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## Gardner/Wilson Collection of the USS Reid 369

ca. 1936-2015

1 box, 1 website (1.5 linear feet)

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Read collection overview

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 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. Wilson also conducted oral histories of remaining USS Reid 369 members in 2006. 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 SCUA also maintains an archived version of the site.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 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.

## 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 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

Clippings: Book Segments

undated

Box 1: 1

Clippings: Magazines

1982 Mar-Apr

Box 1: 2

Clippings: Newspaper

1945, 1994

Box 1: 3

Correspondence

1994, 1996

Box 1: 4

Correspondence: Carney, Robert D., Admiral

1993-1996

Box 1: 5

Financials

1985 Mar-1991 Oct

Box 1: 6

Histories and Copies of Reports and Logs

ca.1941-2003

Box 1: 7

King Neptune Letter

1942 Oct

Box 1: 8

Logs

1936 Nov

Box 2: 1

Logs

1941 Dec

Box 2: 2

Logs

1943 May, Sep  
Box 2: 3  
Logs  
1944 Jan  
Box 2: 4  
Logs  
1944 Feb  
Box 2: 5  
Logs  
1944 Mar  
Box 2: 6  
Logs  
1944 Apr  
Box 2: 7  
Logs  
1944 May  
Box 2: 8  
Logs  
1944 Jun  
Box 2: 9  
Logs  
1944 Jul  
Box 2: 10  
Logs  
1944 Aug  
Box 2: 11  
Logs  
1944 Sep  
Box 2: 12  
Logs  
1944 Oc  
Box 2: 13  
Logs  
1944 Nov  
Box 2: 14  
Microfilm  
undated  
Box 2: 15  
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1975  
Box 1: 9  
Newsletter  
1976 Sep-Oct  
Box 1: 10  
Newsletter  
1977 Mar  
Box 1: 11  
Newsletter  
1978 Feb-Oct  
Box 1: 12  
Newsletter  
1979 Mar-Dec  
Box 1: 13  
Newsletter  
1980 Feb-Dec  
Box 1: 14  
Newsletter  
ca.1981 Jun-Dec  
Box 1: 15  
Newsletter  
1982 Mar-Dec  
Box 1: 16  
Newsletter  
1983  
Box 1: 17  
Newsletter  
1984 Mar  
Box 1: 18

Newsletter  
1986 Dec.  
Box 1: 19  
Newsletter  
1987 Feb-Nov  
Box 1: 20  
Newsletter  
1988 Jan-Dec  
Box 1: 21  
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1989 Feb-Dec  
Box 1: 22  
Newsletter  
1990 Feb-Dec  
Box 1: 23  
Newsletter  
1991 Feb-Dec  
Box 1: 24  
Newsletter  
1992 Feb-Dec  
Box 1: 25  
Newsletter  
1993 Feb-Dec  
Box 1: 26  
Newsletter  
1994 Feb-Dec  
Box 1: 27  
Newsletter  
1995 Feb-Dec  
Box 1: 28  
Newsletter  
1996 Nov  
Box 1: 29  
Newsletter  
1997 Feb-Nov  
Box 1: 30  
Newsletter  
1998 Feb-Nov  
Box 1: 31  
Newsletter  
1999 Feb-Nov  
Box 1: 32  
Newsletter  
2000 Mar-Nov  
Box 1: 33  
Newsletter  
2001 May-Nov  
Box 1: 34  
Newsletter  
2002 Feb-Nov  
Box 1: 35  
Newsletter  
2003 Feb-Nov  
Box 1: 36  
Newsletter  
2004 Mar-Nov  
Box 1: 37  
Newsletter  
2005 Feb-Oct  
Box 1: 38  
Newsletter  
2006 Feb-Nov  
Box 1: 39  
Newsletter  
2007 Feb-Dec  
Box 1: 40  
Newsletter  
2008 Mar-Oct

Box 1: 41  
Newsletter  
2009 Mar-Dec  
Box 1: 42  
Newsletter  
2010 Apr-Dec  
Box 1: 43  
Newsletter  
2011 Apr-Aug  
Box 1: 44  
Newsletter  
2012 Jan-Dec  
Box 1: 45  
Newsletter  
2013 Sep  
Box 1: 46  
Newsletter  
2014 Oct.  
Box 1: 47  
Newsletter  
2015 Nov  
Box 1: 48  
Photographs: Locations, locals, postcards and a plane  
1941  
Box 1: 49  
Photographs: Reunion  
ca.1960s-2010s  
Box 1: 50  
Photographs: Reunion  
ca.1960s-2010s  
Box 1: 51  
Photographs: Reunion  
ca.1960s-2010s  
Box 1: 52  
Photographs: Seventh Annual Dance  
1942 Nov 16-17  
Box COS 1: 13  
Photographs: Ship Model  
1995 Jul  
Box 1: 53  
Photographs: Shipmates  
1936-1944  
Box 1: 54  
Photographs: Sinking of the Reid  
1940s  
Box 1: 55  
Photographs: USS Reid 369  
1937-1944  
Box 1: 56  
Poetry  
1944 Feb-Jul  
Box 1: 57  
Recollections  
ca. 1941-1987  
Box 1: 58  
Recollections  
ca.1941-1987  
Box 1: 59  
Reid Relaunch, Memorial Service pamphlet and reunion pin  
ca.1981 Jun-1993 Oct  
Box 1: 60  
Reports (News, Sinking, Action and Officer's Reports  
1942-1945  
Box 1: 61  
Reunion Group Biographical Information of Shipmates  
1944-1996  
Box 1: 62  
Reunion Group Biographical Information of Shipmates

1944-1996  
Box 1: 63  
Rosters  
1936-1980  
Box 1: 64  
Rosters  
1936-1980  
Box 1: 65  
Rosters: Reunion Group  
1991 Feb.  
Box 1: 66  
Ship's Model Project  
1994-1996  
Box 1: 67  
VFW Magazine  
1980 Sep  
Box 1: 68

## 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](#) )

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## 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

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