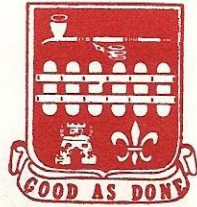




October 1970



Issue No. 9

The "BULL SHEET"

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COMMUNIQUE FROM HEADQUARTERS

The latest scoop awaiting dissemination down to the ranks includes some advance information regarding the 1971 reunion - as engineered at the business meeting which convened during the shindig just passed. You can set your elevation for Calumet, Michigan, windage for Aug. 7-8-9, 1971 and load and lock a full clip for the big 90th Birthday celebration of the famed 107th and its counterpart units. Although latrine rumors had Ishpeming, by virtue of being HQ for the present day Guard Bn, as the place to dig in for this event, further recon missions proved up the fact that historically and rightfully Calumet deserved first grabs. And grab they did - so to Calumet we march! You will notice the 1971 dates are a week or two earlier than usual but for a good reason. Since the Calumet Light Guard, sire and grandsire of the 107 Regt, 107 Bn, 2nd Bn 112, 522 Co, 254 Bn and 107 NG Bn, was actually organized in Calumet and mustered into State service on 8 Aug 1881, it is appropriate indeed to recognize the 90th anniversary on the same date which fortunately just happens to be a Saturday close to our normal reunion dates. Our present Commander in Chief & his Staff will no doubt have their Battle Plan roughed out to the extent they can relay additional orders via the Spring issue of the BULL SHEET. With this advance notice, however, you can field strip & clean up those weapons and otherwise start getting your gear shipshape for the big inspection on August 7-8-9, 1971 in Calumet, Michigan.

NEW ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS

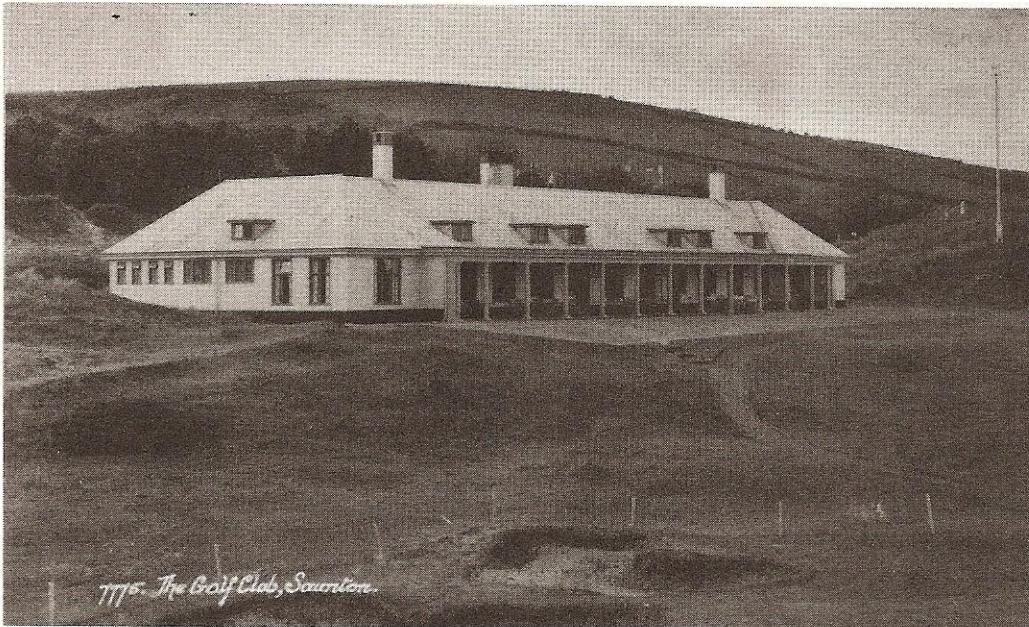
President is Capt Henry P. Ilenich, CO of Co A, Calumet; Vice President and Reunion Chairman is John C. "Jack" Calcatterra, 1st Sgt Co A, Calumet; & Director for a 4 year term, Clyde "Babe" Asplund (Co A 254), Ironwood, Mich. The remaining officers stay on active duty for another term in their respective Association offices.

FREEDOM SHRINE DEDICATION

A Freedom Shrine was presented to the C. L. Phelps School in Ishpeming as a memorial to the late Lt Col Austin E. Lindberg at a dedication program held this past June 3rd. The Shrine is comprised of 28 authentic reproductions of famous American documents; each one individually framed and mounted in a lighted, glass-door enclosure on a 5' x 20' main entry wall. Made possible through contributions to the Austin E. Lindberg Memorial Fund, it is a most fitting memorial to our friend and comrade and to his lifetime career as an educator and soldier. At the time of his death on 10-17-69, Col Lindberg was principal of the Phelps School and had completed 30 years of military service including 10 as Bn CO of the 107th Engr NG Bn. B Gen Leonard C. Ward, predecessor to Col Lindberg as the 107 Bn CO and certainly no stranger to the WWII vets, was present out of Washington, DC to deliver the main address at the memorial ceremony. Also made possible through donations to the Memorial Fund is a handsome set of display-trophy cases in remembrance of the Colonel's long, distinguished military career and love for the 107th. This memorial was presented to the Battalion for use at the Ishpeming armory.

FROM THE BULLETIN BOARD

The annual reminder that membership cards now should read "1971" (or later) in order to be up-to-snuff inasmuch as our new membership yr. commenced on the date of the last reunion or Aug. 22, 1970. The treasury balance is slowly but surely declining, but some new recruits in the dues-paying ranks would reverse this adverse trend in the state of our financial affairs. No inflation here - still only \$2.00. And, PLEASE, if you have an address change include HQ in your listing of "to be notified". Otherwise a transfer back to the repple deppele.



Headquarters for the 254th Engr C Bn at the time of its organization on 19 Aug 1943; Hq & Hq & Sv Co occupied the clubhouse of the Saunton Sands Golf Club; Companies A & B were bivouaced nearby in perimidal tents erected amongst the sand dunes on the golf course. (Picture credit to Wilfred "Bill" Smith (H&S 254).

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 * * * T A P S * * *
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BZDAFKA, Jack W. (H&S 254), Cleveland, Ohio; CALVI, Keeler L., (Co C WWI), Iron Mtn., Mich.; HENNESSEY, James H. (Co A 107), Escanaba-Milwaukee); KELLY, James M., Vulcan, Mich.; LAPINSKI, Leon (H&S 107), Garden City, Mich.; MARTIN, Edward J. (Co A 254), Chicago; PASSANO, Lindsay C. "Pops" (H&S 254), Pasadena, Maryland; RAASIO, Arnold M. (Co C 254), Hancock, Mich.; RAMBO, Nathan J. (Co C 254), Philadelphia, Pa.; SIMONEN, Toivo K. (Co B 107 & 522), Munising, Mich.; SMYSER, Ferdinand A. (Co D WWI), Richmond, Ind.; TRIONE, Paul J. (Co F 107), Two Rivers, Wis.; URBANSKI, Jr., Stephen (Co A WWI), Detroit; WATKINS, Clifford F. (Co F WWI), Harrison, Ohio; YOUNG, Rev. Chester R. (Co D NG's), Manistique-Boston, Mass.

107th Engr. Bn. to 2nd Bn 112th Engr. Regt.

The 112th Engr Regt was organized 1 June 1942 by the consolidation of the 107th Engr Bn and the 112th Engr Bn (T/O 5-171, 1 Nov 1940) per GO 27, Hq USANIF, 28 May 1942. The 112th Engr Bn was designated as 1st Bn, 112th Regt and the 107th Engr Bn was designated as the 2nd Bn, 112th Regt pursuant to instructions contained in Secret Letter, Hq V Corps, subject: "Redesignation & Reorganization of 112th Engineers."

112th Engineer C Regiment

to

1121st Engr Gp Hq, 112th and 254th Engr Bns.

Battalion History of the 254th Engr C Bn for period 19-31 Aug 1943 - Organized 19 Aug 1943 at Saunton Sands Camp, Braunton, England. The 112th Engr Regt was reorganized as follows per GO 1, Hq 1121 Engr C Gp, 19 Aug 1943; Hq & Hq & Sv Co redesignated Hq & Hq Co, 1121 Engr C Gp; Hq Det 1st Bn & Companies A, B & C redesignated Hq & Hq & Sv Co and Companies A, B & C, 112th Engr C Bn; Hq Det, 2nd Bn & Companies D, E & F redesignated Hq & Hq & Sv Co and Companies A, B & C, 254th Engr C Bn. Company C 254th activated less personnel and equipment; personnel to be furnished from other companies of the Bn. (Editor's note: to replace Co F 112th detached from Regt for African invasion). No marches. Bn on construction work (Editor's note: constructing the so-called Assault Training Center - a mock-up of certain German defensive positions on the coast of France). No training for this period.

Strength on 19 Aug 43: 16 Off, 2 WO, 389 EM;
 Strength on 31 Aug 43: 16 Off, 2 WO, 461 EM.

SHORT SNORTS

This portion of the BS format is somewhat short changed this issue meaning we are unable to cut into the accumulated and growing back-log of notes, news items, recognitions, etc.....the company photo of Co H, 3rd Bn, 107th Medical Regt (Belding, Mich.) in the 1940 "Historical & Pictorial Review, N.G. of Mich." included Pfc Edward J. Doyle - some 31 years of service and 10 ranks later Major Doyle retired from the 107th Engineers to clear the way for his promotion to Lt Col in the Reserves. Ed was the chief organizer and first CO of the 107th's Co D (Manistique) when it was organized in 1949. His pre-Snortin' Bull service included 3½ years of overseas duty in the South Pacific during WW II plus some time in the Illinois NGs. Association-wise, we benefited greatly from a shot of the Doyle leadership during his term as President in 1966-67. Congrats and best wishes, Ed....indebted to Ludwig B. Hofmann of Warwick, R.I. for a 1st Platoon Co A 254 photo complete with names and 1945 addresses. HQ will borrow out same to anyone wanting to duplicate this info for their own platoon photos or records.

The many favorable comments and expressions of appreciation about the reunion and the job done by the reunion committee proving up the fact that Reunion No. 9 was top-drawer in all respects.....the excellent buffet repast on Friday evening unappetizingly announced as Hores Ovaries on the printed program. A committee member, suspiciously deficient in the French department, insists it was a typographical error but no one detected any red-faced embarrassment over the un faux pas.....the impromptu recon detail to Ishpeming and Negaunee for purpose of apprehending Nick Conte (Co D 107-Co E 112) and/or his squeeze box and George Lafkas (107-1121) with his guitar. No Nick or George but the detail had the music maker and with Americo "Tiny" Metro (H&S 254) to pump it the Friday night warmup didn't miss a beat after the paid music departed.....two new recruits from way out East were Lauri Johnson (Co C 254), Gloucester, Mass. and Joe Nicholes (Co A 254), Dover, N.J. Lauri checked in a couple days early and proceeded on to Calumet for visit with friends- and returned to be unexpectedly reunited with war-time buddy Stewart G. Cross (Co C 254) in from Springfield, Ill. also for his first. Joe and his missus planned the reunion as part of an extensive camping tour & actually did bivouac with their camper at a nearby camp grounds. While on another tour during pre-Association days, Joe reported he had memorable visits with his ex-Co. A 254 buddies Joe "Beanie" LaMuth in Manistique and Clyde "Babe" Asplund, Ironwood, Mich..... a busy week and big weekend for Raymond "Ray" Deicher (Co A 254) present for his fourth roll call out of Green Bay, Wis. encompassing a honeymoon trip and the reunion respectively - recuperated yet, Ray?.....the movies of our '69 maneuvers taken and produced by maestro Louie Yake (Co B 254), Waukesha, Wis. - finally solving the mystery just why the gals were chasing Louie around last year.....the fine performance by the Ishpeming Choral Club which graciously consented to fill the feature spot in the banquet program - this in place of the usual main speaker.....the brother combination of Rans J. Blondo (107-112), St. Claire Shores, Mich. and Stanley Blondo (Co E & F 107), Detroit, Mich. each chaperoned by respective sons. First one for Stan but Rans is a seasoned and dedicated campaigner and promoter in and for Association affairs - the colored polaroids received with grateful thanks, Rans.....the welcome given Johnnie "Kay" Kovachich (Co B 254) and Bing Boberg (H&S 254) when they made their grand entrances - both, as retirees of the post-war 107th Guards, get a double barrelled charge from reunion duty what with their many buddies in both WWII and NG circles....out of the 254's

TO strength of 3 Warrant Officers 2 made this one their first unbeknownst to the other - buddies way back when it was truly a happy reunion for Ulrich "Bill" Schiefer (Supply Off 254), Columbus, Ohio & Donald J. Fournier (Maint O), Ortonville, Mich. The third, Joseph Censabella (Personnel Off), Alexandria, Va., is still sucking wind but informs HQ he is busy working up his travel orders.....the reunion of Clifford C. Herstrom (Med Det 254) with a couple of his ex-WIA's & their arguments over the "patients" readiness for reunion duty - Cliff's claim to skillful administrations versus counter claims to being fast healers. This was Cliff's first appearance out of Southgate, Mich.....the special Bruch and Hair of the Dog (again says printed program) at the armory Sunday a.m. was a new wrinkle tried for the first time and very successfully, too.....although admittedly hard pressed for timely items of a generally informative nature concerning news of our Guardsmen comrades, one area deserving well earned recognition is the outstanding reunion attendance record compiled by some of the NG's present at this reunion including: Harold L. Barber, #7; Robert P. Frazier, #9; Otis Kleaver, Sr., #9; Maj Frank E. LaBelle, #5; William C. Larsen, #9; Maj Donald R. Small, #8 & Capt Philip L. White #6; all of Marquette and either Hq or HHC; Earl H. Kangas, #6, Co A, Calumet; Lloyd A. Lessard #7, Co E Gladstone; & Lt Col Richard F. Pascoe, #6, Bn CO of Ishpeming....the post-reunion letter from Harold V. Hall (Co A 107) located in Wyoming, Mich. late in 1969, to-wit: "A short note to let you know that my wife and I had a wonderful time. Everyone was so nice and friendly; both the gang at the armory and the towns people. Even the State trooper who gave me the speeding ticket on our way home." Harold left the 107 Bn in N. Ireland for the MBS Hq in Oran, N. Africa; later joined the 36th Engr C Bn at Anzio Beachhead, Italy...the truly outstanding job by Capt Philip White, Asst. S-3 NG, who kept the troops in perfect alignment & commanded the maneuver faultlessly from his podium command post as MC.....the arm twisting welcome given Eldred Erdman (Medics 107-112) who was recruited as Acting Banquet Chaplain and promptly put on active duty before he had time to say his hellos. Eldred, checking in for his initial reunion from Quinnesec, Mich., proved to the gang that he is in fact a lay minister in addition to putting meat and taters on the family table.... the big assist and fine cooperation received from the armory NCO Club who set up and manned the "water point" with Sgt Robert McCormick in command. Happy to report the WP didn't run dry once....the pasty luncheon for noon day mess on Sat. - something new for the out-of-towners....

REUNION SIDE GLANCES (cont'd)

the front and center recognition given the WWI contingent for the presentation of papier mache replicas of the ol' WWI mose-cracker (helmet less chin strap) as mementoes of the occasion. The group, falling in like a squad of West Pointers with a rousing ovation, were: Arago Guck (Co A), Soo, Mich. for his 7th reunion; John P. Rule #6 & Harvey Turcotte #9 both of Co B & Iron Mtn., Mich.; Louis H. Giesen #9, Fountain City, Wis., John R. Herron #3, Marquette, Oral J. "Moose" LaCombe #9, Soo, Frank H. Lyons #4, Marquette, Burney V. Reany #4, Milwaukee, Merle R. Sweet #9, Bay City, Mich. & Eugene Taylor #8, Bruce Crossing, Mich. all Co C veterans and Lloyd Buckmaster #8, Marquette (Co E) the sole representative of the 2nd Bn 107 Regt WWIthe special luncheon-program for the dolls and the souvenir sacks to all registrants engineered by a committee comprised of Guardsmen wives contributed greatly to the success of the occasion.....the joy of seeing Mike Fornetti & Andy Burbach after a forced march out of Iron Mtn., Mich. - Andy by way of his home in Long Beach, Cal. Unable to find lodging they joined shelter halves and made Fran Morin's hotel room a Co C 254 CP. Frannie says he didn't mind losing his bed but there was no call for the shower being turned on while he was f---sacking in the tub. Guess Mike knows all the tricks by virtue of being inn keeper of his Downtowner Motel - look him/it up if in that area. The plug will cost you free lodging (w/o tub) for Fran if and when we skirmish at the Iron Mtn.-Kingsford armory, Mike.....another brother combination was that of Richard "Dick" Wills and Bob Wills of Negaunee and Rockford, Mich. respectively. Dick, of course, was a beginning-to-ender vet from Co D 1940 NG's to Co B 254. Bob is presently a Capt., Infantry on full time duty with a Mich Guards Inf. unit after a similar assignment with Hq 107 NG's in Ishpeming as a Corps of Engr. officer.....the quickest and quietest business session in Association history.....the forced absence of Vice Pres. and Reunion Chrm. Lt Allan W. LaBreche - the Engineer's School at Fort Belvoir, Va. outranked our Association but not before Al had done his "thing" for the reunion.....the welcome "package" delivered by the ol' 254 Bn Mail Orderly turned out to be Wilfred "Bill" Smith and wife, Pat, posted from Pittsburgh, Pa. who checked in Thursday to locate the Mail Point and to get in a pre-reunion visit with his H&S buddy Clem Cassette in Mohawk, Mich.....again representing Co C 254 were two familiar faces come reunion time - those of Eugene "One Time" Leardi, Iron Mtn., Mich. and Murray G. "Murf" Moon, Marquette.....although AWOL in '69 Raymond C. Luczyk (Co C 254) made it this year all the way from Akron, Ohio - by

way of a German POW camp following his capture during the Battle of the Bulge....."No wife because she has surgical casts on both feet but I'll be there", reported Oral J. "Moose" LaCombe (Co C WWI) at a pre-reunion committee meeting. And by golly he was - adorned with a newly acquired foot cast himself which he tried to sluff off as one of those his-and-her dealsthe skeleton representation of the 522nd but old faithful Melvin Francke made it again for the 7th time out of Walworth, Wis. as did Robert Driscoll, Milwaukee, for the second consecutive year. However, many "hope to", "plan on" and "will in future" responses have been received out of the 522 ranks so they are not goofing off.....the dedicated assist by Joseph F. Laurich (Co B NG's) as a long-time active Association member and present custodian of the Marquette armory; Joe's tour of duty in the Guards terminated in 1968 after 14 years of service therein....for his first reunion in '61 Keith B. Freeze (Co B 254) roared in from Shepherd, Mich. on a motorcycle; this year he tooled in with a pickup camper -a concession to advanced years he sez.....Gilbert E. Juntunen (Co D 107) making like Lawrence Welk on dance floor; Gil still hails from Bessemer, Mich. as he did when joining the 107th at Camp Livingston.....the encouraging ex-Guardsman support evidenced by the presence of John W. McCormick (Co B) of Sterling Hts., Mich. and the recently retired 1st Sgt of Co C, Nels R. Sjoquist, Gladstone, Mich. Nel's retirement came after some 22 years of service in the 107th.....falling in with the always sizeable Co A 254 delegation were: Armas M. Sandell, Brethren, Mich. for his 3rd; Royal A. Thayer for his first from Otsego, Mich., Tom Bardowski #3 out of Milwaukee, Clyde "Babe" Asplund chalked up #4 from Ironwood, Michigan Gaylord "Gabby" Walters, Kenosha, Wis. a big #8 and Trygve "Big Pete" Peterson for #2 from Knife River, Minn. Likewise #4 for Andrew "Andy" Mezzo, Allen Park, Mich. & Leonard "Len" Robinette both H&S 254.....Marquette was home station for Co D 107 NG's back in 1940; members of the company at that time and present for the reunion were: Robert M. Tonn who left the 107th at Fort Dix, N.J.; Edward "Tux" Wernholm a Silver Star recipient for heroism with the 32nd Div. "Crossed Rifles" in New Guinea; Thomas G. Beard who transferred out in N. Ireland plus Donald "Duke" Duquette, Richard Wills, Murray G. Moon and Ed Vickstrom all of whom finished up in the 254th some 5 years later.... this one made a perfect 9 "bullseyes" for Ralph Pellow (Co B 254), Ishpeming, and a continuous run of 8 as chalked up by Warren "Orv" Crow, Co C 254), Wellston, Mich. who missed the first one only because he wasn't located in time..... the valiant efforts of Jay R. White (Co A 107) to "carry on" without his Old Bushmills. Finis.

VICTOR BRIDGE

Reprint from the 24 March 1945 issue of DOZER BLADE (1121st Engr Combat Group Hq publication) entitled: 254 CONSTRUCTS QUARTER-MILE SPAN WITHOUT LOSS.

At 0001 yesterday the men of the 254 breathed a deep sigh of relief. The Rhine crossing, which they had been sweating out since Newquay, was over. And without a casualty! Back in England the men had rehearsed their bridge building technique, getting it down to the point where Co B put up 220 feet of floating Bailey in 31 minutes across the Thames River near Wallingford. But this time they were in the big league, playing for keeps, and making history. They started out early Thursday morning, and a few minutes after midnight had accomplished their mission: 1368 feet of Treadway across the Rhine in just a little less than 24 hours. Contrary to what they had been braced for, the 254 men found their bridging area was not under fire while they worked. Instead they were as safe as a Prime Minister in a parade. Fighter planes gave cover overhead. Anti-aircraft muzzles sprouted from adjoining lots and fields. And a battalion of infantry were nearby - just in case. 1st Lt Theodore R. Berning and three men got a thorough drenching when the boat from which they were working capsized in mid-stream. Perhaps the longest pontoon bridge of its type ever built, the new structure uses three means of restraint to prevent the current from carrying it downstream; river bottom anchors, a shore-to-shore cable with attached lines maintaining an upstream bow to the bridge, and two LCVP's, with motors running, nosing it gently but constantly against the flow. The LCVP's are temporary. Co A worked on the east bank of the river; Co B on this side. Lt Col Loren W. Jenkins supervised the construction, which was expedited by the discovery of a shipment of German cable of just the right size in a barge along the bank. Maj Albert Wynot made the fortunate find. The 994, 998 and 990 Engineer Treadway Bridge Companies supplied the materials and assisted in their assembly. A distinguished audience of Colonels and Major Generals observed.

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SPECIAL! SPECIAL! Read on if you want a picture of the VICTOR BRIDGE (Victor being the code word for V Corps). In response to numerous requests and inquiries, HEADQUARTERS has worked up a deal whereby a dandy 8" x 10" picture of the bridge (complete with the Snortin' Bull sign erected on approaches to same) will be sent to any of you hairy-eared "road patrollers" wanting a print. But at a price, natch! The pictures will be mailed to you direct from the commercial photographer lined up for this assignment. Your cost is a buck and a half per print which includes price of the photo and all mailing costs. May we suggest, however, that you round it off to an even two skins - we'll sweeten up the treasury with the extra "half crown" for the good of the order. Clip and use the following order form if you want to participate in this one-time, one-shot opportunity to get a picture of the VICTOR BRIDGE.

VICTOR BRIDGE PICTURE - mail to:
(please type or print)

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____
pictures (minimum cost is \$1.50
per picture)

Name

Mailing Address

City State Zip

Send in to: 107th Engineer Association, P.O. Box A, Ishpeming, Michigan 49849
Checks or money orders payable to: 107th Engineer Association - cash is OK, too.