



# Castle Courier



## A Publication of the U.S. Army Engineer Museum

14296 S. Dakota Ave, Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo 65473

Jan-Feb 2015

To subscribe or unsubscribe send an email to [troy.d.morgan12.civ@mail.mil](mailto:troy.d.morgan12.civ@mail.mil)

It is hard to believe, but this is the fifth year of publication for the *Castle Courier*. The *Castle Courier* has proven a great way to keep friends of the Engineer Museum informed on what we are doing, and what our needs are. Thanks to each of you for making the *Castle Courier* and the Engineer Museum a success. ESSAYONS!

*Troy*

### Engineer Regimental Room Gets a New Podium.

About six months ago, the Engineer Regimental Command Sergeant Major pointed out that the podium in the Engineer Regimental Room was looking "very rough." He was definitely right! That podium was chipped, scratched, faded, and one of the 'E's had broken off.

Rather than repair the existing podium, which was ready for the fire wood pile, we opted for an entirely new design.

I put in a call to SSG Jared Wenzel, a CAD instructor at the Engineer School. After a short discussion to clarify my intent, SSG Wenzel went to work. In just two short days SSG Wenzel had a full set of plans drawn, which included many improvements over my original concept.

SSG Andre DeLaRosa's 12H ALC Class (that's BNCOC for you more seasoned Veterans) volunteered to build the podium. In late December, the podium was delivered to the Museum.

Construction plans for the podium are available on the Museum's website.



**The construction crew SSG Eric Kuderer, SGT Caleb Bradshaw, SGT Ronald Jarvis, SGT David Viera. SSG Andre DeLarosa, (far left) is the ALC instructor**



**Engineer Regimental Command Sergeant Major Kendrick (right) and 1st Engineer Brigade Command Sergeant Major Johnson (left) admire the Museum's new podium.**

### New Accessions.

The Museum Staff is constantly assessing the Engineer Museum's collection and Engineer material culture to determine which artifacts are needed to train today's soldiers and preserve Engineer history. These assessments develop the Museum's "needs list."

*Continued on page two*

## Opportunity for Authors and Unit Historians.

I was approached last fall by two Engineer Veterans with a great idea. Thousands of books exist from the Civil War, WW1, and WW2 written about individual units. These books are known as unit histories. Because of the personnel replacement system in Korea and Vietnam, few unit histories exist from these wars.

Cecil Brown, who wrote a history of the 630<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, and Dennie Pendergrass, co-author of the Vietnam history of the 589<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, are querying to see if other people are interested in writing a history of the unit they served with. The concept would be to hold a one-day writer's workshop at the Engineer Museum at Fort Leonard Wood. Topic covered would be; where and how to conduct research, how to find a publisher, ect. If you are interested in participating in this workshop please contact Dennie Pendergrass at [d.pendergrass@hotmail.com](mailto:d.pendergrass@hotmail.com).

*Continued from page one*

The Museum recently acquired three uniforms which had been on the needs list for a long time. The first uniform is a Herringbone Twill (HBT) fatigue shirt, which belonged to a Captain in the 127<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn of the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. This uniform has many of the characteristics of uniforms of the late 1940s and early 1950s. The owner polished all the black coating off the distinctive

13-star buttons so that they would shine. Above the "US ARMY" tape a parachutist badge is superimposed on the oval of the 127<sup>th</sup> Engineers.



The Museum actively seeks uniforms with pocket patches and loose pocket patches from Veterans. These items

*Continued on next column*

are rarely purchased, as there are many fakes being produced.

The second uniform is a British "Bush Jacket" worn by a U.S. Army Engineer Lieutenant who worked on the Ledo Road during WW2. Although not authorized, some troops wore foreign uniforms during WW2.



This British Bush Jacket has a theater-made Ledo Road patch on the left sleeve.



The third uniform recently acquired is an inter-war period tropical enlisted coat. These coats were issued to enlisted men serving in Hawaii, Panama, and the Philippines. This coat was worn by a corporal assigned to Company E, 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Regiment, Hawaiian Division. The unit patch is made of felt and has snaps sewn to the back so the patch can be removed during the laundering process. It is clear that the owner of this uniform took great pride in his appearance.

