

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Coffin, E.A.

E.A. Coffin Diary, 1919-1924

MS 4-37-17

1 Folder
Diary - 14 transcribed pages

Processed by: Alea Oien, Apr. 2009
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, May 2014

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Janet Coffin to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections on February 24, 1988 and is accessioned as 1988-11.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. The item has been placed in a pH-neutral folder.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

E.A. (Eugene Auguste) Coffin was born March 10, 1888 in Foochow, China. He joined the U.S. Revenue-Cutter Service in October 1907. During his time in the Coast Guard Coffin served in Alaska on three occasions.

- 12 April, 1919 to 19 April, 1920 – served as commissary and watch officer on *Unalga* at San Francisco, Calif., and Unalaska, Alaska, under Capt. F.G. Dodge. – relief mission to influenza-stricken Aleutian Islands.
- 1 April, 1921 to 20 September, 1922 – served as commissary and watch officer on *Unalga*, at San Francisco, Calif., Unalaska, Alaska, and Juneau, Alaska, under Capt. B.L. Brockway and Capt. John Boedeker.
- 10 November, 1922 to 8 March, 1924 – served as executive officer and navigator of *Algonquin*, at Astoria, Oregon, and Unalaska, Alaska, under Capt. C.M. Gabbett.

E.A. Coffin retired from the Coast Guard, as a Rear Admiral, on April 1, 1950 after forty-two years of service.

RADM Coffin passed away on January 20, 1972 in Santa Barbara, California. His ashes were flown out to sea from Santa Barbara in a U.S. Coast Guard plane.

Biographical information from:

<http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Flags/CoffinEBio.pdf>

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The document in this collection is a typed, photocopied transcription of 14 pages of E.A. Coffin's diary. Included in the diary pages are entries about the 1919 Influenza epidemic.

SUBJECTS

Aleutian Islands; Alaska Peninsula; Valdez; Fort Liscum; Unalaska; Dutch Harbor; Dillingham; St. Paul Island; Bering Sea; Unimak Island; Ugashik River; Wood River; *Unalga*; *Algonquin*

INVENTORY

Folder 1 of 1

Typed transcription of E.A. Coffin's diary - 14 pages

Alaska Cruise 1919

Reminiscences of All Three Trips to Bering Sea

"Miscellany"

One time we went fishing outside of Seward and I caught 72 pounds of trout

An Episode on Attu Island

Capt. Ben Brockway

Second Trip on *Unalga* to Unalaska and Juneau, Alaska

More Miscellany

Algonquin

To Bering Sea on *Algonquin* - Third Trip to Alaska

Rescue of the *Shinkoku Maru* in Alaska