

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

**The Mariners' Museum Library  
at  
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## **DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY**

**Repository:** The Mariners' Museum Library

**Title:** Henry W. Phillips Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1863-1868

**Catalog number:** MS0074

**Physical Characteristics:** 10 items, consisting of letters of recommendation and orders (military records)

**Language:** English

**Creator:** Phillips, Henry W.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Henry W. Phillips was born in Massachusetts and was a resident of the State of New York when he entered the Navy on Feb. 19, 1862. He took up his duties as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Engineer on board the U.S.S. *Mississippi* in November of 1862 under the command of Melancton Smith. He was aboard *Mississippi* on March 13 and 14, 1863 when 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. On October 15, 1863 he received orders to report aboard the ironclad steamer *Sangamon* as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Engineer, where he served until Sept. of 1864. At that point, Phillips moved to the Bureau of Steam Engineering, where he remained as a draftsman until at least 1868. No further information on Phillips is currently available.

## **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.

The Papers are organized into a single series: Military Documents.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Accession number**

CA11

### **Accession date**

1942

### **Restrictions**

Collection is open to all researchers.

### **Publication Rights**

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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.

## SERIES DESCRIPTION

### Series I: Military Documents.

The series consists of letters of recommendation and military orders. The material is organized into 9 folders and arranged by material type, then in ascending chronological order.

## FILE GUIDE

### BOX 1

**Folder 1** Finding Aid/Background

**Folder 2** 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** 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** 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** 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** Letter of Recommendation: September 5, 1864  
From Henry W. Bobie, Service Engineer on the *Sangamon*, testifying to the abilities of Phillips as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Engineer.

**Folder 7** 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** 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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** Orders: October 1863

Orders appointing Phillips as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Engineer on October 15, 1863.

**Folder 10** Orders: August 1866

Phillip's commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Engineer to the U.S. Navy as of July 26, 1866.

### **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**

Kineo (Screw gunboat : 1862)

Mississippi (Sidewheel frigate : 1841)

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

Sangamon (Ironclad : 1863)

United States. Navy-Records and correspondence

Port Hudson (La.)-History-Siege, 1863