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.

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.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William K. Romoser is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1903, July 21</td>
<td>Born, Baltimore, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-1922</td>
<td>Attended Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Graduated United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Married Elsie Augusta Kalkman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939-1940</td>
<td>Commanding officer, <em>Greer</em> (destroyer), North Atlantic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1942</td>
<td>Commanding officer, <em>Upshur</em> (destroyer), North Atlantic</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942-1943</td>
<td>Commanding officer, <em>Radford</em> (destroyer), South Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Received Navy Cross for heroism and ship was awarded Presidential Unit Citation for actions in Solomon Islands in July 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944-1945</td>
<td>Commanding officer, Naval Training Schools, Hollywood Beach, Fla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945-1946</td>
<td>Commanding officer, Destroyer Squadron Nine, Western Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-1947</td>
<td>Staff of commander, Seventh Fleet, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950-1951</td>
<td>Commanding officer, naval station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951-1952</td>
<td>Commanding officer, <em>Salem</em> (heavy cruiser), Mediterranean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952-1953</td>
<td>Chief of Staff, Battleship-Cruiser Force, Atlantic Fleet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-1955</td>
<td>Assistant chief of naval personnel for naval reserve, Washington, D. C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Appointed rear admiral, United States Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955-1956</td>
<td>Assistant chief of naval operations for naval reserve, Washington, D. C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956-1958</td>
<td>Commanding officer, Amphibious Group Four, Mediterranean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Commanding officer, Service Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Retired, United States Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986, Nov. 1</td>
<td>Died</td>
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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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1-11</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1948-1961</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 11-14</td>
<td><strong>Speeches and statements, 1947-1961</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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</table>
# Container List

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| **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 1** | 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  
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) |
| **BOX 2** | 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  
| **BOX 3** | “C” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated  
(5 folders)  
Davidson, J. F., 1953-1961 |
Correspondence, 1948-1961

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| BOX 4     | 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  
Freed, Morris J., 1955-1958, undated |
|            | “F” miscellaneous, 1951-1961, undated  
(3 folders)  
Gano, Roy A., 1953-1960  
Gash, Russell and Marian, 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  
| 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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<td>BOX 7</td>
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<td>Kinney, Sheldon H., 1954-1960</td>
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<td>Kirk, O. G., 1954-1956</td>
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<td>Knoll, Denys W., 1957-1961</td>
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<td>“K” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated (3 folders)</td>
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<td>LaBarge, Charles L., 1954-1956</td>
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<td>Laemmar, Jack W., 1955-1956</td>
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<td>Lange, Karl L., 1955-1956</td>
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<td>Larson, Harold O., 1953-1954</td>
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<td>Lettardy, Sara, 1949-1956</td>
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<td>Liepman, Louis, 1954-1959, undated</td>
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<td>Ludewig, Joseph W., 1954-1955</td>
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<td>Lyman, Charles H., 1953-1960</td>
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<td>Makeig, Daniel C., 1952-1954</td>
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<td>McConnell, Anne, 1957-1960</td>
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<td>McConnell, Samuel B., 1954-1955</td>
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<td>McCorkle, Francis D., 1953-1960</td>
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<td>McManes, Kenmore M., 1954-1957</td>
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<td>McQuiston, Irving M., 1955-1959</td>
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<td>Melson, Charles L., 1953-1961</td>
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<td>Mendenhall, G. W., 1955</td>
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<td>Murphy, M. E., 1952-1956</td>
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<td>“M-N” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, undated (9 folders)</td>
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<td>O’Connell, Richard H., 1954-1955</td>
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<td>Olenick, Everett J., 1952-1959</td>
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<td>“O” miscellaneous, 1953-1961</td>
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<td>Palmer, Edward C., 1955-1956</td>
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<td>Parker, Edward N., 1948-1953</td>
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<td>Pierce, Stanley Harwood, 1954-1957</td>
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<td>Roembke, James E., 1955-1956</td>
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<td>Romoser, Elizabeth, 1951-1953</td>
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<td>Romoser, Elsie, 1952</td>
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<td>Romoser, William K. (1934- ), 1951-1953</td>
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<td>Rosso, George A., 1954-1961</td>
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<td>Russell, James S., 1952-1960</td>
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Correspondence, 1948-1961

Container | Contents
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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
Smith, C. D., 1954-1955
Smythe, Lawrence W., 1948, 1954-1960
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

William K. Romoser Papers
Correspondence, 1948-1961

**Container**  **Contents**

- 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
- “Z” miscellaneous, 1953-1960

**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 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**

**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.

**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
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<td>Photographs, 1957, undated</td>
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<tr>
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<td><em>Radford</em> (destroyer), 1943-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Salem</em> (heavy cruiser), 1976</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>