

 $\label{eq:continuous} Transcribed \ by \ MAJ \ (Ret) \ Larry \ L. \ Castleman \\ Re-published \ by \ CPT \ (Ret) \ Donald \ M. \ Ricks, \ Webmaster, \ 97^{th} \ EBC$ 

## LTC DUPONT BIDS FAREWELL

It is with regret that I leave the 97th Engr Bn. Regret, because I leave behind the finest group of soldiers with whom I have had the privilege to serve and command. The privilege to command a construction battalion is not extended to everyone, and I feel indeed fortunate to have had the opportunity. You have made my tour with you a rich and rewarding experience and one, which I will cherish for many years. I wish to thank each of you for your support and hard work, which you have many times demonstrated when the chips were down. I shall never forget our bridge training on the Rhine (perhaps because of the chilly waters) nor our field training exercise at Meunchweiler, Germany. Our many construction jobs, both military and civilian assistance projects, were executed with professional competence. In particular I look back with pride on the beautiful Pruem Mess Hall job constructed under the most adverse conditions I have ever seen. I shall remember the inspiring manner in which each of you who were involved executed the entire REFORGER plan. Prepositioning of the battalion's equipment went very smoothly because it was a team effort. Your smooth deployment to Ft Riley, KS again bore the mark of the professional. Your arrival here and the subsequent performance during the past six months are noteworthy. Lacking facilities, tools and equipment you nevertheless continued to do your best to accomplish the mission at hand. In leaving, I carry with me a great deal of pride in having commanded the 97th Engr Bn. I thank you all for the privilege of being your commander. I know that you will give your new commander the support you have so generously given me. Goodbye and God Bless You All.

# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY A SUCCESS

Operation Snowflake came to a successful climax on 23 Dec with the children's Christmas Party. Approximately 60 children attended the party. Jolly old Saint Nick took time out form his busy holiday season to stop in and visit. He talked with each child in turn and presented a gift to each. And if this wasn't enough, the appearance of Mister Mephisto certainly was. Mister Mephisto dazzled his young audience with a number of superbly executed magic tricks and a continuous monologue, which delighted all present. Also, on the entertainment bill of fare, was the "STORM," a group of young musicians led by Steve Dupont. These kids were not lacking inability or enthusiasm. The Polo Club had been decorated for the occasion, refreshments were served and a good tine was had by all. Funds for the children's Christmas Party were realized through the sale of cakes baked by wives of members of the battalion. We are all looking forward to the second annual children's Christmas Party to be held next December.

[DID NOT TYPE 'THE PSYCHEDELIC SERGEANT AS NO  $97^{TH}$  HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE,' AS NO  $97^{\text{TH}}$  HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'HEIDELBERG, GERMANY,' AS NO  $97^{\text{TH}}$  HISTORICAL VALUE.]

#### NEW EDITOR AND PHOTOGRAPHER

As SP5 Donald Fullman of HHC prepares to ETS, his replacements, PFC William Morganstern (Editor) and PVT Robert Bowser (Bn Photographer) are busy learning their new assignments. Both PFC Morganstern and PVT Bowser are rookies in the outfit having been assigned to the 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn less than three months ago.

Those of you who wish to contribute articles and/or "Letters to the Editor" for <u>The Constructor</u> are encouraged to contact PFC Morganstern at Bn HQ's during the work day or HQ Co after hours. Photographic requests can be forwarded to PVT Bowser at Bn HQ's.

#### CONSTRUCTOR

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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.

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& SP5 Ronald D Gillespie

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[DID NOT TYPE "THE RAPE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA," AS NO  $97^{TH}$  HISTORICAL VALUE.]

## **FLASH**

Despite the combined efforts of SP5 Viens and PFC Swarner, HQ Co rolled over "Charlie" Co in Jan 28<sup>th</sup> opening games of the Bn volleyball tourney. HHC 15, C Co 4 (first game) HHC 15, C Co 9 (second game).

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[DID NOT TYPE 'LETTERS TO THE EDITOR,' AS NO  $97^{TH}$  HISTORICAL VALUE.]

#### **ACE'S HOLE**

Editor's note: "Ace's Hole" is the first in a series of monthly sports columns written by an anonymous member of The Constructor staff.

Company Level Volleyball Tournament is just around the corner. The tourney began 27 Jan and will continue to 15 Feb. Rosters of players and officials (two per team) must be submitted prior to 27 Jan in order for the company to be eligible. As you all know, the Jets defeated the Colts in the Super Bowl, well; HQ Co pulled a similar upset this past weekend by beating SSG Mack's tough A Co football team in a grudge match on the 97th Engr Bn Athletic Field. Although the field was shortened to 60 yards, to accommodate the old timers, the "Head Shed" pounded its way to another resounding victory by a score of 20-19. For those who were unaware, HQ Co now has a 2-0 record against A Co. HHC was the only team to defeat Alpha in the regular flag football season. Better luck next time SSG Mack. Bn level basketball has been over for sometime, but we would like to congratulate "Charging Charlie" on their fine effort in the post level tournament. Specialist Pincock and Means deserve special recognition for their performance under the guidance of C Co's able coach Specialist Pitts.

## SSG STADLER

As a result of the recent 24<sup>th</sup> Inf Div levy, one loss that will be greatly felt by the entire Bn is that of SSG Joseph E Stadler.

SSG Stadler arrived in the Bn in Nov 1966 and has always served as Bn Medical NCO. Additionally in Sep 1967 he took on the duties of Bn Reenlistment NCO.

Those of us that were in Germany will never forget his untiring efforts as Bn interpreter helping one and all in many difficult situations. Athletes will remember his continuing supply of adhesive tape.

His vast knowledge of the medical field has kept the whole Bn always on top and nearly gig free every inspection. Many can remember his warm tent at Bridge Training when feet became cold and heads followed suit.

But his greatest impact could be found in his role as Bn Reenlistment Sergeant. Rather than pursue quotas he was always looking towards true "career counseling" and succeeded in having men reenlist for what they Article 15 is "Forfeiture of five pounds of hamburger wanted and needed and not for what was convenient. SSG Stadler will be missed and his effect on the men of the Bn will be felt for a long time to come.

## WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

With the end of the construction season this year, we saw many of our friends in the 97th Engr Bn for the last time. We bid them a sorrowful farewell, yet we welcome the challenge of meeting and working with their future replacements. Though we are temporarily short of personnel to maintain such construction activity, things will not always be so slow.

With the coming of spring and another construction season, we are looking forward to some busy times. Tank trails, hard stands for military and POV parking areas, construction of metal storage buildings, bridge repair, and roadwork are just a few of the projects awaiting this next construction season.

Experienced personnel may not be coming when the Bn rebuilds to full strength, so now is the time for all of you "old hands" to freshen your memories so that we can maintain our efficiency regardless of turnover.

[DID NOT TYPE 'TO AVOID HOAXES,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

# D COMPANY PVT URINATES IN **DAYROOM**

What kind of a G.I. stands 18 inches tall, weighs 35 pounds, has his own private Mess Hall in the Orderly Rm, and has received an Article 15 for urinating in D Co's Day Room? PVT Thomas Edmond Durk, canine, of course! PVT D2 Durk is owned by CPT Todd of D Co and has become D Co's mascot. PVT Durk has his own 201file as well as an Article 15 for urinating "...with malice and a forethought..." in the Day Room.

Some of the information in Durk's 201 file includes: No duties involving the English language; permanently disqualified for airborne tng; monthly pay rate of 35 pounds of hamburger; and a permanent scar (mole growth, left ear).

PVT Durk's recommended punishment for his for one month, restriction to Co area, place of worship, and Vet for 14 days."

Single and soft-spoken, PVT Durk and his record to date have baffled the Army. His record in Basic Tng is poor: he never qualified with the M-14 and "blew" the hand grenade throw. His short tour already includes disciplinary action and he faces the possibility of being 212'd out of the service. If not, the Army may face some serious administrative decisions. Should PVT Durk decide to reenlist in his MOS (D-O-G), how would his VRB be calculated?

"Dog" Co, you did it again.

(01-1-69.jpg: PVT Durk bows in shame when confronted with the scene of the crime.)

(01-2-69.jpg: Later, Durk lights up and relaxes after finishing chow.)

DID NOT INSERT PHOTOS OF THE PRESIDENT AND HIS CABINET AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

#### **PROMOTIONS**

Grundy, Jack		D Co
Dority, Earl		HHC
7		
TO SSG		
Hendrickson, Joseph		В Со
Thornton, Bodie		В Со
•		
TO SGT		
Howe, Skipper		HHC
, 11		
TO SP5		
Sargent, Matt		D Co
LePeilbet, Michael		C Co
Hardy, Daniel		A Co
Howard, Johnny		A Co
Brisker, Steven	C Co	
Mulder, Johnnie		D Co
Uber, John		A Co
Fleckenstein, Keith		A Co
ricelenstein, rettii		11 00

TO SFC

Tomlinson, William	C Co	A Co	
Corroll, John	D Co	SP5 Terry Hirte	Lakeland, MN
Leffers, Harry	A Co	1LT Lawrence Koga	Honolulu HI
King, Vernon	C Co	SP5 Almer Burch	Pensacola, FL
Walker, Horace	ВСо	SP4 Norman Fountaine	Pawtucket, RI
Velez, Sol	ННС	SP5 Dale Droessler	Cuba City, WI
Viens, Norman	ННС	SSG Juan Torres-Rogena	Caroline, PR
Dow, Lawrence	ВСо	SP6 Ralph Irwin	Alma, AR
Pittman, Warren	ВСо	PFC Thomas Higgins	Lake George, NY
McFatridge, Robert	C Co	SP5 James Gaskin	Atlanta, GA
Allen, Larry	D Co	SP4 James Flick	Somerset, PA
Bradley, Charles	D Co	PVT Thomas Mullen	Charlestown, MA
Brumley, Lynville	D Co		
Dyson, James	ННС	<u>B Co</u>	
Stockinger, Gilbert	ННС	SP5 Ronald Nicholson	Baltimore, MD
Duttenhefer, James	D Co	2LT David Canaday	Rock Springs, WY
Zurawske, William	ННС	2LT Theodore Sanko	Omaha, NE
Koen, Arthur	A Co	SP5 Larry Sawyer	Huntington, WV
Haer, Curtis	ВСо	SP4 James Robinson	Oklahoma, OK
Rowe, Robert	ВСо		
Russell, Gregory	ВСо	<u>C Co</u>	D: 11 O.11
Brown, Richard	ННС	2LT Tommy Trivan	Findly, OH
Neymeyer, Leland	ВСо	SP5 Gary Thompson	Hopkinsville, KY
Cordona, Arthur	ВСо	2LT Robert Christensen	Ogallala, NE
Whisenant, Lawrence	A Co	SP5 Charles Carter	Houston, TX
		SP4 Tommy Frazier	Millersburg, OH
TO SP4		SP4 Robert Deke	Broadfield, MO
Holtkamp, Gary	ННС	D Co	
Watson, Steve	HHC	SP4 Charles Patton	Ungatan VC
Duncan, Ronald	A Co	SP4 Charles Patton SP4 Richard Stewart	Hugoton, KS
Gardner, Larry	A Co	PFC David Glaim	San Diego, CA
Nixon, Nick	C Co		Brookings, SD
Valiento, Jose	C Co	PVT Clyde Bass	Princeton, IL
Alvarado, Tony	A Co	SP4 Joseph Lee	Jacksonville, FL
Chappel, William	D Co	SP4 Christopher Jenkins	Lynn, MA
Dague, Leen	n o		
e	ВСо	ECCTRALITUCE	DHY AMADDED
Reece, Thomas West, Richard	HHC HHC	FOOTBALL THO	PHY AWARDED

## **NEW PERSONNEL**

A Co

HQ	Co
	_

Wojeiechowski, Walter

SP5 Ronald Gillespie	Eugene, OR
SP4 Carmielo Alioto	NY, NY
2LT Raymond Morris	Toledo, OH

# D

January 1969

On 22 Jan 69, the trophy for second place in touch football for Ft Riley Bn teams was presented to LTC Dupont by the 97th's player-coach SSG Andrew Mack of Co A. The team members present at the ceremony were 1LT Kuspa, 2LT Myers, SFC Hill, SSG Green, SP4 Bolden, SP4 Hemmit, and SP4 Olsen all of Co A; SP5 Viens of HHC and SP5 Rawlings of B Co. Members who could not attend due to prior commitments with

and SP4 Mitchell of A Co; and SSG Lockhart of B Co.

The 97th team won two of three contests against well drilled teams of other Bn's on Post. It was a single elimination tournament. For the teams effort, the members were awarded a handsome trophy, which

new units were SP5 Artis, SP5 Howard, PFC Butler they proudly present to the Bn Cmdr, and which may now be seen in the Office of the Adjutant at Bn HQ's.

> [DID NOT TYPE 'UNCLE SHORT,' AS NO  $97^{TH}$  HISTORICAL VALUE.]

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