JOHN B. HATTENDORF CENTER FOR MARITIME HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Mailing Address:
Hattendorf Historical Center
U.S. Naval War College
686 Cushing Road
Newport, RI 02841-1207

Location: Mahan Hall, N-12
Tel: 401-841-2929
Email: hhc@usnwc.edu

Website: https://usnwc.edu/Research-and-Wargaming/Research-Centers/HattendorfCenter-for-Maritime-Historical-Research
About the Hattendorf Historical Center

"Helping the US Navy Profit from the Past"

Naval and maritime history is about more than what has happened; it is also a lens through which to view the present and anticipate the future. We process and interpret the experience of the past and make it available to the U.S. Naval War College, US Navy, and the public. History is a valuable source of reflection and comparison as policy is made and operations are planned. Knowing what happened explains the present and raises critical questions and insights about what remains the same and what is likely to be different for the present and future.

Since its founding in 1884, the mission of the Naval War College has been to educate and to develop future leaders by building strategic insight and enhancing their capacity to advise senior policymakers. From the beginning, the critical study of naval history in all its forms has been an important part of this. In an age which is volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous, an enhanced depth of understanding increases the capacity of naval professionals to react rapidly to new challenges, to make the right decisions and to lead effectively.

Moreover, by contributing to the sea-mindedness of the American public, we aim to assure the Navy of a more sympathetic hearing as it develops its plans and requirements. As a center of excellence within the College of Leadership and Ethics, the Hattendorf Historical Center supports the mission of the Naval War College and its national and international outreach.

Re-invented and reinvigorated in 2017, the Hattendorf Historical Center at Newport is an informal grouping of three mutually supportive elements:

1. The Naval Historical Collection
2. The Naval War College Museum
3. Academic Research and Scholarship

In the campaign to demonstrate the value of naval history for professional naval thinking and strategic and operational planning, our success derives from the efficient, if informal integration, synergy, and proximity of the Historical Collection, the Museum, and a group of committed historians.

2021-2022: A Challenging Year

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to hinder the smooth functioning of HHC operations during this academic year. Another challenge was relocating the HHC from its home in Mahan Hall to Luce Hall so that the former could be renovated. In addition to packing up and moving faculty offices and meeting spaces, the renovation required the removal of the Naval Historical Collection to an off-site storage facility.

Nevertheless, at the end of the year, the HHC was proud to have two of its faculty members recognized for their accomplishments. Dr. David Kohnen was awarded tenure at his current rank of Associate Professor, and Dr. Evan Wilson was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.
Collaboration with Archives and Museum

The highlight of this year’s collaboration among the researchers, archivists, and museum professionals was the commemoration of the Battle of Midway on June 6, 2022. Ms. Anne Cuvelier, a longtime Newport resident, donated to the archives the Captain’s Night Order Book from the USS Hughes, a destroyer that fought at Midway. Ms. Cuvelier is the daughter of the captain of the Hughes, and she was a guest of honor at the ceremony in the NWC Museum. The President of the Naval War College thanked Ms. Cuvelier for her donation and spoke about the importance of commemorating the great battle. Dr. Ryan Wadle then spoke about the history of the Pacific War, the significance of Midway, and of the role played by the Hughes.

The ceremony marked the culmination of a social media campaign run by the NWC Museum with support from HHC faculty. The campaign published excerpts from the Captain’s Night Order Book in the months leading up to the Battle of Midway, along with commentary explaining the orders, where the Hughes was at the time, and what role it played in the Battle. In addition, the NWC Museum and Archives also created a display with other artifacts from the Hughes and its sister ships.

Research

Successful publication is another important task of the academics in the Research and Scholarship branch of the HHC. It advances the maritime cause and redounds to the academic credit and reputation of the NWC. Individual details of published work for Academic Year 2021–2022 are provided in Appendix I. In sum, HHC faculty published one book, eleven articles, four book chapters, four book reviews, and five other publications. Not listed in the Appendix are details of the dozens of blind peer reviews and other academic service activities.

The breadth as well as depth of the faculty’s maritime interests is evident in the details provided in the Appendix. It will be seen that these products of history-based scholarship are of direct relevance to the contemporary policy issues faced by the U.S. and other navies. As such, it underlines the importance of our mission to help the U.S. Navy, when preparing for the present and the future, to profit from the past.

Research Spotlights

The HHC collaborates with the Naval War College Press on its Historical Monographs series. This year saw the publication of the twenty-eighth volume in the series, To the Java Sea: Selections from the Diary, Reports, and Letters of Henry E. Eccles, 1940–1942, edited by John B. Hattendorf and Pelham Boyer.

The three-year span between 1940 and 1942 was critical in Henry Eccles’s life and career. These years mark not only the beginnings of the direct involvement of the United States in World War II but also Eccles’s first surface warship command, the command that earned him high professional recognition—the Navy Cross and the Silver Star. The diary, reports, and letters assembled here allow the modern reader an unusual opportunity to enter a very different world and a very different time in naval history. The contents document Lt. Cdr. Henry E. Eccles’s trip by passenger ships from New York to Manila, doing some intelligence work for the Office of Naval Intelligence along the way, and his assumption of command of John D. Edwards in the Asiatic Fleet, under Adm. Thomas C. Hart. The volume ends with Eccles’s participation, now a commander, in the short-lived Allied force in Southeast Asia—the American-British-Dutch-Australian, or ABDA, Command—and his subsequent experiences in the battles of Badoeng Strait and the Java Sea in February 1942, engagements in which Henry Eccles earned his combat decorations.
As the world watched the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Geoffrey Till published several articles on the conflict. Here, he makes the case that maritime and economic power should form a key part of the West’s response:

Maritime power, on the other hand, still one of the West’s strongest advantages after all – offers a means of helping compensate for NATO’s candor about what it would not do, because the sheer range of the responses and reprisals it makes possible should greatly complicate the Russians’ problem of assessing in advance the likely consequences of their actions. It may be too late to deny Putin a pyrrhic victory of sorts in the Ukraine but properly and determinedly wielded, the resolute application of maritime and economic power could impose a level of political, military and diplomatic cost that would make further such actions less likely. Given the likelihood that even when the Ukrainian tragedy is over, the world will be facing a new dark age of extreme competition, the West needs to make the most of the maritime resources it has available.


EDUCATION

While its research interests are paramount, the HHC nonetheless engages in a great deal of teaching at the Naval War College.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MARITIME HISTORY

The Graduate Certificate in Maritime History program (GCMH) offers students at the NWC the opportunity to engage in deeper historical research and analysis than would otherwise be possible, albeit at the cost of significant extra work over and above normal requirements. Students are required to take three electives in maritime and naval history and write a 10,000-word dissertation on a subject of their choice. We aim specifically to develop interests and commitments required for the award of the GCMH in June 2022 by the President, NWC, together with the subjects of their dissertation:

• CAPT Andrew E. Anderson, USN, “A Paltry Frigate Dare Not Then Insult Us”: U.S. Coastal and Harbor Defense, 1760–1815.”
• LCDR Caitlin R. Howitt, JAGC, USN, “Hanging on the High Seas: The Somers Affair, the Naval Academy and Naval Reforms of the Mid-Nineteenth Century.”
• CDR Ryan P. Kelley, USCG, “Evaluating Island Territory Strategic Value: Using History to Develop Variables and Model.”
• MAJ John Logan, USA, “The Evolution of Fighter Direction Doctrine and Its Impact on World War II in the Pacific.”
• MAJ Brian Mawyer, USA, “Operational Impact of Doctrine Development Before and During the Second World War: Naval Gunfire Support and Amphibious Landings.”
• Maj Yulia Omarov, USMC, “Deconstructing Heroism.”
• Mr. Andrew G. Wilson, DC, NCIS, “William Jones—Secretary of the Navy, 1813–1814: Master of Wartime Planning and Realistic Decision Making.”

As remarked, one of the aims of the GCMH and our other teaching efforts is to encourage the promulgation of naval historical research. Accordingly, we encourage our students to continue their interests after they have left us and to seek publication of their work. We were therefore pleased that CDR Josh Weiss, USN, and COL Aaron Bright, USA, who both graduated from the GCMH program in June 2021, had articles based on their dissertations accepted for publication. Josh’s article, “Mission Command in the Age of Sail,” appeared in the Summer 2022 issue of the Naval War College Review. Aaron’s article, “The Blomefield Cannon,” appeared in The Trafalgar Chronicle’s 2022 volume.

OTHER TEACHING

HHC faculty also contribute to college wide teaching of students who are not in the GCMH program, principally through the provision of Electives, other courses and individual guest appearances in other courses at the NWC.

• Electives
  • War at Sea in the Age of Sail (EW)
  • The Development of Maritime Power (GT)
  • Film, War, and Society in America (MF)
  • Vietnam: A Long War from Conflict to Country (MF)
  • Sea Power in the Age of Steam, 1815–Present (RW)
  • Sound Military Decision: Foundations in U.S. Naval Operations Doctrine and the Global Maritime Arena (DK)
  • The “Great War:” American Sea Power and the First World War (DK)
  • “Cyber Seas:” U.S. Navy Command in a Wireless World (DK)

OTHER COURSES

• Leadership in the Profession of Arms (MF)
• Advanced Strategist Program (GT)
• Joint Military Operations (GT)
• Ethics and Emerging Military Technology Summer Seminar at West Point (MF)
OUTREACH

The continued success of the U.S. Navy is in part dependent on the support of the sea-mindedness of the public and the “political nation.” Despite its evident value for this, as well as for increasing our general understanding of the importance of the sea in human development, naval history is in a fragile state nationally. Few other places in the country dedicate themselves to it. Accordingly, the Hattendorf Historical Center needs to do everything it can to support and develop what we have nationally by engaging in academic discourse, nationally and internationally. To that end, HHC faculty are encouraged to give papers and otherwise participate in a wide variety of workshops and conferences, to give lectures externally, to examine sea-related theses and dissertations, and to provide advice and guidance for individuals and organizations with such interests. We believe this also redounds to the credit of the United States in general and of the NWC in particular, consolidating its reputation as a center of academic excellence in naval history and sea-related studies.

Details are provided in Appendix II, but in AY 2021-22 HHC faculty gave thirty-three external lectures, interviews, or conference or workshop papers on a very wide range of historical and contemporary naval topics.

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

In August, Evan Wilson was interviewed by Insider for their video series, “How Real Is It?” He discussed the accuracy of naval warfare as depicted in movies including Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (2003) to the Pirates of the Caribbean series. The video quickly passed the million-view mark.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Many HHC faculty were involved in organizing and participating in a conference hosted by International Security Studies at Yale from April 21 to 23, 2022. The President of the Naval War College, RADM Shoshana S. Chatfield, participated, as did many other faculty from around the NWC. Entitled “Thinking About Enemies in Advance,” it brought together scholars interested in how navies have planned for war, and how they have responded when their plans have gone awry. Papers touched on topics as temporally diverse as the Anglo-Dutch Wars of the seventeenth century, the U.S. Navy in the interwar years, and the Russian Navy since the end of the Cold War. The proceedings of the conference, edited by Evan Wilson and Paul Kennedy, are under contract with Naval Institute Press.

More light-heartedly celebrating the past, David Kohnen and Mark Fiorey organized the 4th Annual “Cardines Classic,” a WWI-era Army vs Navy baseball game on Friday, September 10, 2021, at historic Cardines Field in Newport. They worked closely with Naval History and Heritage Command, the Naval War College Foundation, and the City of Newport. The Army-Navy baseball game was played by students from the Naval War College outfitted in period-accurate uniforms. As an in-person event it did wonders for morale and for NWC collegiality.

FELLOWSHIPS AND PRIZES

RADM (ret.) James Goldrick, RAN, received the Hattendorf Prize on March 2, 2022. The citation read, in part:

Being simultaneously such a successful naval historian and naval officer is not common. Your first book, The King’s Ships Were at Sea, published in 1984, was a valuable and unusual book because it demonstrated how the expertise in one can inform the other. Not only did it rely on the traditional tools of the naval historian to examine how a large navy coped when it went to war after a long period of peace, but also it used your personal experience of being on the bridge of a ship to inform its analysis of the operations in the first two years of the First World War. Your return to this period in recent years has once again demonstrated the value of the unique perspective you bring to the history of the First World War. Before Jutland (2015) and After Jutland (2018) have already become the standard works on the naval war in the North Sea.

Your acute historical understanding and your professional naval experience have worked in complementary and interlocking ways that has informed your scholarship in vividly recreating and understanding naval history in a period of rapid technological change. We honor you today as a highly successful professional naval officer with an intimate and authoritative knowledge of how navies work, both in the past and in the present. Moreover, you have been an inspiration and a mentor to young naval officers and naval historians around the world.

The HHC was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of RADM Goldrick on March 17, 2023. The HHC awarded two Edward S. Miller Fellowships in the 2021–22 Academic Year. The first recipient was Dr. Heather Haley, now employed at Naval History and Heritage Command.
She came to Newport to conduct research for her dissertation at Auburn University entitled, “Unsuitable and Incompatible: Ensign Vernon ‘Copy’ Berg, Bisexuality, and the Cold War U.S. Navy.” The second recipient was Dr. Sam Edwards of Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), who is planning to use the William S. Sims papers at the Naval Historical Collection for his forthcoming book, The First Friendly Invasion: The American Military in Britain and Ireland during World War I.

APPENDIX I – PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

ARTICLES, PAMPHLETS, AND COMMENTARY
“How to Read a Book,” United States Naval Institute Proceedings (February 2022): 76–78. (EW and CG)

“How to Read a Book,” United States Naval Institute Proceedings (February 2022): 76–78. (EW and CG)

“'Straight Naval Information is Our Function’: A Centennial of Navy Public Affairs,” Naval History 36, no. 1 (February 2022). (RW)

“Ukraine and the Coming War of Logistics,” RSIS Commentary (March 2022). (GT)


“The Seas Are in a State of Crisis,” Australian Naval Institute (June 2022). (GT)


“War in Ukraine: What Would Corbette Have Said?” Naval Review (Summer 2022). (GT)


CHAPTERS


“Islands, Amphibious Operations and the 21st Century.” In Power and the Maritime Domain,

**REVIEWS**


“I am Determined to Live or Die on Board my Ship.” The Life of Admiral Inglis: An American in the Georgian Navy, by Jim Tildesley, in the *Naval War College Review* 74, no. 2 (Spring 2021): 169–171. (JBH)


**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**


Assisted with the publication of *Heroes in the Shadows*, a forthcoming book about Black sailors on USS *Indianapolis*. (MF)

**APPENDIX II – PRESENTATIONS**

**LECTURES**

“Armadas en un mundo multipolar / Navies in Multipolar Worlds,” Academia de Guerra Naval, Chile, June 15, 2022. (EW)

Featured Speaker at the 93rd Annual Banquet of The Rhode Island Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America, The Squantum Association, November 3, 2021. (EW)


Three lectures on “Developments in Maritime Strategy,” National Defence University, Jakarta, Indonesia, October 2021. (GT)

“The Context for Naval Developments in the Mediterranean; Differing Perspectives.” TASAM, Istanbul, April 2022. (GT)

Five presentations on Maritime Strategy, Singapore Staff College, March 2021. (GT)


“Naval Developments in the Indo-Pacific Region,” SESKOAL, Jakarta, Indonesia, February 2022. (GT)


Keynote Address, “Mr. Kennedy’s PT-59 and the Popular Myths of PT-109 in Literature and Media,” Dedication of the PT-59 Exhibit, Battleship Cove, MA, April 16, 2021. (DK)
CONFERENCE PAPERS


Six presentations at a NATO Maritime Strategy Workshop, Defence Academy Brussels, December 2021. (GT)


“How an Unexpected Enemy with Innovative Tactics started an Arms Race with Long-Term Strategic Consequences: The First Anglo-Dutch War, 1652–1654,” Yale Naval History Conference, Yale University, April 22, 2022. (JBH)

“What to Expect When You’re Expecting the French Revolution,” Yale Naval History Conference, Yale University, April 22, 2022. (EW)

“The War You Want Versus the Wars You Get: The Limitations of the Interwar U.S. Navy as Historical Model,” Yale Naval History Conference, Yale University, April 22, 2022. (RW)

“Which Enemy When? The Strategic Dilemmas of the Royal Navy 1939–1946,” Yale Naval History Conference, Yale University, April 22, 2022. (GT)

“Grey Zone Operations at Sea,” CIWAGS Conference, Naval War College, June 2022. (GT)

“Confiscation and Protection in the West Indies, 1793–1794,” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, Mississippi State University, February 11, 2022. (EW)


INTERVIEWS


Interviewed for National Science Foundation documentary, “Decolonizing Western Science,” University of Rhode Island, October 29, 2021. (EW)


OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Staff ride to USS Massachusetts, April 2022. (RW and GT)

Participated in virtual roundtable on the centennial of the Washington Conference, Naval Historical Foundation, December 2022. (RW)

Supported the NWC Museum Exhibition, “Five Star Thinkers: Peacetime Education and the Victory at Sea in the Second World War.” (DK)
Appendix III – Biographies

Mark E. Fiorey is a maritime historian who concentrates upon problems of reconstruction and issues of national identity in Southeast Asia in the twentieth century. Fiorey is presently writing about U.S. Naval clandestine operations in China during the 1920s and 1930s, as they related to American strategy in the greater Asiatic Theater as well as naval operations in the Pacific War. In addition, Fiorey serves as Command Historian of the Naval War College. In 2012, Fiorey retired after thirty years active service in the rank of Command Master Chief, U.S. Navy.

John B. Hattendorf is the Ernest J. King Professor Emeritus of Maritime History, a chair he occupied at the U.S. Naval War College from 1984 to 2016. He served as chairman of the College’s Advanced Research Department from 1986 to 2003, chairman, Maritime History Department and director of the Naval War College Museum from 2003 to 2016. A former surface warfare officer, he earned his degrees in history from Kenyon College (A.B., 1964), Brown University (A.M., 1971) and the University of Oxford (D.Phil., 1979; D.Litt., 2016). He is the author or editor of more than 50 books, including Sailors and Scholars (new edition forthcoming) and the Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History (2007).

David Kohnen is the Captain Tracy Barrett Kittredge Scholar of War Studies and Maritime History. He earned his Ph.D. with the Laughton Professor of Naval History in the War Studies Department at the University of London, King’s College London. He subsequently served as the founding director of the John B. Hattendorf Center for Maritime Historical Research and as executive director of the Naval War College Museum. In his published works, Kohnen focuses upon the history of the British Empire and its influence upon American sea power.


Ryan Wadle is an associate professor whose scholarly interests include naval strategy and policy, organizational culture, the military and the media, and the U.S. experience in Afghanistan. His published works have been recognized by the Society for Military History and the North American Society for Oceanic History. Prior to joining the Hattendorf Center, he served on the faculty at Air University’s eSchool of Graduate Professional Military Education and also as part of the Afghanistan Study Team at the U.S. Army’s Combat Studies Institute.

Evan Wilson is an associate professor who researches the naval history of Britain and other countries from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. He is the author or editor of five books, most recently Navies in Multipolar Worlds: From the Age of Sail to the Present (2020), which he edited with Paul Kennedy. In 2018, he won the Sir Julian Corbett Prize in Modern Naval History for an article based on research using the U.S. Naval War College’s historical collection. Before coming to Newport, he was the associate director of International Security Studies at Yale University. He holds degrees from Yale, Cambridge, and Oxford.