

## Captions from Exhibit

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### **ARMY BUILT PANAMA'S ROADS.**

**A good part of Panama's original road system was built by the U.S. Army.**

**Among the most important highways in this category are the Boyd-Roosevelt (Transisthmian), the portion of the Pan American Highway between Arraijan and Rio Hato and between Pacora and Chepo. The Miraflores swing-span bridge over the locks opposite Ft. Clayton and the Thatcher Ferry Bridge (Bridge of the Americas) were also built by the U.S. Army.**

**Numerous other secondary roads which led to Army anti-aircraft positions, searchlights, radar stations and other installations, have for the most part been swallowed up by vegetation and erosion. Others, however, have acted as spearheads into inaccessible areas and have formed the basis for many new centers of population within the Republic of Panama.**

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### **BIG EYES**

**These binoculars were originally emplaced at one of the Ft. Amador shore batteries during WW II. They were used on shore for spotters to scan the coastal entrances to the Canal. They could also be wheeled out and bolted to the deck of a ship. It is likely there was one at each shore battery and one on most ships.**

**On loan from Jim Wilson**

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## **EXERCISE SANDFLY**

**The first organized large-scale study made by the Chemical Warfare Service to indicate whether or not, with modern gas training and protection, military operations could be carried on under actual gas conditions.**

Clad in full protective equipment for the test, a rifle company from the 150<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment stationed in the Canal Zone entered a jungle area off the coast of Panama which had been heavily contaminated by means of mustard-filled bombs. Nothing was faked. Five tons of mustard was dropped on the target area in concentrations sufficient to cause 100 per cent casualties from severe blistering and systemic poisoning among masked but otherwise unprotected troops. The fully protected troops moved into the area, established their lines of security, and prepared to stay. Meanwhile, an infantry combat patrol, also wearing complete protective equipment, set out to attack the position running into tear gas and phosgene agent concentrations on the way. Working their way through the hot, humid jungle, the combat patrol approached the position of the holding force and made a harassing attack on it. Then the patrol withdrew. The occupying force remained at their positions for 24 hours, when the exercise was concluded. Not one of the men had received a mustard burn sufficient to render him a casualty.

**The test by Canal Zone troops had demonstrated that terrain heavily contaminated with a chemical agent could be held, and that our protective clothing and equipment had proved effective under perhaps the most rigorous and hazardous of conditions that might be encountered in gas warfare.**

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## **SILK EMBROIDERY**

**Circa 1914**

**Typical item a sailor transiting the Canal might purchase as a souvenir**

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**VASCO NUNEZ de BALBOA**  
**Order of Commander**

**Awarded to Colonel Jim Wilson, USMC, by Panamanian President Endara for promoting the Buy Panama program, a provision of the 1977 treaty which endorsed local procurement of goods and services to support the local economy.**

**During the Noriega regime, the U.S. government cut off a majority of procurement contracts, boycotting Noriega and his cronies' interests. Col. Wilson reestablished the contracts putting over \$300 million back into the local economy during the 1990–1993 time frame.**

**Since its inception, Colonel Wilson is the only Marine to receive this decoration.**

**On loan from Jim Wilson**

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**WW I TO WW II AIRCRAFT STATIONED IN OR OPERATING OUT OF PANAMA AND THE CANAL ZONE**