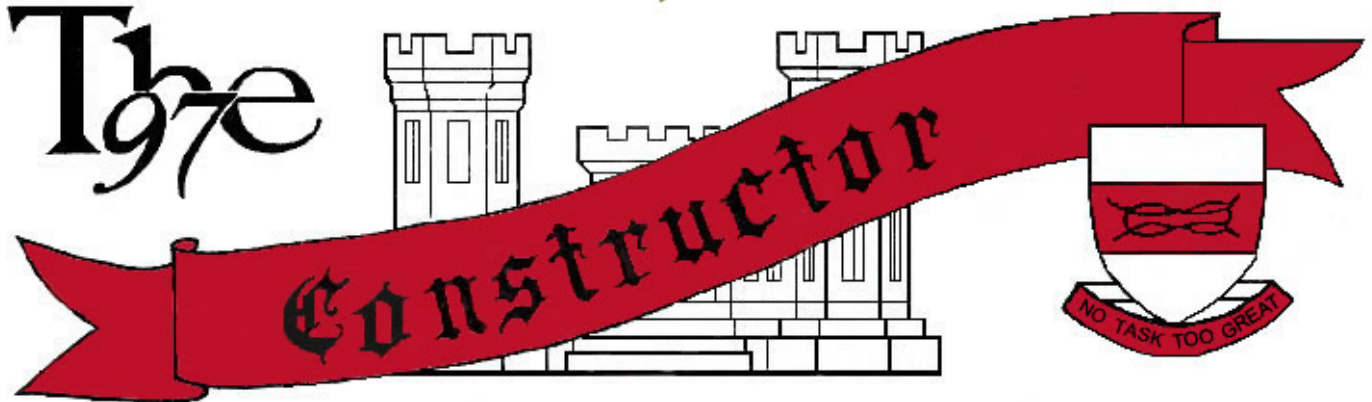


Fort Riley, Kansas



Transcribed by MAJ (Ret) Larry L. Castleman
Re-published by CPT (Ret) Donald M. Ricks, Webmaster, 97th EBC



Change of Command ceremony: 28 February 1970, LTC Thomas E. Gioiosa receives the Army Commendation Medal for outstanding achievement from COL Robert M. Rusfold, commander of the 138th Engineer Group. To the left of LTC Gioiosa is LTC Fred W. Aron, who assumed command of the battalion that day.

LTC GIOIOSA GOING TO RVN

LTC Thomas E Gioiosa, CO, 97th Engr Bn (Const) is due to leave on 28 Feb for reassignment to Vietnam. Following a 30 day leave in Lexington, KY with his wife and three children, LTC Gioiosa will join the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Advisory in Saigon.

LTC Gioiosa has lead the 97th for a year, first coming to the Ft Riley organization in Feb 69. Prior to

his assignment to the 97th Engr Bn he was with the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA.

This will be the COL's second tour to Vietnam and also the second time with the MACV assignment. On his first tour, LTC Gioiosa served as the Engr Staff Officer for the HQ Commandant.

When first arriving at the 97th, LTC Gioiosa found the battalion to be at 50% strength. While continuing to work on major projects assigned to the battalion, a complete overhaul of the training program was put into effect. With the arrival of 450 new EM, the training program for the coming IG became a major concern. All five companies passed the IG, and the turnover continued. During the summer the ROTC program, consisting of some 6,000 cadets, became the main focal point. The 97th was the main support unit for the sprawling encampment at Camp Forsyth.

Probably the most significant task undertaken by the 97th during LTC Gioiosa's tour was the completion of several tank trails in the Ft Riley area. Over 27 miles of wide tank trails were built in a nine-month period to accommodate M-60 tanks. The trails facilitated the ability and taining time involved for the tanks to reach their prescribed area.

The NCO's and Officers of the 97th are each planning parties to honor the COL. The NCO's have a

banquet scheduled for 14 Feb while the Officers have made similar plans for the 20th. Both affairs will take place at the Fantasia Club in Junction City.

[DID NOT TYPE 'COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT LINCOLN,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

FAREWELL FROM LTC GIOIOSA

LTC Thomas E Gioiosa

How quickly time passes. It has been a year since I assumed command of the 97th Engr Bn (Const), and as I reflect back on that year, many memorable moments flash through my mind. In this day and time a LTC usually only has one opportunity to command a Bn, so my tour with the 97th will always have a special significance to me.

The accomplishments of the battalion during this year have been many and ones, which we all can take pride in. We have always been able to accomplish any project or mission in the true spirit of our battalion motto: "No Task Too Great." The projects accomplished by the battalion have literally changed Ft Riley; to mention a few like tank trails, prefabricated buildings, snack bar and the buffalo corral and I could go on. Regardless of the scope of any project or detail we have tried to accomplish it all in a professional manner. It is my opinion that as long as any unit strives for professionalism in all its undertakings, it will be a unit deserving and worthy of praise. The 97th, I believe, is one such unit at Ft Riley.

What does the future hold for the 97th? Generally I hope that with spring we can get back on the tank trails, to include a rock surface and bridges. Bridges are being designed by S-3 now and if training funds are available we will get the go-ahead for three or four on tank trail "Green." Right around the corner is our IG in March. Of course there will be more ROTC support to contend with in Jun. Another big task in Mar will be the assumption of Post Engr utility crews during off hours. I know that you will give your new battalion commander the same support you gave me on all these milestones, which lay ahead. That is one thing that makes life interesting here, it is never routine.

Let me then take this opportunity to thank each of you personally through this fine newspaper for all the support you gave me while I was your commander. I

wish all of you the best of luck and God's speed. As I said last year after all things considered....

"I really consider myself fortunate to have been selected to command the 97th Engr Bn (Const). Regardless of where or what assignments I will get, or have had in the past, this battalion has a special place, a place of prominence in my memory."

So long!

[DID NOT TYPE 'SELF EDUCATION,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

BRAVO BUSY ON POST

Co B, 97th Engr Bn, is presently active on three major projects here on post. The first is the construction of metal utility shelters up on Custer Hill. 2LT Robert Starcke is the officer in charge of the project along with SFC Clay Duncan. Sixteen of the 29 shelter are completed. After completion on Custer Hill, the same buildings will be constructed on main post.

The second project involves the building of a viewing stand at the buffalo corral. SFC Benito Munoz is in charge of this project, which will be another added convenience for tourists, military personnel and their families.

The last project is still in the preparatory stages. This is the up-grading and general improvement of tank trail "Yellow," which runs from Custer Hill down to Camp Funston. According to 2LT Jack R Alley, they are presently reconning the sight, and stocking up on rocks and fill for the project. The ground will have softened up a bit before full work is under way.

Keep up the good work Bravo!

DOGS LOVE DELTA

Don't get the wrong idea, Delta isn't going to the dogs, it's going to help the dogs. Co D, 97th Engr Bn is presently working on a sewage disposal system at the dog kennels down by the Ft Riley Rod & Gun Club. 2LT Stephen Luxton is in charge of erecting septic tanks and a distribution field for absorption of water.

SSG Emmet Taylor and six welders are presently working along with post engineers on improving the post stockade and its' cells. The project, which started 12 Jan, will be completed at the end of this month. Just what we need – more bars.

After finishing at the stockade, the welders will join B Co at the buffalo corral in constructing a catch corral in order for the buffalo to be given shots, or whatever else you do with a buffalo.

For all the work the 97th does up at the buffalo corral, that buffalo better be wearing a USAREUR patch.

HHC WORKING AT CAMP MOON LAKE

HQ Co, 97th Engr Bn, is at it again. This time up at the Camp Moon Lake recreation facility. SSG Horst Loleit and his men are working on a soakage pit located behind the showers and washing facilities. Cold weather has hampered completion of the project.

HHC also had 21 men donate blood in the latest blood drive. So if you see someone walking around looking a little peaked and white, you know what he might have been up to. Way to go fellows and congratulations from The Constructor.

[DID NOT TYPE 'BAND AIDS CURE ALL FOR RVN CHILDREN,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

CONSTRUCTOR

The Constructor is an authorized Army Newspaper published monthly by HQ, 97th Engr Bn, Ft Riley, KS 66442, under the staff supervision of the Information Officer. Contributions from readers are solicited but publication depends upon the discretion of the editor. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Dept of the Army.

Commanding Officer: LTC Thomas E Gioiosa

Information Officer: 2LT David B Schulz

Editor: SP4 Thomas Livesay

Asst Editor: SP5 Larry Hinkle

Reporters: SP4 Burt Hobart, SP5 Richard West, SP4

Richard Smith, SGT Vincent Bonura

Reproduction: SP4 Larry Heaslip & PVT Mike Byrd

IN THIS ISSUE

LTC GIOIOSA GOING TO RVN 1
FAREWELL FROM LTC GIOIOSA 2
BRAVO BUSY ON POST..... 2
DOGS LOVE DELTA 2
HHC WORKING AT CAMP MOON LAKE..... 3
CONSTRUCTOR 3

IN THIS ISSUE 3
PHOTOGRAPHERS SAY "THANKS" 3
HHC BEST COMPANY IN DECEMBER 3
97TH GETS NEW X.O. ADJ & SGM 3
14 FROM 97TH GET AWARDS..... 4
THE MANHATTAN PROJECT 4
RECENT PROMOTIONS..... 5
PVT SNUFFY CAUGHT IN THE ACT! 6
INDEX..... 7

[DID NOT TYPE 'REVIEW OF HAIR,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

PHOTOGRAPHERS SAY "THANKS"

The battalion photographers would like to thank the S-4 Section for their prompt and expedient requisition of a print dryer for the lab. The dryer was ordered in 1968 while the 97th was in Germany. S-4 is now taking requests for 1975 calendars.

[DID NOT TYPE 'QUESTION OF MERIT,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

HHC BEST COMPANY IN DECEMBER

HQ Co was given the "Best Company Award" for the second month in a row for being the outstanding company in Dec. HHC beat their previous record by one point for an all time high of 239. C Co was second with 220 points.

The "Best Company Award" is given each month to the best over-all company in the battalion. Points are computed for evaluation of assignment; maintenance; appearance of the mess hall, day room and company area; accident-free miles; reenlistment rate; Soldier of the Month; news releases; athletics; and outside inspections.

Minus points are given for court martials, accidents, D.R.'s and AWOL.

The results for Dec are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Company Name and Points. HHC: 239, C Co: 220, D Co: 192, B Co: 169, A Co: 123

97TH GETS NEW X.O. ADJ & SGM

The month of Jan saw a complete turnover in HQs of the 97th Engr Bn as the Executive Officer, Adjutant

and SGM were all replaced. LTC Thomas E Gioiosa is going to Vietnam in Feb and will be replaced by LTC Fred W Aron, currently with the Support Command at Cam Ranh Bay

CPT Delbert E Duncklee replaced CPT Ronald M Wells as Bn Executive Officer. CPT Wells retired his commission on 29 December and took a job with Westinghouse at Idaho Falls, ID.

CPT Duncklee has made the rounds in the 138th, first serving in S-1 at Group HQ and then as Executive Officer of the 541st Supply and Service before coming to the 97th.

Coming into the Army as a draftee, CPT Duncklee went to Engr OCS at Ft Belvoir, VA and then spent a year in Vietnam with the 70th Engr Bn (Combat).

The CPT and his wife, Barbara has an 18-month-old baby girl.

Taking over the Adjutant slot from 2LT Myron D Scott is 2LT David B Schulz. 2LT Scott is now in Vietnam.

Serving previously as a platoon leader in B Co, 2LT Schulz assumed the duties of Adjutant at the first of the year.

2LT Schulz took ROTC at Washington State Univ and then attended the Engr Officer Basic Crs (EOBC) at Ft Belvoir, VA. 2LT Schulz's wife, Marilyn teaches the sixth grade at the Custer Hill Elementary School.

CSM Lee G Eckert has replaced MSG William B Turner as the top enlisted man of the 97th Engr Bn. MSG Turner will be going to the S-3 Operations Section of the 138th Engr Gp.

CSM Eckert just returned from a three-year tour of Vietnam with the 169th Engr Bn (Const). It was there, in 1968, that he was promoted to CSM.

14 FROM 97TH GET AWARDS

Fourteen men from the 97th Engr Bn received awards 17 Jan from LTC Thomas E Gioiosa, the Bn Cmdr. The awards, ranging from the Bronze Star to Certificates of Achievement, were presented during ceremonies at the Camp Forsyth gym.

Receiving Bronze Stars were SSG Horst Loleit of HQ Co, SP4 David J Braden of A Co and SP4 Roger S Weaver of D Co.

An Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters went to SP4 Michael D Bramel of D Co.

The Army Commendation Medal without Oak Leaf Cluster went to SFC James Davenport, mess steward of A Co.

The battalion career counselor, SSG Samuel P Mullins, received the Army Commendation Medal, a Combat Certificate from the 18th Military Police in Vietnam and a Certificate of Achievement from the 97th Engr Bn for Soldier of the Quarter during the last quarter of 1969.

Others receiving the Army Commendation Medal were: SGT Carl D Krantz of B Co; SP5 Refford Eddy of D Co; SP5 Dewey D Polf of B Co and SP4 David L Marcum of A Co.

SGT Marcus Baker and SP5 Richard West were awarded Certificates of Achievement in being selected Soldier of the Quarter in their respective categories during the last quarter, 1969.

SP4 Richard Henderson of A Co also received a Certificate of Achievement.

[DID NOT TYPE 'AMERICAN RED CROSS PRESSES HUMANE TREATMENT FOR POW'S,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

THE MANHATTAN PROJECT

To those who have yet to make the discovery, there's a town just east of Ft Riley called Manhattan. No, not that Manhattan, but a town nonetheless. The primary function of the place is somewhat fuzzy, but initially it houses Kansas State Univ and serves as a clearinghouse for the surrounding farms.

Full of fun-packed things to do, Manhattan offers many picturesque cabarets, theaters, and park benches. To list them all would fill pages, volumes. Instead, we offer a mere sampling of the activities.

As a note of explanation the location "Aggieville" is roughly the six square blocks southeast of Bluemont and North Manhattan Ave. The "Downtown" location is more difficult to find, for although it is strategically placed in the center of town, no one has yet been able to locate it.

DINS OF INIQUITY

Rogues Inn – downtown S. 3rd features old flicks on Fri & Sat nights, pool. A good place to go.

BROWN BOTTLE – downtown, just down from the Rogues Inn. Features "Aussie" possibly the worst go-go dancer in America.

THE MAIN GATE – Aggieville, college crowd, not recommended.

THE BANK – Aggieville, private club, memberships are \$24 a year, \$12 ½ year, very nice, good food, dancing.

THE JON – Aggieville, weird décor, college crowd.

THE RATHAKELLER – on the left before you reach Manhattan, good sandwicher or if you prefer pizza you can go across K-18 to...

J.D.'s – good Italian food, pizzas, etc., live piano dead player. Also another J.D.'s in Aggieville.

THE LIGHT FARM – psychedelic dogma – off K-18, literally on a farm. The cover charge is too much, but if that's your bag.

THE THIRD SEMESTER – (formerly the Golden Lady). Old 24 past Manhattan, last resort dive with the main redeeming quality of staying open late.

THE RED ONION – downtown, private club, quiet place for good mixed drinks.

PLACES TO GO

THE ZOO – with real animals. Very commendable zoo for the size of Manhattan. Picnic area. Left off K-18 at Poyntz, follow signs.

LIBRARY – It's only fair to point out that Manhattan does have a library and a good one at that. A new complex at the corner of Poyntz and Juliet, it offers a quiet place to read and meet girls that read.

THEATERS

CAMPUS – Aggieville, as you might guess, mostly a college crowd.

WAREHAM – Downtown, typically nice theater, reasonable, family type of place.

VARSIITY – Aggieville, a lot like watching a wide screen at the end of an alley, narrowness of theater has turned many a fan of the Silver Screen into a raving claustrophobic.

PURPLE ROOM – underneath the old athletic stadium (east side), erratic schedule, but good shows and free.

GOOD RESTAURANTS – There are no good restaurants.

EATING ESTABLISHMENTS

KECK'S STEAK HOUSE – Old 24 past Manhattan, thick steaks with prices to match.

WOLFF'S – Aggieville, best sandwiches in town, imported beer or go next door to....

HIBACHI HUT – Steaks, German beer and cuisine.

TACO GRANDE – 3 miles north on Hwy 177, taco shack, but good.

SCHEU'S – on Poyntz, to be avoided at all cost – features the least food and slowest service in town.

THE CHEF – downtown on S. 4th. No atmosphere, but good food as attested by the constant large crowds.

OTHERS

The Kansas State Univ Union offers bowling, pool and theater at low prices and friendly atmosphere with people other than soldiers, (women). All this is available with your Army ID card although they probably won't ask.

[DID NOT TYPE 'SUGGEST! DOLLARS FOR SENSE! ARMY SUGGESTION PROGRAM,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'PERSONAL MAIL GETS PRIORITY IN VIETNAM,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'TIRE BLAMED IN ACCIDENT,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'NEW TIRE FOR THE ARMY,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'FOR SALE' AND 'WANTED,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'HOW MUCH DOES IT REALLY COST?,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'HOBART WINS,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'THERE COULD BE NO MISTAKE,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

RECENT PROMOTIONS

TO 1LT

Daniel L Wiggins, Jr D Co

TO E-6

SSG Henry F Dozier D Co

SSG Fedro Alverio-Clintron A Co

SP6 James D Mathis D Co

TO E-5

SP5 Darrele E Nyman D Co

SP5 William E Bryant, Jr B Co

SP5 Jose H Falcon B Co

SGT Dennis E Thomas	HHC
SP5 Hubert Newby, Jr	A Co
SP5 Pablo J Jacques	C Co
SP5 Michael D Bramel	D Co
SP5 Robert A Lambert	D Co
SP5 Dewey Dover	A Co
SP5 William H Schlichtmann	D Co

TO SP4

Herbert F Lechner	B Co
Joel P Krusac	HHC
Roberto Jarez	D Co
James L Judt	D Co
Gary E Cline	D Co
Johnny C Smith	D Co
Frank J Statscewich	C Co
Joe C Denniston	C Co
Donald E Danhour	C Co
James L Rabold	C Co
Kenneth W White	B Co
Sven W Gosts	D Co
Richard T Greer	C Co
Michael H Downing	HHC
Alphonso Williams	HHC
Norman D Woodward	C Co
William A Stewart	D Co
Thomas J Outlaw III	A Co
Clarence E Seamon	C Co
Leonard White	D Co
William H Zuckshwerdt	B Co
Kenny G Sherrill	B Co
Philip J Harms	B Co
Frank Deluca	C Co
Eugene Quaintance	HHC
Louis Pugliese	C Co
John B Modica	B Co
Thomas F O'Conner	A Co
Donald B Dittberner	A Co
James R Davenport	A Co
William H Craig	D Co
Robert A Taylor	B Co
James Lowe	A Co
Robert N Agnew	HHC
David N Downs	HHC

David J Williams	C Co
------------------	------

TO PFC

Melvin J Barnard	HHC
Sam E Rook	HHC
Daniel R Wilson	HHC
Jimmy Halpaiin	D Co
Roger Brannon	D Co
Robert Tierney	D Co
Richard Besek	D Co
David Armenta	D Co
Albert Burge	D Co
David C Johnston	A Co
Richard E Camfield	A Co
Stephen F Kirsch	A Co
Dennis A Tucker	A Co
Cortes Townsend	A Co
John D Stratton	D Co
Bernard T Hendershot	D Co
Robert Shubert	D Co
Horace Hirt	D Co
Lloyd Cox, Jr	C Co
Larry A Lewis	HHC
Stanley A Ulanowicz	HHC
David E Anderson	D Co

[DID NOT TYPE 'NEW FORM SIMPLIFES RETURNS,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'UNCLE LONG,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

PVT SNUFFY CAUGHT IN THE ACT!

“Snuffy,” the new mascot at HQ Co, has already found out that Army life is not a dog’s life. PVT Snuffy, being young and somewhat inexperienced received his 1st and probably not his last Article 15.

This time it was for “improper disposal of waste material,” in the general area of the orderly room. The young private, whose base pay is six bones per month, received a fine of two bones per month for one month and restricted to the company area for the rest of his natural life. I’d like to know who dreamed up the quote, “It’s a dog’s life.”

INDEX

Agnew, 6
Alley, 2
Alverio-Clintron, 5
Anderson, 6
Armenta, 6
Aron, 4

Baker, 4
Barnard, 6
Besek, 6
Bonura, 3
Braden, 4
Bramel, 4, 6
Brannon, 6
Bryant, 5
Burge, 6
Byrd, 3

Camfield, 6
Cline, 6
Cox, 6
Craig, 6

Danhour, 6
Davenport
 SFC James, 4
 SP4 James, 6
Deluca, 6
Denniston, 6
Dittberner, 6
Dover, 6
Downing, 6
Downs, 6
Dozier, 5
Duncan, 2
Duncklee, 4

Eckert, 4
Eddy, 4

Falcon, 5

Gioiosa, 1, 2, 3, 4
Gosts, 6
Greer, 6

Halpaiin, 6
Harms, 6
Heaslip, 3
Hendershot, 6
Henderson, 4
Hinkle, 3
Hirt, 6
Hobart, 3

Jacquez, 6
Jarez, 6
Johnston, 6
Judt, 6

Kirsch, 6
Krantz, 4
Krusac, 6

Lambert, 6
Lechner, 6
Lewis, 6
Livesay, 3
Loleit, 3, 4
Lowe, 6
Luxton, 2

Marcum, 4
Mathis, 5
Modica, 6
Mullins, 4
Munoz, 2

Newby, 6
Nyman, 5

O'Conner, 6
Outlaw, 6

Polf, 4
Pugliese, 6

Quaintance, 6

Rabold, 6
Roork, 6

Schlichtmann, 6
Schulz, 3, 4
Scott, 4
Seamon, 6
Sherrill, 6
Shubert, 6
Smith
 Johnny, 6
 Richard, 3
Snuffy, 6
Starcke, 2
Statscewich, 6
Stewart, 6
Stratton, 6

Taylor
 Emmet, 2
 Robert, 6
Thomas, 6

Tierney, 6
Townsend, 6
Tucker, 6
Turner, 4

Ulanowicz, 6

Weaver, 4
Wells, 4
West, 3, 4
White, 6
Wiggins, 5
Williams
 Alphonso, 6
 David, 6
Wilson, 6
Woodward, 6

Zuckshwerdt, 6