



# THE 13TH (C) ENGINEER

"IN OMNIA PARATUS"



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

APRIL - 2020

**PRESIDENTS CORNER - ARLIE E. ELLIS**



## LISTEN to the Professionals

The Coronavirus pandemic has us all greatly concerned. Don't panic but take this threat seriously. A global pandemic has been declared by The World Health Organization (WHO). The 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association Board joins other leaders that believe that individuals and organizations need to take steps to reduce the spread of the virus. Do everything you can to avoid contact with others. Self-quarantine! We have listened to the experts and we believe this effort to protect the health of our membership is the most prudent.

Remember, frequently use soap and warm water to wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds. If you cough, please cough into your elbow, and please keep your distance from others. If you feel flu-like symptoms, call your medical advisers. We will get through this, be safe.

For updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) go the link below.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

**M1903 Springfield / Story from our President Arlie E. Ellis on page 2.**



**Continued from President Corner**

I am sending this article to the newsletter for the interest of the members. The post card photos are of my father and a friend from the Texas Nation Guard 1927. You notice that the issued weapons are the Springfield 1903 bolt action rifles and attached bayonets. My dad was twenty-one at that photo print. My dad passed away in 1977. This article is also in memory of Thomas E. Ellis, born in 1906.



The **M1903 Springfield**, formally the **United States Rifle, Caliber .30-06, Model 1903**, is an American five-round magazine fed, bolt action service repeating rifle, used primarily during the first half of the 20th century.


It was officially adopted as a United States military bolt-action rifle on June 19, 1903, and saw service in World War I. It was officially replaced as the standard infantry rifle by the faster-firing semi-automatic eight-round M1 Garand starting in 1936. However, the M1903 Springfield remained in service as a standard issue infantry rifle during World War II, since the U.S. entered the war without sufficient M1 rifles to arm all troops. It also remained in service as a sniper rifle during World War II, the Korean War, and even in the early stages of the Vietnam War. It remains popular as a civilian firearm, historical collector's piece, a competitive shooting rifle, and as a military drill rifle.

Arlie E. Ellis  
President  
IN OMNIA PARATUS  
13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association

## GOVERNING BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

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

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ADVISOR</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Levi O. Haire – (Rabbit)              “H&amp;S” Company 49-51              358 Windgate Road              Ellijay, GA 30540              706-635-2528</p> <p style="text-align: center;">rabbit713e@ellijay.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHAPLAIN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Currently Vacant</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>QUARTER MASTER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tom Cotton              “D” Company 58-59              101 N. David Ln. #508              Muskogee, OK 74403-5034              918-931-8525</p> <p style="text-align: center;">tcottonbo@gmail.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Earl Shatzer              “HQ” Company 67-68              1962 Tanglewood Ln.              Vacaville, CA 95687              707-689-0874</p> <p style="text-align: center;">shatzer@pacbell.net</p>	<p><b>CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE</b></p> <p><small>13TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION ASSOCIATION</small></p>  <p><a href="https://13thengineerbn.com/">https://13thengineerbn.com/</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEBMASTER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Earl Shatzer              “HQ” Company 67-68              1962 Tanglewood Ln.              Vacaville, CA 95687              707-689-0874</p> <p style="text-align: center;">shatzer@pacbell.net</p>

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## THE ENGINEER POEM

We lay down the rolling roads, and rut  
down all their trees.

And if the order ever came, we'd forge the  
raging seas.

And when they need to sleep awhile, we put  
them up a town.

And build all their bridges so the infantry  
won't drown.

We get them over rivers and across  
mountain streams.

Do everything but tuck them in and wish  
them pleasant dreams.

And when the going gets really rough, and  
bombs burst in their ears, a whole Division  
is apt to pray for God to.

**SEND IN THE ENGINEERS**



## CORRECTION TO NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019 PAGE 19

The was provided by James Meade  
“A” CO 51-52 prior to his passing,  
along with some pictures that will be  
posted on the website soon.

Corrected to read:

This was provided by James Meade  
“A” CO 51-52 prior to General  
Lemnitzer Passing. Along with some  
pictures that will be posted on the  
website soon.

James Meade is still with us and  
called me to notice me of this.

Thanks James

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

The 2020 reunion is getting close. I hope to see old and new faces there. We really don't have any officially planned outings. We have an option available; we can take a tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway home of the Indianapolis 500 race on Friday 9/25/2020.

The cost is \$20 per person. Let me know if you are interested in the tour. Remember that reservations for the reunion need to be made by 8/15/2020 to get the hotel room rate of \$119.00 per night. Please send in your reunion sign up form by then also. Thank You

**(ENGINEERS CLEAR THE WAY)**

**Gene Reed (317) 268-6455  
Vice President**

**IN OMNIA PARATUS  
13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association**

**TREASURE'S CORNER= HARRY (GENE) REED**

As of 2/29/2020 our current balance is \$9,761.89. The website cost has been reduced to \$684 a year. Hope to see everyone at the reunion.

We all need to be recruiters for new members. If you need any help in providing information on how to join, please contact me and we will provide you with that documentation or refer them to the website for that information.

On behalf of the Association I want to express our appreciation for Al Fronsdaahl your generosity in support of your donation in order to get the members with past dues to current standing in the Association. Your personal commitment was incredibly helpful. Al Fronsdaahl gave for anyone needing past dues paid and \$100 for the newsletter cost.

**Gene Reed (317) 268-6455  
Treasurer  
IN OMNIA PARATUS  
13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association**

**Gene Reed Treasurer  
13 Engineers Treasure Report 2019  
Beginning Balance Starting 01-1-2019 \$8,711.54**

**Income**

ACCOUNT INTEREST:	\$0.12
Dues:	\$720
Quarter Master:	\$528
Sales	
Donations:	\$1,064 (Newsletter & Website)
Gray Line Bus	\$2,050.00 (Refund)
<b>Total-----</b>	<b><u>\$4,417.23</u></b>

**Expenses**

Website:	\$2,039 (Web Hosting / Domain Name)
Newsletter:	\$939.71 (Printing)
Postage:	\$490.17 (Newsletter and Quarter Master Mailing)
Quarter Master:	\$283.00 (Battalion Crest)
Deposit Slips:	\$10.10
Donation In Memory of Ed Larkin:	\$25.00
<b>Total-----</b>	<b><u>\$3,786.98</u></b>

**Current Account Balance as of 12/31/2019: \$9,341.79**

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

Bill Gavito our Vice President at the time wrote this for his Corner prior to the St. Louis Reunion. I thought it would be good to reprint it, (SEE YOU IN INDIANAPOLIS IN SEPTEMBER)

**A REPRINT OF PRIOR ARTICLE****Thoughts about attending Reunion at St. Louis**

There a lot of people who are reluctant to attend reunions, men and women alike. And there are a lot of reunions for different reasons, family, high school, college, you name it.

Before my wife and I went to the 13<sup>th</sup> Association Reunion in Springfield, MO. I had a number of ex-soldiers and old swabbies ask me, "Why are you going there? Don't you realize how big the U.S. Army is? You won't know a single solitary soul there." My reply to those men was, "Well, you're right. I won't know a soul until I walk thru the door and immediately, we will be old friends."

When we left Springfield, I could hardly wait to get back home so I could call each one to let the know how right I was and how wrong they were.

I've read a number of poems about old soldiers; old service men and they are kind of like a picture – they just don't do justice to the real thing.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Association is not about food or drink, or sitting around retelling old war stories, it's about friendship formed by a common goal, built by pride from a job well done. It's also glued together by the strong emotions resulting from losing friends who were so strongly committed to the same task, regardless of the year, the time or the situations.

During the last reunion, in attendance was a marvelous young lady by the name of Barbara Baer from Washington State. Her main reason for being with our Association was to hopefully gain some insight into her father's life, which he spoke very little about in talking with her, she said she was apprehensive about joining in with a group of ex-soldiers. However, that is what her father was and what she wanted to learn about. Even by day two, she was overwhelmed by the sincerity, the deep friendship, the courtesy, the respect and understanding between and among all in attendance. By day three, she couldn't say enough to show her appreciation.

When we are all ready to leave this flesh body behind, one of the thoughts we all will cherish the most are our friends. And a sad thought that runs through my mind is the very many today who can claim but very few friends.

Boy, I would sure like to have you share the feeling that I have experienced.  
See you in St. Louis

Bill Gavito, Vice President

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
Billy D. Quinton SR.  
"C" Company 50-51  
3800 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

September 22, 1946

## DOLLARS AND CENTS TO REPLACE YEN

For the first time in post war history, all American Occupation Territories will use the same type occupation currency, the fiscal director of SCAP revealed.

Effective September 30, the new military currency in dollars and cents, resembling American money, will be placed in circulation in Japan, Korea, Ryukus, same as was recently announced for Europe.

The New Currency will replace the current A type of yen certificate, used by the occupation troops, with denominations raging from 5, 10, 25, 50 cents to one, five and ten dollars.



**NEWSLETTER EDITOR - EARL C. SHATZER**

I need your help to gather material for the newsletter. I have received very little material from members to put into the newsletter. Please feel free to contribute your stories!

We would like to present personal stories associated with the Korean War. You can share the struggles and triumphs of War and keep alive the memory of your comrades. Your stories mark the price of liberty so that we will never forget.

If you have ideas for the Newsletter, write it down and mail it to me. Just a few words are fine, an event that happened in Korea, or just an idea on a subject. Would love to get input from members. If you have anything you would like to share with the membership, please send it to me.

Your content will help make this Newsletter continue to be interesting.

We 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, please contact me.

Feedback to the newsletter editor, send to:

Newsletter Editor  
1962 Tanglewood LN.  
Vacaville, CA 95687

Email to: [eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com](mailto:eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com) or contact me at (707) 689-0874.

We very much welcome your input.

We are asking that you please do your best to find new members for our Association. Any ideas on recruitment are welcome.

**Earl Shatzer (707) 689-0874**  
**[eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com](mailto:eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com)**

**IN OMNIA PARATUS (In All Things Prepared)**  
**Newsletter Editor 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association**

**Receive Your Newsletter Electronically via Email**

To help save printing and mailing costs, members may now receive their Newsletter via email. Email versions will arrive prior to members receive it in the mail. The newsletter via email is in color as the printed version will be in black and white.

If you are interested in this option, please email or write our Newsletter Editor, Earl Shatzer, 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687, [eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com](mailto:eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com)

You can change your mind any time and go back to receiving your newsletter by regular mail.

**WEBMASTER - EARL C. SHATZER**

Hello to all members, hope everyone is doing well with this health situation all over the country.

Since I am at home 24 hours a day now, I am cooking more (my wife commented on it) I am on my computer more working on projects.

Two things of interest, one I have updated the TAPS page on our website. Also, the board approved the establishment of a Facebook group for the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion Association.



13th Engineer Combat Battalion Association  
Group  
7 members

The 13th Engineer Combat Battalion Association is now on Facebook. The link is listed below.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/723567991421334/>

If you have any suggestions concerning our website, pass on your thoughts to me and I will respond.

For all that have a computer you can go to our website and click on the link to the 2020 Reunion and information. There you can fill out the Registration form online and print it.

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

Earl Shatzer (707) 689-0874

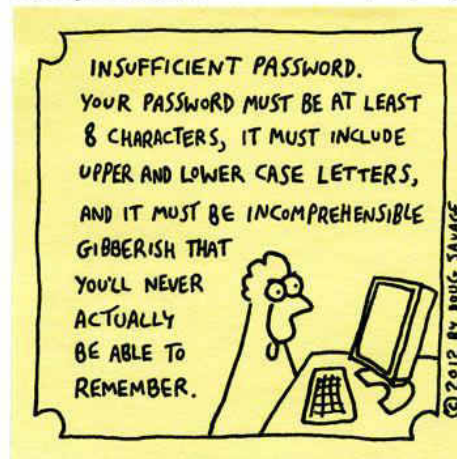
[eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com](mailto:eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com)

IN OMNIA PARATUS (In All Things Prepared)

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

*Savage Chickens*

by Doug Savage



### **GUESTBOOK ENTRIES**

These are past guestbook entries from association members and family members. Some are looking for information. If you would like to contact the writer of the entry please contact the Webmaster at [webmaster@13thengineerbn.com](mailto:webmaster@13thengineerbn.com) and I will forward your message on to the writer.

#### **Harry Reed**

I hope everyone who made a post on the guest book is ready to join the association. Believe me when I say that coming to a reunion and meeting all the guys who served at different times, different companies is a blast. GR

#### **JERRY C RAPER**

I served with B Co. 13th Combat Engineers 7th ID from Nov. 1966 to Nov. 1967 at Ft. Beavers. I served in Commo and later become Commo Chief and promoted to Sgt. E5. We had super great leaders at B Co. There was our CO 1st Lt. Doc C. Pair and 1st. Sgt. Wallace E Collier. All the other company officers, sergeants and soldiers were some of the best the Army had to offer. We went to the DMZ in June of 1967 to help build the barrier fence and guard towers. I think it was the first of Nov. 1967 when we came back to Ft. Beavers. I am proud to have served and thanks to all for your service. May God bless you all.

#### **Tom Cotton**

Korea 1958-1959 Delta Co-dozer operator Hope to see everyone in Indy

#### **Kenneth Weber**

Served Company C 1959-60. Was motor Sargent.

#### **Michael OJEDA**

Served 13th Engineers 81-83

#### **Vic Graninger**

served in b co 13th engineer 1969. Worked on and area around outposts and bunkers on and near DMZ

#### **Dan Eadie**

Served 13Th Eng A Co. 4th Platoon LT Onti, Sgt Stark and Squad leader Sgt Bill Anderson

#### **Bill Driscoll**

With the 13th Engineers 81-83.

#### **DAVID MARTINEZ-OLIVERAS**

BRAVO Company, 13th ENGR BN (May 1977 - Dec 1977) Fort Ord CA

#### **Randy Hix**

I served from 1967 to 1968 for the 13th Combat Engineers. 7th Division. Helped put up the DMZ Barrier. Thank you!

#### **Carl Fridenstine**

My name was Friday in Korea 1952 and 1953. Would like to hear from anyone from the old Squad.

#### **Douglas E Duden**

Hq. & Hq. Company, 13th Engr. Battalion S-2, June 1965 - June 1966



*"I can't git no lower, Willie. Me buttons is in th' way."*



## **SECRETARY CORNER - ALLEN G. PHETTEPLACE**



Greetings to 13th members from the snowy north. I hope to see a lot of you at the reunion. I'm also hoping that someone out there will volunteer to be our next secretary.

I will be resigning at the reunion. I believe Arlie, Gene, Earl, Tom and Billy have done a great job and I hope they will continue in office.

The secretary job is important but not that time consuming. When I volunteered, I knew I shouldn't, but I have asked for volunteers in the past, I know how frustrating it can be. Please consider.

Some of you may have relocated, please send me a note, e-mail, or call me to provide your current address. Please use my contact information listed below.

**All Donations are  
TAX  
DEDUCTIBLE**

**Please remit your dues and donations to:**

**Allen G. Phetteplace  
W9153 Port Arthur Road  
Ladysmith, WI 54848  
715-532-5972  
agphetteplace@gmail.com**

Remember when you are submitting your dues, please consider sending a donation for the newsletter fund and Operating Expenses. These donations are deeply appreciated.

### **The Combat Engineer.**

They call on the radio "The way is blocked and there's no way through",  
They call "Done what we can and stuck here like glue",  
They call again "Tell Hold-fast to move forward and make the way clear",  
They are the Hold-fast Ubique the Combat Engineer.

They sing "We Are, We Are, We Are", as they move up the front,  
They smile & giggle as they pass another grunt,  
They all know well and will persevere,  
They are the Hold-fast Ubique the Combat Engineer.

They come and they go, the old, the young, the slob's, and the dapper,  
They grow a beard or their hair turns grey, but will always be known as the Sapper,  
They know with pride when looking back on yesteryear,  
They were the Hold-fast Ubique the Combat Engineer.

Hold-fast: The radio call sign for Military Engineers.

Ubique: Is Latin for everywhere and is used as a Motto for Military Engineers

Sapper: Is the equivalent to a Private, and outside Military Engineering Corps to describe all members, "Once a Sapper, Always a Sapper". © 6 years ago, Steve McWilliam



**2020 REUNION**

**ASSOCIATION**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2020, INDIANAPOLIS, IN**

<b>Your Name</b>	<b>Name on ID Tag</b>
<b>Spouse/ Guest Name</b>	<b>Name on ID Tag</b>

**Dues: 2 years (2020-2021) \$5/Year= \$10.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee: \$5.00 Per Person X \_\_\_\_\_** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Paid Activities**

**Thursday, 9/24/2020**

**Welcome Buffett (Hospitality Room) 6:30 PM**

Fried Chicken, Glazed Ham, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans Almandine, Tossed Garden Salad, Rolls, Tea, Lemonade & Coffee, Cookies and Mini Brownies

**\$20.00 Per Person X \_\_\_\_\_** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday 9-25-2020**

**Tour of the Indianapolis Speedway, time to be announced and subject to change.**

**\$20.00 Per Person X \_\_\_\_\_** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, 9/26/2020**

Closing Banquet (Pictures for the Reunion will start at 5:30 PM need to be seated by 6:45 PM)

Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM

Dinner Menu is: House Salad, Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Roll, Double Rounds Cake **Variety and choice of:**

**Beef Medallions X \_\_\_\_\_ Champaign Chicken X \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Per Person X \_\_\_\_\_** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL – Donation (Tax Deductible) for NEWSLETTER FUND** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable To:**

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

**Mail to:  
13<sup>th</sup> Engr.(C) Bn. Association  
Gene Reed  
8833 Prairie Trail  
Avon IN, 46123**

**HOTEL INFORMATION FOR THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER (C) BATTALION 2020 REUNION**

The Hotel Name and address is listed below

Hampton Inn Indianapolis – SW/Plainfield  
2244 E. Perry Road, Plainfield, IN 46168

The deadline for hotel registration at the \$119.00 a night rate is **August 15, 2020.**

You can call the Hampton Inn direct 1-317-839-9993 or you go to the link below

<http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/I/INDPFHX-ENG-20200923/index.jhtml>

If you call the hotel direct be sure to let them know that you are with the 13<sup>TH</sup> Engineer Reunion

The hotel does provide airport shuttle service

Please send your sign-up sheet and payment for the registration fee, dues and dinners to:

Gene Reed  
8833 Prairie Trail, Avon In 46123

\*\*\*\*\*

**2020 Reunion Activity Schedule**

**Wednesday September 23, 2020:**

12:00 Noon Board Meeting

**Thursday September 24, 2020:**

Member and Guest Registration in the Hospitality Room  
6:30 PM Welcome Buffett Dinner in the Hospitality Room

**Friday September 25, 2020: Tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway**

\$20 per person time to be announced.

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Saturday September 26, 2020:**

08:00 am Members general meeting, probably last 1 hour.

10:00 am Memorial Service for our fallen.

5:30 pm Pictures in the Hospitality Room

7:00 pm Dinner will be served after which we will have a guest speaker

The Hospitality Room will be open every morning for members that want to eat their breakfast there.  
We will have various drinks and snacks also.

**Article from the Bayonet Newsletter 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division March 20, 1953****SLEEPLESS ENGINEERS SUPPORT RIFLEMEN AROUND-THE-CLOCK**

Sleepless Engineers worked fiercely last week under battle conditions restoring shell-ravaged bunkers on the 7<sup>th</sup> Division's smoking west central front. As infantrymen fought in the bloody trenches of Old Baldy, crews from Lt. Col. Earl L. Icke's 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion moved up a steady flow of prefabricated embattlements.

On Pork Chop, a platoon of grimy men pounded together the heavy, ready-to-be-assembled bunkers against intermittent barrages of Chinese mortars and artillery.

Some of the original Pork Chop fortification which survived the Communist overrunning received extensive repairs by the same engineers who pulled off with infantrymen 24 hours previously and later recaptured the hill.

"Our men have been on the go constantly ever since it all started," commented Executive Officer Maj. Fred B. Proctor of San Francisco, in reference to the five Chinese assaults that jarred 7<sup>th</sup> Division positions Monday night.

"It's gotten to the place where we may have to start working in shifts, just so some of the men can grab a

little rest," Proctor himself was red eyed after only three hours sleep in nearly three days.

Engineer truckers hauling pre-fab bunkers, sand bags and barbed wire ground on in an unabating stream and officers feared that lack of rest might result in serious mad accidents.

The trucks rolled all the way from corps headquarters to the battle lines, then returned for additional supplies. Every vehicle was busy in the supply movement even bulldozer trailers.

At the front, infantrymen were grateful to two engineers who, separated from their outfit, picked up their M-1 rifles and volunteered to join the assault group to re-taking Pork Chop hill.

The two were identified as Cpl. Wesley J. Crawford, Jackson, Miss. And Pvt. Joseph B. Corby of Detroit. In the hop-scotch fighting which followed, they were

key men in the setting up of these perimeters.

In another instance, an engineer radio operator, unnamed, was reported to have provided the only communications link between his besieged outpost and U.N. frontline troops. The combat engineers, according to Maj. Proctor, had already been working a "double schedule" before the fighting began. At least half of their effort had been the repair of winter-damaged roads.

Unseasonal rains combined with the spring thaw to make what Proctor called "frost boils" large pits which, unless tended to, left roadways a mass of almost untravellable ruts, "We've had a number of casualties" Proctor said, "A lot of the old timers say that we have it rougher now, and that we're working harder, than at any time during the past."



# TAPS



## **Guy Earlscore Jester JR.**

Lieutenant Colonel

**October 20, 1929 – March 2, 2020**

**13th Engineer (C) Battalion Association**

## **Quinton Richard Olson**

**August 24, 1928 – May 3, 2018**

**13th Engineer (C) Battalion Association**



## **“NEW MEMBER’S”**

David Martinez  
5412 Cannonwood Court  
Louisville, Kentucky 40229  
Bravo Company 13<sup>th</sup> Engineers  
1977

Howard Hirschheimer  
90 Elizabeth DR.  
Bethpage NY 11714  
HQ 13<sup>th</sup> Engineers Camp Casey  
3/1960 – 3/1961

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

Allen G. Phetteplace - SECRETARY  
W9153 Port Arthur Road  
Ladysmith, WI 54848  
Or Email  
agphetteplace@gmail.com

From the Hour Glass Volume IV, No. 297 Wednesday, December 26, 1954

## **ENGR'S MASTER 3,500 ft. RIDGE**

On the ridgeline of a 3,500-foot hill in North Korea, the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion this month bulldozed five miles of climbing, winding road. The job was one of the most unusual missions the battalion has tackled in over a year of warfare in Korea.

Their job was to pioneer a trail, following a rocky, jagged ridgeline, to a point within 2,000 yards of the enemy, where the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry "Buffalo" Regiment tanks could blast North Korean bunkers from the top of the mountain.

Strategists decided that the bunkers could be knocked-out almost leisurely if 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment guns could be positioned where they could fire directly at close range.

To solve the problem, a helicopter flew over the area reconnoitering for a top of the 3,500-foot mountain. Then the engineers were called in.

To build the road the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineers called on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lt. Alfred Olmstead.

A road had already been built to a point on the ridgeline where the trail was to begin. That was 1,500 feet high and in the end of the road five miles away the trail had to wind and climb another 1,700 feet.

"Able" Company had the only bulldozer available for the job. Olmstead and his crew started out on the first day at 4:30 am

The first day was only partly successful. The bulldozer crew leveled off 2,000 yards, one-fifth of the distance, by nightfall, but one of the bulldozer operators was wounded when the tractor hit a mine. Before the day was over the bulldozer had burned out valves.

"Charlie" Company's tractor took over the next morning and worked until the job was done. That day the crew got another 2,000 yards and the task began to look easier.

Progress was nearly at a stand still by the third day when the tractor dug into rock. Then demolition men, led by squad leader Sgt. Richard Triest moved in and went to work.

They hit a literal "brick wall". For the entire day the demolition men blasted the rock but when darkness came, they had progressed only 100 yards.

After that the men began to tire. At 4:30 every morning they were on their way to work and at times it was 11 p.m. that night before they returned. At night guards stayed on the hill with a radio in case of attack. One night they were fired upon, but no attack followed.

Several days the Communists observed the engineers in plain view on the ridge and rained in mortar rounds. Luckily, the Red gunners were not accurate.

By the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> day, the job was finished. In just nine days the engineers had pioneered five miles of road over nearly impassable terrain.

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**Personal Story associated with experience during the Korean War.  
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## **Attack in the Fog by Bob Larson**

*Bob Larson was a private first class assigned to the Company E, 7th Cavalry Regiment, U.S. Army*



7th Cavalry Trooper stringing barbed wire in Korea – May 6, 1951.

The fog was so thick that I couldn't see the man next to me. We were led down a road to the base of a hill. An officer, unknown to us, explained that the command wanted us to spread out on the road and fix bayonets. When the signal is given, we are to creep up the hill and catch the enemy by surprise with a bayonet attack.

I didn't think too much of the idea and my buddies agreed with me, but we were outvoted. Some of the fellows didn't have bayonets and declared that the orders didn't apply to them, but they too were outvoted.

Up the hill we went, feeling our way along the ground with our feet. Step by step we advanced. It seemed like a ugly dream, but I knew it was all too real. I looked to my right and to my left to find any sign of my buddies. Much to my surprise, I could make out vague forms on each side of me. I could hear whispers all along the line and louder orders to shut up!

While we were standing around arguing, the fog suddenly disappeared, just like somebody waved a magic wand. We were caught out in the open with no cover in sight. The Chinese had been caught by surprise. Both sides just stared at each other in complete bewilderment. A single shot rang out and somebody blew a whistle and shouted "Retreat." We bugged out at full speed down the hill.

I don't speak or understand Chinese, but from behind us I could understand hilarious laughter!

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## Building a Bunker for the 31st Regiment – 1952 (Carl Fridenstine)

**This Story comes from one of our Association members Carl Fridenstine or as they called him while he was in Korea “Friday”. Carl served in Charlie Co. 1952 – 1953 so if you remember him please reach out to him, he would love to hear from anyone from the old Squad.**

Master Sargent Carl Fridenstine was a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> squad of the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon of Charlie company. In addition to supervising the construction of this bunker, he was also involved with constructing bridges (Kopyang River, after the battle of Kopyang), prefab structures, culverts, etc. He was sent to basic training at Fort Belvoir, about 20 miles from DC. After basic training Carl attended six weeks of construction training where he was trained on air powered tools (which is all that was available in the US or Korea at that time).

The original photos, some of which are turning yellow, were taken with a simple box camera. They were enhanced with Photoshop Elements 2020.

Our squad was waiting in the truck when our Lt. came out and said, “you are going to build a forward bunker this week and the materials will be there as needed”. We drove out to the site and when we arrived, the bulldozer was just finishing the clean-up of the old bunker (which was now off to the side). We had no plans for the new bunker, and no one told us what to do. As a carpenter at home, I always had building plans.

The outline of the old bunker was still visible, so we decided to use that for the layout of the new structure. We had a transit (leveling instrument) and that helped to level the structure, but we could have used some sand to make things even more level. There was a compressor mounted on a truck for the air powered tools.

The bunker foundation was 4 x 12's laid on the dirt. The uprights were precut 12 x 12's. All the lumber was almost knot free. There were also precut 12 x 12's on both ends which were angled between the uprights and pointed to the hill in back. (The truck on the left in Figure 1 has the air compressor.)



Figure 1. The frame of the bunker.

## Building a Bunker for the 31st Regiment – 1952 (Cont.)



Figure 2. Installing the 3 x 12's on the bunker roof.

With the exterior walls installed, a small bulldozer filled the 2-foot space between the bunker and hill and then spread 2 feet of dirt on top. The bunker held the weight of the bulldozer and dirt with no problem.

The three bunker doors were made of 2 x 12's. They were a challenge to construct as the door openings were not perfectly rectangular, however we made them, and they worked.

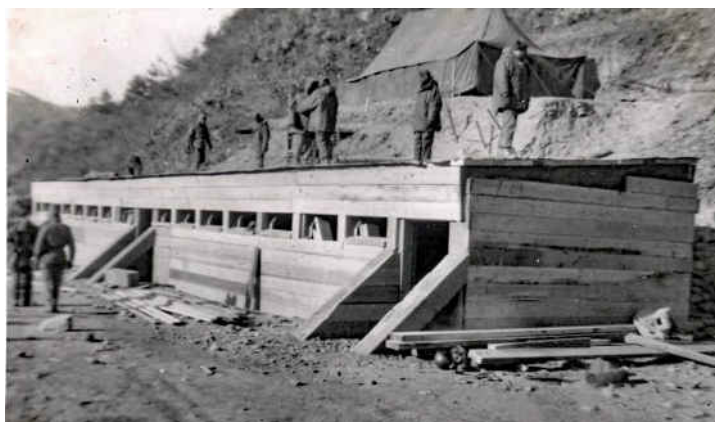


Figure 3. Bunker with the exterior walls.



Figure 4. The finished bunker with the sandbags in front

The roof support joists were 6 x 12's spaced 3 feet on center. We secured the joists to the 12 x 12's by using rebar. 60# nails were used to secure the roof boards and the side boards. Roof boards were 3 x 12's and we used 90 lb. underlayment on top.

Our Lt. never saw the completed bunker as far as I know. As an afterthought, sandbags were added over the dirt in front. This was at a time when President Truman was trying to cut back the cost of the war. We later heard that some folks caught flax over adding the sandbags. It was a good job to work on and I am glad I had the opportunity.

13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Bn. Assn.  
Attn: Newsletter Editor  
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To preserve and strengthen the bonds of friendship and camaraderie among members through reunions, meetings, publications, and other social activities, 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

