

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

**Processor:** Ashley McLendon (March 2018)

# **Edward H. Eckelmeyer, Jr. Papers**

## **AR/320**

**Name of Creator:** Rear Admiral Edward H. Eckelmeyer, Jr., USN (1905-2001)

**Extent:** 3 boxes (2 Hollinger boxes and 1 oversized box)  
1.15 cubic feet

**Date Range of Creation:** 1923-1996

**Classification Level:** Unclassified

**Record Formats:** Paper, photographs, negatives

### **Arrangement**

The materials were arranged during processing in to the following series; thereunder in chronological order.

SERIES I: Official Papers  
SERIES II: Personal Papers  
SERIES III: Correspondence  
SERIES IV: Written Works  
SERIES V: Ephemera  
SERIES VI: Photographs  
SERIES VII: Oversized material

### **Scope and Content Notes**

This collection consists of official and personal documentation to include correspondence, written works and photographs that highlight each part of Rear Admiral Edward H. Eckelmeyer, Jr's career and education.

## **Biographical History**

Edward H. Eckelmeyer, Jr. was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1905. He attended Northeast High School in Philadelphia prior to receiving a commission to the Naval Academy in 1923. Early in his naval career, Eckelmeyer served aboard the USS Arkansas (BB 33) and USS Hopkins (DD 249). He attended flight school at Naval Air Station, Pensacola in 1929 and subsequently served aboard the USS Wright (AV 1) with Patrol Squadron 8. In 1932 he began his two-year duty as a Gunnery Officer with Patrol Squadron 3 at Coco Solo in the Canal Zone.

Eckelmeyer acquired his post-graduate degree in Aviation Ordnance Engineering in Annapolis prior to serving as the first Senior Aviator along with the commissioning crew of the USS Philadelphia (CL 41). He served as Flight Officer of Torpedo Squadron 6 aboard the USS Enterprise (CV 6) between 1939 and 1940. In 1940 he was designated Aviation Ordnance Officer at the Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren where he participated in the development of the self-sealing aviation fuel tank.

In 1943 Eckelmeyer commanded the USS Biscayne (AVP 11) and received the Legion of Merit for amphibious landings conducted at Salerno, Italy as well as the Navy Bronze Cross for landings in Southern France. He then worked as the Aviation Ordnance Officer at the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, DC and participated in Operation Magic Carpet as Commanding Officer aboard the USS Tulagi (CVE 72).

In 1946 he was assigned Commanding Officer of the USS Albemarle (AV 5), a laboratory ship that participated in Operation Crossroads; the USS Albemarle provided base facilities for engineers and scientists.

Between 1947 and 1950 Eckelmeyer was assigned to the Special Weapons Project at the Pentagon and piloted a B-25 between Washington, DC and Albuquerque, New Mexico while working under Major General Leslie Groves and with George Gamow, the physicist. In 1950 Eckelmeyer became a student of Strategy and Logistics at the Naval War College and in 1951 became the Commander of the Utility Wing, Air Force, US Atlantic Fleet. Later in 1951, he was assigned to the USS Cabot (CVL 72) as the Commanding Officer of the training carrier. He then became the US Naval Attaché for Air in Oslo, Norway until 1955.

From 1955 until his retirement in 1957, Eckelmeyer worked as the Chief, Naval Sciences Division in the Office of Naval Research in Washington, DC and simultaneously earned his Master of Science degree in Engineering Administration from George Washington University.

Eckelmeyer retired on July 1, 1957 with the rank of Rear Admiral and spent the next ten years as Chief of Engineering Laboratories at Douglas Aircraft Plant in El Segundo, California.

After retirement from Douglas Aircraft, RADM Eckelmeyer moved to California with his wife, Karin Aspergren Eckelmeyer. In addition to his prolific military career, RADM Eckelmeyer authored written works about Operation Crossroads and the self-sealing fuel tank. He was also a member of the National Sojourners and active in various military reunion organizations.

RADM Eckelmeyer passed away in December 2001 and was buried at the U.S. Naval Academy Columbarium in Annapolis, Maryland.

## **Box and Folder List**

### **Box 1**

#### SERIES I: OFFICIAL PAPERS

Folder 1: Aviation Training Jacket, April-November 1929

Folder 2: Cruise Notes, USS Arkansas, June 5-August 3, [1928] (NOTE: A message in the front of the notebook written by Eckelmeyer's son states that the journal entries were written in 1924, but Eckelmeyer was aboard the USS Arkansas from 1928-1929)

Folder 3: Personnel file, 1927-1937

Folder 4: Personnel file, 1938-1950, 1957, 1962

Folder 5: Memoranda and planning documents regarding protocol and social affairs in Oslo, Norway, 1953-1955

#### SERIES II: PERSONAL PAPERS

Folder 6: Biographical information

Folder 7: Personal papers, 1923, 1931, 1932, 1956, 1958 and undated

Folder 8: Reunion documents and photographs, U.S. Naval Academy and USS Biscayne, 1987, 1991-1992

#### SERIES III: CORRESPONDENCE

Folder 9: Correspondence, personal and official, 1923-1997. (NOTE: PII in the form of names and social security numbers exist on the back of an undated letter)

#### SERIES IV: WRITTEN WORKS

Folder 10: Comprehensive problem submitted for partial satisfaction for the degree of Master of Engineering Administration from George Washington University entitled "Communication in the Design and Development of Naval Aircraft," Eckelmeyer, June 3, 1959

Folder 11: "Launching of Aircraft Torpedoes," handwritten memorandum accompanied by calculations, Eckelmeyer, undated

Folder 12: "Operation Crossroads: Almost a Catastrophe," Eckelmeyer; "Crossroads: The Operation that Almost Didn't Happen," Eckelmeyer; "The Hydrogen Bomb II," Hans A. Bethe, pages 18-23 of an unidentified publication

Folder 13: Instructions, manuals and notes regarding self-sealing fuel tanks, 1966-1981

Folder 14: “The Story of the Self-Sealing Tank,” Eckelmeyer, reprinted from the US Naval Institute Proceedings, February 1946 (3 copies); “The Story of the Self-Sealing Tank” (typed version) and a letter of submission to Foundation, Inc., 1982; “The Self-Sealing Tank—Man-Saver;” “The Self Sealing Tank—Man-Saver” with corrections and correspondence from MW Cagle.

## **Box 2**

### SERIES V: EPHEMERA

Folder 1: Ephemera, personal and official, 1923-1981

### SERIES VI: PHOTOGRAPHS

*\* Folder titles associated with photographs removed from labeled envelopes bear the name of the old envelopes in parentheses*

Folder 2: Photographs, 1920s.

Negatives and correspondence from the 1920s that highlight Eckelmeyer’s time at the United States Naval Academy, aboard the USS Arkansas and at Naval Air Station Pensacola.

Folder 3: Photographs, 1930s

Images of Patrol Squadron 8 at Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia, VP Squadron 3-F, Fleet Air Base in the Panama Canal Zone and in Cuba.

Folder 4: Photographs, 1940s

Images include the US Navy at Mount Vesuvius during its eruption in March of 1944.

Folder 5: Photographs, 1940s

Images associated with Eckelmeyer’s duty aboard the USS Albemarle.

Folder 6: Photographs, 1940s (World War II Photographs of the USS Cabot)

Reproduced images of the USS Cabot during World War II to include damage incurred.

Folder 7: Photographs, 1950s (Utility Air Wing, 1951-1952)

Folder 8: Photographs, 1950s (Visit of USS Cabot to Houston, Texas for Armed Forces Day, 17 May 1953)

Folder 9: Photographs, 1950s (500,000<sup>th</sup> Landing Aboard USS Cabot, 13 Aug 1952)

Folder 10: Photographs, 1950s (Secretary of Defense Civilian Orientation Group Aboard USS Cabot at Pensacola, Florida, 29 Sept 1952)

Folder 11: Photographs, 1950s (USS Cabot, Photos taken during amphibious exercise off Hamilton Inlet, Canada, 27 Feb 1953, Cold Weather Exercise)

Folder 12: Photographs, 1950s, USS Cabot

Folder 13: Photographs, 1950s  
Images from Eckelmeyer's time spend in Oslo, Norway, during a visit to the Martin Company in Baltimore and a photograph of the USS Albacore.

Folder 14: Photographs, 1960s  
Photographs of the Management Club.

Folder 15: Photographs, undated

### **Box 3**

#### SERIES VII: OVERSIZED MATERIAL

Oversized Folder 1: Images of Eckelmeyer  
Four official photographs of Eckelmeyer as Captain, undated  
Caricature drawing, "Lost in Tahoe," 1991  
Drawing, Eckelmeyer running, "I knew I should have stayed in for another 20....," undated

Oversized Folder 2: Images of the USS Albemarle  
Photograph, USS Albemarle in Guantanamo Bay, March 1947  
Photograph, USS Albemarle, undated  
Drawing, USS Albemarle, May 1946

Oversized Folder 3: Photographs  
Photograph, Firing from the deck of a ship, undated  
Signed photograph, Leslie R. Groves, undated  
Photograph and ephemera, 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the Class of 1927, US Naval Academy, 1982  
Class photograph, Northeast High School, ca. 1922  
Photograph, Alpha Phi (Gamma Chapter) Dinner Dance, January 1922  
Photograph, Northeast High School swim team, 1922  
Two class photographs, Naval Academy(?), ca. 1923-1927

Oversized Folder 4: Certificates  
Certificate, Commission to Lieutenant (junior grade), December 1930  
Certificate, Commission to Lieutenant, February 1937  
Certificate, Grand Council, Exclusive Order of Guinea Pigs, July 1946 (two copies)  
Certificate and associated memorandum, Captain, September 1950  
Certificate, Honorary Citizen of New Orleans, September 1952  
Certificate, Naval Ordnance Engineer, April 1957  
Certificate, Citizens Advisory Committee, City of Los Angeles, June 1984  
Certificate, Order of Daedalions, August 1986  
Citation, Commodore in the Oklahoma Navy from the State of Oklahoma, June 1990  
Certificate, "Manga Cum Loudy," U.S. Naval War College, undated  
Certificate, Contribution and Devotion to the Naval War College, undated

Oversized Folder 4: Miscellaneous  
Document, The Law of the Navy, undated  
Artist Renderings, Douglas Aircraft and Missiles, undated