

# PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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## 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.  
**Language:** English  
**Finding Aid:** Written by Rebecca Redinger, July 2008; Updated by Andrea Martinez, 2018

*Archival collections are stored at a remote archival facility. Please contact the Museum & Library at least 48 hours in advance of your visit to view an archival collection.*

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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 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the United States Army. On June 15, 1884 he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. In the spring of 1891, Dentler was further promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant with the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Later that year he was transferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Company D. A year later he was transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Holguin, Oriente, Cuba, and as a Customs Collector in Puerto Rico, Dentler was transferred to the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## **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**

Maj. Gen. Harry Hill Bandholtz Papers (1891-1943)  
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

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## 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

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## 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:*

G.O 95, W.D. "08"  
G.O. 120, W.D. "10"  
*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, 16<sup>th</sup> Division**

Training schedule and instructions

**Folder Eleven Office of Division Inspector-Instructor, 16<sup>th</sup> 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, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry and Oregon National Guard”—  
written by C.E. Dentler

“Guard Manual for Non-commissioned officers and Privates” written  
by John Bordman, Jr.