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Henry L. Haff Spanish-American War Collection

Creator:	Haff, Henry L. (Johannes Hedrik Ludvig), 1866-1945
Dates:	1880-1950
Quantity:	0.2 linear feet, 1 box
Acquisition:	Gift of Doug and Warren Erikson, September 13, 2018
Identification:	PMML ID: 800402, OCLC: 1605591902, Call Number: PAPERS 00383
Citation:	[Document Title]. The Henry L. Haff Spanish-American War Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Kenosha, WI.
Language:	English
Finding Aid:	Lindsay Robbins, 2025

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Biographical Note

Johannes Hendrik Ludvig Haff was born March 12, 1866, in Copenhagen, Denmark to Lars and Charlotta (née Trolle) Haff. In April 1880, Haff served as a "boy" on the *Bark Esperanse* out of Copenhagen, making stops in the Baltic Sea and in the English Channel. He then served in the Danish Navy, possibly on either or both the *Fyen* 1885 and 1886. He immigrated in either 1884 or 1885 and naturalized as a United States citizen in Chicago on October 13, 1894. He married Antonia Michelson on August 24, 1891, with whom he would have three children.

Haff enlisted as a seaman on April 26, 1898, at the Naval Recruiting Station in Chicago. That year, he transferred between several ships including the USS *Franklin*, the USS *Suwanee,* the USS *Sterling*, the USS *Vermont*, and the USS *Celtic*. Haff was honorably discharged on October 6, 1898, as directed by the Bureau of Navigation, and received $14.93 pay due. Following his discharge, Haff resided in Chicago and was self-employed as a bicycle shop owner, caterer, watchman, along with other various occupations.

On July 29, 1913, Haff was awarded the Spanish Campaign Medal for "participation in engagements and campaigns deemed worthy of such commemoration in recognition of services on board the Suwanee." He was also awarded the West Indies Naval Campaign Medal, 1898, on October 22, 1914, for having "participated in the engagements in the waters of the West Indies and on the shores of Cuba during the war with Spain and deemed of sufficient importance to deserve commemoration."

Haff died on December 28, 1945, at the Hines Veterans Hospital in Chicago, and was interred at Irving Park Cemetery, Chicago.

Scope and Content of the Collection

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The Henry L. Haff collection contains correspondence, notes and military records related to Haff's service in the United States Navy during the Spanish-American War.

The collection also contains photographs and realia including medals, ribbons and other items. These items have been separated into realia and photograph collections. For a complete list, see the end of this document.

Arrangement
Materials are maintained in chronological order.

Key Subjects
This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Subjects
Guantánamo Bay (Cuba)
Santiago, Battle of, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, 1898.
Spanish-American War, 1898--Campaigns--Cuba.
Spanish-American War, 1898--Naval operations, American.

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Container List

Box	Folder	Item ID	Description	Dates
Series 1: Henry L. Haff papers, 1887-1950				
1	1	800402001	Telegraph, Isla de Cuba. Cuerpo de Ingenieros, Batallón de Telégrafos	1887 February 11
1	1	800402002	Letter of recommendation for "deck service"	1889 April 20
1	1	800402003	Sailing Card, Lake Seamen's Benevolent Association	1892 September 20
1	1	800402004	U.S. Naval Rendezvous card	1898 April

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1	1	800402005	Military telegraph envelope	1898
1	1	800402006	Letter, U.S. Navy Pay Office, for $45 for "Prize money S. War"	1900 November 5
1	1	800402007	Spanish Campaign Badge endorsement	1913 July 29
1	1	800402008	Letter, "I was glad to receive your letter of December 14, 1913, and take pleasure in inclosing herewith a West Indian campaign medal with appropriate bars", signed Victor Blue	1913 December 18
1	1	800402009	Letter, "…It gave me great pleasure to forward your medal which you should have received years ago…", signed Victor Blue	1913 December 18
1	1	800402010	Campaign medal endorsement for "…engagements in the waters of the West Indies and on the shores of Cuba during the war with Spain…"	1914 October 22
1	1	800402011	Service record for pension claim, [photocopy]	1922 June 30
1	1	800402012	Letter, "We are sorry to inform you of the rejection of your pension claim under the act of June 5, 1920. We believe the rejection to be improper, and have requested our Washington Office to send a representative into the Bureau of Pensions…", signed Milo B. Stevens	1923 February 12
1	1	800402013	Bureau of Pensions certificate	1923 February 26
1	1	800402014	Request for Navy information, certificate of recognition, [photocopy]	1928 April 21
1	1	800402015	Service record transcript, [photocopy]	1928 April 21
1	1	800402016	Honorable Discharge certification, [photocopy]	1928 February 6
1	1	800402017	Program, USS Battleship *Maine* Memorial Services	1932 February 13
1	1	800402018	Note, dates of activities in Cuba, 1898, [6 pages]	circa 1940
1	1	800402019	Note, dates of activities in Cuba, 1898	circa 1940
1	1	800402020	Handwritten diagram, operations at Santiago de Cuba	circa 1940

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1	1	800402021	Newspaper article, The National Tribune—The Stars and Stripes, "Seaman Haff Writes of West Indian Campaign" [article on page six]	1950 December 21

Series 2: Research materials

1	2	800402022	USS *Suwanee* Logbook, [photocopy]	1898 April – September

Separations

Item ID	Call Number	Description	Location	Date
Photographs				
800402023	PHOTO 14010	[*Carte de visite* portrait of young man in suit, identified by donor as "1880, Henry L. Haff, Brussels. Photo taken when he was 13 years old working on sailing ships." ("J. Levaque, Bruxelles")] [Albumen print photograph mounted on card; studio information printed on front and back; donor list item number 44]	Photos Box 84	[1880]
800402024	PHOTO 14011	[Full-length portrait of man in uniform (U.S. Navy, covered, wearing medals), identified by donor as "1920 ca. Henry L. Haff, in 1898 Navy Uniform")] [Black and white reproduction photograph; Epson Photo Paper; donor list item number 53]	Photos Box 84	circa 1920
800402025	PHOTO 14012	"1933, Henry Ludvig Haff, Father of Henry C. Haff, Ernest Albert Haff, Olga Haff, Alice Erika Haff" [Formal full-length portrait of man in uniform, covered, wearing medals, painted backdrop behind, identified by donor as "1933 ca. In United Spanish War Veterans uniform with decorations"] [Black and white photograph; handwritten caption on back; donor list item number 63]	Photos Box 84	1933

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800402026	PHOTO 14013	"Schley Camp No-58, Department of Illinois United Spanish War Veterans, Dedicated July 4th 1934" [Group portrait, men (some in uniform) in front of monument (some standing, some seated); Henry L. Haff is back row, far left, identified by donor as "1934 July 4, United Spanish War Veterans Program, Grandpa rear left in fedora hat", Theatrical Chicago (studio)] [Black and white reproduction print; Epson Photo Paper; donor list item number 64]	Photos Box 84	1934 July 4

Microfilm

800402066	PHOTO 20059	Microfilm : "Log of the United States Gun Boat Suwanee, 4th rate…" April 27, 1898 through August 10 1898; frames 134-136 "Muster Roll of the Crew of the U.S.S. Suwanee on the 7th day of May, 1898" (SOS 350124, 12-14-98, Reel 1) [35mm microfilm : 136 frames : frames 4 through 133; donor list item 40]		[1898] 1998 December 14
800402067	PHOTO 20060	Microfilm : "Log of the United States Gun Boat Suwanee, 4th rate…" August 19, 1898 through September 1, 1898 (SOS 353788, 2-3-99, Reel 1) [35mm microfilm : 17 frames : frames 4 through 17; donor list item 42, misidentified as Muster Rolls]		[1898] 1999 February 3

Artifacts

800402027	REALIA 08820	Ribbon : "U.S.S. Suwanee" U.S. Navy cap tally [Donor list item number 13]	Tray 120	
800402028	REALIA 08821	Medal : Republic of Cuba Medal of the Veterans of the Spanish-American War (in presentation box) [Donor list item numbers 20, 21; inside lid marked "Fabricado en Cuba, Antigua Vilardebo & Riera, Taller de Joyeria, Dragones 53, Habana"]	Tray 119	

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800402029	REALIA 08822	Medal set : U.S. Veterans of Foreign Wars medal and ribbon bar [Donor list item numbers 22, 23]	Tray 119	
800402030	REALIA 08823	Medal : Veterans of Foreign Wars, June 1938, Peoria, Illinois, medal proper and suspension ring (missing ribbon, top bar and brooch); obverse: portrait of General Pershing over five-pointed star and laurel wreath; reverse: "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States - Awarded at Peoria, June 1938 - Department of Illinois" [Donor list item number 24]	Tray 119	1938 June
800402031	REALIA 08824	Medal : Military Order of the Serpent Second-Degree badge (*Kaul* degree, Second-degree pin bar) [Donor list item numbers 25, 26]	Tray 119	
800402032	REALIA 08825	Medal set : U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Spanish Campaign medal and ribbon (Note: medal is reversed, see stitching on ribbon) [Donor list item numbers 27, 28]	Tray 119	
800402033	REALIA 08826	Pin : "58 Illinois U.S.W.V." collar devices (set of 2 ; Schley Camp Number 58, Department of Illinois, United Spanish War Veterans) [Donor list item number 30]	Tray 119	
800402034	REALIA 08827	Cap badge : United Spanish War Veterans cap badge (silver "U.S.W.V" with gold eagle, shield, arrows and olive branch from Great Shield of the United States) [Donor list item number 29]	Tray 119	
800402035	REALIA 08828	Pendant : U.S. Navy ("USN" and anchor) [Donor list item number 32, "US Navy 'Sailor' emblem"]	Tray 119	
800402036	REALIA 08829	Badge : United Spanish War Veterans, Aurora, Illinois "City of Lights" encampment badge [1922] (marked "Whitehead-Hoar-Newark-N.J." on back of top bar) [Donor list item number 71]	Tray 119	[1922]
800402037	REALIA 08830	Medal set : United Spanish War Veterans membership medal and ribbon (top bar marked "Jos. Mayer & Bros, Makers, Seattle, WN"; bottom bar stamped "51197" [Donor list item numbers 74, 75]	Tray 120	

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800402038	REALIA 08831	Coin : 1877 Spanish 5 Centimos copper coin (obverse: bust and "Alfonso XII Por La Gracia de Dios" and "1877"; reverse: Spanish coat-of-arms with "Rey Constl. de Espana" and "Cinco Centimos", hole drilled at top) [Donor list item number 19]	Tray 120	1877
800402039	REALIA 08832	Coin : 1869 Spanish 2 Pesetas silver coin (very worn; obverse: reclining figure holding branch, "Espana" and "1869"; reverse: Spanish coat-of-arms with "100 Piezas in Kilogramo" and "2 Pesetas") [Donor list item number 17]	Tray 120	1869
800402040	REALIA 08833	Coin : 1871 Spanish 5 Pesetas silver coin (obverse: bust and "Amadeo I Rey de Espana"; reverse: Spanish coat-of-arms, "Ley 900 Milesimas, 40 Piezas en Kilog." and "5 Pesetas"; edge: "Libertad", "Justicia", and stars) [Donor list item number 18]	Tray 120	1871
800402041	REALIA 08834	Medal set : Sampson Medal (West Indies Naval Campaign Medal) with three campaign clasps ("U.S.S. Suwanee," "Guantanamo" and "Manzanillo") and ribbon bar (Manzanillo clasp stamped "August 12" on reverse; bottom edge of medal: "Henry L. Haff. SEA.") [Donor list item numbers 72, 73]	Tray 120	
800402042	REALIA 08835	[Mauser 5x57mm shell casings (4 each) and bullets (4 each) "cooked off in Mauser rifle"; possibly retrieved from ruins of the Spanish cruiser *Vizcaya*] [Donor list item number 2]	Tray 120	
800402043	REALIA 08836	Pocket watch (fire-damaged; possibly retrieved from ruins of the Spanish cruiser *Vizcaya*] [Donor list item number 5]	Tray 120	
800402044	REALIA 08837	Button : Spanish Navy Officer's uniform button (crown and anchor, fire-damaged ; possibly retrieved from ruins of the Spanish cruiser *Vizcaya*] [Donor list item number 10]	Tray 120	
800402045	REALIA 08838	Scissors (fire-damaged ; possibly retrieved from ruins of the Spanish cruiser Vizcaya] [Donor list item number 8]	Tray 120	

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800402046	REALIA 08839	[Metal punch, possibly used to etch inscription into 4-inch shell] [Donor list item number 16]	Tray 120
800402047	REALIA 08840	[Rear sight, possibly from Spanish Mauser M1893] [Possibly from 800402048; Donor list item number 1]	Tray 120
800402048	REALIA 08841	Metal remnants of Spanish Mauser M1893 rifle (barrel, bolt action, magazine, trigger and guard) ; possibly retrieved from ruins of the Spanish cruiser *Vizcaya*] [Donor list item number 1]	
800402049	REALIA 08842	[Sword : Spanish, possibly naval cutlass, marked "4CTa PALa DE TOLEDO" on blade, cup hilt ; possibly retrieved from ruins of the Spanish cruiser *Vizcaya*] [Donor list item number 4]	
800402050	REALIA 08843	Bayonet (metal remnants of bayonet and scabbard top fitting) : [possibly Spanish Mauser; possibly retrieved from ruins of the Spanish cruiser *Vizcaya*] [Donor list item number 3]	
800402051	REALIA 08844	[Unidentified metal object : spike or nail with heart-shaped head, hole in spike; possibly retrieved from ruins of the Spanish cruiser *Vizcaya*] [Donor list item number 6]	
800402052	REALIA 08845	[Coal (3 pieces) ; possibly retrieved from ruins of the Spanish cruiser *Vizcaya*] [Donor list item number 7]	
800402053	REALIA 08846	[Molten metal (2 pieces) ; possibly retrieved from ruins of the Spanish cruiser *Vizcaya*] [Donor list item number 9]	
800402054	REALIA 08847	[Curved metal plaque "4950 KG" and "Montaje Para C. de 14c/m T. R. ; No. 20" possibly from Gonzalez Hontoria naval gun; possibly retrieved from ruins of the Spanish cruiser *Vizcaya*] [Donor list item number 11]	
800402055	REALIA 08848	[Section of telegraph cable ; possibly part of underwater cable cut by the U.S.S. Suwanee] [Donor list item number 12]	

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800402056	REALIA 08849	.45/70 McKeever cartridge box (canvas duck webbing; closing tab missing) [Donor list item number 14]		
800402057	REALIA 08850	Sailmakers palm (leather, metal) [Donor list item number 33]		
800402058	REALIA 08851	[Sailors hand-tied knot (macrame) and crochet twine bag] [Donor list item number 34]		
800402059	REALIA 08852	[Sailors hand-tied knot (macrame) twine strap, unfinished] [Donor list item number 35]		
800402060	REALIA 08853	[Sailors hand-tied knot (macrame) twine strap, unfinished] [Donor list item number 35]		
800402061	REALIA 08854	[4-inch artillery shell (Winchester) with engravings by Henry L. Haff ("1898 Spanish War, Exploits of the Aux. Gunboat U.S.S. Suwanee, [names of crew, list of actions by date], Henry L. Haff, 1st Captain #3 Gun")] [Donor list item number 15]		

Prints

800402062	PRINT 08725	"U.S. Battle Ship 'Maine' Destroyed in Havana Harbor, Feb. 15th, 1898." [F.N. Atwood 95 ; reverse mounted on glass with chain frame (glass broken) [Donor list item number 36]	Storage Shelves	circa 1898
800402063	PRINT 08726	Drawing [photocopy] : U.S.C.G. Cutter *Mangrove* : Upper, Main and Lower Decks (Drawing No 27477; Washington, D.C. : United States Coast Guard Engineering, 1941; scale 1/4" = 1'-0") [Donor list item number 38]	Flat Files	1941 September 10
800402064	PRINT 08727	Drawing [photocopy] : U.S.C.G. Cutter *Mangrove* : Inboard Profile and Superstructure Deck (Drawing No 27478; Washington, D.C. : United States Coast Guard Engineering, 1941; scale 1/4" = 1'-0") [Donor list item number 39]	Flat Files	1941 September 12

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800402065	PRINT 08728	Drawing [photocopy] : U.S. Light House Tender "Mangrove", Hull No 36, Outboard Profile & Sail Plan (Dr. No. 9603; Elizabeth, NJ : The Crescent Shipyard, undated; scale 1/4" = 1'-0") [Donor list item number 37]	Flat Files	undated