

C Bowles, Edward L. (1897-1990), Papers, 1883-1991  
4191 0.2 cubic feet

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## INTRODUCTION

Photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous documents concerning Edward L. Bowles and the history of Westphalia, Missouri.

## DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Patricia Hilkemeyer on 22 October 2009 (Accession No.6222).

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edward Lindley Bowles was born in Westphalia, Missouri, on December 8, 1897. He was the son of Samuel Addison Bowles and Julia (Johnson) Bowles. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Washington University in 1920, Master of Science degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1922, and held an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Norwich University.

Dr. Bowles initiated, built and headed the division of Electrical Communications in the Department of Electrical Engineering at MIT, encouraging greater emphasis on the fundamentals of electromagnetic theory on sound, electronics, basic electrical network theory, and on microwave theory and applications in the department curriculum. He directed the Round Hill Research Station at MIT, where pioneer work was done on the broad problem of air navigation, including studies of the propagation of light and radio waves through fog, research on the physical properties of fog, and on fog dissipation.

In April 1942, he was called to Washington by Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson to act as his personal advisor on radar, communications and related electronic matters. He held the post of Expert Consultant to the Secretary of War in establishing and implementing plans for the Army in a variety of technical fields. In 1943, he was also designated Consultant to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, General Arnold, to act with authority in designated fields and to head specifically all Air Force communication, including radar. This responsibility later included advising the Commanding General, as Special Consultant on technical plans and technical phases of military operations.

This led to the development of electronic equipment which was used to locate the position of German submarines which were threatening allied shipping during World War II, as well as the ability to detect German buzz-bombs which threatened allied cities.

In his position as educator, government consultant and management expert, Dr. Bowles received a number of awards for his valuable service, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Honorary Commander of the Civil Division, Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; and the Presidential Medal of Merit.

In 1967 Dr. Bowles was elected Trustee of Bentley College, and continued to maintain a strong association with research universities. He was entered in Who's Who in America, appearing in the 1980-1981 edition.

In his later years he rekindled an interest in his town of birth, Westphalia, and helped to establish the Westphalia Historical Society. Dr. Edward L. Bowles died in 1990.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

See Folder List. Also please note that the material contained within this collection is mainly the correspondence he wrote in his later years regarding his home town of Westphalia, and does not contain his professional papers, which are held in the Library of Congress.

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