

ENGINEER PROFESSIONAL READING LIST (updated Sept 2011)

OVERVIEW/GENERAL READING

Moran, *Anatomy of Courage* Various publishers -- \$12.00 new paperback

Synopsis: This is a classic study of the human dimension of combat and examines the soldier's reaction to the stresses of combat. The author was a physician during WWI and Winston Churchill's personal physician during WWII. It provides excellent insights into a leader's responsibility to his/her soldiers in combat

History Office, USACE, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: A History*

Online at USACE <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-68/toc.htm>

Synopsis: This book surveys the basic timeline, key figures, important events, and various roles performed by Army engineers. It is a mixture of chronological narrative and topical chapters that deal with the combat and non-combat activities of engineers. Reading this book gives the broad context in which to place other books on this list.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Martin, *Private Yankee Doodle* Various publishers -- \$6.95 new paperback

Synopsis: Martin's book is the only personal memoir for an engineer in the American Revolution, and it is arguably the most detailed, personalized, and significant memoir by a Continental soldier from that conflict. Martin served in the Corps of Sappers and Miners, reaching the rank of sergeant by Yorktown in 1781. Martin helped construct the siege works at Yorktown.

19th CENTURY HISTORY OF ENGINEERS

Traas, *From the Golden Gate to Mexico City - The U.S. Army Topographical Engineers in the Mexican War, 1846-1848*

Online at USACE <http://www.history.army.mil/books/mexico/topo/contents.htm>

Synopsis: A former engineer officer, Traas writes one of the few works dealing with the Topographic Engineers and the role they played in one of America's little known wars. It shows the roots of the application of terrain and topographic expertise to the demands of maneuver and combat.

Smith, *Engineering Security: The Corps of Engineers and the Third System Defense Policy, 1815-186*

\$54.00 hardback new and \$33.00 used

Synopsis: Drawing on a wide range of sources, Smith traces the development of the Corps of Engineers' efforts to construct coastal defense fortifications between the War of 1812 and the American Civil War. This book examines the personalities of the prominent Engineer officers, the design changes of the fortifications, and the financial costs and administrative activities of USACE.

CIVIL WAR

Hess, *In the Trenches of Petersburg: Field Fortifications and Confederate Defeat*

\$31.00 hardback new and \$20.00-30.00 used

Synopsis: This is the third in a trilogy of books by Hess examining fortifications and trench warfare in the Civil War. Hess analyzes engineer activities during the construction phases and

operational phases of the Petersburg siege in 1864 and 1865. This book includes chapters on the ponton bridge across the James at Weyanoke Point and the entire Battle of the Crater. Hess also provides background and detailed information on engineer officers of the Union and Confederacy.

McDonald, ed., *Make me a Map of the Valley: The Civil War Journal of Stonewall Jackson's Topographer- Jedediah Hotchkiss*

Southern Methodist University Press – \$17.95 paperback – 1,000 in stock

Synopsis: Archie McDonald tells the story of one of the Civil War's least understood staff officers- the topographer. It is an excellent account of the actions and contributions of the topographic engineer in one of the most difficult and bloody wars in American history.

Owen, "*Dear Friends at Home...*" *The Letters and Diary of Thomas James Owen, Fiftieth New York Volunteer Engineer Regiment, During the Civil War*

Online at USACE <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-16/toc.htm>

Synopsis: This is a rare personal account of an engineer soldier during the Civil War. It provides an eye-witness account of several of the pivotal battles of the war, to include the opposed crossing of the Union forces at Fredericksburg.

WORLD WAR II

Austin, *One Man's War: Through the Lens of a Combat Engineer*

\$49.95 in glossy color paperback – On-demand www.onemanswarbook.com

Synopsis: Austin's book combines lavish color photographs with candid personal memories of his years as an enlisted engineer in an armored engineer battalion in Europe during World War II. He tells what engineers actually did in the campaigns in 1944 and 1945. Austin's photographs give visual perspective to his well-written story that is not available in any other book.

Faustina, *Memoirs of an Engineer Lieutenant in World War II*

\$25.00 in paperback – On-demand www.rosedogbookstore.com/

Synopsis: LT Faustina was an officer in a general service regiment and a combat engineer battalion during WWII. His personal account is an excellent story of the ground level of engineer operations and the leadership needed at the platoon level of war. His interactions with his soldiers and NCOs constitute a first-rate study of small unit leadership. This is a superb companion volume to the classic *G.I. Journal of Sergeant Giles*.

Fowle, ed., *Builders and Fighters: U.S. Army Engineers in World War II*

Online at USACE at <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-42/toc.htm>

Synopsis: This book is an anthology of chapters written by leading engineer historians. It covers all aspects of engineer activities and operations in World War II and thus gives the reader an idea of the breadth of the engineers' contributions to American military mobility, counter-mobility, and survivability during that conflict.

Hall, ed., *Love, War and the 96th Engineers (Colored)*

\$18.99 in paperback – On-demand www.booksurge.com

Synopsis: This is a very detailed and personal account of a young white officer in a black engineer unit in WWII. The personal stresses of war, including separation from family, and the challenges of leading troops generally denied recognition because of their race, are the core stories of this young engineer. It also provides excellent insights into the role of the engineer construction unit in the Pacific Theater.

Pergrin, *First Across the Rhine: The 291st Engineer Combat Battalion in Belgium, France, and Germany*
\$17.95 in paperback and \$9.99 on Kindle

Synopsis: COL Pergrin's history of his unit, the 291st Engineer Combat Battalion, is the best single account of a combat engineer battalion in war. It is an outstanding account of challenge and leadership in Europe in WWII. The value of the engineers in the Battle of the Bulge and the crossing of the Rhine River is clearly evident in Pergrin's story.

KOREAN WAR

Bussey, *Firefight at Yechon: Courage and Racism in the Korean War*

\$25.00 -- paperback

Synopsis: Bussey's book is significant for three reasons. First, it is one of the rare books on combat engineers during the Korean War. Second, it is based on the author's own experiences as an engineer in that conflict. Third, it deals with issues of institutionalized racism in a U.S. Army in the midst of its transition from being a segregated force to becoming an integrated force.

Fowle and Lonquest, eds., *Remembering the "Forgotten War": U.S. Army Engineer Officers in Korea*

Online at USACE at <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-66/toc.htm>

1,000 copies in stock at USACE

Synopsis: This book is a collection of excerpted oral history interviews with engineer officers regarding their service in the Korean War. Because the officers ranged in rank from junior officers to flag officers, there are lessons to be gleaned by all current engineer officers reading this book. The photographs provided added visual reinforcement of what the veterans' recollections describe as often horrendous conditions.

Farquhar and Jeffers, *Bridging the Imjin: Construction of Libby and Teal Bridges during the Korean War (October 1952-July 1953)*

Online at USACE at

<http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-32/toc.htm>

Synopsis: The authors have written a brief but detailed account of a major engineering challenge during the Korean War. It is an excellent case study of lines of communications construction during a fluid operational situation.

VIETNAM WAR

Dunn, *Vietnam Studies: Base Development, 1965-1970*

Online at CMH at

<http://www.history.army.mil/books/Vietnam/basedev/index.htm>

Synopsis: This is one of the first studies of facilities construction in support of both ground combat and the larger operational demands of war. Vietnam was the first conflict that blended both military performed construction and contractor supported construction. It would be a tremendous baseline case study of general engineering in contingency operations followed by studies of the same requirement in Desert Shield/Desert Storm and the Global War on Terrorism.

Ploger, *Vietnam Studies: U.S. Army Engineers, 1965-1970*

Online at CMH at <http://www.history.army.mil/books/Vietnam/Engineers/index.htm>

Synopsis: MG Ploger was Commander, U.S. Army Engineer Command- Vietnam. His book is a general overview of engineer activities from the first commitment of ground troops to 1970. Although general in nature, MG Ploger does provide brief discussions of some of the more critical elements of the engineer story in Vietnam such as the lines of communication

construction program and land clearing teams. Until the publication of Adrian Traas' work on Vietnam, this will be the only general overview of the engineers in Vietnam in print.

Traas, *Engineers at War*

Online at CMH at <http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/091/91-14-1/index.html>

Synopsis: Traas outlines the combat and construction roles of Engineers during the Vietnam Conflict. He traces the early days when the Engineer served as advisors and then the later period when reached deployment of 500,000 American service personnel to Vietnam. The Engineers contributed to the war effort in terms of mobility, counter-mobility, survivability, sustainment, and topographic roles.

MIDDLE EAST

McDonnell, *After Desert Storm: The U.S. Army and the Reconstruction of Kuwait*

Online at USACE at <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-58/toc.htm>

Synopsis: Janet McDonald was a staff historian for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She wrote an overview of the efforts of engineers in DS/DS, focusing on the rebuilding of Kuwait. The book is particularly valuable as an account of the infrastructure work done by engineers and contractors following the end of hostilities.

Schubert, *Building Air Bases in the Negev - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Israel, 1979-1982*

Online at USACE at <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-31/toc.htm>

Synopsis: In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Corp of Engineers performed a number of construction tasks at OCONUS locations. Mickey Shubert has documented with significant detail, the processes and events surrounding one of those construction projects. It would be an invaluable companion work in the study of general engineering, infrastructure engineering, and host nation support.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT BOOKS ON ENGINEER HISTORY -- AVAILABLE AT CLARKE LIBRARY, VIA INTERLIBRARY LOAN, AND USED ONLINE

Beck, et al., *The Corps of Engineers: The War Against Germany*

CMH -- GPO -- \$48.50

Synopsis: This is the best single volume dealing with the engineers in the European Theater of Operations in WWII. It provides good coverage of both combat engineering and general engineering support. It would support a number of professional development studies ranging from river crossing operations to lines of communication construction.

Berger, *Breaching Fortress Europe: The Story of U.S. Engineers in Normandy on D-Day.*

Society for American Military Engineers – Out of stock.

Synopsis: Sid Berger was an engineer veteran who served on the beaches at Normandy. This is the best detailed account of the engineer effort at creating the beach obstacles and organizing the beaches to support the forward movement of maneuver forces. It contains a reference section that explains the types of beach obstacles used by the Germans.

Dod, *The Corps of Engineers: The War in the Pacific*

CMH -- GPO -- \$22.00

Synopsis: Karl Dod's book is a part of the Center of Military History's four-volume history of the Corps of Engineers in WWII. It covers a wide range of subjects including the ALCAN Highway, the Ledo Road project, base construction in the Pacific, and combat engineering.

McDonald and Matthews, *Three Battles: Arnaville, Altuzzo, and Schmidt*
CMH -- GPO – \$46.00

Synopsis: This is one of the most valuable volumes in the Center of Military History's collection on World War II. It is of particular value to engineers. Arnaville was a river crossing operation, Altuzzo is a first-rate study of small unit leadership, and Schmidt was the pivotal battle in the Hurtgen Forest campaign. In the latter case, engineers played important roles. This volume could support numerous individual and collective reading programs and studies.

Giles, *Damned Engineers*

Online at <http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015028473737>

Synopsis: Giles' book has the tangible value of offering NCOs, junior officers, and field grade officers invaluable lessons about leadership, courage, teamwork, and the significance of combat engineers in counter-mobility operations in the most desperate of circumstances. This book also has the intangible value of being an attention-keeping read about the Battle of the Bulge.

Giles, ed., *The GI Journal of SGT Giles*

Synopsis: This is a companion volume to *Damned Engineers*. Written by Janice Holt Giles, the wife of SGT Giles, and based on his diaries and letters, it gives a very personal view of life in an engineer combat battalion during WWII.

Schubert, *Vanguard of Expansion: Army Engineers in the Trans-Mississippi West*

Synopsis: Engineers were key to the opening of the American West. Mickey Shubert's book is an excellent, concise treatment of the exploration, surveying, and construction completed by topographic engineers and Corps of Engineers officers. It provides the foundation for the country's efforts to develop the west as a continuing part of the nation-building efforts of generations of soldiers and civilians.

OUT OF PRINT – AVAILABLE AT CLARKE LIBRARY, VIA INTERLIBRARY LOAN, AND USED ONLINE

Thienel, *Mr. Lincoln's Bridge Builders: The Right Hand of American Genius*

Synopsis: Thienel, a former engineer officer, has written extensively on the engineers in the Civil War. This work details the many bridging projects of the Union army during the conflict. He makes an excellent case for the argument that bridging was the primary task of the engineer in the Civil War and that bridging operations significantly affected military operations.

Twitchell, *Northwest Epic: The Building of the Alaska Highway*

Synopsis: *Northwest Epic* is an award-winning history of the construction of the ALCAN Highway. The highway was arguably one of the greatest engineering feats of the war. The efforts of the engineers and the conditions they had to endure and covered well in Twitchell's account.

Hill, *A History of Engineering in Classical and Medieval Times*

Synopsis: Hill's book demonstrates that, during the pre-modern and pre-industrial eras, many engineering efforts were focuses on and initiated because of military needs and applications. These involved siege works, fortifications, roads, or other activities. Hill's book also gives a comparative approach between European and Islamic civilizations, which does credit Muslim engineers with significant achievements.

Kestner and Livingston, *War Dawgs: Kulbes' Mongrels in Korea 1950-1951*

Synopsis: Frank Kestner was an enlisted man in the 10th Engineers. His book is a personal account of the experiences of his company in the bitterly contested early days of the Korean War. It also provides a good leadership study as Kestner describes in detail the efforts of his company commander to accomplish the missions assigned and take care of his people.

Hill, *Roads, Rails, & Waterways: The Army Engineers and Early Transportation*

Synopsis: This is a scholarly study of the role of the Corps of Engineers in opening the American West. It would be an excellent companion volume to Schubert's *Vanguard of Expansion*. It provides a case study of the role of engineers in nation building and infrastructure development.

CONTEMPORARY OPERATIONS (NOT NECESSARILY ENGINEER-RELATED)

Junger, *War* (2011)

Twelve Press – \$15.99 new hardback and \$16.99 in Kindle

Synopsis: This book is based on several weeks that the author spent embedded with a platoon of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Korengal Valley in Afghanistan in 2007 and 2008. Junger went on patrols and came under enemy fire, while living with the Soldiers. His portrayal is honest and candid. His insights into combat experience revealed much about the stresses and strains of OEF. A documentary video version of this book titled *Restrepo* was also released and is worth viewing.

Bowden, *Black Hawk Down: Story of Modern War* (1999)

Penguin Press -- \$7.99 new paperback and \$7.99 on Kindle

In this outstanding journalistic account of small units in MOUT, Bowden covers the tragic events in 1993 in Mogadishu and vividly documents the actions of American service personnel caught in a desperate situation. The author also touches on problems of C2, the friction of war, and coalition operations.

Robertson and Yates, eds., *Block by Block: The Challenge of Urban Operations* (2003)

CGSC Press – paperback

Online at CGSC at www.cgsc.edu/carl/download/csipubs/Block/intro_Block_by.pdf

This anthology contains chapters that analyze several MOUTs, including Stalingrad in World War II, Hue in Vietnam, Panama City in Operation JUST CAUSE, and Kabul in 1979. Another chapter examines humanitarian relief in an urban environment following Hurricane Andrew. An introduction provides the historical context and key issues, and the epilogue points to future developments in MOUT.

U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, *Long Hard Road: NCO Experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq* (2007)

Published by USASMA

Online at handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA476822

This anthology contains brief, first-hand accounts by NCOs from all branches about their experiences in combat operations in Afghanistan, fighting the Iraqi Army in OIF, and fighting insurgents in Iraq.

ENGINEER WEB PAGES:

U.S. Army Engineer School Public Webpage: <http://www.wood.army.mil/usaes>

Engineer School Knowledge Network (ESKN):
<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/637460>

Office of the Chief of Engineer's Message to the Regiment, "The Blast" archive:
<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/3913002>

Engineer History Office http://www.wood.army.mil/wood_cms/usaes/2332.shtml

Engineer Historian milBook page:
<https://www.kc.army.mil/book/groups/engineer-historian>

USACE History Office: <http://www.usace.army.mil/history/Pages/home.aspx>

Center for Military History:
<http://www.history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lineages/branches/eng/default.htm>