

Herbert Bain Knowles Papers

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

Prepared by Brian McGuire



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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Collection Summary

Title: Herbert Bain Knowles Papers

Span Dates: 1941-1945

ID No.: MSS12112

Creator: Knowles, Herbert Bain, 1894-1976

Extent: 400 items; 5 containers plus 1 oversize; 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Naval officer. Correspondence, orders to duty, subject files concerning invasion plans and occupation reports for Guam, Japan, Kwajalein Islands (Marshall Islands), Leyte Island (Philippines), Lingayen (Luzon, Philippines), Okinawa Island (Japan), Saipan (Northern Mariana Islands), and Tarawa Atoll (Kiribati), and printed matter relating to Knowles's service with the Amphibious Forces in the Pacific during World War II.

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

Forrestal, James, 1892-1949.

Kauffman, James Laurence, 1887-1963.

Knowles, Herbert Bain, 1894-

Stone, George Roben, 1909-1943.

Organizations

United States. Navy--History--World War, 1939-1945.

United States. Navy. Amphibious Forces.

Subjects

World War, 1939-1945--Guam.

World War, 1939-1945--Japan.

World War, 1939-1945--Kiribati.

World War, 1939-1945--Marshall Islands.

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

World War, 1939-1945--Northern Mariana Islands.

World War, 1939-1945--Pacific Ocean.

World War, 1939-1945--Philippines.

Places

Kwajalein Island (Marshall Islands)--History.

Leyte Island (Philippines)--History.

Lingayen (Philippines)--History.

Okinawa Island (Japan)--History.

Saipan--History.

Tarawa Atoll (Kiribati)--History.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Herbert Bain Knowles, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1968 and converted to gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Herbert Bain Knowles were arranged and described in 1983. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

In 1983 the Library published *William Frederick Halsey, Jr., Ernest Joseph King, and Herbert Bain Knowles: Registers of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Herbert Bain Knowles 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, Herbert Bain Knowles Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1894, Mar. 20	Born, North Newburg, Maine
1913-1917	Student, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1917	Commissioned ensign
1919	Married Helen Kamp
1920-1926	Duty in USS <i>Arkansas</i> and submarine service
1922	First command, submarine USS <i>S-9</i>
1928-1940	Served in submarines, on surface vessels, with Bureau of Engineers, and as District operations officer, Fourteenth Naval District
1941	Commander, USS <i>Heywood</i>
1942	Promoted to captain

1943-1945	Commanded Transport Division 18, Transport Squadron 12, and Transport Division 34
1945-1946	Assistant chief of staff for operations, First Naval District, Boston, Mass.
1947	Promoted to rear admiral Retired
1976, Mar. 3	Died, Portland, Maine

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Herbert Bain Knowles (1894-1976) cover the years 1941-1945 and describe Knowles's service in the United States Navy's amphibious forces in the Pacific during World War II. The collection traces the American advance across the Pacific Ocean to Japan via the Solomon Islands, Attu, Kiska, Tarawa, Kawajalein, Saipan, Guam, Leyte, Lingayen, and Nagasaki, Japan, during 1942-1945.

Included are mimeographs and carbon copies of after action reports of Knowles and others, conference notes, service communications, operation plans and orders for assault landings and training exercises, marine division field reports, Knowles's unpublished "History of U.S.S. *Heywood*," and his war diaries or monthly logs of Transport Division 18 and Transport Squadron 12. Also included are photographs of the Leyte beachhead and a military intelligence bulletin. Personal materials consist of a few items of correspondence, health reports, orders, response to orders, vouchers, and similar documents depicting Knowles's naval life while not in combat or engaged in ship and troop deployment.

Knowles was a pioneer and innovator in the art of assault troop landings. His ideas and innovations, as found in his operational plans and orders and in his after action reports, were to become widely adopted for amphibious landings by United States forces.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized by topic or type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Personal file, 1941-1945 (4 folders)
BOX 1	Writings, "History of U.S.S. <i>Heywood</i> ," undated
BOX 1	Military file
BOX 1	War diaries
BOX 1	Transport Division 18, 1943-1944 1943-1944
BOX 1	Transport Squadron 12, 1944-1945
BOX 1	Campaigns
BOX 1	Solomon Islands
BOX 1	After action reports and operation order, July-Aug. 1942 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Attu and Kiska, communication plans and instructions, operation orders, reports, Apr. 1942-[Aug.] 1943 (11 folders)
BOX 2	Kiska, field order, operation plans, operation order, Aug. 1943 (7 folders)
BOX 2	Tarawa, Makin, and Apamama
BOX 2	Boat pools, [Oct.] 1943
BOX 2	After action reports, operation orders, operation plans, planning conference notes, Oct.-Dec. 1943 (11 folders)
BOX 2	Kawajalein, landing attack order and report on capture, Jan.-Feb. 1944 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Saipan, after action report, landing attack order, casualty memorandum cover, May-July 1944 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Guam, after action report, landing attack order, list of vessels, July-Aug. 1944 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Leyte, after action reports, landing attack order, photographs, training memorandum, Aug.-Oct. 1944, undated (6 folders)
BOX 4	Lingayen, after action reports, assault bombardment, field training memorandum and report, landing attack orders, operation order, planning conference notes, transport schedules, Nov. 1944-Feb. 1945 (11 folders)
BOX 4	Okinawa, after action reports, landing attack order, landing craft losses, periodic reports, Mar.-Apr. 1945 (5 folders)
BOX 4	Nagasaki, after action report, landing plans, July-Sept. 1945 (3 folders)
BOX 4	Battle problems, communications, Nov. 1944-Mar. 1945 (2 folders)

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 4	Communications, daily schedules, staff memorandums, and memorandums and instructions on various subjects, Dec. 1944-May 1945, undated (5 folders)
BOX 4	Efate naval base, defenses, gunnery practice, Nov. 1943 (3 folders)
BOX 4	Hawaii, amphibious training, training exercises, Sept.-Oct. 1943
BOX 4	Wellington, New Zealand, amphibious training, aircraft codes, field training, messages, orders, training reports, Sept.-Oct. 1943, undated (7 folders)
BOX 5	Printed matter, <i>Intelligence Bulletin</i> , Apr. 1945
BOX OV 1	Oversize maps, plans, and drawings