

**College of the Holy Cross
Archives and Special Collections
Collection Inventory**

Accession Number: **SC2004-32**

Collection Name (Title): O'Callahan, Rev. Joseph T. S.J. Papers

Dates of Material: **1945 – 2003**

Size of Collection: **5 Boxes**

Arrangement:

Restrictions: None

Related Material:

Preferred Citation:

Processed on: Nov. 2003

Biography/History:

Joseph O'Callahan was born on May 14, 1905, a son of Cornelius J. and Alice (Casey) O'Callahan in Boston, MA. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1922 at St. Andrew-on-Hudson and was ordained at Weston College on June 20, 1934. O'Callahan received his M.A., Ph.D., S.T.L. and Honorary Doctor of Science degrees from Georgetown University. He taught at Holy Cross from 1938 to 1940 and was head of the Mathematics department when he entered the Navy as a chaplain in 1940. He served as chaplain aboard the U.S.S. Franklin when it was attacked off the Japanese coast. His bravery and devotion earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor, the first one earned by a chaplain. He wrote a book about his experiences entitled, *I was Chaplain on the Franklin*. A movie was produced about his experience titled, *Battle Stations*. After he left the Navy he returned to teach philosophy at Holy Cross. He died on March 18, 1964.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains correspondence, personal material, citations, awards, other manuscript material, newspaper clippings and obituaries. There are books, magazine articles and booklets about O'Callahan and the manuscript for *I Was Chaplain on the Franklin*. Memorabilia includes O'Callahan's Medal of Honor, plaques and material related to the USS O'Callahan.

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Scope and Content Note continued:

The collection spans the period 1945 –2002 and includes 3 boxes of records and 2 boxes of memorabilia.

Box and Folder List:

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE
1	1	Papers Given to Holy Cross by Rev. O’Callahan’s Sister, Undated; 1945-1977
1	2	Correspondence, Undated; 1950-1964
1	3	Personal Material, Medal of Honor Citation Records of Ceremonies, Address Book, Undated; 1945-1963
1	4	Citations and Awards (Programs, Letters, etc.), Undated; 1945-1964
1	5	Obituaries, Eulogies, Death Records, Undated; 1964-1965
1	6	Eulogy by Rev. Richard J. Dowling, S.J., 1964
1	7	News clippings, Undated; 1945-1964
1	8	Obituaries (News clippings), 1964
1	9	Obituaries (News clippings), Undated; 1965
1	10	Memorials and Awards (Programs, Letters, Etc.), 1964-1996
1	11	News clippings of memorials and awards, Undated; 1964-1989
1	12	News clippings, Undated; 1990-present
1	13	Publication Entitled “The Priest Goes to War”, 1945 (2 copies)
1	14	Miscellaneous Publications, 1946

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Box and Folder List continued:

1	15	Miscellaneous Publications, 1964-2002
1	16	Commemorative Envelopes, 1995
1	17	Memorial by Rev. W.J. O'Halloran, 18 March 1995

The U.S.S. Franklin and the U.S.S. O'Callahan

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE
2	1-5	U.S.S. Franklin (News clippings)
2	6	U.S.S. O'Callahan, Launching and Commissioning of (Newspapers, Booklets), Undated; 1964-1968
2	7	U.S.S. O'Callahan, Launching and Commissioning of (Programs, Invitations), 1965-1968
2	8	U.S.S. O'Callahan, Building and Launching of (Letters, News Reports, Speeches, etc.), 1964-1966
2	9	U.S.S. O'Callahan, Commissioning of (Letters, News Reports, Speeches, etc.), 1966-1968
2	10	U.S.S. O'Callahan (News Clippings), Undated; 1965-1968
2	11	U.S.S. O'Callahan, Decommissioning of (Programs), 1988
2	12	Jay O'Callahan, "Father Joe"

I Was Chaplain on the Franklin Manuscript

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE
3	1	Publicity
3	2	Chapters 1-3, Copy 1
3	3	Chapters 4-6, Copy 1
3	4	Chapters 7-9, Copy 1

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Box and Folder List continued:

3	5	Chapters 1-3, Revision
3	6	Chapters 4-6, Revision
3	7	Chapters 7-9, Revision

Oversized Box 1: Miscellaneous Award Material

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE
1	1	Photograph: Testimonial Dinner in Honor of Rev. J.T. O'Callahan
1	2	Testimonial Dinner Booklet/Program "..."
1	3	Knights of Columbus Script/Contract "..."
1	4	"A Tribute"

Memorabilia

- Medal case
- Medal of Honor
- Medal of Honor extra ribbon and buttons
- Medal of Honor replica
- Medal of Sacred Heart with letter from his sister
- Catholic War Veterans plaque
- Knights of Columbus scroll
- Massachusetts Committee of Catholics, Protestants, and Jews certificate

Commissioning Memorabilia

- Plaque with ship's seal
- Matchbox
- Bullet shell
- Dogtag
- Patch with ship's seal

Bookshelf

- I Was Chaplain on the Franklin* by Rev. Joseph T. O'Callahan, 1961 (2 copies)
- The Franklin Comes Home* by A. A. Hoehling, 1974
- U.S.S. Franklin – The Ship That Wouldn't Die*, 1989
- Big Ben, The Flat Top – The Story of the U.S.S. Franklin CV-13*, 1990 (2 copies)
- Battlefield Chaplains: Catholic Priests in World War II* by Donald F. Crosby, S.J., 1994