



April 2000



Issue No. 43

The "BULL SHEET"

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107th Engineer Association
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ARE YOU READY???

The soldiers of Detachment 1, Company B 107th Engineer Battalion are!!! Your mission this year is to invade the Iron River armory on August 4th, 5th, and 6th, to take part in this millennium's first (39th Annual) 107th Engineer Association reunion. Our unit, NCO Club, and family members, have set aside these dates to host this year's festivities.

On Friday, August 4, 2000, starting at noon, we recommend you take advantage of registration and a social mixer. The bar will be open and hors d'oeuvres will be put out about 7:00 p.m. A short program by our local high school orchestra will provide the entertainment. Don't miss this golden opportunity to hit the beach.

Saturday's event-filled day will start with some of that good ol' Army breakfast. SSG Dave (Pollack) Rullcoski and his mess section will cook you eggs to order, golden brown hash browns, sausage, toast, and you guessed it - S.O.S., all for a minimal fee. For the golfers in the group, an early morning outing at one of our beautiful courses is planned. (Please register Friday.) At 1100 hours we will form at the flagpole for the Memorial Service.

At noon a picnic lunch on the lawn will feature burgers, brats, hot dogs, corn on the cob, and all the picnic fixins.

After lunch a bus trip to Lac View Desert casino will be available. We will be at the casino for two hours. For a bus fee of \$10.00, SSG Bill Pietila (also floor manager for the casino) is going to ensure casino promotions offers a value package of tokens. We ask that you sign up for this trip during registration, so we can assure you a seat on the bus.

The ever important business meeting will be called to order at 1300 hours. A fun time too.

To wrap up the day, we are planning a banquet to remember. Cocktail hour will be from 1730 to 1830. Posting of the colors will be at 1830...then a short program. The meal will be served at 1900 followed by the entertainment. A local orchestra will provide dance tunes and a DJ service will finish up the evening.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Federal Recognition of our Iron River unit. We have recruited the assistance of local retirees to seek out charter members of this organization. They will be invited to join in all the festivities. A special meeting for them will be planned for Saturday afternoon. We are hoping for success in finding past unit members, and that they will be able to help us celebrate.

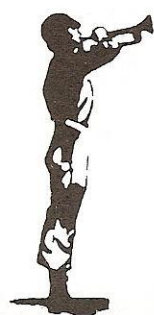
Sunday morning, from 0930 to 1100, will be set aside for a scrumptious brunch, a toast to new friends, and a "see ya next year."

So, as you can see, the stage is set. All we need is you. Come and help celebrate the millennium's 1st, the 107th's 39th reunion, and our unit's 50th anniversary.

SSG Jeffrey A. Gibson
Association President &
Reunion Chairman

To echo this gracious invitation, Jeff - yes, we're ready! Iron River, a renown iron ore mining town of years past, previously hosted 107th reunions in 1983 and 1993, the latter with Jeff as "the man" in command. Its first Mich NG unit was Battery B 182d Arty Bn (later converted to AAA) which in WWII was a 155mm howitzer, truck drawn unit; trained at Fort Leonard Wood, MO and Camp Miles Standish, MA; arrived France 25 July 44; credited for five ETO campaigns identical to the 254th's campaign credits. **READY EXERCISE** - for Iron River.

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.



- David Alperovitz (A/107 R to LA) Escanaba, MI
- Richard J. Ball (D/107 R-C/254) Boise, ID
- Ellard A. Beck (Med Det/107 R-PTO with H/127 Inf) Orangevale, CA
- Alvin J. Brodeur (A/F/Hq 107 R-to 131 Engrs at Ft. Dix, NJ) Hancock, MI
- Lawrence J. Brouillette (A/107 Bn '37-40; E/107 R-N.I. in 34th Inf Div) Calumet, MI
- Louis Chandonais (A/107 Bn '37-40) L. Linden, MI
- Raymond E. Deicher (A/107 R-A/254) Green Bay, WI
- Wallace H. Goodreau (D/107 R to LA) Milw., WI
- Edwin "Doc" Hermling (107 ?-B/112) Dearborn, MI
- Donald E. "Snuffy" Jarvey (E/107 R-PTO in 127 Inf & 632 TD Bn) Mohawk, MI
- Douglas D. Johnson (A/D/HHC NG Bn) Bruce Crossing, MI
- Joseph W. Kolb (B/254 Bn) Casa Grande, AZ
- Clarence E. LeVeque (A/107 Bn '37-40; F/107 R-B/254 Bn) Calumet, MI
- George L. Lieungh (A/107 R-PTO 32d) Milw., WI
- Harry Lythgoe (107 R-OCS fr. N.I.) Rockford, IL
- Dale W. Maus (H&S/107-H&S 254) Livonia, MI
- William H. Millar (H&S/254-USMC Ret) Lititz, PA
- Wm. W. Moffitt (B/107 R-522d Co.) Fenton, MI
- Charles E. "Chuck" Nault (HHC/107 NG Bn) Fedhaven, FL
- Reuben J. Pelland (F/107 R to LA) Flint, MI
- Linus G. Pepin (A/107 Bn '37-40; F/107 R) Lake Linden, MI
- John Paul Ryan (CO F/107 R to LA-at Ft. Belvoir when 107 went to Dix) Eagle Harbor, MI
- Aloysius R. Sever (HHC/107 NG Bn) Laurium, MI
- Richard Stipe (A/107 NG Bn) ?
- John R. Vertin (A/107 Bn '37-40; E/107 R) Calumet, MI
- Blash Volf (E/107 R-A/H&S/254 Bn) Muskegon, MI
- William A. Walk (HHC/107 NG Bn) Negaunee, MI
- Joseph F. Clabots (F/107 R-B/254) Escanaba, MI
- Arthur E. Hirshorn, M.D. (Bn Surgeon, Med Det 254, Aug 43-Mar 44), age 99 Deptford, NJ
- Ernest L. "Red" Burley (C/107 NG) Munising, MI

ROSTER ADDITIONS

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

- Steve Palomar (3/A/254), 3305 Elliott Ave., Lincoln Park, MI 48146 (**Eugene Hamlin**);
- Major (Ret) Robert A. Malstrom (A/107 R-PTO in AG Sec 32d Div Hq), 6303 Orchid Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817 (**Dick Wills**);
- Richard O'Donnell (C/107 NG Bn), 2333 Prospect St., New Holstein,

WI 53061 (**Robert Miller**); Robert Hill (A/107 NG Bn-Baraga), 305 W. Avenue B., Newberry, MI 49868 (**Don Small**); LTC (Ret) Robert H. LaCoy (B107 R-H&S/107 Bn-OCS from N. Ireland), 2210 Ashton Ridge Dr., Dacula, GA 30019 (**Ed Vickstrom**); Arthur C. Stevenson (H&S/107 R & Bn to N. Ireland), 1464 Bridgeport Way, West Jordan, UT 84084 (**self**).

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1999-2000)

- President: SSG Jeffrey A. Gibson (B/107 NG Bn)
- Vice Pres: Sgt Craig Barnhart (B/107 NG Bn)
- Secretary: Ed Vickstrom (D/107 R-H&S 254)
- Treasurer: 1SG James Hutcheson (HHC/107 NG Bn)
- P.R.O.: SFC Herbert F. Ramme (B/107 NG Bn)
- Historian: LTC (Ret) Fred Stonehouse (NG Bn)
- Chaplain: LTC (Ret) George J. Hansen (NG Bn)
- Permanent Dir.; Maj David R. Wesaloski (NG Bn)
- 4-Yr. Director: CWO Joseph W. Floriano (NG Bn)
- 3-Yr. Director: CSM Michael J. Floriano (NG Bn)
- 2-Yr. Director: Maj Thomas E. Perry (NG Bn)
- 1-Yr. Director: Paul J. Van Abel (E/107 R-A/254)
- Past Presidents:
 - 98-99 1SG James E. Baker (A/107 NG Bn)
 - 97-98 SFC (Ret) James Sertich (B/107 NG Bn)

BATTLE OF THE BULGE: 254th ENGINEER (C) BATTALION AWARDED PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

This 107/254 historic chapter actually began 10 weeks prior to 17 December 1944, the second day of the German's totally unsuspected attack in the ARDENNES, as evidenced by a Bn Hq JOURNAL recorded order to Staff and all Co CO's: "Bn move to new area 02 Oct 44. Observe radio silence, proper intervals. Order of march - Co C, 0900 hrs; H&S, 1000 hrs; Co B, 1100 hrs; Co A, 1200 hrs. Hunting forbidden in new area. Men not to go beyond RR." Later, same date, to 1121 Gp Hq: "CP opened at K942003." The map coordinates placed the Bn CP 1 1/2 miles SW of BULLINGEN, a Belgium town of some 2,000 residents heavily Teutonic in speech and sentiment. The thickly fir wooded, broken terrain bivouac site with the 4 companies in close proximity, a rare combat occurrence, was serviced by a single road, then an unsuspected near disaster in the making. Prevailing damp weather wasn't a worrisome factor either about forthcoming winter conditions subsequently determined as the most severe in 35 years. Personally sought comfort and shelter was the main troop concern with casual attention given below ground protection against enemy acts until a 6 Oct order to all units duly JOURNAL recorded: "Due to increase in arty activity all members of this Bn will dig a slit trench near their sleeping place. This will be accomplished before dark today. Slit trenches will be dug in all future areas. A prophetic order, indeed. Under direct 1121 Gp control from this 2 Oct-16 Dec

bivouac, the 254th operated water points as usual, performed routine road jobs and discharged a diversity of things for V Corps assigned outfits. All pretty much SOP, but getting harder and harder due to adverse weather related conditions. The JOURNAL (condensed) tells about services rendered for units identified as Div Arty; V Corps Fwd & Rear Hqs; a Graves Registration unit; 41st Replacement Bn; a Truck Co; several QM outfits; repaired road to CAMP ELSEMBORN for 15th Engrs (9th Div); "our Cub planes unable to take off due to snow on runways - can you help us?" (Co A did) was the plea from the 2nd Div's Obsn Sqdn; digging gun positions for the 11th AAA Group moved in to defend against unmanned V-1 missiles cruising down Buzz Bomb Alley in numbers; a Weather Station; main road N of ELSEMBORN, and for units identified militarily - Vermillion, Madcap, Magpie, Dauntless, etc. Mud, MUD, M U D and mist, RAIN, S N O W presented tough work conditions for men and equipment alike. Unofficially called the "Ghost Front" due to the prevailing static situation, it was an "at ease" atmosphere for both up front and rear area troops - except for one branch. Combat Engineers, who else? Even so, future operational planning was worked into Bn schedules and men were sent to a rear area bridge school. Weather warnings came down from higher headquarters as did tentative plans for RHINE River crossings coming up. Past issues have made casual mention about winter shelters erected by squad/section/buddy groups in SHACK CITY. The damnest collection of huts sprung up - protection from the elements being first priority, enemy action second - in the then quiet sector. The rapid progression from pup tents to structurals was limited only to time off duty, cooperative effort, ingenuity, building skills and what natural, domestic, military, building materials could be scrounged from wherever. Issue No. 41 portrayed a deluxe cabin erected log-by-log by knowledgeable Upper Peninsula of Michigan craftsmen somewhat more elaborate than the norm. The earlier issued order "no hunting" was largely ignored by all ranks because the sheep-sized roe deer were easy targets and a good source for fresh meat; tender venison steaks fried on scrap iron over open fires. Certainly a welcome supplement even to the now regularly scheduled hot chow. Speaking of which, had to be hurriedly gulped down before congealing in/on mess kits due to the cold. The scarcer, larger red deer (size of elk) were more of a sporting challenge, but much too tough even for hungry engineers. This pictured pyramidal tent-hut combo (note mud, tent smokestack and an apparent wind shelter of some kind in back (typically latrine, but too close) is unidentified as to company/section and weathered men posed thereon. The officer



(?) standing at left (who?) indicates this maybe was a company CP. Its worth repeating that the Germans took over SHACK CITY for winter equipment supply dump purposes after the 254th pulled out and the BULLINGEN area was vacated. Often wondered what they thought of our efforts. The map coordinates led General Leonard C. Ward to the old bivouac site in 1998 finding it an RV parking area - as did Henry "George" Ladd (1/A/254 from Newquay) during his 1972 family revisit. A captured motor generator set and the expertise of Bn Electrician, James M. Bynum (H&S/254-UL Chattanooga, TN), provided electricity to wired H&S shacks. Even movies when obtainable. Co and Bn Motor Sections lucked out being authorized to take over buildings in town for storing and servicing vehicles and comfy housing for section members. Faint memory tells us that the Bn's S-4 Section likewise benefited. The Bn CP, however, worked as usual out of a small CP tent w/stove pitched in the H&S area. Here too, though no longer a novelty, V-1 "Buzz Bombs" (forerunner of jet engines pioneered by German scientists) were considered more a curiosity than threat - until on 29 Nov at 2100 hrs from the JOURNAL: "Flying bomb exploded in bivouac area causing damage and undetermined number of casualties in Co's B, C & H&S; and the next day a Medical Detachment update: "25 EM evacuated to hospital and 41 others treated due to injuries caused by flying bomb." In darkness and without warning it silently glided in hitting a tree thereby detonating its 2,000 pound war head. Centered in the H&S area, the shattering air burst flattened shacks, caused other damage and many injuries but luckily no fatalities. After that frightening experience every V-1 within hearing/sighting distance enroute towards LIEGE or ANTWERP targets were closely eye-balled by poised men until passed out of sight. No problem so long as the distinctive fluttering sound and flaming exhaust plume were evident (actually a colorful nighttime sight surrounded by AA tracer rounds) but look out when an engine cut out or the craft went into an acrobatic mode if the accurate AA gunners scored. Then everyone headed for

the nearest hole-interesting, sometimes funny, scrambles especially during chow. In spite of some close calls there were no repeats of the tragic 29 Nov explosion. Fortunately. Flying bombs added a new combat dimension for front line and rear area men alike. Though closeby, low-flying V-1s were tempting targets, no one ever cut loose at one being fearful of hitting it - being located near AA guns was hazardous enough. The intensity of MSR work for V Corps escalated 13 Dec when the veteran 2nd "Indian Head" Div and the newly arrived 99th Inf "Checkerboard" Div, in its first combat action, launched an attack to WAHLERSCHIED. Mission - capture vitally important ROER River dams. The on-schedule offensive had to be halted 3 days later after crack Waffen SS panzer divisions of General DIETRICH'S SIXTH PANZER ARMY surprised the US V and VIII Corps. Dietrich's assigned "Wacht am Rhein" (Watch on the Rhine) mission was to cross the MEUSE River on both sides of LIEGE, wheel north and strike for the ALBERT Canal, fanning out the while to form a front, MAASTRICHT-ANTWERP. His back up infantry divisions would form the NORTH SHOULDER of the initial advance in a blocking position. So, early on, NORTH SHOULDER control was recognized as crucial in both the offense and defense. In fact, some historians and high-ranking officers, Allied and German, evaluate the US's tenacious defense here equally as important to Bulge containment as BASTOGNE. But that's the big picture. So far as concerned here, however, we'll focus upon the 254th's role at BULLINGEN, 17 Dec 44, and later during NORTH SHOULDER defense participation starting with this explicit fateful JOURNAL entry, 2030 hrs, 16 Dec 44, source 1121 Gp Hq: "Your Bn is alerted as infantry to move out on 2-hour notice. CO report to G-3, 99th Div immediately." A 0230 hrs 17 Dec (Sunday) entry by Bn CO: "Returned from 99th Div Hq. Bn to move out immediately into defensive positions around BULLINGEN. Bn CP will be at RJ ST VITH-BIVOUAC roads. Company COs given instructions as to their company positions." (Co A, SW of town; Co B, near HONSFELD; Co C, SE of town). The early morning alert roused sleeping men out of warm sacks, but hurriedly packing up after 10 weeks of semi-idleness was easier said than done in the pitch black woods. Leaving the Rear Echelon to finish up, the companies foot-marched to their assigned, widely separated defensive positions. JOURNAL: "Bn CP opened in BULLINGEN 170530 Dec;" and, at 0600 - All Co's reported in position around BULLINGEN." The first inkling that combat was imminent was JOURNAL entered at 0615 hrs: "A TD sgt checked into CP after being captured and escaping from German armored column at HONSFELD. Saw 12 tanks and heard more coming - heading towards BULLINGEN. Contacted

99th Div and gave them situation." And soon afterwards at 0620 hrs: "Enemy attacked Co B positions 0605 hrs and thought to be temporarily driver off. Identified tanks and half tracks." Then 0630 hrs a Co B update: "Inf attacked positions under covering fire from armor - repulsed again with heavy losses;" quickly followed at 0645 hrs: "Positions overrun by armor - situation reported to 99th Div." 0700 from G-3 99th Div: "Fight a delaying action and fall back on BUTENBACH." 0705 hrs, Bn CO to companies: "Co C - fight back out of town and NW along RR tracks; Co A - fall back towards WIRTZFELD; Co B & H&S - fall back along BULLINGEN-BUTENBACH Rd." 0800 hrs to 99th Div: "Established defensive positions vicinity of K930023." Many hours later at 1500 hrs: "26th Inf (1st Div) relieved Bn and took over Bn positions." Bn to assemble in CAMP ELSENBORN without Rear Echelon. Very puzzling is the daylong JOURNAL'S silence as to field reports from Co's A and C in light of Baker's timely messages while under severe enemy pressure. But Able Co had not been tested yet and Charlie Co's situation was chaotic at best. And, too, Bn Hq's precarious situation within BULLINGEN kept that CP in a state of flux until the Bn reassembled, in part, late afternoon NW of town. Available "After Action Reports" gives the overall Bn picture, but the responses to personal and newsletter appeals were disappointingly less than previously volunteered for BERIGNY and WALLENDORF infantry actions. Still, in acknowledgement for some great contributions, "thanks guys." A map in the last "Bull Sheet" will orient readers as to significant points/positions near BULLINGEN. This issue's map furnishes an expanded view of the German thrusts, NORTH SHOULDER positions and topo features in general. While enroute towards HONSFELD, Co B passed the airstrips and L-5 Piper Cub spotter planes of the 2nd and 99th Div's Observation Squadrons. Several Bulge commentaries make mention about an alert US soldier awakening sleeping air personnel by pounding on doors and giving alarm "the Germans are coming." The timely warning allowed the 99th's planes parked on one side of the road to get out except for one stuck in mud. Another report claims the 2nd's planes across the road did not. Years ago S/Sgt Donald M. Duquette, Plt Sgt 2/B (D/107 R NG-TAPS '88) casually mentioned during a BS session that he did the door pounding. "Duke" (also M/Sgt RA, Ret), later fired a BULLINGEN fuel dump with grenades, and, then to round out an eventful day, was captured, escaped and made his way back to Co B. Contributes Allan M. Caya (D/107 R from C/128 Inf-H&S/254) from his Potosi, WI foxhole: "About BULLINGEN, I can tell you about those Piper Cubs taking off - just in time too. I lost my coat and B-bag

confirms the night alert, foot march towards HONSFELD further relating: "We only had time to partially dig in when hit by 3 tanks and infantry which we repulsed. So far as I could tell every platoon man opened up with MG, bazooka or rifle fire. I remember Sgt Kolb launching rifle grenades too. We took a few casualties because of shallow holes. One MG was crushed and the crew of another was disabled. I temporarily and effectively took over this MG. While Sgt Senecal and I were conferring about laying anti-tank mines, he was shot. He fell at my feet. Sgt (Raymond A.) Anders (A/107 R MG-Med Det 107 & 254) had his Co B medics well trained and they promptly treated and evacuated our casualties. Enemy armor forced the nearest field hospital to move 2-3 times so this fine soldier, Sgt Senecal, didn't make it. At daybreak and after the third tank supported attack broke through our positions, we were told to disengage and withdraw towards ELSENBORN which we successfully did. While pulling back we picked up stragglers and a fully crewed TD all joining our group. Somehow the 1121 Gp CO (Col Robert K. McDonough) got through on our platoon radio. I was the only one he could contact on our Bn radio net. He directed me to what had to be the KRINKELT-WAHLERSCHEID road ordering us to defend it at all costs it being the only road available to the 2nd and 99th Div's for withdrawal from WAHLERSCHEID. Their attack had been called off. After getting there OK we were reinforced by 6 light tanks from a 99th Div recon unit. The outnumbered tanks pulled back and were brot back 3 times, the last time by the 99th's Ass't Div general, who told me I could replace the tank crews with my engineers if deemed necessary which of course was out of the question none of us being tank trained. So, I told the tank crews that the supportive TD still with us would put a round in any tank pulling out. They stayed put after that warning. Our reinforced platoon effectively blocked/patrolled the road until relieved by an infantry outfit. I remember too Sgt Duquette (2/B) returning to BULLINGEN where he fired a threatened gas dump with grenades. Also, 1st Sgt (John "Johnnie Kay" Kovachich, later field commissioned a 2nd Lt, taking the company vehicles, equipment, drivers, cooks, etc. back towards EUPEN evading roving enemy groups enroute. Sgt Kovachich organized the men into a provisional platoon and brought them back to SOURBRODT intact several days later." Even though severely condensed, we thank you kindly, John, for your invaluable input - for the "Bull Sheet" and 107th Bn archives. Back in 1996 Joseph F. Olinick (107 R at Ft. Dix-Hq Plt/B/254) from Wilmington, DE, wrote: "As you requested here's what I recall about Co B's HONSFELD defense. I was a radio

man and prior to that action was ordered to set up a radio net between Bn Hq and an engineer supply dump located near the front. Taken there by jeep driver, Lester L. "Skippy" Chalenger (107 R-UL Detroit area) I set up in a stone farmhouse already occupied as a CP by a 99th Div outfit. A few days later the area was heavily shelled indicating to me that something out of the ordinary was going on. I radioed Hq about this and was told 'get back to the Bn tonight.' Slowed down by snow, darkness and cratered roads but aided by flashes from friendly artillery fire, we made it back. We were then told to join Co B finding them on a hill overlooking a small valley near HONSFELD. Before daybreak an enemy red flare went up quickly followed by artillery and MG fire from tanks and yelling infantry. We opened up with everything available and stopped that attack, but I figured it wouldn't be for long. Over my portable radio I reported the situation to Bn Hq and was told to inform Capt (Ames T.) Minor, Co B CO (joined at Devizes-TAPS '99), 'fall back towards BULLINGEN.' Not knowing his whereabouts, I gave the message to a medic who did. While the fire fight raged I noticed the upfront boys calmly pulling back under covering fire. I joined them running low and crawling under heavy fire until reaching a wooded area. Heading back towards BULLINGEN, we picked up stragglers, and from a wooded ridge could see equipment, vehicles and prisoners in the distance headed towards enemy territory. I think it was at ELSENBORN Ridge where we came upon dug in troops facing east. An officer ordered us into defensive positions with them. After being relieved by a 1st Inf Div unit, we rejoined the Bn and got some badly needed chow and rest. I never did find out how Capt Minor got out and if he received my message." "I reported to Capt Minor with "Louie" (Louis) Yake (D/107 R from G/127 Inf-TAPS '83) recalls Wpns Sgt Warren L. "Marty" Romain (D/107 R from C/128 Inf-1/B/254) with a .30 cal water-cooled MG, bazooka and our M-ls. Before getting set up in a flank position bullets started cracking by us, but I don't think we were a target. Later we got word to pull back - no information whereto or anything else. The rocket fell out of the tube into the snow and I left it there. I never did like the damn thing. Trudging up to a hilltop lugging the broken down MG w/ammo boxes, bazooka and rifles, we ran into a light tank and small AT gun position. They happily accepted our offer to beef up the position so we set up again. A German VW personnel carrier came up the hill and was fired on by the AT gun. The round missed but made the driver turn back. After moving to ELSENBORN, we positioned in thick woods but couldn't dig in because the holes kept filling with water. One of our

Piper Cubs flew over with a German Me-109 fighter hot on his tail. I got 3 rounds into the low flying Messerschmitt. A bit later the Cub flew back, tipped his wings, so I must have done him some good." A rude welcome after reassignment from 1121 Gp Hq was the lot of 1st Lt Robert G.W. Brown (1121 Gp Hq at Newquay) who writes: "I reported to 254th Hq at supper time on 16 Dec. Col "Jiggs" assigned me to C Co effective the next morning, but was awakened that night and sent to 99th Div Hq as liaison with the Bn." A post-war retired bird colonel, Bob musta done something right being awarded a Bronze Star. But watta welcome! The battalion's heaviest losses, mostly Co C MIA & POWs, were taken SE of BULLINGEN. The memoirs of Roger D. Phillips (Co C from Newquay) is the source for his harrowing experiences as Sqd Sgt 1st of 2nd. Roger has retracked his travels here during two post-war visits to Belgium. The 2nd Plt was commanded by 1st Lt George N. Anderson (asgd Saunton Sands-UL) - S/Sgt Curran P. Porterfield (UL in Kansas) was Plt Sgt. "I was reminded during my return trips about the column of German tanks and tracks coming out of the trees towards Co A and being fired on by the 644th TD Bn who knocked out 4 tanks and a track before they reached our Co C positions. My platoon was laying in the snow covered field both sides of the road without cover and AT support. Outgunned, overrun and rendered helpless, Lt Anderson reluctantly gave the order to lay down arms and give up. This was about 8:40 a.m. as read off my brand new wrist watch from home. Those of us not shot up surrendered and marched back to BULLINGEN under guard where we were lined up by the RR bridge and searched. A Hitler Youth no more than 15-16 years old copped my watch. Most of us figure that circling US planes prevented the nervous guards from mowing us down on the spot. The Germans didn't fire on the planes nor did the planes fire on them no doubt identifying us as captured Americans. Later about 30-40 of us were loaded on captured 6x6's with guards in the cab and on running boards, but before moving too far friendly artillery started falling. The unknown GI driver stopped the truck, and everyone jumped off seeking nearest cover. (Sgt Duquette told about the shelling causing one casualty in their truck - the single guard. That group also fled most making it safely back to their companies.) Sgt Phillips relates that he and 12-15 others took cover in a basement remembering Howard Morris (UL in CA), Sgt John "Jessie" Conway (from Devizes-TAPS '80), Lt Anderson and others in the group named below. From the upper floor an artillery observer was directing fire on the area we just left. Lt Anderson encouraged us to get out after dark in small groups, but at about 4:00 hearing small arms fire

getting closer, Joseph "Danny" Danesi (joined Devizes-TAPS '75), Claude E. Pyle (TAPS '73) and myself took off across back yards, an orchard, RR tracks, a creek finally to a fence row where we laid low until dark. We headed N towards WIRTZFELD finally running into the 23d Inf (2nd Div) then attached to the 99th Div. We were given M-1s and dug in with them having no idea at all where the 254th was. With the 23rd we fought and marched to ELSENBORN RIDGE where finding out the 254th was located near ROBERTSVILLE. The 3 of us were released and rejoined the Bn 4 days after our BULLINGEN ordeal." Faustino Negrete (3/C from Newquay) with two B & C men whose names he can't recall had a similar experience - capture, escape, infantry attachment and rejoining the Bn on the 21st. From Wpns Sgt Lester H. Doro (107 R from D/127 Inf-3/C): "I was not much directly involved in the BULLINGEN fracas because 2nd Lt (John S.) Stevenson (3/C Plt Ldr newly asgd) sent me back to the bivouac area for more weapons. The Rear Echelon, however, had pulled out for WAIMES and by the time I caught up to them and returned, the Krauts had taken BULLINGEN." The JOURNAL 1500 hrs 17 Dec: "26th Inf (1st Div) relieved the Bn and took over Bn positions - informed all Staff that could be contacted. Bn to assemble in CAMP ELSENBORN without Rear Echelon." After the 4-5 mile foot march, the Bn CP opened here 171600 Dec. Not having eaten for 24 hours some fortunates sucked on cans of frozen C-rations on the march. Holed up in an unheated military building the night was a miserably cold knowing-from-nothing ordeal. The JOURNAL has only 4 postings for 18 Dec: (1) from 1121 Gp: Your Rear Ech chased out of WAIMES by enemy armor and moved to vicinity of SPA; (2) CO to S & All Co's: Bn regrouping and preparing for future operations; (3) S-1 report: Bn strength with Fwd Ech consists of 19 officers and 191 EM, 4 2½T trucks, 1 C&R car, 4 ½T trks, 1 D-7 dozer, 1 D-4 dozer and 1 compressor; and (4) CO to Rcn O (1st Lt Herbert W. "Woody" Tompkins (B/H&S from Devizes): Contact Rear Ech and send back two squad trks per company. The Bn's consolidation during a stressed period still tactically up in the air is witnessed by these 19 Dec JOURNAL postings: "Co's A and C and Rear Ech CP in vicinity of SOURBRODT." 1130 hrs from 2nd Eng: "Mobilize all personnel, picks, shovels and wire to set up defensive positions E of BERG." Ex O to Co A: "Concentrate all your Co effort on SOURBRODT-EUPEN-MALMEDY road to get it in shape." From 1121 Gp: "The plans made between CO 254 E and CO 1121 Gp were approved by Gen. Walter Robertson (CG 2nd Inf Div). Col Pratt is returning to V Corps and will push wire and tools our way." More in part: "Rear Echelon now in vicinity of VERVIERS. Trucks should ar-

rive at SOURBRODT around 1600 hrs." "Bn Fwd CP moved to RR Sta at SOURBRODT (K872097)." From Rcn O: "Enemy bomb hit at CR K861099 destroying a Co A 2½T trk and killing driver. Road being repaired." JOURNAL Dec 20: "Closed CP at SOURBRODT as of 1030 hrs. Opened CP at K874106 as of 1045 hrs." The Bn Hq operated



out of this CP, 20 Dec to 4 Feb 45, on a combination of urgent jobs within the NORTH SHOULDER supporting hard pressed infantry units. Winter and operating conditions continued bad for both men and equipment. This particular CP w/sand bagged entry was trench bulldozed, logged and earthed over - secure from everything except direct hits. Proportionately, muddy drips were a minor inconvenience. The Bn's top brass L to R: Lt Col Loren W. Jenkins, Bn CO (CO Co A 107 R NG, Escanaba, MI); Major Jesse D. Kelsay, Bn Ex O & picture donor (RA officer asgd 107 Bn in N. Ireland); and Major Albert S. Wynot, Bn S-3 (reasgd from 146th E Bn, 2 Nov 44, BULLINGEN). Dampness, no way to dry out, inadequate footwear in combination resulted in evacuations on par with combat losses. Typically, the 254th experienced losses from trench foot and frost bite including the permanent loss of veteran Plt Ldr of the 1st in Baker, 1st Lt Arlan F. Bond (asgd Saunton Sands-TAPS '95) from frozen feet. Though not in direct enemy contact, work parties operated close to the front - bazooka teams, road blocks, demolition necklaces, mines, abatis, wire/barrier tasks, anti-paratrooper patrols, occasional bombing, buzz bombs still, problem with defective M1A1 AT mines (blown) - up front combat engineering slowly eased back to normal as the NORTH SHOULDER was beefed up and made secure. In this worked over area, already dug slit trenches/fox holes were selectively plentiful, at least in the H&S occupied area. Man, those "thoughtful" foot-sloggers

were experts at digging-in. Vacated positions, mostly log covered, giving shelter from snow cold and air bursts were gratefully reoccupied. Of several, ye' editor best recalls a covered hole complete with a log outlined fir bough bed and a miniature stove w/stack fabricated from empty food cans. Here too the Bn received vehi-

cle, equipment and personnel replacements for early-on BULGE losses - 4 officers, 29 EM in one batch and 58 EM in another. Most of them came from veteran ETO outfits, like AAA, now determined as surplus as war requirements changed; instant replacements for hard hit combat units, especially infantry. The Rear Echelon had its own harrowing experience beginning with this JOURNAL entry, 0230 hrs, 17 Dec, in part: "Bn vehicles and equipment will form the Rear Echelon under Capt Fairfax (Reginald R., CO H&S-TAPS '80) and move to vicinity of WAIMES." and, "Rear Echelon cleared bivouac area 0610 hrs." The record, however, reveals nothing about the echelon's narrow escape from the bivouac's single entry/access road. Richard H. "Dick" Wills (Sqd Trk driver 2/B-D 107 R NG) recalls:

"Only the timely warning from an unknown officer 'get moving' saved the convoy (one driver per vehicle) from near total disaster. S/Sgt Anton G. "Tony" Crnkovich (Mess Sgt A/107 B & A/254) remembers seeing a disabled German tank that, if operable, could have blocked the escape route. Even so, a dozen or so ½, 1 and 2½ ton neatly lined up trailers near the camp entry were left in the haste of getting out. Though a serious T/E loss, that to Bn men was small compared to losing a special trailer (shop made?) carrying personal battlefield loot - chiefly German Luger and Walther P-38 pistols accumulated since OMAHA Beach. Because of bodies being found with barrels of captured pistols jammed down throats, the high level order was issued "no carrying" resulting in a Bn order "tag 'em and turn into Bn supply for safekeeping and compliance." Some enemy outfit gloated! After a scary trip not knowing from nothing, the convoy made it to WAIMES OK only to be forced out by enemy armor to SPA, Hq for US FIRST ARMY - a Hq hastily displaced westward soon afterwards. A 19 Dec JOURNAL entry reported the Rear Ech vicinity of VERVIERS with arrival at SOURBRODT expected around 1600 hrs. A H&S 6-ton prime mover w/flatbed and D-7 dozer together made up a 2-man flight to safety from within BULLINGEN according to Kenneth R. Dykes (H&S from 112th-cat skinner). On tape no less even though handicapped by health-eye problems in Zephrrhills, FL. His explicit transmission in part: "On Dec 14th my D-7 was sent

to ELSENBORN for road work. Stalnaker (Chilton, UL last known WV) was truck driver. Finishing up there we went to a rock quarry, afterwards returning to BULLINGEN where we were holed up on the second floor of an old couples house. While driving in I saw a disabled Cub plane in a field and heard a fire fight, maybe Co C's east of town. S/Sgt Closson (Max, H&S 107 R-Maint Sgt 254-TAPS '88) alerted us about 11:00 a.m. for a possible short notice move out of town. Soon after seeing the old man leg it away from the house, an MP told us to 'take off immediately for MALMEDY.' Stalnaker fired up the loaded rig and we headed out almost immediately running into a German tank which swung its gun turret towards us but did not fire. Why, who knows. Arriving at MALMEDY 2 hours later wondering 'whats what' we fortunately run into WO Fournier (Donald J., C & H&S/107 R NG-Bn Maint O-TAPS '78) who welcomed us figuring we were for sure MIA. He directed us to the rear echelon's CP in SPA, and with them rejoined the Bn at SOURBRODT on the 19th. Back under Bn control, my D-7 worked almost continuously on road and traffic problems. While helping resolve an icy road vehicle jam up, a spit polished lieutenant gave me an order, which I disputed, resulting in me bulldozing a communications line. Soon thereafter an investigating one-star pulled up to investigate. After hearing my side of the story, the general grabbed the Lt by the collar, threw him into his command car and took off. I'll bet he was a buck private the next day. It wasn't long before a couple communication weasels arrived and restored the evidently important line." What to say but sincere thanks, Kenny, for your taped story. A great historical contribution for sure. While pulling this complex summary together, it became painfully apparent that this period of combined engineer-infantry action, no doubt the outstanding 107/254 feat of arms up until now, could, and should, have been assembled years ago when memories of the participants were fresh. And still with us for sharing in a manner besides reunion BS sessions. Many invaluable and historic things, big and small, now sadly lost forever. But its fortunate indeed that official documentation is on hand as acquired from the National Archives - the BATTALION HISTORY, MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944. So, from that great document, December's day-by-day JOURNAL, whats been volunteered and a bit of memory, this is the "Bull Sheet's" summary about the 254's BATTLE OF THE BULGE action for which it was recognized by the prestigious award - the Presidential Unit Citation. A well-deserved unit award for then, the present and for all time. The ensuing personal awards for December 1944 achievements and listing of

casualties/losses were retyped from the official document for space and updating reasons .

Silver Stars for gallantry in action per G.O. No. 8, Hq 99th Inf Div for: 1st Lt John F. Huff, 01312160; S/Sgt Donald M. Duquette, 20638352; S/Sgt Charles L. Senecal, 36225946, posthumously.

Bronze Star for meritorious achievement per GO No. 2, 99th Div for Lt Col Loren W. Jenkins , 0269284.

Bronze Star for heroic achievement per G.O. No. 8, 9th Div for: 1st Lt Robert G.W. Brown , 0508372; Pfc Lester Barilla, 33507862 (3/B 254 asgd Newquay); Pfc James J. Robertson, 37470164 (3/B 254-TAPS '85); T/4 Jack E. Greenwood, 36114165 (A/107 R & 254); Pfc Gaylord F. Walters, 20650886 (A/107 R from L/128 Inf-1/A/254-TAPS '78); Pvt Garland F. Seabright, 33638151 (3/B asgd Newquay-TAPS '75).

Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star for heroic achievement per G.O. No. 9, 99th Div for: 2nd Lt (then S/Sgt) Charles E. Karpinen, 02005288 (E/107 R NG-3/A 254-TAPS '48).

254th MEN TAKEN POW AT BULLINGEN

This is a way overdue release. Now, finally, its an appropriate sequel to this issue's BULGE story. Explanation. Upon request Raymond C. Luczyk (A/107 R-2/C/254) stepped forward with his written memoirs as a POW. Reminded of the 17 Nov 70 date, its somewhat embarrassing to confess we've been sitting on Ray's interesting tale the while entertaining positive intention about doing a BULGE report - someday. Well, someday is now - 30 years later. Belated thanks, Ray, for your stupendous effort and patient waiting. Quoted first from his covering letter: "I want you to know the missus (Helen) and I had a wonderful time at Marquette's reunion and we plan on making Calumet next year (1971) too. (The couple made many reunions from Akron, OH, the last in 1987). Enclosed is payment for a VICTOR Bridge picture. Walter Broslovic (107 R-2/C/254 - TAPS around 1950) gave me a small one when he visited me in Chicago after the war. Wallace (Robert P., 2/C-WIA Buzz Bomb-UL in MA) and Glavin (Vernon E., 107 R-A&C/254-UL in MO) plus another man I can't identify are on it. Actually, I was in Stalag 13-C near HAMMELBERG, Germany then not too far from the RHINE River bridge site. We had "KG" painted on clothing backs meaning Krieggefaganen (Prisoner of War), commonly known as 'Krieggies.'" Ray's ruthlessly condensed story: "After we were captured at BULLINGEN,
Cont'd on Page 14

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HEADQUARTERS
254 ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 230, c/o POSTMASTER
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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@ SECRET :
: AUTH: CO 254 Engr C Bn :
: DATE: 1 January 1945 :
: INITIALS: _____ :
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Synopsis of Events to accompany History Report for the month of December 1944.

This battalion was assigned to and operated under the direction of the 1121 Engineer Combat Group in support of the 2nd and the 99th Infantry Divisions. From the 18 December 1944 to 29 December 1944 this battalion was also in-support of the 1st Infantry Division. During the month (1) one officer and (15) fifteen enlisted men were attached to V Corps Military Government Police Battalion.

Due to the continued bad weather the majority of engineer missions consisted of road maintenance except during the period of combat operations. The road maintenance consisted of filling ruts, potholes, shell and bomb craters, building up road shoulders; cleaning and opening bleeders, ditches, and culverts; positioning corps road net markers, removing snow and sanding icy roads.

After the battalion returned from the front and re-organized, seven (7) barriers consisting of mines, abatis, and craters were prepared. These barriers were prepared but due to a change for the better in the general situation none were executed.

While the battalion was re-organizing in CAMP EISENBORN this battalion was given the mission of digging defensive positions consisting of slit trenches, gun emplacements, and 1000 yards of barbed wire concertina. This operation was done under shell fire in record time.

On another occasion radar emplacements were prepared for the 413 and 134 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalions.

While supporting the 2nd Infantry Division in their advance before the German attack, forty-eight (48) feet of Infantry Support Treadway Bridge was placed.

A blast wall was constructed around the Command Post of the 1121 Engineer Combat Group.

A rock quarry and rock crusher were operated for (16) days and water points were operated almost continually during this period.

Engineer Statistics for the period are as follows:

- Approximate miles of road maintained 33.
- Approximate miles of roads constructed 3/4.
- Gallons of water pumped 369,470.
- Cubic yards of sand, gravel and shale hauled 2,780.
- Cubic yards of rock crushed at quarry 840.
- Number of mines removed or blown 0.

(Handwritten initials)

EN15N-254-10.X

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
W. G. ... *W. G. ...* *W. G. ...* *7 Feb 46*
DOWNGRADING CO

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At approximately 162400 hours Dec 1944, a message was received from the 1121 Engineer Combat Group that the battalion was on a two hour alert as infantry. The report also directed our Commanding Officer to report to the G-3, 99th Infantry Division at once. At the 99th Division Headquarters the Commanding Officer was told that the enemy had broken thru and were coming up the HONSFELD- BULLINGEN highway. The G-3, 99th Infantry Division also instructed the Commanding Officer that all roads leading into BULLINGEN were blocked with tank destroyers and light tanks and this battalion was to form a defensive line south and east of BULLINGEN, BELGIUM to protect these blocks. The Commanding Officer returned to the battalion and instructed the companies to take up positions as shown on the attached overlay. The battalion was then formed into two echelons; the forward set up a command post in BULLINGEN with the companies dug in on the south and west side of the town and the rear echelon commanded by Captain Fairfax of Headquarters and Service Company, moved to the vicinity of WAIMES, BELGIUM to await further orders.

After setting up the Command Post in BULLINGEN all guards of units stationed there were notified of the situation and runners were sent to locate the positions of the light tanks and tank-destroyers. The runner returned and reported that no light tanks or tank-destroyers could be found. One sergeant of a tank-destroyer outfit was brought in by Company B and he stated that he had been captured at HONSFELD, escaped from the Germans, and wanted to report German armor heading towards BULLINGEN in strength. He said that he had seen twelve (12) tanks and could hear more coming. A short time later a 1st Lieutenant walked into the command post, stood around to get warm, asked several questions, and stated that he had a platoon of armored infantry in half-tracks. His identification was checked and was satisfactory. When asked where his command post was he said that he was mobile and that the Germans were coming and he was leaving. This didn't seem unusual as they usually accompany tanks and the tanks had apparently also left.

At approximately 0600 hours four flares, blue, white, red and white, were observed to the right of our Company B Front. About five (5) minutes later tracked vehicles were heard heading in our direction. These were not positively identified as we presumed that there were still some division units in front of us. The first positive identification was shouts that were heard in German. The fire order was then given by 1st Lieutenant Huff, Company B, who opened fire with rifles, rifle grenades and machine guns. The German infantry then piled off the vehicles, one (1) panzer tank and six (6) half tracks and the vehicles withdrew. The infantry, advancing thru partial darkness, got within 15 yards of our positions before being driven back. They pulled back and re-organized and in about twenty (20) minutes the infantry charged our Company B positions under supporting fire of the tanks. The tanks fired a few large caliber shells but most were 20 MM high explosive shells and machine guns. This attack was in greater force and in spite of the tanks and shouts of their officers they were driven back after sustaining heavy losses. The next ten (10) minutes gave us time to evacuate out wounded but now it was getting quite light. Then after about ten (10) minutes they charged again, but this time the assault was led by their tanks. As no heavy anti-tank fire was encountered the tanks spread out and overran Company B positions crushing two machine guns. The men stayed in their fox holes and only three (3) men were injured by the tanks passing over them. The German infantry was still unable to overrun our positions due to the intensive

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small arms fire. The German infantry then withdrew and maneuvered around our flank which was exposed. In this action one (1) tank was knocked out and two (2) of the twelve (12) damaged while many Germans were left lying on the battlefield.

Having been over-run, the battalion was instructed to fight a delaying action falling back on BUTGENBACH, by G-3, 99th Infantry Division. Orders were issued by battalion for Company C to fight back out of town and northwest along railroad tracks, Company A towards WIRTZFELD, and Company B and Headquarters down BULLINGEN-BUTGENBACH Road.

Company C fought back through town and took positions north of BULLINGEN. Company A as yet had not been pressed and held, and the Battalion took positions on the ridge west of town. Company B having been cut off could not reach the road. Headquarters men were moved from positions to position to give appearance of a strongly held line with favorable terrain in front of them. This line could be seen from the town and when their point reorganized it took the ST VITH road south. The enemy point, on reaching cross-roads of the ST VITH-BUTGENBACH road, halted for approximately ten (10) minutes and finally moved south. Our objective had temporarily been accomplished.

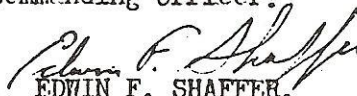
After the enemy point passed, the support, at about 0800 hours, sent tanks towards WIRTZFELD where the 2nd Infantry Division met them with tank destroyers. They also knocked out one (1) tank flanking Headquarters position west of town.

At about 1200 hours, two (2) platoons of Company B had worked their way through the woods and joined Headquarters west of town and three (3) anti-tank guns were found located at CR K930022. The Germans brought up artillery and shelled the position west of town, and at, approximately 1300 hours, the line, under cover of several light tanks which had just arrived, dropped back to the crossroads.

At about 1500 hours the 26th Infantry relieved the unit and took over this position. At 1545 hours Company A was subjected to shelling and strafing by our own troops. Because of this the Company Commander ordered the company to withdraw towards WIRTZFELD. Enroute the 23rd Infantry was contacted, told of the situation, and they formally relieved Company A of the responsibility of their front.

After being relieved the battalion returned to CAMP EISENBORN where we re-organized and prepared for our next missions

For the Commanding Officer:


EDWIN F. SHAFFER,
2nd Lt, 254 Engrs,
Adjutant.

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Killed in Action (KIA)

S/Sgt Charles L. "Snake" Senecal, 36225946 (3rd Plt/B); asgd Camp Livingston; from Munising, MI
 S/Sgt Fred A. Jensen, 35344033 (3/C); reclassified from MIA; where/when asgd?; from Indiana
 Sgt John L. Moseler, 36225918 (1/C); asgd Devizes, Eng; reclassified from MIA; from Ontonagon, MI
 Sgt Kenneth J. "Red" Cowhey, 36114196 (1/C); reclassified from MIA; asgd Devizes; from Detroit, MI
 T/4 Raymond J. Kezetti, 26038019 (A/107 R-2/Plt/C); reclassified from MIA; Escanaba, MI Nat'l Guardsman
 Cpl Herbert J. Schmidt, 27091196 (2/B); believed asgd Devizes, England; from White Rock, SD
 Pvt Geno A. Gaz, 37345690 (2/A); where/when asgd?; from Lafayette, CO
 Pvt Stephen L. Gasper, 33625515 (?/A; Silver Star posthumously; where/when asgd?; no other information



Henri-Chappelle American Cemetary
 Grave: Plot B, Row 18, Grave 19

Wounded/Injured and Evacuated (WIA)

T/5 John J. Kozen, 36226001 (1/A); asgd 107 R at Camp Livingston; from Ironwood, MI; ret'd to 254?; TAPS '64
 T/5 Nicholas W. Leslie, 33480958 (Mail Clerk Hq/A); no record or information; UNLOCATED
 Pfc James E. DeWitt, 35693296 (1/A); joined Devizes, Eng.; ret'd to 254?; TAPS '92
 Pfc J. B. Palmer, 39691955 (2/A); no record/info; UL CA
 Pvt Lawrence R. Perrault, 36225848 (H&S); asgd at Camp Livingston; ret'd to 254?; from Detroit; TAPS '72
 T/4 Walfred Heikkinen, 36225837 (3/B); asgd Co D 107 R at Camp Livingston; ret'd to 254?; TAPS '93
 Pfc John B. Trussell, 34601678 (3/B); asgd Devizes, Eng; ret'd?; from Gardiner, ME; TAPS '71
 Pvt John A. Romanos, 20638263 (2/B); ret'd to 254-then to 234; Co C 107 R NG from Detroit; UL
 Pvt Hubert A. Madden, 31358878 (2/C); where/when asgd?; ret'd to 254?; from New Hampshire; UL
 Sgt Michael H. Fornetti, 36226033 (3/C); asgd Co A 107 R Livingston; ret'd?; Iron Mtn, MI; TAPS
 T/5 Raymond W. Griffin, 33638083 (2/C); where/when asgd?; ret'd to 254?; from NC; UL
 Pvt Robert P. Wallace, 31353553 (2/C); where/when asgd?; ret'd to 254?; from MA; UL
 Cpl John M. Fritts, 37502713 (3/C); where/when asgd?; ret'd to 254?; from Kansas TAPS '89
 Pfc Roy R. Daniels, 36226057 (1/C); asgd D/107 R Livingston; ret'd; Bruce Crossing, MI; TAPS '80
 Pvt Mack Hargis, 35653169 (3/C); where/when asgd?; ret'd to 254?; reported TAPS unofficially
 Pfc Gerald L. Plunkett (3/B); where/when asgd?; ret'd to 254; Winooski, VT currently

Missing in Action (MIA) - all Prisoners of War (POW) so far as known according to incomplete post-war confirmations and/or reports

1st Lt George W. Anderson, Jr., O-2040922 (2/C); asgd Saunton Sands, England Sep 43; 1121
 "Dozer Blade" later reported released from POW camp by SEVENTH US ARMY; Unlocated
 2nd Lt John S. Stevenson, O-1116260 (3/C); asgd 254 just prior to Bulge; "Dozer Blade" later reported escaped from POW camp and awaiting new asgmt; last known Ohio; UNLOCATED
 Sgt Carl W. Smith, 36156298 (2/B); asgd 107 R Livingston; confirmed POW; Lansing, MI; TAPS '90
 T/5 Oliver A. Virmala, 36226008 (1/B); asgd D/107 R at Livingston; Bruce Crossing, MI; TAPS '88
 Pfc Roy W. Chemello, 33112264 (1/B); asgd 107 R at Camp Livingston, LA; Ellenton, FL currently
 Pfc Russell W. Price, 33603574 (2/B); where/when asgd?; from Pennsylvania; UNLOCATED
 Pfc Royal H. Puckett, 34671708 (2/B); where/when asgd?; from North Carolina; UNLOCATED
 Pvt Roa W. Antcliff, 36596732 (1/B); where/when asgd?; South Haven, MI; TAPS '96
 Pvt Frank L. Perry, 37496017 (2/B); where/when asgd?; no other information; UNLOCATED
 Pvt Herbert E. Schwartz, 32902224 (2/B); "Dozer Blade" reported released from POW camp; NY; UL
 S/Sgt Harold D. Rucker, 34097940 (1/C); asgd 107 R at Livingston; St. Mathews, SC; TAPS '74
 Sgt John M. Conway, 36156290 (2/C); asgd Devizes, Eng; reported POW & escapee; Lima, OH; TAPS '80
 Sgt William C. Musten, 34772682 (1/C); asgd Newquay, England; awarded Silver Star; confirmed POW; post-war President of the National Association of POWs; Winston Salem, NC currently
 Sgt Thomas S; Vukonich, 36225800 (3/C); asgd E/107 R at Livingston; Dodgeville, MI; TAPS '91
 T/4 Harry A. Price, 35530053 (3/C); where/when asgd?; from Ohio; UNLOCATED
 Cpl Raymond C. Luczyk, 36155397 (2/C); asgd A/107 R Camp Livingston; Akron, Ohio currently
 Cpl George F. Miller, 36225886 (1/C); where/when asgd?; unconfirmed KIA; from Michigan; UL

T/5 Frank I. Ghinter, 20719633 (2/C); asgd Saunton Sands, England; Minn. NG; to Stalag 13-C; escaped with Dean Mishler, recaptured 11 days later; Little Falls, MN currently
 T/5 Jack M. Laurel, 39839777 (3/C); where/when asgd ?; from California ; UNLOCATED
 T/5 Dean F. Mishler, 36728421 (1/C); where/when asgd ?; see Ghinter; Woodstock, IL currently
 T/5 George L. Roof, 39380767 (2/C); asgd 112 R at Devizes, England; Wash. or Kansas ; UNLOCATED
 Pfc Willard W. Henson, 38505376 (?/C); where/when asgd ?; no other info; TAPS unconfirmed
 Pfc Oscar E. Kelly, 37355902 (3/C); where/when asgd ?; no other info; from Wyoming ; UNLOCATED
 Pfc Leonard B. Knapp, 20646309 (2/C); 107 R Livingston from C/127 Inf R; a WI NG; TAPS '57
 Pfc Felix C. Kramer, 36485183 (3/C); where/when asgd ?; no other info; from Illinois ; UNLOCATED
 Pfc Lloyd C. Lamb, 36821039 (1/C); where/when asgd ?; no other info; from Wisconsin; UNLOCATED
 Pfc Henry Lansing, 42022792 (Hq Plt/C); asgd Newquay, England; Los Angeles, CA; TAPS '96
 Pfc Ralph W. Nordman, Jr., 36462218 (2/C); where/when asgd ?; Wyoming, MI; TAPS '84
 Pfc Melvin Olson, 37542963 (2/C); where/when asgd ?; from Brainerd, Minnesota UNLOCATED
 Pfc Edward R. Pontatoski, 33507833 (2/C); where/when asgd ?; from Pennsylvania UNLOCATED
 Pfc Claude M. Reece, 34601945 (2/C); where/when asgd ?; unconfirmed KIA; no other info; UL
 Pfc John D. Sampson, 14161613 (1/C); where/when asgd ?; from Tennessee; UNLOCATED
 Pfc Albert A. Silvestri, 32929932 (3/C); asgd 112 R at Devizes, England; New York TAPS '87
 Pfc Dominick J. Stratoti, 33777161 (2/C); where/when asgd ?; from New Jersey or Penn.; UNLOCATED
 Pfc Joe T. Violante, 20517119 (2/C); Ohio NG trfd to 254 from 112th at Saunton Sands UL
 Pfc Benjamin G. "Chief" White, 38468712 (2/C); where/when asgd ?; from Oklahoma; UNLOCATED
 Pvt Matthew J. Barbone, 33777293 (2/C); where/when asgd ?; from Philadelphia, PA UNLOCATED
 Pvt Paul D. Bradfield, 35753508 (1/C); where/when asgd ?; from Ohio UNLOCATED
 Pvt High J. Brady, 12083839 (2/C); where/when asgd ?; from New York UNLOCATED
 Pvt Leslie F. Howe, 35894577 (3/C); where/when asgd ?; from Iowa UNLOCATED
 Pvt Stephen A. Koswoski, 33832311 (?/C); where/when asgd ?; no other information UNLOCATED
 Pvt Nicholas P. Lenczuk, 32208294 (1/C); where/when asgd ?; from New Jersey UNLOCATED
 Pvt Cleston D. Monson, 35006068 (2/C); where/when asgd ?; from Ohio UNLOCATED
 Pvt Angelo A. Moreno, 33686992 (1/C); where/when asgd ?; from Pittsburgh, PA; TAPS '92
 Pvt Delbert Parker, 19086683 (Hq Plt/C); where/when asgd ?; from California UNLOCATED
 Pvt Herman A. Porter, 39324042 (2/C); where/when asgd ?; from Oklahoma; UNLOCATED
 Pvt Edward L. Trickett, 3127157 (1/C); where/when asgd ?; from Massachusetts; UNLOCATED
 Pvt Thomas F. Vanderheyden, 32921577 (?); no record or info of any kind UNLOCATED
 Pvt Homer F. Wick, 35867064 (3/C); where/when asgd ?; from Tennessee; UNLOCATED
 Pvt David L. Williams, 36422983 (2/C); where/when asgd ?; from Lansing, MI UNLOCATED

BULLINGEN POWs (cont'd from Page 9)

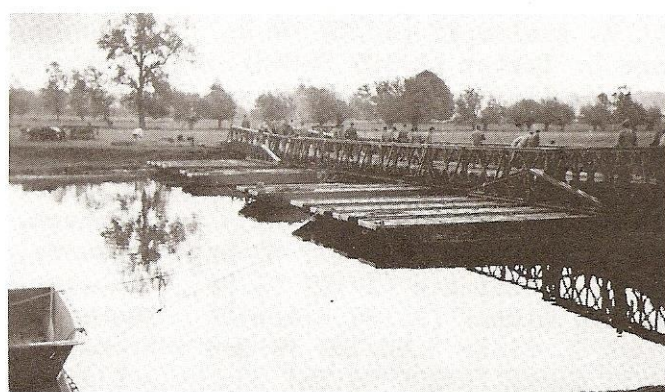
Lt Anderson being an officer was separated immediately. Barbone, Pontatoski, Stratoti, Violante, White, Moreno and Monson were sent to work on farms in Germany. Porter had a head wound and presumably went to a hospital. "Rowdy" Rucker as a ranking non-com (S/Sgt) was appointed camp communications sergeant and his news reports gleaned from BBC (British Broadcasting Co.) radio broadcasts were eagerly looked forward to. Gen Patton's famous, unsuccessful escapade to liberate his son-in-law from Stalag 13-C caused much excitement. Late March '45 the camp's German civilians took off for parts unknown because US troops were getting close. The guards had every 5th man step out of formation, "Jessie" Conway and I included, to receive an American Red Cross food carton from warehouse storage. With so much food suddenly available some British "Kreiggies" tussled with us for the cartons whereupon the guards opened fire. I made it back to the compound with bullets flying around OK but without my carton. The German

guards left camp that afternoon but returned the next day (Easter Sunday) moving us to Stalag 7-A near NURENBERG. After a week there we were forced out again and were foot marched towards CAMP MOOSEBERG (Munich). One night we holed up in a barn and knowing friendly troops were fast closing in I decided to hide in some hay, but Tom Vukonich didn't go for that. The next morning 10 of us successfully separated from the group when they moved out. That's how I met Lt "Tex" McClellan, a AF pilot from Dallas, TX, a 2-year P/W after being shot down during a bombing mission. He spoke excellent German and we became buddies. After some wandering around and mingling with civilians some bicycle troops claimed we were "flegers" (Fl-iers) and took us to Mooseberg where I met Vukonich again. "Tex" kept me with him - 55 officers and one EM in a tent. On April 29th we were liberated and soon after flown to a Ramp Camp (Released Allied Military Prisoners) near LeHarve, France. I met Joe Violante there but never saw Vukonich again after Mooseberg." Excepting dribbles of info, this is the only comprehensive POW report seen or anticipated.

"AS GOOD AS IT GETS"

This clip from Baraga's program book cover bravely touted the 1999 reunion hosted by Detachment 1, Company A 107th Engineer Battalion. And to a lesser degree, the community. A claim not idly made either, nor disproven, as events unfolded during another great weekend. Our 38th. Indeed, a bold promise from the UP's smallest armory town. Yet, their claim "As Good As It Gets" anchored on a platform of unit pride, confidence and overall friendliness were modestly extended because most of the key planners went unpublicized seemingly wanting to operate quietly behind the scenes supporting 1SG James E. Baker, President, SFC James W. Turunen, Vice Pres., and Lt Scott E. Etelamaki, Det CO. Still, from the whole the efforts of two work parties kinda jumped out for all to see. The fantastic historical display attracted loads of attention and lots of "remember whens." By the numbers for Sgts Franklin A. Phillips (C/D/A NG Bn) and William E. Luokkanen (Co A) the masterful curators of Calu - met's military/107th museum. And how about 4 tasty meals prepared and served from the armory kitchen in 24 hours by Sgts Danny L. Jarve and Reuben P. Collins aided by skilled kitchen staff and volunteer KPs. Other things still vivid in mind 6 months later: eye poppin' decorations; solemn Memorial Service with appropriate address by LTC (Ret) George J. Hansen, Assoc. Chaplain; first looks for many of the Bn's newly T/E'd tracked personnel carriers ; insightful banquet talk by Col (Ret) James P. Dougovito, Bn CO 1983-87; spirited business meeting featuring a Memorialization update from General Leonard C. Ward; nostalgic memories of Military Balls past when dance floors were jam packed - wondering if music is wanting or danc-passé, or both? - maybe because of the brutally hot weather later tempered a bit after nature's spectacular lightening display over Lake Superior; the gate crashing, bib-overalled "pulp cutter" was a shocking, embarrassing pre-banquet distraction keeping the lovely ladies ducking or scurrying for cover trying to avoid unwanted attentions. Then, for the uninformed, sighs of relief finding out it was only a spoof professionally, realistically done by SSG John E. Hendra (local unit) well deserving an Oscar - at least a Snortin' Bull Medallion (fresh) award. The only downer besides hot weather was the sub-par attendance notably from the WWII ranks. TAPS, health and age all contributing to a non-reversing situation in this area - and maybe needing new focus. Great job, thank you, BARAGA for your memorable 38th reunion effort.

The parallel military paths followed by the 107th and 112th Engineers (Ohio NG) cross yet again. Both were Federally Inducted on 15 Oct 40 and shipped to North Ireland early 1942. There they were briefly the only combat engineer battalions in a US force of 11,039 men. Though untrained as such, both battalions were plugged in as "construction" for building badly deeded supply depots, the 107th at MONEY-MORE and the 112th at DESERTMARTIN. On 1 June 42 during construction the two were combined into the 112th Engr Regt Combat, the 107th becoming the 2nd Bn thereof. Fourteen months later in England, the 112th Regt was busted up via the new group concept thereby forming cadres for 1121 Gp Hq, 112th Bn and the 254th (old 107th). With the 146th Engr Bn later assigned, this 1121 Gp lineup held firm until war's end. Fast forwarding 57 years the two mechanized battalions join ranks again within the 46th Engr Brigade (46th Engr Gp redesignated) still under the command of Col Mitchell R. "Mitch" LeClaire. The 113th Engr Bn (Indiana NG, organic engr unit for 38th Inf Div, WWII, rounds out the 3 battalion brigade for the 38th Inf Div.....to Charles H. Peterson (D/107 R draftee-A/254), Clovis, NM - thanks for the only picture we've seen of the British Bridge School, WALLINGFORD, Eng., for Brits, Canadian, Allied pioneers and U.S. engineers. From station at Prince Maurice Barracks, Devizes, mid-1943, the 112th companies individually trained on bridging techniques over a weeks time. For "graduation" each company had to put a 210 foot floating Bailey across timed to a 6x6 truck shore-to-shore crossing. Prior to the 112th a Canadian outfit held the record of around 3 hours. A 1st Bn 112th company lower-



ed the time to around 1 hr 10 min. Amazing & unbeatable, so thought. Until Co E 2nd Bn (107th) commanded by Capt Cecil F. Clark (CO C/107 R NG-Ex O 254-CO 146 Bn) did the job in 41 minutes flat. Impossible. Prove it. Which Co E under the gun did before a doubting critical audience of high ranking Allied brass - successfully in 40½ minutes. After

a proud Capt Clark popped for a keg of Bass Ale and gave his tired troops the afternoon off. A highly respected officer? You bet. No doubt this contributed substantially towards a "good bridge outfit" reputation thereafter established for the 254th. And it's envied bridge assignments on OMAHA Beach, a year hence. Finis.



OFFICIALLY REGISTERED - BARAGA REUNION

Jeff Anderson (B/107 NG Bn) Ironwood, MI
 Mark R. Antioho (A/HHC 107 NG Bn) Chassell, MI
 Gervase A. Audette (A/107 NG Bn) Naples, FL
 James E. Baker (A/107 NG Bn) L'Anse, MI
 Jessica Baker (A/107 NG Bn) L'Anse, MI
 Tom. S. Bardowski (A/107 R-A/254) Stephenson, MI
 Herbert S. Bastion (E.107 R-A/254) Clawson, MI
 Jos. B. Battaglia (1121 Gp Hq) New Brighton, PA
 Robert H. Beauprey (D/107 NG Bn) Manistique, MI
 Barbara Blowers (Clarence, A/107 R NG-
 C/254) Fort Madison, IA
 Orlando A. Bongi (A/107 R-A/254) Iron River, MI
 Gary E. Brown (A/107 NG Bn) Calumet, MI
 Joe Brown (HHC/107 NG Bn) Greenland, MI
 Donald J. Bussiere (A/107 NG Bn) Ontonagon, MI
 Davis R. Carlson (A/107 NG Bn) Calumet, MI
 Edward J. Cloutier (F/107 R-AF) Lake Linden, MI
 Reuben P. Collins (A/107 NG Bn) Sidnaw, MI
 John L. Culliton (C/107 NG Bn) Gladstone, MI
 Donald L. DeRoche (HHC/107 NG Bn) Ishpeming, MI
 Joseph P. DeSantis (B/107 NG Bn) Oak Lawn, IL
 James P. Dougovito (A/HHC NG Bn) L'Anse, MI
 Howard W. Duncan (B/D NG-46 Gp) No. Vernon, IN
 Joseph L. DuPont (A/107 R-522d) Caseyville, IL
 Phyllis Duquette (Donald M., D/107 R NG-
 B/254 Bn) Ishpeming, MI
 Frederick J. Ehrhardt (HHC/NG Bn) Ishpeming, MI
 Charles S. Emerson (HHC/NG Bn) Negaunee, MI
 Scott E. Etelamaki (A/107 NG Bn) Negaunee, MI
 George L. Eyster (A/107 R-H&S/254) Trenton, MI
 Joseph W. Floriano (D/HHC NG Bn) Ishpeming, MI
 Michael J. Floriano (D/HHC NG Bn) Quinnesec, MI
 Clarence J. Forsythe (A/254 Bn) Boonton, NJ
 Frederick E. Fontaine (A/107 NG Bn) Calumet, MI
 Keith B. Freeze (B/107 R-B/254) Shepherd, MI
 Willis A. Garceau (HHC/107 NG Bn) Negaunee, MI
 Dennis J. Gassittie (A/107 NG Bn) Laurium, MI
 Arthur J. Gibour (A/107 R-A/254) Waukegan, IL
 Kenneth G. Giese (HHC/107 NG Bn) Negaunee, MI
 Randall Goris (A/107 NG Bn) L'Anse, MI
 Richard P. Gough (A/254) Atlantic Highlands, NJ
 Harold V. Hall (A/107 R & Bn) Wyoming, MI
 Danny Hansen (B/C/D/HHC NG Bn) Escanaba, MI
 George J. Hansen (HHC/107 NG Bn) Mission, TX
 Gerald M. Harry (A/HHC 107 NG Bn) Hancock, MI
 John E. Hendra (A/107 NG Bn) Calumet, MI
 Link Hibernig (HHC/107 NG-1437 Br) Gaylord, MI
 Edwin R. Hutchens (D/107 R-C/254) Marquette, MI
 James L. Hutcheson (HHC/107 NG) Ishpeming, MI

Daniel Huyck (NMU ROTC) Marquette, MI
 Edwin J. Jachinski (HHC/107 NG Bn) Negaunee, MI
 Clyde H. Johnson (F/107 R NG) Hancock, MI
 Thomas W. Johnson (A/107 NG Bn) Kenton, MI
 Leonard L. Janssen (B/107 NG Bn) Wakefield, MI
 Reino E. Kiminki (107 R-A/254 Bn) Mass, MI
 Eunice LaBelle (Frank, HHC NG Bn) Marquette, MI
 Richard A. LaChance (C/HHC NG) Rapid River, MI
 Tibor J. Lanczy (HHC/107 NG Bn CO) DeWitt, MI
 Patricia D. Larsen (Bill, B/107 NG) Big Bay, MI
 Michael T. Lee (HHC/107 NG Bn) Ishpeming, MI
 William E. Luokkanen (A/107 NG Bn) Mohawk, MI
 John R. Maki (A/C/D/HHC 107 NG Bn) Escanaba, MI
 John W. McCormick (B/107 NG) Sterling Hts, MI
 Robert K. McGuire (C/H&S 254) Centerville, IA
 Harold A. Menapace (D/107 R-C/254) Gwinn, MI
 Robert W. Miller (C/107 NG Bn) Gladstone, MI
 James Moulds (D/HHC 107 NG Bn) Munising, MI
 John A. Neno (H&S/254 Bn) Ithaca, NY
 Howard W. Nichola (E/107 R-H&S/254) Dodgeville, MI
 James E. Noel (C/107 NG Bn) Gladstone, MI
 Richard J. Oja (HHC/107 NG Bn) Republic, MI
 James W. O'Toole (A/254 Bn) San Jose, CA
 Steve Palomar (A/254 Bn) Lincoln Park, MI
 Joseph H. Patrick (D/C/B/HHC NG Bn) Wells, MI
 Ruth J. Peck (Freeling, A/107 R-C/254),
 Grand Rapids, MI
 Thomas E. Perry (A/B/HHC 107 NG) Roscommon, MI
 Franklin A. Phillips (A/C/D NG Bn) Houghton, MI
 Peter Prus, Jr. (B/254 Bn) Milford, DE
 Herbert F. Ramme (B/107 NG Bn) Ironwood, MI
 Warren L. Romain (D/107 R-B/254) Milwaukee, WI
 Steven S. Rose (HHC/107 NG Bn) Pickford, MI
 Ronald F. Ross (HHC/107 NG Bn) Gladwin, MI
 Larry F. Rule (A/107 NG Bn) Laurium, MI
 Robert E. Sexton (HHC/107 NG Bn) Kingsford, MI
 James W. Sheldon (HHC/A 107 NG Bn) Baraga, MI
 Calvin L. Shirkey (B/107 NG Bn) Wakefield, MI
 Donald R. Small (B/HHC NG Bn) Marquette, MI
 Victor Stevens (A/H&S 107 R) Livonia, MI
 Richard A. Strand (HHC/B NG Bn) Ishpeming, MI
 Doris Switzer (Comelo, A/107 & 254) Bessemer, MI
 Timothy K. Tebby (A/B/HHC NG Bn) Ishpeming, MI
 Russell H. Terrill (F/107 R-B/254) Houghton, MI
 Martin Terzaghi (D/107 R-B/107 Bn) Negaunee, MI
 Royal A. Thayer (A/107 R-A/254 Bn) Allegan, MI
 Albert A. Tomassetti (B/254 Bn) Louisville, KY
 Mike Touchinski (A/107 NG Bn) Marquette, MI
 James W. Turunen (A/107 NG Bn) L'Anse, MI
 John Tyrrell (HHC/107 NG Bn) Ishpeming, MI
 Paul J. Van Abel (E/107 R-A/254) L'Anse, MI
 William C. Viau (C/107 NG Bn) Escanaba, MI
 Ed. C. Vickstrom (D/107 R-H&S 254) Ishpeming, MI
 Leonard C. Ward (A/107 R-1121-HHC NG) McLean, VA
 James F. Webber (B/107 NG Bn) Bessemer, MI
 David R. Wesoloski (A/C/D/HHC NG) Grayling, MI
 Douglas White (A/107 NG Bn) Calumet, MI
 Rick White (A/107 NG Bn) Calumet, MI
 Richard H. Wills (D/107 R-B/254) Negaunee, MI
 Robert C. Wills (HHC/107 NG Bn) Rockford, MI
 Peter J. Zdybel (E/107 R-A/254) Williamston, MI
 Working men & women, Det 1 Co A Baraga, MI

LIST OF RECOMMENDED LODGING FOR THE IRON RIVER REUNION

AMERICINN	40 E. Adams (US-2) Iron River, MI 49935	800-634-3444 or 906-265-9100
BRULE MOTEL	4025 West US-2, Iron River, MI 49935	906-265-6116
CHICAUGON LAKE INN *	1700 County Rd. 424, Gaastra, MI 49927	906-265-9244
CRESTWOOD HOTEL	4305 West US-2, Iron River, MI 49935	800-261-0497 or 906-265-3636
IRON INN MOTEL	211 Cayuga St., Iron River, MI 49935	906-265-5111
LAKESHORE MOTEL	1257 Lalley Rd., Iron River, MI 49935	906-265-3611
TRAVLURES MOTEL	4102 West US-2, Iron River, MI 49935	906-265-5181
WALES INN	1001 Hwy 189, Iron River, MI 49935	906-265-9941
WILD RIVER MOTEL & RV	4547 West US-2, Iron River, MI 49935	906-265-6210 collect

Camp Grounds

PENTOGA PARK *	4547 West US-2, Crystal Falls, MI 49920	906-265-3979
BEWABIC STATE PARK *	1933 US-2, Crystal Falls, MI 49920	906-875-3324
IRON RIVER RV PARK	50 East Genesee, Iron River, MI 49935	888-879-4766 or 906-265-3822

Reservations for limited RV parking at the armory - call SSG Jeff Gibson at 906-265-2211

* means, within 15 miles; all others located within 5 miles of armory

For additional details about the Iron River area call: Chamber of Commerce, 906-265-3822

Reunion Details: 4-5-6 Aug 2000 at the Iron River armory, 9 E. Franklin St., Iron River, Michigan 49935-1566; Phone 906-265-2211

IMPORTANT: To make, change or cancel banquet reservations proceed as follows:

Before 15 July 00 - mail notice below to: 107th Engineer Association, 900 Palms Ave., Ishpeming, MI 49849-1064; or call Secretary Ed Vickstrom at 906-486-4804.

After 15 July 00 and up to 03 Aug 00: Call Ed Vickstrom at 906-486-4804 or the Iron River armory at 906-265-2211.

PLEASE RETURN THE BELOW SECTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THE REUNION, to ensure the information concerning you is correct, particularly for address and old unit(s) identification. Please "check in" in any capacity.

- - - - - CLIP AND SEND IN BELOW FORM - RETAIN THE ABOVE PORTION - - - - -

1. I _____ be present for the 39th Annual Reunion of the 107th Engineer Association
(will-will not) at Iron River, Michigan
2. Reserve _____ places for me at the banquet/dance on Saturday, 5 Aug 00. My guest(s)
for this event will be _____
3. My association dues of _____ (\$2.00 per year) are enclosed for _____ years; and/or
\$ _____ towards printing and mailing expenses.
4. My name and address is _____

5. I joined the 107/112/254/522 at _____ year of _____
6. I left the _____ at _____ because _____
