



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of American History*  
*Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Merchant Marine/Navy World War Two Oral History and Memorabilia Collection

NMAH.AC.0405

Craig Orr

1992

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Merchant Marine/Navy World War Two Oral History and Memorabilia Collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0405
<b>Date:</b>	1943-2001
<b>Extent:</b>	0.5 Cubic feet (3 boxes)
<b>Creator:</b>	Porter, John C. Armed Forces History, Division of (NMAH, SI). Navarre, Jack B., 1925- (merchant seaman)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The collection documents individuals who served in the Merchant Marine's and Navy between 1943 and 1946.
<b>Container:</b>	Box 1

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Delia Porter, date unknown, and Jack B. Navarre, August 24, 1990.

### Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Armed Forces History (now Division of Political and Military History), 1991.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed by Craig A. Orr, archivist and Alison Oswald, archivist.

### Preferred Citation

Merchant Marine/Navy World War Two Oral History and Memorabilia Collection, 405, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of primarily of reminscenes with individuals who served n the Merchant Marine and Navy.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1: Individual Reminiscences, 1945-1997

Series 2: Supplemental Documentation, 1943-2001-08

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Marine engineers
- Merchant Marine -- Manning of vessels -- United States
- Merchant Marine -- United States
- Merchant seamen
- Seamen -- 1940-1950
- Ships -- Manning
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Pacific Ocean
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Merchant Marine
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Naval operations

### Types of Materials:

- Correspondence -- 1940-1950
- Diaries -- 20th century
- Identity cards -- 1940-1950
- Menus -- Ships -- 1940-1950
- Military passes -- Ships -- 1940-1950
- Newspapers -- Ships -- 1940-1950
- Oral history -- 1940-1950
- Passports
- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 1940-1950
- Scrapbooks -- 1900-1950

Names:

Armed Forces History, Division of (NMAH, SI).  
San Mateo Coast Guard Station  
United States. Merchant Marine

Geographic Names:

San Mateo (Calif.)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Individual Reminiscences, 1945-1997

Box 1, Folder 1	Archamber, William , undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Arkinson, Owen, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Berg, George, 1992
Box 1, Folder 4	Bond, Robert Milus, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Branson, A.L. , undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Britt, Samuel V. , undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Chandler, Chester Carroll, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Carroll, Edward R. , undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Claar, Bard Norman, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Clarke, Robert F. , undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Corns, John C. , undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Crozier, William C. , undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Dzalak, Edward M. , undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Ellison, Lester E. , undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Erwin, Riley John , 1993
Box 1, Folder 16	Gibson, Arlin B. , 1992
Box 1, Folder 17	Gibson, Charles Dana, 1988-1989
Box 1, Folder 18	Gieseke, Gerald D. , undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Harris, Joseph S. , undated

- Box 1, Folder 20 Hughes, lee H. , undated
- Box 1, Folder 21 Jordan, Leonard J. , 1992
- Box 1, Folder 22 Kolb, George, 1992
- Box 1, Folder 23 Lotker, Floyd L. , undated
- Box 1, Folder 24 Mahaffey, Dale E. , undated
- Box 1, Folder 25 McNabb, John Robert, undated
- Box 1, Folder 26 Madden, James M. , 1991
- Box 1, Folder 27 Memoli, Steve, undated
- Box 1, Folder 28 Moore, Al, undated
- Box 1, Folder 29;  
Box 3, Folder 1 Navaree, Jack B. , 1943-1951, 1990
- Box 1, Folder 30 Neighbors, James H., undated
- Box 1, Folder 31 O'Connell, Edward, 1943, 1993
- Box 2, Folder 1 Ownes, Bill, undated
- Box 2, Folder 2 Patterson, Arthur, undated
- Box 2, Folder 3 Porter, John C., diary and photograph, 1943, 1946  
John C. Porter was born in Lowell, Massachusetts in 1924, and grew up in Claremont, New Hampshire and later in Newport, Rhode Island. He developed an early interest in radio, building his own radios and working for a radio and TV business installing antennas. He took and passed the FCC's test to acquire amateur call letters, but Pearl Harbor intervened. Amateur radio use was prohibited, and no call letters were issued for the duration of World War II. He wanted to be a radioman in the Navy, and was accepted.  
  
At the age of eighteen, Porter joined the Navy in Providence, Rhode Island. He was assigned to a new ship being commissioned at Sparrow's Point, in Baltimore, the U.S.S. Severn, which saw service in the Pacific. After the War, Porter worked as a plumber and school custodian in Scituate, Rhode Island. He retired in 1987 and died in 1992.
- Box 2, Folder 4 Resnick, S. J. , 1992

Box 2, Folder 5	Romeo, John, 1945-1990
Box 2, Folder 6	Schroeder, Melvern, undated
Box 2, Folder 7	Shackelford, J.B. , undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Slezak, Michael A. , 1992
Box 2, Folder 9	Smith, Charles C. , 1992
Box 2, Folder 10	Tarantino, Arthur E. , 1997
Box 2, Folder 11	Taylor, Ralph , undated
Box 2, Folder 12	Trimble, Glen, undated
Box 2, Folder 13	Wyant, James P. , 1992
Box 2, Folder 14	Wyatt, William H. , undated

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## Series 2: Supplemental Documentation, 1943-2001-08

Box 2, Folder 15	Merchant marine casualty information , 1992
Box 2, Folder 16	Merchant Marine Memoir Project, 1984-1989
Box 2, Folder 17	United States Merchant Marine Veteran's Reunion List , 1991
Box 2, Folder 18	Heave Ho! My Lads, Heave Ho! , 1943 Official song of the Merchant Marines.
Box 3, Folder 2	<i>The Anchor Light</i> , 1997-05
Box 3, Folder 2	<i>The Anchor Light</i> , 1998-02
Box 3, Folder 2	<i>The Anchor Light</i> , 1998-05
Box 3, Folder 2	<i>The Anchor Light</i> , 2001-08

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