

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical note 2. Scope and content 3. Provenance 4. Processing note 5. Inventory 6. Subjects <p> List of finding aids R.I.H.S. Library page R.I.H.S. home page </p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Gustavus R. Ide, Jr. Papers</h2> <p>Navy officer and electrical engineer of East Providence, RI Personal papers, 1935-2003 (bulk 1935-1956) Size: 1.5 ft. Catalog number: MSS 1130 Processed by: Karen Eberhart, January 2004</p> <p style="text-align: center;">©Rhode Island Historical Society Manuscripts Division</p>
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Historical note:

Gustavus Reed Ide, Jr. was born in East Providence, RI on February 28, 1919 the son of Gustavus Reed Ide and Florence. He was an avid baseball and tennis player participating in the amateur baseball league and a member of the tennis team in college. He graduated from East Providence High School in 1935 and then attended Rhode Island State College (University of Rhode Island), graduating in June 1940 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. During the summer of 1937 he began his working life as a cashier at the Narragansett Race Track selling and cashing racing tickets. The next two summers he worked on a surveying crew for the Waterman Engineering Company during 1938 and for the Rhode Island State Board of Public Roads in 1939. After he graduated from college he was a student engineer in training with the New England Power Association during Aug 1940 to April 1942 learning how to lay out and service electric power lines.

Gustavus joined the Navy Reserve in March 1942 and was sent to the Naval Training School (Indoctrination) at Notre Dame University in Notre Dame, IN for a six week program. His class was trained specifically for shore duty and so did not endure the regular three month "boot camp." Gustavus was then sent to torpedo school in Newport, RI to learn how to supply torpedoes to the troops. Because of the shortage of naval officers, Gustavus was instead called up for active duty aboard a brand new destroyer, the USS Glennon (DD620). So, in October of 1942, he went to sea as the Torpedo Officer without any training or even basic sea knowledge such as which side of the boat was starboard. He learned quickly and was one of the officers selected to serve watches as Officer of the Deck during the invasion of Utah Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The stern of the USS Glennon hit a mine on June 8 but remained afloat until June 10 when it was sunk by enemy fire.

Gustavus returned unharmed to the United States and was sent to Washington, D.C. for a three month Gunnery and Ordnance School during September - November, 1944. He then became the Gunnery Officer on the destroyer USS Mervine (DD489) which was recommissioned as a destroyer mine sweeper (DMS31) in early 1945. Gustavus was released from active duty in March 1946 and he returned to his original career path as an electrical engineer. He worked for the Central Massachusetts Electric Company in Palmer, MA as a Distribution Engineer starting in April 1947. That public utility then became the Worcester County Electric Company. Gustavus was married with one child by June 1949 and his second child was born in 1951 or 1952. He and his family lived in Warren, MA for many years and he currently resides in Westborough, MA.

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Scope and content:

This collection consists primarily of information on the naval career of Gustavus Ide during World War II. He served aboard destroyers for nearly his entire period of service. The materials include a scrapbook/diary with detailed information on his experiences in the navy, the rescue of Third Mate William J. Lemmerman after he fell overboard in the North Atlantic in November 1943 and the invasion of Normandy in June 1944. The

collection also includes detailed information about the ships on which he served. A second scrapbook contains newspaper clippings from his college years playing baseball and tennis, 1935-1940. The scrapbook has detailed information about the Melrose League for amateur baseball teams in Rhode Island.

Inventory:

- B.1, F.1 Educational diplomas and documents, 1935-1940
- B.1, F.2-8 Military orders and documents, 1942-1947, 1956, 2000-2002
- B.1, F.9 Newspaper clippings, 1944, 1993
- B.1, F.10 Officer service record, 1942-1955
- B.1, F.11 Reminiscences of navy training and career, undated typescript, 2003
- B.1, F.12 Scrapbook - baseball and tennis, c.1935-1940
- B.1, F.13 Wilde, E. Andrew, Jr., editor. *The U.S.S. Glennon (DD-620) in World War II : Documents and Photographs*. Needham, MA, 1999, revised 2001
- B.1, F.14 USS Glennon - ship's newspaper, 1942-1944
- B.1, F.15 USS Mervine - ship's newspaper, 1945
- B.1, F.16 USS Nelson - ship's newspaper, 1943
- B.2, V.1 Scrapbook - military service, 1942-2003
- B.1, F.17 loose items p.23 letters from 2nd Lt. Don Balboni
- B.1, F.18 loose items p.30 rescue at sea of William J. Lemmerman
- OV loose items p.36 Michelin Tires Battle of Normandy map, 1947
- B.1, F.19 loose items p.43 three temporary goggles
- OV loose items p.44 chart of British Islands, 1944
- B.1, F.20 loose items p.56 photo of USS Mervine, May 1945
- B.1, F.21 loose items p.65 list of men in Ordnance division picture, 1945

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Subjects:

Baseball.
Lemmerman, William J.
Rescues.
Tennis.
University of Rhode Island.
USS Glennon (Destroyer : DD-620)
USS Mervine (Destroyer : DD-489)
USS Nelson (Destroyer : DD-623)
Wilde, E. Andrew, Jr.
World War, 1939-1945 - Campaigns - France - Normandy.
World War, 1939-1945 - Naval operations.
World War, 1939-1945 - Personal narratives.

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