

**Guide to the Collection of David G. Farragut Documents,  
1861-1864  
MS0313**

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

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Processed 2005

## **DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY**

**Repository:** The Mariners' Museum Library

**Title:** Collection of David G. Farragut Documents

**Inclusive Dates:** 1861-1864

**Catalog number:** MS0313

**Physical Characteristics:** 9 documents, including letters (correspondence), orders (military records), photocopies, transcripts, illustrations

**Language:** English

## **ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY**

In 2005, the Library created an artificial collection of several David G. Farragut letters owned by the Museum, which had mostly been accessioned prior to 1941. The accession numbers for these individual letters were the following: CA1, CA4, CA5, CA7, CA8, CA25, and CA54.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Collection of David G. Farragut Documents contains items from 1861, 1862 and 1864. It is comprised of letters, military orders, photocopies, transcripts and a published photograph gathered at different times from a variety of sources. Six documents are original, five of which have Farragut's signature, including the first letter he signed with the title "Rear Admiral."

David Glasgow Farragut (July 5, 1801 – August 14, 1870) was the commander of the U.S. Navy's Western Blockading Squadron during the American Civil War. He was the first vice admiral of the Navy, the rank having been created for him by President Abraham Lincoln. He was also the Navy's first full Admiral, having been promoted in 1866 after Congress created the rank. He is remembered in popular culture for his famous order at the Battle of Mobile Bay, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

The documents are organized into file folders. They are arranged by genre, then by date.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Accession numbers**

MS0313

### **Accession dates**

2005

### **Restrictions**

Collection is open to all researchers.

### **Publication Rights**

Copies of any materials may not be reproduced, published, or distributed, in any form without written permission from The Mariners' Museum.

## Preferred Citation

Collection of David G. Farragut Documents, 1861-1864, MS0313, The Mariners' Museum Library

## 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 proscribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

## RELATED MATERIALS

The original orders pertaining to the attack on Mobile Bay, from which the photocopy CA54 was made, are the General Orders No. 11, David Glasgow Farragut Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

The original typescript of a letter from Farragut to his brother-in-law, Dr. Richard P. Ashe, of which CA25 is a transcript, is the Typewritten Copy of Letter from Farragut to Richard P. Ashe, David Glasgow Farragut Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California. The original letter itself was in the hands of Mr. Gaston M. Ashe of San Francisco in 1928.

## FILE GUIDE

### BOX 1

**Folder 1** Finding Aid/ Background Information

**Folder 2** Correspondence 1861-1862

October 15, 1861: Hastings on Hudson, NY

Farragut to Dr. Richard P. Ashe. Two-paged typed transcript of letter from a copy of a copy. Ashe, of San Francisco, was a brother-in-law of Farragut. Discusses finances and politics. [CA25]

August 12, 1862: Flag Ship *Hartford*, New Orleans

Farragut to General B. F. Butler. Two page letter where Farragut crosses out his signature and re-writes his name and new title attaching a post script note: "I have just received my commission as "Rear Admiral." Offers apology and explanation for an apparent misunderstanding. Attached to the document is a 3 cent stamp issued in 1903 depicting the image of Farragut and Porter. [CA5]

August 16, 1862: Flag Ship *Hartford*

Farragut to General B. F. Butler. Two page letter marked Private and Confidential. Warns the General that the forts in Jackson are vulnerable to attack. Typed transcription included. Attached to the document is a 3 cent stamp issued in 1903 depicting the image of Farragut and Porter. [CA6 & 7]

Black and White image of David Glasgow Farragut dressed in his uniform from a published magazine. [CA7]

**Folder 3**

Correspondence 1864

August 6, 1864: Flag Ship *Hartford*, Mobile Bay

Farragut to Commander Edward Donaldson, USS Seminole

Commends the officers and crew of the fleet vessels for their gallant conduct during the previous day's battle of Mobile Bay. [CA8]

August 17, 1864: *Hartford*, Mobile Bay

Farragut to Commodore James S. Palmer. He requests that Palmer issue the orders necessary to distribute accompanying letters, money and clothing to rebel prisoners taken at Fort Gaines. [CA1]

November 30, 1864: *Hartford*, Pensacola Bay

Farragut to wife. Short two-page letter. Writes that the ship is headed north and he expects to be home on the 10<sup>th</sup> although bad winds could hold them back. [CA1]

**Folder 4**

Military Orders 1864

July 29, 1864: Flag Ship *Hartford*

Photocopy. General orders to the vessels in the fleet from the Rear Admiral [Farragut] regarding the upcoming attack on Mobile Bay. Warns of "Black Buoys" - torpedoes placed by the enemy in the waters near Port Morgan. [CA54]

December 22, 1864

Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles to the President submitting for his signature the commission for Vice Admiral David G. Farragut. [CA4]

**SUBJECTS**

Farragut, David Glasgow (1801-1870)

Hartford (Screw sloop : 1859)

Seminole (Screw sloop : 1860)

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Mobile Bay, Battle of, Ala., 1864

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Naval operations