The 10th Engineers (Forestry), Camp American University, Washington DC, 1917. FS Photo

Editor's Note: Most of this article was taken from How the American Army Got Its Wood, Percival S. Ridsdale, Special Souvenir Edition, American Forestry Magazine, Number 306, Vol. XXV, June 1919, pp.1137 – 1151. It is printed without editorial changes. The photos came from 100 Years of Federal Forestry, Forest Service Publication #402. The personal recollection of Sergeant Smith (page 4) is from the Ed Smith Collection of the National Museum of Forest Service History, Missoula, MT. Smith was an early Forest Guard on the Lassen National Forest and became a Forest Supervisor, working for the Forest Service for over 40 years. Smith was one of the many Forest Service men who ended up in the 10th and 20th Engineers (Forestry) in WWI. It is interesting to look into his diaries from 1917, just before he entered the Army. They show that he and several other Forest Service men were working for the War Department before entering the Army.

General Pershing had scarcely landed in France before he realized that great quantities of lumber were necessary for the Army, which was preparing to follow. The shortage of shipping at that time due to the submarine campaign made it impossible to ship the lumber from the US. Fortunately, France had the timber, although she did not have the men who could cut it for any forces other than her own. Accordingly, General Pershing sent an urgent cable to the War Department calling for lumberjacks and foresters to constitute a force of trained men who could get out an immense monthly supply.

He said in effect that it would be useless to send fighting men unless they could first be supplied with lumber and that forestry troops should be sent first. Docks, warehouses and railroads had to be built, and wood was needed for a hundred other purposes. The War Department, therefore requested the US Forest Service to assist in the formation of a forest regiment.

This was the beginning of the 10th Engineers, composed of two battalions of three companies each, which it was thought at first would be sufficient for the purpose. Plans for the organization of this regiment began in the early summer of 1917, shortly after the United States entered the war. Trained foresters and lumbermen were gathered from all parts of the country.

Through its district representatives, the Forest Service was able to reach the operators and the lumber companies, the sawmill owners and the loggers, who had men skilled in all branches of the profession. Graduates and students of the forestry schools enlisted. These men came to the American University Camp, which was established at Washington, District of Columbia, in the midsummer of 1917; and in the beginning of September were on their way to the other side. They arrived in France in the early days of October, and were all at their assignments by the first of November.

In the meantime plans for sending over a much larger army than had been anticipated and for shipping the troops with the greatest possible speed, necessitated the formation of another forest regiment. This was the 20th Engineers, the first two battalions of which were ready to proceed to France early in November, while the others kept following as fast as they were organized until March, 1918. Another regiment was being formed at the time Germany quit. The 20th Engineers was commanded by Col. W. A. Mitchell, a regular army officer.

Continued on page 3
From The President

The past few months have been exciting for the museum and for me. The museum is in the process of acquiring archives and artifacts from the Angeles National Forest. The collection of materials is to be delivered to Missoula, Montana around the second or third week of April 2003. Under the able hands of Mr. Harvey Mack (Forest Service, retired), these materials were solicited from many sources over a period of time. The Cleveland National Forest originally commissioned Harvey to display what was acquired at Corona, California, but the resulting collection was later transferred to the Angeles NF. This collection is now known as the Harvey Mack Collection. It will be a significant, quality addition to the National Museum of Forest Service History's existing collections. Thanks to the two National Forests, to Harvey Mack and to the collection's contributors for making it available to our museum.

The Museum's Board of Directors commissioned several of its members to recommend the outline for a strategy to implement a capital campaign for the construction of the first sizable exhibit building at the museum site. The recommendation was presented at the January 9, 2003 Board Meeting and subsequently sent to the remainder of the Board across the nation for their consideration and comment. Further action by the Board is scheduled for the February 13th meeting. This is a positive step, and, as a result, members of the museum should realize that they have a strong, resolute, resourceful and hard working Board of Directors.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the NMFSH and the U.S. Forest Service, covering our mutual relationship, is being negotiated with the Washington D.C. Office. The signing of this document will take place soon.

As for me, I decided to step down as President and therefore instructed the Chair of the Nominating Committee not to consider my name as a possibility to continue in that position. Fourteen years as President is probably long enough. I made this decision about a year ago not to continue after this past year was over. A Transition Team has been appointed and in concert with the Board's Executive Committee and the Executive Director their tasks are to carry out the business of the museum and to nominate a new President.

It's been a great ride! I've enjoyed it. The enjoyment came because of the people I was working with, locally and across the country.

Thanks for the opportunity.
Gary G. Brown

From the Vice President

Dave Stack

Our dream is to build a museum in Missoula, Montana filled with informative and interesting displays dedicated to the history of the National Forest System, the U.S. Forest Service and it's employees. Gary Brown has been our President for most of the organizations' existence. Gary is stepping down as President in April to become a member of the Board. I commend Gary for leading this organization in fine fashion for many years. We have accomplished much with minimal resources.

To fulfill our dream we are now beginning a Capital Campaign to raise funds to build a Museum in Missoula, Montana. I ask members to generously support our Annual Giving Program. Our budget this year is about $15,000 in deficit. We also need to recruit a new President. 2003 is a year of transition for the Museum.

The Capital Campaign is national in scope and donations will be solicited from a wide spectrum of individuals, businesses, foundations and government. We'll need members from around the country to assist the campaign. Local members are needed to support campaign planning and administrative needs. The initial campaign phase - 3 to 6 months - will focus internally preparing information, brochures, etc. The Campaign Support Group comprised of a small group of Board members will complete much of this work.

At the January Board meeting Gary Brown appointed a Transition Group. Their job is to search for a president and to identify transition issues. The group has looked at organ-
and a West Point graduate, whose previous services fitted him admirably for this work. Colonel Mitchell was later transferred to the 2nd Engineers, known as the "Fighting Engineers" and cited for bravery. When the 10th Engineers and 20th Engineers were combined into one regiment, Colonel Woodruff took command of the United Force.

The American foresters and lumbermen knew they had their work cut out for them when they arrived in France, but they were impatient to get on with the job. Originally it was figured that they would have to get out about 25,000,000 feet of material a month, but these figures kept mounting until in September, 1918, they turned out 42,000,000 board feet, while for the six months ending in March, 1919, in preparation for the big spring drive which would have started then if the war had not ended when it did, the stupendous total of 450,000,000 feet of lumber for the American Army.

When the 10th Engineers was formed it was the first time a United States army had organized and equipped troops for systematic forest engineering. Immediately after the need became known, Henry S. Graves, Chief Forester of the United States, with the rank of Major in the Reserve Engineer Corps, went to France to prepare for the forestry work there and to make arrangements for the acquisition of cutting rights in the Forests. Later Major Graves was commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel. With him went Capt. (later Major) Barrington Moore. They landed in France in June, 1917; and before Colonel Graves left France in January, 1918, the 10th Regiment and a considerable portion of the 20th Regiment also had arrived and were producing wood for the American Army.

Two months after Colonel Graves reached France he was followed by Wm. B. Greeley, Assistant Forester, United States Forest Service, who had been commissioned a Major on the regimental staff of the 10th Engineers in this country, but who was needed to take charge of organization work in France. Later he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel and made chief of the entire forestry section under Colonel Woodruff, and in April, 1919, was decorated by the French with the Legion of Honor. Colonel Greeley was accompanied by two officers, First Lieutenants Stanley L. Wolfe and Clarence E. Dunston, and nine civilians, all of whom were later commissioned. These men were Theodore S. Woolsey, Jr., Donald Bruce, Swift Berry, R. Clifford Hall, Ralph G. Strahm, Fred B. Agee, William H. Gibbons, Joseph Kittredge and W.H. Gallagher.

Major Woolsey, who was, in April, 1919, made a Lieutenant Colonel, became a member of the executive committee of the Comité Intérallie de Guerre, which was organized before Colonel Graves returned from France to avoid competition among the British, French and American armies in the purchase of timberland. Captain Bruce and Captain Kittredge served under Lieutenant Colonel Peck in the fuel-wood project in the advance section. Capt. R. Clifford Hall served under Major Woolsey, and the other men named also held important posts.

It was not necessary to give the men of the both Regiments any special training, in forestry or lumbering methods before they left the United States, for they were picked men, chosen because of their proficiency in their special work, while the clerical force was selected because of their actual knowledge of keeping lumber accounts and similar information. So during their stay at American University the men were given what military drill was required for administrative and disciplinary purposes. Colonel Graves reports one of the men to have remarked after they got to the other side: "We're not much on drill, but we're hell on cutting down trees." After they landed in France a large part of their actual military equipment was left behind at the various supply stations. As a rule they took with them to their camps about one-tenth of their guns.

"We are here, and mighty darned glad that we are; We are busy as beavers and are going to do our bit and then some in this war." This is what Capt. John D. Guthrie of the Forestry Engineers, wrote home shortly after his arrival in France. The fact that they did not get into the active military end of the game does not detract in the least from the invaluable service they rendered. In the highest sense it was of the greatest military importance, for the Army could not have moved forward or maintained itself without the endless streams of lumber which were turned out. It is almost impossible to exaggerate the value of wood supplies as a factor in military operations.

In the general order which he issued after the signing of the armistice, Colonel Woodruff, after declaring that the Army at that time was "well supplied with lumber," added:

"When tides were called for in large quantities to support the advances of our troops at St. Mihiel and in the Argonne, they were ready. At practically every dock project, deliveries of piling and lumber were well ahead of the construction. In other words, the Forestry Troops have made good on the work for which they were brought to France."

LTC W. B. Greeley, the Assistant Chief Forester of the United States and the Chief, Forestry Section for the 20th Engineer Regiment, wrote:

"The lumbermen and foresters of the United States may well take pride in the men who have represented them on the American Expeditionary Force. Now they are returning, better men for the sacrifices they have made, for the sense of organization and responsibility which they have learned, for the difficulties which they
From the Museum’s Collection

In the last issue of the Newsletter I printed a picture of an old Forest Service ration bag. My hope was that it would strike a chord with someone and I would receive some responses. The picture achieved that goal and I present you with those stories.

“You asked for stories associated with the emergency forest fire ration put out by Northern Region (Region 1)”.

“I used those during the summer of 1942 while working at Echo Lake for the Eldorado N. F. As I recall, the cloth sack contained a can of meat, canned fruit and a tasty can of brown bread. Probably other items needed for one man's day survival were also included”.

“My immediate predecessor at Echo Lake, Clay Hansen, told me he had put a can of the brown bread in the wood cook stove oven to warm it, and failed to punch a hole in the can's end. The resulting explosion blew the oven door off. Hence, I benefited from a brand new cook stove”. Scollay C. Parker, Placerville, CA (USFS Retired).

“The last issue of the newsletter prompted a few memories. I was traveling over Crow's Nest Pass in Alberta when I first learned of the quake that had hit in Montana the previous evening. Apparently a similar event had taken place in the 1880s at that location, giving rise to the Frank Slide, which wiped out a construction camp on the Canadian Pacific Railroad. The landscape was littered with house-sized chunks of the mountain, which had collapsed south of the pass. It struck me at the time that the two events had much in common”.

“The picture of the fire ration bag brought back a lot of memories. I've eaten my share of those meals! I recall that they were much tastier than the K rations that followed left over from WWII. The Boston Brown bread in its can at the bottom of the bag was really great when heated up by putting it in boiling water prior to opening the can. The Kraft cheese in the little olive drab tin was especially good–had a picture of an elk on the lid as I recall. Of course, the small cans of fruit, grapefruit, etc. helped splice together a pretty fair meal”.

“I hope the old shop facility of MEDC provides a temporary storage to fill the present lack of space while the museum site can be developed beyond the Bungalow RS residence. Keep up the good work”. Frank Lewis, Shelton, WA, (USFS Retired).

War...Continued from page 3

have mastered, and for the understanding which they have gained of forest culture and forest thrill in France. Such a body of trained men represent an asset of the utmost value to the forest industries of America. Let us recognize their worth and their capacity by an intelligent direction of the return of these soldiers to civil life in positions where their experience in national service can be effectively utilized.”

There are other perspectives. Sergeant Ed Smith of Company F, 10th Engineers (Forestry) had this to say about his service. This recollection was written in 1955 and is taken from the Ed Smith Collection at the National Museum of Forest Service History, Missoula, MT. Ed served in the Forest Service as a Forest Guard and became Supervisor on the Lassen NF in California. It is printed here exactly as it was written.

Memo For Sweetheart:
Re. Your request about Wes. Hoatelling.

He was in Co., F. of the 10th. Engineers Forestry. This Co in fact the whole Regiment was broken up and Co. F. was called the 37th Co. of the 20th. Engineers after we were established in France.

The 10th. Engineers were a Volunteer Outfit which made it bad as we had too many Skills with no place to use em. Many men had to just be laborors when they were qualified to Leadership. Wes like the rest took it and made the best of it. He could be kidded about the Manure Squad who were located near Lievua, in the Dept of Doubs. The Soldiers called the town Liver. The Manure Squad were so named because in the rural area the Girls and the Cows lived under one roof, The cows Did it and the Gals had to shovel it out, which somewhat discolored their Legs Below the Knees. But after being away from other Gals for long periods of time, Wes overlooked these small items, as we all did, or covered up the soiled parts with silk stockings, which were unknown by the poor Gals until after the Co., had its first Pay Day. Wooden Shoes gradually went out of their lives after the second Pay Day, and as we were there over a year most of the Gals had everything any Gal in the States had, might ask Wes if he can remember this little Item.

From Ex. Mess Sargent Bully Beef Smith known to Wes and the Boys as the Gut Robbing S.O.B.
Vice President...Continued from page 2

izational roles for the next few years recognizing that these roles will evolve and change as we move ahead. Part of this effort involves the following considerations: 1) How to become more national in scope; 2) How to facilitate participation of officers and board members who reside outside of the Missoula area; 3) How to make the most effective use of the Board of Directors; and 4) How, over time, we add broader expertise and geographical scope to the Board of Directors.

To meet new challenges the role of the President will change. Our President will provide organizational leadership and direction to achieve our mission of the Museum. More administrative duties will be assigned to the Vice-President and Executive Director. To accommodate out-of-area officers/directors telephone conference calls and perhaps videoconferencing when feasible may become standard for Board meetings. These issues require input from the President and Board discussion before reaching a decision.

We are reviewing our Mission Statement to ensure the Capital Campaign will attract wide public support. The focus may be on the National Forest System. A decision on the mission will not occur for several months and only after more study and NMFSH member feedback.

Our tasks are challenging, but we can succeed and carry on our traditions if we work together to accomplish our dream.

Dave Stack, Vice-President

Progress Report

Over the past two months we have been working on our collections storage room at the Catlin St. building in Missoula. Thanks to volunteer help from Gary Brown, Jack Fisher, Dave Spores, Dave Stack, Dale Johnson, and the Trapper Creek Job Corps and the donation of shelving from High- Noon Petroleum in Missoula, MT, we now have a very nice collection storage area that has been painted and shelving installed.

Board member and volunteer Mike Hardy has acquired two hygrothermographs and has been monitoring our environmental conditions and we can say that the artifacts entrusted to us will be in very good care.

Thanks to all for the help and thanks to our membership for continuing to support our work and making projects like this one possible.

WHOA! STOP! DON'T DO IT!!!!

By Mike Hardy
Archives Committee Chair

I'm reminded of the slogan of a waste disposal company: "Your garbage might be our bread and butter."

Were you just about ready to dump all those old, yellowed, crumpled files you or your parent saved all those years, for nothing? Or those shoulder patches, prizes, awards, so uselessly kept on a dusty shelf for no better place to shove them?

The answer, my friend, might be to contact the NMFSH and see if those items are of interest to the Museum. We have acquired many wonderful donations of both paper stuff and little and large items. We might be interested in whatever you can afford to part with. (It is not really parting, it is sharing.) Our ninety some boxes of documents are already being delved into by persons needing to know something about someone or some incident or something.

Particularly valuable are diaries, memos to others or even yourself, directives and orders to districts, persons, etc., plans, correspondence, retirement notices, party plans, memoirs and unpublished recollections, oral histories, most anything you are fairly sure is not filed in a library or formal repository.

Same for artifacts: gadgets, inventions, signs, trail or section line markers, photo enlargements, old instruments of any sort, plaques, mementos, pre-1930 FS uniforms (we have a lot of post 1930 uniforms), whatever. Just be sure to contact us before sending anything. We want to make sure we are not duplicating items in the collection.

When sending your what-evers, send them to the Museum address on your Newsletter, at your expense please. We need all the dollars we can get our hands on as well as your other donations. We will NOT archive the dollars, however.
Annual Giving

In December, our membership received a letter discussing an Annual Giving Campaign for 2003 started in late 2002. We set a goal of $50,000.00. As of this printing, we have received about $7,000.00. We are a long way from our goal.

As a private, not-for-profit educational institution, we are very much dependent on our members for our existence. For the past decade, our members have helped support the formation of this institution. We have made some very significant strides toward our goal of creating a museum that tells the story of our National Forests, conservation and the agency that has spearheaded this work.

We have been restoring the old Bungalow Ranger Residence on our site. We planted over 100 trees and have dug a well and run irrigation lines to those trees to help them grow. We have established an administrative office and collections storage facility. We have been collecting and preserving the material culture history of the FS for over 10 years. We have hired an Executive Director. We are on the verge of opening our first public operation during the summer of 2003 with a public exhibit highlighting 100 years of National Forest, Forest Service and conservation history.

In short, we need your continued support in the form of donations to help us reach our goal of $50,000.00. This goal will help us continue on our path to success. Please consider giving and we thank all those who have given so far. Your generosity is so very much appreciated and are tax deductible.

Monetary Donations
11/1/02 to 1/31/03

Mrs. Donald E. Allen in memory of Donald E. Allen
Lynn R. Biddison
Gary G. Brown
Charles W. Burk
Robert Carlson
Dick & Carole Carson
Ray Connelly
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A huge thank you goes out to all those listed above.
Your help is very much appreciated and needed.
Membership Application
Fill out, detach, and mail to: National Museum of Forest Service History, P.O. Box 2772
Missoula, MT 59806-2772

Name: ___Mr. ___Ms. ___Dr._ ____________________________________________________________________________ Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: __________________________________________________________________ Daytime Ph.: _____________________________

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Membership Categories Annual Dues

| Individual | $30 or more |
| Family     | $55 or more |
| Contributing | $150 or more |
| Sustaining | $300 or more |
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*These are optional

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Get your NMFSH merchandise here! Reduced Prices on Posters!

“Guardian of the Headwaters” by Monte Dolack: A print dedicated to the men and women of the Forest Service on the 100th Anniversary of the USDA Forest Service. $20.00+$6 S&H unsigned, $75.00+$6 S&H signed and numbered, 25¢ for postcards.

NMFSH Cap: White w/ forest green bill and NMFSN logo, or solid green w/ white logo, cotton, adjustable, $12 ppd.

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“Conservation Motifs” Notecards: same design as the poster (with envelope) $1 each ppd.

“They Hired Out To Be Tough Booklet”: A short history of the FS published by the NMFSH. $5.00 each

Send check or money order only to: National Museum of Forest Service History
P.O. Box 2772
Missoula, MT 59806-2772
Please allow 3 weeks for delivery of all items
The Forest Rangers

The season's over and they come down
From the ranger stations to the nearest town
Wild and wooly and tired and lame
From playing the "next to Natures" game.
These are the men that the nation must pay
For "doing nothing," the town folk say.
But fact are different, I'm here to tell
That some of their traits run right through--well,
Woods and mountains and desert and brush.
They are always going and always rush.
They camp at some mountain meadow at night
And dine on a can of "Rangers Delight"*
Get up in the morning when the robins sing
And break their fast at a nearby spring,
And then they start for another day
With corners to hunt and land to survey.
That trouble settled they start for more,

They're never done till the season's o'er.
They build cabins and fences and telephone lines,
Head out the homesteaders and keep out the mines.
There's a telephone call, there's a fire to fight;
The rangers are there both day and night.
Oh, the ranger's life is full of joys,
And they're all good carefree boys,
And in wealth they are sure to roll and reek,
For a ranger can live on one meal a week.

*Rangers Delight--canned tomatoes

The above masterpiece of amateur poetry was found in a Ranger cabin in the Eldorado National Forest. This editor found it in the Ed Smith collection, NMFSH