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## M1910 Canteen Cup

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, T. Gum, Site Admin)

The simplest of things is typically taken for granted - such is the case for the M1910 Canteen Cup. So many uses, lightweight, durable, and a model upon which future canteen cups would be built. Consider your morning beverage of choice... what if you didn't have a cup for it?

Photo of M1910 Canteen Cup.



The pictured canteen cup is part of a canteen set that was issued to troops for field use. The full kit included canteen, cup, stove-base, and canvas cover.

When placed in the canvas cover, the handle would be collapsed, canteen placed in the cup, and then slid into the canvas cover and attached to the belt or pack. Easily stowed and retrieved, the cup was as much a tool as it was a piece of mess kit.

Photo of soldier using M1910 Canteen Cup.



The utilitarian design extended to the handle itself. Allowing the cup to be placed over a flame to warm contents or boil liquid, the handle allowed for safe handling. If not sufficient for heat protection while cooking or handling, the handle could be augmented via the issued M1926 Fork, further extending the handle.

In World War I there were 5 primary manufacturers of the cup, where as in World War II the manufacturers further broadened. However, the material used for production switched from aluminum to steel with various treatments to protect against corrosion.

Photo of Canteen Cup, c. 1970s design.



The M1910 Canteen Cup would continue service, in large part unchanged, until the Vietnam War. It was during this war that the canteen cup would be updated with the recognizable “butterfly” handle.

Regardless of vintage, the canteen cup remains a trusted way of boiling water or warming a meal even during a time of palm sized mountain-stoves and lightweight metals.