

Albert Gleaves Papers

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

Prepared by John P. Butler



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

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Collection Summary

Title: Albert Gleaves Papers

Span Dates: 1803-1946

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1877-1937)

ID No.: MSS50104

Creator: Gleaves, Albert, 1858-1937

Extent: 6,000 items; 21 containers; 10 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Naval officer and historian. Correspondence, diaries, journals, speeches, articles, books, scrapbooks, reports of the Asiatic Fleet, notebooks, photographs, newspaper clippings, biographical material, poetry, printed matter, and other papers relating to Gleaves's naval career and his writings.

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

Baldrige, Harry Alexander, 1880-1952.

Beard, W. E.

Benson, William Shepherd, 1855-1932.

Blakeslee, Edward G.

Breckinridge, John C. (John Cabell), 1821-1875.

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948.

Fox, Charles Eli, 1870-1926.

Gleaves, Albert, 1858-1937.

Jones, Hilary Pollard, 1863-1938.

Knox, Dudley Wright, 1877-1960.

Lawrence, James, 1781-1813.

Polk, Frank L. (Frank Lyon), 1871-1943.

Putnam, George Haven, 1844-1930.

Rodgers, Raymond Perry, 1849-1925.

Sellers, David Foote, 1874-1949.

Slocum, Joshua, b. 1844.

West, Clifford Hardy, 1846-1911.

Wood, Spencer Shepherd, 1861-1940.

Organizations

Alabama (Screw sloop)

Cushing (Ship)

Dolphin (Ship)

Mayflower (Ship)

United States. Navy. Asiatic Fleet.

Subjects

Torpedoes.

Places

China--Foreign relations--United States.

Japan--Foreign relations--United States.

Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--China.
United States--Foreign relations--Japan.
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

Occupations
Historians.
Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Albert Gleaves, naval officer and historian, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1950 by the Naval Historical Foundation. A second installment was added to the original deposit in 1955. The collection was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Albert Gleaves were arranged and described in 1967. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Additional Guides

In 1968 the Library published *Albert Gleaves: A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress*.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Albert Gleaves 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, Albert Gleaves Papers, Naval Historical Foundation, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1858, Jan. 1	Born, Nashville, Tenn.
1877	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1877-1878	Duty in <i>Hartford</i> (sloop), South Atlantic Station
1878-1879	On leave from the United States Navy
1879	Appointed midshipman Duty in <i>Plymouth</i> (sloop), North Atlantic Station

1879-1883	Duty in <i>Nipsic</i> (gunboat), European Station
1882	Commissioned ensign
1883-1884	Duty in <i>Trenton</i> (screw steamer), Asiatic Station
1884-1886	Duty in <i>Monocacy</i> (gunboat), Asiatic Station
1886	Duty in <i>Trenton</i> (screw steamer), Asiatic Station
1886-1887	Duty in Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.
1887-1889	Duty in Naval Ordnance Proving Grounds, Annapolis, Md.
1889	Married Evelina Heap
1889-1891	Duty in <i>Dolphin</i> (gunboat and dispatch vessel)
1891-1892	Duty in <i>Boston</i> (cruiser), Pacific Station
1893-1895	Duty in Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.
1896	Duty in navy yards in Washington, D.C., New York, California, and Virginia
1897-1898	Commanded <i>Cushing</i> (torpedo boat)
1900-1901	Duty in <i>Alabama</i> (battleship)
1901-1902	Commanded <i>Dolphin</i> (gunboat and dispatch vessel)
1902-1904	Commanded <i>Mayflower</i> (patrol vessel converted yacht)
1904	Published <i>James Lawrence, United States Navy, Commander of the "Chesapeake."</i> New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons
1904-1908	Inspector of ordnance, Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I.
1909-1910	Aide to assistant secretary of the navy Served on General Board under Admiral George Dewey
1910-1911	Commanded <i>North Dakota</i> (battleship)
1911-1912	Commanded Second Naval District
1912-1914	Commanded Third Naval District
1914-1915	Commanded <i>Utah</i> (battleship)
1915	Promoted to rear admiral
1916-1917	Commanded Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet

1917-1918	Commanded Cruiser and Transport Force, Atlantic Fleet
1918	Promoted to vice admiral
1919	Promoted to admiral
1919-1921	Commanded Asiatic Fleet
1921	Commanded First Naval District Published <i>A History of the Transport Service . . .</i> New York: George H. Doran Co.
1923	Edited and published <i>The Life of an American Sailor: Rear Admiral William Hensley Emory, United States Navy, from His Letters and Memoirs.</i> New York: George H. Doran Co.
1925	Published <i>Life and Letters of Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce, United States Navy, Founder of the Naval War College.</i> New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons
1928-1931	Governor of the Naval Home, Grays Ferry, Philadelphia, Pa.
1937, Jan. 6	Died, Haverford, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Albert Gleaves (1858-1937) span the years 1803-1946 with the bulk of the papers dating from 1877 to 1937. The papers are organized into the following series: [Diaries, Journals, and Notebooks](#); [Official Correspondence](#); [General Correspondence](#); [Records of the Asiatic Fleet](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); [Scrapbooks](#); [Newspaper Clippings](#); [Photographs](#); and [Miscellany](#).

Like all midshipmen of his time, Gleaves was required to maintain a professional journal of his duties and stations aboard ship. Gleaves continued this practice all during his career. Twenty-two of his personal diaries and journals, covering the years from 1902 to 1936, record his interests and activities in detail during that period.

Gleaves was an intensive reader and carried on extensive correspondence about his reading with friends and colleagues in and out of the navy. His four books, published between the years 1904 and 1925, document his interest in naval biographical research and historical authorship. In his diaries and journals are marginal annotations showing his reading habits formed during long passages at sea. Also noted are lists of reading material to be included in his personal "stores" before departing on a cruise or an anticipated tour of duty at an overseas station.

For the ten-year period after graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1877, Gleaves served at sea in both the Atlantic and the Pacific Fleets. The collection contains official and personal correspondence as well as diaries and journals to document this period of his life. For the next decade he alternated between duties afloat and ordnance billets in various naval yards around the country. For the period from about 1885 to 1897 there is only minimum documentation. Only a few diaries, a scrapbook, and a file of correspondence with John Henry Gibbons cover his service for these years.

The beginning of the Spanish American War in 1898 found Gleaves in command of the *Cushing*, carrying dispatches between Florida and Cuba. His ship was anchored close to the *Maine* the night

before it was blown up in Havana harbor. There is material in both the official and general correspondence files to document Gleaves's actions immediately preceding and during the war.

After the war and a brief tour of duty as navigator on board the battleship *Alabama*, Gleaves commanded the *Dolphin* and then the *Mayflower*, both of which were used as presidential yachts by Theodore Roosevelt. In the collection are occasional exchanges of correspondence between the two men on naval, professional, and social matters.

Following duty in the presidential yachts, Gleaves assumed command of the Naval Torpedo Station, where his first reports to the secretary of the navy resulted in a review of torpedo ordnance. After a trip to Europe in 1907 to inspect foreign ordnance installations, Gleaves returned home to help persuade the Navy Department to establish its own facilities for manufacturing torpedoes independent of private or foreign sources. Typically, the details of his investigations in Europe and his part in the establishment of these facilities are incorporated in a small notebook labeled "Torpedoes, Mines, and Nets."

His activities and observations are recorded in a 1907 personal narrative-type diary. For his period as inspector of ordnance in Newport there is an exchange of letters in the correspondence files with the Navy Department.

After a tour of duty in the office of the assistant secretary of the navy with collateral duty as a member of the General Board, Gleaves was again ordered to sea in 1910. From 1911 to 1914 he was stationed ashore as commander of the Second and then the Third Naval District.

In 1916 Gleaves was promoted to flag rank and ordered to command the Torpedo Flotilla and later the entire Destroyer Force of the Atlantic Fleet. Material readiness reports from the squadrons, plus orders, dispatches, and letters from his flagship, the *Birmingham*, document the preparation of the Destroyer Force for combat readiness. After a convoy system got under way, Gleaves was detached from the Destroyer Force and assigned as commander of the cruiser and transport force for the duration of World War I.

The war years and postwar period are documented by correspondence, diaries and journals, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles in his scrapbooks. Gleaves was promoted to vice admiral in 1918 and less than one full year later, to admiral. In September 1919 he was assigned to be the commander of the Asiatic Fleet.

Topics of importance in the [Records of the Asiatic Fleet](#) series concern the Japanese Army in Russia after the war, the Communist takeover in Siberia, the evacuation of Czechoslovakian troops from Russia, and the general state of affairs in Russia at the time of revolutionary unrest. The collection also includes firsthand observations on the status of the United States in the Far East and other intelligence information. His diaries, typed each day aboard his flagship, contain source material on the conditions in that part of the world between the wars. Correspondents for the years 1919 to 1922 include Norman E. Allman, Lee Yek Cheng, Ernest Batson Price, C.P. Sah, and T.K. Yaw.

Included in the papers are copies of most all of Gleaves's speeches, articles, radio broadcasts, lectures, and pamphlets. This material covers a variety of topics, usually naval, generally delivered or addressed to civic, patriotic or service groups. In the [Speech, Article, and Book File](#) is correspondence concerning his publications, especially the book *James Lawrence*. Correspondents include J. Lawrence Boggs, Julian W. Bowes, George Dewey, Stephen Bleeker Luce, and Gertrude Hill Gavin. Also in the series are typescripts that Gleaves intended to use as a basis for an autobiography. In the [Miscellany](#) series are stories and anecdotes he collected for his memoir or other writings.

The scrapbooks and newspaper clippings in the collection relate mainly to Gleaves's career or to notable incidents in naval history. Correspondence concerning his decorations, awards, and promotions to flag rank, a file of biographical material, and poetry file completes the collection.

Correspondents include Harry Alexander Baldrige, W. E. Beard, William Shepherd Benson, Edward G. Blakeslee, John C. Breckinridge, Louisa P. Breckinridge, Willard H. Brownson, Paul Chack, French Ensor Chadwick, E. T. Constieu, Josephus Daniels, Richard C. Darby, Ernest M. Eller, Decoursey Fales, Charles Eli Fox, William Howard Gardner, Jules James, Hilary Pollard Jones, Dudley Wright Knox, Edith Rolfe Maxwell, V. C. Percy, W. W. Phelps, Frank L. Polk, Charles K. Post, Waldron Kintzing Post, George Haven Putnam, A. D. Rockenback, Raymond Perry Rodgers, David Foote Sellers, M. E. Shearer, Montgomery Sicard, Joshua Slocum, Clifford Hardy West, and Spencer Shepherd Wood.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in nine series:

- [Diaries, Journals, and Notebooks, 1877-1936](#)
- [Official Correspondence, 1875-1931](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1879-1946](#)
- [Records of the Asiatic Fleet, 1919-1922](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1803-1944](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1878-1919](#)
- [Newspaper Clippings, 1892-1937](#)
- [Photographs, 1877-1933](#)
- [Miscellany, 1812-1944](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-5	<u>Diaries, Journals, and Notebooks, 1877-1936</u> Writings, observations, and notes by Gleaves on naval and other subjects. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6-7	<u>Official Correspondence, 1875-1931</u> Orders to duty and other official correspondence. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 8-9	<u>General Correspondence, 1879-1946</u> Letters received and a few copies of letters sent, mostly of a personal and quasi-official nature. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 10	<u>Records of the Asiatic Fleet, 1919-1922</u> Correspondence, memoranda, notes, general orders, interview records, printed matter, newspaper clippings, drafts of articles, maps, and a few photographs. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 11-13	<u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1803-1944</u> Drafts, typescripts, near-print, and printed copies of Gleaves's speeches, articles, radio broadcasts, book reviews, and personal narratives. Also typescript material for an autobiography and files concerning his published works. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 14-16	<u>Scrapbooks, 1878-1919</u> Newspaper clippings, printed matter, invitations and calling cards, memorabilia, and a few pieces of attached correspondence. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 17-18	<u>Newspaper Clippings, 1892-1937</u> Clippings about Gleaves or subjects of interest to him. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 19	<u>Photographs, 1877-1933</u> Photographs pertaining primarily to Gleaves or his tours of duty. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 20-21	<u>Miscellany, 1812-1944</u> Correspondence concerning awards and decorations, letters of congratulation, maps, a collection of anecdotes, biographical material, printed matter, copies of historical documents, a poetry folder, invitations and calling cards, notes, reports, memoranda, and other assorted material. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-5	Diaries, Journals, and Notebooks, 1877-1936 Writings, observations, and notes by Gleaves on naval and other subjects. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1877, journal
BOX 1	1877, Aug.-1878, Sept., <i>Hartford</i> (sloop), journal,
BOX 1	1882, Aug.-1883, Mar., <i>Nipsic</i> (gunboat), journal
BOX 1	1881, Nov.-1883, Mar., <i>Nipsic</i> (gunboat), diary (2 vols.)
BOX 1	1891-1897, <i>Nipsic</i> (gunboat), diary
BOX 2	1883, Sept.-1886, Apr., <i>Trenton</i> (screw steamer) and <i>Monocacy</i> (gunboat), journal
BOX 2	1885, Mar.-1886, Jan., <i>Monocacy</i> (gunboat), journal
BOX 2	1886, May-1891, Mar., journal
BOX 2	1901, <i>Dolphin</i> (gunboat and dispatch vessel), journal
BOX 2	1901-1904, journal
BOX 2	1902, order book, <i>Mayflower</i> (patrol vessel converted yacht), journal
BOX 3	1902-1914, diary (7 folders)
BOX 4	1914-1918, diary (3 vols.)
BOX 4	1917, extracts from war diaries
BOX 4	1918-1921, diary (6 folders)
BOX 5	1921-1936, diary (6 folders)
BOX 5	Undated
BOX 5	Notebook on torpedoes, mines, and nets
BOX 5	Notebook on miscellaneous ship data
BOX 6-7	Official Correspondence, 1875-1931 Orders to duty and other official correspondence. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6	1875-1906 (5 folders)
BOX 7	1907-1931 (6 folders)
BOX 8-9	General Correspondence, 1879-1946 Letters received and a few copies of letters sent, mostly of a personal and quasi-official nature. Arranged chronologically.

General Correspondence, 1879-1946

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 8	1879-1918 (20 folders)
BOX 9	1919-1946, undated (17 folders)
BOX 10	Records of the Asiatic Fleet, 1919-1922 Correspondence, memoranda, notes, general orders, interview records, printed matter, newspaper clippings, drafts of articles, maps, and a few photographs. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 10	1919-1922, undated (15 folders)
BOX 11-13	Speech, Article, and Book File, 1803-1944 Drafts, typescripts, near-print, and printed copies of Gleaves's speeches, articles, radio broadcasts, book reviews, and personal narratives. Also typescript material for an autobiography and files concerning his published works. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 11	Copies of speeches, articles, radio broadcasts, and book reviews, 1917-1939, undated
BOX 11	Typescripts of personal narratives, 1914-1919
BOX 12	Typescript material for an autobiography, 1934
BOX 13	Book file
BOX 13	<i>James Lawrence, United States Navy, Commander of the "Chesapeake" (1904)</i>
BOX 13	Copies of historical documents, 1803-1881
BOX 13	Correspondence, 1903-1944
BOX 13	Newspaper clippings, 1904-1941
BOX 13	Miscellany
BOX 13	<i>The Life of an American Sailor: Rear Admiral William Hensley Emory, United States Navy (1923)</i>
BOX 13	<i>Life and Letters of Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce, United States Navy (1925)</i>
BOX 13	Correspondence, 1924-1927
BOX 13	Miscellany
BOX 14-16	Scrapbooks, 1878-1919 Newspaper clippings, printed matter, invitations and calling cards, memorabilia, and a few pieces of attached correspondence. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 14	1878-1881, 1890-1894, 1903-1904 (3 vols.)
BOX 15	1908-1918 (2 vols.)

Scrapbooks, 1878-1919

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 16	1917-1919 (3 vols.)
BOX 17-18	Newspaper Clippings, 1892-1937 Clippings about Gleaves or subjects of interest to him. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 17	1892-1922 (27 folders)
BOX 18	1922-1937 (16 folders)
BOX 19	Photographs, 1877-1933 Photographs pertaining primarily to Gleaves or his tours of duty. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 19	1877-1933, undated (8 folders)
BOX 20-21	Miscellany, 1812-1944 Correspondence concerning awards and decorations, letters of congratulation, maps, a collection of anecdotes, biographical material, printed matter, copies of historical documents, a poetry folder, invitations and calling cards, notes, reports, memoranda, and other assorted material. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 20	Awards and decorations, 1903-1920
BOX 20	Letters of congratulation
BOX 20	Atlantic convoy, 1917
BOX 20	Appointment as vice admiral, 1918
BOX 20	Appointment as admiral, 1919
BOX 20	Maps of China, 1920
BOX 20	Collection of anecdotes, undated
BOX 21	Biographical material, undated
BOX 21	Printed matter, 1875-1940, undated
BOX 21	Copies of naval historical documents, 1812-1919, undated
BOX 21	Poetry, undated
BOX 21	Invitations and calling cards, 1906-1939, undated
BOX 21	Notes, 1934-1938, undated
BOX 21	General miscellany, 1897-1944, undated