Biography

Vice Admiral Friedrich Ruge was born in Leipzig, Germany December 24, 1894. He was the son and grandson of German educators. Friedrich Ruge joined the German Imperial Navy as a cadet in March 1914. During World War I, he participated in the 1914, 1915, and 1916 Baltic Sea operations and in 1917 and 1918 destroyer raids in the North Sea and English Channel.

Following the 1918 Armistice, Admiral Ruge, as a young officer aboard the German destroyer B-112, was interned at Scapa Flow and there in June 1919, played a key role in the scuttling of the German Fleet.

By 1920, he had returned to Germany to continue his naval career, this time in the service of the new Weimar Republic. Most of Admiral Ruge's professional activities during the next two decades centered on mine warfare. From 1920 to 1923 and from 1928 to 1932 he was active in mine development work, which included duty as commanding officer of a minesweeper from 1921 to 1923. From 1924 to 1926 he attended the Berlin Technical College. From 1932 to 1934 he was senior officer of a minesweeping flotilla, and in 1937 became the Senior Officer Minesweepers in the German Navy.

With the coming of World War II, Admiral Ruge participated extensively in the Polish Campaign of 1939 and in the North Sea-English Channel operations of 1940. He remained in France from 1940 to 1943. In February 1940, he was promoted to the rank of Commodore, in 1942 to Rear Admiral and in 1943 to Vice Admiral.

Early in 1943 he was sent to Italy where he served as Senior German Naval Officer until mid-summer of that year. In November 1943, he was appointed naval advisor to Field Marshal Rommel who was just then entering upon his duties as one of the principal anti-invasion defenders of the Atlantic Wall.

From August 1944, until the end of the war Admiral Ruge served in Berlin as the Kriegsmarine's Director of Ship Construction.

After World War II, Admiral Ruge spent several months as a prisoner of war, and in 1946 he returned to Cuxhaven where he found employment as a writer, translator, and as a teacher of both English and German. From 1949 to 1952 he was one of four German flag officers who comprised the Naval Historical Team sponsored by the U.S. Navy at Bremerhaven. During this period he was also elected as a political independent to the town council of Cuxhaven.

With the entry of the Federal Republic of Germany into NATO and the establishment of the Bundesmarine, Admiral Ruge was called out of retirement and appointed Inspekteur der Bundesmarine, the equivalent of the U.S. Chief of Naval Operations. He held that post until his retirement in 1961.
Biography

Settling in 1961 in the South German university center of Tubingen, Admiral Ruge continued his active career as a writer and lecturer. In the latter capacity he served as a faculty member at Tubingen and at numerous other German centers. In 1967 he became associate professor in political science at the University of Tubingen.

In addition to his other activities Admiral Ruge was chairman of the “Arbeitskreis für Wehrforschung” (Association for Military Historical Research) and was President of the League of the Veterans of the Bundeswehr. He was also an active member of Rotary International. Admiral Ruge's first visit to America was in 1926. He next came in 1952 when he was guest lecturer at the U.S. Naval War College at Newport. Later visits were made in 1956, 1959, 1960, 1961 and May 1964. He resided at Linsenbergstrasse 29, Tubingen, Germany and died in 1985.

Scope and Content Note:

The Citadel purchased the papers of Vice Admiral Friedrich Ruge from Mr. William M. James of Winston Salem, North Carolina on March 18, 1974. Mr. James had compiled a collection of interviews, articles and correspondence with German and British officials of World War II. Admiral Ruge, who was one of Mr. James correspondents, gave many of his papers to Mr. James. The collection consists of 13.5 linear feet and was catalogued in 1985 by Jane Yates, archivist.

Vice Admiral Ruge's papers include his diaries 1940-1950, correspondence 1930-1974, speeches 1940-1974, books, articles, reviews and his U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings articles from 1952-1966. Photographs of Vice Admiral Ruge and Field Marshal Erwin Rommel are included.
# VICE ADMIRAL FRIEDRICH RUGE PAPERS
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Norrie, Gen. C. W. M.
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Interviews/Articles 1941-1975 Compiled by William James and Friedrich Ruge

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Auchinleck, Field Marshal Sir Claude. Interviewed by Dr. Donald G. Brownlow and Students in London, 1964 Summer.

Auchinleck, Field Marshal Sir Claude. Telephone Conversation between James and Auchinleck on Sunday, 1969 Sept. 7 when Auchinleck was a house guest of Dr. Donald G. Brownlow in Elverson, Pennsylvania.

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Folder 5 Doenitz, Admiral. Questions to Doenitz concerning German Capitulation (in German) “Geschichte und Charakter der Deutschen Kapitulation!” Europa-Briefe 9.4. 1950 Feb.

Folder 6 Emmet, Christopher. “German-American Relations in the Shadow of the Eichmann Trial.”


Folder 9 Gort, General the Viscount. “Dispatches from the General the Viscount Gort, Commander-in-Chief, British Expeditionary Force France and Belgium 1939-1940 to Secretary of State for War from 1939 Sept. 3 to 1940 Jan 31.” Supplement to The London Gazette, 1941 Oct. 17.

Folder 10 German Labour Organizations. “The Position of German Labour Organizations to Occupation Forces” Das Sprachrohr. Undated. (In English)


Interviews/Articles 1941-1975 Compiled by William James and Friedrich Ruge

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Folder 14  Halder, Gen. Franz. *Writing and Study of Military History.* A monograph prepared by Halder for the Historical Division Headquarters, United States Army, Europe. 1952 Dec. 3 (In German)

Folder 15  Hitler's Order No. 40. Ruge’s note indicates English translation available in *Channel Attack*, p. 488. (In German)

Folder 16  Holmes, John W. “The Future of the Atlantic Alliance.” Report of the John F. Kennedy Institute of Tilburg Colloquium on the above topic, 1968 July 28-31. Holmes was Director of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.


Interviews/Articles 1941-1975 Compiled by William James and Friedrich Ruge

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Folder 1  Nuremberg War Crime Trial. Series of letters to the editors of the *London Daily Telegraph* on the following topics: war crimes trials, Admiral Raeder, preventing War, definition of war, aggressive war. The letters are from the following individuals.

- Baillie-Grohman, H. T. 1951 Dec. 18, 28
- Dewar, Alfred C. 1951 Dec. 31
- Dombens, A.C. 1951 Dec. 17
- Grenfell, Russel 1951 Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 1952 Jan. 3
- Stern-Rubarth, Edgar 1951 Dec. 24
- Twomey, Sidney 1951 Dec. 27
- Watts, G. Tracy 1951 Dec. 11

Folder 2  Nuremberg War Crimes Trial. Ruge, Friedrich. “War Criminals: A proposal on how to handle this problem.” (In German)

Otto Kranzbuehler to Ruge concerning Ruge’s proposal, 1952 Sept. 9 (In German)


Conversation with Doenitz, 1956 Dec. 26. Ruge has noted “classified” until 5 years after his death. (In German)


Folder 6  Brockdorff, Werner. “Interview with General Walther Nehring.” *Der Landser*, [1968] (In German)

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Folder 9  POW Camp. Report on a Russian POW Camp, Summer 1952 (In German)


Folder 11  Ruge Interviews by William James:

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3) [1965] Concerning Field Marshal Erwin Rommel

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Articles/Letters 1944-1975 Concerning Field Marshal Erwin Rommel

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1944 Apr. 3-5, 11-14, 16. Examples of daily reports from Rommel's diary (Tagesbericht) (In German)

Folder 2  
1944 Apr. 23. Letter from Rommel to Jodl in German. Note by Ruge: “Photostat of rough draft of letter in my [Ruge's] possession. Very important because it shows Rommel's ideas on defense.”

Folder 3  
1944 Aug. 1. Letter from Rommel to Ruge (In German) (Qualifikationsbericht is assessment, fitness report of Ruge)

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Folder 5  1952 Dec. 17.  “German Naval Strategy During World War II.” Lecture delivered at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.
Folder 7  1956 Aug. 11.  Speech at Reopening of Naval Academy (In German)
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Summary of a lecture by Ruge held in association with the British Atlantic Committee.
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Folder 17  1964 Apr. “Nuclear Policy as it Affects NATO.” at Center for Strategic Studies.
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Folder 21  1967 Dec. 1. Elfte Historisch-Taktische Tagung der Flotte Press notice of meeting/seminar. (Congress of Naval Officers, German Fleet)
Books 1951-1963 by Friedrich Ruge

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1951  Entscheidung im Pazifik  (Decision in the Pacific)
1955  Seemacht und Sicherheit  (Seapower and Security) 2 copies
1955  Ottern und Drachen (Otters and Dragons, naval humor) 2 copies
1962  Der Seekrieg 1939-1945  (The Sea War 1939-1945)

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1963  Politik, Militaer Buendnis.  (Politics, Military Affairs, Unity)
1967  Politik und Strategie  (Politics and Strategy)
1971  Buendnisse (Alliances)
1975  Seemacht und Geschichte  (Seapower and History)
1919, 1973  Scapa Flow (the scuttle of the fleet of the German Imperial War Navy at Scapa Flow in 1919 Jun. 21)

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“The Invasion in Normandy” a chapter from Decisive Battles of World War II: A German View. Eds. H.A. Jacobsen and Jürgen Rohwer. 86 p. (4 copies, including published version in German)

Book Reviews of Friedrich Ruge’s Books

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Book Reviews By Friedrich Ruge

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Folder 6  1935. “Seemannschaft.” *Marine Rundschau*
Folder 7  1936. “Und der Koch in der Kombuase.” and “Der Badegast.” *Sonderabdruck*
Folder 8  1937. “Seeherrschaft im Inneren Afrikas.” *Dresden Neueste Nachrichten*
Folder 9  1937. “The New German Navy.” *Brassey's Naval Annual* (In German)
Folder 11  1946 May. “A United Europe.” (Written in the prison camp 2226 Zeeldern in Belgium)
Folder 13  1946 Apr. “Field Marshal Rommel's Measures to Counter the Invasion.” Written for US Army Historical Section by Ruge while in POW Camp 2226.
Folder 14  1947 May 25. “Coast Defense and Invasion.”
Folder 16  1947 Nov. 14. “If Germany Were a Naval Power Today, Would She Prefer Type XXI or Type Walter For Further Submarine Development?”
Folder 17  1949 Mar. 31. “Reform der Englischen Rechtschreibung?”

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Folder 2  1950. “Neue Sorgen.”
Folder 3  1950 May 9. “Schnelle Schwedische Motorschiffe.”
Folder 4  1950 October. “Gedanken des Ehemaligen Deutschen Soldaten zum Neuaufbau Einer Deutschen Wehrmacht.”
Folder 5  1950. “Wegerechtsfragen.”
Folder 6  1950. “Einhand-Fahrtensaegeln.”
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Folder 10  1951.  “Die Seeschlacht vor dem Skagerrak.” For a newspaper in Cuxhaven or Bremerhaven.
Folder 11  1951.  “Goetterwind – Goetterdaemmerung.” *Die Brigantine*
Folder 12  1952.  “Der Seekrieg.”
Folder 14  1952 Jan. 27.  “Some Aspects of American-German Relations.”
Folder 15  1952.  “Militaerpolitische Lage im Pazifischen Raum.”
Folder 18  1952.  Five Studies Prepared by the German Naval Historical Team.
   (1) “Discipline on Board Minesweepers.” by Ruge
   (2) “How to Lead and Handle Men Aboard a Raider.” by Adm. Gerhard Rogge (In English & German).
   (3) “Report on the German Navy's Disciplinary Situation During the Period After Capitulation.” by Fregattenkapitan Guenther-Schulze Karcher (In English and German).
   (4) “The Medical Officer Aboard a Raider.” an essay by Dr. Reil, German Navy Commander, Retired (In English and German).
Folder 22  1953.  *Brugge* Guidebook translated into German by Ruge concerning the capitol of Belgium.
Folder 26  1954 Feb. 6.  “Memorandum ueber die Operation Seeloewe.”
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<td>Folder 33</td>
<td>1965 Aug.</td>
<td><em>Der Reserve</em> (Ruge is featured on cover)</td>
<td></td>
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### Box 23

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<th>Folder</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>“Cuba 1962.”</td>
<td><em>Strategy and Politics</em> (in German and English)</td>
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<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>1966 Mar.</td>
<td>“Buendnisse-Ein Pladoyer Fur NATO.”</td>
<td><em>Politische Welt</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>1966 Sept.</td>
<td>“Russische und Sowjetische Seestrategie.”</td>
<td><em>Atlantische Welt</em></td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>“Kanada Partner der Allianz.”</td>
<td><em>Atlantische Welt</em></td>
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<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>“Theorie und Praxis der Buendnisse.”</td>
<td><em>Wehrwissenschaftliche Rundschau</em></td>
</tr>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>1967 May 5.</td>
<td>“Namen Fuer die Drei Raketenerzerstoerer.”</td>
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<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>1968 Jan.</td>
<td>“Die Lage Im Buendnis und die Deutsche Verteidigungspolitik.”</td>
<td><em>Allgemeine Militaerrundschau</em></td>
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<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>“Studium Generale Navale.”</td>
<td><em>Marine Rundschau</em></td>
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<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>1968 Apr. 10.</td>
<td>“Reservisten.”</td>
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<td>Folder 18</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>“Tradition ist Lebendige Geschichte.”</td>
<td><em>Atlantische Welt</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Articles 1925-1978 by Friedrich Ruge

Box 23
Folder 19 1969-1971. Series of typewritten articles written for History of the First World War:

“Battle of Jutland: Action of the Main Battlefleets.”
“Operations of German Submarines Autumn 1916 to Spring 1917.”
“German Submarine Development.”
“The First Cruise of the S.M.S. U93 1917 Apr. 13 - May 14.”
“A Normal Cruise.”
“The Odyssey of UC 6.”
“Battle Report of German Destroyer G 40, 1st Half Flotilla.”
“Battle Report of German Destroyer S 32.”
“Battle Cruiser Seydlitz at Jutland.”
“Report von Egidy.”
“Jutland.”
“Feb. 1917 The Wolves are Unleashed.”
“The Battle of Jutland.” The History of the 20th Century

Index, History of the Second World War
Contents List and Index, History of the 20th Century

Box 24
Folder 4 1970. “Strategie.” Staatslexikon
Folder 5 1970. “Underwater Archaeology.” Nautilus
Folder 6 1971. “Rosa Luxemburg.” MOV Nachrichten
Folder 11 1972. Foreword to Die Reichsmarine der Weimarer Zeit
Folder 12 1972. “Frieden und Sicherheit.” Informationen zur Politischen Bildung
Articles 1925-1978 by Friedrich Ruge

Box 24

Folder 14  1972 Jan.  “SMS Seydlitz.”  *Profile Warship*


Folder 16  1972 Dec.  “SM Torpedo Boat B110.”  *Profile Warship 27*


Folder 21  1974 Fall.  Preface to book on German Minelayers (In German)


Folder 29  1978.  Foreword for new edition of *Verdammte See* by Cajus Bekker


Vice Admiral Friedrich Ruge Papers
Finding Aid

Articles 1952-1966 in *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings* by Friedrich Ruge

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<th>Box 25</th>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>1952 Sept. “German Minesweepers in World War II.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>1957 Oct. “Post War German Navy and Its Mission.”</td>
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Photographs – Friedrich Ruge’s Collection

**Box 26**

**Folder 1**  
Undated. L. Mendel Rivers' visit to Germany (1). (Rivers was Congressman, in U.S. House of Representatives with Captain Frederick Harlfinger, U.S. Naval Attaché on far right, front row)

**Folder 2**  
Undated. Bonn, Germany. Admiral Dennison visiting with Ruge. (5)

**Folder 3**  
Undated. Launching D.D. Hamburg in Hamburg. Ruge is with Admiral Rogge. (1)

**Folder 4**  
Undated. William James, compiler of Ruge Collection. (1)

**Folder 5**  
Undated. Candid photos of Vice Admiral Ruge. (14)

**Folder 6**  
1912. Youth Movement “Migratory Birds” (Ruge, second from left, age 17). (1)

**Folder 7**  
1931. H.M.S. Dorsetshire. Photo of T.A. Rushton Jul. 1931, English Commander of Dorsetshire & Norfolk. This was the first British visit to Kiel. Ruge was liaison officer. (2 photos, 1 framed)

**Folder 8**  

**Folder 9**  
1952. Naval Historical Team: Heye, Gaul, Wagner, Ruge, Schniewind (1)

**Folder 10**  

**Folder 11**  
1956 Jun. Ruge's visit to Key West, Florida (6)

**Folder 12**  
1956 Jun. 6-8. Ruge's visit to Norfolk, Virginia (9)

**Folder 13**  
1956 Jun. Ruge's visit to Charleston (6)

**Folder 14**  
1957. Ceremony dedicating a building in Bremerhaven, Germany which served as U.S. Navy headquarters. Ruge is in group photographs. (13)

**Folder 15**  

**Folder 16**  
1958 Sept. 24. Ceremony and visit by Ruge to Ostende, Belgium (4)

**Folder 17**  

**Folder 18**  
1960. Ruge's visit to Charleston, SC (3)

**Folder 19**  
1961 Feb. Ruge receiving Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) from Admiral Arleigh A. Burke. (3)

**Folder 20**  
1961 Mar. 17. Ruge's visit to Horlen, Germany. (2)

**Folder 21**  
1964 Nov. Ruge's visit to Newport, Rhode Island. (1) Photograph album “Vice Admiral Friedrich Ruge, Inspector Federal German Navy, on the occasion of his visit to U.S. Naval Installations.” Photograph album “Official Visit to the U.S. Naval Academy of Vice Admiral Friedrich Ruge, Federal German Navy, 1960 Apr. 5.”
Photographs of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel

Box 27

A. Photographs of Rommel and other German officers collected by Vice Admiral Ruge. Majority are unidentified.

B. Photographs of Rommel and officers from *The National Archives Collection of Foreign Records seized 1941*. Unidentified.