



# THE 13TH (C) ENGINEER

**"IN OMNIA PARATUS"**

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

**PRESIDENTS CORNER - ARLIE E. ELLIS**



**DECEMBER - 2022**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am wishing for all to stay well and if you are traveling over the holidays stay safe.

The 13th Combat Engineers Association membership continues to drop with very few new members joining the Association see the Secretary Corner Page 6 for recap of membership.

We are planning an informal event in Huntsville AL. more details on Page 3. Our newsletter editor will post the updated details in the April 2023 Newsletter.

We have lost some important members during last year and this year due to natural causes and illness. We pray for them and their families.

We look forward to next year and hopefully get to plan a reunion for all with everyone's input.

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

## December Facts of War in Korea

**Dec. 4, 1950:** Pyongyang, Korea falls to the invading Chinese army. Meanwhile, the aircraft carrier USS *Princeton* (CV-37) arrives off the coast of Korea to provide air support to US troops retreating from Chinese forces.

**Dec. 22, 1950:** Air Force F-86 Sabres shoot down six communist MiG-15 fighters without losing a single jet in the biggest dogfight of the Korean War.

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**All Dues & Donations are TAX  
DEDUCTIBLE**

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

**MAIL CHECKS TO:**  
Gene Reed, Treasurer  
8833 Prairie Trail  
Avon, Indiana 46123



**Check your dues Expiration Date:**  
The date listed on your shipping  
label is the year your Dues Expire.

A little military HUMOR: When I was an Air force colonel, I was aboard an intelligence aircraft filled with complex gear. A young major showed me his computer screen. "That's a chat screen, sir," he said. "We use it to relay enemy information to the crew. It's like instant messaging." Nodding, I moved down the line. Flashing on an airman's screen several feet away was this warning: "Heads up! The colonel's on the way!"

### **An army grunt is telling a story about finding a scorpion in his tent...**

A marine, an army grunt, and an airman are having a beer and the army grunt is telling this story about how one time he found a scorpion in his tent. Marine asks "what would you do?" and the grunt says he crushed it with his boot and flung it out the flap. The marine laughs and says, "what a sissy." The grunt asks "well what would you do then?" Marine replies "when a scorpion gets in my tent, I usually cut off its tail while it's still alive, keep it as a pet for a few days, might prank my senior officer with it, then eventually I cook it and eat it." The grunt feels a little embarrassed, then shifts focus to the airman and asks, "what would you do?" The airman says "I'd call the front desk and ask them why there's a tent in my room"



### GOVERNING BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Arlie E. Ellis "B" Company 65-66 825 Rose Street Crowley, TX, 76036 469-554-1324 essec5793@gmail.com	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Harry (Gene) Reed "E" Company 1970 8833 Prairie Trail Avon, IN 46123 317-268-6455 genereed@genereedins.com	<b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b> Billy D. Quinton SR. "C" Company 50-51 3800 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue North St. Petersburg, FL 33713 727-430-7959 bquinton@tampabay.rr.com
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### ADVISORY COUNCIL

<b>ADVISOR</b> Levi O. Haire – (Rabbit) "H&S" Company 49-51 358 Windgate Road Ellijay, GA 30540 706-635-2528 rabbit713e@ellijay.com	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> Currently Vacant  If you would like to be considered for this position or know someone that would please contact a board member listed on this page.	<b>QUARTER MASTER</b> Tom Cotton "D" Company 58-59 101 N. David Ln. #508 Muskogee, OK 74403-5034 918-931-8525 tcottonbo@gmail.com
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> Earl Shatzer "HQ" Company 67-68 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687 707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net	<b>CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE</b>  <a href="https://13thengineerbn.com/">https://13thengineerbn.com/</a>	<b>WEBMASTER</b> Earl Shatzer "HQ" Company 67-68 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687 707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net

### INFORMAL GET TOGETHER EVENT SEPTEMBER 2023

We had such a great time last June when we met in Oklahoma that we have decided to schedule another one in September 20-22, 2023, in Huntsville AL. Some of us will be coming in early in the week so if you want to join us, we welcome you. So far, we are looking at going to the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum and having dinner at a few great restaurants. The link below will take you to the veterans memorial museum website.

[U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum](https://www.veteransmemorialmuseum.org/)

Currently one of our members Buddy Beckwith is checking on hotels and other optional things to visit if you so desire. I will post the details in the April 2023 Newsletter.

I feel proud to be a part of such an elite association where everyone has great stories to tell, and great friendships bond us together.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Earl Shatzer at 707-689-0874 or email [eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com](mailto:eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com) or [shatzer@pacbell.net](mailto:shatzer@pacbell.net)

or

Gene Reed at 317-268-6455 or email [genereed@genereedins.com](mailto:genereed@genereedins.com)

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

Thought I would test the waters and ask who all would be interested in going to the 2<sup>nd</sup> informal get together in Huntsville AL. this coming September which is when normally when we had our full blown reunions. See draft details on page 3.

I think we can even get Barbara Baer to entertain the ladies with some more of her tall tales of how to survive in spanx. Life is too short to put things off we need to take advantage of the time we have. Let us know we are always open to any ideas or suggestion. Just contact Earl Shatzer (707-689-0874) or myself at my contact information listed below.

Thank You

**(ENGINEERS CLEAR THE WAY)**

Keep the Faith



IN OMNIA PARATUS (In All Things Prepared)

(Engineers Clear the Way)

**Gene Reed (317) 268-6455**  
**Vice President**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association**

**Membership Keeps the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association GOING****Humor In Veterans Home**

We have a goodly number of ladies living here in the Home: either retired or served in the service prior to September 1946. Yesterday one walked into the dining room looking chipper and I ask her what was up?

She told me she had just returned from seeing her lawyer. She had decided to be cremated rather than buried at Arlington Cemetery and she wanted her ashes to be scattered over the roof of the Local Wal-Mart Store. I asked her why she would want something like that, and she said, THEN I'LL BE SURE MY DAUGHTERS WILL VISIT ME TWICE A WEEK!!!

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

As of 10/27/2022 our current account balance is \$8,265.02. Once again if you are not sure if your dues are paid up contact Earl Shatzer or myself. Once again, I want to give a big thank you for the many members that have made donations to the association.

Engineers Clear the Way  
Gene Reed- Treasure  
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**Article from Starts & Stripes Dated June 21, 1952  
Four Chinese Surrender to Engineer Supply Clerk**

With U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> DIV. One man with a novel war story to tell when he gets home is PFC Arthur T. Kelly, Cleveland, Ohio a supply clerk in Company B 13 Engineer Combat Battalion. Kelly recently captured four Communists in a most unusual manner. The young World War II veteran volunteered to go on a patrol clearing mines from a road in front of the main line of resistance under the command of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard L. Harris, Pittsburgh, PA.

He was warily approaching the exposed area with PFC James F. Nelson, Excelsior, Minn., following about 100 yards to the rear. Suddenly, from a bush to his right, came a cry: "Hey, G.I.!"

Kelly dropped his mine detector and grabbed his carbine, spinning around to face what every might be there. From behind the bush came four Chinese dressed in very dirty white uniforms. From their appearance it was surmised they had been living in a deserted bunker in no man'[s land for some time.

Nelson came running up and, as three bullets from an enemy sniper struck nearby, he and Kelly quickly herded their prisoners back along the road towards friendly lines. They were met by Capt. Samuel Polis, Drexel Hill, Pa., Company B commander, who had watched the operation from an outpost.

## **Secretary Corner – Earl Shatzer**

Please check your dues status on the shipping label on your newsletter. If your status date is **2022** or later, please submit your membership dues.

### **Example of updated address label.**

I used my address as the example:

HQ Co, 67-68

2026 (Dues Expire)

Earl C. Shatzer

1962 Tanglewood Ln.

Vacaville CA 95687

Dues are \$5.00 per year (paid two years at a time) usually on even years. Membership includes Newsletters 3 times a year, April, August, and December (approximately 20 pages).

Currently we have 111 members on our roster including Honorary and Associate members. We have the following past due members 2 expired in 2020, 4 members expired in 2021, 27 members that dues expire the end of this year in 2022.

Member dues and donations ensure our ability to publish the newsletter and help cover our operating expenses. When sending a donation along with your dues, please indicate the amount of your donation.

If you have any question concerning your membership, please contact me at the information listed below.

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

Earl Shatzer - Secretary

1962 Tanglewood Ln.

Vacaville, CA 95687

707-689-0874 Or Email

[shatzer@pacbell.net](mailto:shatzer@pacbell.net) or [eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com](mailto:eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com)

## **A Korean Christmas Carol**

### **December 13 and 15, 1951 'The Night Before Christmas', As Rewritten By GIs In Korea**

With the U. S. 9<sup>th</sup> Corps, Korea-(UP)- Lt Darrell T. Rathbun of St. Petersburg, Fla., offered a G. I. version of "The Night Before Christmas" today. Entitled "A Korean Christmas Carol."

It was: 'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the tent was the odor of fuel oil (the stovepipe was bent.) The shoepacs were hung by the oil stove with care, in hopes that they'd issue each man a new pair. The weary GIs were sacked out in their beds, and visions of Sugar-babes danced through their heads, when up on the ridgeline there arose such a clatter (A Chinese machinegun had started to chatter.) I rushed to my rifle and threw back the bolt. The rest of my tent-mates awoke with a jolt, Outside we could hear our platoon sergeant Kelly, A hard little man with a little pot belly, "Come Yancey, come Clancey, come Connors and Watson, up Miller, up Shiller, up Baker and Dodson!" We tumbled outside in a swirl of confusion, so cold that each man could have used a transfusion. "Get up on that hilltop and silence that Red, and don't you come back till you're sure that he's dead." Then, putting his thumb up in front of his nose, Sergeant Kelly took leave of us shivering Joes. But we all heard him say in a voice soft and light: "Merry Christmas to all – may you live through the night."

## **A few interesting things about America's forgotten war**

### **THE PSYCHOTIC SPYMASTER WHO DECIDED THE WAR'S OUTCOME**

Of all the major players in the forgotten war, Donald Nichols might be the one America tried hardest to forget. A seventh-grade dropout from an impoverished background, Nichols only joined the military because civilian life was so rough, per the Seattle Times. His knack for languages and complete lack of conscience helped him gain favor with South Korean strongman Syngman Rhee. Nichols attended torture sessions by South Korean police, according to historians, and even posed for a photo with a detached human head. Cold and calculating, he would make himself indispensable to U.S. and South Korean forces during the war.

Thanks to a North Korean defector with stolen military codebooks, Nichols had the means to decipher enemy communications and foil their operations. Rather than sharing that crucial info with intelligence agencies, he formed his own group of codebreakers, forcing the U.S. and South Korea to rely on him. He helped determine which targets to bomb and warned about planned North Korean attacks. Because of how important he was, Nichols literally got away with murder. When subordinates disagreed with him, he shoved them out of airplanes and off of boats. He even had a shoot-out with his own agents. After the war the U.S. military got sick of Nichols and had him placed in a straitjacket and subjected to months of electroshock therapy.

### **WHEN TOOTSIE ROLLS SAVED THE DAY**

At first glance, Tootsie Rolls could easily be confused with gnome droppings. But if you need to patch up bullet holes in subzero temperatures, they're a godsend. Thanks to a ridiculous but fortuitous mix-up, Marines discovered that wacky fact amid the bitterest battle of the Korean War. As History detailed, in the early months of the war, North Korean forces were so overwhelmed that General Douglas MacArthur predicted the whole thing would be wrapped up by Christmas. Then Chinese troops unexpectedly entered the fray at North Korea's Chosin Reservoir, a region loathingly dubbed "frozen Chosin" by the Marines.

Instead of crushing North Korean Communists, the Marines found themselves cornered by 100,000 Chinese combatants in a mountainous region where temperatures reached as low as -25 degrees. So, they embarked on a 70-mile retreat, or as the commanding officer called it, "advancing in another direction." Bullet wounds froze in the perilous cold, and ice-cold corpses were used as sandbags. As ammunition dwindled, the troops requested an airdrop of 60 mm mortar ammo, which Marines referred to by the codename "Tootsie Rolls." However, the radio operator mistakenly called in an urgent order for chocolate candy. The Marines figured out they could melt Tootsie Rolls in their mouths and form a kind of putty that would seal bullet-hole-ridden equipment as it froze. That MacGyver-like ingenuity allowed them to accomplish their mission and take out several Chinese divisions.

## A 1952 Korean War Christmas Story

I had arrived at Kimpo Air Force Base, Korea in early December 1952 and was living in a tent, eating C rations, bathing out of a helmet, using an outside john, and freezing my butt off because the Air Force didn't have any cold weather gear. That wind blowing down from North Korea was truly as cold as a well digger's fanny in Alaska. We were being promised that on Christmas Day we would get a hot meal that included turkey, and everyone including myself was pretty excited about the prospect of that. The rumor was that some canned or frozen turkey was being flown in from Japan for the occasion.

Christmas Eve morning our squadron command post received a radio message that one of our remote homing beacons near the 38th Parallel that was used by our aircraft when flying missions North was down and they needed radio maintenance assistance. I was the most senior and experienced radio technician in the unit, and it was my job to respond to all such emergencies for all our remote sites in the Northern part of South Korea. I hated the thought of the long drive to the remote site in an open jeep and the cold, and most of all missing that hot Christmas meal.

My buddy, who was a power specialist, and I reluctantly grabbed our carbines, a box or two of C rations, some cartons of cigarettes, and a couple bottles of Canadian Club Bourbon and hit the road. The CC and cigarettes were for recreational use plus trading material. In the Air Force we could get all the booze we wanted and plenty of cigarettes but few of the more practical necessities. On the other hand, the Army had plenty of necessities, but little or no booze and cigarettes. So barter was the name of the game if one were to survive more comfortably.

The homing beacon site was typical of the many remote communication sites throughout Korea. A couple of mobile radio vans, gasoline generators, vehicles, and 12 to 15 guys sleeping in tents. The site was surrounded by a high fence with tents and equipment protected by sandbags and there were plenty of fox holes. It was not uncommon for these sites to be bombed at night by civilian type aircraft from North Korea dropping mortar shells. These bad guys were called Bed Check Charlies because they usually came about bedtime to keep one from sleeping as well as to do material damage. Guerrillas were also an ever-present danger, and the fence was also needed to keep locals from stealing supplies.

When I arrived on site, we immediately started working on the radio equipment. During the late afternoon, I noticed a lot of Korean orphan kids were standing outside the fence begging for food. The guys didn't seem to be paying much attention and were even sort of sheepish about the situation. GIs are usually so generous; I couldn't understand what was happening. (continued next page)

### Noble Warriors

For most Americans who read stories about Wars they will only see the numbers that the war created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons, and daughters. There are no noble wars, just Noble Warriors.

Continued from Page 08

## A 1952 Korean War Christmas Story

After the equipment was restored and working properly, I finally asked the NCO in charge, a very young sergeant, what was going on with the Kids. He told me they were orphans living in caves up above the site and fending for themselves. He said they come every day begging for food, and we have given them everything we could spare plus more, and now we really do not have enough left for ourselves. I asked why don't you go to the Army supply point and get more rations. He told me they were only allowed to get supplies once a month at the Army supply depot, and it would be three days before they could get more.

So instead of celebrating Christmas Eve with those two precious bottles of CC, we took off for the supply point. We traded for two bottles of CC for a jeep load of rations and headed back to the site. On Christmas day the guys invited the kids in, and we heated up the C rations and all had a Christmas feast of sorts with Spam, lima beans, etc. We had a communications receiver tuned into Armed Forces Radio playing Christmas tunes loudly and some of the guys were trying to teach the Korean kids to sing hymns with them. Every box of C rations had cookies and the guys gave those to the children for Christmas presents.

Christmas was a cold and snowy day, and as I looked around at all the fellows there that day, it dawned on me that I was the senior person in rank as well as the oldest person on the site. I had turned 22 three weeks before. We were all just a bunch of kids, Koreans, and all. I would spend another Christmas in Korea in 1953, but the war was over by then, and I finally got that hot Christmas meal with fresh turkey and stuffing, but it did not measure up to the one with the orphans.

This story was shared with us by Charlie Nelson, USAF Retired

### Be Aware of Scams This Holiday Season

Recognizing the signs of a scam can help you avoid falling victim to one. These scams primarily use the telephone to contact you, but scammers may also use email, text messages, social media, or U.S. mail. Scammers **pretend** to be from an agency or organization you know to gain your trust. Scammers say there is a **problem with your Social Security number or account**. Scammers **pressure** you to act immediately. Scammers tell you to **pay** in a specific way.

Know what to look for and be alert. Scammers do not take days off and neither should you... when it comes to making sure you identify suspicious communications and report it. If you receive a questionable call, text, or email, hang up or don't respond and report it at [oig.ssa.gov/report](https://oig.ssa.gov/report). Scammers frequently change their methods with new tactics and messages

### **Stars and Stripes 1 April 1953 Building Bunkers On Porkchop Engineers Toil In View Of Reds**

On Porkchop Hill, March 31, the engineers were using Lincoln Logs on Porkchop Hill Friday. Somehow it wasn't as much fun as it was when they were kids. In the game they were playing on this isolated outpost a few hundred yards from enemy lines the stakes were human lives, and the work was rough.

The Lincoln Logs, as the men of the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion call them, are chunks of timber made to order for prefabricated bunkers.

All over the blistered outpost men crouched in groups of two and three, digging new foundations in the ruins. The enemy was close enough to watch them with a naked eye, but the work had to go on.

"Our company has been up here for 72 hours trying to make this place look like home," M/Sgt. Carl Schramm, Baltimore, said as he crouched behind a pile of shell shattered sandbags.

Although the place hardly looked "like home," it appeared a little more livable than it did three days ago when the Chinese were driven off the outpost.

"Our little prefab sets of Lincoln Logs come in 37 pieces with grooves cut in them so they will fit together," Schramm said. "Yesterday two of us and some ROK soldiers built a bunker and covered it with 500 sandbags in half a day."

While Schramm and his partner, Sgt. Owen Cole, North Manchester, Ind., placed the logs together, Korean laborers poured the crumbled remains of trenches into sandbags. Others struggled up the hill with more logs to shore-up the sandbags roofs.

"This place was sure a mess when we first got here," Cole said. "We dug up several Chinese bodies and the ground was still steaming from the heat of the shelling the night before. It wasn't a very pleasant sight,"

They said it took three hours of such digging to clear out the knocked-out bunkers and build new ones.

Schramm hurled his bayonet across the roofless bunker. He said, "They throw a lot of stuff in on us, but we've got to get this place back in shape."

Cole zipped up his flak jacket and stood up in the trench to slide another log in place.

"Our 12 hours will be over in a few minutes, so we'd better get as much done as we can before the new boys take over, he added.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR - EARL C. SHATZER**

If anyone has new ideas for the newsletter, please send me a note, email, text or call me to discuss them.

If you have a subject, you would like me to research and post in the newsletter I would be happy to do so. If the subject is so large that it may take a couple of newsletters to have the whole article featured that can be done also. Another way is to post a link to the article on our website.

In reading past newsletters, I noticed that a suggestion was that if any of the wives or family members wanted to write about the things they went thru when their husbands were overseas and send in those stories, we would feature them in our newsletter. One other option is I can record your stories talking on the phone and have it converted to text.

NOTE: When the Post Office are returning Newsletters as unable to forward, forwarding time expired and no forwarding address, the following has been adopted.

**If the Individual is an active member** and the return post label has a forwarding address, the newsletter editor will re-send to the forwarding address on the label. If no forwarding address is on the label, the newsletter editor will make every effort to obtain a new address by Email, telephone call if they are available, if unable to contact them they will be removed from the newsletter mailing list until a valid address is obtained, at that time they will be reinstated to the newsletter list.

**If the individual is an Associate or Honorary member:** they will be deleted from the mailing list, if a new address is received, they will be added back on the mailing list.

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**News from the past: 13<sup>th</sup> Engineers Blaze Trail for Juggernauts.**

On the ridgeline of a craggy 1200-foot-high hill, four 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry "Polar Bear" Regiment tanks are now providing direct support for the Seventh Division troops.

The tanks were able to maneuver into position when the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer © Battalion's "Able" Company pioneered a winding trail up the rugged hillside to the summit in four days.

"The project looked impossible when we first started out," recalled 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Howard L. Stoheker, commander of the engineer unit.

But just four days after bulldozers and demolition crews began hacking away, the project was completed and ready for the juggernauts. The trail is one mile long and 15 feet wide.

# The War between the Army and Marines

President Truman was furious, and military professionals were appalled. General Eisenhower characterized the Marines as *"being so unsure of their value to their country that they insisted on writing into the law a complete set of rules and specifications for their future operations and duties. Such freezing of detail...is silly, even vicious."*

The war between the Army and Marines would get more vicious in Korea. On November 27th, 1950, a division of Marines 25,000 strong, was ordered to proceed along the west side of the Chosin reservoir, while a much smaller task force of 2500 Army troops went up the eastern side. Waiting for them were 120,000 troops of the Chinese Communist 9th Army Group.

The Army soldiers fought a running battle for three days against a Chinese force eight times their size, in temperatures as low as minus 35 degrees. Despite the death of two commanding officers, the task force lumbered south with over 600 dead and wounded soldiers loaded into trucks, fought through repeated ambushes, and was even mistakenly bombed by US Marine aircraft. Finally, just four miles from safety, the convoy was cut off by the Chinese and annihilated.

385 men made it to the safety of American lines by crossing the frozen Chosin Reservoir.

The First Marine Division, with the help of allied air power, managed to fight their way out of the Chinese encirclement. Marines claimed that the Army had disgraced itself and passed on stories of US soldiers throwing down their weapons and feigning injuries. A Marine Chaplain even made statements to the press and authored an article accusing army soldiers of cowardice.

There were so few officers and men left from the Army task force that the Marine's claims were accepted as fact. But newly released Chinese documents prove otherwise. The Army task force fought bravely against overwhelming odds before being destroyed, and their stubborn defense bought time for the Marines to escape the encirclement.

## Old Army Joke

A new captain becomes leader of a company of soldiers. As he goes about learning everything on how they do things he finds two soldiers guarding a bench. He asks his sergeants why they're guarding the bench and they say the previous commander ordered it. He calls the previous commander up, now a major, asking why he did that, and the major said it's because the previous commander ordered it.

So, he calls that commander, now a Lt. Colonel asking why he ordered it, gets the same answer that it was ordered by the previous commander. The captain goes through this song and dance a couple more times before he gets a hold of an old retired 4 star General. He politely calls him up and asks him why he ordered his men to guard this bench that all the commanders since then have maintained the tradition. The old, retired General goes "wait, is the paint still wet?"

**WEBMASTER - EARL C. SHATZER**

Why do we have a website? Good question! First, it is a way of letting our old 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer buddies know that we have an Association. We hope to increase our membership so old and new friendships can be established. Our ranks are getting thin, there are many post Korea War Vets who served in the 13<sup>th</sup> and would hope they will feel welcome to fill in the ranks so that this Association can function for many more years.

**Veterans to Receive Record Pay Increase in VA Compensation**

Beginning Jan. 1, 2023, Veterans and beneficiaries who receive VA compensation benefits will see an 8.7% increase in their monthly payments—the largest increase in over 30 years.

[https://news.va.gov/113397/record-pay-increase-va-compensation/?utm\\_source=feature&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources&utm\\_id=21DEC2022](https://news.va.gov/113397/record-pay-increase-va-compensation/?utm_source=feature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=21DEC2022)

**A MOVIE CALLED DEVOTION A TRUE STORY**

There is a movie out in theaters now called Devotion. Here is a short recap of the movie during the Korean War and battle at Chosin Reservoir.

Devotion, an aerial war epic based on the bestselling book of the same name, tells the harrowing true story of two elite US Navy fighter pilots during the Korean War. Their heroic sacrifices would ultimately make them the Navy's most celebrated wingmen. They, along with other pilots, were dispatched to the Chosin Reservoir to help a squadron of Marines that were trapped by enemy forces.

**An oldie, but goodie ...**

According to a news report, a certain private school in Washington was recently faced with a unique problem.

Several 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine but after they put on their lipstick, they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints.

Every night the maintenance man would remove them, and the next day the girls would put them back.

Finally, the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man.

She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night (you can just imagine the yawns from those little princesses).

To demonstrate how difficult, it had been to clean the mirrors, she asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required.

He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it.

Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

**There are teachers and then there are educators.**

## **Koreans North or South, Never Have Seen likes of Miraculous 7<sup>th</sup> Div. Engineers**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion commanded by Lt. Col. Ferdinand J. Tate, Eunice La., accomplishes what Koreans would say could never be done. The engineers throw bridges across roaring streams, build roads into mountains, lay air strips, and remove any bottle neck holding up the 7<sup>th</sup> Division's advance.

As the division moves forward, battalion patrols pave the way for the moving of heavy equipment and tactical headquarters. The most common holdup is the lack of adequate bridges.

The answer to that is what engineers call a "tactical bridge." They are a prime example of field expediency – a load of sandbags thrown into a stream, logs piled on, and then sand, rocks, and dirt. Trucks roll over, pack it down and the bridge will serve to complete the move.

However, in a main supply route which must be kept open 24 hours a day, bridges have a greater tonnage going over them. Therefore, a more permanent construction is necessary. With the rainy season with its swollen streams and turbulent rivers, engineers will have to replace all their tactical bridges. Koreans report that the waters of rivers in South Korea will rise as much as 12 feet when the rice paddy filling rains come.

"We'll have to put our bridges about 20 feet above present stream levels," Maj. Roland A. Brandt, Superior, Wis., battalion S-3, said. It will mean wading in icy waters to sink foundations three or four feet into stream and riverbeds.

The intelligence section of the battalion is keeping a watchful eye on the streams and rivers in the 7<sup>th</sup> Division area. The terrain here is so barren that the ground run-off from a slight rainfall can cause a big difference in water level.

Sgt. T. H. McCright, Muscatine Iowa, has an all-day job checking his rise and fall water gauges which he has set in all the major rivers and streams.

At Present, two Bailey type bridges and under preparation. These bridges are prefabricated in the States and resemble a giant erector set. The proposed bridges will be the largest engineer-constructed spans in Korea. They are 240 and 320 feet long and are designed to take a load of 50 tons.

All work done on strengthening existing bridges and building any other than tactical bridges are in addition to the combat engineers' primary duty, which is to move the division.

Moving the division these days entails not only rolling the roads in two and a half ton trucks and jeeps, but also hopping over the hills and mountains in light planes.

Liaison aircraft are a vital part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division's fighting power in communication, travel, artillery, and air observation. It is the division engineers' job to build air strips close to headquarters.

Little circles on operation maps represent objectives to infantrymen. Recently those objectives have been in roadless mountains, with only a few narrow foot trails leading to them.

The attacking forces need support. It is the engineers job to hack an access route.

"We've got two companies clawing paths through trackless mountains" Major Brandt said.

When leading elements of the division ran onto huge craters in the roads, they called in the engineers with their do-all standbys bulldozers. In a matter of an hour, vehicles were rolling over the bombed-out spots. The next morning however, the craters were there again.

ROK intelligence scouts said nearly 100 Communists had come out of the hills at night "recratering" the road by hand. It took them six hours. The engineers shoved all the dirt back in again one man working one hour. Knowing that the Reds might try it again the engineers were ready for them that night.

These large-scale jobs require men of experience, both in and out of the Army. The men learned fast here in Korea aided by men like 2d Lt. Walter O. Bachus, Tyler, Texas who holds a civil engineer's degree from Texas A&M and SFC John R. Morse, Houston, Texas a former general foreman with a construction company in the middle west. Give these engineers a line on a map, they'll put a road there and bridge the streams. And many times, they'll fight on the way.





# TAPS



All of us in the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

**Ernest C. Broch**

2-6-1928 – 4-26-2021

"A" Co. 46-47

New Member

**Donald R. Hancock**

Florence AZ

HHC-ADM 1968-1969

Remembering those that have given all....

Your  
sacrifice  
will never  
be  
forgotten



"Remembering those that have given all... Your sacrifice will never be forgotten." The deceased are now legends of war that are honored by various memorials around the world. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten. They fought for what was right and risked everything that they had. Everyone should realize that the way the world is morphed today is because of the soldiers who stood up to the evil. Respect and be thankful for them.

## What is the Military, Veterans, and Gold Star Family Free Access Program?

The Interagency Military Pass covers entrance fees and standard amenity fees (day use fees) at lands managed by the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Army Corps of Engineers for current US military members, and dependents of current military members, US military veterans, and Gold Star Families. In recent years, they were able to receive annual passes.

The new interagency Military Lifetime Passes will be available starting November 11, 2022. The free Military Pass waives entrance fees and does not cover expanded amenity or user fees for activities such as camping, transportation, special recreation permits, reservation fees or special tours.

For more information about the Interagency Military Pass Program, please visit [USGS Online Store - Military Pass Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.usgs.gov/military-pass-frequently-asked-questions).

## QUARTERMASTER - TOM COTTON



Not much action in the ole QM store. We have our new hats in stock, so why not fetch yourself one as a Christmas or New Years gift.

We are researching for vendors to resupply some of the items we offer. If any of our members know of any suppliers, please contact our quartermaster. If we are unable to find vendors to resupply our inventory the 13th memorabilia will be gone.

Just want to say going to the last get together in Oklahoma was such a joy I am looking forward to this coming September gathering in Huntsville Alabama.

Thanks, Tom

### QUARTER MASTER

Tom Cotton  
"D" Company 58-59  
101 N. David Ln. #508  
Muskogee, OK 74403-5034

### GUESTBOOK ENTRIES

The Guestbook on our website, gives you a fast and easy way to send a greeting, report a problem, an opportunity to express your opinions, offer suggestions about our website, tell us something about you and where you served, and ask questions.

We encourage you to browse the guestbook entries and post one of your own.

**Robert Emanuel** 12/11/2022

B company 13th engineer 66 67 help building the towers across the 38 parallel from fort beaver and HHC Camp Casey 66 67

**Robert Emanuel** 12/11/2022

13th engineer at a company 2nd Division DMZ 1966 67 Camp Casey and Fort Beaver

**Robert Harry Julian** 11/14/2022

Well, I felt it was time to make it "official" and sign the guest book. Actually, I am a member, but I wanted to send greetings to all - especially with the two holiday seasons coming up. Wishing all of you warm and Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! Bob Julian B Co., 1959-1960

**Kevin Prough** 10/23/2022

B- 1985-88

### Dec. 23

**1968:** 82 crewmembers of the captured USS *Pueblo* walk across the "Bridge of No Return," ending 11 months of brutal captivity in North Korea.

# QUARTERMASTER - TOM COTTON



**CAP - BLACK NEW  
STYLE  
\$25.00**



**COMBAT ENGINEER  
PIN LARGE 3" X 1"  
\$9.00**



**COMBAT ENGINEER  
PIN SMALL 1 1/2" X 1/2"  
\$9.00**



**LAPEL PIN 1"  
\$5.00**



**13TH ENGINEER BATTALION  
UNIT CREST PIN  
1 1/8"H X 1"W  
\$10.00**



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



**7TH INFANTRY  
BAYONET PIN  
\$9.00**



**ASSOCIATION PATCH  
\$3.00**

9

13th Engineer Custom Battalion Coin

\$10.00



Front



Back

1 3/4" Diameter

TO ORDER ANY OF THESE ITEMS  
PLEASE USE THE PRODUCT ORDER FORM ON NEXT PAGE  
Currently only mail in checks are accepted.  
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**13<sup>TH</sup> ENGR. (C) BN. ASSOCIATION**

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Item	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
1	Cap - Black New Style		\$25.00	
2	Combat Engineer Pin Large 3" x 1"		\$9.00	
3	Combat Engineer Pin Small 1 1/2" x 1/2"		\$9.00	
4	Lapel Pin 1"		\$5.00	
5	13 <sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Unit Crest Pin 1 1/8" H x 1" W		\$10.00	
6	13 <sup>th</sup> Engineer Metal License Plate 6" x 12"		\$10.00	
7	7 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Bayonet Pin		\$9.00	
8	Association Patch		\$3.00	
9	13 <sup>th</sup> Engineer Custom Battalion Coin 1 3/4" Diameter		\$10.00	

Total

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

THEY CAN ALSO GO TO OUR WEBSITE <https://13thengineerbn.com/> AND CLICK ON THE  
MEMBER APPLICATION BUTTON ON THE HOME PAGE.



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/>**

13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Bn. Assn.  
Attn: Newsletter Editor  
1962 Tanglewood Ln.  
Vacaville, CA 95687

Return Service Requested



#### Objectives

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

