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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 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 SCUA also maintains an archived version of the site.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

Newsletter

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
Newsletter
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](#))

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

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