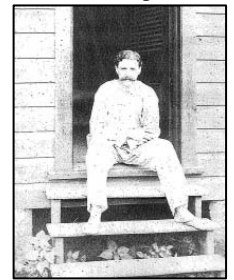




George Solomon Deibert
Captain U.S. Army Medical Reserve Corps
10 July 1917– 4 August 1919

George was born on 7 February 1877, on his family’s farm in North Whitehall Township in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania. He was the youngest of 10 children born to **Solomon Deibert** (24 October 1827 – 8 February 1904) and **Feyanna Sell Deibert** (7 December 1833 – 2 November 1890). George grew up on the farm and attended Schnecksville Academy primary school and Keystone State Normal School in Kutztown, Pennsylvania (now Kutztown University). After attending Keystone State Normal School, George taught school for several years in Pennsylvania and Ohio before moving to Trenton, New Jersey, to pursue a career in medicine. He began by taking pre-medical courses during the evening hours at Temple University in Philadelphia. To finance his education, during the daytime he taught at Rider Business College in Trenton, and worked for the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad in Philadelphia. Then, having heard of a medical-related job opening in the Panama Canal Zone, which was under construction at the time, George applied for the position and was accepted. After his arrival in Panama, he became Chief Health Inspector for the cities of Cristobal and Colon. He worked in Panama for three years, during which time he became seriously ill with yellow fever and nearly died. George returned to the States on 24 October 1906. He then resumed his medical studies. After earning his Doctor of Medicine degree and completing his internship, Dr. Deibert moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he went into private practice as a medical doctor, first residing at 729 North 9th Street and then at 225 North 12th Street, where he was living when he entered the Army during World War I. He was commissioned First Lieutenant U.S. Army in the Medical Reserve Corps on 10 July 1917, and was called to active duty the following month on the 11th of August. He attended Medical Officers Training Camp at Camp Greenleaf, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, for two months, and was then assigned to Camp Sevier Base Hospital in Greenville County, South Carolina. On 3 June 1918, Dr. Deibert was promoted to Captain. During July 1918, while Dr. Deibert was home on 10 days leave, he received a telegram ordering him to “Return at once” as a result of an outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis at the camp. In October 1918, Dr. Deibert reported to the 20th Infantry Division at Camp Sevier. The division had been organizing and training for overseas deployment since 12 August 1918. He was assigned to the 20th Sanitary Train, consisting of four ambulance companies with 12 ambulances; a medical supply unit, and four field hospitals (Nos. 277, 278,



George in Panama



Field Hospital at Camp Sevier - 1918

279, and 280). Dr. Deibert was appointed Director of Field Hospitals, with 350 officers and 900 enlisted soldiers. With the war drawing to a close, and the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918, his unit remained at Camp Sevier. Dr. Deibert served as Director of Field Hospitals until 22 January 1919, when he left for duty at the Fort Sam Houston Hospital in Texas. He arrived there on 31 January 1919, where he remained until voluntarily resigning his commission. He was discharged on 4 August 1919, and was awarded the World War I Victory Medal. After Dr. Deibert returned home, he established his own private practice, and shortly thereafter, he married **Helen Ruth Schoenly** (6 April 1892 – 12 September 1981). In 1925, they purchased a house in Wescosville, Pennsylvania. Dr. Deibert set up his office at 32 East Main Street, where he served the residents of Wescosville and the surrounding communities. During the Great Depression of the 1930s and until his retirement in 1941, Dr. Deibert also attended to the recruits at the Civilian Conservation Corps in Schnecksville at the Trexler Game Preserve. He was also an attending physician for the “Poor House” or “County Home”—now known as the Cedarbrook County Home—in South Whitehall Township. For a time he served as Superintendent, State Village for Epileptics, in Skillman, New Jersey, and on the staffs of both the Allentown Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown. Dr. Deibert was the embodiment of the village doctor, treating patients at his office or carrying his medical bag on house calls to treat them and to deliver babies. Dr. Deibert died at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital on 23 March 1942. He is buried at Greenwood Cemetery at 2100 West Chew Street in Allentown, where Helen was also laid to rest next to him in 1981. He and Helen raised three children: **Ruth Helen**, **Charles Edward**, and **Sara Elizabeth Deibert**. The Deibert family military tradition in America began with Dr. Deibert’s ancestors serving our nation as early as the American Revolution, starting with his great grandfather, **Michael Deibert Sr.**, in the Pennsylvania militia, followed by his grandfather, **Michael Deibert Jr.**, in the Army in the War of 1812; his father, **Solomon Deibert**, in the Union Army in the Civil War; his son, **Charles Edward Deibert Sr.**, in the Army in Korea; his grandchildren, **Michael Edward Deibert**, in the Air Force, **Barbara Lynn Deibert Greenzweig**, in the Army, and **Charles Edward Deibert Jr.**, in the Army; Charles Sr.’s son-in-law, **Justin Greenzweig**, also in the Army in Vietnam; and Justin’s sons, **Ryan Greenzweig** and **Ross Greenzweig**, in the Army in Iraq. On the maternal side of the family, three of Charles Sr.’s uncles served in World War I: **Myron C. Schoenly** and **Harry J. Schoenly** in the Army, and **Ray F. Schoenly** in the Navy.



Dr. Deibert's Medical Bag