

# Guide to the John Killam Murphy Papers

MS 1402



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr. and John Espy

June 1985

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
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beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1402

**CREATOR:** Murphy, John Killam, 1875-1969

**TITLE:** John Killam Murphy papers

**DATES:** 1893-1933

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, photographs, papers, and other materials relating to Murphy's nautical interests and career with the naval reserve forces and the U.S. Coast Guard in New Haven, Connecticut. Murphy participated in naval operations during the Spanish American War, and World Wars I and II.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1402>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1402>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. William Welch Gaines and Alexander K. Murphy, 1985 and 1988.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

John Killam Murphy Papers (MS 1402). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Killam Murphy was born on March 21, 1875 in New Haven, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale University in 1898 (Ph.B.). Murphy spent thirty-three years in the service of the United States Navy, Naval Reserve, Coast Guard, and Connecticut Naval Militia. He saw duty in the Spanish - American War, World War I, and World War II. Murphy trained naval reservists in New Haven (1921-1925) and during World War II. He was also a lifelong yachtsman and Yacht designer who died in August, 1969 in West Haven.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers include correspondence, photographs, writings, and other material documenting the naval career of John Killam Murphy. Murphy spent thirty-three years of service in the United States Navy, Naval Reserve, Coast Guard, and Connecticut Naval Militia.

The John Killam Murphy Papers were donated to Yale University Library in 1985 by Mrs. William Welch Gaines and Alexander K. Murphy.

The papers are arranged in two series:

- I. General Correspondence, 1916-1933
- II. Topical Files, 1893-1972

SERIES I, GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1916-1933 contains letters relating to Murphy's naval reserve duty as Commander of Section Base 1, Third Naval District, which was headquartered in New Haven, Connecticut. This series also contains material relating to Murphy's command of *Eagle 27*, a ship used to train naval reservists from 1921-1925. Letters from the 1930s concern Murphy's lifelong activities as a yachtsman.

SERIES II, TOPICAL FILES, 1893-1927 contains a small quantity of student papers from Murphy's Yale University years. The bulk of material in this series concerns naval topics, including the Naval Reserve bill, Navy Day celebrations in New Haven, and photographs of ships and the New Haven harbor.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. General Correspondence, 1916-1933. II. Topical Files, 1893-1927.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: General Correspondence, 1916–1929, 1933, undated

*0.5 linear feet (1 box)*

The materials in this series are arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1-13

General correspondence

1916–1929, 1933,  
undated

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**Series II: Topical Files, 1893, 1921-1927, undated***0.5 linear feet (1 box)*

The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by type of material.

b. 2, f. 14	Naval Reserve Bill	1921-1923, undated
b. 2, f. 15	Navigation	1923-1926, undated
b. 2, f. 16	Navy Day celebrations in New Haven	1925-1927
b. 2, f. 17	Photographs: Section Base No. 1, New Haven Harbor; U.S.S. Elfrida; Various individuals See also: CF82	undated
b. 3	Photograph: USS Reed	
b. 2, f. 18	United States Naval Reserve Force. Third Naval District, New Haven, Connecticut	1917-1919
b. 2, f. 19	Writings, lectures, plans	undated
b. 2, f. 20	Yale University: student papers	1893, undated

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Geographic Names**

New Haven (Conn.)  
United States -- Naval reserves

### **Names**

Murphy, John Killam, 1875-1969

### **Corporate Body**

United States Coast Guard