

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG5969.AM: Koch, Ralph A., 1882-1953

Papers:

Fairbury, Jefferson County, Neb.: Captain, U.S. Navy

Size: 1.25 cu.ft.; 2 boxes

BACKGROUND NOTE

Born on a farm in Jefferson County, Ralph A. Koch was the son of John M. and Alice (Burns) Koch. He graduated from Fairbury High School in 1898 and went on to attend the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, where he graduated in 1902. Koch served on various vessels throughout his career and was once commanding officer of the cruiser Marblehead. He also commanded submarines and became an expert on anti-submarine warfare. Koch retired from the U.S. Navy prior to World War II, but he was called back to active service and served in the Navy Department in Washington D.C. during the war. Ralph A. Koch died at the Bethesda Naval Hospital on March 14, 1953. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of correspondence, publications and ephemera relating to the life and military career of Ralph A. Koch. The bulk of the collection consists of letters written by Koch during his time as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy and subsequent career with the U.S. Navy. The letters are to his family in Fairbury, Nebraska and date from ca. 1899-1941. Also included are two yearbooks from his time at the Naval Academy and a souvenir yearbook from the U.S. Battleship Wisconsin, ca. 1903.

Note: See also the photo component [RG5969.PH] for a photo album relating to R.A. Koch's service in the Navy while stationed in Japan, China, and the Philippines, 1903-1904; and a photographic print of R.A. Koch's class at Annapolis, 1903.

INVENTORY

Box 1
Folder

1. Papers, awards, letters
2. Reports
3. Letters, January, 1901-August 1901
4. Letters, October 1903-August 1904
5. Letters, February, 1903- October 1905
6. Letters, September 1904-April 1905
7. Letters, August 1901-April 1902
8. Letters, April 1905-May 1907
9. Letters, May 1902-January 1903

10. Transcription of letters, 1899-1902
11. Naval Academy records
12. Letters, January 1905-January 1906
13. Letters, July 1907-December 1908
14. Letters, January 1909-January 1911
15. Letters July 1918-May 1934
16. Salutatory speech, letters July 1899-November 1899
17. Transcription of letters home, July 1899-December 1901
18. Transcription of letters home, January 1902-August 1905
19. Transcription of letters home, August 1905-1941
20. The Special Post newspaper, August 13, 1896
21. United States Battleship Wisconsin Souvenir, 1903
22. "The Lucky Bag," Naval Academy yearbook, 1901

Box 2

Item

1. "The Lucky Bag," Naval Academy Yearbook, 1903