

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY  
ABILENE, KANSAS

BULKELEY, JOHN D.: Papers, 1928-84

Accessions 70-76 & 86-21  
Processed by: BSR, TB  
Date Completed: April 2001

Admiral Bulkeley deposited his papers in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in March 1970. A small accretion was received in April 1986.

Linear feet: -1  
Approximate number of pages: 1200  
Approximate number of items: 420

Admiral Bulkeley signed an instrument of gift for his papers on April 3, 1970. Literary rights in the writings of Admiral Bulkeley in this collection and in all other collections of papers donated to the Eisenhower Library were retained by Admiral Bulkeley. Upon his death in April 1996 such rights passed to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs.
2. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of others persons who have had correspondence with Admiral Bulkeley.
3. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.
4. Papers containing statements made by or to the donor in confidence unless in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library the reason for the confidentiality no longer exists.
5. All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

John Bulkeley, a career naval officer, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1933 and was serving in the Pacific at the start of World War II. He was a specialist in the use of PT boats and commanded the PT boat that evacuated General Douglas MacArthur from the Philippines in March 1942. William L. White, a journalist from Emporia, Kansas, wrote a book titled They Were Expendable about the exploits of Bulkeley's squadron. In 1945 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio produced a movie based on the book.

In early 1944 Bulkeley was transferred to Europe where he commanded patrol boats in the English Channel during the Normandy Invasion. He later commanded destroyers in the Atlantic fleet. After 1960 he held a number of land-based commands until his retirement.

The papers of John Bulkeley pertain primarily to his service in World War II. Most of the material consists of correspondence, memoranda and reports on his work with PT boats in the Philippines and during the Normandy Invasion, and on his involvement with the book and movie They Were Expendable. There is very little information on his early naval career or his career after World War II.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

August 19, 1911	Born in New York, NY
1929-33	U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland
1937	Commissioned Lt. (jg)
1937-39	Chief Engineer, <u>USS Sacramento</u> , most of the time with the United States Asiatic Fleet
1941	Commissioned Lieutenant
Feb.-July 1941	Commander, Motor Boat Submarine Chaser, Division Two, with Additional duties as Commander MBSC Squadron One
Aug. 1941- April 1942	Commander, Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Three, U.S. Asiatic Fleet
March 11-13, 1942	Squadron used to transport General MacArthur and 20 others from Philippines. MacArthur on PT 41, Bulkeley's boat.
March 19, 1942	PT 41 (Bulkeley commanding) transported President Manuel Quezon and 13 others to Oroquieta, Mindanao from Dumaguete, Negros
June 6-July 15, 1944	Commander Task Unit 122.4.4 (all motor torpedo boats in U.S. Assault area) during Normandy Invasion as part of Western Naval Task Force Area Screen & anti-E-boat patrols.
July 1944- June 1945	Commander, Destroyer <u>USS Endicott</u> (DD 495)
July 1945- June 1946	Commander, <u>USS Stribling</u> (DD 867 with the Atlantic Fleet)
1948	Armed Forces Staff College
Nov. 1949- Oct. 1952	Staff member, Military Liaison Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission
1963	Promoted to Rear Admiral
1967-84	President, Naval Board of Inspection and Survey
April 1996	Died

## CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1928 Military Training Certificate
	1933 U.S. Naval Academy
	1934 Re Commission, Ensign
	1934 Official Papers, <u>USS Indianapolis</u>
	1935 Official Papers, <u>USS Indianapolis</u> ; Mare Island Optical School
	1936 Official Papers, Change of Duty Orders
	1937 Re Commission, Lt. (jg)
	1937 Personal Papers, Christmas Message from Mother
	1938 Official Papers, re Intelligence Photographs
	1939 Official Papers, <u>USS Sacramento</u>
	1940 Official Papers, Orders re <u>USS Saratoga</u> , <u>USS Utah</u> , <u>USS Savanna</u> , School at F.B.I.
	1941 Re Commission, Lt.
	1941 January-December Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1942 January Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1942 February Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1942 March Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1942 April Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1942 May Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1942 June Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1942 July Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1942 August Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1 (cont.)	1942 September Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1942 October Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1942 November-December Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1942 Correspondence re book and movie, "They Were Expendable"
	1942 Personal Correspondence
	1942 "Navy Day 1942", poem by Oscar Hammerstein II
	1943 Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1943 Correspondence re book and movie "They Were Expendable"
	1943 Personal Correspondence
2	1944 Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1944 Correspondence re book and movie "They were Expendable"
	1944 Personal Correspondence
	1945 Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1945 List, Motor Torpedo Boats lost in W.W. II
	1945 Correspondence re book and movie "They Were Expendable"
	1945 Personal Correspondence
	1946 Official Papers, Orders, Reports, Correspondence
	1946 Correspondence re book and movie "They Were Expendable"
	1947 Official Papers, Report of Fitness
	1948 Correspondence re movie "They Were Expendable"
	1949 Official Papers, Orders, Commendation
	1951 Official Papers, Temporary Promotion List for Captains
	1952 Official Papers, Orders, Temporary Appointment as Captain
	1953 Personal Correspondence

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
2	1954 Personal Correspondence
(cont.0	1955 Official Papers, Personnel Matters
	1959 Official Papers re continuing active service
	1960 Official Papers
	1984 Fortieth Anniversary of Normandy Invasion
	Undated Indexes to the Collection (incomplete)
	Undated Misc. Memorabilia

END OF CONTAINER LIST