The purpose of this short paper is to examine the history of the development of the US Army’s oldest and most unique decoration the Certificate of Merit. This award has been all but forgotten, and many knowledgeable military historians have never heard of this historic Presidential award. The award was a parchment document that became a medal. The medal eventually evolved, through legislation, into the US Army’s second highest decoration. In 1918 the Certificate of Merit Medal was replaced by the Distinguished Service Medal and in 1934 the Distinguished Service Cross, the later being worn after the Medal of Honor and before all other decorations. Since the medal was for peace time use also, it had to be replaced by a number of awards over time such as the Soldiers Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross and the extra pay that came with the Certificate followed also.

The Background History

During the Mexican War of 1846-47, The Congress enacted a bill on March 3, 1847 "That the President be empowered to grant a certificate of merit to any private soldier who has distinguished himself by gallantry performed in the presence of the enemy." The 17th Section of the Act provided "he shall receive additional pay in the sum of $2 a month so long as he remains a private soldier in continuous service." Non-commissioned officers who distinguished themselves were to receive the brevet rank of second lieutenants,

An Act of August 4, 1854, clarified the extra pay clause as follows: "The additional pay of two dollars a month to a private soldier in virtue of the certificate of merit commences on the date of the service for which the certificate is given, and continues while he remains a private soldier, if he has been continuously in the service, or has a certificate of merit given for services in the War with Mexico." It also provided that "non-commissioned officers recommended by the commanding officer of their regiment for promotion by brevet for distinguished service in the War with Mexico, and not promoted, receive two dollars a month additional pay (but not the certificate), while in the service as non-commissioned officers."
Mexican War Certificate of Merit document awarded to Pvt. Edward B. Chapman, Company K / 2nd Regiment of Dragoons, for the Battle of Crerro Gordo 18 Apr 1847, GO 59 1848 signed by President Polk.
Mexican War Certificate of Merit document awarded to Private William A. Gray of Company (E) of the Regiment of Voltigeurs for the Battle of Mexico City and the storming of Chapultepec, 13 Sep 1847, Go 7 1851, signed by President Fillmore.

All awards during the Mexican war were made to soldiers of the Regular Army only. State Volunteers who rendered Gallant and Meritorious Service did not receive the award despite being recommended by their commanding officer. The text below was taken from a hand illuminated document that was presented to the intended recipient is itself a regimental award:

RECOMENDATION OF PVT. CHAMBERS C. MULLIN OF CO G, THE 2ND PENN INF REGIMENT FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR GALLANTRY, MERITORIOUS SERVICES NF COMPLETELY BEING DISABLED DURING THE MEXICAN WAR. SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO A NUMBER OF OFFICERS OF HIS REGIMENT.

HARRISBURG 10TH
MARCH 1849
THIS MAY CERTIFY THAT CHAMBERS C MULLIN WAS ENROLLED AS A PRIVATE IN COMPANY G 2ND REGIMENT PENNA. VOLS. ON THE 26TH DECEMBER 1846 AND THAT EXCEPT WHEN DISABLED BY SICKNESS AND DULY EXEMPTED FROM DUTY BY ORDER OF THE SURGEON, HE WAS ALWAYS WITH HIS COMPANY, SHARING WITH THEM IN TOIL, HARDSHIPS AND DANGER IN ALL THE ENGAGEMENTS PARTICIPATED
IN BY SAID COMPANY, AND THAT HE WAS PRESENT AND PERFORMED
FAITHFULLY THE DUTY OF A MERITORIOUS AMERICAN SOLDIER AT
THE BATTLE OF LA MAYA ON THE 20TH OF JUNE 1847, THE STORMING
OF CHAPUTTEPEC ON THE 12TH, AND THE 13TH OF SEPTEMBER 1847, AND
THE BATTLE OF GANITA DE BELEN ON THE 13TH OF SEPTEMBER 1847:
AND THAT ON 20TH DECEMBER 1847 IN CONSEQUENCE OF SICKNESS
BROUGHT ON OR SUPERINDUCED BY EXPOSURE AND HARDSHIPS IN
THE REGULAR LINE OF DUTY, HE WAS COMPELLED TO BE PLACED ON
THE SICK LIST AND SENT TO THE HOSPITAL, IN WHICH DEPARTMENT
HE REMAINED UNDER THE CARE AND CHARGE OF THE SURGEON OF
THE REGIMENT UNTIL REGULARLY MUSTERED OUT OF THE SERVICE
ON THE 20TH OF JULY 1848, AT PITTSBURG, PA. HE BEING THEN, AS HE IS
AT PRESENT TIME, A CRIPPLE, AND ALMOST UTTERLY HELPLESS, IN
CONSEQUENCE OF THE EXPOSURE AND HARDSHIPS ENDURED IN THE
REGULAR LINE OF HIS DUTY; AND THAT AS REGARDS PERSONAL
GALLANTRY, BRAVERY AND SOLDIER-LIKE DEPORTMENT ON ALL
OCCASIONS WHERE HE HAD AN OPPURTUNIT TO DISPLAY HIS
ABILITIES, HE WAS UNSURPASSED BY ANY OF HIS COMRADES IN ARMS,
AND THAT HE DESERVES WELL OF HIS COUNTRY FOR HIS FAITHFUL
SERVICES DURING THE LATE MEXICAN WAR, AND THAT HE SHOULD IN
JUSTICE RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL PENSION TO SUPPLY HIM WITH THE
MANY COMFORTS OF LIFE.
KNOW YE, THAT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE 17TH SECTION OF THE
ACT OF CONGRESS APPROVED MARCH 3RD 1847, I HEREBY CHEERFULLY
RECOMMEND PRIVATE CHAMERS C. MULLIN OF COMPANY G 2ND
REGIMENT PENNA. VOL. INFANTRY, MEXICAN WAR TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES FOR DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT UPON THE
FIELD OF BATTLE AT THE TIME AND PLACE ABOVE WRITTEN.

E L WILLIAMS LATE CAPTAIN COMPANY G 2ND PA VOLS, IN MEXICO
PETER H MCWILLIAMS LATE 1ST LIEUT OF COMPANY G 2ND PA VOLS, IN
MEXICO
DAVID J UNGER LATE 2ND LIEUT. OF COMPANY G 2ND PA VOLS, IN
MEXICO

I CORDially CONCUR IN THE ABOVE STATEMENT, JOHN W. GEARY,
LATE COLONEL 2ND REGT. PA VOLS, IN MEXICAN WAR

I FULLY CONCUR IN THE ABOVE STATEMENT
H.R. HARRISBURG WM BRINDLE
APRIL 18TH 1850 LATE LT COL 2ND REGEMENT PENNA VOLS

I TAKE PLEASURE IN CONCURRING IN THE ABOVE,
H.R. HARRISBURG ROBERT KLOTZ
APRIL 19TH 1850 LATE ADJUTANT 2ND REG PA VOLS
The Certificate did not return during the Civil War, no doubt due to financial considerations, but it was reinstated in the late 1870s.

Revised Statutes dated June 22, 1974: Sec. 1216 When any private soldier shall have distinguished himself in service, the President may, on the recommendation of the commanding officer of the regiment to which such private soldier belongs, grant him a certificate of merit.

General Order 110, Hqs of the Army: The President, to whose attention the subject of the issuing "Certificate of Merit" under sections 1216 and 1285, revised statutes, ****shall be brought into active operations to take effect from June 22, 1874. ****.

Article XXVI Army Regulations of 1889, paragraphs 176-179 inclusive, stated that the certificate was to be awarded for extraordinary acts of gallantry by private soldiers in the presence of the enemy; that the recommendation must originate with an eye-witness preferably the immediate commanding officer; that the extra pay commences on the date of the act of gallantry and is paid so long as he remains continuously in the service; and provides that "if the soldier is discharged before the certificate is Issued, it will be retained in the office of the Adjutant General until called for, when proof of the identity of the applicant will be required. Should he die before receiving his certificate, it will be deposited in the office of the Second Auditor of the Treasury for the benefit of his heirs,"

A further Act of February 3, 1891, provided that the certificate could also be awarded for specially meritorious service in time of peace, and also authorized the award of the certificate of merit to non-commissioned officers in the following extract from Article XXV, Army Regulations of 1891, paragraph 178, "When any enlisted man of the Army shall have distinguished himself In the service, the President may grant him a certificate of merit****," Paragraph 180 stated that "extra pay at the rate of $2 per month from the date of the distinguished service is allowed each enlisted man to whom a certificate of merit is given,"

General Schofield, The Commanding General of the Army, defined the distinction between the medal of honor and the certificate of merit in a Circular, # 2 published by the Office of the Adjutant General on February 11, 1892, as follows; "Medals of honor should be awarded to officers* or enlisted men for distinguished bravery in action, while (officers who received the certificate as enlisted men,) certificates of merit should, under the law, be awarded for distinguished service whether in action or otherwise, of valuable character to the United States, as, for example, extraordinary exertion in the preservation of human life, or in the preservation of public property, or rescuing public property from destruction by fire or otherwise, or any hazardous service by which the Government is saved loss in
men and material. Simple heroism in battle, on the contrary, is fitly rewarded by a medal of honor, although such act of heroism may not have resulted in any benefit to the United States." (If Conduct merits, a man may be issued a Medal of Honor and a Certificate of Merit simultaneously or at different times)

Authority for Medal, Badges and Ribbons

For some years pressure had been put upon The Congress to authorize the award of service medals, but without result. It was finally pointed out to President Theodore Roosevelt that, as Commander-In-Chief of the Army and Navy, he could designate badges of this kind as part of the uniform of such officers and men, in active service, as had participated in past campaigns, As a result the Certificate of Merit badge and three campaign badges (medals) were established by the following order announced by the Secretary of War in General Orders No, 4, War Department, Washington, D.C., January 1, 1905; (Paragraph below)

1- By authority of the President, a badge with ribbon will be Issued to each officer *(who received the badge as an enlisted man) and enlisted man in the service to whom a certificate of merit has been Issued or may hereafter be issued; the badge and ribbon thereof will be part of the uniform, and will be worn as hereinafter prescribed for campaign badges.

4- Badges for each campaign will be numbered serially and a record kept by the Military Secretary showing the name, rank and organization of the person to whom each badge was issued*****.

5- *****certificate of merit badges and the sections of ribbon hereinafter prescribed are part of the uniform for officers* and enlisted men to whom issued and will be habitually worn by them as follows; On the full-dress coat and dress coat the badges will be worn in the manner prescribed for badges of military societies in the regulations for uniforms.

With the service uniform a section of the ribbon prescribed for badges three-eighths inch long and of the full width of the ribbon will be worn in lieu of the badge by those entitled thereto; these ribbons to be sewed on the service coat in a horizontal line in the position prescribed for badges and decorations on the full-dress coat in the following order from the line of buttons of the coat: The medal of honor ribbon, the certificate of merit ribbon, and the campaign ribbons in the order in which earned, without space between and without overlapping,

6- Organization commanders will note on the military record of men to whom badges have been issued, the character of the badge and its number. In case of the loss of a badge by an enlisted man, his immediate commander will investigate and report upon the circumstances attending the loss and make
recommendation regarding the issue of a duplicate badge. The report will be forwarded to the Military Secretary of the Army, and six months thereafter, if the badge has not been found, application for a duplicate may be made by the soldier's immediate commander,

7- This paragraph provided for the badges and ribbons to be issued by the Quartermaster's Department free to enlisted men and at cost to officers, and that neither were to be worn by "officers suspended from rank and command or by enlisted men serving sentence of confinement of more than five days."

Another change was made in the following War Department Order No. 129, August 13, 1908;

1- Certificate of merit badges will be issued to officers and enlisted men, including those on the retired list, who were in the military service of the United States on January 11, 1905, or anytime thereafter. The badges will be issued to the proper legal representatives of any such officer or enlisted man who has died since January 11, 1905.

Article XXV, Army Regulations, 1908, paragraph 185 states nor a certificate of merit will be awarded in any case when the service of the person recommended, subsequent to the time he distinguished himself, has not been honorable,

General Orders No. 979 War Department, May 12, 1909, paragraph 2, established the precedence of the certificate of merit badge, stating that it was to be worn on the left breast of the coat before all other badges. The Medal of Honor being worn suspended from a ribbon around the neck.

Regulations For The Army of the U.S., 1913, paragraph 1341: A Certificate of Merit granted to an enlisted man for distinguished service entitles him from the date of such service, to additional pay at the rate of 2 dollar per month during military service whether as an enlisted man or as an officer, although such service may not be continuous, and is payable in full to a retired enlisted man.

The certificate of merit was abolished in favor of the Distinguished Service Medal by the following Act of Congress; Extract from Public Law 193, July 9, 1918 (c. 143,40 Stat. 870) and said distinguished-service medal shall be issued to all enlisted men of the Army to whom the certificate of merit has been granted up to and including the date of the passage of this Act, under the provisions of previously existing law, in lieu of such certificate of merit, and after the passage of this Act the award of the certificate of merit for distinguished service shall cease; and additional pay heretofore authorized by law for holders of the certificate of merit shall not be paid to them beyond the date of the award of the distinguished-service medal in lieu thereof as aforesaid.
That each enlisted man of the Army to whom there has been or shall be awarded a distinguished-service medal shall, for each such award be entitled to additional pay at the rate of $2 per month from the date of the distinguished act or service on which the award is based; said additional pay shall continue throughout his active service, whether such service shall or shall not be continuous; but when the award is in lieu of the certificate of merit as provided for in Section 3 hereof the additional pay shall begin with the date of the award.

Public Law 114, March 5, 1934 - "That the Distinguished Service Cross shall be Issued to all enlisted men of the Army to whom the Certificate of Merit was issued under the provisions of previously existing law in lieu of such Certificate of Merit,

Sec. 2, Those persons who have heretofore received the Distinguished Service Medal in lieu of the Certificate of Merit under the provisions of the Act of July 9, 1918 (40 Stat, 810-872), shall be issued the Distinguished Service Cross provided the Distinguished Service Medal is first surrendered to the War Department.

Numismatic Information on the Certificate of Merit Badge (Medal)

THE CERTIFICATE OF MERIT BADGE
Certificate of Merit Medal No. #315 awarded to Private Robert Newhouse, Co K, 24th Inf. 12 Nov 1914, for life saving in the Philippines. He was later also awarded Distinguished Service Medal #37, and a USCG Silver Life Saving Medal.
Citation: Along with Pvt. Clemon Turner, Assisted in rescue from drowning in Calumpang River, near Camp McGrath, Luzon, Philippine Islands on Nov 12, 1914, of Private Thomas Burns, of same company, who had steeped unexpectedly into
deep water, while attempting to wade across the river and become helpless in deep
water. SLM awarded March 19 1915.

"Badge" was the word used at the time, meaning "medal")
Obverse: Roman War Eagle, surrounded by the inscription "VIRTUTIS ET
AUDACIAE MONUMENTUM ET PRAEMIUM" (virtue and courage are their
own reward)
Reverse: "FOR MERIT" in oak wreath joined at the bottom by a knot, all in a
circle of words "UNITED STATES ARMY" in upper half and thirteen stars in
lower half.

Ribbon: 35mm wide, with 5mm blue stripe on either side, 5mm white stripes
adjoining the blue and in the center two 7mm red stripes divided by a 2mm white
stripe.

Suspension: In the same manner as most United States medals, from the ribbon by
means of a small bronze ring which passes through a smaller ring affixed to the
upper edge of the medals

Size: 32mm round bronze medal.

Designer: Francis Davis Millet, distinguished American Artist, Decorator, Writer
and War Correspondent, Born in Mattapolset, Massachusetts, November 3, 1846.
Served as a drummer boy in the Union Army during the Civil War; graduated from
Harvard, 1869; entered the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, 1871;
during the Russo-Turkish War, 1877-78; Director of Decorations at the Columbia
Exposition, Chicago, 1893; War Correspondent in Manila, 1898 for the Times and
Harper's Weekly. Designed the Army medals for the Civil War, Indian Wars,
Spanish War, Philippine Insurrection, Philippine Congressional and the China
Relief Expedition. He lost his life when the White Star Liner Titanic struck an
iceberg and sank on her maiden voyage, April 14, 1912.

Number of Badges (Medals) Struck: After the dies were cut, approximately 300
medals No. #ed were struck in 1907, a additional 6 in 1908, and a final 100 in 1913
for a reported total of 406. In 1914 a run of 250 medals (MNo. #ed) were produced,
and 1 additional in 1915 for a reported total of 251. These were all assembled at the
United States Mint in Philadelphia, Pa., and impressed numbered on edge.

Naming: The medals were issued unnamed in a card board box with two ribbon
bars. The Medals were provided with a letter of transmittal encouraging the
recipient to engrave his name, rank, and unit at the time of award, on the edge of
the medal.

Who received which badge: No. #ed badges were issued only to all active duty
Regular Army and serving National Guard Soldiers, as well as, retirees from both
services. In 1913 the M No. #ed badges were created for those who served honorably and were not on active duty or entitled to retirement status. The application process was made to the Adjutant Generals Office who verified the service and then transmitted the request to the Quartermaster General's Office that disbursed the Badges. No. badges were given free, while M No. badges had to be paid for at the rate of 65 cents each. Records for recipients by medal number of both series were kept through the end of 1924. The M No. Medal records, and records from 1925 on medal dispersal by number have been lost, a process complicated by the 1973 fire at the National Military Records Center.

Rarity

The following statistics, while inconclusive, is of interest in that it represents, to a certain extent, the division of the Certificate of Merit among the various wars as well as those issued during times of peace. The figures have been compiled from "Decorations, United States Army, 1862-1926" and Supplements I through 7. This publication does not cover those awarded during the Mexican War (the number below was compiled from period sources) but does include those turned in for Distinguished Service Crosses and Medals. As the Certificate of Merit was awarded during all the wars from its inception until it was discontinued, it is difficult to understand why no authority consulted, mentions its award during the Civil War. Some of the Certificates while awarded during various campaigns, were not given for action in the presence of the enemy, but were for saving life and property from fire or drowning and have therefore been included in the figure under that heading. Indeed every US Army enlisted man who received a Treasury Department Gold or Silver life Saving Medal from 1893 to 1918 was concurrently awarded a Certificate of Merit. (for a total of 5 Gold and 50 Silver medals).
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Certificate of Merit.

Know all whom it may concern, That Private Joseph Davis, of Company C of the 2nd Regiment of Dragoons, having distinguished himself in the service of the United States on the eighteenth day of April, 1863, in the Battle of Corse Creek, on the 11th instant, in the person of Private Joseph Davis, the Certificate of Merit, with the approbation of the 11th instant, in the 5th instant, is hereby awarded to the said Private Joseph Davis, and is to be paid to him in the sum of ten dollars, in the form of an additional pay, at the rate of two dollars per month.

GIVEN under my hand at the City of Washington this twenty-fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

C. E. WARD
Secretary of War.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
This plate XIX from "The Army of the United States" and is a facsimile from an original water color

by H. A. Ogden, entitled "Voltigeur, Infantry, Dragoon, Artillery Campaign Uniforms, 1841-51,"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Certificates of Merit issued.</td>
<td>1211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinguished Service in Combat</td>
<td>1006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican War, 1846-47</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Wars</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba (Spanish War, 1898)</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippine Campaign (Spanish War and the Insurrection)</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China, 1900-01 (Boxer Uprising)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican Border</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinguished Service other than Combat</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saving life (Water Rescues)</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saving Government Property (from Fire)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidents and Natural Disasters</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle with Border Bandits, capturing criminals, etc</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Services</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate number of Certificates accounted for</td>
<td>841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received the Distinguished Service Medal in lieu of the Certificate</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received the Distinguished Service Cross in lieu of the Certificate</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turned in the Dist, Service Medal for the Dist, Service Cross</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign born recipients of the Certificate of Merit</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Medal of Honor and the Certificate of Merit for the same act</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approximately 361 No # ed Medals were issued, and it is estimated that some 50 MNo. #ed Medals were purchased by awardees. Those who received the Distinguished Service Medal and later Distinguished Service Cross were issued their awards without cost. Most Certificate of Merit recipients retained their Medal upon receipt of the DSM, but the DSM had to be returned to receive the DSC.

Selected Recipients:

Following are a few of the interesting and varied awards of the Certificate of Merit:
John R. Scott, Co B, 2nd Dragoons, was the first recipient, receiving his Certificate for heroism at the Battle of Cerro Gordo, Mexico, April 17, 1847.

Sgt James Fegan, 3rd U. S. Infantry, received the Certificate and the Medal of Honor for the same action against Indians at Plum Creek, Kansas, 1868,

Sgt John Nihill, 5th U. S. Cavalry, also received both the Certificate and the Medal of Honor for the same action against Indians at Whetstone Mountains, Arizona Territory, 1872.

Sgt Maj J. C. Young, 3rd U. S. Infantry, received two Certificates, one for rescuing a comrade from drowning in 1896 and another for distinguished service in battle in Cuba, 1898. He subsequently received the Distinguished Service Medal with cluster in lieu of the Certificate and eventually replaced this with the Distinguished Service Cross and cluster.

Cpl F. J. Liesmann, 16th U. S. Infantry, received his first Certificate for distinguished service in battle in Cuba, 1898 and the second Certificate for conspicuous gallantry in action in the Philippine Islands, 1900.

Cpl T. R. Hyatt, 19th U. S. Infantry, was awarded the Certificate for capturing the two worst criminals In Porto-Rico, 1898.

Pvt F. P. McGurty, 22nd U. S. Infantry, for distinguished service during the San Francisco fire and earthquake, 1906.

Pvt L. A. Sillito, 3rd U. S. Infantry, U. S. Volunteers, for volunteering to nurse yellow fever patients at Guantanamo, Cuba, 1898.

Pvt G. Moreland, 29th U. S. Infantry, voluntarily nursed a comrade who was suffering from Asiatic Cholera, while separated from attendance, and without assistance preparing the body for burial, thereby contracting the disease and endangering his own life in safeguarding the health of his comrades, Philippine Islands, 1903.

Pvt C. W. Kennedy, 12th U. S. Cavalry, for distinguished conduct in passing through a zone infested with bandits and carrying a message to his commander in spite of having two horses shot from under him in Texas, 1915.
Sgt Clarence M. Richardson, 3rd Company Coast Artillery, for saving a fellow soldier from drowning, at the risk of his own life, on 25 November 1917 at Fort Washington, Maryland. He was one of 5 men who received the Silver Life Saving Medal, Certificate of Merit document, Certificate of Merit Medal, Distinguished Service Medal in Lieu of, which was finally replaced by the Distinguished Service Cross, all for the same act.

Significance of this award

In many cases, the Certificate of Merit, during its existence, was given for similar acts of gallantry in action, as the Medal of Honor. It was the only award for enlisted men from 1847 until the advent of the Medal of Honor in 1862, from which time it retained its position as our second highest award for gallantry in action until it was abolished in favor of the Distinguished Service Medal in 1918. The Certificate was signed by the President, and was unique in that the Certificate was the real award and the medal merely the later visible evidence of it. It was always an Army award for enlisted men as Army officers and Naval personnel were never eligible. Army enlisted men preferred the award because of the extra pay provision that followed them into retirement while the Medal of Honor had no pension till it was legislated in 1916. It is to be regretted that this award was discarded instead of being kept among the higher honors, a position it had properly earned by the gallant deeds of the men who won it over a period of 71 years during war and peace.

Now we will look at some US Army Certificate of Merit Medal groups
Certificate of Merit Document and Medal Group to 1st Sergeant Charles Karsten
Certificate of Merit document as 1st Sgt Co D 1st US Cavalry for Distinguished Service in Battle at San Juan Hill on 1 July 1898. GO 15 1900, signed by President McKinley.
Certificate Merit Badge No.19
Distinguished Service Medal issued in lieu of C of M # 1466
Purple Heart # 28222 Engraved: "CHARLES KARSTEN" for wounds received on July 1st 1898
Indian Wars Campaign No. 1909 - Sioux Camp 1890-1 1 Jan –15 Feb 91 D Troop / 1st Cav. As Sgt.
Spanish Campaign No., 1228 - 1st Sgt D Troop /1st Cav.
Philippine Congressional No. 40 - 1st Sgt D Troop / 1st Cav to Chf. Com Phil Dept.
Philippine Insurrection No. 3184 - as Post Commissary Sgt.
NY State Spanish War Medal # 9166
United Spanish War Veterans Badge # 35032
Marksman and Sharp Shooters badge made together with bars dated 1885-86-87, 1888-89-93, 1894-96-97, reverse of cross with scratched initials “C K”
Distinguished Marksman Badge, in gold and enamel, awarded in 1892.
Engraved R.I.A. # 29, Distinguished per WD GO 75, AGO, 1892.
Silver Medal for Third Class Cavalry Team Competition engraved: Bi-Department Won By Sergeant Chas. Karsten, Troop D, 1st Cav’ry August 1890.
Silver Medal for Second Class Cavalry Team Competition engraved Bi-Department Won By Sergeant Chas. Karsten, Troop D, 1st Cavalry, August 1892.
Gold Medal (missing Bottom) for First Prize Revolver Team Match, engraved Won By Sergeant Chas. Karsten, Troop D, 1st Cavalry, August 1892.
Silver Medal for Army Marksmanship, Third Class Cavalry Team Prize engraved: Army competition Won By Sergeant C. Karsten, Troop D, 1st Cavalry, September 1893.
He fired in the Distinguished Marksman's Match in 1894 and placed 4th (no award).
Served in Co D 1st US Cavalry from Aug 1883 to Nov 1899, While in the Philippines he was appointed Post Commissary Sergeant. until his retirement in 1910, Serving at many annual National Matches. He was born in 1857 in Kaeslin Germany. His civilian occupation was listed as blacksmith. He retired in 1910 to New York State. In 1914 he was admitted to the National Soldiers Home with failing eye sight. Commissary Sergeant Charles Karsten died on Jan 15, 1941 and buried at plot B-10 in the Soldiers home national Cemetery.
1st Sergeant Charles Karsten
Certificate of Merit Document awarded to Charles Yowell, Private, Company D, 7th US Infantry Regiment. Awarded for the heroic saving of the life Private Charles Tennert of the same company, while bathing on the beach of the China Sea, in the Philippines on 16 Jun 1901, GO 32 1904 signed by President Roosevelt, and letter of transmittal for his medals dtd June 8th 1918, 3 discharges.

Missing medals include: The DSM, Certificate of Merit No. 351, Spanish Campaign No. 7497, Philippine Campaign No. 21695, Cuban Occupation No. 3536 and a World War I Victory Medal with bars: Aine Marne, Meuse Argonne, St Michael, Defensive Sector for Service in the 332nd Field Signal Battalion, AEF.

Yowell was born in Levanon Missouri on 15 February 1876, enlisted on 18 December 1897 in Co D 7th US Infantry, Discharged 1917, Reenlisted 1917 as Sgt 1st Class and was discharged in 1919. Died 1 January 1944 and buried in the Veterans National Cemetery Los Angles, California
Frederick Hennecke Co. L 8th US Inf., near the village of La Paz, Island of Leyte, PI, on Dec. 5 1906, for conspicuous gallantry in action against the Pulajanes. At the risk of his own life he placed himself in front of the Constabulary soldiers and stopped their firing into his own command.
Certificate of Merit Medal No. 116
Distinguished Service Medal # 1529 turned in not present
Distinguished Service Cross # 4065 with original red DSC box,
1930’s style engraving "Frederick Hennecke" on the reverse.
Spanish Campaign No. 4836 with original box
Philippine Insurrection No. 15877 with original box
Cuban Occupation No. 253 with original box
United Spanish War Veterans medal and reunion Medals
Quartermaster Insignia.
Frederick Hennecke was born on 1 June 1874 in New York City, and was 22 years old when he enlisted on 6 Oct 1896. His civilian occupation was listed as a teamster.
He served in Company H 8th US Infantry, later the 11th Infantry, Co C, 6th Bn
Engineers, 14th, and 4th Infantry Regiments. In 1912 he was appointed Commissary Sergeant. Commissioned Captain Quartermaster Corps 1917-1919. Retired as QM Sgt 4 Oct 1919, and appointed Capt on the retired list in 1932.
Sergeant Halbert M. Beasley, Hospital Corps
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Certificate of Merit.

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

Know Ye, That Sergeant Malbert M. Reaney, of the Hospital Corps, having distinguished himself in the Service of the United States on the twenty-first day of October, 1813, when he was performing the duties of his office, was shot by an enemy, and in the performance thereof, distinguished himself, and in consequence thereof, was awarded by the Secretary of War, the Certificate of Merit, which under the provisions of Sections 1210 and 1216 of the Revised Statutes of the United States entitles him to additional pay at the rate of two dollars per month.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, this fifth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fourteen.

Secretary of War

[Signature]
Certificate of Merit awarded to Sergeant Halbert M. Beasley, Hospital Corps USA, being injured himself, he rendered aid to others injured in a train wreck at Buckatunna, Miss., Oct 13, 1913. A peace time act of life saving and the only Certificate of Merit awarded for a railroad train wreck.
Certificate of Merit Document signed by Woodrow Wilson awarded by Bul 29 1914 for aiding injured after a train wreck while himself injured on 19 Oct 1913
Certificate of Merit Medal No. 240
Distinguished Service Medal # 782 with original red DSM box
World War I Victory
Distinguished Service Medal Document in Lieu of Certificate of Merit
Scrap book with photos, 1 Warrant for Sgt. 2 for Sergeant 1st Class Hospital Corps, Commission as Major dated 1934
Photo ID used by him during WWII.
He was born in North Carolina on 8 January 1884. His C of M was awarded as Sergeant, Hospital Corps. He was war time officer, listed as 1st Lt, and Captain, Sanitary Corps, from 1917 to 1919, he then became a Warrant Officer 1919 to 1931, Retired as a Captain in 1932 and was promoted to Major in 1934 on the Auxiliary Officer retired list. He died on 6 July 1956, and is buried in the Ft Rosecrans National Cemetery.
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Certificate of Merit.

To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know Ye that Private Stanley N. Olsen of Troop H. 6th Cavalry
having Distinguished Himself in the Service of the United States on
the seventeenth day of May, 1866, at Topia, Mexico, by saving a comrade from death by

wounding,

on the recommendation of Colonel L. A. Badger, the Commanding Officer of his regiment.
I do hereby award to the said Private Stanley N. Olsen the Certificate of Merit, which under the provisions of Sections 1296 and 1295 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, entitles him to additional pay at the rate of two dollars per month.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, this, seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six.

By the President:

[Signature]

Acting Secretary of War.
Certificate of Merit conversion to DSC group to Private Stanley R. Olsen, Troop H, 6th Cavalry: Distinguished Service Cross, wrap brooch, hand-engraved "Stanley/R.Olsen", numbered "4035"; Mexican Service Medal, Army, numbered "No.1893"; World War I Victory Medal, with clasps "England" and "France"; New York Conspicuous Service Cross 1917-1919, numbered "No.2096" and hand-engraved "Stanley R. Olsen"; New York Mexican Border Service Medal, numbered "9700"; New York World War I Service Medal, numbered "93133"; Selective Service Medal, World War II. With a Marksman bar and Sharpshooter badge. Ribbon bars for the federal awards (plus a Distinguished Service Medal ribbon bar and lapel pins for DSC and DSM); a cavalry collar device and pair of collar discs for H/6 Cavalry. With original documents: Certificate of Merit to Private Stanley R. Olsen, Troop H, 6th Cavalry, for having "distinguished himself in the service of the United States on the seventeenth day of May, 1916, at Espia, Mexico, by saving a comrade from death by drowning", signed by the Acting Secretary of War, William M. Ingraham, (a departure from the Presidential signature) on 16 September 1916; certificate for the Distinguished Service Cross in lieu of the Certificate of Merit to Stanley R. Olsen for "distinguished service in saving a comrade from drowning at Espia, Chihuahua, Mexico, May 17, 1916, while serving as private first class, Troop
H, 6th Cavalry, United States Army", dated 29 October 1934; Army and Navy Legion of Valor membership certificate to Olsen, dated 9 October 1936, with color representations of three Medals of Honor and a DSC. Stanley R. Olsen was born in Frankfort New York in 1897, and returned to Schenectady New York after his service.

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