

97TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION)

Camp Blanding - Alaska - Pacific Theater - Fort Wood - France - Germany - Fort Riley

October 1933 - October 1971



"No Task Too Great"



97TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION), PART 2 TOUR DAY, FRIDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2014

Though we visited training areas at the end of the training week, on a Friday, their condition and appearance showed remarkably well-maintained and organized facilities. Our first actual stop was at a crane simulator for hands on demonstrations and a popular practice session. Upon arrival at rifle qualification range training had ceased, so we received a briefing from a sharp instructor and departed for our next location. Though fast paced we visited many areas viewed from the bus. A bulldozer training area is below:





Army Engineer Scrapers



Not you typical wash rack!

Our bus drove around this multi-service training area called Normandy Training Area 244



<--Our Bus Driver also enjoyed the day



Hands on skills training at the crane simulator site.





Our trip to the 35th Engr Bn Dining Facility was more than a meal, it was a feast, and we noted that our soldiers were all on short time schedules, ate quickly, departed too soon. No changes, same army.



Standing is our tour guide, Captain Jefferson Kramer, 35th Engr Bn Operations Officer

On our way back to the reunion facility, we had an opportunity to visit the Engineer Regiment Headquarters area for a photograph of all we made the Friday tour. Unfortunately some are partially hidden.



During Friday evening we broke up into small groups and scattered about in Saint Robert for some quality time together. There were several good restaurants we previously encountered and again enjoyed with friends and colleagues.

The day before, Brian Heverin and I drove out to the Engineer Museum for a conference with Troy Morgan and CSM Julius Nutter and carried with us the original battalion colors believed to have served the 97th EBC since 1956, the year our "No Task Too Great" crest was approved for use. At that time, the colors would have been remade to accommodate the newly designed shield seen on the current colors (see page 1).

The colors were generously returned to us for inspection and proper disposal. The Engineer Museum team will carefully look over the quickly fragmenting symbol that served in France, Germany and Kansas, and then send it to one of two authorized disposal facilities. We are promised that photographs will be taken during the museum's inspection event. Thank you, Troy.

The next pages contain photos of opportunity from various days, so look for that cameo shot you least expect. The plausible reason EVERYONE isn't included could be that I do not have YOUR photographs.





LB

George knows...



LB



LB

Robert & Linda



Barbara

LB



LB

FLW Post Command Sergeant Major, CSM Terrence W. Murphy



Linda

Gordon



Bill

Mike

Don

LB



LC

LB

**L: Lloyd and Jacqueline Mullins
R: BG Michael LePeilbet and Colonel David Theisen**



LB

Gift wine & glasses from Jesse and Natalia Farris



Engraved wine glasses!



TJ

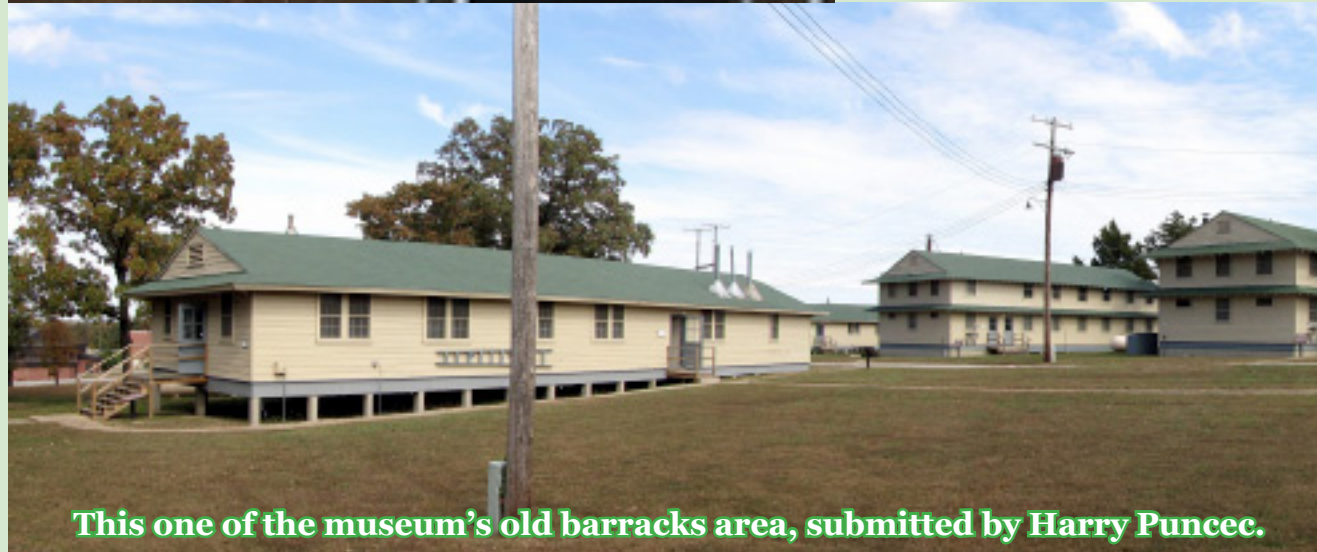
TJ



Tom Jelen



TJ=photos by Tom and Barb Jelen



This one of the museum's old barracks area, submitted by Harry Puncec.



97th EBC Reunion centerpiece courtesy Natalia Farris. Nice!



Chaplain Bill Brander leads the way, but behind Mike LePeilbet!



Talk, talk, talk, talk...

Pizza Night Meet and Greet



Pizza Hut did a good job supplying us with a variety of pizza. Natalia and Donna were our delivery experts, and they made sure enough to satisfy all known hunger. We had the full use of two rooms and a refrigerator stocked with more drinks than anyone consumed. We had plenty of water on hand but cool temperatures on Friday pleased many.

This completes Part 2. Our main event was the Saturday evening dedication ceremony and posting of the colors and will be the main focus of Part 3. We only have so many photographs available, since two cameras seem to have malfunctioned early on.

