



April 1996



Issue No. 39

The "BULL SHEET"

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107th Engineer Association
900 Palms Avenue
Ishpeming, MI 49849

Calumet in 96'

The 107th Engineer Reunion has gone full circle once again and landed in beautiful, historic Calumet. The 35th reunion will take place August 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Company A plans to insure the 35th 107th Engineer reunion will be one you won't soon forget.

Friday afternoon can be spent renewing old acquaintances and viewing the display of 107th history in the halls of the armory. We have requested the States Historic Flags Display, very interesting and informative, for the weekend. Our guard equipment will be presented in a different manner, not just the old green trucks. Friday evening there will be a social gathering. Complimentary finger food will be available and AST Sound and Lighting will play the music from 8 PM till midnight..

Dawn an Saturday will bring light to a very eventful day. Golfers will assemble at the Calumet Golf Club at 0730 for a 4 person 9-hole scramble. Contact SGT McCormick for details. Breakfast of eggs to order, SOS, hash browns and sausage will be available starting at 0700 till 0900 for \$2.50.

A parade to commemorate the 115th anniversary of the Federal recognition of the Calumet Light Guard, the beginning of our battalion, starts at 1000 hrs. We will have bands, Guard equipment, troops, floats and color guards. Company A would like to take this opportunity to challenge other Battalion units or group of association members to beat our float. The theme for floats (no equipment displays) is "military history", prizes are \$150 for first and \$75 for second.

We have asked all the area Veterans organizations to send their color guards to participate. We have invited all past Battalion Commanders to be parade marshals, invited local and military dignitaries

to be parade judges and will have a special Honored guest.

The parade will end at the overgrown Hecla Cemetery where PVT Joseph Harmes, the first member of the Battalion to die on federal duty is buried, for a special memorial service. In addition to saluting our departed comrades, Co A will pledge perpetual care to the grave site of PVT Harmes.

After the memorial service we will break for a nice lunch of spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, cold cuts or pasties to order (can be eaten there or taken home, must be ordered Friday). The the annual business meeting will be at 1400 hrs. Col (Ret) Henry P. Ilenich will be conducting a bus tour of historic Calumet, as only "Hank" can do, or we have bingo and other events planned for those not attending the business meeting.

The formal Banquet will start with cocktails at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM sharp. We invited our retired cooks to come back and help SFC Sullivan and SGT Jarve prepare the meal, we got an enthusiastic "yes" from all. The menu will be sirloin tips, mash potatoes, gravy, rolls, salad and cake for \$10.00. Dinner will be followed by a short program and music from 9 PM to 1 AM

Sunday morning will have breakfast (same menu as Saturday) and the engineers favorite drink available (a red drink with celery).

Our goal is to have maximum enjoyment, renew old acquaintances and make new ones. I promise short speeches and long hours of socializing. See you in August!!!!

Donald J. Bussiere
DONALD J. BUSSIERE
1SG MI ARNG
Reunion President

* * * * *
 * * T A P S * *
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MONTHS OF JUNE & JULY 1944 - NORMANDY BEACHHEAD

- * * * * *
 * ALTWASSER, Gordon (C 254), Chicago, IL *
 * BAZANT, Stanley (107 R-C 254), Warren, MI *
 * BOND, Arlan F. (B 254), Alexandria, VA *
 * BONENFANT, Robert P. (E 107 R), Detroit, MI *
 * BROW, Alfred H. (H&S 107 R -1121 Gp Hq), *
 * Rochester Hills, MI *
 * CIOCHETTO, Charles (B 107 R), Seaford, NY *
 * COSELLA, Michael J. (A 254), Ardmore, PA *
 * COTTENHAM, Edward G. (D 107 R-B 254), Fern- *
 * dale, MI *
 * FORMOLO, Elvio P. (D NG Bn), Iron Mtn., MI *
 * GRENDZIAK, Jerry (B 107 NG Bn), Ironwood, MI *
 * LA MANCUSA, Phillip (C 254), Tonawanda, NY *
 * LEONARD, John D. (A 254), Lexington, NC *
 * LIDEY, Fred A. (B 107 R WWI), Livonia, MI *
 * MOON, Murray G. (D 107 R-C 254) Marquet., MI *
 * OLSON, Allan F. (D 107 R-112 R-121 E. Bn - *
 * 1110 Gp Hq), Marquette, MI *
 * SAAM, Frederick J. (E 107 R-A 107 Bn- Dar- *
 * by's Rangers), Santa Maria, CA *
 * SANCHEZ, Leonard J. (F 107 R-B 254), Iver- *
 * ness, FL *
 * SHUNK, Gordon W. (Band 107 R), Soo, MI *
 * SNAPP, Henry R. (B 254), Greeneville, TN *
 * SPENCER, James (A 107 R), Quinnesec, MI *
 * SWANTON, Willis C. (H&S 107 R), Chelsea, MI *
 * SWITZER, Comelo A. (A 107 R-A 254), Besse- *
 * mer, MI *
 * WALDRON, George W. (C 254), Soquel, CA *
 * WILCOX, Woodrow F. (B 107 R-522) Seattle, WA *
 * WILKINSON, Lyle (107 R-522) Perrinton, MI *
 *
 * Day is done, gone the sun, from the lake *
 * from the hill, from the sky, All is well *
 * safely rest, God is nigh. Thanks and praise *
 * for our days, 'neath the sun, 'neath the *
 * stars, 'neath the sky, As we go, this we *
 * know, God is nigh. *
 * * * * *

ROSTER ADDITIONS

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

- Col (Ret) Jose L. "Ray" Ramos (A/B/H&S 254),
 5476 Quail Meadows Dr., Carmel CA 93923
 (**himself**); Charles Erickson (B 107 NG
 Bn), 507 W. "F" St., Iron Mountain, MI 49801
 (**himself**); Joseph E. L'Huillier (B 107
 NG Bn, 1700 Altamont St., Marquette, MI 49855
 (**Robert Frazier**); Clyde C. Bastion (E 107
 R), 25230 Schoolcraft Rd., Redford, MI 48239
 (**Herbert Bastion**); Melvin L. Makela (Co B
 107 NG Bn), 7437 N. Paseo Ronceval, Tuscon, AZ
 85704 (**himself/Iron River armory**)

In the last BULL SHEET we departed from English ports of FALMOUTH, SOUTHAMPTON and PLYMOUTH on 5-7 June for bouncy Channel crossings terminated on OMAHA BEACH some 24 hours later. That issue was further favored with General Leonard Ward's 50th Anniversary of D-day reports which capsuled the assault operations of the 112th & 146th Engr Bns and the 254th ensuing bridging missions, all 3 battalions assigned to the 1121st Engr Group, Col Robert K. McDonough, Commanding. The divided 254th landed at various times, 6-8 June, on DOG RED (maybe some on DOG WHITE, DOG GREEN, EASY GREEN) one of 4 beach zones designated for the 29th Inf Div. Excepting Co A's first platoon, most or all made their journeys in LSTs commanded by ratings or junior officers from the US Navy or British Royal Navy, who mentally had to carry their own lonely command burdens along with their craft's cargo of men, equipment, vehicles or supplies. Of a certainty, each 686 Snortin' Buller could thereafter relate 686 private reckonings about his crossing/landing experience, some eventful, some not. However, every man shared equally the physical discomfort and the mental concern about the immediate future. As one would surmise, it took some doing before the dispersed companies, smaller units and even individuals, could assemble a short ways inland as an operational battalion pointed towards it's pre-invasion assigned bridge missions. Typical was the experience of "Lone Ranger" Richard "Dick" Wills (D 107 R-B 254) landing at night without the foggiest whereto with his command car. So, he sensibly holed up under cover until daybreak when Capt Ames T. Minor (CO Co B) tracked him down being in dire need of his wheels for company administration and bridge recon purposes. The opening and very first war zone entry in the battalion's OPERATIONAL JOURNAL posted at 2000 hours reads simply: "Bn less Co B in area 652908, 8 Jun." This first Bn Hq command post (CP) at those map coordinates was operational for only two days, 8-10 June. The only other entry for 8 June recorded at 2400 hours reads: "Source - ADE; Detector set report to G-3, 2d Div - reported back unable to find G-3; Action taken - Co C." An entry no doubt reflective of the unsettled beachhead situation which was gradually being sorted out. During the 71 days within the liberated area of the department of CALVADOS, Bn Hq operated out of 13 CPs before moving out after the long-awaited breakout, code named COBRA. The dates of the mostly "short term" CPs were: 8-10 June, 10-11 June, 11-22 June, 22-25 June, 25 June-17 July, 17-19 July, 19-30 July, 30 July-1 Aug, 1-4 Aug, 4-11 Aug, 11-13 Aug, 13-15 Aug and lastly 15-18 Aug.

Then 2 widely spaced bivouacs before the 24-30 Aug memorable camp near PARIS whereat the Bn reconned key SEINE RIVER bridges before again wheeling out towards BELGIUM. The line company CPs did not always coincide with those of Bn Hq. If only we possessed the 254th company rosters from which we could identify and recognize each of the 686 men making the move, ENGLAND-FRANCE. Ironically, we've acquired the 112th Engr Bn company rosters as of 31 May 44 (a week before D-day) thanks to a super and cooperative effort graciously extended our way by George I. Smith (C 112-WIA D-day), New Port Richey, FL. To temper this ungood situation just a wee bit, we've reconstructed, say again reconstructed, the following roster of officers who "took" the 254th to NORMANDY. Though quite sure there's a few holes in it, now is the strategic time/place to tie this information in with whats being blanketed in this issue. Achtung - the names/assignments are for the period 5-8 June 1944. Some will for sure identify with other "before or after" brass or maybe question certain line company placements as written. Good thinking - now convince ye' editor where the error lies. Be informed, however, that the Hq and Hq Co names and assignments are locked in being 100% correct. Hopefully. The roster was methodically pieced together from memory, key input from Ted Benning on Co B, Sanford Hall on Co A, and other salvaged bits and pieces of info from unrecalled men/sources over time. Per usual - corrective and/or other comments about the roster will be greatly appreciated. Here goes.

HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE COMPANY TO NORMANDY

Bn CO - Lt Col Loren W. Jenkins - Mich NG 107th Off, 1940; Bn CO to end of war; TAPS 1956
 Bn Exec O - Maj Cecil F. Clark - Mich NG 107th Off, 1940; Bn CO 146th Engr Bn, 1 Nov 44; TAPS 1981
 Co CO - Capt Richard B. Bailey - Res O 112th R, 1941; CO Co C 254, Jan 45; TAPS 1992
 S-1 & Adjutant - 1st Lt Judson C. Schuler - joined 112th R, Devizes, Eng, June 43; Capt & S-1, 1121 Gp Hq, Dec 44
 S-2 - Capt Murray H. Cunningham - Res O 112th R, 1941; US leave, Mar 45 & did not return
 S-3 - Capt Charles E. Howard - Res O asgd 107th R, Camp Livingston, Feb 41; major & S-3 1121 Gp Hq, Aug 44 to end of war; TAPS 1993
 S-4 - Capt Fithian S. Faries - joined 112th R, Devizes, Eng, June 43; S-4 to end of war; TAPS 1979
 ADE (Asst Div Engr) - Capt William W. Bainbridge - joined 254 from 342d Engr Regt (GS), Saunton Sands, Eng, Oct 43; CO H&S Co, 12 Jan 45; UNLOCATED
 Bn Mtr Off - 1st Lt Dominick V. Rubeo - joined 112 R, Devizes, Eng, June 43; asgd Mtr O 1121 Gp Hq near end or after VE Day

Recon Off - none asgd; S/Sgt Louis S. Barraza, NCO in charge of section reported direct to S-2, Capt Cunningham
 Asst S-2 & Liaison Off - 1st Lt Luverne C. Patterson - from 10th Repl Dep to 254, Saunton Sands, Eng, June 43; asgd Plt Ldr 146th Engr Bn, France, Sept 44
 Asst S-3 - 1st Lt Dick Wiken - from 10th Repl Dept to 254, Newquay, Eng, Dec 43; asgd Plt Ldr, 1st Plt Co A 112th Engr Bn, France, Sep 44; TAPS 1985
 Bn Maint Off - WO Donald J. Fournier - Mich NG M/Sgt, H&S 107th R (Detroit), 1937; 254th Main Off to end of war; TAPS 1978
 Bn Supply Off - WO Ulrich W. Schiefer - Ohio NG, H&S 112th R; asgd 254, Saunton Sands, Eng, 19 Aug 43; Bn Supp O to end of war; TAPS 1983
 Bn Personnel Off - WO Joseph A. Censabella - joined 254, Newquay, Eng, Feb 44; Bn Pers Off to end of war

COMPANY A TO NORMANDY

Capt Jesse D. Kelsay - CO; M/Sgt in RA 1930s; 1st Lt asgd 107th Bn, N. Ireland, 1942; S-3 France, Aug 44; Bn Exec O 254, 1 Nov 44 to end of war
 1st Lt Allison B. Ware - Plt Ldr 1st Plt; from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Oct 43; CO Security Force for V Corps Hq, D-day; Capt & CO Co A, Aug 44; WIA & evacuated, Wallendorf, Luxembourg, Sept 44; TAPS early 1980s
 2nd Lt John B. Davis - Plt Ldr; from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Oct 43; KIA at Wallendorf, Luxembourg, Sept 44
 2nd Lt Michael J. Cosella - Plt Ldr or Co Exec O; from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Oct 43; Plt Ldr to end of war; TAPS 1960s
 2nd Lt Donald G. Webb - Plt Ldr, 2nd Plt; joined 112th Bn, Newquay, Eng, Oct 43 there trfd to 254th; Plt Ldr to end of war
 1st Lt Sanford F. Hall - Plt Ldr 3rd Plt; joined 112th Regt, Devizes, Eng, June 43; Capt & CO Co A, Sep 44 to end of war
 1st Lt Harry A. Fullington - Co Exec O (?); believed joined 112th Regt, Devizes, Eng, June 43 & trfd to 254th at Saunton Sands, Eng; in Co A to end of war; UNLOCATED

COMPANY B TO NORMANDY

Capt Ames T. Minor - CO; from 121st Engr Bn, 29th Inf Div to 112th Regt as 2nd Lt, Devizes, Eng, Apr 43; Co CO to end of war
 1st Lt Herbert W. Tompkins - Co Exec O; Virginia NG 1930s; joined 112th Regt, Devizes, Eng June 43; Bn Recon O, France, Aug 44; S-2 Mar 45 to end of war
 2nd Lt Jose L. Ramos - Plt Ldr 2nd Plt; from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Oct 43; Hq Plt Co A where/when (?); H&S asgmt after V/E Day

- 2nd Lt Arlan F. Bond - Plt Ldr 1st Plt; from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Oct 43; to end of war; TAPS 1995
- 2nd Lt Theodore R. Benning - Plt Ldr 3rd Plt; from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Oct 43; WIA & evacuated St. Lo, France; rejoined Bn later; Plt to end of war
- 2nd Lt Eugene J. Faber - Plt Ldr Hq Plt (?); from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Nov 43; trfd to 1121 Gp Hq on ? ; TAPS 1986

COMPANY C TO NORMANDY

- Capt Reginald R. Fairfax - CO; 2nd Lt from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Oct 43; CO H&S Co, Jan 45; Prov Govt Mil Police Force, V Corps Hq, 12 Jan 45; TAPS around 1980
- 1st Lt George N. Anderson, Jr - Plt Ldr 2nd Plt; asgd 112th Bn then to 254th, Saunton Sands, Eng, Sep 43; POW Battle of Bulge (Bullingen); released from POW Camp by THIRD ARMY early 1945; UNLOCATED
- 1st Lt Adolph A. Silberman - Plt Ldr Hq Plt; from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Dec 43; to end of war; UNLOCATED
- 2nd Lt Norman C. Watkins - Plt Ldr; from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Oct 43; KIA, St. Lo, France, July 44; interred in Normandy Amer. Military Cemetery, I-20-16
- 1st Lt Frank L. Adams, Jr. - Plt Ldr; from Hq V Corps, Newquay, Eng, Oct 43; KIA, St. Lo, France, July 44
- 1st Lt Sam F. Pomerantz - Plt Ldr; from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Nov 44; trfd to 10th Repl Dep, Belgium, 5 Nov 44; UNLOCATED
- 1st Lt Edwin F. Shaffer - 3rd Plt Ldr; from 10th Repl Dep, Newquay, Eng, Oct 43; Bn Adjutant Jan 45; Bn Recon O, Feb 45 to end of war

MEDICAL DETACHMENT TO NORMANDY

- Capt Arthur E. Hirshorn - Bn Surgeon; from 112th Reg, Saunton Sands, Eng, 19 Aug 43; to Base Hosp from German (Rhine River), Mar 45;
- Capt Thomas K. Boyd - Bn Dentist; joined at Newquay, Eng, Jan 44; to end of war; TAPS 78

No doubt some wisenheimer will count 33 names - one more than the 32 (discounting 3 WOs) tabulated in the BATTALION HISTORY, MONTH OF JUN 1944, hereinafter reproduced from it's original form. The extra man might be Lt Fullington in Co A, whose complete record still eludes the company clerk. And the 7 targeted for Charlie Co creates a puzzling TO & E excess of one man there. But who? And are there other wrong inter-company placements? Another elusive loose end is Lt Faber who's been arbitarily plugged into Co B after coming up one short in Baker Co. Some will remember Faber conducting pre-invasion French lessons for the off-duty eager beavers in Newquay. His transfer to 1121 Gp Hq

somewheres in France is verified - but from what 254th slot? Ye' editor at first entertained big ideas of working up ENGLAND-FRANCE rosters down to and including squad level buck sergeants, but that early on was reluctantly scuttled as an overly ambitious pipe dream. For this issue at least. The officer roster alone was challenge enough, thank you. The reproduced 254 document (see pages 5, 6 & 7) mentioned above definitely needs no second-hand comment. But it does warrant the attentive scrutiny and avid interest of our readers, WWII vets and NGs past and present. This historical treasure was requisitioned from the National Archives (more about that later on, space permitting). Now these many years later nothing and no one can tell the June 1944 story any more factually than this document does. Read, enjoy and may our NORMANDY survivors relive those days with memories good, bad, dormant or blank. And for a few, we've come to learn and have been so informed, a time totally blacked out for reason(s) only known to the individual. Sad! More about Par. k - "See attached photographs." Sorry about need to flip pages. The Archives sent us 14 duplications of photographs which, as Par. k indicates, accompanied the BN HISTORY forward. The reproductions received become progressively poorer via yet another copying process, but all the same we're pushing through a couple because of their relevancy to the events/missions before us. Some of the bridge pictures are in the WWII Section of "The History of the 107th Engineering Battalion, 1881-1981" by LTC Frederick Stonehouse, which is still obtainable at reunions and for 6 bucks a copy, mailed. This first one



hazily captures the battalion's first Continental awards ceremony. The appropriate medal presenter is the easily identifiable Bn CO, Lt Col

~~SECRET~~

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

BATTALION HISTORY

MONTH OF JUNE 1944

AR 345-105 states: "The history will be kept in the following form, authority for each statement being cited."

Paragraph numbers as shown below are those found in AR 345-105.

13. a. ORIGINAL UNIT: - No Change

b. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION - None

c. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
(1) Beginning of Period:	32	3	651
(2) Net Increase:	2	0	29
(3) Net Decrease:	0	0	5
(4) At end of Period:	34	3	675

d. STATIONS (EITHER PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY) OR UNIT OR PARTS THEREOF:

- Hq WADEBRIDGE, CORNWALL, ENGLAND; Marshalling Area; NORMANDY BEACH, FRANCE.
- H&S Co WADEBRIDGE, CORNWALL, ENGLAND; Marshalling Area; NORMANDY BEACH, FRANCE.
- Co A WADEBRIDGE, CORNWALL, ENGLAND; Marshalling Area; NORMANDY BEACH, FRANCE.
- Co B Marshalling Area; NORMANDY BEACH, FRANCE.
- Co C Marshalling Area; NORMANDY BEACH, FRANCE.
- Med Det WADEBRIDGE, CORNWALL, ENGLAND; Marshalling Area; NORMANDY BEACH, FRANCE.

e. MARCHES: - None

f. CAMPAIGNS: - None

g. BATTLES: - (Narrative Account)

This battalion was not in direct contact with the enemy during the month of June. From the time of our initial landing on 8 June 1944 the majority of the work consisted of general combat engineer construction. Numerous roads were maintained, water points installed, obstacles demolished, craters filled, roads cleared of debris and mines removed. There were other assignments, however, which were particularly important and which contributed more directly to our combined effort -- these will be covered in detail.

*2928
mash*

~~SECRET~~

The first and most important was a Class 70 Bailey Bridge over the RIVER VIRE at PONT - les - VEYS, initially build as a Class 40 under enemy small arms and artillery fire. It was built over a treacherous tidal stream having a mean low tide depth of 5 feet and a high tide depth of 18 feet with practically no interval between intrushing and outflowing currents. Originally a wooden structure, it was demolished by the retreating Germans -- only the dressed stone abutments remained intact. This bridge formed the vital and only link between the V and VIII Corps areas for a number of weeks. Its early construction and defense was imperative to the formation of a unified front.

The Class 70 Bailey Bridge over the VIRE was finally replaced by a permanent timber and I-beam bridge. A design was approved that involved the use of two pile bents each which necessitated driving six piles per bent. Considerable difficulty was encountered because of the stone river bottom. Two piles were broken while attempting to drive them in and the river floor had to be broken by blasting before the pile driving could be completed. While this bridge was being built, a diversionary one-way Bailey Bridge was built to keep traffic flowing. The timber bridge was 70 feet in length and it was completed by Company C in five days. Traffic opened on the new bridge at 1400 hours 27 June 1944.

Four Class 40 Treadway Bridges were built over l'AURE INFERIEURE, each being 36 feet long. These bridges were constructed under light and spasmodic enemy fire. Desperately needed ammunition for the 115th Infantry Regimental Combat Team waited on its completion to rush across and hold the not-too-strongly-held line. The rapid and successful construction of these four vital links in the causeway across l'AURE received oral commendation from General Gerhardt of the 29th Infantry Division. Later one of the gaps was filled and the three then existing Treadway Bridges replaced with prefabricated, laminated, wooden I-Beams of German manufacture captured in Isigny in a German Engineer dump.

Supply data: Supplies have been hard to obtain due to the establishment of the Normandy beachhead. All critical items of all services have to be approved by the Army Supply Officer of the First U. S. Army. Non-controlled items or non-critical items, as they become available, have been picked up. The first few days after D-Day supplies of all types were given out by priority of the job in hand.

- h. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS: - None
- i. LOSSES IN ACTION; OFFICERS AND MEN: - None
- j. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:

Captain WILLIAM W. BAINBRIDGE, O-179477, CE, 254 Engineer Combat Battalion awarded the Silver Star per General Orders No 27, Hq V Corps, 5 July 44 for gallantry in action on the coast of France on 6 June 1944.

First Lieutenant ALLISON B. WARE, O-1113040, CE, Co A, 254 Engineer Combat Battalion awarded the Bronze Star per GO 24, Hq V Corps, 2 July 44 for meritorious service on the coast of France during the period 6 June 1944 to 10 June 1944 in connection with military operations against the enemy.

Staff Sergeant ORLANDO M. BONGI, 36225954, CE, Co A, 254 Engineer Combat Battalion awarded the Bronze Star per GO 25, Hq V Corps, 3 July 44 for meritorious service on the coast of France on 6 June 1944 in connection with military operations against the enemy.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF PERSONNEL, IMPORTANT SCENES OR EVENTS:

See attached photographs.

GAINS: EM: 1 - 10th Repl Depot; 28 - 36th Repl Depot.
OFF: 1st Lt John C. Hix, O-1114552, CE, - 10th Repl Depot
2nd Lt John R. Huff, O-1312160, Inf, - 36th Repl Bn.

LOSSES: EM: 3 - 314th Station Hospital; 2 - Evacuated to hospital.

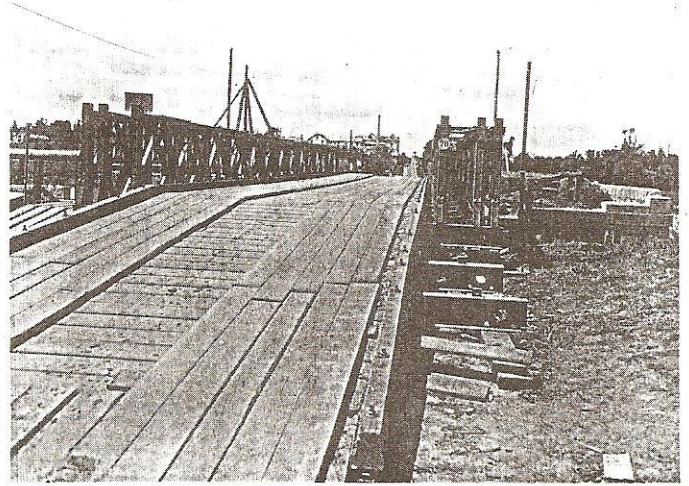
For the Commanding Officer:

Judson C. Schuler
JUDSON C. SCHULER,
1st Lt, 254 Engrs.,
Adjutant.

...oren W. Jenkins and at left-front is Major Cecil F. Clark, Bn Exec O. The unidentified men blocked out by Maj Clark are probably battalion staff people. Jenkins commanded Co A (Escanaba) and Clark, Detroit's Co C, when the 107th Regiment made it's all-rail move from UP and LP home stations to Camp Beauregard, LA, in late Oct '40. Standing at proud attention is an out-ranked corporal, Raymond E. Deicher (A 107 R-A 254), who goes down in our unit's history as being the first WWII WIA by virtue of a non-evacuation shrapnel wound (guess where?) incurred while he was prudently lying face down in his off-beach foxhole. The shrapnel no doubt came from friendly Triple A guns laying down (up) a continuous night time steel umbrella over the still fragile beachhead. The "4th of July in June, tracer's red glare, bombs bursting in air" display made for a truly spectacular sight - dazzling fireworks for the most part only casually observed and unappreciated by men more concerned with earthly priorities. Like finding cover and staying healthy. Notwithstanding being the 254's first "heart" recipient, Ray has established an outstanding reunion record only peeping out of a couple

for medical reasons (himself and wife, Marie) out of Green Bay, WI, and now Mercedes, TX residences. Everyone on the beach wore impregnated (anti-gas) fatigues, an England issue in anticipation of German use of gas. Remember the hot, stiff, abrasive, sticky, clammy and smelly when wet pants and jackets? Washing, which would remove the impregnate, was strictly forbidden so they got kinda "ripe" from dirt and sweat over time. What a relief when they could be dumped. With relieved feeling, this issue's "feature" was, albeit reluctantly, accepted as locked-in for final typing. Not so, however, It was with mixed feelings that we addressed a "company runner" dispatch absolutely crying for "urgent-top-priority" action. A message containing info totally pertinent to the present situation. So, to hell with the final drafts and in compliance therewith. A great contribution exhumed from the memory bank of Col Jose L. Ramos (Ret) which we're pleased to shoehorn in here. Thanks for sharing, Ray, to-wit: "In reviewing all 38 issues of past BULL SHEETS you sent me, it was with a feeling of considerable reminiscence that I recalled the names of the men in the 1st Platoon, Co B.

I took that unit off of LST 484 at NORMANDY ahead of the rest of Co B. This is what happened. A representative of the Beach Commander came alongside of 484 and with a "bull horn" asked if there were any combat engineers aboard. He said that they were urgently needed on the beach to remove mines and booby traps. Since I was a recent graduate of the Mine and Demolition Course of the Royal Engineer School, I was selected with my platoon for the task. We were told to take only our SCR 625 Mine Detectors and all the explosives we could carry - but no weapons - only explosives and mine detectors. I told our guys WE ARE taking our weapons. We went over the side of the LST, down the rope ladder and into an awaiting LCVP that took us close to the beach where I quickly found out that we had a new mission - clear an exit road inland of mines. There were so many metal fragments everywhere that the SCRs were of questionable value. We had some sniper fire that interfered with our mission but Ranger personnel promptly eliminated that threat. We spent our first night in a farm house and rejoined B Company the next day." More about "GAINS-OFF;" Lt John C. Hix - asgd Plt Ldr Co B, Oct 43, Saunton Sands, Eng; to Det of Patients, 67th Gen Hosp, Apr 44 from Newquay; rejoined 254 in France per above; re-upped in post-war RA; UNLOCATED but working on that. Re the other officer gained. Did you catch the "Inf" after Lt Huff's name? No, not an error and a fact confirmed "correct" during his recent phone call from Copperas Cove, TX. The inf-to-engr deal strongly suspected as being an administrative goof was highly unusual in a critical combat sector and at a time when company grade infantry replacements were probably top priority needs - for infantry outfits. And given Baker's 3rd platoon directly would have made for a tough transition even in training. Readily agreeing to that questioning observation 52 years later, John graciously credits his two veteran platoon sgts for their supportive guidance during his on-the-job combat engineer orientation period; first, S/Sgt Charles L. Senical (107th R 41 selectee out of Munising, MI) succeeded by S/Sgt Erick G. Fagerstrom (also a Camp Livingston addition from Madison, WI, UNLOCATED), after "Snake" was gunned down by a German SS Mark IV tank at BULLINGEN (Bulge) in position right next to Lt Huff. In this regard, he acknowledged the platoon's capable squad sgts too. Interesting to here interject, that of all the 107th Regiment-to-254th Bn officers, 1937-1945, Huff was the only (?) non-CE officer assigned thereto, discounting MC (Medical Corps) officers, that is. Some related personal/military background leading up to this unprecedented assignment. Already an RA veteran after 1935 enlistment, he was a Machine Gun Co. NCO when he was "encouraged" to sign up for Ft. Benning infantry OCS in the early '40s. Completing same,



ORIGINAL TRIPLE SINGLE

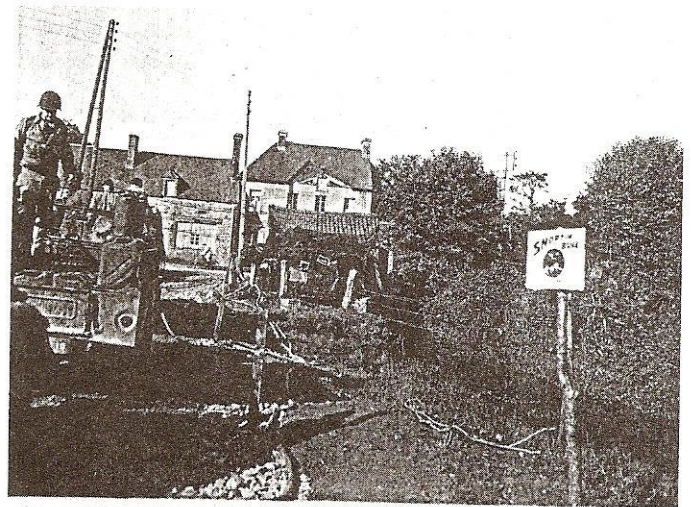
The pictures on this and the next two pages are of a bridge constructed near ISIGNY, CALVADOS, NORMANDY, FRANCE, on the ISIGNY-CARANTEN Highway, built by Company "C", 254 Engineer Combat Battalion. It was originally started 10 June 1944 as a Class 70 or Class 40 bridge for two-lane traffic. Open for traffic 23 June 1944.

- PHASES:
1. Started as a Double-Single Bailey Sunday, 10 June 1944.
 2. Converted into a Triple-Single Bailey reinforced into a Class 70 Bridge 14 June 1944.
 3. Actual construction of pile bent bridges started 20 June 44.

the new "shavetail" went to the 78th Inf Div, Camp Butner, NC, a unit at the time designated as a Replacement Pool Division wherein he was assigned as a temporary company comdr - with 3 weeks in rank as a 2nd loogie. His guaranteed entry into the ETO replacement pipeline trickled him through intent or error, into the 254th. Where he found a home - and the battalion a professional soldier. Though at first disadvantaged by not being engineer trained, his infantry expertise came to the fore during the 254's later infantry actions for which he attained a battalion-wide rep - and a Silver Star commendation for Gallantry in Action on 17 Dec 44, in Belgium (Bulge), per General Orders No. 8, Hq 99th Inf Div, dated 24 Jan 45. (An aside - the 78th was subsequently made combat ready for a 22 Nov 44 landing in France; to Belgium 27 Nov; relieved the 1st Inf Div in-line 1-12 Dec 44.) More condensed: Originally out of Kewanna, Ind; now age 82 and slowed down by Parkinson's; made captain after leaving the 254 at MAILLEY LE CAMP, FRANCE; re-entered RA as 1st Lt, 1947; retired as major with 20 years active service time having served in, and get

this, the infantry, engineers and field artillery, in 1959 to a small ranch in Texas. Sez he ran into John Hix in Korea (after Korean War) and Jesse D. Kelsay in Germany, Lt Col Kelsay then commanding an Engr Bn there. He confirmed a VICTOR BRIDGE incident crediting Co B capturing a set-suited German officer carrying explosives downstream intending to blow the bridge then passing heavy V Corps traffic. In John's opinion, the officer pretty much through exhaustion and realization the mission was suicidal, gave it up as a bad job. We had an interesting and mutually informative chat, and it was a pleasure answering his questions about ex-Co B comrades. But that's yet another story and we've again strayed away from the subject target. After eye-balling the NORMANDY officer roster and no doubt wondering how come all the new brass only months before D-day, there's a simple explanation for that. High priority pre-invasion staffing to correct finally the chronic officer shortage that plagued the 107th from date of 15 Oct 40 activation, forward to late 1943, during which period the line companies trained/worked only half-staffed with authorized officers. Crucial training months during which the US military was building up to meet the ever increasing manpower war needs. A period when 107/112/254 S/Sgts carried the dual platoon responsibility of sergeant and leader both. And compounding that 3-year problem were the devastating losses of trained engineers in all grades - several being orchestrated deals that drastically affected the composition and future of the proud unit eventually redesignated the 254th instead of the 107th for reasons still unknown. To detail: (1) the 1942 Christmas caught-away-on-furlough men hastily replaced with volunteer 32d Div infantrymen for the regiment's CAMP LIVINGSTON-FORT DIX move, 1-14 Jan 43; (2) the regiment's phase down to a battalion just prior to its overseas move to N. IRELAND, 19 Feb- 3 Mar 42, 30% manned by ex-infantrymen; (3) the loss of Co F 112th Regiment (4 Off & 176 EM mostly NG vets from Sault Ste. Marie (Co B), Detroit (Co C), Camp Livingston '41 draftees and infantry transferees) permanently transferred to Allied Force Hq, 17 Sept 42, for the 8 Nov 42 N. AFRICAN invasion; (4) lesser but still serious transfer outs of high caliber men accepted for Stateside OCS or Army Air Corps training; normal losses for other reasons during the 2 1/2 year B.I. tour; and lastly transfers to the 112th Engr Bn, 19 Aug 43, when the 254th was simultaneously organized and split off from the 112th Regt. Those over-time losses were offset by trickling-in additions and two major reinforcements via the reple deple route, being: (1) June 1943 at PRINCE MAURICE BARRACKS, DEVIZES, ENGLAND, when and where the 112th Regiment (the old 107th then being the 2nd Bn thereof) received 11 officers and 337 EM which increased the regimental stren-

bth to: 46 Off, 2 WO and 1,166 EM; (2) at NEW-QUAY, CORNWALL, ENGLAND, Oct 1943 when the 254 gained 13 officers and 186 EM which beefed up the battalion to near T/O strength of, 30 Off, 2 WO and 629 EM distributed as follows: Bn Hq, 9 Off; H&S Co, 2 Off, 2 WO, 112 EM; Co A, 6 Off, 170 EM; Co B, 5 Off, 167 EM; Co C, 6 Off 165 EM; and Med Det, 2 Off, 15 EM. Numbers double checked so don't bother. But how'd we get back to ENGLAND when supposed to be in FRANCE? Within the aforementioned Bn Hq JOURNAL are 24 pages of operational entries just for the period 8-30 June 44. As desirous it'd be to pass them on, we can't. But hows about one randomly selected page covering parts of 10 and 11 June just to give some idea how the JOURNAL reads (see next page). Actually we're now the proud possessor of the entire 154 page JOURNAL (less one page) covering the 254's complete "at government expense" ETO tour, 8 June 44 to 31 May 45 - FRANCE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA-back to FRANCE. You've already read the first entries. The very last logged in at the MAILLEY LE CAMP, FRANCE, command post on 31 May 45 reads: "Meeting of Co Comdrs held to explain job of tent camp" and WP report: 3,500 gals." More on water supply.



Picture's caption: "A Water Point operated by S-4, 254 Engineer Combat Battalion. This Water Point consisted of 6 men and 2 units issued four times as much water as the rest of the Group's water points during the same period (344,740 gallons for period, 24,624 average per day - 4 distributing points - 2 units). Also almost 50 per cent of the output of Corps Engineer troops for the same period. These figures are from Corps report dated 30 June 44. The exceedingly high figures of gallons issued is due to the excellent traffic control set up by the Battalion Water Supervisor." Silently pushed into the operational background by more visible WWII functions (which carried into the post-war too until somewhere in the '70s) was the vitally important combat engineer responsibility of supplying potable water to sector'd units all kept

JOURNAL

ORGANIZATION 254th Engr C Bn.

Place 652908-68/6
Sheet No 3

Date _____
Map Sheet _____

Ser No.	Time		Source	Incidents, Messages, Orders, Etc.	Action Taken
	In	Out			
65	2035		Lt. Pomerantz	Bn overstrength personnel reported in by Lt Pomerantz	Dispersed to Units.
66	2105		C.O. Co B (11)	Rd open fr 518868 to 423847 Clear of mines, open for traffic 2W at 1900. Rd patrol active.	SunRoy minor
67	2250		Co B (12)	Enemy documents picked up at 536917 -1500 hrs 10 June and 474846, 102000.	1121 C.P.
68	2305		C.O. Co B (13)	Cleared & made passable roads from 550933 to 530905. More work required for 18ft Roadway two way traffic. Cleared & de-loused made passable rds from 537924 to 545915.	Filed.
69	2305		C.O. Co B (14)	Cleared shoulders and removed road blocks from 566882 to 518867 to 527903 to 545896 to 550915 to 548932 to 563903 to 565881. All clear and passable.	Filed
70	2325		S-3 254 Engrs	Reconnaissance Report	1 copy to each A and B Cos.
71	2355		Co B Oral Message	10-88 M.M. guns with cassons and miscellaneous equipment, also large quantity of enemy documents located at St. CLEMENTS - 504878.	
72	0435		Hq 1121 Engrs	Unit Report 5 copies	Ta A-B-C H&S & Bn.
73	0615		Co B 254 Engrs	Capt. Minor reported in for information on re onnaission.	explained to Co & Plat C.O's Bn Rcn policy and desires. Posted on maps
74	0645		Co B 254 Engrs	Bridge maintained 473847, roads patrolled in our assigned areas.	
75	0700		Hq V Corps	Engr information bulletin V Corps (for Co Distribution)	To all companies.
76	0830		Co Co B	Ammo dump at 509908, cases enemy wooden bullets, tuller mines, stick grenades, and others. found at 0700 hrs.	Duplicate message to S-4. Also recorded on situation map unit report.
77	0845		CO Co B	Enemy documents found at 509908 by St. Syrjala	Forwarded by S-2 to Higher hq.
78	1115		CO Co B.	Documents found at 546887 at 0930 - Found by Sgt. Smith.	Forwarded to Grp Hq.
79	1125		Co A.	12 men 992 TWDY, on your causway atch'd to you for rations (sent by Slidex)	To Co "A" - By S-3
80	1130		Co B.	Rcn Report by Sgt Siders 1st Pl Co B.	File
81	1140		Co B.	Read Rcn. report by Sgt. Fagerstrom of Co B. Overlay attached.	File
82	1205		ADE	Linoleum CP 548828-Bridges mined for defence at 495800, 503791, 523742, 528736, 536733, 551728, 552727, Mine blocks 565722, 582723, and EW Road between prepared for hasty minefield.	Duplicate copy forwarded to Gp Hq.
83	1205		ADE	115 Inf strong point 565738 Col Ploger evacuated to collecting station. ADE will be down with Major Olsen shortly.	Duplicate copy forwarded to Grp Hq.
84	1230		CO Co B	Bridge being maintained 473847 - Rest of missions being carried out.	File.
85	1305		CO Co B.	Road clear of mines from 515865 to 504878 to 521880. Obstacles cleared in town 505878 by 1130.	File.
86	1300		Varnish Seagull	Phone message from Seagull Varnish. 5 Armoured D 8's avavailable.	
87	1317		Seagull-Varnish	Bn alerted to move by 2400 hrs. Phone Message.	

informed whereto the nearest water point for its watering up needs. According to an old H&S 254 SOP "March Order," the S-4's Water Supply Section had 4 water units each one transported in separate 1-ton trailers towed by a deuce and a half 6x6. No. 1 unit was hauled by driver Francis E. Loose (107 R-TAPS 1970); No. 2 by Mike Hydo (H&S 107 R), Sterling Heights, MI; No. 3 by Jack C. Mayberry (UNLOCATED); and No. 4 by Raymond L. Hartman (H&S 112 R), Avon Lake, OH. A murky memory bank indicates that the S-4's capable Water Section chief was T/Sgt Alvin "Lee" Taggart, Avon Park, FL - from way back until he was wounded/injured and evacuated in Nov or Dec '44 afterwards returning to the Bn. Anything incorrect, Lee, give a holler so things can be made right. Incidentally, the brother combo of Lee and Floyd J. Taggart, Tuscon, AZ, in H&S 107 Regt and Bn was broken up when the 112th Regiment reorganized into the 112th Bn, 254th Bn and 1121st Gp Hq; Floyd went 1121 but dunno in what capacity then or later on. This concludes the June 1944 historical report. These closing words were written after reluctantly scratching "July" from the article's Page 2 heading. Why? Well, June's report in itself took up far far more space than anticipated. Consequently July's portion was left hanging - all researched and written up for this issue too. Bad for '96 but good for the off-and-running '97 newsletter. To briefly preview, JULY ON NORMANDY, is part engineer and part infantry. The infantry over the dates of 17-28 July defending a sector in the beachhead perimeter near BERIGNY from memory/recollections of individuals, Bn Hq JOURNAL, Co C's JOURNAL and (Lt) Jud Schuler's BATTALION HISTORY: MONTH OF JULY 1944 in which the 37 casualties incurred during the 12 day period are identified. Stay tuned and "on duty" for Issue No. 40, April 1977.

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1995-1996)

President: 1Sgt Donald J. Bussiere (A 107 NG)
 Vice Pres: SSG Frederick Fountaine (A 107 NG)
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 and
 Honorary President: John "Johnny Kay" Kovachich
 (Co F 107 Regt, Co B 254 Bn, A/HHC 107 NG Bn)

FROM OUR NATIONAL GUARD NEWS BUREAU

TOP LEVEL BATTALION CHANGES: LTC John A. Trotter, Bn CO, 1 Jul 95 from Bn Exec O; LTC Philip J. Lennert, reassigned to Recruiting & Retention, NG Bureau, The Pentagon, from Bn CO; Maj Ronald B. Hansen, Bn Exec O, 1 Jul 95 from Bn S-3; 1Sgt Michael J. Floriano, reassigned to Comd Sgt Major, 1 Aug 95, replacing CSM Robert M. Taylor, Retired.

STATE OF BATTALION: The 107th Bn lost Company D (Menominee & Kingsford) last year under a new MTOE (Modified Table of Organization & Equipment). The company has been redesignated the 46th Military Police Company still headquartered at Kingsford. The probable loss of Kingsford's splendid armory is a bummer after having joyfully maneuvered there in 1975, 1984 & 1991.Plans to mechanize the 107th (from wheels to tracks) are still focused on target year, 1999. In fact, some 30 or so tracked vehicles consigned to the 107th are in storage at Camp Grayling awaiting the conversion.

LATVIA DEPLOYMENT, 2-16 Sep 95 (by SFC James L. Hutcheson): On sept 2nd, the 107th Engr Bn sent a 12-man Engineer Team to the Republic of Latvia. This was part of an exchange program set up by the Dept. of Defense to assist countries who have recently gained their independence from the old Soviet Union. The Michigan Army National Guard had sent several training contact teams (TCT) to Latvia in the past two years. The mission of this TCT was to emphasize the supervisory role of the TCT and the National Guard support of civil institutions. It also demonstrated to the Latvian National Guard the humanitarian capabilities of engineer units. The TCT worked with 6 Latvian National Guardsmen in a humanitarian refurbishment at Baltezers Children's Hospital near Riga, Latvia. Members of the team were SFC Hutcheson (HHC), SSG Johnson (HHC), SSG Drummond (HHC), SSG Pietila (Co B), SSG Kalata (Co B), SSG Broman (Co C), Sgt Barber (HHC), Sgt Grant (HHC), Sgt McCormick (Co A), Sgt Phillips (Co D), SPC Harrington (HHC) and SPC Loveless (HHC).

"OPERATION SNOWFLAKE", 14-21 Dec 95 (by Jim Hutcheson): On 13 Dec 95, Governor Engler declared a state of emergency for the City of Sault Ste. Marie, MI. The state of emergency was declared due to a 62 inch snowfall from Dec 8 thru Dec 12. By 1000 hours on 14 Dec 95, 128 guardsmen had been mobilized for snow removal duty. The mobilization lasted for eight days until 21 Dec 95. Soldiers of the 107th that participated in the mobilization came from units in Calumet, Baraga, Ishpeming, Iron River, Gladstone and Sault Ste. Marie. At the height of the mobilization, 144 soldiers, 24 5-ton dump

trucks, 4 graders, 4 dozers and 2 snowblowers were involved in "Operation Snowflake," Over 230,000 cubic yards of snow were moved during the 24 hour-a-day operation. That is enough snow to cover a football field forty feet deep. At the completion of the operation, city streets had been cleared of snow so emergency vehicles, fire and ambulance, could get around. And to think that the official start of winter was not until 22 December.

KUDOS TO ISHPEMING

Once again, lets hear it loud and clear for the REUNION COMMITTEE. Or in Army slanguage, "all together but not too loud." Pleasurable but difficult - two words describing the annual struggle of putting together a well-earned commendation honoring the effort of the hosting unit overall and to each dedicated committee member individually who always, but always, put heart and soul into their assigned campaign roles. As an elected Association focal point, ye' editor probably hears more complimentary things about reunions than anyone. And be assured, there's a ton of them. Every year! Maybe some merit in tagging these hard workers in some special way so they can hear all the nice things up-front. So, again second-handedly but now speaking for all the 33rd Annual participants this tribute to the 1995 REUNION COMMITTEE. One helluva job. President, Tom Perry, V.P. Fritz Ehrhard, Stan & Kris Hough, Jon Compton, Jim Hutcheson, Steve & Diane Pellinen, Maint Section, Joe & Marilu Floriano, Gary & Roberta LaFreniere, Commo Section, Mike Fraser, Joann Harper, Mess Section, S-4 Section, Mike Lee and Hq & Hq Co as a unit.

SHORT SHORTS

Short rations this issue as you can readily see. With lots of this 'n that stuff on hand still. The fourth and final 254th company roster (H&S) lined up for this year is pushed back to '97 too. Sorry about that.....greatly condensed. "Dear Ed: Just received my BULL SHEET. We're going to Omaha Beach for June 6, 1995. Thought you might like the "West Point Register" pages as pertaining to Col McDonough (CO 1121st Engr Group) obtained from one of my two USMA graduated nephews. Leaving May 24th - Paris,

USMA Class Officers for 1926

1926	Heiberg, Pres	7878
	Johnson, 1st V-Pres	7930
	Murphy, 2nd V-Pres	7922
	McDonough, Secy&Treas	7894
	McFarland, (A)	7990

7894 Robert Kinzie McDonough
 B-NY 26Apr04: A-Lge: CE: CE Cornell 29: CO 1121ECGp T-E 44-45(LM-3BSM): Engr XXCps 45-49: CO 385CGp 46-49: Engr Off TIC 49-52: Dpty Div Engr S Atlantic Div 52-53: Engr 10 Cps & 8Ar Kor 53-54(LM): DWE SA11Div 55-56: Ret 56 COL: 3612WoodbineSt ChevyChaseMD20815.

Normandy, London, Helsinki, Estonia, Lapland returning July 12th in time for the Ishpeming reunion and my 60th Mich Tech reunion.

Allan Olson's postcard from Paris dated June 8th: "Enjoyed 3 days at Omaha Beach area. Went to Bill Richard's (D 107 R-B 107 Bn-Exec O 112-KIA D-day) grave there. Saw Sgt Les Doro on the beach who says hello to you. Leave for London on 9th and Helsinki the 13th." Card arrived Ishpeming on June 14th - the same day Allan's death in London was announced in the local newspaper.....excerpts from Les Doro's later newsy letter. "Spent about 4 days driving around Normandy where my 'D-day' cap opened the door for a talk with an officer who made D-day with the 121st Engr Bn, 29th Inf Div. When he told me of his prior service in the 107/112/254 and was Allan Olson, imagine my astonishment. And his. He then appeared to be in good health so was shocked learning he died just a week after our Normandy meeting." Lester H. Doro (107 R from D 127th Inf, Wis NG-C 254). Allan F. Olson (CO D 107 R-CO B 107 Bn-CO A/E/H&S & S-4 112th Regt - Exec O 121 Engr Bn-Exec O 1110th Engr Gp- released 1 Feb 46 with rank of Lt Col. Attending his church and graveside services en masse were 7 ex-1940 NGs who served with Allan in Co D 107th Regt (Marquette): Benjamin O. Pascoe (to PTO w/32d Inf Div), Murray G. Moon (C 254), Edwin R. Hutchens (C 254), Myles F. McDombie (released 1940, Richard H. Wills (B 254), Walfred V. Mickelson (trfd out, Ft. Dix) and Ed Vickstrom (H&S 254). Dick Wills made the formal flag presentation to Mrs. Olson....highly recommended for NG and WWII military readers: "Beyond the Beachhead" by Joseph Balkoski. About the 29th Inf Div from it's NG activation on 3 Feb 41, to England 11 Oct 42, to Omaha Beach, 6 June 44 and to it's capture of St. Lo, 18 July 44 - and much much more from both US and German sides. Price is \$6.25 (soft cover) including S & H costs from: Static Line Books, Box 87518, College Park, GA 30337. Hard cover price for #O-8117-0221-9 is \$19.95 (dunno about S & H) from: Stackpole Books, P.O. Box 1831, Harrisburg, PA 17105..... Been harboring a now humorous "all in a day's work" bit 'o history for years sympathetically not wanting to embarrass a valiant WWII warrior. Even taking his thick thick First Sergeant's hide into account. But after his Association peers officially approved the new 1995-96 HONORARY PRESIDENT office for him special, a few alarming thoughts popped into mind. Would this create a big head? Would he now be too puffed up for the Calumet muster scheduled for 2-3-4 Aug 96 within easy walking distance of his foxhole there? Horrors, a Calumet skirmish without the venerable WWII sarge. Nah. He'll be there- one way or another. Guaranteed. In spite of this laughable expose. From DOZER BLADE, 1944 issue: "2 Lt Johnnie (Kay) Kovachich, a recent battlefield promotion in 254 Engr C Bn, gave up his soft, cushy job as 1st Sgt to become the 1st Plt Commander of Co B. He's actually an old hand at the job for he commanded the same platoon as a

S/Sgt back in the days when Platoon Commanders were something on paper only. Even so, the boys of the 254 are chuckling over the mishap Lt Kaye had on one of his first jobs as an officer. An advance Engr unit had filled a blown culvert with logs, debris and whatnot, causing water to back up on one side of the road. Along comes Lt Kaye, who decides to pull out the hasty fill and install a timber culvert. He put his men to work doing this plus cutting the necessary timbers for the culvert. Work sent along fine until a large slab of concrete was uncovered at the bottom of the culvert, and it was decided that 20 pounds of explosive would either break it up or flip the entire slab out. Boom! went the charge and jaws dropped to knee level. The intentions were good but the results were very wrong. For now, what had been a small blown culvert was a 25-foot crater. Oh, yes, the concrete slab was well taken care of - in fact, it was nowhere to be found. The boys couldn't see how 20 pounds of explosive could wreak such havoc but then what in hell did? The whole mystery was cleared up when further investigation revealed German prepared charges in the hole - some had not gone off but others had. Your turn to buy this year, Johnnie.....surprisingly included in the Archive documents - hand-written pages noted as "Bn History by Cpl Clements;" 31 sheets of daily commentary for the months of Nov 44 and Jan 45. Why only 2 months and no Dec 44 (because of Bulge?), don't know. How it went through channels to final rest in the Archives is yet another WWII mystery. Nothing mysterious about the author, however, immediately identified as Joseph H. Clements, Jr. (112th Regt draftee - S-1 Section 254). Wrote to Joe (initial contact) in Hattiesburg, MS, for more information and BULL SHEET usage permission - granted, incidently. Subsequent correspondence informs us that Dr. Clements is a retired Professor of Finance, Univ. of So. Mississippi following 34 years teaching on the college level. Quoting Joe: "Many thanks to the 107th Association for the BULL SHEETS which I've deposited, along with one published volume and a special Normandy Invasion Supplement about my WWII experience, at the William D. McCain Archives, Univ. of South. Mississippi. The copies of my BN HISTORY you sent me will also be deposited there. No doubt my wife and I would gain a valuable experience attending an Association reunion, but she's not into flying and you're a long ways off for driving. I am very proud to have served with the 254th Engineers. They were a group of courageous young men performing their duty and fighting under the leadership of capable officers. Ed, we lived in an interesting time.".....imagine the total surprise getting a phone call from a long time UNLOCATED. Undetermined, exactly how he worked the system blindly hoping to uncover something positive about any post-war 254th do-

ings. Whatever the approach the determined effort pointed towards ye' editor's pup tent. And a mutually rewarding rejoining of forces. What a joy updating the Association record and the ENGLAND to NORMANDY officer roster (this issue) changing 2nd Lt Jose L. Ramos (Co B) UNLOCATED to Colonel J. L. Ramos (Ret), Carmel, CA. In later contacts, Ray tells us he's gearing up for a 6-week European trip this summer during which his itinerary will include the 254's ETO route of travel. He especially wants to revisit a chateau in St. Christopher (English sp.) where the owner had Capt Ware, Lt Jack Davis, Lt Mike Cosella and himself sign their hidden guest book - the first Allied guests to do so. "The four of us," wrote Ray, "promised to return there 'some day.'" Now being the only one alive, I'd now like to make that commitment for all four of us." Keep us posted, Ray, and happy travels.... "Stanley A. Bazant (107 R-C 254) died suddenly in Warren, MI. He was my wife's uncle. I noticed his name in Issue No. 37 as UNLOCATED which was news to me. Can recall Stan telling me that Clem Cassette (A 107 Bn-E 107 R-A/H&S 254), Mohawk, MI, was his best man when he and Mary were married in England." Updating but sad news from Assoc. stalwart, Gervase A. "Gerv" Audette (Co A 107 NG Bn, 46-50), Naples, FL.....still prime, a pair of field glasses making the 5-year WWII tour are back in Calumet - 55 years later. ID'd as old Co E 107th Regt T/E, the binocs departed Calumet, Oct '40 returned to US 1945 as a "liberated" souvenir with a 254th man now donating the "written off" glasses for final rest in Calumet's grand military museum. In itself worth your trip there on 2-3-4 August 1996. FINIS!



OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AT ISHPEMING REUNION

Ray. A. Anders (Med Det 107 R & 254) Bellevue, MI
 Geo. C. Anderson (A 107/254-107 NG) Escanaba, MI
 Wilfred L. Barber (B/HHC 107 NG Bn) Marquette, MI
 Tom C. Bardowski (A 107 & 254) Stephenson, MI
 Clyde C. Bastion (E 107 R) Redford, MI
 Herbert S. Bastion (E 107 R-A 254) Clawson, MI
 Jos. B. Battaglia (1121 Gp Hq) New Brighton, PA
 Robert H. Beaupry (D 107 NG Bn) Munising, MI
 John A. Beauchamp (HHC 107 NG Bn) Skandia, MI
 Art. J. Bellanger (B/HHC 107 NG Bn) Marquette, MI
 Orlando A. Bonghi (A 107 R-A 254) Iron River, MI
 Clement J. Cassette (E 107 R-H&S 254) Mohawk, MI
 Joseph A. Censabella (H&S 254) Alexandria, VA
 Raymond J. Chartre (HHC 107 NG Bn) Negaunee, MI
 Jon L. Compton (HHC 107 NG Bn) Ishpeming, MI
 Anton G. Crnkovich (A 107 R-A 254) Ishpeming, MI
 Warren O. Crow (107 R-C 254) Wellston, MI
 John L. Culliton (C 107 NG Bn) Gladstone, MI
 Dennis M. Cummings (C 107 NG Bn) Escanaba, MI
 Raymond E. Deicher (A 107 R-A 254) Mercedes, TX

Donald L. DeRoche (HHC 107 NG Bn	Ishpeming, MI	Robert K. McGuire (C 254)	Centerville, IA
Joseph P. DeSantis (B 107 NG Bn)	Ironwood, MI	Harold A. Menapace (D 107 R-C 254)	Waterford, WI
Francis J. Dhondt (107 R-522d Co)	Rumely, MI	Robert W. Miller (C 107 NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
Bennett K. Dondlinger (B 107 R-522)	Darien, CT	Walter A. Mokszycke (C 107 NG Bn)	Bark River, MI
Phyllis Duquette (Donald, B 254)	Ishpeming, MI	Stanley J. Moloney (B 107 R)	Bradenton, FL
William A. Eckloff (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	James F. Moulds (D 107 NG Bn)	Munising, MI
Fred. W. Ehrhardt (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Charles E. Nault (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Fedhaven, FL
Lawrence R. Ellenich (E 107 R-A 254)	Calumet, MI	Kurt S. Neurohr (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Marquette, MI
Richard T. Erickson (HHC 107 NG Bn)	AuTrain, MI	Howard W. Nichola (E 107R-H&S 254)	Dodgeville, MI
Scott E. Etelamaki (A 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Dan. L. Niemisto (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Battle Creek, MI
Basil Fassbender (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Marquette, MI	Sylvester Nocerini (B 107 NG Bn)	Iron River, MI
Charles J. Fish (C 107 NG Bn)	Rapid River, MI	James E. Noel (C 107 NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
Jos. W. Floriano (C/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Iron Mtn., MI	Richard J. Oja (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Republic, MI
Michael J. Floriano (D 107 NG Bn)	Quinnesec, MI	Charles N. Orrand (A 107 R)	Redford, MI
Leonard J. Ford (C 107 NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	James W. O'Toole (A 254)	San Jose, CA
Clarence J. Forsythe (A 254)	Boonton Twp., NJ	Morris E. Page (A 254)	Allegan, MI
Frederick J. Fountaine (A 107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI	Joseph Paraventi (107 R-522)	Iron River, MI
Michael E. Fraser (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Joseph Pataconi (A 107 R-A 254)	Niagara, MI
Robert P. Frazier (B 107 NG Bn)	Marquette, MI	Joseph H. Patrick (C 107 NG Bn)	Wells, MI
Keith B. Freeze (B 107 R-B 254)	Shepherd, MI	Ron. G. Patrick (D/H&S 107 NG Bn)	Manistique, MI
Danny Joe Garceau (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Freeling W. Peck (A 107 R-C 254)	Sparta, MI
Willis A. Garceau (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	Steven Pellinen (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI
Arthur J. Gibour (A 107 R-A 254)	Waukegan, IL	Patrick C. Pequet (B/H&S 107 NG Bn)	Flushing, MI
Kenneth G. Giese (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	Thomas E. Perry (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Skandia, MI
Robert P. Gobright (A 254)	Valley Stream, NY	Roger D. Phillips (C 254)	Bridgeport, IL
Richard P. Gough (A 254)	Atlantic Highlands, NJ	LaRue A. Reher (B 254)	St. Paul, MN
Reuben J. Griewe (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	James W. Robson (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI
C. William Hager (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Wilbert M. Rohde (B 254)	Wall Lake, IA
Aurelia Hahka (Fred Gagne, HHC NG Bn)	Deerton, MI	Warren L. Romain (D 107 R-B 254)	Milwaukee, WI
Albert E. Harjala (F 107 R)	Copper City, MI	Ronald F. Ross (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI
Burdette R. Hayner (107 R-B/H&S 254)	Hastings, MI	Theo. A. Schneider (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Marquette, MI
Frank A. Hayward (B 107 NG Bn)	Star, ID	Judson C. Schuler (Hq 254-1121Gp)	Millersburg, OH
Charles E. Heikkinen (F 107 R)	Iron Mountain, MI	Robert E. Sexton (D/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Kingsford, MI
John E. Hendra (A 107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI	William D. Sheldon (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI
Charles Hendricksen (C 107 R-522)	Brown Deer, WI	Anselm W. Simonis (E 107 R-522 Co)	Vesper, WI
Arnold E. Hintsala (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	N. Reuben Sjoquist (C 107 NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
George Hough (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Gwinn, MI	Donald R. Small (B/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Marquette, MI
Stanton Hough (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Briwn W. Smith (C 107 NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
Edwin R. Hutchens (D 107 R-C 254)	Marquette, MI	L.V.E. Smith (D 107 R-C 254)	Bellaire, MI
James L. Hutcheson (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Russell Smoley (B 254)	Selinsgrove, PA
Edwin J. Jachimski (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	Gregory R. Stewart (C 107 NG Bn)	Marquette, MI
Reino H. Jarvi (107 R-522)	Trout Creek, MI	Edmund V. Stevens (A 107 R)	Gladstone, MI
Kenneth W. Kampe (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Marquette, MI	Victor J. Stevens (A/H&S 107-112 Bn)	Livonia, MI
William S. Kessler (B 107 R-522)	Onalaska, WI	Frederick Stonehouse (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Flushing, MI
Reino E. Kiminki (107 R-A 254)	Mass City, MI	Richard A. Strand (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI
Matt D. Korpi (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Robert M. Taylor (C/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI
Daniel G. Kurian (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	Russell H. Terrill (F 107 R-B 254)	Houghton, MI
Keith P. Kytta (C/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Manistique, MI	Martin Terzaghi (D 107 R-E 112 R)	Negaunee, MI
Richard A. LaChance (C/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Rap.Riv, MI	Albert A. Tomassetti (B 254)	Louisville, KY
Gary J. LaFreniere (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	John A. Trotter (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Milwaukee, WI
Jorma H. Lannet (D 107 R-B 254)	Bruce Cross., MI	Robert D. Van Sickle (B 107 NG Bn)	Quinnesec, MI
Michael T. Lee (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	Paul J. Van Abel (E 107 R-A 254)	L'Anse, MI
Lloyd A. Lessard (C 107 NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI	William C. Viau (C 107 NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI
Rene P. Lippens (C 107 NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI	Edw. Vickstrom (D 107 R-B/H&S 254)	Ishpeming, MI
John O. Lund (107 R-B 254)	Viroqua, WI	Leonard C. Ward (107 R-1121-107 NG Bn)	McLean, VA
Phillip Luoma (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Gwinn, MI	Douglas L. White (A 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI
John R. Maki (A/C/D/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	Philip L. White (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Marquette, MI
Gary F. Marcotte (C 107 NG Bn)	Hubbell, MI	Andrew C. Willenborg (C 254)	Bradley, IL
John J. Martis (C 254)	Lansing, IL	Douglas H. Williamson (107 R-C 254)	Rockford, MI
Louis H. Mayotte (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Michigamme, MI	Richard H. Wills (D 107 R-B 254)	Negaunee, MI
David W. McCombie (D 107 R)	Melbourne, FL	Peter J. Zdybel (E 107 R-A 254)	Lansing, MI
John W. McCormick (B 107 NG Bn)	Sterling Hts., MI		