A guide to the William J. Rockstroh papers, 1943-1944

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Abstract: The William J. Rockstroh papers consist of the Chief Engineer's logbook for the SS Sea Devil from November 1943 to March 1944, a US Coast Guard Merchant Marine engineering license exam booklet and a photograph of Mr. Rockstroh in his Merchant Marine uniform.  
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Acquisition Information: SAFR-02208  
Donated by Mr. William J. Rockstroh  
Historical or Biographical Note: William J. Rockstroh was the Chief Engineer of the SS SEA DEVIL from November 1943 to March 1944. The SEA DEVIL was a Merchant Marine cargo vessel operated by the American-Hawaiian Steamship company.  
William J. Rockstroh served as the Chief Engineer of the SS SEA DEVIL from November 1943 to March 1944. The SEA DEVIL was one of 465 United States Maritime Commission C3 Type ships built during WW II. The C3 Type was 7800 gross tons and 12,000 dead weight tons. The length overall was 492' and 465' at the water line with a beam of 69.5' and a normal draft of 28.5'. Two boilers drove an 8,500 HP geared turbine, which was connected, to a single shaft to provide a speed of 16.5 knots. The SS SEA DEVIL was a Maritime Commission design C3-S-A2 Type built by the Western Pipe and Steel Company of California at San Francisco as Western hull number 91 and Maritime Commission hull number 279. The keel was laid on February 18, 1943, launched on May 23, 1943 and delivered on November 30, 1943. As part of his official duties, Mr. Rockstroh maintained a columnar format logbook detailing the hourly operating specifications and operating status of the engineering plant while conducting operations in support of the US war effort in the Pacific Ocean. The Chief Engineer's
logbook, an educational publication of the US Coast Guard for Merchant Marine engineering licensure and a photograph of Mr. Rockstroh in his Merchant Marine Uniform were kept in his possession until donated to the San Francisco Maritime Historical Park in 2011.

**Collection Scope and Content**

The William J. Rockstroh papers consist of the Chief Engineer's logbook for the SS Sea Devil from November 1943 to March 1944, a US Coast Guard Merchant Marine engineering license exam booklet and a photograph of Mr. Rockstroh in his Merchant Marine uniform.

The William J. Rockstroh papers, 1943 (SAFR 23811, HDC 1655) consists of the Chief Engineer's log book for the SS SEA DEVIL from November 1943 to March 1944, a US Coast Guard Merchant Marine engineering license specimen examination booklet, and a black & white photograph of Mr. Rockstroh in his Merchant Marine uniform. The collection is open for use without restrictions.

The SS SEA DEVIL, was a C3-S-A2-Type cargo vessel built as part of the United States Maritime Commission war-time fleet. Built at Western Pipe and Steel Company of California's San Francisco yard in 1943, she was delivered to the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company on November 30, 1943, the day the Chief Engineer's log was started. The log records the daily activities and monitors the conditions of the engineering plant through March 1944, during the time in which Mr. Rockstroh served as the ship's Chief Engineer.

In addition to the Chief Engineer's log book, this collection also includes the US Coast Guard Merchant Marine Engineering License specimen examination booklet owned by Mr. Rockstroh and a black & white photograph of Mr. Rockstroh in his Merchant Marine uniform.

**Collection Arrangement**

The William J. Rockstroh papers is a collection of three items housed in one oversize box.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Logbooks

Rockstroh, William J.

Sea Devil (built 1943; merchant ship)

San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)

Logbooks

Logs (records)

Engineer

Boat engines