



Colonel F.B.T.W KOCH V.D.

[1855 – 1944]



**Colonel Koch was elected to Life Membership of the Club – possibly between 1910 and 1928
Then Captain Koch was Honorary Secretary of the Club in 1901.**

Felix Bernard Theodor Wilhelm Koch (known as Theodor) was born in 1855 in Bremen, Germany to Franz Johannes Theodor Koch and Johanna Antoinetta Hilfers.

He came to Australia in 1874 (aged 19) and spent a year in South Australia before moving to Queensland in 1875.

On 25 June 1878 he married Florence Boreham [born 1859 in Staffordshire, England – died 5 Jan 1939 in Brisbane], and they had four sons. They were significant in their own right and their biographies appear below.

He was a foundation member of the Club (1892) and was the Honorary Secretary in 1901.

Koch had a career in banking in Queensland. Amongst his appointments were: -

- 1875 Bank of NSW, Brisbane
- 1877 Bank of NSW, Bundaberg
- 1882 Bank of NSW, Rockhampton
- 1889 Bank of NSW, Clermont
- 1890 Gympie
- 1894 – 1906 Manager, Royal Bank of Queensland, Rockhampton
- 1906 Manager, Royal Bank of Queensland, Charters Towers
- 1913 – 1919 Manager, Royal Bank of Queensland, Laidley

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Colonel Koch was made a Justice of the Peace in 1901. He retired to Redcliffe; and was a Councillor of the Redcliffe Council in 1931. He was also a Past Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland.

His military postings and promotions (all in the Militia or Reserves) included: -

- 1876 Enlisted 2 Company Ipswich
- 1877 Sergeant – 10 Company, Bundaberg
- June 1879 Lieutenant – appointed to the Queensland Defence Force
- 1880 Captain in Bundaberg
- 1882 Rockhampton
- 1893 Moreton Regiment (OC C Coy)
- 1897 Major – Rockhampton
- 1902 Major – First (Moreton) Regiment
- 1906 passed LTCOL exams
- Lieutenant Colonel – Commanded Rockhampton Battalion
- 1915 Lieutenant Colonel – President, Laidley Rifle Club
- 8 Jun 1916 to Retired List with Honorary Rank of Colonel
- August 1918 – Colonel – Laidley Patriotic League

He was awarded the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers' Decoration (post-nominal letters VD).

Colonel Koch died on 1 September 1944 in Brisbane.

Colonel Koch's Four Military Sons

Felix Bernard Theodor KOCH



Born in Bundaberg on 10 Sep 1879

In 1908 he was an overseer at Gracemere, near Rockhampton (where his father had been a bank manager). In 1913 he was a dairy inspector in Atherton, and that year returned to Rockhampton as a clerk.

On 6 November 1914 he married Adeline Sarah Green (born 30 June 1880 - died 8 March 1962) and moved as a dairy inspector to Laidley (where his father was a bank manager).



Felix died on 20 Mar 1924 (aged 45).

His military career is summarised below: -

- 1896 Lieutenant, Moreton Regiment
- Jan 1901 3rd Queensland Mounted Infantry – Corporal, Sergeant. Slightly wounded at Koster River; Returned to Australia
- May 1901 25th Queensland Imperial Bushmen – Lieutenant.
7th Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse
- 1914 Enlisted - Lieutenant 9 Battalion
- 1915 ANZAC
- June 1916 invalided to UK and Australia and discharged

George Hilfers KOCH

Born in Bundaberg on 10 Nov 1880. He was a clerk in Rockhampton in 1908 and was living in Taringa, Brisbane in 1913, and in Kedron after World War Two.

On 30 Apr 1913 he married Ethel Ruby Huntington (born 29 Aug 1895 - died 5 Aug 1955).

George died on 17 Mar 1962 (aged 82).

His military career is summarised below: -

- 1894? Lieutenant Moreton Regiment
- 1902 Lieutenant 3rd Contingent; 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen; 7th Australian Light Horse. Awarded the South Africa Queens Medal with 4 clasps, and Kings Medal with 2 clasps
- 1914 Enlisted as #780 - Colour Sergeant, G Coy 9 Battalion
- 1915 ANZAC
- July 1915 Lieutenant
- March 1918 Wounded
- 1925 Ongoing war injuries from trench foot etc.
- January 1941 Enlisted in Brisbane (#Q67082)
- November 1941 Discharged as Corporal

Franz Richard KOCH

Born in Rockhampton on 2 Aug 1884.

He was a clerk in Brisbane in 1908 to 1913 and from 1919 to 1925 in Laidley (where his father was a bank manager).

Franz died on 6 December 1926 Brisbane (aged 42) and was buried at Lutwyche.

His military career is summarised below: -

- 1898? -1914 Captain – Militia service
- 1915 Enlisted as #306 - Colour Sergeant 15th Battalion (alongside his younger brother Harold)
- 1916 47 Battalion
- 1916 Second Lieutenant
- 1916 General Court Martial – France, “drunk and unfit for duty on troopship Caledonia”. Dismissed from service.
- Returned to Australia
- 1917 Temporary Warrant Officer, British Army



Harold Reginald KOCH

Born in Sandgate, Brisbane on 25 Aug 1885.

By 1908 Harold was working as a mill hand in Charters Towers (where his father was a bank manager). From 1909 – 1912 he worked as a clerk in Rockhampton. From 1913 to 1915 he had become the bookkeeper on Barfield Station, at Banana.

In 1914 he married Elizabeth Alford – this may have been short-lived as there is no further record of her.

After the war, he returned to his role as bookkeeper at Barfield, but by 1925 had moved to Laidley (where his brothers Franz and Felix lived) as a farmer.

He then lived on *Aliwa Plantation*, Gasmata in New Britain, New Guinea, as a planter until 1941 – prior to the Japanese occupation in February 1942.

At the time of his father's death in 1944, he was living at Windemere Road, Ascot.

He returned to the plantation after the war and died and was buried there on 24 March 1956 (aged 71)

His military career is summarised below: -

- September 1914 Enlisted as #557 - Sergeant, D Company, 15th Battalion (alongside his older brother Franz)
- May 1915 Second Lieutenant
- 1915 Wounded at ANZAC
- March 1916 Lieutenant
- March 1916 Captain
- June 1917 Military Cross (France)

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents