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The "BULL SHEET"

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REUNION CRITIQUE

Well, the memorable 12th Annual has come and gone since we last dinned your hairy ears - past history and water over the dam, but unquestionably leaving lasting memories in the minds of the registrants and spouses who, by their participation, themselves basically contributed to yet another marvelous weekend. A fundamental fact - no troops no maneuvers! Suppose it was naturally expected to anticipate the Ishpeming bash would be somewhat extra special figuring that big HQ with its brass, staff and other high caliber personnel would have the capability and desire to do a job. And what a job they did! More than the usual amount of spit and polish was evident to the experienced campaigners which in combination with the nigh perfectly precisioned schedule of events and a super banquet/military ball all added up to an absolutely bang-up affair from H-Hour on Friday to Sunday's surrender. Each reunion has its own personality so to speak even though all pretty much operate along the same simple but time-proven format now pretty well standardized and established as S.O.P. - and adhered to except for whatever extra touches or local flavor each reunion committee sees fit to slip in for additional seasoning. They all entail a great deal of planning, however, plus lots of time and concerted effort by the people willing to serve on reunion committees and these are the boys that get right into things with the No. 2 muck sticks. Make no mistake about that! Without these dedicated volunteers the Snortin' Bull would soon bog down in his you know what. So, the BULL SHEET SERVICE AWARD to the following who manned the front line trenches for TASK FORCE ISHPEMING:

Maj Frank E. LaBelle, President; Capt Philip L. White, Banquet Program; Sgt William D. Sheldon, Bar; Sgts Willis A. Garceau & David Church, Set-up & Decorations; Capt Ralph P. Doto, Entertainment; Michael E. Fraser, Carl Pace & Robin Zini, Clean-up; WO Leonard L. Lorge, Historical Exhi-

bits; Capt Edwin J. Jachimski and Sgt William A. Eckloff, Protocol & Memorial Ceremony; Sgt Maj Charles E. Nault, Advertising & Program Booklet & Association Vice Pres.; Lt Robin Hoff, Publicity; WO Donald L. DeRoche & William P. Poirier, Meals & Banquet.

REUNION SIDE GLANCES

"Time to turn it over to someone younger", said our Historian since 1963 although his robust appearance belies Louis Giesen's (C WWI) actual age. Then darned if he didn't walk off with the door prize as the oldest doughboy present. A Snortin' Bull thanks for a job well done, Lou, and for your many significant contributions in so very many ways.....the 1968 switchover from the 182nd Arty (Mich NG) to Combat Engineering must have been a difficult transition - all the more encouraging to see Maj Lloyd M. Pryor (S-3 NG's) follow through all the way into Association participation.....Warren O. "Orv" Crow (C 254) has a perfect run of bullseyes - darned if this Expert Marksman didn't hit plumb center again on his 12th round.....Ishpeming is rightfully proud of its famed Blue Notes Drum & Bugle Corps. This group of talented youngsters, fresh from another State Championship, brilliantly performed first during the banquet program and again outdoors while the drill floor was being overhauled for the swingin' n' sweatin' - talk about planning and precision by both the Corps and the reunion committee.....bet we were (and are) the only outfit to have two rostered Anton Crnkovichs - Vice Pres. elect, "Pops", and Anton G. "Tony" the ex-Mess Sgt in to chow down Co A 254 for the first time since '45. The two are no relation either oddly enough.....hanging in there still once again for the 522nd was George J. Farkas by way of Allen Park, Mich. - one of these days you'll hit a 522 jackpot, George..... figured maybe just some Gladstone reunion exhuberance cuz Bryte, Cal. is a fur piece down the pike. But should have remembered that Tony Tvardek was a man of his word in Co B 254 - and he and wife, Marie, reaffirmed their "We'll be

there" by doing just that.....military and commercial input constituted doubled barreled support by Capt Charles H. Carlson (HQ NG)..... lots of pictures taken including many by the Bn photog but none on hand to juice up this issue - hopefully next issue.....No. 1 at Ishpeming and No. 2 at the same site is the record of "Co Clerk" Peter J. Zdybel whose first question was: "Where's the Co A 254 Morning Report?".....the spirited but effective business meeting on a constructive, thoughtful level re-emphasizing to all present that these get-togethers are necessary and do serve a purpose - lots of fun and good fellowship besidessure be nice if all the 1937-41 vintage 107th Regimental Guardsmen were as effervescent and dedicated as Matt B. Hirsch (E 107) in for his second hash mark from Milwaukee.....two eras represented by Raymond A. "Doc" Anders (Med Det 254) and (Capt) Donald Smart (Med Det NG) who discovered they unknowingly till Ishpeming often crossed paths in the Grand Rapids, Mich. area while pursuing their therapy careers.....the well planned and effective Armory decorations - a neat touch for rough and ready Combat Engineers.....missed connections at Gladstone but making up for the last year were ol' buddies Jay R. White, Jr. (A 107) and Clem Cassette (H&S 254) wrapped around a jar suspiciously looking like an Old Bushmills crockunable to take in the whole shebang for various reasons but nonetheless dropping by to greet old buddies were Painter J. Harris (C 254), Eino A. Koskela and Peter B. Denofre (B 254).....no short circuits or loose connections in the direct line between electrician Morris E. Page's (A 254) Allegan, Mich. home and the reunion sites.....Freeling & Ruth Jean Peck (C 254) made it three in a row from Coopersville, Mich. - really in high gear now, Peck!..... a busman's holiday for Sgt Bruce G. Bureau (HHC NG) a full time armory employee - a switch from greasy fatigues to dress blues anyway..... after puzzling over the subdued demeanor of the Co A 254 delegation came the light - the sobering influence of 1st Sgt Augustine "Augie" Gagnon, Westland, Mich. with new wife, Julie. Knew he was a tough one but not that tough!..... a 1121 Gp Hq vet since turned school teacher making the long trek from Germansville, Pa. was William H. Masters who wasted no time checking things out after being located....reporting in to check vehicles was ex-Motor Sgt Thomas G. Beard (B 107 Bn) who with wife, Lucy, graciously hosted a dance-famished gang at their Negawnee home.....a real pleasure having Maj Richard R. Orchard and Sgt John L. McClain (Army Advisors, NG Bn) volunteer for extra duty - experienced campaigners with nice things to say about our unique, closely knit organization....

so far as is known Luca J. "Luke" Valerio (B 107) and new missus, Anna, were the early bird-ers by pulling in Wed. for a reunion breather and visits with Martin Terzaghi (B 107 Bn) and Ed Vickstrom (H&S 254) enroute from N.Y. to Okla. Luke, now busy bulldozing and building on his wooded mountain estate near Nineveh, N.Y. after many years in Florida, forcibly departed the 107 from the Saunton Sands Assault Training Center when a training aid booby trap touched off and blew some Cornwall dune sand in his eyes. Altho making the Continental Tour as an expert camoufleur, he was never able to wrangle his way back to his old outfit - till 1973 and his first reunion.....wonderful banquet and excellent service - no wonder DeRoche and Poirier were beaming and relaxing afterwards. Motor pool specialists in charge of chow - normal situation even yet?.....coming in together were the Co B WWI gold-dust twins from Iron Mtn, MI. John P. Rule and Harvey J. Turcotte - they never miss.....the fondly remembered Irish brogue, and a bit o' blarney too we detected, contributed by Belfast lassies Isabelle Mertes and Jeanette Breton who were wooed and won by Co B 254 vets Mike "Stew" and Al during the 11 month Battle of Ulster - and subsequent off-duty activity evidenced by the presence of English wives Julia (Anton "Pops") Crnkovich (E 107), Vera (Ray) Campeau (C 254), Fay (Rans) Blondo (F 107) and Jacky (Alvin "Lee") Taggart (H&S 254). Fay Blondo has been the one and only president of the American-Canadian branch of the Trans Atlantic War Brides Association - a real wheel!..... the sharp bark of the firing squad's M-16's in contrast to the old familiar baroocoms of the Krag's, Springfield '03's and Garand M-1's..... real pre-reunion sweat and concern over the sub normal inflow of registrations indicating the gas shortage and money crunch would curtail attendance drastically - but once the dam broke with only 5-6 weeks to go it was a deluge. But no more sweatin' like that, please.....if we enjoyed more of the Robert P. "Bob" Fraizer (B NG) kind of support the armories, spacious as they are would be inadequate indeed.....work commitments prevented Reino "Ray" Kiminki (A 254) from taking in the entire weekend but he personally delivered a 170 mile hello all the same.....certainly his promotion to Association Historian is public recognition for a job extremely well done by WO Leonard "Len" Lorge (HQ NG). However, we would be remise in failing to mention two things; the cooperation of those bringing in items which contributed materially towards the effectiveness of the historical display promotion and Len's own historical section, talent and much hard work which made the whole thing go. Now, hows chances for more mimeographing for the April issue, Len?.....

Harvey Kraiss (B 254) checked things out on his lonesome at Calumet and evidently found everything A-okay for wife, Lucille, this trip from Kenosha, Wis.....and what can be said about the support and participation of Bn CO Lt Col Don Small that isn't already common knowledge? From a military view suppose the MC guiding a banquet along can be likened to a C in C directing a battle - and that's what Don did in his ever admirable style....returning to the scene where he was elected Association President a decade ago was Paul J. Van Able (A 254) but not for seconds in office he insisted.....the authority to henceforth include on our distinctive name and ribbon badges the printed 1121 Gp Hq designation - and recommendation that once issued they be retained for future reunions. Not cheap - just trying to save a buck here and there.....also taking time for a quickie check-in to say "howdy" was David W. "Mac" McCombie (D 107) while visiting old hometown of Marquette all the way from Eau Gallie, Fla....still short in stature and short in name as he was back in his H&S 254 days but standing tall for his long awaited first reunion was Mike Hydo, Sterling Heights, Mich....orchids to Capt Edwin J. Jachinski and Sgt William A. Eckloff for reinstating the old form of Memorial Service including the dress right formation (sloppily done admittedly), taps beautifully rendered, floral wreath presentation and the solemn reading of names of departed comrades by Maj Aloysius J. Hasenberg, Bn Chaplain.....a dairy herd and the long pull from LaPlata, Mo. are formidable obstacles but not for Virgil C. Mitchell and wife, Irene, responding to the 1121st Work Call.....a brief but most welcome appearance by ol' faithful and everybody's friend, Louis "Louie" Yake (B 254) in the area to pick up a discharged nephew at nearby K. I. Sawyer AFB.....many years of long range, locked-in support at last culminated by a long awaited reunion is the capsuled story on Wayne A. Ray (B 254). No question that Anchorage, Alaska earned him the furthest distance award (all time) which appropriately enough was a spin casting rod. He and wife, Bernadine, very graciously sent back their post-reunion thanks and appreciation to the reunion committee for a wonderful, memorable time which they hope to repeat soon. That's music to our ears!..... a last moment but most welcome phoned in reservation from Raymond J. Campeau (C 254) in for a combined reunion and visit to L'Anse with brother Francis L. "Monk" Campeau (also Co C 254)one big reunion encompassing many small ones is the rule not the exception. One such involved ex-Top Kick George A. Lafkas and the 1121 gang. A secret report sez George durn near wore out his arms waving tearful "time pleases" for the hard heads hanging tight at his Negaunee

pub.....the official City of Ishpeming welcome by Mayor David V. Holli who enjoined the battle as an ex-107th Guardsman himself - and a new Association recruit gained in the bargain..... another dual capacity involvement this time by Donald "Duke" Duquette - Association official & Equipment Manager for the Blue Notes Corps; just can't be the Corp's drillmaster cuz his Co B254 platoon wasn't ever that polished.....lots of ex-WWII & retired brass around both categories describing (Lt Col Ret) Richard L. Pascoe - retired but definitely not tired in Association affairs....."easy does it" specified on orders handed in by Yngve H. "Bing" Boberg (H&S 254-E NG) but nonetheless released by the medics for weekend return to duty on a limited basis..... a latrine rumor that 1st Sgt John Calcaterra (A NG) and buddies checked out a local pub to supplement the reunion program - nothing like taking in the local sights if they are worth seeinga well known fact that Pres Frank LaBelle and Vice Pres. Charles "Chuck" Nault (HQ NG) were knee deep in everything what with official stations and the reunion at large, but it was work with little recognition for wives, Eunice and Loretta, in the vitally important ladies luncheon and ditty bag areas together with Marge Small, Barbara White and Liz Pascoe. Your reporter wasn't invited but found out regardless the gals enjoyed a fine luncheon- while the released troopers suffered the inconvenience of bucking a chow line. Good chow though by an excellent HHC kitchen crew. Grateful thanks to them....which wrings forth from dimming memory the dedicated 107th cook struggling along on short rations somehow managing to eke out a batch of pies for his boys. The ungrateful wretches to a man formed chow line wearing bayonets. How come? To cut the pie crust the heroic cook was informed while beamingly standing by to soak up anticipated compliments. Whereupon cookie blew a gasket and furiously flung the lot in the G.I. cans.....dunno of anyone more intensely and longer involved in local military affairs than Edward R. Soderberg (NG's) - encompassing the Association too naturally..... in name and personality is the delightful two-some fondly acknowledged as absolute fixtures at every one of our 12 reunions- who else but Merle "Andy" and Vida Sweet (C WWI) all the way from Bay City, Mich.....personally conveying a "hello and regards to the gang" from absentee reunion companion Thomas "Butch" Bardowski (A 254) was Anthony "Tony" Wutkewicz (C 254) blowing in again like gang busters; both from Menomonee Falls, Wis.....Carl Wenger (522) in for his first from Argyle, Wis. wondering whereat all his old buddies - and we echo his puzzling inquiry.....just wouldn't seem right somehow without the promoter deluxe, Past President et

al, William A. "Bill" Larsen (B NG) and wife, Pat, present.....after several starts, stops & doodles we settled on a simple, to the point Program Chairman introduction to focus the spotlight quickly and directly upon that designated maestro for the full house enjoying and going away mighty impressed with the show. For the hundreds of others present at past reunions Capt Phillip L. White (S-4 NG) is immediately identified as song leader for the "Engineer's Song". Man, when he blasts out the verses in his parade ground baritone and the group takes off on the chorus the joint jumps and the neck hairs tickle. Really a major highlight of all reunions.....an open arms welcome for a Copper Country crew (Co A NG) comprised of Lt James P. Dougovito, Lawrence P. Sapino and Earl H. Kangas.....another appreciative post-reunion note commending the reunion "work detail" - this thoughtful expression from Trygve "Big Pete" & Dorothy Peterson (A 254), Knife River, Minn.... Al Breton (B 254) again surprised by tramping in "without orders" but this time had his own K's along just in case. No sweat, Al, because the Guards had their Stewart sandwich machines all fired up as a field kitchen.....H&S 254 Motor Poolers conveying in tandem from Ohio were Kenneth R. Kykes and John Reed, Jr. - Ken for the third time (3½ counting his dry run to Detroit) and Johnnie for an ice breaking first....and while all lined up, no "15 miles in the hour with 5 minutes for pee call" convoy movement for Joseph & Dolores Battaglia (1121) who motored from New Brighton, Pa. to Ishpeming in one day with lots of zip left over for the festivities.....the vim, vigor and talent display - ed by the World War I Drum & Bugle Corps of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. (see write-up in Issue No. 12). The Corps, sharply outfitted in WWI woolies and wraparounds, joined their younger counterparts for both the indoor and outdoor portions of the banquet program. Can report also the Corps was a smashing hit at the Camp Grayling summer encampment whose inspirational appearance there involved some first class logistics by the 107th Guards. Our own Arago Guck (A WWI) and Moose LaCombe (C WWI) are still hyperactive corps members.....support both treasured and needed is that from ex-Guardsmen such as Ronald Korpi and James Moyle (HHC) in for their first exposures.....a report that the 254's Maint Off, "WO" Donald J. Fournier, was observed giving the NG equipment the ol' eagle eye. Don's missus, Ruth, was an overseas war bride too - as a member of the American WAC's.regular as a clock out of Bruce Crossing, Mich. is Eugene "Buck" Taylor another of the energetic Co C WW oners - small town but well represented in our mailings to, in addition to Buck, Roy "Wabash Cannonball" Daniels (C 254),

Jorma H. Lannet and Oliver A. Virmala (both Co B 254).....a busy man before, during and after was Treasurer Francis "Jim" Menza (HQ NG) who again prepared and distributed copies of his latest financial statement. The current bank balance isn't too bawd at this time thanks to hefty boosts by the last three reunions..... first in with registration fees was William P. "Bill" Poirier (HHC NG) - a whole week ahead of time to assure himself of the first spot in his chow line.....a real pleasure having Louise (Henry) Warth and Betty (Ralph) Pellow present to visit with numerous friends made during reunions past.....the banquet renditions by the splendid Ishpeming Choral Club which group in turn was hosted by the Association for dining and dancing.....practically a cinch you'll find Keith B. Freeze front and center in the Co B254 formation - must be bucking for corporal but deserves a sergency in our book.....Capt Ralph P. Doto (HQ NG) had a nightmare lining up a dance band and expect he was mighty pleased to hear many nice comments about the danceable music.....thought for a bit we'd have to assign a squad to set up Joseph Pataconi's (A 254) pup tent on wheels but guess he grunted his way out of it OK.....no recon assignments from HQ; just fun for Eugene Kovacs (B 254). He gets the dirty jobs by mail so wife, Charlotte, has to suffer his complaining - politely stated..... drawings for some dandy door prizes was a new wrinkle thanks to a scrounging reunion committee. Sorry to say however the reporter failed to jot down all the names of the winners. Too busy eyeballing his own ticket stub!.....John R. Herron (Co C) popped in from nearby Marquette to greet the WWI contingent.....ex-1st Sgt and Gladstone's MC, Nels "Rube" Sjoquist, giving silent support to MC Small.....breaking in for brand new second lewey Robin Hoff (HQ NG) both for reunion duty and participation. The luck a-- drawer for the hugh tackle box from Robin's Adventure Center owes him a tall one the next time around.....Charter Director Leo R. Hirvela (HHC NG) maintains we've come a long ways since organization and he should know.....third overseas stripe for Robert Driscoll (522) from Milwaukee way but first for his better half, Marcella, who conceded a new piece of furniture for their Ishpeming trip - good girl!.....was HHC's 1st Sgt Willis "Fuzzy" Garceau admiring his decorations or worried some would fall down?.....the Sunday morn Engineer's breakfast and "watering hole" at the armory to perk up battle weary campaigners for homeward journeys.....bet the most relaxed of all were Maj Steve Fraddo (46th Gp Hq) and Capt Merton J. Lambert (C NG) who a year previously were churning water at Gladstone along with some other Co C hard workers for that grand occasion

being Lloyd A. Lessard and 1st Sgt Robert W. Miller; also Lloyd Russell an ex-Co C veteran to see what was cookin' Ishpeming way.....Mike Fornetti we knew about but not traveling companion Andrew Burbach who coordinated an Iron Mtn. visit with the reunion from distant Long Beach, Cal. - both Co C 254.....an inadequate supply of identification badges earned for one official the notorious Hero's Badge - a gaudy hand made award originated by the Guard Bn to focus smirking attention on situations best described as embarrassing. Sly buggers they be! In WWI and WWII it was a good swift drive in the drawers.....thought he could sneak in-unobserved but exposed by a front and center to pick up door prize was the lucky Chester "Chet" Schram (A 107).....the cornerstone of the 522 did it again - who else but Melvin E. Francke, Walworth, Wis.....another absentee from "bed check" was John "Johnnie Kay" Kovachich (B 254 & HQ NG) - an unexpected, wonderful surprise what with his set-to with the medics.....this one as an active Guardsman but the next one as a 20 year plus retiree is the status of Harold L. Barber (HHC NG). Reminder to all again - Association retirements are not authorized..... a concerned George C. Anderson (A 254-NG) figured we'd be short handed for the job at hand so he brought guest reinforcements along just in case - not needed but most welcome..... ..on sick call but a determined Eugene Leardi (C 254) reported all the same vowing he'll be in good shape for next time.....a spanking new Association recruit in for the works was Capt Michael Paluda (HHC NG).....lots of Co A 254 NCO's including Orlando Bongi the ex-Plat Sgt taking another quick sneaker away from his bowling alleys.....supporting the local cause were HHC Aloysius R. Sever & Richard T. Erick - son for their first watches in the O.P.....the captain spearheading the Calumet reunion two years back this time was Maj Henry P. Ilenich since transferred to 46th Engr Gp Hq, Flint, MI to which the 107th Bn is assigned.....curiosity and a thirst cost Dennes Vien, a new HHC man, some membership dues - no arm twisting involvedjust a real enjoyable Friday night social gathering by an unusually large group enjoying the bar, organ and much much BS'ing.....excepting the host company the best represented was Co C (Gladstone) and a fine turnout it was - assuming position amongst others were Robert A. & Janet Smith, Fern H. & Karen Dahlgren, Terrance & Pat Van Effen and Forrest T. & Pearl Creel.....the now well traveled north-south route out of Akron, Ohio was the route march for Raymond C. & Helen Luczyk (C 254).....due to remodeling he was and wasn't, was and wasn't -but he did - again! Harold J. & Irene Hall (A 107 Bn), Wyoming, Mich.....first his official

duties as Director then the "pick and shovel" relaxation with Co A 254 was the time table for Clyde "Babe" Asplund with wife, Dorothy, along to supervise.....with a couple now under his belt Theodore "Whitey" Rein (F 107) should be good training cadre material for Detroit ...business meeting Certificate of Recognition citing the secretary for contributory efforts towards maintaining fellowship between past and present 107th Engineers and perpetuating the heritage and honor of our proud units. Signed by Donald R. Small, Lieutenant Colonel, CE, Commanding, 107th Engineer Battalion (Combat)and if that wasn't enough yet anotherbanquet citation to overwhelm a, by then, totally embarrassed pencil pusher unaccustomed to such high honors. The citation is passed along in its entirety because it reflects great credit upon the Association as a unit inasmuch as it recognizes us for being "one of the finest military alumni organizations in the State of Michigan". Truly, it is a citation that we can pridefully share and treasure both as individuals doing our respective thing and together as a crack outfit: It reads: "Department of Military Affairs, State of Michigan, CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION, Mr. Edward C. Vickstrom is hereby cited for his devotion and dedication over a period of many years, to maintain the 107th Engineers Association as one of the finest military alumni organizations in the State of Michigan. Your desire to foster comradeship, enhance esprit de corps, and promote the unique heritage of the 107th Engineer Battalion is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Michigan Army National Guard." /s/ C. C. Schnipke, Major General, The Adjutant General of Michigan 3rd Day of August 1973 at Lansing, Michigan.... a fast moving, last moment development resulted in a two-fold reaction; short range in the form of two brand spanking new registrants, and long range for bracketing some long sought targets for our ever hungry address file. Both bursts were fused by "Plat Sgt" William Garfield Pinch wife, Frances, assisting. A quick sortie to an address from Gar located William F. White and sprung him loose for reunion duty on extremely short notice. The long range volley is a real interesting unfolding of events in the Co A 254 ranks that will be reported on in detail next issue - all set up but no room this time..... and, finally, a perfect windup of a perfect reunion is to report the perfect reunion attendance record maintained by Otis Kleaver, Sr. (HHC) - - - - - 2 years, Rans J. Blondo (F 107), St. Clair Shores, Mich.; 1 Year, Clyde C. Asplund (A 254) Ironwood, Mich.; Past Presidents; Maj Frank E. LaBelle (HQ NG), Marquette and Maj Stephen J. Fraddo (46 Gp Hq), Escanaba.

- ADVANCE ORDERS -

The detail volunteered for by a Detroit area advance guard was conclusive proof of the detachments eager determination to tie into the mission started in 1968 and left hanging fire since that time. As we all know, it was shot down by inner city riots both real and threatened. Even so, the job could have been completed had reinforcements arrived as promised, but conflicting reports from the battlefield unfortunately immobilized the reserve body thereby necessitating a heartbreaking breakoff and retreat. As honestly appraised, that bit of unfinished business in reality constitutes a stain on our otherwise untarnished Association history. A stain which will be removed in August 1974. Since being forced into a stalemated position, the gang down-under has been improving its position and remarshalling both manpower and morale for timely resumption of operations. So, the jumping off invitation eloquently extended by Charles A. Hanover (107-1121), spokesman for the Motor City group, was enthusiastically endorsed and promptly accepted during the course of the annual business meeting just past. The preliminary Order of Battle authorized them to contract for a reunion site located outside of hard-core Detroit. At press time, following some vigorous reconnaissance by an advance party, the BULL SHEET can inform you at this early date the 1974 bivouac site will be the Light Guard Armory. Map coordinates - on Eight Mile Road 3 miles east of Interstate 75 between Ryan Road and Van Dyke. Eight Mile is the dividing line between extreme North Detroit and suburban Warren. Then, after several no-nonsense meetings, committee members were mobilized for full scale operations - loaded up, rolling and rededicated to the job at hand. Following formal approval of Detroit as our '74 reunion site and in accordance with standard operating procedures, key officials were elected out of that area. And it was a foregone conclusion the unanimously elected Association president, to no ones surprise but his own, literally talked himself into office - who else but the said Charlie Hanover. The Vice Pres., for the second time around, is the energetic promoter Anton "Pops" Crnkovich (E 107) who has been ulcerating for a chance to pick up the loose ends of his sabotaged first term in office. Working along with the capable twosome will be the new P.R.O. John "Jack" McCormick (B NG), Sterling Heights, Mich., present for his 4th reunion incidently, plus a number of other local area draftees to man the vitally important reunion committee. These essential data are sufficient for the moment and for long range planning purposes pending the complete poop in next April's newsletter.

The site is ideally located to Lower Peninsula, Ohio and Pennsylvania outposts suggesting potentially a record breaking mobilization. This will be a grand opportunity for the Upper Peninsula stump jumpers to see the "bright lights and the painted ladies" to coin an old Army expression. Already at Ishpeming we were aware of two towns talking charter bus which sounds like a right pregnant idea for all our 107th oriented U.P. towns to consider seriously. All it needs is a take-charge drill sergeant to get a group moving in unison. Any hot-shot bucking for three stripes can count on the BULL SHEET for help in spreading the word, announcing plans, person to contact, etc. You say it and we'll print it. The B.S. staff is already all caught up in the contagious enthusiasm radiating out of Detroit. By golly, we can hardly wait! They are consciencely eager to host the gang and show us a good time. So, in compliance with direct orders from Pres. Hanover: "Welcome to the Motor City, August 2-3-4, 1974" You'll be sucking wind if you miss this one - editor's parting shot!

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* * * T A P S * * *
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BONDE, Kenneth C. (Co C WWI), Round Lake, Ill.
CARLSON, Howard W. (Co A 107), Hermansville, MI
HILL, William A. (Co D 107), LaPuente, Cal.
KELLY, Lt John J. (1437th Br Co), Soo, Mich.
SOFIO, Fred J. (Co D 107), Bessemer, Mich.

- - ASSOCIATION TROPHY AWARD - -

Congratulations to Delta Company (Manistique-Kingsford) for being awarded the Association's Community Service Trophy. The presentation was made during the banquet program with Lt Allan W. LaBreche (Exec O Co D) accepting on behalf of his company. The determination was made by a committee composed of: Alvin L. "Lee" Taggart (H&S 254), Warren O. "Orv" Crow (Co C 254), Oral "Moose" LaCombe (Co C WWI), Sgt William A. Eckloff (HHC NG) and Willis D. Dickens (1121).

* * EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1973-74 * *

Pres., Charles A. Hanover (1121), Warren, Mich.
V.P., Anton "Pops" Crnkovich (E 107), Detroit;
Secretary, Ed Vickstrom (H&S 254), Ishpeming
Treasurer, WO Francis J. Menza (HQ NG), Ishpeming;
P.R.O. John W. McCormick (B NG), Sterling Heights, Mich.;
Historian WO Leonard L. Lorge, (HQ NG), Ishpeming;
Directors: Permanent, Lt Col Donald R. Small (HQ NG), Marquette; 4 Years, Raymond E. Deicher (A 254), Green Bay, Wis.; 3 Years, Willis D. Dickens (1121), McFarland, Wis.
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HEADQUARTERS
254 ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 230 U S ARMY

AUTHORITY: CO, 254 Engr C Bn
DATE : 11 June 1945
INITIALS : LWJ

FORWARD : This report is intended to supplement the first such report ending on 8 December 1944 by listing the work accomplished during the period 8 December 1944 to 22 May 1945 at which time the battalion was alerted for movement to a redeployment camp in FRANCE.

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Section VII - MEDICAL SUMMARY
Section VIII - OPERATIONS SUMMARY
Section IX - CONCLUSIONS

COMBAT OPERATIONS

9 December 1944 to 22 May 1945

I. GENERAL

A. The battalion has completed eleven continuous months in a combat zone, engaging in five campaigns from the Normandy beachhead to Central Europe. It has engaged in almost all operations which might be expected from a Corps Engineer Battalion and this is a record of its experiences which would be of value to similar battalions.

B. During the period of this report the Battalion continued in its routine engineer work - road maintenance and construction, mine clearing, bridge construction, quarrying and water supply.

C. In addition the Battalion:

1. Was employed as infantry during the Ardennes offensive.
2. Provided vehicles for a Provisional truck company to haul troops and supplies.

D. Normal administrative functions were performed with increasing efficiency as experience was gained.

II. S-1 SUMMARY

A. Some little change has been made in the operations of the S-1 Section since the publishing of the June 8 - December 8 issue of this history.

B. The battalion mail clerk continued to operate effectively from the Headquarters and Service Company Command Post. However, it has proven more advantageous to borrow a 1/4-ton trailer from a line company which is drawn by

the message center 1/4-ton truck (jeep) for hauling mail to and from the APO. Since this was alternated weekly through the line companies, no one company was hindered seriously in its transportation. This system has worked very satisfactorily and is in effect today.

C. The communications section has found that, with the corrections listed in the June 8 - December 8 history under paragraph C, all operations have moved smoothly.

1. Additional personnel were required to meet the demands of the wire laying and retrieving. This was accomplished by employing three of the Headquarters and Service allotment of basic privates and training them as switchboard operators and wire crews.

2. Encoding and decoding of messages has been little required. However, it was found that to maintain proper standards of cryptographic security, a signal and cryptographic security officer should be appointed for each company and Battalion Headquarters. This officer had a locked safe to which he alone had access and therein maintained his cryptographic material and files. It was also learned that a great majority of the time the line companies had no use for the Converter M-209 keys and so the practice was formed of only allowing the companies to have the key settings when a use therefore was anticipated. This plan has worked very well.

3. The SCR-284 has continued to give excellent and faithful service both in communication with higher headquarters and within the battalion.

D. It was found that there still existed a necessity for more than one pyramidal tent in the S-1 Section, and with the Adjutant, Sergeant Major, Communications Chief and file clerk operating separately from the personnel section in a second pyramidal. All work went more smoothly. When in buildings an effort was made to maintain the same system.

E. The personnel section has continued to move in one 2½ ton cargo truck. However, it may be found that having the communication and S-1 Sections place all equipment in one truck and trailer and using a second for personnel transportation will give more comfort to the men on long trips. The fact is still borne out that while undergoing basic training all clerks should have more emphasis placed on efficiency and correctness at all times. Paper work increases in combat.

F. STATISTICS

PERIOD: 9 December 1944 to 22 May 1945

<u>HOSPITALIZED</u>				<u>BATTLE CASUALTIES</u>					
<u>Wounded</u>		<u>Injured</u>		<u>Remained on Duty</u>				<u>KIA</u>	
<u>0</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Injured</u>			<u>0</u>	<u>EM</u>
0	29	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	11

MISSING IN ACTION

PRISONERS TAKEN

0
2

EM
42

50

COURT MARTIALS

<u>General</u>		<u>Special</u>		<u>Summary</u>	
$\frac{0}{0}$	$\frac{EM}{1}$	$\frac{0}{0}$	$\frac{EM}{3}$	$\frac{0}{0}$	$\frac{EM}{5}$

AWARDS

<u>DSC</u>	<u>Silver Star</u>		<u>Bronze Star</u>		<u>Certificate of Merit</u>	
$\frac{0}{0}$	$\frac{0}{1}$	$\frac{EM}{2}$	$\frac{0}{6}$	$\frac{EM}{11}$	$\frac{0}{0}$	$\frac{EM}{13}$

<u>Oak Lf Cl Bronze Star</u>		<u>Soldiers' Medal</u>		<u>Purple Heart</u>	
$\frac{0}{1}$	$\frac{EM}{1}$	$\frac{0}{0}$	$\frac{EM}{2}$	$\frac{0}{0}$	$\frac{EM}{44}$

Croix de Guerre

$\frac{0}{1}$	$\frac{EM}{1}$
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III. S-2 SUMMARY

A. The S-2 Section continued to work in very close cooperation with the S-3. In fact, for all practical purposes, the sections can be considered as one.

B. Methods, procedures, and results for the last five months vary so little from those listed in the first report that details will not be set down.

IV. S-3 SUMMARY

A. The S-3 Section, with six months of combat experience behind it, operated smoothly and efficiently during the period of this report. The section continued to work in conjunction with the S-2 Section; in effect, the two sections functioned as one.

B. The personnel and equipment of the Division Engineer Section was combined with the S-2 and 3 Sections. Thus sufficient transportation became available for all personnel and equipment of the combined sections except for static equipment which was carried in a 4-ton truck of the maintenance section.

C. The section personnel as a whole continued to operate as stated in the previous six months report.

1. The battalion was understrength during this period and the S-3 carpenters were transferred to a line company where their skill could be used to a greater advantage. Other members of the section were sufficiently skilled in carpentry to take care of all requirements.

2. The section electrician operated and maintained a captured German generator which provided lights for battalion headquarters during the long winter nights. He also operated the motion picture projector which was often the only means of entertainment available in the field.

V. S-4 SUMMARY

A. The lessons in supply procedure learned in training in the United States, United Kingdom, and during the first six months of combat enabled the section to meet every situation that confronted it during the remaining months of combat.

B. During this period the battalion supply section was faced with many problems caused first by the explosion of a V bomb in the center of the battalion bivouac area and secondly by the over-running of the battalion during the Ardennes Counteroffensive.

C. The following is a list of equipment lost and replaced during this period:

6 ea Motorcycles, solo	1 ea Truck, 2½ ton, 6X6, Dp w/w
2 ea Trailers, 2½ ton, pole type	4 ea Truck, ¼ ton, 4X4
3 ea Trailers, ¼ ton cargo	1 ea Truck, ¾ ton, CR
5 ea Trailers, 1 ton cargo	191 ea Bayonet & Scabbard
1 ea Trailer, low bed, 8 ton	5 ea Launcher, Grenade M8
16 ea Launcher, Grenade M7	16 ea Launcher, Rocket, AT
89 ea Rifle, U.S. Cal, 30 M1	15 ea Gun, Machine, Cal .30
6 ea Gun Machine, Cal. .50	8 ea Carbines, U.S., Cal .30 M1
12 ea Clinometers, MG, M1917	4 ea Binoculars, M3
4 ea Radio Set SCR-300	2 ea Radio Set SCR-284
1 ea Switchboard BP-71	1 ea Reel Unit RL-31
4 ea Water Supply Pumps	4 ea Tank, Water 3,000 gal.

In addition to the above listed items the larger percentage of our Ordnance and Engineer Spare Parts were lost. These spare parts which took two years to obtain are not expected to be fully replaced.

D. One of the most notable jobs participated in by the S-4 Section was the construction of the longest tactical bridge in the world across the Rhine River south of Remagen. The following list of material was obtained for the job from supply sources other than "normal" within twelve hours after the job was assigned:

13,450' - 3/4" cable	1,660' - 1" cable
679 - 5/8" wire clamps	500 - ½" Wire clamps
100 - 1" wire clamps	36' - Treadway Bridge

E. Another unusual and laborious task was the hiring, paying and feeding of several hundred German railway workers. This was necessitated because the battalion had to operate 130 miles of railroad from MUIHAUSEN to LEIPZIG in an effort to alleviate the corps supply situation.

F. The water section added to their splendid record for the first six months in spite of the long fast moves and the age of the equipment. A total of 78 water points were operated during the eleven months of combat - purifying more than 4,000,000 gallons of water using the same equipment that was issued in 1943 and which has been in use ever since.

1. Monthly totals for the last five months are as follows: December, 4 W.P.'s, 365,075 gals; January, 1 W.P., 241,325 gals; February, 6 W.P.'s, 345,685 gals; March, 20 W.P.'s, 303,180 gals; April, 8 W.P.'s, 285,200 gals; May, 5 W.P.'s, 46,055 gals.

NEW CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Two non-G.I. items of apparel now very popular amongst Guardsmen are so-called Engineer caps and jackets. These are widely used for specific purposes including personal identification with units, NCO Clubs, Teams, etc. - also for general use by Guardsmen and wives both. The prominence of these nifty eye-catchers at Ishpeming's reunion prompted many envious inquiries - "how and where can I get them" sort of thing. So much so, the matter was brought up and discussed during the business meeting. As a result of action taken thereat these items are now available to all Association people - thanks to the fine cooperation of Headquarters and Headquarters Company personnel - at cost price plus postage from Ishpeming. This is not a money making deal of the Association which will act solely as your agent and as the clearing house for processing orders and funds. The Association does, however, expect some promotional kickback through usage in many parts of the country and of course to, at and from reunions. For example, an Association vet spotting a 107th Engr or 254th Engr jacket in downtown Los Angeles would be quick to check it out - and presto an old comrade and maybe even a new name/address for the Association files (don't ever forget that most important bit of reconnaissance). So, for your pleasure and guidance the following:

1. ENGINEER CAP, red felt, adjustable head band, w/Engineer Castle - \$2.65 which includes postage of 50¢ when sent as a separate item
2. ENGINEER NYLON JACKET, red, lined, complete with:
 - a. American Flag patch on left arm
 - b. Personalized with first name, or nickname, on right front
 - c. Snortin' Bull patch on left front; choice of 107 or 254 on dozer blade
 - d. Unit on back of jacket; choice of 107th Engr, 254th Engr, 522nd Engr, 112k Engr Gp Hq, 112th Engr
 - e. Sizes - small, medium, large, extra large, double extra large
 - f. All sales must be final
 - g. Price for jacket - \$23.00 (includes all of above and postage)
3. CAP AND JACKET - price for both is \$25.15 mailed together
4. Send to: 107th Engineer Association, P.O. Box A, Ishpeming, Mich. 49849
5. Payment: Personal checks or money order payable to: 107th Engineer Association

ORDER BLANK

<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineer Caps at \$2.65 alone - \$2.15 with jacket	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineer Jackets at \$23.00 each personalized as below	\$ _____
Total Enclosed		\$ _____

1. First names or nicknames _____
2. Unit on dozer blade (107 or 254) _____
3. Unit on back - one of (d) above _____
4. Sizes - see (e) above _____

Mail to: (name) _____

Address _____