

**Archives Branch
Naval History and Heritage Command
805 Kidder Breese Street, SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060**

Processor: Roy Grossnick (Updated December 2012) and originally processed by Caitlin Nicholson (September 2007).

Walter S. Delany Papers COLL/569

Creator: Vice Admiral Walter S. Delany, USN
Extent: 5 boxes
1.7 cubic feet
Date Range: 1912-1981
Classification: Unclassified
Access: Open

Scope and Content Notes

This collection consists of general correspondence, photographs, published works, public addresses, newspaper articles, audio, military propaganda, class reunion material, and letters and articles of Walter S. DeLany, Sr.'s death. All of DeLany's material concerns mainly his military career, as well as his personal life. Series I contains DeLany's correspondence, both business and personal. It mainly consists of letters he wrote to his son, Walter DeLany, Jr. There are also correspondence written to DeLany from Henry Stassen, invitations and cards, letters Mrs. DeLany wrote to her son, and a congratulatory letter. Most of the correspondence falls within 1912-1958.

Series II, Public Addresses, contains photocopies, as well as original copies, of DeLany's public addresses. Most of these addresses were given within the few years before his retirement, 1948-1952. He spoke at various events including bicentennials, dedications, luncheons, award ceremonies, memorial services, as well as different types of club occasions and holiday gatherings.

Series III, Newspaper Articles, contains articles from various newspapers about DeLany or his personal life, such as his family and friends. Many of the articles contain information on his post-retirement life. They give details of events he attended and the many awards and honors he received due to his military career and services to his community. These articles vary in date, but fall within 1934-1995.

Series IV, Class Reunions, provides different pamphlets and books from DeLany's class reunion. DeLany attended a 40th class reunion for the US Naval Academy's class of 1912 in 1952. He also attended the Reading High School class of 1908 reunions in 1953 and 1963.

Series V, Military Propaganda, is a small collection of military paraphernalia DeLany has taken in over his career. There are five books within a series called *Fragments from France*. These books are mainly war propaganda cartoons from World War I. The dates range from 1915-1918. Within the series, there is also an undated piece which is a ballad called *The Return of the Ancient Mariner*. The ballad contains many sarcastic innuendoes of the military.

Series VI, Published Works, regards two different published-works that were in DeLany's collection. One work was given to DeLany, *The Chronology of the Civil War* (1962), and the other was written by DeLany himself, *Bayly's Navy*. *Bayly's Navy* is a piece which was written about Admiral Sir Lewis Bayly and published by the Naval Historical Foundation. This small book was published after DeLany's death in the fall of 1980.

Series VII, DeLany's Death, contains information on DeLany's passing away. Within this series there are letters written to Mrs. DeLany concerning her husband's death. Some of these letters are from Arleigh Burke, D.A. Long, T.B. Hayward, along with others. In memoriam, there is also information given about DeLany's Honor Guard and honorary pallbearers that attended his funeral. Along with the information given is a copy of *Shipmate* which displayed a small obituary within its journal about DeLany. All of this information was given in between September through November 1980. There is also an original document of the proclamation of Vice Admiral Walter S. DeLany Day from the mayor of Titusville, Truman Scarborough, Jr.

Series VIII, Photographs, are photographs of DeLany's life, both personal and business. These pictures were taken mainly in between 1891-1955. This collection contains photographs of his family, friends, and colleagues, including several pictures of DeLany serving in the Navy on USS *Craven*, USS *Minnesota*, USS *Honolulu*, USS *New Orleans*. The series includes photographs given to DeLany by Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz and Vice Admiral Albert Ware Marshall.

Series IX, Audio, consists of two records that were given to DeLany of his retirement ceremony reception in City Hall, New York.

Series X, Certificates, contains two certificates that were issued by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. These are Certificates of Appointment as Deputy Administrator Mutual Defense Assistance Control Act of 1951.

Biography

Walter Stanley DeLany was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, on January 21, 1891, son of Irvin F. and Mary E. (Dunkle) DeLany. He attended Reading High School before his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy from his native state in 1908. While a Midshipman, he was cheer leader and a member of the class basketball and lacrosse teams. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 7, 1912, he was promoted to Lieutenant (jg), June 8, 1915. He received temporary promotions to the ranks of Lieutenant and Lieutenant Commander during World War I, and was

commissioned in those ranks in 1918 and 1922 respectively. He subsequently attained the rank of Rear Admiral, to date from May 16, 1942. He served in the temporary rank of Vice Admiral from January 26, 1946, until July 1, 1948, and again from May 1952, retiring in that rank on February 1, 1953.

After graduation from the Naval Academy in 1912, he joined USS *Minnesota* and served in her until May 1914. Following torpedo instruction in USS *Montana*, he reported to the Fore River Shipbuilding Company, Quincy, Massachusetts, for duty in connection with fitting out USS *Nevada*. He served in that battleship from her commissioning, March 11, 1916 until May 1917, when he was transferred to destroyer USS *Wilkes*, based in Queenstown, Ireland, during World War I. Returning to the United States in August 1918, he served as Executive Officer of destroyer USS *Craven* from her commissioning, October 19, 1918, until June of the following year, after which he commanded USS *Paulding* for a brief period.

He was in charge of the Navy Recruiting Station, Albany, New York from July 1919 until November 1921, when he joined the newly commissioned transport USS *Argonne*, as Navigator and First Lieutenant. In June 1923 he was ordered as Executive Officer of destroyer USS *Lamson*, and from January to October 1924 served as Squadron Gunnery Officer of Destroyer Squadron NINE, Scouting Fleet. He had duty in the Training Division of the Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, Washington, D.C., from October 1924 until January 1927, and for three years thereafter served as First Lieutenant of USS *Oklahoma*.

He returned to the Navy Department in February 1930 and served three years in the Ships' Movements Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. In July 1933 he joined USS *New York* as Navigator. Two years later he was ordered to the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, for duty in the Executive Department. On July 15, 1938, he assumed command of Destroyer Division SEVEN of Destroyers, Battle Force, USS *Mugford*, flagship. In May 1939 he became Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander Cruisers, Battle Force, USS *Honolulu*, .flagship.

On February 1, 1941 he was designated Assistant Chief of Staff and Operations Officer on the Staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet. For "exceptionally meritorious service" in that assignment until June 23, 1942, he was awarded the Legion of Merit. The citation states: "During this vitally important period he displayed the highest qualities of judgment and initiative, thereby contributing materially to the prosecution of the war against Japan ... "

On June 24, 1942 he assumed command of the cruiser *New Orleans*, then operating in the Pacific, and participated in the Guadalcanal Campaign. He was detached to report on November 12, 1942, as Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations), to Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet, at Headquarters, Washington, D.C. On March 19, 1943, he was re-designated Assistant Chief of Staff (Readiness) and was awarded a Second Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious service ... (in that capacity) from November 1942 to August 1945 ... " The citation continues: "during this long period, by the exercise of great foresight, broad vision, unusual initiative, sound judgment, superior professional knowledge and high executive ability; he directed the improvement and development of means, methods, and practices which kept the United States Fleet in a continually higher state of readiness for battle than those of the enemies and contributed in a great degree to the successful prosecution of war."

In that assignment, he was the Navy representative on the Joint Committee on New Weapons and Equipment (JNW). After the reorganization in October 1945, he continued as Head of the Operational Readiness Section of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and headed the temporary rank of Vice Admiral as Commander Battleships-Cruisers, Pacific Fleet with USS *St. Paul* as flagship. He continued in that command until June 1948.

Ordered to the Third Naval District, New York, New York, he served as Commandant of that District reverting to his permanent rank of Rear Admiral upon assuming command on July 1, 1948) until May 1952. He was then designated Commander Eastern Sea Frontier, with additional duty as Commander Atlantic Reserve Fleet, with the accompanying rank of Vice Admiral, and served as such until relieved of all active duty pending his transfer to the Retired List of the Navy on February 1, 1953.

Upon his retirement, the City of New York, at a civic ceremony, awarded him its Gold Medal for "Distinguished and Outstanding Public Service." Subsequent to his retirement, President Eisenhower's appointment as Deputy Administrator of the Mutual Defense Assistance Control Act was confirmed by the Senate in May 1953. He served continuously under that appointment until March 1961. Since that time he has been associated with the Naval Historical Foundation, serving as President since 1967. He was also a member of the Board of Managers of the Naval Relief Society, and Chairman of the Finance Committee of that Society.

In addition to two Legions of Merit, Vice Admiral DeLany has the Mexican Service Medal; the World War I Victory Medal, Destroyer Clasp; the American Defense Service Medal; the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal; the American Campaign Medal; the World War II Victory Medal; the Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp; and the China Service Medal. He has also been awarded the Special Collar Order of Yun Hui from the Government of China.

Vice Admiral and Mrs. DeLany, the former Miss Lou May Sharman of Reading, Pennsylvania, lived in Washington, D.C. They had two children, Mrs. Kathryn DeLany Fawkes, wife of Rear Admiral Emerson E. Fawkes, USN, Retired, and Captain Walter S. DeLany, Jr., USN a graduate of the Naval Academy, Class of 1945.

Vice Admiral DeLany was a member of the Army and Navy Club, Washington, D.C., Huguenot Society, Washington, D.C., and the Sons of the Revolution.

Vice Admiral DeLany passed away on September 21, 1980 in Bethesda, Maryland. He is buried at the Naval Academy Cemetery.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Series I: Correspondence, 1912-1958

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| 1. Personal Correspondence to and from Walter DeLany, Sr. | 1912-19 |
| 2. Mrs. DeLany's Correspondence with Walter DeLany, Jr. | 1918-1940 |
| 3. Invitations to Walter DeLany, Sr. | 1926-1960 |

4. Walter Delany, Sr.'s Correspondence to Walter DeLany, Jr.	1940-1944
5. Walter Delany, Sr.'s Correspondence to Walter DeLany, Jr.	1940-1944
6. Walter Delany, Sr.'s Correspondence to Walter DeLany, Jr.	1940-1944
7. Walter Delany, Sr.'s Correspondence to Walter DeLany, Jr.	1940-1944
8. Harold E. Stassen's Correspondence with Walter DeLany, Sr.	1953-1955
9. Congratulatory Correspondence	21 Jul 1958
10. Undated Correspondence	Undated
Series II: Public Addresses, 1948-1952	
11. Public Addresses	14 Jul 1948-11 May 1949
12. Public Addresses	20 May 1949-24 Jan 1950
13. Public Addresses	15 Feb 1950-24 Jan 1951
14. Public Addresses	14 Mar 1951-15 Aug 1951
15. Public Addresses	10 Sep 1951-29 Apr 1952
16. Public Addresses	9 May 1952-21 May 1952

Box 2

Series III: Newspaper Articles, 1934-1995

1. Articles on Family and Friends	1934-1969
2. Articles on DeLany's Post-retirement Events	1947-1995
3. Articles on Post-Retirement Honors and Awards	1954-1980

Series IV: Class Reunions, 1952-:1963

4. Class Reunion Pamphlets	1952-1963
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Series V: Military Propaganda, 1915-1918

5. World War I Propaganda	1915
6. World War I Propaganda	1916
7. World War I Propaganda	1917
8. World War I Propaganda.	1918
9. World War I Propaganda	1919
10. Military Ballad, Undated	Undated

Series VI: Published Works, 1962-1980

11. Published Work for DeLany	1962
12. Published Work by DeLany	1980

Series VII: DeLany's Death, 1980-1981

13. Letters and Information on Death	22 Sep 1980- Nov 1980
14. Proclamation declaring Vice Admiral DeLany Day	21 Jan 1981

Series VIII: Photographs, 1891-1953

15. Personal Photographs	1891-1955
16. Personal Photographs	1891-1955
17. Career Photographs	1912-1952

Box 3

1. Retirement Photographs and Articles Relating to Vice Admiral DeLany Day in New York City	1953
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Box 4

1. Personal Photographs, Undated	1953
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2. Photographs Given to DeLany, Undated 1953

Box 5

Series IX: Audio, 1953

28. Two Phonographs of Retirement Reception 1953

Series X: Certificates, 1953

29. Certificate of Appointment as Deputy Administrator
of the Mutual Defense Assistance Control Act of 1951 26 May 1953

30. Certificate of Appointment as Deputy Administrator
of the Mutual Defense Assistance Control Act of 1951 3 Aug 1953