

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

**Processor:** Roy Grossnick (Updated July 2012) and originally processed by Mary W. Edmison, May 1976.

# **Arthur R. Gralla Papers**

## **COLL/649**

**Creator:** Vice Admiral Arthur R. Gralla, USN

**Extent:** 5 boxes  
1.7 cubic feet

**Date Range:** 1961-1966

**Classification:** The collection had an initial declassification review and all records were declassified in full.

**Access:** Open

### **Scope and Content Notes**

This is the personal papers collection of Vice Admiral Gralla covering mainly UNITAS operations.

### **Biography**

Arthur Robert Gralla was born in Brooklyn, New York, on April 21, 1913, son of Abraham and Ella (Alpert) Gralla. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, Brooklyn and attended Brooklyn College. During one summer vacation, he served as an Apprentice seaman in the U.S. Merchant Marine. He was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, from his native state in 1930 and on May 31, 1934 was graduated with distinction, ninth in a class of four hundred and sixty-three members, and commissioned Ensign. Advancing progressively in rank, he subsequently attained that of Rear Admiral to date from July 1, 1960 and Vice Admiral, to date from May 14, 1969.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy in 1934, he reported on board the USS OMAHA and in July 1937 was detached for duty as Aide, Flag Lieutenant and Radio Officer on the Staff of the Commander Special Service Squadron. In April 1939 he joined the USS BAGLEY as First Lieutenant and from June 1940 to September 1941 had instruction in ordnance and fire control at the Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland. He continued the course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Cambridge, from which he received the degree of Master of Science in September 1942. For his outstanding contribution in applied fire control research he was elected to the graduate honor society Sigma XI at MIT.

He was assigned to the Fire Control Research and Development Division in the Bureau of

Ordnance, Navy Department, Washington, D.C., until April 1943, when he reported as Gunnery Officer on board the USS RENO.

In May 1945 he transferred to the USS MACON to serve as Gunnery Officer and in February 1946 assumed command of the USS DENNIS J. BUCKLEY. Detached from command of that radar picket destroyer in June 1947, he had duty in the Operational Readiness Division (Gunnery), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department and also served as a member of the Air Defense Board. He remained in that assignment until June 1950 and after instruction at the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, reported in July 1950 as Current Operations Officer on the Staff of the Commander in Chief Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

He attended the course in strategy and tactics at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, from July 1952 to June 1953, after which he served until August 1955 as Commander Destroyer Division TWO HUNDRED TWO, interspersed with duty, February-April 1954 as Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY.

He was Administrative Aide to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Operations and readiness), Navy Department, until August 1956, then reported as Commanding Officer of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit, Air Force Missile Test Center, Patrick Air Base, Cocoa, Florida. There he also served as Director of Navy Tests on the Staff of the Commander. In August 1957 he assumed command of the USS NORTON SOUND.

Detached from the NORTON SOUND in September 1958, he was Systems Director, Surface Weapons Systems in the Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department, until January 1960, when he assumed command of Destroyer Flotilla TWO. From April 1961 until January 1963 he was Deputy Commander of the Military Sea Transportation Service, with headquarters in Washington, D.C., after which he served as Deputy Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Special Study Group, Washington, D.C. On August 15, 1964 he became Commander South Atlantic Force. In that capacity, he was charged with the responsibility, planning and execution of operations UNITAS V (1964) and VI (1965), the combined antisubmarine warfare training exercises conducted annually by the naval forces of the United States and eight South American countries.

In April 1966 he reported as Deputy Chief of the Bureau of Naval Weapons, Navy Department, with additional duty as Deputy Commander of the Naval Weapons Support Activity. Upon the reorganization of the Navy Department, effective May 1, 1966, he was designated Commander of the Naval Ordnance Systems Command.

In May 1969 he became Naval Inspector General, Navy Department and in March 1970 reported as Commander Military Sea Transportation Service (redesignated on August 1, 1970, Military Sealift Command), headquartered in Washington, D.C. He served as such until relieved of active duty pending his retirement, effective December 1, 1971.

## **Box and Folder Listing**

**Box 1**

## USS SARATOGA

Record of Proceedings of a Court of Inquiry Convened on board USS SARATOGA at Athens, Greece by order of Commander SIXTH Fleet to Inquire into the Circumstances Connected with the Fire aboard SARATOGA on 23 January 1961

UNITAS V (A series of combined inter-American naval exercises - South American Antisubmarine Warfare Training Cruise) :

- Miscellaneous News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1964
- Uruguay News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1964
- Brazil New Clippings - Aug-Dec 1964
- Ecuador News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1964
- Peru News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1964

**Box 2.**

UNITAS V (Cont. ) :

- Venezuela News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1964
- Panama News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1964
- Colombia News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1964
- Argentina News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1964
- UNITAS V Planning - 1962-1964
- Outgoing Correspondence UNITAS V - Aug-Dec 1967 (C)
- Foreign Outgoing Correspondence UNITAS V - Aug-Dec 1967
- Chile News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1964
- UNITAS V & VI Presentations - 1964-1966

UNITAS VI - FINAL REPORT

Commander South Atlantic Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet, UNITAS VI Final Report, 23 December 1965

**Box 3**

UNITAS VI (Cont. ) :

- UNITAS VI Thank You - Aug-Dec 1965
- UNITAS VI Kudos (Messages) - Aug-Dec 1965
- Ecuador - News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965
- Colombia News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965
- Peru News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965

**Box 4**

UNITAS VI (Cont. ) :

- Peru News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965
- Venezuela News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965
- Panama News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965
- Uruguay News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965
- Chile News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965

**Box 5**

UNITAS VI (Cont.):

Chile News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965

Argentina News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965

Stateside Media News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965

Trinidad News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965

Brazil News Clippings - Aug-Dec 1965