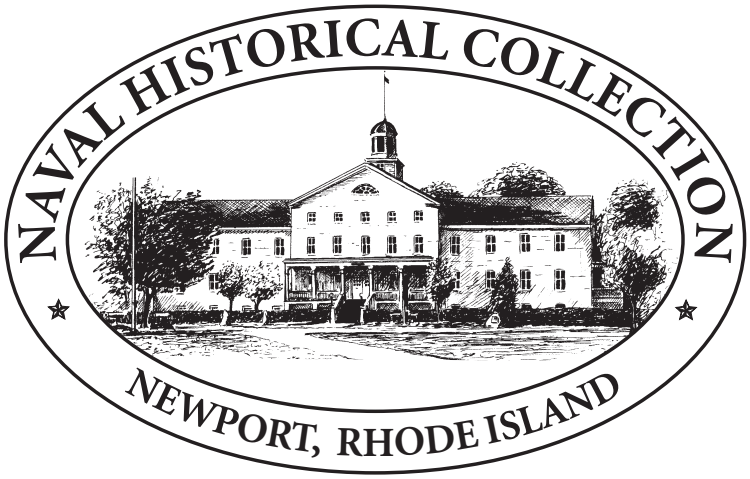
Register of the Schlie Family Papers

Harrij Fredrich Louis Heinrich Schlie (1878–1916)
and
Gunther Wilhelm August Schlie (1906–1995)



Naval War College
Newport, RI

REGISTER OF THE PAPERS OF
Harrij Fredrich Louis Heinrich Schlie (1878–1916)
and
Gunther Wilhelm August Schlie (1906–1995)

Compiled by
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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Harry Schlie (1878–1916)

Harry Schlie was a career deck officer as a coxswain or mate in the Imperial German Navy [*deckoffizier in der Steuermannslaufbahn Berufssoldat in der Kaiserlichen Marine*]. In this period, the deck officer was not part of the German Navy's Officer Corps, but belonged to the category of petty officers and enlisted men.[1]

The following italicized information is Harry Schlie's own biographical statement, written in 1909,[2] as found and translated from the document in Folder 8 of this collection:

Kiel, 6 July 1909

Curriculum Vita

I, Harry[3] *Friedrich Louis Heinrich Schlie, son of the late August Schlie, oboe player*[4] *in the Grand Ducal Mecklenburgian Rifle Battalion Number 14, and his wife Friederike, born Viek, was born on 24 May 1878 in Schwerin, Mecklenburg. After baptism and education in the Protestant Church, I attended the town school of Grabow in Mecklenburg from my 6th to 11th year.*

In October 1889, I was admitted to the Royal Great Military Orphanage at Potsdam.[5] *Here, I remained up to my confirmation and then changed over to the military school of the same institution. On 1 October 1896, I requested transfer and reenlistment to the First Seamen's Division. During my service time in the Navy, I have made the following deployments: 1899 to 1901 to the West Indies and the Mediterranean, 1901 and 1902 to West Africa, 1904 to 1905 to East Asia, and 1907 to 1909 to the West Indies and North America.*

From October 1905 to September 1906, I attended the deck officer's school in Wilhelmshaven and there passed my Deck Officer's Examination (Steuermannexamen für großer Fahrt"; mate for long-distance voyages). *On 1 December 189 followed my appointment to Oversignalman, on 1 April 1901 I was appointed Signalmate, and on 1 April 1904 I was promoted to Oversignalmate. On 1 October 1906, after passing the mate's examination, I was appointed Over-coxswain. In January 1908 I received the service award second class. In September 1905, I married August Kossow, daughter of the late Teacher Kossow of Schwerin. In marriage with me, a son and daughter were born. My financial affairs are in order. I have no debts.*

[signed] Schlie
Obersteuermannsmaat, 1st Seamen's Division,
8th Company for the time being at the Naval School,
Kiel

The autograph statement certified!
Kiel, 6 July 1909
[signed] Lemmer[6]
Oberleutnant zur See

Schlie was assigned to the crew of the light cruiser SMS *Hamburg*, which belonged to the Fourth Division of the High See Fleet [*IV. Aufklärungsgruppe der Hochseeflotte*]. In January 1916, Schlie received the award of the City of Hamburg's "Hamburg Hanseatic Cross" for service in SMS *Hamburg*. Five months later, *Hamburg* participated in the Battle of Jutland [*Skagerrakschlacht*] on 31 May 1916 and Harry Schlie was one of the 14 killed and 25 wounded out of the total ships company of 326 men. His body was brought ashore and he was buried in the Naval Cemetery, Kiel.

Gunther Wilhelm August Schlie (1906–1995)

Gunther W. Schlie was one of two children born to Harry Schlie and his wife, Augusta Kossow Schlie. Gunther Schlie was born on 10 September 1906 in Schwerin, Germany.

Gunther W. Schlie left a potential naval career in Germany after sailing with Count von Luckner and came to America in 1925 and lived in West Brighton, Staten Island, New York. His first five years in America were spent at sea working for American shipping companies with which he sailed around the world several times. In 1930, he married Helen Grabowska, the daughter of Alexander and Franciska Rozalska Grabowska of New Jersey. In 1933, he became a naturalized American citizen. He took the Civil Service Examination and passed number 1 out of two thousand applicants. He started as a postal worker and retired as First Safety Officer in the U.S. Post Office for the Borough of Richmond, Staten Island, New York. He died on 15 July 1995 at Johnsburg, New York, and was buried in Bates Cemetery, Johnsburg.

1. Werner Rahn, *Reichsmarine und Landesvertidigung 1919–1928.* (München: Bernard & Graefe Verlag für Wehrwesen, 1976), pp. 251–52: Anhang A: Begriffserläuterungen: "Deckoffizier"
2. The following is translated by Professor John B. Hattendorf from the annotated transcription of the manuscript by Captain Dr. Werner Rahn, German Navy (retired).
3. It was and is common practice in German official family documents to underline the commonly used name of a person with several Christian names (as here for Harry).
4. Earlier, the oboe was the main instrument for military music. Later, oboe players were part of the regimental infantry bands. The leader of the band was called the Staff Oboist and had the rank of a sergeant, while the oboe players were usually the equivalent of petty officers.
5. Military Orphanages were established in Prussia at Potsdam and at Schloss Pretzsch (Kreis Wittenberg). The entrants were healthy children between the ages of 6 and 12 who were parentless or were the sons and daughters of military fathers who had died. Protestant and Catholic boys were placed at Potsdam, while the Protestant girls were placed at Pretzsch and the Catholic girls were placed in schools or with families. A Military School was connected with the Orphanage, through which recruits entered for the Army or the Navy and for each year they had been under instruction they were required by law to remain in active service for two years over the legal active service requirement. *Meyers Großen Konversationslexikon.* 6. Auflage. (Leipzig and Vienna, 1906), Vol. 13, p. 836.
6. Johannes Lemmer, born 2 July 1881, entered the Imperial German Navy as a cadet in April 1901. At the outbreak of World War I, Lemmer commanded U-5, which on 18 December 1914 was lost with all hands.

Description of Papers

The Schlie Family papers were donated in three groups to the Naval War College Museum through the Naval War College Foundation, by the grandson of Harry Schlie (1878–1916) and the son of Gunther W. Schlie (1906–1995), Mr. Peter Schlie, 10 Harbor Drive, Lake Worth FL 33460-6329.

One segment was received in March 2002 with additional segments received in November and December 2005, and January 2006. One additional item, the German Grand Admiral's Flag, originally acquired by Gunther Schlie was presented by Peter Schlie's son, Paul Schlie, in April 2002.

In 2005, the Collection was divided into two, with paper and printed materials being placed in the Schlie Papers, in the Naval War College's Naval Historical Collection, and the artifacts and objects placed in the Naval War College Museum Collection.

Arrangement of Papers
Manuscript Collection 250

List of Folders

HARRY SCHLIE (1878–1916)

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Certified Copy of Birth and Baptismal Certificate for 1878, copy dated 5 August 1905 For Harri Fredrich Louis Heinrich Schlie Born 24 May 1878 Baptised 30 June 1878
	2	Leatherbound "Poesiealbum," with inscriptions dated at Grabow and Potsdam, between 1891 and 1896: The signatures, each with an inscription on separate pages, are: (1) Mutter (2) (3) Anna (4) Auguste (5) von Ranke (6) La Roche (7) Flier (8) (9) Maager (10) Schütte (11) Albrecht (12) Harz (13) Lenz (14) (15) Hausbrand (16) (17) H. Seeliger (18) Sakolofski (19) (20) A. Wolff [116] (21) A. Wolff (22) A. Neckel [94] (23) F. Kirstein

Folder	Contents
2	(24) Schwanke (106)
	(25) W. Giefsman
	(26) Max Fröbe
	(27) Arthur Krohn [298]
	(28) Joh. Mertz 464
	(29)
	(30) Bruno Gremmler (136)
	(31) Max Ilgner (133)
	(32) H. Ilgner
	(33) Fritz Fififar (471)
	(34) W. Kriegel (312)
	(35) W. Kreigel
	(36) A. Flisch [383]
	(37) H. Mahnke [546]
	(38) Fritz Becker
	(39) F. Gentmann (140)
	(40) H. Grunewald
	(41) R. Grunewald (84)
	(42) A. Finger [120]
	(43) Schröder [103]
	(44) F. Walter [119]
	(45) Baar
	(46) Viktor Geppert
	(47) Kock
	(48) Oscar Röthig
	(49) Wendt
	(50) Erdmann
	(51) Krieger
	(52) Steinhaus
	(53) H. Scheidecker
	(54) Waldemar Berger
	(55) Paul Fuchs
	(56) B. Bothge
	(57) Frida Küchenmeister
	(58) Bruno Grundmann
	(59) Bruno Grundmann
	(60) Ammanda Glanx

Folder	**Contents**
3	Five letters from Harry Schlie: (1) Potsdam, 16 Feb 1895 (2) Potsdam, 14 March 1896 (3) Potsdam, 30 May 1896 (4) Potsdam, 26 Sept 1896 (5) Kiel, undated4
4	Manuscript. 8 page Practice Cartographic Workbook, 1895–1896 (1) XX. Klein Schneen 1:25,000 8 Jan 1896 (2) Military Symbols, 7 Dec 1895, 8 Jan 1896 (3) XIII. Inaborn 8 Jan 1896; 4 Jan 1896 (4) XVII. Mütchen 1:25,000, 5 March 1896 (5) Truppen–Zeichen. 1:250,000, 18 April–29 April 1896 (6) XVIII. Ildehausen, Kirchenberg 1:250,000, 17 October 1896, 6 November 1896 (7) XIX. Born. 1:250,000 6 Nov 1895, 9 November 1895 (8) Krokis. Zu der Felddienstübung am 31 10.1895. Potsdam, 3 Nov 1895. Signed: Schlie, Militärschüler (9) Kroki. Zu der Felddienstübung am 4 11.1895. Potsdam, 7 Nov 1895 Signed: Schlie, Militärschüler (10) Samples of Lettering (a) 9 Nov 1895; 14 Nov 1895 (b) 16 Nov 1895; 21 Nov 1895
5	Certificate from the First Seamen's Division for Harrij Fredrich Louis Heinrich Schlie, 26 years old, from Mecklenburg-Schwerin, for Service Certificate 3rd Class after 9 years military service Dated Kiel, 18 February 1904
6	Leave pass *Urlaubschein*, issued at Wilhelmshaven, 3 June 1905 For Harry Schlie, SMS Hamburg, 5–9 June 1915
7	(1) Marriage Certificate, 22 September 1905 Harri Friedrich Louis Heinrich Schlie, born 24 Mai 1878 And Auguste Johanna Georgine Adolfine Kossow, born 25 July 1883 St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Schwerin (2) Two wedding announcements

Folder	**Contents**
8	Curriculum vita [*Lebenslauf*]: Harrij Friedrich Louis Heinrich Schlie, dated Kiel, 6 July 1909 School photo from Schwerin
9	Certificate [Urkunde] for the Award of the "Hamburgische Hanseatenkreuz" from Der Senat der Freien and Hansestadt Hamburg, 25 January 1916 To Harry Schlie of SMS *Hamburg* for service in the current war. The *Hamburgische Hanseatenkreuz* was established by the Senate of Hamburg on 10.09.1915 and was awarded only during the First World War. Since SMS *Hamburg* carried the name of the city of Hamburg. It was generally awarded to participants in the War who had a connection with Hamburg. The award was not usually related to any particular service and carried no individual citation beyond the certificate. Schlie's ship, SMS *Hamburg*, carried the city's name, all who served on board were given this award.
10	Telegram from Wilhlemshaven, 25 Feb 1916, from Harry Schlie, announcing his expected arrival at Kiel at 7:20 that evening
11	Newspaper Clipping: "Lebensworte" Christian Morgenstern
12	Printed notice on black bordered paper, announcing death of Harry Schlie in the Battle of Jutland, 1 June 1916.
13	Unidentified Newspaper clipping: Death notice of Harry Schlie, 1 June 1916
14	Photographs: (1) Inscribed on back Great Grand Father [Harry Schlie] in uniform with binoculars (2) five photographs of the grave of Steuermann Harrij Schlie (24 Mai 1878–1 Juni 1916), three with family members paying their respects. (3) Family group, Harry Schlie and Family (4) Harry Schlie's children, 1915 (5) Two photographs of Schlie's sister and child (6) Additional family photographs [An additional photograph of Schlie's two children in a frame he made is located in the NWC Museum collection]

Folder	Contents
15	Ownership Certificate for Frau Auguste Schlie Cemetery Plot nr 137 in the Naval Cemetery, Kiel Next to grave of her husband Issued by the Imperial Naval Garrison Administration, Kiel, 10 June 1916

SCHLIE FAMILY DOCUMENTS

16	Certified Copy of Birth and Baptismal Certificate for 1858, Copy dated 4 June 1938, Schwerin Kohagen, Wilhelmine Sophia Dorothea [Harry Schlie's Mother] Born 5 Feb 1858, Lückow, Mecklenburg Baptized 16 Feb 1858 Father: Rudolph Jacob Gottfried Kohagen Mother: Sophia Luise Elisabeth, born Bertel
17	(1) Certified copy of birth and baptismal record for 1883, copy dated 4 May 1900 Auguste Johanna Georgina Adolfina Rossow [Harry Schlie's wife] Born 25 July 1883 Baptized 19 August 1883, Zittow, Mecklenburg (2) Certified photocopy with duty stamps of Death Certificate. 17 August 1945: Auguste Johanna Georgine Adolfina Schlie, born Rossow [wife of Harry Schlie]
18	(1) 5 Million Mark Bank Note [*Aushilfschein der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg*] Note C387553, 1923 (2) Two certificates [*Erneurungsschein für die Zinsscheine Reihe II, 5% 1914]* Nr. 1 890 566 and 1 890 567 for the ten year period 1 October 1924 to 30 September 1934.
19	Two letters (1) Kiel, 14 Nov 1935, letter with view of Naval Memorial at Laboe, from Auguste Schlie (Harry Schlie's widow) addressed to Helen Schlie, mentions visiting Harry Schlie's grave (2) Kiel, undated letter, with view of coast near Kiel
20	Certificate of change to Auguste Schlie's widow's allowance, 22 October 1938
21	(1) Photographic portrait of Auguste Schlie [wife of Harry Schlie] (2) Two photographs with her two children, taken in Kiel

Folder	Contents
	(3) Two photographs with grandchildren, 1934
	(4) Two photographs taken in Schwerin of a mother and child

GUNTHER WILHELM SCHLIE PAPERS

22	(1) Kirchen Pass, dated 28 may 1923, certifying the confirmation of Gunther Wilhelm Schlie [Harry Schlie's son] at Ansgar-Kirche, Kiel
	(2) Certificate of G.W. Schlie's completion of Confirmation course, 18 March 1923
23	(1) Gunther Schlie. German Passport, issued 1 October 1926, by German Consulate, Galveston, Texas.
	(2) U.S. Department of Labor, Seaman's Identification Card, New York, 14 Sept 1927
24	(1) Birth Certificate of Harry Schlie, son of Gunther Schlie, born 2 Jun 1931
	(2) U.S. Passport for Harry Schlie's visit to 1934 Germany
	(3) Duplicate of signed passport photo.
	(4) New York Vaccination Certificate, 1932
	(5) Certificate for Harry Schlie, U.S. Citizen, of Staten Island, New York Dated Cuxhaven, 9 March 1934, originally expiring 15 April, then extended to 5 October 1934, to carry 110 gold dollars out of the country before the expiration of the certificate.
	(6) 3 photographs of passengers on board S.S. *Hamburg*, including the Schlie family
	(7) 22 snapshots taken in Germany during this visit
25	(1) Portrait of Gunther Schlie's wife, Helen Schlie (Grabowski)
	(2) Marriage certificate of Gunther Schlie and Helen Grabowski, 11 July 1930, Stapleton, New York.
	(3) Newspaper clipping with wedding notice
26	Letter to Gunther Schlie "Por Zeppelin" from Monetvideo, 18.V. 1930 with draft partial translation.
27	Gunther Schlie, Certificate of United States Citizenship, 15 February 1933

Folder	Contents
28	(1) Gunther Schlie. U.S. Passport issued 23 March 1965
	(2) U.S. Coast Guard Identification card for Gunther W. Schlie as a U.S. Mail Carrier
	(3) New York State Driver's License
29	(1) Gunther Schlie. Certificate of death, 15 July 1995
	(2) Photograph of gravestone
30	One Postcard view of Trafalgar Square, Barbados, with Nelson Monument
31	Six Postcard views of Brazil: São Paulo, Arredores de Santos, Rio de Janiero.
32	Three Postcard views of Cuba Includes one of an unidentified merchant ship loading at Antilla, Cuba
33	Two Postcard views of Curaçao: Fort and Mount St Christoff
34	Postcard views of France Three views of "Dunquerque" One view of suburb, Rosendale, Avenue Vallon
35	Four Postcard views of Haiti
36	Five Postcard views of Martinique Includes two with views of Fort-de-France harbor, one with merchant ships another with French warships
37	Four Postcard views of Mexico Includes one of a fire at Tampico with USS *Hatfield* (DD-231) under way in the background and one of the Presidential Guard at Tampico
38	Four Postcards views of Panama Includes one with USS *Minnesota* in Culebra Cut, Panama Canal.
39	One Postcard from Seville, Spain, with portrait of bullfighter Regaterin
40	Four Postcard views of Trinidad
41	One Postcard View of Baltic-American Line T.S.S. *Polonia*
42	Two postcard views of Schloß Schwerin, Mecklenburg
43	(1) Three postcard views (two outside aerial views, one interior view of Jutland memorial) of the Naval Memorial, Laboe
	(2) Photograph of Gunther Schlie at Laboe memorial, May 1973
	(3) Photograph of Guther Schlie in front of map of Kiel area

Folder	Contents
44	Unidentified newspaper clipping reporting publication of Dr. A. Temple Patterson, ed., *The Jellicoe papers; selections from the private and official correspondence of Admiral of the Fleet Earl Jellicoe of Scapa*, vol. II. Publications of the Navy Records Society, vol. 111. London, 1968.
45	Photograph and notes concerning family-related building. Research shows that it was not in Schwerin, Germany; location as yet unidentified
46	Papers of Gunther W. Schlie, relating to his career as Safety Officer, New York City Post Office, 1961–1967.
	(1) Certificate of completion of occupational safety course, 1961
	(2) Post Office Department certificate of award for contributing a beneficial suggestion, 1961
	(3) Suggestion for replacement of flexible rubber lips on swivel doors
	(4) Suggestion for moving refuse cans on loading platform
	(5) Suggestion for pushing vehicles with rear lock axles
	(6) Letter of Commendation, 1962
	(7) Certificate of completion of Fleet Supervisors Safety Training Course, 1962
	(8) Request for establishing Safety officer's position
	(9) Road Test Examiner's certificate
	(10) Certificate of Completion Road test Examination Requirements, 1964
	(11) Post office Department, Honorary Recognition certificate, 29 December 1966
	(12) Certificate of Training Defensive Driving techniques
	(13) Road Test Examiner's certificate, 1967
	(14) Ellis Island Centennial Commission certificate
47	Verrazano Narrows Bridge, New York.
	Program, with First Day of Issue cancellation, on issue of the commemorative Verrazano Narrows Bridge postage stamp, signed by Louis M. Trivisone, Staten Island Postmaster

Folder	Contents
48	Family Photographs, including

(1) Kohagen cousins, Ottendorf, 15 July 1966

(2) Werner and Ise Kohagen on their silver wedding anniversary, 11.09.1981

(3) Photo of Peter West with Gunther Schlie and wife, taken at Kronshagen, Schleswig Holstein, 19 June 1966 [Gunther Schlie acquired the flag of Grand Admiral Raeder from West, who had served with the Danish underground during World War II.]

Oversize Folder

Official Memorial Certificate:

"Zum Gedachtnis des Steuermanns Harry Schlie, K.8.1.M.D.
Er starb für das Vaterland."

Translation: "In memory of Coxswain Harry Schlie, 8th Company, First Seaman's Division. He died for the Fatherland."

Explanations: K.8.1.M.D. means "Kompanie 8 of the 1 Matrosen-Division" There were two seamen's divisions, the first was based in Kiel, the second in Wilhelmshavn. They were not combat formations, but organizations that each seaman remained part of throughout his career for training.

The printed signature of Kaiser Wilhelm includes the letters "**JR**" meaning "Imperator Rex." Kaiser and King Wilhelm II was Emperor of Germany and King of Prussia.

Leatherbound Bible:

Die Bibel oder die ganze Heilige Schrift des Alten und Neuen Testaments nach der deutschen Uebersetzung Dr. Martin Luthers. 1042. Auflage. (Halle, 1889)

Stamped in Gold Leaf on the Front Cover:

"H. Schlie

1889."

Inscribed on inside cover,

"H. Schlie, I, 3, 107"

"Zum Andenken an des kögl. große Militair-Waisenhaus, Potsdam

Pfarrer v. Ranke"

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE MUSEUM COLLECTION

Harry Schlie (1878–1916)

Items used by Coxswain Harry Schlie of the Imperial German Navy, killed at the Battle of Jutland, 1 June 1916 [on board SMS *Hamburg*; apparently some were his belongings, returned to the family after his death, later used at sea by his son, Gunther Schlie, in his seagoing career.]

(1) One black carved wooden frame 4" by 6" made by Harry Schlie with photograph of his two children

Photograph made by Bernh. Krause, Kiel, Ringstr. 83

(2) Straight razor. Made by J.A. Henckels, Solingen

(3) Boxed Shaving Set. Made by J.A. Henckels, Solingen; Includes Leather strap, Safety Razor, extra handle for safety razor, holder for blades

(4) Wooden Box 3" by 3 1/8" with small "Midgard" microscope, three glass slide, two containing identified samples, and two broken pieces of slides, and instructions for use of microscope

(5) One pair of 8 x 25 Binoculars in red cloth bag. Engraved "Weizaeker, Opticien" on left lens side. Engraving on right side illegible

(6) Harmonica. 7 1/2" x 1 1/8" x 1" "The Goliath" made by M. Hohner, Germany

(7) Harmonica. 5 6/16" x 1" x 10/16" "Silberton" "Feinste Octav Concert, Knittlinger" made by Hans Rölz

(8) Harmonica. 4" x 1" x 9/16" "Marine Band" in original cardboard box with photograph of U.S. Marine Band on cover. In English. Model no. 1896. Made by M. Hohner, Germany

(9) Accordion with keyboard. 11" x 6" x 11" Horner; Made in Germany.

(10) Harry Schlie's 1 7/8" diameter gold watch with the Monogram "HS" on the cover. Made by A. Lange, Glashütte [near Dresden] Germany. In an original 4" x 5" box

(11) Harry Schlie's gold wedding band, engraved on the inside with his wife's initials "A.S." and the date of their Christmas Eve 1903 wedding: "24.12.03"

(12) Admiral Inspector Flag, German, ca. 1945. (*Flagge des Admiralinspekteurs*), 0.5 meter by 0.5 meter wool flag, with blue border. NWC Museum Acc. 2002.09. This flag design was created by order of 30 January 1943 for Grand Admiral Dr. Erich Raeder, when he was discharged as C-in-C of the Navy and appointed to the honorary position as Admiral

Inspector of the Navy of Greater Germany (*Admiralinspekteur der Kriegsmarine des Grossdeutschen Reiches)*

The flag was acquired in 1945 by a friend of Gunther Schlie's, Peter West, who had been in the Danish underground, and West gave it as a gift to Gunther Schlie in 1966, during Gunther's Schlie's visit to Germany. On his return to the USA, Gunther Schlie gave it to his son, Peter, who in turn later gave it to his son, Paul. The flag was reported to have been taken by West, when he was in charge of transporting the admiral, on his surrender in May 1945.