



Castle Courier



A Publication of the U.S. Army Engineer Museum

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Normally the timeframe between Halloween and mid-February are a slow period for the Museum; not this year. The past two month have been a world wind of activity. We have made many new purchases, a couple of which are featured in our new accessions column. Scott Franklin has been working diligently on the cataloguing backlog and ensuring the new accessions are processed in a timely manner. Steve Wells has been diligently working on a new piece of furniture for the Essayons classroom, while working with contractors and troop labor to advance both the Gallery 2 expansion and a project to support Fort Leonard Wood's 58th Transportation Battalion. At the writing of this newsletter, Scott and I are at "Show of Shows (SOS)." SOS is the largest Militaria show in the world. Held in Louisville, KY, every February, SOS gives the Museum staff a chance to interact with collectors and dealers from around the world. Every year we find incredible artifacts and cultivate relationships, which are essential to the long-term health of the Engineer Museum.

ESSAYONS!

Troy

D-Day and Engineer Special Brigade Exhibits Progressing Well.

The Engineer Special Brigade (ESB) Exhibit is nearing completion and the Engineers on D-day exhibit is advancing well. An Ike Jacket from Captain Carl Baswell was added to the ESB exhibit.

Carl wore this jacket in the late 1940's, while assigned to Fort Worden, Washington. This uniform is important as it illustrates the post-WW2 period, when most of the ESB assets were transferred to the Army Reserve and the ESB patch moved from the pocket to the left sleeve.



This patch indicated the wearer was assigned to an ESB. During WW2 it was worn on the left breast pocket. On 12 June 1946 this patch was moved to the left shoulder.

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Keepers of the Castle Builds Footbridge.



During their recent monthly meeting, the Keepers of the Castle learned about historical and modern Army bridging. The Engineer Museum Director presented a very short synopsis of the history of Army Bridging, then an instructor from the Noncommissioned Officers Academy gave a presentation on modern bridging. Then came the practical exercise. The spouses were divided into two groups. Each group had to assemble a three-boat, two-bay foot bridge; without any instructions or directions. Although the competition was fierce and the outcome close, one group prevailed. The Ladies at left won the competition.....Congrats Keepers!

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D-Day and ESB

COL Pratt and Mr. Earl Groves, from the Tulsa District, Army Corps of Engineers, traveled to Fort Leonard Wood, to donate an incredible map of a portion of Normandy, France. This map was used by MAJ Hunter of the 5th ESB on D-Day. This map will be scanned and enlarged to form the backdrop of the Engineers on D-Day exhibit. The uniform of Private Vinton Dove, who earned the Distinguished Service Cross on D-Day, will be the center piece of this exhibit. Rounding out this exhibit will be a U.S. Navy Model 1926 Life Preserver Belt. These were used by Army troops conducting amphibious operations during WW2.

New Acquisitions.

Army Engineer Association just mailed the check for the Scraper that they have been fundraising for over the past 20 months. We anticipate arrival mid-march. Thanks to the incredible support of our readers and the AEA, we are on track to have our Vietnam-era Clark 290M restored around mid summer. This will also be the timeframe that our new warehouse is complete.

We heard from several sources that the US Geological Survey was auctioning off copper map printing plates. The Engineer Regiment's recently retired former Regimental Chief Warrant Officer, Scott Owens agreed to purchase some examples for the Museum. Scott purchased and restored three examples. Thanks Scott, and congratulations in your new role as the President of the Sverdrup (Fort Leonard Wood) Chapter of AEA.

Another great recent find was a hand-tinted, hand



Copper map printing plate.



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Continued from left column (New Acquisitions)

painted albumen photograph of Lieutenant Colonel James Duncan Graham (1799-1865). This beautiful artifact dates from 1860. Duncan graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1817. In 1829 he was appointed to the Corps of Engineers as a topographic engineer, where he remained until his death in 1865.

We were recently blessed to hear of the sale of an incredible collection of patches from the magnificent collection of Dr. Mort Cohen. Understanding the important role of the Army Engineer Museum in preserving COE material culture and using these artifacts to educate today's soldiers, Dr. Cohen set aside those patches needed in the Engineer collection. Thank you to Dr. Cohen for his patience while the Museum staff processed the purchase request through the extremely cumbersome Army



SSI for the 1092nd Engineer Utilities Detachment.



SSI for the 1692nd Engineer Construction Battalion.

acquisitions process. These patches will be used to support a series of exhibits highlighting the many different roles the COE performed in the later half of the 20th Century. Other recent acquisitions include; a WW1 era galvanometer, several Engineer collar and lapel insignia, about 25 other patches, a collection of nine foreign mine training aids, 9 chevrons of the 1872 and 1884 models, and a collection of 43 Engineer unit newspapers.