NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

1929 - 1970



A guide to select federal archives related to the Army Corps of Engineers' South Atlantic Districts

> NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT ATLANTA

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HISTORICAL NOTE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a long history within not only the United States, but throughout the world in foreign conflicts, peace missions, and humanitarian aid and disaster relief. The Corps of Engineers' origins can be traced back to 1775 when the Continental Congress created the office for a Chief Engineer in the Continental Army, with several assistants. The Corps of Engineers was officially established in 1802 by Thomas Jefferson at West Point.¹

Looking forward to World War I, the Corps of Engineers met the call of duty by providing a multitude of support to troops on the ground in the European theatre:

Not only did the Engineers provide American Combat divisions with the officers and men to staff the 1,660-man engineer regiments that were part of each combat division, they also built the port facilities, roads, and railroads needed to bring essential war material to the front; harvested timber for military construction; employed searchlights in anti-aircraft defense; organized the first U.S. Army tank units; and developed chemical warfare munitions and defensive equipment.²

The Great War consisted of warfare that the world had not yet seen and the Army Corps of Engineers brought the change needed for swift conditioning in tactics and strategy. With the advent of World War II the Corps deployed Combat Engineers who performed the same caliber of work as they had in World War I, except this time in two theatres of war: Europe and the South Pacific. It was common practice to rebuild devastated infrastructure on the front in France and Germany as the Allies pushed forward into the German homeland—and the structures still remain today.³ At the end of the war, conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States seemed inevitable, and the follow through of the Manhattan project would change the social fabric of the United States on the whole. The Corps of Engineers "provided the technical expertise required for this mammoth construction project,"—the Manhattan Project.⁴

On the Home front, repercussions from these wars, and the Cold War, had lasting impact on how military bases of all branches were changing; facilities, air bases and Army installations were being rigorously updated throughout the 1950s and 1960s to meet a new era of preparedness and

preemptive capabilities. For the South Atlantic Division (SAD) however, after World War II ended, the Division found themselves becoming increasingly a civil works organization, with military budgets shrinking drastically.⁴ Ironically enough, with the creation of such a massive military industrial landscape during the new found atomic age, SAD's construction during this period consisted of civil works projects. Until the Korean and Vietnamese conflicts, SAD's budget and works were low key:

After the victory at Inchon, UN forces began to push the North Korean forces back to the vicinity of the Chinese border. In November 1950, the Chinese army attacked the UN forces, again sending them in retreat to the south. By mid-1951, the Korean War was essentially in a stalemate, with neither side making any true gains. Although peace talks began that year, a truce was not signed until 1953. SAD Division Engineer Bernard L. Robinson knew immediately after the invasion of South Korea that the need for military construction would skyrocket. He ordered the Division staff to study mobilization plans and requirements, and he changed the military construction borders to follow the state lines. This would enable districts to share all responsibilities equally. All North Carolina military construction went to the Wilmington District. All South Carolina work except Fort Jackson went to Charleston. Savannah District took on Fort Jackson and received all of Georgia except Fort Benning and Lawson Air Force Base. The Mobile District received all of Alabama and Mississippi, Fort Benning and Lawson Air Force Base in Georgia, all of Tennessee west of Nashville, as well as Holston Ordnance Works and Cambria Range. On April 1, 1951, the Nashville District received responsibility for construction in Tennessee and was placed in SAD.⁵

This excerpt from History of the South Atlantic Division of the US Army Corps of Engineers, 1945-2011, as well as this historical note, may shed light on the construction trends of the archival holdings listed in this finding aid.

The Army Corps of Engineers today remains to be the oldest and preeminent civil as well as military architectural and geographical workforce in the United States, with continuing peace operations and works in the Middle East, as well as projects at home.

Please consult the source material cited in this note for further research as well as the further reading on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

ORGANIZATION OF THIS FINDING AID

This finding aid is organized in such a way that the "tubes" listed denote the fact that the entirety of content in each respective folder is exactly what was in the tubes preceding the transfer. One tube = one folder, and is labeled as such. As well, notice under the section of the contents titled "RG77, no accession number listed," there was indeed none listed. This may also be the case with tube numbers. You will find that folders marked "Tube?" will correspond with the folder/tubes in this aid that do not have a tube number.

If it is the case that the chronology of the material is out of order or does not make sense, please be advised that this only reflects exactly what the corresponding label contains.

Folders are grouped with District Offices, as well as accession numbers, listed in the table of contents, but are mainly organized in this guide by folder chronology.

Please notify staff of any questions pertaining to this organization.

MATERIAL EVALUATION

The following pages, 6-8, contain the Original Records Transmittal and Receipt form (st. form 135, July 1961) included with this section of the record group. The succeeding pages include evaluation of archival holdings. Only records in 72A0328 were processed, as shown on the Receipt (see sticky note in PDF format). Any other accessions listed on this Receipt that are not listed in the following evaluation are indeed not included and not a part of the original receipt.

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RG77, acc. # 72A0328

Tubes 1 – 25

Savannah, Charleston, Jacksonville, and Mobile Districts

Tube 1

Location: Corps Engineer District Panama City and Jacksonville, FL

Includes: Residual Oil Terminals

Period: Jan. – Feb. 1943

Approximately 12 documents. Information includes plans and details from archival holdings pertaining to the Jacksonville, FL district office.

*This tube did not have listed acc. 077-72A0328. It is however in RG77.

Tube 2

Location: Charleston Air Field, Charleston, SC. Corps Engineer District Charleston.

Includes: Small Arms Range, Layout Plans. Training facilities: Range, Rifle, Known Distance; Observation Tower and Latrine, Alphabetical Layout Area. Memo routing slip.

Period: March – August 1953

Approximately 43 documents.

Tube 3

Location: Charleston Air Field, Charleston, SC. Corps Engineer District Charleston.

Includes: Building Specs: Squadron Operating Buildings, Enlisted Quarters, Officer's Quarters, Headquarters Building, Base Command, Base Operations, and Alphabetical group sectors.

Period: December 1951 – June 1952

Approximately 60 documents.

Tube 4

Location: Charleston Air Field, Charleston, SC. Corps Engineer District Charleston.

Includes: Plot Plans and Building Specs: Auto Maintenance Shop, Airmen's Dorm, Mess and Admin Building.

Period: Aug. 1951 – March 1952

Approximately 51 documents.

Tube 5

Location: Charleston Air Field, Charleston, SC. Corps Engineer District Charleston.

Includes: Specs and Plans: Bachelor Officer's Quarters, Airfield, Airmen's Dormitories, Women's Dormitories, Mess and Admin Buildings.

Period: Aug. 1951 – March 1952

Approximately 67 documents.

Tube 6

Location: A) Dahlonega, GA, and A) Dobbins Air Force Base, Marietta, GA. <u>Corps Engineer District</u> Savannah.

Includes: A) Ranger Expansion: Addition to Storage Building, Mechanical and Electric Plan, Black Farm Ranger Camp, Plans and Specs, Latrine and Modified Engineering Type Construction, Settling Basin and Clearwell, and Misc. minor MCA projects. B) hanger Organizational Maintenance: Electrical Details, Mechanical Part and Plan Details, Hanger Door and Fabric Closure details. Automatic Sprinkler Systems: Building 742 and 733.

Period: April – May, August 1968, and October 15, 1962.

Approximately 52 documents.

Tube 7

Location: Charleston Air Force Base, Charleston, SC. Corps Engineer District Charleston.

Includes: Plans and Specs: Radio Communication Transmitter and Receiver Building Sight Plan, Base Warehouse Longitudinal Bracing, Plumbing and Heating, HQ, Base Maintenance Shops.

Period: April – May 1952.

Approximately 63 documents.

Tube 8

Location: Charleston Air Force Base, Charleston, SC. Corps Engineer District Charleston.

Includes: Base warehouse plans. Inverted: Plans for Squadron Headquarters, Airmen Dorms, and Mess Hall.

Period: April – August 1954.

Approximately 50 documents.

Tube 9

Location: Ft. Gordon, Augusta, GA. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Training Facilities: Rifle Squad Tactical Ranges, Control Tower. Range Improvements: Machine Gun Range, Combat Firing Range. Alterations, misc.: Electrical, Water and Gas, Architectural Buildings.

Period: September 1968

Approximately 19 documents.

Tube 10

Location: Ft. Gordon, Augusta, GA. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Outdoor Training Facilities: Sanitary Sewerage System. NC Highway Commission, Raleigh, NC: Detail of Reinforced Concrete End-walls, Pipes and Details, adapted for Ft. Gordon. Repairs and Alterations to Hospital Boiler Plant: Electrical Plan, Gas and Water.

Period: 1968

Approximately 33 documents.

Tube 11

Location: Hunter AAF, Savannah GA. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Modifications to Commissary.

Period: 29 February 1968

Approximately 26 documents.

Tube 12

Location: Hunter AFB, Savannah, GA. Ft. Benning, Columbus, GA. <u>Corps Engineer District</u> Savannah.

Includes: Training Site plans, Bachelors' Officers' Quarters, Building type-17 Plans. Repairs to Cobra Nose documents.

Period: 1966 - 1969

Approximately 49 documents.

Tube 13

Location: Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Sanitary Systems, Alterations to E.M. Barracks Complex, Admin and Storage Building Repairs, Central Heating and Refrigeration Plant.

Period: 1967 and 1969

Approximately 35 documents.

Tube 14

Location: Moody AFB, Valdosta, GA. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Flight Training – Basic: Plans and Details.

Period: 21 March 1968

Approximately 52 documents.

Tube 15

Location: Moody AFB, Valdosta, GA. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Shop A/C, Paint, and Corrosion Control, Composite Medical Facility, Warehouse Supply and Equipment. **Period**: 1967

- 1968. Approximately 22

documents.

Tube 16

Location: New Bern National Cemetery, New Bern, NC. Pope AFB, Fayetteville, NC. <u>Corps Engineer District Savannah</u>. Ft. Rucker, AL. <u>Corps Engineer District Mobile</u>.

Includes: New Bern: Alterations to Cemetery. Pope: Auto Maintenance Administration, BOQ, Plans and Details. Rucker: BOQ Plans.

Period: 1968 – 1969.

Approximately 40 documents.

Tube 17

Location: Pope AFB, Fayetteville, NC. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Auto Maintenance Shop Additions. Corps of Engineer Division Ohio River, Division Labs, Mariemont, OH: Non Reinforced Aircraft Rigid Pavement Joint Details—adapted for Pope AFB. Taxi Runway Access and Replacement.

Period: 1960 and 1968.

Approximately 50 documents.

Tube 18

Location: Pope AFB, Fayetteville, NC. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Airmen Dining Hall: Plans and Details.

Period: 20 February 1969

Approximately 30 documents.

Tube 19

Location: Robins AFB, Warner Robins, GA. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Communication Base Additions, Maintenance Docks: Alterations and Additions, Chapel Center: Plans and Specs.

Period: 1967 – 1968

Approximately 63 documents.

Tube 20

Location: Robins AFB, Warner Robins, GA. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Logistical Facility Depot, and Electrical Repair Shop.

Period: 1967 – 1968

Approximately 48 documents.

Tube 21

Location: Robins AFB, Warner Robins, GA. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Open Storage Base Alteration (AFCS), Additional Lighting to Buildings 300 and 301, Organizational Maintenance Shop.

Period: 1968 – 1969

Approximately 53 documents.

Tube 22

Location: Robins AFB, Warner Robins, GA. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Alterations to Industrial Steam Plant.

Period: 16 August 1965

Approximately 40 documents.

Tube 23

Location: Ft. Stewart, Savannah, GA. Hunter AAF, Savannah, GA. Seymour Johnson AFB, Goldsboro, NC. <u>Corps Engineer District Savannah</u>.

Includes: Stewart and Hunter: Construction, Alterations, Maintenance, and Repair Projects, Facilities for Fixed Wing Training. Topographical maps: Aviation Training Facilities, and Arial Gunnery Ranges. Seymour Johnson: Target Intelligence Training Building—Plans and Details.

Period: 1968 – 1969

Approximately 60 documents.

Tube 24

Location: Travis AFB, also Travis Airport, CA. Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City, OK. <u>Corps Engineer District Savannah</u>.

Includes: Storage, Jet Fuel. Standard Air Base Tank Form – Facilities to supply Aircraft Refueler Trucks Only. Travis Airport: Rocket Storage Checkout and Assembly Building. Created by Corps Engineer District Kansas City, adapted by Corps Engineer District Savannah. Tinker: Maintenance Dock,

A/C. Created by the Corps Engineer District Ft. Worth, adapted by Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Period: 1958 – 1968

Approximately 65 documents.

Tube 25

Location: Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Construction Completion Charts, Progress Charts, and Logs. Hand drawn and printed charts.

Period: 1950 – 1969

Tubes 2-9

Savannah District

Tube 2

Location: Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville, NC. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: ASA Facilities: Hardstand Tactical Equipment Shop, Concrete Pavement, Drainage. Battalion

Repair Shop.

Period: 1962 – 1967

Approximately 33 documents.

Tube 3

Location: Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville, NC. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Battalion Motor Repair Shop: Elevations. Admin and Supplies.

Period: 1953 – 1967

Approximately 50 documents.

Tube 4

Location: Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville, NC. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Auditorium with Stage: Landscape Plans.

Period: 4 April 1967

Approximately 38 documents.

Tube 5

Location: Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville, NC. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Alteration, Replacements, and Maintenance. Mock-up tower for Airborne Training.

Period: 1967 – 1968

Approximately 55 documents.

Tube 6

Location: Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville, NC. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Relocate and/or Replace: Coffee urns in Mess Halls, Showers in Barracks and BOQs, Construct Latrines in Existing Buildings, Barracks Roof Plan, Windows in Pools, Nursery and Theatre A/C units, Water Lines for BOQ.

Period: May 1968

Approximately 50 documents.

Tube 7

Location: Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville, NC. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Repairs and Utilities Shops: Lighting and Floor Plans.

Period: 1967

Approximately 40 documents.

Tube 8

Location: Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville, NC. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Repairs and Utilities Shops: Mechanical Details, Grease Rack, Mechanical Equipment. Demolition and Location Plans.

Period: 1967 – 1968

Approximately 40 documents.

Tube 9

Location: Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville, NC. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Repairs and Utilities Shops: Architectural and Roof Plans.

Period: February 1967

Approximately 37 documents.

Tubes 1, 1

Savannah District

Tube 1

Location: Ft. Benning, Columbus, GA. Corps Engineer District Savannah.

Includes: Cross Section Drawings for Training Facility Project.

Period: 1969

Tube 1

Location: Atlanta Army Depot, Atlanta, GA, and Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville, NC. <u>Corps Engineer District Savannah</u>.

Includes: Army Depot: Industrial Waste Treatment Plant. Ft. Bragg: Install Range Hoods and Hand Rails, Central Heating and Refrigerating plant added, General Sanitary Sewer Map.

Period: 1965 – 1969

Approximately 70 documents.

RG77, acc. # 067A0981

Memphis District

Tube 12A of 14

Location: Mississippi River. Corps Engineer District Memphis.

Includes: Mississippi River Channel Improvement: Hydrographic Surveys from Cottonwood through to Sunflower including all islands and towns.

Period: 1961 – 1962

Approximately 20 documents.

RG77, acc. # 060A0440

Memphis District

*Tube 13 of 19

Location: Mississippi River. Corps Engineer District Memphis.

Includes: Mississippi River Surveys for Contract Works: Island Surveys, KY.

Period: 1929 – 1945

Approximately 35 documents.

*Warning: The documents in this folder are fragile and tear easily.

Tube 15 of 19

Location: Mississippi River. Corps Engineer District Memphis.

Includes: Mississippi River Contract Works First Field Area: Surveys and Dike Construction for towns and islands in Tennessee and Kentucky.

Period: 1933 – 1934

Approximately 50 documents.

RG77, several accessions

Memphis District

Tube 2 of 13 - *either 62A0573 or 75A2093

Location: Mississippi River, Hickmann Reelfoot, KY. Corps Engineer District Memphis.

Includes: Mississippi River Bank Protection: Mattress Cross Sections.

Period: 1948 – 1952

Approximately 30 documents.

*This is due to a label discrepancy. Printed (on the tube label) is 62A0573, however, 75A2093 is written, and the same succession number is both written, as well as printed.

RG77, no accession number listed

No tube number listed.

Charleston District

Tube?

Location: Savannah River Plant, Savannah, GA, SC. Corps Engineer District Charleston.

Includes: Savannah River Plant: Boring Logs (SC side of the river).

Period: 1951

Approximately 25 - 30 documents.

Tube?

Location: Savannah River Plant, Savannah, GA, SC. Corps Engineer District Charleston.

Includes: Savannah River Plant: Boring Logs. Geological Investigations: Plant Area, Sink Exploration. Resistivity, and Seismic Surveys (SC side of the river).

Period: 1951 – 1952

Approximately 30 - 40 documents.

Tube?

Location: Savannah River Plant, Savannah, GA, SC. Corps Engineer District Charleston.

Includes: Savannah River Plant: General Plan, Cone Sound Data, Plate Bearing Test Data (SC side of the river).

Period: 1951

Approximately 34 documents.

RG77, no accession number listed

Memphis District

Tube 1A of 6

Location: Mississippi River, Kangaroo Point, Corps Engineer District Memphis.

Includes: Mississippi River Channel Improvements: Head of Island 21, Tenn. Dike construction Pile and Stone.

Period: 1962 – 1968

Note: The accession number listed for these documents, # 069A1308, does not show up in NARA's records.

Approximately 60 documents.

Tube 1B of 6

Location: Mississippi River, Dismantle Point, AK. Corps Engineer District Memphis.

Includes: Mississippi River Surveys: Friars Point, Miss., Densford, TN, Dismal Point, AK, Forked Deer, TN: Dike Construction.

Period: 1966 – 1967

Approximately 15 documents.

* The accession number listed for these documents, # 069A1308, does not show up in NARA's records.

Tube 1A of 13

Location: Mississippi River, Ohio River. Corps Engineer District Memphis.

Includes: Mississippi River Bank Protection: Mattress Cross Sections. Ohio River Bank Protection: Mattress Cross Sections.

Period: 1949 – 1957

Approximately 41 documents.

*The accession number listed for these documents, # 069A1306, does not show up in NARA's records.

Tube 1B of 13

Location: Mississippi River, Ohio River, Beckwith Bend and Belmont, MO. <u>Corps Engineer District Memphis</u>.

Includes: Mississippi River Bank Protection: River Cross Sections. Ohio River Bank Protection.

Period: 1939 – 1954

Approximately 16 documents.

*The accession number listed for these documents, # 069A1306, does not show up in NARA's records.

NOTES & REFERENCES

- 1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters, Alexandria, VA. *The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: A History*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2008, 15.
- 2. Ibid., 123.
- 3. Ibid., 143 145.
- 4. Ibid., 147.
- 5. Brockington, Paul E., Ralph Bailey, Jr, Charles F. Philips, Jr, and F. Patricia Stallings. *History of the South Atlantic Division of the US Army Corps of Engineers*, 1945-2011. Mobile: US Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division, 2012, 33.
- 6. Ibid., 34.

Further Reading:

- Armstrong, Ellis L., Michael C. Robinson, Suellen M. Hoy. *History of Public Works in the United States*, 1776-1976. Kansas City, MO: American Public Works Association, 1976.
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