

Collection #  
P 0844

**CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS COMPANY 2583  
PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1937**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION:** 1 OVB photograph folder

**COLLECTION  
DATES:** Ca. 1937

**PROVENANCE:** Gift from Doris Leistner of New Albany, Indiana,  
January 2002

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION  
NUMBER:** 2002.0278

**NOTES:**

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created in 1933 to provide jobs for unemployed young men between the ages of 17 and 23 who were U.S. citizens. (This was modified to include older men, too.) They were paid a base salary of \$30 per month, most of which was sent home to their families. The men lived in work camps under the operation of the Department of War. Work that was done included reforestation, construction of fire observation towers, the laying of telephone lines, development of state parks, and the construction of dams, bridges, buildings, and roads. The men gained valuable job skills and were given the opportunity to receive their high school diplomas.

On 17 April 1933, the first CCC camp was established in Virginia. By 1 July there were 275,000 enrollees in 1300 camps across the country. The program was criticized by conservatives and liberals alike for various reasons, but President Franklin Roosevelt saw the CCC as a way to tap two wasted resources: young men and the land. During the Great Depression work and income were scarce, and the land had been impoverished as well by massive deforestation and erosion.

The CCC program ended on 30 June 1942, after World War II had strengthened the U.S. economy. The CCC had employed more than three million men nationally, who had built 3,470 fire towers and 97,000 miles of road. They had protected more than 20 million acres of land from erosion and planted more than 2.3 billion trees. They had devoted more than four million man-days to fighting fires. The CCC was responsible for removing nearly 15 million families from welfare and provided the Department of Conservation with labor that was much needed at the time.

Company 2583 was one of about sixty CCC companies in Indiana. There were two branches of this company, one in Tell City in Perry County and the other in English in Crawford County. The one in Tell City was designated as project F-5 and was established on 1 August 1934. It was called Camp William Tell and was located 1.5 miles north of the Tell City post office. The barracks were in the 1300 block of Ninth and Tenth streets. A side camp was established in English on 19 July 1935 and was designated as project F-9. It was located four miles north of the English post office. These camps worked on such projects as digging German Ridge Lake and building the shelter house there, repairing telephone lines, and erosion control.

Camp William Tell closed around 1943 and the barracks were converted into apartments. Many returning World War II veterans lived in the apartments until they could obtain permanent housing. The structures were razed in the early 1950s.

Russell Ray Byrd, the father of the donor of this collection, is listed as a leader of Side Camp F-9 in English. He was born in English on 12 July 1907, the son of George Washington Byrd and Emma Belle Ray Byrd. In 1930 he was working as a clerk in an A&P grocery store in Shelbyville, Kentucky, and living with his wife and daughter. In the federal census taken in April 1940, he is listed as CCC Camp custodian, living with his wife Lola, and his children Doris and Ralph, at the CCC Camp on Road 37 in the Sterling Township of Crawford County, Indiana. In October 1940, his World War II draft registration card shows

him as employed by the U.S. Forestry Service. He died on 27 February 1978 in Evansville, Indiana.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 4 November 2022):

Find a Grave

United States Federal Census, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940

U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947

Cail, Chris. *Images of America: Tell City*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2017, p. 121. <https://books.google.com> Accessed 4 November 2022.

Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy. “CCC Camps Indiana” [https://ccclegacy.org/CCC\\_Camps\\_Indiana.html](https://ccclegacy.org/CCC_Camps_Indiana.html) Accessed 4 November 2022.

Collection Guide for P 0442, Civilian Conservation Corps Company 517 Photographs [file:///L:/collections/P%20CG's/P0442%20\(CCC%20Co.%20517\)/P0442.html](file:///L:/collections/P%20CG's/P0442%20(CCC%20Co.%20517)/P0442.html) Accessed 4 November 2022.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one large photograph of six smaller photographs and a list of names of men working at “2583 RD Co. CCC, Camp William Tell, F-5, Tell City, Indiana” and “Side Camp F-9, English, Indiana,” dated 20 March 1937 (photos by Spencer & Wyckoff of Detroit, ca. 1937). The photos include a panoramic of ninety-eight men posed outdoors, interior views of the recreation hall and barracks, and a camp view of buildings and roads. Two photos are identified as being of Side Camp F-9 in English: one shows buildings, paths, and trees, and the other is a group photo of the twenty-eight men there.

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### CONTENTS

One large photograph of six smaller photographs and a list of names of men working at “2583 RD Co. CCC, Camp William Tell, F-5, Tell City, Indiana” and “Side Camp F-9, English, Indiana,” dated 20 March 1937 (photos by Spencer & Wyckoff of Detroit, ca. 1937):

- 1) Side Camp F-9 (shows buildings, paths, and trees);
- 2) Side Camp F-9 (shows 28 men posed outdoors; in the middle row, seventh from left is Russell Byrd; this photo is damaged by ink stamping);
- 3) panoramic photo of 98 men posed outdoors;
- 4) Recreation Hall (shows room with pool table, ping-pong table, and table with checkerboard);
- 5) Camp View (shows buildings, roads, and cars);
- 6) Barracks (shows room full of cots and footlockers).

**Names listed:** Paul D. Arvin (1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf -Res.); Archie R. Walters (project supt.); Paul P. Rothert (1<sup>st</sup> Lt. CW-Res.); Wayne E. Martin (2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., Air-Res.); Porter J. Coultas, MD (civilian contract surgeon); Carl B. Jerger (camp educational adviser); Atley P. Chapman (foreman); Wilbur McMahan (foreman); Edwin J. Ahlskog (foreman); Nelson L. Prall (foreman); Irvin S. Dougherty (foreman, side camp); Paul G. McWilliams (foreman, side camp); Kenneth C. McLeese (foreman, side camp).

### **Camp William Tell, F-5, Tell City, Indiana**

**Leaders:** S.B. Austin (senior leader); R.J. Genet; L.M. Lanman; R.I. Porter (storekeeper); L.A. Powell (1<sup>st</sup> cook); O. Stewart; L.A. Timberlake (mess steward).  
**Assistant Leaders:** F.A. Cassidy; J.W. Conrad (company clerk); L. Gooslin; R.L. Harrison (E.C.W. clerk); Burl Hunter (infirmary attendant); T. Jones (2<sup>nd</sup> cook); C.W. Neely (Army truck driver); R.E. Shidler; J.H. White; H.W. Wright; W.R. Yoak (Asst. CEA).  
**Members:** J.A. Adams, G.C. Andy, P.D. Appel, T.F. Askins, H. Ball, J.A. Birkla, B.W. Bolin, R. Briem, H.E. Briles, R.H. Brown, L. Cazzell, R.M. Cline, M.W. Conover, L.C. Conner, C.M. Cook, J.A. Crawford, W.F. Crosby, A. Cunningham, C.K. Curtin, D. Dalton, F. Doherty [continued on next page].

### CONTAINER

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**Members** [continued]: F.W. Doll, W. Durbin, E.E. Durham, C.A. East, W. Evans, H. Gamble, F. Goldman, S. Hall, C. Henley, T. Hollen, G. Hoover, C. Houchin, G. Hudson, G. Jenkins, M. Johnson, L. Jones, J. Keown, G.O. Kincaid, T.E. Knable, A.P. Knight, Cecil Knight, Charles Knight, H.S. Lamb, A. Land, C. Lane, J.D. Laswell, B. Lawson, C. Lee, J.N. Lewellyn, C. Lynch, R. McBee, G.C. McClure, O. McClure, F. McCutcheon, N.J. McGuire, D.E. Mahoney, A.J.A. Marshall, David L. May, A.J. Messmer, A.W. Miller, P.E. Mullen, O.C. Murr, C. Newlin, J. Newman, J.B. Nolan, E.D. Park, C. Patton, C. Perryman, R.L. Raney, L. Rhodes, E. Rissler, R.S. Rowe, J. Rutledge, W. Sandage, K. Schultz, C. Simcoe, G. Sketo, D. Spencer, W.F. Stepro, C.V. Stewart, K. Swartz, E.L. Talbott, E. Taylor, J.J. Terry, L.W. Tindall, O.A. Van Winkle, R.C. Vest, L. Waddell, M.E. Wathen, H. West, F.F. Williams, A.A. Yates.

**Side Camp F-9, English, Indiana**

**Leaders:** R.R. Byrd, A.C. Limeberry (1<sup>st</sup> cook).

**Assistant Leaders:** E.E. Brown, T. Fitch, C. Goldman.

**Members:** P. Carr, P. Crecelius, H.A. Cuzzort, M. Dicus, H.G. Dooley, H. Dudley, J. Eagle, W. Edwards, H. Goldman, C. Hall, F. Hardsaw, C. Harris, E. Hicks, W.C. Ingle, E.A. Lane, C. McDaniel, E. McDonald, E. Martin, Donald H. May, H.T. Murr, J.C. Oats, Clovis Patton, K. Peyton, A.C. Rhodes, O.M. Rissler, J.H. Satterfield, L. Sherman, R.F. Shrou, W. Smith, J.F. Stepp, C. Thompson, I. Vest, L. Wellman, G.A. Whiteside, E.L. Wilson.