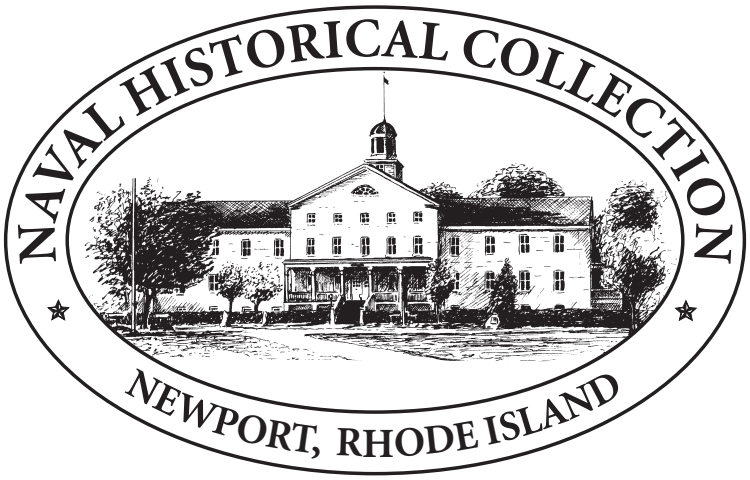
Register of the John C. Kane Papers



Naval War College
Newport, RI

REGISTER OF THE PAPERS OF JOHN C. KANE

Compiled by
Evelyn M. Cherpak, Ph.D.

Manuscript Register Series
No. 40

Naval Historical Collection
Naval War College, Newport, RI
2010

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Clarence Kane was born on March 25, 1922 in Ironwood, Michigan. He attended St. Ambrose High School there, then matriculated at Michigan College of Mines in Houghton, Michigan in 1939. He won an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1940 and graduated with distinction in the class of 1943.

Kane was commissioned in 1943 and during the war flew blimps to protect convoys traversing the Atlantic Ocean. He was a navigator on the first transatlantic crossing of non-rigid airships that went from Lakehurst, NJ to North Africa in 1944, and was on a second mission in 1945. After the war, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and the following year was awarded the degree of aeronautical engineer from the California Institute of Technology. His navy career included various aviation billets and staff positions in California, Texas, New Jersey, North Carolina, Panama, and Trinidad. His last pre-retirement billet was at McDonnell Aircraft Company, where he supervised the production of 3,000 aircraft, including Phantom fighter jets.

Captain Kane retired from the navy on July 31, 1968 and went on to work as an executive at McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation, General Dynamics, and the Carlson Travel Company.

In 1990, he retired for the second time and held a variety of volunteer positions, including commanding officer of the Gateway Squadron, Secretary of the U.S. Naval Academy Chapter in St. Louis, Treasurer of the Naval Airship Association, and Chairman of S.C.O.R.E., an organization that helped small businesses succeed.

His medals include the American Defense Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Air Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the American Theater Medal, the Legion of Merit and a Commendation Ribbon.

Kane died on October 11, 2005 in St. Louis, Missouri. He survivors include his wife, four children, and eight grandchildren.

CAREER OUTLINE

1922	Born in Ironwood, Michigan, March 25
1939–1940	Michigan College of Mines, Houghton, Michigan
1943	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy; commissioned ensign
1943	Student Pilot, NAS Moffet, Sunnyvale, CA
1944	Student Pilot, NAS Lakehurst, NJ
1944	Promoted to Lieutenant (jg)
1945–1946	Staff, Fleet Airships Staff Section; Aide, Chief of Naval Airship Training & Experimentation
1946–1947	Liaison Officer, NAS Lakehurst, NJ
1947–1949	Student, U.S. Postgraduate School, B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering
1949–1950	Student, California Institute of Technology
1950–1953	Engineering Officer, NAS Lakehurst, NJ
1953–1954	Student Pilot, NAS Pensacola, Florida
1954	Student Pilot, NAS Corpus Christi, Texas; promoted to Lieutenant Commander
1954–1956	Maintenance Officer, Patrol Squadron 34 (VP 34)
1956–1957	Maintenance and Material Officer, Fleet Airship One, NAF Elizabeth City, NC
1958	Promoted to Commander
1958–1961	Engineering Officer, NAS Alameda, CA
1961–1963	Power Plant Officer, COMNAVAIRPAC
1963–1964	Maintenance and Material Officer, COMFAIR, NAS Alameda, CA
1964	Promoted to Captain
1964–1968	Plant Representative, BUWEPSREP, McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation, St. Louis, MO
1968	Retired, July 31
2005	Died, October 11, St. Louis, MO

DESCRIPTION OF PAPERS

The papers of Captain John C. Kane, USN (Ret.) were presented to the Naval War College Foundation for deposit in the Naval Historical Collection by his son, Mark Kane of Des Moines, Iowa, in July 2006. Five boxes of papers of Captain Marion Eppes, USN (Ret.) were included but form a separate collection.

The collection consists of seventeen boxes of papers that document his interest in naval airships and the Naval Airship Association, of which he was a member. The collection spans the years 1933–2005.

Series I, Correspondence, includes letters both sent and received, 1945–1996. The bulk of the correspondence treats the Naval Airship Association, but also contains letters of appointment and those regarding his naval training and courses taken. Some of the correspondence includes the biographies of members of the Naval Airship Association.

Series II, Naval Orders, contains his assignments from 1943 to 1968, as well as retirement papers.

Series III, Books, has yearbooks; books on blimps, airship bases, airships, and U-boats; and a history of his hometown of Ironwood, Michigan. They were published between the years 1940 and 2001.

Series IV, Pamphlets, has pamphlets on airship rescue operations, rigid and non-rigid airships, directories of naval aviators, naval air station anniversary booklets, and the Naval Airship Association directories, 1945–2003.

Series V, Newsletters, consists of newsletters from the Navy League, the Lighter-Than-Air Society, the Aerostation newsletter, and others, 1940–2004.

Series VI, Newspaper Clippings, houses newspaper clippings, 1968–1997.

Series VII, Photographs, has shots of Kane, model airships, the St. Louis Navy League events, and award ceremonies, 1968–2002.

Series VIII, Video Tapes, and CDs, is of reunions, social events, the Hindenberg disaster, rigid blimps, briefs, and histories, 1993–2005.

Series IX contains slides of undated Naval Airships.

Manuscript Collection 259

ARRANGEMENT OF PAPERS

SERIES I
Correspondence

Box	Folder	
1	1	Correspondence, Letters sent, January 1994
	2	Correspondence, Letters sent, February 1994
	3	Correspondence, Letters sent, March 1994
	4	Correspondence, Letters sent, April 1994
	5	Correspondence, Letters sent, May–July 1994
	6	Correspondence, Letters sent, August 1994
	7	Correspondence, Letters sent, September 1994
	8	Correspondence, Letters sent, October 1994
	9	Correspondence, Letters sent, November 1994
	10	Correspondence, Letters sent, December 1994
2	11	Correspondence, Letters sent, January–July 1995
	12	Correspondence, Letters sent, September–October 1995
	13	Correspondence, Letters sent, November–December 1995
	14	Correspondence, Letters sent, January–February 1996
	15	Correspondence, Letters sent, March–May 1996
	16	Correspondence, Letters sent, June–October 1996
	17	Correspondence, Letters received, October 1993–February 1994
	18	Correspondence, Letters received, March 1994–November 1994
	19	Correspondence, Letters received, January–March 1996
	20	Correspondence, Letters received, April–June 1996
	21	Correspondence, Letters received, August–December 1996
	22	Correspondence, Letters sent to Marion Henry Eppes, 1993–1995
	23	Correspondence, Letters regarding courses and training, 1945–1953

Box	Folder	
	24	Correspondence, Letters regarding courses and training, 1954–1959
	25	Correspondence, Letters of appointment, 1945–1964
3	26	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Abner–Bauer
	27	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Bazzie–Braun
	28	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Brigerrnan–Byers
	29	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Calehuff–Carter
	30	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Cavalier–Crossley
	31	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Davis–Dungan
	32	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Earnest–Friedland
	33	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Friend–Gaudette
	34	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Geist–Griffith
	35	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Haggerty–Hely
	36	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Henry–Hunt
	37	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Hunter–Jones
	38	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Kalin–Koblitz
	39	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Koch–Leaman
	40	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Lee–Lundy
	41	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, MacAuley–Mione
	42	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Mobley–Myers
4	43	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Nancken–Peck
	44	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Peterson–Pilgrim
	45	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Plyer–Purdon
	46	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Rambow–Robbins
	47	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Roberts–Rubino
	48	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Sanders–Smith
	49	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Spahr–Szot

Box	Folder	
	50	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Talbott–Tyler
	51	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Ulrich–Voorhees
	52	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Wagner–Winkler
	53	Correspondence, Naval Airship Association Biographies, Withrow–Zulveta

SERIES II
Naval Orders

5	1	Naval Papers, 1945–1951
	2	Naval Papers, 1952–1956
	3	Naval Papers, 1957–1964
	4	Naval Papers, Retirement information
	5	Naval Orders, 1943–1947
	6	Naval Orders, 1948–1954
	7	Naval Orders, 1955–1959
	8	Naval Orders, 1961–1968

SERIES III
Books

6	1	Naval Air Station Lakehurst Yearbook, 1957
	2	Naval Air Station Lakehurst Yearbook, 1960
	3	Flying Hookers, 2001
	4	American Airship Bases and Facilities, 1996
	5	Blimps and U-Boats: U.S. Navy Airships in the Battle of the Atlantic, 1992; Ironwood, Michigan: The Growing Years, 1885–1925; The U.S. Naval Academy, 1970
7	6	A Flyer's Dash: An Autobiography by Commander James W. Kissick, Jr.
	7	John C. Kane Battalion Passbook, September 1940
	8	Flying Officers of the U.S. Navy, 1917–1919
	9	How Soon We Forget: A History of U.S. Navy Airships in WWII, 1977

Box	Folder	
	10	Photographic Essay of the Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, NJ
	11	Blimps, Balloons, and Bombs, 1993

SERIES IV
Pamphlets

8	1	Mariner/Marlin 1997 Roster
	2	Memoirs NAVPRO St. Louis
	3	Report on Airship Rescue Operations
	4	The Pleasure of His Company
	5	Projects of the class Machine Design, 23.320 on "Stratos Lav I," 1993
	6	Tillamook County Pioneer Blimp Hanger Museum Calendar, 1993
	7	Information on the U.S. Naval Air Station Weeksville, NC
	8	Tragedy at Barnegat Bay
	9	Lighter-Than-Air Craft, Part 2, Chapter 7
	10	Plan for the Airship and Patrol Coastal (pC I) Platforms Technology Demonstration Draft
	11	Behold—The Blimp!
	12	The Second World War Airship Squadrons
	13	Research of the U.S. Naval Airship Schools (non-pilot) and Naval Aviator (Airship) Training Classes: 1947–1952, 1998
	14	The Story of Rigid and Non-Rigid Airships
	15	A Research of Rigid Airship Ground Handling, 1998
	16	Directory of Officers Qualified in Lighter-Than-Air Society, 1959
	17	Directory of Officers in the Lighter-Than-Air Section of the Aeronautical Organization, 1945
	18	Naval Aviators (Airship) Now Outside the Lighter-Than-Air Section of the Aeronautical Organization, 1945
	19	A List of U.S. Navy Lighter-Than-Air Unit Commanders and Commanding Officers: 1961 and earlier

Box	Folder	
	20	50th Anniversary, Naval Air Station Moffett Field, 1933–1983
9	21	Booklet, Aeronautical Engineering Duty, April 1968
	22	Blimp Cartoons
	23	Captain John C. Kane Training Jacket
	24	Naval Airship Association Directory, 1993–1994
	25	Naval Airship Association Directory, 1995–1998
	26	Naval Airship Association Directory, 1999–2001
	27	Naval Airship Association Directory, 2002–2003
	28	Investigation of the facts regarding the downing of the U.S. Navy Airship "K-14," 1995
	29	Documents Relative to the "K-25" and the Type XI-B U-Boat off Cape Cod, MA, 1995
	30	Naval Aviator Numbers: 1917–1945, 1995
	31	Airship History Slideshow, 1999

SERIES V
Newsletters

10	1	Gasbag Journal, March 1996
	2	Lighter-Than-Air Society Bulletin, October–November 1954
	3	Lighter-Than-Air Society Bulletin, May/June 1985
	4	Aerostation newsletter, Summer 1990
	5	Inside the Control Car, September 1979
	6	All Hands, June 1987
	7	The Sparrowhawk Moffett Field Historical Society, March-April 1994–March-April 1995
	8	The Noon Balloon, Nov. 1998–Nov. 1999
	9	The Noon Balloon, Feb. 2000–Feb. 2001
	10	The Noon Balloon, Dec. 2001–June 2004

Box	Folder	
	11	The Airship and Aero History, Winter 1947/48–Winter 1948/49
	12	Dirigible: FOCAS Newsletter, April/June 1989–Oct./Dec. 1991
	13	Lighter-Than-Air Publications, 1940–1984
	14	Lighter-Than-Air Publications, 1985–1986
	15	Navy League, St. Louis Council Information, 1990–1994
	16	Navy League, St. Louis Council Information, 1995–1997
	17	Navy League, St. Louis Council Information, 1998–1999
	18	Air Power History: Intriguing Photo of Intrepid Airman, Fall 1992

SERIES VI
Newspaper Clippings

11	1	Newspaper; Clippings, Date Unknown–1968
	2	Newspaper; Clippings, 1972–1994
	3	Newspaper; Clippings, 1995–1997

SERIES VII
Photographs

11	1	John C. Kane
	2	Airship exhibit
	3	Model hangers and model airships
	4	Richmond Air Base after a fire
	5	Miscellaneous airships
12	1	Portrait of John C. Kane
	2	Photo of John Kane and unidentified man, 1966
	3	Photo of John Kane receiving the Cost Reduction Program Award, 1968
	4	Photo album of Navy League St. Louis Council Events
	5	Framed award presented to John Kane as a board member and secretary of the USNA St. Louis Chapter, February 2002

Box	Folder	
	6	Framed award given to John Kane as president of the Navy League St. Louis Council from 2000 to 2001.

SERIES VIII
Video Tapes

13	ZP-33 Reunion 1
	ZP-33 Reunion 2
	USNA Class of 1944 50th Reunion
	Lighter-Than-Air History
	Tucci U.S. Visit #1
	Tucci U.S Visit #2
	Lighter-Than-Air Brief—Keiser
	Naval Aviation History
	Alameda Fleet Week, 1996
	Rigid/Blimps, 1993 Reunion
	Rigid-Novall 1993 Reunion
	Spaghetti Mike Funeral Trip, 2002 (CD)
	NAA Reunion 1993
	Navy League 20th Anniversary Military Ball, October 26, 2002 (CD)
	Project Glynco—Dedication of the New Passage Terminal at Brunswick Golden Isles Airport, August 18, 2005 (CD)
	Forties Navy, September 26, 2005 (CD)
14	Rigids-Leading Edge/NAA Reunion 1995
	NAA Reunion 1995
	NAA 1995 Reunion
	NAA Reunion 1995
	NAA Presentation for the 2000 Reunion
	NAA Reunion 1995

Box	Folder	
14		NA Reunion 1995/1996 LTAS Banquet
		Dirigible
		Zeppelin Centennial 2000
		Airships and Ballooning—1952/56 (Lakehurst, Glynco, Guantanamo)
		NAA Reunion 1997
		USS *Macon*—Model Construction
		Hindenburg Disaster/Giant of the Sky

SERIES IX
Slides

15	1	Slides of Naval Airships, n.d.
	2	CD—Naval Airships, n.d.
16	1	Slides of Naval Airships, n.d.
17	1	Slides of Naval Airships, n.d.