



Castle Courier



A Publication of the U.S. Army Engineer Museum

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

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The last two months have been extremely stressful, with a few surprises. We were able to secure funding to have three vehicles restored, which will be the topic of an article in a future issue. Just as soon as I think I've seen everything, something will happen at the Museum to prove me wrong (see article on page 2). Over the past two months, we have received many fiscal donations to the Museum's Supplement Fund from the officers and NCOs attending courses at Fort Leonard Wood. I always say that if I hit the lottery, on the way home from work I'd tell my wife, "You figure out what to do with our lottery winnings, because I'm going to work in the morning.....I love my job!" This is true today more than ever thanks to the incredible support the Museum receives from our friends and benefactors. ESSAYONS!

Troy

New Accession

I am happy to report that the Civil War epaulettes discussed in a previous edition of *Castle Courier* have been purchased and arrived at the museum a few weeks ago. The Museum staff has been seeking funding to purchase these epaulettes for several



years. Once processed, the epaulettes will be displayed in the Civil War exhibit.

The epaulettes belonged to Major Frederick Prime.

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A New Standard is Set!

The Engineer Museum relies heavily on volunteers, and the 554th Engineers is the largest supplier of volunteers. Recently, Team Foxtrot of Engineer Captains Career Course set a new standard of support. During their time with 554, Team Foxtrot completed over 110 hours of volunteer service and made a cash donation of \$200.00 to the Museum.

The volunteer hours were spent constructing walls and exhibit cases that are part of the Museum's World War Two exhibit expansion.



Captains Brian Clason and Jeremy Nichols installing drywall.



Members of Fox Team, ECCC 03-13 (Captains Brian Clason, Stephen Vinski, Friend Solberg, Joseph Rohman, Jose Sala, James Smith, Briana Stremick, Jeremy Nichols, Kyoung-ho Park, Andrea Gongaware, Adam Nifong, Alex Chernushin, Sean Sullivan, Steven Pierce, and Major Samen al Habashneh) donating \$200.00 to the Engineer Museum.

I Do! I Do!

As I said in the introduction to the newsletter, this place never ceases to amaze me. Each year the Engineer Museum hosts several weddings in the World War Two era chapel, but I cannot remember having an engagement in the Museum.

March 22nd was just another late night at the museum for me as Engineer Officer Basic Course 02-13 conducted its dining out. During the intermission 2LT Tourabene asked if I could turn on the lights in the gallery. I, of course, agreed, but inquired as to the reason. 2LT Tourabene stated he wished to propose to his fiancée in the museum.



2LT Christopher Tourabene proposes to Ms Ashley Dean in front of the Engineer Museum's "Snag Boat" diorama.

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Prime graduated at the top of his West Point class in 1850. Commissioned an Engineer, Prime served in a series of Civil Works projects, including the construction of the fortifications of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Harbor.

Prime fought in the First Battle of Bull Run. He was wounded and captured while on reconnaissance near Mill Springs, KY on December 5, 1861. Prime was a prisoner of war until February 8, 1862. Once released, he joined General Grant as Chief Engineer of the Vicksburg Campaign. Prime was brevetted four times during the Civil War and ended the war with the permanent rank of major.

Following the Civil War, Major Prime worked on a series of Civil Works projects until disability forced his retirement on September 5, 1871. Prime died on August 12, 1900.

GI Jane Day

May 24th was a wonderful spring day at Fort Leonard Wood, reaching that rare not too cold, not too hot, and not raining condition that is so illusive this time of year.



Approximately a dozen women of Fort Leonard Wood Keepers of the Castle Club assembled in the Museum's World War Two area to perform a series of tasks their husbands do in the Army. The event was designed to build esprit within club, fellowship, and experience a few of the "hard" things their Engineer husbands do in the Army.



The Engineer Ladies assembled a footbridge, performed a land navigation course, mixed navigation with Fort Leonard Wood history, and ate a Meal-Ready-to-Eat (MRE) for lunch.

