



April 1995



Issue No. 38

# The "BULL SHEET"

Published by:  
107th Engineer Association  
900 Palms Avenue  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

TRAVEL ORDER NO. 34

TO: All Personnel of the 107th Engineer Association

FROM: 1995 Reunion Committee, 107th Engineer Association, 900 Palms Ave., Ishpeming, MI 49849

1. You are hereby informed as to details regarding the Association's 1995 Annual Reunion.
2. Reunion Site and Dates: National Guard Armory, Ishpeming, Michigan (armory is on outskirts of Ishpeming on US-41 towards Negaunee; dates are 4-5-6 August 1995).
3. The schedule of events for the reunion will conform closely to Association SOP as follows:
  - a. Uniform - fatigues for all occasions except Class A or equivalent for Sat. banquet/dance
  - b. Friday Schedule:
    - (1) Registrations will open at noon 4 August; socializing balance of day
    - (2) Evening meal is your responsibility; light snacks and cheese trays will be furnished at no charge; music by a DJ 2100-2400 hrs who will honor requests for big band, country, rock and roll or whatever is your pleasure
  - c. Saturday Schedule:
    - (1) Golf outing 0800-1200 hrs; a 9-hole, 4-person scramble; ladies and guests welcome; information at registration table; an informal and fun outing
    - (2) Army style breakfast prepared by skilled NG cooks at armory 0730-0900 at a nominal cost of \$3.00; eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, toast, beverage and more
    - (3) Registrations from 1000 hrs until time of banquet; visit and socialize
    - (4) Noon Mess at armory; a light picnic affair with brats, burgers, potato salad, chips and fixings for \$4.50 per plate
    - (5) Memorial Service at 1400 hrs; assembly at flag pole; Lt Col (Ret) George J. Hansen, Association Chaplain, will officiate
    - (6) Annual Business Meeting convenes immediately after the Memorial Service; assembly in motor pool area off the drill floor; your chance to speak up
    - (7) Banquet will be a catered buffet style spread at a cost of \$10.00 per plate starting at 0830 hrs; short program after eating; dancing and socializing 2100-2400 hrs will round out Saturday's schedule; music by DJ again
  - d. Sunday Schedule:
    - (1) Breakfast at armory 0730-0900; same menu as Saturday
    - (2) Final visitations, goodbys and departures for home stations
4. Electrical hookups and water will be available for armory parked RVs
5. Attached is listing of recommended housing in and near Ishpeming; motel reservations are your responsibility. Kindly return your "will or will not attend" notification so we can confirm addresses and fact you're getting our mail OK. Keep in touch.
6. The City of Ishpeming, Headquarters & Headquarters Company and its personnel look forward to being your host for the fifth time, the first being in 1963 followed by reunions in 1973, 1976 and 1986. Everything will be provided for your pleasure & all we'll need is bodies.

By Order of

Captain Thomas E. Perry  
President



\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \* T A P S \* \*  
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\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* ASSELIN, Lionel G. (F 107 R), Calumet, MI; \*  
 \* BARBER, Harold L. (HHC 107 NG), Marquette, \*  
 \* MI; CAMPEAU, Raymond J. (D 107 R-C 254), \*  
 \* Lansing, MI; DENSMORE, Clifford C. (E/H&S \*  
 \* 107 R-H&S 254), Pinckney, MI; ERICSON, Ro- \*  
 \* bert A. (A 107 Bn (1937-40), Roseville, MI;\*  
 \* FARKAS, George J. (107R-522d Co), Allen \*  
 \* Park, MI; FRANCKE, Melvin E. (B 107 R-522d \*  
 \* Co), Walworth, WI; GOODWIN, Robert R. (B \*  
 \* 254), St. Louis, MO; HADY, Henry P. (HHC \*  
 \* 107 NG), Iron Mountain, MI; HAMEL, Arthur \*  
 \* J. (E 107 R-C 254), Copper City, MI; JOHN- \*  
 \* SON, Eanar G. (D 107 R-B 254), Bessemer, MI \*  
 \* KUMPULAINEN, Eino J. (E 107 R-B/C 254), \*  
 \* Marquette, MI; LEAF, Merritt J. (D 107 R- \*  
 \* H&S 254), Fowlerville, MI; LEVIN, Herbert \*  
 \* (B 107 R), Ironwood, MI; LINNA, Raymond R. \*  
 \* (F 107 R), Westland, MI; MEZZO, Andrew J. \*  
 \* (107 R-H&S 254), Allen Park, MI; MIEIRS, \*  
 \* Marion W. (B 254), West Helena, AR; \*  
 \* MOLCHEN, Joseph R. (A 254), Verona, PA; \*  
 \* MOLENTIN, George H. (H&S 254), Arlington \*  
 \* Heights, IL; MOORE, Vernon W. (A 254), El- \*  
 \* gin, IL; MORIN, Francis D. (E 107 R-C 254) \*  
 \* Houghton, MI; MOYLE, James (HHC 107 NG), \*  
 \* Ishpeming, MI; PARISOT, August P. (Med Det \*  
 \* 107 R), Hancock, MI; PARTANEN, George O. \*  
 \* (D 107 R), Tucson, AZ; PETERSON, Trygve H. \*  
 \* (107 R-A 254), Knife River, MN; RAHRICK, \*  
 \* George F. (A 254), Ipswich, SD; SEGALIN, \*  
 \* Robert A. (B/HHC 107 NG), Ironwood, MI; \*  
 \* SJOQUIST, Leslie C. (D 107 R-B 254), Crys- \*  
 \* tal Falls, MI; SURRELL MD, Matthew A. \*  
 \* (Med Det 107 R), Newberry, MI; TORREANO, \*  
 \* Robert (A 107 NG), Laurium, MI; WEIR, \*  
 \* Reino A. (A 107 Bn 1937-40/E 107 R), Laur- \*  
 \* ium, MI; WERNHOLM, Edward L. (D 107 R-127 \*  
 \* Inf), Negaunee, MI; WETTON, Lee J. (D 107 \*  
 \* R), Negaunee, MI \*  
 \* \*  
 \* Day is done, gone the sun, from the lake \*  
 \* from the hill, from the sky, All is well \*  
 \* safely rest, God is nigh. Thanks and praise \*  
 \* for our days, 'neath the sun, 'neath the \*  
 \* stars, 'neath the sky, As we go, this we \*  
 \* know, God is nigh. \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

ROSTER ADDITIONS

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

Rene P. Lippens (C 107 NG Bn), 7933 N. 25 Lane,  
 Gladstone, MI 49837 (\*\*by self\*\*); Harold A.  
 Menapace (D 107 R-C 254), P.O. Box 73, Water-  
 ford, WI 53185 (\*\*Gladstone's publicity\*\*);  
 Roland Revello (B 107 NG Bn), W4187 Main St.,  
 Vulcan, MI 49870 (\*\*Kingsford armory\*\*)



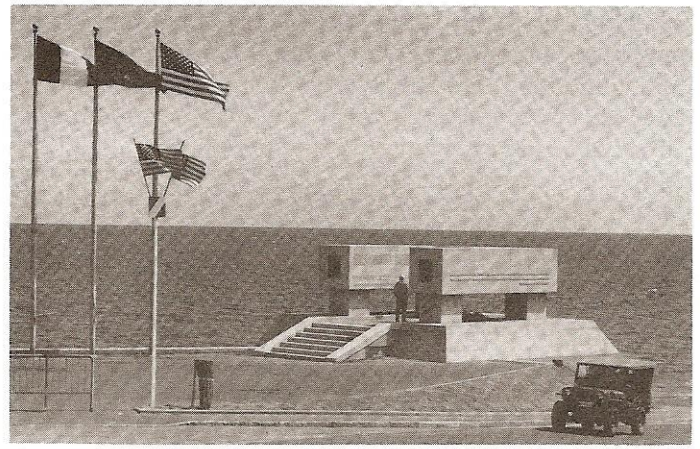
Robert K. McDonough, Colonel USA Ret

"To Larry Engebrecht - a good soldier and a good friend" is the elegantly hand-scripted notation on the back of his picture. Opting for a Corps of Engineer RA career after graduation from West Point (guessing around 1915), Col McDonough commanded the 1121st Engineer Combat Group from its 19 Aug 43 date of activation at DEVIZES, ENGLAND to the end of WWII. He resided in Chevy Chase, Maryland, when death occurred in 1984. Here's a few 107th history-related excerpts from his 4 July 74 letter to ye' editor. "Thanks to your efforts, I have been able to get in touch with many of the old outfit. My father, who was also a colonel of engineers (and who died in 1921), co-authored a military text "Technique of Modern Tactics" with a very special friend - also an engineer officer. This officer, Col Paul Stanley Bond, organized and trained the 107th Engr Regt in 1917-18, and took it to France. He later organized and commanded the Army Engineer School in France. To carry coincidence even farther, the unit which replaced the 112th as the engineer unit of the 37th Div (Ohic NG) in WWII was the 113th - which my father organized and commanded in WWI. I am afraid that I cannot make the reunion next month. There are several good reasons. I still hope to make at least one of them yet. Keep up your good work." Regretfully, he never made a reunion. Larry's official handle in 127th Inf, H&S 107 Regt/Bn & HHC 1121 Group rosters was Lorenz H. Engebrecht, from Camp Livingston to Czechoslovakia. He was Col McDonough's personal driver during the entire period of his 1121st command. Many thanks for entrusting and sharing this picture with the rest of us, Larry. A picture graciously extracted from his interesting scrapbook carried to GLADSTONE from his home in Wausau, WI.



OMAHA BEACH  
6 Jun 1944 - 6 Jun 1994

Where to begin? And how to proceed? First exploratory thoughts about a "then and now" summary forcibly brought to mind the chilling reality that this would be an awesome endeavor for the lil' ol' BULL SHEET. The significance and enormity of it all damn near pushed a vintage BS artist into a panic condition. But after analyzing a limited mission capability and applying some militarily-honed goofin' off skills, a workable wolution evolved; simply break down the big BIG picture into those smaller segments directly pertaining to the 254/107. Big, small, tough job or no the BULL SHEET would be ingloriously reduced to a fragrant bull flop if it failed to come up with some kinda report, good, bad or inadequate, of the battalion's role in the amphibious assault, and as commemorated by a token representation of ex-Snortin' Bullers for their second experience 50 years later. So, still feeling somewhat apprehensive we're leading off with a self-identifiable photo as proof the 254th was included in the 6 Jun 44 "Order of Battle" - if anyone needs it - and a reminder the battalion was accordingly Michigan's only National Guard outfit so honored. It serves evidence too that Richard P. Gough (A 254), Atlan-



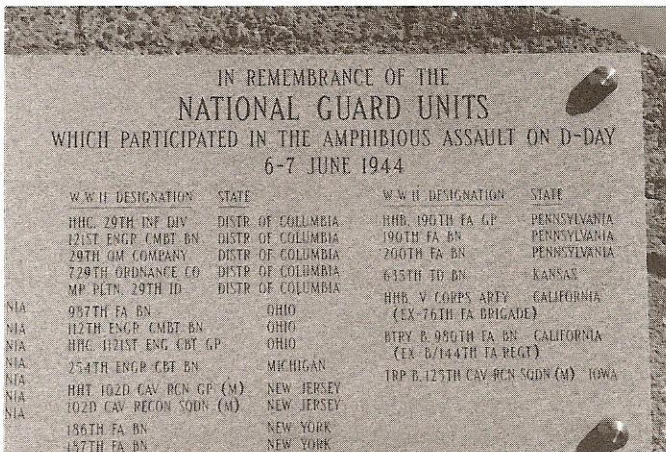
The National Guard Units in the Assault Echelons  
D-day, 6 June 1944

WWII Designation

State

115th Infantry	Maryland
175th Infantry	Maryland
110th Field Artillery Bn	Maryland
224th Field Artillery Bn	Maryland
104th Medical Bn	Maryland
29th Division Band	Virginia/Maryland
Hq & Hq Btry 29th Div Arty	Virginia
227th Field Artillery Bn	Virginia
111th Field Artillery Bn	Virginia
116th Infantry	Virginia
29th Signal Company	Virginia
29th Reconnaissance Troop	Virginia
Hq & Hq Co, 29th Infantry Div	DC
121st Engineer C Bn	DC
29th Quartermaster Company	DC
729th Ordnance Company	DC
MP Platoon, 29th Infantry Div	DC
987th Field Artillery Bn	Ohio
112th Engineer C Bn	Ohio
HHC, 1121st Engineer C Group	Ohio
254th Engineer C Bn (old 107th)	Michigan
Hq & Hq Trp, 102d Cavalry Recon Trp	New Jersey
102d Cavalry Reconnaissance Sqdrn	New Jersey
186th Field Artillery Bn	New York
187th Field Artillery Bn	New York
Hq & Hq Btry, 190th Field Arty Gp	Pennsylvania
190th Field Artillery Bn	Pennsylvania
200th Field Artillery Bn	Pennsylvania
635th Tank Destroyer Bn	Kansas
Hq & Hq Btry, V Corps Artillery (ex-76th Fld Arty Brigade)	California
Troop B, 125th Cavalry Recon Sqdrn	Iowa

Note: The 29th Infantry Division, a OMAHA BEACH assault division, was a Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC, National Guard Division; it was Federally Inducted in DC on 3 Feb 41; trained at Ft. George G. Meade, MD, A.P. Hill Mil Res, Carolina Maneuvers 41 & 42 & Camp Blanding, Fla; staged at Camp Kilmer, NJ; departed New York P/E 5 Oct 42; arrived England 11 Oct 42.



tic Highlands, NJ, was on the beach- both times. Good recon, super picture and great timing, "Richie." The units seen on this photo are only one-third of the NG units whose identities are embossed on the plaque(s) mounted on this picture of the beautiful beach monument in its full glory, even in black and white. This picture was pumped in by General Leonard C. Ward who durn near swamped ye' editor with questions, paper and phone calls all preparatory to his 50th anniversary tour planning. Fun time for a certainty and much of his input was swiped, plagiarized, requisitioned or whatever for this issue. Lots more coming up about the General's great contributions so suck it up for the moment. Here's a listing of all the National Guard units recognized on and by the monument.







It goes without saying, we're sure, that we all jointly commend Len for his dedication and for his historic contributions for the 50th, GLADSTONE, BULL SHEET and the 107th archives for posterity. But that's not all of it because the General prepared two other commemorations as well: (1) a summary of the 112th and 146th actions on OMAHA BEACH; and (2) a commemoration for the mayor of PILSEN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA which recaptures the 254's May 11-22, 1945, cleanup work in the heavily damaged city. We are privileged to here reproduce these two documents.



## In Commemoration

of certain Combat Engineer actions on D-Day at OMAHA BEACH and the exits to St LAURENT Sur Mer and VIERVILLE Sur Mer

by the 146th and 112th Engineer Combat Battalions of the 1121st Engineer Combat Group in V Corps, FIRST United States Army

Two companies of floating tanks at H+5 minutes and a company of tanks at H-Hour with four companies of infantry abreast at H+1 minute, both delivered by assault landing craft, were the first waves ashore in the 116th Infantry zone. Their mission was to engage the enemy, providing some cover for thirty minutes of engineer work before further arrivals.

The task was to open six 50-yard gaps through four lines of marine obstacles on the broad tidal flat which averaged 300-yards in distance during the expected 18-foot tide. The lines were massive 10-by-20-foot gate-like steel fabrications near low tide and 6-foot tripod-like steel Hedgehogs or Tetrahedrons near high tide with two lines of mine-tipped driven pilings or log ramps in between.

Bearing demolition tools and equipment and explosives, without their rifles or with rifles stowed, the 146 Engineer Combat Battalion comprised the next waves at H+3 minutes to H+8. Placing and firing explosives and directing towing or dozing by tank-dozers landed earlier, the battalion cleared obstacles to create marine passages for the approaching waves of light, medium, and heavy landing craft in coordination with Navy requirements and personnel present. They also removed enemy explosives and mines; some fought as infantry to enable their mission.

Arrivals resumed at H+40 with three Infantry companies and an AAAW battery landing to provide cover for the next engineer task: Egress through Exit D-3 to LES MOULINS and ST LAURENT by the 112th Engineer Combat Battalion and Exit D-1 to VIERVILLE by the 29th Division 121st Engineer Combat Battalion. These battalions landed at H+40, H+60, and H+70 minutes with the mission of clearing mines, barbed wire, and obstacles for assaulting infantry as well as establishing hasty and then deliberate beach exits and passable routes across the tidal flat, through the shore wall, then across or along the shore flat, and finally up the long draw to vehicle dispersal areas on the mainland plateau. Due in by four exits were 53,260 personnel and 7,237 vehicles in the initial two-division force alone.

Some elements of the rest of the 1121st Engineer Combat Group landed on D-Day in support of division troops and the Advance V Corps Command Post and all in the next two days: 254th Engineer Combat Battalion, Group Hq, 992d Engineer Treadway Bridge Company, 503rd Engineer Light Pontoon Bridge Company, 610th Engineer Light Equipment Company, and 764th Engineer Dump Truck Company.

As National Guardsmen of the States of Michigan and Ohio with other citizen soldiers of the United States of America, the men of these battalions and separate companies of the 1121st Engineer Combat Group were pleased to have a part in restoring freedom to the people of FRANCE and the rest of EUROPE. *May your freedom be yours forever!*

Presented by Brigadier General Leonard C. Ward on behalf of these distinguished units on June 5, 1994. The Group Headquarters and the 112th are currently in the Ohio Army National Guard. The 254th is now once again the 107th Engineer Battalion (Combat), Michigan Army National Guard.



## In Commemoration

of assistance rendered to the

City of PILSEN, Czechoslovakia and to its Citizens by the

254th Engineer Combat Battalion of the 1121st Engineer Combat Group in V Corps, THIRD United States Army

Upon the liberation of the City of PILSEN and after the termination of hostilities on the continent of EUROPE, in the period 11 to 22 May 1945, the 254th Engineers cleared rubble and debris and repaired streets and utilities in the City of PILSEN using their own men and equipment and utilizing the labor of 3,000 German prisoners of war.

As National Guardsmen of the State of Michigan with other citizen soldiers of the United States of America, the men of the battalion were pleased to assist the newly liberated citizens of PILSEN in resuming normal lives in freedom.

As much as to note that friendly support, this commemoration is now given in thanksgiving for the final achievement of that freedom, so grievously delayed. *May your freedom be yours forever!*

Presented by Brigadier General Leonard C. Ward on behalf of this distinguished organization on June 20, 1994. This battalion is now once again the 107th Engineer Battalion (Combat), Michigan Army National Guard.

The three originals in full color will be going to Calumet's historical museum at the request of it's curator, SSG William E. Luokkanen (A 107).

GLADSTONE'S reunion troops were favored with presentations of the three works of art plus enjoying a plethora of pictures taken by Gen. & Joyce Ward during their NORMANDY to PILSEN tour. Of a certainty every man experiencing OMAHA BEACH could write his own personal history of great historical interest so this summarization is but a sketchy overview. At best. Besides Gough and Gen Ward the only other man reporting in after his 50th in France was Henry "George" Ladd (1st Plt A 254), Bremerton, WA. No doubt there were others though because of the number who made noises about going. George's report: "My wife, Bonnie, and I completed a 7 week trip to Europe. We were at NORMANDY for the 50th anniversary D-day commemoration. We thought the French did an excellent job of hosting the event. I am enclosing some pictures of beach monuments including this (here reproduced) 1944 picture of a destroyed bunker." The postcard picture is captioned: "OMAHA BEACH, VIERVILLE SUR MER; 88mm gun in bunker; today the National Guard monument is erected on the same bunker. Back to Ladd again: "We still hope to get back for another reunion after our one and only in MENOMINEE 1982." That's music to our ears, "George."



Shifting gears again - this time to a 50th anniversary observance in Lansing; Michigan's state capitol and Hq, Michigan National Guard. Late in May '94 a communication taken as a combined invitation/query out of the Chief of Staff's office was bucked down wondering if it was possible in a short time frame to hustle up some ex 107/254 blokes for the 50th D-day anniversary program planned at the state capitol building on 6 Jun 94. The significance of the invitation was recognized by 107th Bn Hq and Association officials all agreeing that our 107th troops, past and present, would be up to the task. After some quick planning the field phone was cranked up for calls to 18 WWII men who had been pin-pointed as fox-holed reasonably close to Lansing. Considering the almost last minute alert call to the 18 there was some question about what kinda response we'd get. What we got were



expressions of enthusiasm and commitments, so it wasn't at all surprising that 12 determined men w/supportive family turned out for the program during which they were appropriately introduced as WWII 107/254 representatives - and recognized as members of Michigan's only NG outfit that participated in the NORMANDY invasion. Several are pre-war 107th Guardsmen and fittingly all 12 served in the 107th Regiment in Louisiana, 1940-41, and later in it's 254th counterpart on OMAHA BEACH. The formal program names many military and political dignitaries taking part in the observance including Governor John Engler whose featured address was followed by presentations to the State's 3 WWII Medal of Honor recipients. Our symbolic 12-man squad included: Douglas H. Williamson (107R-C 254), Rockford, MI; Merritt J. Leaf (D 107 R-B/H&S 254-TAPS 13 Dec 94), Fowlerville, MI; George L. Eyster (A 107 R-H&S 254), Trenton, MI; Herbert S. Bastion (E 107 R-A 254), Clawson, MI; Jack B. Garvey (A 107 R-A 254), Armada, MI; Keith B. Freeze (B 107 R-B 254), Shepherd, MI; Allen C. Scott (D 107 R-C 254), Traverse City, MI; Charles E. Scott (D 107 R-C 254), Traverse City, MI; Warren O. Crow (107 R-C 254), Wellston, MI; Burdette R. Hayner (107 R-H&S 254), Hastings, MI; Peter J. Zdybel (E 107 R-A 254), Lansing, MI; and Freeling W. Peck (A 107 R-C 254), Sparta, MI. Sure hope we've not inadvertently missed anyone else. Possible because of all the people there and because our gang never rallied together as a group even to the extent of knowing who all was there. Grateful acknowledgement is made for followups from several enthused attendees which gives us program details and pictures of individuals, small groups and even a couple capturing Pete Zdybel meeting with Gov Engler and TV reps. The largest group put together is this stalwart group of 5 hot-shots identified L to R as: Leaf, Freeze, Hayner, Zdybel and Eyster. Half a cent-



ury in a nutshell but time to wrap up this chapter of 107th history so far as the BULL SHEET is concerned anyways. But not before a parting accolade to the recon experts for some superb in-

telligence reports which contributed matterially towards this 50th anniversary D-day summary - sincere thanks and well deserved 3-day passes to all - for the dates of 4-5-6 Aug 95 in the R and R town of ISHPEMING.

#### FATES OF WAR

Even after a half century a 107/254 soldier is memorized as "Red" Essex and a happy-go-lucky Irishman. The aptly applied nickname complimented an outgoing personality. Just an all-around good joe. We don't find his name in our meager file of old records nor is his first name forthcoming from the sharp minds of Raymond A. "Doc" Anders (A/Med Det 107 R - Med Det 254), Bellevue, MI, and Charles W. Dimmer (Med Det 107 R-ranking NCO 254 Medics), Seminole, FL, who've contributed towards the extraordinary wartime tale being here unfolded. Essex came to the 107th at Camp Livingston as one of the infantry transfers replacing "Christmas furlough losses" just before the regiment's 1 Jan 42 departure for Fort Dix, NJ, as the 32d's advance party to N. IRELAND. About 2 years later the educational requirements for prospective flight trainees were lowered to his level. "Red" applied chiefly for two reasons: one of the few ways one could get back to the States; and, hopefully, the first giant step towards fulfilling his oft expressed dream of being a P-38 Lightning fighter plane pilot. Wotthehell, he figured, if by faint chance accepted, fine; if not, no big deal. When the application for Army Air Corps flight training stateside was surprisingly approved, his happiness was shared battalion wide. After choking farwells with prized orders in hand which officially separated (???) Essex from the Medical Detachment 254th Engineer (C) Battalion he departed leaving behind in Newquay, England, many envious homesick buddies still facing the dismal prospect of lots more time overseas. And eminent combat. Memories of "Red" gradually faded as time, travels and events rapidly piled one atop another until one April '45 day in Germany when who walked into the Bn CP but the ol' redhead himself. But this was not a jaunty flyboy in a clean uniform topped with a floppy Garrison cap though - here was a uncharacteristically subdued, weary-looking, M-1 toting ground pounder carrying evidence of hard usage. Amazingly, he was a infantry squad buck sergeant in the 69th Inf Div only arriving in France on 24 Jan 45 as another reinforcing division. "What's the deal, 'Red'", inquired delighted but flabbergasted old buddies. "Well, the flight training program was cut back (could be wrong here) and having infantry-combat engineer MOS I was shoved into the 69th stationed at CAMP SHELBY, MS," he



wistfully explained. Reason. At that stage of the war all service branches, particularly rear echelon/service units, were being ruthlessly stripped of non-essential personnel for infantry basic, or infantry reassignment such as in "Red's" case because now "Queen of Battle" men were absolutely top-priority for manning new ground force units and to keep the "repple dep-ple" pipeline flowing with replacements for combat units incurring heavier losses than anticipated. Soon after "Red's" nostalgic visit to his old outfit and just a matter of days before Germany's unconditional surrender, the 254's trucks either on direct order or on another expeditious Provisional Truck Company assignment, brought up assault boats for a 69th river crossing south of LEIPZIG. After dropping the boats off at the assembly site, our trucks turned around reloaded with PWs for interment and KIAs, both enemy and American, for Graves Registration processing. One was the body of "Red" Essex.

#### ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1994-1995)

President: Cpt Thomas E. Perry (HHC 107 NG Bn)  
 Vice Pres: SFC Frederick Ehrhardt (HHC 107NG)  
 Secretary: Ed Vickstrom (D 107 R-W&S 254)  
 Treasurer: SFC James L. Hutcheson (HHC 107 NG)  
 Historian: Maj (Ret) Edwin K. Kohn (F 107 R-NG)  
 P.R.O.: Sgt Kenneth Kampe (HHC 107 NG Bn)  
 Permanent Dir: LTC Phillip J. Lennert (Bn CO)  
 4-Yr. Director: CSM (Ret) Richard Oja (HHC NG)  
 3-Yr. Director: CSM Robert M. Taylor (HHC NG)  
 2-Yr. Director: Paul J. Van Abel (E 107 R-A254)  
 1-Yr. Director: Col (Ret) Donald R. Small (NG)  
 Assoc. Chaplain: LTC (Ret) Geo. J. Hansen (NG)

#### 1994 GLADSTONE 1994

Ramblin' thoughts, great memories & recognition. TOOLING IN all pumped up to a splendid bivouac area; immediate feeling of a "hello, glad you're here" welcome; camouflage nets cleverly draped around main armory entrance; seconded by imaginative interior decorations. BEAMING REGISTRATION OFFICIALS in place to greet and lighten wallets; one-time deal except for chits and souvenir items; signing-in chart for checking-out who's all there. SUPER CHOW, Mess Sgt (Ret) Wally Mokszycke culinary skills still first-rate; army breakfasts good deal. DUAL RESPONSIBILITY as President/Master of Ceremonies no problem for 1st Sgt Michael J. Cousineau; chairing the Annual Business Meeting was a breeze. ASSOCIATION V.P., SSG William C. Viau, always double timing here and there keeping things tidy; second VP term for Bill, the first 1986-87. RECORD TURN OUT OF BN COs: Leonard C. Ward (1950-59); Donald R. Small (1972-75); James P. Dougovo (1983-87); James W. Lienau (1987-93); and Phillip L. Lennert (1993-present). LTC (Ret) Lienau Federally awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by presenter, LTC Lennert, during banquet

program. PRESENTATION of 3 proclamations (described earlier) by BG Leonard C. Ward and Andrew Kelsay representing his father, Col (Ret) Jesse D. Kelsay (107 Bn-A/Hq 254), now in a Jacksonville, TX nursing home. SCRAPBOOKS, pictures, mementoes brought in/enjoyed including Col Kelsay's WWII dandy photo album. MEMORIAL SERVICE our one somber period; motley troops in sloppily formed ranks as usual but solemnly attentive in mind, memory and spirit; formal lowering of colors, gun salute and bugled taps professionally handled by snappy Guardsmen; appropriate address and sorrowful reading of names by Assoc. Chaplain LTC (Ret) George J. Hansen, a lay-minister in Mission, TX; BUS TOURS well planned, patronized, appreciated; mostly women with a few AWOLs eager for the sights/gambling. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING a fun time; necessities like elections, dates/place of next reunion still dispatched efficiently. ATTENDANCE - hard realization that the power is inevitably shifting to Guardsmen; numbers about the same though so Association's future looking good. SURVIVING SPOUSES; have you noticed their increasing participation? Great to see but not too surprising because "once enlisted, in for life" ya' know; same noticeable increase in the Association mailing roster too with names gladly carried forward for those saying the magic phrase, "keep me on the mailing list." ENGINEER'S SONG a rollicking tradition at every 107th function; multiple verses by talented leader, Cpt Tom Perry, with rousing chorus responses by the troops; amused, puzzled band members who quickly figure it out. GOLF OUTING for the early Saturday "fit for duty" going good; for bragging rights. THIRTY-THIRD is history; where've the years gone; fired up already for the 34th now cooking; have openings for those "thinking about it" - heed the ticking clock. FINALLY but definitely not lastly the respected in-the-trenches heroes: Gladstone the site, Company C the host, Mike and Bill in command and the unnamed men and women doing the nitty-gritty for the good of the Association and for the total enjoyment of those fortunate enough to available themselves of a glorious 33rd Annual. But remember - NO TROOPS, NO DRILL - registrants take a bow too.

#### THIRTY UP - SIX DOWN

Old unofficial reports tell us the 254th constructed at least 30 bridges during its ETO combat tour, June 1944 to May 1945. They included a mix of Bailey, Treadway and timber trestle units ranging from a 24-footer to the 1,370 foot VICTOR BRIDGE across the RHINE RIVER. Many other bridges of various kinds were otherwise repaired, guarded or improved too. Less known, however, is the surprising fact that at least 6 of the 30 were later destroyed through enemy action beginning with two timber trestle bridges which were constructed side by side over the OUR



RIVER (GERMANY-LUXEMBOURG border) at WALLENDORF, Then directly attached to the 5th Armd Div, 15-22 Sep 44, this was the time and place of the battalion's first but short-lived entry into GERMANY itself - not to be repeated until 4½ months later (4 Feb 45) at MONSCHAU much further north. Besides the bridge work and other routine engineer duties, the battalion here destroyed 43 massive SIEGFRIED LINE fortifications with explosives. Constructing the two OUR RIVER bridges was the easy part - defending them was a different ball game because for a day and night the aroused enemy attempted to blow the tactically important river crossings at this very sensitive point. Enemy inflicted losses during the foiled attempts were heavy. The self-assumed, temporarily redesignated 254th "Infantry" suffered 3 KIAs and 11 WIAs before being relieved by a bonafide infantry unit of the 28th Div. (1st Lt) John R. Huff (B 254, Copperas Cove, TX was awarded the Silver Star for heroism during these fire fights. The first night after taking over the bridge security role enemy Pioniers succeeded in blowing both bridges under the infantry's nose. Talk about a bunch of pissed-off Snortin' Bullers after hearing that. The third destroyed span was a short Treadway also over the OUR RIVER but further inside GERMANY. Two timber trestle bridges at RAU RIVER crossings near KRINKELT, BELGIUM, were destroyed presumably by enemy demolitions during the Battle of the Bulge. Five down! The sixth and last known bridge casualty was a 110' triple-single Bailey shoved across the OLEF RIVER at GEMUND, GERMANY, around 1 Mar 45, which was partially destroyed in a freakish manner by what is thought were delayed charges. The 254's "After Action Report" factually describes the incident as follows: "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 hand probing. After it was felt that the mines were cleared, the bridge was constructed and opened to traffic. About 5 hours later, an explosion occurred under one of the near shore base plates while a medium tank (35 ton Sherman) was in 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 was placed across the V-section of the collapsed bridge and traffic continued." This maybe one-and-only picture was requisitioned out of the WWII scrapbook of a now forgotten donor. A regretful, embarrassing confession, true - one we'll make amends for if he steps forward and bails out a red-faced editor. The faded-with-age picture still vividly portrays a relatively minor-made-unique incident and a feel for a typical war zone setting. And Combat Engineers in action. The crossing vehicle is a tracked "Weasel" (dunno the official T/E specs) towing a 1/4-ton trailer. Magnification prompted by curiosity clearly picks up a "B-11" on the right front glacis thereby identifying it as vehicle No. 11 of B Company (Squadron/battery?). And less clearly what appears to be a "2-12-I" at left front. If so, would this identify the 2nd Battalion of the 12th Infantry Regiment (4th Inf Div)? But the indistinct unit designation in the front star, if that's what it is, appears to be a shield-shaped insignia indicative of a calvary outfit quite unlike the 4th's squared 4-pointed ivy leaf insignia. Our reference (Shelby's "WWII Order of Battle") nowhere shows "Weasels" as authorized T/E to anyone - inf, TD,

armor, calvary, etc. so no help from that source. Maybe a later authorized T/E vehicle for specific units/assignments and possibly subsequent "battlefield requisitions." Sure be nice if we could tie in the platoon/company/personnel to the job but no such luck. Hopefully that and more information will be pumped in for the next BULL SHEET.

#### 254th ROSTER AS OF MARCH 1945

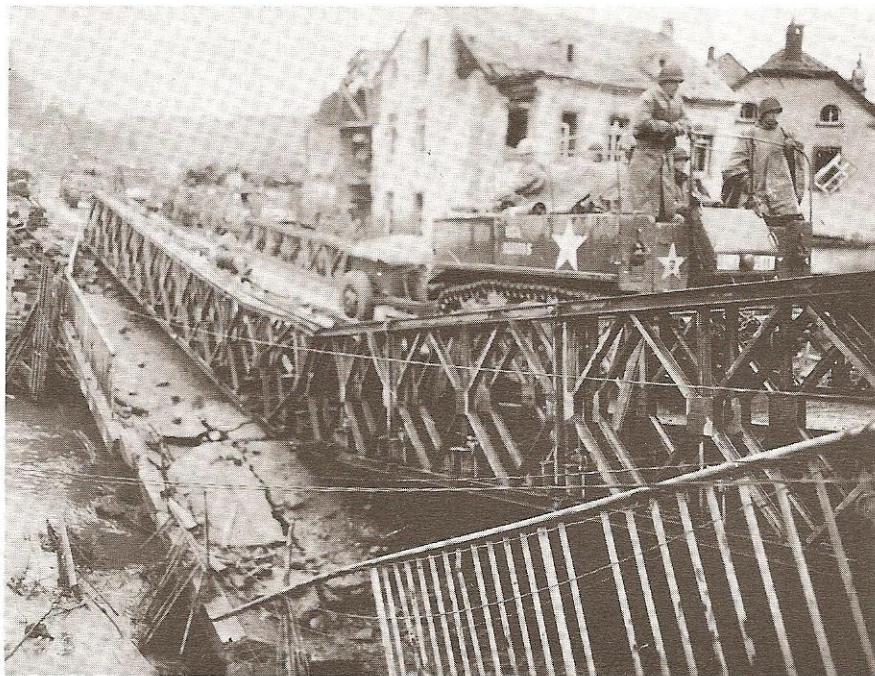
\* denotes TAPS Since 1945

UL denotes UNLOCATED

R denotes ON ASSOCIATION ROSTER;  
1945 hometown shown; current  
address available on request

NG denotes 107th NGs Federally In-  
ducted 15 Oct 40; 1945 hometown  
shown; NG company in parens

Note: Co's B and C in last issue





COMPANY A 254th ENGR BN

Cpt Sanford F. Hall, Glens Falls, NY	R	T/5 Ludwig B. Hofmann, Jr., Providence, RI	*
1 Lt Michael J. Cosella, Ardmore, PA	UL	T/5 John J. Kozen, Ironwood, MI	*
1 Lt Charles E. Karpinen, Calumet, MI (E)	NG-*	T/5 Edward J. Martin, Chicago, IL	UL
1 Lt Jose L. Ramos, Washington, DC	UL	T/5 Donald M. Meyers, Yale, MI	UL
1 Lt Donald G. Webb, Independence, MO	R	T/5 Frederick L. Miller, Elmira, NY	*
1 Lt Harry A. Fullington, Varysburg, NY	UL	T/5 Lawrence E. Neilson, Esparto, CA	*
1 Sgt Augustin Gagnon, Calumet, MI (A)	NG-*	T/5 James W. O'Toole, Detroit, MI	R
S/Sgt Arthur A. Auno, South Range, MI	*	T/5 Francis L. Ploof, Calumet, MI (E)	NG-*
S/Sgt Bonard J. Cousineau, Escanaba, MI	*	T/5 Bennie W. Ray, Odum, CA	UL
S/Sgt Anton G. Crnkovich, Mohawk, MI (A)	NG-R	T/5 Armas M. Sandell, Copemish, MI	*
S/Sgt Gerald E. Gallup, Gaastra, MI	R	T/5 Charles H. Souceman, Unknown	UL
S/Sgt William G. Pinch, Laurium, MI (E)	NG-*	T/5 Charles C. Scott, Newark, DE	R
S/Sgt Edgar C. Williams, Stonington, MI	*	T/5 Donald I. Schaal, Toledo, OH	*
Sgt George C. Anderson, Gladstone, MI (A)	NG-R	T/5 Charles Stephens, Manistique, MI	*
Sgt Harold J. Faust, Marshfield, WI	R	T/5 Clarence G. Tauriainen, Calumet, MI (E)	NG-R
Sgt Lawrence A. Lester, Marlette, MI	UL	T/5 Royal E. Schulwitz, Rogers City, MI	R
Sgt Edwin W. Peterson, Nahma, MI	R	T/5 Sanford D. Tustin, Reader, WV	*
Sgt Trygve H. Peterson, Sheboygan, WI	*	T/5 Charlie B. Watson, Winston-Salem, NC	UL
Sgt Paul Podnar, Painesdale, MI	R	T/5 Robert S. Lyon, Randolph, VT	UL
Sgt Alfred A. Perry, Rahway, NJ	UL	T/5 James D. Matlick, Barboursville, WV	R
Sgt Louis Potocer, Strabane, PA	R	T/5 Lawrence R. Ellenich, Watersmeet, MI	R
Sgt Merle H. Richardson, Madison, IN	UL	T/5 Leo R. McKnight, Liberty, MO	UL
Sgt Frank V. Rosich, Ahmeek, MI (E)	NG-R	T/5 Joseph R. Molchen, N. Bessemer, PA	*
Sgt Edward K. Rokos, Traverse City, MI	*	Pfc Virgil R. Ackerson, S. Point, OH	UL
Sgt Elmer G. Tufnell, Manistique, MI	*	Pfc Frederick P. Anton, Lawrence, MA	*
Sgt Robert E. Wiley, Summer, WA	*	Pfc Carl M. Barker, Menominee, MI (A)	NG-*
T/4 Steve P. Burnis, Manistique, MI	R	Pfc Joseph Badame, Chicago, IL	UL
T/4 Albert G. Corcoran, Milwaukee, WI	UL	Pfc Melvin A. Bailey, Detroit, MI	UL
T/4 Jack E. Greenwood, Detroit, MI	R	Pfc Richard T. Berry, East Machias, ME	*
T/4 Stanley J. Kles, Wayland, MI	R	Pfc Hubert L. Beauchamp, Lake Linden, MI (F)	NG-*
T/4 Eero J. Maki, Iron River, MI	UL	Pfc Andrew F. Berchin, Cleveland, OH	*
T/4 Frederick A. Schrupp, Tomahawk, WI	*	Pfc Robert E. Blacka, Munhall, PA	*
T/4 Andrew S. Wilchek, LaBranche, MI	*	Pfc Walter W. Burkett, Reading, PA	UL
T/4 John J. Haynes, Divernon, IL	R	Pfc Ernest J. Cassette, Painesdale, MI (E)	NG-*
T/4 Stanley G. Okuniewicz, Southampton, NY	*	Pfc John Cimermancic, Milwaukee, WI	*
T/4 John H. Roland, Dayton, OH	UL	Pfc Paul E. Courchaine, Worcester, MA	*
T/4 Carl Wosnak, Cleveland, OH	R	Pfc Augustine J. Connolly, Andover, MA	R
Cpl Claude E. Bane, Bluefield, VA	UL	Pfc William A. Deisenroth, Rock Island, IL	*
Cpl Orlando A. Bonghi, Iron Mountain, MI	R	Pfc William L. Dohman, Wilkes-Barre, PA	R
Cpl Fred J. Capps, Eros, LA	*	Pfc Clarence J. Forsythe, Boonton, NJ	R
Cpl Gerald H. Conner, Crosby, TX	UL	Pfc Edward J. Golisz, Greenport, NY	UL
Cpl Raymond E. Deicher, Plymouth, WI	R	Pfc Richard P. Gough, Newark, NJ	R
Cpl Vernon W. Krenzer, Omaha, NE	*	Pfc Burgett O. Hardenburgh, Wayne, MI	UL
Cpl Elmer O. Kuehl, Spring Valley, WI	*	Pfc Sherman E. Hermanson, Darlington, WI	UL
Cpl Morris E. Page, Allegan, MI	R	Pfc Stephen Hrycyshyn, Newark, NJ	*
Cpl Peter J. Zdybel, Lansing, MI	R	Pfc Robert F. Inderbieten, Downey, CA	R
Cpl Ernest B. Bodvar, Everett, MA	R	Pfc Reino E. Kiminki, Mass, MI	R
Cpl George W. Wilson, Kings Mountain, NC	*	Pfc Eldridge J. Koelz, Highland, IL	UL
T/5 Clyde C. Asplund, Ironwood, MI	R	Pfc Sidney J. Lawson, Beloit, KS	*
T/5 Thomas C. Bardowski, Stephenson, MI (A)	NG-R	Pfc Henry G. Ladd, Pullman, WA	R
T/5 Herbert S. Bastion, Kearsarge, MI (E)	NG-R	Pfc Wilson Leary, Dixon, NC	UL
T/5 William L. Bruley, Hermansville, MI (A)	NG-*	Pfc John D. Leonard, Lexington, NC	R
T/5 Hilding D. Carlson, Chicago, IL	*	Pfc Thomas R. Lyons, Victor, CO	*
T/5 Louis A. Caruso, Ironwood, MI	*	Pfc Paul P. MacNeil, Flint, MI	R
T/5 Gene C. Cicero, Chicago, IL	UL	Pfc Warren R. Mathisen, Chicago, IL	*
T/5 Norman R. Cox, Hibbing, MN	*	Pfc Truett E. McCarty, Floydada, TX	UL
T/5 Edwin P. Coil, Toronto, OH	R	Pfc Robert P. McLaughlin, Geistown, PA	UL
T/5 Jack B. Garvey, Highland Park, MI (A)	NG-R	Pfc William J. Monk, Jr., Granite Falls, WA	UL
T/5 Arthur J. Gibour, Hermansville, MI (A)	NG-R	Pfc Mando J. Moschella, Somerville, MA	UL
T/5 Vernon E. Glavin, Pacific, MO	UL	Pfc Vernon W. Moore, Elgin, IL	*
		Pfc Paul Moore, Lexington, IN	R
		Pfc Joseph R. Nicholes, Ridgewood, NY	R



Pfc Frank Novaselac, Chisholm, MN  
 Pfc George Pardo, Carona, NY  
 Pfc Steve Palomar, Detroit, MI  
 Pfc Charles H. Peterson, Seattle, WA  
 Pfc Joseph N. Pugh, Orange, VA  
 Pfc Antonio L. Raspa, Highland Park, NJ  
 Pfc George F. Rahrck, Ipswich, SD  
 Pfc Thomas W. Robinson, Camden, MI  
 Pfc Sol S. Schindler, New York, NY  
 Pfc Melvin N. Seile, Crystal Falls, MI  
 Pfc Bruno Sobezak, Chicago, IL  
 Pfc Chester W. Steele, Detroit, MI  
 Pfc Herbert L. Stanton, Moscow, PA  
 Pfc Clarence D. Summer, Blountstown, FL  
 Pfc Julius J. Takacs, Cleveland, OH  
 Pfc Lawrence G. Taylor, Taftville, CT  
 Pfc Royal A. Thayer, Allegan, MI  
 Pfc James C. Thompson, Mobile, AL  
 Pfc James T. Tohal, West Allis, WI  
 Pfc Gaylord F. Walters, Beloit, WI  
 Pfc Michael Zemo, Bayonee, NJ  
 Pfc Elmer G. Zelensky, Menasha, WI  
 Pfc James M. Bertal, Marquette, MI  
 Pfc Joseph A. Bova, Cleveland, OH  
 Pfc Robert Bostic, Rensford, WV  
 Pfc Robert Carley, Jr., Berlin, WI  
 Pfc Owen R. Conway, Philadelphia, PA  
 Pfc Clyde E. Cobble, Midway, TN  
 Pfc Robert P. Gobright, Flushing, NY  
 Pfc Harold C. Hoffman, Long Beach, CA  
 Pfc Frank J. Howard, Chicago, IL  
 Pfc Benjamin Leder, Bronx, NY  
 Pvt Ernest G. Anderson, Detroit, MI  
 Pvt Clement J. Cassette, Lake Linden, MI (E)NG-R  
 Pvt Homer J. Fisk, Sturgis, MI  
 Pvt Harry J. Hughes, Jersey Shore, PA  
 Pvt Leroy W. Johnson, Maysville, KY  
 Pvt Howard R. Lowe, Philadelphia, PA  
 Pvt Frank J. Mastee, Caspian, MI  
 Pvt Theodore S. Rehman, New York, NY  
 Pvt William F. Siebert, Stevens Point, WI  
 Pvt Comelo A. Switzer, Puritan, MI  
 Pvt Eugene Uchwat, Chicago, IL  
 Pvt Paul J. Van Abel, L'Anse, MI (E)  
 Pvt Perry E. Williams, Benton Harbor, MI

#### WWII RECORDS IN STORAGE

A local newspaper by-line catching the eye of Henry Lansing (C 254), in Los Angeles, CA reads: UNBURIED TREASURES LURE RESEARCHERS TO NATIONAL ARCHIVES. While casually scanning the article, his interest was abruptly elevated to an intense concentration level when the unit designation "254th" jumped out at him. Why, you'll find out. The article covers in depth the recent declassification of Secret/Top Secret documents thereby releasing some 21-million pages of WWII papers plus another 23-million covering the post-WWII period. An accompanying picture portrays rows and rows, boxes upon boxes of carefully filed/catalogued documents in storage at the Washington, D.C. archives; long-classified documents

\* now available for researchers, military people, history buffs, etc. The article samples just a few of the documents such as: "The top-secret naval orders for Operation Neptune - the armada of 4,000 vessels that transported the Allied invasion force to Normandy Beach on D-day, June 6, 1944", and, "A 1954 top-secret memorandum from the Joint Chiefs about the possible use of atomic weapons against China." Then randomly plucked from the millions of documents covering the actions of thousands of military units and the one capturing Henry's attention, this unbelievable needle-in-a-haystack illustration: "An account of the Battle of the Bulge in December, 1944, from reports of the 254th Engineer Combat Battalion of the U.S. Army. The materials include a secret overall report by Lt Col Loren W. Jenkins, the commanding officer of the battalion, and some handwritten accounts of the action by his unnamed junior officers. In one of these tense accounts, the officer describes how his company withstood a German attack." "Then tanks and infantry came at us together. The tanks spread out and overran our positions, crushing two machine guns under their tracks. In spite of the fact the men had not had the time to properly dig in, they stayed in their holes and only 3 men were injured from the tanks passing over them. After the tanks passed over us the infantry was unable to overrun us due to our intense fire. After 12 tanks had passed us and the German infantry was going around our left flank, I withdrew the front line under protecting fire of the reserve platoon." Could this be the hand-written after action report of Capt Ames T. Minor (CO Co B) charged with road-blocking the HONSFELD-BULLINGEN road - or of one of his platoon leaders? Just maybe Ames in Bethlehem, CT, or someone knowledgeable can enlighten us about that. Thankfully, Hank, himself a BULLINGEN P/W, recognized the significance of the article beyond his own personal interest as signified by his covering note: "Thought this article might be of interest to you. Happy New Year." His timely report ties in nicely with our prior contacts with National Archives people when George I. Smith (C 112 Bn), New Port Richey FL, pointed us thataway after purchasing some 112th Engr WWII documents for his own purposes. We are informed there are about 5,000 pages (5 boxes) of 107th (1917-1943) and 254th documents available, in lot or part, which they will duplicate at 25¢ per copy - \$1,250.00 for the lot. Unfortunately there is no funding in place to fall back on for this purpose. And probably too late in the game so far as what remains of the WWII/254 unless determined to be of value to the 107th NG archives. If only we had this knowledge years ago - and took advantage of it. What a priceless treasure that would've been for the BULL SHEET, reunions and general history purposes. Maybe something will bust loose for us.



## SHORT SHORTS

Correction. The "Snap Shit Platoon" improved V Corps Hq parking facilities at Clifton College, Bristol, England - not Trinity College. A glitch caught by a man who was there - Harold W. Lomax (Engr Sec V Corps Hq), Mishawaka, IN. After a 2nd Lt field commission, he was assigned to 1121 Gp Hq after the war.....was hopefully confident that the cry for help on "V" unit IDs besides VICTOR for V Corps Hq and VARNISH for 1121 Gp Hq would be heard. And it was but not too loudly for good reason. Poor memories - including ye' editors. Most productive was Kenneth R. Dykes (112th Regt-H&S 254) who early responded: "Now too far to drive from Zephyrhills, FL, and my eyes are not too good. VESSEL identified the 112th Bn and VERNON the 254th." Now we remember. Do you? Soon after Heinz K. Bollenbacher (C 254) visited Ishpeming/ Marquette from his Dayton, OH home, carrying with him an old partially exposed negative clearly portraying a sign VERNON -more tid-bits from "Bo:" He was on TDY Charlie with V Corps Hq, EUPEN, BELGIUM, as one of a group of foreign language speakers attached to a Military Government Police unit which took him out of the BULLINGEN "rumble;" re-upped in RA 1947, back to Germany with 505th Engr Co; joined Air Corps in '51 serving therein until retirement in '68 with 23 years active service.....a last issue informative update. Confirming he at least scans the newsletter this report from John F. Lankford (B 254), Fort Mill, SC. "We left PILSEN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, and went to Camp Camel in France. We took care of Camps Philip Morris, Chesterfield and Pall Mall. Then the Bn went to Camp Lucky Strike at LeHarve where we shipped out for the U.S. That was the last of the 254th - it went back to the 107th. I was in the 254th from start to last. We got to Camp Shanks, NY, in Nov 1945 and I was discharged 2 Feb 45 at Fort Bragg." This according to John pin-points the 254's departure as a unit from LeHarve - not Marseille.....from Anton G. Crnkovich (A 107 R-Mess Sgt A 254), Ishpeming, MI (not to be confused with Anton "Pops" Crnkovich (E 107 R-H&S 254 to Newquay-TAPS 1993): "What you had on the Co A 254 officer listing looks as if it is correct. Capt (Jesse D.) Kelsay was Co A's CO to NORMANDY. Some of the other Co A officers I recall: Lt (Sanford) Hall, Lt (Jose) Ramos and Lt (John) Davis who was killed at WALLENDORF, but most of my time was with the kitchen, cooks, getting water and rations-not with the platoons. Here's a picture of some Co E 107th cooks at Camp Beauregard; don't remember their names because I was in Co A. Cooking at that camp was really something as we had those real low old-time Army stoves that we used on the trains coming down from the U.P. What a blessing it was getting to Livingston and real gas ranges.".....for WWII blokes not up to snuff - the 107th Engr NG Bn will at some yet undetermined date be con-

verted from a wheeled unit to a completely tracked outfit. Meaning the battalion will be that much closer to the action if and when - but hoping never. The Bn will lose Co D as well; D's MENOMINEE detachment has already been reconstituted as an MP platoon.....BULL SHEET 16 Jan 45: LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD. A pretty Army nurse, just returned from the front, was describing an air raid in Belgium. "When the Jerry bombers came over," she said, "I jumped right into the nearest wolfhole." "You mean foxhole don't you," interrupted a listener. "Maybe a fox dug it," said the nurse sweetly, "but there was a wolf in it when I got in;"......how sweet are the first time responses. After Clarence La Course (B 254) exposed his Virginia position to us in '79 this long-awaited report: "Received the BULL SHEET and enjoyed the news. Sorry but I will not be able to attend this years reunion - possibly next year. Enclosed is my check to help with postage, or whatever. I joined the 254th at NEWQUAY in early 1944. Had previously served with the 5th Engr Regt in ICELAND during 1942 and 43. All of us with "excessive points" were transferred to the 234th in France after returning from CZECHOSLOVAKIA in May 1945." My best regards, Gale L. Lantis (B 254), Waynesboro VA.....a look at any map of the Battle of the Bulge overlaying areas of two small countries, LUXEMBOURG and BELGIUM, gives a false perception that the actual battle area wasn't all that big. Consider then this U.S. Army Order of Battle for divisions awarded ARDENNES-ALSACE campaign credit for participations in the Bulge. By division: Infantry - 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 9th, 26th, 28th, 30th, 35th, 75th, 78th, 80th, 83rd, 84th, 87th, 90th, 99th and 106th. Armored - 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th and 11th. Airborne - 17th, 82nd and 101st. Add to that the hundreds of subordinate outfits likewise credited - like the 254th.....out of the blue a first response from Col (Ret) Arlan F. Bond, Alexandria, VA, the highlights of which are here passed along. With pleasure. "I've enjoyed the BULL SHEET and reading about 'old comrades.' I am still determined to get to a reunion even under the handicap of requiring kidney dialysis 3 times weekly. My 254th time started at NEWQUAY (the Atlantic City of England) where I was assigned to Company B; Capt Ames T. Minor the CO. And fortunately getting a crack platoon and S/ Sgt Donald M. Duquette (also D 107 R) as my Plt Sgt. Sure would love to see John Kovachich - they don't make top kicks like him anymore. Wish I could tell you what happened to (Lt) Jose L. Ramos after we served together in the Office of Chief of Engrs, Washington DC, 1948-51. He then went West and the last I heard from him was from Carmel, CA. (Note: Lt Ramos and B's 1st Plt on OMAHA BEACH- in H&S at MAILLEY le CAMP, FRANCE). Some years back I visited Ames Minor in Bethlehem, CT, at which time he was still active in his construction/contracting business. I'm also



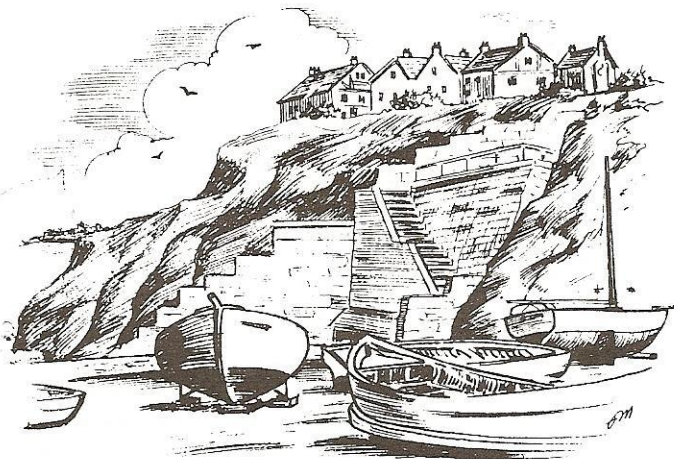
hoping to get-together with Ted Benning, a fine officer, in Atlanta, GA having a daughter living nearby. I was evacuated to LIEGE, BELGIUM, with frozen feet during the Bulge and after 128 days and lots of penicilin, I was placed on limited duty in France. I stayed in the Army retiring from the RA in May 1972, with rank of colonel - and followup civilian job in July 1992 after which I took sick." Arlan's military travels -assignments 1945-1972 are extensive and interesting but same old problem - not enuf space to do it full justice....."I should have done this before now - wanted to let you know that Robert D. Wise, Birmingham, AL, passed away so as to save future mailings to him." Mrs. Robert D. Wise. (Lt) Wise joined the Bn in BELGIUM, Oct '44. Had platoon assignments in both Co A and B until ???....."Hello Ed: Just a few lines to let you know I am still kicking. Can't make the reunion but here's my dues. I was reading in the BULL SHEET about James Robinson being buried overseas. I was with him when he was killed at WALLENDORF. It's a possibility that the two men in the VICTOR BRIDGE picture with the dozer operator (confirmed to be Arthur J. Gibour by Art himself at GLADSTONE) could be Gus (Augustine J.) Connolly and myself because we were left behind after the bridge was in operation to do maintenance work on the east end approach. I called Henry Snapp (B 254) here in Greeneville, TN, learning his health is not too good. Tell Bongi (Orlando A.) I said 'hello I' I remember him very well. If its not too much trouble send me Clarence Summer's address in Georgia. I came in as a replacement at DEVIZES." Clyde E. Cobble - all Co A 254 except Snapp.....recently got a new Fort Lauderdale, FL, address for Connolly via the Association's very effective "Forwarding & Return - Postage Guaranteed" mailing deal, but no determination as yet whether this was a temporary winter address from a permanent Andover, MA, address or not.. Let us know, Gus, because we sure don't want you to fall through the cracks on us - which unfortunately still happens when address changes go unreported. Check in if you don't get an annual mailing.....standard issue camouflage nets are now light, waterproof things for weight and effectiveness; big improvement over the old burlap nets which were heavy cumbersome at best - and bastards to handle when wet.....17 Feb 45 DOZER BLADE reprint: CLOSE SHAVE. Too closely pursued by Tiger tanks, T/5 Raymond W. Griffin played "dead." The Germans sprayed him with machine gun fire to make sure. However, only one bullet, and that deflected by his belt buckle, so much as grazed Griffin. He says he was surprised to find himself getting up and walking back to his outfit, Co C 254. "Rebel" or "Griff" is an auto check-in out of Lumberton, NC, every year but no reunions - yet!... NG OFFICERS ON MOVE-UPWARD! In mid-term our current Association president, Cpt Thomas E.

Perry, made a career move to Facility Engineer, Camp Grayling, effective 15 Feb 95. And mid-term too for ISHPERING'S reunion planning but Tom assures us, "no sweat." He replaces another ex-107th officer, Maj Tibor J. Lanczy, promoted to State Engineer - a bird colonel slot. A veteran officer whose 107th time started in 1973 followed by a term as CO, 117th QM Bn, is currently CO of 46th Engineer Group wears the name badge of Col Michael L. Paluda. Also, several past-comrade informants proudly tell us that Anthony "Tony" Oien was a Spec 4 cook in HHC, Ishpeming, when he opted for a full-time position in a down-State NG unit. That significant move was the breakthrough for bigger and better things leading up to his present lofty assignment, Chief of Staff, Mich NG, with rank of full colonel. The 107th has an enviable WWI, WWII and NG record of having men promoted into key military positions. A proud tradition being carried forward as witnessed above.....update from Roger D. Phillips (C 254): "Had a letter from the Diggers and they had found another dog tag in our BULLINGEN bivouac area; the name of Samuel E. Montgomery. They also sent me five individually taken photos of the marble crosses marking the graves of people buried in Henri-Chapelle, Belgium, military cemetery. Sure enjoyed GLADSTONE'S reunion and hopeful will make ISHPERING too".....informed Roger we have no record of a Samuel Montgomery...the clue he was a converted 107th NG medic to Army Air Corps pilot provided a hot scent line to Joseph M. Shaltz holed up in Tacoma, WA. And yet another fates-of-wartime tale that really should be passed along verbatim for full value. Usual sad story - not enuf space. Joyfully leaving Camp Livingston by auto on Christmas '41 furlough little did he know that this would be his 107th separation point. For Joe, his 4 companions and many other trained 107th men. Although timely notified to get back ASAP a severe snowstorm delayed their return. Then to the dismay of many returning engineers, the 107th had already left by rail for Fort Dix, NJ. Joe was thereupon re-assigned to the Heavy Weapons Co, 128th Inf Regt. The shock of now being in a strange Wis. NG outfit as a sergeant medic knowing less about mortars, AT guns and even his newly issued M-1 proved to be the stimulus for he and LeRoy Gruber (F/H&S 107 R), Fallon, IL, applying for Air Cadet training. The pair's acceptance was a last minute thing just as the 32d Div moved out to Ft. Devens, MA, on 27 Feb 42. Successfully completing Primary, Basic and Advance Training qualifying him for twin-engine medium bombers, the newly commissioned 2nd Lt shipped out for the S. Pacific late in '43. He successfully completed 87 missions flying B-25s and A-20s from bases in NEW GUINEA: DOBODURA, NADZAB and HOLLANDIA- probably supporting his old outfit, the 32d Inf Div slugging it out in the jungle cesspool below.



Returning to the US in March '45 wearing "rail-road tracks" he was subsequently caught in a numbers crunch brought about by military cutbacks resulting in separation in Nov '46. The harsh U.P. winters and his 7 years of active service were sufficient reasons for re-uping in the Air Corps.

Joe's military retirement occurred in Nov 1970 with over 30 years of service time and permanent rank of Chief Master Sgt. Many thanks for sharing this with us, Joe - got in the main points anyways, 'eh!.....what would you say constitutes the underlying foundation which supports the 107th's proud heritage now spanning 113 years, 1881 to 1995? People? Don't think many would disagree with that answer. The thousands of men, and now the first women, who've entered the ranks have in countless ways contributed towards the 107th's grand history during periods of war and periods of peace. A tradition that's been handed down militarily via many grandfather to father, father to son, and other family combinations traceable all the way back to WWI rosters of record. Don't believe that any, however, can top the family relationship record of the Peters family beginning with the grandparental end of things, Thomas S. and Marie Peters, Lake Linden, MI, whose Co E 107th Regiment service time started in 1940 (Calumet). Grandfather Tom went to Louisiana with Co E when the 32d Inf Div, and 107th, were called up on 15 Oct 40. You'll have to fill us in what happened to you from that point on, Tom. Their son, Thomas L. Peters, joined HHC in Ishpeming Jan 1980 following a 5 year hitch in the RA. He is presently a member in the 1075th Maint Co (Marquette). Tom and his wife, Elizabeth, were recently presented with the NG's State Legion of Merit award for their shared NG commitment - not only for their own service and contributions but also for that of 3 sons and a son-in-law currently serving in Upper Peninsula NG units.....sad news that George H. Molentin (H&S 254) died in Sept '94. If the name doesn't ring a bell this will tune you in - he designed the Snortin' Bull.



*Newquay, Cornwall*

After several non-approved sketches at NEWQUAY, the talented commercial artist came up with the "Bull" - exactly what Lt Col Loren W. Jenkins had in mind as something special for his battalion. As an S-2 Section member and Bn photographer (wonder where to all his ETO pictures ended up) his artistry played important roles in the daily (when possible) WWII BULL SHEETS and various battalion reports. For morale purposes too here illustrated by this NEWQUAY sketch which was a fold-out part of a "Greetings from Europe 1944" Christmas card he designed and had personally reproduced in the U.S. for the boys. A faithful Association supporter, he made one reunion, ISHPERING 1976, where we presented him with a customized Snortin'Bull jacket - said he wore it with pride while sailboating out of Chicago. Fifty years later the Snortin' Bull is still "something special" for the 107th Bn NGs. A well-deserved farewell salute to George H. Molentin....."Hi. Here's my check to keep the newsletter coming. Sure enjoyed the Company C roster in the last one noting that a lot of the boys in my outfit were not listed; hard to believe we lost so many. Hope to get up there again for my third time from St. Albans, VT." Ivan E. Gonyeau (C 254) at Newquay.....feeling bad time - end of Issue #38 and only put a weed in the accumulated pile of notes, pictures, reports and wot all. But keep 'em coming - especially historical pictures, stories, etc. See 'ya! FINIS.



OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AT GLADSTONE REUNION

- |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Cleveland E. Adams (107 R-522)      | Newberry, MI         |
| Paul Allen (B 107 R-522)            | Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| Ray. A. Anders (Med Det 107 R-254)  | Bellevue, MI         |
| Thomas C. Bardowski (A 107 R-A 254) | Stephenson, MI       |
| Erik A. Barnhart (C NG Bn)          | Escanaba, MI         |
| Herbert S. Bastion (E 107 R-A 254)  | Clawson, MI          |
| Joseph B. Battaglia (1121 Gp Hq)    | New Brighton, PA     |
| John A. Beauchamp (HHC NG Bn)       | Skandia, MI          |
| Wayne J. Berthaume (C NG Bn)        | Escanaba, MI         |
| Orlando A. Bengi (A 107 R-A 254)    | Iron River, MI       |
| Michael Broeders (C NG Bn)          | Brampton, MI         |
| Alfred H. Brow (H&S 107 R-1121)     | Rochester, MI        |
| Donald J. Bussiere (A NG Bn)        | Ontonagon, MI        |
| Jene A. Canavera (107 R-522)        | Iron Mountain, MI    |
| Willard Carne (B NG Bn)             | Escanaba, MI         |
| Tony J. Caron (C NG Bn)             | Wells, MI            |
| Joseph A. Censabella (H&S 254)      | Alexandria, VA       |
| Raymond J. Chartre (HHC NG Bn)      | Negaunee, MI         |
| Michael J. Cousineau (C NG Bn)      | Escanaba, MI         |
| Warren O. Crow (107 R-C 254)        | Wellston, MI         |
| John L. Culliton (C NG Bn)          | Gladstone, MI        |
| Dennis M. Cummings (C NG Bn)        | Escanaba, MI         |
| Fern H. Dahlgren (C NG Bn)          | Gladstone, MI        |
| Raymond E. Deicher (107 R-A 254)    | Mercedes, TX         |



Joseph P. DeSantis (B NG Bn)	Ironwood, MI	Harold A. Menapace (D 107 R-C 254)	Waterford, WI
Bennett K. Dondlinger (B 107 R-522)	Darien, CT	Robert W. Miller (C NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
James P. Dougovito (HHC NG Bn)	L'Anse, MI	William W. Moffitt (107 R-522)	Fenton, MI
Phyllis Duquette (Donald-B 254)	Ishpeming, MI	Allen Mokszycke (C NG Bn)	Bark River, MI
Frederick W. Ehrhardt (HHC NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Walter A. Mokszycke (C NG Bn)	Bark River, MI
Lawrence R. Ellenich (E 107 R-A 254)	Calumet, MI	Stanley M. Moloney (B 107 R)	Bradenton, FL
Lorenz A. Engebrecht (107 R-1121 Gp)	Wausau, WI	Murray G. Moon (D 107 R-C 254)	Marquette, MI
George L. Eyster (A 107 R-H&S 254)	Trenton, MI	James F. Moulds (HHC NG Bn)	Munising, MI
Walter J. Fassbender (B/HHC NG Bn)	Big Bay, MI	Charles E. Nault (HHC NG Bn)	Fedhaven, FL
Charles J. Fish (C NG Bn)	Rapid River, MI	John A. Neno (H&S 254)	Ithaca, NY
Michael J. Floriano (D NG Bn)	Quinnesec, MI	James E. Noel (C NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
Leonard J. Ford (C NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	Richard J. Oja (HHC NG Bn)	Republic, MI
Frederick E. Fontaine (A NG Bn)	Calumet, MI	Allan F. Olson (D 107 R-Hq 112 R)	Gwinn, MI
Robert P. Frazier (B NG Bn)	Marquette, MI	Morris E. Page (A 254)	Allegan, MI
Keith B. Freeze (B 107 R-B 254)	Shepherd, MI	Joseph Paraventi (107 R-522)	Iron River, MI
Willis A. Garceau (HHC NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	Joseph Pataconi (A 107 R-A 254)	Niagara, WI
Jack B. Garvey (A 107 R-A 254)	Armada, MI	Joseph H. Patrick (C NG Bn)	Wells, MI
Arthur J. Gibour (A 107 R-A 254)	Waukegan, IL	Freeling W. Peck (A 107 R-C 254)	Sparta, MI
Ralph F. Godfrey (A/H&S 107 R)	Zephyrhills, FL	Patrick C. Pequet (H&S NG Bn)	Flushing, MI
Richard P. Gough (A 254)	Atlantic Highlands, NJ	Thomas E. Perry (A/HHC NG Bn)	Skandia, MI
Rueben J. Griewe (HHC NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	John Philippi (HHC NG Bn)	Gwinn, MI
Robert J. Gustafson (C NG Bn)	Rapid River, MI	Roger D. Phillips (C 254)	Bridgeport, IL
C. William Hager (HHC NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Erwin C. Pond (107 R-B 107 Bn)	Dowagiac, MI
Aurelia Hakka (Fred Gagnon-NG Bn)	Deerton, MI	LaRue A. Reher (B 254)	St. Paul, MN
Harold V. Hall (107 R-A 107 Bn)	Wyoming, MI	John M. Riley (B 254)	Canterbury, CT
George J. Hansen (HHC NG Bn)	Mission, TX	Eleanor Robinette (Leonard-H&S 254)	Escanaba, MI
Joseph M. Hauser (Band 107 R)	Milwaukee, WI	William Rogers (C/HHC NG Bn)	Marquette, MI
Burdette R. Hayner (107 R-H&S 254)	Hastings, MI	Warren L. Romain (D 107 R-B 254)	Milwaukee, MI
John E. Hendra (A NG Bn)	Calumet, MI	Ronald J. Ross (HHC NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI
Charles Hendrickson (C 107 R-522)	Brown Deer, WI	Frank V. Rosich (E 107 R-A 254)	Center Line, MI
Ronald B. Hess (C NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI	Albert M. Salo (D 107 R-C 254)	Ironwood, MI
William L. Holahan (B 254)	Norwood, NJ	Lawrence P. Sapine (A NG Bn)	Lake Linden, MI
Edwin R. Hutchens (D 107 R-C 254)	Marquette, MI	Allen C. Scott (D 107 R-C 254)	Traverse City, MI
James L. Hutcheson (HHC NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Elmer B. Scovill (C 107 R-107 Bn)	Ft. Belvoir, VA
Joseph E. Illig (C NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	Aloysuis R. Sever (HHC NG Bn)	Laurium, MI
Edwin J. Jachinski (HHC NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	Robert E. Sexton (D NG Bn)	Iron River, MI
Joseph Karl (C NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	James W. Sheldon (A NG Bn)	Baraga, MI
Andrew Kelsay (Jesse E.-Hq 254)	Winnesboro, TX	Wendell G. Shuman (H&S 107 R)	Swartz Creek, MI
John K. Kovachich (E 107 R-B 254-NG)	Calumet, TX	William F. Siebert (E 107 R-A 254)	Plover, WI
Keith P. Kytta (C NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	N. Reuben Sjoquist (C NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
John LaChance (C NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	Donald R. Small (HHC NG Bn)	Marquette, MI
Richard A. LaChance (HHC NG Bn)	Rapid River, MI	Brian W. Smith (C NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
John J. LaFave (H&S 107R-127 Inf)	Escanaba, MI	Edmund J. Stevens (A 107 R)	Gladstone, MI
Patricia D. Larsen (Wm. B. NG Bn)	Big Bay, MI	Victor Stevens (A/H&S 107 R-112 Bn)	Livonia, MI
Merritt J. Leaf (D 107-H&S 254)	Fowlerville, MI	Gregory R. Stewart (C NG Bn)	Marquette, MI
Phillip J. Lennert (HHC NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	Russell J. Sturdivant (C NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI
Lloyd A. Lessard (C NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI	Robert M. Taylor (C/HHC NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI
Stanley R. Levall (B 107 R-522)	Kenosha, WI	Martin Terzaghi (D 107 R-B 107 Bn)	Negaunee, MI
James W. Lienau (A/HHC NG Bn)	Green Bay, WI	Albert A. Tomassetti (B 254)	Louisville, KY
Rene P. Lippens (C NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI	Paul J. Van Abel (E 107 R-A 254)	L'Anse, MI
William E. Luokkanen (A NG Bn)	Mohawk, MI	John V. Van Brocklin (C NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
John O. Lund (107 R-B 254)	Viroqua, WI	William C. Viau (C NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI
David W. McCombie (D 107 R)	Melbourne, FL	Edw. Vickstrom (D 107 R-H&S 254)	Ishpeming, MI
John W. McCormick (B NG Bn)	Sterling Hts., MI	Leonard C. Ward (107 R-1121-NG Bn)	McLean, VA
Robert K. McGuire (C/H&S 254)	Centerville, IA	Cory Way (C NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
LeRoy W. McKnight (C NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI	Betty Wiedenhoft (Bob-107 R-C 254)	Waukesha, WI
John R. Maki (C NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	Douglas H. Williamson (107 R-C 254)	Rockford, MI
Francis J. Marcotte (A NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	Robert C. Wills (HHC NG Bn)	Rockford, MI
Gary F. Marcotte (C NG Bn)	Hubbell, MI	Richard F. Wills (D 107 R-B 254)	Negaunee, MI
John J. Martis (C 254)	Lansing, IL	Peter J. Zdybel (E 107 R-A 254)	Lansing, MI
Michael G. Mattila (HHC NG Bn)	Rock, MI	Matthew Zukalowski (C NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI