

USS Minneapolis Collection (Cruiser CA-36, 1934)

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection number: B518

Accession #s: 1990.069; 2019.013

Collection repository: Hennepin History Museum

2303 Third Ave.

Minneapolis, MN 55404

Collection title: USS Minneapolis

Dates: 1893-1959

Extent: 1 box. 1 linear foot.

1 folder. Oversized. Approx. 12" x 42"

1 item. Map drawer. Approx. 24" x 36"

Creator: Multiple creators.

Language of the Material: English

Processed by: Michele Hagen, 2019

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The second navy cruiser to bear the name USS *Minneapolis* was launched from Philadelphia in 1933 and commissioned in 1934. It was the second vessel to carry the name and became one of the most decorated Navy battleships during World War II. Nicknamed "Minnie," the cruiser received alterations and was reclassified as a heavy cruiser early in its service. In 1935, the USS *Minneapolis* headed for San Diego via the Panama Canal.

During the attack on Pearl Harbor, the USS *Minneapolis* was away performing gunnery practice and so did not incur damage at that time. It joined with a carrier task force headed for the Marshalls and Gilberts where she engaged in battle. It was actively engaged during the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Battle of Midway and the Battle of Tassafaronga. The USS *Minneapolis* was severely damaged during the Battle of Tassafaronga, sustaining two torpedo hits to the port-side bow and number two fireroom. The crew managed to keep the ship afloat long enough to reach Tulagi, where they camouflaged it with foliage, until temporary repairs allowed the cruiser to sail for Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

The USS *Minneapolis* returned for duty in August of 1943. In 1945, the cruiser was flying the flag of Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid when he accepted the Japanese surrender of Korea. After further patrol and the return of veterans to the West coast, the cruiser once again sailed the

Panama Canal and headed back to Philadelphia. The USS *Minneapolis* was decommissioned in 1947.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The USS *Minneapolis* collection (CA-36, 1934) focuses on a set of correspondence and ephemera around the launching of the ship as well as ship's manuals, a historical text and oversized ship's schematics. The collection includes copies of unused honorary crewmember forms commemorating service during the period of liberation of Korea and North China.

Much of this portion of the USS *Minneapolis* collection was donated by the USS *Minneapolis* Association. The Association was founded in 1984 by former crewmembers of the USS *Minneapolis*. They met annually until about 2007.

USAGE NOTE

The USS *Minneapolis* Collection contains several unbound operational manuals housed in protective casings. Please use caution when handling these materials as items can shift and become separated. Take extra care to re-fold expandable pages back to their original positions.

ACCESS

The collection is open to researchers and has no restrictions.

COPYRIGHT

The researcher assumes the responsibility for ensuring copyright is followed. When and where possible the archive will provide information related to the copyright owners, but it will be the responsibility of the researcher to ensure copyright laws are followed. Requests for permission to publish material in this collection should be directed to the Archivist.

RELATED MATERIAL

The Museum holds objects and photographs related to the USS *Minneapolis* Collection. Photocopies of 8" x 10" or smaller photographs from the museum photograph collection can be found in the USS *Minneapolis* Collection box inside the file marked PHOTOCOPIES. The original photographs are housed in the Hennepin History Museum's photo archives. These and the other photographs listed below are available to view upon request.

- OP9.26 -- Photograph showing damage in battle of Guadalcanal. 11" x 14".
- OP9.29 -- Photograph of USS *Minneapolis* in Pearl Harbor. 11" x 14".
- TRA 11.16MP P1 thru TRA 11.16MP P20 -- Photographs showing chart of war operation, donation to museum, ship at sea, ship christening and more. 8" x 10".
- TRA11.16MP R1 thru TRA11.16 R15 (note format difference on these #'s as there is a space missing between the A and 11 when searching in PastPerfect) -- Official photographs from Navy and news agency showing crew members, ship deck, sick bay, dental office and more. Most approximately 3" x 5" in size.
- Engine order telegraph (2017.0503.025)

- Flag flown by USS *Minneapolis*
- Magazine article featuring the museum accepting the ship's bell. "Hennepin County History" by the Hennepin County Historical Society.

The museum includes as part of its permanent object collection several silver service pieces that were used aboard the first ship to bear the name USS *Minneapolis*, the naval cruiser C-13/CA-17 from 1893. Commander McDonald of the U.S. Navy donated the pieces to the museum in 1959.

- Silver platter and stand (2019.0620.101a-b)
- Gravy boat (2019.0620.102)
- Pair of serving bowls with lids (2019.0620.103a-d)
- Serving bowl with lid (2019.0620.104a-b)
- Platter (2019.0620.105)

Additional material on the USS *Minneapolis* Collection can be found online with these repositories:

- Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN: <http://www.mnhs.org>
- Hennepin County Library James K. Hosmer Special Collections, Minneapolis, MN. <https://www.hclib.org/about/locations/special-collections>
- National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov>
- Naval History and Heritage Command: <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/m/minneapolis-ii.html>
- NAVsource Online: <http://www.navsource.org/archives/04/036/04036.htm>

ACQUISITION

A portion of the collection was donated by the USS Minneapolis Association.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1: USS Minneapolis (CA-36, 1934)

Box	Folder	
1	1	Correspondence Letters between Rear Admiral A. J. Hepburn, Mayor A. G. Bainbridge and Mr. Thomas B. Mouer. Invitation to the ship's launch sponsored by Miss Grace L. Newton, cards to witness the launch and invitation to the Sponsor's Tea.
Box	Container	
1	2 a-b	Manual. Loose pages. No cover. 6.5" x 8.5".

- 1** **3**
- U.S.S. Minneapolis Fleet and Force Regulations: Executive Officer's Copy.* Original cover removed because of damage. Photocopy of original cover housed with manual.
- Manual. 8.5" x 10.5". Loose pages. No cover. Record book/ship's manual (missing original cover) that "serves to catalog and describe the complete electric plant as installed on cruisers CA32, 34, 36 and 38."
- Map
Drawer**
- Map. 24" x 36". Paper. (1990.069.0002) Housed in map drawer (see *War*)
"War Cruise CA36. USS *Minneapolis*, 1941 – 1945."
- Oversized
Folder 3**
- USS *Minneapolis* ship schematics. Various sizes. 11" high and up to 40" long. Paper. Housed in oversized folder.
- Compressed air systems diagram, October 7, 1935.
 - Damage control cross-sections diagram, October 17, 1935
 - Flooding effect diagram, October 17, 1935
 - Communication diagram, below second deck. March 1938.
 - Communication diagram, above second deck. March 1938.
 - Ventilation diagram. April 1938.
 - Fuel oil filling and transfer system diagram. April 1938.
 - Fire main, drainage and sprinkling systems diagram. April 1938.
 - Main steam diagram.
 - Auxiliary steam diagram.
 - Fuel oil service diagram.



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