



THE 13TH (C) ENGINEER

"IN OMNIA PARATUS"

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

PRESIDENTS CORNER – GENE REED



APRIL 2025

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of one of our cherished members, Bill Quinton Sr., who left us on February 19, 2025.

Bill served the association with unwavering dedication in many capacities over the years—from President to Newsletter Editor. His passion and commitment helped shape the foundation of our community, ensuring its strength and longevity for future generations.

I had the honor of attending his memorial service on April 4, 2025, where friends and family gathered to celebrate his life and legacy. The outpouring of love and respect was a testament to the impact Bill had on so many.

Bill's contributions, leadership, and kind spirit will not be forgotten. He was a pillar of our association, and his absence will be deeply felt by all who had the privilege of working with and knowing him.

Without question, Bill will be missed.

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

Korean War Fact

The most powerful tank to see action in the Korean War was the 67-ton British Centurion with a 105 mm main gun.

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**All Dues & Donations are TAX
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13TH ENGR. (C) Bn. ASSOCIATION

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



Check your dues Expiration Date:
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See the example below.

HQ Co, 67-68
Earl C. Shatzer
1962 Tanglewood Ln.
Vacaville CA 95687

2026 (Dues Expire)

Korean War Facts

Approximately 848,000 Korean War veterans also served in other war periods: 171,000 in both WW II and Vietnam; 404,000 in WW II only; and 273,000 in Vietnam only.

Easter Reflection

"From sacrifice comes life. From service, peace. From the cross, hope everlasting."

As we remember the resurrection this Easter, we are reminded that the greatest love is shown through sacrifice. The veterans of the Korean War knew this truth deeply laying down comfort, safety, and sometimes even life itself for something greater than themselves.

This Easter, may we reflect not only on spiritual renewal but also on the living examples of courage among us, those who carried burdens so others could know freedom.

He is risen. And because of that, hope always remains.

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 256-724-0378 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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Will Rodgers Quote

"There are three kinds of men. The ones that learn by readin'. The few who learn by observation.

The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence for themselves."

Will Rogers

Korean War Facts

Initially, the U.S. wanted to defend South Korea, but later in the war, Truman convinced the UN that it was time to liberate North Korea as well. Under Gen. MacArthur's leadership, U.S. and UN troops gained control of most of North Korea. When China entered the war, MacArthur wanted to keep fighting despite China's overwhelming numbers. Truman fired MacArthur and replaced him with Gen. Matthew Ridgway, who had a much more conservative plan that included just defending South Korea.

VICE PRESIDENT CORNER LAURENS (BUDDY) BECKWITH

Hello everyone, feeling that spring air yet? It's a good feeling after making it through winter. I know the president will have more to share, but I wanted to start by sending our deepest sympathies to the family of our past President Warrant Officer 2 Billy D. Quinton SR. You're in our thoughts.

Shifting gears, remember our reunion idea for Ft. Leonard Wood last September? We had a smaller turnout than expected – three of us from the Association, plus four family members. Even so, it was a really special event, and the post leadership truly rolled out the red carpet for us.

We're eager to plan another trip for this September, and to make it the best it can be, we need to hear from you by May 31st, 2025! How many of you are thinking of coming. What are some things you'd love to see or do? Any location ideas? Getting your input early helps us with the planning. Let's put our heads together and make this trip great! Please email or call the President, Vice president, or Secretary with your thoughts – their addresses and phone numbers are in the Newsletter's Corner.

We want to make sure these events are valuable to you. If there isn't sufficient interest, we'll take a step back and look at other possibilities.

I have one more thing I'm hoping you can help with: I was with Co D, 13th (the bridge company at Camp Casey back then) in '64 and '65. I've looked through a lot of our newsletters and online, and it seems like there aren't many Co D folks from that era. If you were there or know anyone who was, I'd really appreciate hearing from you. I definitely didn't imagine those 13 months—they were a fantastic start to my time in the Army.

Buddy Beckwith, Vice President

Korean War Facts

Many soldiers died of frostbite during the Korean War before ever reaching the battlefields. The temperature in some areas fell below zero for long periods of time

Treasurer's Corner - Gene Reed



Hi everyone,

As your treasurer, I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you. Thanks to your continued support through dues and generous donations, our association remains strong and financially healthy. As of April 1, 2025, our account balance stands at \$10,739.95, and that's all because of *you*.

Are you unsure if your dues are current? No problem. Just check in with Earl Shatzer or me, and we will be happy to let you know.

Every contribution, whether dues or donations, helps keep our mission going strong. And don't forget that donations are tax-deductible, so it's a win-win!

We truly appreciate your support. It's not just about the numbers—it's about the people behind them. Thank you for being part of this community.

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

Korean War Facts

Ethiopia, Belgium, and Columbia all supplied battalion-sized detachments that fought alongside U.S. and other UN forces in the Korean War.

"Legacy is not just what we leave behind, but the lives we touched in the process."

The Korean War may be called "The Forgotten War" by some, but to us, it is unforgettable. Every sacrifice, every story, and every step taken on foreign soil echoes today in the freedom of a thriving South Korea and in the hearts of generations who live in peace because others stood in the gap.

Let us remember: It wasn't just a war—it was a legacy of courage.

Secretary Corner – Earl Shatzer

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



Dear Members of the 13th Combat Engineer Association,

I hope this message finds you well. It's an honor to serve as your Secretary and to be part of a group bound by shared experiences, service, and enduring brotherhood. I want to take a moment to thank each of you—not only for your continued support of the association but also for your service, your stories, and the legacy you uphold. You remain an important part of our community, whether you're an active participant or someone we haven't heard from in a while.

As we move forward, we're working to strengthen our connections, honor our history, and ensure every member stays informed and involved. If you have suggestions, updates, or even just a story to share, we'd love to hear from you. On behalf of the association, thank you for your service, your fellowship, and the spirit you carry. Let's continue to build on what makes this group so meaningful.

We're pleased to share that our current membership stands at 91, including 7 esteemed Honorary and Associate members. Of the 84 dues-paying members, one membership expired in 2023, and 29 have expired in 2024.

To help ensure a smooth renewal process, we'll send friendly reminders to those whose memberships expired in 2023 and 2024.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With respect and appreciation,
Earl Shatzer
Secretary, 13th Combat Engineer Association

South Korea was far from Democratic

The first President of South Korea, Syngman Rhee, jailed or assassinated his political opponents. He also had an active secret police force to root out North Korean agents, but they detained, tortured, and killed many innocent civilians. Days after the start of the Korean War, he ordered the Bodo League Massacre, killing more than 100,000 suspected communist sympathizers and their families. Rhee was ousted when thousands of protesters overran the Blue House in 1960.

Geoje-do POW CAMP (continued from Page 07 December 2024 newsletter)**Geoje Uprising (February–May 1952)**

The civilian internee compounds were screened during January and early February, except for the 6,500 inmates of Compound 62. Here, the Communists had firm control and refused to permit the teams to enter. The compound leader stated flatly that all the members of Compound 62 desired to return to North Korea and that there was no sense in wasting time in screening. Since the South Korean teams were equally determined to carry out their assignment, the 3rd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment moved in during the early hours of 18 February and took up positions in front of the compound. With bayonets fixed, the four companies passed through the gate and divided the compound into four segments. But the Communists refused to bow to the show of force. Streaming out of the barracks, they converged on the infantry with pick handles, knives, axes, flails, and tent poles. Others hurled rocks as they advanced and screamed their defiance. Between 1,000 and 1,500 internees pressed the attack, and the soldiers were forced to resort to concussion grenades. When the grenades failed to stop the assault, the UN troops opened fire. 55 prisoners were killed immediately, and 22 more died at the hospital, with over 140 other casualties against 1 US soldier killed and 38 wounded. This was a success for the Communists, for the infantry withdrew, and the compound was not screened.

The fear that the story might leak out to the Chinese and North Koreans led the UN Command to release an official account placing the blame squarely on the shoulders of the Communist compound leaders. The Department of the Army instructed UN commander General Matthew Ridgway to make it clear that only 1,500 of the inmates took part in the outbreak and that only civilian internees, not prisoners of war, were involved. In view of the outcry that the Communist delegates at Panmunjom were certain to make over the affair, this was an especially important point. Civilian internees could be considered an internal affair of the South Korean Government and outside the purview of the truce conference. However, North Korean protests at Panmunjom were not the only results of the battle of Compound 62. On 20 February, General Van Fleet appointed Brigadier-General Francis Dodd as commandant of the camp to tighten up discipline, and the following week Van Fleet received some new instructions from Tokyo:

In regard to the control of the POWs at Ko Je-Do, the recent riot in Compound 62 gives strong evidence that many of the compounds may be controlled by the violent leadership of Communists or anti-Communist groups. This subversive control is extremely dangerous and can result in further embarrassment to the U.N.C. Armistice negotiations, particularly if any mass screening or segregation is directed within a short period of time. I desire your personal handling of this planning. I wish to point out the grave potential consequences of further rioting, and therefore the urgent requirement for the most effective practicable control over POW's.

Although the orders from Ridgway covered both Communists and anti-communists, the latter was submitted to UN personnel and only used violence against Communist sympathizers in their midst.

The hatred between the two groups led to another bloody encounter on 13 March. As an anti-Communist detail passed a hostile compound, ardent Communists stoned the detail and its ROK guards. Without orders the guards retaliated with gunfire. Before the ROK contingent could be brought under control, 12 prisoners were killed, and 26 were wounded, while 1 ROK civilian and 1 US officer, who tried to stop the shooting, were injured.

April was a momentous month for the prisoners on Geoje. On 2 April, the North Korean and Chinese negotiators at Panmunjom showed their interest in finding out the exact number of prisoners that would be returned to their control if screening was carried out. Spurred by this indication that the North Korean and Chinese might be willing to break the deadlock on voluntary repatriation, the UN Command inaugurated a new screening program on 8 April to produce a firm figure. During the days that followed, UN teams interviewed the prisoners in all but seven compounds, where 37,000 North Koreans refused to permit the teams to enter. In the end, it was claimed that only about 70,000 of the 170,000 military and civilian prisoners consented to go back to North Korea or China voluntarily.

Continued next page

Geoje-do POW CAMP (continued from Page 07)

The North Koreans and Chinese were angry, having been led to expect that the screening would turn up a much higher percentage of repatriates. Negotiations at Panmunjom again came to a standstill, and the North Korean and Chinese renewed their attack upon the whole concept of screening. In view of the close connection between the enemy truce delegates and the POW camps, it was not surprising that the agitation of the North Korean and Chinese over the unfavorable implications of the UN screening should communicate itself quickly to the loyal Communist compounds. During the interviewing period, Van Fleet had informed Ridgway that he was segregating and removing the anti-Communist prisoners to the mainland. Although the separation would mean more administrative personnel and more equipment would be required to organize and supervise the increased number of camps, Van Fleet felt that dispersal would lessen the possibility of resistance. However, the removal of anti-Communists and their replacement by pro-Communists in the compounds on Geoje eventually strengthened the Communist compound leadership. Relieved of the pressure from nationalist elements, they could now be assured of wholehearted support from the inmates of their compounds as they directed their efforts against the UN command. An energetic campaign to discredit the screening program backed by all the Communist compounds was made easier by the transfer of the chief opposition to the mainland and the alteration of the balance of power on the island.

In addition to the general political unrest that permeated the Communist enclosures, a quite fortuitous element of discontent complicated the scene in early April. Up until this time, responsibility for the provision of the grain component of the prisoners' ration had rested with the ROK. However, the South Korean Government informed the Eighth Army in March that it could no longer bear the burden, and Van Fleet, in turn, told the 2nd Logistical Command that it would have to secure the grain through US Army channels. The UN Civil Assistance Command could not supply grain in the prescribed ratio of one-half rice and one-half other grains without sufficient advance time to fill the order. Instead, a one-third rice, one-third barley, and one-third wheat ration was apportioned to the prisoners in April, and this occasioned an avalanche of complaints.

The 17 compounds occupied by the Communist prisoners at the end of April included 10 that had been screened and 7 that had resisted all efforts to interview them. There was little doubt in Van Fleet's mind that force would have to be used and casualties expected if the recalcitrant compounds were to be screened. As he prepared plans to use force, Van Fleet warned Ridgway on 28 April that the prisoners already screened would probably demonstrate violently when UN forces moved into the compounds still holding out. In anticipation of trouble, Van Fleet moved the 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment to Geoje to reinforce the 38th Infantry Regiment and ordered the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment and the ROK 20th Regiment to Busan. Barring accident, he intended to begin screening shortly after 1 May.

Confronted with almost certain violence, Ridgway decided to ask for permission to cancel forced screening:

These compounds are well organized, and effective control cannot be exercised within them without the use of such great degree of force as might verge on the brutal and result in killing and wounding quite a number of inmates. While I can exercise such forced screening, I believe that the risk of violence and violence involved, both to U.N.C. personnel and to the inmates themselves, would not warrant this course of action. Further, the unfavorable publicity would probably result in immediate and effective Communist material.

This request and Ridgway's plan to list the prisoners in the unscreened compounds as desiring repatriation were approved. Although failure to interview all the inmates in these enclosures might well prevent some prisoners from choosing non-repatriation, Ridgway's superiors held that if the prisoners felt strongly enough about not returning to Communist control, they would somehow make their wishes known.

(to be continued)

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR CORNER – EARL SHATZER

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



Reflecting Back to April 2019

"When I stepped into the role of interim newsletter editor in April 2019, Billy Quinton Sr. showed me what it means to embody dedication and selflessness. He willingly shared with me an incredible wealth of electronic and hardcopy resources that he had carefully maintained during his tenure. Beyond that, he offered his advice and extended his support, encouraging me to reach out whenever I needed help.

A little something dedicated to Billy Quinton Sr.

"In every ending, there is a quiet beginning."

April brings with it a sense of renewal—a time when nature reawakens and reminds us that growth follows even the coldest winters. This month, as we remember Bill Quinton Sr.'s life and legacy, we are also reminded of the importance of carrying forward the values and dedication he embodied.

Bill devoted himself to the association with heart and purpose, and his presence helped shape who we are today. As we look ahead, let us honor his memory by continuing the work he cared so deeply about—with unity, passion, and gratitude. Let this be a time of reflection, appreciation, and new beginnings.

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.



KOREAN VIGNETTES A FACE OF WAR

Ernest	W.	Eldredge	RA11163831
First Name	MI	Last Name	Serial No
"Ernie"	502	31 Aug '28	M/Sgt
"Nickname"	MOS	Birthday	Grade/Rank
H&S/13Eng(C)/7	Sep '50-Nov '51	NewMarket, NH	
Unit(s)	Duty Tour(s) in Korea		Home Town
Bronze Star	Meritorious Unit Citation	Good Conduct Medal	
Medals & Awards			
KCSM 5stars	NDSM	UNSM	ROK PUC

BIRD'S EYE VIEW FROM BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

It was Thanksgiving Day 23 November 1950. I had already pissed in the Yalu River, at least I had been told by the brass that it was the Yalu. What I did know for certain was that it was a helluva long way from Camp Schimmelpfennig near Sendai, Japan where I had joined the 13th Combat Engineers of the 7th Infantry Division in November 1949. I had just finished my *Hot* Thanksgiving Day "Supper". Now it was time to pull duty as Private of the Guard in knee deep snow and cold enough to freeze you know what. I was a S/Sgt in the Personnel Section, and we were in Hyesanjin, North Korea. We had each received a copy of that fatuous message sent by General MacArthur to General Barr, Cmdg Gen of the 7th Div: "Tell Dave Barr, etc." My section was with Bn Hqs. Where Battalion went, we went. I don't recall how many days we were in Hyesanjin, only that we were ordered to pack and head south. We ended up at an old school house in Hungnam. By this time we had heard of the Battle of The Chosin Reservoir, and realized why we had been ordered south.

Shortly after setting up in Hungnam, a day or so, I guess, I met the Battalion Chaplain who invited me to go with him up the hill behind our position. He said it appeared there was something going on beyond there. As we topped the hill we observed aircraft approaching from our right, dive behind another hill beyond us and rise again to our left. We had no idea as to just what was going on. We must have watched this continuing action for 45 minutes before we returned to the schoolhouse. Arriving, we found everyone with loaded packs on their backs, vehicles lined up and ready to roll. As the recipient of a "Royal Ass Chewing," I learned the outfit had received orders to report to the beach at Hamhung. The Chaplain, being a Man of the Cloth, got off scot free. As for me, it was just another one of those things that happen in the army. As the saying went, the Captain got no cherry from me. The Captain was worried. We had been reported "missing." Knowing him, I felt sure it was the hours of paperwork that would have resulted from "missing" rather than our pink hides that had him so concerned. But he was right. We should have stayed at Bn HQ.

HQ knew and later told the Chaplain, who told me, that our planes were bombing the Chicoms who were coming through a minefield laid down by Dog Company, 13th Engineers(C). They seemed to be as unconcerned in their passage of the minefield as if it were a field of corn. Reportedly, between the mines in the minefield, the strafing, and the bombing, not many of the Chicoms made it.

Since we had vehicles, we were some of the last troops to head for the beach. We left our vehicles on the beach and were put into small boats and taken out into the harbor and boarded waiting ships. Our vehicles were loaded by other units detailed for that purpose. We later reclaimed them after we landed at Pusan and began regrouping for the drive back to the 38th parallel. The last view of Hungnam prior to going below on the ship was of planes diving and destroying anything left on the beach. I could see tanks sitting out there. I don't remember now whether they were from the 2d or 3d infantry Divisions*. To my visual knowledge, these were the last troops out of Hamhung.

The ships we were on ended up in Pusan. Somewhere along the way, the Division had received word that the 13th Engineer Personnel Section was with their own Bn HQs. This did not sit well with some Brass Hat. Henceforth, the section was located at Division Rear where I remained until June '51 when I was reassigned as Bn Sgt Maj until my rotation in November '51.

*3d Inf Div.... Ed

Bonanza' Star Dan Blocker Fought Communists in the Korean War



Dan Blocker's Military Service

Blocker, a combat infantry sergeant, was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. (It took the Army a month to get him boots in his size: 14.5.)

After landing at Inchon, he was on the front lines by Christmas Day 1951 and spent nearly a year there.

Dan Blocker (far right) and three of his buddies pose for a photo during the Korean War. (Department of Defense)

He and his men took positions in Chorwon, in what is today North Korea. They were manning the Jamestown Line as the war settled into a virtual stalemate of taking and retaking hills, static fortifications, and trenches along the line.

For 209 days, Blocker and the 179th Infantry Regiment were in heavy fighting. He was wounded in action while coming to the rescue of his fellow soldiers -- something good ol' Hoss Cartwright might do.

Between December 1951 and June 1952, the 179th and 180th Infantry Regiments fought over Pork Chop Hill, a key piece of terrain that was critical to holding Old Baldy, which overlooked the entire area. By the summer of 1952, the fighting heated up, along with the weather.

The 179th was taken off the line in July 1952, and Blocker was finally sent to the hospital to recover from his wounds. His unit went into reserves, and by August of that year, he was headed home with a [Purple Heart](#).

A liberal Democrat and adversary of war, he once decried U.S. taxpayer money "being used to drop napalm on people in Southeast Asia."

Korean War Facts

The U.S. dropped more bombs in Korea (635,000 tons, as well as 32,557 tons of napalm) than in the entire Pacific theater during WW II.

WEBMASTER CORNER – EARL SHATZER

Recently, I was contacted by Janelle Gilson, who is associated with National History Day. Below is the contents of the email.

I am doing research on Dan D. Schoonover, a member of the Co. A 13th Engineer Combat Battalion who was KIA on 10 June 1953 (Pork Chop Hill Battle). I also understand he had a brother in Company A, Pat C. Schoonover. Does anyone have an after action review for 8 June 1953- 10 June 1953 or a unit history of the 13th Engineer Combat Battalion?

Are there any members of your battalion who might have known Dan or Pat Schoonover and are still alive who might be interviewed? I would appreciate any help you might give me. I am in the process of making a webpage for CPL Dan Schoonover at <https://nhdsilenthheroes.org>.

Even if they don't remember or know Dan, I would be very interested to learn the things they did during the Korean War and the Pork Chop Hill Battle. Dan also had a brother in Company A, Pat. It is my understanding that he received a Bronze Star during that battle as well, but that they were on different sides of the hill.

If you are interested in providing any information, please contact me.

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

Korean War Facts

- In occupied areas of North Korea, the North Korean Army executed every educated person (such as those who held education, government, and religious positions) who could lead a resistance against North Korea
- During the first few weeks of the Korean War, the U.S. rushed a new weapon into service to provide an effective counter to North Korean armor: M-20 bazooka. It was nicknamed "super-bazooka" and could fire a larger, 3.5-inch rocket capable of penetrating North Korean armor.

BLOODY BATTLES OF THE KOREAN WAR

Bloody Ridge

Armistice negotiations began at Kaesong in July 1951. But late in August 1951, after the truce negotiations had been suspended, the U.N. resumed the offensive to drive the enemy farther back from the Hwachon Reservoir (Seoul's source of water and electric power) and away from the Chorwon-Seoul railroad. Success in each of these enterprises would straighten, shorten, and give greater security to the U.N. front line and inflict damage on the enemy. The U.N. put a major effort in the X Corps zone, using all five divisions in that corps to prosecute ridge-top and mountain actions. The U.S. 1st Marine Division, with ROK marine units attached, opened a drive against the northern portion of the Punchbowl on August 31.

Two days later, the 2nd Division attacked northward against Bloody and Heartbreak Ridges in the vicinity of the Punchbowl's western edge and Taeu-san. Both assaults, delivered uphill by burdened, straining infantrymen, met with initial success. The 2nd Division, on Bloody and Heartbreak Ridges west of the Punchbowl, was engaged in the fiercest action since spring. The 2nd Division infantrymen crawled hand-over-hand up towering, knife-crested ridges to assault the hard-fighting enemy who would yield a ridge only in desperation, then strike back in vigorous counterattack. The same crest often changed hands several times each day.

Bloody Ridge consists of three hills, 983, 940, and 773, and their connecting ridges. The maze of enemy trenches on the ridges made it appear to air observers that Bloody Ridge had been plowed. The trenches connected many bunkers, which the enemy had built strong enough to withstand artillery fire and air strikes. The August 1951 fighting for Bloody Ridge took place while cease-fire negotiations droned on at the Kaesong armistice conferences. On Bloody Ridge, infantrymen had to go forward with flame throwers and grenades after all supporting weapons had failed to dislodge the enemy. After weeks of combat, North Korean forces moved north to strengthen positions on the next prominent terrain feature in that area: Heartbreak Ridge.

In late September and early October 1951, a month-long battle focused on the complex structure of enemy defensive positions protecting the seven-mile-long hill mass that became known as Heartbreak Ridge. Responsibility for seizing this area had passed from Eighth Army to X Corps to the 2d Infantry Division. North Korean soldiers in bunkers effectively slowed the American advance, throwing fragmentation and concussion grenades. Close infantry action is brutal, dirty, fear-inspiring work. The battle raged until 14 October, when the enemy seemed to be willing to reopen the truce talks, and the last ridge was secured.

Koren War Facts

- The North Korean film *Unsung Heroes* (1978) glorifies members of the North Korean military while depicting war crimes by South Korea and the U.S. In its cast were several U.S. soldiers who had defected to North Korea.
- The Korean War took a heavy toll up to a total of 5 million dead, wounded, or missing, and half of them civilians.
- One of the most embarrassing incidents during the Korean War was when U.S. Army Brigadier General Francis Townsend Dodd was held hostage by North Korean POWs during a camp uprising. The incident led to a North Korean propaganda victory, and Dodd suffered a career-ending embarrassment.

THE BATTLE OF THE SAMICHON RIVER

The **Battle of the Samichon River** (24–26 July 1953) was fought during the final days of the Korean War between United Nations (UN) forces—primarily Australian and American—and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA). The fighting took place on a key position on the Jamestown Line known as "the Hook", and resulted in the defending UN troops, including the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR) from the 28th British Commonwealth Brigade and the US 7th Marine Regiment, repulsing numerous assaults by the PVA 137th Division during two concerted night attacks, inflicting numerous casualties on the PVA with heavy artillery and small-arms fire. The action was part of a larger, division-sized PVA attack against the US 1st Marine Division, with diversionary assaults mounted against the Australians. With the peace talks in Panmunjom reaching a conclusion, the Chinese had been eager to gain a last-minute victory over the UN forces, and the battle was the last of the war before the official signing of the Korean armistice.

During the action, the PVA attempted to make a breakthrough to the Imjin River along the divisional boundary between the US 1st Marine Division and the 1st Commonwealth Division to turn the 1st Marine Division's flank. Yet with well-coordinated indirect fire from the divisional artillery, including the 16th Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery, and support from British Centurion tanks of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, 2 RAR successfully thwarted both assaults, holding the Hook. UN sources estimated PVA casualties at 2,000 to 3,000 killed, with the majority of them inflicted by the New Zealand gunners. Meanwhile, on the left flank, US Marines endured the brunt of the attack, repelling the PVA onslaught with infantry and artillery. Only a few hours later, the armistice agreement was signed, ultimately ending the war. Both sides subsequently withdrew 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) within 72 hours to create the 4-kilometre (2.5 mi) Korean Demilitarised Zone

Will Rogers on Advice

We can see our friends our neighbors go out make bad investments do fool things, but we never say a word. We let them risk his life and his money without any advice. But his vote? We got to tell him about that for he is kinder ignorant, and narrow minded and don't see things our way. So we advise him.
He ain't going to pay any attention to you anyhow but it's a great satisfaction to think you are advising him anyhow. November 1, 1934





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.

Chief Warrant Officer W-2 Billy Dean Quinton, Sr., US Army (Ret)
November 14, 1934 – February 19, 2025
“C” Co. 3-50 – 4-51



For 25 years, Billy D. Quinton Sr. was a dedicated and respected member of the 13th Combat Engineer Association, leaving an enduring mark on the organization and its members. His commitment to service, leadership, and preserving the association's legacy was unmatched.

As the newsletter editor for an incredible 14 years, a role he continued to fulfill even while serving as president for 5 years, he ensured that the association's history, achievements, and stories were documented and shared. His dedication to keeping members informed and connected was invaluable.

During his five years as president, he led with integrity, passion, and a deep commitment to the association's mission. His leadership strengthened the organization, fostering camaraderie and a sense of purpose among its members. Recognized for his extraordinary contributions, Billy was honored as the association's Honorary Warrant Officer. Even after his presidency, he remained a guiding force on the board, offering wisdom and support until his passing.

Billy D. Quinton Sr. legacy is one of unwavering service, leadership, and brotherhood. His impact on the 13th Combat Engineer Association will be felt for generations to come. Today, we honor and celebrate his dedication, knowing that his spirit lives on in the hearts of those who had the privilege of serving alongside him.

***In the silence of their absence, their courage speaks louder than words. Forever honored, never forgotten.
Let me know if you'd like me to refine it further.***

QUARTERMASTER CORNER – TOM COTTON

My heart goes out to the family of my friend, Billy D. Quinton Sr. He was the epitome of a dedicated engineer, both in his profession and within our community. His impact on the 13th Engineer Association and the many lives he touched will undoubtedly be felt for years to come.

Tom Cotton
"D" Company 58-59

THE 13TH ENGINEERS IN WORLD WAR II
(continued from December 2024 newsletter page 16)
Japanese Attack

In the very early morning of 29 May, all the available personnel of the 13th Engineers, Headquarters Company, and platoons of "A" and "B" Companies were called upon to perform their secondary mission- to "fight as Infantry"! They were led up what was later to be called Engineer IDU by myself and then Captain George Cookson. There, we were soon joined by an element of the 50 Engineers, some artillerymen, medics, and straggling infantrymen.

LTC Green, Task Force Engineer, took command of the situation and soon established a firing line. Through a set of fortuitous circumstances. Yamasaki's troops had struck at the weakest spot in the infantry's position and were advancing on Clevesey Pass.

Here, the Southern Force artillery had finally been manhandled into position. Had the Japanese attack been totally successful and the artillery position taken, the captured guns could have been used with devastating effect on our troops in unprotected Massacre Bay. Under COL Green's direction a degree of order was established out of the confusion and by nightfall only sporadic firing went on.

"A" Company of the 13th, under the command of LT Bob MacArthur, had accounted for more than 70 of the enemy casualties using rifles, hand grenades and even hand-to-hand fighting. The next day saw the last of organized enemy resistance. Captain Bruce Sidell, Headquarters Company Commander and LT Johnson of "A" Company were killed as were seven enlisted men, four officers and eight enlisted men were wounded in the action, reflecting the viciousness of the Japanese charge, and the **combat effectiveness of our Engineers.**

"They left home as soldiers... they returned as living history."

Time moves on, but the memories remain etched not just in stone, but in the hearts of those who understand what it means to serve. The men and women of the Korean War are not only veterans — they are storytellers of courage, guardians of freedom, and reminders of a world once on edge, held steady by quiet heroism.

May we never forget what they carried, what they gave, and who they became.

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9

13th Engineer Custom Battalion Coin

\$10.00



Front



Back

1 3/4" Diameter

To order any of these items, please use the product order form on the next page or visit our website. For mail-in orders, we currently accept checks.

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MAIL TO:
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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 actives, 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

