



Castle Courier



A Publication of the U.S. Army Engineer Museum

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Mid Missouri is warming up! We can't really call it spring yet; what with snow one day and 60 degrees the next. Soon enough we will be mowing the lawns and working on our outdoor exhibits. My favorite part of the year is the reunion season, which runs from April to October. To date, we have four units scheduled to visit the Engineer Museum, five more that are conducting their reunion in Branson with a day trip to the Engineer Museum, three held elsewhere that Museum staff will attend, and three others that we will support with banners, posters, and door prizes. I also want to extend a huge THANK YOU to the many of you who are supporting the M290 restoration project. As of today, the Army Engineer Association has raised 17% of the money required to purchase the pan scraper. There will be an article in the next *Castle Courier* about the progress of this project.

ESSAYONS!
Troy

Huge Archival Addition

I spend a lot of time in antique stores, and I am always shocked at the number of old photographs I see. These photographs were family heirlooms at one point; now they're in a one dollar box in a junk store. I often wonder how many great Engineer photos end up in antique stores or, worse yet, in the trash.

In the past few months, the Engineer Museum received two huge donations of photographic material. The first was a collection of photographs from the estate of Major General (Ret) William Shuler. These included hundreds of photographs of Engineer operations in the Aleutian Islands and European Theater during World War Two. To call the second donation huge is an understatement: ten pounds of 4" x 5" negatives! That's an entire shoe box full of negatives.

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Engineer Museum Purchases Collection of Rare Engineer Insignia.

The Museum recently purchased a collection of Engineer insignia, containing some very rare items. The collection contains four pieces of Engineer staff insignia.



These were worn from 1900-1923 by primary staff officers at battalion and regiment. Obtained were: a service and dress Engineer quartermaster coat insignia, a service coat insignia for an Engineer adjutant, and a shirt insignia for an Engineer quartermaster.

This insignia was worn by battalion or regimental quartermasters. The regulation allowed for pin-on insignia, like the photo above, or embroidered insignia, like in the photo below. This insignia would have been worn on the cuff of a dress uniform.



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Below are examples of the photographs recently acquired by the Engineer Museum.

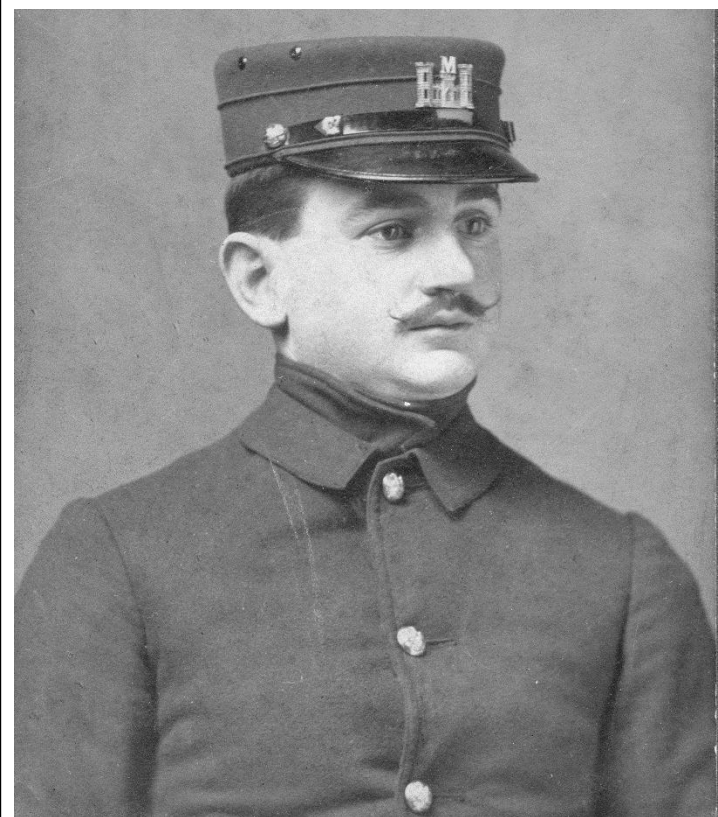


Many Engineer Veterans have photographs or slides of their service. I would challenge each of you to consider the long-term disposition of these valuable parts of Engineer history. Slides and photographs donated to the Engineer Museum are placed into archival sleeves, to protect them for hundreds of years. Many of these items are scanned and used in museum exhibits, to support posters for soldiers' barracks and training areas, and in publications.



Gilt Engineer hat badge.

This acquisition also contained a hat badge, worn by a member of G Company. Although this size insignia was authorized in 1896, G Company was not activated until 1901. In 1905 the insignia was reduced in size.



Also contained in this purchase was a French-made embroidered officer's collar insignia for a service uniform. This



was worn by an officer of the 23rd Engineer Regiment. The 23rd Engineers were a water supply regiment.