



**NEWSLETTER OF THE 13TH ENGINEER (C) BN.ASSN.**

**APRIL 2019**

**PRESIDENTS CORNER - ARLIE E. ELLIS**



I would like to say hello to everyone on this warm summer day in May 2019. Time is really going by fast, and the planning for the 2020 reunion in Indianapolis will begin in mid-July with a scouting tour with Gene.

In case you missed its debut in Branson, I'm including a picture of our new, 8'x5' trailer for transporting the association's ceremonial implements to the reunions.



**Permanent New Logos  
For 8x5 Trailer**



**Flag Capsules on  
Left & Right Side**

Arlie E. Ellis-President, 13th Engineer (C) Bn Association

**VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER- HARRY E. (GENE) REED**

As the reunion gets closer, I find myself getting more anxious to get it started. I always appreciate the time spent with my fellow engineers and the swapping of stories. With the passing of Dick Elwood, it became even more important for me to spend as much time as possible with my brothers. I hope that every member of the association can be at this upcoming reunion, we never know when it may be our last. For those who may not be able to attend know that you will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Keep the Faith



IN OMNIA PARATUS (In All Things Prepared)

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S CORNER- BILLY D.QUINTON SR  
& PAST NEWSLETTER EDITOR FOR LAST 15 YEARS**

A big thank you goes to Earl Shatzer our webmaster, for accepting the job of newsletter editor; please give him all the support you gave me for the past 15 years.

I enjoyed being your newsletter editor, but time, health and new computer programs caught up with me.

Gene Reed our treasurer has had difficulties gathering all the necessary records for a final report on the status of the treasure as of December 2018, as all know the transfer / changeover of officers started at the reunion, and the death of our secretary and the retirement of our treasurer all records did not get to Gene, he has now contacted the prior bank and others so we will get a full treasurer report in our next newsletter.

My health has somewhat stabilized at the present time and the cancer is in remission for now.

## GOVERNING BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRESIDENT</b></p> <p>Arlie E. Ellis              “B” Company 65-66              825 Rose Street              Crowley, TX, 76036              817-500-6816</p> <p><a href="mailto:456arcyn@gmail.com">456arcyn@gmail.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VICE PRESIDENT</b></p> <p>Harry (Gene) Reed              “E” Company 1970              8833 Prairie Trail              Avon, IN 46123              317-268-6455</p> <p><a href="mailto:genereed@genereedins.com">genereed@genereedins.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b></p> <p>Billy D. Quinton SR.              “C” Company 50-51              3800 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North              St. Petersburg, FL 33713              727-430-7959</p> <p><a href="mailto:bquinton@tampabay.rr.com">bquinton@tampabay.rr.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TREASURER</b></p> <p>Harry (Gene) Reed              “E” Company 1970              8833 Prairie Trail              Avon, IN 46123              317-268-6455</p> <p><a href="mailto:genereed@genereedins.com">genereed@genereedins.com</a></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECRETARY</b></p> <p>Allen G. Phetteplace              “D” Company 55-56              W9153 Port Arthur Road              Ladysmith, WI 54848              715-532-5972</p> <p><a href="mailto:agphetteplace@gmail.com">agphetteplace@gmail.com</a></p>

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ADVISOR</b></p> <p>Levi O. Haire – (Rabbit)              “H&amp;S” Company 49-51              358 Windgate Road              Ellijay, GA 30540              706-635-2528</p> <p><a href="mailto:rabbit713e@ellijay.com">rabbit713e@ellijay.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHAPLAIN</b></p> <p>Charles A Koenig              “D” Company 53-54              587 Circle Ct. SW              Rochester, MN 55902              507-282-3675</p> <p><a href="mailto:rosiekoenig@gmail.com">rosiekoenig@gmail.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>QUARTER MASTER</b></p> <p>Tom Cotton              “D” Company 58-59              101 N. David Ln. #508              Muskogee, OK 74403-5034              918-931-8525</p> <p><a href="mailto:Tcotton10@sbcglobal.net">Tcotton10@sbcglobal.net</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERIM NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b></p> <p>Earl Shatzer              “HQ” Company 67-68              1962 Tanglewood Ln.              Vacaville, CA 95687              707-689-0874</p> <p><a href="mailto:shatzer@pacbell.net">shatzer@pacbell.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE</b></p>  <p><a href="https://13thengineerbn.com/">https://13thengineerbn.com/</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEBMASTER</b></p> <p>Earl Shatzer              “HQ” Company 67-68              1962 Tanglewood Ln.              Vacaville, CA 95687              707-689-0874</p> <p><a href="mailto:shatzer@pacbell.net">shatzer@pacbell.net</a></p>

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBER. IF YOU KNOW OF ANY PRIOR 13<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE NOT MEMBERS, PLEASE PASS THIS APPLICATION TO THEM AND ASK THEM TO JOIN (PLEASE)

THEY CAN ALSO GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND CLICK ON THE MEMBER APPLICATION BUTTON ON THE HOME PAGE.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE - <https://13thengineerbn.com/>



DATE \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS/ST. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

13<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER COMPANY SERVED WITH \_\_\_\_\_

DATES SERVED IN 13<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEERS  
FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSES NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER / INCLUDE AREA CODE  
( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL  
\_\_\_\_\_

DUES ARE \$5.00 PER YEAR PAYABLE TWO (2) YEARS AT A TIME,  
OR FROM - REUNION TO REUNION

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: 13TH ENGR. (C) Bn. ASSOCIATION

MAIL CHECKS TO = Gene Reed, Treasurer

8833 Prairie Trail, Avon, Indiana 46123

Or email me at: [genereed@genereedins.com](mailto:genereed@genereedins.com)

**Website:** <https://13thengineerbn.com/>

**WEBMASTER - EARL C. SHATZER**

I want to continue to encourage all members to send in any photos, comments, stories or anything else that you may think our brothers will enjoy seeing or hearing about.

If you have any photos you would like to upload from your computer, please contact me and I will send you an upload link.

The implementation of the ability to pay for products, dues, and donations via credit card and debit card online has been a little slow. This should be active within the next 45 days.

If you have pictures or video footage that you would like to submit, please contact me. Any suggestions on what you would like to see in the website please email or call me.

Thank you all for your service to our country and the many sacrifices that you have made.

Earl Shatzer (707) 689-0874

eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com

IN OMNIA PARATUS (In All Things Prepared)

Webmaster 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association

**INTERIM NEWSLETTER EDITOR - EARL C. SHATZER**

First, I would like to thank all past newsletter editors for their great job putting them together. Billy D. Quinton SR. newsletter editor for the last 15 Years. Also, Levi O. Haire (Rabbit) I appreciated both of your direction and support in this new adventure for me.

I have taken over as Interim Newsletter Editor and will put all my effort into making this an interesting and informative Newsletter.

If there is something that you would you like to see in the newsletter, go to the website and submit a suggestion or comment, email your idea, write in and let us know what it is, or you can call to discuss the details.

We are thankful for all members of the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association and would like to feature a member spotlight section. Stories of your time in the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn., what you experienced, funny things that happened, anything that you would like to share. If so, please contact me and we can do whatever it takes to get your story printed for the newsletter.

Earl Shatzer (707) 689-0874

eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com

IN OMNIA PARATUS (In All Things Prepared)

Interim Newsletter Editor 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association



**SPECIAL REPORT:****VA BENEFITS FOR KOREAN WAR VETERANS**

Following World War II, Korea was divided into two administrative regions separated by the 38th parallel. North Korea was occupied by the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and South Korea was administered by the American-backed Republic of Korea.

In June 1950, 75,000 members of the DPRK Army, with support from both the Soviet Union and China, crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea. In response, The United States formed and led an international alliance to defend the South.

After three years, an official cease-fire was announced stopping hostilities between the North and South. The Korean Armistice Agreement established the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a 2.5 mile wide border that acts as a buffer between the two Koreas. The war was considered ended at that point, but a peace treaty was never signed.

**Service-Connected Disability Benefits for Korean Vets**

Korean War veterans with a disability or injury that occurred (or was aggravated) during the war, may qualify for service-connected disability compensation. *Eligibility requirements include having been discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions.*

**Aid & Attendance for Korean War Veterans**

Korean War veterans with non-service connected health issues who need long-term care may be eligible for Aid & Attendance. The Aid & Attendance benefit is a tax-free pension for qualified Korean War veterans, their spouses and surviving spouses who need help with some of the activities of daily living. The veteran must have served at least 90 days of active duty, with at least one day during an eligible period of war. The eligible wartime period for the Korean Conflict is June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955. Additional requirements include having an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge.

*The Aid & Attendance benefit does not need to be paid back.* It is a lifetime benefit to cover the cost of home care, board and care, adult day care, assisted living and skilled nursing. For more information, contact an American Veterans Aid benefit consultant at (877) 427-8065.

**Korean War Veteran Health Risks**

During the Korean War, service members were exposed to many hazards with serious long-term health consequences, such as below freezing climate conditions, noise and vibration, radiation (nuclear weapons testing or cleanup), chemical warfare agent experiments, asbestos, industrial solvents, fuels, lead, PCBs and chemical agent resistant coating (CARC).

**Cold Injuries**

Siberian winds cause temperatures in various parts of Korea

to drop below 0 degrees F. During the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, which lasted from October 1950 through December 1950, the temperature dropped to 50 degrees F below zero, with a wind chill factor of 100 degrees F below zero. Cold injuries included hypothermia, frostbite and trench foot.

An estimated 5,000 Korean service members with cold injuries were evacuated from Korea during the winter of 1950-1951. Cold injuries can develop into more serious health conditions such as diabetes and peripheral vascular disease.

**Noise & Vibration Injuries**

Hearing loss is one of the most common types of military-related injuries. The noise and vibration from guns, explosives, aircraft, communication devices and machinery can cause hearing loss, tinnitus and other types of acoustic trauma. Korean War hazardous noise exposure occurred during training, various types of military operations and combat.

**Radiation Exposure**

Korean War veterans who participated in nuclear-related activities were exposed to radiation that caused serious and even fatal diseases, such as cancer, leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma. Other types of radiation exposure included:

- X-ray radiation from high voltage vacuum tubes at stations operated by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Pilots, submariners, divers and other individuals who received Nasopharyngeal (nose and throat) radium irradiation treatments to prevent ear damage from pressure changes.

**Other Occupational Hazards**

In addition to noise, vibration and radiation hazards, many Korean veterans were also exposed to asbestos, industrial solvents, lead, fuels, PCBs and CARC paint.

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral found in rock and soil that can cause serious health problems, including cancer and lung disease. Korean War veterans may have been exposed to asbestos if their work involved:

- Mining
- Milling
- Building and repairing ships or other types of shipyard work
- Insulation
- Building demolition
- Carpentry, construction, manufacturing and installation of certain types of products, like flooring and roofing.

Industrial solvents were used during the Korean War to clean, degrease and strip or thin paint. Long-term exposure to industrial solvents can cause various health problems such as:

- Breathing problems
- Neurological damage
- Visual problems

## Lead Poisoning

Lead poisoning was another potential hazard for Korean War veterans. Lead is a toxic metal that can accumulate in the body. Korean War veterans may have been exposed to lead if they drank water from old lead pipes, came in contact with lead-based paints, or spent long periods of time at an indoor firing range.

Air, dust, soil and commercial products can also contain lead. Symptoms of lead poisoning include fatigue, gastrointestinal problems, anemia, increased blood pressure, weakness, decreased memory, difficulty concentrating, hyperactivity and irritability.

## Diesel and jet fuel

Exposure to diesel and jet fuel also impacted the health of Korean War service members. The gases and air particles from the combustion or burning of diesel and jet fuel contain toxic chemicals that can harm the body. Prolonged exposure can lead to respiratory problems and lung cancer.

## PCBs

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are manufactured organic chemicals that were used as coolants and lubricants in various products until 1977. PCB exposure can lead to numerous health issues such as liver problems, neurotoxicity and cancer. Korean War veterans who repaired PCB transformers, capacitors and conduits were at risk for PCB exposure.

## CARC

CARC (Chemical Agent Resistant Coating) paint, also known as camouflage paint, was used by the military to make the metal surfaces on vehicles, helicopters, and certain types of equipment more resistant to corrosion and chemical warfare agents.

Korean War veterans who painted tanks, armored personnel carriers, and other military vehicles may have been exposed to CARC paint. Health issues resulting from CARC paint include respiratory problems and kidney damage.

Korean War Veterans may be eligible for a wide-variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. VA benefits include disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and burial. See our Veterans page for an overview of the benefits available to all veterans.

The following sections provide information tailored to the experiences of Korean War veterans to help you better understand specific VA benefits for which you may qualify:

## Benefits for Korean War Veterans Who Experience Cold Injuries

Veterans who experienced cold injuries may have medical conditions resulting from a cold-related disease or injury. Examples of cold-related medical conditions include:

- skin cancer in frostbite scars
- arthritis
- fallen arches

- stiff toes
- cold sensitization.

These cold-related problems may worsen as veterans grow older and develop complicating conditions such as diabetes and peripheral vascular disease, which place them at higher risk for late amputations.

Learn more about cold injuries on the Veterans Health Administration's Cold Injuries page, and about how service-connected cold injuries or diseases may qualify you for VA Disability Compensation benefits.

## Benefits for Korean War Veterans Exposed to Ionizing Radiation

Korean War-era veterans may qualify for health care and compensation benefits if you were exposed to ionizing radiation during military service. Health care services include an Ionizing Radiation Registry health exam and clinical treatment at VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers.

You may also be entitled to disability compensation benefits if you have certain cancers as a result of exposure to ionizing radiation during military service.

Learn more about VA benefits for Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation at:

- Veterans Health Administration's Radiation page
  - Disability Compensation Ionizing Radiation Exposure page
- Benefits for Korean War veterans who participated in Radiation-Risk Activities

Korean War-era veterans may qualify for health care and compensation benefits if you participated in certain radiation-risk activities, such as nuclear weapons testing, during military service. These veterans may be informally referred to as "Atomic Veterans."

Health care services include an Ionizing Radiation Registry health exam and clinical treatment at VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers. You may also be entitled to disability compensation benefits if you have certain cancers as a result of your participation in a radiation-risk activity during military service.

Learn more about VA benefits for Veterans who participated in radiation-risk activities at:

- Veterans Health Administration's Radiation Risk Activity page
- Disability Compensation Radiogenic Diseases Exposure page

## How to Apply

The specific VA benefit or program web page will provide tailored information about how to apply for a particular benefit or program. Generally, service members, veterans, and families can apply for VA benefits using one of the methods below:

- Apply online using eBenefits, OR
- Work with an accredited representative or agent, OR
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our Facility Locator page.

## **OLD SOLDIERS AND NEWSLETTER JUST FADE AWAY**

**Anne Keegan** CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The old soldiers' newsletter began "over there."

It was put out by the men of the 13th Engineers to boost spirits, share gossip and keep them company while they served 21 months far from home, fighting a war they believed would end all future wars.

They were railroad men, 1,621 of them, Midwesterners who had volunteered for World War I. The majority came from Chicago, then the railroad capital of the world.

Though stationed in France, they called the newsletter "The Windy City Echo." It reminded them of home.

Back then, it came out on the 13th of every month. The first issue was dated Feb. 13, 1918. Thirteen, the men believed, was their lucky number. Their regiment was the 13th, founded on the 13th day of the month. Only 13 of their number had died "over there."

The men of the U.S. Army's 13th Engineers Regiment felt lucky, and so they stuck together. Their newsletter stuck with them. Even after they all sailed home, marched triumphantly in cadence down Michigan Avenue, mustered out at Camp Grant, and returned to civilian life, going their separate ways to work on the railroads, the newsletter still came out, four times a year.

Once home, the name of the publication was changed to "Veterans of the Thirteenth Engineers NEWS." And as it united these men in war, it bound them together in peace. For nearly all, it would bind them for a lifetime.

The young veterans married, had children, got promoted. The newsletter reported it all. They held annual reunions in Chicago, and the newsletter was filled with tales of the good times as they reminisced and sang songs like "They Were All Out of Step but Jim."

Their children grew up, war broke out again, and their sons went off to a second world war. The newsletter told whose son was fighting where and carried a column of advice from the old soldiers to the new.

In the passing years, hair turned white and parents became grandparents, but still the newsletter chronicled it all. Gradually, the mailing addresses changed to the softer climes-Arizona and Florida. The men of the 13th Engineers were retiring, moving on.

The "TAPS" column, a litany of who had passed away that year, grew longer. Half the people on the mailing list were widows. The dwindling number of men who wrote in spoke of illness, veterans' hospitals and just growing old.



## **OLD SOLDIERS AND NEWSLETTER JUST FADE AWAY**

By the mid-`60s, the average age of the men of the 13th Engineers was 74. By the late `70s, the reunions were no longer held in big downtown hotels, but in a living room. Ultimately, many of the survivors grew too feeble. The reunions stopped.

But the newsletter kept on. Until now.

For the first time in 72 years, this Memorial Day will see no newsletter for and from the men of the 13th Engineers of World War I. There is no one left to put it out, and just about all of the once-young men who marched off to France are gone.

Though born in a time of pain and strife, it was a happy publication when it began, filled with jokes and poems written by the men. One in the very first edition advised:

"Buck up Boy, it ain't so bad/ Dog gone it might be worse/ A soldier`s alive until he`s dead/ So why climb in the hearse?

"You`re thinking about the folks back home/ Well, they`re thinking about you, too/ They`re mighty proud you`re over here/ So why the heck feel blue?" There were front page thank you`s after the holidays to the vice president of the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad for sending them all a cigar for a smoke in the trenches after Christmas dinner.

There was an advice to the lovelorn column under the fictitious name of Mademoiselle Beatrice Penard. A typical question read:

"Dear Miss Penard: I am deeply in love with a soldier from the 13th who says he does not drink, smoke, chew or swear. Can you vouch for this? Signed. B.V.D."

The answer was given: "Dear B.V.D.: You`ve got the wrong number. There ain`t no such animal in the 13th."

There were stories about snowball fights between Company A and Company C, of shedding wool uniforms to skinny dip in the River Aire, of keeping the trains of France moving on time, despite the shelling.

In 1937, Alan Ward of Chicago, a freight agent with the Milwaukee Road, took over the editorship. He kept it alive, kept the men in touch, organized the reunions, reminded them of their history and, once in a while, when some fell delinquent in volunteering their dues for the newsletter, humorously put into the paper:

"Some pay their dues when due. Some when overdue. Some never do. How do you do?"

Ward put out the newsletter for almost 40 years, until his death in 1976. Then his second wife, Agnes, whom he married when he was 72, took to the typewriter.

She kept up the correspondence, cheering up the 13th vets with tales of their friends` grandchildren and great-grandchildren, reminding them of their youth with rerun snatches from the Windy City Echo.

### **OLD SOLDIERS AND NEWSLETTER JUST FADE AWAY**

She, like her husband, called all the old vets "buddies." She printed the words from old World War I songs and prompted them to recall the Army jokes they once told.

She put out the newsletter as often as she heard from people. Then, last Memorial Day, just after she'd put an edition of the 13th Engineer News to bed, Agnes Ward died.

But there was one last edition to put out, said Nancy Trantina, Agnes Ward's daughter.

"For so many of the old veterans and their families who had taken this newsletter for 72 years, there needed to be one more edition. These people would be looking for it in the mail," said Trantina.

"For some of these old World War I vets or their widows, off alone in nursing homes or retirement homes, it was the only piece of mail they got all year. Though many could no longer see, they would have someone read it to them.

"They waited for it to come in the mail. It was the end of an era for them, and we had to tell them why the newsletter was ending and to bid them all `au revoir.'"`

So last Christmas, Trantina and her brother, Tom Kahout of Elkhart, Ind., put out one more newsletter, the final edition. The front page was in color, and bore a goodbye to the few surviving members of the 13th Engineers.

"They were a special group of men who met in 1917 when they volunteered for the Army to run the trains in France and really, never separated from each other again," said Trantina.

"The newsletter was a reflection of that. They were great old veterans who loved their country, they loved the railroad and they loved each other. The newsletter only died when they did."

## QUARTERMASTER - TOM COTTON



CAP - BLACK NEW  
STYLE  
\$20.00



COMBAT ENGINEER  
PIN LARGE 3" X 1"  
\$7.00



COMBAT ENGINEER  
PIN SMALL 1 1/2" X  
1/2"  
\$7.00



LAPEL PIN 1" X 1"  
\$5.00



13TH ENGINEER COIN  
\$8.00



13TH ENGINEER  
METAL LICENSE  
PLATE 6" X 12"  
\$10.00



7TH INFANTRY  
BAYONET PIN  
\$7.00



ASSOCIATION PATCH  
\$3.00



BATTALION CREST  
PIN  
\$8.00

TO ORDER ANY OF THESE ITEMS  
SEND A LIST OF ITEMS AND  
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO

**13<sup>TH</sup> ENGR. (C) BN. ASSOCIATION**

**MAIL TO:  
TOM COTTON  
101 N DAVID LN. #508  
MUSKOGEE OK, 74403-5034**

Currently only mail in checks are accepted.



# TAPS



DONALD G. ARP  
H&S Company 51-52

11-6-1928 ~ 6-11-2018  
(AGE 89)  
Albuquerque, NM



DEAN C. ENGEL

1st Lieutenant 13th Engineer  
Combat Battalion, 7th Infantry  
Division  
7-1-1928 – 3-11-2018  
Grand Forks, ND



JOHN RIVERRA MENOR

HQ Co., B&C co. 50's & 60  
86, of Fayetteville passed  
away, March 25, 2019.

## “NEW MEMBER’S”

Earl Forte  
1445 Bowen Street  
Longmont, Colorado, 80501  
720-600-4143  
Email: [eaf@mtaudubon.com](mailto:eaf@mtaudubon.com)

I Corps 7th Infantry Division  
13th Engineers 10-1952 – 11-953

**PLEASE SEND ANY ADDRESS CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS TO:**

Allen G. Phetteplace - SECRETARY  
W9153 Port Arthur Road  
Ladysmith, WI 54848  
Or Email  
[agphetteplace@gmail.com](mailto:agphetteplace@gmail.com)



## USS Pueblo Captured



On January 23, 1968, the USS *Pueblo*, a Navy intelligence vessel, is engaged in a routine surveillance of the North Korean coast when it is intercepted by North Korean patrol boats. According to U.S. reports, the *Pueblo* was in international waters almost 16 miles from shore, but the North Koreans turned their guns on the lightly armed vessel and demanded its surrender. The Americans attempted to escape, and the North Koreans opened fire, wounding the commander and two others. With capture inevitable, the Americans stalled for time, destroying the classified information aboard while taking further fire. Several more crew members were wounded.

Finally, the *Pueblo* was boarded and taken to Wonson. There, the 83-man crew was bound and blindfolded and transported to Pyongyang, where they were charged with spying within North Korea's 12-mile territorial limit and imprisoned. It was the biggest crisis in two years of increased tension and minor skirmishes between the United States and North Korea.

The United States maintained that the *Pueblo* had been in international waters and demanded the release of the captive sailors. With the Tet Offensive raging 2,000 miles to the south in Vietnam, President Lyndon Johnson ordered no direct retaliation, but the United States began a military buildup in the area.

At first the captured crew of the *Pueblo* resisted demands they sign false confessions, famously raising their middle fingers at the camera and telling the North Koreans it was the "Hawaiian good-luck sign." Once the North Koreans learned the truth, they punished the prisoners with beatings, cold temperatures and sleep deprivation, according to a lawsuit some of the *Pueblo*'s crew would later file against the North Korean government.

Eventually North Korean authorities coerced a confession and apology out of *Pueblo* commander Bucher, in which he stated, "I will never again be a party to any disgraceful act of aggression of this type." The rest of the crew also signed a confession under threat of torture.

The prisoners were then taken to a second compound in the countryside near Pyongyang, where they were forced to study propaganda materials and beaten for straying from the compound's strict rules. In August, the North Koreans staged a phony news conference in which the prisoners were to praise their humane treatment, but the Americans thwarted the Koreans by inserting innuendoes and sarcastic language into their statements. Some prisoners also rebelled in photo shoots by casually sticking out their middle finger; a gesture that their captors didn't understand. Later, the North Koreans caught on and beat the Americans for a week.

On December 23, 1968, exactly 11 months after the *Pueblo*'s capture, U.S. and North Korean negotiators reached a settlement to resolve the crisis. Under the settlement's terms, the United States admitted the ship's intrusion into North Korean territory, apologized for the action, and pledged to cease any future such action. That day, the surviving 82 crewmen walked one by one across the "Bridge of No Return" at Panmunjon to freedom in South Korea. They were hailed as heroes and returned home to the United States in time for Christmas.

# History of The 13th Engineer Battalion

The 13th Engineer Battalion with its long proud history has been a part of our Army's heritage for over one hundred years.

The 13th traces its lineage to the Civil War, through the Philippine Insurrection of 1882, and the Santiago campaign of 1898. On July 13, 1917, the number thirteen first appeared on the Army's roster of Engineer units, when the 3rd Engineers were redesignated the 13th Engineer Railroad Regiment. Ten days later the regiment sailed for France, and into history, as the unit received its first campaign streamer in the Meuse-Argonne Campaign of World War I. In April 1919, after the Armistice, the regiment returned to the States, and was deactivated the following month.



The 13th Engineer General service regiment was established in 1921 from a nucleus of the old 5th Engineers. From then until February 1, 1936 the unit acted as the school regiment for the Engineer School at what is now Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

As World War II raged in Europe, the 13th was reactivated at Fort Ord, California on July 8, 1940. By February 1941, the 13th Engineer battalion took part in maneuvers in central California. They sailed for the Aleutians in April 1943 and helped to open the Massacre Bay beachhead on May 11, 1943. One of the most famous battles on Attu took place when the men of the 13th Engineers stopped a Japanese Banzai charge on Engineer Hill. When the smoke cleared, there were 239 enemy dead.

In 1944 the engineers fought their way from Attu to Kwanjalein Island, the latter being cleared of pill boxes, bomb shelters, and gun emplacements in six days.

On "D" Day, October 20, 1944, the battalion landed on Leyte. Here Alpha Company was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for its outstanding combat operations in keeping the main supply route open.

On April 1, 1945, the men of the 13th were part of the initial landing forces on Okinawa. Here, the unit took part in some of the most vicious fighting in World War II, sealing nearly 600 caves and blasting out others.

## **History of The 13th Engineer Battalion cont.**

In September the 7th Infantry Division sailed for Korea to accept the surrender of the Japanese forces there. The 13th was stationed near Seoul and performed construction missions in support of the Division. In December of 1948, the 13th Engineer Battalion left Korea for Japan, and remained there until the outbreak of the Korean War.

On the 15th of September 1950, Bravo Company landed with the First Marine Division at Inchon and won the Navy Distinguished Unit Citation. The remainder of the Battalion participated in the capture of Seoul, with the 7th Infantry Division.

On October 29, 1950 the 7th Division made a second landing on the beaches of Iwon, deep in North Korea, an invasion which was to carry elements of the 13th Engineers almost to the Yalu River on the Manchurian border. When the Chinese reinforced the North Koreans, the 7th Division and the 13th Engineers were forced to evacuate to Pusan.

In February 1951, the 13th fought as Infantry in the Pusan breakout. They inflicted many casualties, but received heavy casualties, and were placed in reserve.

In August, the 13th Engineers and the 7th Infantry Division went on a limited offensive that resulted in the capture of “Old Baldy” and Hill 851. Later, they participated in the fighting at “Heartbreak Ridge” and the “Punchbowl”.

From February 1952 to July 1953, the 13th Engineers took part in many projects in addition to their normal combat duties. They contained floods, built installations for the Division Command Post, laid minefields, and improved roads.

During the heavy fighting on Pork Chop Hill in 1953, Corporal Dan D. Schoonover, in charge of an engineer demolition squad attached to an infantry company, won the Medal of Honor.

Realizing that the heavy fighting and intense enemy fire made it impossible for him to carry out his mission, he voluntarily employed his unit as a rifle squad, and forging up the steep, barren slopes, participated in the assault on enemy bunkers.

Corporal Schoonover's heroic leadership during two days of heavy fighting, superb personal bravery, and willing self-sacrifice inspired his comrades and saved many lives, reflecting lasting glory on himself and upholding the honored traditions of the military service.

**Corporal Schoonover is one of only thirteen members of the Corps of Engineers so honored in all of U. S. Army history.**

When the war ended, the 13th Engineers were faced with the monumental task of reconstruction, repair of roads, nets, flood control, and numerous other projects. The 13th remained with the 7th Division until inactivated April 2, 1971, at Fort Lewis, Washington.

## **History of The 13th Engineer Battalion cont.**

On July 21, 1975, the 13th Engineer Battalion was again activated at Fort Ord as the Divisional Combat Engineer Battalion for the 7th Infantry Division.

On April 16, 1985, the 13th Engineer Battalion was reorganized to support the 7th Infantry Division (Light), the first light infantry division in the Army. As such, the 13th Engineer battalion was the first light Combat Engineer battalion to receive COHORT soldiers under the Army's new manning system.

On the 15th of May 1989, ALPHA Company deployed to Panama for Operation "Nimrod Dancer" with the 9th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division (Light). This deployment lasted until October 12, 1989.

While in Panama, ALPHA Company conducted counter-mobility and survivability tasks at Fort Espinar and Fort Davis. ALPHA Company also conducted the important freedom of movement convoys. CHARLIE Company assumed the Panama mission when ALPHA Company redeployed to fort ord on October 12, 1989.

At H-Hour on December 20, 1989, Operation "Just Cause" kicked off in Panama. 1st Platoon of CHARLIE Company emplaced and manned roadblocks near the Colon Bottleneck and the Coco Solo Hospital.

On December 21, 1989, BRAVO Company arrived at Tocumen International Airport and by the next day they began conducting Air Assault operations in Western Panama.

ALPHA Company arrived in Panama on December 23, 1989. They immediately began emplacing and improving roadblocks in Panama City.

During the next 3 weeks Sappers of the 13th Engineer Battalion were involved in Civil Military Operations (CMO). This involved extensive trash haul, facility damage repair, battle damage assessment, and building demolition missions. Operation "Just Cause" was the first time since the Vietnam War that an entire Division deployed for combat.

On February 1, 1991, 38 Sapper engineers, many of them veterans of Operation "Just Cause" and representing every company in the battalion, departed Fort Ord for Operation "Desert Storm" in Saudi Arabia. They were among the first soldiers of the division to deploy.

The 13th Engineer Battalion was inactivated in April 1994, at Fort Ord, California.

The 13th Engineer Battalion motto is:  
**"IN OMNIA PARATUS"**  
In All Things Prepared!



## A Little Military Humor



*"Nonsense. S-2 reported that machine gun silenced hours ago.  
Stop wiggling your fingers at me."*

"All right. They're on our left. They're on our right. They're in front of us, they're behind us. They can't get away this time'."

—Jeff Shaara quoting Colonel "Chesty" Puller

## A Little Military Humor



*"I need a couple guys what don't owe me no money fer a little routine patrol."*

"All right. They're on our left. They're on our right. They're in front of us, they're behind us. They can't get away this time'."

—Jeff Shaara quoting Colonel "Chesty" Puller

## **A Little Military Humor**

### **Sergeant Murphys Laws of Combat Operations**

1. Friendly fire – isn't.
2. Recoilless rifles – aren't.
3. Suppressive fires – won't.
4. You are not Superman; Marines and fighter pilots take note.
5. A sucking chest wound is Nature's way of telling you to slow down.
6. If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.
7. Try to look unimportant; the enemy may be low on ammo and not want to waste a bullet on you.
8. If at first you don't succeed, call in an air strike.
9. If you are forward of your position, your artillery will fall short.
10. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than yourself.
11. Never go to bed with anyone crazier than yourself.
12. Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
13. If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
14. The enemy diversion you're ignoring is their main attack.
15. The enemy invariably attacks on two occasions:  
  
    A. When they're ready. B. When you're not.
16. No OPLAN ever survives initial contact.
17. There is no such thing as a perfect plan.
18. Five second fuses always burn three seconds.
19. There is no such thing as an atheist in a foxhole.
20. A retreating enemy is probably just falling back and regrouping.
21. The important things are always simple; the simple are always hard.
22. The easy way is always mined.
23. Teamwork is essential; it gives the enemy other people to shoot at.

#### ***Disclaimer:***

While material received for publication is screened for relevance, good taste and general content, the Editor is not responsible for its technical accuracy. If readers wish to challenge the accuracy of an article published in The 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association newsletter, whether contributed by an Association member or reprinted from an outside source, they are welcome to do so by writing to the Editor and explaining the basis for the challenge. Such letters will be published, if appropriate.

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POSTMASTER  
IF UNABLE TO DELIVER  
PLEASE RETURN TO SENDER

#### Objectives

To preserve and strengthen the bonds of friendship and camaraderie among members through reunions, meetings, publications, and other social actives, to honor, revere and pay homage to the memory of those gallant comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice while serving in the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Bn. To enhance at every opportunity and by example spread those truths contained in the Constitution of the United States, love of country and flag, respect for human rights and due respect for law and order, to strive for the accuracy and correction of any official histories published concerning any campaign in which the battalion participated in, if in the opinion of the association they are in error, to support the activities of the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion and to honor the annually selected non-commissioned officer and soldier of the year of the battalion in an appropriate manner.

#### TO ALL WHO SERVED

Those who served before us  
Those who served with us  
Those who served after us  
AND ESPECIALLY  
Those who gave their lives

