Col. Clarence Eugene Dentler Collection

Creator: Clarence Eugene (C.E.) Dentler, Colonel (1859-1955)
Dates: 1896-1935
Quantity: .5 linear feet, 2 document boxes
Identification: PMML ID# 320850, OCLC# 33651216, Call# PAPERS 000023
Citation: [Document Title]. The Col. Clarence Eugene Dentler Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.
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Finding Aid: Written by Rebecca Redinger, July 2008; Updated by Andrea Martinez, 2018

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Biographical Note

Clarence Eugene Dentler was born in Pittston, Pennsylvania on April 9, 1859 to Jacob and Clarissa Dentler. He attended Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, PA, the Pennsylvania Cadet Military Academy, and the United State Military Academy at West Point, NY. In 1884 he joined the 6th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army. On June 15, 1884 he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. In the spring of 1891, Dentler was further promoted to 1st Lieutenant with the 27th Infantry. Later that year he was transferred to the 11th Infantry.

In 1896, Dentler became professor of Military Science and Tactics at the Oregon Agricultural College (currently Oregon State University). He taught there for one year, at which time he became a captain in the 11th Infantry, Company D. A year later he was transferred to the 5th Infantry, and then back again in April, 1899. During this time, the United States was fighting the Spanish-American War. It is unclear which battles Dentler fought in, however, he was considered a veteran of the war at his burial in 1955.
Following service with the 11th Infantry in Holguin, Oriente, Cuba, and as a Customs Collector in Puerto Rico, Dentler was transferred to the 23rd Infantry and stationed at the Infantry and Calvary School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In 1918 he served as Colonel at the Student Army Training Corps, Plattsburg Barracks in New York. Soon afterwards he was assigned as Senior Inspector-Instructor with the 34th Infantry, 16th Division.

By 1930 Dentler had left the military and was living in Portland, Oregon with his family working as a life insurance salesman. Dentler had married Delia Elizabeth Gellatry on September 12, 1894, while stationed near Portland, Oregon. The couple had three children, John, Jeanette and Robert.

Clarence Eugene Dentler died on April 2, 1955. He is buried next to his wife (d. 1951) at the Vancouver Barracks Post Cemetery in Vancouver, WA.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The collection contains military publications including a package from the War Department with General Order booklets and equipment requirement lists; an Office of Division Inspector-Instructor training manual; and S.A.T.C., Plattsburg Barracks drill schedules. There are also course catalogs and a photo montage from the Oregon Agricultural College. The remainder of the collection consists of photographs and booklets from various Infantry stations across the country. Separated from the collection are three books.

Arrangement

The collection arrived with no discernable arrangement and was rearranged in a more efficient working order by PMML staff. The collection is contained within two archival boxes.

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Related Collections

Dr. William B. Dunning Collection
Separated Material

The Hayseed of the Oregon Agricultural College (1894)
LD4348 .A38
Buxton, Austin (ed.)

Military Code of the State of Oregon (1909)
UA43 .O7 1909
Oregon National Guard Adjutant General’s Office

Rules and Regulations of the Oregon National Guard (1910)
UA385 .O74 1910
Oregon National Guard Adjutant General’s Office

Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library’s online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Names

Dentler, Clarence Eugene (C.E.).
Oregon Agricultural College

Subjects

Spanish-American War-- 1898
United States-- Army-- History
United States-- Army-- Infantry-- Drill and tactics

Container List

Box One

Folder One Package from War Department
Envelope addressed to Major C.E. Dentler, 23d Infantry, Portland, Oregon—October 30, 191?
Note written on envelope: _______ giving th- _Equipment required by each company of Infantry U.S. Army and notes fro Inspector Generals:
Circular No. 85 W.D. 1908—Method reimbursement for inspector for militia where expenses exceed mileage

Folder Two
Package from War Department
Pamphlet—Equipment required by Infantry, U.S. Army

Folder Three
Package from War Department
“Department of Military Art: The Army School of the Line, 1909-10”—Course in Tactics and Maps
“Military Map Reading”

Folder Four
Package from War Department
“Text and Reference Books in Use at the Army Service Schools, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas—1910-11”

Folder Five
Package from War Department
“War Department General Order” 16, 1916
66, 1910
73, 1907
95, 1908
104, 1906
141, 1909
145, 1909 (2 copies)
172, 1908
221, 1907
222, 1907

Folder Six
Drill Schedules—Student Army Training Corps, Plattsburg Barracks, NY
Weeks of July 19, 1918
   July 26, 1918
   August 5, 1918
   August 12, 1918
   August 19, 1918
   August 26, 1918

Folder Seven
Items from Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington
Souvenir Booklet—Vancouver Barracks, WA—1921
List of graduates and former cadets—1935
“Military Code of the State of Oregon”—1921
American Legion Roster—Portland, Oregon—1920
Folder Eight  Oregon Agricultural College
Catalogue—1896-97 (2 copies)

Folder Nine  Oregon Agricultural College
Photo montage—buildings on campus, pencil drawings

Box Two

Folder Ten  Office of Division Inspector-Instructor, 16th Division
Training schedule and instructions

Folder Eleven  Office of Division Inspector-Instructor, 16th Division
Original binder/folder

Folder Twelve  Photograph
O.A.C. Cadets and Officers—1908-1909

Folder Thirteen  Photograph
Officers at Camp Summers, Columbia Beach, Oregon

Folder Fourteen  Manuals/handbooks
“Fire Training Manual, 34th Infantry and Oregon National Guard”—
written by C.E. Dentler
“Guard Manual for Non-commissioned officers and Privates” written
by John Bordman, Jr.