

JUL 15 2013

Dr. James Willson-Quayle  
Director of Records for Department of the Navy  
Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA)  
Directives and Records Management Division  
201 12th Street 7th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Dr. Willson-Quayle,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has received information from the Naval History and Heritage Command regarding the possible alienation of U.S. Navy records. A number of items recently offered for sale on eBay appear to be U.S. Navy documents. These include blueprints, ship plans and general plan booklets for Navy vessels during the period 1934-1991. Members of NARA's Cartographic Records unit examined the description and accompanying photographs of the items for sale and compared them to items in our collection. As a result of this process, the unit concluded that many of these records should have been transferred from the Navy to the National Archives and thus constitute gaps in our holdings.

Pursuant to NARA's responsibilities under 44 U.S.C. 2905 to investigate allegations of alienation of records, we request that you look into this matter and notify us of your findings in regard to whether an alienation of Federal records actually occurred. If you conclude that Federal records were alienated without proper authorization, we request that you provide us with a report as required and described by 36 CFR 1230.14 within 30 days of the date of this letter. Your report should include a statement about the safeguards established to prevent another incident like this from happening in the future. If you are unable to provide such a report within this time, please provide us with an interim report indicating what actions you have taken, and when you expect to submit a final report.

We look forward to your response and thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

PAUL M. WESTER, JR.  
Chief Records Officer  
for the U.S. Government

cc:

Official file – ACNR ✓

Reading file – ACNR

Day file – CRO

Rhodes

File 1301-1b Unauthorized Disposal – Department of the Navy

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Drafted by Steven B. Rhodes



NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and* RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
8601 ADELPHI ROAD COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001  
[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

***Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.***

September 13, 2018

Ms. Helena Gilbert  
Department of Defense  
Department of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington DC 22350

Dear Ms. Gilbert:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has reviewed the information you provided on August 20, 2018 regarding the 2014 joint reactive investigation to determine if documents being sold on eBay were the property of the United States Government. This joint investigation was initiated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and conducted with NARA's Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations (OI) and determined that the records were stolen from the Naval Heritage and History Command (NHHC). This investigation was initiated by an anonymous tip to NCIS on May 9, 2014, after which they contacted NARA for assistance on May 12, 2014.

In May 2013, NHHC reported a similar allegation to NCIS and the Department of the Navy's Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD). The DRMD then notified NARA's Office of the Chief Records Officer and ART of the possible alienation of federal records as required by the Code of Federal Regulations under 36 CFR 1230.

On July 15, 2013, the Office of the Chief Records Officer sent DRMD formal correspondence asking them to investigate this matter and submit a report within 30 days as described by 36 CFR 1230.14. The DRMD failed to submit a report.

After examining the circumstances of the 2013 possible alienation of Navy records and the 2014 joint reactive investigation, NARA has determined that they are related and that the 2013 matter was an alienation of Federal records from the NHHC.

Although the Navy failed to recover the specific items listed on eBay that initiated the 2013 matter, the actions taken to resolve the 2014 investigation are applicable towards the 36 CFR 1230.14 reporting requirements of the 2013 matter including the recovery of records and DRMD's August 20, 2018 affirmation that NHHC has boosted its security, updated its locking system and kept more staff on watch to mitigate any future loss of records since the 2014 investigation.

As a result, NARA considers this matter closed. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Jobson, Senior Records Analyst, at 301-837-2977 or by email at [scott.jobson@nara.gov](mailto:scott.jobson@nara.gov).  
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence R. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

LAURENCE BREWER  
Chief Records Officer  
for the U.S. Government