



April 1998

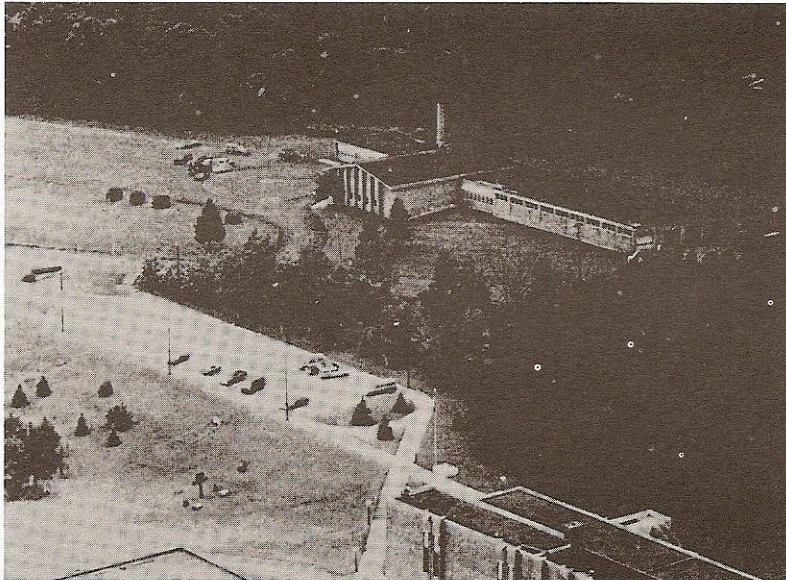


Issue Number 41

The "BULL SHEET"

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

Company B of the 107th Engineer Battalion, Ironwood, Michigan, is proud to be the host unit for the 37th Annual Reunion for it's third time following gala events in 1979 and lastly 1989. The community of Ironwood and personnel of Company B are together gearing up, once again, with plans to insure that this will be the most memorable reunion ever. Friday, 31 July, is dedicated to afternoon registration, visitation and a mixer with hors d'oeuvres for both young and old. Our Saturday, 1 August, program will follow the SOP Association format: Breakfast at the armory, Memorial Service, noon day mess, Business Meeting, cocktail hour, banquet with short program and dance. The Mess Sergeant's menu for the day will lead off with a good old-fashioned Army breakfast, a barbecue chicken lunch and evening banquet with home-made ravioli, roast beef and turkey with all the trimmings. Another great weekend will terminate with breakfast and farewells at the armory on Sunday. Per usual all meals are provided. Entertainment will be provided by the "Dean's List", a 25-piece band playing the old favorites for your listening pleasure. A short banquet will be highlighted by the local "Accent" singing some songs and the always popular "the Battalion" report by the commanding officer. During the day the Drum and Bugle Corps, reunion, will make a performance. Of extra interest will be a National volleyball tournament at the Eagle Bluff/casino run to the Bad River Indian Reservation. All our planning is done. All we need now is your attendance to make this a reunion to remember. Hoping to see you here for an enjoyable 37th.



will be modestly priced. Music will be provided by the piece orchestra playing and special requests and/or dancing program will be high school pop choir traditional patriotic informative "State of Michigan" by the battalion's new Lt Col Tibor J. Lanczy. Marty's Goldenaires a big hit at our 1989 spectacular return performance on Saturday. Guard/unit sponsored event, a golf scrambler at Gogebic Country Club, a

SFC James "Stretch" Sertich (Ret)
Association President

Last year we trekked to Sault Ste. Marie located on the far eastern end of the Upper Peninsula. This year we're pointed towards Ironwood, Gogebic County, Michigan, situated on the furthest western part of the UP, some 315 distant. An area where iron ore mining on the famed Gogebic Range is past history and downhill skiing on a number of area ski resorts is a major industry now. Big hills in rugged country located in a snowbelt only secondary to the Copper Country, Keweenaw Peninsula. A side trip to the Copper Peak Ski Flying Hill, the only such jumping hill in the U.S. is a special treat in itself. Awesome. Ironwood is in a scenic area having many natural attractions with a great mining tradition - an area well worth some extra exploratory time/visiting for folks from away. You won't be disappointed. Guaranteed!

TAPS



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.



Roa W. Antcliff (B 254) South Haven, MI
Gordon J. "Brownie" Brown (107 R-C 254, Seattle, WA
Bruce Cain (HHC 107 NG Bn) Ishpeming, MI
Charles W. Dimmer (Med Det 107 R & 254 Bn), Seminole, FL
Franklin I. Elkins (F 107 R) Mohawk, MI
Gilbert E. "Gilly" Juntunen (D 107 R-B 107 Bn, N. Ireland) Bessemer, MI
William E. Kell (B 107 NG-CO 1437th Br Co), Menominee, MI
Jesse D. Kelsay (A/H&S 254) Jacksonville, TX
Henry Lansing (C 254) Los Angeles, CA
Paul Leask (522d) Sault Ste. Marie, MI
Fred W. Lewis (522d) Calhoun, TN
John O. Lund (D 107 R-B 254-RA Ret) Viroqua, WI
Frank J. Mastee (107 R-A 254) Muskegon, MI
James D. Matlick (A 254 Bn) Highland, MI
Howard J. McCain (107 R-522d) LaCrosse, WI
Wesley N. Moilanen (Med Det 107 R & 112 R) Lake Linden, MI
Arnold R. Oseland (107 R-H&S 254) Wauwatosa, WI
Robert A. "Bob" Perry (C 254) Phoenix, AZ
Antonio L. Raspa (A 254 Bn) Highland Park, NJ
Thomas S. Peters (E 107 R) Lake Linden, MI
Darren Schultz (HHC 107 NG Bn) Champion, MI
Alex R. Suojanen (Med Det 107 R & 254 Bn) South Range, MI
John P. White (B 107 R) Sault Ste. Marie, MI
Paul Wilmers (A 107 Bn 1937-40) Hancock, MI
Louis F. Zak (112 R-H&S 254 Bn) Euclid, OH

ROSTER ADDITIONS

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

Norbert C. Beauchamp (C 107 NG Bn) 13017 S. Mackinac Trl., Dafter, MI 49724 (**self**);
Frank Beauchamp (C 107 NG Bn), 2308 17th Rd., Bark River, MI 49807 (**Norbert Beauchamp**);
Ray Beauchamp (C 107 NG), P.O. Box 115, Houghton Lake Heights, MI 48630 (**N. Beauchamp**);
Carl Beauchamp (C 107 NG), 42 Sluyter, Kentwood, MI 49858 (**Norbert Beauchamp**); MIA to Active Status: Arthur E. Hirshorn, MD, (Bn Surgeon 254), 1038 Sussex Ave., Deptford, NJ 08096 (**son, Art**); New: Maj Daniel Rodeck, (107 NG Bn), 3493 Wainscott Pl., Woodbridge, VA 22182 (**Leonard C. Ward**)

Kudos to George Simonis, son of Anselm "Andy" Simonis (C 107 R-F 112 R-522) for researching and duplicating National Archive documents which he most graciously shares for Association archives and you readers. They are a valued contribution to say the least. The documents cover the WWII travels of F 112 R and 522d Co and actions heretofore known in broad outline only. Included therein is the following 31 Jan 44 roster when Co F was redesignated the 522d on 25 Jan 44, N. AFRICA, per G.O. No. 7, Hq Command AF. Co F at the time of its abrupt separation from 2nd Bn 112th (old 107th) was manned by many NGs who entered active service on 15 Oct 40 with Co B (Sault Ste. Marie) and Co C (Detroit) 107th Regiment. These men plus some Wisconsin infantry NGs are identified by 20 million ASNs (i.e. 20638245). Those assigned 36 million ASNs (mid-West draft allocation) are, so far as is known, Selected Service (drafted men or enlistees) either joining the 107th or 32nd Division infantry regiments at Camp Livingston, LA, April 1941, upon completion of basic training. Briefly this summarization: Co F 112th moved by rail SHRIVENHAM, ENGLAND-GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, 22-23 Nov 42 disembarking in FRENCH N. AFRICA, 6 Dec 42, off the Stephan Batory (a Polish troop transport). As the 522d, it moved to ITALY, 9 Jul 44.

* denotes TAPS since 1945

UL denotes UNLOCATED for Association "duty"
NG denotes Mich or Wis National Guard (Co) 126, 127, 128 (Inf Regts) identifies Inf to 107th transferee, 31 Dec 41 at Camp Livingston & 107th company, if known; input and/or corrections requested

COMPANY ROSTER

522nd Engineer Combat Company
N. Africa, as of
31 January 1944

OFFICERS

Hale, Willis R., Capt, O-341827, Res O asgd *
Co C 107 R, Camp Livingston, LA, 1941
Coon, Joseph M., 1st Lt, O-388422, Res O UL
believed asgd Co C 107th Bn, Moneymore,
N. Ireland, 1942
Nulty, Timothy D., 1st Lt, O-391842, RO asgd R
to Co B 107 R, Camp Livingston, LA, 1941
Metzger, Russell E., 1st Lt, O-304826, un- UL
known where/when asgd to 107th Bn, N. I.
Peterson, Joseph C., 1st Lt, O-1102902 UL
asgd F 112 R, N. Ireland, 1942, non-com-
bat injured & evacuated, Italy

ENLISTED MEN

| | | | |
|---|-------|--|-------|
| Ackerman, George L., Sgt, 20638245 (C) | NG-* | Gerzanics, Anthony, T/5, 20638244 (C) | NG-UL |
| Adams, Cleveland E., T/5, 20638148 (B) | NG-R | Gill, John F., T/5, 36226018 (F) | UL |
| Allan, Edward N., Pvt, 39163611 (A) | R | Gilroy, Hiram W., T/5, 20638171 (B) | NG-R |
| Alleman, Ray M., Sgt, 36209289 | * | Gilroy, Melvin H., Pfc, 20638176 (B) | NG-* |
| Allen, Paul, Sgt, 20638119 (B) | NG-R | Glasson, Daniel R., Pfc, 36225996 (B) | * |
| Anderson, James E., Pfc, 36115285 | R | Gordon, Jr., William R., Pvt, 14082625 | UL |
| Arcand, Joseph J., Pvt, 36225898 | * | Gorman, Thomas K., T/5, 36113374 (B or C) | R |
| Armbruster, Merle D., Cpl, 36113232 | R | Griffin, Virgil L., Pfc, 36113320 (C) | * |
| Ashley, Roy, Pfc, 32172362 | UL | Groop, Arthur G., T/5, 36225965 (B or C) | * |
| Bahn, Max, Pvt, 32175309 | UL | Hacht, Arthur F., Pvt, 36207817 | UL |
| Bajema, Otto, Pvt, 36155319 | UL | Harju, John, Pfc, 36225987 (B or C) | * |
| Battle, Robert C., Pvt, 36047957 | UL | Harrand, Joseph A., Pvt, 36156094 (B or C) | R |
| Beck, George E., T/5, 36113512 | UL | Haynes, Guy R., T/5, 20638173 (B) | NG-R |
| Belcher, Raymond E., Pvt, 20638234 (C) | NG-UL | Hedberg, Eugene O., T/5, 36225976 (B or C) | R |
| Bergemann, Harold A., Pfc, 36209394 | R | Hendricksen, Charles, Pfc, 20654234 (C) | NG-R |
| Bernier, Charles L., S/Sgt, 20638121 (B) | NG-R | Hewitt, Lyle J., Cpl, 20638174 (B) | NG-R |
| Berry, Christian H., T/5, 36113376 | UL | Hodge, Wilbur N., Pfc, 20638333 (D) | NG-* |
| Bezruczyk, Joseph W., T/5, 36115263 | R | Huhta, Eino, Pvt, 36225920 | * |
| Biefeld, Lee R., Pfc, 20637100 (127) | NG-UL | Hultgren, Leonard C., T/5, 36112848 (C) | * |
| Bjunes, William J., T/4, 20638151 (B) | NG-* | Hyder, Jack J., Sgt, 20638226 (C) | NG-R |
| Bodwin, Bernard C., Pvt, 20646072 (127-B) | NG-UL | Jarvi, Reino H., Pfc, 36225923 | R |
| Brendzej, Michael, Pfc, 36208208 (B) | R | Johnson, Eino E., Pvt, 20638177 (B) | NG-UL |
| Brennan, Thomas E., Pvt, 32174128 (C-Ft. Dix) | R | Julian, Bernard E., Pvt, 36155074 | * |
| Brotski, Edward P., Pfc, 36208343 | UL | Kabke, Charles M., Pfc, 20638178 (B) | NG-* |
| Brummond, August, Pvt, 20648993 (128) | NG-* | Katscher, Edward C., Pvt, 20635750 (126) | NG-UL |
| Bruton, Paul E., Pvt, 34420236 | UL | Kazda, Richard H., Pvt, 36207570 | * |
| Buck, Joseph E., Pvt, 20638125 (B) | NG-R | Kearbey, Ernest A., S/Sgt, 20638210 (B) | NG-UL |
| Butler, Hilary A., T/5, 20638126 (B) | NG-* | Kelly, Robert H., Pfc, 36225819 (B) | R |
| Campbell, Ernest D., Pvt, 36113540 | UL | Kessler, William S., Pfc, 36207585 (B) | R |
| Campbell, James W., Cpl, 36113245 | * | King, Phillip M., Pfc, 20638180 (B) | NG-UL |
| Campbell, Robert J., Pvt, 20638157 (B) | NG-* | Klemmeck, Henry, Pvt, 35352422 | UL |
| Canavera, Jenio A., T/5, 36225971 (B) | R | Krause, Irving C., Pvt, 35156108 (B) | * |
| Cartwright, Vern R., S/Sgt, 20638159 (B) | NG-R | LaDuke, Elvis L., Pvt, 15046031 | UL |
| Clary, Ralph J., Pvt, 17077731 | UL | Langstaff, Albert L., S/Sgt, 36225818 (B) | * |
| Clark, Roland V., Pfc, 32173939 | UL | Leask, Paul A., Pfc, 36225781 (B or C) | * |
| Colwell, Leonard F., T/4, 20638162 (B) | NG-R | Levall, Stanley R., Sgt, 20638181 (B) | NG-* |
| Convis, Max A., T/5, 36113357 (C) | * | Lewis, Fred W., Pvt, 34520696 | * |
| Cox, Roy, Pvt, 36113105 | UL | Lewis, Milton H., Pfc, 20638182 (B or C) | NG-* |
| Crawford, Joffre G., Pvt, 36113328 (C) | R | Lickly, LeRoy E., Pfc, 36155930 | UL |
| Cross, Charles G., Cpl, 36113364 | * | Littlefield, Joel V., Sgt, 20638136 (B) | NG-R |
| Damphouse, Raymond C., Pvt, 31118650 | UL | Littlefield, Willard M., S/Sgt, 20638140 (B) | NG-* |
| Darcey, William J., Pfc, 32175134 | UL | Lucas, Keith C., S/Sgt, 20638115 (B) | NG-* |
| Davis, Edward L., Pvt, 36113322 | UL | Lyons, Orvis L., Pvt, 36104664 (C) | R |
| DeMerse, Clarence A., Pfc, 20638164 (B) | NG-* | Martin, Edward E., Pfc, 36110057 (B) | R |
| Dhondt, Francis J., Pfc, 36225945 (B or C) | R | Martin, Frederick J., Pfc, 36155953 | UL |
| Dondlinger, Bennett K., Cpl, 31051927 (B) | R | Massaro, Anthony J., Pfc, 12088799 | UL |
| Drager, Arthur J., Pvt, 36209249 | R | McCaigue, Thomas B., Pvt, 36209205 | * |
| Driscoll, Robert E., T/5, 36209272 (B) | * | McCain, Howard J., Pvt, 20648842 (128) | NG-* |
| Dupont, Joseph L., T/4, 20638041 (A) | NG-R | McCord, Warren J., T/5, 20638186 (B) | NG-UL |
| Edward, Ira L., Pvt, 36225782 (B or C) | * | McDonald, Arnold A., Pvt, 20638184 (B) | NG-UL |
| Eisold, Harvey J., Pvt, 20649012 (128) | NG-R | McDonald, Lynn R., Pvt, 20638191 (B) | NG-* |
| Ellrich, Henry E., T/5, 37049713 (E) | R | McKerchie, James B., Pvt, 20638188 (B) | NG-* |
| Farrand, William G., Pvt, 35168896 (B) | R | Miller, Ira, W., Sgt, 20647484 (127)(C) | NG-* |
| Feola, Francis O., T/5, 32252758 | UL | Mills, Glenn M., Pvt, 36225882 | UL |
| Fischer, Carl F., Pfc, 36155411 (C) | UL | Moffitt, William W., Cpl, 36112815 (127)(B) | R |
| Florian, Joseph A., Pvt, 36208286 | R | Molinaro, Harold V., T/4, 20638192 (B) | NG-* |
| Forge, Robert J., Cpl, 36209543 | UL | Moore, Wilson J., T/5, 36204683 | UL |
| Foth, Gordon P., Sgt, 36209515 (B or C) | R | Morin, Jerome D., Pfc, 20638409 (D) | NG-R |
| Francke, Melvin E., T/5, 20638157 (B) | NG-* | Murphy, Lawrence J., Pvt, 36225884 | R |
| Freitag, Harold W., Pvt, 36208214 (C) | R | Nelson, Robert E., Pvt, 20638079 (A) | NG-* |
| Genetti, Richard S., Pvt, 36226050 (A) | R | Oakes, Francis S., T/5, 20638194 (B) | NG-R |

Oswald, John P., Pvt, 36209371 UL
 Paraventi, Joseph, Pfc, 36225910 (B or C) R
 Peck, Robert S., Pvt, 36207594 UL
 Pedro, William J., Pvt, 39011234 UL
 Pottinger, Henry C., Sgt, 36112855 UL
 Proctor, Thomas W., Pfc, 36225994 UL
 Rabineau, Albert O., Pvt, 20638141 (B) NG-UL
 Reitan, Jack D., T/5, 20649278 (128) NG-*
 Ricketts, Leonard R., S/Sgt, 20638261 (C) NG-*
 Rifleman, Donald O., Cpl, 36208161 R
 Santiago, Howard E., Pfc, 20638200 (B) NG-*
 Saunders, William H., Pvt, 39839647 UL
 Schiller, Peter D., Pvt, 37271887 *
 Schwab, Thomas D., Pvt, 37574915 UL
 Scott, Harry Y., Sgt, 20638265 (C) NG-*
 Seppala, William E., Pvt, 20638201 (B) NG-R
 Simonen, Toivo K., T/5, 20638124 (B) NG-*
 Simonis, Anselm W., Cpl, 36209337 (128) (B) R
 Siporski, Bernard A., T/5, 36208277 (Inf)(B) *
 Smith, Frank F., Sgt, 20638145 (B) NG-*
 Smith, Howard C., Pvt, 20638202 (B) NG-UL
 Spiekerman, Arthur F., T/5, 36219470 *
 Srnek, Joseph J., Pfc, 36114660 *
 Stearns, Robert M., Pfc, 20703667 (?) NG-UL
 Steier, Hudson J., Pfc, 20648173 (127)(B) NG-UL
 Stover, Russell R., Pvt, 36112107 *
 Tapio, Henry K., Pfc, 39181147 (B or C) R
 Tramm, Carl E., Pvt, 36339041 UL
 Turnquist, Edwin W., T/5, 36207445 *
 Veeder, Edward W., Pfc, 36155512 (126)(B) R
 Vincent, Lawrence T., Pvt, 39838839 UL
 Vorel, William A., Pvt, 36155973 R
 Wasilewski, Stanley J., Pvt, 20638206 (B) NG-UL
 Wenger, Carl A., Pfc, 36207390 R
 Wheelock, Gordon M., Pvt, 36209203 UL
 White, Duane H., T/5, 36207383 (B) *
 Wickman, Joseph L., Pfc, 20638147 (B) NG-*
 Wilcox, Woodrow F., Pvt, 20638208 (B) NG-*
 Wilkinson, Lyle S., Pvt, 36114400 *
 Wilson, Leo P., Pfc, 20638209 (B) NG-*
 Winberg, Edwin W., Pfc, 36225840 *
 Yancey, James E., Pvt, 33442049 UL
 Zachow, Edwin G., Pfc, 20646177 (127) (B) NG-UL
 Zahar, Mathew T., Pvt, 36155362 UL
 Zellman, Verne W., Cpl, 13042986 UL
 Note: On the 29 Feb 44 (month later) Keith C. Lucas is rostered as 1st Sgt

HEADQUARTERS 109th INFANTRY
 APO 28 U.S. ARMY

SUBJECT: Officers Roster

TO : Commanding General, 28th Infantry
 Division, APO 28, U.S. Army

1. The following is a roster of all officers and Warrant Officers of this Regiment assigned as of May 1, 1945. (Note - WWII ended May 8th and passed down to last company roster)

COMPANY "M"

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Co. Comdr. | Capt Lindberg, Austin E. | 01299408 |
| 2nd in Comd. | None | |
| HMG Plat Of | 1Lt Campbell, John G. | 01288700 |
| HMG Plat Of | 2Lt Hargrave, Oakley | 02005703 |
| Mortar Pl O | 1Lt Whittemore, Don. E. | 01319148 |
| Mortar Pl O | 2Lt Bond, Clayton F. | 0530209 |
| Mortar Pl O | 2Lt Kaler, Harold K. | 01996450 |
| Mortar Pl O | 2Lt None | |

For sure our 1949-60 era NGs, and later guardsmen and WWII men as well will immediately identify with the rostered name of Capt Lindberg. An instant attention grabber if you will. Preceded by his WWII tour as an infantry officer and a post-war decade filling various 107th assignments, "Austy's" tour as battalion commander 1959-69, which was sadly terminated by death on 17 Oct 69, ranks big in 107th history. And in the memories of men he served with and commanded. On the Association level too because had he not spearheaded the first informal get-together of WWI, WWII and 107th NGs, Marquette armory, 20 Aug 61, it is most unlikely that the 107th Engineer Association as we've known and enjoyed it for 37 years now, would have ever existed. Coincidentally it was then and there the hastily rallied attendees enthusiastically recognized and endorsed a brilliant idea, the 107th Engineer Association and election of officers. GOOD AS DONE! The book opened the door for exchange of correspondence/information between ye' editor and Col Kemp. And as an added bonus his book account about the 109th's SAUNTON SANDS training experience was glommed onto which zealous readers will discover elsewhere herein. Quoting in part from his first informative letter: "Your letter of 31 Oct was a complete surprise, interesting and enlightening. Thank you. First, you may reprint what you wish of my book and certainly regarding Lindberg. He was very close to me, and I to him, for some months of our operations in Western Europe. 'Lindy' - his nickname in the 109th first comes to my memory when I became CO of Co M/109th around May 1943. 'Lindy' was a platoon leader (mortar?) and I made him my Exec. When I

ACCIDENTAL "RECON" PAYS OFF

BINGO, while avidly pursuing a narrative history about the 109th Infantry Regt, 28th Inf Div Pennsylvania NG, 1940-45, entitled "The Regiment: Let The Citizens Bear Arms" by Colonel Harry M. Kemp (Ret) wherein the author (entire WWII service was in the 109th from Jan 1937 enlistment - heavy MG ammunition carrier EM to battalion commander) unknowingly but fortuitously for us conveys a couple things hot for BULL SHEET pass on. What and why? Read on.

was promoted to ExO/3rd Bn/109th, I recommended him for Co M command and promotion to captain. This was approved and he retained that command throughout the war, return to US and demobilization. He went back home and I remained in the Army, retiring in July 1971. 'Lindy' was my proverbial right hand for about 1½ years and definitely in sync on having the best infantry company in the US Army. He led Co M through our COLMAR POCKET offensive in ALSACE-LORRAINE and last battle at SCHLEIDEN, GERMANY. We exchanged notes for a few years, then, as I moved around to various military asgmts, we lost touch. When he died - suddenly - in 1969 I learned of it from someone who knew both of us, now lost from my memory. You have jarred some memory cells long dormant. And thanks for the history info of your engineer unit. As you know, my book applauds them."

COMFORT AT ALL COSTS - WHENEVER POSSIBLE



A rustic woodland cottage? Or maybe a UP deer hunting camp? Nope! Just a shack in the ARDENNES FOREST near BULLINGEN, BELGIUM, assumed wrongly to be a winter-long home. But only for period 2 Oct-16 Dec 44. Photo from Herbert S. Bastion (E 107 R) w/added input from Paul J. Van Abel (E 107 R) who jointly explain. "We were six 3rd Plt Co A 254 guys (all NGs or draftees from Upper Michigan (UP) who threw up this shelter including: S/Sgt & Plt Sgt-later 2nd Lt) Charles E. "Chuck" Karpinen (E 107R-TAPS 1948), Eero J. Maki, Co Carpenter (107 R-UNLOCATED), Thomas C. "Butch" Bardowski, Compressor Operator (A 107 R), Paul J. Van Abel, Weapons Sgt (E 107 R), Louis A. Caruso, Supply Trk Driver (107-TAPS 1961) and Herbie Bastion, Tool & Supply Corporal (E 107 R). Later told to dig in because Allied planes were bombing

nearby, Arthur J. Gibour (A/H&S 107 R) bulldozed us a hole in which we built another similiar dugout below ground for better protection." "Van" remembers, "When we deployed here doing miserable MSR work behind V Corps divisions (4th & 99th) we first huddled under pup tents in continuous cold rain. I had a weapons squad scattered about but can't recall how or what they did for shelter. No snow when we moved in but plenty when we hastily pulled out to defend BULLINGEN the morning of 17 Dec 44, second day of the BULGE." The abundant limbed (by natives for firewood) firs provided prime cabin stock and vacated/ruined buildings ample and varied building materials for the skilled UP woodsmen. Observant viewers will detect a power line and outdoor light courtesy of a captured MG set - and careless "quiet area" camouflage discipline. Perhaps fancier than most this was just one of many dissimilar shelters quickly erected by comfort driven men in off times. Later found out that the Germans utilized the battalion's "shack" city" for a winter equipment/supply dump until forced out a month later. In any event this was past history for the 254th men then manning the BULGE'S north shoulder near the Belgique town of ELSENBORN.

SOO REUNION- GOOD SHOW! GRAND TIME I

"Heres a set of pictures I took in Sault Ste. Marie, Sat. 2 Aug '97. I was fascinated by the bridge demonstration and the skills of the men operating the equipment. Lola and I loved the Soo. Beautiful city, interesting locks and waterways and a great time visiting with friends at a memorable event and super weekend." Just can't say it much better than those heartfelt words from veteran campaigner Albert A. Tomassetti (B 254) in for his seventh reunion from his Louisville, KY digs. And more from a 1940 Co B 107th Engr Regt Soo Guardsman returning to the area with Irish wife, Maura, from far away Houston, TX: "I/we want to say how much we enjoyed seeing everyone at the bivouac. Same story though- never enough time to say everything or ask the questions you want to. In any event we sure enjoyed the reunion and seeing everyone." Herbert L. Duff, Jr. (at Ft. Belvoir when 107th departed Camp Livingston - to Iceland and Europe with 5th Engrs). Though officially dubbed the 36th Annual Reunion, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, 1-2-3 Aug - ust 1997 that broad designation breaks down into many facets making up the gala 3 day affair. Soo's tourist oriented area of around 15,000 souls gives evidence of a much larger metro city.

Probably because the area offers so much geographically and commercially which combined with a beautifully run reunion kinda overwhelmed many with things to do in the short time there. Maybe even to a fault with people going in many directions and still trying to comply with a tight reunion schedule. So far as is known no reunion committee members, comprised of mostly retired 1437th Br Co men, ever attended a reunion but no problem mastering the intricacies of our time-proven, simple but demanding weekend format. We applaud each individual and the area in general for a combined hospitable effort and grand accomplishment in discharging our 36th Annual so graciously and efficiently. Hopefully they'll invite us back again somewhere down the road.



1437th Engr Br Co Bridge Demc - Soo Reunion

Heading up the various committees manned by retired and active 1437th personnel were: General Chairmen: Walter Babcock & SFC David W. Brown, Assoc. VP; Registrations: John Gilray & Verne Coutant; Parade: Maj (Ret) Edward P. "Chum" Leask & Howard G. Sanderson; Bar: Ernest J. Perron & Charlotte Pentland; Cleanup & Setup: Robert Mattson; Food: Walter Babcock, Gerald McDonald, Paul Stoling, John Sabatine & Duane Swanson. To one and all - grateful thanks!

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1997-1998)

President: SFC (Ret) James Sertich (B 107 NG)
 Vice Pres: Sgt Scott Cleary (B 107 NG)
 Secretary: Ed Vickstrom (D 107 R-W&S 254)
 Treasurer: SFC James L. Hutcheson (HHC 107 NG)
 Historian: LTC (Ret) F. Stonehouse (HHC 107 NG)
 P.R.O. : SSG (Ret) William J. Dowd (B 107 NG)
 Permanent Dir: LTC John A. Trotter (107 Bn CO)
 4-Yr. Director: Maj Thomas E. Perry (107 Bn NG)
 3-Yr. Director: Paul J. Van Abel (E 107 R-A 254)
 2-Yr. Director: Col (Ret) Donald R. Small (NG)
 1-Yr. Director: CSM (Ret) Richard Oja (HHC 107)
 Assoc. Chaplain: LTC (Ret) Geo. J. Hansen (107)

REQUIEM FOR AND MEMORIES OF A GRAND 'OL LADY

On Friday, 7 Aug 42, Task Force 62 broke into two columns. Following the flagship USS McCawley toward GUADALCANAL came Force 62.1, or Transport Group X-Ray, comprised of the Fuller, American Legion, Bellatrix, Barnett, Elliott, Libra, Hunter Liggett, Alchiba, Betelgeuse, CrescentCity, President Hayes, President Adams and Albena. The other contingent, Transport Group Yoke (Force 62.2) bound for TULAGI consisted of a similarly laden men and materiel ships. The strategic mission of both Transport Groups were identical - seize and invest the two islands and wipe out the Japanese forces thereon. T. Force 62 carried 18,722 marines of the 1st Marine Division, the first major combat unit to be committed to the offensive by the US in WWII. On D plus 1 about 40 twin-engine Jap torpedo planes attacked (12 were shot down) badly damaging the destroyer Jarvis and transport Elliott. The Jarvis limped out to sea - never to be heard from again. The plane hitting the Elliott had been hit in flight, but the pilot had somehow guided his faltering bird to crash on the Elliott's decks. Her civilian crew abandoned the blazing hulk. Cruisers of the supporting force hammered her with 5 and 8-inch guns but she would not sink. Even a final torpedo attack failed to send her under as she drifted off ablaze toward SAVO ISLAND finally beaching herself there. The Elliott carried 1,300 men of the 2nd Bn, 1st Marines, and had only partially unloaded critically needed supplies when fatally stricken. Yes, this was the same George F. Elliott (AP 13) that transported the 107th Engr Bn and others BROOKLYN NAVAL YARD-HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA - BELFAST, N. IRELAND, 19 Feb to 3 Mar 42, in a horizon to horizon convoy escorted by numerous warships including the battleship USS New York and heavy cruiser Philadelphia. Launched in 1918 at Alameda, CA, the former City of Los Angeles, was one of the oldest transports of the invasion fleet. The book entitled "Victory at Guadalcanal" further relates that the blazing abandoned ship was innocently the guiding beacon for a Jap reconfloat plane - and Admiral Mikawa's cruiser force that devastated the protective Allied fleet during the ensuing SAVO ISLAND sea battle. The book is silent as to Elliott's final throes then or thereafter. See "B.S." No. 28, 1985, for her 24 year life story." These are fill-in details about her last voyage and sad demise on 8 Aug 42 - 5 months after she safely carried the 107th Bn to its first WWII overseas station. Cold, scared and/or seasick during the extremely rough mid-winter crossing the 107th men disembarked the Elliott with vast relief - maybe now admiration?

ASSAULT TRAINING CENTER
Saunton Sands, N. Devonshire, England

"Engineers took a leading part in the well known Assault Training Center (ATC). Col Paul W. Thompson, CE, commanded the school from 2 Apr 43 until Mar 44. His staff deduced that the Germans would have extremely strong field defenses with concrete pillboxes, emplacements and shelters, and thinly spread defenders providing considerable automatic fire. The ATC prepared units to deal with such a defensive strategy. Set up on the NW coast of DEVONSHIRE, just south of ILFRACOMBE, the ATC was completed in March 44, allowing over two months before the invasion for unit training and a series of full-scale exercises." This in brief is an introductory excerpt from a U.S. Army Center of Military History book entitled "The Corps of Engineers; War Against Germany." Quoting further is another extraction from an English publication coming to hand at an absolutely opportune time. "Once the land had been officially handed over (by British authority) to the ATC the 112th Engineer Regiment of the Combat Corps swarmed across it covering the beaches and dunes with pill boxes, obstacles and other fortifications....." These few words though broadly descriptive as to purpose fails to tell us what we will here address on our level - the nitty gritty about hands-on construction performed first by the 2nd Bn 112th Regt (old 107th) which was soon on-site redesignated as the 254th Engr (C) Bn. The latter quotation is from a 170-page book entitled "Spirits of the Sand," a British researched, written and published book in which the author, Richard T. Bass, relates in splendid detail the relatively unknown story about this unique live-fire assault training facility for U.S. units already earmarked to OMAHA BEACH and UTAH BEACH assault landings. UK units so assigned trained at similiar sites elsewhere in England though a few Canadian outfits did run the US ATC. Also known as the WOOLACOMBE ATC, the history of this hastily planned and constructed training area quickly phased into obscurity after the main event unfolded. But before actual ATC construction could commence British anti-invasion beach mines and obstacles had to be removed from the scene resulting in 254th and 112th casualties, the first incurred overseas. Covering 3 Atlantic coastal areas, the ATC encompassed SAUNTON SANDS, CROYDE BEACH and WOOLACOMBE SANDS (may be a contraction of 2 villages, WOOL and COMBE). (See map in "Bull Sheet" No. 35, 1992). Though undoubtedly the ATC's brief history is thoroughly documented in military archives, we're guessing that the 1991 copyrighted "Spirits" is a one-of-a-kind civilian treatise about this

vitaly important British-US coordinated effort focused on an urgently needed amphibious/assault training facility that ideally had to be in South England near the concentration of US troops. Site selection proved difficult because the most suitable locations were already utilized for varying military reasons. Finally, a feasible site was found at a place called WOOLACOMBE fortunately having terrain/beaches/tide ranges closely resembling those of the TOP SECRET invasion sites in NORMANDY. A site not taken before because of prevailing stormy weather and rough water. Obviously thoroughly researched "Spirits" details the recognized need, the planning, the construction in broad outline only, and the detailed training specifics for specialized training. The villages, CROYDE, WOOLACOMBE and GEORGEHAM, within ATC boundaries were not civilian evacuated though total evacuation was preferable. However, every effort was made to ensure the safety of civilians and buildings from firing or explosives during construction and training stages. Somewhat disappointingly in the 107/254 eye, the author but briefly comments upon nut-and-bolt construction details which happily we can zero in on here thanks to other source material available. "Spirits" of a certainty is a priceless addition to our military library because of the perceptive act of Barbara Blowers, the ILFRACOMBE war bride of Clarence E. Blowers (a Escanaba A 107 R NG-C 254-TAPS 1979). Now Mrs. J. F. "Spike" Blowers (Clarence's brother), Barb is a faithful supporter and a valuable "Bull Sheet" contributor again evidenced by her generous donation, a gift from friends in England. Clarence was through the often unkind fates of war hospitalized when the 254th departed NEWQUAY, CORNWALL, for various marshalling areas; its first march towards NORMANDY after a May 11th verbal overseas alert order from the CG, 29th Inf Div. Five days after the order was received, Co B and Co C less residue proceeded from NEWQUAY southward to pre-assigned marshalling areas. On May 24th the second and third serials (H&S & Co A (-) plus authorized over-strength moved easterly to WADEBRIDGE into a locked-in marshalling tent camp. The battalion was not made whole until 8 June on OMAHA BEACH. Their vacated NEWQUAY billets were promptly reoccupied by two new infantry battalions. These selected entries from the "Table of Contents" structures the overall framework of the book's ATC story: "Grand Planning, Friendly Invaders, The Development of Amphibious Warfare, The Rise of the Assault Training Centre, Areas of the ATC, Training Schedule, Exercises & Tacticals, Public Relations, Twilight of the ATC, Omaha & Utah, Aftermath and lastly Today." Repetitious but necessary to again set the scene and refresh minds, it all began on 27 July 43 when the 2nd Bn 112th Engr (C) Regt (less Co F)

convoyed DEVIZES-BRAUTON, preceded by Easy Co, advance party. Three weeks later (19 Aug 43) the said 2/112th was redesignated the 254th Engr (C) Bn - the change tolling the knell of the WWII 107th. Accordingly practically all ATC construction beginning 9 Aug was performed by the newly redesignated and 30% under-strength 254th (17 O, 2 WO, 445 EM). As part of the reorganization, H&S Co, CPd in the SAUNTON SANDS golf clubhouse (portrayed in Issue No. 9, 1970) was partially fleshed out via inter-bn and 112th transfers. The line companies occupied pyramidal tents in the sand dunes. Going 112 to 254 the battalion didn't miss a beat on an all-weather 10 hour day, 7 day week work schedule orchestrated by the V Corps Engr, ATC staff, 1121 Gp Hq and Bn Hq. Due to an officer shortage many platoons were still commanded by plt sgts, a chronic situation of 3 years duration not to be rectified for many more months. Strangely Co F 112th, now in N. AFRICA, was not officially split-off until V Corps order, 19 Aug 43, the same date the 254th was activated. This order further directed the formation of Co C from cadre transfers from within and requisitioned replacements through normal channels, reinforcements not forthcoming until October at NEWQUAY when 13 officers and 185 EM were received. Now that you are sufficiently oriented lets get into the main thrust of this article - the story behind the story so to speak - the planning, manpower and materials via which the ATC evolved. The ensuing recaps of "Jobs Done" and "Materials Used" from the 254th Oct 43 "Periodic Report" taken together conveys a comprehensive scope of ATC work accomplished over a 9 week period. The stark entry "Pill Boxes, full scale" is worthy of special mention as taken from memory and scanty documentation. Their 4-5 foot thick RR rail reinforced concrete walls and ceiling later bulldozed over for forthcoming shelling, strafing & bombing unit assault training presented formidable challenges. The one box (both?) assigned to Co B was formed up under the direction of Baker's master carpenter, Leslie G. "Pops" Sjoquist (D 107 R-B 254-TAPS 1994), an older '41 draftee out of Iron Mtn., MI. Other skilled "wood butchers" and crew leaders coming to mind included Eino J. Kumpulainen (E 107 R-B/C 254-TAPS 1994), Walfred "Wally" Heikkinen (D 107 R-B 254-TAPS 1994), Orville B. Malone (112th R transferee-H&S/C 254), Howard W. Nichola (E 107 R-H&S 254 - later M/Sgt & Bn Const Sgt) and S/Sgt Edward A. Toerpe (A 107 R - H&S 254 Bn Carpenter in S-3 Sec-TAPS 1991). They were supervised in large part by the battalions' enlisted construction expert M/Sgt Ralph E. Soper (A 107 R-H&S 254 - 2nd Lt-TAPS 1967), a Mich NG from Carney, MI. A sneak preview to Sid Green, our ad hoc English historian, gener-

ated this response: "Interested to learn that the next "Bull Sheet" will feature an article about the SAUNTON SANDS/WOOLACOMBE ATC. From time to time I spend weekends in ILFRACOMBE and the surrounding area and I find it hard to visualize the activity that was going on there in 1943-44. The only sign of WWII activity there now, apart from a local road (probably 254 built which the locals call the 'American Way' - Issue No. 35, 1992) is a concrete strongpoint on the beach by the sand dunes. Whoever built that made such a good job of it that it is indestructible. If they tried to blow it up now it would shatter hundreds of windows in a very large beach-top hotel that was built nearby a few years back. If I could verify that the 254th built that pillbox I'd try to have a commemorative plaque put on it. Next time in the area I'll take some pictures of it and the area around the golf club and dunes." This 1987 photo



from Richard H. "Dick" Wills (D 107 R - B 254) shot from the clubhouse terrace (added post-war) views the rolling sand dunes over which the ATC was built. Club members told Dick that some of the old concrete fortifications are still in place which he regretfully was unable to verify because of heavy rain during the time of his revisit 50 years after the fact. Original ATC planning contemplated the following construction. A comparison with actual work done (hereafter summarized) readily shows that on-going revisions were made during construction probably prompted by updated intelligence about the enemy's defenses along the Norman beaches.

Construction as Planned Originally

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Machine gun pill box, type A | 9 |
| Anti-tank pill box, type B | 15 |
| Machine gun pill box, type C | 12 |
| Barbed wire entanglements, D.A. fence | 84,000 |
| | ln yds |
| Ship side mockups | 3 |
| Landing craft mockups | 13 |

A 22 Jan 44 document entitled "U.S. Assault Training Center Project" discloses: "The 398th Engineer Regiment, General Service, was constructing a Nissen hut camp w/utilities (Saunton Sands Park) for the use of training troops." No available source identifies other, if any, major engr units that were so involved although certain that some QM truck companies were. So far as the redesignated 112th Engr (C) Bn was concerned its periodic reports for the period traces the Bn's, less elements, movement DEVIZES-BRAUNTON on 1 Sep for reasons "To assist the 254th in construction" and did so until 22 Sept when the 112th (-) motored to NEWQUAY there rejoining its Charlie Co and 1121 Gp Hq earlier moved direct from DEVIZES. About 2 months later, however, the 112th Bn underwent ATC amphibious/assault training preparing it for important and D-day OMAHA BEACH mine clearance missions at H plus 40, 60 & 70 minutes. As did the 146th Engr Bn, the third organic battalion in 1121 Group for beach obstacle clearance training. The 146th's highly trained men, unarmed except for 40-pound explosive loads, disembarked from landing craft at H plus 03 right behind elements of the 116th Inf Regt (29th Inf Div). By being assigned early bridge repair/construction, important as they were, the 254th by far drew the plum assignment. Other periodic 254 reports tells us that supply was a major factor requiring much coordination for the requisition and apportionment of supplies and materials for the various construction gangs. A shortage of cement, sand, stone and lumber occasioned much concern with the result that the battalion was forced to take over the operation of a local quarry, hauling of the stone, operating a power shovel in a beach sand pit, and the hauling of most cement and lumber, some from points as far away as CARDIFF, WALES, and SOUTHAMPTON, S. ENGLAND. Getting materials to off-road work sites over unstable sand dunes was a challenge in itself. More often than not matting first had to be laid before passing vehicles.

List of actual construction during the period
9 August - 20 October 1943, by the 254th:

| | |
|---|----|
| Pill boxes, full scale | 2 |
| Anti-tank pill box mockup | 7 |
| Machine gun pill box mockup | 69 |
| Ship side mockup | 3 |
| Landing craft, Infantry, mockup | 1 |
| Landing craft, Tank, mockup | 6 |
| Landing craft, LCW, mockup | 15 |
| Landing craft, LCVP, mockup | 33 |
| Obstacle course | 1 |
| Flame thrower range | 1 |
| Rocket range | 2 |
| Demolition range, engineer | 1 |
| Demolition range, infantry | 1 |
| Barbed wire entanglements, exclusive of | 1 |

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| maintenance, miles | 69 |
| Roads, permanent, miles | 6 |
| Roads, temporary, miles | 18 |
| Water supplied, gallons | 1,000,376 |
| Man hours expended (approx.) | 130,000 |

List of major items of materials used during
construction and maintenance of the ATC

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Barbed wire, lineal yards | 2,582,960 |
| Concertina, lineal yards | 307,850 |
| Reinforcing steel, tons | 50 |
| Concrete poured, cubic yards | 3,800 |
| Quarry tailings, road surface, tons | 3,471 |
| Nissen huts, complete | 4 |
| Lumber, board feet | 90,000 |
| Nails, pounds | 8,146 |
| Paint, gallons | 39 |
| Sand, tons | 1,777 |
| Somerfelt track, lineal yards | 11,391 |
| Chespaling, lineal yards | 14,328 |
| Corrugated metal sheeting, sq ft | 46,215 |
| Tubular steel scaffolding, ln ft | 57,416 |

The unit's performance was recognized via this reprinted commendation with endorsements there-to:

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. ASSAULT TRAINING CENTER, ETOUSA
APO 553
29 January 1944

Subject: Commendation of 254th Engineers

To : CG, V Corps, APO, 306, U.S. Army

1. This headquarters has received an information copy of the S-3 report on the activities of the 254th Engineer Combat Battalion during the period 27 July to 8 Nov 1943 while engaged in work for this command. The report summarizes the construction and other activities of the 112th Engineer Combat Regiment and later the 254th Combat Battalion which was activated from the 112th Engineer Combat Regiment.

2. This report does not of course indicate the untiring efforts and splendid co-operation of all personnel of the 112th and especially of the 254th who continued construction and maintenance of fortifications and training aids, etc, without regard to the hours of duty involved of or weather.

3. The work was a tribute to Lt Col Loren W. Jenkins, commanding officer of the 254, and to Capt Charles E. Howard, CE, S-3 of the Bn who so ably planned and executed the construction. It is my desire to commend all officers and men of the 254th Engineer Combat Battalion on their fine work and the successful accomp-

ishment of a difficult construction mission.

/s/ Paul W. Thompson
Colonel, CE, Commanding

1st Endorsement: The Corps Commander is pleased to note this evidence of a task well performed in a superior manner.

2nd Endorsement by Col R. K. McDonough, 1121 Engineer Combat Group commander:

1. It is with great personal pleasure and satisfaction that I forward this well merited commendation of a very difficult job performed in a superior manner.

2. As both the former Regimental Commander, and present Group Commander, I took personal pride in the efficient manner in which you and your staff planned and executed the work; and especially in the cheerful and conscientious work of the junior officers and lack of light, heat and water, in order to complete the mission on time.

3. In addition to their work, the men of the battalion, through their excellent behavior and appearance, caused many favorable comments from civilians and military personnel who saw them.

Reflecting back one now wonders how exactly did the ATC impact towards the successful landings on OMAHA and UTAH BEACHES, 6 June 44. And indirectly how significant was the 254's construction role? Who can say after the ATC soon passed into oblivion having served its brief purpose in life. This commendation by Maj Gen Charles H. Gerhardt, CG 29th Inf Div, may throw some light on the subject before we leave SAUNTON SANDS and the ATC for a shuttled motor march to NEWQUAY, CORNWALL, 1 Nov 44: "I desire to commend the U.S. Assault Training Center, and members of its staff for the superb training facilities and opportunities afforded the 29th Division. I am confident that this Division which has taken full advantage of the facilities at this Center will be capable of a successful landing on the shore of Fortress Europe." And in his book "The Regiment," Col Harry M. Kemp (Ret) writes: "Early in Dec '43, my regiment (109th Inf Regt, 28th Inf Div, Penn NG) with attached and supporting units, moved from WALES by rail and motor to the US Assault Training Center at BRAUNTON, ENGLAND. Officially it was titled BRAUNTON HUT CAMP, U.S. Assault Training Center, DEVONSHIRE, ENGLAND. The huts were the widely used Nissen huts, metal shells with wooden floors sheltering about a platoon. Beach assault training began on 6 Dec with training center troops demonstrating how to 'Assault a Fortified Position.' Then the

troops took over on 7 Dec (Pearl Harbor Day) and learned the same specialized techniques by squad, platoon and company level. By 13 Dec training worked up to battalion-size amphibious assault training later accelerated to prepare for a full RCT beach assault training exercise with live ammunition, including artillery and tank support." Though trained and designated as a back-up NORMANDY assault division, if the situation dictated, the 28th wasn't committed until 22 Jul 44 (6 weeks after D-day) as part of Gen Patton's THIRD US ARMY buildup/breakout force. The 4th Inf Div (UTAH BEACH) and the 16th Regt, 1st Div (OMAHA BEACH) also underwent ATC training as did numerous smaller AAA, Ranger, Engineer (including the 112th & 146th of 1121 Group) units, etc, and some Canadian units. At NEWQUAY the 254 rejoined 1121 Group and the 112th Bn. The 146th, later 1121 assigned, was then at LINCOMBE engaged as the ATC's major service unit. NEWQUAY'S many "holiday" hotels augmented by private residences administered under British authority was a welcome change from the prior tented encampment as was the less strenuous but now accelerated training schedule. And better yet the amenities afforded by the Atlantic coast resort city. From base camp here the line companies had temporary station at AVETON GIFFORD, DEVON, for the purpose of removing British mines on THURLSTONE BEACH. Again. On 7 Jan 44 Able Company was ordered to TORCROSS near the SLAPTON SANDS training area where the company, Capt Jesse D. Kelsay, commanding, ably assisted by 1 Lt Sanford F. Hall (later CO Co A, Belgium) conducted closely monitored tests/experiments supervised by the Corps Engr, V Corps. This assignment was specifically for the purpose of coming up with hard answers for a number of pre-invasion expedients then under serious consideration. Indeed a short term mission that constitutes but a passing thought in 107th's history or in memory of Co A participants. A brief chapter that probably would never have surfaced for general knowledge/documentation but for the personal memoirs of Capt (then) Kelsay (later Bn S-3 & Ex O) whose "for the record" significance was alertly recognized by his son, Andy, who thoughtfully loaned his father's carbon copy test reports/sketches/maps and pictures for Ishpeming's '95 reunion History Display. Reviewed together the aged documents portray a complete account of Able's important pre-invasion mission plus providing invaluable resource material for this exclusive "Bull Sheet" account. SAUNTON SANDS, N. DEVON-SLAPTON SANDS, S. DEVON. Confused? Actually they were (maps this issue & Issue No. 35) separate training areas on opposite coasts of DEVON/CORNWALL PENINSULA. As were their pre-invasion training functions essentially being small unit and large unit respectively. SLAPTON SANDS. Despite the successful program at the WOLLACOMBE

ATC, it was determined that even larger scale exercises on the RCT, Division and Corps level should be conducted for the coordination of preparatory bombardment by air and sea with the movement of

ground forces. Only a very large area would serve the purpose - specifically SLAPTON SANDS on the S. coast. The Br. government took control of the site under war power acts and directed the evacuation of 30,000 acres, 3,000 people and animals. Another classic example of the total war effort demanded of

and patiently endured by UK civilians, male & female, young and old. Major US units doing the 7 large "dress rehearsals" were the 4th Inf Div/VII Corps/UTAH BEACH; the 1st and 29th Inf Divs/V Corps/OMAHA BEACH. It was at LYME BEACH, SLAPTON SANDS, 28 Apr 44, where 3 LSTs participating in "Operation Tiger" were torpedoed and shelled by infiltrated German E-boats resulting in 639 US casualties; 198 US Navy and 441 US soldiers mostly from the 1st Engineer Special Brigade designated for UTAH BEACH. In this tragic happening LSTS 507 and 531 were sunk and 289 badly damaged.

The tests and experiments conducted by Company A 254th at SLAPTON SANDS are condensed and summarized as follows:

- a. Removing, clearing and sweeping the mine fields used for the V Corps experimental bombing (Note: to see if breaching laid mine fields with aerial bombs was feasible)
- b. Construction of beach exit road from new bridge
- c. Construction of vehicle ferry using M3 bridge equipment
- d. Construction of steel scaffolding foot br
- e. Experiment with "jelly-roll" hasty beach road (Note: proved that 100 yards of hasty road utilizing coir matting, chespalng and Somerfelt track could be laid in 15 minutes - see picture)
- f. Experiments in quick methods of "gapping" hedges with explosives
- g. Experiments in mine field gapping using bangalore torpedoes elevated above ground

- (Note: Unsatisfactory as tests proved)
- h. Experiments in excavating for 155mm gun sites with explosives
 - i. Construction of an M3 pneumatic float br
 - j. Construction of road blocks



Excerpts from aerial bombing reports to the V Corps Engr signed by Lt Col Loren W. Jenkins: "The bombing of the experimental mine field at SLAPTON SANDS was carried out by three groups of B-26 (Marauder) bombers, 3 planes to a group. Group One from 1500 feet released 480-20# fragmentation bombs. Two (2) mines were detonated by direct hits; the wire was not satisfactorily cut. Group Two from 6,000 feet released about 90-100# HE bombs with instantaneous fuse. There were 10 hits within the target area, 3 of which hit in the wire clearing a complete gap about 60 yards wide, and 2 of which detonated a mine. Group Three flying at 12,000 feet released about 30-300# HE bombs with 1/100 second delay fuse. There were no hits within the mine field, but one bomb landed in the tubular steel scaffolding clearing a gap of 30 feet. The bomb craters were approximately 25 feet across and 7 feet deep. Conclusions: The small fragmentation bombs are of no practical value either to detonate mines or clear gaps through obstacles. The



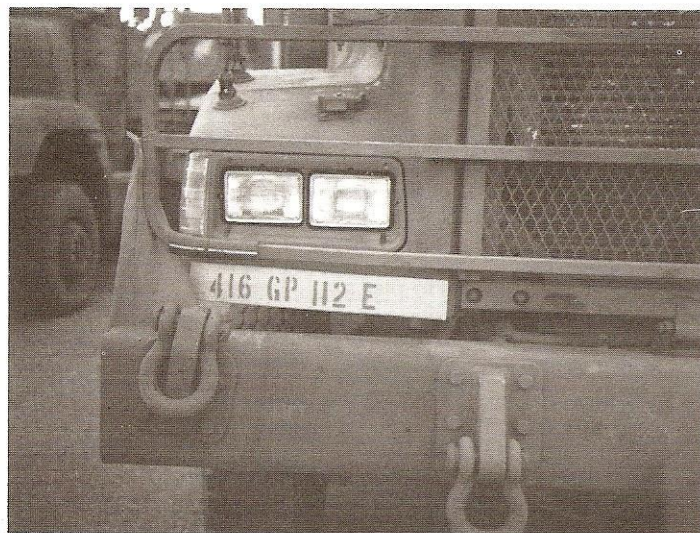
Unidentified Co A 254 soldiers with strip packs manually turning turntable built on trailer in position for dropping mats during hasty beach road experiments. SLAPTON SANDS, DEVONSHIRE, ENGLAND - 3 Feb 44

100# bombs will not detonate mines except by direct hits, but are valuable in clearing gaps through wire. The 300# bombs will not detonate mines except by direct hits but could clear a path for foot troops by blowing mines out of the way since the craters left by their hits are quite large. However, the craters are a distinct disadvantage if vehicles are expected to operate in areas bombed with large bombs." Though severely condensed for space reasons, one can even so ascertain from this brief recap

that the other tests and experiments were just as carefully planned, executed and painstakingly reported to V Corps Hq as to results and conclusions reached because of Company A's SLA-PTON SANDS tests, 7 Jan 44 to 10 Mar 44. Regretably, the since returned Kelsay papers can't be passed along as they exist. Whatever practical lessons were learned from Co A's intensive tests/experiments they undoubtedly contributed immeasurably towards pre-invasion planning. In his 1970 hand written letter to ye' editor, Col Robert K. McDonough (Ret) (CO 1121 Gp-TAPS 1984) expressed his professional opinion that the 254th was the finest construction outfit he had been associated with during his 30 year military career, USMA 1926-1956 RA retirement. The battalion's two SANDS performances had to contribute towards this hard-earned reputation and probably influenced planners for its assigned OMAHA BEACH bridging assignments. All can share in this cherished tradition further enriched by the post-war 107th Engr Bn, Mich NG, 1946 to present day. In conclusion. This ramblin' account was initially intended as a well deserved recognition to Barb Blowers for her graciously given "Spirits of the Sand" contribution. Per usual, however, one thing always meshes into related events because of so much WWII history still in float. Much if it sadly will pass on still locked in untapped memories or in uncovered personal and official coffers. Such as this "all in a days work" small unit account - historically important still 55 years after it was discharged.

SHORT SNORTS

Went to much work and some expense developing a full page schematic outline of 107/112/254/ counterparts history in WWII - a complex 5 year period in easily followable form for all. All puffed up figuring it would be a dandy part of this issue only to discover a faulty layout had two page 12s and something had to give - either the schematic or a full page of "Short Snorts." Opting for the easier solution we pulled the outline - but coming up in Issue No. 41, 1999.....ADVANCE NOTICE - the dates for our 1999 reunion are set for July 30, 31 and Aug 1 - say again 1999; site unknown as we go to press.....a routine Ishpeming armory mail stop unexpectedly led to this BULL SHEET special thanks to an alert from MSG Mike Fraser and picture from SFC Jim Hutcheson (HHC 107 NG Bn). How come 112E prime movers at a 107 th armory? Briefly, the 112th Bn (Ohio NG still today) from summer encampment at CAMP GRAYLING, MI, routed 6 flat beds to various UP 107th armories for purpose of picking up six "Tractor, Full Tracked, Low Speed, W/Bulldozer, W/Ripper, D7F." Specially equipped machines needed by Co



B 112th Engr Bn (Mechanized) for its participation at a California National Training Center. After ye' editor somewhat pompously told one of the 112th's young drivers that he was a buck sgt in Co E 112th Regiment some 55 years ago, he with quizzical look responded, "That was a long time ago." Yes, indeed, way back to 1 June 42 at MONEYMORE, N. IRELAND when and where fatefully the 107th Bn became the 2nd Bn 112th - and lost its WWII identity as the 107th. Interesting, 'eh wot?.....out and about in Mission, TX

*If you ever want
to sell the 107E*

Bn Truck, call

me at 210-399-0934

A. Snorting Bull

George J. Hansen (HHC 107 NG Bn) found this note affixed to his class pickup - a note obviously prompted by the 107th Snortin' Bull license plate he proudly displays

thereon. Unable to check it out then he disappointly found the phone disconnected when getting around to it. Reported: "Sorry, but if we should make contact, I'll get name, rank, S/N & shirt size for you." What a tantalizing bummer.being age 93 when his 1994 mailing came back with the loathsome "Moved-Forwarding Expired" notice, we reluctantly assumed that another old comrade had fallen through the cracks via this totally unnecessary manner. Another frustrating mystery for the record and perhaps eternity. Not so, however, per a 13 Jan 98 phone inquiry, "Do you remember my father, Capt Arthur E. Hirshorn, who was the Bn Surgeon for the 254th Engineers?" After that electrifying introduction and ensuing clearing-up details came the even more astounding question: "Do you wish to speak to him because he is sitting right here?" Doc's sharpness

of mind and recall about his 254th days at age 97 was humorously highlighted by his firm observations, "I still hate Colonel Jenkins and I'm the bald head in the Med Det photo." (Issue No. 32, 1989). Indicating a desire to contact the ranking Medic NCO, S/Sgt Charles W. Dimmer (Med Det 107 R) it was a real pleasure passing on his Seminole, FL address and phone number, Let me know, Charlie, if you dropped your chop-pers. A delightful episode after son, Art, re-solutely zeroed in on Assoc. Hq via past "Bull Sheets." "Doc" came aboard when the 112th Regt split up and the 254th organized, 19 Aug 43. He ran a respected shop from SAUNTON SANDS ENGLAND to RHINE RIVER, GERMANY, where he transferred out for a base hospital assignment. His slot was filled by Capt Douglas H. Robertson (TAPS 1990). So far as known, Dr. Hirshorn is our senior member, to date, even surpassing the esteemed "Moose" LaCombe (C 107 R WWI) age 96 when answering to TAPS in 1994.....CAN YOU & WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE? Looking ahead to 1999 the one-man "B.S." editorial/production staff is researching the 254's joint engineer and infantry action at WALLENDORF, LUXEMBOURG/GERMANY border, Sep 1944. The engineer phase in the main encompassed two (?) bridges across the OUR RIVER to pass CCR 5th Armd Div and blowing captured SIEGFRIED LINE pillboxes. The infantry role included defending the bridges against determined enemy efforts to destroy them and working over/amongst the fortified line of pill boxes resulting in quite a few casualties. Meager reports available, official US and unofficial German, provide enough detail for a factual report of sorts. Whats needed for "gray on the taters" are some hands-on details from you down-in-the-ranks guys that were there. If you'd rather talk than write, call Ed Vickstrom at 906-486-4804. Probably the only opportunity for getting your WALLENDORF duty into the record. ORDERS.....high level military retire-ments since last issue include: BG Peter B. Injasoulian (107th Bn CO 1981-82 & CO 46th Engr Gp); Col Michael L. Paluda (107th Off from '73 -CO 46th Engr Gp at time of retirement); and LTC Frederick Stonehouse (C/HHC 107 Bn-Ex O 46 th Engr Gp at time of retirement. Humble "Bull Sheet" congratulations and best wishes to these distinguished soldiers, all loyal Association supporters to boot.....VFW Post #9345 of Bruce Crossing, MI, recently celebrated their 50th year in operation. One of 3 Post charter mem-bers, Jorma H. Lannet (D 107 R-B 254) was hon-ored during the program. Ye' editor & Lannet served together in CCC Camp Paulding #1617, 19-37-39 and connected up again in Co D at Camp Livingston. He was a three striper forestry "push" in the C's - two of many thousands ser-vice prepared youths ripe for military service. "you guys do an absolutely super job year after

year. I'm 85 years old so hang in there. I'm remembering you in my will! Former M/Sgt (Gp Int Sgt) & Sgt Major, 1121st Groups" Frederick F. "Fred" Marcossou, Willowick, OH.....STILL DIGGING DEPT. To: Eslyn L. Breunner (F107 R-522d), Muskegon, MI. "I just run across an old notation that Frank J. Mastee (107 R draftee-A 254) migrated from Caspian, MI to your city for work reasons many years back. Can you check him out for us?" Brenner's response: "Thanks for the newsletters which I enjoy very much and retain. I randomly called an Albert Mastee, first of 9 Mastees listed, who informed me that Frank died about 5 years ago. Same info from my neighbor who knew Frank well because they worked together. Small world, 'eh? Will try to get up there next year." One jump behind - again..... Dear Ed: "I didn't see my name on the H&S 254 roster in Issue No. 40." Charles R. Sheehan (S-1 Msg Center). "Chuck" was evacuated after the Buzz Bomb blast at BULLINGEN, 2100 hours, 29 Nov 44 - hasn't yet informed if returned for 254 duty afterwards....."Enjoyed reading the description of the activities of the 254th 'Infantry' Battalion in the last newsletter. Somewhat similar to the experience of the 112th Bn during that period." Richard A. Grout (Plt Ldr & Co CO.....another milestone logged last July in the form of Membership Card No. 7000 sent to veteran Association campaigner Burdette R. "Bert" Hayner (F 107 R-B/H&S 254). See you in Ironwood 31 Jul or 1 Aug, 1998? Think on it. HARD! FINIS



OFFICIALLY REGISTERED-SAULT STE. MARIE REUNION

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Cleveland E. Adams (B 107 R-522d) | Newberry, MI |
| Paul Allen (B 107 R-522d) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| Raymond A. Anders (Medics 107-254) | Bellevue, MI |
| George C. Anderson (A 107 R-A 254-C 107 NG Bn) | Escanaba, MI |
| Carleton W. Babb (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Gwinn, MI |
| Nelson C. Baker (B 107 R) | Concord, CA |
| Herbert S. Bastion (E 107 R-A 254) | Clawson, MI |
| Joseph B. Battaglia (1121 Gp) | New Brighton, PA |
| Robert H. Beauprey (D 107 NG Bn) | Manistique, MI |
| Pete Benson (D 107 NG Bn) | Munising, MI |
| David W. Brown (1437th Co) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| Gary Brown (A 107 NG Bn) | Laurium, MI |
| Vera Campeau (Ray, D 107 R-C 254) | Lansing, MI |
| Jeno Canavera (B 107 R-522d) | Iron Mountain, MI |
| Thomas J. Captain (1437th) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| Vern R. Cartwright (B 107 R-522d) | S.S. Marie, MI |
| John B. Caster (B 107 R) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| Joseph A. Censabella (H&S 254) | Alexandria, VA |
| Raymond J. Chartre (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Negaunee, MI |
| Warren O. Crow (107 R-C 254) | Wellston, MI |
| John Culliton (C 107 NG Bn) | Gladstone, MI |
| Murray H. Cunningham (H&S 254) | Metairie, LA |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| Fern H. Dahlgren (C 107 NG Bn) | Gladstone, MI | Elizabeth McDonald (Lynn, B 107 R-522d-1437th) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| Richard D. DeMara (46th Engr Gp) | Bay City, MI | Robert K. McGuire (C 254) | Centerville, IA |
| Richard P. Deneau (Associate) | Gladstone, MI | Americo J. Metro (Band/B 107 R-H&S 254) | Soo, MI |
| Joseph P. DeSantis (B 107 NG Bn) | Oaklawn, IL | Robert W. Miller (C 107 NG Bn) | Gladstone, MI |
| Edward J. Doyle (D/HHC 107 NG Bn) | Rockford, IL | William W. Moffitt (B 107 R-522d) | Fenton, MI |
| Herbert L. Duff, Jr. (B/H&S 107 R) | Houston, TX | Walter A. Mokszycke (C 107 NG Bn) | Bark River, MI |
| Joseph L. DuPont (A 107 R-522d) | Caseyville, IL | James F. Moulds (D/HHC 107 NG Bn) | Munising, MI |
| Phyllis Duquette (Don, D 107-B254) | Ishpeming, MI | William Myer (C 107 NG Bn) | Milwaukee, WI |
| Fred. W. Ehrhardt (D/HHC 107 NG) | Ishpeming, MI | Faustino Negrete (C 254) | Gary, IN |
| Charles J. Fish (C 107 NG Bn) | Rapid River, MI | John A. Neno, Sr. (H&S 254) | Ithaca, NY |
| Michael J. Floriano (D/HHC NG Bn) | Quinnesec, MI | James E. Noel (C 107 NG Bn) | Gladstone, MI |
| Leonard J. Ford (C 107 NG Bn) | Escanaba, MI | Anthony Oien (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Lansing, MI |
| Frederick E. Fountaine (A 107 NG) | Calumet, MI | Richard J. Oja (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Republic, MI |
| Robert P. Frazier (B 107 NG Bn) | Marquette, MI | Charles W. Orrand (A 107 R) | Redford, MI |
| James E. Frederickson (HHC NG Bn) | Livonia, MI | James D. O'Toole (A 254) | San Jose, CA |
| Keith B. Freeze (B 107 R-B 254) | Shepherd, MI | Joseph H. Patrick, Jr. (D/C NG Bn) | Wells, MI |
| Willis A. Garceau (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Negaunee, MI | Freeling W. Peck (A 107 R-C 254) | Gr. Rapids, MI |
| Dennis J. Gassittie (A 107 NG Bn) | Laurium, MI | Ernest J. Perron (B 107 NG-1437th) | S.S.M., MI |
| Arthur J. Gibour (A 107 R-A 254) | Waukegan, IL | Thomas E. Perry (A/B/HHC NG Bn) | Roscommon, MI |
| Kenneth L. Giese (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Negaunee, MI | Franklin Phillips (A/C/D 107 NG) | Houghton, MI |
| Gordon R. Gilray (1437th) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI | Roger Phillips (C 254) | Bridgeport, IL |
| John A. Gilray (1437th) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI | Robert P. Quinn (1437th Br Co) | Kincheloe, MI |
| Aurelia Hahka (Fred Gagne, HHC NG) | Deerton, MI | Irene Riley (John, B 254) | Canterbury, CT |
| Harold V. Hall (A 107 Bn WWII) | Wyoming, MI | Paul D. Rogers (A/C NG Bn) | Farmington Hills, MI |
| Joseph C. Haller (1437th) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI | Warren L. Romain (D 107 R-B 254) | Milwaukee, WI |
| James Hank (1437th Br Co) | Cedarville, MI | Ronald F. Ross (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Ishpeming, MI |
| Danny Hansen (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Escanaba, MI | Larry F. Rule (A 107 NG Bn) | Laurium, MI |
| George J. Hansen (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Mission, TX | Howard Sanderson (B 107 NG-1437th) | S.S.M., MI |
| Elaine H. Heming (Lawrence Peterson, C 254) | Mukeltio, WA | Judson C. Schuler (H&S 254-1121) | Millersburg, OH |
| Chas. Hendricksen (C 107 R-522) | Brown Deer, WI | Lyle Scringer (1437th Co) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| Lyle Hewitt (B 107 R-522d) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI | Walter P. Sipniewski (B NG Bn-1437th) | S.S.M., MI |
| Link Hibernig (1437th Br Co) | Gaylord, MI | William Seppala (B 107 R-522d) | S.S. Marie, MI |
| Edwin R. Hutchens (D 107 R-C 254) | Marquette, MI | James Sertich (B 107 NG Bn) | Ironwood, MI |
| James L. Hutcheson (HHC 107 NG) | Ishpeming, MI | Aloysuis R. Sever (A/HHC 107 NG Bn) | Laurium, MI |
| Henry P. Ilenich (A/HHC 107 NG Bn) | Laurium, MI | Robert E. Sexton (B 107 NG Bn) | Iron Mountain, MI |
| Peter B. Injasoulian (HHC NG) | Howard City, MI | James Sheldon (HHC/A 107 NG Bn) | Baraga, MI |
| Edwin J. Jachinski (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Negaunee, MI | Thomas Sherman (1437th Br Co) | S.S. Marie, MI |
| Michael J. Jago (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Newberry, MI | Nels R. Sjoquist (C 107 NG Bn) | Gladstone, MI |
| Linnell Johnson (D 107 NG Bn) | Manistique, MI | Donald R. Small (B/HHC 107 NG Bn) | Marquette, MI |
| Charles G. Kent (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Ishpeming, MI | Robert A. Smith (C/HHC 107 NG Bn) | Naples, FL |
| Charlotte Kovacs (Gene, E 107 R-B 254) | Dearborn, MI | Russell Smoley (B 254) | Camp Hill, PA |
| Patricia D. Larsen (Bill, B NG Bn) | Big Bay, MI | Victor Stevens (A/H&S 107 R) | Livonia, MI |
| George J. Lawrence (1437th) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI | Gregory Stewart (A 107 NG Bn) | Escanaba, MI |
| David Leask (1437th-46th GP) | S. S. Marie, MI | Robert V. Taylor (Hq STARC) | Lansing, MI |
| Edward Leask (1437th Br Co) | Barbeau, MI | Martin Terzaghi (D 107 R-E 112) | Negaunee, MI |
| Mitchell LeClaire (46th Gp) | Big Rapids, MI | Albert A. Tomassetti (B 254) | Louisville, KY |
| Michael T. Lee (D/HHC NG Bn) | Ishpeming, MI | Jon M. Trola (B 107 NG Bn) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| John O. Lund (D 107 R-B 254) | Viroqua, WI | John A. Trotter (A/HHC 107 NG Bn) | Milwaukee, WI |
| William Luokkanen (A 107 NG Bn) | Mohawk, MI | Paul J. Van Abel (E 107 R-A 254) | L'Anse, MI |
| John W. Mackey (B 107 R) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI | William C. Viau (C 107 NG Bn) | Escanaba, MI |
| Louis Marra (B NG Bn-1437th) | Houghton Lake, MI | Ed. C. Vickstrom (D 107 R-H&S 254) | Ishpeming, MI |
| Albert N. Mattson (1437th) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI | Clarence H. Wade (Band 107 R) | Port Huron, MI |
| Lawrence J. Mayer (1437th Br Co) | Rudyard, MI | Leonard C. Ward (A 107-1121-HHC NG) | McLean, VA |
| Jeremy Maynard (B 107 NG Bn) | Ironwood, MI | E. Wayne Whalen (1437th Br Co) | Newberry, MI |
| Harold A. Menapace (D 107 R-C 254) | Gwinn, MI | Eliz. Wiedenhoft (Bob, 107 R-C 254) | Waukesha, WI |
| Terry Menard (1437th) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI | Richard H. Wills (D 107 R-B 254) | Negaunee, MI |
| David W. McCombie (D 107 R) | Melbourne, FL | Robert C. Wills (HHC 107 NG Bn) | Rockford, MI |
| John W. McCormick (B 107 NG) | Sterling Hts., MI | Paul J. Wilson (1437th Br) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| Gerald McDonald (1437th) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI | Hal Woodgate (1437th Br Co) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| | | David Woodruff (1437th Co) | Sault Ste. Marie, MI |

Call to Action in support of Memorialization Activities

To pay tribute to our Comrades! To honor the living and the dead! To contribute to public knowledge! To preserve organization history!
To influence retention of the 107th Engineers in present and future Force Structure!

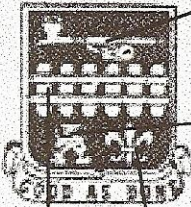
107th Engineer Regiment 107th Engineer Battalion 522nd Engineer Company 254 Engineer Battalion 112th Engineer Regiment 1121st Engineer Group

History Forgets! History Omits! The scope of our heritage goes unrecognized!

History notes only what is first recorded. Even cataclysmic episodes shrink to a bare essence and the shrinking never stops. Lesser included players quickly fade away. Records and remembrance retreat to oblivion. We go un-reminded of what is worthy of retention. (See article next page.) We fail to honor the past. We risk ill-effects from unknowing minds.

Reacting to fading understanding of the scope of World War II and our involvements—and in new realization of our role as the 'designated hitter' for the key player in gaining victory in Europe—and in new realization of the significance of our combat action as Infantry in not only holding the north shoulder but also, by denying planned routes and desired resupplies, in limiting the extent of the Battle of the Bulge—the Association has undertaken to display the record by a wide variety of means and to keep it displayed for the essential purposes in the *Call to Action*.

We confess—old and new member alike (and offspring or survivor of a member)—that we have not sufficiently acted to pay tribute to our Comrades, to honor the living and the dead, to contribute to public knowledge, to preserve organization history, and to influence survival of the 107th Engineers in present and future Force Structure!



Since 1881

SOME LINEAGE

- Calumet Light Guard
- Company B, 2d Battalion of Infantry
- Company H, 3rd Infantry Regiment
- Company D, 5th Infantry Regiment
- Company D, 34th Michigan Volunteer Infantry
- Company E, 3rd Infantry Regiment
- Co A, Michigan Engineer Corps
- Co A, Provisional Engineer Regiment
- 1st Engineer Battalion
- 1st Bn, 107th Engr Rgmt, 32d Inf Div
- 1st & 2d Bns, 107th Engr Rgmt, 32d Inf Div
- 107th Engineer Battalion, 32d Inf Div
- 2d Battalion, 112th Engr Rgmt, V Corps
- 254th Engr Cmbt Bn, FIRST ARMY, V Corps
- 107th Engineer Combat Battalion
- 107th Engineer Battalion
- Michigan National Guard

We need to act now. The mechanism to effectively act is finally at hand. Our action is to provide the means. The means are dollars, talent, and time. Every individual and sub-unit or associated group of the Association and the Battalion should now act or deliberately elect not to act now in forwarding an endowment to the Fund at this time (or to undertake proper earning of funds for endowment in approved ways). Keep in mind that the need is large and the effort is continuing; hence, periodic endowments are sought. *RCW*

A Monumental Undertaking

What? • Build a 107th/254th Engineer Monument or two or three in the U. S. and overseas?
• Install a dozen or so 107th Engineer Plaques at home stations and overseas?
• Undertake a variety of **Other Memorial Actions**, modest ones and significant ones, at armories and in communities and for local, regional, state, national, or foreign involvements? Some repeated annually or more or less often?

Why? • The untold story *and the unrealized story* of 107th Engineers participation in World War II! And in the cold war! And now today!
• The five reasons in the Call to Action above!

Where? • In newspapers, radio, TV, periodicals, and official publications, all levels.
• In armories, parks, halls, classrooms, and official chambers.

• On armory walls or armory grounds and at places like highway M-107 at LAKE OF THE CLOUDS; at ISIGNY, France; at BULLINGEN, Belgium; at SLAPTON SANDS, England; and on Loren W. Jenkins Drive, Lake Front Park, ESCANABA.

How? • By executing the Proposal and Plan adopted at the 1996 Calumet reunion of Association members and reaffirmed in 1997. See stories below.
• By the TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE of volunteers like you and those who wish to remember.

Who? • WW II members or in memory of loved ones by their survivors or friends.
• Cold War members or in memory of loved ones by their survivors or friends.
• Present members or in honor of a respected member by their family or friends.
• Others, absolutely unsolicited. (This is our pride, our honor, our doing.)

Cost? As each is developed and adopted:
• **Monuments.** A few to tens of thousands of \$\$\$\$\$.
• **Plaques.** A few to a few thousands of \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.
• **Other Memorializing Actions.** 0-hundreds of \$\$\$\$\$.

Need. Since the purposes are not only present but continuing into the future the 107th Engineer Memorialization Endowment Fund is permanently established and judiciously controlled. It now stands at \$4,371.36 from six individual gifts (\$625) and CSM Floriano's \$3,733 battalion initiative. There are no expenditures to date and there will be none except for end products. No operating costs from this fund!

The five purposes of this MEMORIALIZATION ENDEAVOR are important—even more important to present members than they are to past members and to veterans of World War II!!!!

Call to Action in support of Memorialization Activities

To pay tribute to our comrades! To honor the living and the dead! To contribute to public knowledge! To preserve organization history!
To influence retention of the 107th Engineers in present and future Force Structure!

107th Engineer Regiment 107th Engineer Battalion 522nd Engineer Company 254 Engineer Battalion 112th Engineer Regiment 1121st Engineer Group

What's been done to date?

- Framed Commemoratives to Mayors of ST LAURENT, VIERVILLE, and ISIGNY in NORMANDY and PILSEN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA on "certain engineer activities" there in 1944 or 1945.
- Comprehensive Plan of authorizations, organization, responsibilities, and actions to accomplish all requirements and its approval in 1996.
- Toll-free telephone contact established in 1996. 888 254-107M
- Three media news releases and information releases on Memorialization to armories and key persons of Battalion, Association, state, and others. The information items are five Bulletins, two Newsletters, and other mailings. 1997.
- Establishment of *107th Engineer Memorialization Endowment Fund* and its repository and administration. 1997.
- First Association and Battalion fund raising initiatives. 1997.
- Progress Report and reaffirming resolutions approved. 1997.
- Coordinations with V Corps Veterans Association, Belgium Embassy, and Army Historical Foundation. 1997.
- Finalization of fifth Commemorative—After-Action excerpt with U. S. and French Honors citations—for Mayors of BULLINGEN and BUTGENBACH in BELGIUM on critical, valorous, and effective combat action in Battle of the Bulge. 1997.
- Communication by e-mail with bgicward@aol.com. 1997.

What's coming?

- Completion of translation, framing, packaging, and shipping of Belgian Commemorative and mayoral transmittal letters and their presentation to the two Mayors by the U. S. Military Attaché.
- Install first increment of plaques at current and WWII armories "with a few hundred words" of historical record preserved/shown.
- Consideration of monument at BULLINGEN, LAKE OF THE CLOUDS, and LOREN W. JENKINS DRIVE. Build local support.
- Historical news releases and historical societies involvement.
- Development of community and unit observances of key dates.
- Production of video presentation for unit and association use
- Establishment of Internet web site and e-mail net.
- Achieve wide commitment to individual and sub-unit fund raising.
- Promote school involvements in research, study, and reports.
- Acquire talent for Memorialization Org Chart positions/helpers.
- Continued development of memorializing/awareness actions.

Will you now help with the MEANS and the PUSH? Need time, talent, and treasure. If you wish to communicate, write or call the MEMORIALIZATION OFFICE, 1628 Maddux Lane, McLean VA 22101-3229 or 703 356-7031 or Toll free 888 254-107M or bgicward@aol.com. Your input is welcome. To contribute funds see below. If you choose, **PLEASE ACT!**

My Endowment. I understand the continuing need for this work of honoring comrades and informing everyone as well as preserving lineage and the very being of the organization we respect. I understand the continuing need for funds as each alleviating undertaking is developed and properly approved. I will consider annual or monthly participation. Please accept this willing endowment of funds at this time. It is given (as a memorial to) (in memory of) (to honor) (to advance the cause and purposes.) (in respect.) (in willing support.) (honoree)

(who served in) _____ (when) _____
 Amount _____ By _____ For _____
 Contact Name _____ Phone _____
 Mail Address _____

Please make checks or money orders payable to 107th Engineer Memorialization Endowment Fund and mail to 107th Engineer Association, 900 Palms Avenue, Ishpeming, MI 49849. No cash! Use separate sheet if you wish. Your letter, advice, comments, and update welcomed!

Clip and mail with your endowment. Thank you!

The 107th Engineers and V Corps in World War II

Includes service as 2/112 Engineer Regiment and 254 Engineer Battalion

In World War II, what is now the Upper Peninsula of Michigan's 107th Engineer Battalion spent over five years in Federal service, most of it overseas. During each phase of that long period they performed some stellar deeds indeed, in training, in construction, and in eleven months of combat, both as Combat Engineers and in Combat as Infantry. See highlights which follow later.

Throughout that intense and demanding service, they found themselves the select unit, chosen over and over by an army headquarters for the most critical tasks. Furthermore, as it turned out, that army headquarters, V Corps, was always itself the **key US Army player** in the **central activity** of **each phase of events** leading to Victory in Europe. For example, after their principal role in mobilization, training, and deployment, V Corps was selected on 12Sep43 to prepare preliminary plans for the invasion of Europe, code-named OVERLORD. V Corps then executed the landing on OMAHA and remained predominant in the main effort to the conclusion of the land battle. The phases follow:

- **Mobilization and Force Development** (Organization, Equipping, Training) LOUISIANA,
- **Deployment and Force Buildup** in NORTHERN IRELAND,
- **Invasion Planning and Preparations** in ENGLAND,
- **Conduct of the NORMANDY ASSAULT LANDING** on OMAHA Beach, and
- **Combat Operations** in the 1,372-mile Pursuit to VE-Day, including
 ST LO breakout,
 liberation of PARIS,
 first entry into LUXEMBOURG, GERMANY, AND BELGIUM,
 holding of the north shoulder in the BATTLE of the BULGE,
 seizure of the ROER River dams,
 a RHINE River crossing,
 envelopment of the RUHR industrial region,
 capture of LEIPZIG
 first Allied-Russian junction, with FIRST Army in GERMANY, and
 first THIRD Army meeting with the Russians, in CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

107th Engineer involvements in the five and one quarter year mobilization period:

107 Engr C Rgmt



107 Engr C Bn

Louisiana Highlights. 15Oct40-2Jan42. Individual and unit training and equipping. Fixed and floating bridges. Roads, mines, demolition, obstacles. Range construction. Field exercises. Pre-maneuver area preparation. Corps and army maneuvers 15-29Sep40. Post-maneuver restoration. Full TOE equipping. PEARL HARBOR. Rail Movement to FORT DIX. Reorganization. NEW YORK Embarkation.

Northern Ireland Highlights. 1Mar42-1Jan43. Debarcation in Doughboy helmets/1903 rifles/canvas puttees at BELFAST railroad. BALLYMENA Nissen hut camp/depot operation. IRA patrols. MONEYMORE tent city/General Depot construction. Reorganization to 2/112th Rgmt. Speed marches. ENNISKILLEN Navy camp/Engineer Training. Company F to AFRICA. Truck/Ferry/Rail movement to DEVIZES, ENGLAND.

England Highlights. 1Jan43-4Jun44. Combat Engineer/Combat-as-Infantry training. Bob Hope / Francis Langford / Tony Romano / Jerry Colonna. WALLINGFORD Float Bridge School/Speed Tests. Maneuvers. SAUNTON SANDS (West CORNWALL coast) Assault Training Centre construction for Regimental Combat Team amphibious landing training. Reorganization to 254 Engr C Bn and 1121 Engr C Gp. Construction of Normandy Coast/Hitler's Atlantic Wall replica at SLAPTON SANDS (South CORNWALL coast) for full-scale Allied rehearsals by army, naval, and air forces. British beach mine casualties. NEWQUAY. Advanced training and equipping. Vehicle waterproofing. Ship loading practice. Blacked-out convoy movement into cordoned south coast embarkation encampments/Sausages. LCT and other loading of vehicles, equipment and men at SOUTHAMPTON, FALMOUTH, and PLYMOUTH hard. Embarkation for OMAHA landing beginning D-Day. Issue of NORMANDY maps and U. S. minted Francs.

Combat in EUROPE Highlights. 6-8Jun44-8May45. 1,372-miles. As MICHIGAN's sole representative in the D-Day NORMANDY ASSAULT LANDING force, the 254 (107) Engr Bn assignments were: Engineer support, V Corps Advance CP; clear mines, rubble, and damage on three regimental attack routes 6- and 8-miles inland and 10- and 14-miles to the right; install four crossings on causeway over 1 1/2-miles of flooded farmland across division front; install Bailey and timber bridges over VIRE river to relieve air-dropped divisions, link OMAHA and UTAH bridgeheads, and permit first insertion of an armored division into the battle. BERIGNY Combat-as-Infantry. Casualties. ST. LO breakout. FALAISE gap envelopment. First into PARIS with 2d French Armd Div and 4th Inf Div. Clear multiple routes/bridges through PARIS. Restore mobility to frequently stalled divisions across northern FRANCE. Enter BELGIUM 4Sep44 and LUXEMBOURG 8Sep44 with 4th Inf Div. First into GERMANY on 11Sep44 with 5th Armd Div. Combat-as-Infantry 19-20Sep44 defending bridges built at WAL-LENDORF. Casualties. Fifty-two SIEGFRIED Line demolitions. Buzz bombs. Combat-as-Infantry to hold north shoulder of the Battle of the Bulge for nine hours and limit the extent of the largest battle ever fought by the U. S. Army. Casualties. Three bridges in mine-infested GEMUND in spring breakout to the Rhineland plain. Longest tactical bridge built in ETO for V Corps RHINE crossing, built in spring flood in twelve hours. Restored and operated 134 miles of railroad toward LEIPZIG for 118,252 miles of haulage of POL forward and POW and liberated POW back. First Allied junction with advancing Russians supporting 69th Inf Div/V Corps/FIRST Army. Enter CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Liberate PILSEN. First Russian junction by THIRD Army, with V Corps. In all, close support to eleven Inf Div, three Armd Div, and Armd Cav units in combat.

Post Combat. 9May45-22Dec45. Using POW, cleared rubble, repaired streets, and restored utilities in PILSEN. With POW labor, constructed the LUCKY STRIKE redeployment camp in MAILLE-LE-CAMP, FRANCE. Inactivated in U. S. A. at Camp MILES STANDISH, MAINE. (Reorganized at Home Stations in Michigan's Upper Peninsula 10Dec46.)