



April 2007



Issue Number 51

# The "BULL SHEET"

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

## "WELCOME TO SAULT STE. MARIE!"

The 1437<sup>th</sup> Multi Role Bridge Company (MRBC) would like to cordially invite you to the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the 107<sup>th</sup> Engineer Association. The Soldiers and families of the 1437<sup>th</sup> MRBC look forward to hosting this long standing traditional gathering of the Association. The festivities will be spread out over the weekend of **20-21-22 July 2007**.

On Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at noon, registration will commence. This is a great time to catch up with old friends, and get to know the new faces. The bar will be open at noon and there will be hors d'oeuvres available. At 1800 hours the social mixer will kick off with whitefish and some good background music.

On Saturday, plan on enjoying yourself. We will start it off with, what else, a hearty breakfast. Our mess section (which is phenomenal), is planning on ensuring you start your day right, for a low price of \$5 per person. For those of you that had too much fun on Friday, there will be Bloody Mary's available in lieu of breakfast (for a much lower price).

At 1100 hours, as it is customary, we will meet at the flagpole for the Memorial Service.

Following the Memorial Service, we will have a lunch on the lawn. We will be serving a standard cook-out menu, served out of the Mobile Kitchen Trailer (MKT). While you picnic on the lawn, you can either relax while enjoying the view of the St. Mary's River, or check out the static display of the unit's equipment that will be on the lawn. Bar services will be provided on the lawn.

After lunch, there will be the Annual Business meeting. Also, we encourage you to explore our end of the Upper Peninsula. We will be taking those interested to the downtown area to do a tour of the Soo Locks, and check out the local tourist strip. If there are those of you that like golf, Sault Country Club is a half mile down the road. As always, the bar will be open at the armory.

The day's events will build up to the banquet. Cocktails will begin at 1730, and the colors will be posted at 1800. Immediately following the introduction of the Reunion Committee and the honored guests, there will be a dinner meal. The cost is \$12 per plate. There will be live music for your entertainment; hopefully you will bring your dancing shoes.

As a free service, the unit will supply Soldiers to provide transportation. So for the duration of the weekend, you can enjoy yourself to the full extent, and take advantage of our designated drivers. They will provide a taxi service from your hotels in the morning as well.

The weekend will come to a close with a brunch on Sunday morning from 0900-1100, again provided by our outstanding staff. Hopefully as you bid farewell to your friends, you can reflect on yet another wonderful Reunion and look forward to the next one.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call at the Sault Ste. Marie Armory (906) 632-7861, we are looking forward to the opportunity to host this year's Reunion. See you there!

SSG Ann Dailey  
Reunion Committee Chairperson  
1437<sup>th</sup> MRBC

# 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.*

Oja, Richard J. (former Bn CSM), HHC/107NG	Jan 2007
Schneller, Robert, 254E	Oct 2004
Wojciechowski, Alex L.	Aug 2005
Bova, Joseph	Sep 2002
Wiitanen, Edward	Nov 2004
Martis, Anne C.(John), 254E	Apr 2006
Mohler, Kenneth N., B/112R	Jun 2005
Kilpatrick, Robert	May 2005
Kessler, William, 522 En Co	Mar 2006
Wills, Robert, HQ/107NG	Sep 2006
Perron, Ernest, 1437 <sup>th</sup> EN Co (former 1SG)	Unknown
Lembo, Lewis N., H&S/254E	Dec 2006
Wallace, Robert F., C/254E	1983

## Officially registered at Ishpeming in 2006

ALLEN DALE	B,107NG	Ironwood, MI
BABB CARLTON	HQ,107NG	Grand Ledge, MI
BARDOWSKI THOMAS		
BARNHART ERIK	C/HHC/,107NG	Gladstone, MI
BATTISFORE JOSEPH	A, 107NG	Hancock, MI
BEAUCHAMP JOHN	HHC,107NG	Skandia, MI
BROWN JOSEPH	HHC,107NG	Ontonagon, MI
BUSSIERE DONALD	A, 107NG	Ontonagon, MI
BYKKONEN WILLIAM	A, 107NG	Calumet, MI
CARLSON STEVEN	A/HHC, 107NG	Nisula, MI
CHARTRE RAYMOND	HHC,107NG	Ishpeming, MI
COMPTON JON	HHC, 107NG	Ishpeming, MI
CRNKOVICH ANTON	254E	Ishpeming, MI
CUMMINGS DENNIS	C, 107NG	Escanaba, MI
DAHLGREN ERIC	C, 107NG	Appleton, WI
DAHLGREN FERN	C, 107NG	Gladstone, MI
DEGROTE DEAN	HQ, 107NG	Ada, MI
DEROCHE DONALD	HQ, 107NG	Ishpeming, MI
DEVERNEY BUTCH	HHC,107NG	Midland, MI
DISHAW PAUL	HHC,107NG	Ishpeming, MI
DOUGOVITO JAMES	A/HHC, 107NG	L'Anse, MI
DUPONT JOSEPH	254E	Caseyville, MI
ECKLOFF WILLIAM	HHC,107NG	Ishpeming, MI
ETELAMAKI SCOTT	A/HHC,107NG	Negaunee, MI
FLORIANO MICHAEL	D/HHC, 107NG	Kingsford, MI
FORSYTHE CLARENCE	254E	
FRASER MICHAEL	HHC,107NG	Ishpeming, MI
FRAZIER ROBERT	B/HHC,107NG	Marquette, MI
FREDERICKSON JAMES	HHC,107NG	Livonia, MI
FREEZE KEITH	254E	Shepard, MI
GARCEAU DANNY	HHC, 107NG	Ishpeming, MI
GARCEAU FUZZY	HHC, 107NG	Negaunee, MI
GIBSON JEFFREY	B, 107NG	Iron River, MI
GIESE KENNETH	HHC, 107NG	Negaunee, MI
GIRARD TERRY	B, 107NG	Iron River, MI
GIROUX MICHAEL	HHC, 107NG	Ishpeming, MI
GROOP ROBERT	B/HHC,107NG	Crystal Falls MI
HAHKA AURELIA		Negaunee, MI
HALL JOSEPH	254E	Wyoming, MI
HALLENBECK EDWARD	HQ, 107NG	St. Johns, MI
HEBERT LARRY	A, 107NG	Baraga, MI
HOULE TIMOTHY	A/HHC, 107NG	L'Anse, MI
ILENICH HENRY	A/HHC, 107NG	Calumet, MI
INJASOULIAN PETER	HQ, 107NG	Houghton Lake, MI
JACHIMSKI EDWIN	B/HHC,107NG	Negaunee, MI
JANNAUSCH WILLIAM	HHC, 107NG	Ishpeming, MI
JOHNSON IDELL	HHC, 107NG	Marquette, MI
KEYSER DENNIS	HQ, EN Bde	Flint, MI
KUPARI CLINT	A, 107NG	Baraga, MI
LAFRENIERE GARY	HHC, 107NG	Ishpeming, MI
LAROCHELLE GENE	A/HHC, 107NG	Calumet, MI
LEMBOLEWIS	254E	Maple Rapids, MN
MARINELLI JERRY	D, 107NG	Iron Mountain, MI
MARTIN JEFFREY	HHC, 107NG	Negaunee, MI
MATTILA MICHAEL	HHC, 107NG	Rock, MI

MCCORMICK JOHN	B/HHC, 107NG	Sterling Hghts,MI
MCGUIRE ROBERT	254E	Centerville, MI
MCNEILL MARK	A/HHC,107NG	Marquette, MI
MOULDS JAMES	B/D/HHC,107NG	Munising, MI
NORA PERRY	HHC, 107NG	Ishpeming, MI
OJA RICHARD	HHC, 107NG	Republic, MI
PELLINEN STEVEN	HHC, 107NG	Negaunee, MI
PERRY THOMAS	A/B/HQ,107NG	Roscommon, MI
PETERSON BRIAN	B, 107NG	Newcastle, CA
PETERSON JODI	HHC, 107NG	Ishpeming, MI
PIETILA STEVEN	B, 107NG	Iron River, MI
REHER MIKE	B, 254E	St. Paul, MN
ROSE STEVEN	A/HHC, 107NG	Pickford, MI
RUOHOMAKI LESLIE	HHC, 107NG	Gladstone, MI
SEMLER ELLSWORTH		
SEXTON ROBERT	D/HHC,107NG	Kingsford, MI
SHELDON JAMES	A/HHC, 107NG	Baraga, MI
SHELDON WILLIAM	HHC, 107NG	Ishpeming, MI
SHORT CHRISTOPHER	HHC,107NG	Marquette, MI
SMALL DONALD	HHC,107NG	Marquette, MI
SMITH JOHN	C, 107NG	Daggett, MI
STRAND RICHARD	C/HHC, 107NG	Ishpeming, MI
TEBBY TIMOTHY	A/HHC,107NG	Ishpeming, MI
TESTOLIN JOSEPH	D, 107NG	Kingsford, MI
TURUNEN JAMES	A, 107NG	L'Anse, MI
TYRRELL JOHN	HHC, 107NG	Ishpeming, MI
USITALO GORDON	A, 107NG	Calumet, MI
VAN ABEL PAUL	254E	L'Anse, MI
VICKSTROM EDWARD	H&S, 254E	Ishpeming, MI
WAGNER DARRELL	1437/HHC,107NG	Soo, MI
WARD JOYCE	HQ, 107NG	McLean, VA
WEESNER DOUGLAS	B, 107NG	Iron River, MI
WHEELER MICHAEL	B, 107NG	Crystal Falls, MI
WILIS RICHARD	254E	Negaunee, MI

## The Situation As It Was Long, Long Ago

By: Ed Vickstrom

A brief but concise article copped from a long-forgotten source which was foresightedly tucked away on a might-be-useful-someday brain storm quite unexpectedly paid dividends many years later. Why? Well, as a response to Editor Tom Perry's invitation to contribute something historically significant, and hopefully interesting, about the World War Two era for this issue. The said article is passed along on the premise, to-wit: "During August of 1940 the U.S. SECOND ARMY conducted its maneuvers at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. For three weeks some 60,000 troops of the Regular Army, National Guard, and Reserves from seven mid-western states maneuvered through a large military reservation located in west-central Wisconsin." (Insert from memory: Then a mostly tented military reservation housing three old Army posts designated as Camp Williams, Camp Douglas, and Camp McCoy – now simply McCoy.) "About a quarter of the men had no weapons. Saplings were cut from small trees to improvise. Small forked trees were cut, and a small log was put across the crotch to simulate a 37-mm anti-tank gun, the Army's main anti-tank weapon at the time. Here, one year after WWII erupted in Europe there still was a noticeable lack of equipment in the U.S. Armed Forces." End of reprint.

This was indeed a truism applicable to the 107<sup>th</sup> Engineers. Included in the call up for participation in the so-called McCoy maneuvers, 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (Wisconsin-Michigan National Guard) was one of the mid-west Guard outfits so mobilized for the combined operation. Following the 1919 deactivation after WWI and 1937 reactivation as a battalion and expansion to regimental strength during 1939-1940, the 107<sup>th</sup> was again, as it was for WWI, the 32<sup>nd</sup>'s basic engineer unit. The new regimental lineup of Headquarters and Service Company, 6 line companies alphabetically allocated as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions plus detachments (Band and Medics) made all-rail movements from armories located in Detroit, Escanaba, Sault Ste. Marie, Marquette, and Calumet as did other "Red Arrow" components from lower Michigan and numerous Wisconsin communities. A combination of the foregoing reprint, some albumed photos plus the semi-sharp recall of four participants together establishes the platform for a 107<sup>th</sup> experience heretofore never seen/heard in any form by ye' writer except in the outstanding publication entitled: "Combat Engineer! The History of the 107<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 1881-1981" by LTC (ret) Fred Stonehouse researched, written and published during his own 107<sup>th</sup> tour of duty. The four surviving McCoy vets (aged 87-92) include: Anton G. "Tony" Crnkovich, Ishpeming (A/107R-A/254B); Richard H. "Dick" Wills, Negaunee (D/107R-B/254B); Edwin K. Kohn, Calumet (F/107R-127 Inf Regt/PTO-A/HHC/Bn Exec Off post war 107<sup>th</sup>); and Edward C. Vickstrom, Ishpeming (D/107R-B/H&S/254B). According to Wills, the all-rail route of march - some units singly, some jointly- was HOME STATIONS-MILWAUKEE-TUNNEL CITY-CAMP MC COY. Kohn, Sgt Maj for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, clearly recalls that the Calumet contingents being 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Hq, Co E, Co F, Medical Detachment traveled together as one unit. As the Co A Mess Sgt, Crnkovich contributes his excellent recall of his section's responsibilities while enroute/return and at McCoy. Food preparation and serving while entrained was done on wood-fired field ranges set up on sand boxes in baggage cars; smoke there from was vented out through car roof vents. After loading up their WWI vintage mess kits in the cook car, (cont)



Ft McCoy, WI. Co A street with all tents "dress right-dress"

(Continued) men returned to their passenger car for chowing down. Ye' writer remembers that upon detraining all hands had to cut and remove brush preparatory to erecting pyramidal tents along prescribed company streets. All remember well the countless miles/hours spent hiking with full packs over the rolling, scenic countryside while stoically enduring many days of rain interspersed by humid heat while knowing from nothing as to where and why, many foot problems, emergency field rations consisting of corned (bully) beef w/ biscuits and spending considerably more time afield under pup tents than in the base camp pyramids. None really remember having a bath of any kind during the three week period. Officers, assumed Regular Army, were tasked for umpire duty doing evaluations of unit field performance which were practically all infantry related. Typically, engineer functions were make believe things flagged as "bridge built, bridge blown, mine field laid/lifted" for example. Actually, no significant engineer work is recalled as being done by any 107<sup>th</sup> unit all lacking the equipment/vehicles/training for fulfilling a Combat Engineer's purpose in life. Looking back, one can only surmise that McCoy, and probably other ARMY structured maneuvers elsewhere in the U.S., were specifically intended as high-level staff/logistical exercises rather than a focus upon individual and small unit training similar to movements and simulated combat positions afield at McCoy. Kohn humorously relates that he accidentally was privy to a TOP SECRET rumor, so thought, to the effect the 32<sup>nd</sup> would be Federally activated en mass soon after return home from McCoy- which in fact it was two months later on 15 Oct 40. Even then but 14 months before the U.S. Declaration of War, the 107<sup>th</sup> was still badly under strength (corrected by the ensuing universal draft) and essentially equipped with WWI hand-me-downs – a neglectful situation further compounded by the critical shortage of engineering equipment of all kinds and lacking vehicle one, even. All in all, these were conditions badly needing improvement when the regiment was abruptly activated for a quick departure to Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, again via the efficient U.S. railroad network. Fortunately, all deficiencies were routinely upgraded when the reformed 107<sup>th</sup> Battalion shipped out from Brooklyn Naval Yard on 18 Feb 1942 – the beginning of its 3 ½ year ETO tour while enduring a sequence of unit redesignations, 107B to 112R to 254B, for construction and training assignments in N. Ireland and England and lastly 11 months of combat missions, Normandy, France to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. Stepping back in time once again, the captioned pictures (contributed by Crnkovich and Vickstrom) will in part convey a self-explanatory grasp of the situation as it was for our revered 107<sup>th</sup> way back in August of 1940 – 67 years ago.



Ft McCoy, WI (1939). 1SG LeRoy Hamilton (far left), 1LT Loren Jenkins CO, Co A, (far right), Jenkins was the only 107<sup>th</sup> NG officer mobilized in 1940 to stay with the battalion all thru the WWII years (5 yrs) and reorganizations, (107-112-254). He ended up as battalion commander in Aug 1943.



Mess Sgt Tony Crnkovich, Co A in mess tent at Ft McCoy, WI in 1939. Company officers frequently gave Tony extra money to purchase additional food for the company.

### Association Information

By Tom Perry, secretary

1. Our internet web address is [www.107thengineers.org](http://www.107thengineers.org). The minutes from the 2006 business meeting and lots of other info about the battalion and Association is posted on the website.

2. Over the last 5 years the Association treasury has been reduced significantly. This is caused by a number of things. The "Bull Sheet" expenses (printing and mailing mostly) are increasing, we are doing more discretionary spending, reunion attendance is lower, fewer members are paying dues, and some members don't even want to pay the registration fee (\$5) at the reunion. I have stopped mailing out membership cards to those who don't attend the reunion so we can save some money. The only sources of Association income are donations, dues, reunion registration fee, and interest from our CDs. That's it! We sell hats, license plates, etc, a little above cost as a service to our members. I will be bringing this issue up again at the 2007 business meeting so we can address the problem and keep our Association alive. At the pace we are going, the Association will be broke in about 5 years.

3. If you have an article, a picture, or whatever that you would like to see printed in the "Bull Sheet" please send them to the Ishpeming Armory address on the Bull Sheet masthead or e-mail your info to the webmaster..



Ft McCoy, WI 1939, Regimental Band, (Sault Ste Marie) doing their specialty in base camp – training or entertaining???



Pvt Ed Vickstrom ready for the trail with full pack, Springfield 03 rifle, leggings, and campaign hat. All this for pay of \$21/month!

### How do we keep the 107<sup>th</sup> Engineer Association Alive?

In 1961, the year of the first reunion, the main purpose of the reunion was for all the WWII vets to get together. During the 5 years of the WWII mobilization there were numerous Soldiers assigned to the battalion as replacements from all over the country as a result of the draft. After the war many U.P. natives moved away to find a good job, so the reunion offered them a chance to come "home" once a year to reminisce with their war buddies. As time goes on, the WWII vets are getting fewer and fewer. The Association in general and especially the reunion has become a post-WWII National Guard membership. The last 5-10 years or so those attending the reunion are, or were, part of the post-war National Guard battalion.

We are in a situation similar to 1961 now with the battalion after the many mobilizations to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The battalion organized platoons and companies by cross-leveling members from every armory/unit in the battalion into the composite units. After the mobilizations were complete, the units, platoons and companies were reorganized and most of the Soldiers went back to their original unit of assignment. Now the reunion can offer these formerly mobilized Soldiers an opportunity to get together again from all across the state and country to see old war buddies. (continued)

(continued) So all you Soldiers who were mobilized in the last few years, contact your friends from other units and arrange to meet them at the reunion in the Soo. Not only will you be able to see your old “war buddies,” but you will meet a lot of other battalion Soldiers and retirees (like me!).

I am also sending this Bull Sheet to all the units, in MI and out of state, which our Soldiers were assigned to when mobilized. Maybe some of them will come to the Soo to celebrate with the “Yooper Engineers.”

107<sup>th</sup> ENGINEER ASSOCIATION  
Executive Committee for 2006-2007

President	CPT George Kocowitz	1437 <sup>th</sup> EN Co, 107 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn
Vice President	SFC Arla Bennett	1437 <sup>th</sup> EN Co, 107 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn
Secretary	LTC (ret) Thomas Perry	HQ, 107 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn
Treasurer	1SG (ret) Donald Bussiere	Co A, 107 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn
Public Relations Officer	CPT Scott Etelamaki	HHC, 107 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn
Historian (Apt)	SFC Perry Nora	HHC, 107 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn
Chaplain (Apt)	COL(Ret) George Hansen	HQ 107th Eng Bn
Permanent Director	LTC Dean (Bud) Degrote	Cdr, 107 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn
4 Year Director	1SG Darrell Wagner	HHC, 107 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn
3 Year Director	SFC James Turunen	Co A, 107 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn
2 Year Director	CSM (ret) Richard Oja	HQ 107 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn
1 Year Director	SGT (ret) Joe Testolin	Co D, 107 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn
Secretary Emeritus	Mr. Edward Vickstrom	H&S Company, 254 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION: To Make or Cancel a Banquet Reservation, Please notify the individuals below:**

1. **Before 1 July 2007** mail the below notice to: 107<sup>th</sup> Engineer Association, 900 Palms Ave., Ishpeming, MI 49849-1064
2. **After 1 July 2007** Call the Sault Ste. Marie (Soo) Armory at 906-632-7861.

PLEASE RETURN THE BELOW SECTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, **WHETHER OR NOT** YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THE REUNION, to ensure the information concerning you is correct. This will also help us a great deal in preparing for this years Reunion.

-----CLIP AND SEND IN BELOW INFORMATION / RETAIN THE ABOVE-----  
---

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ be present for the 46th Annual Reunion of the 107<sup>th</sup> Engineer Association at Soo, Michigan  
(will or will not)
2. Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) for me at the banquet / dance on 21 July 2007, My guest(s) for this event will be

\_\_\_\_\_

3. *(Please check one)*  
\_\_\_\_ My association dues of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.00 per year or) are enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ years;  
-or-  
\_\_\_\_ My association lifetime membership dues of \$50.00 are enclosed.  
-or-  
\_\_\_\_ I am a lifetime member.  
*(Optional)*  
\_\_\_\_ Enclosed are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards printing and mailing expense.

3. My name and address is \_\_\_\_\_
4. I joined the 107 / 112 / 254 / 522 at \_\_\_\_\_ year of \_\_\_\_\_
5. I left the \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

6. My Email address is: \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Check) I elect to receive future "Bull Sheet" editions at "<http://www.107thEngineers.org>", the association web site.