

## The Confederate Army Corps of Engineers Rank and Pay

There were four ranks of Engineer officers with their monthly pay in Confederate currency: Colonel (\$210); Major (\$162); Captain (\$140); 1st Lieutenant (\$100) and 2nd Lieutenant (\$90).

Listed below is Chief Engineer officers and rank for the entire WBTS. Chiefs of the Engineer Bureau in Richmond, VA held the rank of Colonel or Lt. Colonel. At the ANV HQ Command level under Gen. R.E. Lee. The Chief Engineers were a Major and Lt. Colonels. At the Corps command level Chief Engineer ranks were all ranks from Lieutenant to Colonel depending on the year and which Corps. Longstreet's Corps went from a Lieutenant and Captain (1862) to Captain and Major (1863) and Captain (1864-Appomattox). Jed Hotchkiss was the only civilian contracted to hold a Chief Engineer position at Corps level. He was called Captain and Major, but he was never commissioned.

## The Confederate Army Corps of Engineers

The Confederate Army Corps of Engineers was established on March 16, 1861. This was believed to be a short war with no thought given to a war of attrition, which would see armies cross vast distances, cross river after river, let alone fortify cities and towns which seemed perfectly safe. Engineers who resigned from the US Army were quickly commissioned into the CSA Corps of Engineers. Capt. Albert H. Campbell established a map reproduction office in Richmond, VA which would become known as the 'Map Bureau'. In December of 1862 Col. Gilmer wrote James A. Seddon, Sec. of War recommending developing Engineer units on a Regimental scale. Congress accepted Gilmer's plan with General Orders No. 66.

**1st Regiment-** Assigned in the East mainly with the ANV under Special Orders No. 85 April, 1864 under Col. T.M.R. Talcott.

**2nd Regiment-** Never came together as a regimental unit. Two companies remained with the ANV and several companies with the 3rd Reg.

**3rd Regiment-**Mainly with Army of Tennessee in the Western Theater and the Trans Mississippi.

**4th Regiment-** Worked chiefly in the Western and Trans Mississippi Theater.

No elections were tolerated for any positions. The Field and Company officers were Civil Engineers by profession. W.W. Blackford described men of 25-35 years old, mostly married and skilled in the use of tools. They were miners, sailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, masons and almost every trade. Engineer duties were mapping and topography, with constant Reconnaissance, location of defense positions, supervision of construction, sapping, mining operations, river and channel obstructions, building corduroy roads, signaling, guiding troops in battle, scouted, filled in as line officers when needed, constructed fortifications and made maps. Engineers were not Pioneers. Pioneer Parties were made up of 10 men from each Division with a Lieutenant in charge of it. Engineers were technicians and specialists. Diversity was their trademark. 'Essayons' (Let Us Try) was the rule. From ice procurement to ballooning, from fortifications to boat

building, from mapping to fighting, the Confederate Engineers managed to do almost every job that was given to them.

Most of the duties described for Engineers are not applicable today at reenactments with the exception of mapping, laying out of camps and terrain safety. Occasionally at mega events Engineers have helped guide troops into a particular position as ordered by the command officer. If we need some type of labor performed we have organized pioneer parties with a company grade officer to command them from the Corps and the operation supervised by the Engineer. Most heavy construction and fortifications are done by the event organizers.

### **Chiefs of the Engineer Bureau**

Josiah Gorgas (acting), April 8, 1861 - August 3, 1861  
Danville Leadbetter (acting), August 3, 1861 - November 10, 1861  
Alfred L. Rives (acting), 1st term, November; 13, 1861 - September 24, 1862  
Jeremy F. Gilmer, 1st term, September 25, 1862 - August 17, 1863  
Alfred L. Rives (acting), 2nd term, August 18, 1863 - March 9, 1864  
Martin L. Smith, March 9, 1864 - April 1864  
Alfred L. Rives (acting), 3rd term, April 1864 - June 1864  
Jeremy F. Gilmer 2nd term, June 1864 - April 1865

### **Headquarters ANV**

Robert E. Lee, Commanding ANV, Commanding 1862- Appomattox.  
Johnston, Samuel R., Lt. Col., 1863-1865  
Smith, William P., Lt. Col., 1863  
Stevens, Walter H., Maj., 1862  
Talcott, Thomas M., Lt. Col., 1862-1864

### **Corps Commands**

James Longstreet, 1st Corps, Commanding, 1862-1864, 1864-Appomattox.  
Clark, John, J.G., Maj., 1863  
Douglas, Henry T., Capt., 1863  
Johnston, Samuel R., Capt., 1862  
McDonald, Marshall, Capt., 1864  
Meade, Richard K., Jr., Lt., 1862  
Thomas J. Jackson, 2nd Corps, Commanding, 1862-1863  
Barton, Seth M., Lt. Col., 1862  
Boswell, James K., Capt., 1862-1863  
Hotchkiss, Jedediah, Contract Engineer, 1862-1863  
Kinney, Thomas C., Lt., 1862-1863  
Snead, Thomas M., Lt., 1862  
Williamson, Thomas H., Lt. Col., 1862  
Williamson, William G., Lt., 1862-1863  
Richard S. Ewell, 2nd Corps, Commanding, 1863-1864  
Hotchkiss, Jedediah, Contract Engineer, 1862-1863

Jubal A. Early, 2nd Corps, Commanding, 1864-  
Hinrichs, Oscar, Lt., 1864  
Hotchkiss Jedediah, Contract Engineer, 1864-1865  
Shorter, Charles S., Capt., 1864  
Smith, William P., Col., 1864-1865  
Ambrose P. Hill, 3rd Corps, Commanding, 1863-1865  
Howard, Conway R., Maj., 1863-1865  
Williams, John A., Lt. Col., 1864

***Listed below are duties that Engineers can perform based on historical fact as engineers pertaining to today's Reenactments.***

### **Department of Engineer Longstreet's Corps Duties**

Longstreet's Corps Department of Engineers is primarily responsible for terrain safety. The Engineer Department will inspect the ground where the Corps marches, camps as well as the battlefields. Any topographical feature safety concerns such as holes, rough or plowed ground, water, marshes, dense vegetation and the like will be reported to the Commanding Officer of the Corps at once. The Commanding Officer will always have the final decision.

The Engineer Department is responsible for providing maps of the layout of camps and battlefields. They must at all times be familiar with the local topography. The Engineers shall provide maps that are as historically correct as possible.

Engineers shall design and oversee the construction of any field fortifications and access roads. No construction shall be permitted without written permission from both the landowner and event organizers. The construction must then be approved by the Commanding General.

Engineers at no time shall command troops while performing the duties of an Engineer. A Company grade officer under the Direction of the Chief Engineer shall command Work parties.

Engineers shall perform reconnaissance of enemy positions and strengths. Any potential defensive positions will be noted and reported to the Commanding officer of the Corps.

At the Commanding Officer discretion, Engineers will aid in guiding commands into position. The Engineers are not to guide any troops without the Commanding Officer's prior knowledge and approval.

In the event pyrotechnics are to be used, the Engineer Department will assist the Ordinance officer and report to the command staff the position, type, and blast area. The Chief Engineer must make sure that all commands know this information.

The Chief Engineer shall submit Post -Action Reports at all major events to the Commanding Officer of the Corps. A copy of the report will be maintained for the use of Longstreet's Corps.

The Engineer Department and Engineers shall follow Regulations and Orders Pertaining to the Corps of Engineers, An Act of the Confederate Congress, March 6, 1861. General Orders 9 and 90 and all orders pertaining to them.

The above described duties for Re-enactor Engineering come from the following source:

***History And Handbook For The Engineer Reenactor***, by Charlie Jernigan and Reed Settle