

MARBOIS (JOCK) DE PAPERS

Two versions of de Marbois' autobiography, and six letters relating to his naval career in World War II.

EXTENT: 1 box

Gift of the Queen Elizabeth II Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jock de Marbois was the youngest son in a family which had served for several generations in India and the British islands in the Indian Ocean. His childhood was spent on one of these islands not far from the Seychelles, where he acquired his love of the sea and ships. In 1901 when he was about 12 years old, he was able to achieve his desire of going to sea by shipping as a "deck boy" on a sailing vessel from Melbourne.

After several experiences of this sort he made his way to England. After a year at school he was qualified to enroll as a naval cadet in 1904. He then entered the Royal Navy, serving with distinction through the First World War, and only leaving the service when the war invalidated out, in the mid-twenties. He was placed on "emergency reserve" at that time.

After trying farming in Africa, he and his wife emigrated to western Canada. Here de Marbois tried various jobs, the most successful being teaching in a small rural school in the foothills.

In the mid 1930's, he moved to Toronto where he had been hired as an instructor of modern languages at Upper Canada College. When the Second World War broke out, he was summoned at once to Naval Headquarters in Ottawa. Because of his considerable war-time experience in Signals, he was sent to Bermuda for a refresher course in submarine detecting. Eventually he was to establish and run the Signalling Division at Canadian Naval Headquarters.

De Marbois stayed in the service until 1948, when he retired to a farm in Ontario.

Container listing:

- Box 1     Marbois, Jock de. The adventures of little Joe Buggins, by Jock Mc Guffin. Typescript. An autobiography in 19 parts.
- Marbois, Jock de. The adventures of Little Joe Buggins by Jock McGuffin. Typescript of another version. With it are chapters of a third typescript of the same work, one chapter being Part 39 of the work and the other being an additional concluding chapter.

Six letters relating to de Marbois' naval career in World War II. Correspondents include Sir Charles Kennedy-Purvis, First Sea Lord of the Admiralty.