



# Castle Courier



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

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

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The past few months have been challenging, yet fun. The 900-square-foot expansion to the World War Two and Vietnam Galleries is progressing well. We were finally able to purchase the Brockway truck that has been the Museum's number one priority for the past two years. You may recall an article last year about the Engineer Museum's certification inspection; I'm happy to report, we passed!

*Troy*

### New Accession.

For the past two years, AEA has been raising money to purchase a WW2 Brockway truck for the Engineer Museum. Thanks to the many friends of the Engineer Museum, the goal was finally reached. The truck arrived on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Brockway truck was used to erect the Treadway bridge. The Treadway bridge was the most common bridge used in WW2. The bridge was initially developed to support the Armored forces, but its versatility, light weight, ease of construction, and transportability, soon made it a favorite of the maneuver forces. The bridge evolved through three variants during WW2; each variant was supported by the Brockway truck.

The Treadway bridge was the Army's first divisional support bridge that could not be completely erected by hand. The Brockway truck was developed to assist in the erection of the



*M2 Treadway Bridge in Europe.*

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### Munson Donation.

Almost a decade ago, I met a truly great Engineer and American hero. Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Orville (Bill) Munson, had served in both WW2 and the Korean War. As LTC Munson told me his stories of being in the 48<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion in WW2, I could not help but notice the shadow box with row after row of medals hanging on his wall.

For years I corresponded with LTC Munson, and tried to get him to donate his medals to the Engineer Museum. He always replied that I would have to take my request up with his sons after he had passed.

In June of 2012, I was distressed to hear of the passing of my dear friend Bill Munson. Approximately a year later I contacted Bill's son, Curt Munson. After a family discussion, Bill's four sons decided to donate his medals to the Engineer Museum. The donation ceremony was planned for May 30<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the Monthly Engineer Round-up. All four of Bill's sons, their wives, and one of Bill's granddaughters were present at the ceremony. Following a moving speech by Curt Munson about his father, COL Secrist accepted the medals on behalf of the Engineer Museum.



*LTC (Ret) Bill Munson's four sons present his medals to the Engineer Museum.*

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bridge. The steel treadways, used to span between the pontoons, were too heavy to be emplaced by hand. The Brockway truck had a hydraulic A-frame, positioned at the rear of the truck, used to place the treadways.



*With the assistance of the A-frame from a Brockway truck, Engineers wrestle two treadways into position.*



*The Brockway truck, affectionately named "Bridge'it" arrived at the Museum on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. A treadway is visible under the A-frame at the rear of the truck.*

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*COL Secrist accepts the donation of LTC (Ret) Bill Munson's medals from Bill's son Curt.*

## **Vietnam Landclearers Visit Engineer Museum.**

This year will be the busiest year in the Museum's history for hosting Engineer reunion groups. The largest group visiting Fort Leonard Wood in 2014 will be the Vietnam Landclearers Association.

The Landclearers visited Fort Leonard Wood from 19 to 21 June. Dinner was served in the WW2 messhall of the Fort Leonard Wood Museum on Friday night. Over 150 Veterans and family members attended the dinner.



*The Friday night dinner catered by Vidies.*

At noon on Saturday the Landclearers convened in the WW2 chapel for a memorial service. Tom Randle, President of the Landclearers Association read a list of Landclearers who perished in Vietnam. This was followed by comments from Brigadier General Anthony Funkhouser, Commandant of the Engineer School. The reunion concluded with a dinner on Saturday night in the Museum's Engineer Regimental Room.



*Memorial service in the WW2 chapel.*



*Saturday dinner in the Engineer Regimental Room.*