

MS 60



Research Center

**Admiral James Sargent Russell Collection  
2003**

**Biography:**

James Sargent Russell was born in Tacoma, Washington, graduated from High School there, and first went to sea in 1918 as a seaman in the Merchant Marine when the Navy would not accept his enlistment for World War I because he was too young.

He entered the Naval Academy in 1922. Upon graduation in 1926 he reported aboard the battleship West Virginia where he served until entering flight training at Pensacola. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1929 and flew naval aircraft for another 40 years. There followed normal tours of aviation duty both aboard ship and ashore. The highlight during this period was his earning the degree of Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering at the California Institute of Technology while in postgraduate training.

The beginning of World War II found Lieutenant Commander Russell in command of Patrol Squadron 42. During 1942 he led VP-42 in action against Japanese forces in the Aleutian Islands Campaign. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flights for leading his squadron against the enemy in the face of enemy opposition and extremely hazardous weather conditions. Later, in 1942, Commander Russell was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious service in establishing advanced bases in the area and operating his squadron from them. His squadron was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for its part in the Aleutian Campaign.

He returned to Washington for duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Bureau of Aeronautics. Captain Russell then returned to the Pacific area as Chief of Staff to Commander Carrier Division Two operating as a Task Group Commander with the famed Task Forces 38 and 58. For his outstanding planning and coordination of the Striking Group in action against the Japanese he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit.

Captain Russell then commanded the attack carrier USS CORAL SEA that functioned as a unit of the powerful Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. Following this duty he again served in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral in 1953. Next, he commanded, in succession an Anti-Submarine Carrier Division and an Attack Carrier Division in the far Western Pacific. In 1955 he assumed the duties of Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics. He was awarded the Collier Trophy for 1956, sharing that award with Mr. C.J.

McCarthy of Chance Vought Aircraft, for the development of the supersonic Crusader Navy Fighter, the first ship based fighter aircraft to fly faster than 1000 miles per hour, - the outstanding contribution to aviation in that year. He next served as Deputy Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, with the rank of Vice Admiral.

Russell was Deputy Commander, Atlantic Fleet (1957-58) and then reported as Vice Chief of Naval Operations in July 1958 with the four-star rank of Admiral. From 1962 through 1965, Admiral Russell was Commander-in-Chief of NATO Forces in Southern Europe, charger with the defense of NATO's southern flank in Italy, Greece, and Turkey.

After retiring in April, 1965, Admiral Russell served 14 years as part-time consultant to the Boeing Company. Civic minded, Russell is a past direction of Alaska Airlines, Airtroonics, Inc., Tacoma Boatbuilding Company, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, the Pierce County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Puget Sound USO.

Recalled to duty in 1967, Admiral Russell reviewed safety in aircraft carrier operations in the Gulf of Tonkin. He was again recalled to duty when, as chairman of a study group for the Secretary of Defense, he made a second visit to the Southeast Asia Theater.

Admiral Russell married Dorothy Johnson, the daughter of the late Congressman Albert Johnson, in 1929. They had two sons, Donald Johnson Russell and Kenneth McDonald Russell. Mrs. Russell died in 1965 and in 1966, Admiral Russell married Geraldine Haus Rahn, a Seattle widower who had two children. Admiral Russell died in 1996 at the age 93.

### **Scope and Contents:**

The Admiral Russell collection consists of an expansive compilation of personal and professional documents spanning his lifetime. The collection is sorted into four primary categories; personal correspondence, military activities, political/conservative activities, and consulting/committees. Each category contains a number of individual series focused on a further classification of the documents.

The collection also contains an extensive array of newspaper clippings, books and reports, and hundreds of photographs from the Admiral's family and early years, World War II, the 1960's and 70's , and his retirement years.

**Inclusive Dates:** 1800's (limited family information/photos) – 1996

**Restrictions:** None

**Volume:** 34 lf

**Accession Number:**

**Record Series:**

**I. Personal Correspondence**

**Box: 1 Misc. correspondence**

**Folders:**

- 1:** Misc. correspondence
- 2:** Misc. correspondence-Family
- 3:** Misc. correspondence to JSR's parents
- 4:** Misc. correspondence-JSR to Dorothy Russell 1/55-9/55
- 5:** Misc. correspondence-JSR to Parents 1929-1936
- 6:** Misc. correspondence- JSR to Parents 1937-1941
- 7:** Misc. correspondence- JSR to Albert Johnson
- 8:** Misc. correspondence-To JSR 1917-1937
- 9:** Misc. correspondence-Family-friends to JSR 6/1917-5/1926
- 10:** Misc. correspondence-Family-friends to JSR 11/1961-12/1963
- 11:** Misc. correspondence-Family-friends to JSR 2/1964-12/1964
- 12-14:** Misc. correspondence-Family-friends to JSR
- 15:** Misc. correspondence-Family –friends to JSR 2/1965-10/1987
- 16:** Misc. correspondence-JSR to family-friends 6/1911-9/1948
- 17:** Misc. correspondence-Parents to JSR-8/1914-12/1921
- 18:** Misc. correspondence-Parents to JSR 1/1922-6/1946
- 19:** Misc. correspondence-JSR to Parents- 1919-1922
- 20:** Misc. correspondence-JSR to Parents 1923-1926
- 21:** Misc. correspondence-JSR to Parents 1926
- 22:** Misc. correspondence-JSR to Parents 1927

- 23: Misc. correspondence-JSR to Parents 1/1928-12/1928
- 24: Misc. correspondence-JSR to Parents 1929
- 25: Misc. correspondence-JSR to Parents 1930-1935
- 26: Misc. correspondence-JSR to Parents 1936-1939
- 27: Misc. correspondence-JSR to Parents 1940-1945
- 28: Misc. correspondence-JSR to Parents 1946-12/1949
- 29-30: Misc. correspondence-1880-1935

**Box: 2 Personal correspondence**

**Folders:**

- 1: Personal correspondence-Ambrose Russell
- 2: Personal correspondence-Address and Notebooks
- 3: Personal correspondence-Passports
- 4: Personal correspondence-Boating accident
- 5-8: Personal correspondence-American Lake
- 9: Personal correspondence-Misc.-early years
- 10-18: Personal correspondence-Misc.

**Box: 3 Personal correspondence**

**Folders:**

- 1: Personal correspondence-Wedding responses
- 2-3: Personal correspondence-Cards
- 4: Personal correspondence-Church
- 5: Personal correspondence-Rotary
- 6: Personal correspondence-Tacoma Yacht Club

- 7-9: Personal correspondence-Filucy Bay
- 10-11: Personal correspondence-Lakewood Retirement Center
- 12-15: Personal correspondence-Tax Returns

**Box: 4 Personal correspondence**

**Folders:**

- 1-9: Personal correspondence-Misc

**II. Military Activities**

**Box: 5 Post-Military Activities**

**Folders:**

- 1-5: Post-Military Activities-Misc
- 6-12: Post-Military Activities-Events

**Box: 6 Post-Military Activities**

**Folders:**

- 1-12: Post-Military Activities-Aleutians
- 13: Post-Military Activities-Scripts and Publications
- 14-16: Post-Military Activities-World War II

**Box: 7 Post-Military Activities**

**Folders:**

- 1-3: Post-Military Activities-Association of Naval Aviation
- 4: Post-Military Activities-Misc. Manuscripts
- 5: Post-Military Activities-Conflicts of Interest
- 6: Post-Military Activities-Dolittle
- 7-14: Post-Military Activities-Alaska at War

**Box: 8 Post-Military Activities**

**Folders:**

- 1-5:** Post-Military Activities-Reunions-Pat Wing 4
- 6-8:** Post-Military Activities-Reunions-Hornet
- 9-10:** Post-Military Activities-Reunions-Coral Sea
- 11:** Post-Military Activities-Reunions-Yorktown
- 12:** Post-Military Activities-Reunions-Cabot
- 13:** Post-Military Activities-Reunions-Lexington
- 14:** Post-Military Activities-Reunions-Enterprise/Missouri
- 15:** Post-Military Activities-Reunions-Constellation
- 16:** Post-Military Activities-Reunions-Langley
- 17-18:** Post-Military Activities-Reunions-Misc.
- 19:** Post-Military Activities-Reunions-11<sup>th</sup> Airforce

**Box: 9 Post-Military Activities**

**Folders:**

- 1-2:** Post-Military Activities-Military Appreciation Week
- 3-4:** Post-Military Activities-White House Fellowship
- 5:** Post-Military Activities-References/Resumes
- 6:** Post-Military Activities-Admiral LaRocque
- 7:** Post-Military Activities-Army Navy Club
- 8:** Post-Military Activities-Silver Eagles
- 9:** Post-Military Activities-Golden Eagles 1955-1975
- 10:** Post-Military Activities-Golden Eagles 1976-1982
- 11:** Post-Military Activities-Golden Eagles 1983-1984

- 12: Post-Military Activities-Golden Eagles 1985-1986
- 13: Post-Military Activities-Golden Eagles 1987-1990
- 14: Post-Military Activities-Golden Eagles 1991-1992
- 15: Post-Military Activities- Golden Eagles 1992
- 16: Post-Military Activities-Golden Eagles 1992-1993
- 17-19: Post-Military Activities-Reunions Pat Wing 4

**Box: 10 Post-Military Activities**

**Folders:**

- 1-4: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence 1985-1987
- 5-8: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence 1990-1992

**Box: 11 Post-Military Activities**

**Folders:**

- 1: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1966
- 2: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1967-1968
- 3: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1969
- 4-5: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1970
- 6: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1970-1971
- 7: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1971
- 8-9: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1972
- 10-11: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1973
- 12: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1974
- 13-15: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1973
- 16-18: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1976
- 19-21: Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1977

**22-24:**  
Post-Military Activities- Correspondence-1978

**Box: 12 Post-Military Activities**

**Folders:**

**1-3:**  
Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1979

**4:**  
Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1980-1981

**5-8:**  
Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1982

**9-11:**  
Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1983

**12-13:**  
Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1984

**14-15:**  
Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1985

**16-18:**  
Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-1986-1992

**19-21:**  
Post-Military Activities-Correspondence-Misc.

**Box: 13 Military Career**

**Folders:**

**1:**  
Military Career-Biographies

**2-3:**  
Military Career-Prep School

**4:**  
Military Career-ACPE-1920-1922

**5-6:**  
Military Career-Naval Academy

**7-8:**  
Military Career-CalTech

**9-10:**  
Military Career-Navy Aviation Ball 1961

**11:**  
Military Career-Collier Award

**12:**  
Military Career-Smithsonian Presentation

**13:**  
Military Career-Operation Bullet

**14-15:**  
Military Career-Speeches

**16:**  
Military Career-Speeches-CINC South 1-6

- 17: Military Career-Speeches-CINC South 7-15
- 18: Military Career-Speeches-CINC South 16-21
- 19: Military Career-Speeches-CINC South 22-26
- 20: Military Career-Speeches-CINC South 27-36
- 21: Military Career-Speeches-CINC South 37-45
- 22: Military Career-Speeches-CINC South 46-61

**Box: 14 Military Career  
Log Books (Flight)**

**Box: 15 Military Career**

**Folders:**

- 1 Military Career- Alaska
- 2-5 Military Career-Social Events
- 6 Military Career-Vietnam
- 7 Military Career-Commander Task Groups
- 8 Military Career-Rosters
- 9 Military Career-Allied Forces Southern Europe
- 10 Military Career-Admiral Moore
- 11 Military Career-Correspondence 1942
- 12 Military Career-Correspondence 1942-43
- 13 Military Career-Correspondence 1944-45
- 14 Military Career-Correspondence 1945-46
- 15 Military Career-Correspondence 1946-59
- 16 Military Career-Correspondence 1960-68

- 17 Military Career-Address Cards 1943-50
- 18 Military Career-ID Cards
- 19-24 Military Career-Correspondence
- 25-26 Military Career-Everett Naval Base

**III. Political/Conservative Activities**

**Box: 16 Political/Conservative Activities**

**Folders:**

- 1: Political/Conservative Activities-Political Candidates
- 2-8: Political/Conservative Activities-Contributions
- 9-18: Political/Conservative Activities-Misc. Correspondence

**Box: 17 Political/Conservative Activities**

**Folders:**

- 1: Political/Conservative Activities-Nuclear Study
- 2-3, 16: Political/Conservative Activities-SALT
- 4-5: Political/Conservative Activities-CAUSA
- 6: Political/Conservative Activities-Soviet Concept of Peace
- 7: Political/Conservative Activities-Schiller Institute
- 8: Political/Conservative Activities-Peace Action Fellowship

- 9: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1970-1972
- 10-12: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1977-1982
- 13: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1983-1984
- 14-15: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1985-1986

**Box: 18 Political/Conservative Activities**

**Folders:**

- 1: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1987-1988
- 2-3: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1989
- 4: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1989-1992
- 5: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1991
- 6: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1990-1991
- 7-9: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1992
- 10-11: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1993
- 12-13: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-1993-1994
- 14: Political/Conservative Activities-USO-Misc.
- 15: Political/Conservative Activities-Political Misc.

**IV. Consulting/Committees**

**Box: 191 Consulting/Committees**

**Folders:**

- 1, 11, 13: Consulting/Committees-Misc. Committees
- 2: Consulting/Committees-Panama Canal
- 3: Consulting/Committees-Los Alamos
- 4-8: Consulting/Committees-Tacoma Airport
- 9: Consulting/Committees-Alaskan Historical Society
- 10:

- 12: Consulting/Committees-Anti-Submarine Warfare Advisory Committee
- 14-16: Consulting/Committees-American Defense Preparedness
- 17: Consulting/Committees-Misc. Foundations
- 17: Consulting/Committees-Misc. Consulting

**Box: 20 Consulting/Committees**

**Folders:**

- 1-13: Consulting/Committees-Boeing
- 14-15: Consulting/Committees-Marine Oceanographics Marine Activities and Capabilities
- 16-22: Consulting/Committees-Oceanographic Meetings

**Box: 21 Consulting/Committees**

**Folders:**

- 1: Consulting/Committees-Misc. Committees and Projects
- 2-3: Consulting/Committees-Misc. Foundations and Boards
- 4: Consulting/Committees-Order of Daedalians-1979-1987
- 5: Consulting/Committees-Order of Daedalians-1990-1993
- 6: Consulting/Committees-Order of Daedalians-1994-1996
- 7: Consulting/Committees-Lakewood Chamber
- 8: Consulting/Committees-Tacoma Chamber of Commerce
- 9-10: Consulting/Committees-Alaska Chamber of Commerce
- 11: Consulting/Committees-CNO Executive Panel
- 12-13: Consulting/Committees-Alaska Airlines
- 14-15: Consulting/Committees-Misc. Boards
- 16: Consulting/Committees-Misc.
- 17-19: Consulting/Committees-Navy League

**Box: 22 Consulting/Committees**

**Folders:**

- 1-3: Consulting/Committees-DD963
- 4-9: Consulting/Committees-Naval Undersea Museum
- 10: Consulting/Committees-Tacoma Boat
- 11-15: Consulting/Committees-NRAC

**Box: 23 Consulting/Committees**

**Folders:**

- 1-12: Consulting/Committees-Oceanographics Meetings
- 13: Consulting/Committees-Oceanographics Sandpoint
- 14-15: Consulting/Committees-Oceanographics Puget Sound Pipeline
- 16-17: Consulting/Committees-Oceanographics Misc.
- 18-22: Consulting/Committees-Misc Boards

**V. Miscellaneous**

**Box: 24 -26**

**VI. Photos:**

**Box: 27**

**Folders:**

- 1-2  
Early family and personal photos of the Admirals years at the USNA.
- 3-8  
WWII photos including visits to various ships, Japanese photos of Dutch Harbor, and other military campaigns.
- 9-10  
1960's and 1970's era photos of Admiral Russell's recall to active duty, reunions, etc.
- 11  
Photos of various celebrities, presidents, and other military/political figures.
- 12-13  
Post-military photos including reunions, military visits, and social gatherings.
- 14  
Oversized portraits of various notable individuals including foreign dignitaries.

**Box: 28,29**

Miscellaneous photo albums collected by Admiral Russell. Also included is a collection of audio tapes.

**VII. Books**

**Boxes: 30-33**

Various books and reports collected by Admiral Russell. Topics focus primarily on military issues and also include some technical manuals/reports.

**VII. Newspaper Clippings**

**Boxes: 34**

Numerous newspaper clippings collected by Admiral Russell on various topics. Some are contained within specific "scrapbooks."