

**Collection Title:** General Edward H. Plummer Collection

**Collection Number:** RG 22.19

**Abstract:** The General Edward H. Plummer Collection consists of 4 cubic feet of documents, photographs, & articles from the personal and military records of General Plummer. The collection ranges in subject matter from correspondence relating to Army subject matter as well as orders relating to General Plummer's assignments.

**Extent**

4 cubic feet (RG 22.19-01 to RG 22.19-08)

**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** General Edward H. Plummer Collection

**Dates:** 1868-1964 (bulk 1880-1925)

**Collection number:** RG 22.19

**Creator:** General Edward H. Plummer

**Collection Size:** 4 cubic feet

**Physical location:** Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Archives

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English & Spanish

**Publication Rights**

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**Preferred Citation**

General Edward H. Plummer Collection, RG 22.19. [box and folder number], Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center

**Acquisition and Custodial History**

The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Archives acquired the General Edward H. Plummer Collection through a private donation.

## **Biography**

General Edward Hinkley Plummer closed a brilliant military career in 1918 when he retired after more than 40 years of active service. He was a graduate of West Point and commanded a regiment in the Spanish American war, seeing service in the Philippines and in Cuba.

It was upon his return from this service that he came to the Monterey peninsula with two regiments of returned veterans and built the present Presidio of Monterey as a temporary encampment for the housing of returned troops. Great difficulties attended the construction of the post, because of insufficient appropriations set aside by congress for the work. Local business interests came to his aid, however, and the Presidio as it now stands was finally completed.

The General also saw service against the Navajo and Moqui Indians in the southwest and was temporary mayor of Vera Cruz, Mexico in 1914, during his service along the Mexican border. The Panama Canal became a reality; General Plummer was selected as its first military commander.

At the outbreak of the world war General Plummer mobilized and took command of the 88th division at Fort Dodge, Iowa. his division reached France in December 1917, and remained there until 1918. The division fought side by side with the 46th British division from February, 1918, to November, 1918.

After the war General Plummer commanded Fort Sill, Oklahoma until his retirement with a record of more than 40 years of service. He died February 11, 1927 as the result of a heart attack.

## **Scope and Content**

The Plummer collection generally consists of correspondence relating to Army subject matter as well as orders relating to General Plummer's assignments. Associated units include the 10th and 35th Infantry Unit. Also included are documents relating to Plummer's assignment with the US Indian Service at Fort Defiance, his records while at the US Military Academy (West Point), service in the Alaskan Yukon, Santiago, Cuba; and Vera Cruz, Mexico, and at Baliuag, in the Philippines. Also included are general and field orders as well as requests for and responses for promotions by other officers. Correspondence from the War Department dated November 30, 1918 notes the retirement notice of Brigadier General Plummer after 40 years of service.

Particularly compelling records include reference to the mistreatment and cruelty of Philippine prisoners by US military is alluded to in several articles. A potential hearing regarding this issue involving the 35th Infantry soldiers exists within this collection. A confidential pamphlet printed by Headquarters, US Expeditionary Forces, Vera Cruz, Mexico in 1914 regarding reference to the methods to be employed in the capture and occupation of Latin-American cities as well as the

issue of a lack of fixed value to the Mexico peso highlight the documents regarding Plummer's assignment in Vera Cruz.

Significant articles and correspondence were written regarding the Navajo Indians, including requests from then Lieutenant Plummer, as an US Indian Agent, to construct appropriate schools for children. A story written by General Plummer entitled "Arrest of a Navajo Indian Murder" is included. There are several articles and documents regarding the state of affairs and issues within the US Indian Service, as well as issues with the Navajos in general. Of particular note are articles regarding Plummer's request to be removed as Indian Agent to the Navajo's due to his feelings of a lack of support and charges of mismanagement against government contractors. Articles note that no longer will Army Officers be detailed to the post of Navajo Indian Agent, but rather civilians will fill this role. There are also articles with false reports of General Plummer's (then Lieutenant) death at the hands of the Navajos.

Family information, including correspondence from and regarding Bessie and Georgia Plummer, as well as a family photo and family marriage history are available. There is also a handwritten personal notebook or diary, possibly owned by General Plummer. The writing is difficult to read, however, so without further examination this cannot be confirmed. The photographs within this collection include portraits of Plummer over various years as well as his wife and family members, as well as during his military service.

### **Folder List**

RG 22.19-01

Folder 1 - Correspondence, general orders, events & Catholic confirmation, 1893-1914

Folder 2 - Correspondence & events, 1915

Folder 3 - Correspondence & officer listings, 1916

Folder 4 - Correspondence, remarks on transportation of troops & general orders, 1917

Folder 5 - The Independent (newspaper/journal), 1918

Folder 6 - Correspondence, strength of command (officers & enlisted), 88th division report, 1918

Folder 7 - Correspondence & events, 1919-1927

Folder 8 - San Francisco fire & earthquake, 1906

Folder 9 - Articles about / mentioning Plummer, 1913-1917

Folder 10 - General & field orders, maps, 1899-1901

Folder 11 - Plummer service in Santiago, Cuba, 1898-1924

Folder 12 - Plummer service in Vera Cruz, Mexico, 1913-1914

Folder 13 - Plummer service in Alaska Yukon, 1905-1906

Folder 14 - Freelance writing by Plummer, 1896-1897

RG 22.19-02

Folder 1 - Correspondence, 1892-1918

Folder 2 - Correspondence & US Military Academy (West Point) records, 1868-1874

Folder 3 - Correspondence, orders, roster of 10th infantry, West Point records, 1875-1889

Folder 4 - Appointment with U.S. Indian Service, Fort Defiance, 1893-1894

Folder 5 - Correspondence, 1893-1898

Folder 6 - Correspondence, World's Exposition, orders, roster of officers - 10th infantry, 1890-1897

Folder 7 - Special & general orders, 1898

Folder 8 - Orders, correspondence & roster of 35th infantry, 1899

Folder 9 - Orders & correspondence, 1899-1918

Folder 10 - Orders, correspondence, proceedings of Board of Officers at Baliuag, Philippines, 1900-1902

Folder 11 - Correspondence & 35th infantry report, 1901

RG 22.19-03

Folder 1 - Correspondence from Adjutant General's office, re: COL Prescott (pay issue), 1923-1924

Folder 2 - Articles about/mentioning General Plummer, 1899-1927

Folder 3 - "Four Years at West Point: The Work and Play of the Cadet Told in Pictures", N/D

Folder 4 - Correspondence from & regarding Bessie and Georgia Plummer, 1935-1956

Folder 5 - Dinner menu & Grand Rapids Indiana Railroad pass, N/D

Folder 6 - Correspondence: Navajo Little Water School, 1895

Folder 7 - Articles re: US warships dispatched to Cuba, 1898

Folder 8 - Articles re: death of Ulysses S. Grant and need for missionary work with Navajo Indians, 1893-1895

Folder 9 - Articles re: US Indian service, including article by General Plummer, 1893-1894

Folder 10 - "The Churchman", re: Alaska Yukon, 1905

Folder 11 - Articles, re: Vera Cruz, Mexico, 1914

Folder 12 - Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba, correspondence, special orders, 1896-1914

Folder 13 - Correspondence (re: promotion of Plummer to Brigadier General), 1916

Folder 14 - West Point Reunion Bulletin, Plummer family photo, Plummer family tree/information, bank book, 1878-1925

Folder 15 - Plummer notes from British Front, 3rd infantry duties, HQ: 28th infantry-France, 35th infantry-correspondence, 1901-1918

RG 22.19-04

Folder 1 - U.S. Indian Service correspondence & orders, 1893-1895

Folder 2 - Plummer military service & duties: orders and correspondence re: assignments, 1903-1914

Folder 3 - Plummer's notes "on the French Front", Indian Affairs correspondence & agent reports, 1893-1935

Folder 4 - Vera Cruz, Mexico correspondence, general assignment orders to Philippines, US Military Academy, 1873-1925

Folder 5 - Roster of troops, Vera Cruz, Mexico memo re: methods used in capture of cities in Latin America, 1881-1916

Folder 6 - Sunset Magazine: "Discharging a Philippine Army", event invitations, Vera Cruz orders & correspondence, 1877-1914

Folder 7 - Register of officers in Nogales district, officers listing of the infantry & National Guard, 1916

Folder 8 - Mexican problem of money exchange, Vera Cruz general orders, reports & history Indian Affairs, 1894-1921

Folder 9 - Articles re: Plummer & Navajos, news reports of Plummer's death by Indians, 1893

Folder 10 - Articles re: prisoner mistreatment in Philippines, Native American Indians, Alaskan Yukon, etc., 1909-1935

Folder 11 - Articles re: Navajos, 35th Infantry, general Army, West Point & state / future of Indian Agency, N/D

RG 22.19-05

Folder 1 - Roster of enlisted men of 35th infantry, articles re: Plummer, story re: capture of Manila, gen. correspondence, N/D

Folder 2 - Personal items from scrapbook, N/D

Folder 3 - Personal items from scrapbook, N/D

Folder 4 - Business cards & notes, N/D

Folder 5 - Pamphlets from Indian Rights Assoc., general orders, Military Forecast: German campaign against France, 1894-1911

Folder 6 - Photograph: 35th infantry, 1907

Folder 7 - Post Cards (unknown locations & dates), N/D

Folder 8 - Plummer appointment of cadet to West Point, 1873

Folder 9 - Photographs: 35th infantry, N/D

Folder 10 - General report of the national memorial celebration & instructions for regimental intelligence service, 1917

Folder 11 - Photographs: 35th infantry & unknown aerial, N/D

Folder 12 - Photographs: 35th infantry officers? (no label on image), N/D

Folder 13 - Photographs: officers of 35th infantry, Palace Hotel celebration in SF, Plummer & general postcards, N/D

RG 22.19-06

Folder 1 - Saturday Evening Post article: "The Average American and the Army" by Herbert Quick, 1916

Folder 2 - Articles re: American military in Cuba, 1898

Folder 3 - Article in Century Magazine titled "Sinking of the Merrimac", N/D  
Folder 4 - Articles re: The Southwest & Native Americans, N/D  
Folder 5 - Newspaper articles re: Texas & the military, N/D  
Folder 6 - Article in Harper's Monthly Magazine re: Philippines, N/D  
Folder 7 - Philippines, N/D  
Folder 8 - "Spirit of Missions", Vol LXXI, No. 3, 1906  
Folder 9 - Article re: Santiago surrender, 1913  
Folder 10 - Article re: West Point, 1916  
Folder 11 - Camp Dodge, 1917  
Folder 12 - Articles re: Sioux land treaty, 1927  
Folder 13 - Articles re: Plummer, biographical, N/D  
Folder 14 - Articles re: Military in Mexico, N/D

RG 22.19-07

Folder 1 - Photos, correspondence, military orders & biographical articles, 1895-1920  
Folder 2 - Photos, newspaper articles, "Notes of a Summer Tour Among the Indians of the Southwest", 1897-1922  
Folder 3 - Personal correspondence, 1901-1918  
Folder 4 - Photographs, personal correspondence & biography, 1917-1925  
Folder 5 - Photos & article on notice of Plummer's death, 1927  
Folder 6 - Photos & biography, N/D  
Folder 7 - Plummer collection donation to New Mexico State Archives & West Point, NY, 1965  
Folder 8 - Photos, artwork, personal correspondence & Cuba occupation ornament, 1917  
Folder 9 - US Army donation records of Plummer materials, personal Plummer documents, correspondence, etc, N/D  
Folder 10 - Plummer's military orders, military correspondence & quartermaster authorizations, 1902-1903  
Folder 11 - Personal items: Plummer's wedding announcement & photo, N/D  
Folder 12 - "The Spectator" newspaper, 1950  
Folder 13 - Correspondence with Georgia Lyke & Bessie Plummer re: donated materials to the NPS/ Fort Union, 1956-1964  
Folder 14 - Fort Michilimackinac, N/D

RG 22.19-08

Folder 1 - Envelopes - addressed to: B.M. Plummer, William Plummer & Col./Lieut. E.H. Plummer, N/D  
Folder 2 - Personal items: dinner invitation, photo of 8th infantry officers, register of US Military Academy, 1877-1919  
Folder 3 - Personal items: train schedule & Union League Club presentation of colors, 1989-1918  
Folder 4 - "The Story of the Twenty-Eighth Infantry in the Great War", N/D  
Folder 5 - "Encamped at Galveston: Fifth Brigade, US Army", N/D  
Folder 6 - Railroad building in the Seward Peninsula, Alaska, N/D

Folder 7 - Report - Investigation of the conduct of the War Department in the war with Spain, 1899

Folder 8 - Maneuver Camp, Fort Sam Houston, 1911

Folder 9 - In Command of the 30th US Infantry in the Argonne Meuse, 1918

Folder 10 - "Album of Pictures Somewhere in Mexico Relating to US Soldiers & Mexicans", N/D

Folder 11 - Event programs: 28th infantry & Santa Fe Fiesta, 1912-1921

Folder 12 - Bay area: telephone directory of commissioned personnel (active & retired) & Army directory, 1925-1937