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HODGSON, PAUL A.:
Letters to Family From West Point 1911-1916

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The letters of Paul A. Hodgson, West Point graduate and career army officer, were deposited in the Eisenhower Library in February 1970 by Roy C. Hodgson and Grace M. Wright, surviving brother and sister of Paul Hodgson. In March 1970, Roy C. Hodgson and Grace M. Wright executed an instrument of gift for these papers.

Linear feet shelf space occupied:	-1
Approximate number of pages:	200
Number of items:	176

Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Paul A. Hodgson in these papers and in other collections of papers in the Eisenhower Library are reserved to Roy C. Hodgson and Grace M. Wright and, thereafter, to the people of the United States.

By agreement with the donor the following classes of documents will be withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to the Hodgson family and their private business affairs.
2. All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The letters of Paul A. Hodgson to his family in Kansas span the years 1911-1916. All but ten letters pertain to his West Point experiences. Entering West Point in 1911, Hodgson was a classmate and roommate of his fellow appointee from Kansas, Dwight D. Eisenhower. A simple chronological arrangement has been followed as all letters concern life at West Point from a student viewpoint. Academics, athletics and social functions are activities described by Hodgson in these letters. Several letters also mention Dwight Eisenhower and thus provide a close contemporary insight into many of his experiences at West Point.

Hodgson's final letters (September, 1915 to February, 1916) were written after graduation while he was attending the Army's engineering school in Washington, D.C.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Paul A. Hodgson was born in Latham, Kansas on November 19, 1891. In 1911 he received the appointment to West Point Military Academy from the eighth Congressional district of Kansas. Throughout his four years at West Point he distinguished himself in academics. He graduated eighteenth in the class of 164 in 1915. On the athletic field he also excelled. In football, he was a star on the first undefeated Army team of 1914. He also participated on the varsity baseball and basketball teams, and in track broke the then existing Academy records for the high jump and broad jump. Injuries, however, kept both him and his roommate, Dwight D. Eisenhower from achieving greater fame in athletics.

Following West Point, P. A. Hodgson attended Army Engineer school in Washington, D.C. In World War I he joined the 11th Division with the 211th Engineers but not in time to go overseas. He married Anne Davis on August 8, 1925. Tours on the West Coast and Washington, D. C. followed by graduation from the Command and General Staff School at Ft. Leavenworth seemed to be preparing him for new opportunities. Then illness struck him in 1941. After several months in Fitzsimmons General Hospital, P. A. Hodgson was ordered to be retired for arthritis, a disease which has afflicted him mildly since his West Point days.

Then with the outbreak of World War II, he was recalled to active duty as the Executive Officer of Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where he remained until August 1945, gaining his promotion to Colonel and the award of the Legion of Merit. He then retired to California. P. A. Hodgson died October 7, 1955 at the Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco at the age of 63.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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1	“Four Years at West Point” (compiled summary of letters) and biographical sketch of P. A. Hodgson by Mrs. Roy Hodgson.
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Paul A. Hodgson Letters June 25 - Dec. 31, 1911

Paul A. Hodgson Letters Jan. 5 - June 9, 1912

Paul A. Hodgson Letters June (?) - Dec. 29, 1912

Paul A. Hodgson Letters Jan. 13 - June 3, 1913

Paul A. Hodgson Letters Sept. 8 - Dec. 28, 1913

Paul A. Hodgson Letters Jan. 2 - June 22, 1914

Paul A. Hodgson Letters Aug. 2 - Dec. 6, 1914

Paul A. Hodgson Letters Jan. 3 - June 6, 1915

Paul A. Hodgson Letters Sept. 19, 1915 - Feb. 13, 1916

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