

Gardner/Wilson Collection of the USS Reid 369

ca. 1936-2015

1 box, 1 website (1.5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 1047



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A destroyer commissioned in 1936, the USS Reid was assigned to the Pacific Fleet and in 1939 was moved to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The Reid was being serviced in port on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. The Reid survived and was re-assembled so quickly it was out patrolling later that morning. Between 1941 and 1944, the Reid served on numerous patrol and escort missions, including in the Aleutian Islands and Solomon Islands and joined forces fighting in Guadalcanal. During the Reid's involvement in the battle of Leyte Gulf, it was attacked by twelve kamikaze fighters, several of which made contact with the Reid, including one that crashed into the port quarter and exploded, blowing the ship apart and killing 103 of the 268 aboard.

The Gardner/Wilson Collection represents the efforts of Leonard F. Gardner (BA '49), Pearl Harbor survivor, who served on the Reid from 1941-1944. Gardner collected photographs, oral histories, and documents from former shipmates and produced a newsletter from 1997 to 2015 that recorded the lives of shipmates and included photographs and information about the USS Reid. In addition to the original materials Gardner collected, a full run of the newsletter and other documents related to the Reid's service in World War II, the Gardner/Wilson collection includes a website curated by Gardner and designed, created, and maintained by James M. Wilson III (MBA '86, MS '86, PhD '00), whose father, James M. Wilson, Jr., served on the USS Reid from 1940 and survived its sinking in 1944. The original website can be found at <http://ussreid369.org>. SCUA also maintains an archived version of the site. Several documents and photographs relating to the sinking of the Reid were added to the collection by Gordon Seastrom, a Pearl Harbor survivor and Reid shipmate.

Background on Gardner/Wilson Collection of the USS Reid 369

A destroyer commissioned in 1936, the USS Reid was assigned to the Pacific Fleet and in 1939 was moved to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The Reid was being serviced in port on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. The Reid survived and was re-assembled so quickly it was out patrolling later that morning. Between 1941 and 1944, the Reid served on numerous patrol and escort missions, including in the Aleutian Islands and Solomon Islands and joined forces fighting in Guadalcanal. During the Reid's involvement in the battle of Leyte Gulf, it was attacked by twelve kamikaze fighters, several of which made contact with the Reid, including one that crashed into the port quarter and exploded, blowing the ship apart and killing 103 of the 268 aboard.

Before that fatal attack on the USS Reid, the shipmates experience on the Reid included an interesting ceremony. When a sailor crossed the equator for the first time they were made to participate in a ceremony that involved King Neptune, the shipmates were given instructions on what they were to wear and what they were to do in the presence of King Neptune. The King Neptune event consisted of someone dressing in a robe, wig and crown to pose as King Neptune and giving a speech to the participating sailors. Starting in the 1960s, the survivors gathered together again to hold fairly regular reunions and a newsletter was created with the help of James M. Wilson Jr. and Leonard F. Gardner.

Leonard F. Gardner (BA '49) is a Pearl Harbor survivor who served on the Reid from 1941-1944. In 2018, Gardner was awarded an honorary degree by UMass Amherst. He is responsible for putting together the collection, curating the website and helping run the newsletter from 1997 to 2015.

James M. Wilson III (MBA '86, MS '86, PhD '00) created and manages the website <http://ussreid369.org>. Wilson's father, James M. Wilson, Jr., served on the USS Reid from 1940 until the sinking in 1944. Wilson, Jr. ran the Reunion newsletter from 1975 to 1996.

Scope of collection

The Gardner/Wilson Collection represents the efforts of Leonard F. Gardner (BA '49), Pearl Harbor survivor, who served on the Reid from 1941-1944. Gardner collected photographs, oral histories, and documents from former shipmates and produced a newsletter from 1997 to 2015 that recorded the lives of shipmates and included photographs and information about the USS Reid. The photographs include photos of the shipmates from their time on the Reid and over the years at reunions.

In addition to the original materials Gardner collected, a full run of the newsletter and other documents related to the Reid's service in World War II, the Gardner/Wilson collection includes a website curated by Gardner and designed, created, and maintained by James M. Wilson III (MBA '86, MS '86, PhD '00), whose father, James M. Wilson, Jr., served on the USS Reid from 1940 and survived its sinking in 1944. The original website can be found at <http://ussreid369.org>. SCUA also maintains an archived version of the site.

Several documents and photographs relating to the sinking of the Reid were added to the collection by Gordon Seastrom, a Pearl Harbor survivor and Reid shipmate. Also included are: recollections of the shipmates of their time on the Reid, there are photos and a letter from King Neptune, documenting a ceremony that was done when sailors crossed the equator for the first time. There are also photographs, announcements and financial documents in regards to a model that was built of the USS Reid 369 and completed in July 1995.

Inventory

Correspondence: Carney, Robert D., Admiral

1993-1996

Box 1: 1

Financials

1985 Mar - 1991 Oct

Box 1: 2

Histories and Logs

ca. 1941 - 2003

Box 1: 3

King Neptune Letter

1942 Oct

Box 1: 4

Newsletter

1975

Box 1: 5

Newsletter

1976

Box 1: 6

Newsletter

1977

Box 1: 7

Newsletter

1978

Box 1: 8

Newsletter

1979

Box 1: 9

Newsletter

1980

Box 1: 10

Newsletter

1981

Box 1: 11

Newsletter

1982

Box 1: 12

Newsletter

1983

Box 1: 13

Newsletter

1984

Box 1: 14

Newsletter

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Box 1: 16

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1987

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Box 1: 40
Newsletter
2011
Box 1: 41
Newsletter
2012
Box 1: 42
Newsletter
2013

Box 1: 43
Newsletter
2014
Box 1: 44
Newsletter
2015
Box 1: 45
Photographs: Locations, locals, postcards and a plane
1941
Box 1: 46
Photographs: Reunion
ca. 1960s - 2010s
Box 1: 47
Photographs: Reunion
ca. 1960s - 2010s
Box 1: 48
Photographs: Reunion
ca. 1960s - 2010s
Box 1: 49
Photographs: Ship Model
1995 July
Box 1: 50
Photographs: Shipmates
1936 - 1944
Box 1: 51
Photographs: USS Reid 369
1937 - 1944
Box 1: 52
Poetry
1944 Feb - July
Box 1: 53
Recollections
ca. 1941 - 1987
Box 1: 54
Recollections
ca. 1941 - 1987
Box 1: 55
Reid Relaunch, Memorial Service pamphlet and reunion pin
ca. 1981 June - 1993 Oct
Box 1: 56
Reports (News, Sinking, Action and Officer's Reports
1942 - 1945
Box 1: 57
Reunion Group Biographical Information of Shipmates
1944 - 1996
Box 1: 58
Reunion Group Biographical Information of Shipmates
1944 - 1996
Box 1: 59
Rosters
1936 - 1980
Box 1: 60
Rosters
1936 - 1980
Box 1: 61
Ship's Model Project
1994 - 1996
Box 1: 62
VFW Magazine

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Leonard F. Gardner and James M. Wilson III, 2018.

Processing Information

Processed by Katherine E. Bailey, 2019.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Gardner/Wilson Collection of the USS Reid 369 (MS 1047 bd). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

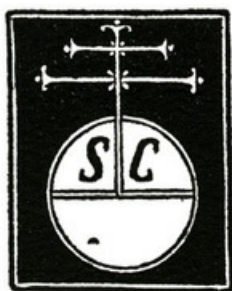
Destroyer escorts--United States
Kamikaze Pilots
Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941
Warships--United States
World War, 1939 - 1945 -- Naval operations

Contributors

USS Reid 369 [main entry]
Gardner, Leonard F.
Wilson, James M. III
Seastrom, Gordon

Genres and formats

Correspondence
Documents
Photographs



Special Collections & University Archives
University Libraries : UMass Amherst
154 Hicks Way : Amherst, Mass. 01003-9275
Ph. 413-545-7282 (545-SCUA)

