

Archives Branch
Naval History and Heritage Command
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Benjamin Dutton, Jr. Papers

COLL/480

Creator: Captain Benjamin Dutton, Jr., USN

Extent: 1 box
.3 cubic feet

Date Range: 1905-1909

Classification: Unclassified

Access: Open

Scope and Content Notes

This collection contains personal letters of Mr. Dutton to his family and friends regarding his exploits in the Navy. The letters contain information where Mr. Dutton had sailed to and what sort of people he was stationed with. He also talks of plans of settling down and buying a house and getting married.

Subject Headings (LCSH)

United States Navy – Officers – Correspondence
Minneapolis, USS – C-13

Biography

Benjamin Dutton, Jr. was born in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, on 3 April 1883. He was appointed to the Naval Academy from the 26th District of Pennsylvania in 1901. He graduated in 1905 and was assigned to USS Dixie. He was attached to USS Scorpion until 1907, after which he made a round the world cruise with the Battle Fleet on USS Kentucky. He served on USS Tennessee until June 1911, and the next month became an instructor at the Naval Academy, where he remained for two years. During 1913 and 1914 he was First Lieutenant on aboard USS Kansas, which operated off the east coast of Mexico. He was transferred to USS Machias in 1915 and served as her executive officer and navigator until he was again assigned to the Naval Academy for duty until 1916. In March 1918 he was ordered to USS New Mexico and in August 1918 reported as executive officer of USS Pueblo, which was engaged in convoy service before the Armistice and later returned troops from France.

He was executive officer of the ex-German battleship *Osfriesland*, which was placed in commission early in 1920 at Rosyth, Scotland, and brought to the United States with the ex-

German light cruiser Frankfurt in tow. He was Aide and flag Secretary of Admiral Hilary P. Jones, Commander in Chief, United States Fleet in 1922 and in 1923 was ordered to the Naval Academy where he served as executive officer in the Department of Navigation and later as head of the Department of electrical Engineering. He was the author of "Navigation and Nautical Astronomy" used as a textbook at the Naval Academy and in the merchant marine.

He commanded USS Nokomis, engaged in surveying the northern coast of Cuba and was a member of the staff of the Naval War College after completing the Senior Course. From 1931 to 1933 he was in command of USS Wyoming and until 1935 was assigned to the Bureau of Navigation. He became Naval Attache at Berlin, Germany in May 1935, with additional duty at Oslo, Norway; Copenhagen, Denmark; Stockholm, Sweden; The Hague, the Netherlands; and after 1935, at Helsingfor, Finland. He returned to the United States in April 1937 and on 10 June of that year assumed command of USS Portland.

Captain Dutton died suddenly on 30 November 1937 at Southgate, California.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Series I: Benjamin Dutton, Jr., 1905-1909

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. Letters | 1905 |
| 2. Letters | 1906 |
| 3. Letters | 1909 |
| 4. Original Letters | 1905-1909 |