



# THE 13TH (C) ENGINEER

**“IN OMNIA PARATUS”**

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

**PRESIDENTS CORNER - ARLIE E. ELLIS**



**AUGUST 2023**

As I have stated in the April 2023 Newsletter I have decided to step down from my position as President of the 13<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion Association. I want to express my genuine appreciation for the opportunity to lead and be part of the association's growth and success. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in this role.

I want to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to the association's members, volunteers, and staff for their support and collaboration throughout my term as president.

I plan on working closely with my successor and other board members to ensure a smooth and seamless transition of responsibilities. I will be available to answer questions and provide guidance during this period.

Taking on the role of past President, I will continue contributing to the association after stepping down. Whether it's becoming an advisor, joining committees, or supporting specific projects.

The December 2023 newsletter will announce all changes in the association board members. I want to encourage members to support and collaborate with the incoming President and any other positions as they embark on their new roles. I reassure all members that the association remains committed to its mission and goals.

As new roles are appointed to individuals, they will involve challenges, and provide opportunities for personal and professional development. I want to wish all of the best in their future endeavor.

**Arlie E. Ellis President**  
**IN OMNIA PARATUS (In All Things Prepared)**  
**13th Engineer (C) Battalion Association**

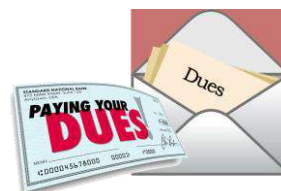
**Table of Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
President Corner -----	01
Table of Contents -----	02
Governing Board Elected Officers & Announcement-----	03
Vice President Corner -----	04
Treasure Corner -----	05
Secretary Corner -----	06
Engineers Fight Ammunition Fires By Jeff Rowsam-----	07
Engineers Fight Ammunition Fires By Jeff Rowsam P2--	08
Some 13th Engineer Battalion History by Jerry Hudson -	09
Armistice Agreement Short Story-----	10
Time Magazine Report & Weird North Korean Stories ---	11
Newsletter Corner & Atrocities of the Korean War-----	12
Wolfpacks, Donkeys, and White Tigers-----	13
Webmaster Corner-----	14
Taps & New Members-----	15
Quartermaster Corner & Atrocities of the Korean War---	16
Quartermaster Products -----	17
Products Order Form -----	18
Association Membership Application-----	19
Back Page -----	20

**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.**

**1951**

Near Kowang-San, Korea, Pvt. 1st Class Noah O. Knight spots enemy soldiers entering a friendly position.

Having previously exhausted his ammunition while stemming an enemy advance and causing heavy enemy casualties, Knight rushed the soldiers, neutralizing two with his rifle butt, but was mortally wounded when the third enemy soldier detonated his explosives. For his actions, he is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

**UNPREPARED ARMY**

In Max Hasting’s book, *The Korean War*, a section comes up regarding an American officer overlooking an explosives dump at a nearby school, who is criticizing the lack of equipment and training his men had received to a news reporter during the early days of North Korea’s invasion.

Suddenly, an explosive goes off just as he finished making these remarks — causing some of his men to be injured — and the American officer more or less exclaimed, “Do you see what I mean?”

**GOVERNING BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS**

<p><b>PRESIDENT</b> Arlie E. Ellis "B" Company 65-66 825 Rose Street Crowley, TX, 76036 469-554-1324 essec5793@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Harry (Gene) Reed "E" Company 1970 8833 Prairie Trail Avon, IN 46123 317-268-6455 genereed@genereedins.com</p>	<p><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</p>
<p><b>TREASURER</b> Harry (Gene) Reed "E" Company 1970 8833 Prairie Trail Avon, IN 46123 317-268-6455 genereed@genereedins.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION ASSOCIATION</p> 	<p><b>SECRETARY</b> Earl C. Shatzer "HQ" Company 67-68 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687 707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net</p>

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

<p><b>ADVISOR</b> Levi O. Haire – (Rabbit) "H&amp;S" Company 49-51 358 Windgate Road Ellijay, GA 30540 706-635-2528 rabbit713e@ellijay.com</p>	<p><b>CHAPLAIN</b> Currently Vacant</p> <p>If you would like to be considered for this position or know someone that would please contact a board member listed on this page.</p>	<p><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</p>
<p><b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> Earl Shatzer "HQ" Company 67-68 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687 707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net</p>	<p><b>CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE</b></p> <p><a href="https://13thengineerbn.com/">https://13thengineerbn.com/</a></p>	<p><b>WEBMASTER</b> Earl Shatzer "HQ" Company 67-68 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687 707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net</p>

**INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER EVENT SEPTEMBER 2023 HUNTSVILLE AL.**

Finalizing the informal get-together was a significant step in bringing members of the association together for a pleasant and relaxing gathering in Huntsville Alabama September 20-22, 2023. Some of us will be coming in early in the week so if you want to join us, we welcome you.

Planning on the Space and Rocket Center for the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Rocket Center is \$30.00 per person and is a short distance from the Hotel.

Hotel information: Room rate \$119.00 plus tax.

Holiday Inn Express Huntsville – Space Center  
5101 Governors House Drive SW, Huntsville, AL 35805  
Phone 256-562-3400

When reserving your room let them know you are in the **Group 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association** for the discounted room rate. At this point, we have 10 rooms blocked off, 5 Kings, and 5 double bedrooms. They are held until Sept 1, 2023. So, it might be best to make arrangements prior to that date.

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**



The September Informal get-together in lovely Huntsville, Alabama, is getting close and sounds like an exciting event.

Kudos to Buddy for securing a great room rate, which will undoubtedly make the trip even more enjoyable for everyone.

This informal get-together provides a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with old friends, make new memories, and share experiences. It's a time to celebrate shared history and create lasting bonds with fellow members of the association.

For those who can attend, it promises to be a memorable gathering filled with laughter, stories, and camaraderie. It's a chance to reminisce about old times, catch up on each other's lives, and strengthen the sense of community within the association.

For those who might be considering attending, it's a perfect opportunity to be part of something special and build meaningful connections with like-minded individuals.

Wishing everyone that is able to go a fantastic and unforgettable time at the September get-together in Huntsville, Alabama! Safe travels and have a blast!

Please refer to page **3** of this newsletter for all of the details on securing a room and the events that you are able to be involved in.

Keep the Faith

**(ENGINEERS CLEAR THE WAY)**



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**

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



As of 7/16/2023, our current account balance is \$8,027.44.

Once again if you are not sure if your dues are paid up contact or reach out to Earl Shatzer or me using the contact information at the bottom of this page. We will be able to check our records and let you know if your dues are paid up to date.

You can also check the address label on the front of the newsletter above your name on the right of the first line it will show you when your dues expire. See the example below.

HQ Co, 67-68 Earl C. Shatzer 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville CA 95687	<u>2026</u> (Dues Expire)
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The major source of income for the association is Membership dues, donations, and sales from the quartermaster. By paying dues promptly, members contribute to the overall financial health of the association, enabling the association to continue serving its members effectively.

I want to express the association's gratitude on behalf of all the members who have made donations to the association this last year.

If you have any questions concerning the association's finances, please feel free to ask me. As the treasurer, it is my responsibility to ensure that the association's finances are managed properly and transparently. I will do my best to provide you with accurate and timely information and address any concerns you may have. Let me know how I can be of assistance.

Engineers Clear the Way  
Gene Reed- Treasure  
317-268-6455  
genereed@genereedins.com

Gene Reed- Treasure 317-268-6455 <a href="mailto:genereed@genereedins.com">genereed@genereedins.com</a>	Earl Shatzer – Secretary 707-689-0874 <a href="mailto:shatzer@pacbell.net">shatzer@pacbell.net</a>
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**Korean War snippet**

**1951:** Air Force pilot George A. Davis Jr. shoots down four MiG-15 jets, the largest one-day total of the Korean War. Davis was the war's first double ace (10 kills), shooting down a total of 14 Chinese, Korean, and Soviet jets (adding to seven Japanese planes shot down during World War II), but he would later become the only ace to be killed during the conflict and will be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

## Secretary Corner – Earl Shatzer

Please check your dues status on the shipping label of your newsletter. If your status date is **2023** or later, please submit your membership dues.

### Example of the updated address label.

HQ Co, 67-68	<u>2026</u> (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, our membership is at 103 members including Honorary and Associate members. We have the following past due members 1 expired in 2020, 2 members expired in 2021, and 21 members expired 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.

We understand that circumstances may vary, and we are here to assist you in any way possible. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your membership or need assistance in the renewal process, please do not hesitate to reach out and contact me at the information listed below.

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)

If you are sending in your membership dues, please mail to the below address.

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

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

Just a friendly reminder about our upcoming informal get-together on September 20-22, 2023, to make your hotel reservations prior to September 1, 2023, to receive the great room rate we have received. Please review the contact information on **Page 3** of this newsletter.

This get-together promises to be an enjoyable experience for all. The most important thing we are looking forward to is having fun and enjoying each other's company.



## **Engineers Fight Ammunition Fires** By Jeff Rowsam

My father, Jim Rowsam served in H&S Company in 1949 1950, and 1951. Growing up I listened to his stories about the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineers in Japan and Korea. Tales of Caterpillar tractors and Engineer soldiers doing amazing service held my interest over many years and eventually led to my 30-year career with Caterpillar dealers.

One story I remember very well was about fighting a fire in a Korean train yard. Railcars loaded with ammunition, explosives, and artillery ammunition were threatened as one car after another caught fire.

My father related the story this way. In the Spring of 1951, the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineers were spread thin, supporting different 7<sup>th</sup> Division units. There were a few 13<sup>th</sup> Engineers working a job near a train yard when a fire started among the loaded cars. The GIs started to clear casualties and move Korean workers away from the fires when an officer, a Lieutenant, ran up and took charge. Dad explained that the Lieutenant said they needed to move the loaded cars out away from the spreading fires. There were no locomotives to move the cars but if someone would volunteer to run the Cat dozer, the Lieutenant would hook a tow chain so the dozer could tow loaded cars safely out of the siding.

Dad did not know the Lieutenant but spoke with admiration about the cool head and bravery that officer showed. He mentioned he was fairly sure the officer was a West Pointer.

Working all night in the light of the burning wreckage, the two soldiers saved many of the cars and dangerous cargo. At least one car exploded and soldiers nearby all suffered hearing damage.

Never a mention of who volunteered to operate the dozer or who the officer was.

Over the years I studied history books about actions the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) was in. Never a word or an image about the train fire.

I am not a veteran. But, encouraged by my family, I attended an early 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer reunion with my parents. I was welcomed by veterans I came to know as my “Uncles” and was adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineers. I knew there were some real characters in H&S. At that early reunion, my father’s stories were confirmed when I met veterans that served with him. The names of characters I remember growing up became real faces.

At that early reunion, one Engineer uncle I met was Norm Strickbine. Norm served in H&S in 1950 and 1951. I learned that Norm had trained as a military photographer before transferring to the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineers. He created many professional images of the 13<sup>th</sup> in Japan and Korea. He and another 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry veteran Arthur Wilson were working on a book of veteran interviews from their time in Korea. Norm had preserved many of the photos he made while in Japan and Korea.

The veterans’ stories of Cat tractors in the military had already started my career in the Caterpillar dealer network by the time of that reunion. A few weeks after the reunion, I was thrilled to receive a large envelope from Uncle Norm Strickbine. It contained a large stack of 8x10 B&W photos. Many images of Cat dozers, 6x6 GMC dump trucks, bridge trucks, cranes, and more. Included were several images of some unidentified train wreckage. Several pictures with dozers pushing and pulling the

**Engineers Fight Ammunition Fires By Jeff Rowsam (continued)**

burned and twisted remains. All interesting and the train images were likely from the ammunition train fire. But no other details or information.

Much later I received a copy of the book “Faces Of War” by Wilson and Strickbine, I read many of the one and two-page reminiscences of different soldiers about their Korean War experiences in 1949, 1950, and 1951. There were several vignettes from a number of my uncles in the 13th Engineers. The book went on the shelf for a few years, and it was only recently that I returned to it and took up reading their stories again.

Stopping on a page I had passed over many times, there was the same photo of the same train wreckage Uncle Norman had shared with me years before. The story next to the photo was the interview of one Lt Walter Schlotterbeck, B Co. 13th Engineers, who served there from Sept 1950 to Oct 1951.

The Lieutenant writes in his interview, that in early February of 1951, he was working to clear 8th Army supplies and munitions through the road and rail junction at Chechen. East-West and North-South lines all crossed there. He goes on to say how he learned of the fire when the first rail car exploded, and he hurried to the site and began to get action organized when the second car exploded with a great concussion. Knocked to the ground and regaining mobility, he remembered seeing one of the Engineer dozers earlier in the day, working nearby.

(What follows is quoted from Schlotterbeck’s printed interview.)

“Locating the dozer operator near where I had last seen him working, I explained the situation to him and told him what was needed. He immediately volunteered to help. Hooking chains to the cars and uncoupling from the burning cars, I hooked them to the dozer. The operator was a skilled artisan of his trade.

After all these years I no longer remember his name, but I surely remember it took real guts to sit on that dozer and with cool and delicate action maneuver that dozer to push the cars apart without toppling them over. He would then follow me, pulling a car or two at a time, while I threw a rail switch to shunt the cars onto another track and out of danger. We managed to save 20 cars out of the burning train.”

I have watched my father skillfully operate dozers and train soldier operators in later years. The Lieutenant's words sounded like someone I knew. I pulled out the large original photos of the train yard that Norm had shared with me, and I studied several with a magnifier. The dozer in the photos taken the morning after has the identifier on the radiator 7-13E and HS86. In one view under magnification, the operator has his head turned without his helmet on and the outline is distinctive. The dozer operator that night was Jim Rowsam. Dad never said who volunteered to run the dozer that night and the next day but now I know. I sure miss him.

My father passed away in September 2002 and rests with other veterans in the Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery in King WI.

Norman Strickbine left us in November 2016 and rests in the National Veterans Cemetery in Springfield MO.

Lt Walter Schlotterbeck, USMA Class of 1948 passed away in August 2010 in VA.



## Some 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion History By Jerry Hudson (HHC 1963-1965)

Please forgive me if I make this personal, but I can probably tell these stories better from my own point of view. I'll make mistakes, for sure. But we need to get this stuff down – the 13<sup>th</sup> has gone away, and its memory must not fade with it.

I was a green 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Assigned to HHC. A duty that all officers shared was OD - "officer of the day." I guess it would better be described as "officer of the night," since that meant I spent the night down in the headquarters building, mothered the telephone, made the rounds to check on the guards, and try to offer some encouragement on cold, nasty Korean nights. Sometimes a cranky call from some dude whose toilet wouldn't flush. "Call the post engineers, not us! We're combat." Anyway, while camping out in the drafty Quonset hut that was HQ, I frequently leafed through one of the photo albums that were there for the looking. It dawned on me that the 13<sup>th</sup> had a long history, accomplished some amazing work, and produced some heroes. I wish I had one of those albums to refer to right now.

What's on the Internet is pitiful. It doesn't scratch the surface. There's more in books, and I'll delve into some of these.

According to [1] the 13<sup>th</sup> can trace its history to the Civil War. I can't find anything describing the 13<sup>th</sup> in particular, but it is certainly true that engineers played a vital role in winning the war. One fine example is the pontoon bridge built across the James River, permitting Grant's army to maneuver toward Petersburg. "The Engineers have no chance for brilliancy of attack like Cavalry or Infantry, but our work though hidden is equally important," wrote Gilbert Thompson in his memoir, *A Volunteer in the Regulars* [2]. And throughout history, every army had its "sappers" who did everything from undermining enemy castle walls to erecting the same. Without sappers, history would be different!

The 13<sup>th</sup> was officially created out of the old 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion and so activated in 1917. It served in the Meuse-Argon campaign, earning its first campaign ribbon. The battalion was deactivated soon after World War I ended but was reborn as the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer General Service Regiment for the Engineer School. Prior to WWII, the 13<sup>th</sup> became part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Ft. Ord. When war broke out, the 7<sup>th</sup> was designated a "motorized division" but returned to being light infantry when the North African campaign started succeeding. Now, the 7<sup>th</sup> was trained for amphibious assault and was schooled under General Holland Smith, USMC. The 7<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineers along with it, headed for Attu, Aleutian Islands, which was then under Japanese control. [3]

The 13<sup>th</sup> helped with the landing at Massacre Bay beachhead in May 1943. According to [1], men of the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion stopped a Japanese Banzai charge, killing some 239 enemy. A contrary note comes from the Fish and Wildlife Service [4], crediting the 50<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment for the victory at Engineer Hill. I followed up on this and managed to find a personal account of the Japanese assault by Joseph Sasser, 50<sup>th</sup> Engineers. [5] My guess is that both the 13<sup>th</sup> Engr. Bn. and the 50<sup>th</sup> Engr. The regiment was involved in support of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division, and no doubt many of our boys were on Engineer Hill.

### References

[1] <https://www.geocities.ws/Pentagon/Bunker/9562/index-2.html>

[2] <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2020/12/14/book-review-a-volunteer-in-the-regulars-the-civil-war-journal-and-memoir-of-gilbert-thompson-us-engineer-battalion/>

(a review of Thompson's book)

[3] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7th\\_Infantry\\_Division\\_\(United\\_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7th_Infantry_Division_(United_States))

[4] <https://www.fws.gov/media/engineer-hill-attu-island-aleutians>

VISIT WEBSITE <https://13thengineerbn.com/>

## Armistice Agreement Short Story

Currently, the U.S. has approximately 30,000 troops stationed in South Korea, a treaty ally that has remained frozen in conflict with the North since the Korean War ended in an armistice rather than a peace treaty 70 years ago July 27, 1953.

After three years of a bloody and frustrating war, the United States, the People's Republic of China, North Korea, and South Korea agree to an armistice, bringing the fighting of the Korean War to an end. The armistice ended America's first experiment with the Cold War concept of "limited war."

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when communist North Korea invaded South Korea. Almost immediately, the United States secured a resolution from the United Nations calling for the military defense of South Korea against North Korean aggression. In a matter of days, U.S. land, air, and sea forces had joined the battle. The U.S. intervention turned the tide of the war, and soon the U.S. and South Korean forces were pushing into North Korea and toward that nation's border with China. In November and December 1950, hundreds of thousands of troops from the People's Republic of China began heavy assaults against the American and South Korean forces. The war eventually bogged down into a battle of attrition.

In the U.S. presidential election of 1952, Republican candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower strongly criticized President Harry S. Truman's handling of the war. After his victory, Eisenhower adhered to his promise to "go to Korea." His trip convinced him that something new was needed to break the diplomatic logjam at the peace talks that had begun in July 1951. Eisenhower began to publicly hint that the United States might make use of its nuclear arsenal to break the military stalemate in Korea. He allowed the Nationalist Chinese government in Taiwan to begin harassing air raids on mainland China. The president also put pressure on his South Korean ally to drop some of its demands in order to speed up the peace process.

Whether or not Eisenhower's threats of nuclear attacks helped, by July 1953 all sides involved in the conflict were ready to sign an agreement ending the bloodshed. The armistice, signed on July 27, established a committee of representatives from neutral countries to decide the fate of the thousands of prisoners of war on both sides. It was eventually decided that the POWs could choose their own fate: stay where they were or return to their homelands. A new border between North and South Korea was drawn, which gave South Korea some additional territory and demilitarized the zone between the two nations. The war cost the lives of millions of Koreans and Chinese, as well as almost 40,000 Americans. It had been a frustrating war for Americans, who were used to forcing the unconditional surrender of their enemies. Many also could not understand why the United States had not expanded the war into China or used its nuclear arsenal. As government officials were well aware, however, such actions would likely have prompted World War III.

### Korean War fact

**1951:** A day after having 83 pieces of shrapnel removed from his body, and still badly injured from bullet wounds received during six days of constant fighting, Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble (USA) refuses to let medics keep him out of the fight.

When his company is pinned down by enemy fire while assaulting Hill 765 near Sangsan-ni, Korea, the badly wounded veteran of the Guadalcanal campaign and now platoon sergeant courageously crawls forward alone and silences three machine gun positions with grenades and automatic rifle fire.

Originally awarded the Distinguished Service Cross - paperwork recommending him for the Medal of Honor kept getting lost - Keeble will be eventually awarded the Medal of Honor in 2008, 26 years after his passing.

## Time Magazine Reports on the Korean War Armistice Agreement

Time Magazine reported on the Korean War Armistice agreement in August 1953, a week after its signing on July 27. "A correspondent asked a British officer whether the Commonwealth Division would celebrate with the traditional fireworks," the author wrote. "No", said the Briton, there is nothing to celebrate. Both sides have lost."

"The Forgotten War" was three complex years of aerial, maritime, and ground combat. Smashed between World War II and Vietnam, the Korean War saw trailblazers in every way. From ace fighter pilots and medevac helicopter aviators to suicide squads comprised of partisans and U.S. Navy frogmen — the extraordinary perils experienced cannot be understated.

An intelligence blunder from the CIA failed to warn the U.S. government of the invasion over the 38th parallel by describing it in a declassified memo in 1950 as "a defensive measure to offset the growing strength of the offensively minded South Korean Army. "Additionally, 95 percent of the U.S. armed forces were demobilization following the conclusion of WWII, leaving military planners in a bind as strategic special mission units were readily needed and ultimately created on a whim. Sucker-punched into a war they were unprepared for, the detriment was felt and sadly forgotten by many.

### Weird North Korea

#### They Built a Fake City to Intimidate South Korea

The North Korean border village Kijong-dong sports rows of new houses and offices, a school, a massive radio tower, farm fields bursting with crops, maintenance works, and even a hospital. What it doesn't have, though, is people. It's entirely fake, likely built as a carrot to entice South Koreans to defect.

Up until 2004, the North used it as a massive base for loudspeakers to blast propaganda at the South. Then both sides agreed to stop propaganda broadcasts, and the village simply sits there, empty.

## They Attacked South Korea with Poop Balloons

The 2016 "hydrogen bomb" test by North Korea prompted a salvo of propaganda balloons floated over the DMZ by the South. The North responded with their own fusillade of balloons, but these weren't filled with just propaganda but with garbage. As in actual Garbage, including cigarette butts and used toilet paper.

When they popped over South Korea, their human waste-covered message floated down to earth. South Korean authorities were concerned it was some sort of biomedical attack, but it turned out to just be crappy propaganda.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR - EARL C. SHATZER**

As the newsletter editor, I am constantly seeking ways to make our newsletter more enjoyable and engaging for everyone. To achieve this, I rely on contributions and ideas.

If you have any interesting articles, pictures, or stories that you believe would enrich our newsletter, I would be extremely grateful if you could share them with me. Your contributions are what make this newsletter interesting.

I encourage you to participate by sending in a "letter to the Editor" where we can share your thoughts, experiences, or questions related to the Korean War.

Newsletter Editor  
Earl Shatzer  
1962 Tanglewood LN.  
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(707) 689-0874.

We take pride in our ability to offer our members a quarterly newsletter with hopefully insightful content. We aim to keep you informed and engaged, and we sincerely hope you find the newsletters enriching and enjoyable.

### **Atrocities of the Korean War**

A North Korean guard handed Sgt. Berry F. Rhoden, a POW, a card which read: "You are about to die the most horrible kind of death." The guard then shot Rhoden in the back. These are the kinds of stories collected by Michigan Senator Charles E. Potter after the Korean War ended. Potter documented more than 1,800 atrocities committed by the Communists against civilian populations and UN military personnel during the Korean War.

The 1954 Potter Report is more than 200 pages of testimony from Korean War veterans and massacre survivors before Congress. Sgt. Rhoden was one of just a few of those survivors.

When the Korean War started, victory was far but assured. The North Korean attack on June 25, 1950, took the U.S. and South Korea by complete surprise, and the Communists were able to make large gains in a very short amount of time.

The battle lines swung as wildly as the momentum of the war itself before grinding into months of stalemate as the two sides haggled at the negotiating table. Every time the pendulum shifted, more American and UN forces were captured by the North Korean and Chinese forces. The first reports of enemy atrocities filtered into the UN headquarters as early as two days after the invasion started

(Continued on bottom of quartermaster corner Page 16)

## **Wolfpacks, Donkeys, and White Tigers**

A guerrilla formation. Both LEOPARD BASE and WOLFPACK organizations were supplied and equipped by the U.S. They were a partisan force during the Korean War that consisted of anti-communist North Korean defectors who engaged in guerrilla Warfare. The level of support depended on the unit strength, a number that often varied widely from one day to the next.

The partisan forces are often overlooked in wars where large armies and covert operations are intertwined in the same battlespace. Their sacrifice during airborne deep penetration missions was catastrophic. During one mission in January 1953, three U.S. Air Force C-119s and a B-26 Pathfinder were transporting a 97-man "Green Dragon" team to parachute into North Korea. It was the largest operation of its kind during the entire war, and although they received reinforcements and supplies, radio contact decreased, and all members vanished without a trace.

This wasn't a lone occurrence for airborne special operations missions into North Korea. The 8420th Army Unit (it later became Combined Command for Reconnaissance Activities, Korea, or CCRAK) dropped in "Mustang Ranger" teams numbering between five and 20 Koreans in 1952. Their mission was to attack and dismantle frequented railroad lines. None returned.

These partisans were trained at facilities called Wolfpack, Leopard, and Taskforce Kirkland. Their support was veiled as Baker section and assumed the names to describe their units. Some referred to themselves as White Tigers, writes Michael E. Haas in "In The Devil's Shadow," because "the title reflected both their high regard for courage as well as the spirituality and immortality symbolized in Korean lore by the tiger." American advisor First Lieutenant Ben S. Malcolm, a veteran of the OSS and the famed Jedburgh teams, took on the responsibility in training guerilla forces called "Donkeys" on the island of Paengyong-do. This task was even more impressive considering the language barrier.

"The title reflected both their high regard for courage as well as the spirituality and immortality symbolized in Korean lore by the tiger."

The Donkey teams had a designated "suicide squad," and Malcolm would witness this firsthand while leading a 120-man Donkey raiding party to assault a machinegun position on July 14, 1952. "The D-4 leader called his [five-man] suicide squad to advance upon it...When they reached the wire four of them opened fire. The fifth man crawled under the wire and moved up to the pillbox [,] pulled the pins on two grenades and holding one in each hand, the man walked right into the position. This knocked out the position."

The White Tigers, Donkeys, and Wolfpacks suffered heartbreaking losses. American advisors like Malcolm from the 8420th Army Unit spoke highly of them, whereas Army bureaucracy viewed them as expendable. What happened to the OSS veterans that were still serving after the unit's disbandment after World War II? Some formed into this temporary unconventional unit that set the foundation for the U.S. Army Special Forces.



**WEBMASTER - EARL C. SHATZER**

Not much going on with the website since the last newsletter was published, we have had no security breaches, and our hosting company has had no downtime allowing the website to be up and available for members and visitors to surf through it.

My role as the webmaster is in ensuring that the website functions effectively and provides a positive user experience for visitors.

I am available to address any website-related concerns or technical issues promptly. I encourage all of the association members to provide feedback or suggestions regarding the website, your input is valuable and will be considered in future development efforts. Please see my contact information listed below.

**Earl Shatzer Webmaster**  
707-689-0874 or [shatzer@pacbell.net](mailto:shatzer@pacbell.net)

**Guestbook entry from Doug Duden to Robert N. Choporis**

I remember you! I got assigned to Bn S-2 just days after arriving in Camp Casey in June of 1965. I made E4 before going home in June of 1966. Lots of cheeseburgers, Fries, and PBR. I was in Battalion S-2 from June 65 to June 66 along with Lt. Maurice T Lough, Lt. Charles Matrosic, and Msgt Jimmy Bearden. Msgt, Robert Kennedy took over from Bearden when he rotated home.

1st LT Lough went to 7th Div. Hq. as Generals Aide de Camp. One of my jobs was to type up all of the paperwork to be submitted for security clearances for anyone in the Battalion who would be handling Classified Documents. Whatever happened to Lt. Hornbarger ? Lt. Fred Shepard or Lt Thomas T. (Tadoshi) Murai? Major Roger Blunt? Wasn't your nickname 'Chopper'? All of you LTs played a lot of Volleyball back then. I think Lt. Hornbarger played Tennis too. Lt. Fred Shepard was a PFC in Ft. Sill before going to OCS. PFC Reesberg from S-3 was in his unit back in Ft. Sill and remembered him from the old days. Shepard still had his PFC Uniforms with him in Camp Casey.

There are Some Funny Stories There! What time should we send the jeep to get you, SIR? You had to be there to appreciate the humor in all of that!! Good Times, lots of laughs too! I ran into our 13th Engr. Battalion Sgt/Major Lacey Hendricks back in Ft. Leonard in early 1966. He was a Great Guy! The HHC Company Clerk Sp4 Noe eventually showed in in FLW too.

Old "Pineapple John "SSgt John Menor from our Bn. Recon section died in Ft. Bragg a couple of years ago. He was like 83-84 years old! Lt Col. Harvey C. Jones joined the 13th Engr Bn Association maybe 4 ?? years ago from South Carolina and died sometime in the last 2 years.

None of us would recognize Camp Casey today. Our Battalion HQ was knocked down years ago and it is now a parking lot! The motor pool is still there! I finished my tour of duty in 1967 with the 208th MP Company watching Prisoners in the FLW Stockade. That's all gone now. Today it's a 4 story brick apartment building. It's nice to finally see and hear from someone from the 13th Engr Bn I remember from so many years ago.  
Doug Duden, Sebring, Florida





**HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED**



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.

<p><b>Donald J. Czeszynski</b> 1-26-1923 – 1-23-2023 "H&amp;S" Co. 49-50</p>	<p><b>Angelo Giambusso</b> 9-29-1923 – 12-8-2022 "B" Co. 51-52</p>
<p><b>Carl L. Fridenstine</b> 8-28-1930 – 3-6-2023 "C" Co. 1951-1952 Master Sergeant</p>	<p><b>David A. Fastabend</b> 5-6-1952 – 3-20-2020 "H&amp;S" Co. 1993-1994</p>
<p><b>Robert R. Moine</b> 8-8-1935 – 6-6-2022 "H&amp;S" Med. Detach 8/1956 – 8/1957</p>	<p><b>Donald R. Bonnell</b> 11-5-1937 – 3-27-2023 "B" Co. 12-1955 – 4-1957</p>
<p><b>Donald D. Bradley</b> 3-3-1932 – 4-9-2023 "A" Co. 12-1952 to 12-1953</p>	<p><b>Scott B. Smith</b> DOD 7-11-2023 "A" Co. 1957 - 1958</p>
<p><b>Robert A. Smith</b> DOD 4-4-2023 "HQ Co." 1964 - 1965</p>	

Remembering those that have given your 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 evil. Respect and be thankful for them.

**Short Story of Bravery**

When their listening post near Satae-ri, Korea is targeted by enemy artillery, their commanding officer orders the soldiers to withdraw from their post to safety.

Machine gunner Cpl. Benito Martinez and Pvt. 1st Class Paul G. Myatt remain behind to cover the retreat, despite numerous calls from the CO to abandon their post and turns down an offer of a force to rescue the surrounded Americans.

Martinez knew the only way his fellow soldiers would survive was if he continues to provide covering fire. The men hold off the enemy assault until the machine gun's ammunition is expended. Martinez then withdraws to a destroyed bunker and continues to hammer the communists with his Browning Automatic Rifle and pistol.

After a "magnificent stand" lasting six hours, Martinez enabled his fellow soldiers to retake the position but does not survive. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor and PFC Myatt is awarded the Silver Star.

## QUARTERMASTER - TOM COTTON



Finding new vendors for purchasing military memorabilia for our organization at an affordable price has been a challenging task. We look at being able to pass this product on to our members at an affordable price. The current inventory is dwindling, and we have purchased inventories from other organizations that have had excess or not needed the inventory any longer. If any of you know of anyone in your neck of the woods that make military memorabilia, let me or one of our board members know.

Please check out our online order form where you can use PayPal or send in a check if PayPal does not work for you.

Have a blessed summer and hope you are making plans for our mini get-together in Huntsville, Alabama, I am looking forward to seeing old friends and would like to meet some new ones.

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

### Atrocities of the Korean War Stories (continued from the bottom of newsletter editor corner P12.)

The report found the Communist forces in Korea "flagrantly violated virtually every provision of the Geneva Convention" as well as Article 6 of the Nuremberg Tribunal Charter. It also lists the abuses American and UN POWs suffered at the hands of the North Koreans:

"American prisoners of war who were not deliberately murdered at the time of capture or shortly after capture were beaten, wounded, starved, and tortured; molested, displayed, and humiliated before the civilian populace and/or forced to march long distances without the benefit of adequate food, water, shelter, clothing, or medical care to Communist prison camps, and there to experience further acts of human indignities."

On top of the numerous forced marches and torture, seven Korean War Massacres stand out as egregious examples of the systematic, inhumane treatment of POWs at the hands of Communist forces. According to the Potter Report, as of June 1953, the estimated number of American POWs who died from enemy war crimes was 6,113. The total number of UN forces who were victims ranged between 11,662 - 20,785.

#### The Hill 303 Massacre

On August 14, 1950, 26 U.S. troops were caught by surprise and captured by North Koreans. Their hands were bound, and their boots were stolen by their captors. The next day, more American POWs joined the group, bringing their number to 45.

The prisoners were led to a ravine where they were all shot with their hands still tied. Only 4 survived. Cpl. Roy Manring, Jr. gave his testimony before the commission:

"They come by and they started kicking and you could hear the fellows hollering, grunting, groaning, and praying, and when they kicked me they kicked my leg and I made a grunting sound and that's when I caught it in the gut, got shot in the gut at the time."



# QUARTERMASTER - TOM COTTON



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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.



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



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

