



THE 13TH (C) ENGINEER

"IN OMNIA PARATUS"

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

PRESIDENTS CORNER – GENE REED



DECEMBER 2024

2024 has been a year filled with memorable moments and significant achievements for our association. One of the highlights was our trip to Fort Leonard Wood. We extend our sincere gratitude to the training battalion commander and his staff for their exceptional hospitality and for providing us with such a valuable learning experience.

We hope to continue this tradition of informative and engaging trips. If you have any suggestions for our next destination in September 2025, please share your ideas with the board.

As we approach the end of the year, we wish you a joyous Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. May the coming year bring you and your family health, happiness, and prosperity.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Facts About the Korean War

On June 28, 1950, just days after the start of the Korean War, South Korean President Syngman Rhee ordered the Bodo League Massacre, which resulted in the deaths of more than 100,000 suspected communist sympathizers and their families in South Korea.

- Because North Koreans would fight UN forces by disguising its soldiers as refugees who would ask UN forces for food and help and then open fire and attack, U.S. soldiers adopted a "shoot first, ask questions later" policy against anyone looking like a civilian refugee approaching U.S. battlefields.

Table of Contents

Page

- 01 - President Corner
- 02 - Table of Contents
- 03 - Governing Board Elected Officers & Announcement
- 04 - Vice President Corner
- 05 - Treasure Corner
- 06 - Secretary Corner POW/MIA from 13th Engineers
- 07 - Geoj-e-do POW CAMP
- 08 - From Armistice Day to Veterans Day
- 09 - Newsletter Corner & Bloody Battles of the Korean War
- 10 - Korean Vignettes A Face Of War Roy G. Wilson
- 11 - United Nations Command Security Battalion
- 12 - Webmaster Corner & Letter to home
- 13 - Visit to Fort Leonard Wood P1
- 14 - Visit to Fort Leonard Wood P2
- 15 - Taps
- 16 - Quartermaster Corner & The 13th Engineers in WWII (cont.)
- 17 - Quartermaster Products
- 18 - Products Order Form
- 19 - Association Membership Application
- 20 - Back Page

**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
Earl C. Shatzer
1962 Tanglewood Ln.
Vacaville CA 95687

2026 (Dues Expire)

Guestbook Entry

Christopher King wrote on 07/31/2024

13th Engineers HHC. 79 - 82. 82B Land Surveyor. Was involved in the construction of the combat assault airstrip in Fort Hunter Liggett. Still there and being used today! Just retired after 45 years in the civil engineering business! Thanks for the 13th for getting me started on a great career!!

Charles Gilbert wrote on 08/18/2024

A Co Fort Ord CA, 1987-1989 CO driver.



"Hey fellows, how about giving me that ol' grim and determined look?"

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Harry (Gene) Reed "E" Company 1970 8833 Prairie Trail Avon, IN 46123 317-268-6455 genereed@genereedins.com	VICE PRESIDENT Laurens (Buddy) Beckwith "D" Co. 64-65 SGM (Ret) 317 Pine Lake Drive Harvest AL 35749 256-724-0378 Beckwithlaurens@gmail.com	IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Arlie E. Ellis "B" Company 65-66 825 Rose Street Crowley, TX, 76036 469-554-1324 essec5793@gmail.com
TREASURER Harry (Gene) Reed "E" Company 1970 8833 Prairie Trail Avon, IN 46123 317-268-6455 genereed@genereedins.com		SECRETARY Earl C. Shatzer "HQ" Company 67-68 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687 707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net

ADVISORY COUNCIL

ADVISOR Levi O. Haire – (Rabbit) "H&S" Company 49-51 358 Wingate Road Ellijay, GA 30540 706-635-2528 rabbit713e@ellijay.com	CHAPLAIN Billy D. Quinton SR. "C" Company 50-51 3800 6 th Avenue North St. Petersburg, FL 33713 727-430-7959 bquinton@tampabay.rr.com	QUARTER MASTER Tom Cotton "D" Company 58-59 14 Cottonwood Point Lane Augusta, KS 67010 918-931-8525 Tcottonbo5@gmail.com
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Earl Shatzer "HQ" Company 67-68 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687 707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net	CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE https://13thengineerbn.com/	WEBMASTER Earl Shatzer "HQ" Company 67-68 1962 Tanglewood Ln. Vacaville, CA 95687 707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net

Will Rodgers on ADVICE

We can see our friends or neighbors go out, make bad investments, and do foolish things, but we never say a word. We let them risk their lives and their money without any advice. But his vote? We have to tell them about that, for they are more ignorant and narrow-minded and don't see things our way. So we advise them.

They ain't going to pay any attention to you anyhow, but it's a great satisfaction to think you are advising them anyhow. (November 21, 1934)

Facts About the Korean War**The Army built an impromptu special operations unit.**

The United States lacked guerrilla warfare capability at the start of the Korean War and had to put one together fast. The result was the 8240th Army Unit, comprised of Rangers and other soldiers with unconventional warfare experience from World War II. They advised indigenous "partisan forces" in Korea on how to fight behind enemy lines to undermine the North Korean Army.

In 1952, soldiers with the new "Special Forces" designation graduated from the U.S. Army Psychological Warfare Center and School and supplemented the 8240th. At its height, the unit advised 38,000 partisan fighters.

VICE PRESIDENT CORNER LAURENS (BUDDY) BECKWITH

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and happy. We're moving into the most festive season of the year, and I'm sure most of us have some young ones near enough who are ready to start the festivities, from overeating candy to opening presents. I'm old enough that I don't get that excited for Christmas, but grandkids can lighten my mood just by being there.

As for the trip to Fort Leonard Wood, I think the only thing that could have made it better would have been for more people to participate. While there might have been some apprehension at the beginning, it turned out to be a great trip.

Captain Landau and Amanda Sullivan, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office, met us in a van at the front gate, and there was plenty of room for everybody. As we were over an hour early for the "tour," Captain Landau drove us around, showing some of the points of interest on the post. Believe me, there was plenty to take in. Things have changed radically since I left there in 1974. At 0800, we attended the September 11th ceremony, then a personal greeting from Major General Christopher Beck, Commanding General Fort Leonard Wood. Followed by a command staff briefing, which was very informative.

Then, off to the scheduled tour. At the demolition ranges, we observed door breaching using a gun and demolitions. In response to questions we had posed concerning minefield breaching, we were then taken across the road to the classroom, where we were given an impromptu class on the Army's man-portable mine-clearing device. I can say the Staff Sergeant giving the class did a stellar job, including using training aids.

From there, we went to Celiz Hall for lunch with a group of basic trainees. Again, they were outstanding soldiers who were forthright and honest about their goals and expectations.

Then, on to the Bridge boat sight. This was an eye-opener for those of us whose last bridge we worked with was the M4T6 or the Bailey and the amount of labor it took to build one. The bridge truck backs up to the water and slides the bridge section off into the water. Then, no more 19ft. or 27ft. power boats. The M30 Bridge Erection Boat has a pair of MAMJets jet drives driven by 2 Cummings diesel, with two little T-handle joysticks. This is an incredible machine.

All in all, the tour that was supposed to end around 1400h ended after 1700h. From Major Generals to Privates and Civilians, we were given the utmost courtesy, respect, and accommodation for anything we could have asked for. The 13th Association owes a debt of thanks to the individuals who made our trip a success and a true pleasure filled with memories we will have forever.

On another note, it's time to discuss where we are going next or if we understand sickness and old age, which we're rapidly approaching. Does anyone have recommendations as to where and what we want to do?

Buddy Beckwith, Vice President

Treasurers Corner - Gene Reed



As of November 6, 2024, our association's current account balance stands at \$10,696.54. We want to express our sincere gratitude to all members who have promptly paid their dues and made generous donations. Your contributions are vital to our ongoing operations and future endeavors.

Please take a moment to confirm that your membership is up to date. If you're unsure of your payment status, feel free to contact Earl Shatzer or me for assistance.

Remember, all donations to our association are tax-deductible.

Thank you again for your continued support.

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

Just a few one-liners.

- My IQ test results came back. They were negative.
- What do you call a hippie's wife? Mississippi.
- What's the difference between an outlaw and an in-law? Outlaws are wanted.
- I never knew what happiness was until I got married—and then it was too late.
- Advice to husbands: Try praising your wife now and then, even if it does startle her at first.
- Our child has great willpower—and even more won't power.
- I walked past a homeless guy with a sign that read, "One day, this could be you." I put my money back in my pocket, just in case he's right.
- I can totally keep secrets. It's the people I tell them to that can't.

KOREAN WAR FACTS

The 38th parallel is a recurring theme before, during, and after the war.

In 1896, the Japanese government proposed to the Russian government that Korea should be split in half along the 38th parallel, with Russia taking control of the north. This probably would have saved everyone a lot of trouble down the line, but the Russians balked, and Japan consolidated its hold on Korea in 1910. After World War II, Japan relinquished control, and the U.S. State Department again looked to the 38th parallel to establish two separate countries. In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, launching the Korean War. Today, the demilitarized zone dividing the two countries intersects—you guessed it—the 38th parallel.

Secretary Corner – Earl Shatzer

707-689-0874 shatzer@pacbell.net or eshatzer@13thengineerbn.com



We're pleased to share that our membership currently stands at 92, including 6 esteemed Honorary and Associate members. Of the 86 dues-paying members, one member's dues expired in 2023, 34 membership dues expire in 2024, and 51 have already paid their dues for 2025 and beyond.

To ensure a smooth renewal process, we'll be sending friendly reminders to those whose memberships are expired in 2023 and expiring in 2024.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require further assistance.

POW/MIA FROM THE 13th COMBAT ENGINEERS



Sergeant First Class DAVID HERMAN WUSTRACK

In early February 1951, U.S. forces began a counter-offensive against Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) that had pushed into the area north of Wonju, South Korea. The effort was met with only light resistance at first, but on February 11, Allied forces in the recently recaptured town of Hoengsong, South Korea, faced a massive CCF assault. Despite fierce resistance, the overwhelming size of the attack forced U.S. forces to fall back from the town. The withdrawing troops had to fight through CCF roadblocks outside of Hoengsong in order to reach friendly lines to the south.

Sergeant First Class David Herman Wustrack joined the U.S. Army from Wisconsin and was a member of A Company, 13th Combat Engineer Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. Enemy forces captured SFC Wustrack during the fighting withdrawal from Hoengsong on February 13, 1951. He was among the prisoners captured and marched north toward prisoner-of-war camps in North Korea. During the march, SFC Wustrack died on or about February 24, 1951, while being held at a village south of Kumhwa, North Korea. The exact cause of his death and his burial location are unknown, and he remains unaccounted for following the ceasefire. Today, Sergeant Wustrack is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC, which was updated in 2022 to include the SFC DAVID HERMAN WUSTRACK

Geoje-do POW CAMP (continued from Page 07 August 2024 newsletter)

In September 1951, 15 prisoners were murdered by a self-appointed people's court. Three more were killed when rioting broke out on the 19th in Compound 78. Troops had to rush in to restore order and remove 200 prisoners who were in fear for their lives. As unrest mounted, the US 2nd Logistical Command, in charge of all POW camps, asked US Eighth Army commander General James Van Fleet for more security personnel. Referring to protracted confinement, uncertainty over the future, and prisoner resistance against the UN "information and education program" and claiming these factors had combined to produce increasing tension among the prisoners, the chief of staff of the 2d Logistical Command also reminded Van Fleet that the caliber of the guard troops left much to be desired. The September disturbances led to a visit by Van Fleet and the reinforcing and reorganization of the prison security forces. From the opening of the camp in January down to mid-September, when Col. Maurice J. Fitzgerald assumed command, there were eight different commanders, or about one a month. As Fitzgerald later commented, "Koje-do was a graveyard of commanders." Van Fleet's recognition of the difficulties of the problems led to the activation of the 8137th Military Police Group in October. Besides three assigned battalions, four additional escort guard companies were attached to the group. In November, one battalion of the US 23rd Infantry Regiment was made available for duty on Geoje, and by December, over 9,000 US and ROK personnel were stationed on the island. This was still some 6,000 fewer than the number requested.

Screening and indoctrination

During December, the rival factions, Communist and anti-Communist, vied for control of the compounds, with both sides meting out beatings and other punishments freely. A large-scale rock fight between compounds on 18 December was followed by riots and demonstrations. 14 deaths and 24 other casualties resulted from this flare-up. The acceleration of violence could be attributed in large part to the inauguration of the screening process in the POW camps. General Yount, commanding the 2nd Logistical Command, later told the Far East commander: "Until the inception of the screening program, American personnel had full access to compounds and were able to administer them in a satisfactory manner although never to the degree desired." In November and December, over 37,000 prisoners had been screened and reclassified as civilian internees. As more prisoners indicated that they did not wish to be repatriated or evinced anti-Communist sympathies, the sensitivity of the Communist prisoners to screening intensified.

Another instance in which higher headquarters contributed unwittingly to the discontent of the POW camp stemmed from an information and education program instituted in 1951 to keep the prisoners occupied profitably. By far the greater portion of the education program aimed at assisting the prisoners in developing vocational and technical skills to help them after their release. The Communists readily accepted the instruction in metalworking and soon began to produce weapons of all varieties instead of sanitation utensils, stoves, and garden tools and used these arms to gain interior control in the compounds whenever they could. From January 1952, the prisoners were exposed to anti-communist propaganda. Syllabi included "How War Came to Korea," "Democracy and Totalitarianism," and "Facts About the United States." English courses were also offered. For the Communists, this "orientation course" became the chief target of criticism. These lectures contrasted the "advantages of democracy" with the "fallacies of communism," and the Communists protested vehemently.

By 1952, over 170,000 prisoners of war (about 85% North Korean and the rest from China) were held at the camp. U.N. forces lacked sufficient manpower and experience in controlling such large numbers of prisoners. From February 1952, at the suggestion of U. Alexis Johnson (Deputy Secretary of State for East Asia), it was planned to check whether the prisoners were willing to return home without making any specific promises to those who wanted to stay in the "free South." This screening began on 11 April 1952. By 19 April, over 106,000 prisoners had been interviewed by armed interrogation teams in 22 sections of the camp. The latter were usually handcuffed and beaten during the "hearing"; they were supposed to fight on the South Korean side from then on. General Yount ordered that prisoners who did not want to return home should be transferred. (to be continued)

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

From Armistice Day to Veterans Day

American effort during World War II saw the greatest mobilization of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force in the nation's history (more than 16 million people); some 5.7 million more served in the Korean War.

In 1954, after lobbying efforts by veterans' service organizations, the 83rd U.S. Congress amended the 1938 act making Armistice Day a holiday, striking the word "Armistice" in favor of "Veterans." President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the legislation on June 1, 1954. From then on, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

The next development in the story of Veterans Day unfolded in 1968, when Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. This act sought to ensure three-day weekends for federal employees and encourage tourism and travel by celebrating four national holidays (Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day) on Mondays.

The observation of Veterans Day was set as the fourth Monday in October. The first Veterans Day under the new law was Monday, October 25, 1971; confusion ensued as many states disapproved of this change and continued to observe the holiday on its original date.

In 1975, after it became evident that the actual date of Veterans Day carried historical and patriotic significance to many Americans, President Gerald Ford signed a new law returning the observation of Veterans Day to November 11th beginning in 1978. If November 11 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the federal government observes the holiday on the previous Friday or the following Monday, respectively. Government offices are closed on Veterans Day.

WILL RODGERS QUOTES ON WAR

- I have a scheme for stopping war. It's this - no nation is allowed to enter a war till they have paid for the last one.
- We are the only nation in the world that waits till we get into a war before we start getting ready for it.
- I will never joke about old soldiers who try to get to reunions to talk over the war again. To talk of old times with old friends is the greatest thing in the world.
- The only real diplomacy ever performed by a diplomat is in deceiving their own people after their dumbness has got them into a war.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR CORNER – EARL SHATZER

Newsletter Editor Email: shatzer@pacbell.net (707) 689-0874



We Want Your Input!

Our newsletter is for you, our valued association members, and we want to make it as engaging and relevant as possible. If there are specific topics you'd like to see featured or subjects you'd like us to cover in more detail, we'd love to hear from you! Your feedback helps us create a newsletter that truly meets your needs.

Simply email your suggestions to **shatzer@pacbell.net**, and we'll do our best to include them in upcoming issues. You can also write or call me using the information listed below.

Earl Shatzer, Newsletter Editor
1962 Tanglewood Ln, Vacaville, CA 95687
Reach out directly at **707-689-0874**.

Sign Up for Our Electronic Newsletter

Email Me: Send a message to shatzer@pacbell.net and I will add you to our mailing list.

BLOODY BATTLES OF THE KOREAN WAR

After Communist North Korean forces invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, the early stages of the Korean War were marked by huge advances up and down the Korean peninsula in which the United States, South Korea, and the United Nations (U.N.) forces fought against North Korean and Communist Chinese forces there. After a huge Chinese offensive from November 1950 to January 1951 and a massive American counterattack in early 1951, the war settled into a stalemate near the 38th Parallel. By July 1952, both sides had constructed such strong defensive lines that neither could undertake a major offensive without suffering World War I-like losses. In 1952, North Korea and China had 290,000 men on the front lines and another 600,000 in reserve. The U.N. countered with 250,000 troops on the line, backed by 450,000 reserves. [Source: James I. Marino, Military History magazine, April 2003]

During the stalemate period, bloody battles were fought from entrenched positions for relatively small tactical objectives at places with names like Pork Chop Hill, Heartbreak Ridge, and Bloody Ridge. The artillery fire at some of these places was so heavy that hills were reduced by 20 feet. So many mines were laid that hikers occasionally get their legs blown off even today.

James I. Marino wrote in Military History magazine: "While the two sides engaged in tedious, often exasperating truce negotiations at Panmunjom, their soldiers huddled in trench systems resembling those of World War I. The constant patrolling and artillery duels seldom made headlines at home. But occasionally battles for outposts such as Heartbreak Ridge, the Punchbowl, Capitol Hill and the Hook drew media attention, giving them propaganda value at the talks."

(I will feature short stories on the following battles in future newsletters. Bloody and Heartbreak Ridges, Heartbreak Ridge, Fighting at Heartbreak Ridge, and Pork Chop Hill, to name a few.)



KOREAN VIGNETTES A FACE OF WAR

Roy	G.	Wilson	RA 16300985
First Name	MI	Last Name	Serial No
"Bonc's"	Engineer(C)	29 Sep '29	Sgt
"Nickname	MOS	Birthday	Grade/Rank
A/13Eng(C)/7	Aug '50-May '51		Perryville, MO
Unit(s)	Duty Tour(s) in Korea		Home Town
KCSM w/4stars	UNSM NDSM	Meritorious Unit Citation	
Medals & Awards			

THE HAZARDS OF ARMY LIFE

An engineer is a working soldier. In the Combat Engineers, he is very often a fighting soldier also. Frequently, along with his brothers in the infantry, he is a scratching soldier. Living in ones clothes for days on end, sometimes weeks, gives rise to a whole host of problems. Various indigenous insects end up by staking residential claims on the tender western body and clothing of the engineer soldier. The Korean blood suckers seemed to favor an Occidental taste in their cuisine. The worst were the biters. Head lice, pubic lice, body lice, bed bugs, You name 'em, Korea had 'em, and we got 'em.

In the late spring of 1951, after several weeks of front line duty, we were overjoyed at the opportunity of getting a good shower and a shave. Several enterprising entrepreneurs set up shop as barbers and at 25 cents a head clip we got rid of the shaggy locks. That was when we discovered many of us had head lice. We had all pitched our pup tents. The sun was shining, so most of us decided to give our sleeping bags a good airing. We had been sleeping in them with our boots on since we were in a combat zone. The result was a dirty sleeping bag that smelled as bad as we had until we bathed. After a bath, the stink of the sleeping bag was unbearable. I took my bag, turned it inside out, swept and shook it, then sprinkled it good with some of that famous GI powder that was an item of issue to every soldier. I then laid it out on top of our pup tent in the sun, turning it several times during the day. A few days later we headed back to the front again. I soon began itching and scratching. Found I had a good dose of crabs. They weren't there before I aired out that bag and dusted it with GI powder. They must have been in somebody else's bag, mutinied and then deserted. I know what all the wise apples say about crabs, but at that time and place? Anyway, I dusted myself and the bag at every opportunity. Those crabs were Korean crab lice. They thrived. I itched. The next time we came back to a rest area, the medics cleaned house. I wasn't the only one. I don't know what happened to that old sleeping bag, but I hope the next GI kept them as fat and healthy on that famous GI powder as I did.

The Army is famous for its nutritious food, high in calorie and vitamin content, incorporating within its little cans everything needed to keep a soldier at the peak of fighting trim. There is only one minor flaw. Everything tastes terrible. How the Army can take things like lima beans, sausage, cheese or chicken and make it all taste like cardboard, no soldier has ever figured out. Every chance he has, the GI will use any pretext, or none at all, to find something local that he can burn or boil. He knows it will taste better than his rations. So when I saw this chicken, I decided that chicken was mine. He was a real sprinter and dodger, but I was hungrier and faster. After boiling some water, I plucked it, then cajoled the mess sgt into giving me a little grease and some flour. After looking around, I found a pot and fried the chicken in it. Brown and Kucker, two of my buddies, and I had a chicken feast. Afterward while enjoying the feeling of a good chicken dinner, Kucker asked me how I had managed to find a pan to fry it in. I showed him the pot. He looked at it, showed it to Brown, and both of them raised all kinds of hell with me. Seemed one of the guys had been using that pot to soak his piles. How was I to know?

Another time Sgt Bennett sent Williams and me on patrol. We came upon this mud house, kicked the door in and looked around. These 5 North Korean civilians(?) were squatting and eating. They offered us a bowl of their soup. Looked like pretty good soup, turnips, some meat, some greens, a few potatoes. After we had finished eating I tried to find out what kind of soup it was. One of them pointed into a corner. And there it was, a dog hide. We ran outside and lost our bowls of soup. I told Sgt Bennett, he just laughed and said we didn't have enough Indian blood in us to appreciate good food.

United Nations Command Security Battalion-Joint Security Area secures the Joint Security Area in order to maintain a safe location for Armistice-related dialogue.

HISTORY

The United Nations Command Security Battalion-Joint Security Area was established during the Korean War to provide security and logistical support to United Nations Command elements involved in the ongoing armistice negotiations. The unit was founded on 5 May 1952 and has been stationed at Panmunjom since that date.

On 20 July 1954, it was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation for its outstanding performance during Operation Little Switch & Big Switch. By late 1954, the mission of the UNCSB-JSA changed to its present one. This mission includes securing the United Nations Command sector of the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom, conducting counter-infiltration patrols within the unit's operational area, providing civil affairs administration and security to the village of Taesong-dong inside the DMZ and controlling access into the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission Headquarters Area.

As the most forward-deployed unit in the Republic of Korea, the JSA has suffered nine soldiers killed in action against NKPA in and around Panmunjom since the signing of the Armistice Agreement. On 29 August 1967, an NKPA commando force attacked the JSA Base Camp at Camp Kitty Hawk, adjacent to the Joint Security Area, killing two Soldiers and wounding twenty-four others. On 14 April 1968, NKPA ambushed a resupply truck en route from Camp Kitty Hawk to the Joint Security Area, killing four Soldiers and wounding two more. On 18 August 1976, two JSA Officers were killed during the Axe Murder Incident at Panmunjom. On 23 November 1984, a Soviet Tour Guide dashed across the Military Demarcation Line to freedom, pursued by 30 NKPA; a firefight broke out, which lasted thirty minutes and resulted in one JSA Soldier killed and two wounded, while the NKPA suffered three killed and five wounded. The soviet defector was protected throughout the firefight.

The JSA has distinguished itself on many operations since the signing of the Armistice Agreement, including Operation Breeches Buoy in December 1968 and Operation Runway in February 1970 (the return of thirty-nine Korean civilians who had been skyjacked while on a Korean Airline flight).

On 22 October 1991, the UNCSB-JSA was awarded the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation by the President of the Republic of Korea for its success and significant contribution to maintaining a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula. The UNCSB-JSA has also earned a total of eight Army Superior Unit Awards for their outstanding service and operational ability.

For 72 years, the Soldiers of the United Nations Command Security Battalion - Joint Security Area have stood at the front line of freedom 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As the most forward-deployed unit on the peninsula, the unit proudly stands face-to-face with the North Korean Peoples Army to preserve the Armistice and help bring about peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula.

Korean War Facts

After the Korean War, 21 American soldiers chose to stay with their Chinese captors. Hailed in China as "Peace Fighters," in America, they were denounced as turncoats and traitors. The U.S. media claimed the soldiers were brainwashed by their captors. Most of them later recanted their statements and returned to America.

WEBMASTER CORNER – EARL SHATZER

One of our association members, Allen G. Phetteplace, sent me the letter below, which was used by some of the GIs coming home from Korea.

I'M COMING HOME

Issued in Solemn Warning the _____ day of _____ 19____

To the Neighbors, Friends, & Relations of one _____

LOCK YOUR DAUGHTERS UP
IN THEIR ROOMS

FILL UP THE ICE BOX WITH
COLD BEER

GET THOSE CIVVIES OUT OF
MOTH BALL

Dear Civilians,

Very soon, the undersigned will be once more in your midst, dehydrated, demobilized, and demoralized, to take his place once more as a human being with freedom and justice for all, engaged in life, liberty, and the somewhat delayed pursuit of happiness. In making your joyous preparations to welcome him back into organized society, you must make allowances for his crude environment, which has been his miserable lot for almost ____ months. In other words, he might be a little Asiatie, suffering from Japanese Yopparatta, or a little too much Sake. Therefore, show no alarm if he prefers to squat on his haunches instead of sitting in a hair, insists on taking off his shoes before entering the house, or tends to bow when meeting or saying goodbye to someone. Keep cool when he pours gravy on his dessert at the supper table, insists on chopsticks instead of silverware, or prefers fish heads and rice to a T-bone steak, and take it all with a smile when he insists on sleeping bare-ahem in the nude. Be tolerant when he takes his mattress off the bed and puts it on the floor to sleep. Don't let it shock you if, when he's talking on the phone, he says "moshe moshe" instead of hello and "sayanara" instead of goodbye.

Never ask him why the Smith boys held higher rank than he did, make no flattering remarks about the Air Force or the Navy, and above all, never even mention the Marine Corps in his presence. This man will run amuck if you mention rotation or shipping over, and with good reason.

For the first few months (until he becomes housebroken), be exceptionally watchful when he is in the company of women, particularly young and beautiful specimens.

After ____ months of seeing beautiful women wooed by handsome men in the movies, he thinks he is a master of the art himself, and his intention will be dishonorable but sincere. Keep in mind that beneath his tanned and rugged exterior, there beats a heart of gold, treasure this. It will probably be the only thing of value that he has left. With kindness, tolerate an occasional quart of good liquor (never place Sake in front of him). You will again be able to rehabilitate that which is now a hollow shell of a happy soldier you once knew.

I'm heading home in _____ days.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. Send no more letters c/o P.M or APO Sasebo, chinagasako, Kumbwa, Chorwon, chunchon, Chiparoo and all that Nipponese and Korean Jibe, get the kids off the street and cause I'm heading HOME

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

Vietnam-era & Korea combat engineers reunite at Fort Leonard Wood



FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — Nearly 60 years have passed since Laurens Beckwith, Earl Shatzer and Gene Reed first came through the gates of Fort Leonard Wood on their way to becoming some of the Army's newest combat engineers, and on Sept. 11, Fort Leonard Wood senior leaders and Soldiers welcomed back the three Vietnam-era veterans during a reunion tour.

Hosted by the U.S. Army Engineer School and 1st Engineer Brigade and organized by the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence Protocol Office, the tour allowed the group to observe modern-day training and engage with Soldiers and instructors with the Army's Engineer Regiment.

"Everything has changed since I was last here 58 years ago," said Shatzer, who lives in Vacaville, California, and completed advanced individual training in 1969. "Everything is clean and well laid out."

Beckwith, who graduated from AIT in 1964 and is from Huntsville, Alabama, agreed and said the growth in the years since his training is evident.

"Everything is new and replaced; the entire post looks good," he said. "The population has probably quadrupled since I left."

Reed, who hails from Avon, Indiana, completed AIT in 1969. He returned to Fort Leonard Wood for a reunion tour in the late 1990s and noted the addition of the U.S. Army Military Police and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear schools, which both relocated to Fort Leonard Wood in 1999, after the closure of Fort McClellan, Alabama.

The first stop on the tour was a Patriot Day ceremony on the MSCoE Plaza, followed by a regimental update and meeting with Col. Chad Ramskugler, USAES assistant commandant, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Willie Gadsden, regimental chief warrant officer.

Gadsden said keeping the conversation open between veterans and today's Soldiers in the regiment is critical to the Army's mission.

Continued next page

Vietnam-era & Korea combat engineers reunite at Fort Leonard Wood

"By consistently seeking out opportunities to engage with Soldiers from all generations, we can ensure that our regimental values remain strong and that our institution continues to evolve without losing sight of the core principles that define us," he said. "It's through this continuity of leadership, tradition, and respect that we ensure the regiment and the Army remain strong, resilient, and always prepared to meet future challenges."

After meeting with senior leaders, the trio received a tour of Range 33 from the 35th Engineer Battalion Combat Engineer Skills Division and observed shotgun and demolition breaching training. During lunch at the Celiz Hall Warrior Restaurant, the veterans swapped stories and advice with trainees and cadre from Company B, 35th Engineer Battalion.

"I don't know what their motive was for serving – everyone has a different motive for being here – but the bottom line was, they wanted to be here," Beckwith said. "They wanted to serve."

The tour wrapped up at Training Area 250, where they observed trainees with Company B, 31st Engineer Battalion, conducting Operate Bridge Erection Boat and Deploy Ribbon Bridge training.

Thanks to technological advances, Reed said today's training starkly contrasts with the more laborious process he experienced along the Big Piney River.

"I think it would serve them well to go out there and do it the old-fashioned way one time, so they appreciate what they have available," he said jokingly.

When reflecting on the tour, the three unanimously agreed that one thing stood out: the people they met. "Everyone went out of their way to welcome us, to thank us, and show us all the courtesy and respect they can, and that overwhelms me," Beckwith said. "I've never felt that much feeling from a group of people."

Reed shared the sentiment.

"I'm so impressed with the cadre – they were all outstanding," he said. "We didn't expect the welcome we got."

Gadsden expressed the importance of veterans, saying their legacy lives on in the hearts of those serving today, and their courage, sacrifice, and dedication continue to inspire the Army to uphold the highest standards of duty and service.

"We honor their contributions by striving to maintain the same level of commitment and excellence in everything we do," he said. "The values they instilled in the regiment — integrity, honor and selfless service — remain our guiding principles, and we stand ready to carry that legacy forward."

Beyond a sense of belonging, Reed said reconnecting with Fort Leonard Wood Soldiers provided hope for the future of the Army and faith in the younger generation of Soldiers.

"When you come back here and meet the young Soldiers and see their pride, dedication and the respect they have, you wish the public could see it and know what this country is really about," Shatzer added. "That was touching."

Reed offered some parting advice for those who follow in the footsteps of his generation and the next. "Eat your lunch, brush your teeth, listen to your drill sergeant and don't forget to hit the target when you shoot," he said.



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.

Grant E. Nelson
May 1, 1928 – October 12, 2024
“B” Company 12/50 – 10/52 CPL

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.

WHEN I GO

When I go
Don't learn to live without me
Just learn to live with my love
In a Different way
And if you need to see me
Close your eyes
Or look in your shadow
When the sun shines
I'm there

Sit with me in the quiet, and you will know
That I did not leave
There is no leaving when a soul is blended
With another

When I go
Don't learn to live without me
Just learn to look for me in the moments
I will be there.



QUARTERMASTER CORNER – TOM COTTON

To streamline your orders and ensure faster processing, we encourage you to utilize our online order form. This method allows for convenient payment through PayPal, or if you prefer, you may still send a check.

Please use the following link to access our online order form: <https://13thengineerbn.com/quartermaster/>

Tom Cotton
"D" Company 58-59

THE 13TH ENGINEERS IN WORLD WAR II
(continued from August newsletter page 14)
The battle rages on!

Forward progress by the major combat elements of the land force was agonizingly slow. The enemy, the terrain, the tundra, the steep slope, and the weather contributed to the frustrating delay in the four to five-day conquest contemplated by the planners. This frustration manifested when, after five days of battle, the Anny Land Force Commander, General Brown, was relieved from control by Admiral Kinkaid, the Theater Commander, back in Adak. The fact that Adak was 700 miles east of the scene of action had little impact on the decision since the Attu Campaign had been sold to the War Department as a "quick in-and-out operation." Ironically, the new Land Force Commander, General Landrum, continued and carried out the same tactical plan set in motion by General Brown!

The battle raged on for another 13 days, filled with delays, frustrations, and mounting casualties caused more by illness and disease than by the enemy. The forward movement of ammunition, food, water, and medical supplies was the primary concern of the 13th Engineers.

Supplies that initially had clogged the beach became alarmingly low. After a week of confronting the reefs, shoals, williwaws, and surf, only three original 93 landing craft were still operable. The rest were either sunk or unsuitable. Desperate measures were called for and resorted to. PT boats and even PBYS were used to ferry food, ammunition, and medical supplies ashore. It was another week before tugs and barges arrived to provide relief.

The battle wore on, and casualties mounted. Temperatures rose above freezing during the day and then dropped at night. The ill-clad troops had no means to change their clothes, dry out their boots, or get warm at night. Thus, an unforgiving nature contributed more casualties to the casualty list than the enemy who commanded the heights and was well dug in.

Northern and Southern forces finally joined strength by taking the high ground surrounding Chichagof Bay on the 17th day of battle. Surrender leaflets were dropped from an overlying PBY on the penned in Japanese. At that time, the total force, including the sick and wounded, numbered no more than 900. However, surrender was not part of the Bushido Code. Colonel Yamasaki made the decision to attack.

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



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



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



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



**LAPEL PIN 1"
\$5.00**



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



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



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



**ASSOCIATION PATCH
\$3.00**



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 the next page or visit our website. For mail-in orders, we currently accept checks.

If you prefer to order online through our website, you have the option to use PayPal.

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

MAIL TO:
TOM COTTON
14 COTTONWOOD POINT LANE
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

You are now able to order product from the website and pay using credit card via PayPal

TO ORDER, PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO

13TH ENGR. (C) BN. ASSOCIATION

MAIL TO:

TOM COTTON

14 Cottonwood Point Lane

Augusta, KS 67010

Submitted by	
Phone	
Email	
Address	
City/State/Zip	

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

