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The "BULL SHEET"

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TRAVEL ORDERS NUMBER 26

The 26th annual reunion of the 107th Engineer Association will be held on the dates of August 7-8-9, 1987 at the National Guard armory in Gladstone, Michigan. Home station for Company C 107th Engineer Battalion the armory, scenically located on Lake Michigan, is located 9 miles from Escanaba where air service is provided by Simmons Air Lines. This will be the third time the Association has been invited to maneuver at Gladstone and many reunion veterans departed from there in 1972 and 1977 with fond memories of old comradeships renewed and new Two memorable occasions friendships created. enjoyed in the hospitable atmosphere made possible by the hosting Company C guardsmen and the community of Gladstone.

MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

It is with great pride and honor to host the 26th annual Association reunion celebration. The Gladstone armory, located on beautiful Little Bay de Noc in Gladstone, Michigan, is gearing up for the invasion of such an elite group of individuals that many activities, right now, are being planned by great minds.

Look forward to one of the most enjoyable Augusts you have ever experienced. The 107th Association officers are planning to provide you with an atmosphere for your total enjoyment.

Please make your reservations as early as possible, due to the U.P. State Fair being held one week after our celebration. For those of you traveling with campers, limited space at the Gladstone armory is available. These spaces will be on a first come first serve basis only.

We would urge you to bring historical records

with you for table display at the armory; or they can be mailed to Major Frederick Stonehouse, P.O. Box 390, Ishpeming, MI 49849.

Looking forward to an enjoyable time. Hope to see your smiling faces in Gladstone this year. Again, my appreciation to those who have given me their expert advice.

Dennis M. Cummings President, 107E Association

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1986-87

Sgt Dennis Cummings (Co C NG Bn) President: Vice President: Sgt William C. Viau (Co C NG) Edward C. Vickstrom (H&S 254) Secretary: Treasurer: Sgt John A. Beauchamp (HHC NG Bn) Historian: Maj Fred Stonehouse (HHC NG Bn) P.R.O.: Sgt Timothy R. Johnson (Co C NG) Permanent Dir.: Maj William A. Luoma (HHC NG) Moose LaCombe (Co C 107 WWI) 4 Yr. Director: 3 Yr. Director: Sgt James Hutcheson (HHC NG) 2 Yr. Director: WO (Ret) Donald DeRoche (HHC) 1 Yr. Director: Sgt (Ret) Wm. C. Larsen (HHC)

ASSOCIATION TRIBUTE

A Snortin' Bull appreciation award to long-time members of the Executive Committee who have contributed long and faithfully in many, many CSM William A. Eckloff will retire from ways. the military in July and felt he should relinquish his office as Treasurer after serving as our financial expert since 1981. LTC James P. Dougovito, Bn CO, the Association's Permanent Director since 1983 was promoted out of the NG battalion and accordingly is automatically replaced on the Board of Directors. Congratulations and best wishes to both ex-officials in their new respective field of endeavor. longer officials but still Association members in very good standing.

BELIAN, Anthony M. (107th Regt), Detroit, MI *
BOBERG, Yngve H. "Bing"(H&S 254-Co A 107 NG * * Bn), Calumet, Mich., BOLSER, Walter E. (Co * * C 107 Regt WWI), Central Lake, MI.; FABER, * * (Lt) Eugene J. (Hq254 -1121 Engr Gp Hq), * * Milwaukee, Wis.; HOSKIN, Roland B. (Co B * * 107 Regt WWI), SouthLyon, Mich.; Clarence * * W. LA COURSIERE (Co B 254), Franklin, NH; * * NELSON, Robert L. (Co A 107 Regt-522d Engr * * Co), Stephenson, Mich.; PETERSON, Lawrence * * A. (Co C 254), St. Paul, Minn.; ROBERTSON, * * James H. (Co B 254), Plankington, S. Dakota; * * SIPIORSKI, Bernard A. (522d Engr Co), She-* * boygan Falls, Wis.; STUCKEL, August J. (Co * * F 107 Regt), Lock Haven, PA; SWEET, Merle *
* R. "Andy" (Co C 107 Regt WWI), Bay City, MI * * UTTER, Delwin J. (Co B 254), Phelan, Calif. * * WARE, (Capt) Allison B. (CO Co A 254), Chico * * Cal.; WEIR, Alvin K. (Med Det 107 Regt), * * Calumet, Mich.; WHITE, Jay R. (Co E 107 * * Regt), Three Rivers, Mich.; WIEDENHOEFT, *

ISHPEMING'S 25th ANNIVERSARY REUNION

What a great time and great job! Simple words attempting to cover something very very special. The excellent registration of 180 strong has historically only been exceeded by the once in-a-lifetime 100th anniversary of the 107th Engineers reunion hosted by Calumet in 1981 when a whopping 321 registrations were offically recorded. The Ishpeming reunion committee headed up by Sgt Danny Garceau, Vice Pres. and Maj(Ret) Edwin Jachimski, President, sure



pulled out all the stops to make the weekend something special and appropriate for the occasion being commemorated. Congratulations and a rousing "thank you" to the Ishpeming reunion committee and other contributors for yet another grand reunion. This photo (furnished by Rans Blondo) catches the troops in formation for the only solemn period of the entire weekend - the eye watering, gulping Memorial Service at which time our deceased comrades are honored and the names of those departing from the date of the prior reunion are read. A composite sad-sack formation for certain but individually pretty fit and trim even yet. Eastly identified from the left are the first in front row being: Edward A. Toerpe (H&S 254), Andrew J. Mezzo (H&S 254), Raymond "Doc" Anders (Med Det 254), Ralph F. Godfrey (Co A 107 Regt) Paul J. Van Able (Co A 254) and Martin Terzaghi (Co D 107-Co E 112). Also, the first man in second row sporting the Snortin' Bull engineer cap is Robert E. Wiley (Co A 254) in from far off Soap Lake, Wash. for the second year runn-

A BIT OF HISTORY

The 112th Engr (C) Bn landed at DUFFERIN QUAY, BELFAST, on Saturday 26 Jan 1942. This first convoy of GI's to the British Isles arrived on 2 transports, the STRAITHAIRD and CHATEAU THIERRY, which anchored off BANGOR as they were too large to go up the VICTORIA CHANNEL into the Belfast docks. The men were ferried from ship to shore in tenders. Also, landed were units of the 34th Infantry Division (Minnesota National Guard) which trained at Camp Clairborne, La. simultaneously with the 32d "Red Arrow" Division at Camp Livingston. The second landing of GI's on North Ireland including the

107th Engr (C) Bn was on 3 March However, in July 1941 US 1942. troops from the 5th Infantry Div. landed in ICELAND thereby releasing British troops for service elsewhere. Also in June 1941 the arrival, in great secrecy, of 400 American civilian technicians in North Ireland followed by another 600 in Sept. 1941 for the purpose of building American naval and air bases in ULSTER preceded the military landings in early 1942. An ackward corner just happens to be handy for another HAPPY ROCK (Gladstone-get it?) reunion plug. If a case of a once-in-a-lifetime deal lets be making 1987 the year to be remembered. May we suggest a week at least for the reunion weekend and tour of the beautiful Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

UPDATE ON OUR ENGLISH HISTORIAN

After several years of extensive research involving an unbelievable amount of USA-ENGLAND correspondence, on-site observations and in terviews with Newquay residents, Sid Green, Gloucester, England has completed, insofar as Gloucester, England has completed, insofar as information he has been able to dig up, his historical summary covering the 1121, 112 and 254th bivouac in the picturesque Cornwall town of Newquay including pictures of occupied hotels and thumbnail comments about their combat expericence on the Continent. Talk about a labor of love this is it. Sid must be commended, and is, for his enthusiastic and determined effort to say nothing about the personal time and expense expended from the beginning when he blindly advertised in USA publications trying to bridge a 43-year gap with members of the 3 engineer units. His unique accomplishment under unusual and difficult circumstances kinda boggles the mind. His summary is a reawakening of fond memories for the WWII men fortunate enought to be stationed in Newquay and it also is of historical interest to present day business people and residents of the fondly rememb-Sid has offered to send ye' editor ered town. a bulk supply of his masterpiece for individual distribution to anyone interested in getting a copy and we're figuring to take him up on that. Will inform you when the supply issue comes in and how you can requisition a copy. Stay tuned.

WOTINTHEHELL IS IT?



Eager registrants doubletiming up the steps towards the drill floor where most of the action was either quickly caught on with guilty smirks or hearty belly laughs - or cast puzzled looks at the Ishpeming armory front entrance display. Depending on what ones memory could recall about a bale of hay, beat up bike and jumbo sized bottle. It took awhile for the cul-

prits responsible for the dastardly deed to fess up but finally after a couple of gassy pepsi's Donald "Duke" Duquette and John Riley (both Co B 254), both evidently having a pretty good grasp of the 1943 facts, owned up that they engineered the impromptu display sans reunion committee permission. Because Riley hauled the antiquated bike all the way from his Canterbury, Conn. foxhole clearly evidences the fact the deed was for sure premedidated at least on his part. But, suspicion has it that "Duke" either helped cook up the deal before-

hand or heartily endorsed the idea upon Riley's arrival at the Duquette CP in Ishpeming. Then, horrors, if that wasn't bad enough. for a moment the gaily decorated drill hall, elaborately set up banquet tables, military dress blues and civvy glad rags of troops and the apparition their dollies when pictured at left auddenly bursts out of the main entrance, wheels up to Keith Manley (Co C 254), throws "Red" on the back of the bike and the two together on bulging tires make a couple of fast loops around the drill floor accompanied by the enthusiastic whoops of the grubbed up banqueteers. But all in good fun. Even the uptight committee quickly recognized a good thing and cooperatively improvised its formal banquet program accordingly. Dunno how Ken Giese (HHC 107 NG Bn) could come up with such a good impersonation not having been personally exposed except for hair, or is that hay, on the And what did Steve Winans (HHC-reunion chest. chairman of 1982 Menominee reunion) have in Oh yah, the whole deal was evidently a memorial to the infamous "Haystack Annie" who wasn't exactly an officially sponsored USO morale builder. Another memory of the regimental size British encampment near DEVIZES, ENGLAND, then occupied by the 112th Engr (C) Regt. Interestly the camp is still in use today by the British forces according to several who have since revisited DEVIZES and our English pal, Sid Green, who by another strange coincidence himself was stationed there while on his career duty in the RAF. Ye' editor, then in Co E 112, disclaims any knowledge of facts above stated so don't be asking for more information.

KEWEENAW ROCK OFF TO NORMANDY

An early morning phone call on 19 Aug 86 from Col Henryllenich (HHC NG Bn) and the sh-- really hit the fan. The colonel informed ye' editor that the memorial stone which was on display at Ishpeming's reunion (thanks to Henry and hereinafter described in detail) would be dedicated during the annual Camp Grayling review on 21 Aug. Also, that Maj Gen Vernon J. Andrews, Adjutant General, State of Michigan, deemed it appropriate and fitting to have a representation from the old 254 present for that auspicious occasion. Gen Andrews assigned the last minute mustering detail to Col Ilenich and authorized plane transportation UPPER PENINSULA-CAMP GRAYLING & RETIRN with departures scheduled for early evening on 20 Aug out of Marquette and Houghton. An extremely tight time frame in which to compile names of the old vets living reasonably close to the departure points and whipping them into shape for this crash work detail. But, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of John "Johnnie Kay" Kovachich (Calumet area), Richard "Dick" Wills (Marquette area and

Leonard Robinette (Escanaba area) many phone calls/personal contacts were quickly made and a 18-man detail w/strip packs took off in a C-130 cargo plane as scheduled. It was most unfortunate that many contacted could not make it on short notice - or were scared to fly maybe. And what a great 24 hour period it was. A day jam packed with enjoyable activities highlighted by the pass-in-review of several thousand guardsmen and a special bridging demonstration by the 1437th Engineer Bridge Company - a NG company from Sault Ste. Marie. The 18-man volunteer contingent included: Lawrence "Larry" Ellenich, Clarence Tauriainen, Paul Van Able, Bongi, Anthony "Tony" Crnkovich and Albert Pot-ila, all Co A 254; Johnnie Kovachich, Russell "Mouse" Terrill, Donald "Duke" Duquette, William "Howard" Davey, Richard "Dick" Wills and Painter Harris, all Co B 254; Edwin "Hutch" Edwin "Hutch" Hutchens, Co C 254; Leonard Robinette and Ed Vickstrom, both H&S 254; and Edward "Tux" Wernholm, Martin Terzaghi and Thomas Beard, all Co D 107th. Art Auno (Co A 254) also voluntered but failed to show up. Also, Warren "Orv" Crow (Co C 254) with wife, Rita, and son, motored in from home nearby for the formal stone dedication and review program. A portion of Gen Andrew's remarks at the stone dedication are as follows: "We are honored today to have with us on the reviewing stand combat veterans of the 107th Engineer Bn who fought in Europe with the battalion during WWII from the beaches of Normandy to Czechoslovakia. The French government is going to recognize the men who participated in the invasion with a Normandy invasion mus-eum. The foundation for this museum will be laid in France this year and in that foundation will be a representative stone from each state that had an organized military unit on the beach on D-Day. The only Michigan National Guard unit that was so involved was the 107th Engineer Bn - then designated the 254th Engineer Combat Battalion. Company A was the first battalion element on the beach and it is only fitting that a stone representing Calumet, the home of present day Company A 107th be selected to represent Michigan in the Normandy Invasion Museum. The stone was donated by UOP, Inc. and came from their Kingston Mine. It bears amygaloid copper. Copper well represents the past and present men of the 107th Engr Bn. strong, malleable and versatile - a perfect engineer definition." The inscription on the "In memorial to the Michigan men stone reads: who landed on Normandy, especially the 254th Engineer Battalion now known as the 107th Engineer Battalion from Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Every volunteer of the 18-man detail felt honored so representing the battalions, 254th and 107th, at the auspicious occasion. They also extend grateful appreciation to Gen Andrews, Col Ilenich and others responsible for making

it all possible and to Camp Grayling personnel for the grand hospitality affored them during their brief stay there.

Recognition and a Snortin' Bull Medallion to (** as named **)

Leo P. Schiltz (3rd Plt Co C 254), 3420 Green-briar Ct., LaCrosse, WI 54601 (**VFW Mag.**);
Alfred E. Vucitech (Co D 107 Regt- Co B 254),
4188 N. Linden Rd., Flint, MI 48504 (**VFW**);
Paul J. Kaiser (Co A & HHC 107th NG Bn-1946-50)
51693 35½ St., Paw Paw, MI 49079 (** ? **);
Alex E. "Tex" Suojanen (Med Det 254), Box 144,
Pelkie, MI 49958 (**Arthur Auno**); Lt Harold
W. Lomax (V Corps Hq-1121 Gp Hq), 16388 Jackson
St., Mishawaka, Ind. 46544 (**Harold C. Smith*)
Rodney E. Blake (2nd Plt Co B 254),35 Oakfield,
Sale, Cheshire M33 1NB, England(**Sid Green**);
Phone: O61-973-4061; Reino H. Jarvi (522d Co)
Box 153A, Trout Creek, MI 49967 (**Francis J.
Dhondt**); Louis S. Barraza (Recon Sgt, H&S
254), 25 N. Van Ness, Fresno, Cal. 93721 (**John
Sukup**); Charles R. Sheehan (112 Regt-254),
8051 Marmion Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (*DAV**)
Donald W. Dean (Co B 107 NG Bn - 1960), 3461
Hartsell Rd., Owendale, MI 48755 (**Ishpeming armory**)

LONG SEARCH ENDS SADDLY

The good news - situation on (Capt) Allison B. Ware (CO of Co A 254) is resolved. The bad news - he died about 1983. The captain's evacuation back to a base hospital due to severe small arms wounds taken near WALLENDORF on the LUXEMBOURGH-GERMANY border (where the 254 first crossed into Germany with the assigned mission of building and protecting 2 bridges across the OUR RIVER and blowing massive SIEGFRIED LINE fortifications (43) in support of the 5th Armd Div) seemed to be the end of the trail insofar as our post-war attempts to locate him were In fact the severity of his wounds concerned. cast serious doubt if he had in fact survived And this doubt increasingly through the years became more factual as absolutely no information of any kind filtered into Association HQ. That he was an attorney from San Francisco before entering service was all we knew. (Lt) Dick Wiken (Hg 254 & Co A 112 Bn) researched the San Francisco phone director for us and reported back, "Nothing." So, the situation remained stagnant until Robert E. Wiley (Co A 254) newly located in Washington state informed ye' editor that he was aware of an law office in Chico, Cal. called A. B. Ware & Son. letter of inquiry there was promptly returned marked "Insufficient Address" - but a couple phone calls miraculously led us to a fine gentleman having knowledge of Capt Ware and this

postwar information about him. His multiple wounds resulted in a leg amputation below the knee but an artificial leg was no hinderance in his pursuit of the law leading to a Judgeship in California Superior Court. He was twice married with children from both marriages and died "3-5 years ago" or around 1983. It is believed that the then 2nd Lt Ware was assigned to the 2nd Bn 112th Engr Regt (the old 107th Bn) as a platoon leader in Co D (later the Co A 254) in Devizes, England when the regiment was finally brought up to T/O strength via a massive transfer in of both officers and men. He and S/Sgt Orlando A. Bongi took their Co A platoon in at H-Hour on a special Omaha Beach assignment & sometime thereafter assumed command of Company A with promotion to captain.





107th's FIRST ETO CONSTRUCTION

"I'm going back to Europe including Ireland. Is there anything in particular you want me to check out," so inquired Joe Olinich (Co B 254) while in for his first reunion at Baraga. "Yep how about some good snapshots of the Iris huts the 107th and 112th battalions erected at MON-EYMORE, N. IRELAND in 1942", requested ye' ed-And by golly Joe had them when he was awarded his second "reunion battle star" at Ishpeming a year later. From a proud army depot beginning to inglorious fate as a storage site for lime - but still doing good duty as these excellent photos from Joe will prove. And especially happy to learn the concrete is holding up real good - confident no problem there! A few years back Mike Mertes (Co B 254) reported that at least some of the huts were



then being used to manufacture cement blocks but unfort-unately his photos were taken on a typical Irish day and were too dark for reproduction in the BULL SHEET. Good work, Joe - & much appreciated.

MAJOR 107th BN CHANGES EFFECTIVE 2 April 87

Col Henry P. Ilenich - State Engr to retirement

LTC James P. Dougovito - Bn CO to State Engr.

Maj William A. Luoma - Bn Exec O to Bn CO

Maj Frederick Stonehouse - Bn S-3 to Bn Exec O

All four have contributed greatly towards the activities and welfare of the Association in many ways and various areas. Congratulations and best wishes are in order and are so extended on behalf of all BULL SHEET readers.

CAPT WILLIS R. HALE (522) MEMORIAL

The large kraft envelope from: The A. J. Gates Company, Material Handling Engineers, Cleveland, Ohio was a puzzler on the outside but a real delight inside. This letter of explanation: SUBJECT: Unit History of the 522d Engineer Co. to 6 January 1946. Dear Ed: "The other day, when going through some old army records, came across the enclosed hand written 'History of the 522d Engineer Company. This was written by Bill Hale (Capt Willis R.) shortly before he died in 1972. After reading this account com-I must say that Bill's views were pletely, quite accurate, especially during the time I was a part of the 522d from 1944 through deactivation in 1946. A lot of fond memories are still with me from those days and no doubt will always remain. I am forwarding these notes to you, as it is only fitting that they be a part of Company C of the 107th. I sincerely regret that I will be unable to attend the Association's 25th anniversary but send my warmest regards to all." Sincerely, William F. Gates. The well written historical summary is quite extensive covering 10 legal sized sheets. Needless to say it is most interesting. After considering a couple possibilities about how best to disseminate this material of special interest to ex-522d men and general interest to all others on the Association's "active duty" roster, we opted for a piecemeal distribution beginning with this issue - if it can be fit in. Anything to retain reader interest? You ain't just a bird turding as the expressive army saying goes. Interesting to note that we initially located Bill through Mrs. Hale back in 1972, and although this was our first response



from the old 522d platoon commander it was a dandy. Many thanks, Bill, for the opportunity of perpetuating the memory of Capt Hale in this manner. That takes care of all the features. Now, comes some SHORT SNORTS.

Extra significance in receiving the excellent publication "Wolverine Guard" put out by the Adjutant General's Office of Michigan because the editor of same is our own Maj Michael H. Johnson who served in most or all of the line companies of the 107th NG Bn prior to his transfer to State Hq. Thanks for the information you've been sending us, Major "I was in the 254th Combat Engrs after the 112th split into two groups. Col Jenkins was commanding the Bn which was made up of men from the CCC, Nat'l. Guard of Mich., Wis. and Ohio. I was a replacement for men that went to Africa. built an assault training course in England and roads and bridges after the invasion. The last I heard of the 112th or 254th was that they were stationed in Fort Campbell in Ohio. Please let me know if your outfit is the same as the one described above. Thank you, and hope to hear from you." Charles R. Sheehan. Information posted off to Charlie pronto which should square him away as to what the Association is all about "I am writing in regard to my change of address. I've lost account of where I stand in paying dues so please let me know so I can become current. I retired after 37 years with Marathon Pipe Line as Corrosion Foreman of the West Division in Powell, Wyoming. I really enjoy reading the BULL SHEET and now that I am back in the mid-West I'll be looking forward to attending the reunions." Roger D. Phillips (Co C 254), R.R. #1, Box 145, Bridgeport, IL 62417. First word since '72 so great having you check in again, Rog. We managed to maintain contact in spite of his moves OHIO-ILLINOIS-WYOMING-ILLINOIS. Roger has made one reunion - 1966 in Sault Ste. Marie.....do you remember that the ATS, the British equivalent and forerunner to the U.S. WAC'S, stood for Army Territorial Service the not surprising news that Jay and Maggie White (Co E 107 Regt), fixtures at practically every re-union, would again be present at Ishpeming. Then shortly thereafter a phone call from Clem Cassette (H&S 254) with the tragic news that both Jay and Maggie were killed in an bizarre auto accident. The accident also claimed the lives of 3 others. According to the newspaper report later received, they were riding in a wrecker which was towing their disabled T-Bird when the wrecker was hit by a car which apparently ran an intersection....and while in the sad news department.....having personal knowledge that Bing would want this message passed along here it is - even though the ol' sarge checked in with Graves Registration on 27 Nov 86. Dear Ed: "Say hi to my pals. The spirit is willing but the body isn't. Will never make use of my legs again. Would enjoy a visit from one and all. An old soldier never dies, he

just fades away. Thank all those for me who have sent me cards and have visited me." Bing Boberg (Bn Sgt Maj H&S 254-Co A 107 NG Bn).... looking at my card it looks like re-up time! Was a member of Co B in Marquette for 6 years 1957-63 & during 4 of those years went to NMU. Was one of Don Small's smart ass college kids. Recall in 1958 our B Company won outstanding unit at Camp Grayling - Bersey Award and Loveland Unit Flag. First time any one unit won both awards. I remember guys like Jack Nelson, Jim Wood, Ed Noel, Paul Murk, Phil White, Pat Tibor, Bill Larsen, Joe Laurich, Jim Smedberg, Lee Bureau, Norm Pelto, Neal Green, Walt Koski, Rich Caron and lots of others. In looking back on the old days - its with pride! And a lot of fine memories. After graduation from Northern, I went to the Soo and have taught here for 26 years. Look forward to reading the BULL SHEET. Best regards, Neil F. Anderson (Co B 107 NG Bn)excerpts from humerous, informative letter from Harry Y. Scott (522): "Note to say I won't be attending the reunion. However, made a solemn promise to Len Hultgren (522) that we'd be there in 1987 come hell or high water so hope it doesn't rain. I think you fellows do a very good job. It is not a thankless job as you think cause I'M sending my thanks right here and now. THANK YOU. When I win the lottery I'll get you guys a computer. Thats a promise and I'm signing my name to this letter so if you ever see my name as a winner you better have the letter handy. File it undpromises, promises".....AWOL since '75 Ernest G. Anderson (Co A 254) reported in again with new address in Wilcox, Penn. Ernie made the grand ETO tour having joined the 107th at Camp Livingston.....one of the few located in 1969 via 1945 home addresses obtained off old 254 rosters obtained from Joe Censabella (Pers Off 254) was Alvin O. Kutschinski (Medic 3rd Plat Co C 254) found at Box 93, Charter Oak, Iowa. Another AWOL since then Al now checks in with his corrected address - Box 85........Dear Ed: "Sorry I can't make it. I had the form all filled out, dues attached, when I received a letter committing me to a trip to my homestead in Wisconsin on the same weekend. Saw Bill Siebert's (Co A 254) name on last years reunion roster and that gave me a big added reason to attend this years get together. Bill and I spent 4 years together at Notre Dame Univ. after mustering out and became good friends but haven't seen each other more than once since leaving college. My wife, Jeanne, lived in Vinncennes, a suburb of Paris, while we were bivouaced there." John "Jack" E. McCormick (H&S 254). Jack transferred to the 107th from Co D 128th Inf at Camp Livingston just before the 107th entrained for Fort Dix and movement to N. Ireland.....via the grape vine we learn that Col (ret) Gerald E. Feidt (Exec Off 1121

Engr Gp Hq) had a total knee replacement in right leg on 25 Feb 86. Possibility the left knee must be replaced also but otherwise in pretty good health in Chickahaminy Haven, Va.letterhead of Company F, 112th Engineer (C) dated 17 March 1943: COMPANY MEMO: Two recent cases of serious breach of Military Discipline in the guard at the Saint George Hotel have been handled for sufficient reasons by Court Martial under the 104th Article of War (Company Punishment). I believe that the particular reasons for handling these cases in this way will not exist in the future. Accordingly all members of the guard are informed that this will not set a precedent. All members of the guard are reminded that we are charged with the security of the most important set of buildings in North Africa. Accordingly only the highest standards of conduct on the part of each man are acceptable - or will be accepted. Willis R. Hale, Captain, 112th Engrs (C) Commanding. Editor's note: The set of buildings referred to happended to be those of the Allied Force Headquarters in Algiers. Co F 112th was of course later redesignated the 522 Engineer Company.....postcard dated 8-19-86 postmarked from CHERBOURG and picture thereon identified Le Monument du Debarquement, VIERVILLE-SUR-MER, OMAHA BEACH (Calvados, MONUMENT NAT-TIONAL GARDE. Hi Ed: "Sorry I missed the re-union this year. The beach is changed so one wouldn't recognize it - guess thats what 42 They do have a memorial to the years does. National Guard. How about that! Howard "Drip" Gauthier (H&S 254)......Vick: "Sorry tomiss this one. Planned for it but was side tracked. Hope to make the next one." "Have been retired about 5 years. Stopped in at the Iron Mtn. armory in '75 and left my card for you. wedding to go to in Marquette so didn't get back for the reunion." L.V.E. Smith (Co C 254) Thanks for the report, Smitty, and sorry to say I never got the card you left in Iron Mtn. Can also inform you that I called you on 4 Oct 86 while in Pheonix and your grandson informed me you were goofin' off for the weekend. while on the same extended auto trip the almost unbelievable incident of bumping into Morris and Mary Page (Co A 254) in the Circus Circus casino, Los Vegas. A couple of Michiganders a long ways from home - and hoping for a jackpota request from San Jose, Cal. way back last December. "Could you please send me the dates of the 1987 reunion. I am planning on coming and I need the dates now." James W. O'Toole (Co A 254). A pleasure to oblige, JimHi Ed: "Hope you are doing OK. I just looked at my membership card and see its time for me to reinlist again. Hope to see you Thank you." Joseph Clabots again sometime. Escanaba is only 8 miles from (Co B 254). Gladstone, Joe, and if you don't check in this

August we're going to send the MP's after younot reporting in too often because of paying dues 5 years at a crack is Frank R. Summers (522) but maintained good contact with Frank in spite of his movement from Ohio to Nokomis, Florida.....and keeping an open line to Leonard E. Rickett's (Co C 107-522) CP in Northville, Mich. from whence Len attended the 1974 Detroit reunion....."In all the years I have been getting the "VFW Magazine", I have watched to see when my old outfit, the 254th Engr (C) Bn, would someday have a reunion. Finally, the April '86 issue, I noticed there will be one. I was in C Company, the 3rd Plat. I was in on the Normandy invasion and got as far as the Siegfried Line in Germany on 18 Sep 44 when I stopped a mortar shell. I was one of the lucky ones to get out of there. Am hesitant about making any definite commitments for Ishpeming as my health is not what it used to be, but at the present time I am doing quite well." Leo P. Schiltz.....a Normandy hardened vet at Ishpeming catching his breath after a hearty pull on the bottle of calvados making the rounds - "sure hard on the 'toast' buds"... .. figured we would wear him down eventually and we did. Finally, a most welcome "Will Attend" with dues response from John C. Kangas (H&S 254) with this brief report: "Poor health made me delay this mission." Seeing that Gladstone is real handy to Chatham we're hopeful that John will again be released by the Medics for our 1987 campaign there. A veteran of the 107, 112 and 254 he also served with the 148th Engr (C) Bn - and not surprising has pursued construction work in civilian life the National Guard's 29th Infantry Division which gained battlefield fame on D-Day was recently reactivated. The "Blue and Gray" division, deactivated from the rolls of the National Guard in '68 after 51 years of service, has been reborn as one of five light infantry divisions in the Army. Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, the division is made up of NG members from Maryland and Virginia. Our 254 vets will recall that from Omaha Beach to Czechoslovakia, mostly when assigned to V Corps, the battalion furnished engineer support to many different divisions but to the 29th and 2nd Inf Divisions more than any others.....way back when the Association was organized someone reported that Alfred E. Vucitech (Co B 254) had died after the war. Knowing that he wasn't in the Marquette area from where he entered active service with Co D 107th Regt on 15 Oct 40 we kinda let things ride at that. So, imagine the surprise when "Vutchy" reported in out of Flint, Mich. While back on "active duty" with wife, Joni, at Ishpeming, he informed us he has lived in the Flint area and has worked for Chevrolet Motor Div. as an inspector for many years.....who was the most popular man in the outfit? A cigar to the man

yelling, "the Bn Mail Orderly." After long periods without a Mail Call, Wilfred "Bill" Smith (H&S 254) and his mail sacks were welcome sights. Bill now checks in from Venice. FL after making the 1970 Marquette reunion out of Pittsburgh, Pa. and informs us: "We would love to come, but my health will not permit." Speaking of Mail Call can recall one long, long period of 6 weeks without a smell of mail - rumor later had it that all the regiment's mail was routed to Co F 112 in Africa. Figures!.... remember the lister bags on each company street - and the halazone tablets used to purify the water?..... How about the notorious National Loaf bread made from wholemeal flour and was grey in color - and highly unpopular even amongst the British hardened to wartime shortages. Included in the U.S. Army's food ration and the only bread obtainable in the British Isles. Can recollect Mike "Stew" Mertes, Co B's highly capable and respected mess sgt, somehow engineering a swap or requisition with a U.S. Navy ship in Londonderry or Enniskillen, N. Ireland, for enough white flour to make a batch of white bread for his boys and believe me after a long diet of the grey stuff no cake ever tasted better.....congratulations to Robert C. Wills (Hg 107 NG Bn), brother to Dick Wills (Co B 254), who accepted a promotion to bird colonel in the Army Reserve thereby causing his retirement from the Mich. NG's after 32 years of service. Bob is now on an active status with the USAR but not assigned to a unit - in the IRR (Individual Ready Reserve)....Dear Comrade: "Enclosed is my invitation to the 25th reunion. Sorry to say I cannot attend but hope to make one at a later Also enclosed, is check for dues plus another \$10.00 check in memory of our good friend and buddy Frank "Snuffy" Smith of the Soo, 522d Engrs. Use it as you see fit. Also a clipping on our comrade Bernard Sipiorski, 522d, who passed away. Hope you all have a good turn out and a very good time at the reunion. A hello to my buddies from Michael Brendzej (522).....imagine the stunning surprise at a Ishpeming bull session when Johnnie Sukup (H&S 254) nonchalantly commented he had talked to Louis S. Barraza (Recon Sgt) on the phone recently. A real bombshell after chasing down various Barrazas over half of Cal. in determined but fruitless attempts to locate our ol' "prune picker"; one of the most popular guys in H&S 254. Lou's hometown was known to be Bakersfield, Cal. when he entered service but nothing but dry holes after that. Utilizing the Fresno, Cal. address received from Johnnie contact was promptly established and after pursuing copies of all the old B.S.'s Lou writes: "Nice of you to have brought me somewhat up to date on what has taken place with all the activity that most of you dedicated

persons are undertaking. Enjoyed every bit of it. Dues or whatever are enclosed. Good Lord willing I'm going to try like he-- to make the next reunion. Thanks again and keep me posted. Planning a wedding anyone? No charge for this



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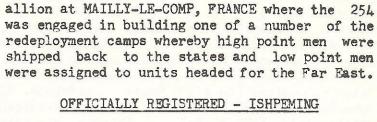
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free BULL SHEET plug, Lou. Just so damn happy to see you back on our active duty roster againand speaking of the long lost here is one for "Believe it or not by Ripley". We've located Rodney E. Blake (Co B 254) - in England of all places! Our dedicated English historian, Sid Green, noted that our 41 year old England address for Rodney wasn't too far from his own home so he took it upon himself to check it out. We'll let Sid tell you about the unbelievable result: "No luck in Manchester but I found a number of other directories for other areas of Manchester and there were three R.E. Blakes listed. I phoned the first two and got very frosty responses, they must have thought I was making suspicious inquiries, and then the third and final number came up trumps." Rodney was a U.S. citizen living with his parents in England way back in the 40's and the Blake boys of draft age had their choice of what service to enter. His brother volunteered for the RAF and Rod the U.S. Army - and as fate would have it a Co B 254 replacement in Normandy. Obviously a popular lad in Co B because we've received several inquiries about him. But where to turn after our "shot in the dark" letter to the old England address was an expected dud. has maintained residence in England since he opted for an England discharge in Southhampton on 1 April 46. So, the great news and current address to disseminate to old members of Wayne Ray's squad and Lt Ted Benning's/Duke Duquettes platoon several of whom have already been in touch with Rod via mail and transcontinental phone including Dick Wills (squad trk driver) who will visit his old pal in England this summer. The agony of "Taps" - and joy of finding people. Sure makes for an interesting job Western Union telegram No. 4-045-053-S-219, 8:19 PM EST, 8-7-86 for delivery to Secretary 107th Engineer Assoc. at Ishpeming armory: "Ed, please give greetings and my personal respects to all associates." Best regards, Leonard C. Ward (107-112-1121-107). Informed that some-

time prior to the big 25th anniversary reunion Len was in the Ishpeming area for an informal get-together with NG compatriots of days past while engaged in "Operation Newquay Hotels " obtaining information for Sid Green's history of the 254, 112 and 1121 bivouac in Newquay contacts were made with (Capt) Ames T. Minor (CO Co B 254) and (Capt) Murray H. Cunningham (Bn S-2 254) now at home in Bethlehem, Conn. and Metairie, La. respectively. Capt Minor responded: "I hate to write letters as I am nearer to 80 than to 79 and have had a great deal of eye trouble over the past 20 years due to glaucoma. However, your note prompts me to try to help on the Newquay deal as I also heard I am a bit ashamed as I never from Sid Green. answered him as I felt that my memory would not help a great deal. As I recall, Co B was in a hotel on the left side of the street going from Newquay center toward the Hightower district. Recall that some of Co B got in trouble for tipping over some cabanas on the beach not very far to the north of us. This is not much to go on but I might suggest that you try Milt Werbelow, DukeDuquette, Mike Mertes, John Kovachich, and of course Lt Bond who met all the good Lt Bond looking women in the neighborhood. went Regular Army after the war and last I knew was a major but where he is now I don't know. Sorry that I can't help you more but I never paid a hell of a lot of attention as to where My best to you and I enjoy the BULL we were. SHEET. Keep up the good work." Ames T. Minor Can inform you Capt that we know where (Lt) Bond is, to-wit: Arlen F. Bond, 4205 Pickering Place, Alexandria, VA 22309 is information we have on file although never confirmed by the ex-Co B platoon commander and this intel-Dear Ed: "A ligence report from the ex-S-2: Christmas card from Harry Bailey reminded me of your recent letter. Thanks for writing and re-Sorry, my memory is not as good membering me. as you think. I thought the 254 officers were billeted in a home. (Capt) Harry T. Bailey (Co A 112 Bn) and (Capt) Richard B. Bailey (CO H&S & Co C 254) both live across the river from me in New Orleans - so I don't see them very often. I talked to Harry shortly after I receiv-I could not reach Dick by ed your letter. phone but Harry said he had seen Dick recently and that he was in good shape. Hope I can be with you at the next reunion. Let me know when and where. I don't understand how a retired person can be as busy as I am." Murray H. Cun-

ningham....."Thanks for the BULL SHEET. I'm retired from medical practice at 71 and still living in the same place." (Mount Kisco, N.Y.) (Capt) Douglas H. Robertson joined the 254 Med Det at the Rhine River and left the bat-



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