



Castle Courier



A Publication of the U.S. Army Engineer Museum

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

Mar-Apr 2014

The last two months have been phenomenal! We had a few key artifact donations, several cash donations, and 18 Engineer reunion groups confirmed to visit the Engineer Museum this year. I am also proud to report that we just received a \$300.00 grant to provide materials to print a new brochure for the WW2 buildings.

The Museum's two major exhibit projects are progressing well with one scheduled to open in late April, or early May. If you should find yourself anywhere near Fort Leonard Wood, please stop in. Seventy percent of the Museum has been renovated in the past three years. ESSAYONS!

Troy

The Show of Shows.

Each year, during the last week in February, the largest militaria show in the United States is held in Louisville, Kentucky. Museum Staff attend this show looking for artifacts, and fellowshipping with dealers and collectors.

This year was probably the best year ever. We were able to purchase three artifacts and had four more donated to the Museum. Additionally, we were able to get leads on several more artifacts.

The two patches, below, were donated to the Engineer Museum at the Show of Shows. The left patch was worn by members of the 24th Engineer Battalion's Atomic Demolitions Platoon. The right patch was worn by members of the 306th Engineer Dump Truck Company.



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The Missing Mine Detector.

The Engineer Museum has many mine detectors, and our goal is to have one of every standardized model issued to Engineer units. The Museum's collection is lacking just two mine detectors: the AN/PRS-7 and AN/PRS-8. Both these mine detectors were used early in the Vietnam War.

In mid-February, I received a call from one of our many benefactors. He had found an AN/PRS-7 on Ebay and wanted to purchase it for the Museum. I quickly verified that the detector on EBay was the correct model and that it was complete. The benefactor then purchased it for the Museum.

The entire Museum Staff was very pleased when the mine detector arrived in the mail a week later. The mine detector is being cleaned and catalogued. It will then be placed in the Museum's mine detector exhibit. The Museum is still looking for an AN/PRS-8 Mine Detector.



The AN/PRS-7 is the rarest of all the Army mine detectors. Most of the AN/PRS-7s were upgraded to AN/PRS-8s. The two detectors shared the same housings, but the AN/PRS-8 had upgraded electronics. The only visible way to tell the difference between the two detectors is by the data plate.

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Another donation was a set of Engineer Captain's knots. This style of knots was worn from 1872 to 1902. One of the Museum's top priorities for 2014 is to purchase insignia and uniform accoutrements needed to complete the Museum's study collection. Donors wishing to assist with this goal, should contact the Museum Director at email:

troy.d.morgan12.civ@mail.mil



Late 19th Century Engineer Knots.

Wish List.

The Museum Staff is currently working on a 900 square foot addition to the Museum's Chronologic Gallery. The additional gallery space will encompass World War Two through Vietnam exhibits. This addition is scheduled to open in late 2015. The staff is now researching and preparing exhibits to occupy the new space.

This "Wish List" column will run in the Castle Courier over the next year. The Museum Staff is relying on our many friends and benefactors to help locate and acquire the artifacts that will be needed to fill the gallery expansion.

We are currently seeking photographs and artifacts that relate to unit clubs in Vietnam. The club token, at left, or other items like beer mugs or signs, could be used to support future exhibits. If you have any items, please contact the



Museum Director via phone at (573) 586-6720 or email at: troy.d.morgan12.civ@mail.mil

Progression of the Gallery Expansion.

I am happy to report that the 900 square foot expansion to gallery 1 is almost a full year ahead of schedule.

Thanks to soldiers from the 554th and 94th Engineer Battalions, the exhibit should open some time in the Spring of 2015.

Students from the Captain's Career Course installed low-profile metal

studs to a brick wall, then installed sheetrock and plywood to the studs. Meanwhile, other students



Above, members of Echo Team install sheetrock and plywood.



finished the rough framing of exhibit cases and attached plywood to the framing. A third group disassembled an exhibit from the MP Museums, so the metal studs could be reused.

Left plywood is being installed in what will become the "Divisional Engineers in Vietnam" case. This plywood will later be covered with sheetrock and painted.