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

The Mariners’ Museum Library
at
Christopher Newport University

Contact Information:
The Mariners' Museum Library
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, VA 23606
Phone: (757) 591-7782
Fax: (757) 591-7310
Email: Library@MarinersMuseum.org
URL: www.MarinersMuseum.org/library

Processed by: Lisa Wilson, 2005
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, Philips 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
Copies of any materials may not be reproduced, published, or distributed, in any form without written permission from The Mariners’ Museum.

Preferred Citation
The Henry W. Phillips Papers, 1863-1868, MS0074, 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 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.
Gibbons, Tony. Warships and Naval Battles of the Civil War. NewYork: W.H. Smith

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