

Records of Superintendent Charles E. Kilbourne, 1936-1947RG.02.06-KilbourneCE

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1937-1946

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

RG.02.06-KilbourneCE

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1937-1946

Language

English

Creator

Kilbourne, Charles E. (Charles Evans), 1872-1963

Creator

Virginia Military Institute. Office of the Superintendent

Extent

2 cubic feet

Physical Location

Archives stacks, Record Group 02, Superintendent

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Records of the Superintendent. Charles E. Kilbourne administration. [item detail].

Biographical / Historical

Major General Charles Evans Kilbourne (b. 1872 d. 1963), an 1894 VMI graduate, had a distinguished career in the U. S. Army before returning to his alma mater to serve as the sixth Superintendent. He entered the volunteer Signal Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898, and received the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action in the Philippines in 1899. He received his regular Army commission in 1899 and served in China during the Boxer Rebellion. During World War I he was Chief of Staff of the 89th Division and was wounded in action in France. General Kilbourne served multiple tours of duty in the Philippines and was instrumental in the development of the military installations on the island of Corregidor, including the initiation of the tunnel system used during World War II by General MacArthur's troop. He also served in the War Plans Division in Washington DC from 1932-1938.

Kilbourne was promoted to Brigadier General in 1928. He received his promotion to Major General in 1935 and retired from active duty the following year. He was the first person in American history to hold simultaneously the nation's three highest military awards: The Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Distinguished Service Medal. Kilbourne became Superintendent of VMI on October 1, 1937 and guided the Institute through the challenging years of World War II. He retired on June 20, 1946 and was named Superintendent Emeritus. He died on November 12, 1963 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Scope and Contents

Records of the administration of VMI Superintendent Charles E. Kilbourne. Includes correspondence, biographical information, speeches and related Institute official records, 1937-1946. These records cover the World War II era at VMI.

Related Materials

Additional correspondence from this era is located in the Superintendents' Administrative Subject Files series.

Charles Kilbourne personal papers

A small collection of personal papers are located in our Manuscripts holdings

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Administration

Virginia Military Institute—History—20th century

Virginia Military Institute—History—World War, 1939-1945

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1894

Description of Subordinate Components

Charles E. Kilbourne. Official Correspondence Files

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2840

Unit Date 1937-1946

Language English

Extent 2 cubic feet

Scope and Contents

Chronological correspondence maintained by the office of VMI's 6th Superintendent, Charles E. Kilbourne (served 1937-1946). There is relatively little official correspondence as compared to previous administrations. However, additional correspondence also appears in the Administrative Subject Files series.

Charles E. Kilbourne Biographical/Personal File

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2841

Scope and Contents

Charles E. Kilbourne individual personal/biographical file, compiled over decades. Contains correspondence, biographical and genealogical information. Kilbourne served as VMI's sixth Superintendent, from 1927-1946