



April 2003



Issue Number 47

# The "BULL SHEET"

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107<sup>th</sup> Engineer Association  
900 Palms Avenue  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

## Onward to Gladstone and Charlie Company

**With all difficulties cast aside and taken care of, we look forward to the honor of hosting this year's reunion. With so much change and uncertainty, one thing remains true; Charlie Company is prepared to welcome every one of you!!!!**

### "WELCOME TO GLADSTONE"

The soldiers and families of Charlie Company are prepared to serve you and your family for the 42<sup>nd</sup> 107<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion reunion to be held on **18-19-20 July 2003**. We look forward to welcome each of you and make this a time that will be hard to forget.

There will be opportunities for everyone to have a great time and continue to build memories.

On Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, starting at noon, the registration table will be open. More importantly this will mark the beginning of the social mixer that will continue on throughout the weekend.

The bar will be open and Friday Evening there will be hors d'oeuvres and music available. Please feel free to pace through the incredible display of memorabilia. What a great opportunity to greet old acquaintances as well as make new ones.

On Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, the events are numerous and we are sure that there is something for everyone!!!!

- The day can't start without a good breakfast (provided by retirees of our mess section). For the nominal cost of \$5.00, you can look forward to having eggs to order, toast, sausage & bacon, S.O.S., dry cereal, juice & coffee. Of course the bar will be open for service as always!!!!
- The organized golf scramble will take place. Time and place to be posted during the Friday night mixer.
- For those that wish to go to check out the casino action – there will be a bus available for your convenience to take you to the Chip-In Island Casino.
- For those that wish to spend money other ways, a bus will be available for shopping in the easily accessible Delta County Plaza. Don't forget those loved ones that are back at home!!!!
- The memorial service is scheduled to be at 1130 hours at the flagpole.
- Lunch will follow for only \$5.00. There are not many places that will prepare for you Brats or Italian Sausage, corn on the cob, potato salad, baked beans, chips and eat (weather permitting) outside with a premiere view of Lake Michigan for

your dining pleasure!!!! Of course, the bar continues to be open.

- The business meeting will be held in the motor pool at 1330 hours.
- If none of the above events interest you at all, be sure to venture out and see beautiful and historic Escanaba and Gladstone. But don't be late for the .....
- **BANQUET!!!** We are taking RSVP's as this is going to be a catered meal. Please RSVP by 01 JUL 03 by calling the unit at 906-428-1344 or return the registration form. Posting of colors will take place at 1830. This meal will be catered and crafted to meet even the seasoned equipment operators appetite needs. The cost of the meal of the dinner is only \$10.00.
- Immediately following the evening meal will be music (for both your listening entertainment and dancing) and a continuation of socializing, reminiscing, and talking about all those things that make us proud to be ENGINEERS!!!!

On Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, you can look forward to an awesome send off provided by the retirees once more. Once again you'll be able to chose from eggs to order, toast, sausage and bacon, french toast, hash browns, dry cereal, orange juice and coffee for only \$5.00. What an opportunity to say 'See you next year', share some more memories or talk about the ones that you just made this past weekend.

As you can see, there is going to be a variety of events taking place. A variety of activities to

choose from that will have something for everyone. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each and every one of you as you travel to and from this

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If you are not able to attend this years remarkable time and would like to relay a short message or note to everyone (or someone in particular), please send that to our attention and we will have them made known. Yet another way for you to share your memories and for us at Charlie Company to be able to say proudly, **"GOOD AS DONE"**.

CPT Erik A. Barnhart  
Association President

year's reunion.

### **Reunion 2002 Notes**

The 2002, 107th Engineer Reunion was held in Iron River on 19-20-21 Jul 2002. All in attendance (how be it very few) had a great time. Events started with registration and Friday night's Fish Fry. Saturday Morning's breakfast was fantastic as usual.

A different twist for Saturday was the fact that the City of Iron River was also hosting their Annual Rodeo this weekend, which included their Rodeo Parade. The unit put together a Float for the Reunion Attendees to ride on, and all had a great time. The afternoon consisted of a well prepared Picnic Lunch followed by either attending the Rodeo matinee, going to the casino, attending the business meeting, or just hanging out playing a game a cribbage and shooting the breeze. The business meeting surfaced and solved many new issues.

The banquet Saturday night included Iron River's own rendition of the Flag Folding Ceremony. The catered

meal was great as usual followed by DJ and dancing. Sunday brunch and send off was excellent. All in all, the unit left no stone unturned, and had all the bases covered. Other than wishing for a larger turn out, the 2002 reunion was a success.

SFC Jeffrey Gibson  
2002 Association President

### Officially Registered – Iron River Reunion 2002

David Ambrose (B/107B)	Iron River, MI	George Hansen (B,HHC/107B)	Mission, TX
Daniel Archambeau (B/107B)	Sebring, FL	Dominic Hebert (B/107B)	Caspian, MI
James Baker (A/107B)	L'Anse, MI	Link Hibernig (HHC/107B)	Gaylord, MI
Jessica Baker (1437E)	Soo Ste Marie, MI	James Ihienfeldt (B/107B)	Green Bay, WI
Thomas C. Bardowski (A/107R, 112R, A/254)	Stephenson, MI	Edwin Jachimski (HHC/107B)	Negaunee, MI
James Barry (B/107B)	Iron River, MI	John Jacobson (B/107B)	Iron River, MI
Robert S. Bastion (A/107B, E/107R, D/112, A/254)	Clawson, MI	Leonard Janssen (B/107B)	Iron River, MI
Joseph Battisfore (A/107B)	Houghton, MI	Robert Jeannotte (A/107B)	Hubbell, MI
Arthur Belanger (B,HHC/107B)	Marquette, MI	Clarence La Roux (B/107B)	Iron River, MI
Steven Burton (B/107B)	Kingsford, MI	Pat Larsen (Bill) (HHC/107B)	Big Bay, MI
Jerry Butler (B/107B)	Iron River, MI	Philip Laturi (B/107B)	Iron River, MI
David Callovi (B/107B)	Iron River, MI	Gilbert Lewis (B/107B)	Iron River, MI
Raymond Chartre (HHC/107B)	Negaunee, MI	Jerry Marenelli (D/107B)	Iron Mountain, MI
Dennis Cummings (C/107B)	Escanaba, MI	Robert McGuire (C,H&S 254)	Centerville, IA
Eric Dahlgren (C/107B)	Appleton, WI	Mark McNeil (A/107B)	Marquette, MI
Martin Dellies (B/107B)	Watersmeet, MI	James Mitchell (B/107B)	Kingsford,MI
Kerry Denoo (B,D,HHC/107B)	Vulcan, MI	James Moulds (B,HHC/107B)	Munising, MI
Joseph De Santis (B/107B)	Oak Lawn, IL	Faustino Negrete (C/254)	Gary, IN
James Dougivito (HQ/107B)	L'Anse, MI	David Nelson (B/107B)	Green Bay, WI
Howard Duncan (B/107B)	North Vernon, IN	John Neno (H&S/254)	Ithica, NY
John Elliot (B, HHC/107B)	Champion, MI	Perry Nora (HHC/107B)	Ishpeming, MI
Charles Emerson (HQ/107B)	Conway, AZ	Richard Oja (HHC/107B)	Republic, MI
Scott Etelamaki (HHC/107B)	Negaunee, MI	Joseph Patrick (C/107B)	Wells, MI
Michael Floriano (HHC/107B)	Kingsford, MI	Raymond Perrault (HHC/107B)	Ishpeming, MI
Clarence Forsythe (A/254)	Boonton, NJ	Thomas Perry (A,B,HHC/107B)	Roscommon, MI
James Fredrickson (HHC/107B)	Lavonia, MI	Theresa Peterson (B/107B)	Iron Mountain, MI
Dan Garceau (HHC/107B)	Bath, MI	Steven Pietila (B/107B)	Iron River, MI
Willis Garceau (HHC/107B)	Negaunee, MI	Oliver Putz (B/107B)	Gaastra, MI
Irving Gasperini (B/107B)	Sunset, AZ	David Serbinski (B/107B)	Iron River, MI
Arthur J. Gibour (A/107R, 112R A/254)	Varonen, IL	Robert Sexton (B,D/107B)	Kingsford, MI
Kenneth Giese (HHC/107B)	Negaunee, MI	William Sheldon (HQ/107B)	Ishpeming, MI
Terry Girard (B/107B)	Iron River, MI	Calvin Shirkey (B/107B)	Wakefield, MI
David Greig (B/107B)	Lake Ottawa, MI	Donald Small (B,HQ/107B)	Marquette, MI
Lowell Grieg (B/107B)	Iron River, MI	Russell Smoley (B/254)	Camp Hill, PA
Phillip Grieg (B/107B)	Foster City, MI	Ross Stevens (A/107B)	Calumet, MI
Harold Hall (A/107R, 112R)	Wyoming, MI	Richard Strand (C/107B)	Ishpeming, MI
		William Swenty (D/107B)	Iron River, MI
		Joseph Testolin (D/107B)	Iron Mountain, MI
		Royal Thayer (A/107R)	Allegan, MI
		Albert Tomassetti (B/254)	Louisville, KY
		Vernon Treado (B/107B)	Gaastra, MI

John Tyrrell (HHC/107B)  
Paul Van Able (A/107B)  
Ralph Van Wagner (B/107B)  
William Viau (C/107B)  
Edward Vickstrom (D/107E,  
E/112, B/254)  
Joyce Ward (Leonard) (A/107R  
1121, HHC/107B)  
Allen Weslin (B/107B)

Ishpeming, MI  
L'Anse, MI  
Skanee, MI  
Escanaba, MI  
  
Ishpeming, MI  
  
McLean, VA  
Iron River, MI

Ron Westman (HHC/107B)  
Gerald Williams (B/107B)  
Richard Wills (D/107R,  
E/112R, B/254)  
Robert Wills (HHC/107B)  
Michael Wheeler (B/107B)

Swartz Creek, MI  
APO AE 09464  
  
Negaunee, MI  
Rockford, MI  
Iron River, MI

## TAPS

*Day is done, gone the sun  
From the lake, from the hill.  
From the sky  
All is well, safely rest. God is nigh.  
Thanks and praise for our days  
'neath the sun, 'neath the stars,  
'neath the sky.  
As we go, this we know. God is nigh.*

**BRIGGS, ROBERT H.**,HHC/107B, 22 MAR 02  
**BROWN, ROBERT G.**,1121GP/C-254B, 23 FEB 02  
**BROGAN , JAMES P.**, 107R, 27 AUG 94  
**CENSABELLA , JOSEPH A.**, HQ/254B, 25 DEC 01  
**DECKER , LYLE F.**, A/107R,112R,C/254B, 7 APR 02  
**ENQUIST , ORVILLE W.**, A/107R , UNK.  
**GOBIE , JACK**, B/254B, 15 MAR 02  
**KILPELA, RYAN**, A/107B, 5 MAR 03  
**KRAUSE , FREDERICK**, HHC/107B, 13 DEC 01  
**LANKFORD , JOHN**, B/254B, UNK.  
**MANN , FERGUS H.**, H&S,B/107B, 4 SEP 01  
**MATHER , JOHN**, A/112R, 21 SEP 01  
**MC CORMICK , JOHN**, D/107R, 112R, 254B,UNK.  
**MICKELSON , WALFRED "MIKE"**, D/107R, 30 SEP 02  
**MILLER, ROBERT**, C/107B, UNK.  
**NULTY, TIMOTHY D.**, B/107R, F/1121GP/522 EN CO, 8  
OCT 97  
**OAKES, FRANCHIS S.**,B/107R/522 EN CO, 6 JUN 02  
**PASCOE , RICHARD L.**, 107B, 30 SEP 02  
**TOMPKINS , HERBERT "WOODY"**, B,H&S/254B, 27 SEP  
02  
**TRIPP , RUSSELL L.**, B/107R, 11 MAR 02  
**SALO , ALBERT M.**,B/107R,E/112R,C/254B, UNK.  
**WAARA, RUDOLPH E.**, A/107R, 2 DEC 01

ALLEN, PAUL F/112R,B/107R/522E, 10 MAY 02  
ARCHAMBEAU , FABIAN,F/107R, 24 OCT 01



## OUR COMRADES REST



“IN THE MEMORY  
OF HER HONORED DEAD  
VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
AND OF THE SPANISH WAR  
CALUMET  
ERECTS THIS MONUMENT  
MAY – 1900”

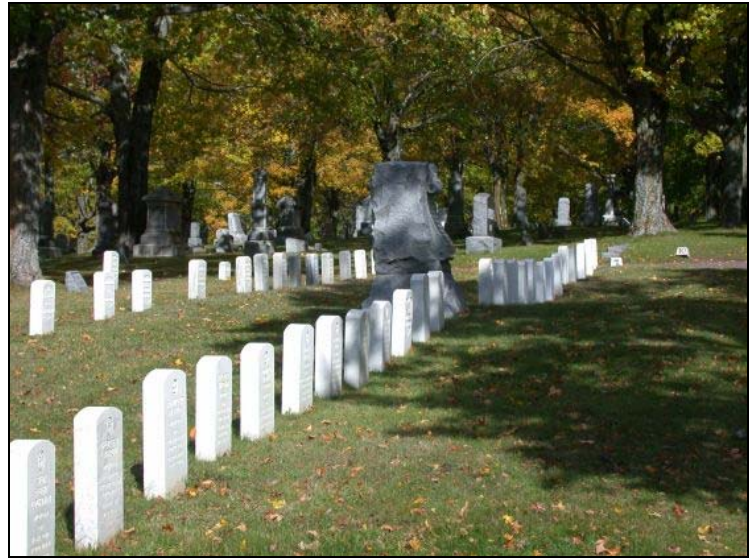
*(Continued next page)*

This monument stands in the Lake View Cemetery in Calumet, MI. Inscribed on the monument reads:

On the side of this monument reads:

“SPANISH WAR 1998  
GEORGE LIND HARRY ROWE  
THEODORE A. HENDERSON  
WILLIAM J. PERRAULT  
ALBERT J. CHAPMAN  
CHARLES E. BAILEY  
THOMAS V. JILBERT  
MARTIN MESSNER  
WILLIAM J. DOLAN  
JOSEPH CRENIER  
FRANK J. VIVIAN  
JOHN D. McRAE  
JOHN P. HOGAN  
LOUIS ETHIER  
JOHN A. BOBB”

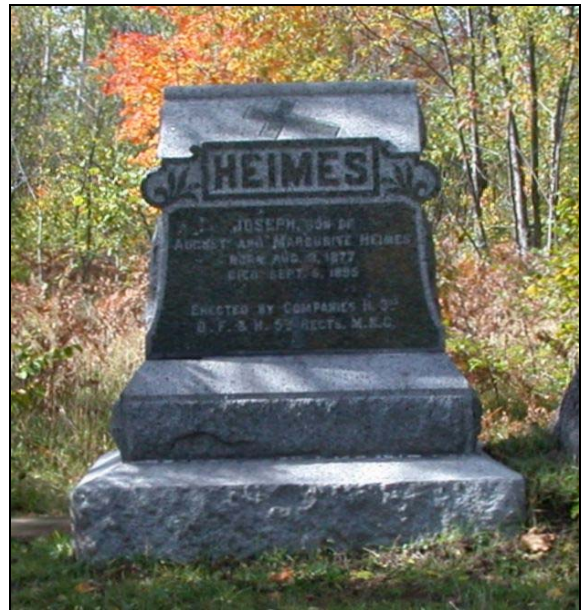
Many, if not all, of these men served with Company D. 34th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. This was the unit designation that the 107th served as during the Spanish American War.



Pictured here is the resting place of many of these men. Resting nearby are WWI soldiers from 107<sup>th</sup>.



Buried at sea, the people of Calumet erected this monument to honor Captain John A. Bobb. Captain Bobb was the assistant surgeon for the 34<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry.



Joseph Heimes rests in this abandoned cemetery in Larium, MI. Pvt Heimes was the first soldier in our unit to lose his life during service. A falling tree struck him during a storm while he lay in his tent during the 1895 mining strike activation. Current efforts are being made to move Pvt. Heimes to the Calumet Lake View Cemetery.



In stark simplicity, the ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY resting place of the 107<sup>th</sup>'s revered friend and comrade-in-arms, Brigadier General Leonard C. Ward, is proudly and respectfully presented. Mrs. Joyce Ward graciously offered these pictures during Iron River's reunion, July 2001.



## A WWII ENCAMPMENT SET TO VERSE

First, to set the stage: Picture if you will a bivouac in the ARDENNES Forest, which the 254<sup>th</sup> Engr (C) Bn occupied on 2 Oct 44. Hard to believe but this was the battalion's first assembly of all 4 companies intact since CORNWALL, England, many months back. Coming on the heels of intense infantry-engineer action at WALLENDORF, Germany, supporting CCR (Combat Command Reserve) 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, the unit's new orders directing MSR (Main Supply Route) roadwork for V Corp's 2<sup>nd</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions was welcomed as pure combat engineering even under tough conditions compounded by cold, rain, mud and more mud. Located near the small Belgium town of BULLINGEN, this was for the moment a static area except for an intermittent stream of unmanned V-1s headed, some erratically, towards massive LIEGE and BRUSSELS supply dumps.

Being the first of Hitler's futuristic weapons, the odd looking craft (dubbed Buzz Bombs) were after a time viewed casually as non-threatening – until early night of 29 Nov when a flamed-out V-1 silently glided into the H&S and Charlie company area. Hitting a tree high up the 2,000-pound warhead detonated with a shattering air blast causing considerable surface damage, sent 25 to field hospitals and 41 other non-evacuated injuries. Here too personal protection from worsening fall-turning-to-winter weather overrode fears of unlikely enemy acts, so the tree-camouflaged camp soon assumed a helter-skelter appearance. The damnest assortment of shelters sprung up each indicative of its occupants imagination, building skill and scrounging technique.

Enjoying for a change a quiet somewhat comfy environment with 3 hots a day, it was rumored that this might even be a winter-long stopover. Not so, however, because on the 76<sup>th</sup> day, the 254's longest war zone CP by far, it had to be abruptly evacuated early in the a.m. of 17 Dec, the second day of the Battle of the Bulge.

Now 58 years later, we relive that unusual wartime scene with a composition entitled "Some Snortin' Bull" composed on site by Pfc Richard A. Schiesl, wherein he poetically captured men of 1/B/254 in their respective abodes. It uniquely portrays an untypical field situation. One that a soldier of any time can identify with. Enjoy.

## “SOME SNORTIN’ BULL”

(From Buzz bomb Alley)

By

Pfc Richard A. Schiesl  
1<sup>st</sup> Squad, 1st Plt Co B 254<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn

Somewhere in Belgium, there is a place  
Where cognac and slang is not a disgrace  
Where sometimes we're glad and sometimes we're blue  
And often just sick from eating Mike's stew.

And right near the kitchen, never far away  
Is where the chowhounds of old B Company stay  
Where Chow Kiester says you're always too soon  
You guessed it – it's that rugged and ragged 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon.

We'll start with the First – the industrious squad  
And these are the boys that you must applaud  
They work in the mud and don't bitch at all  
Without a complaint, they're right on the ball.

In number one shanty – the squad's CP  
Where Joe is the password and liquor is free  
Where worrisome Kovacs talks of his girls  
And Joe cusses the one that gave him the whirl.

There's where the fire burns all the day  
And the blokes in the squad most often stay  
To have that night session just shootin' the bull  
Till the joint, with dense smoke and rumors is full.

There's one old tin hut – we call A-fixin'  
Where Tex and Marty are usually Abitchin'  
Tex says its this way and Marty says that  
And they are continually chewing the fat.

Where Tex dreams of Calvados all of the time  
While Marty smokes up that last good Woodbine  
Tex thinks of his wife, and Marty instead  
Insists there is nothing like a Newquay redhead.

In a small bungalow way up on the hill  
Where hand in hand like Jack and Jill  
Two guys get along, with never a crank  
And one is a Rebel, and one is a Yank.



To the Rebel a hammer is always a hamma  
But you all will excuse it, he's from Alabama  
Allen, he talks with a bit of finesse  
More like a preacher or deacon I guess.

We come to where Carlton and Kessenger be  
Where an argument was made to never agree  
Where a fire is a fire, and a sock is a sock  
Then one night they burned down at seven o'clock.

How Carlton did worry and Jimmy did wail  
Till they profited from the next days fire sale  
They took all the money and nigh broke their backs  
But now there rose up a better old shack.

Right next is a dago who likes his spaghetti  
Who else could it be but Meatball Machette  
Its Birney who works while Tommy does roam  
Its Birney who listens while Tommy does moan.

Its Pfc Tom – somebody thought he could drive  
Birney don't give a damn and he's a Tech 5  
Birney's from Iowa where they live high on the hog  
And the Dago's from Pittsburgh – the land of the smog.

And now its night – you stumble and fall  
You run into trees and you holler and call  
You step in foxholes away below deck  
And clotheslines leave underwear wound round our neck.

You reach for a light and hear a guard shout  
Soldier – God bless you – I'll shoot that light out  
So you keep on feeling and groping around  
And once more you find yourself flat on the ground.

As you approach Schiesl's and Beck's, no light do you see  
But you may hear sounds of some midnight carpentry  
With here a bitch, there a bitch, each has his own say  
It's all settled finally – Schiesl's own way.

Beck says this fire will burn, that I bet  
And Kraut says it out to, the woods good and wet

When Beck hits the bunk to sleep and feel better  
Schiesl's below writing Beck's girl a letter.

“Night and Day You're the One” sings Lou  
His voice is loud – he's from Brooklyn, too  
But what I can't figure out is just one thing  
Didn't anyone ever teach him how to sing.

The Corporals a sleeper – he goes to bed nights  
Long before B Company turns out the lights  
To dream “we'll be home December 6<sup>th</sup>” we hear  
He's right in the day, but got the wrong year.

He dreams of a good bet, while in his warm shack  
That a few thousand francs by luck he might sack  
But just like a boomerang, they always bound back  
And leaves him weeping, broke flat on his back.

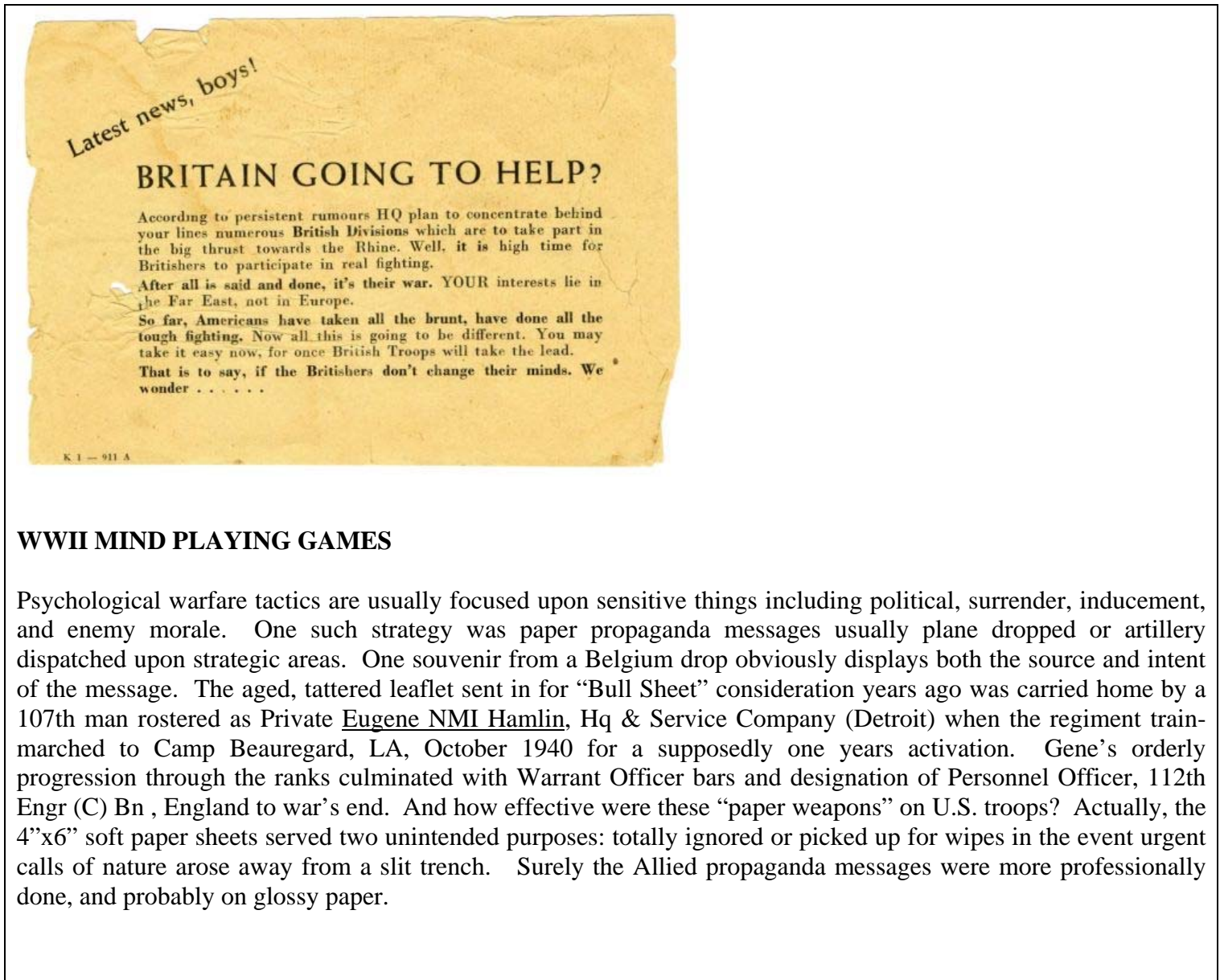
The newest addition is our boy Freeze  
A veteran of B – he ain't hard to please  
Yes, he does his bitchin' with vigor and vim  
But a goose in the thighs takes that out of him.

Freeze is a trucker and cyclist, too  
But he ain't doing now what he used to do  
He says work don't hurt him, and I think he is right  
As he crawls in his bunk so sore each night.

The short little guy whose name is Frog  
From Wisconsin, way up where the lumberjacks log  
He lives in the hallow, and as I sit here  
I'll be six-to-one he dreams of tipping a beer.

On some distant date – if you should stray  
Way down in Texas or up Michigan way  
From the main drag of Brooklyn or Iowa State  
Or Dairyland Wisconsin where you get heifers for mates.

From old Illinois or smoggy P.A.  
Alabama's warm land where the dark folks stay  
Even in Indiana, and likely broke  
You'll find everyone above mentioned – OLD BLOKES!



### WWII MIND PLAYING GAMES

Psychological warfare tactics are usually focused upon sensitive things including political, surrender, inducement, and enemy morale. One such strategy was paper propaganda messages usually plane dropped or artillery dispatched upon strategic areas. One souvenir from a Belgium drop obviously displays both the source and intent of the message. The aged, tattered leaflet sent in for “Bull Sheet” consideration years ago was carried home by a 107th man rostered as Private Eugene NMI Hamlin, Hq & Service Company (Detroit) when the regiment train-marched to Camp Beauregard, LA, October 1940 for a supposedly one years activation. Gene’s orderly progression through the ranks culminated with Warrant Officer bars and designation of Personnel Officer, 112th Engr (C) Bn , England to war’s end. And how effective were these “paper weapons” on U.S. troops? Actually, the 4”x6” soft paper sheets served two unintended purposes: totally ignored or picked up for wipes in the event urgent calls of nature arose away from a slit trench. Surely the Allied propaganda messages were more professionally done, and probably on glossy paper.

### MEMORIALIZATION NEWS

This will be a brief note to make you all aware of the Good News concerning progress on the 107/254th Memorialization Project. LTC Wesoloski, 107th Memorialization Executor continues to work on memorialization efforts, assuming the responsibilities after BG Ward had passed away.

Due to security concerns overseas, it was agreed by the Memorialization Committee that the Belgium Monument project would be placed on indefinite hold and to proceed with the second approved memorial

project at Camp Grayling. This stone has a similar design, commemorating the WWII era and Battle of the Bulge Belgium citation. Colonel Hull, the Camp Commander, is working with LTC Perry to establish a Memorial Park near the chapel, with the 107th Engineers leading the way for placement of the first monument.

A contract between the 107th Association, Memorialization and Patten Monument Company, Comstock Park, MI has been initiated for construction of the Memorial Monument utilizing specifications set by General Ward. The Fund

Administrator Board, headed by COL (Ret) Small, approved funds and design is underway. LTC Wesoloski is constructing a life size wooden model for viewing at the next reunion. The 107<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Mech) will dedicate the actual polished black granite monument that projected for completion in time for a ceremony on Thursday, 14 Aug 2003 at Camp Grayling.

The Camp Grayling Site provides ease of access for all Engineers who served during the WWII assigned to the 254th Engineer Combat Battalion during the Battle of the Bulge. This location also provides protection of the monument and the facility will be responsible for perpetual maintenance of the stone and the site.

Present, past, future 107th/254<sup>th</sup> Association members and friends are welcome to stop in at the July 2003 Reunion in Gladstone to view the model. Also ensure that you plan to *(continued next page)* attend the Dedication Ceremony at Camp Grayling in August. We hope to see you there.

Other Memorialization efforts: The WWI M107 sign restoration project at Lake of the clouds was completed this past year. Project leader CSM Mike Floriano will work the 1999 initiative for Armory Plaques. The board liked the design that CPT White presented for Ft Leonard Wood project and decided that this would make a better armory plaque with all inclusive history included. A quote is being worked by Patten Monument Companies vendor as well as CSM Floriano working other quotes to obtain a cost estimate for the project. The 2001 initiative by project leader CPT Doug White to get a Memorial Plaque posted at the Engineer Museum's Regimental Room is in a hold pattern. The Ft Leonard Wood Plaque expense is a cost derived from the Engineer Association and COL (Ret) Small felt that it would be better for the Association to vote on spending that amount rather than the Memorialization Fund Administrative Committee making that decision. Essays!!

From the office of the Memorialization Executor.  
LTC Wesoloski

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### **The Battle of The Bulge Escape**

This is the exciting tale of men from the 254th Engineer Combat Battalion who were taken prisoner in the Belgium town of Büllingen on 17 December 1944, the first day of the German counter offensive in the Ardennes. Nine out of approximately thirty men later escaped and returned to the battalion, thus making this story possible. The others? They have been officially dropped from the battalion roster as Missing In Action. You can form your own conclusions as to their ultimate fate.

The fickleness of battle dictated that men from Companies B and C would suffer this experience and, in this, Company C men predominated. The men who toyed with their lives in taking the chance of escaping are: S/Sgt Donald M. Duquette (Negaunee, Michigan), Sgt Wayne A. Ray (Palouse, Washington), Sgt Bernard J. Reindl (Reedsville, Wisconsin) of Company B, S/Sgt Curran P. Porterfield (Sedan, Kansas), Pvt Robert A. Perry (Kimball, Nebraska), Pvt Clark E. Wadlow (Monroe, Wisconsin), Pvt Ronald J. Burris (San Francisco, California), Sgt Roger D. Phillips (Cridersville, Ohio), T/4 Claude E. Pyle (Revada,

Missouri) of Company C, and T/5 Alex E. Svojanen (Elo, Michigan) of the medical detachment. Oddly enough, the man who volunteered to make the first escape attempt did not make it. Nothing more has since been heard of him. The man who made this heroic gesture is Pfc John D. Sampson (Old Fort, Tennessee) of Company C.

Following is the overall story of the above named men. Each contributed what they could recall about their experience. Some men had different versions of some particular point but this can, no doubt, be laid to the stress and strain they were under. Each man had one or more small point that particularly stood out in his mind.

### **The Story**

The tide of battle made it necessary to order Company C to leave their original position, withdraw through the town of Büllingen, and take up new positions on the opposite side of town. They were joined by the remnants (10 to 12 men) of the 2nd Platoon, Company B who had previously been in a fierce engagement with German armor and armored infantry.

Upon reaching the opposite side of Büllingen, this small portion of the battalion was ordered to take up position on a nearby hill and die there if necessary. This some of them did.

The movement towards the top of this particular hill was still underway when enemy armor struck, catching some men along the road below the hill and others part way to the crest. The first two armored vehicles were "Tiger" tanks who sprayed the hill with their automatic weapons before continuing their way along the road, but their existence was short lived for both were knocked out by friendly anti-tank guns. One had its turret completely knocked off.

Approximately five half-tracks carrying Panzer grenadiers (armored infantry) followed the two "Tiger" tanks. Spotting some of the men seeking cover in the ditches, the grenadiers sprayed these small defenses with their automatic weapons as they drove along. The half-tracks halted as more tanks appeared on the scene, and the combined weapons of tanks and infantrymen alike were turned on the hillside where everyone was completely exposed, and our men, although being overwhelmingly out gunned, made a desperate attempt to neutralize this enemy advantage in a fire fight. Some casualties were seen inflicted upon the enemy.

During this engagement, tank personnel from the two knocked out tanks were observed to dismount from their ineffective vehicles and walk down the road towards the half-tracks, shooting men in the ditches (presumed to be wounded). The attention and efforts of all men, however, was for the most part riveted to the tanks and half-tracks, thus enabling the tankers, unobserved, to mount the reverse slope of the hill and suddenly appear on their rear. The combination of this maneuver and the grenadiers who were advancing rapidly up the forward slope, already over running some of the men, put an end to all efforts to resist. Two men attempting to move at this time were cut down by machine pistols.

Completely surrounded by now, the remaining men were rounded up and placed under guard of five German soldiers. These guards were armed with pistols and machine pistols. One had a M1 rifle that he had picked up. No attempt was made at searching here on the hill and men were not deprived of sidearms, sheath knives, or helmets.

The guards started them down the hill seemingly very anxious to get this accomplished because they beat one man over the head with a pistol for lagging. S/Sgt Porterfield attempted to aid one man who was shot near the eye and suffering intensely, but this was refused and the man was forced to stagger on as best he could.

They were headed towards Büllingen but halted on the outskirts on top of a small, partly wooded cliff, evidently because of uncertainty on the part of the guards. This was borne out by their actions and the manner in which they talked.

While the guards talked amongst themselves the captives had their first opportunity to study them. Their uniforms were mixed but all were definitely SS men. Some wore overcoats with hoods and all wore ski boots. One, appearing about 16 years old, wore a complete SS uniform with Adolph Hitler written out on his sleeve. Here, also, they discovered that at least two of the guards could speak English. One had a decided British accent.

After permitting the men to sit down, the guards directed several questions at them in English; whether any of them had pistols or any type of German equipment, whether any of them had mothers or fathers living in Germany, whether any of them were Jews or Russians, and what type of troops were they - British or Americans. No one volunteered any information. Saying that information was desired, they asked if there were any German speakers in the bunch. This sounded somewhat foolish inasmuch as they could speak English themselves. Pfc Felix C. Kramer (Glen Carbon, Illinois) said that he could and the guards talked to him in German. He refused to divulge any information and his refusal to do so made the guards very angry. They then told the men in a bragging manner that they were members of a reconnaissance unit, which had infiltrated through our lines three days prior to the German drive.

One of the guards stated that the war was over for the group because they were going to be shot. The captives were ordered to stand up, drop their side arms and helmets, and lined up on the edge of this small cliff they were occupying. A German armored car was observed parked below the hill in such a manner that it could fire on anyone outlined on the cliff. One guard, with a machine pistol, took up a firing position.

At this moment an American M8 armored car fired on the German armored vehicles parked in the square nearby. The enemy vehicles dispersed hurriedly. This excitement caused uncertainty amongst the guards again, and finally they made the men take cover under the trees nearby.

After this tension had worn off they allowed the men to lower their hands and to smoke. The guards asked for cigarettes themselves. Medics were also permitted to work for the first time on men who required treatment.

German troops reappeared in the square below the small cliff and a long-range conversation took place between these men and the guards. As a result of this conversation men again lined up and this time marched into town where one of the guards reported to a highly dressed officer believed to be of field grade. Through interpretation by Kramer it was learned that the officer asked; "Why have you taken so many prisoners, and what do you expect to do with them?" Further conversation convinced Kramer that they had decided to shoot the group. This decision he passed along to the men around him.

The guards business-like manner showed they now had something definite in mind, their former hesitation was this time lacking. They lined the group up against a building on one side of the street while an armored car (thought to be the officer's command vehicle) was maneuvered into position on the opposite side of the street, about 15 feet from the column. Two men mounted the vehicle, took positions behind the gun, and covered the group with it. None of the men questioned had any doubt in their mind that this time they were going to be shot. Everything pointed to it!

The miracle then happened. Six P-47's, previously circling high overhead suddenly came down and flew over the street at extremely low altitude. The enemy became quite frightened and took hasty measures to conceal their vehicles. The armored car covering the prisoners backed into a convenient garage. We were left lined up on the street guarded by infantry in doorways.

Although the planes continued to dive, they took no offensive action evidently because they recognized the situation and the enemy soon took heart at this. Some of the German soldiers began looting American trucks parked in the street with food and gasoline their main interest.

The guards asked if there were any motorcar drivers in the bunch. This had to be repeated several times before a Company C sergeant directed two drivers to step out, figuring it best to get out of the ticklish position of the planes attacking or the enemy again getting the idea of shooting the men.

The two drivers were taken under guard into town and soon returned with a 2 1/2 ton truck. The tarp was taken off and the captives were loaded on with a single guard covering them from the right fender. The truck started out of town followed closely and covered by a half-track, but this vehicle soon turned off.

Just prior to going under a railroad underpass on the edge of town, the guard directed the truck to the right where the road led up a steep hill. Having a couple of flats on the rear duals, the truck stalled almost at the top. The men dismounted.

Immediately, over the top of the hill, an American M8 armored car and a jeep were parked, manned by reconnaissance men from a Tank Destroyer Unit. They didn't know what to make of the situation and neither did anyone else for that matter. The recon men had their own personal arms, but we learned later the 37mm and 50 caliber machine guns of the M8 had been rendered incapable of firing because of the apparent hopelessness of the situation.

The situation was confused enough but it became worse when shells began falling in the nearby vicinity. There was only one casualty, which oddly enough was the German guard who was hit in the leg by shrapnel.

Seeking protection from the shelling (believed to be American) prisoners, guard, and recon men alike went into three houses located nearby and on the extreme outskirts of Büllingen. The small recon unit had a couple of wounded men inside one of the houses on stretchers.

The German guard still retained his weapon but no one seemed to care because for now the situation was entirely out of his control. He was very frightened, mainly because he expected to be killed. After one of our medics bandaged his wounded leg, he felt better about his lot and asked that he be taken with in the event the party escaped.

The recon men had radio contact with their unit. Giving them what was known of the situation in Büllingen and pointing out spots where German troops

and vehicles had been observed, the recon sergeant directed artillery fire from TD's on these points. Results could not be observed.

Also, via radio, the recon sergeant told his unit about our precarious situation and asked that someone be sent in after the entire party. This, he was told, was impossible.

Much talk of "taking off" was taking place amongst the men now that they were more or less on their own. Some thought it best to wait until dark while others were of the opinion it best to leave immediately before the enemy infantry completely cleaned out the town, although no one knew where the enemy might be by now. One guess seemed as good as another. The two lieutenants said that the men were free to make the attempt if they wished and organized them into small groups, thus making the attempt not so conspicuous.

Due to the excitement none of the men who eventually found their way back to the battalion had any idea as to the time. However, it was approximately 1400 hours when the first man left in an attempt to reach friendly troops or area. He carried a message to whomever he might contact as to the situation and to expect more men trying to infiltrate their way back out of enemy held territory. This man, as was previously

stated, who heroically volunteered to "blaze the way" was Pfc John D. Sampson. Nothing further has been heard about him and he has been listed as Missing In Action.

Shortly after, S/Sgt Duquette, Sgt Ray, Sgt Reindl, and T/5 Svojanen jumped off. Sgt Duquette preceded his group to the railroad tracks and, finding everything clear, motioned the rest of his party to proceed. All of these men made it back safely to the battalion.

Soon after the first group had left, another consisting of S/Sgt Porterfield, Sgt Phillips, and T/4 Pyle made their break for it, following closely the route of the first party. Although they observed soldiers, thought to be the enemy, they too reached friendly troops without incident.

The last known men to make the escape attempt was Pvt Robert A. Perry. He left, accompanied by a 2nd Division man, at approximately 1700 hours.

The fate of the remaining men after 1700 hours is not known. They have all been dropped from the battalion roster as Missing In Action.

*Thanks to Allen Perry, son of Pfc. Robert A. Perry, for sending this in.*

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### Contacts & Inquiries

If anybody has any responses to these messages please forward them to: [webmaster@107thEngineers.org](mailto:webmaster@107thEngineers.org) -or- Sgt. Ross Stevens, 57558 Caledonia, Calumet, MI 49913

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I served in WWII in the 254th Combat Engineers, landed Omaha Beach D plus 2 and experienced the Battle of the Bulge. I am very happy to see this information on the Internet. It blesses me and I enjoy reading it. Thanks to all those who have taken the time to post this information. Lewis Lembo

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Looking for someone who recalls William Kuitert or Earl Williams. I'm a Viet-Nam vet trying to track my dad through WWII. He enlisted with Co.K 126th Inf. but may have been with the 107th when they landed in Ireland. Papers show he landed in England March 4, "42". Earl Williams and dad went to see London, without a pass, and apparently didn't get in trouble for it.

His MOS was Warehouse foreman. Any help is greatly appreciated. Gary William Kuitert

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My Grandfather Floyd Harger served with the 107th in Mexico and WWI. He passed away April 18, 1962 and lays at rest in Mobile National Cemetary, Mobile, Alabama. The inscription on his headstone Reads "Pvt, Co. A, 107 Engineers, 32 Inf Div. He was always proud of his service with the 107th and this carried on to his son WWII, myself in Vietnam and my son in Saudi. Thank you for your beautiful homepage and for making history. Lloyd Harger

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I am a member of the Michigan National Guard. My unit is Detachment 1/1st Battalion, 126th Armor out of Three Rivers. I am with Scout Platoon. I surfed the net briefly and found this address. It is quite interesting to see some of the photographs taken at the three reunions that were held from 1999-2001.

My father though he has been deceased many years was a WW 2 veteran. His name/rank was PFC Francis E. Loose. His occupation was as a Truck Driver and served with Headquarters & Headquarters Service Company, 254th Engineer Combat Battalion, 1121st Engineer Combat Group, Fifth Corps, First & Third Armies.

I know but a fragment of My father's wartime experience, but I did manage to secure some of the documentation concerning the movements of his battalion, and what it did during the 5 campaigns including the first, Normandy invasion of France and onward through the march to Germany.

I wonder if he were alive today he would recognize any of the men in the photos that I viewed were taken? It was good to see that some of the men who were alive then and survived are still among the living. Among the medals my father wore home was the Purple Heart and his job and obligation was not considered as highly dangerous as many of the men he served with were expected to fulfill. The engineers are one underestimated group of fighting individuals. The 254th was one such unit, and I know from training that the scouts are dependent upon them in a real-world situation. Take care, Patrick S. Loose, Sergeant, USARNG.

I am looking for anyone who knew Carl Barker. He served in the 254th from 1941 to 1945. I have a picture from a book about D-Day which shows Carl and his platoon in a LCT prior to landing on D-Day. You may also be in the picture. If you knew Carl please send a note to my email address ([tkroscher@mirro.com](mailto:tkroscher@mirro.com)). Thank You Todd Kroscher



*Carl Barker (circled) appears in the above photograph. Thanks Todd for sharing this photograph with us.*

To any who remember me I have recently retired from the Guards. My years with the 107th were the best. My civilian job brought me to Belgium in April of 2002. I got a great tour of the Battle of the Bulge battlefields along with visiting the Bastone museum and Gen. McAulffie Park in the city. A retired employee (76) of my employer was my guide. He remembers the German occupation and the US liberation. The Americans are still greatly appreciated by the older generation that remembers the war. I have several digital pictures of my visit. Let me know if they are of interest for the web site or you would like to see them. Eric Hager

For years now, I have been researching my dad's war years (WWII.) I lost my father when I was twelve and enjoy reading his wartime diary and looking over the many photos and addresses he kept. He enlisted with the 107th, which soon became the 112th while in Ireland. If anyone out there knows/remembers my dad, George Kruzich of Caspian, Michigan...I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. About 15 years ago I was able to track down one of his wartime buddies and pal, Lloyd Sorby, who served with him. He died shortly after our visit. Others mentioned in my dad's diary are Max

Clauson, Walter Flathe, Alfred Brow, Red Ockerby, Pretty Boy Gerbitz, Mike Hydo (who I tried to contact 15 yrs ago and I see by your newsletter died last year.)and Toal Shack Letho--these men all occupied the same billet number four with my dad at the Money more Depot. Stanley Chibowski, Raymond Mornson, William Sisk, Mike Husty, Robert Conroy were with him in hut #131 at Enneskillen, Ely Lodge Camp. And in Newquay at the Hotel Marina Room 59 with Sorby, Barnes and Mann. There's others mentioned in the diary as well. I can be contacted at portage@compmore.net or by fax at 613-832-2592. Noreen Kruzich Violetta

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It was one of the biggest pleasures of my life to serve in the 107th for nearly 22 years. Co. C was my home for most of those years and some of the men I served under will never be forgotten. PSG Fern Dahlgren, Ozzie Oslund, Gib "Hey Neighbor" Helgemo, Wally Mokszycke, Bob Miller, Jim Noel, Big John Sorrault, Joe Hice, and the list goes on. Most are dead now, the most recent, Bob Miller, but the memories I carry about these men are indelibly etched into my mind. Thanks Guys! SSG Ronald B. Hess (Ret.)

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Hello to old comrades in the 107th. Although conflicts always pop up around reunion time - you know, all the events we had to miss because of drills and summer camp - I still sing the Engineer Song in the shower!  
Best regards, Leonard Lorge, CW4 Retired



## LOST AND FOUND

Mr. JL Seel sent us this message:

“while searching the area hold by the C Co. of the 254th EngC Bn., I found the top of a mess kit bearing a name and stamped with a "laundry number" first letter of the name - last four digit of the ASN. The mess kit had been dug out years ago by another searcher, so it suffered a lot of the years spent on the ground. The name is Orvell Crom. There is maybe a letter after the "m" because damaged at this spot. The laundry is C-6401. There are many others inscriptions engraved but almost unreadable, except "Ireland". I hope you can help me to find the whereabouts of Mr. Crom.”

If anybody has information to help locate Mr. Crom or his relatives please contact: Sgt. Ross Stevens, [webmaster@107thEngineers.org](mailto:webmaster@107thEngineers.org), -or- 57558 Caledonia, Calumet, MI 49913, 906-337-0439

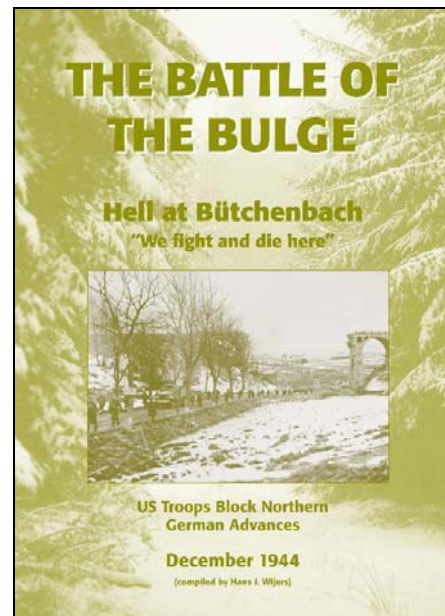
## **Thanks....**

To everyone that contributed to this annual publication. This publication is the effort of many people and would not be possible without all the contributions of pictures articles, etc.

If anyone has anything that they would like to see printed in future editions for “The Bullsheet.” Please send them to: Sgt. Ross Stevens, [webmaster@107thEngineers.org](mailto:webmaster@107thEngineers.org) - or- 57558 Caledonia, Calumet, MI 49913, (906)-337-0439. Any help would be greatly appreciated.



## HELP WANTED



Historian Hans J. Wiers is currently working on a new book titled “Hell at Bütgenbach”. This book will be about the actions at the area of Bütgenbach, where parts of the 99<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div, 254 Engineers Bn, supporting TD and Bn units and 1st Inf. Div. saw action against German units of the 12th SS Pz. Div., 12. VGD (Battlegroup Holz), Heavy Panzerjäger Bn 560, Paratroopers of the 3rd Fallschirmjäger Division. This will be his 3<sup>rd</sup> book on the Northern Shoulder of the Battle of The Bulge.

Hans is looking for information on the roadblock established between Büllingen and Bütgenbach. At this road block a Capt. Of the 612<sup>th</sup> TD’s earned a silver star. He would like any specific information about the actions at this roadblock for his new book. Of course I’m sure he’d appreciate hearing any war stories about other actions during WWII. He can be reached by email at: “wijers@wxs.nl” - or- he can be contacted by postal mail at:

Hans J. Wijers  
Zegerijstraat 27  
NL-6971 ZN BRUMMEN  
The Netherlands

107<sup>th</sup> ENGINEER ASSOCIATION  
Executive Committee for 2002-2003

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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**REUNION DETAILS: 18-20 July 2003 Gladstone Armory, 604 So. 18th Str., Gladstone, Michigan 49837, 906-428-1344 After July 1<sup>st</sup>, to make, change, or cancel banquet reservations, kindly call the Gladstone Armory at 906-428-1344 or the Ishpeming Armory at 906-486-8921**

### LIST OF MOTELS

GOLDEN HOST MOTOR INN  
2301 N. LINCOLN RD.  
ESCANABA, MI 49829 906-789-1000

DAYS INN OF ESCANABA  
2603 N. LINCOLN RD (POOL)  
ESCANABA, MI 49829 906-789-1200 OR 800-548-2822

ECONO LODGE  
921 N. LINCOLN RD.  
ESCANABA, MI 49829 906-789-1066 OR 800-553-2666

SUPER 8 MOTEL  
2415 N. LINCOLN RD (POOL)  
ESCANABA, MI 49829 906-786-1000

TERRACE BAY INN(Budget Host)  
7146 P. RD(ON THE BAY)(POOL)  
ESCANABA, MI 49829 906-786-7554

NORWAY PINES MOTEL  
7111 US 2 & 41  
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BAY VIEW MOTEL  
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BOMBAY MOTEL  
7495 HWY US 2 & 41 (ON THE BAY)  
GLADSTONE, MI 49837 906-786-6241

LAKESIDE MOTEL INN  
26 LOWRIE AVE. (ONE BLOCK FROM  
ARMORY)(OVERLOOKING BAY)  
GLADSTONE, MI 49837 906-428-3170 OR 800-982-6643

### AREA CAMP GROUNDS

PIONEER TRAIL PARK  
6822 US 2 & 41 & M35 (Between Gladstone & Escanaba)  
GLADSTONE, MI 49837 906-786-1020

BAY CAMPGROUND  
37 Mich Ave.  
GLADSTONE, MI 49837 906-428-1211 OR 906-428-2311

**PLEASE RETURN THE FOLLOWING SECTION WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THE GLADSTONE REUNION. This will be very helpful for address verification, for one-on-one contact purposes and, hopefully, an open pipeline for information that you will contribute. Send to:**

107th Engineer Association  
900 Palms Avenue  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

- 
1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Home Phone Number (*optional*): \_\_\_\_\_
  4. I  will, I will not (*circle choice*) be present for the 42nd Annual Reunion of the 107th Engineer Association at Gladstone, Michigan.
  5. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me for the banquet / dance on Saturday, 19 July 2003.
  6. My guests for this event will be: \_\_\_\_\_
  7. My Association dues of: \_\_\_\_\_ [\$2.00 per year] are enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ Years.
  9. I joined the 107 / 112 / 254 / 522 at: \_\_\_\_\_
  10. I left the \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

For Those individuals with **Internet Access** please complete the following:

11. My Email address is: \_\_\_\_\_.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Check) I elect to receive future editions of “The BullSheet” at “<http://www.107thEngineers.org>”, the association web site.  
(*This is encouraged to save The 107th Engineer Association time, effort & postage.*)