

*Guide to the Microfilm Edition of*

The Official Papers of  
Fleet Admiral  
Ernest J. King

*A Microfilm Publication by*

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**A** TOUGH, AGGRESSIVE MILITARY LEADER, Admiral Ernest J. King was one of the most prominent Allied military leaders of World War II. With almost complete control of the United States Navy from December 1941 until the end of the war, King directed naval resources, planning, operations, and organization throughout the war, and had much to do with the postwar reorganization of the armed forces. He is considered by some to be the greatest naval leader in U.S. history.

King was graduated fourth in the Class of 1901 at the United States Naval Academy. He rose steadily through the officer ranks, commanding submarine flotillas, the aircraft carrier *Lexington*, and the battleship *Texas*. In 1941 he was appointed commander in chief of the re-formed Atlantic Fleet, and oversaw the active operation of Lend-Lease programs to Great Britain and the Soviet Union to counter the impact of German submarines.

After the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor, King was selected to fill the new billet of Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet (COMINCH), assuming operational control of all American naval forces. In early 1942, Admiral Harold R. Stark resigned as Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), and President Roosevelt signed an executive order naming King to serve as both COMINCH and CNO. King was also a member of the first Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Combined Chiefs of Staff, in which he played a pivotal role in the shaping of combined Allied grand strategy from the Arcadia to the Potsdam Conferences; he also held conferences with the Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas. He was promoted to five-star rank of fleet admiral in December 1944, and served until September 1945, when he was replaced as CNO by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. King was ardently opposed to the postwar idea of the unification of the armed forces, fearing that the traditions and interests of the navy would be compromised or lost. He died in June 1956.

*The Official Papers of Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King* contains mostly records from the 1940s, of which the first series, correspondence and memoranda, make up the bulk of the collection. This series contains official and semi-official correspondence to and from King, mostly during his years as CNO and COMINCH. The collection also contains King's speeches; King's personal copies of the minutes of the Combined Chiefs of Staff meetings, 1941-1945; agenda, minutes and working papers for conferences between King and Nimitz (CINCPAC); studies of the office of the CNO and the Navy Department; postwar studies of

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logistics and supply systems; and material on the postwar armed services unification controversy.

The collection was microfilmed from the holdings of the Operational Archives Branch of the Naval Historical Center in Washington, DC; a larger collection of King's personal papers is held by the Library of Congress, Washington, DC. Users of this microfilm edition should note that Series III of the collection, Incoming and Outgoing Logs of Mail of Particular Interest to Admiral King, February 1942–December 1944, comprised of two small bound volumes, was unavailable for microfilming. Also, roll 10 of the microfilm edition contains four months of correspondence that were located during the microfilming process.

Some of the main topics dealt with in this collection are the development of Allied grand strategy, interservice rivalries, wartime operations planning, the battle for the Atlantic, and the Pacific War. For those interested in a man often described as the greatest American naval leader in this century, these papers are an essential primary resource for research.

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<i>Roll</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Folder Title</i>
1		<b>Series I: Correspondence and Memoranda, 1918-1955</b>
		Arranged chronologically. Correspondence and memoranda of an official and semi-official nature received or written by Admiral King. Almost all of this material dates from 1941 to 1947.
	0002	1918-1939
	0249	1940
	0315	January 1941
	0320	February 1941
	0324	March 1941
	0335	April 1941
	0360	May 1941
	0368	June 1941
	0381	July 1941
	0387	August 1941
	0435	September 1941
	0492	October 1941
	0545	November 1941
	0664	December 1941
	0724	January 1942
	0834	February 1942
	0968	March 1942
	1188	April 1942
2	0004	May 1942
	0189	June 1942
	0370	July 1942
	0462	August 1942
	0721	September 1942
	0819	October 1942
	0963	November 1942
	1034	December 1942
	1124	January 1943
	1143	February 1943
3	0004	March 1943
	0151	April 1943
	0268	May 1943
	0335	June 1943
	0464	July 1943
	0571	August 1943
	0720	September 1943
	0814	October 1943
	0883	November 1943
	0956	December 1943

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<i>Roll</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Folder Title</i>	
3	1010	January 1944	
	1031	February 1944	
	1069	March 1944	
	1147	April 1944	
	1171	May 1944	
	1219	June 1944	
	1244	July 1944	
	1263	August 1944	
4	0004	September 1944	
	0026	October 1944	
	0045	November 1944	
	0209	December 1944	
	0285	January 1945	
	0309	February 1945	
	0356	March 1945	
	0434	April 1945	
	0508	May 1945	
	0605	June 1945	
	0624	July 1945	
	0669	August 1945	
	0698	September 1945	
	0723	October 1945	
	0763	November 1945	
	NOTE	See Roll 10, frame 0128 ff., for correspondence from December 1945 to March 1946.	
	0805	April 1946	
0860	May 1946		
0912	June 1946		
0980	July 1946		
1017	August 1946		
1026	September 1946		
1065	October 1946		
1125	November 1946		
1129	December 1946		
1186	January 1947		
5	0004	March 1947	
	0122	April 1947	
	0173	May 1947	
	0213	June 1947	
	0336	December 1947	
	0350	February 1948	
	0367	March 1948	

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<i>Roll</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Folder Title</i>
5	0394	April 1948
	0409	May 1948
	0414	June 1948
	0421	August 1948
	0426	September 1948
	0440	October 1948
	0464	November 1948
	0479	December 1948
	0492	January 1949
	0495	February 1949
	0516	March 1949
	0552	April 1949
	0590	May-July-August 1949
	0622	September 1949
	0664	October 1949
	0676	January-February 1950
	0700	June 1950
	0731	King Papers, 1951, 1952, 1953

***Series II: Printed Volumes of the Minutes of Important Papers of High-Level Combined Military Conferences, 1941-1945***

Arranged chronologically. Each volume indexed.

0765	Strategic Planning for Coalition Warfare, 1941-1942
0773	Report by the United States-British Joint Planning Committee: Movements & Projects in the Atlantic Theater (First Half of 1942)
0790	Arcadia Conference, 24 December 1941 - 14 January 1942. (Washington)
1021	Post-Arcadia Conference, 23 January 1942 - 19 May 1942. (Washington)
6	0003 Casablanca Conference, January 1943.
	0209 Trident Conference, May 1943. (Algiers and Washington)
	0484 Quadrant Conference, August 1943. (Canada)
7	0003 Sextant Conference, November-December 1943. (Cairo)
	0316 Octagon Conference, September 1944. (Canada)
	0474 Argonaut Conference, January-February 1945. (Yalta and Malta)
	0659 Terminal Conference, July 1945. (Potsdam, Germany)

**NOTE** *Series III was unavailable for filming.*

Roll	Frame	Folder Title
8		<b>Series IV: Agendas, Minutes, and Working Papers for Conferences Held between Admiral King (COMINCH-CNO) and Admiral Nimitz (CINCPAC), 1942-1945</b> Arranged chronologically.
	0005	Conference Notes, 1942-1943
	0388	Conferences, Agenda, Minutes, etc., 1944
	0640	Conferences, 1945
	0711	Pacific Conference, Reference Papers, June 1945
		<b>Series V: Studies and Charts Relating to the Organization of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, 1941-1947</b> Arranged chronologically.
	0745	<i>Organization of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations</i> (Typescript, 1941).
	0747	<i>Organization of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations</i> (February 1942).
	0765	<i>Manual [Organizational] for the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations</i> (November 1945).
	0868	<i>The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations</i> (Organizational study of OPNAV by the Exos Management Engineer, July 1947).
	0921	<i>Interim Report, Survey of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations</i> [1947?].
		<b>Series VI: Studies and Charts Relating to the Organization of the Department of the Navy, 1940-1947</b> Arranged chronologically.
	0960	"An Organization for the Navy Department" (Article by Captain Joseph K. Taussig in the <i>United States Naval Institute Proceedings</i> for January 1940).
	0967	Miscellaneous Organizational Charts (mostly 1943).
	1000	<i>Manual of Organizational Charts, Navy Department</i> (January and June 1943).
	1155	Transcript of First Conference of Bureau Chiefs with the Secretary of the Navy on 28 May 1945. (Relates to the organization of the Navy Department.)
	1184	<i>The United States Navy, A Description of Its Functional Organization</i> (March 1947).
		<b>Series VII: Studies and Reports Relating to Naval Logistics and Supply Systems, 1946-1947</b> Arranged chronologically.
9	0001	<i>Report of the Special Committee Appointed by the Secretary of the Navy to Study the Navy's Supply System</i> (April 1946).



<i>Roll</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Folder Title</i>
9	0025	<i>Navy Comments on the Proposal Contained in a War Department General Staff Paper of 10 January 1947 Entitled "Unified Logistics Support of the U.S. Armed Forces" (March 1947).</i>
	0143	<i>A Unified Logistic Support Plan for the National Defense Establishment (April 1947).</i>

***Series VIII: Materials Relating to the Unification of the Armed Forces, 1940-1948***

0174		Statement of Admiral Keyes in early 1940 to the British Parliament Regarding the Need for the Royal Navy's Control of Its Own Air Force.
0179		<i>Central Organization for Defence.</i> (A British White Paper discussing the needs for unification of British Armed Forces, October 1944.)
0205		Newspaper Clippings Relating to Unification, 1944-1948.
0215		JCS 749/12, Report of the JCS Special Committee for Reorganization of the National Defense (April 1945).
0333		Analysis of JCS 749-12 by Captain G. L. Russel, Aide to Admiral King (July 1945).
0506		File of JCS papers showing the negotiations on Unification Recommendations (JCS Papers 749/13 through 749/29, 16 May 1945 through 17 October 1945).
0629		<i>The Navy Plan for National Security</i> (December 1945).
0661		Chronological Summary of Studies of Unification of Armed Forces, 1944-1946 (undated).

***Series IX: Miscellaneous Papers Relating to the B-36 Investigation, 1949-1950***

0679		Newspaper Clippings, 1949-1950
0787		Memorandum of Representative W. Sterling Cole enclosing extracts from the letters of naval flag officers relating to their views on the testimony of Admiral Denfeld in the B-36 Investigation.

***Series X: Speeches of Admiral King, 1945-1949***

Arranged chronologically.

0833		Speeches of Admiral King, 1945-1949
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***Series XI: Miscellaneous Material, 1943-1948***

Arranged chronologically.

0964		Chart Showing Monthly U-Boat Losses of Merchant Ships for the Period September 1939-June 1943.
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Roll	Frame	Folder Title
9	0969	"Resume of Anti-Submarine Operations Against the German U-Boat in World War II," a history prepared under the direction of Vice Admiral Francis S. Low (October 1944).
	1055	Graphs Showing Strategic Deployment of U.S. Naval Personnel for the Period December 1943-December 1944. (Based on JCS 521.)
	1076	Extracts from the Diary of James Forrestal, 28 February 1945, relating to his conference on Iwo Jima with General MacArthur.
	1093	Undated (1945?) History by Admiral E. C. Kalbfus, <i>The Development of the Naval Command Structure</i> , Part I, 1898-1933 (Typescript).
	1134	Undated (1945?) Draft Memorandum on the Post-War Training Plans of the Army and the Navy.
	1141	"Review of the Marshall-Arnold-King Correspondence on Anti-Submarine Warfare (1942-1943) in Light of the Present Air Force Position That it Provides the Basis for Restricting the Employment of Naval Land-Based Aircraft." Memorandum of Captain L. A. Thacker to the Secretary of the Navy on 4 February 1949.
	1186	Announcement of Admiral King's death and funeral.

10 ERRATA: Files filmed out of order

Series I:

0000	unnumbered: CORKSCREW Correspondence re: 7 June 1943
0128	Correspondence and Memoranda, December 1945
0133	Correspondence and Memoranda, January 1946
0151	Correspondence and Memoranda, February 1946
0211	Correspondence and Memoranda, March 1946



