesda, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Dudley Wright Knox (1877-1960) span the period 1864-1950, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1921-1946. The papers consist of seven series: [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Speech, Article, and Book File](#), [Printed Matter](#), [Newspaper Clippings](#), [Miscellany](#), and an [Addition](#).

Much of the [Correspondence](#) series concerns Knox's duties and interests as director of the Office of Naval Records and Library, 1921-1946, and as secretary of the Naval Historical Foundation, 1926-1946. Knox held firm views on such subjects as international naval limitation conferences, naval aviation, the revival of a strong merchant marine, naval preparedness, Far Eastern affairs, foreign trade, and national defense. These views are reflected in his correspondence, speeches, articles, and other papers.

The collection is rich in material regarding naval limitations conferences, including the Washington Conference on Limitation of Armament, 1921-1922, the Geneva Conference for the Limitation of Naval Armament, 1927, and the London Naval Conference of 1930. Admiral Hilary P. Jones, the American adviser to the conferences, wrote often to Knox concerning these meetings.

The papers also contain considerable material relating to Knox's published and unpublished books. Included are typescripts of his best known work, *A History of the United States Navy*, and reviews, clippings, and letters from his publisher and readers.

Knox wrote the text for William H. Meyers's *Naval Sketches of the War in California*, which has an introduction by Franklin D. Roosevelt. Knox's association with Roosevelt is detailed in a memoir in the [Miscellany](#) series.

Knox expanded the holdings of the Naval Library and carried on the normal functions of the Naval Records Section despite the time devoted not only to his own speaking and writing but also to assisting others in similar activities, represented by copies of many of the speeches and articles Knox prepared for fellow naval officers. He had a lengthy correspondence with Thomas Goddard Frothingham, who sent him a draft of each chapter of his three-volume study *The Naval History of the World War*. Month after month Knox commented, criticized, or corrected the drafts and returned them to Frothingham. An appendix to this finding aid lists the titled articles, speeches, and other writings by Knox included among his papers.

Correspondents in the Knox Papers include J. H. Adams, John V. Babcock, Earle Henry Balch, Harry Alexander Baldrige, Hanson Weightman Baldwin, James Phinney Baxter, Charles Bittinger, Wilson Brown, Howard G. Brownson, Willard H. Brownson, Raymond Leslie Buell, Charles Perry Burt, Kenneth G. Castleman, Bennett Cerf, William Bell Clark, Wat Tyler Cluverius, George P. Colvocoresses, Albert Lyman Cox, Leonard M. Cox, Thomas T. Craven, Josephus Daniels, Ralph E. Davis, Howard A. DeWeerd, Philip R. Dillon, Ralph Earle, Edwin A. Falke, Guy Stanton Ford, George Edmund Foss, Julius Augustus Furer, William Howard Gardiner, Charles E. Gilpin, Harpur Allen Gosnell, Edwin Grabhorn, Fitzhugh Green, Kent Roberts Greenfield, F. Griffith, John George Hartwig, Jan Hasbrouck, N. A. Helmer, Roy Hoffman, James J. Hogan, Franklin Henry Hooper, Alfred G. Howe, Hiram Johnson, Ira Rich Kent, John Crawford Knox, Warren B. Koehler, William Chauncey Langdon, Robert J. S. LaPorte, Henry Cabot Lodge, Stanford E. Moses, Orson D. Mumm, R. E. Pope, Charles N. Robinson, William Sowden Sims, Edward E. Spafford, J. D. Springer, Harold R. Stark, and Lewis L. Strauss.

The [Addition](#) to the collection consists of photocopies of memoranda, correspondence, and other documents from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York, concerning efforts by Knox and Roosevelt to publish naval records relating to American wars.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Correspondence, 1914-1949](#)
- [Subject File, 1919-1939](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1950](#)
- [Printed Matter, 1900-1950](#)
- [Newspaper Clippings, 1908-1937](#)
- [Miscellany, 1864-1950](#)
- [Addition, 1934-1944](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-9	<p><u>Correspondence, 1914-1949</u></p> <p>Letters received and a few copies of letters sent, supplemented by memoranda, reports, and printed matter. Container 9 exclusively contains Knox's correspondence with Thomas Goddard Frothingham.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 10-12	<p><u>Subject File, 1919-1939</u></p> <p>Blueprints, clippings, memoranda, research notes, press releases, printed and near-print matter, and reports.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 13-20	<p><u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1950</u></p> <p>Handwritten, typewritten, near-print, and printed copies of speeches, articles, books, book reviews, and press releases.</p> <p>Organized by type of writing. Titled speeches and articles are arranged alphabetically and listed individually under folder titles; untitled speeches and articles are arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 21-22	<p><u>Printed Matter, 1900-1950</u></p> <p>Chiefly copies of articles, speeches, and writings on naval topics.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 23-24	<p><u>Newspaper Clippings, 1908-1937</u></p> <p>Clippings on naval topics.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 24	<p><u>Miscellany, 1864-1950</u></p> <p>A manuscript concerning the <i>Albemarle</i>, a memoir concerning Knox's association with Franklin D. Roosevelt, and other material.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 24	<p><u>Addition, 1934-1944</u></p> <p>Photocopies of memoranda, correspondence, and other documents from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library relating to efforts by Knox and Roosevelt to publish naval records of American wars.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-9	Correspondence, 1914-1949 Letters received and a few copies of letters sent, supplemented by memoranda, reports, and printed matter. Container 9 exclusively contains Knox's correspondence with Thomas Goddard Frothingham. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1914-1925 (19 folders)
BOX 2	1926-1928 (15 folders)
BOX 3	1929-1931 (14 folders)
BOX 4	1932-1933 (15 folders)
BOX 5	1934-1936 (17 folders)
BOX 6	1937-1939 (15 folders)
BOX 7	1940-1942 (17 folders)
BOX 8	1943-1949, undated (11 folders)
BOX 9	Frothingham, Thomas Goddard, 1922-1939 (21 folders)
BOX 10-12	Subject File, 1919-1939 Blueprints, clippings, memoranda, research notes, press releases, printed and near-print matter, and reports. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 10	Aviation (10 folders)
BOX 10	Bolshevism
BOX 10	Far Eastern affairs (2 folders)
BOX 10	Foreign trade and commerce (2 folders)
BOX 10	Merchant marine (6 folders)
BOX 11	Naval bases and yards (2 folders)
BOX 11	Naval budget
BOX 11	Naval building programs

Subject File, 1919-1939

Container

Contents

BOX 11	Naval conferences (3 folders)
BOX 11	Naval Historical Foundation, Washington, D.C.
BOX 11	Naval ordnance
BOX 11	Naval personnel (3 folders)
BOX 11	Naval policy
BOX 11	Naval strategy and tactics
BOX 12	Navies of the world (5 folders)
BOX 12	Navy League
BOX 12	Peace movements
BOX 12	Propaganda
BOX 12	Submarines
BOX 13-20	Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1950 Handwritten, typewritten, near-print, and printed copies of speeches, articles, books, book reviews, and press releases. Organized by type of writing. Titled speeches and articles are arranged alphabetically and listed individually under folder titles; untitled speeches and articles are arranged chronologically.
BOX 13	Articles, reviews, miscellaneous writings, and speeches
BOX 13	Bibliography
BOX 13	Texts
BOX 13	Titled
BOX 13	A
BOX 13	"The Abortive Duel on Hicacal Point," 1948
BOX 13	"Accident on Scout Cruiser Trenton," undated
BOX 13	"The 'Adams' Men-of-War," 1932
BOX 13	"An Adequate Merchant Marine as an Auxiliary to the Navy and Army in Time of National Emergency," 1933
BOX 13	<i>Admiral Franklin Buchanan, Fearless Man of Action</i> , by Charles Lee Lewis, book review, 1929
BOX 13	"An Adventure in Diplomacy," undated
BOX 13	"Air Bubbles," undated
BOX 13	"Aircraft," undated
BOX 13	<i>Aircraft and Commerce in War</i> , by J. M. Spaight, book review, 1926
BOX 13	"Aircraft Menace to Navies," undated
BOX 13	"American Naval Participation in the Great War," undated
BOX 13	"American Shipping and the American Government," 1932
BOX 13	"America's Economy in Armament Expenditures," undated
BOX 13	"Another Side of the 5-5-3 Argument," 1925
BOX 13	"Armaments and Merchant Marine," 1926
BOX 13	"The Assistant Secretary of the Navy," 1932
BOX 13	B-E
BOX 13	"Balancing the Naval Budget," 1924
BOX 13	"Bomber Versus Battleship," 1922

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1950

Container

Contents

BOX 13	"Brief Outline of Naval Conditions Existing Today," undated
BOX 13	"Britain's Base at Singapore," 1924
BOX 13	"'Column' as a Battle Formation," 1913
BOX 13	"Continuation of Supporting Data of Point 17," undated
BOX 13	"Cruising Radius and Naval Bases," undated
BOX 13	"The Demand for Another Naval Race," 1926, undated
BOX 13	"D'Estaing's Fleet Revealed," undated
BOX 13	"Development of Unification," 1950
BOX 13	"Did the United States Benefit from the Washington Conference?" 1925
BOX 13	"Discussions at Geneva," 1927
BOX 13	"The Disturbing Outlook in the Orient," 1937-1938
BOX 13	"Documents on Naval War With France," 1935
BOX 13	"Early Naval Use of Rocket Weapons," 1946
BOX 13	"Education and Patriotism: Esprit de Corps in Education and Government," undated
BOX 13	"The Effect of Limitation of Armaments upon the United States Naval Personnel," 1921
BOX 13	"The Elements of Leadership," 1920
BOX 13	F-L
BOX 13	"Farms and Ships," 1929
BOX 13	"A Forgotten Fight in Florida," 1936
BOX 13	"The Frigate Constitution and American Seaborne Commerce," 1931
BOX 13	"Fundamental Fallacies of Anti-Navalists," 1931
BOX 13	"The General Problem of Naval Warfare," 1916
BOX 13	"Georgia and the Navy," 1933
BOX 13	"Good-bye 'Albay'," undated
BOX 13	<i>The Great Delusion</i> , by Ernest Benn, book review, 1927
BOX 13	<i>Henry the Navigator: The Story of a Great Prince and His Times</i> , by Elaine Sanceau, book review, 1947
BOX 13	"How Large a Navy for the United States?" undated
BOX 13	"The Japanese Situation," 1935
BOX 13	"Japan's Drive for World Trade," 1934
BOX 13	"John Adams, Naval Sponsor," 1932
BOX 13	<i>The Libelle of Englyshe Polycye</i> , edited by George Warner, book review, undated
BOX 13	"Limitation of Naval Strength Increased Importance of Air Strength," 1921
BOX 13	"The London Treaty and American Naval Policy," 1931
BOX 13	M
BOX 13	"Manifold Activities of Naval Officers," undated
BOX 13	"Memo on Far Eastern Affairs," 1933
BOX 13	"Memorandum on Naval Bases," undated
BOX 13	"Memorandum on Organization of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations," 1917
BOX 13	"Memorandum on Public Indoctrination in Maritime Affairs," undated
BOX 13	"The Merchant Marine and Naval Limitation," 1930
BOX 13	"Mr. Hughes Proposed Reduction Helps Solve Serious Naval Personnel Problem," 1921
BOX 13	Nat
BOX 13	"National Strategy," 1932-1933

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1950

Container

Contents

BOX 13	"Nature of Opposition in England and Japan," undated
BOX 13	Nav-New
BOX 13	"Naval Affairs in 1933"
BOX 13	"Naval Affairs in 1935"
BOX 13	"Naval Affairs in 1936"
BOX 13	"Naval Affairs in 1937"
BOX 13	"Naval Affairs in 1938"
BOX 13	"Naval Affairs in 1939"
BOX 13	"Naval Affairs in 1940"
BOX 13	"Naval Affairs in 1941"
BOX 13	"Naval Affairs in 1942"
BOX 13	"Naval Limitation and World Peace," 1934
BOX 13	"Naval Personnel Legislation," 1913
BOX 13	"Naval Policy and Seaborne Commerce," 1929
BOX 13	"Naval Power as a Preserver of Neutrality and Peace," 1937
BOX 13	"Naval Predominance of Great Britain under the Hughes Proposal," 1921
BOX 13	"Naval Progress in 1930," 1931
BOX 13	"Naval Progress," 1932
BOX 13	"Naval Strategy," 1932
BOX 13	"Naval Strength and Neutrality," 1939
BOX 13	"Naval Tactics," 1940
BOX 13	<i>Navies and Nations</i> , by Hector C. Bywater, book review, 1928
BOX 13	"The Navy", undated
BOX 13	"The Navy and the National Life," 1934
BOX 13	"The Navy and Public Indoctrination," undated
BOX 13	"The Navy as a Peacemaker," 1929
BOX 13	"Navy of the United States," undated
BOX 13	"Navy Personnel Must Be Kept Up," undated
BOX 13	"The Navy's Influence on the Nation's Economic Welfare," undated
BOX 13	"The Needs of the Navy Today," 1924
BOX 13	"A New Source of American Naval History," 1930
BOX 14	O-P
BOX 14	"Objects of Experiments on 'Washington,'" 1924
BOX 14	"Organization, Command and Administration," undated
BOX 14	"Our Ineffective Example of Moderation," undated
BOX 14	"Our Need of a Southern Route to the Philippines for Our Fleet," undated
BOX 14	"Our Need of a Treaty Navy," undated
BOX 14	"Our 'Stake' in Sea Power," undated
BOX 14	"Porter's Dire Need of Bases," 1933
BOX 14	"A Practicable Plan by which the United States May Cooperate with Other Nations to Achieve and Preserve the Peace of the World," 1923
BOX 14	"The Present Conditions and Needs of the Navy," 1923
BOX 14	"Preservation of the 5-5-3 Ration," undated
BOX 14	"Presidents Who Have Believed in the Navy," undated
BOX 14	"The Principles and Practice of Tactics Applied to Naval Conditions of the Present Day," 1913
BOX 14	"The Progress of Naval Limitation," 1929

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1950

Container

Contents

BOX 14	"Purpose of a Navy," undated
BOX 14	Q-S
BOX 14	"The Question of Naval Armament, What Is Reasonable and Safe?" undated
BOX 14	"Recent Developments in Limitation of Naval Armaments," 1926
BOX 14	"Relying on Treaties and Good Will," 1922
BOX 14	"The Role of Doctrine in Naval Warfare," 1935
BOX 14	"Sea Power and Pocketbooks," 1925
BOX 14	"Seapower, What Is It?" 1936
BOX 14	"Security and the Two-Ocean Navy," 1940
BOX 14	"Senator Reed's Speech," 1930
BOX 14	"Shall the United States Withdraw from the Far Pacific," 1937
BOX 14	"The Ships That Count," 1933
BOX 14	"Some Aspects of Aviation," 1923
BOX 14	<i>Statesmanship or War</i> , by J. M. Palmer, book review, undated
BOX 14	"The Strategic and Tactical Influence of the New Light Cruiser Programs of the Powers," undated
BOX 14	"Strategy of the Atlantic in a War with a Major European Power," 1928-1932
BOX 14	"The Support of American Overseas Commerce by the Old Navy," undated
BOX 14	T-Y
BOX 14	"Trade in Relation to the Navy and the Merchant Marine," undated
BOX 14	"United States Deficiencies on the 5-5-3 Basis," 1926
BOX 14	"Washington Experiments," 1924
BOX 14	"Washington Views Naval Preparedness," 1932
BOX 14	"What the Cruiser Has To Do with the Fleet," 1929
BOX 14	"Will the Next War Be Fought in the Air?" undated
BOX 14	"Where Mitchell Is Wrong," undated
BOX 14	"Why Have a Navy?" 1925
BOX 14	"Why the United States Needs a Navy Equal to the Strongest," 1929
BOX 14	"Yorktown, Sept.-Oct. 1781," 1945
BOX 14	Untitled
BOX 14	1921-1923 (9 folders)
BOX 15	1924-1931 (16 folders)
BOX 16	1932-1940 (4 folders)
BOX 16	Undated (3 folders) (2 folders)
BOX 17	Books
BOX 17	"Disarmament," unpublished, undated
BOX 17	<i>A History of the United States Navy</i>
BOX 17	Drafts, undated (4 folders)
BOX 18	(6 folders)
BOX 19	Reviews and correspondence, 1935-1942 (6 folders)

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1950

Container

Contents

BOX 19	"Our Adventure in Naval Limitation (post-1922)," unpublished, undated (2 folders)
BOX 20	Speeches and articles prepared by Knox for others, 1922-1940, undated (11 folders)
BOX 21-22	Printed Matter, 1900-1950 Chiefly copies of articles, speeches, and writings on naval topics. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 21	1900-1925 (14 folders)
BOX 22	1926-1950, undated (15 folders)
BOX 23-24	Newspaper Clippings, 1908-1937 Clippings on naval topics. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 23	1908-1928 (24 folders)
BOX 24	1929-1937, undated (23 folders)
BOX 24	Miscellany, 1864-1950 A manuscript concerning the <i>Albemarle</i> , a memoir concerning Knox's association with Franklin D. Roosevelt, and other material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 24	"Association with Franklin D. Roosevelt of Dudley W. Knox," carbon copy and photocopy, 1948
BOX 24	<i>Constitution</i> (frigate), wooden cross from, 1901
BOX 24	List of logbooks of ships, 1936
BOX 24	Notes, photographs, and memoranda, undated
BOX 24	Swan, Francis H., account of the torpedoing of the <i>Albemarle</i> , original and photocopy, 1864- circa 1865, 1950
BOX 24	Addition, 1934-1944 Photocopies of memoranda, correspondence, and other documents from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library relating to efforts by Knox and Roosevelt to publish naval records of American wars. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 24	Roosevelt, Franklin D., memoranda, correspondence, and miscellaneous items with Knox regarding efforts to publish naval records of American wars, 1934-1944