

**Guide to the Henry Phillips Papers, 1863-1868
Catalog Number MS0074**

**The Mariners' Museum Library
at
Christopher Newport University**

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DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Mariners' Museum Library

Title: Henry W. Phillips Papers, 1863-1868

Catalog number: MS0074

Physical Characteristics: 10 items

Language(s): English

Creator(s): Henry W. Phillips

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection relates to Henry W. Phillips's naval career between 1863 and 1868. It contains letters of recommendation and military orders.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession number

CA 11

Accession date

1942

Restrictions

Collection is open to all researchers.

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Preferred Citation

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Note to Users

Due to the fragile and rare nature of the collection, researchers are requested to handle the materials with caution and in accordance with prescribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

Henry W. Phillips was serving as 2nd Assistant Engineer on board the U.S.S. *Mississippi* under the command of Melancton Smith on March 13 and 14, 1863. The *Mississippi*, along with six other Union ships, exchanged gunfire with confederate batteries at Port Hudson, Louisiana. The *Mississippi* ran aground and came under heavy fire. The ship was set on fire by her men to avoid capture.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

The Papers are in a single series. The material is arranged in ascending chronological order.

Series I: Military Documents. Consists of letters of recommendation and military orders.

FILE GUIDE

BOX 1

Folder 1 Finding Aid/Background

Folder 2 Military Documents: Letter of Recommendation: March 26, 1863
From M. Smith, Captain of the U.S.S. *Monongahela*, commending Phillip's conduct and character on board the *Mississippi* during the engagement at Port Hudson on March 14, 1863.

Folder 3 Military Documents: Letter of Recommendation: April 7, 1863
From William H. Rutherford, Chief Engineer, commending Phillip's performance during the "trying duties" during the night of action with the batteries at Port Hudson.

Folder 4 Military Documents: Letter of Recommendation: September 12, 1863
From Elbridge Lawton. Chief Engineer, indicating that Phillips discharged his official duties with great credit to himself and to Lawton's satisfaction while assigned to the *Mississippi*.

Folder 5 Military Documents: Letter of Recommendation: September 19, 1863
From John Watters, Lt Commander aboard the *Kineo* stating that Phillips' conduct was "very correct" and his hopes that he passes his examination with credit.

Folder 6 Military Documents: Letter of Recommendation: September 5, 1864
From Henry W. Bobie, Service Engineer on the *Sagamore* testifying to the abilities of Phillips as a 2nd Assistant Engineer.

Folder 7 Military Documents: Letter of Recommendation: December 10, 1868
From B.F. Sherwood Chief of Bureau praising Phillip's valuable and satisfactory services as a draughtsman over the four years of his association with the Navy's Steam Bureau.

Folder 8 Military Documents: Orders: September 1863
September 17, 1863
Orders signed by Gideon Welles for Phillips to report to Philadelphia for examination. Document indicates that Phillips reported on September 23rd and that he was examined, passed and discharged. Phillips was aboard the *Kineo* at the time.
September 24, 1863

A duplicate order appointing Phillips to Third Assistant Engineer due to the original lost aboard the U.S. Steamer *Mississippi*. Signed by Gideon Welles.

Folder 9 Military Documents: Orders: October 1863
Orders appointing Phillips as 2nd Assistant Engineer on October 15, 1863.

Folder 10 Military Documents Orders: August 1866
Phillip's commission as 2nd Assistant Engineer to the U.S. Navy as of July
26, 1866.

MATERIALS REMOVED

No materials were removed from this collection

SOURCES CONSULTED

Canney, Donald L. *Lincoln's Navy The Ships, Men and Organization, 1861-65.*

Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1998.

Gibbons, Tony. *Warships and Naval Battles of the Civil War.* New York: W.H. Smith

Publishers, Inc., 1989.

Kesler, James W. "Loss of the U.S.S. *Mississippi*", *United Service*, (1885) 12:2, 650-56.

SUBJECTS

Phillips, Henry W.

Kineo (Screw gunboat : 1862)

Mississippi (Sidewheel frigate : 1841)

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Personal narratives.