IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Preservation Department

CONSERVATION CONDITION REPORT AND TREATMENT PROPOSAL

Date received: 8/04/2017
Date of report: 8/14/2017
Conservator: Emilie Duncan

Call Number: RS 13/16/1 Box 7, Folder 14
Title: "US Vet Bureau – Group is beekeeping (no back stamp)" and "Rehabilitation Work – Returned soldiers assembling and studying various types of auto and truck engines."
Imprint/Date of creation: n.d.

Collection: Department of Military Science Subject Files
Curator/Archivist: Brad Kuennen

Format: Photographic Prints
Materials: Silver gelatin photographs: filamentary silver, gelatin, baryta, paper substrate; manuscript ink, typewriter ink, graphite.
Dimensions: "Group is beekeeping" **H** 25.4 **cm x W** 20.4 **cm x Th** – **cm**

"Auto/truck engines" **H** 27.4 **cm x W** 18.6 **cm x Th -- cm**

Notes: These two photographs are part of a larger group of objects spanning various collections selected for digitization, display, and research in the exhibit "Do[ing] their bit:" Iowa's Role in the Great War.

CONDITION REPORT

Description

The objects are two DOP silver gelatin photographs. Both are labeled on the verso in manuscript and/or typescript. "The group is beekeeping" is number "15" near the center of the lower edge in graphite.

Condition

"Group is beekeeping": The photograph is in fair condition. There are two significant losses extending into the image area at the upper and lower left corners. There is a horizontal break 2.1 cm in length originating near the center of the right edge. There is associated damaged and loss of the carrier and image material along the break, especially near the terminus. There are several small creases, a small tear, and a small loss concentrated in the lower right corner. There is a small vertical tear at the top edge located directly to the right of the loss in the upper left corner. There is a second small vertical tear at the bottom edge, located directly to the right of the loss in the lower left corner. The surface of the emulsion shows damage from handling and previous storage, including several breaks in the emulsion measuring up to 3.7 cm in length resulting from creases seen on the verso of the support, compression/denting from the graphite inscription on the recto, a horizontal scratch near the tear in the right edge, and planar distortion and cracking from a previous paperclip at the left edge. There is some unknown brown material

on the emulsion directly to the right of the loss in the lower left corner. There is minor soiling and marks on the verso of the support.

“Auto and truck engines:” The photograph is in fair condition. There is a significant loss extending into the image area at the lower right corner. There are two smaller losses which extend into the images area located on the right edge 4 cm above the large loss and in the lower left corner. There is a small loss at the tip of the upper right corner. There are two vertical tears approximately 1.5 cm in length originating at the tear edge of the loss in the lower right corner. The upper and lower right corners and the lower left corners show numerous breaks in the emulsion caused by creasing of the support. Several other minor breaks in the emulsion associated with creasing are seen along the edges and in the image area. There is a small puncture hole near the center of the upper edge of the support. There are two small graphite marks near the centers of the upper and lower edges of the recto. There is a small loss in the emulsion beneath the mark at the upper edge. The surface of the emulsion shows several scratches and fingerprints. There is slight silver-mirroring seen throughout, especially in high-density image areas such as the lower left corner.

TREATMENT PROPOSAL

1. Mend small losses and tears from the verso with Japanese tissue and wheat starch paste.
2. Fill large losses which extend into the image area with printed photo paper fills containing digitally created image material rendered to match the tonal variations of the surrounding image area. The image material of these fills will not contain any newly created contextual information, but will rather mimic the overall perceived tonal variations of the missing area in order to minimize visual distraction and improve aesthetic integration of repair materials.
3. Repair and consolidate damaged emulsion as necessary with gelatin.

Estimated hours: 20

Photos on file: “Group is beekeeping (no back stamp)” AT/BT

“Auto/truck engines” AT/BT

Curatorial Approval Signature: _____

Date signed: _____

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CONSERVATION TREATMENT REPORT

Date received: 8/04/2017
Date of report: 9/20/2017
Conservator: Emilie Duncan

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TREATMENT REPORT
1. Fills were made for the losses in the upper and lower left corners of "Group is beekeeping," and for the losses in the lower left corner, lower right corner, and right edge of "Auto/truck engines."
   A. Fills were created digitally using Adobe Photoshop and manipulated within the program to match the tone and exposure of the original photograph. The fills were printed on glossy inkjet photo paper.
   B. The fills were coated on the recto with dilute methyl cellulose to prevent peeling and flaking of the image material.
   C. Each fill was cut to match the contour of the corresponding tear edge. The fills were thinned in order to more closely match the flexibility of the original object by delaminating the photo paper and by paring with a scalpel blade.
   D. The fills were attached in place using wheat starch paste and Japanese tissue paper. The thickness of each fill was built up with layers of thin Japanese tissue applied with wheat starch paste on the verso until the thickness of the original photograph was matched.
2. Areas of cracked or flaking emulsion were consolidated and repaired with 4% photo-grade gelatin applied with a brush.
3. Tears in the support were mended from the verso after emulsion consolidation, using wheat starch paste and Japanese tissue.

Materials used:
A4M methyl cellulose, Zen-Shofu wheat starch paste, Tengujo Japanese tissue (9gsm, Hiromi), photo-grade gelatin (22 bloom strength, Talas).
The fills were printed with an Epson Stylus Pro 4900 with Epson Ultrachrome HDR Ink on HP glossy inkjet brochure paper (180g).

Hours spent: "Group is beekeeping (no back stamp)": 16
"Auto/truck engines": 20.5
Total: 36.5

Photos on file: "Group is beekeeping (no back stamp)" AT/DT/BT
"Auto/truck engines" AT/BT

Curatorial Approval Signature: _____

Date signed: _____

Group in beekeeping

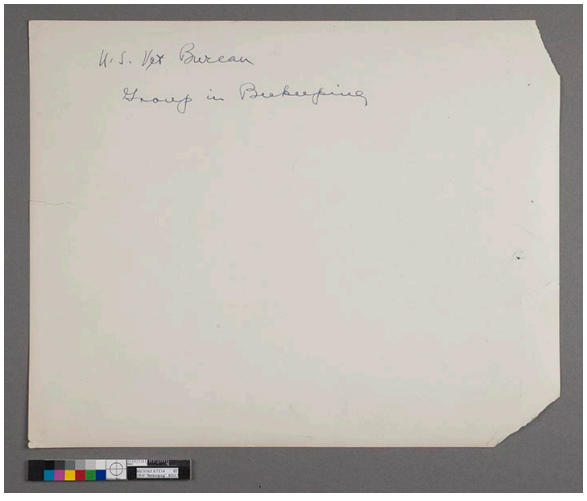
Before Treatment, recto

During treatment 1, recto

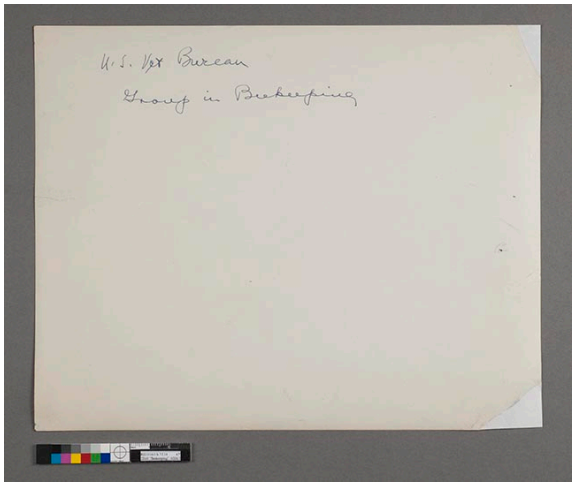
During treatment 2, recto

After treatment, recto

Before treatment, verso



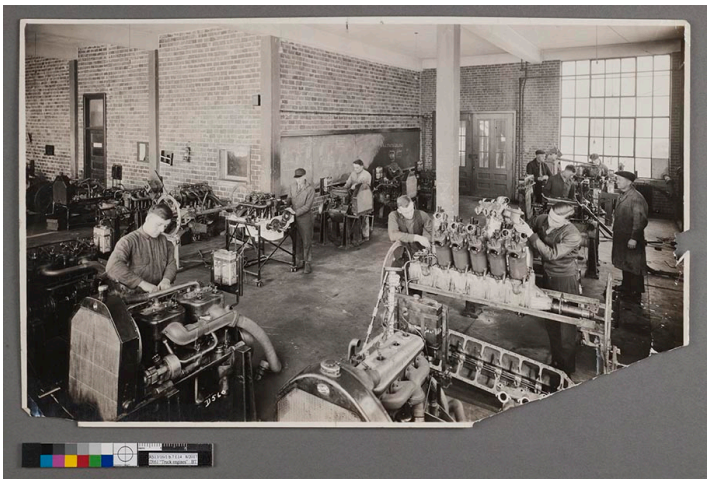
After treatment, verso



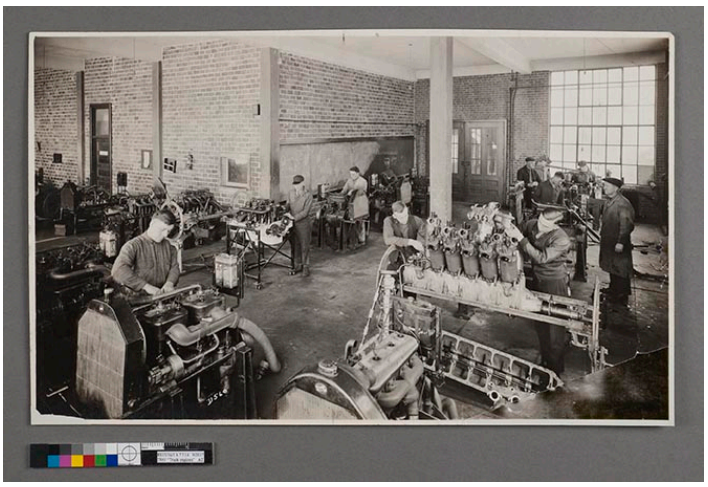
RS 13/16/1 Box 7, Folder 14

Working on truck engines

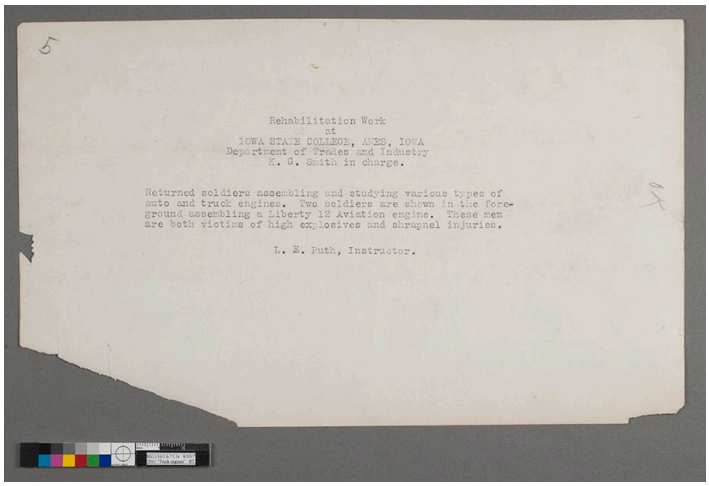
Before Treatment, recto



After Treatment, recto



Before Treatment, verso



AfterTreatment, verso