

The Inventory
of the
Winfield Scott Cunningham
Collection
#475

Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center



CUNNINGHAM, WINFIELD SCOTT
(1899 or 1900-1986)
#476

A collection of materials related to his naval career and command as U.S. Admiral of the United States military forces on Wake Island at the beginning of World War II. Marine Major James P.S. Devereux received official credit for the defense of Wake Island. (See his papers in Boston University's collection). Cunningham wrote WAKE ISLAND COMMAND which refuted the official version.

The papers reflect this controversy, his defense by various military, naval and political figures, and Cunningham's activities after the war. They include correspondence with his family, other prisoners and survivors of Wake Island, various documents from Japanese Prisoner of War Camp; newspaper and magazine publicity about Wake Island and his subsequent career.

CUNNINGHAM, WINFIELD SCOTT
1900-1986
Deposit: September 1970

Box 1 A) Correspondence

1) 1943-1959. (#1).

Ca. 15 ALS

25 TLS

30 CTL (Most by WSC)

1 Telegram

Including:

Devereux, James. Telegram to WSC, September 26, 1945.

TLS to Commandant of the Marine Corps,

May 18, 1948.

TLS to Chief of Naval Personnel, June 24, 1948.

King, Admiral Ernest J (Former Chief of Naval Operations).

TLS, August 31, 1948.

Putnam, Lt. Col. Paul A. CTL to Commandant of the Marine
Corps, October 18, 1945. Includes report
on Wake Island.

TLS to WSC, June 15, 1948.

2) 1960-August 1961. (#2).

Ca. 25 ALS

40 TLS

60 CTL (most by WSC)

2 Photographs

3 News and magazine clippings.

Including:

Kefauver, Estes. TLS, June 17, 1961.

McKean, William B. 5 TLS, February-July 1961.

Morison, Samuel E. TLS, March 30, 1960.

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Putnam, Paul A. TLS, January 11, 1961.

Teters, N.D. TLS, April 13, 1960.

3) September 1961-May 1962. (#3).

30 ALS

35 TLS

60 CTL (most by WSC)

Including:

Barr, George. 3 ALS, November 29, December 7, 1961; February 22, 1962

Coombs, R.E.D. (Librarian, British Imperial War Museum).

TLS, December 7, 1961.

Dönitz, Grossadmiral Karl. TLS, January 7, 1962.

McKean, William B. TLS, September 1961.

Morison, Samuel E. TLS, March 12, 1962.

Box 2 4) June 1962-August 1970. (#1).

Ca. 20 ALS

40 TLS

60 CTL (most by WSC)

10 Clippings

Including:

Anderson, George W. (Chief of Naval Operations). TLS,

August 31, 1962.

McKean, William B. TLS, November 5, 1962.

5) Undated. (#2).

13 ALS

2 Photographs

5 TLS

3 Negative strips

3 CTL (2 by WSC)

Ca. 20 clippings, leaflets, and

4 Postcards

pamphlets

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- 6) Civilians on Wake. Papers and correspondence concerning their actions during the defense of Wake and efforts to secure recognition and compensation for them. 1944-1948. (#3).

6 TLS

2 TLS photocopies

10 CTL (some by WSC)

4 miscellaneous

Including: Devereux, Col. James P. 2 TLS photocopies,
December 18, 1945 and January 15, 1946.

- 7) Louise Cunningham correspondence (wife of WSC), 1941-1945.

Letters from government and military personnel. (#4)

4 Telegrams

35 TLS

11 CTL (most by LC)

Ca. 15 Typescript and holograph notes

Ca. 20 contemporary news-clippings.

Including (to LC):

Hull, Cordell. Telegram, January 1, 1944.

LaFollette, Robert M., Jr. Telegram, January 19, 1942.

Box 3

- 8) Michael Griffin (International News Service) re: writing of book, 1958. (#1).

12 TLS

1 ALS (WSC to Louise Cunningham)

9 CTL (by WSC)

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- 9) Little Brown & Company (Includes some from Lydell Sims).
1960-1961. (#2).
37 TLS
Ca. 40 CTL
1 Telegram
1 Postcard
Including:
Sims, Lydel . 6 CTL to Little Brown, 1960-1961.
1 TLS to WSC, October 5, 1961.
- 10) Contract with Little-Brown. (#3).
a) 1 contract
b) 2 royalty statements.
c) 1 TLS, 1969
1 TLS mimeograph, 1968
1 CTL, 1969
- 11) Return to Wake, 1962-1963. (#4).
a) 5 TLS to WSC
2 ALS (1 to Louise Cunningham)
3 CTL (by WSC)
1 Telegram
b) 2 holograph and typescript notes
c) Ca. 20 clippings and pamphlets.
- 12) Ex-Prisoner of War Organizations. (#5).
a) Ca. 15 pamphlets and newsletters, 1960's.
b) 4 newspapers and pamphlet from 1940's.

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13) War Crimes Investigation, 1945-1958. (#6)

- a) 8 TLS (to WSC)
 - 1 ALS (to WSC)
 - 20 CTL (some by WSC)
- b) Statements on treatment as prisoner of war and on the Nitta Maru case. Carbon typescript, Ca. 30 pp.
- c) Holograph map of prison camp in China.
- d) Clippings from Time, January 7, 1946.
- e) "Regulations for Prisoners" issued by the Japanese.
Typescript mimeograph, 1 p.

B) General folders

1) Citations. (#7)

- a) Citation for Defense of Wake Island. Signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt. 2 facsimiles.
- b) Ribbon bar with Bronze Star.
- c) 4 TLS, 1946-1947.

Including:

Knox, Frank (Secretary of the Navy). Awards the Navy Cross, No date.

Truman, Harry, January 4, 1946. Welcomes WSC back to America.

2) Military orders, 1945-1950. (#8).

- a) Ca. 20 TLS
- 20 CTL

b) Manila folder with holograph notes.

3) News clippings and holograph notes, 1940's. 13 pieces. (#9).

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Box 4

- 4) Speeches, 1960-1969. (#1).
 - a) Typescript with holograph notations and corrections,
Ca. 100 pp.
 - b) Clippings and pamphlets, 10 pieces.
- 5) Reviews and publicity, 1940's-1960's. (#2).
Ca. 50 pieces.

C) Miscellaneous

- 1) Flight Log Book, 1945-1950. Holograph entries.
- 2) "The Defense of Wake" by Lt. Col. R.D. Heinl, Jr. Division of Public Information, U.S. Marine Corps, 1947. 2 copies, both with holograph annotations.
- 3) "The Truth Behind the Wake Island Marine Hero Hoax" by WSC. Cavalier, May 1961.
- 4) Photograph of Japanese bath.
- 5) U.S. Navy identification cards. 2 cards, with negative strip for photograph.

D) Documents (Separately packaged)

- 1) Appointments as Lieutenant (J.G.) 1923 and 1924.
- 2) Appointments as Lieutenant. 1925 and 1926.
- 3) Appointments as Lieutenant Commander. 1935 and 1936.
- 4) Permanent appointment as Captain, 1948.
- 5) Certificate of Satisfactory Service, 1948.
- 6) Appointment as Rear Admiral, 1950.

Cunningham, Winfield Scott

Addendum, December 1976

Box 4 Folder 3

Letter

Ford Gerald R., U.S. President. TLS to WSC, September 29, 1976. 3 p.

Re: omission of WSC's name from Presidential Citation of forces
defending Wake Island during the Japanese invasion of December 1941.

CUNNINGHAM, Winfield Scott

Addenda: June, 1977

Box 4 I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1937-1975, and copies of reports and documents,
126 pieces. (F#4)

A 1. Re: Role of U.S. Navy in Defense of Wake Island, 1941-1975,
106 pieces: 30 TLS; 1 CTLS; 44 CTL; 12 ALS; 16 xerox TL;
3 mimeo TL. Includes: letters from other men imprisoned in
Shanghai jail with WSC, lists of civilians on Wake Island
at time of surrender, etc. And

Baldwin, Hanson W., (Military editor, N.Y. Times) TLS,
Nov. 1, 1948.

Devereux, Col. James. TLS, Sept. 3, 1947.

Halsey, William F. TLS, Sept. 17, 1948.

Nimitz, Chester W. TLS, Sept. 20, 1948.

Putnam, Paul A. ALS, July 29, 1946.

Seitz, Paul L. (Bishop of Kontum, South Viet Nam)

2 TLS: Dec. 1969; April 11, 1975.

Teters, Nathan Dan. (Superintendent of Construction
on Wake) TLS, Nov. 10, 1945.

2. Official reports of the battle by various participants,
including: (Interfiled with correspondence)

a) Cunningham, W.S. Reports and carbon copies of recommendations
and proposed citations for persons for Navy Cross, Bronze
Star, Medal of Freedom (1946) and other awards.

1) "History of Wake Island Defense", carbon typescript,
15 p., Jan. 9, 1946.

2) "Narrative in Lieu of Fitness Report", carbon typescript,
4 p., July 6, 1946.

3) "Narrative...Relative to Events on Wake Island in

December, 1941..." Carbon typescript with appendices
16 p. "early 1948". Including:

King, E.J. (U.S. Navy Fleet Admiral) Copy of
letter to Mrs. Cunningham; January 27, 1945.

Nimitz, C.W. Orders to WSC, Copy, carbon typescript,
1 p.

Teters, N. Dan. Copy of letter to WSC July 27, 1948.

b) Devereux, James. "Wake Island Report." Carbon typescript,
8 p., March 18, 1946, and copies of endorsement of a
recommendation for the Medal of Freedom, Bronze Star, 1946,
Navy Cross and copies of Report on recognition of services
of certain civilians. Report on Endorsement on W.S.
Cunningham, June 24, 1948. CT, 1 p.

c) Hamas, John. Carbon typescript signed Oct. 12, 1945, 10 p.

d) Putnam, Paul A. Carbon typescript, 18 p., Oct. 18, 1945.
Endorsement re monograph "The Defense of Wake", Carbon
typescript 2 p., June 15, 1948.

e) Teters, Nathan Dan. Affidavit, carbon typescript, signed,
Nov. 24, 1945. 5 p. re monograph "The Defense of Wake."

B. Re: Reinberg Immigration, 1937-1957. (B. Reinberg was a warder
at the Ward Road Gaol, Shanghai. He emigrated in 1950 to
San Francisco.) 20 pieces: 8 TLS, 8 CTL, 4 ALS, and several
newspaper clippings including letters from WSC, 1945, and
several newspaper clippings re WSC's escape from Shanghai Gaol
and conditions in Shanghai ca. 1945. Including:

Teters, N. Dan, 2 CTL Dec. 11, 1945.

II. PRINTED ITEMS. (#5)

A. Biographies.

1. WSC mimeo, 1 p.

2. Captain Columbus P. Smith, mimeo, 2 p.
- B. "Fly-By", official employee publication of the FAA, Jan. 1963, mention and photo of WSC on p. 10.
- C. Pamphlet on Wake Island by Pan American Airlines.
- D. Newspaper Clippings re Wake Island and WSC. 12 items, 1942-1958.

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

CUNNINGHAM, W.S.
Addenda, September 1995
Gift of Leonn D. Boone

Box 5

I. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. 1941-1949 (#1)
Including letters from Cunningham to his wife and daughter in 1941, 1942.
- B. 1961-1979 (#2)
- C. 1980 and undated. (#3)

II. MANUSCRIPTS (#4)

- A. Interview with Mrs. Cunningham. Mimeo 5p., 1944.
- B. Account of the work of Dr. Shank on Wake Island, 1941, 1942.
Photocopy typescript, 4p.

III. DOCUMENTS (#5)

- A. Photocopies of documents from Japanese P.O.W. Camp. Orders, regulations, etc., 8p. 1942-1945.
- B. Related to Wake Island.

Names for photograph, not present; re William C. Halstead, d.1941;
Kalamazoo MI. Wake Island Memorial Day honoring James
Cox, 1991.

IV. PRINTED (#6)

- RE Cunningham, Wake Island and postwar, 1942-1980.
Newsclips and 1942 issue of Goldengater with WSC on cover.
5 postcards of Wake.

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Addenda: Sept. 1996

Gift of Leonn D. Boone

Box 5 (F.7)

I. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. n.d.
- B. 1943
2 TLS postcards from WSC to his wife and daughter while he was a prisoner of war in Shanghai during World War II, Oct. 6, Nov. 2, 1943
- C. 1975-1976
Includes a photocopy of 1 TLS from Gerald Ford to WSC, Sept. 29, 1976

II. DOCUMENTS

- A. Documents from Japanese P.O.W. camp: report of prison life, rules and regulations, 6p., mimeo t.s.
- B. Unit citation given by FDR for the defense of Wake Island, photocopy

III. MANUSCRIPTS

- A. Account of the work done by Dr. Shank on Wake Island, 4p., t.s., photocopy

IV. PRINTED MATTER

- A. Medal of Honor citation for Captain Henry T. Elrod, 1 mimeo copy and 1 photocopy
- B. Newspaper clippings, 1962-1976, 8 items.
- C. Press release from the office of Congressman Gary Brown, Oct. 7, 1976, in regards to his attempt to rectify FDR's failure to include WSC in his Presidential Commendation for the defense of Wake Island
- D. Program, Reunion 1977, Wake Island Defenders
- E. "The Devil Dog of Wake Island," by H.I. Phillips, and "Semper Fidelis," by Michael Barker, 2 poems appearing in the June 1984 edition of Wake Island Wig-Wag, photocopy
- F. Pamphlet for the 43rd Annual Reunion of Wake Island Defenders, Sept. 12-15, 1984
- G. "Defenders Return to Wake Island," photocopy, The Military Times, Dec. 13, 1985

Cunningham, Rear Admiral Winfield Scott
9/28/00
Preliminary Listing

Added to Box 1

- I. Manuscript.
 - A. "Winfield Scott Cunningham," by Gregory Robert Cunningham, great nephew of WSC; 13 pgs, CS; biographical essay re: WSC; includes annotated bibliography, 9/22/00.