

**Guide to the Henry W. 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

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 2nd 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 2nd 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.

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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 2nd 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 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 Orders: October 1863

Orders appointing Phillips as 2nd Assistant Engineer on October 15, 1863.

Folder 10 Orders: August 1866

Phillip's commission as 2nd 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