

April 1989



Issue No. 32

The "BULL SHEET"

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IRONWOOD 1989 REUNION SITE

IT'S OFFICIAL. The 28th annual 107th Engineer reunion will be held at the Ironwood Garrison Training Center in beautiful Ironwood, Michigan. The dates of 28th, 29th and 30th of July 1989, were approved at last year's business meeting. Festivities will begin on the 28th with registration and a social mixer. The mixer will start about 1800 and will feature pasties, snacks, and a relish tray with music and dancing beginning at 1900. The music will be provided by a five piece polka and waltz band that will play until 2400. SATURDAY - 29Jul89 - registration/sign-in (all day); 0800-0900 Breakfast with eggs to order, pancakes, toast, coffee and juice for \$2.00. 1130-1230 Dinner, with charcoal broiled hamburgers, bratwurst, potato salad, beans, salad and chips for \$3.50. 1300-1400 Memorial Service. After the Memorial Service, bus tours will be available to transport those interested to Copper Peak, the Western Hemisphere's largest and only manmade ski-A chairlift tour to the top of flying hill. the hill for a breathtaking sight of the surrounding area and four differest states and Canada will be there to thrill all. We will also visit the scenic Rainbow, Potowatomi, and Gorge Falls on the mighty Black River with a rest stop at Black River Harbor to visit the shores of the world's largest, and clearest inland of the world's largest, fresh water lake, the majestic Lake Superior, Then off to downtown Ironwood for a short shopping spree at the many varied and unique gift shops it has to offer. 1430-1600 Annual Business Meeting. 1830-2000 the Saturday Evening Banquet with roast beef, roast turkey, and baked ham with Italian raviolis, mashed potatoes and gravy, dessert, salad, vegetable, coffee, milk and bread for \$10.00 per person. Two bars plus an outdoor refreshment tent will serve your thirst and refreshment requirements throughout the day and evening. 2000-2400 Music and dancing will be provided by the big band

sound of "Big Band Northwoods." This is an outstanding, 15 piece orchestra playing the Big Band Sound of Glenn Miller, Wayne King, Sammy Kaye, Lawrence Welk, Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey, and Guy Lombardo. SUNDAY 30Jul89 - 0930-1030 a Sunday Brunch with eggs to order, the original S.O.S., french toast, hash browns, fruit, juice and coffee for \$3.00. This reunion should prove to be the most enjoyable ever. Find attached a list of motels in our area which offer convenience and quality at a reasonable cost. Try to make reservations early. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL HERE.

WILLIAM J. DÖWD SFC MI ARNG Reunion President

Great job, Sarge! Boy, if that doesn't turn you on nothing will. Our one and only reunion in Ironwood was in 1979; way back when Captain William A. Luoma was the company commander of Company B. Now 10 years and several promotions later he is recognized as Lt Col Luoma, battalion commander of the 107th. And of course the Permanent Director on the Association's executive Committee. The attractively located National Guard armory still houses Baker Company less a detachment stationed in Baraga - where we met in 1985 for the very successful 24th annual. Out-of-staters unfamiliar with the Upper Peninsula of Michigan will find Ironwood at the extreme western end of the U.P. right on the Michigan/Wisconsin border. Admittedly a further trek for down-State and easterly located comrades; but, conversely a shorter jaunt for Wisconsin volunteers and from westerly home stations. Although located in a real snow belt. where winter is not only fun but a necessity for the area's tourist/ski hill attractionss. and near chilly Lake Superior the reunion committee feels safe in omitting long-johns and

related woolies from uniform requirements. Casual dress with something a little more sexy for the Saturday evening banquet/dance will pass inspection. The body is what's important - and we do mean your's:

* BENNETT, William W. "Skiboo" (Co D 107 Regt * * Co C 254), Westlake, Ohio; DUQUETTE, Don- * * ald M. "Duke" (Co D 107 Regt - Co B 254), * * Ishpeming, Mich.; CLOSSON, Max A. (112 * * Regt-H&S 254), Manistee, Mich.; HOFMANN, * * Ludwig B. "Hoppy" (Co A 254), Warwick, R.I. * * HEWITT, Lawrence C. (Hq Co 107 Regt WWI), * * Lansing, Mich.; KABKE, Charles M. "Mace" * * (Co B 107 Regt- 522d Engr Co), Sault Ste. * * Marie, Mich.; KANGAS, John C. (107 Regt * * -H&S 254), Chatham, Mich.; KILEY, John J. *
* Band 107 Regt), Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; * * LE BLANC, George A. (Co E 107 Regt), Liv- * * onia, Mich.; MILLER, Frederick L. "Beaver" * * (Co A 254), Elmira, NY; PERROW, Dolor M. * * Co A 107 Regt), Philadelphia, Penn.; * * RICKETTS, Leonard E. (Co C 107 Regt - 522d * Engr Co), Northville, Mich.; RULE, Maurice * * L. (Co E 107 Regt), Buhl, Minn.; SALMELA, *
* John E. (Co F 107 Regt), Calumet, Michigan; * * SILVESTRI, Albert A. (Co C 254), Tonawanda, * STEELE, James C. (Co D 107 Regt-Co C * * 254), Springfield, VA; TOMPKINS, William * A. (Co D 107 Regt), Brisbane, Australia; * TOMPKINS, William * * WEIGHTMAN, Ralph "Lucky" (Co B 254), Mones- * * sen, PA; WIKEN, Dick (Hq 254-Co A 112 Bn), *

* Milwaukee, Wis.; WILSON, Leo P. (Co B 107 *

* Regt-522d Engr Co), Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. * * WRIGHT, Orville (Med Det 107 Regt-1121st Gp * * Hq, Iron Mountain, Mich.; WILLIAMS, Walt- * * er W. "Buster" (Co E 107 Regt, Calumet, MI * *******

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

A heretofore minor. but always worrisome reunion problem, unexpectedly exploding into one of real concern is the big decision facing every reunion chairman - how much chow to order. Particularly for banquets based on numbers totaled from pre-reunion registrations made via your returned notices; a routine process that always worked out fairly good. No problem for people showing up as scheduled; but a problem presented by non-cancelled out AWOL's failing to show up as promised. During past years the usual 10-15 no-shows, of which there will always be some it is realized, were more or less offset by the welcomed-with-open-arms unexpec-So, no sweat there insofar as ted arrivals. Saturday's chow lines (noon mess and evening banquet) were concerned. However, Marquette expereienced an unprecedented number of no-shows - an unbelievable 43 in fact - which when doubled for spouses, etc., equates out to some 80 reserved banquet places that had to be contracted out and of course paid for. Obviously a substantial loss was incurred which couldn't be covered from other reimburseable functions. Normally the committee has until the Wednesday-Thursday preceeding the big weekend before it has to lock in with it's caterer. Panic time to be sure. Although not always 100% accurate the numbers are usually close enough to absorb any then unknown plus/minus adjustments to the chow line. That good people is the problem simply stated. Accordingly, please be guided by new information included on the enclosed "Will or Will Not Attend" sheet. Your concerned cooperation will be helpful towards avoiding any more experiences like Marquette's. But for sure and by no stretch of the imagination do we wish to discourage anyone from coming in without pre-registration. These totally unexpected arrivals are pleasant surprises always. object is to simply come up with more accurate numbers for sweating-it-out reunion chairmen. Our mess sergeant sez we can easily schedule C's and K's on banquet menus. Bet that would be an eye-catching but gut-wrenching gimmick to say the least - and no troops the next year.

ROSTER ADDITIONS

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

Paul Lucas (Co B 107 NG Bn), 1953 Waldo St., Marquette, MI 49855 (**Marquette Armory**)

John A. Koehler (107th Bn-Ireland), 1417Kuhl, Manitowoc, WI 54220 (**John E. McCormick**);

Conrad "Connie" McCambridge (107 Bn - Co F 112 Regt), 2959 Forest Circle, Seffner, FL 33584 (**John E. McCormick**); Roy M. Ingalls (Co A 107 Regt), 5190 Via DelAcero, Yorba Linda, CA 92686 (**Ralph Godfrey**); Henry E. Ellrich (107 Regt-522d Engr Co), 3424 St. Igatius Ct., St. Ann, MO 63074 (**Bill Kessler**); Louis Marra (107 NG Bn-1437th NG Br Co), 305 Welch Rd. Houghton Lake, MI 48629 (**Edward T. Cook**); Joffre G. Crawford (107 Regt-522d Engr Co), P.O. Box 561, Blairsville, GA 30512 (**Hank Ellrich*)

Co C 254 Engr Bn Memory Time

On page 38 The History of the 107th Engineering Battalion - 1881-1981 is written: "During part of the advance, a road block in depth consisting of large craters was encountered on a hairpin curve near DEDENBORN near the ROER RIVER DAMS. Company C 254 breached the obstacle by filling one crater with rock blown from the cliffs above it and bridging another with 70 feet of class 40 Bailey Bridge. The curve was extremely tight

and great difficulty was experienced in just getting the Bailey material into the site.

Roger D. Phillips film-captured a piece of the March 1945 action which now many years later he alertly identifies with the fairly routine combat engineering job. Even complete with identifications of some of the working party pictured thereon including: Olin Loftin (never located - last known to be from Morristown, TN);

Leonard J. Lampela (Medic who died in Calumet, MI 6 Nov 87); Francis W. Rajala (never located - last known to be from Redridge, MI); Eugene W. Southern (never located - last known to be from Muldrow, OK).



copies of the said "107th History" are still available for six bucks including postage.

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1988-1989

President: Sgt William J. Dowd (Co B NG Bn) Sgt David J. Czerneski (Co B) Vice President: Secretary: Edward C. Vickstrom (H&S 254) Sgt John A. Beauchamp (HHC NG Bn) Treasurer: Historian: Maj Frederick Stonehouse (HHC NG Bn) P.R.O.: Sgt Lori McMaster (HHC NG Bn) Permanent Dir: LTC William A. Luoma (Bn CO) 4 Yr. Director: Sgt C. William Hager (HHC NG Bn) 3 Yr. Director: William A. Eckloff (HHC NG Bn) 2 Yr. Director: "Moose" LaCombe (Co C 107 WWI) 1 Yr. Director: Sgt James Hutcheson (HHC NG Bn)

COLONEL JENKIN'S MEMORIAL

We asked him if he would and he did. Our photographer is Leonard Robinette (H&S 254) who lives in Escanaba, Mich. - the before and after WWII home town for Lt Col Loren W. Jenkins (CO Co A 107 Regt-CO 254 Bn). The pictured Memorial Drive was dedicated to Col Jenkins who was instrumental in his capacity as City Engineer for the planning and development of the park complex on Escanaba's beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline. A drive and park well worth seeing-scenically for personal pleasures and in memory of the respectfully referred to "Jiggs". In an accompanying letter Len relates some mighlights of recent travels to the Big Apple and Capitol



during which he successfully made phone contact with Gen Leonard C. Ward in Virginia and ex-H&S 254 Motor Section comrade Bill Banville in Cleveland. Unfortunately he was unable to connect with Talbott (H&S 254) in Baltimore (for reason that Guy at last report has a Brooklandville, MD addor the 254's exress) Motor Officer Dominick V. Rubeo in NY (for reason that Dom relocated to New Wilmington, PA) some time back.



LOREN W. JENKINS

ENGINEER GROUP CONCEPT

Wonder how many in the ranks, referring to both WWII GI's and Guards echelons, are aware that present-day Tables of Organization (T/O) for combat engineer outfits are remarkably similar to those of the 1940's when the engineer group concept was put into effect; probably in conjunction with the triangularization of the socalled "square infantry division" thereby necessitating massive organization changes right down the line. Presently the 107th Engineer Battalion, Michigan National Guard, is assigned to 46th Engineer Group Headquarters, Flint, MI Other State for administration and training. engineer battalions similarily assigned to the 46th include the 207th, headquartered in Bay City, and the 507th whose battalion CP is located in Wyoming, MI. Still today as back in the 40's other Corps/Army specialist engineer outfits, usually company sized, are attached as needed to assist the organic battalions their assigned missions. These units include various bridge companies, light and heavy equipment companies, etc. Col Peter B. Injasoulian who earlier in his military career commanded the 107th Bn (1981-1982) is the present 46th Group commander. Throughout it's European

Theater of Operations (ETO) combat tour (June 1944-May 1945) the 1121st Engineer Group Ho had assigned to it the 254th Engr Bn (Michigan NG and old 107th), the 112th Engr Bn (Ohio NG) and the 146th Engr Bn (Tennessee NG). The 1121 st was commanded by Col Robert K. McDonough, a career Army West Pointer; the 254th by Lt Col Loren W. Jenkins, an Escanaba 107th Regt officer; the 112th by Lt Col C. F. Stowell and the 146th by Lt Col Cecil F. Clark, also a veteran 107th company commander as was Jenkins. forgotten and perhaps unknown facts to our ETO vets that may be historically interesting and educational to the Guardsmen is the following brief record of the 1121 Group's combat attachments and travels from OMAHA BEACH, FRANCE to PILSEN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA (1,372 miles): attached to: FIRST and THIRD, Corps attached to: V, VII and XIX. Armored Divisions supported: 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 16 and 2nd French. Infan-<u>try</u> Divisions supported: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 28, 29, 30, 35, 69, 78, 90, 97, 99 and 102nd Cavalry Group. The 1121st's operations with the 23 divisions of record were directed out of 41 different CP's established during the 11 month combat tour. The shortest was for 25 minutes on 31 Aug 44 at CLICHY (Paris) and the longest was 69 days at HEPSCHEID, BELGIUM (2 Oct 44 to 9 Dec 44). The operations of all 3 organic engineer battalions, 254, 112, 146, covered the full scope of combat engineer responsibility ranging from infantry assignments to the routine tasks manning a primary engineer weapon: SHOVEL, short, round point, D-handle.



254 MEDICAL DETACHMENT LOCATED

A most welcome hand-written response to letter urgently seeking identifications on the 1944 Med Det 254th "platoon picture" taken in the snow covered Ardennes Forest a month before the

Battle of the Bulge. "Dear Ed: Thank you for the newsletters; always glad to hear from old buddies. I'm still working at my profession (62 years of medicine) tho with limited hours and easy going motivation - not exerting myself too much. I'm 88 now, feeling good and seeing patients. The chap on my right is Tom ? a 1st Lt Dental Officer. I've forgotten his last name but do recall he was from Grand Rapids, MI. Sorry about the old buddies who have departed. Always glad to hear from you." "Capt" Arthur S. Hirshorn (Bn Surgeon 254). With this starting clue from the "Doc" plus a big assist from Douglas H. Williamson (107 Regt Co B/6 254) who by strange coincidence himself was a post-war dentist, now retired, in Grand Rapids and some digging into old 254 rosters completed the identification of the Dental Officer in question as "Capt" Thomas K. Boyd. ter running the so-called "platoon pictures" in BULL SHEETS 18-27, we dispared of ever getting one of the Med Det. But, last year much to our joy the long sought photo unexpectedly came in from Roger D. Phillips (Co C 254) who wasn't even a medic. Many thanks, Rog. Other members of the Med Det were portrayed with the line company platoons to which they were assigned.

Front Row (L to R): Robert E. Schniederhan, Hancock, MI; Capt Thomas K. Boyd, Bn Dental Off - died 1978 in Jackson, MI; Capt Arthur E. Hirshorn, Bn Surgeon, Gloucester City, NJ; Unidentified - help please.

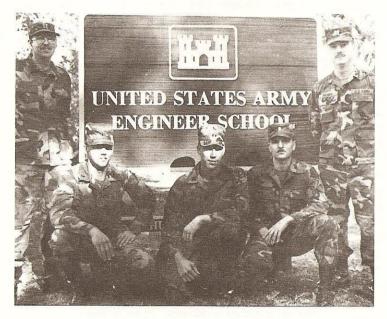
Back row (L to R): S/Sgt Charles
W. Dimmer - recently lost from
Laurium, MI; reported in either FL
or CA; help, please; Leonard J.
Lampela - died 1987 in Calumet, MI
Unidentified - help please; Andrew
Topalian - died 1975 in Farmington,
Michigan

UPDATE - NORMANDY STONE MEMORIAL

Just about the time ye' editor was frantically scrambling trying to get some current information regarding the proposed Normandy Memorial featuring stones representative of the 50 states, 4 territories and Washington, D.C. a timely report from Herbert S. Bastion (Co E 107 Regt-Co A 254) was an absolute lifesaver. This then is in response to a number of inquiries

received since initially reporting on the subject in the 1987 BULL SHEET. We quote from Herb's copy of the Nov. 1988 The Beachhead: The stones are awaiting the final construction of the U.S. Memorial Garden adjacent to the Battle of Normandy Museum. The musem was officially

opened and dedicated on 6 June 88. Each stone is unique and representative of the state or territory from which it comes. For example, the stone from Mississippi is petrified wood; from Vermont, granite: from Tennessee, marble. and from American Samoa, volcanic rock." Plaques are affixed to each stone for identification of the contributing state and it's military unit(s) that made the Normandy invasion." As you were informed in Issue No. 30, igan's plaque mounted on the amygaloid copper bearing block from the Kingston copper mine "In memorial to the Michigan men who landed on Normandy, especially the 254th Engineer Battalion now known as the 107th Engineer Battalion from Michigan's Upper Peninsula." Michigan's cut rock contribution to the proposed U.S; Memorial Garden was personally trans ported to the 1988 Normandy beach ceremonies by Maj Gen Vernon J. Andrews, Adjutant General of Michigan. Some other personal observations from "The Kingston Mine is about 1/3 of a mile from where I was born and raised in Kearsarge (2 miles noth of Calumet). Then it was just an abandoned waterfilled mine pit but after the war the mining company built a new shaft house and resumed copper mining operations. We used to ski and toboggan down the waste rock piles left from the original mining." thanks, Herb, for bailing ye' editor out of a You're in for a weekend pass. tight spot.



Officers from the 107th NG Bn recently attending the Engineer Officer Advanced Course at Fort Belvoir, VA. From left to right: Capt Kerry Denoo, 1st Lt Dwight Mikelson, Capt Tibor Lanczy, Capt Ron Nepper and Capt Dave Holmden. All are company commanders except Mikelson, the battalion's communications and electronics officer. WWII officers and men that took engineer training at Belvoir will be saddened to learn that this beautiful and historic post on the

banks of the Potomac River has been turned over to the Military District of Washington, the engineer castles are being removed and all future engineer courses will be taught at Fort Leonard Wood. (Picture and information from "Wolverine Guard" and U.S. Army Engineer Center).

MORE WWII HISTORY

A historical item from the "V Corps History" describes the events leading up to the capture of PARIS; quoted in part therefrom: "General (Leonard) Gerow, CO of V Corps, was directed to move without delay towards PARIS, and to enter the city immediately after the expiration of the Armistice. For this mission V Corps would use the 2nd French Armored Division, the 4th Infantry Division (detached from VII Corps), the 102nd Calvary Group and certain other elements of Corps troops." V Corps Field Order No. 21 dated 23 Aug 44 was issued which included this Order to March:

North Column

2nd French Armored Division (-1CC)

1 Troop, 102nd Calvary Gp

1121st Engr C Gp

112th Engr C Bn

146th Engr C Bn

254th Engr C Bn

996th Engr Trdwy Br Co

1 Plat, 610th Engr L Equip Co

1 Plat, 1501st Water Sup Co

After an unusual route march the mission was accomplished but still wonder how. Never saw so many immobilized, stuck and abandoned tanks, half-tracks and wheeled vehicles of all kinds since OMAHA BEACH during the hell-bent drive towards the city. Terrible drivers those Frenchies whose notoriously reckless driving skills was compounded by a long-suppressed burning desire to liberate France's flower city from the hated Hun. The 254 established a CP southwest of PARIS near CHEVREUSE 24-30 Aug and convoyed through the city on 31 Aug after the still rapidly retreating enemy.

ENGLISH HISTORIAN PLANS VISIT

An unexpected and most welcome trans-Atlantic phone call from our dedicated English historian and buddy, Sid Green, from his Gloucester home was a refreshing stimulus for some shackwhacky January doldrums especially when flavored with the wonderful news that he is definitely coming to the States this summer. His mailed follow-up provisional itinerary calls for landing at Boston on May 27th and meeting with Lauri Johnson (Co C 254), Gloucester, Mass. (no, not an error - both have Gloucester ad-

dresses). Next step is a sight-seeing tour enroute to Cleveland for the 112th Engineer Association reunion on June 3-4. After the Cleveland weekend he plans on traveling to Lower Michigan with Rans Blondo (Co F 107 Regt-112th Bn); then on to Grayling and a visit with Oliver Lowery (112th Bn) after which he heads northward for a week visit in the U.P. and get togethers with <u>Dick Wills</u> (Co D 107 Regt-Co B 254, ye' editor and others. Departure back to the United Kingdom is scheduled for June 17th out of Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. During his 3weeks here Sid expects to renew many 1943-44 friendships that blossomed between the young London-evacuated schoolboy and the Newquay based 1121/112/254 engineers then nervously marking time for the forthcoming invasion. Although regretably unable to remain Stateside long enough for our late July reunion, Sid already is planning another trip here which will definately be coordinated with one of our future And, hopefully real soon, Sid. reunions.

KESSLER to ELLRICH to CRAWFORD

How's about one more intriguing chain of events as a pointed reminder that there are still many ex-members of the old WWII outfits still unlocated. In fact sad to say the "Names Without Address" file is still just as big as the one headed "Names With Address." Lots of good men missing who are willing and eager to participate - if only they could be located and re-The magic words - reported in. ported in. This particular happy sequence is in the 107/ 522 ranks. Listen up! Bill Kessler got the ball rolling by sending Henry E. Ellrich's St. Ann, MO address with Andy Simonis to the Marquette reunion. Henry, long missing and last known to be from St. Louis, was promptly sent our get-acquainted mailing whereupon he enthusiastically responded with life membership dues and photocopies of many 1945 hand written addresses of ex-522 buddies which of course were carefully checked out against information on file. Pretty much routine with no surprises or new leads until we came to the name of Joffre G. Crawford, Blairsville, GA. The file card prepared from an old 20 Dec 45 roster listed this soldier as Joffee with home town as Detroit; a faint clue at best eventually proven to be yet another discouraging dead-end after George Farkas in 1967 unsuccessfully checked out the Detroit area phone directories for us. But, the Georgia lead was a glimmer of new hope even though now 43 years old - probably another blank wall but it had to be checked out all the same. The result - BINGO! This prompt response from Joffre: "I received your message this week and I'm glad to let you know I am still in Blairsville. I am greatly interested in a reunion and your newsletter. Thank you for contacting me and keep me informed. Please note my name and address correction." KESSLER to ELLRICH to CRAWFORD - sounds like a baseball play combination but we'll call it another helluva good job. Plus the always joyful duty of transferring another card into the active duty section.

HISTORY and NEWS COMBO

During the short period 1942-44 the T/O for combat engineer battalions designated the 4th squad of each platoon as a weapons squad. squad was T/E equipped with a half-track towing a 37 mm anti-tank gun and mounting 3 machine guns; an air-cooled .50 and 2 water cooled .30 caliber Brownings. Squad members carried M-l's and the squad sgt/half track commander a Thompson .45 caliber tommy gun. Half-track crew members were issued classy tanker jackets. pants, helmets, goggles, etc., that set them somewhat apart from the other envious platoon Obviously the squad's main function was to provide security for the platoon's work parties. The 3 skilled half-track drivers for Co D 107 Regt (redesignated Co B 107 Bn at Fort Dix, NJ) actually came out of the U.P. of Michigan and not Finland as one would suspect what with names like Aho, Salo and Wainio. A11 3 finished their ETO tour with the 254th (Salo & Aho in Co C and Wainio as a dozer operator in Co B) but without their treasured 8-ton armored playthings which fortunately were eliminated from the T/E before the invasion of France. Raymond C. Aho, a Mohawk, Mich. native, died in May 1975 in Lincoln Park, Mich. where he was in the TV business. John F. Wainio was killed in an underground iron ore mine accident in Ironwood, Mich. on 26 Apr 62. Albert M. Salo we are happy to report is currently enjoying retirement in Ironwood after a post-war career operating heavy equipment. Army trained again. Bert and wife, Marge, are front and center most years and for sure this year with the Ironwood armory being right in their own back yard. Same situation too for Plat Sgt Maurie S. Syrjala and 6x6 jockey, Eanar G. Johnson. Their old Co B 254 comrades have vowed they will track the two locals down if they don't check in. say you weren't warned Maurie and Eanar.

POINT SYSTEM FURTHER CLARIFIED

After the anticipated but still great news of Victory in Europe (VE) day on 14 May 45, everyone's thoughts immediately switched from those associated with the thrills and boredom of combat duty to the now electrifying possibility of actually going home - after $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of overseas service for many. But, who and when was the big immediate question. As summarized in the last newsletter the Army in all it's wisdom

devised the so-called Point System which proved to be a reasonably fair means to determine who was to go home and who was slated for more service time. But the system did contain some inequities; for instance a Purple Heart was worth the same 5 points whether for a minor shrapnel scratch or a wound much more serious. A major omission in Issue No. 31 was the fact that each child counted for 12 points. We believe the "B.S." report was accurate on everything else; campaigns and medals counted 5 points each and longevity and overseas service were each worth a point a month and 85 points were needed for the long-awaited order home. Anything less than 85 meant transfer to outfits scheduled for probably in outfits additionally more duty; needed for the invasion of Japan.

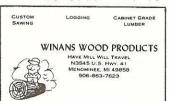
NATIONAL GUARD HISTORY

From the "30 Years Ago" local newspaper column: "The Ishpeming unit of the National Guard has set up temporary headquarters in Ishpeming after an early morning fire destroyed the armory on 31 Jan 59." Guard officers said the three story brick structure (former YMCA building) at Division and Pine streets is presumed a total loss according to Major Carleton Babb, battalion operations and training officer. juries were reported in the fire."..... same column, later date in same year: Leonard C. Ward (107 Regt-1121 Gp Hq), command ing officer of the 107th Engineer Battalion, announced plans for construction of a new armory in Ishpeming. The structure will cost an estimated half-million dollars and will be one of the largest National Guard armories in the Upper Peninsula. Construction is expected to begin as soon as the required 10-acre site has been determined." The new armory for Hq and Hq Co 107th was dedicated in 1961.

SHORT SNORTS

"Dear Fellow Veterans in the 107th Engr Assoc.: It is with regret that I inform you that I cannot join you at Marquette. I have just undergone another triple by-pass heart operation (second one in 9 years) which has resulted in some complications that are limiting my scope of operations. I enjoy the BULL SHEET and the memories it brings back. I remember well the time the compressor hose was placed in the hotel chimney in Newquay which blew soot all over the officer's mess of a British Air Force Officers command. From the fuss they made to us at 1121 Gp Hq we thought we had an international incident on our hands. However, we finally invited them over for a meal at our mess in the Barrowfield Hotel -and soon all was forgotten." Colonel Gerald E. "Jerry" Feidt (Ret) - (112th Engrs-Co E 107 Regt-1121 Gp Hq). Jerry's long military career began in 1931 with enlistment

in the 112th Engr Regt (Ohio NG) as a buck private. During the Group's ETO combat opera tions he is of course recalled as Lt Col Feidt. Exec Off of the 1121st. His various post-WWII war assignments took him to Ft. Leavenworth, Presidio of San Francisco, Okinawa, Pentagon, Ft. Leslie J. McNair, France, Germany, back again to the Pentagon and finally to Fort Belvoir where he retired on 30 Apr 65 with 34 years of service time.....from the Good News Dept: "I haven't received any mail for a long time. do miss receiving the BULL SHEET and hope that I amy receive some of the back issues if they are available. Please let me hear from you." Edward H. Hoornstra (Co C 254). Ed was an innocent roster casualty because of an unfortunate address mixup on his end now happily corrected because he took the effort to check out A letter of explanation and the situation. back issues were promptly dispatched resulting in an equally quick response from Clearwater, FL: "Yes I have retired from active employment with General Host Corp. although I still retain my various board memberships which lets me keep in touch. I also keep busy managing the family's real estate investments. Not all bad though: keeps me out of trouble." Also great news that he plans on breaking in a new camper on a trip back to the U.P. and for Ironwood's reunion. A successful post-war businessman/ corporate executive, the free-spirited soldier who entered active service with Co B 107 Regt out of Sault Ste. Marie thumb-nails his military career with the humerous but true analy-"Made corporal once but it was all down hill after that.".....Ed's is a classic case of losing people usually because of address changes so - if you don't get the annual April mailing give HQ a blast - with new address of course.....business card informs us about the



carefully engineered shifting of careers - retirement from full time N.G. employment to new civilian endeavors for Stephen G. Winans (Co D/HHC 107 NG Bn). Happy

participants of Menominee's 1982 reunion will respectfully recall Steve as the head honcho for that big do. Lots of success with the new venture, Steve. Want a hot tip? Figure out an emergency ration from sawdust and you'll have it made. But, has to be more palatable than the D's, C's, K's and 10-in-l's and the bully beef and biscuits of WWI fame....."Hi Ed: How is the world treating you. Hope OK. Here are my dues again. Sure enjoyed the last reunion - finally got to see Johnnie Kovachich our old top kick. Also Al Tomassetti for first time since 1945. Sure good to see those old fellows and the others after all these years. Hope to see you again soon. Good luck." Joe Clabots

(Co A/F 107 Regt-Plat Sgt Co B 254).....on cue in loud voice: "WHAT COLOR IS HORSESHIT?" Then the resounding response: "BROWN". That orchestrated drill announced the approaching presence of Gordon J. Brown to the platoon bivouac area - who usually bore it all with stoic indulgence. What else could he do? At Ishpeming in '76 Brownie was pre-spotted by Donald "Duke" Duquette who quietly snuck up behind the newly arrived registrant and hollered out in his commanding platoon sergeant's voice: "WHAT COLOR IS HORSESHIT?" Without even turning around, Brownie replied, "Duke you rotten SOB." An amazing automatic response even some 31 years To say that we were happy receiving this Seattle, WA report from Brownie is putting it mildly: "Hi gang: "Won't be able to attend Marquette's convention. Feeling pretty good: Was glad to get the BULL SHEET news message. I see a few of the gang has had last reveille. Please say hello to Ed Vickstrom and Duke Duq-Haven't heard from Wayne Ray (Grants Pass, Or) but got a Xmas card from William C. "Curt" Musten (Winston Salem, NC). See where L.V. Smith is in Pheonix. Well, hope you have a fine reunion. Maybe make it next year. Best of luck. I still think of the gang at times." Brownie's service dates back to the 107th Regt, Co E 112th Regt and Companies B and C of the 254 - as do the others mentioned..... "Here's a little item I had placed in the CHICAGO SUN-TIMES on 27 June 88 but no responses yet." The "254th Combat Engr. Battalion, notice read: July 29-31 in Marquette, Mich. John Martis 895-8164." But not so according to later report from Geno C. Cicero (Co A 254) after he did in fact see the newspaper notice which pleasantly surprised him learning that two ex-254 GI's lived so close to one another in IL. Geno also tells us that <u>Vernon W. Moore</u> (Co A 254), a Devizes, England replacement, lives nearby in Elgin, IL too. Good job, good promotion and many thanks, John, a Co C 254 vet and a perennial reunion participant. Although on the active Association roster since 1962, Geno reports he has been unable to make a reunion because of a sick wife "Again this year we are unable to attend the reunion. of these days again. Our health is good so Enclosed is our check for maybe next year. dues and some extra. Hope you all have a great time. Say hello to our old friends." Clarence J. "Buck" Forsythe (Co A 254) as written by his wife, Helen. Understand the old Newquay replacement is still active in his trade keeping the rust off his carpenter tools in the Boonton NJ area. They have earned several reunion ribbons the last being the 1981 decoration so would guess you are about due again ol' friendsfor some mysterious reason Marquette's registrations tailed off somewhat from the peak '86 and '87 mobilizations recorded by Ishpeming

and Gladstone but for sure there was no dimishing of the usual enthusiasm, good-will and camaraderie. Many thanks and much appreciation to ex- President Thomas G. Beard and his crew. Working under the unexpected handicap of a midpresidential term transfer as a full-time person in the 107th to a similar position with the 1075th Maintenance Co. Tom noneheless took it all in stride and dispatched his Association responsibilities in fine fashion. A charge requiring time, talent and dedicated effort received with grateful appreciation. But maybe sad to say the last time we'll be able to schedule maneuvers in the Marquette armory......



a mite tattered even though long ago reverently encased in plastic, somewhat faded but understandably so because it's made 26 of 27 reunions of record with it's proudful owner, Oral J. "Moose" LaCombe (Co C 107 Regt WWI). appropriate indeed that the No. 1 membership card was respectfully issued to our No. 1 Association president; who also just happen to be a No. 1 gentleman and No. 1 Association supporter, Next membership card up for issue at press time is No. 5278 which tells us that a lot of water has gone over the dam since the issuance of the historically significant No. 1 card to "Moose" covering the Association's first membership year - 1962.....great and most welcome response from the now Colonel Sanford F. Hall, Army reserve, a 2nd Bn 112th regimental officer replacement in Devizes who informs us: "I am partly retired from the Sanford F. Hall Agency, Inc. (insurance), Farmington, CT. Sorry I can't make the reunion - perhaps another year." Capt Hall commanded Co A 254 at war's end at which time the east-bound 254, newly assigned to Gen Patton's THIRD ARMY, met units of the westbound Russian Army in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. Recall that the Soviets were mostly Mongolians outfitted in a hodgepodge mix of civilian/military clothing - equipped with hard used American made Studabakker 6x6 trucks....mid-way through a Fall auto jaunt along the scenic Mississippi River route ye' editor was fortunate in catching Allen M. Caya (107 Regt-Co B/H&S 254)

at his Potosi, WI home. Al is batching it after losing his Enniskillen, Ireland wife, Pat, but is fittin' trim and busy in railroad retirement trot-lining cat fish on the mighty Mississip and digging ginseng roots when he gets tired of fishing. Also plans on making Ironwood with his old buddy, Warren L. "Marty" Romain (107 Regt-Co B 254).....happy S-2 Section types reunited at Marquette rehasing combat intelligence experiences some 43 years after the fact. Brig Gen Leonard C. Ward (Ret),



a veteran Escanaba 107th regimental officer who made the ETO "expense paid" combat tour as the S-2 for 1121st Engr Gp Hq, is flanked on his left by Capt Murray H. Cunningham, a Co A 112th officer whose skills were transferred to the 254th as Bn S-2 in England. Ed Vickstrom, the 254 Intel Sgt/Asst S-2, is on the general's right. Len was accompanied by his lovely daughter for shared driving during the long haul from McLean, VA. Murray and charming wife, Hannah, coordinated their first reunion experience with an extensive auto trip to Alaska and points in between — including Marquette on way back to their Metairie, LA home....another S-2



Section 254 vet is Recon Sgt Louis S. Barraza making the long recon trip from Bakersfield, CA for the second year running after finally being located in 1986. Interestingly (now) both Captain Cunningham and Sgt Barraza when leaving the 254 in Germany had 3-year old sons that they had never seen because of being overseas so long.....

the military never changes - it still finds ways to transfer good men out. Now it's our veteran Association Historian, Maj Frederick

Stonehouse who in late 1988 was transferred from the 107th to a S-3 staff position with the 46th Engr Gp Hq... He is succeeded as Bn Exec Off by Maj Henry W. Knoch who we are pleased to report is yet another in a long line of Association oriented supporters from the 107 ranks... ... "Sorry we missed the last harrah. busy building and time got away. We've moved from Phoenix, AZ and are now located at this new address in Bellaire, MI. Will try to see you next year." L.V. Smith (Co D 107 Regt-Co B & C 254). Great having you back in the Wolverine State, Smitty, and not so far distant for future reunion duty.....happy to send Col Erwin "Bud" Pond (Ret) a copy of our Association Constitution and By-laws which he indicated will assist him in his newly assigned Regimental Historian responsibilities for the 246th Armor Regiment's newly organized association. "Bud" was an infantry transferee at Camp Livingston, landed in Belfast, N. Ireland on 3 March 42 with Co B 107th Engr Bn subsequently leaving the 107th in Ulster for OCA training. We are not knowledgeable about his commissioned wartime service but, as reported in Issue No. 14, "Bud" retired from the Michigan NG in 1971 as a full bird colonel item for the Camp Beauregard vets where the 32nd Division/107th Regiment first holed-up after Federal Induction on 15 Oct 40 and all rail movement from Mich. & Wis. home stations. Someone informed ye' editor that the old Regular Army post is still operating - mainly as an Advanced NCO School. No fond memories though of the slippery, sticky red clay or the always present fire hazard to the pyramidal tents (w/o frame & floor) from the red-hot Civil War vintage Sibley stoves. Man. how that pitch-filled Southern pine would burn in the conical Sibleys - and belch smoke and Damn cold in tents during the 1940-41 winter months in Louisiana.....a pleasurable, unexpected arrival for his first reunion out of Columbus, Chio was Winston H. Duckworth, a Co E officer who separated from the 107th at Fort Dix, NJ. And many thanks for great job of duplicating some important Association records for us, Winston....informed that Army National Guard Pvt Jason T. Beard has completed basic training. He is the son of Thomas G. Beard, Jr. (HHC 107 NG Bn) and grandson of the late Thomas G. Beard (Co D 107 Regt). A three generation jobber this to satisfy many inquiries about Joseph and Dolores Battaglia (1121 Gp Hq) obviously missed in '87 and '88 after their perfect reunion attendance record 1973-1986, Joe's words of last July: "I held off sending this hoping to make the trip. I have been off since May 1987; had surgery in June 1987 and was recuperating slowly. Two weeks ago I had a set back and am back where I started from. not sit - must stand, walk or lay down. ·lieve me my wife and I both miss making our

annual visit to the U.P. and visiting with all you good people. Give our best to all our dear friends. And keep me posted what goes on." Let's hope the medics spring you for Ironwood duty, Joe - you've been missed.....a 254 work party, all Co C except as noted, enjoying a breath of refreshing Lake Superior air at Marquette between exhausting "duties" - look like KP's, eh? Identified from left to right are:



Robert K. "Mac" McGuire, John M. Riley (Co B), Edwin R. "Hutch" Hutchens, bashful Phillip A. LaMancusa in background, Burdette R. Hayner (Co B/H&S), Keith R. "Red" Manley and Freeling With a "Lake Superior cocktail" in hand, no doubt ISHPEMING. Glance at the tongue-twisting letters and you'd swear someone goofed up on the spelling after a calvados doubler. Not so because it is a real American Indian word meaning "high ground." The "Hematite City" is also the home of the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame which was opened in 1954..... Good Conduct Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster awarded to Bennett K. Donglinger (107 Regt-522d) for his 6 consecutive reunions (1983-88) all the way from distant home in Darien, CT....post -Marquette reunion report from Albert "Al" Tomassetti (Co B 254), Louisville, KY: "First let me say that I really enjoyed being with you all - what a wonderful experience! I had a pleasant 12 hour drive home and the weather was Here's some pictures which I am also shring with Joe Clabots, Johnnie Kovachich and On Aug. 1st I called our old company others. commander, Capt Ames T. Minor at his Bethlehem, CT home. He sounded very good - said that when John Riley called him earlier he was a bit under the weather but is feeling much better now as good as can be expected for age 81. I plan to be in Ironwood in '89 and already told my wife, Lola, to plan accordingly "I really enjoy the BULL SHEET. It is greatly appreciated even though many of us fail to convey our thanks. I see Elmer Borrusch quite often - we were employed by the same company. Made the

'72 reunion and hope to make my second one soon. Would like to make the 112th reunion in Cleveland sometime too. Once again many thanks for the "B.S." and all your hard work. Nason F. Smith (Co A/H&S 107 Regt-H&S 112-1121 Gp Hq)report from Frank H. McGinnis (Co C 254), a Devizes recruit, with dues, requisition for a 254th license plate, a new address and last but certainly not least his expressed enjoyment of

his favorite reading being of course the BULL SHEET. "Mack", now 71, informs us that he feels good and is "I surely would like to doing OK. get to one of the reunions but it just doesn't seem to happen. By the time I get to see all my family, I'm pooped." He is holed up in Pequea, PA. Also reports that he talked to William H. Masters (H&S 254-1121 Gp Hq) a few years back.....brought up during the 1988 Association Business Meeting - many are unaware that life memberships are available for \$35.00 and this fact should be so mentioned in the next newsletter. Consider yourself so informed - but more fun having blokes check in every year

for keeping in touch purposes, etc. etc..... made a number of reunions but unfortunately none since 1981 due to sickness but continues to check in faithfully every year. Last report tells us he retired as the postmaster for Mohawk, Mich. on 1 Mar 88. Clement J. Cassette (Co E 107 Regt-H&S 254)...."Please send me a "The History of the 107th Engineering Battalion 1881-1981.' I had one but it has been mislaid someplace. If you see Joe Clabots tell him hello for me. He was the BEST." Birney (Co B 254) most welcome report from ex-Association treasurer: "Enclosed check to bring dues up to date and some extra for the Too much going on in July to make the kitty. 1988 reunion. 100th anniversary in Chassell my home town) and also Dollar Bay where I was postmaster until retirement. Plus have to check in at hospital for follow up on malignant tumor removed last year, but so far A-OK. Say hi to everyone." Francis "Don" Morin (Co E 107 Regt-Co C 254)...."I enjoyed reading the History of the 522nd Engr Co; brings back all the memories, how we bitched, etc." Vorel (107 Regt-522d)....."Was transferred to the 128th Infantry when the 107th pulled out of Camp Livingston for Fort Dix. Went to Australis with the 32d Div in May 1942; then to New Guinea where I was wounded; back to Australia to convalesce; then volunteered to go to Burma with Merrills Marauders. Last time in the Last time in the Copper Country was for Lake Linden's class reunion. Still remember some names up there -Clem Cassette, Clyde Johnson and Ed Clouthier. Understand that Ed transferred from Co F 107 to

the airforce and dropped supplies to us in Burma as a C-47 pilot." Russell J. DeMars (Co F 107 Regt)....."I came in 1987 for the first Was just getting over knee surgery. This year going through same thing but won't be walking yet at reunion time; will have two Wish I could be there; ennew knee joints. joyed last year a lot." Carl F. Fischer (107 Regt-522).....a 1937-1940 vet whose enlistment happened to be up when the 107th was Federally mustered on 15 Oct 40 went back in in 1943 earning 5 battle stars from ETO tour 11 June 44 to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. He also coincidentally trained in Cornwall, England same time as John R. Vertin (Co A 107 the 254 was there. In order to eliminate confusion in some minds/records John reminds us that the 1st Bn 107th was reactivated in 1937 with units receiving Federal recognition as follows: Head quarters, First Battalion, Detroit, April 26, 1937; Company A, Calumet, April 26, 1937; Company B, Sault Ste. Marie, April 5, 1937; and Company C, Detroit, April 19, 1937. The Medical Detachment was Federally recognized in Calumet, June 13, 1938, and Headquarters & Service Company (less Band Section), Detroit, May 4, When the Second Battalion was organized in 1939 and 1940 Calumet lost it's Company A designation to the new company formed in Escan-Calumet in turn got Companies E and F. "Keep up the good work, Vick. I had lots of respect for you, Jimmie Steele, Ralph Soper, Orv Malone, Cliff Densmore, Eddie Krueger, Col Jenkins, Capt Cunningham and several others in Hq and H&S 254." Orveil A. Young, Jr. (mas-Orveil A. Young, Jr. (master carpenter in H&S/Co C 254), Appleton City, MO.....a disappointing but enlightening post-"Sorry we didn't make it to reunion report: Marquette. We had good intentions. We left home (in Monona, WI) on Thursday a.m. to stay in Green Bay where my ulcer started kicking up. You really shouldn't have them after you re-Besides it got hotter than haddes and I can't take much heat after my first heart attack in May. Will plan on making it next year though." Harvey Cole (1st Sgt Co C 254)..... on last year's reunion return slip one item was revised slightly to read: "I left the 107/112 254/522 at ___ __because_ Lots of new poop and some very interesting comments resulted. Some space remains for a few "Camp Livingston, La. because I atof them; tended Engineer officer candidate school at Ft. Belvoir, VA." Lt Col Nelson C. Baker (Ret) (Co B 107 Regt-1st Armd Div.)...."Ishpeming because getting old." Harold L. Barber (Co B/HHC NG Bn)...."Belgium because was given 30 day R & R leave in Feb. '45. Was still in States when ETO war ended and was discharged." Thomas "Butah" Bardowski (Co A 107 Regt/Co A 254)..... "Calumet 1964 because went on active duty. Returned to Co A Calumet in 1974 up to present."

Don Bausano (Co A NG Bn)....."At Camp Livingston because of being overage (over 29)" Edward Molaski (Co D 107 Regt) "Camp Livingston in 1942 because I was assigned to OCS at Ft. Benning, GA. Truth is, I was on leave when the 107th moved suddenly to Ft. Dix. When I returned they were gone and I was in the infantry. Hell of a note, eh?" Paul C. Rapp (Co B 107).. "Gladstone, Mich. because of retirement in 1981 with 34 years (1SG) ." Robert W. Miller Co C NG Bn)...."Devizes, England because was transferred to 112th Bn." Wesley N. Moilanen (Med Det 107 Regt-112 Bn)....."Fort Dix 15 Jan 42 because was hospitalized there due to injuries." Stanley Moloney (Co B 107)...... "Saunton Sands, England because land mine device exploded sending me to hospital." Luca J. "Luke" Valerio (Co B 107-Co B 254)...."Marquette in 1959 because I wish I knew. I've been kicking myself ever since." William C. "Mickey" Frazier (Co B 107 NG Bn)...."Saunton Sands, England because of hospitalization." Clarence A. Zastrow (107 Regt-Co B 254)....."Aachen, Germany in 1944 because I was wounded by a V-1 Buzz Bomb'." Charles R. Sheehan (H&S 254..... "When Bn moved to Newquay because I got transferred to Ass't. G-3, V Corps." Maj Thomas S. Nurnberger (Co B 107 Regt-Hq 254)...."Devizes, England in late 1943 because transferred to Engr Section HQ V Corps." Joined NG unit at Cadillac, Mich. in '54 and completed 16 years to make a total of 20 and a military pension." Harold C. Smith (Co B 107 Regt-Co E 112 Regt) .. "Belfast, Ireland in order to join the British Commandos - later led to formation of Darby's Rangers where I was Force Demolition Officer." Frederick J. Saam (Co E 107 Regt)....."Camp Lucky Strike, France because end of war and I had sufficient points." Henry "George" Ladd (Co A 254)..... "Siegfried Line, Germany because of wounds from mortar shell." <u>Leo P. Schiltz</u> (Co C 254).....Issue No. 32 because

OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AT MARQUETTE REUNION

eyeballs shot to hell. Editor.

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