



THE 13TH (C) ENGINEER

“IN OMNIA PARATUS”

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

PRESIDENTS CORNER – GENE REED



APRIL 2024

This New Year feels as if it is flying by quickly already. The September get-together will be at Fort Leonard Wood. I am looking forward to it, if only to seeing what new equipment the engineers have at their disposal. Buddy is working on getting us a tour of the different training areas. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones there.

As many of you are aware, just as we've all felt the pinch of rising costs for the goods we buy and the services we use, our association has faced similar challenges. With a gradual decrease in our active membership, there's been a noticeable reduction in our revenue. While our Webmaster has significantly reduced our website hosting costs from \$2000 to \$120 a year, we've concurrently seen an increase in the cost of producing our newsletter.

Since the association's inception, our association's dues have remained constant at \$5 per year, and we have never seen an increase. Meanwhile, the expense associated with printing and mailing our newsletter, which we publish three times a year, currently stands at about \$10 per member annually.

Our board members and advisory council members generously volunteer their time and expertise, and they receive no salary for their invaluable contributions. Often, their commitment extends further as they generously contribute personal funds to support the administrative expenses of our association. I want to extend my personal gratitude to them for this remarkable support.

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

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	<u>2026</u> (Dues Expire)
Earl C. Shatzer	
1962 Tanglewood Ln.	
Vacaville CA 95687	



"I don;t want to have to warn you men
again about building these confounded fires."

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Compared to WW II, there are few
movies about the Korean War.
Some of the most well-known
include *The Manchurian
Candidate* (1962), *Pork Chop
Hill* (1959), and *Birthday Boy* (2004)

Korean War Facts

One of the most brutal battles of the Korean War was the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, fought from November 27 to December 13, 1950. What made it different from other fierce fighting was the intensely cold and bitter weather. Temperatures dropped to -54° F. One survivor of the battle designed a bumper sticker that read: "Once Upon a Time Hell Froze Over. We Were There."

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>
<p>TREASURER 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>SECRETARY Earl C. Shatzer "HQ" Company 67-68 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687 707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net</p>

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 58-59 100 Cottonwood Point Lane #14 Augusta, KS 67010 918-931-8525 Tcottonbo5@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 style="text-align: center;">CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 2024 Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri

We have made a final decision regarding the location for our informal get-together in September of this year. We will gather at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, from September 10th to 13th. The hotel location has not been finalized at this time. It will be announced in the August newsletter along with all other details regarding activities. Please refer to the Vice President's Corner for details on some of the planning completed thus far. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Facts About the Korean War

The United States had dropped the Bomb only five years earlier and was ready to do it again. In 1950, the Bomb was only five years old, and the wonder of the atomic age promised a bright nuclear future. It was just assumed that atomic weapons would be part of any future conflict like the Korean War, for example. The Joint Chiefs of Staff ordered the employment of the atomic bomb against China if it sent troops or bombers into Korea. China ignored the threat. Likewise, there were plans to drop the Bomb on the Soviet Union if it got involved, but European leaders objected to such an escalation, fearing the Soviets would use it as a justification for the conquest of Europe. Accordingly, the United States promised to use atomic weapons in Korea only to prevent a "major military disaster."

VICE PRESIDENT CORNER LAURENS (BUDDY) BECKWITH

At the last gathering, we decided to try to have a get-together every year and to have the next one at Ft. Lewis McCord, Washington. That was after much discussion and other options. After checking into Joint Base Lewis-McChord. We decided to change the location to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. We contacted the Public Affairs Office at Leonard Wood, which seemed very receptive to our visit. At this point, after submitting the Tour request, they indicated they had already forwarded the request to protocol. The dates requested were September 10-13, 2024.

We request a unique opportunity to be given tours of Combat Engineer training, including bridge erection, pioneer projects, earth moving, and other related topics. We also plan to have at least one meal at the dining facility, providing a comprehensive experience of the training.

Our President, Gene Reed, is diligently setting up lodging arrangements and planning other exciting activities in and around Waynesville and St. Roberts.

To secure favorable rates for our accommodations, it's essential that we provide an estimated count of rooms and the dates of stay as soon as possible. This will enable us to that everyone is comfortably accommodated. Your prompt cooperation in providing this information will be greatly appreciated.

The final hotel selection will be included in the August newsletter and posted on our website's front page.

To ensure a seamless and organized visit, we kindly ask that those intending to participate please notify Gene as soon as possible. We initially proposed 15 to 20 attendees, with the visit concluding on Friday, September 13th. Your prompt response will greatly assist us in making the necessary arrangements. Thank you.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in September. Have a safe summer.

(Engineers Clear the Way)

IN OMNIA PARATUS (In All Things Prepared)

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

MILITARY HISTORY OF THE KOREAN WAR

Tensions created by the Korean War led both Presidents Truman and Eisenhower to consider dropping a nuclear war on Korea. With strategic missiles and thermonuclear (hydrogen) bombs still in testing, the bombs that would have been dropped were atomic bombs delivered by B-47s, similar in yield to the 1945 bombs. Both presidents ultimately decided not to drop the bombs because they were afraid of starting WW III.

Secretary Corner – Earl Shatzer



I hope this message finds you well. Our membership currently stands at 100, including 7 Honorary or Associate members. Of 93 dues-paying members, (1) dues expired in 2021, (5) expired in 2022, (2) expired in 2023, (48) have dues that expire in 2024, and (37) are paid up past 2024.

As we move forward into another exciting year, we want to remind all members of the dues for 2024. Your contributions are vital to the sustainability and success of our association. If you have already paid your dues, please accept our sincere thanks and disregard this reminder.

Please take a moment to look at the address label of this Newsletter. Your dues expiration date is on the top line of your address label. It is a simple way to keep track of when your membership renewal is due. If your expiration date is approaching or has recently passed, we kindly urge you to consider renewing your membership.

Earl Shatzer - Secretary
707-689-0874

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

Battle of Pakchon

On November 4th and 5th, 1950, just ten days after the Chinese crossed the Yalu River in response to U.N.-backed troops who had fought their way to North Korea's border with China, the People's Volunteer Army of China or PVA, along with the Korean People's Army or KPA attacked U.N. forces after an ordered pullback to the Korean village of Pakchon.

British and Australian Troops Retaliate

In response, British and Australian troops with the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade were ordered to defend the lower crossings of the Taeryong and Chongchon rivers as part of a rearguard element, while the U.S. 24th Infantry Division guarded a key bridge near Kujin, farther upstream and to the right of the 27th.

In their first battle with the PVA, the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment captured a heavily defended hill with minimal air support before fierce counteroffensives and confused command decisions resulted in a disorderly U.N. night withdrawal from the enemy, threatening to expose the 27th's left flank under continuous pressure by the enemy.

Shortly after midnight on November 6th, however, the PVA withdrew their forces, allowing the Australians to take up defensive positions in paddy fields near a railway crossing north of Pakchon. By the time the PVA halted their offensive due to logistical problems, the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade had successfully held the PVA from breaking through at Pakchon, maintaining vital withdrawal and resupply routes across the river while defending the U.N.'s left flank.

Battle of Pakchon Deaths

The battle proved costly to both sides of the conflict, including 12 killed and 70 wounded for the 27th, while Australian estimates of 200 PVA killed and 200 wounded were later confirmed by Commander Wu Xinquan of the PVA's 39th Army.

Later that month, when the PVA began their Second Phase Offensive, U.N. forces began their long retreat out of North Korea, back to the 38th Parallel, where they re-established earlier defensive positions, making the Battle of Pakchon, a game-changing event during the early days of the Korean War.

THE DONKEY SQUADS IN THE KOREAN WAR

During the Korean War, Major General Charles Willoughby had been receiving unconfirmed reports of a guerrilla resistance. It was not until Jan. 8, 1951, that the U.S. Eighth Army found roughly 10,000 partisans in the Hwanghae Province. These fighters had withdrawn to the Hwange Province after China entered the war and the forces of the United Nations had withdrawn.

Once this intelligence had been confirmed, Colonel John McGee was sent to manage a partisan operation. After receiving a report from Major William Burke that partisan groups occupied five islands, Colonel McGee made a plan for these partisan groups to be trained and equipped by Americans. These partisan groups, as described by Colonel McGee, "were a colorful group of fighters ranging in age from youths to elderly men."

Once these groups became organized, they called themselves "donkeys." There are three ideas as to the origin of the name. One theory is that a donkey symbolizes traits of their force, like sturdiness, patience, and meanness. Another theory is based on the Korean word "dong-li," which means "liberty." A third idea is that they supposedly looked like they were riding donkeys while operating a crank-driven generator.

The **Donkeys** were a partisan force during the Korean War that consisted of anti-communist North Korean defectors who engaged in guerrilla warfare. The fighters were formed under the United Nations Partisan Infantry Forces. Guerrillas had a huge impact on the United States' efforts in North Korea. In the end, these partisan forces conducted 4,445 actions in North Korea that led to the capture of 950 prisoners, 5,000 weapons, 2,700 destroyed vehicles, 80 bridges demolished, 69,000 casualties (dead and wounded), 3,189 guerrilla deaths, and only four American advisers were KIA. Furthermore, according to the 5th Air Force, of the 93 pilots who had been shot down and evaded capture between July 1950 and January 1952, guerrilla fighters rescued 29.

"Donkey" Squads

Donkey One: First "Donkey" squad to return to mainland North Korea. On March 3, 1951, under the leadership of Chang Jae Hwa - a former merchant - 37 partisans moved to Hwang-ju and Sari-won in order to receive information on enemy movements. The results of this mission were 280 enemies killed and telephone wires and railroad links cut.

Donkey Four ("White Tigers"): Donkey Four was a band of 4,000 guerrilla units under the leadership of 1952 Lieutenant Colonel Ben S. Malcom. On July 13, 1952, Pak Chol asked 1st Lieutenant Malcom that they needed to take out a 76 mm gun the North Koreans were using to harass the partisan base located at Wollae-do. This mission was a success, for they destroyed the gun and only lost six partisans and had seven others wounded. This mission showed that North Korea was not invulnerable.

CIA on NKA: Nothing to see here!

Months before the North Korean Army crossed the 38th parallel, the CIA noted the southward movement of NKA forces but called it a defensive measure and called the possibility of an invasion "unlikely." On June 24, 1950, Dean Acheson, the Secretary of State, had to telephone President Truman. "Mr. President," he said, "I have very serious news. The North Koreans have invaded South Korea."

North Korea's tallest building is an abandoned hotel.



North Korea's tallest building is an abandoned hotel that has never hosted a single guest. Ryugyong Hotel in Pyongyang, North Korea, at 1,080 feet it is one of the tallest unoccupied buildings in the world. Construction on the "Hotel of Doom" began in 1987 and has stopped and started several times. One side of the 1,080-foot building has been outfitted with LED screens used for light shows. Work on the 105-story building began in 1987 under the rule of Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Un's grandfather. The project ceased in 1993 because of an economic depression after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It appears to have stopped and started a few times since then based on satellite images of nearby construction equipment and new walkways, but if and when the hotel will open is still unclear.

The 105-story "Hotel of Doom," also North Korea's tallest building, has never hosted a single guest. Construction began almost 40 years ago, and it is not yet complete — the cost of finishing the building is estimated to be around 5% of the country's entire GDP.

- There were 6.8 million American men and women who served during the Korean War period from June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955. There were 54,200 American deaths during the period of hostilities (June 27, 1950-July 27, 1953). Of these, 33,700 were actual battle deaths.
- North Koreans who were born after the Korean War in the late 1950s are, on average, about 2 inches shorter than South Koreans.



"I'm just a country doctor. If ya don't mind, I'll consult with pfc Johnson, th big blister specialist."

NEWSLETTER EDITOR CORNER – EARL SHATZER

I recently received an email from Darin Foat, who shared that he has been going through his late father's slides and photos from his service in Korea. Darin's father, Chester Foat, believed he was part of Company "C" of the 13th ECB. Sadly, Chester passed away on February 25, 2023.

Darin stated that he is scanning and digitizing his dad's Korean photos. He kindly offered to share the scanned copies of the pictures he has, and I gratefully accepted the opportunity to receive copies. Below are just a few samples, but you can access the over 350 pictures through the provided link. <http://u.pc.cd/h9V>

**MILITARY HISTORY OF THE KOREAN WAR**

The American occupying force in Japan provided manpower for the Korean War. At the war's start, it was pretty clear that the North Korean Army outmatched Republic of Korean forces. General MacArthur personally went to the front lines to get a look at the situation. He quickly requested ground troops to help save the situation. President Truman eventually authorized the movement of two full divisions from Japan to Korea. The divisions, coming from the relatively peaceful job of occupying Japan following World War II, were something less than battle-ready—especially when compared with the North Korean veterans. It was during the successful two-month defense of Busan, South Korea, that American forces were finally hardened for war.



KOREAN VIGNETTES
A FACE OF WAR

Norman	L.	Strickbine	RA17251747
First Name	MI	Last Name	Serial No
"Norm"	19 July '30	3152	Sgt
"Nickname"	Birthday	MOS	Grade/Rank
13th Eng Bn/7	15 Sept'50-Aug'51		Thayer, MO
Unit(s)	Duty Tour(s) in Korea		Home Town
Korean Campaign Service Medal w/5stars			AO-J NDSM UNSM
Medals & Awards			
Presidential Unit Citation		Meritorious Unit Citation	

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

Shortly after noon we reached the high ground and pulled off the road to take one last look back. It was 21 November 1950. The 17th Infantry Regiment of the Seventh Division had just reached the final objective, the Yalu River. That morning, all the "big brass" had been there for a victory celebration. I had hitched a ride with my boss, Capt Hartman, and had taken pictures of the group of generals as they congratulated each other on the achievements of their units. In a few more days we were to learn that congratulations were not only premature, but preliminary to catastrophe.

That's another story. It was a crowded scene, since each general was accompanied by his aides and others in various staff capacities. We all enjoyed the show, but wished that some of the better winter clothing in view had filtered down into the ranks. That came later when General Ridgeway assumed command in January of 1951. He was a GI General. The troops came first.

Leaving Hyesanjin, we took one last look at the Yalu River several miles to the north of us. As we did so, we heard aircraft engines approaching. Up the valley from the south came a C-47. We were actually higher than the plane. We could look down on it as the pilot lined up to make a supply drop. It had our full attention. Suddenly, the plane flipped over and dove straight into the ground. The cargo must have shifted. In seconds the plane was a pile of flaming wreckage. Momentarily, we froze in shock, then as one, we jumped from the jeep. I grabbed my camera, but before I hit the ground Capt Hartman and his driver were running for the plane.

As I ran I took my Speed Graphic from its case, loaded it with film, and was taking photos at a dead run. Half a dozen GI's reached the aircraft at about the same time we did, and more were coming from every part of the valley. A fuel tank exploded and drove everybody back. Immediately everyone went back to try to assist any possible survivor. The bravery of these men was incredible. They actually waded in burning fuel. It was in vain. All five men probably died on impact.

Before that tragic incident a lot of us had griped about the cushy life of the "flyboys," the good food and warm beds that we envied. We sure made an "attitude adjustment" that day. I heard several remarks of "You wouldn't get me in one of those things", and "No sir, I'll take my chances on the ground", and "I'd rather die with a hole in me than be a piece of black toast". On the way back to our Bn, Capt Hartman, who had been a Ranger in WWII said, "I never want to see anything like that again." We continued our trip back to battalion headquarters in total silence. I'm sure those vivid scenes were in all our minds. The feeling while watching and being unable to do anything about it made me feel very insignificant.

Late that night when I crawled into my sleeping bag, I had a lot of time to think. Even though there were a lot of jobs that seemed to be more comfortable and safer in that frozen wasteland of North Korea, it became clear to me that we were all vulnerable and could "check out" at any time. Hazard and risk are a soldier's constant companions.

Up till then I had felt I was indestructible and that nothing could happen to me. From that time on, I don't think I ever begrudged another man's job or duty station. This newly found appreciation was greatly enhanced several weeks later when our Navy pulled us off the beach at Hungnam.

Guy “Lucky Pierre” Bordelon: The U.S. Navy’s Lone Ace pilot

The men and women who see adversity early in their careers often prevail, and Lieutenant Guy Bordelon was no exception. With an early interest in flying and a degree from Louisiana State University, “Lucky Pierre” earned his gold wings in May 1943. In the Navy Reserves, flight school proved to be too challenging, which kept him stateside; however, his peers were assigned to the fleet. At the Training Command, he served as a “plowback instructor” (first tour instructor), which is what Bordelon credits for his mastery of the art of flight.

It wasn’t until the Korean War that these skills were put to the test. While piloting his piston-engined Vought F4U Corsair alongside his wingman, call sign “team dog,” the pair flew 41 nighttime interdiction missions utilizing their radar to hamper communist transportation systems on the ground.

After “Bed-Check Charlies” — as communist aircraft were called — became such a nuisance in harassment operations against United Nations’ servicemen in the summer of 1953, Bordelon and his squadron were tasked with disrupting them. His team arrived at the U.S. Marine Corps base in Pyeongtaek, Seoul, where he would become the U.S. Navy’s only combat ace. Across two nights spanning June 29 to June 30, 1953, Bordelon scored four “kills” (two each night) in total darkness just after midnight.

However, his most miraculous feat happened when he intercepted two enemy aircraft on approach for a bombing run targeting the coastal port of Inchon. The circuit connecting his trigger to his weapon systems had fried. Instead of fleeing, he raced ahead of the two enemy aircraft, turned around to face his attackers, put on his blinking landing lights to keep their eyes fixated on him, and lowered his landing gear. Then he zoomed across the sky in an aerial game of chicken; both pilots urgently dove and raised their aircraft in the opposite direction to avoid the collision. Without his fearlessness and ingenuity, both enemy bombers would have released their ordnance on friendly forces.



"Sir, it wuz your order that all persons crossin' this post will dismount an' be reckonized."

A FEW QUOTES ABOUT THE KOREAN WAR

South Korea first allowed women into the military in 1950 during the Korean War. Back then, female soldiers mainly held administrative and support positions. Women began to take on combat roles in the 1990s when the three military academies, exclusive to men, began accepting women.
Kim Young-ha

All of my high school male teachers were WWII and/or Korean War veterans. They taught my brothers and me the value of service to our country and reinforced what our dad had shown us about the meaning of service.
Oliver North

WEBMASTER CORNER – EARL SHATZER



I recently received a DVD Featuring a collection of Graphics created by Robert H. Johnson, a member of the association. This exceptional compilation showcases the 13th Combat Engineers and the 7th Infantry Division. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the remarkable effort and the considerable time he has invested in creating these graphics. His hard work and attention to detail shine through every piece. Below are just a few of the over 1,000 images he has worked on. I encourage you to visit the link provided below. They consist of black-and-white and color images of his work on the designs. You will be able to see the color graphics using the link below. Robert is happy to share the graphics he has created so that others can see and use them in any way they see fit.

Link to the graphics folders: <http://u.pc.cd/QY8> If you have any problems, please contact me.



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

Guestbook Entry

Ramon (Ray Garcia) wrote on 02/20/2024.
Ramon Garcia A co. 13th engineer 1980-1981

THE 13TH ENGINEERS IN WORLD WAR II BY Colonel George M. Cookson USA (Retired)

World War II presented Army Engineers with a myriad of challenges ranging through all levels of command and through the entire litany of combat requirements - personnel materiel construction and training. Countless ever-changing needs and priorities had to be met. Circumstances called for initiative, imagination, and innovation coupled with industrious application. At no level was this demand greater than at the level of the **fighting forces**.

The Pacific Theater

This was particularly true in the Pacific Theater of Operations because of the priority given to fighting in the European Theater. Never-ending shortages of manpower materiel and equipment plagued every effort in the Pacific. In addition, complications arising from the diverse geography, climate, demographics, and distances taxed the ingenuity determination fortitude, and will of the units performing the engineer mission.

The 13th Engineer Battalion (Combat), the organic battalion assigned to the 7th Infantry Division, fell under the responsibility of meeting and overcoming countless tasks under the most trying of adverse circumstances.

History of the 13th

The lineage of the 13th Engineers can be traced to the Civil War, with service to the country during the Philippine Insurrection and the Santiago Campaign of 1898. Service again was rendered during WWI as the 13th Engineer Railroad Regiment. That was followed by inactivation in 1919.

Reactivated again in 1921 and designated the 13th General Service Regiment, it was assigned as the School Regiment at the Engineer School, Fort Belvoir Virginia. Inactivation came again, however, in 1936 during the depths of the great depression and the consequent reduction of the military budget.

The flames of war sweeping Europe in the late 1930s finally alerted our political leaders to strengthen US military forces. In July of 1940 the 7th Infantry Division was reactivated at Fort Ord, California under the command of General "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell, with the 13th Engineers being assigned as the organic combat battalion for the division.

The battalion reached full strength by the beginning of 1941 and was actively involved with training newly inducted draftees to participate in small unit exercises and division maneuvers.

However, stability became an elusive objective for levies of officers and experienced NCOs to staff other newly activated units became commonplace.

The outbreak of hostilities in December 1941 found the Battalion woefully short of officers and enlisted with less than one-half the authorized number of officers present for duty. This deficiency was corrected to a degree in early 1942, but officer turbulence, in particular, remained a problem up to the time of the battalion's departure overseas.

Start of World War II

When the war started, the 7th Division was placed on coastal defense up and down the State of California. One action indicative of the tenor of the times occurred early in this period. Many of the draftees in the 7th came from the Western states, and among those were about 500 Nisei- Americans of Japanese ancestry. Unceremoniously and without consideration of their rights or legal status, they were all collected into a separate unit, disarmed, and designated as "labor troops." One half was then assigned to the Medical Battalion and the other to the 13th Engineers to be attached to Company "C". It must be said that these men's performance and their discipline was exemplary, and it was with regret that they were later reassigned - many to the 100th the 442nd or other all-Nisei units.

After a period of coastal defense, the 7th was reassembled in April 1942 at Camp San Luis Obispo, California. It was re-designated as a Motorized Division with tanks, half-tracks, armored vehicles, and all the ancillary equipment of such an organization. The 13th was similarly outfitted with dozers, dump trucks, cranes, shovels, and bridge building materials - the works.

Extensive maneuvers were carried out, first in Antelope Valley and then in the Mojave Desert of Southern California. General Patton's Third Armored Division was one of our prime opponents during these exercises. (continued next page)

13th Engineer Battalion in WWII continued from page 13

In the late fall of 1942, in what was surely a supreme effort by the War Department to confuse the enemy, the 7th came off the desert, regrouped at Camp San Luis Obispo, and then returned to Fort Ord. In December 1942 the 7th Division was de-motorized and declared to be an Amphibious Division. There followed a concentrated and intensive period of re-organization and specialized training, issue of new and different equipment, etc.

Amphibious exercises were then conducted at Fort Ord and at Camp Pendleton in coordination with the US Marines.

Operation Ripper, also known as the Fourth Battle of Seoul, was a United Nations (UN) military operation conceived by the US Eighth Army, General Matthew Ridgway, during the Korean War. The operation was intended to destroy as much as possible of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA) and Korean People's Army (KPA) forces around Seoul and the towns of Hongch'on, 50 miles (80 km) east of Seoul, and Chuncheon, 15 miles (24 km) further north. The operation also aimed to bring UN troops to the 38th Parallel. It followed upon the heels of Operation Killer, an eight-day UN offensive that concluded February 28, to push PVA/KPA forces north of the Han River. The operation was launched on 6 March 1951 with US I Corps and IX Corps on the west near Seoul and Hoengsong and US X Corps and Republic of Korea Army (ROK) III Corps in the east, to reach the Idaho Line, an arc with its apex just south of the 38th Parallel in South Korea.

Operation Ripper was preceded by the largest artillery bombardment of the Korean War. In the middle, the US 25th Infantry Division quickly crossed the Han and established a bridgehead. Further to the east, IX Corps reached its first phase line on 11 March. Three days later the advance proceeded to the next phase line. During the night of 14–15 March, elements of the ROK 1st Infantry Division and the US 3rd Infantry Division liberated Seoul, marking the fourth and last time the capital changed hands since June 1950. The PVA/KPA forces were compelled to abandon it when the UN approach to the east of the city threatened them with encirclement.

Following the recapture of Seoul the PVA/KPA forces retreated northward, conducting skilful delaying actions that utilized the rugged, muddy terrain to maximum advantage, particularly in the mountainous US X Corps sector. Despite such obstacles, Operation Ripper pressed on throughout March. In the mountainous central region, US IX and US X Corps pushed forward methodically, IX Corps against light opposition and X Corps against staunch enemy defenses. Hongch'on was taken on the 15th and Chuncheon secured on the 22nd. The capture of Chuncheon was the last major ground objective of Operation Ripper.

UN forces had advanced north an average of 30 miles (48 km) from their start lines. However, while the Eighth Army had occupied their principal geographic objectives, the goal of destroying PVA forces and equipment had again proved elusive. More often than not, the PVA/KPA forces withdrew before they suffered extensive damage. Chuncheon, a major PVA/KPA supply hub, was empty by the time UN forces finally occupied it. As the UN troops ground forward, they were constantly descending sharp slopes or ascending steep heights to attack enemy positions that were sometimes above the clouds. By the end of March, US forces reached the 38th Parallel.

Movies about the Korean War The Battle of Jangsari

This tells the story of the Jangsari Landing Operation. The operation consisted of 772 student soldiers, with an average age of 17, who received only two weeks of training before being tossed into the front lines. These soldiers paved the way for the Incheon Landing Operation and helped turn the tide of the war.



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.

Stanford M. Dickey III Passed away on December 7, 2023, at the age of 97. He was in HQ 45-46 Col. USAR (ret) A member since October 2014

New Member
Clark Brock
Phoenix AZ
“C” Co. 1984 - 1990

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.

Taken from the Korean War Memorial: A Tribute to Sacrifice

Those who served and died protecting South Korean freedom mirror Christ's sacrifice for the freedom of all mankind: "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for one another" (1 John 3:16). The Korean War Memorial pays tribute to the brave men and women who fought in Korea, but it also stands as a special reminder for Christians to protect the freedom and seek the good of our neighbors, especially those who cannot fight for themselves.

QUARTERMASTER CORNER – TOM COTTON

I need to inform you that my address has changed. Effective April 15, 2024, my new address is 100 Cottonwood Point Lane #14, Augusta, Kansas 67010. Please use this address when sending payment for any quartermaster items that you want to order. If you order any item from the products on the order form, there may be a delay while I am getting settled into my new digs.

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

QUARTER MASTER
Tom Cotton
“D” Company 58-59
100 Cottonwood Point Lane #14
Augusta, KS 67010

Geoje-do POW CAMP (continued from Page 11 December newsletter)

The quantity and quality of the security forces continued to plague the UN prison camp commanders in the months that lay ahead. While the prisoners were housed near Busan (Pusan), there was a tendency for former Republic of Korea Army (ROK) soldiers who had been impressed into the KPA and later recaptured by the UN to take over the leadership in the compounds. Since these ex-ROK soldiers professed themselves to be anti-Communist and were usually favored by the ROK guards, they were able to win positions of power and control.

As the prisoner total reached 137,000 in January 1951, the UN decided to isolate captured personnel on Geoje-do (or Kōje-do), an island off the southern coast of Korea. But before the move was made, the South Korean prisoners were segregated from the North Koreans. This left a power vacuum in many of the compounds that were abruptly deprived of their leaders. On Geoje, security problems were reduced, but there were serious engineering obstacles to be overcome. Since there were little or no natural water resources on the island, Col. Hartley F. Dame, the first camp commander, had to build dams and store rainwater to service the 118,000 locals, 100,000 refugees, and 150,000 prisoners. Construction began in January on the first enclosure of UN Prisoner of War Camp Number 1, and by the end of the month, over 50,000 POWs were moved from the mainland to Geoje. Swiftly, four enclosures were built in two rock-strewn valleys on the north coast, each subdivided into eight compounds.

Originally intended to hold 700–1,200 men apiece, the compounds were soon jammed to five times their capacity. Since available land was at a premium on the island, the space between the compounds soon had to be used to confine the prisoners, too. This conserved the construction of facilities and the number of guards required to police the enclosures but complicated the task of managing the crowded camp. Packing thousands of men into a small area with only barbed wire separating each compound from the next permitted a free exchange of thought and an opportunity to plan and execute mass demonstrations and riots. With the number of security personnel limited and usually of inferior caliber, proper control was difficult at the outset and later became impossible. However, the elusive hope of an imminent armistice and a rapid solution to the prisoner problem delayed corrective action.

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

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



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CAP - BLACK NEW STYLE
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COMBAT ENGINEER
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\$9.00



3
COMBAT ENGINEER
PIN SMALL 1 1/2" X 1/2"
\$9.00



4
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5
13TH ENGINEER BATTALION
UNIT CREST PIN
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6
13TH ENGINEER
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PLATE 6" X 12"
\$10.00



7
7TH INFANTRY
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8
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9

13th Engineer Custom Battalion Coin

\$10.00



Front



Back

1 3/4" Diameter

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PLEASE USE THE PRODUCT ORDER FORM ON NEXT PAGE
Currently, only mail-in checks are accepted.**
For products ordered using our website, you have the option to use PayPal.

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

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AUGUSTA KS 67101**

Utilize this order form to send in your order of product. You may also go to the website and order online using PayPal.



Product Order Form

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 100 Cottonwood Point Lane #4
 Augusta, KS 670410

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

