

# J. F. Shafroth Papers

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

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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

Finding aid encoded by Library of  
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# Collection Summary

Title: J. F. Shafroth Papers

Span Dates: 1926-1945

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1943-1945)

ID No.: MSS14043

Creator: Shafroth, J. F. (John Franklin), 1887-1967

Extent: 1,800 items; 7 containers; 4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Naval officer. Official correspondence, memoranda, directives, and reports sent to William Frederick Halsey and Chester W. Nimitz relating primarily to Shafroth's experiences as a commander in the South Pacific and head of a task group that conducted the first heavy bombardment of Japan during World War II. Includes material relating to Shafroth's course work at the Army War College.

## 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

Halsey, William Frederick, 1882-1959.

Nimitz, Chester W. (Chester William), 1885-1966.

Shafroth, J. F. (John Franklin), 1887-1967.

### Organizations

Army War College (U.S.)

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

### Subjects

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Japan.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Pacific Ocean.

### Occupations

Naval officers.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of J. F. Shafroth, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1968 and converted to a gift in 1998.

### Processing History

The papers of J. F. Shafroth were processed in 1973. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

### Additional Guides

In 1973 the Library published *Claude Charles Block, Julius Augustus Furer, John Franklin Shafroth, and William Harrison Standley: A Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of J. F. Shafroth is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of J. F. Shafroth 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, J. F. Shafroth Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1887, Mar. 31	Born, Denver, Colo.
1908	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1908-1912	Duty in <i>Virginia</i> , world cruise
1911	Married Helena Marshall Fischer
1914	Executive officer, <i>Jenkins</i> , Mexican campaign
1917	Commanded <i>Terry</i> , World War I
1918	Commanded Sub-Chaser Squadron, World War I
1922-1923	Served on staff of Special Service Squadron, Central American waters
1926-1927	Student, U.S. Army War College, Washington, D.C.
1927-1928	Taught, U.S. Army War College, Washington, D.C.
1928-1930	Navigator, <i>Arkansas</i>
1941-1942	Assistant chief, Bureau of Navigation
1941	Promoted to rear admiral
1942	Commander, Southeast Pacific Force
1943-1944	Deputy commander, South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force
1945	Commanded battleship task group that bombarded Japan
1946	Commandant, 15th Naval District, Panama

1948-1949	Chairman, General Board, U.S. Navy
1949	Retired from U.S. Navy as vice admiral
1955-1957	President, Naval Academy Alumni Association
1961-1967	President, Naval Historical Foundation
1967, Sept. 1	Died, Westerly, R.I.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Franklin Shafroth (1887-1967) span the years 1926-1945, with the bulk of the material concentrated in 1943-1945. The papers consist almost entirely of mimeographed or carbon copies relating primarily to Shafroth's experiences in World War II. He was commander of the South Pacific Force, deputy commander of the South Pacific Area, and commander of a task group that conducted the first heavy bombardment of Japan. Included are letters, directives, memoranda, and action reports. Correspondents include William Frederick Halsey, John B. Heffernan, and Chester W. Nimitz.

The papers also contain bound volumes of mimeographed material relating to Shafroth's course work as a student at the United States Army War College in 1926-1927.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Official correspondence
BOX 1	1941-1944
BOX 2	1945
BOX 2	Jan.-July
BOX 3	Aug.-Oct.
BOX 4	Subject file
BOX 4	Bombardment of Japan, 1945
BOX 4	Hammamatsu
BOX 4	Honshu
BOX 4	Kamaishi
BOX 4	Course, U.S. Army War College
BOX 4	1926-1927
BOX 5	1926-1927
BOX 6	1926-1927
BOX 6	Study of the Army and Navy Munitions Board by W.A. McCain, 1928
BOX 7	Directives, Southeast Pacific Force and South Pacific Force, 1942-1944