Finding Aid for the Admiral William H. Standley papers 0005

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2010
Title: Admiral William H. Standley papers
Collection number: 0005
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 14.0 Linear feet 16 boxes
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1924-1958
Date (inclusive): 1892-1992
Abstract: These papers document both the personal and professional life of Admiral William H. Standley (1872-1963), naval officer, United States government official and diplomat, and California civic leader.
creator: Standley, Evelyn Curtis
creator: Standley, William Harrison, 1872-1963
Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], Admiral William H. Standley Papers, Collection no. 0005, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Conditions Governing Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE. Advance notice required for access.
Scope and Content
The Admiral William H. Standley papers contain both professional and personal correspondence, addresses and speeches, genealogical and biographical material, photographs, memorabilia, and other material documenting Admiral Standley’s family, naval career, and public activities.
Biographical note
William Harrison Standley was born in Ukiah, California, on December 18, 1872, the son of Jeremiah M. “Doc” Standley who was the Mendocino County Sheriff at the time, and of Sara Jane Clay Standley. After attending school in California and Maryland, Standley entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1891 and graduated in 1897.
During his long naval career, Standley rose from ensign to the rank of Admiral. He served in a variety of assignments during this career, the most notable included Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) (1933-1937), Acting Secretary of the Navy (1933-1937), and a member of the United States delegation to the London Naval Conference (1935-1936). Retiring in January 1937, Admiral Standley returned to active duty in February 1941, first serving as naval representative on the planning board of the Office of Production Management, then as part of the Beaverbrook-Harriman Special War Supply Mission to the U.S.S.R. (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), and lastly as a member of the Navy Board for Production Awards. He also was a member of the first Roberts Commission (1941-1942), a fact-finding commission which investigated the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Subsequently recalled to active duty one last time, in March 1944, Standley served in the Office of Strategic Services throughout the remaining period of the war. He was relieved of all active duty on August 31, 1945.
In addition to his naval career, Admiral Standley was for a time U.S. Ambassador to the U.S.S.R., appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1942-1943). He wrote about this period in Admiral Ambassador to Russia with Admiral Arthur A. Ageton, published in 1955.
Admiral Standley was honored with many awards, citations, and commendations both during his lifetime and posthumously. These honors included the Distinguished Service Medal (World War II); Commendation Letter Baler Reconnaissance Expedition (1901); Commendation Letter as Captain of the USS California (1926); Cavaliers Di Gran Groce (Italy, 1934); Star of “Abdon Calderon” First Class (Ecuador, 1936); Honorary Degree, Doctor of Law, University of California (1944); Honorary Degree, Doctor of Laws, University of Southern California (1952); Award of Merit, Daughters of the American Revolution (1957); Golden Nurse Award, American National Red Cross (1963); the USS William Harrison Standley DG 32 (1964); the Admiral William Standley State Recreation Area in Northern California; and the William H. Standley Middle School, San Diego, CA.
Admiral Standley lived in final retirement in San Diego, California, until his death on October 25, 1963.
Related Archival Materials
Processing information
The collection was reprocessed by Michael Hooks in 2013. The original collection was retained as is, but the old archival folders and document boxes were replaced with new archival folders and 13 new banker’s boxes, 2 new document boxes,
and 1 film reel storage box. Loose material was incorporated into new folders and boxes.

**Conditions Governing Use**

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Manuscripts Librarian. Permission for publication is given on behalf of Special Collections as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.

**Organization**

The collection is organized by series.


The order of the materials in the boxes is based on the original order of the collection when Marion Wincote Elliott, granddaughter of Admiral Standley, compiled her *Index to the Papers of William Harrison Standley 1872-1963 Admiral United States Navy 1891-1937* in 1988. An Addendum was made later and added to the Index. Elliott gave a copy of the Index to Special Collections.

**Separated materials note**

*Index to the Papers of William Harrison Standley 1872-1963 Admiral United States Navy 1891-1937*, compiled by Marion Wincote Elliott in 1988, was transferred to the Admiral William H. Standley Accessions File.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

American Red Cross. -- Archives
California. Special Crime Study Commission on Organized Crime. -- Archives
Harriman-Beaverbrook Mission to Moscow. -- Archives
Pan American Airways Corporation. -- Archives
Standley, William Harrison , 1872-1963 -- Archives
Sulzberger, Arthur Hays, 1891-1968 -- Archives
Taussig, Joseph K. (Joseph Knefler), 1877-1947 -- Correspondence
U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association. -- Archives
United States. Navy. Chief of Naval Operations. -- Archives
Willkie, Wendell L. (Wendell Lewis), 1892-1944 -- Archives
Anti-communist movements--United States--History--20th century--Archival resources
Armed Forces--History--Archival resources
Civil defense--California--Archival resources
Clippings
Correspondence
Diplomats--United States--Archival resources
Europe, Eastern--History--Archival resources
Financial records
Guided missile ships--Archival resources
Memoirs
Memorabilia
Photographs
Russia--History--Archival resources
San Diego County (Calif.)--History--Archival resources
San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (Oakland and San Francisco, Calif.)--Archival resources
Speeches, addresses, etc., American--20th century--Archival resources
United States--Biography--Archival resources
United States--History--Archival resources
United States. Navy--Officers--Archival resources

**Finding Aid for the Admiral**

**William H. Standley papers 0005**

**General Material, Family Correspondence, Narratives, Biographies, Taxes 1929-1948, 1958, 1992**

**Scope and Content**

**Activities 1937-1953**
- Communism in Schools 1944-1948
- National Concert & Artists Corp. 1945-1946
- Burning Tree Golf Club 1942
- New York World's Fair 1937-1939
- Golf 1945-1952
- Episcopal Church 1952-1953

**Organizational Memberships Bulk, 1939-1958 1932-1959**
- Naval League 1948-1950
- White Russia Committee 1952-1953
- Atlantic Union Committee 1950-1951
- California Proposal 3 - School Taxation 1952

**Finding Aid for the Admiral**

**William H. Standley papers 0005**
Box 2, Folder 3  
Christianform 1948-1954
Box 2, Folder 4  
Citizen's Foreign Relations Committee 1955-1959
Box 2, Folder 5  
Conservative Politics 1954-1955
Box 2, Folder 6  
Council Against Communist Aggression 1950-1958
Box 2, Folder 7  
Congress of Freedom 1955-1958
Box 2, Folder 8  
American Friends of Russian Freedom 1954-1956
Box 2, Folder 9  
Gehers, Leslie E., Campaign 1950
Box 2,  
Unification Merger Navy vs. B-36 1949
Folder 10-11
Box 2, Folder 12  
Hoover Commission Report and Committee on National Affairs 1947-1950
Box 2, Folder 13  
Regular Veterans' Organization 1949-1952
Box 2, Folder 14  
California World Progress Exposition - San Diego, CA 1949-1950
Box 14, Folder 1  
Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies 1940
Box 14, Folder 2  
Helen and Francis Miller Associations 1939-1940
Box 14, Folder 3  
Fortune Roundtable 1939-1940
Box 14, Folder 4  
American China Policy Association, Inc. 1945-1947
Box 2, Folder 15, 17
Box 2, Folder 16, 18
Council Against Communist Aggression
Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings 1933-1935, 1942, 1951-1953

Crime Study Commission 1947-1950
General note
Official title: California Special Crime Study Commission on Organized Crime, which Admiral Standley led as chairman.

Box 3, Folder 1-2
Box 3, Folder 3
Box 3, Folder 4
Crime Study Commission 1947-1948
Crime Study Commission 1948-1950
Crime Study Commission 1949-1950
Civil Defense and Red Cross 1948-1954

Box 3, Folder 5-6
Box 3, Folder 7
Box 3, Folder 8-9
Civil Defense 1948-1951
Civil Defense - Highways 1953-1954
Red Cross 1953-1954
Pan American Airways & San Francisco Bay Bridge 1924, 1935, 1942-1953

Box 3, Folder 10-12
Box 3, Folder 13
San Francisco Bay Bridge 1924, 1935, 1942, 1953
Correspondence 1892-1946

Official Correspondence

Box 3, Folder 14
Box 3, Folder 15
Box 3, Folder 16
Box 3, Folder 17
Official Correspondence 1892 1892, 1902-1945
Orders 1941-1945 1936,1941-1946
Correspondence Retirement 1936,1941-1946
Official Correspondence, Miscellaneous 1902-1945

Letters - Family 1932-1933, 1941-1943

Box 5, Folder 1-2
Box 5, Folder 3
Box 5, Folder 4
Letters - Mrs. Standley 1941-1943
Letters - Family 1932-1933 1932-1933, 1944
Clippings Golden Wedding

Speeches
Speeches

Box 3, Folder 18-22

Speeches 1938-1945 1937-1945

Addresses 1924-1936

Scope and Content

Addresses (speeches) given by Admiral Standley.

Box 4, Folder 1-2

Addresses 1924-1934

Box 4, Folder 3-4

Addresses 1934-1935 1935

Box 4, Folder 5-6

Addresses 1935-1936 1936

Invitations 1932-1936

Box 4, Folder 7-8

Invitations 1932-1934

Box 4, Folder 9-10

Invitations 1935

Box 4, Folder 11-12

Invitations 1936

Visits to Russia & Russian Material 1933-1951, 1960

Box 5, Folder 5

Correspondence - John Young & Will Hayes 1943

Box 5, Folder 6

Harriman-Beaverbrook Commission 1941

Box 5, Folder 7-8

Russian Memorandum 1942 April 25 - 1943 March 13 1941-1943

Box 5, Folder 9

Russian Memorandum 1943

Box 5, Folder 10

Russian Material 1941-1942

Box 5, Folder 11

Joe Davies' Visit to Russia 1943

Box 5, Folder 12

Moscow Letters 1945-1946

Box 5, Folder 13

Wendel Wilkie Visit to Russia 1942

Box 5, Folder 14

Arthur Sulzberger Visit to Russia 1943

Box 5, Folder 15

Telegrams Moscow 1942-1943

Box 5, Folder 16

Russian Duplicates 1941-1943

Box 5, Folder 17

Letters - White House & Others 1933-1951, 1960

Correspondence 1930-1954

Letters (A-Z) 1930-1932 1930-1932

Box 5, Folder 18

Letters (A-F) 1930-1932

Box 5, Folder 19-20

Letters (G-M) 1930-1932

Box 5, Folder 21

Letters (N-Z) 1930-1932

Letters (A-Z) 1933-1934 1933-1934

Box 6, Folder 1

Letters (A) 1933-1934

Box 6, Folder 2

Letters (B) 1933-1934

Box 6, Folder 3

Letters (C) 1933-1934

Box 6, Folder 4

Letters (D) 1933-1934

Box 6, Folder 5

Letters (E-G) 1933-1934

Box 6, Folder 6

Letters (H) 1933-1934

Box 6, Folder 7

Letters (I-K) 1933-1934

Box 6, Folder 9, 10

Letters (L-Mc) 1933-1934

Box 6, Folder 11

Letters (M-N) 1933-1934

Box 6, Folder 12

Letters (O-Q) 1933-1934

Box 7, Folder 1

Letters (R) 1933-1934

Box 7, Folder 2-3

Letters (S) 1933-1934

Box 7, Folder 4

Letters (T) 1933-1934

Box 7, Folder 5

Letters (T-V) 1933-1934

Finding Aid for the Admiral

William H. Standley papers 0005
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 10, Folder 6-7</th>
<th>Letters 1942 1941-1942</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 8</td>
<td>Letters 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 9</td>
<td>Letters 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 10</td>
<td>Letters 1945 1945-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 11</td>
<td>Letters 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 12</td>
<td>Letters (1943-1944) Knopf, Alfred. A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letters (1946-1950) 1941-1955

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 10, Folder 13</th>
<th>Letters 1946 [America's] Town Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 14</td>
<td>Letters 1946 Bikini Bomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 15</td>
<td>Letters 1946 Atomic Energy 1946-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 16</td>
<td>Letters 1946 Toledo U.N.[United Nations Association]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 17</td>
<td>Letters 1949-1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 18</td>
<td>Letters 1946-1947 Electric Boat company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 19</td>
<td>Letters Miscellaneous 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 20</td>
<td>Letters Bert Curtis 1947-1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 21</td>
<td>Letters Miscellaneous 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 22</td>
<td>Letters 1946 U.S. News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 23</td>
<td>Letters 1946 United States Federation of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 24</td>
<td>Letters Miscellaneous 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 25</td>
<td>Correspondence Miscellaneous 1944-1947 1943-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 26</td>
<td>Red China Clippings 1950-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 27</td>
<td>Letters of Commendation and Criticism 1945-1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 28</td>
<td>Published Memoirs 1941, 1952-1955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letters (1949-1952) 1936-1954

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 10, Folder 29</th>
<th>Letters (A) 1949-1952 1949-1953</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 30</td>
<td>Letters (B) 1949-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 31-32</td>
<td>Letters (C) 1949-1952 1948-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 1</td>
<td>Letters (D) 1949-1952 1950-1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters (E) 1949-1952 1948-1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters (F) 1949-1952 1950-1952</td>
</tr>
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<td>Box 11, Folder 4</td>
<td>Letters (G) 1949-1952 1950-1952</td>
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<td>Box 11, Folder 5</td>
<td>Letters (H) 1949-1952 1936, 1949-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 6</td>
<td>Letters (I-J) 1949-1952 1950-1953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 7</td>
<td>Letters (K) 1949-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 8</td>
<td>Letters (L) 1949-1952</td>
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<td>Box 11, Folder 9</td>
<td>Letters (M) 1949-1952 1940, 1943, 1947 1950 1951 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 10</td>
<td>Letters (N) 1949-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 11</td>
<td>Letters (O-P) 1949-1952 1950-1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 12</td>
<td>Letters (Q-R) 1949-1952 1948-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 13</td>
<td>Letters (S) 1949-1952 1948-1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 14</td>
<td>Letters (T) 1949-1952 1948-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 15</td>
<td>Letters (U-V) 1949-1952 1948-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 16</td>
<td>Letters (W) 1949-1952 1950-1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 17</td>
<td>Letters (X-Z) 1949-1952 1939, 1950-1952</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 12, Folder 2-3</th>
<th>Letters and Miscellaneous (A) 1953-1954 1952-1954</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 4</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (B) 1953-1954 1952-1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 5-7</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (C) 1953-1954 1951-1954</td>
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Finding Aid for the Admiral
William H. Standley papers 0005
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 12, Folder 8</th>
<th>Letters and Miscellaneous (D-F) 1953-1954 1952-1954</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 9</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (G) 1953-1954 1952-1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 10</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (H) 1953-1954 1951-1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 11</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (I-J) 1953-1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 12</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (K) 1953-1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 13</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (L) 1953-1954 1948-1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 14</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (M) 1953-1954 1952-1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 15</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (N) 1953-1954 1952-1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 16</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (O-P) 1953-1954</td>
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<td>Box 12, Folder 17</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (Q-R) 1953-1954 1952-1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 13, Folder 18</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (S) 1953-1954 1953-1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 13, Folder 19</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (T) 1953-1954 1947-1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 13, Folder 20</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (U-V) 1953-1954 1952-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 13, Folder 21</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (W) 1953-1954 1952-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 13, Folder 22</td>
<td>Letters and Miscellaneous (X-Z) 1953-1954 1950-1953</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scans and Miscellaneous 1935**

- [Officer's] Records of Fitness
- Order of the Crown of Italy, Rank of Cavaliere di Gran Croce 1935 October 12
- Regular Veterans Association National Headquarters Appoint William H. Standley as National Vice Chairman at Large - Pacific Coast - Regular Veterans Rehabilitation Comm. undated
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, President's Commission Appointing William H. Standley as a Delegate on the part of the United States of American to the London Naval Conference of 1935 1935 November 20
- Newspaper Clippings
- Rubber Stamp: "Adm. Wm. H. Standley Papers, University of So. Calif. Library"

**Miscellaneous Papers 1933-1952**

- Box 13, Folder 6 | Letters Charles Wincote 1933-1934
- Box 13, Folder 7 | Chamber of Commerce, Coronado, San Diego 1951-1952
- Box 13, Folder 8 | Efforts on National Level 1948-1949
- Box 13, Folder 9 | Proposed Reorganization of Navy Department 1939-1940
- Box 13, Folder 10 | 17th - 18th Century Letters Copies
- Box 13, Folder 11 | [Travel] Logs 1941-1943
- Box 13, Folder 12 | Calavo Newsletters 1947-1948
- Box 13, Folder 13 | Congratulations 1933
- Box 13, Folder 14 | Quotations, Sayings, Poems
- Box 13, Folder 15 | Atlantic Union Committee 1949-1952
- Box 13, Folder 16 | Washington Trip 1933
- Box 13, Folder 17 | Speaking Arrangements 1945 1944-1945

**Naval Thesis, Battle Plans and Instructions 1916-1925, 1930-1931**

- Box 13, Folder 18 | Naval Thesis, Battle Plans and Instructions 1916-1925, 1930-1931
- Folder 19 | Scope and Content
  - Folder 14 contains the following: "Discussion of Winter Maneuvers 1923-24" by Captain W.H. Standley, U.S.N. undated.

**Pamphlets, Articles, and Reprints**
Pamphlets, Articles, and Reprints

Pamphlets, Articles, Reprints

Photographs

Photographs 1931-1936

Scope and Content
Black and white photographs in Box 12 include the following:
1) 8 portraits of Admiral Standley wearing his uniform, undated
2) 1 photograph of Admiral Standley taken with an unidentified gentleman, undated
3) 1 photograph taken at flag changing ceremonies on the U.S.S. California, flagship, 1933 May 20
4) 1 photograph with Admiral Standley, Acting Secretary of the Navy; Mrs. Conway Stetson, donor of the Conway Memorial Trophy; and Lt. A.K. Morehouse, Commanding Officer of the Miami, Florida, Naval Reserve Station, at the awarding of the Conway Trophy to the Naval Reserve Station, 1936 July 24
5) 2 photographs of Admiral Standley taken with other Naval officers and civilians, Norfolk, VA, undated
6) 4 photographs of unidentified children and adults taken on the U.S.S. Chicago at the Brooklyn Naval Yard, 1931
7) 1 photograph of Admiral Standley with S.C. Stott (?), 1931 November 23
8) 1 photograph of Admiral and Mrs. Standley taken with Mayor and Mrs. Rossi of San Francisco, CA, and City Manager A.J. and Mrs. Cleary of San Francisco, CA
9) 6 photographs with taken of and at the Long Beach Harbor, Long Beach, CA, with Admiral Standley in two of the photographs, undated
10) 1 photo-reproduction taken on the deck of the U.S.S. Pensacola, 1868
11) 1 photograph of Admiral and Mrs. Standley, undated

Black and white photograph in Box 16: 1 photograph taken at the Warrant Officers Association Dinner in Honor of Rear Admiral Russell R. Waesche, Commandant U.S. Coast Guard, 1936 August 4.


Photograph of the U.S.S. William H. Standley under way and Track Chart circa 1966

Commissioning 1966

History of U.S.S. William H. Standley

"Launching of U.S.S. William H. Standley (D6-32-CG-32) ... at Fath Iron Works, Bath, ME" 1964 December 19

Film Reel

16 mm film on a reel


The Early Life and Naval Career of William Harrison Standley 1872-1937 1964

General note


Admiral's House and its Occupants, Navy History Office, Navy Department 1963

Admiral William H. Standley Obituary 1963 October 26