



April 1997



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The "BULL SHEET"

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1997 MARCHING ORDERS

Signed, sealed and ready for delivery on 1-2-3 August 1997. Where at you ask? SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN, thats.where. We are of course addressing our 36th Annual Reunion as if anyone needs reminding about that fact. After a couple years of quiet persistent behind-the-front-lines maneuvering & promoting, Cpl (Ret) Donald Small (HHC 107 NG Bn) and Walt Babcock (ex-1437th) being the main instigators, the slowly developing movement culminated via a formally presented bid for the Soo in '97. Presented by a special representative for the 1437th Engr Br Co during Calumet's business meeting, the bid was enthusiastically heard and accepted where-upon key area officials for the term 1996-97 were duly nominated and elected. In spite of the fact that our last reunion there was way back in 1978, the Association's firmly established ties to the Soo and the 1437th go back a long ways. At the impromptu informal get-together in Marquette, 20 Aug 61, as engineered by the then Bn CO (LTC Austin E. Lindberg (28th Inf Div WWII-TAPS 1969), Maj Reuben J. Griewe, Bn Ex O, WO Leonard L. Lorge, secretary, and Lt Gene E. Nelbaur, treasurer, the 107th Engineer Association was formally declared of record and in business to perpetuate the 107th, past & present and its counterparts. The charter president was from the Soo - none other than the esteemed Oral J. "Moose" LaCombe (C 107 R WWI). Accordingly, the Soo was selected for the 2nd annual (1962) as it was again for the 6th annual, 1966. (Sgt) LaCombe is the Association's only 3-time president - for Soo's 3 reunions. According to the formal minutes for No. 1's organizational meeting the battle cry at that time sounded was "Soo in '62." Besides that, 1st Bn Hq, Co B and Reg'l Band were activated with the 107th Engr Regt, 32d Inf Div, Mich/Wis NG. The Band separated and went its own way from Fort Dix, NJ, Jan 1942, and most Co B men going to N. Ireland in Co C 107th

Bn later went to N. Africa with Co F 112th Engr Regt -later redesignated the 522d Engr Company. With that background established lets get into some fun-time details already eagerly anticipated. The reunion committee, a combination of retired volunteer NGs and current members of the 1437th, has released to ye' editor their weekend program structured around the SOP format. Friday: registration beginning 1300 hrs, optional dinner and cruise thru the Soo locks, finger food and dance. Saturday: breakfast at armory, golf outing, parade & memorial service, noon mess, business meeting, rafting display & rides, cocktail hour, banquet w/short program and dance. Sunday: breakfast at armory and tearful goodbys - once more. Couple things of special note. The dance band (Diamond Jubilee Band) out of Canadian Soo will be pleasing to the devotees of "swing and sway" dance music being a 10-piece "big band" capable of playing music enjoyable to all - dancers, listeners and conversationalists, young and old. And the reunion committee says a parade for the second year running. WOW! According to their preliminary schedule, the parade will feature four marching bands. The boat trip (optional) through the Soo locks w/dinner sounds like a rare "don't miss this" outing. See the special "sign up" on your return slip. Present members of the host unit, its former members and retirees will swell the ranks almost insuring a jam-packed armory. The areas many scenic and commercial attractions including the famed Soo locks, Great Lakes freighters locking thru, Canada Soo across St. Mary's River, boat trips, rail trip into Canada, and casino all make for a prime tourist area. Evidence of that - the long list of motels/hotels there which are listed in total on the attached sheet w/map. WARNING - lock in on your housing needs pronto - or dig out the ol' pup tent. All systems are on go. All thats lacking at this point are troops. But be assured, however, that'll be no problem. Guaranteed. We're ready and eager to play host.

 *** T A P S ***

 * BODVAR, Ernest B. (A 254) Malden, MA *
 * BRUMMOND, August (B 107-522) Eau Claire, WI *
 * CASSETTE, Clement J. (A 107 Bn, 1937-40, *
 * E 107 R-A/H&S 254) Mohawk, MI *
 * DE WITT, James E. (A 254) Campbellsville, KY *
 * FISHER, John C. (C 107 R) Detroit, MI *
 * HANGARTEN, Elmer (C 107 R) Suisun City, CA *
 * HAYRYNEN, Carl E. (F 107 R NG) Toivola, MI *
 * HIRVELA, Leo R. (HHC NG Bn) Grayling, MI *
 * KIPINA, Edwin F. "Kip" (E 107 R NG- *
 * H&S 254) Hancock, MI *
 * LA BELLE, Frank E. (HHC NG) Marquette, MI *
 * LAFKAS, George A. (D 107 R NG-1st Sgt *
 * HHC 1121) Negaunee, MI *
 * LEVALL, Stanley R. "Chippy" (B 107 R NG- *
 * 522d Engr Co) Milwaukee, WI *
 * MAYOTTE, Louis R. "Shorty" (HHC 107 NG Bn) *
 * Michigamme, MI *
 * NELSON, Clarence E. "Gus" (B 107 R NG) *
 * Lafayette, LA *
 * PARK, Robert S. (B 254) Albany, NY *
 * POND, Erwin C. "Bud" (107 R-B 107 Bn *
 * N. Ireland) Dowagiac, MI *
 * REIN, Theodore "Whitey" (F 107 R NG) *
 * Laurium, MI *
 * RILEY, John M. (B 254) Canterbury, CT *
 * SANTIAGO, Howard F. (B 107 R NG-522d Co) *
 * Sault Ste. Marie, MI *
 * SCHIESL, Richard A. (B 254) Milwaukee, WI *
 * STRICKLING, Alger F. (Band 107 R NG) *
 * Sault Ste. Marie, MI *
 * TAURIAINEN, Clarence G. (E 107 R NG-A 254) *
 * Laurium, MI *
 * TREDWAY, Roy M. (H&S 254) Oxford, KS *
 * WILLETTE, Louis A. (D 107 R-B 254) Gwinn, MI *
 * WILLIAMSON, Douglas H. (107 R-1121 Gp Hq- *
 * C 254) Rockford, MI *
 *
 * Day is done, gone the sun, from the lake *
 * from the hill, from the sky, all is well *
 * safely rest, God is nigh. *
 * * * * *

ROSTER ADDITIONS

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

James R. Scalzo (107 R-C 254), Louis Apartments
 #207, Ravena, NY 12143 (**VFW Magazine**)
William H. Millar (Cook H&S 254), 412 Hensley
 St., Lititz, PA 15443 (**VFW Magazine**)
Arnold B. Kilberg (A 107 NG Bn 1949-50), 2001
 Deer Lake Ave., Ishpeming, MI 49849
 (**Calumet Reunion**)
Edward Schneiderhann (A 107 NG Bn), c/o Leo's
 Drug Store, Laurium, MI 49913
 (**Calumet Reunion**)

David Peterson (A 107 NG Bn), Pilgrim Road,
 Houghton, MI 49931 (**Calumet Reunion**)
Frank Kurta (B 107 NG Bn), 1120 N. Hemlock St.,
 Ironwood, MI 49938 (**Peterson**)
Lauritz B. "Larry" Hough (D 107 NG Bn), 1206
 Montana St., Gladstone, MI 49837
 (**Donald Small**)
Eldridge J. Koelz (A 254), 4164 74th Rd., NE,
 West Palm Beach, FL 33404 (**Geo. Anderson**)
Joseph L. DuPont (A 107 R-522d Engr Co), 716
 George St., Caseyville, IL 62232
 (**Raymond Anders**)
Fergus H. Mann (H&S/B 107 NG Bn, 1946-57), 6770
 Dixie Hwy., Bridgeport, MI 48722
 (**Pat Pequet**)

254th "INFANTRY" BATTALION
 Berigny, France

Say again, INFANTRY. Explanation. The bn's first 6 weeks within the developing NORMANDY bridgehead were pretty much all text-book Combat Engineering operations encompassing the normal and the several pre-invasion bridging assignments supporting the 29th Inf Div. Though thereby routinely exposed to a variety of battlefield hazards, the 254th had no unit face to face confrontations with Jerry beyond corraling PWs and on-going sniper hunts. Immediately after its V Corps directed attachment to the 2nd Inf Div the abrupt conversion-to-infantry happened on 18 July 44 when the bn's forward echelons took over the front line positions of the 1st Bn 9th Inf Regt thus freeing up the 1/9 for its attack role in OPERATION COBRA, the long-awaited bridgehead breakout. Again setting the scene. The 1/9th held down a defensive line lying generally along and west of the BERIGNY-les BRUYERES secondary surfaced road about 4 miles easterly of Hill 192, a dominating height providing excellent observation all the way back to OMAHA BEACH. Finally taken 12 July by the 2nd, Hill 192 geographically lies about midway on the line BERIGNY-ST. LO. The ancient city of St LO, capital of the department of MANCHE having a peacetime population of around 11,000, was a strategic communications center being a hub of main roads that led in every direction. The city too was planned as being the easterly pivot point for COBRA which kicked off 24 July. Following weeks of savage combat, a devastated ST. LO was taken by the 29th Div, XIX Corps, 18 July. Even though somewhat east of the main effort, the 254 troops nonetheless had ringside seats for the awesome artillery barrage preceding COBRA. From Bn JOURNAL map coordinates we've platted on an original WWII military map (from whom - don't recall) designated, ST. LO, 6 F/2, 1:50,000 scale (one sheet inland from beach map, 6 E/6 ISIGNY), the four separated company bivouacs near FORET de CERISY

from whence the respective forward echelons moved up from and the rear echelons continued to occupy/secure afterwards. The 254th and other 1121 Group units performed lots of important maintenance on the Main Supply Route (MSR) road net passing through CERISY FOREST including a new run-around at the 5 road intersection lying therein by Co C 112th Bn. At least for that time, this new construction was called the VICTOR CIRCLE (VICTOR code name for V Corps). Interestingly, this traffic flow improvement is still in use today according to a recent on-site recon report from Gen Leonard C. Ward. The rear area bivouacs, if they could be called that, were themselves only 2-3 miles behind the front (Co A's was about 5 miles) all within range of enemy action especially artillery. In fact, the Co C JOURNAL (enlightenment later on) covering that period of time notes these 21 July entries: "Scalzo sent back to base camp for mines; and, Scalzo said 88s hit a kitchen truck near rear bivouac area." True? Ours? Don't know. Id - James R. Scalzo (107 R-B/C 254). Other terse Bn JOURNAL entries give the respective front line map coordinates for the Bn Hq and 3 line company CPs, and "as the move up" situation developed these related notations: "Meeting of staff and Co Comdrs about occupying defensive position; Received OK from CO 9th Inf for 1st Bn to be relieved by 254 Engr C Bn; .30 cal MGs with 3 men per gun be prepared to leave on 30 min notice after 1700 hrs; Operation definitely off for 18th - time on 19th to be determined by CO 9th Inf Regt; Send 32,000 rds .30 cal amm to Berigny; Sgts sent to respective areas; and, Road Block crews take over at 1400 hrs." So far as the individual was concerned, whatever adventuresome thoughts he mentally carried forward they were soon dispelled as the harsh reality of front line action against a skilled determined enemy took over. The opposition, already identified as the crack 9th Regiment, 3rd Fallschirmjager (Parachute) Division, II Parachute Corps, had been moved into the ST. LO. area from BRITANY soon after D-day. Taking over the complex of well-prepared positions from the battle-hardened 1/9th was an eye-opener for the now equally veteran Combat Engr outfit though yet untested in its secondary infantry role. The ingenuity and work of the "ground pounders" in the hedgerow/sunken lane terrain was impressive even to hairy-eared engineers accustomed to mucking dirt, as they took over the fighting positions and above ground foxholes (burrows actually) all laboriously carved out of the ancient root-bound embankments while driven by new fighting techniques dictated by the bobage. New small unit tactics sadly not realized as necessary during pre-invasion training. In the words of (Sgt) Lester H. Doro (D 127 Inf Wis NG to 107 R-C 254): "We took over

positions held by the 2nd Inf 'Indianhead' Div. Lots of nice neat foxholes already dug - first by the Krauts and later improved by our infantry." The military nomenclature for a headgerow: a 4-10 foot high solid earthen dike thick enough to allow one to burrow straight in at ground level and then tunnel laterally, providing excellent protection and warm dry quarters for one or several men; and, cleverly concealed fighting positions dug in and/or stepped up elsewhere along the hedgerow. Gopher, woodchuck, or fox - your choice. According to legend, Gallic peasants during Roman times marked the boundaries of fields with walls of dirt - embankments on which trees and shrubs flourished which in combination formed hedgerows. The French word for the terrain formed thereby is "bocage" - roughly meaning grove. Normandy is a crazily formed quilt of many thousands of such small fields of varying size and pattern making for thousands of small family farms, larger chateaus/estates and vast acreages of tilled crops, pasture and orchards, mostly apple, all combining to make for a nightmarish arena for ground combat especially in the offensive. And a defender's delight. The green-but-learning Snortin' Bullers soon learned to distinguish the fearsome crack of incoming 75s and 88s from the equally distinctive sound of friendly outoing. And a grudging respect of German mortar skills. By platoons, squads, detachments the companies took over the well prepared positions and quickly assumed their defensive roles of manning road blocks, outposts (OP), firing positions, MG harassing fire, mine warfare, friendly/enemy booby trapping, and all else, excluding the attack, making up the MOS of "745 Rifleman." Here too the now rusty and unused basics of patrolling supposedly learned during small unit tactical training had to be relearned. Only now, real time. And even though untrained in this speciality, bn men were pressed into service as artillery spotters - with surprising results, sometimes good - sometimes embarrassing, as they learned the drill. Several expressed their opinion that patrol duty was the worse assignment by far. Routed in no-mans-land randomly sown with AP mines and frequently covered by well-hidden snipers was no bargain in any man's book. "A hair raising experience," they said. Anti-personnel (AP) mines in the enemy arsenal included the feared S-mine carrying the battlefield name of "Bouncing Betty." Recommended defensive action as passed down thru the ranks - "Upon hearing the distinctive 'click', freeze so the offending foot would hold the two-part mine down thereby letting the ground absorb both explosions theorizing 'better to lose a leg than your life.'" Indeed, easier said than done. Some what less lethal was the Schumine 42 - a 3x5x2

inch wood box whose lid w/nail served as a pressure plate to detonate a 5-7 ounce charge powerful enough to blow off a foot or leg. The mines' wood construction made it virtually impossible to detect with mine detectors. By far the most unfortunate patrol experience occurred in Co C. According to carefully filed input from (Sgt) Warren O. "Orv" Crow (107 R from L/127 Inf, Livingston) some years back, a 5-man patrol comprised of (1st Lt) Frank L. Adams, Andrew Pesanka, Raul Lozano, William Ostroski and Victor Girdaukas (107 R-TAPS 1978) ran into a deadly artillery/mortar and AP mine situation - Girdaukas was the sole survivor. Backing up to Les Doro: "Our CO, Capt Reginald Fairfax, told the assembled Lts Adams and George R. Anderson (joined Saunton Sands - surviving Bulge POW-UNLOCATED) that one of the two had this patrol, "Decide who between yourselves." After discussion, they decided on a coin toss, but no one had a coin. Someone then produced a tattered match book cover for the flip. Adams lost. He was well liked by the men. I gave him a crash course on my Thompson sub-machine gun before they set out." When later word came in that the patrol was down, a recovery detail was immediately organized. It was an all volunteer party according to and including (1st Lt) Woodfow "Woody" Tompkins, Co B Exec O, and Adams's former roommate. Unarmed but wearing identifying Red Cross armbands hoping they'd be honored by the enemy, the recovery detail proceeded unhindered except for some non-threatening artillery rounds. However, upon locating the downed patrol in a sneakily mined ditch where the men had apparently took cover, they were confronted with a problem-unexploded AP mines. According to Tompkins again, the area was successfully deloused by M/Sgt-Bn Const Sgt) Ralph E. Soper (A 107 R NG-field commissioned-TAPS 1967). The ill-fated patrol was a result of this JOURNAL recorded order from the Asst Div Comdr, 2nd Inf Div: "Send two patrols per Co for rcn to find the enemy; proceed until contact is made; report each 1/2 hr." From the Co C JOURNAL, 1730 hrs: "Patrols to hunt for Lt Watkins and Lt Adams just left;" At 1800 hrs: "Request more Medics; 3 men with patrol to pick up Watkins were wounded - two were Medics." And finally this Bn JOURNAL entry at 2000 hrs by the S-3, (Maj) Jesse D. Kelsay: "Patrols reported in with bodies of Lt Watkins, Lt Adams and 3 EM of Co C." Tragically, this action occurred just the day before the Bn was reordered back to respective rear area bivouacs. (1st Lt) Theodore R. Benning, Jr. contributes: "I had the 3rd Plt in Co B; S/Sgt Charles L. Senecal (107 R, Munising, MI) was the Plt Sgt. My plt was pulled out for Bn Hq security duty but soon after a Co officer had a nervous breakdown and Col Jenkins temporarily assigned me to his (Co C) plt

on flank outpost. The next day I was ordered to take a combat patrol to wipe out snipers in a little village below, which may have been BERIGNY. It was on that mission that I was wounded along with 2 others of the 5-man patrol, but I can't remember their names having been in C Co the short time. I was evacuated to N. Wales and later through a fortunate chain of circumstances (Ted detailed- necessarily capsuled) had my hearing restored from 10% to 95% by surgery in Woverly, England. Upon hospital discharge for full duty I was given the election of being returned to the 254th or reassigned to another engineer outfit. I rejoined the 254th in December soon after the Bn's Battle of Bulge infantry action (17 Dec) then learning that Sgt Senecal was KIA at BULLINGEN and Lt Robert D. Wise (A/B 254- joined in Belgium-TAPS 1992) had my former 3rd Plt. I was assigned the 2nd Plt which had formerly been Lt (Arlan F.) Bond's (Saunton Sands-evacuated B of B, severe case of trench foot-TAPS 1995). S/Sgt Donald M. "Duke" Duquette (D 107 R NG-B 254-TAPS 1988) was my new Plt Sgt and we served together until war's end." In a lighter view, Paul J. Van Abel (E 107 R NG) wrote from his L'Anse, MI, home while recovering from by-pass surgery: "We could only fill every other foxhole & on our left was some other outfit. I had a MG crew in about the middle of Co A's line and set up our aiming stakes for timed harassing fire. (Cpl) Raymond E. Deicher (A 107 R-A 254) plotted a nightly enemy patrol's route from his OP reporting that to me. I told Plt Sgt Charles E. 'Commando Chuck' Karpinen (E 107 R NG, Calumet, MI-later 2nd Lt- TAPS 1948) who rigged up an ambush trip wire device. That night the Krauts came again. BOOM goes the boby trap followed by a whispered 'Achtung Otto' and sounds of a fast retreat. Come daylight we find a dead pig with a long leash around its neck - they were using the pig as a lead. But our MG bursts didn't go unobserved either (maybe being more effective than realized) because just about dusk one evening we hear a German tank clanking along concealed behind a hedge. Watching through our peep hole, I see the gun barrel swing over the hedge towards us, fires, hitting about 10 feet from our position. They knew right where we were but fortunately only fired the one round which still shook us and our position up pretty good." "The access lane leading to positions Co C took over was called 'Purple Heart Lane' by the infantry," reports Faustino Negrete (3rd Plt), "and for good reason because we had to bend low and run to-beat-hell across an opening, dive and roll right to avoid a concealed sniper. I mainly did CP guard duty with Simon Vander Ploeg (M/126th Inf at Livingston) but out of boredom volunteered for two 3:00 a.m. patrols, the 'dawn patrol.' I remember too that the 1/9th company we relieved

in turn took over from us on 28 July because I met some of the same guys coming and going, one inquiring, 'Are you still here?'" (Sgt) Warren L. "Marty" Romain (127th Inf to D 107 R) was manning a Co B MG position with Burdette R. "Bert" Hayner (F 107 R-B/H&S 254) when hearing suspicious night noises across their hedge position, pulled the pins on two grenades, counted to 3, and let fly. End of noise. "The next morning we find a dead mule which of course soon bloated up and began to stink. On our left flank we had an uncovered sunken lane so we set up trip wire grenade traps to cover that gap. Good idea but the results were not as expected. Got a cow that began to stink as bad as the mule. Between the 2 ripe animals and a decomposing German corpse on our right we had us a real stinky position." The German paras were active and aggressive nocturnal patrolers which kept everyone alert and generated lots of night flares and fireworks. So far as is known all 254th patrols were early morning or daytime missions. Unable to remember what the chow situation was, we picked the good memory of (S/ Sgt) Anton G. "Tony" Crnkovich, a veteran Mess Sgt, A 107 R NG to A 254 & handy locally, who unhesitatingly informed ye' editor, "Ks the whole time - the cooks were too damn busy mounting rear echelon guard for cooking and bringing up hot chow." By now its readily apparent that another volume of the "107/254 in WWII" series could be compiled from a complete rank and file survey about BERIGNY. Anyone having more to contribute - hows about sharing for a future sequed feature? And for 107th history documentation. The Bn JOURNAL frequently referred to was acquired from the National Archives last year. For many obvious reasons what a priceless acquisition thats turned out to be. But miraculously another 254th JOURNAL turned up a few years back in the wartime souvenirs of (1st Sgt) William "Howard" Davey (D 107 R NG-B/C/H&S 254) at his Negaunee home only 3 miles from Hq. An announcement concerning this acquisition, we must now confess, has been deliberately delayed "awaiting the proper time." At last, belated thanks and recognition to Howard for a great contribution which has provided valuable as well as an official account of events occurring during the brief period of time here covered. The JOURNAL'S 20 legal-sized pages covering Co C's operations for the identical 16-28 July 44 period is a running account of events compiled on the company CP entry level. It relates the nitty-gritty details right down to the "on-the-half-hour" field phone reports - "Contacted all plts & reported all quiet to Bn." Other JOURNAL entries tell us that Lt Watkins was believed killed by a booby-trapped S-mine, and other operational notations some naming names of C Co men, Rucker, Rohrbacher, Lt Shafer,

Cowhey, Jensen, Smith (L.V.E.), Porterfield, Hoving and Toland as the two WIAs from the ME 109 bomb, Farrell, Peck, Lt Silberman and others. That Ernest Zanoni (B 254) was the battalions first KIA is without question. He was head shot and killed instantly by a sniper who scored when "Zag" raised up too high while improving his hedgerow position. (Sgt) George P. Apostle too was an unfortunate sniper casualty. One report had him routinely checking his outposted squad's positions unaware that his patterned schedule was being monitored by an alert marksman - whose patience and surveillance was rewarded. "Turk" died of a chest wound during evacuation. A mid-February BS session with Joseph F. Clabots (F 107 R-B 254) at the Jacobetti Veterans' Facility, Marquette, MI, was a joint reminiscent and enlightening visit. (An aside - Painter J. Harris (D 107 R NG-C 254) is there too - neither not quite up to full duty but doing OK.) Joe had a 1st Plt squad in line next to Apostle's who, as Joe recollects, was out checking a dead phone line to an OP (later determined cut by a mortar blast) when hit. "Zanoni was from New York State, maybe Brooklyn, and was one of my best men," he said. Having no knowledge about Herbert P. Wyss except as later noted, "Joe's response to an inquiry about him was rewarding, "He was hit by a burp gun burst while checking out noises/possible infiltrators in an intersecting hedgerow." Herb is buried in the American Normandy Cemetary, H-11-8. The 254th's BERIGNY action terminated late on 28 July as confirmed by these factual JOURNAL entries. From Co C's: "Left area for rear echelon bivouac area." The Bn JOURNAL records: "Personal visit by Ex O 2nd Engrs requesting info on mines etc in front; reports the 254th will be relieved on 28 Jul; later called to say we are to clear all friendly mines, booby traps and crater charges; good mines and crater charges to be turned in to 2nd Engr Bn - bad mines will be blown; INDEX BLUE taking up phone lines to us; we can reach them through IVANHOE: we have direct line to IVANHOE now; let CO 1121 Gp Hq know as soon as we are relieved; we revert to 1121 control as of 0940, 28 Jul; opened new Bn CP at 643682, 1700 hrs." All indicative that the enemy's NORMANDY defensive front in the US sector had been breached and that the enemy was falling back to new positions thereby leading to the relieved battalion's (and "relieved" men) departure for less harrowing Combat Engineering operations. The following twice-reproduced BATTALION HISTORY, MONTH OF JULY 1944, provides the official account of the 254's dual engineer/infantry operations during its second month on the Continent. It was prepared and signed by 1st Lt Judson C. Schuler, Adjutant, For the Commanding Officer (LTC Loren W. Jenkins). Hopefully

this old document in combination with other credited source material will taken together convey a fair, however sketchy, overview of the 254th "INFANTRY" operations, 18-28 July 44 vicinity of BERIGNY. Ye' editor acknowledges gratefully all contributions graciously given

for this article. Regretfully, some of it just couldn't be shoehorned in and other accounts had to be ruthlessly whittled down in order to fit these pages. For all donors, cited or not - a SNORTIN' BULL MEDALLION commendation per ASSOCIATION SPECIAL ORDER NO. 40.

~~SECRET~~
HEADQUARTERS
254 ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 230, c/o POSTMASTER
New York, New York

S-1508 8362

Orig to Div
ETO
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BATTALION HISTORY

MONTH OF JULY 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.

- 3. a. ORIGINAL UNIT: - No Change
- b. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION - None
- c. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:

	OFF	WO	EM
(1) Beginning of Period:	34	3	675
(2) Net Increase:	0	0	3
(3) Net Decrease:	4	0	28
(4) At end of Period:	30	3	650
- d. STATIONS: - See attached overlay
- e. MARCHES: - None
- f. CAMPAIGNS: - Undetermined
- g. BATTLES: - (Narrative Account)

ENBN-254-6715-431

Our action for the month of July must, from its nature, be divided in two phases. The first phase covers routine engineer missions which were performed from the first to the nineteenth. During the remainder of the month, in the second phase, this battalion was attached to the 2nd Infantry Division and occupied defensive positions in the front lines.

The majority of the operations during the first period consisted of road repair and maintenance, establishing and operating water points, opening and operating sand, gravel and shale pits, mine field sweeping, mine field removal and construction work for V Corps. The statistics for the period are as follows:

Approximate miles of roads maintained: 96½ miles
 Approximate miles of roads constructed: ½ mile
 Gallons of water pumped: 482,900
 Cubic yards of sand, gravel and shale hauled: 5304
 No of AT mines removed or blown: 14
 No of AP mines removed or blown: 18

2928
master

~~SECRET~~

Battalion History - Month of July 44 - (cont'd):

On the 16th of July at 0900 hours, per letter Hq V Corps, file 370.5, dated 17 July 1944, Subject: Troop Assignment, this battalion was attached to the 2nd Infantry Division and occupied defensive positions shown on overlay. The first Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment was relieved and our mission was to defend these positions and deliver 8000 rounds of .30 cal MG harrassing fire on the enemy during every 24 hour period. The fire was indirect at targets designated by 9th Infantry. One additional mission was to support the attack of the 9th Infantry by fire from our eighteen (18) 30. cal HMG's at times and on targets specified by the 9th Infantry.

The day of attack was set for 22 July but was postponed and did not take place until the morning of 26th of July. Our Mg's fired their mission and were controlled by Capt. Jesse D. Kelsay, S-3, through the establishment of radio and telephone communication with each gun position.

As previously mentioned, our primary mission was to hold a defensive front approximately one mile in width while adjacent infantry units on our right and left flanks swept around in a pincer movement forcing the enemy to withdraw or capitulate. Set up with various outposts, our work consisted largely of patrolling -- a constant proding to ascertain the enemy positions, his strength and possible withdrawel. During most of the time we spent in these positions the enemy shelled us with mortar, artillery, machine gun and small arms fire. One bomb, believed to have been deliberately jettisoned by a ME 109 fell in Company C area and two men were wounded by flying shrapnell. The enemy fire along with numerous German S-mines accounted for 24 wounded in action and six killed in action. Two of the wounded later died in the hospital.

At dawn on the 27th of July two German soldiers entered our front lines and gave themselves up. These were the only two prisoners taken. They were members of the 9th Paratroop Regiment and had previously been on the St. LO Front where they had gone through the terrific 8-hour barrage on Hill 192. All seemed anxious to get out of action and were favorably impressed with the treatment received.

On being relieved of infantry duties we returned to our bivouac area in the CERESY FOREST area on July 28th, sadder, wiser, dog-tired, and with much greater respect for the "Queen of Battle".

h. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS: - None

i. LOSSES IN ACTION; OFFICERS AND MEN:

Ye Editor's added comments

KIA: 1st Lt Frank L. Adams, Jr., O-1114033 (Co C); asgd at Saunton Sands; from Montana
2nd Lt Norman C. Watkins, O-1115449 (Co C); asgd at Saunton Sands; from Pennsylvania
T/4 Ernest B. Zanoni, 32178646 (Co B); Bn's first KIA; no record wherefrom; "Zag"
Pfc Raul Lozano, 38033795 (Co C); no record where asgd; from McAllen, Texas
Pfc William W. Ostrowski, 33605803 (Co C); no record where asgd; from Pennsylvania
Pvt Andrew Pesanka, 13087931 (Co C); no record where asgd; from Pennsylvania

DOW: Sgt George P. Apostle, 36225981 Co B); D/107 R Livingston; from Ironwood, MI; "Turk"
Pfc Herbert P. Wyss, 20646331 (Co B); 107 R Livingston from C/127 Inf, Wis NG;
from Oconto. Wis.

OUNDED (Evacuated):

2nd Lt Theodore R. Benning, Jr., O-471363 ; ret'd Dec dur BofB; Co B; asgd Newquay; from GA
Sgt Lawrence E. Meyer, 20646613; Co ?) S/N indicates Wis NG, Ripon; 107 R Livingston; UL
T/4 Benjamin M. Radeka, 20637986; (Med Det); 107 NG Calumet; ret'd to Bn; TAPS 1976
T/5 Lyle F. Decker, 36156306; (Co C); evac to US; A/107 R Livingston
T/5 Clifford C. Herstrom, 20637981; (Med Det); 107 NG Calumet; ret'd to Bn; TAPS 1972
Pfc Glenn R. Leece, 36156563; (Co B); no record where/when joined; TAPS 1987; from Mich.
Pvt Edward L. Perry, 35652598; (Co C); no record where/when joined; from Ohio; UNLOCATED
Pvt Kenneth L. Parry, 36442525; (Co C); no record where/when joined; "Sleeper"
Pvt George F. Rahrnick, 37558763; (Co A); where/when ?; rejoined Bn, Bullingen; TAPS 1994
Pvt William W. Randell, 36225921; (Co ?); no record where/when joined; from ?; UNLOCATED
Pvt Eldridge J. Koels, 36484699; (Co A); evac to England; rejoined Bn, Belgium
Pvt Edgar S. Kirk, 12220177; (Co ?); no record where/when joined; from ?; UNLOCATED
Pvt Walter C. Eads, Jr., 35795651; (Co ?); no record where/when joined; from ?; UNLOCATED
Pvt Donald J. Koevenig, 37048570; (Co C); no record where/when joined; ~~UNLOCATED~~; UNLOCATED
Pfc Thomas J. Toland, 33779738; (Co C); no record where/when joined; ~~UNLOCATED~~; UNLOCATED

OUNDED (Non-evacuated):

Pvt Leonard J. Robinette, 36418764; (H&S); joined at Devizes; from Hardwood, MI; TAPS 1990
S/Sgt Charles E. Karpinen, 20638456; (Co A); E/107 NG, Calumet; Fld Comm 2nd Lt; TAPS 1948
T/5 Arthur J. Gibour, 20638456; (Co A); A/107 NG, Escanaba; from Hermansville, Mich.
Pvt William F. White, 16148333; (Co A); joined at Devizes; UL - last known Detroit, Mich.
Pvt Homer J. Fisk, 36156252; (Co A); 107 R, Livingston from 127th Inf
Pfc Albert A. Silvestri, 32929932; (Co C); where/when ?; POW Bof B; from NY; TAPS 1987
Sgt Lester H. Doro, 20646506; (Co C); joined 107 R, Livingston, fr D/127 Inf Wis NG
T/5 Stanley A. Tomaszewski, 36226041; (H&S); joined 107 R, Livingston, Gaastra, MI; TAPS 1993
Cpl Raymond C. Luczyk, 36155397; (Co C); joined 107 R, Livingston; POW Bof B
S/Sgt Harold D. Rucker, 34097940; (Co C); joined at Devizes, POW BofB; TAPS 1974
Sgt Frances D. Morin, 36225877; (Co C); joined E/107 R, Livingston, Houghton, MI; TAPS 1995
Pvt John C. Hughes, 16093496; (H&S) where/when ?; WIA/evac. Buzz Bomb, Bullingen; UNLOCATED
Pfc Phillip A. LaMancusa, 35174699; (Co C); joined at Newquay; from NY; TAPS 1995
T/5 Ralph D. Bowden; (Med Det); no record where/when joined; last address Brewer, Maine 1996

MISSING OR TAKEN PRISONER: - None

ENGINEER UNITS AT OMAHA BEACH

You may be surprised to learn that 50% of the first U.S. forces to land on OMAHA and UTAH BEACHES were Engineers - and Engineers provided about 20% of the D-day forces assaulting the 2 beaches. The following is a listing of Engineer units, battalion or larger, officially credited in War Department general orders with participation on OMAHA BEACH (some did not land on D-day, such as the bulk of the 254th).

HHC Provisional Engr Special Brigade Group
HHC 5th Engineer Special Brigade
HHC 6th Engineer Special Brigade
HHC 1121st Engineer Combat Group (*asgd to Gp)
1st Engineer Combat Battalion (1st Inf Div)
121st Engineer Combat Battalion (29th Inf Div)
20th Engr C Bn
112th Engr C Bn*
147th Engr C Bn
203rd Engr C Bn

37th Engr C Bn
*146th Engr C Bn
149th Engr C Bn
234th Engr C Bn

254th Engr C Bn*
336th Engr C Bn
348th Engr C Bn
6th U.S. Naval Beach Bn/7th US Naval Beach Bn
Naval Construction Bn's 108, 111, 146
Construction Bn Det 1006 (also at UTAH)

299th Engr C Bn (less
Co B to UTAH
1340th Engr C Bn

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1996-1997)

President: Maj (Ret) Edward P. Leask (1437th)
Vice Pres: SFC Dave Brown (1437th Engr Br Co)
Secretary: Ed Vickstrom (D 107 R-H&S 254)
Treasurer: SFC James Hatcheson (HHC 107 NG Bn)
Historian: LTC Fred Stonehouse (HHC 107 NG Bn)
P.R.O. : SFC James Turunen (A 107 NG Bn)
Permanent Dir: LTC John A. Trotter (CO 107 Bn)
4-Yr. Director: Paul Van Abel (E 107 R-A 254)
3-Yr. Director: Col (Ret) Don R. Small (NG Bn)
2-Yr. Director: CSM (Ret) Richard Oja (HHC NG)
1-Yr. Director: CSM (Ret) Robert M. Taylor (NG)
Assoc. Chaplain: LTC (Ret) George Hansen (NG)

ALTERNATE PLAN

Good intentions notwithstanding, we're reluctantly reneging on several rashly made promises that this issue would for sure get into the story, so far as it applies to the 254th, about the ASSAULT TRAINING CENTER, SAUNTON SANDS, W. DEVON, ENGLAND, for which the battalion had in the summer of '43 an important construction role. Even having in hand a piece all written up and ready to roll when discovering during lay-out time it had to be cut down drastically or postponed because BERIGNY was much longer than expected. A good and bad combination of poor planning and too much stuff awaiting dissemination/documentation. Though frustrating not all is lost - with the delayed ATC feature (even longer than BERIGNY) the BULL SHEET is off and running for Issue No. 41, 1998. And that's good planning. With that bit of consoling reality we're falling back on something that was for the same space reason squeezed out of the '96 issue - the last of the 254th rosters of early 1945 record.

* denotes TAPS since 1945

UL denotes UNLOCATED

R denotes ON ASSOCIATION ROSTER; 1945 hometown shown

NG denotes 107th NG Federally Inducted on 15 Oct 40; 1945 hometown shown; NG comp - any in parenthesis

Note: Co's B, C & Med Det rosters in #37; Co A's in #38

HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE CO, 254th ENGR C BN

LTC Loren W. Jenkins, Escanaba, MI (A) NG *

Maj Jesse D. Kelsay, Texas R

Maj Albert S. Wynot, Dorchester, MA R

Cpt Murray H. Cunningham, Vicksburg, MS R

CPT Fithian S. Faries, Maysville, KY *

Cpt Judson C. Schuler, Columbus, OH R

Cpt Wm. W. Bainbridge, NY or Chicago UL

Cpt Richard B. Bailey, New Orleans, LA *

1 Lt Edwin F. Shafer, Columbus, OH R

1 Lt Ralph E. Soper, Carney, MI (A) NG *

1 Lt Herbert W. Tompkins, Richmond, VA R

1 Lt Dominick V. Rubeo, Yonkers, NY R

2 Lt Edward C. Vickstrom, Marquette, MI(D) NG R

CWO Ulrich W. Schiefer, Columbus, OH *

WOJG Joseph A. Censabella, New York, NY R

WOJG Donald J. Fournier, Detroit, MI (H&S) NG *

M/Sgt Yngve H. Boberg, Calumet, MI (E) NG *

M/Sgt Erwin B. Klotz, Los Angeles, CA R

M/Sgt Howard J. Linnert, Cleveland, OH (112)NG*

M/Sgt Howard W. Nichola, Dodgeville, MI R

1 Sgt Howard A. Gauthier, Iron Mtn., MI(D) NG *

T/Sgt Elbert E. Abbott, Niles, MI UL

T/Sgt Alden T. Ballard, Detroit, MI (H&S) NG *

T/Sgt Earl C. Bonnie, Rhinelander, WI UL

T/Sgt Phillip Cohen, St. Louis, MO *

T/Sgt Sylvan J. Gerber, Arlington, VA UL

T/Sgt Clydus E. Jones, Lampasas, TX *

T/Sgt Clarence E. Pierce, Sioux City, IA R

T/Sgt Alvin L. Taggart, Farmington, MI R

S/Sgt Louis S. Barraza, Arvin, CA R

S/Sgt George M. Bestler, Minneapolis, MN *

S/Sgt Max A. Glosson, Cassopolis, MI *

S/Sgt Walter R. Fennell, San Francisco, CA UL

S/Sgt Edwin P. Kipina, Kearsarge, MI (E) NG *

S/Sgt George B. Molentin, Chicago, IL *

S/Sgt Robert K. McGuire, Osceola, IA R

S/Sgt Leonard J. Poquette, Escanaba, MI(A) NG R

S/Sgt Chilton Stalnaker, Charleston, WV UL

S/Sgt Harry J. Stamfli, Cleveland, OH (112)NG *

S/Sgt Edward A. Toerpe, Plymouth, WI *

S/Sgt James Wapner, Hartford, CT R

Sgt Clifford C. Densmore, Detroit, MI *

T/4 Frank Andrzejczak, University City, MO UL

T/4 Ralph W. Bay, Jr., Los Angeles, CA UL

T/4 James M. Bynum, Chattanooga, TN UL

T/4 James W. Crow, Cleveland, OH UL

T/4 Edward P. Derheimer, Ft. Wayne, IN *

T/4 Walter K. Flath, Detroit, MI (H&S) NG UL

T/4 Kenneth R. Dykes, Cincinnati, OH R

T/4 John B. Heaton, Houston, TX R

T/4 Ralph M. Horne, Jr., New York, NY *

T/4 Elburn L. Innis, Newton, OH *

T/4 John C. Kangas, Forest Lake, MI *

T/4 Ralph G. Katzenberger, Flint, MI R

T/4 Edward D. Krueger, Oconto, WI *

T/4 Merritt J. Leaf, Iron Mtn., MI (D) NG *

T/4 Lewis N. Lembo, Brooklyn, NY R

T/4 Isom W. Lewis, Jr., Grange, TX R

T/4 William A. Martin, Coeur d'Alene, ID *

T/4 Andrew J. Mezzo, Detroit, MI *

T/4 Americo J. Metro, Soo, MI (B) NG R

T/4 John J. McCormick, Manitowoc, WI R

T/4 Donald E. Ockerby, Ontonagon, MI *

T/4 John Reed, Jr., Kenton, OH *

T/4 John E. Sukup, Detroit, MI (A) NG R

T/4 Raymond W. Townsend, Providence, RI UL

T/4 John V. Walsh, Utica, NY *

T/4 Weller C. Wilson, North East, MD R

T/4 George A. Youren, Negaunee, MI (D) NG R

Cpl David L. Duvall, Augusta, GA *

Cpl James D. Mann, Bay Minett, AL UL

T/5 Stanley R. Bostwick, Auburn, MA *

T/5 Fletcher E. Brodt, Beeton, WI *

T/5 Jack W. Bzdafka, Cleveland, OH *

T/5 Allan M. Caya, Lynxville, WI R

T/5 Joseph E. Clements, Jr., Owensboro, KY R

T/5 Robert J. Dwyer, Shaker Heights, OH *

T/5 George E. Eyster, Ecorse, MI (A) NG R

T/5 Bernard W. Faust, Pontiac, MI UL

T/5 James B. Fischer, Mt. Vernon, IL UL

T/5 Arthur J. Fournier, Sagamore, MA R

T/5 Raymond L. Hartman, Cleveland, OH R

T/5 Francis H. Jones, South China, ME *

T/5 Louis A. Malinoske, Stephenson, MI (A) NG*

T/5 John B. Matthews, Indianapolis, IN UL

T/5 John A. Neno, Groton, NY R

T/5 Arnold R. Oseland, Milwaukee, WI R

T/5 Lindsay C. Passano, Baltimore, MD *
 T/5 Leonard J. Robinette, Hardwood, MI *
 T/5 Norman L. Rounds, Cornish, ME R
 T/5 Wilfred A. Smith, Lakewood, OH *
 T/5 Arnold M. Sosebee, Ball Ground, GA UL
 T/5 Dale R. Sprotte, Oakland, CA R
 T/5 Guy H. Talbott, Jr., Baltimore, MD *
 T/5 Stanley A. Tomaszewski, Gaastra, MI *
 T/5 Roy W. Tredway, Winfield, KS *
 T/5 James L. Warren, TexasCity, TX UL
 T/5 Michael J. Watchko, Los Angeles, CA *
 Pfc Clarence H. Baker, Detroit, MI R
 Pfc Bill C. Banville, Cleveland, OH R
 Pfc Felix E. Dudkiewicz, Green Bay, WI R
 Pfc Florenz J. Ernst, Pittsburgh, PA *
 Pfc John Halaris, Bronx, NY UL
 Pfc Mike Hydo, Detroit, MI (H&S) NG R
 Pfc Raymond A. Karpinen, Atlantic Mine, MI *
 Pfc Francis E. Loose, Detroit, MI *
 Pfc Jack C. Mayberry, Compton, CA UL
 Pfc George Maskovyak, Cleveland, OH R
 Pfc Truett E. McCarty, Floydada, TX UL
 Pfc Michael Nissenbaum (Nissen), Bronx, NY UL
 Pfc John A. Pinette, Nashua, NH *
 Pfc Elmer E. Raether, Cadott, WI R
 Pfc Alvin C. Roden, Shiveley, KY UL
 Pfc Garland F. Seabright, Winchester, VA *
 Pfc Sam Seminatore, Cleveland, OH UL
 Pfc John N. Swenson, Davenport, IA *
 Pfc Rosario A. Tarsia, Brooklyn, NY UL
 Pfc Stephen Veninchek, Taylor, PA UL
 Pfc Wesley Winters, Santa Monica, CA UL
 Pfc Willis H. Williams, Mt. View, CA UL
 Pvt Troy J. Aldridge, Alabama UL
 Pvt Ernest W. Passamoni, Iron River, MI *
 Pvt Francis J. Shawa, Eckerman, MI (B) NG *
 Pvt Louis Zak, Chagrin Falls, OH R

CALUMET HOSTS 35th ANNUAL REUNION

Super event! GREAT GREAT WEEKEND!! Each one of our 34 preceding reunions projected variously in one way or another their own distinctive individuality. Usually via innovations and entertaining extras that were woven into the tried and true format that we've become familiar with. And have come to take for granted. Broadly interpreted for compliance under Art. II, Sec. 1, Par. b, of the By-laws we quote: "To encourage and promote friendly social relations between all members, past and present, of the 107th Engineers and its counterparts." Nbw pretty much SOP this boils down to the essentials - meeting place, chow, bar, memorial service, business meeting and banquet/dance all directed towards promoting camaraderie between 107/522/254/1121 troops, past and present. Essentially the reunion's main purpose in life. Though simply stated the intensive planning required to meet these criteria makes for a formidable task as any one of the 35 dedicated reunion committees can attest to. Calumet again

presented an easy flowing sequence of weekend enjoyment within the By-law guidelines. However, what was not generally known beforehand were some unique extras planned for Saturday designated as "Ed Vickstrom Day" honoring ye' editor for his 35 years of service towards the Association as secretary and BULL SHEET editor. Fortified with a hearty army breakfast, the troops either viewed or participated in a community/107th Engr Bn parade. A parade you say? Yup, and a full-fledged deal too complete with color guards, floats, helicopter flyover, military equipment, bands, MPs from Kingsford's 46th MP Co (old Co D 107th redesignated) - and an overwhelmed and somewhat embarrassed Ed and wife, Marie, parade marshals. It terminated and disbanded at a disused overgrown Laurium cemetery some distance from the armory where the next surprise unfolded. Here the troops,



Association Chaplain delivering memorial address following Co A's precision ceremonial drill; 7-man firing squad at parade rest, right (picture from Leo LaFond)

color guard, firing squad, bugler, Assoc. Chaplain, dignitaries and guests assembled for Memorial Service ceremonies at the restored gravesite of Pvt Joseph Heimes, Calumet Light Guard, whose death occurred on 6 Sep 1895 at Camp Ishpeming where the unit was bivouaced following call-up for strike duty. Heimes was killed when a windblown tree fell on his tent. After on-site Light Guard memorialization, his body was returned to Calumet for interment. Many years later the hand carved memorial stone left at Camp Ishpeming was found and removed for safekeeping and display at Ishpeming's armory. Also, the incident is written up in the "History of 107th Engineers, 1881-1981", copies still available. Pvt Heime's death and gravesite faded into obscurity through the years until,

nearly a century later, a Mr. Leo LaFond (not 107th, a prominent UP iron mining historian), whose home and boyhood frolics were closely tied to the now overgrown and forgotten campsite, out of curiosity began to research the facts/archives about Heimes's death. His findings led him to the Calumet area 115 miles from his Negaunee home later discovering that unbeknownst to each, Co A was doing the same for its forthcoming reunion. The two eventually made connection leading to the finding and restoration of the ravaged gravesite by Co A before reunion time. Besides that, Co A has pledged itself to perpetual care of the site. The full story about his determined search is compiled into an interesting account that Mr. LaFond entitled "Story of the Missing Corpse." Its a touching tale about one of our revered predecessors in arms made possible by the tri-party efforts of Mr. LaFond, Hq & Hq Co/Ishpeming and Company A/Calumet. Reinforced by a delicious noon mess (NG cooks again) the annual business meeting was convened by President Bussiere. Though he did lots of preparatory ground work, Gen Ward's verbal and written presentation about a 107th memorialization program was a thought provoking plan to those present. Briefly, Gen Ward proposed the establishment of a Memorialization Committee for formulating and funding U.S. and overseas memorial plaques, markers and/or monuments in armories and Hwy 107 in the UP and appropriate places overseas where the 107th/254th had distinguished itself during WWII in such places as SAUNTON SANDS, ISIGNY, BERIGNY, WALLENDORF, BULLINGEN & RHINE RIVER (Victor Bridge). The General's presentation led to a stimulating discussion, formal approval of his written proposal and election of a seed committee including Gen Ward, Director and LTC John A. Trotter, Asst. Director. Being beyond the scope of this BULL SHEET reunion recognition/critique, the exciting Memorialization program as constituted in part is another story to be further explored, developed and/or implemented. Saturday's assemblage of pure 107th VIPs was outstanding. Present and recognized were most living Bn COs including BG Leonard C. Ward (Ret), BG Peter B. Injasoulian, State Deputy STARC Commander, and Col (Ret) Henry P. Ilenich, MC for the banquet program. A featured speaker was Col Michael L. Paluda, CO of 46th Engr Group, an ex-107th officer dating back to 1973, who also presented ye' editor with the prestigious Bronze Order of the deFleury Medal, Army Engineer Association. Other honors were a plaque from Company A and a military crafted clock from Able's E.M. Club both suitably engraved as to intent and purpose. Now lets hear it for Calumet's fabulous military/107th museum that deservedly got lots of traffic over the weekend as it does year around from visiting ex-107th/254 men, their relatives

locals and area tourists. Without doubt this outstanding collection about our honored past is beyond comparison elsewhere in the UP. Somewhat like a delectable dessert after a 10 course gourmet dinner, we've saved the best for last. ATTENTION, PRESENT ARMS for 1st Sgt (Ret) Donald J. Bussiere as he accepts our post-retirement/reunion salutes on the Association reviewing stand. Besides providing superb leadership, "Bish" deliberately delayed his voluntary military retirement until after discharging his reunion chair obligation, officially on 1 Aug 96 in a blaze of glory on both accounts. Dedication? You ain't just a munchin' your molars to coin an old army expression. Again suffering the annual case of the horrors fearing the unintentional oversight of even one deserving individual, we're falling back to a collective secure position - "well done faithful comrades and thanks for the memories." This heartfelt commendation from the 170 registrants of record, their family members/guests who answered the call - and from a grateful honors recipient from his entrusted "message center" desk. Its been a rare privilege serving with great people in a great Combat Engineer outfit. Yes, indeed, it was a fantastic weekend. Thank you, Calumet.

ANNOUNCEMENT

V Corps Hq holds annual reunions open to men in units that were attached to it - 1121 Gp Hq, 112th and 254th included. This year's event will take place in the Ramada Inn, South Bend, Indiana, over the dates of 22-23-24 Aug 1997. For further info contact: Harold W. Lomax, Box 304, Mishawaka, IN 46544 (219-255-4621).

SHORT SHORTS

How sweet it is. Another enjoyable "round robin" flow of events. From Raymond A. Anders (A/Med Det 107 R NG- Med Det 254). "Heres a long lost buddy whom I located recently. Joseph L. DuPont who joined Co A 107th Regiment (Escanaba) with our honorable Col Jenkins, who was the Park Supt at Camp Wells, CCC. Joe came in as a cook subsequently going to Africa with Co F 112th Regt." Quickly blowing the dust off Joe's card in the UL file, we find underneath a 30-year old reminder - "send Joe's address to Leonard F. Colwell (Mess Sgt B 107 R NG-522d) if and when known." Did so pronto. This quick confirmation from Len: "Alls well. Will contact Joe. Great news." Joe's response to our first-contact mailing: "In answer to your most welcome letter and papers recently received, I want to thank Doc Anders for sending you my address. I've been looking for this since 1946 finally hooking up with Anders in Nadeau, MI, last summer. Yes, there are more guys I'd

like to know where they are. Like Merle Armbruster who was Capt Hale's company clerk. Heres my dues and if its more let me know." Armbruster's Detroit address duly sent on but nothing new developing beyond that. As yet. Great fun reuniting old comrades.....during the Association's relatively brief 36 years of existence, its ranks from time of 1961 organization included troops/outfits of several defined eras -WWI passed on into memory, WWII approaching the same sorrowful status, 1946-1970s NGs getting there and later/present day guardspeople now writing their own unique pages into 107 history being understandably mindful that what transpired before their time is past history. Periods of casual interest at best. This observation from a WWII Bn Surgeon kinda sets one to thinking about that: "We have a Division Association and a monthly newsletter that keeps us all writing and talking and meeting, but in every issue the "In Memoriam" list grows longer and with it the knowledge that we'll soon be washed over the edge of history. What we were and what we did, at our best, and what happened around us, is slipping out of knowledge. Thats a pity. Please, young people, listen to us before we leave.".....1967 news items: Maj Richard T. Bussiere (B 107 NG Bn, 52-57-TAPS 1983) was awarded the Bronze Star and the Viet Medal of Honor (First Class) after 12 months service in Vietnam. He is now assigned to FIFTH ARMY HQ in Chicago. RA commissioned after his 107th tour, Dick was a Plt Ldr and Co Exec O with the 522d Engr Co, Fort Know, KY, successor to the original 522d (Co F 112th redesignated), 25 Jan 43) in N. Africa whose ranks had many Co B and C 107th Regt'l NGs of 1940 vintage, and: Major Gen Cecil Simmons, comd general of the 46th Inf Div, Michigan NG, observed a class on the M-16 rifle held for officers and NCOs in the Ishpeming armory including: SSG Jerome Wierzbicki, SFC Arnold Hintsala, Sgt Michael Fraser, Maj Edward Doyle, and SFC Aloysius Sever of HMC Ishpeming; 1st Lt John Nelson, Co B, Marquette; and Sgt Maj Kenneth Swist, Lansing....a thought while happily rootin' away in theSoo pasture . When the 1437th went to Ft. Lewis, WA, 14 Aug 50, enroute to Korea, the Co CO was Capt Willard M. Littlefield (TAPS 1983) rostered as a buck private in Co B 107th Regt to Louisiana, Oct 1940. No knowledge where/when/why he left the 107th or his WWII travels thereafter. Also going to Korea with the Br Co were two other (more?) Co B NGs being Lynn "Mac" McDonald (522-TAPS 1984) and Frank F.W. "Snuffy" Smith (522-TAPS 1985....as the weapons of war become more and more sophisticated so does the terminology identifying the various military elements. Consider the question of psychological effects of men in combat. In this century WWI produced "shell shock," WWII "battle fatigue," the Korean

War "combat neurosis" and Vietnam "post traumatic stress syndrome".....Earl C. "Terry" Terrill (E 107 R NG-A 254) was BULGE evacuated, wounds and frozen feet. The field hospital he was evacuated to was overrun by the Germans. He was a POW for about 2 hours before the 2nd Inf Div recaptured the hospital. Postwar in Florida he met an Army nurse who had served in the same Belgium hospital. Brother, Russell H. "Mouse" Terrill (F 107 R NG-B 254) was also WIA and evacuated during the BULGE eventually going to a Battle Creek, MI, hospital - same time Earl was hospitalized in New York....."How do you

**MILITARY ORDER
of THE PURPLE HEART**



LESTER H DJRO
9251 N WALL AVE
PORTLAND OR 97203



like my new stationery acquired after joining the MOPH here inPortland?"

.....for the second year running our NGs were for a time the 107th "SNOW REMOVAL" Bn. But unlike last year in Sault Ste. Marie, far eastern end of the UP, the Bn's mid-January alert this time was due to snow problems in Ironwood, the far western end of the Peninsula. Though a close call, the troops/equipment weren't mobilized this year because area emergency vehicles were able to get through in spite of bad

road conditions.....Hi Ed: "Sure glad to hear from you. Both Barbara and I are doing pretty good. Sorry to hear about John (Riley) who was my best man when I got married right after the war. And about Pete Denofre (D 107 R-B 254) too. When I saw him in 1992 he said, 'I don't care if I die now. I've seen 'Man' again.'" (Denofre did just a year later) Joe Olinick, Wilmington, DE, and I have been in touch and plan on getting together. Take care - will see you in Sault Ste. Marie if all goes alright." Pete Prus (all Co B 254)....."I am enclosing my 1997 dues. I want to get help to do the story of my days in the Japanese POW camp so I can send it to you." Thomas L. Pry (H&S 107 R NG (Detroit) to 127th Inf, PTO).....Hello Ed and wife: "Thought I had better get these Calumet memorial service pictures to you before misplacing them. Couldn't make the last reunions because of family illness - besides just about all my friends of old Co A 107th Bn, 1937-40, are in the local cemetary. Keep the BULL SHEET coming." Richard "Bruce" Norden....the German Wehrmacht's "Principal of Leadership." Authority decends from above downward and responsibility from below upward. As soldiers of the Reich, that is your guiding principal.....do you ex-GIs know that water supply is not the respon-

sibility of Combat Engineer battalions as was the case in your day. The Army now has separate Water Supply Companies under the command of the Quartermaster Corps.....254th High Command

apped bridge, 1995 issue. Photo from scrap-book of Jesse D. Kelsay via son, Andy. Co A 254 built and repaired bridge according to Herb Bastion (E 107 R NG-Co A)ALERT! When making motel reservations for the Soo, make mention you're coming in for the NG reunion. But, don't be graggin' your feet on this-
LOCK IN RIGHT NOW. FINIS!



ELSENBORN RIDGE, BELGIUM (N. shoulder of BULGE, Jan 1945. Left: Lt Col Loren W. Jenkins, CO 254 Engr C Bn (CO Co A 107th Regt NG, Escanaba; CO 2nd Bn 112th Engr C Regt - TAPS 1956); and Maj Jesse D. Kelsay, Bn Ex O, (M/Sgt in RA; as 1st Lt joined 107th Bn in N. Ireland, 1942; CO Co A 254 to France; Bn S-3; RA Colonel Retired; presently in Texas nursing home). Observe the log/brush covered foxholes behind. Photo credit - Mrs. Kelsay, wife, & Andy Kelsay, son.

Civilian Conservation Corps - familiar to many WWII men who served as CCC "enrollees." As CO of Escanaba's Co A, 1st Lt Jenkins took, so we've been told, full advantage of his CCC connections by zeroing in on some of the camp's 250 or so stalwart young men. Bodies and skills he knew would make splendid additions for his activated company. After the dust settled the shocking realization -they were in the Army now - and on their way to Louisiana for a years training. Today the hand-picked recruits laughingly admit, "Best damn thing that coulda happened to me." One of Co A's prime needs was a top-notch Mess Sgt and he got one - Anton G. Crnkovich (A 254) - after conning "Tony" into signing papers not exactly described as Army enlistment forms. Makes for a good laugh over a cold beer.....somehow missed id'ing the coll-

OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AT CALUMET REUNION

Cleveland E. Adams (B 107 R-522d) Newberry, MI
 Daniel W. Allen (HQ STARC) Grand Ledge, MI
 Vincent D. Antonich (A NG Bn) Spring Lake, MI
 Carleton W. Babb (B/HHC NG Bn) Grand Ledge, MI
 James E. Baker (A 107 NG Bn) L'Anse, MI
 Wilfred L. Barber (B/HHC NG Bn) Marquette, MI
 Thomas Bardowski (A 107 R-A 254) Stephenson, MI
 Raymond J. Baril (E 107 R-32) Lake Linden, MI
 Herbert S. Bastion (E 107 R-A 254) Clawson, MI
 Joseph B. Battaglia (1121 Hq) New Brighton, PA
 Robert H. Beauprey (D 107 NG Bn) Manistique, MI
 Ellard A. Beck (Med Det 107 R) Orangevale, CA
 Todd F. Bessner (HHC 107 NG Bn) Hancock, MI
 Frederick W. Bessonon (E 107 R) Calumet, MI
 Joseph C. Bonenfant (A 107 NG Bn) Calumet, MI
 Orlando A. Bongio (A 107 R-A 254) Iron River, MI
 Lawrence J. Brouillette (E 107 R) Calumet, MI
 Gary E. Brown (A 107 NG Bn) Laurium, MI
 Joe Brown (HHC 107 NG Bn) Greenland, MI
 James C. Brusso (A/C 107 NG Bn) Laurium, MI
 Thomas T. Burgan (A 107 NG Bn) Bradenton, FL
 Donald J. Bussiere (A 107 NG Bn) Ontonagon, MI
 Robert E. Bykkonen (A 107 NG Bn) Laurium, MI
 William J. Bykkonen (A 107 NG Bn) Calumet, MI
 Davis R. Carlson (A 107 NG Bn) Calumet, MI
 Joseph A. Censabella (HHC 254) Alexandria, VA
 Raymond J. Chartre (HHC 107 NG Bn) Negaunee, MI
 Roger Claypool (HHC STARC) Nashville, MI
 Edward J. Cloutier (F 107 R) Lake Linden, MI
 Reuben N. Colwander (F 107 R) Cape Coral, FL
 Arthur J. Coppo (A 107 NG Bn) Calumet, MI
 Anton G. Crnkovich (A 107 R-A 254) Ishpeming, MI
 Warren O. Crow (107 R-C 254 Bn) Wellston, MI
 David E. Crowley (A 107 NG Bn) Calumet, MI
 John L. Culliton (C 107 NG Bn) Gladstone, MI
 Joseph P. DeSantis (B 107 NG Bn) Oaklawn, IL
 James P. Dougovito (A/HHC 107 NG Bn) L'Anse, MI
 Phyllis Duquette (Don, B 254) Ishpeming, MI
 Frederick W. Ehrhardt (HHC NG) Ishpeming, MI
 Lawrence Ellenich (E 107 R-A 254) Calumet, MI
 Robert Erb (A 107 NG Bn) Lake Linden, MI
 Eldred L. Erdman (Med D. 107-112) Quinnesec, MI
 Richard T. Erickson (HHC 107 NG Bn) AuTrain, MI
 Scott Etelmaki (A 107 NG Bn) Ishpeming, MI
 Charles J. Fish (C 107 NG Bn) Rapid River, MI
 Joseph W. Floriano (D/HHC NG Bn) Iron Mtn., MI
 Michael J. Floriano (D/HHC NG Bn) Quinnesec, MI

Wm. John Foster (A 107 Bn, 1937-40)	Calumet, MI	Walter A. Mokszycke (C 107 NG)	Bark River, MI
Frederick E. Fountaine (A NG Bn)	Calumet, MI	James Moulds, Sr. (D/HHC 107 NG)	Munising, MI
Michael E. Fraser (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI	William M. Myer (C 107 NG Bn)	Milwaukee, WI
Robert P. Frazier (B 107 NG Bn)	Marquette, MI	Charles E. Nault (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Fedhaven, FL
Keith B. Freeze (B 107 R-B 254)	Shepherd, MI	Faustino Negrete (C 254 Bn)	Gary, IN
Willis A. Garceau (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	Ronald P. Nepper (D/HHC 107 NG)	Iron Mtn., MI
Dennis Gassittie (A 107 NG Bn)	Laurium, MI	Howard W. Nichola (E 107-H&S 254)	Dodgeville, MI
Robert L. Gerbig, Jr. (B NG Bn)	Ironwood, MI	James E. Noel (C 107 NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
Arthur J. Gibour (A 107 R-A 254)	Waukegan, IL	Richard J. Oja (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Republic, MI
Kenneth G. Giese (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	James W. O'Toole (A 254 Bn)	San Jose, CA
Ralph F. Godfrey (A/H&S 107 R)	Rapid River, MI	Michael L. Paluda (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Marquette, MI
Richard P. Gough (A 254)	Atlantic Highlands, NJ	Joseph Paraventi (B 107 R-522d)	Iron River, MI
Aurelia Hahka (Fred Gagne, NG Bn)	Deerton, MI	Joseph Pataconi (A 107 R-A 254 Bn)	Niagara, WI
Harold V. Hall (A 107 R & Bn)	Wyoming, MI	Reuben J. Pelland (F 107 R)	Flint, MI
Danny Hansen (C/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	Patrick C. Pequet (H&S 107 NG Bn)	Flushing, MI
George J. Hansen (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Mission, TX	Thomas E. Perry (A/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Roscommon, MI
Ronald B. Hansen (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Rapid River, MI	Mark J. Peters (A 107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI
Albert E. Harjala (F 107 R)	Copper City, MI	Thomas S. Peters (E 107 R)	Lake Linden, MI
Calvin H. Harju (A 107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI	James A. Peterson (A 107 NG Bn)	Laurium, MI
Gerald M. Harry (A 107 NG Bn)	Hancock, MI	Franklin A. Phillips (D/A 107 NG)	Houghton, MI
Burdette Hayner (F 107 R-B/H&S 254)	Hastings, MI	LaRue A. Reher (B 254 Bn)	North St. Paul, MN
Charles E. Heikkinen (F 107 R)	Iron Mtn., MI	Daniel J. Reilly (A 107 NG Bn)	Laurium, MI
John E. Hendra (A 107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI	Theodore Rein (F 107 R)	Laurium, MI
Edwin R. Hutchens (D 107 R-C 254)	Marquette, MI	John M. Riley (B 254 Bn)	Canterbury, CT
Henry P. Ilenich (A/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Laurium, MI	Daniel E. Rogan (A 107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI
Peter B. Injasoulian (HHC NG Bn)	Howard City, MI	Ronald F. Ross (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Ishpeming, MI
Edwin J. Jachinski (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	James R. Rowe (A 107 NG Bn)	Lake Linden, MI
Donald E. Jarvey (E 107 R-32d Div)	Mohawk, MI	Larry F. Rule (A 107 NG Bn)	Laurium, MI
Clyde H. Johnson (F 107 R-131 Engr)	Hancock, MI	John P. Ryan (F 107 R)	Eagle Harbor, MI
Idell M. Johnson (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	John R. Ryan (A 107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI
Linnell Johnson (D 107 NG Bn)	Manistique, MI	Albert M. Salo (D 107 R-C 254 Bn)	Ironwood, MI
Thomas W. Johnson (A 107 NG Bn)	Kenton, MI	Larry P. Sapino (A/HHC 107 NG)	Lake Linden, MI
Anthony J. Julio (A 107 NG Bn)	Laurium, MI	John W. Schmitt (A 107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI
Donald A. Julio (A 107 NG Bn)	Laurium, MI	Judson C. Schuler (Hq 254-1121)	Millersburg, OH
John C. Juntunen (A 107 NG Bn)	Nisula, MI	Aloysuis R. Sever (A/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Laurium, MI
Paul J. Kaiser (A/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Paw Paw, MI	Darriell R. Sever (A 107 NG)	Lake Linden, MI
William R. Kangas (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	Robert E. Sexton (D/B NG Bn)	Iron Mountain, MI
Edwin K. Kohn (A/F 107-107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI	James W. Sheldon (A/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Baraga, MI
John Kovachich (F 107 R-B 254/NG Bn)	Calumet, MI	Nels R. Sjoquist (C 107 NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI
Charlotte Kovacs (Eugene, B 254)	Dearborn, MI	Donald R. Small (B/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Marquette, MI
Harvey L. Kraiss (B 254 Bn)	Mesa, AZ	Russell Smoley (B 254 Bn)	Camp Hill, PA
Frank Kurta (B 107 NG Bn)	Ironwood, MI	Edmund V. Stevens (A 107 R)	Gladstone, MI
Richard A. LaChance (HHC NG Bn)	Rapid River, MI	Victor J. Stevens (A/H&S 107-112 Bn)	Livonia, MI
Eugene J. LaRoche (A 107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI	Gregory R. Stewart (A 107 NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI
Patricia Larsen (Wm., B 107 NG Bn)	Big Bay, MI	John D. Talvensaaari (F 107 R)	Calumet, MI
Michael T. Lee (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI	Earl G. Terrill (E 107 R-A 254)	Winter Spgs., FL
Clarence E. LeVeque (F 107 R-B 254)	Calumet, MI	Russell H. Terrill (F 107 R-B 254)	Houghton, MI
James W. Lienau (A/HHC 107 NG Bn)	Green Bay, WI	Martin Terzaghi (D 107 R-B 107 Bn)	Negaunee, MI
John O. Lund (D 107 R-B 254 Bn)	Viroqua, WI	James P. Thomas (A 107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI
William E. Luokkanen (A 107 NG Bn)	Mohawk, MI	John A. Trotter (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Milwaukee, WI
John R. Maki (A/D/HHC/C NG Bn)	Escanaba, MI	James W. Turunen (A 107 NG Bn)	L'Anse, MI
Frederick W. Maninga (A 107 NG Bn)	Ahmeek, MI	Gordon A. Usitalo (A 107 NG Bn)	Lake Linden, MI
Gary F. Marcotte (C 107 NG Bn)	Hubbell, MI	John R. Vertin (A 107 Bn, 1937-40)	Calumet, MI
Gary W.R. Mattson (A/B 107 NG Bn)	Hancock, MI	Ed. Vickstrom (D 107 R-B/H&S 254)	Ishpeming, MI
David W. McCombie (D 107 R-131 E)	Melbourne, FL	Leonard C. Ward (A 107-1121-NG Bn)	McLean, VA
John W. McCormick (B 107 NG)	Sterling Hts., MI	Douglas L. White (A 107 NG Bn)	Negaunee, MI
Robert D. McCormick (A 107 NG Bn)	Niagara, WI	Rick White (A 107 NG Bn)	Calumet, MI
John G. McGuire (Army ADV., 77-79)	Freeport, TX	Eliz. Wiedenhoef (Bob, B/C 254)	Waukesha, WI
Robert K. McGuire (C 254 Bn)	Centerville, IA	Edward A. Wiitanen (F 107 R)	Hazel Park, MI
Harold A. Menapace (D 107 R-C 254)	Gwinn, MI	Richard H. Wills (D 107 R-B 254)	Negaunee, MI
Robert W. Miller (C 107 NG Bn)	Gladstone, MI	Robert C. Wills (HHC 107 NG Bn)	Rockford, MI