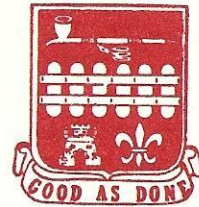




April 1974



Issue No. 16

The "BULL SHEET"

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Headquarters
107th Engineer Association
Ishpeming, Michigan

** PASS IN REVIEW **

As President of the 107th Engineer Association, I cordially invite you and your wife to attend the 13th Annual Reunion of this organization to be held August 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1974, at the Detroit Light Guard Armory, 4400 E. Eight Mile Road in Detroit. This armory is located on the northern boundary between Detroit and Warren, and is between Ryan and Mound Roads.

The Light Guard Armory is one of the largest and most beautiful of the armories located in this part of the country, with a seating capacity of 4,500. They can comfortably accommodate us as there are numerous rooms of various sizes available.

Our 1974 Reunion Committee in charge of planning is as follows: Charles Hanover, General Chairman; Anton "Pops" Crnkovich, Vice Chairman and Secretary; Eugene Hamlin, Treasurer; Rans Blondo, Printed Program Chairman; Mike Mertes, Food & Banquet Chairman; Elmer Borrusch, Asst.

Treasurer; Eugene Kovacs, Dance Committee Chairman; Fay Blondo, Ladies Activities Chairman; and John McCormick, Publicity Chairman.

Others ably assisting are: George Farkas, Ted Rein, Joe Lacyk, Philip Satterthwaite, John P. Ryan, John Cruickshank, William Hewitt, Isabel Mertes, Alvera Borrusch, Julia Crnkovich, Maryan Hamlin, Ann Farkas, Charlotte Kovacs, Jo McCormick, Vivian Rein, Hilda Lacyk and Elizabeth Hanover.

Plans to date are as follows: Friday Evening - organ music, dancing, entertainment and reminiscing. Saturday Morning - ladies guided tour of General Motors Technical Center in Warren, followed by a Ladies Luncheon. Saturday Noon - Mens' Mess. Saturday Afternoon - business meeting, Retreat & Memorial Ceremony. Saturday evening - Cocktail hour & banquet, followed by dancing (5 piece band). Sunday Morning - Farewells.

Saturday noon, Aug. 3, there will be a ladies luncheon to be preceded by a (cont'd on Page 2)



LIGHT GUARD ARMORY · DETROIT · MICHIGAN

delightful guided tour (free) of the world renowned General Motors Technical Center in Warren. This tour will be in a General Motors bus for those ladies interested. The beautiful center was designed by the late architect, Eliel Saarinen, and the fountains are patterned after Versailles. The tour encompasses the entire center with its many exciting innovations. Walking is at a minimum since some buildings are not open to the public. The entire tour covers less than two hours.

Speakers for the banquet program will be in the persons of Major General Clarence C. Schnipke, Adjutant General of the State of Michigan, who will speak on a subject pertinent to the military program and Brigadier General Leonard C. Ward, U.S.A. (Ret.), who will speak on his nine year tour at the Pentagon, and memories of WWII with the 107th Engineers and its counterparts.

During the next 3½ months, the planning committee will be completing details to make this one of the best reunions you have ever attended. Plan to be with us.


Charles A. Hanover
President

ADDITIONS TO ASSOCIATION ROSTER

denotes a "Good Conduct Medal" to the star-spangled combat engineer directly responsible for his fine recruiting effort.

Clarence G. Broberg (Co E 107-Co C 254), 911 Third St., DePere, Wis. 54178 (**Y. H. "Bing" Boberg**); John W. Mackey (Co B 107), 606 Sheridan Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. 49783 (**Americo J. "Tiny" Metro**); William A. Tompkins (Co D 107-32nd Div), 27 Turner St., Corinda, Brisbane, Australia (**Donald M. Duquette**); Robert N. Hill (Co D 107-Co F 112), 1332 Clover Drive, Lake Charles, La. 70601 (**Richard J. Ball**); Howard J. Linnert (112-H&S 254), 1620 S.W. 11th St., Apt. #6, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33312 (**Company Clerk**); Col (Ret) Gerald E. Feidt (Exec O 1121 Gp), Rte. 1, Box 633, Lanexa, Va. 23089 (**Col. R. K. McDonough**); Lorenz H. "Larry" Engebrecht (H&S 107-1121), 821 N. 4th Ave., Wausau, Wis. 54401 (**Col. McDonough**).

ENGINEER CAPS & JACKETS

Briefly put, the "Supply Section" has been kept humping processing requisitions for these items. From Alaska to New Jersey and many points in between! And would you believe a number of timely orders from wives suggesting the "G.I. Issue" was to be a Christmas offering to the ol'

man? Good thinking we must say and nice to know the BULL SHEET, although no PLAYGIRL, is pursued by the lil' dears. Don't sweat it if interested but not right away cuz there is no time limit involved. Please note, however, that the jacket price is increased two bucks to \$25.00. Inflation strikes again!

1121st ROLL CALL

Answering the 1121st "Call to Battle" since the first report in Issue No. 14 in time to make the Association roster include the following vets: Charles E. Ritter, Medic, with dues, addresses and notation: "Hope to make a reunion someday. Hello to all my old army friends.".....Paul R. Schmidt, 1st Cook, traced to Montana from old Houghton, Mich. address thanks to info from Francis D. Morin (Co C 254) whose response included dues and "Will try and make next reunion. Keep up the good work.".....dues and hot lead on Fornatoro from Francis J. "Faker" McCarty, Chaplain's Asst-Catholic, accompanying his returned questionnaire in which he commented: "Hope to make the 1974 reunion. Now retired after 38 years with Standard Brands, Inc.".....and as further verification the aforementioned promptly responded to his contact mailing with enlightening information: "I was a member of the 'Hungry Five'. Enclosed find money order for dues. I am very pleased that you finally contacted me." Pfc Felice A. Fornatoro, Army Serial, 32888471..a nifty assist from John Reed (H&S 254) led us to the fox-hole of Paul F. Cropper, Jr., resulting in membership dues and information that Paul is the Manager, W. E. Hutton & Co., Member of the New York Stock Exchange.....a member of the Association way back to 1967 by virtue of 107th service prior to his promotion to 1121st Gp Hq as Group S-3, (Maj) Charles E. Howard, after a bit of urging, fills for us the gap from his mustering out at Camp Atterbury in 1946 to the present. Instead of going back with the Indiana Highway Comm., he decided to cast his lot with the G. C. Murphy Co., a construction firm, with whom "Mac" is rounding out his 28th year. He presently fills the position of Manager, Building Supervision Department, supervising wide-spread remodeling, new store and mart construction over 4 district superintendents and 12 job supt's. in the field. With retirement around the corner one of our annual pow-wows is moved up to a high priority spot in his future planning. We'll be holding you to that promise, "Major", even on retirement income!

A spare corner in the well-traveled "barracks bag". Just enough room to jam in our 1974 objectives briefly and to the point. A BIG DETROIT REUNION and DELUGE OF NEW INFORMATION HOPEFULLY TRIGGERED OFF BY RECENTLY DISTRIBUTED ROSTERS. Lots of area for participation by everyone. You?

"DUTY" ROSTER

Initial feedback proves conclusively the Association roster of WWI and WWII veterans "on active duty" as of January 1, 1974, was a hot item of issue. Well and good and certainly music to our ears! But - from this effort HQ deservedly expects to receive reciprocal returns from the rank and file because we're not about to run a free PX. That is, new names and addresses are wanted and expected. The roster is intended to serve a two-fold purpose; individually for personal interest and use; and collectively as wire taps for generating new names, addresses, etc., into the Association's lines of communication. Where applicable and from information of record, each rostered name is identified by two units - the man's first and the one he wants to be identified with - which in most cases is his combat outfit. It is admittedly and painfully apparent the Association's records, from whence the roster was prepared, contains many inaccuracies and omissions. These of course should be eliminated, corrected or whatever. For the most part corrective information can come from only one main source - the individual! Also and again, all troops are reminded that HQ is almost entirely dependent upon reports "from the field" for current-day poop on the many many hundreds still listed as MIA's. Old buddies and comrades eager for Association service and the opportunity of rejoining old outfits after these many years. Although new information has dwindled down to a trickle, HQ optimistically anticipates the new rosters will stimulate a renewed effort which will rip into the voluminous "Unlocated-No Current Address" section of the card file. Your editor has yet to talk to one person who does not know something about somebody proving beyond doubt there still exists a vast reservoir of unreported information/news in the minds and memoirs of practically everyone making the roster. We're not asking for what you know - we're pleading! PUT IT DOWN AND SHOOT IT IN. Use this years' "will or will not attend" reunion return slip for starters. Anyone allergic to paper and pen might consider blowing a couple half crowns on a phone call to Ed Vickstrom at 906-486-4804. (Ishpeming, Mich.). An item of information that may appear insignificant to you can well be of great significance to HQ. Just like military intelligence - from the small bits and pieces the total picture is assembled for the job at hand. Press work on the roster was engineered by Anton "Pops" Crnkovich - with some real emphasis on word "engineered". Truly a dedicated effort by Pops timely coordinated with his Vice-presidential office and the upcoming reunion. An effort well deserving of your snappy "one-two by the numbers" toast at Detroit - first making certain the "pepsi" is safely secured in left

hand when your salute is so rendered. Now - lets get on the ball working towards a bigger and better roster. The Association's Supply Section is well stocked with extra rosters and will gladly issue replacements upon request.

MESSAGE FROM 1121 GROUP COMMANDER

My dear Vickstrom: "I am sure that a sizeable area of hell is paved with my resolutions to write to the Association. I have thoroughly enjoyed the notes and the revived newsletter. More power to you. The recent arrival of the roster has started me writing. While I enjoy good health, I am presently wearing a leg cast (broken leg) which severely limits my travel. Writing fits the situation, tho' it must be done on my lap. Some grist for your mill: (here - addresses on Col Gerald E. Feidt and Larry Engebrecht listed). The enclosed press clipping tells of a baseball game at Corps Hdqrs in Bristol, England (1943) between the 112th Regt. and the 190th FA Regt (Wis. NG). Besides John Kangas, I remember that Sgt Francis Shawa (our Ottawa) put on a Stomp Dance while on second base. The 190th pitcher got so flustered he threw the ball into centerfield and Shawa scored. That was the turning point of the game. Shawa might be interested to know that old Queen Mary asked General Gerow to have him do it again. Another item of interest. In the spring of 1950 while I was stationed at Fort Benning, I was visited by Joseph Mottle, late wire corporal of the 1121st, who was enroute to the 24th Div Arty in Japan. As you know, shortly thereafter the 24th went to Korea, and few returned. I have not heard from Mottle since, and wondered if he survived Korea. I had hoped that I might make a reunion before I get too decrepid, but the chances now seem slim. However, my thoughts frequently return to the "Old Outfit" and the many fine people who composed it. I was very proud of it while I commanded it, and even more so now that I have seen many more units, in and out of combat. Keep up your own good work, Ed. I have especially enjoyed the reprints of the 254th journals." Sincerely, Robert K. McDonough, Colonel USA Ret.

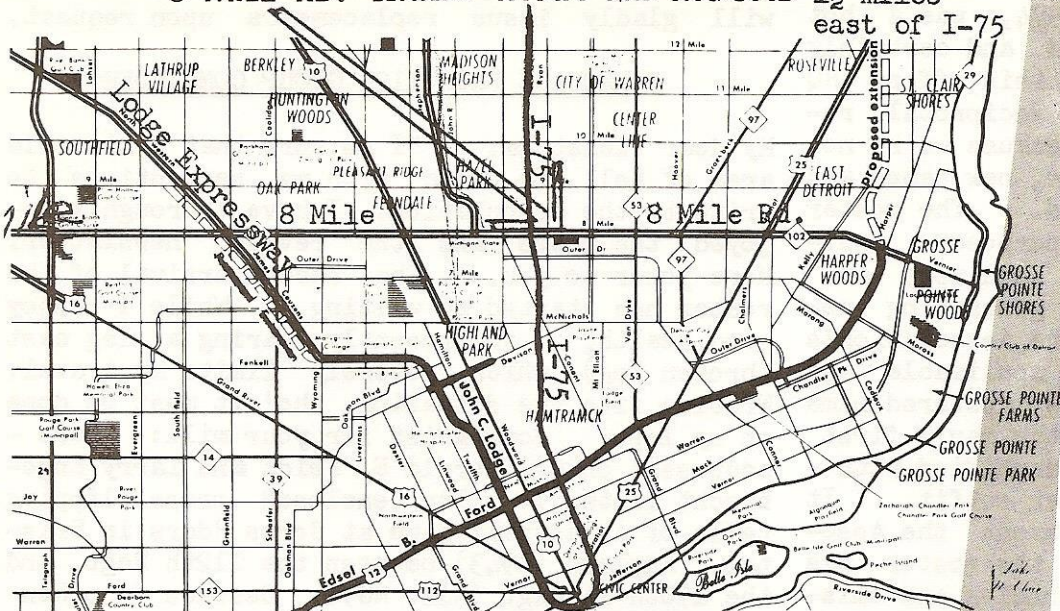
* * * * *
* * * T A P S * * *
* * * * *

BALL, (Col. Ret.), Clinton W. (Co C WWI), Santa Monica, Cal; CARR, Charles J. (Co D 107-Co B 254), L'Anse, Mich.; CHYNOWETH, Elmer J. (Co A WWI), St. Petersburg, Fla.; LARSON, Roy A. "Bull", (Co B 254), Trout Creek, Mich.; LOUIS, Raymond J. (Co A 107-Co C 254), Menominee, Mich; PROCTOR, Thomas W. (522), Bessemer, Mich.; SOCKLO, Nicholas (522), McAdoo, Pa.; TURNQUIST, Edwin W. (522), Land O'Lakes, Wis.; ZRYD, John W. "Jack" (WWI), Royal Oak, Mich.; HOLMSTROM, John A. (Co A WWI), Detroit, Mich.

DETROIT LIGHT GUARD ARMORY

ON

8 MILE RD. BETWEEN RYAN AND MOUND $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of I-75



which will convene and consider same on Saturday mornings in its administrative, controlling capacity prior to afternoon at large business meetings; (4) continue the promotion of reunion historical displays of pictures, scrap books, souvenirs and whatall which contributed significantly towards a successful Ishpeming reunion; & (5) urges individual registration of discharges and important military papers in local register of deeds offices. Constructive thinking and action- points which will be followed and implemented in future years. Front & center if you have anything in mind which will contribute constructively in any way.

SPECIAL BRIEFING

SHORT SHORTS

Our S-3 figures the 1974 maneuvers are ideally sited for a refresher on map orientation and running a compass course with the ol' dependable prismatic. Should be a challenge to all the "jackpine savages" more familiar with cross country problems in the boonies so lets see how you woodsmen do on this one. Starting time is optional - just make damn sure you arrive at the final station (Light Guard Armory) no later than 10:00 a.m. on Aug. 3rd. Back to the basics for anyone failing to pass the exercise satisfactorily. Inasmuch as the troops will be coming in from all directions it is of course an impossible task to lay out exact courses for everyone in the limited space of this issue. For information pertinent to your "azimuth" we suggest you direct an early inquiry if need be to any member of the reunion committee named herein (use roster for addresses).

- BULLETIN BOARD - NEW -

Recommendations as presented and endorsed at the Ishpeming reunion business session; (1) ice breaker reception committees to greet, introduce and otherwise assist registrants upon arrival at reunion sites; (2) distribute with the April reunion notices a summary of local highlights/ places/points of interest/attractions/activities for the benefit of reunion out-of-towners coming in early and/or staying late; (3) encourage and promote ideas, suggestions, recommendations, observations, etc. from the ranks regarding reunions and Association affairs in general; secretary to compile same for the Executive Comm.

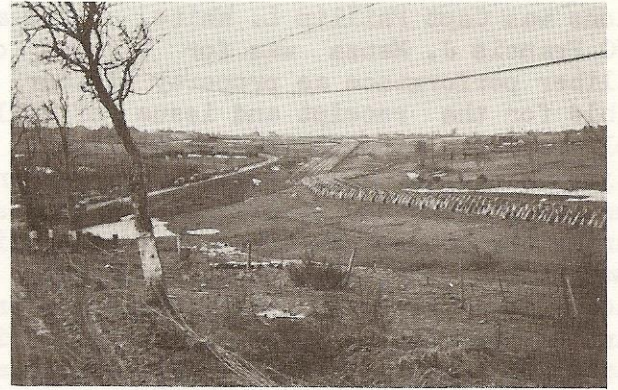
Asplund to Pinch to White to Kovacs to O'Toole to Kovacs to Martin. Something out of a baseball scorebook? Not so! Just another classic example of reconnaissance Association style, thats what! The smoldering fuse really hit the powder train when Babe Asplund pin-pointed for HQ William Garfield Pinch's position after a long series of one-jump-behind situations. The contact snowballed into an immediate address for William F. White (all Co A 254 vets) who on extremely short notice made Ishpeming - as did Red. Also, a hot tip that another A Company vet, James W. O'Toole was or had been on the Detroit Police Force - about this Gar was most emphatic cuz of his being recognized and pulled over by Jim in a cruise car thereby scaring hell out of his old Platoon Sgt in the process. Enter Eugene Kovacs (Co B 254) as a new member of the recon party; hand picked as a specialist having all the qualifications required for this important mission; a retired police officer himself with connections and necessary know-how. End result: Jim, now a retired "MP" living in Cal., checked in with a life membership and information that Richard Martin (Co A 254) is the Harbormaster in Detroit. Back to super sleuth Kovacs again for another patrol assignment who promptly established contact with "Outpost" Martin. Now, how about writing the next chapter to this intriguing series of events, Dick?..... an eagle-eyed WWI statistician delightfully informs us: "Thanks so much for the roster of members. There are listed 75 WWI doughboys and 23 of those are from Co C 107th Regt. including Ira L. West who was unidentified thereon."

Resp'ly. Yours, Charles Morrison, Horseshoer.... the WWI roster is by no means a closed-book situation so lets get with it you old-timers..... from Henry "George" Ladd (Co A 254): "Would like very much to attend the reunion but my wife and I are planning another visit to Europe this summer (1973). I have enclosed pictures with comments of two places we visited last year that I know are well remembered by the 254 gang."

while the flyboys came in with their P-51's, 38's and 47's to knock out some German tanks in the town.".....while in the WALLENDORF AREA, we have a couple more pictures, with credit to Ed Krueger, of the Bn's first penetration inside GERMANY through WALLENDORF while the 254th was in support of the 5th Armored Division.



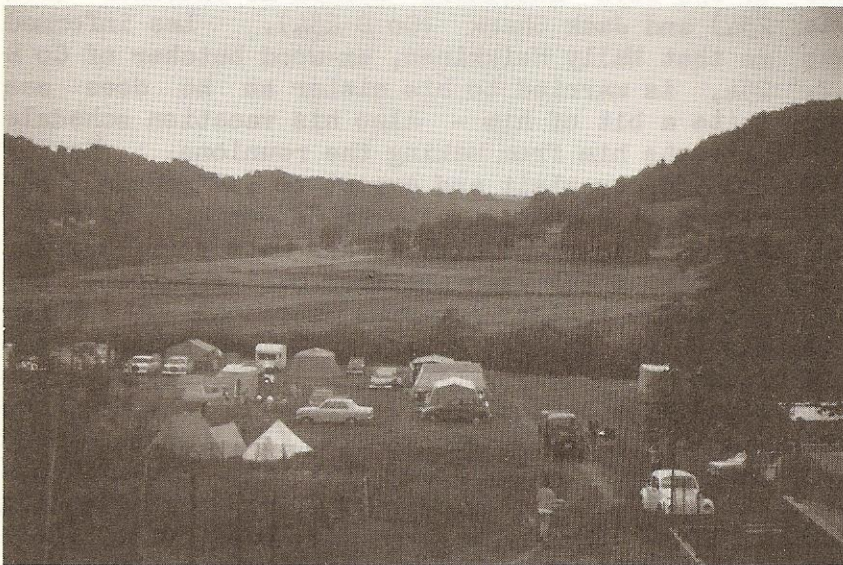
"My son, Steve, standing approximately on the spot where I was dug in with the 1st Squad, 1st Platoon of Co. A during the very early stages of the Battle of the Bulge. The SS panzer outfit that over-ran Co C came from out of the trees in the background onto a paved road about 400 yards to the right of where he is standing. This is just east of BULLINGEN, BELGIUM, and close to the one-lane stone bridge overpass for railroad tracks into the town which are still there."



Anti-tank obstacles (Dragons' Teeth) protecting the westerly approaches to the formidable Siegfried Line



One of 43 massive pillboxes in the Siegfried Line defense complex blown by the 254. After partial penetration on German soil, all U.S. troops were withdrawn back across the OUR RIVER into LUXEMBOURG.



"Looking west, this is the site of the timber bridge we constructed across the OUR RIVER from the LUXEMBOURG side to WALLENDORF, GERMANY. The hill on the far right is where we were moved to

"Please place Joe Stone (Co E 107) on the mailing list. I think Joe lives within mortar range of our next reunion. I ran into him after our Ishpeming meet. He was on patrol here in L'Anse." Paul Van Able (Co A 254).....Brig Gen Leonard C. Ward (1121) retired from the military and as Deputy Director of the Army, N.G., Washington, D.C. in 1973. Make the Detroit reunion and you'll get first-hand details of the General's distinguished post-war military career "I was a member of Co B 107, 32d Div. I signed up for a life membership in the old Red

Arrow Club in Oberbieber, Germany before coming home. Have been in a wheelchair since I had a stroke in 1967." That dedicated effort from Clint F. Hawkins.....Lt Col Donald R. Small, CO of the 107th Engr NG Bn, recently presented Legion of Merit awards to 3 members of his staff on behalf of Michigan's adjutant general and governor. Cited for his command ability during the 1967 civil emergency in Detroit and outstanding performance in various staff and command positions was Capt Phillip L. White. The award to CWO Francis J. Menza was for 9 years of high caliber performance as property officer responsible for the receipt and issue of millions of dollars worth of supplies and equipment. Sgt Major Charles E. Nault's citation commended him for his ability and leadership as first sergeant during the 1967 disturbance in organizing the company and managing the large number of men who were spread in their duties over a wide part of Detroit. The Legion of Merit is a State of Michigan individual achievement and service award. Congratulations and a well deserved Association Cluster to this trio for significant individual contributions in Association affairs.....how to locate a MIA in Florida was the problem facing HQ. Fortunately his card contained a notation: "works for the Fla. State Road Dept.", so off and away with a shot-in-the-dark inquiry to the Capitol Building, Tallahassee, Fla. Some 3 months later the missing Howard J. Linnert (Bn Mtr Sgt, H&S 254) checked back in with current address and apologies for his failure to alert HQ to a change in address. Some mighty helpful Florida State employees to be sure.....Dear Clerk: "This is to inform you that you have the right party, but the name is not Edwin - it is Edward Olson, 168 Belmont Dr., Ramsay, Mich. 49959. It is correct that I was in Co D 107 at Camp Livingston. My 1st Sgt was Wilbur Neil Hodge (522) and the company was commanded then by Capt Allan F. Olson."..... BULL SHEET No. 15 was the second draw on our third pre-printed order (10,000 each printing) for B.S. letterheads. In other words, 20,000 letterheads were consumed for the first 13 issues which averages out to just about 1,500 copies per issue. Some rather interesting statistics: 15 issues averaging 4 sheets per issue works out to 90,000 single sheets of paper or 180,000 printed pages; 180 reams and 1,000# of paper which, if stacked, would be about 45 feet high. About 18,000 individual mailings consuming 36 boxes of envelopes. Anticipating the obvious cliché - what a pile of B.S.!..... a weeks KP on pots and pans ordered for our gold bricking proof reader who knows damn well the H&S 254 roster lists Ken as Dykes - not Kykes per Issue No. 15. Oh well, it rhymes nicely, Ken!....."Sorry! Maybe next year I can make the reunion. I enjoy the paper very much - was a

member of Co C 254." William Smits, Jr..... Dear Friends: "I enjoy the BULL SHEET. I see several names in it each time that I knew overseas. I have retired from work and am now working for the Lord as a Pentecostal preacher. There is no retirement from that job. Don't seem to have time to make the reunions." Yours, Paul Moore. P.S. "Was with Co A 254 and the enclosed dues might help out a little."..... way back in 1969 a feeler was directed to an old 1945 address for Willis E. Branham as picked off a roster and also sent in by Roy L. Neal (both Co C 254). The resultant "Moved-left no address" was but another disappointing aftermath of a good try. Then as a complete surprise a recent response to a forgotten mailing: "Received your letter back in '68. At the time I was moving and lost letter from you. Finally found it again so thought I should write and say hello."..... a cold supper and icy reception from "cook" for ye' editor were minor inconveniences compared to the long-awaited reunion with old compatriot Eddie Krueger (H&S 254) while the ex-Bn Demolition Sgt was taking a breather from his strenuous deer hunting exertions. Also, getting his two cents worth in was Capt Tom C. Laitinen (Hq 107 NG) who earlier gave Eddie a tour of the Ishpeming armory. Must confess this all took place in the unofficial local area "off hours" CP - George Lafkas's (1121) emporium known as the Olympia Bar who also got in his licks between his pouring and ringing-up duties. All in all a jolly good get-together! Eddie of course departed saddled with a few Association assignments on which he later reported: "Called Leslie C. Sjoquist (Carpenter Co B 254) and had a good chat with him. Said he was receiving our mail and enjoying it. Also said he met several of the boys including Howard A. Gauthier (H&S 254) and Jack Shank (Co B 254). Les informed me that Wally Heikkinen, ex-wood butcher of Co B 254, is married to his sister so he does see quite a bit of him - also his vacation schedule prevents him from making the reunions. Really enjoyed our visit and expect to see you in Detroit next August.".....Dear Commander: "I read the 14th issue of the B.S. and note your remark about my check with Engineer castle imprint. So, I enclose another for your perusal. I had my 81st birthday last month. Tempus Fugit - time flies." Meidell H. Frimodig (Co A WWI).....the usual flow pattern for retirees is from north to south. But from Venice, Fla. to Plymouth, Mich. makes one wonder what's what with Eugene Houle (Co C WWI).....somehow escaping our attention till now this note from Harold J. Faust (Co A 254): Kindly send me a copy of the 1121 brochure. Check enclosed for dues - enjoy reading the BULL SHEET and hope some day to attend one of the reunions.....the usual sad feeling at end of page 6 - too much news and too little space.

FORWARD: The following is a continuation (Part 2) of "Combat Operations", 8 December 1944 to 22 May 1945 of the 254th Engineer Combat Battalion. See Issue No. 15 of BULL SHEET for Part 1.

VI. MAINTENANCE SUMMARY

A. In spite of the increased age and mileage, all trucks of the battalion have continued in operation principally because of the proper training and supervision of the drivers and because of the excellent and conscientious maintenance by the mechanics. By following regulations in the maintenance of vehicles more mileage and greater service have been obtained from the trucks of this than any battalion in corps. The Corps Commander personally wrote a letter commending the drivers and mechanics of this battalion.

B. The methods and activities continued the same as stated in the first report.

VII. MEDICAL SUMMARY

A. During this 5 month period the Medical Detachment has functioned as a Battalion Aid Station, bivouacing in the field in various parts of Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia. Our aid station was operated under tentage and in dugouts. Since our entry into Germany this spring we have been able to utilize buildings for our aid station and for sleeping quarters the majority of the time.

B. Our means of transportation has been a 1-1/2 ton truck with a 1 ton trailer. These have been adequate for our needs.

C. In reporting our functions and the statistical data occurring during this period, the following subdivisions will be made:

1. Supplies: Supplies have been adequate with the exception that penicillin should be available to the Battalion Surgeon. This would enable more minor infections and cases of gonorrhoea to be treated on a duty status. If plaster of paris bandages were also available, they would be useful in the treatment of minor injuries of the upper extremities. Dental supplies have been adequate except that more materials for prosthetic work would enable the Battalion Dental Surgeon to provide better service for the men.

2. Sanitation: The sanitation and sanitary condition of our men have at all times been satisfactory. Showers have been available at fairly frequent intervals. Our mess sanitation has been very good under inspection and scrutiny of the Battalion Surgeon.

3. Immunization: Men of the Battalion have received all required immunizations.

4. Statistical Report: This report covers the period from the landing of the Battalion on Omaha Beach 8 June 1944 until the termination of the war 8 May 1945, when the Battalion was located near PILSEN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA. During this period 25 of our personnel were killed in action and 47 were missing in action making a total of 72. These casualties occurred mainly in 3 different places: During the Battle of St. Lo in July 1944, near WALLENDORF, GERMANY in September 1944 and at the time of the German Breakthrough near BULLINGEN, BELGIUM on 17 December 1944. We have had only one man killed in action since that time.

of the 25 men killed in action 22 were enlisted men and 3 were officers. Of the 47 men missing in action 45 were enlisted men and 2 were officers. Below is a list of the type of action which caused the death of these men:

Enlisted Men Killed in Action

Officers Killed in Action

- 2 - booby traps
- 2 - aerial bombs
- 4 - shell fire
- 4 - land mines
- 6 - small arms fire
- 4 - mortar fire

- 1 - mortar fire
- 1 - land mines
- 1 - small arms fire

5. Evacuation: Our means of evacuation by ambulance to collecting companies has been adequate and satisfactory. The collecting companies have also provided us with liason with medical laboratories and with emergency medical supplies when needed.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. I believe the work of the Battalion Dental Surgeon could be enhanced if he were provided with materials for prosthetic work.

2. The Battalion Surgeon could treat more cases on a duty status if penicillin and plaster of paris bandages were to be available to him.

VIII. OPERATIONS

A. Assignment.

1. During the period 9 Dec 1944 - 6 May 1945 the 254 Engineer Combat Battalion was assigned to the First United States Army. During the period 6 May 1945 - 22 May 1945 the Battalion was assigned to the Third United States Army.

2. During the period 9 December 1944 - 6 May 1945 the battalion was attached to the 1121 Engineer Combat Group and operated in the V Corps zone of action in support of the 1, 2, 9, 69, 78, 97, and 99 Infantry Divisions.

3. During the period the following units were detached from the battalion for special missions:

a. During the period 9 December 1944 to 1 March 1945, one officer and 15 enlisted men were attached to V Corps Security Guard.

b. During the period 7 March 1945 to 24 April 1945, one platoon was attached to 1121 Engineer Combat Group for security.

c. During the period 28 March 1945 to 23 April 1945 from 12 to 41 vehicles with operators were furnished to Provisional Truck Companies to haul troops and supplies for V Corps and 69th Infantry Division.

B. Engineer Operations.

1. Road patrol and maintenance was carried out continuously during the period 9 December 1944 to 15 April 1945 and 1 May 1945 to 11 May 1945.

a. During the winter months this work consisted primarily of snow removal; sanding of icy points; filling ruts, potholes and craters; cleaning and opening bleeders, ditches and culverts; and building up and resurfacing roads and shoulders.

b. During the latter half of February road maintenance reached its peak as all roads were in critical condition due to frost heave and heavy traffic. In this 14 day period approximately 1,100 yards of 20 foot corduroy road was constructed and 9,000 cubic yards of rock were hauled and placed on roads.

c. The period 1 March to 15 April and 1 May 1945 was generally one of rapid movement entailing only spot maintenance of critical points and posting of main supply routes.

d. Over the entire period a total of 2-1/2 miles of road was constructed and 15,753 cubic yards of sand, gravel, rock and shale were hauled for maintenance of roads.

2. On 22-23 March 1945 the battalion, in conjunction with 994 and 998 Engineer Treadway Bridge Companies and 508 Engineer Light Ponton Company constructed an M-2 Treadway Bridge across the RHINE RIVER at NIEDERBREISIG-HONNIGEN, GERMANY. The operation involved construction of 1,368 feet of bridge and 400 feet of new road with an expenditure of 5,000 man hours. This is believed to be the longest tactical military bridge constructed in the European Theater of Operations.

3. During the period 16 April 1945 to 30 April 1945 the Battalion repaired and operated a railway which originally ran from KOLLEDA to NAUMBERG, GERMANY and was later extended westward to MUHLHAUSEN and eastward to LEIPZIG, GERMANY, a distance of 134 miles.

a. Repairs to the railway included replacement of rails twisted by tank traffic or damaged by demolitions, removal of trees and damaged engines and cars from tracks, and installation of 1,790 feet of track which had been destroyed by bombing. In addition, railway stations at MUHLHAUSEN, KOLLEDA, NAUMBERG and LEIPZIG were repaired and prepared for use as railheads. Civilian laborers were used for much of the work.

b. The railroad was operated by civilian personnel under the battalion's supervision. During the period, 911,805 gallons of gasoline, 70,035 gallons of oil and allied products, 1,000 tons of Class I supplies, 13,325 German prisoners of war, and 2,000 released Allied prisoners of war were hauled over a distance equivalent to 118,262 miles.

4. During the period 5 Bailey bridges were erected.

a. A 70 foot double-single bridge was erected over a crater near DEVENBORN, GERMANY, in the vicinity of the ROER RIVER dams. This crater had been blown in a horseshoe bend of the road and much difficulty was encountered in getting the bridging material to the site. Another crater nearby was filled by pushing hillside material into it.

b. Three (3) bridges were erected in GEMUND, GERMANY - one (1) 110 foot triple-single bridge over the OLEF RIVER and two (2) eighty (80) foot double-single bridges over the URFT RIVER. The entire area was heavily mined but this caused little trouble except in the case of the 110 foot triple-single bridge. Riegel and S-mines were embedded in the pavement and approaches of the original reinforced concrete bridge before and after its destruction and further covered with debris. Mine detectors were useless because of the reinforcing steel, necessitating all hand probing. After it was felt that the mines were cleared, the bridge was constructed and opened to traffic. Approximately 5 hours later, an explosion occurred under one of the near shore base plates while a medium tank was on the middle of the bridge, causing the bridge to buckle in the middle and damaging the approaches. It was not determined whether mines were detonated by a delayed fuse or due to the action of the bridge when passing heavy loads. The approaches were repaired and a 24 foot treadway bridge was placed across the v-section of the collapsed bridge and traffic continued.

c. A 100 foot double-single bridge was erected over the WEID RIVER near NEIDERBREIT, GERMANY. A double-single bridge was necessitated by a shortage of bridging and the bridge classification was increased to 40 by constructing a timber bent under the bridge.

5. During the period the Battalion removed and/or destroyed a total of 375 anti-tank mines and 3 anti-personnel mines.

6. Three (3) enemy pill boxes and 6 enemy bunkers of the SIEGFRIEND LINE were destroyed near SCHMIDT, GERMANY.

7. During the period 11 May 1945 to 22 May 1945 the Battalion cleared rubble and debris and repaired streets and utilities in the city of PILSEN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA using up to 3,000 German prisoners of war.

8. From one to 4 water points were operated almost continuously pumping 1,791,545 gallons of water during the period.

9. From one to 4 rock quarries or sand pits were operated during 75 days of the period.

10. Radar and gun emplacements were prepared for 413 and 134 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalions.

11. Miscellaneous enemy ammunition and explosives were destroyed and German civilian labor was used to remove and destroy enemy road blocks.

12. Miscellaneous carpentry was performed for Headquarters V Corps and 1121 Engineer Combat Group.