



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

OHA 138 Coates Collection

Date of Records: 1895-1982

Size: 2 cubic feet, 2 boxes

Finding Aid by: Eric W. Boyle

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Biographical Note: Edward Augustus Coates was born January 18, 1889 in Boston, Massachusetts, the only child of Edward Augustus and Emma Frances Coates. He graduated from high school in Winthrop, Massachusetts in 1907. He worked as a conductor for the Narrow Gauge Railway while attending Tufts College of Medicine, where he graduated Cum Laude in 1911. He worked at Boston City Hospital, Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital, and Massachusetts Soldiers Home Hospital before being commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Army Medical Reserve Corps in 1915. During World War I, Coates served in France and during World War II he spent two years in the Philippine Islands. In the interim he received his license to practice law in 1933 and was advanced to the rank of Colonel in the Medical Corps in 1942. After the war, he spent time in West Germany before retiring for the first time in 1949, when he was immediately recalled to serve his last post on the Retirement Board at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He received his medical retirement in 1953. During his more than 37 years of military service, Coates worked as Chief of Surgical Services at various Army hospitals for about 19 years, and the Post Surgeon and Commanding Officer of Station Hospitals for about 7 years. He received numerous military decorations including the Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service from the War Department in 1945 and the American Campaign Medal by Executive Order in 1946. He died of cancer in 1982 and was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Series/Scope and Content Note: This collection includes the memorabilia and papers of Col. Coates, including his service in World War I and II. Includes material from scrapbooks, photographs, certificates, Masonic items, programs, military orders, personal effects, and biographical manuscript.



BOX AND CONTENT LIST

Box 001: Biographical Material and Military Orders

- 00001: Manuscript: Edward Augustus Coates, Jr. (by Marion Coates Conver & Augusta Coates)
- 00002: Biographical Material and Photos, Photocopies
- 00003: "Manila and the Philippine Islands"—Photo catalogue
- 00004: Military Orders for Coates (1916-1917)
- 00005: Military Orders for Coates (1918-1919)
- 00006: Military Orders for Coates (1919-1920)
- 00007: Military Orders for Coates (1921-1924)
- 00008: Military Orders for Coates (1924-1946)

Box 002: Misc. Certificates, Awards and Photographs

- 00001: Who's Who in the Regular Army
- 00002: Army-Navy Journal (1943-45)
- 00003: Photographs: World War II Pacific [1 of 3]
- 00004: Photographs: World War II Pacific [2 of 3]
- 00005: Photographs: World War II Pacific [3 of 3]
- 00003: Photographs
 1. Edward A. Coats Jr., About 1894-95
 2. Newspaper Clipping, 1976
 3. Near Coates House, ca. 1904-05
 4. Upper Grades, Pauline St. School, ca. 1901-02
 5. 9th Grade Graduation from Pauline School, ca. 1903
 6. Almont St. School, ca. 1899
 7. Almont St. School, ca. 1895
 8. Army Medical School in D.C., 1916
 9. Winthrop Highlands, Mass, 1903-04
 10. High School Graduation, 1907
 11. Maj. EA Coates, 1935
 12. Lt. Colonel EA Coates, 1938
 13. First Active Duty in U.S. Army, 1916



00004: Misc Commendations and Certificates

1. Certificate of Proficiency Medical Reserve Corps
2. Board of Medical Examiners Maryland
3. Tufts Degree of Doctor of Medicine Letter
4. Letters for the White House
5. Kearney and Kearney Letter of Introduction
6. The Massachusetts Medical Society Letter and Certificates
7. Almas Temple Correspondence
8. American Medical Association Membership Certificate

00005: Oversized Awards and Certificates

1. American College of Surgeons Fellow
2. Association of Military Surgeons, Colonel Retired
3. United States Court of Appeals Seal
4. The Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine
5. District of Columbia Commission of Licensure
6. Virginia Attorney of Law License
7. US Army Meritorious Service Certificate
8. Dept. of the Army Commendation Ribbon for Meritorious Achievement
9. Colonel in the Medical Corps Certificate
10. Maryland Board of Medical Examiners License
11. The Medical Field Service School Certificate
12. Lieutenant Colonel in Medical Corps Certificate
13. Dog Tags