

June 8, 2020

## There is Always Something to Carry

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

Regardless of the MOS (military occupational specialty) or branch of service there is always a lot of gear to carry – some of it issued, some of it personal. The manner in which gear is stowed and carried varies little over time; the use of some kind of bag made of hardy material suitable for the mission.

For example, in the time of the American Revolutionary War such a bag would have been made of humble but sturdy materials with leather attachments if available or afforded. By the time of the American Civil War bags for this purpose, at least ones mass produced for the Union, would be made of canvas and painted for weather proofing and enhanced protection. However, the wartime economies of these periods held nothing compared to the 20th Century.



Photo of musette, bag, MM2006.13.9.

In 1918 musette bags were being mass produced and distributed to service members to carry issued personal items such as rations, clothing, and other necessary equipment & gear.



Photo of musette, bag, MM2006.13.10.

These musette bags were carried by Sgt. Major John "Campbell" Collins in World War One. Collins was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA in February of 1899. Though he attended Wyoming Seminar for a period of time, he did not graduate and enlisted in the Army in April of 1917; less than a year later he was promoted to Sergeant and would eventually rise to the rank of Sgt. Major, being promoted to said rank in April of 1919.

Collins trained with the 11th Field Artillery (FA) at Camp Douglas, AZ – it is believed that he served as part of the Mexican Border Expedition while in Arizona, which would explain the corresponding medal that is part of the collection. In World War One, he served with the 11th FA Regiment in France. The 11th FA is credited with firing the last shot of the War on November 11th, 1918 at 1100hrs.

After the War, Campbell graduated from Lafayette College and Harvard Law School. In 1926 he set up a law practice with his brother John H. Collins, under the tutelage of his uncle A.C. Campbell. He was a trustee of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society from 1929.

Sgt. Major John "Campbell" Collins died on February 18th, 1976.