



THE 13TH (C) ENGINEER

"IN OMNIA PARATUS"

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

PRESIDENTS CORNER – GENE REED



DECEMBER 2023

I hope this message finds you well. As we came together in Huntsville, AL, for another memorable informal get-together, I would like to share some important updates regarding changes in our officers.

I am deeply honored and humbled to accept the position of President of the 13th Combat Engineers Association. As we embark on this journey together, I want to express my sincere gratitude for entrusting me with this responsibility.

First and foremost, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Arlie Ellis for his dedicated service as President. Arlie has made invaluable contributions to our organization, and we are fortunate to have him continue as Immediate Past President. His wealth of experience and leadership will undoubtedly continue to benefit us.

I am thrilled to announce and extend a warm welcome to Buddy Beckwith, who is our new Vice President. Buddy brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our team. We are confident that his skills, vision, and strategic mindset will contribute significantly to our association's continued growth and success.

Stepping into the role of Chaplin is Billy D. Quinton Sr. Billy, who has previously served as Immediate Past President, President, and Newsletter Editor for an impressive number of years. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside Billy and continue to benefit from his wisdom and dedication.

In looking ahead, we are excited to announce that our next get-together is scheduled for September 2024. As we are considering potential locations, we invite your input and suggestions. The current list includes Seattle, Washington; Florida; San Antonio, Texas; and Fort Leonard Wood. Your feedback is crucial, and we welcome any additional city recommendations.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing leadership for their dedication and hard work. Their efforts have laid the groundwork for our continued success, and I am eager to collaborate with them in the transition period.

Thank you once again for this incredible honor. I am ready to serve and eager to make our association stronger and more vibrant than ever.

**Gene Reed President
IN OMNIA PARATUS (In All Things Prepared)
13th Engineer (C) Battalion Association**

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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.
See the example below.

HQ Co, 67-68 **2026** (Dues Expire)
Earl C. Shatzer
1962 Tanglewood Ln.
Vacaville CA 95687



"We'd like to hire you to steal Thanksgiving."

1968

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

1950

During a fanatical nighttime assault by enemy forces near Sudong, North Korea, Staff Sgt. Archie Van Winkle leads his outnumbered Marines through heavy fire and enables them to gain the upper hand. Despite a bullet rendering his arm useless and further wounds from an enemy grenade, Van Winkle rushes through hostile fire to rally his men, refusing evacuation and providing leadership until Van Winkle loses consciousness. The combat veteran of World War II will be awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Sudong and will be decorated for valor 18 years later during the Battle of Khe Sanh in the Vietnam War.

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

<p>PRESIDENT Harry (Gene) Reed "E" Company 1970 8833 Prairie Trail Avon, IN 46123 317-268-6455 genereed@genereedins.com</p>	<p>VICE PRESIDENT Laurens (Buddy) Beckwith "D" Co. 64-65 SGM (Ret) 317 Pine Lake Drive Harvest AL 35749 256-722-0705 Beckwithlaurens@gmail.com</p>	<p>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Arlie E. Ellis "B" Company 65-66 825 Rose Street Crowley, TX, 76036 469-554-1324 essec5793@gmail.com</p>
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ADVISORY COUNCIL

<p>ADVISOR Levi O. Haire – (Rabbit) "H&S" Company 49-51 358 Windgate Road Ellijay, GA 30540 706-635-2528 rabbit713e@ellijay.com</p>	<p>CHAPLAIN Billy D. Quinton SR. "C" Company 50-51 3800 6th Avenue North St. Petersburg, FL 33713 727-430-7959 bquinton@tampabay.rr.com</p>	<p>QUARTER MASTER Tom Cotton "D" Company 58-59 101 N. David Ln. #508 Muskogee, OK 74403-5034 918-931-8525 tcottonbo@gmail.com</p>
<p>NEWSLETTER EDITOR Earl Shatzer "HQ" Company 67-68 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687 707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net</p>	<p>CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE https://13thengineerbn.com/</p>	<p>WEBMASTER Earl Shatzer "HQ" Company 67-68 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687 707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net</p>

INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER SEPTEMBER 2023 HUNTSVILLE AL.



We will be planning our next get-together for 2024 and will publish the final selection in our April Newsletter. Our potential get-together locations for consideration are Seattle Washington, Florida; San Antonio Texas; and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

VICE PRESIDENT CORNER LAURENS (BUDDY) BECKWITH

Hello, I'm Laurens (Buddy) Beckwith. I received the honor of being elected to be the Vice President at the get-together in Huntsville, Alabama, this last September.

It's completely normal to feel a mix of pride and a bit of pressure when following in the footsteps of someone like Gene Reed. I am excited to bring the unique strengths I have to this position.

I want to share a glimpse of my military journey. After Basic and AIT (12B) I was assigned to D Co. 13th Eng Bn. Camp Casey Korea. Then a trip to Vietnam in the 577th Eng Bn Construction. I got out for 59 days and came back to the Army. The rest is a long-sorted history. Looking back after 27+ years, I realize that the 10 weeks I spent at Fort Leonard Wood served me well in and out of all the engineer units.

I found that the combat units, like the 13th were closer than any other units.

I hope we continue to build our numbers and stay in touch with each other. If anyone has an idea for how to bring more members and their families into the organization, share it, and let's see if we can devise a plan.

I am looking forward to the next get-together this next year.
Thanks again for your confidence,

Buddy Beckwith

(Engineers Clear the Way)

IN OMNIA PARATUS (In All Things Prepared)

Buddy Beckwith 256-722-0705
Vice President
13th Engineer (C) Battalion Association

"Merry Christmas and thank you for your service to our Veterans!"

MILITARY HISTORY OF THE KOREAN WAR

President Truman announced on 27 June 1950 that he had ordered American air and naval forces to cover and support the South Korean troops (UN Defensive-27 June to 15 September 1950). On the 28th he authorized the Commander in Chief Far East to use certain supporting ground units in Korea and authorized the U.S. Air Force to conduct missions on specific targets in North Korea. On the 30th the President further authorized the C. in C. Far East to use all forces available to him to repel the invasion and ordered a naval blockade of the entire coast of Korea.

Treasurers Corner - Gene Reed



As of 11/7/2023, our current account balance is \$8,077.47.

I trust this message finds you well. As we approach the end of the year, it's time for a quick update on your membership dues and an expression of gratitude to those who have generously contributed to our association.

If you have any uncertainties regarding the status of your dues, please don't hesitate to reach out to Earl Shatzer (Secretary) or myself. We are more than happy to assist you and provide the necessary information to ensure your membership is in good standing.

I want to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many members who have donated to our association. Your support plays a crucial role in sustaining the operational expenses of the association. We truly appreciate your commitment to our shared goals.

It's worth noting that all donations to our association are tax-deductible. As we approach the end of the tax year, this serves as a timely reminder for those looking to maximize their contributions while enjoying the benefits of a deduction.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. Our association is only as strong as its members, and your involvement is instrumental in our collective success.

If you have any questions regarding the association's finances, please don't hesitate to contact me. As the treasurer, I am responsible for ensuring the proper and transparent management of the association's finances. I am committed to providing you with accurate and timely information, and I am here to address any concerns you may have. Feel free to let me know how I can assist you.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and look forward to another successful year for our association.

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

MILITARY HISTORY OF THE KOREAN WAR

On 25 June 1950 the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution calling "for immediate cessation of hostilities" and "upon the authorities of North Korea to withdraw forthwith their armed forces to the thirty-eighth parallel."

When the North Koreans failed to accede to these demands, the Security Council passed a second resolution recommending "that the Members of the United Nations furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea as may be necessary to repel the armed attack and restore the international peace and security in the area."

Secretary Corner – Earl Shatzer



OUR INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER IN HUNTSVILLE ALABAMA SEPTEMBER 2023

We all had a fantastic time in Huntsville and thoroughly enjoyed catching up with everyone. The time spent visiting and reminiscing with everyone was filled with joy, laughter, and great stories (some we cannot put in print). This get-together exceeded our expectations, and we genuinely appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with old friends. We visited the Space Center and enjoyed seeing all the exhibits they had there. We all created new memories and look forward to scheduling a get-together in 2024.

Since all our officers could not attend the get-together, we had a Zoom call to elect new officers for the organization due to President Arle Ellis stepping down. Gene Reed is now the President, while Lauren (Buddy) Beckworth is taking on the responsibilities of the Vice President. It's notable that Arle Ellis will continue to be involved as the immediate past president, bringing valuable experience to the advisory council. Additionally, Billy Quinton, the immediate past president, is transitioning to the chaplain position in the advisory council. These changes suggest a thoughtful and organized approach to leadership transitions within your group.

We will be planning our next get-together for 2024 and will publish the final selection in our April Newsletter. Our potential get-together locations for consideration are Seattle, Washington, Florida; San Antonio, Texas; and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

To the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Huntsville Space Center staff where we had our get-together. We at the 13th Combat Engineer Association are sincerely grateful for the warm welcome and exceptional hospitality during our recent stay at your hotel. Your friendliness and helpfulness truly made our informal get-together a memorable experience. Each member of your team contributed to the positive atmosphere, and we are grateful for the outstanding service. Thank you for creating a welcoming environment that felt like a home away from home.

To Mr. Robert H. Lewis, Director of Sales, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your instrumental role in ensuring the success of our recent gathering at your facility. Your dedication to providing excellent service and your efforts in making our event comfortable did not go unnoticed. Your professionalism and attention to detail contributed to our positive experience.

If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to contact me.

Earl Shatzer - Secretary
1962 Tanglewood Ln.
Vacaville, CA 95687
707-689-0874 Or Email

shatzer@pacbell.net or eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com

History of Veterans Day

1919

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

1926

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far-reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Meanwhile, the legislatures of twenty-seven of our states have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday. Therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

1938

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor Veterans of World War I.

In 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the Veterans Service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American Veterans of all wars.

1950: Well over 200,000 Chinese Communist troops attacked UN forces in their first assault of the Korean War. The Chinese force withdraws to the mountains and when they attack again one month later, they will drive the American-led force all the way back to the southern tip of the Korean peninsula.

History of Veterans Day (continued)

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first “Veterans Day Proclamation” which stated: “In order to ensure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all Veterans, all Veterans’ organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.”

In **1958**, the White House advised the VA’s General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet-level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee’s chairman.

1968

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, as well as recreational and cultural activities, and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

1971

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations, and the American people.

1951

In the skies over Korea, 150 Russian MiG-15 fighters intercept a formation of B-29 bombers and 55 F-84 Thunderjet escorts. The Communists managed to shoot down four of the B-29s and one escort, but at least eight MiGs were lost in the largest air battle of the Korean War. The sortie will be the last daylight bombing raid for the B-29.



NEWSLETTER EDITOR CORNER - SHATZER



As the newsletter editor, my mission is to provide interesting articles for the enjoyment of our readers. Your contributions and ideas play a crucial role in achieving this goal.

If you have any articles, pictures, or stories that you believe would add to our newsletter, I would greatly appreciate it if you could share them with me.

I invite you to participate by submitting a "Letter to the Editor." This is an excellent opportunity for you to share your thoughts, experiences, or questions related to the Korean War.

Thank you for being a part of our newsletter journey, and I look forward to receiving your valuable contributions.

As we strive to continue providing quarterly newsletters for our association, we face increased costs associated with mailing and printing our newsletter. Currently, the expenditure stands at approximately \$9.75 per member per year.

Since the establishment of our association, the annual membership dues have remained at \$5.00 per year. We understand the importance of keeping these dues affordable for all members and are committed to maintaining this longstanding rate.

We kindly ask for your generous donations to sustain the current membership fee and continue delivering quality newsletters. Your contributions will directly contribute to covering the expenses associated with mailing and printing, ensuring that our association remains accessible to all.

To donate, please see page 2, Table of Contents, for the information on where to send your donation. No matter the amount, every contribution plays a crucial role in upholding our commitment to affordable membership dues.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we work together to keep our association thriving. Thank you for being a valued member of our community.

Earl Shatzer Newsletter Editor
1962 Tanglewood LN.
Vacaville, CA 95687

Email: eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com or shatzer@pacbell.net
(707) 689-0874

MILITARY HISTORY OF THE KOREAN WAR

A Security Council resolution of 7 July 1950 recommended the establishment of a unified command in Korea and requested the United States to designate a commander of these forces. On 8 July, President Truman announced the appointment of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur as Commander in Chief, United Nations Command (CINCUNC). On 14 July, President Rhee placed all ROK security forces under the United Nations commander, an act which consolidated the anti-Communist forces under the United Nations Command for the purpose of repelling Communist aggression.



KOREAN VIGNETTES A FACE OF WAR

Levi	O.	Haire	RA 14285585
First Name	MI	Last Name	Serial No
"Rabbit"	26 Dec 1930	3064	Sgt
"Nickname"	Birthday	MOS	Grade/Rank
H&S Co 13th Eng(C)Bn/7	16 Sep '50- Jul '51	Morrow, GA	
Unit(s)	Duty Tour in Korea	Home Town	
Good Conduct Medal Occupation Medal-Japan National Defense Medal			
Medals & AwardS			
Korean Campaign Service Medal, 5 stars United Nations Service Medal			

BONFIRE AT PUNGSAN

War is waste. It was never more forcibly impressed upon me than at the time the Chinese entered the Korean war in support of their North Korean Allies, November 1950. I had been attached to the 7th QM Company of the Seventh Division. I was a crane operator in my parent 13th Engineer Bn. I worked at the POL dump in Pungsan loading and unloading fuel drums. These came in by rail from the port of Hungnam, switched at the rail yards in Hamhung, then north up the RR to Pungsan. These were neatly stacked in rows for later shipment by truck to various units in the 7th Division.

One afternoon we were told that the Chinese were rapidly advancing, and would soon surround us if we did not move south at once. About 40 of us were left to destroy the POL dump. The 707th Ordnance Company on the other side of town had the mission of destroying all vehicles that could not be driven. Late that afternoon we started punching holes with pick axes in the stacked drums, row upon row, three high. Trucks from Division brought in 200 cases of Lucky Strike cigarettes to be burned when the fuel drums were ignited. Cpl Allen Fraiser, driver and oiler on my crane, got a case of Luckies, and a case of Milky Way candy bars which we loaded onto the crane to take with us. Next to be dumped for burning were the Division's gas masks. Numerous other items of supply kept coming in, piled high around the drums. Trucks and jeeps were pushed, towed and manhandled around the drums.

Men from the 707th poured gas on and around all the vehicles and supplies. This went on most of the night. The next morning we finished with drum puncturing. Gas and diesel fuel was everywhere, running down into some of the roadside ditches. After all this work, I came back to start up my crane for evacuation. It would not start. One of the battery posts had burned off. I located a good battery in a disabled truck and installed it in my crane. One small item salvaged from all that destruction.

About mid morning, the Chinese reached the edge of town. The ordnance group set fire to trucks, jeeps and supplies. As we pulled out a .50 cal MG was used to strafe the drum storage area. In seconds a raging inferno boiled up, heat, yellow flame, white smoke, black smoke and exploding debris. It was quite a sight. My crane was near the rear of the column headed south. Behind us were two M-16 halftrack quad .50's and two full tracks, M-19's, I think, of twin 40mm AA guns. We had not gone far on the snow covered, icy, slippery, narrow mountain road when one of the full track twin 40's lost traction and began sliding on the ice toward the edge of the road. The crew jumped to safety. The M-19, twin 40's and all, went tumbling down the mountain side shedding tracks, track wheels, crew gear and sundry parts as it broke up on the rocks on the way down to the bottom of the gorge.

That afternoon, the crane carrier quit. Cpl. Frasier, the driver, stopped in such a way that two trucks, now behind, got by, but the crew, Tail End Charlie for the column, could not squeeze past. The crew told us to leave it, they would push it over the side, but in a couple of minutes we had it running. An hour or so later, it quit again. When the M-19 pulled up behind, it was "Unload your gear, climb aboard!" I asked for a few minutes, but they kept repeating, "Unload your gear, climb aboard." Finally, they said, "One minute." We had it running before the minute was up. They said, "If it stops again, we are not going to wait." We understood. The Chinese were visible on the road and hillsides behind us. We pulled into the 3d Division perimeter without further incident. Most of the way, smoke from the fires of Pungsan were plainly visible. About a week later we loaded aboard a Norwegian ship for Pusan. The food was good, the crew were hospitable. We all had a chance to shower and get clean again.

Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA)

It is a branch of the Republic of Korea Army that consists of Korean enlisted personnel who are seconded to the Eighth United States Army (EUSA). KATUSA does not form an individual military unit. Instead, small numbers of KATUSA members are assigned to positions in most of the departments of the Eighth United States Army, filling in for United States Army enlisted soldiers and junior non-commissioned officers. KATUSAs are selected from a pool of qualified volunteers who are subject to mandatory military service for male Korean citizens.

While the ROK Army retains responsibility for personnel management of KATUSAs, KATUSA members are equipped with standard United States Army issues and live and work with the U.S. enlisted soldiers.

The KATUSA program was developed during the Korean War as a temporary measure to cope with a shortage of personnel in the United States Army. This augmentation program is the only one of its kind in the United States Army.

The KATUSA system was finally established in August 1950 during the Korean War. It started as a spoken agreement between President Syngman Rhee and U.S. General Douglas MacArthur. At that time, the U.S. Army needed a military force that had the proper knowledge of the geography of Korea, and the ability to distinguish ally troops (South Korea) from enemy troops (North Korea) and communicate better between U.S. soldiers and Korean soldiers. Therefore, some were drafted to KATUSA by force, and others voluntarily (by their own choice) applied. After training, they were divided into the U.S. military, such as the 2nd Division, 7th Division, 24th Division, Division, 1st Cavalry Division, and 1st Marine Divisions. During the Korean Wars, a total of 43,660 KATUSA soldiers fought for South Korea with U.S. forces. Of these soldiers, 11,365 went missing or were killed in action.

This program continued after the Korean War, and KATUSA soldiers would spend 18 months with the U.S. Army learning their occupation and would then return to the ROK Army to train others on the occupation. According to the Eighth Army Wightman NCO Academy, "With the establishment of the ROKA Training Center in 1963...KATUSA soldiers began to spend their whole military tour in the U.S. Army.

Geoje-do POW CAMP

Geoje-do POW camp was a prisoner-of-war camp located on Geoje island at the southernmost part of Gyeongsangnam-do, South Korea. It is considered the largest of the UNC-established camps. Geoje Camp was a United Nations Command (UN) POW camp that held North Korean and Chinese prisoners captured by UN forces during the Korean War.

After the surprise Inchon landings on 15 September 1950 and the follow-up Eighth Army breakout from the Pusan Perimeter, the North Korean People's Army (KPA) began to retreat north pursued by UN forces in the UN September 1950 counteroffensive. Large numbers of KPA were taken prisoner in the swift maneuver and sent to the rear. The number of prisoners rose from under a thousand in August 1950 to over 130,000 in November. Unfortunately, little provision had been made for so many prisoners, and facilities to confine, clothe, and feed them were not available. In addition, there were not enough men on hand to guard the prisoners, nor were the guards assigned adequately trained for their mission.

Note (more articles about the Geoje-do POW camp will be featured in the coming newsletters)

WEBMASTER CORNER – EARL SHATZER

I received a letter from Tom Schmitt and would like to share it with the membership.

Attention Web Master- Earl C. Shatzer

Nov 10, 2023

I recently read again , the Guestbook entry from Doug Duden to Robert N. Choporis

Major Roger Blunt & Lt. Col. Harvey C. Jones of the 13th Engineers at Camp Kasey Head Quarters passed away. I was station at Camp Kasey 64-65 . I was a PFC and reported to both men. I started in a line company for bridge support. It was announced if anyone new "drafting" My first time to volunteer, " YES" I can do that. Next my MOS was changed to Construction Draftsman and sent to HQ. working on the bridges around Camp Kasey and nearby locations. I got very familiar just what was required to build them as well as remove them. My Combat Engineer training paid off. I was now making overlays of roads, drafting of all types of bridges. I was a driver for Major Blunt, It was " Captain" Blunt at that time I believe. A really nice individual. He was a down to earth guy and enjoyed a good laugh too. My driving duties were limited since being on the drafting board kept me busy. Roads and bridges that had to be laid out ASAP. Captain Blunt always praised by drafting ability and dedication. I was always trying to improve my drafting skills ,from lettering to contrast in views of details required to construct Baley bridges, timber trestle ,coverts ,roads, overlays, whatever came up. I was also call to duty to paint "Happy Birthday" General xxx on the side of a scissor bridge ,stand it up on end to simulate an arch so his jeep could pass under neath it. Then take the bridge down and remove the white Happy Birthday lettering off the side of the bridge. Captain Blunt also asked if I could layout a tennis court and draw up the prospective court , taking measurements with our transit guy for a fit behind the HQ. I don't remember if it actually got built.

LT Col. Harvey Jones wrote a Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Service and presented it to me. When I was called into this office I wasn't sure what to expect. This was truly an honor.

May these men rest in peace.

Regards,

Tom Schmitt Construction Draftsman 81B20

Stratford, Connecticut

Earl Shatzer Webmaster
707-689-0874 or shatzer@pacbell.net

Military History of the Korean War

By 28 June 1950 Seoul had fallen, the North Koreans had closed up along the Han River to a point about 20 miles east of Seoul and had advanced as far as Samchok on the meat coast. By 4 July, enemy forces were along the Suwon-Wonju-Samchok line. In withdrawing, the Republic of Korea ("ROK") forces had suffered such serious losses that their attempts to regroup and retain order were almost futile.

Christmas Miracle at Hungnam: The Epic Evacuation that Changed Korea Forever

Thousands of refugees, huddled at the water's edge and anxiously waiting to board American ships, knew what would happen if they were left behind. The Chinese, massing in the nearby mountains, would storm into Hungnam and make an example of anyone who had defied them.

US and ROK collaborators, Christians, anti-communists, and anyone deemed a "sympathizer" would be rounded up, interrogated, and punished. Many would be shot. Others would be sent to gulags or work camps where they would spend the rest of their lives as prisoners of the communist regime. Some would simply disappear. The only hope for the North Korean civilians at Hungnam was the US military.

Attacking In Another Direction

With Chosin, the most epic battle of the Korean War, coming to a dramatic conclusion in the early days of December 1950, the men of the 1st Marine Division and thousands of soldiers, sailors, and airmen, found themselves trapped at Hungnam, a port on the east coast of North Korea.

Having fought their way 70 miles through knee-deep snow, fierce winds, and sub-zero temperatures, the Americans, cold, hungry, and exhausted, had only one way out of the sea.

On December 10 they began boarding US Navy and Merchant Marine ships for their withdrawal to the South. Taking all their weapons, ammunition, vehicles, and supplies with them, they would soon be ready to fight again.

But that's only half the story. In the final days of the historic evacuation, a dramatic and unprecedented event occurred, one that is now referred to as a "Christmas Miracle."

The Refugees

Tens of thousands of North Korean civilians, hoping to escape from the approaching Chinese army, were also at Hungnam. Hearing rumors that the retreating Americans were allowing small groups of refugees to board ships, they had trekked through mountain passes, snowdrifts, roadblocks, and enemy troop formations to reach the port.

With bags, sacks, crates, and in some cases, babies, strapped to their backs, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, and everyday citizens from villages and towns across the region had said goodbye to families and friends and promised to return in a few days.

Despite the journey's constant dangers, it was worth it. They had lived under communism for five long years, and many wanted no part in China's takeover of their country or Kim Il-sung's regime.

An Unprecedented Humanitarian Operation

Waiting on the frozen beaches and docks of Hungnam, the refugees hoped and prayed for safe passage to the South. Hyun Bong-hak, a Korean doctor working for the US Army as an interpreter, would help make that happen. Repeatedly advocating for his fellow countrymen, he eventually persuaded the top brass to take the stranded civilians.

With US Navy battleship *Missouri* and destroyers and cruisers pounding the surrounding mountains and US Marine and Navy fighter planes constantly dropping bombs, the Chinese were kept at bay. There was still time to save the refugees.

Christmas Miracle at Hungnam: The Epic Evacuation that Changed Korea Forever (page 2)

Marine Colonel Edward H. Forney, the evacuation control officer, and US Navy Admiral James Doyle, the top Navy commander at Hungnam, went into action. With their teams of naval and amphibious experts, the two men worked around the clock to ensure the refugees were loaded as quickly and efficiently as possible.

In a remarkable testament to American ingenuity, teamwork, and dedication, by December 24, the final day of the operation, 100,000 refugees had been rescued.

The Greatest Rescue By A Single Ship

Of the many ships that participated in the evacuation, SS *Meredith Victory*, a Merchant Marine cargo ship designed to carry only a handful of passengers, loaded 14,000 refugees into her cargo holds. Her record-breaking voyage to Geoje-do, an island off the southern coast of Korea, became the “greatest rescue operation by a single ship in the history of mankind.” One of the ship’s officers later said, “We were just young men doing our jobs.”

The Best Christmas Present

On Christmas Eve, the last day of the Chosin-Hungnam saga, the lead story in *The New York Times* read:

Evacuation of Hungnam Completed . . . UN Fleet Brings Out 105,000 Soldiers and 100,000 Refugees

The largest amphibious withdrawal of the Korean War, and the greatest military evacuation of civilians, under combat conditions, in US history, was over.

President Harry Truman was ecstatic. “I thank God for the success of the Hungnam operation. It is the best Christmas present I’ve ever had,” he proclaimed after receiving a 1 a.m. Christmas call from Omar Bradley, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Remarkably, there are an estimated one million descendants of those rescued at Hungnam who now live in freedom in South Korea, the United States, and other countries around the world.

To this day, the refugees continue to express their appreciation. As Mr. Sohn Yang-Young (aka Kimchi 1) said recently:

All these years I’ve been telling my children to think about the life I’ve lived and what it was like to be a refugee. I also tell them to think about how the Americans came to a strange land, gave their lives, and rescued so many people . . . we should not forget the sacrifices of the young soldiers. Their lives were just as precious as ours.

MILITARY HISTORY OF THE KOREAN WAR

UN Defensive, 27 June - 15 September 1950. Communist efforts to divide the South Koreans against themselves failed, and the North Koreans decided to attempt their subjugation by military force. At 0400, Sunday, 25 June 1950 (Korean Time), North Korean forces crossed the 38th parallel into the Republic and launched their main effort toward the South Korean capital city of Seoul, down the P’och’on-Uijongbu and Yonch’on-Uijongbu corridors.

Strong attacks were also directed through Kaesong toward Munsan on the right, and toward Ch’unch’on on the left. On the west coast, the Ongjin Peninsula was quickly captured. On the east coast, a land column and a small seaborne detachment met near Kangnung.



HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED



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



Taddeo A. DiTaddeo
"B" Co. 4-52 -5-53
11-16-1930 – 9-14-2021

In the quiet moments of remembrance, may we express our eternal gratitude to these brave souls, for their sacrifices will never be forgotten. They are the pillars on which the edifice of our shared humanity stands, reminding us that freedom is not free.

A Hero's Welcome By Robert Longley



Time to come home, dear brother
 Your tour of duty through
 You've given as much as anyone
 Could be expected to do

Just a few steps further
 The smoke will start to clear
 Others here will guide you
 You have no need for fear.

You have not failed your brothers
 You clearly gave it all
 And through you selfless actions
 Others will hear the call

So Take your place of honor
 Among those who have gone before
 And know you will be remembered
 For now and evermore.

Guestbook Entry

THOMAS SCOTT 11/04/2023: If you were in B.CO. 13th Engr. BN 2nd Platoon. 1985-1988 FT. ORD, CA 7th Infantry Division. Look me up on Facebook. I AM UNDER T.A. Scott or my 2nd Facebook account Andrew Scott.

Donald Hancock 08/16/2023: I served 13th HHC ADM (Special Weapons) 1968-69. 05B Short wave communications, Atomic Demolitions; Multiple times Battalion Soldier of Month. Was Division Soldier of Month Nov 68. Was first to receive the new rocker arm for PFC in uniform change. Exempted from K.P. for all awards received. Taught Conversational English in KATUSA program. Enjoyed my time with 13th. Became friends with the Royal Family in Seoul. Attended many Royal Family events including family weddings, concerts, and outings.

Alvin Crawford 05/22/2023: "C" Co. 13th ENGR BN Fort Ca.

QUARTERMASTER CORNER – TOM COTTON

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to provide you with an update on our current situation and seek your valuable feedback.

Unfortunately, our sales have seen a decline recently, and we are exploring ways to revitalize our offerings. We are considering the possibility of introducing new and different items to our inventory to attract a wider audience. Your insights and suggestions on potential products or vendors would be greatly appreciated.

One of our ongoing challenges is finding affordable sources for military memorabilia. We strive to offer these items to our members at reasonable prices. As our existing inventory is diminishing, and is replenished, the associated costs are expected to increase. Consequently, we may need to adjust our selling prices.

If any of you are aware of individuals or businesses in your area that create military memorabilia, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or one of our board members. Your local connections could prove invaluable in diversifying our offerings.

To facilitate your orders, we encourage you to visit our online order form. Payment options include PayPal, and for those who prefer alternative methods, you can still send in a check.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed and joyous time. Stay safe and warm as winter approaches or has already arrived.

QUARTER MASTER

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

**I AIN'T PERFECT
BUT I DO HAVE A
DD-214**



for an
**OLD MAN
THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH**

1950: Major League Baseball rules that Philadelphia Phillies' 17-game winner Curt Simmons, whose National Guard unit had just been activated during the Korean War, would not be eligible to pitch in the World Series, despite the fact that he was on furlough.

The Phillies were swept by a New York Yankee team managed by World War I veteran Casey Stengel (USN), and featuring Joe DiMaggio (USA), Whitey Ford (soon-to-be USA), Hank Bauer (USMC), Jerry Coleman (USMC), and Yogi Berra (USN).

These items are in stock and come with free shipping when you order.



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STYLE
\$25.00**



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**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



1 3/4" Diameter

Back

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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13TH ENGR. (C) BN. ASSOCIATION

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MUSKOGEE OK, 74403-5034

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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 th Engineer Battalion Unit Crest Pin 1 1/8" H x 1" W		\$10.00	
6	13 th Engineer Metal License Plate 6" x 12"		\$10.00	
7	7 th Infantry Bayonet Pin		\$9.00	
8	Association Patch		\$3.00	
9	13 th Engineer Custom Battalion Coin 1 3/4" Diameter		\$10.00	

Total

If you are aware of any former 13th Engineer individuals that are not currently part of our organization, please pass this application to them and encourage them to become members of the association.

They can also go to our website <https://13thengineerbn.com> and click on the member application button on the home page to initiate the application process.



DATE ____/____/____

NAME _____

ADDRESS/ST. _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

13TH ENGINEER COMPANY SERVED WITH _____

DATES SERVED IN 13TH 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

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

13th 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 13th 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 13th 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

