



April 1977



Issue No. 20

The "BULL SHEET"

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TRAVEL ORDERS - 1977 REUNION

Back to the Gladstone, Michigan armory for that unit's second crack at hosting the gang. The dates are August 12-13-14, 1977. St. Robert W. Miller and Maj (Ret) Steve Fraddo are the "drill masters" this year and at last report they have the platoon stepping right smartly preparing for the big annual get-together. Escanaba, 8 miles by a 4-laner from Gladstone, is a regular stop for North Central Airlines for the information of the Airborne reinforcements. Both communities are located on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan and scenically have much to offer. Hardly seems possible that this forthcoming reunion will be our 16th such affair since the Association was organized in 1961. No question but what we'll have another real good turnout. The question is - will you be there to fall in for roll call? Hope so!

107th BATTALION CREST

So far as is known, neither the old 107th Regt or the 254th Bn had an officially approved regimental or battalion crest. Whether or not the WWI organization worked on it is not known, but we do know that the 1940 era regiment had personnel assigned the task to work up a suitable design for approval by the appropriate office. The rapid sequence of wartime events evidently stymied the completion of this commendable effort and it wasn't until postwar that the 107th finally acquired a crest for its very own. What we are talking about is the insignia in the right hand corner of The BULL SHEET letterhead. An insignia encompassing all eras of the 107th and every man that served in our proud, distinguished unit. The significance of its various components bears this out.

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This is the distinctive insignia of the 107th Engineer Battalion as approved by the Department of the Army. The griffin at the top (not here shown) is symbolic of the State of Michi-

gan. The calumet, or peace pipe, refers to our origin in 1881 as the Calumet Light Guard. The castle is taken from the design of the medal for the war with Spain in 1898. The fluer de lis represents our service in France during WWI. The treadway bridge symbolizes the Victor Bridge, built by the 254th Combat Engineers in Europe during WWI, at that time the longest tactical bridge in the world. The colors, red and white, are those of the Corps of Engineers. The motto, Good as Done, typifies the attitude of the Upper Peninsula citizen-soldier.

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* * * T A P S * * *
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ANDERSON, Adrian W. (Co B WWI), Daytona Beach, Fla.; BARRETT, Clifford B. (Co C WWI), Milwaukee, Wis.; DEISENROTH, William A. (Co A 254), Rock Island, Ill.; CONTE, Nicholas J. (Co D 107), Ishpeming, Mich.; EATON, Lorimer A. (Co A WWI), Laurium, Mich.; GAGNON, Augustin "Augie" (Co A 254), Livonia, Mich.; GILES, Melvin (?), Utica, Mich.; GLIDDEN, Wilson W. (Co F 107), Wayne, Mich.; KING, William (Co E 107), Calumet, Mich. KOSKELA, Eino A. (Co B 254), Marquette, Mich.; LAMMINAHO, Matt (Co A WWI), Kearsarge, Mich.; MAPLES, Capt. William A. (H&S 107), Dearborn, Mich.; PRELLWITZ, Arthur H. (1121 Gp Hq), Ripon Wis.; RADEKA, Benjamin M. (Med Det 254), Hubbell, MI.; SCHILLER, Peter D. (522), Argyle, MN. TONN, Robert M. (Co D 107), Marquette, Mich.; UTTER, George (Co B 254), Sagola, Mich.; WILLIAMS, Sulo (Co A 107), Iron River, Mich.; YEZZI, Joseph J. (Co B 254), Belleville, N.J.

ASSOCIATION PROMOTIONS

1st Sgt Robert W. Miller (Co C NG's) to President; Maj (Ret) Stephen J. Fraddo (107 NG's) to Vice Pres.; Maj Henry P. Ilenich (Bn CO to Permanent Director; Donald M. "Duke" Duquette (Co B 254) to 4-year Director; Lt Col (Ret) Richard L. Pascoe to Past President; All other incum-

bents were frozen in rank for another hitch.

ROSTER ADDITIONS



(Credit given to the recon expert designated by stars.) Robert Bostic (Co A 254), 3340 Piedmont Road, Charleston, W. Va. 25304 (**Edwin P. Coil**); Leland Harde (Co D 107), Sidnaw, Mich. 49961 (**William B. Bennett**); Clarence E. Blowers (Co C 254), 26390 Blumfield, Roseville, Mich. 48066 (**Mike Fornetti**); A. P. Rosatti (Co A 107) 434 Chestnut St., Norway, Mich. 49870 (**Mike Fornetti**); Frederick H. Phillips (Co F 107), 253 Silver Creek Road, Marquette, Mich. 49855 (**Leonard Sanchez**); Stanley A. Musial (Co A 107) 4131 Burgundy St., New Orleans, La. 70117 (**Mike Fornetti**); Leonard "Barney" Oom (Co A 107 Bn), 4747 W. River Dr., Comstock Park, Mich. (**Ishpeming Reunion and ??**).

CRITIQUE - No. 15 REUNION

S-4 SECTION, 254th ENGR (C) BN

Seated L to R

Pvt Ernest W. Passamoni, died in 1967 in Iron River, Mich.
Pfc Francis L. Loose, died in 1970 in Coldwater, Mich.
T/Sgt Howard A. Gauthier, Milwaukee, Wis.
Pfc Jack Mayberry - Compton, Cal. in 1945 - unlocated
T/5 Harry J. Stampfli, died about 1967 in Cleveland, Ohio
Pfc Mike Hydo, Sterling Heights, Mich.

Middle Row L to R

Pvt Louis F. Zak, Euclid, Ohio
S/Sgt Earl G. Bonnie, on mailing list but lost in 1970 from Washington, D.C. area
T/5 Leonard J. Robinette, Escanaba, Mich.
T/5 Lindsay C. "Pops" Passano, died in 1970 in Pasadena, Maryland
T/5 Raymond L. Hartman, Avon Lake, Ohio

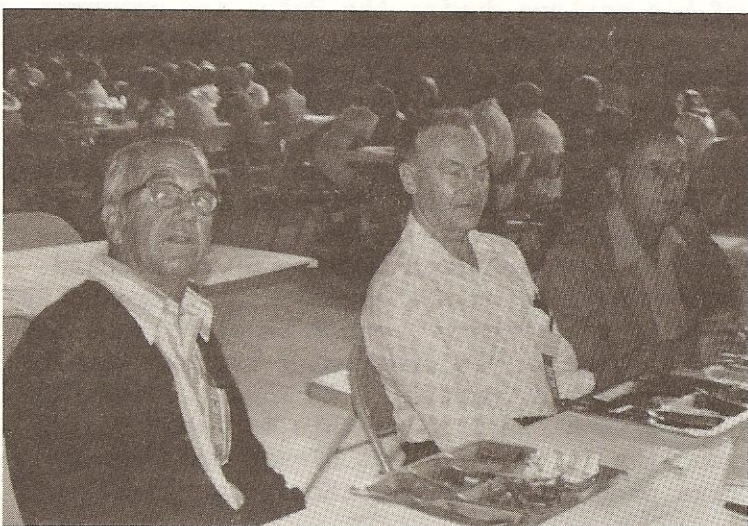
Rear Row L to R

Capt Fithian S. "Jack" Faries, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Pfc Bill C. Banville, Cleveland, Ohio
Pfc George Maskovyak, Parma, Ohio
Pfc James Wapner, Highland Park, N.J.
Pfc Bernard W. Faust - Pontiac, Mich. in 1945 - unlocated
T/5 Jack W. Bzdafka, died in 1968 in Cleveland, Ohio
W.O. Ulrich W. "Bill" Schiefer, Columbus, Ohio

Seven months since Ishpeming and only 5 short ones until No. 16 in Gladstone. What with the company clerk "over the hill" last October presstime, right now the personnel section doesn't rightfully know if it is afoot or on horseback. So what else is new? Still, even tardily, the memories of Ishpeming remain a shining star in Association history and this rag would be even more remiss than usual for failure to report on a remarkable reunion and unusual banquet program. The stem-to-stern planning and execution were absolutely flawless. Utilizing the leadership of Lt Col (Ret) Richard L. "Dick" Pascoe and the truly professional organizational skills of Maj Phillip L. "Phil" White, it was a by-the-book exercise dispatched in a workmanlike manner. But that's only part of the story. Few outside the inner circle were aware that just about the time the planning was locked-in the battalion command changed from LTC Don Small to Maj Henry Ilenich. Now unexpectedly and suddenly the Ishpeming gang was faced with the responsibility of handling two fronts almost simultaneously - a recognition farewell party for Don and the reunion. Alors! What to do and how to handle this unexpected turn of events. Well, what else but the tried and proven 107th way! Accept the missions, survey the situation, grab the bull by the horns & make a decision - "combine the two fronts for one big push". A classic situation of not enough manpower to handle the two campaigns separately. Once the difficult decision was made, and not without some trepidation fully realizing the program would necessarily be a radical departure from SOP, the well laid plans were completely revamped. A display of amazing flexibility and

brilliant execution by a determined committee. And good thing, as subsequent events proved, because soon thereafter the Bn was almost totally committed to the Seney forest fire. Although the recognition program for Col Small involved areas not normally a part of reunion programming, we feel certain that those present now have a much better conception of the Mich. NG involvement in military, civilian and political areas. And fitting too that the WWI and WWII sweats had the chance to honor Don for both his military accomplishments and his many contributions towards the Association. As predicted, the reunion set a new attendance record including we encouragingly report, many NG's who on an ever increasing scale will be taking over from the WWII vets who now predominate our active roster. Conclusion: a smashing victory
* * except for * *

With rare exceptions we have stuck to the policy of no obituaries. Just a starkly simple announcement in TAPS - military style! However two tragic events occurring during Ishpeming must be reported upon in that light. While preparing for the Saturday evening festivities, Augie Gagnon was fatally stricken in his hotel room. Prompt first aid measures by nearby comrades proved to be of no avail. The sad announcement was made and recognized during the banquet program. Augie, accompanied by wife, Julie, was in for his 5th, and last, reunion. Then if that wasn't shocking enough the unbelievable news at brunch next morning that Nicholas J. "Nick" Conte was killed by a car while walking home after a brief armory visit with old buddies - Nick's first reunion exposure. Both were 107th members when the regiment was Federally inducted in 1940 - Augie a private in Co A (Escanaba) and Nick the same in Co D (Marquette). Nick saw combat in a Airborne unit after leaving the 107th in England. Augie remained with the outfit serving as Top Kick of Co A 254 from England to war's end. Most unfortunate but fitting perhaps? Who knows!



Comrades at Noon Day Mess (from left): Augie, Thomas C. "Butch" Bardowski (Co. A 254), Anthony W. "Tony" Wutkevicz (Co C 254). Photo credit to Andrew J. "Andy" Mezzo (H&S 254).

SHORT SNORTS

Two years ago gut-bustin' approval to requisition a gavel for annual business meetings after a red-faced official slopped all over himself while energetically pounding for order with: 1 only - CAN, beer, full. Come Ishpeming - no gavel - and no supply sgt who was busted and booted back to the field. It took one of the old WWI vets to later show the kids how its done. Happy to report that we are now the proud possessor of a handsome gavel suitably engraved as follows: "Presented to 107th Engr Ass'n by 1st President Moose LaCombe 1961".....the flat landers will be interested knowing that the 107th NG Bn played a major role in combating the nationally publicized Seney forest fire last Fall by furnishing complete kitchens, equipment and personnel. Bn Hq was on a full-time alert basis reminiscent of full scale combat status. The kitchen crews did a yoeman job furnishing round-the clock meals to a couple thousand fire fighters. Capt Mike Paluda (HHC 107 Bn), a DNR fire control professional was part of the high command combining State and Federal specialists.....the day we've been awaiting finally happened. The Snortin' Bull's creator, George Molentin (H&S 254) and charming wife, Margaret, busted their first reunion out of Chicago. As a token for George's permanent contribution to the 254/107 he was presented an Engineer's jacket and cap during the banquet program. Sez they will come in handy while yatching on Lake Michigan - a carryover from joyful cruises on pontoons and assault boats no doubt.....PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE - send in address changes to HQ. Changes acquired via Address Correction Requested now cost two-bits - plus another 13 or 26¢ per piece to remail..... the Maint Sect photo in Issue No. 19 ignited a quick reaction from Weller C. Wilson out of N. East, Maryland confirming identities of the front row L to R, to-wit: "Heaton, Mann, unidentified, but 'THAT LAST GUY IS ME'". Our ex-grease-ball has been checking in regularly since '62 vowing he's in line for a 3 day pass for a reunion.... Alger F. Strickling promises to compose and set the music to a piece entitled: "History of the 107th Engr Band".....the infiltration patrol by Malvin P. Wang, Sec. of the 32d Div Veteran Assoc., was an unexpected pleasure - as was his report during the business meeting that he had received a fine membership response out of the 107th gang as a result of the application form accompanying our April '76 mailing. Plus an interesting sidelight - our own Benjamin O. "Ben" Pascoe, a 107th (Co D) furlough transferee to

the 32d Div infantry back in '41, served as an officer in Mal's 632nd TD Bn. Although present on Friday, Bennie was unable to make it Saturday, but Mal continued patrolling and made contact at Ben's lake cottage for a grand Sunday get-together.....ye' scribe's deep appreciation (again) for the many Greetings last Christmas mailcall - a sincere acknowledgment and reciprocation of same because its impossible doing so individually. And appropriate, one from "The Christmas Town" with note: "Just ran across my membership card and realize I am in



arrears which the enclosed check will rectify. I am just about retired and after Michelle (French

war bride) winds up her nursing career, we'll have more time to do the many things we desire including a trip to Michigan for a reunion. Hope you can read this - I've just finished a couple scotch and sodas." Ames T. Minor (Co B 254 Co Comdr)....."Jeez, if it wasn't for the old bucks, I'd swear we were at West Point", an overheard comment prompted by the colorful dress blues in force. And on the subject of brass - besides being Exec O of the 1121st Gp Col Gerald E. Feidt (USA-Ret) is the only officer to our knowledge who held commands in both the 112th and 107th prior to reg'l and group staff positions. His 107th service was as CO of Co F at Fort Dix. The Col and wife, Ida, were welcome reinforcements out of Lanexa, Virginia.a truly outstanding Bi-centennial program booklet for Ishpeming put together by Historian Leonard L. Lorge (HHC NG's). It even has pictures of all the reg'l/bn comdrs way back to 1881. Have some extras for mailing out in exchange for a couple 13¢ stamps - must watch expenses ya' know and postage is a killer. Len has since transferred to a new Engr Bn in Grand Rapids, Mich. His many pick 'n shovel contributions towards the Assoc. and BULL SHEET will be sorely missed.....another supply item: many requisitions for the Snortin' Bull decals and still coming in. Responses too including this gem: "Pleasre rush decals - one for car, one for truck and one for my wife's swim suit." Jim Moyle (HHC NG's).....following the beckoning fingers and ear-to-ear grins of Jorma H. Lannet and Oliver A. Virnala (both Co B 254) the unbelievable delight of seeing the long, long missing Roy R. "Wabash" Daniels (Co C 254). This will answer finally the numerous inquiries re-

ceived about Wabash fondly remembered for two things: his guitar accompanied rendition of "Wabash Cannonball" and a sprained finger. The latter a result of his headlong "I'm a Nazi dive bomber" flight from the second floor cannery billet at Coleraine, N. Ireland loaded with a full tank of uncut Royal Bonded from the securely locked and sealed Queen's Distillery - except to one or more ingeneous Engineers! Wonder if Capt Allan F. Olson, Lt Jackson M. Jarvis and 1st Sgt Wilbur "Neil" Hodge ever found out that during their frantic inspection of the kitchen the evidence was right before their eyes - in emptied vinegar jugs shelved in neat array by the resourceful and totally crocked cooks. Chow wasn't worth a damn for about 2 days - nor the rest of the company either for that matter..... another long-time MIA when like a bolt out of the blue: "Robert Bostic, also Co A 254) will be with me at the reunion. He does not receive the BULL SHEET," Well he does now with pleasure! From Edwin P. Coil complete with Bob's address.first reunion equipped with professional skills and photo equipment was Bruce Norden (Medics 107) and the Assoc. archives has projector slides to prove it.....delightful letters from Irish & Cornish gals for their gold-bricking guys: Sadie was wooed and won by Gordon J. Brown in Belfast and Barbara forsook Ilfracombe for the States and Clarence E. Blowers (both Co C 254). Brownie and Sadie made their first reunion all the way from Seattle, Wash. and Clarence was recently located as reported elsewhere. Still in the "B" section of Co C we find William W. "Skiboo" Bennett who also made Ishpeming his maiden reunion and left vowing it won't be his last.....is your Association Roster dated 1-1-74 worn out, tattered, torn or missing? A replacement for same can be obtained from HQ on requesta release from active service at Camp Livingston (Co D) due to the over age provision was just a beginning for Arvo H. Pajula who latter continued engineering in the 28th Inf Division. During a casual conversation with Arvo we learned of his capture during the Bulge and not one but 3 escapes from POW camps; the second attempt ended in capture by a German patrol just 5 miles from the front (could hear small arms fire) but successful the third time from a POW compound located in Czechoslovakia. What now after such exciting escapades? Managing a bowling alley in Ishpeming!.....a most welcome field message from the deep South and the CP of Richard B. "Dick" Bailey, ex-254 captain, at coordinates "New/Orleans": "Sorry I can't be with you all."last time in '69 and coming through with a blast was Jack E. Sawtell (H&S 254).....and fading out with a final salvo this is Issue No. 20 if you like it or not. But sights and renewed barrage programmed for Gladstone Aug. 12-13-14!