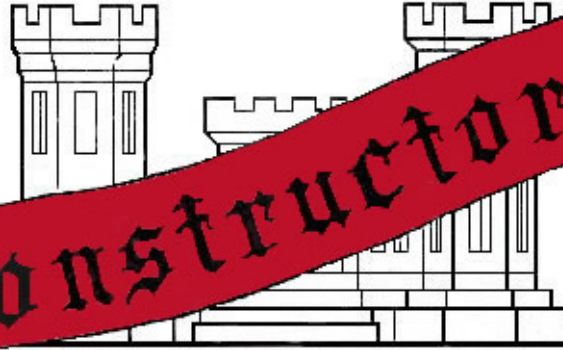


Fort Riley, Kansas

The

Constructor



1LT JERNIGAN HHC



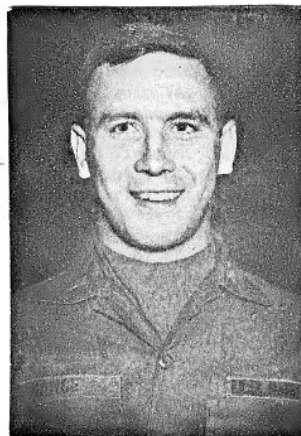
1LT MCCARTHY A CO.



1LT KINZLER B CO.

**KNOW
YOUR
C.O.**

1LT
NANCE
C CO.



CPT
TODD
D CO.



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

KNOW YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER

The following background on each Company Commander within the 97th Engr Bn is to familiarize you with your particular Commanding Officer.

HQ COMPANY: 1LT David H Jernigan attended Basic Tng at Ft Benning, GA and completed Basic in Jul 66. He had AIT at Ft Dix, NJ in Jul and Aug and entered Engr Officers Candidate School at Ft Belvoir, VA. 1LT Jernigan graduated from OCS in May 67. 1LT Jernigan has served as Assistant Adjutant, Unit Personnel Technician, Platoon Leader in both C and D Co's and Commo Officer of HHC before becoming CO of HHC in Aug 68.

A COMPANY: 1LT Edmund R McCarthy was commissioned as a ROTC Officer in Jun 67 after graduating from Rennselaer Poly Tech in Troy, NY. After graduating from Engr Officer School, Ft Belvoir, VA, 1LT McCarthy was assigned to the 97th Engr Bn as Equipment Platoon Leader, A Co in Nov 67. In Aug 68, 1LT McCarthy became the Field Maint Platoon Leader of A Co and, in Apr 69, became Commanding Officer, A Co, 97th Engr Bn.

B COMPANY: 1LT David F Kinzer, Jr was commissioned 31 Mar 67 after completing Engr Officer Candidate School at Ft Belvoir, VA. In Apr 67, 1LT Kinzer was assigned to the 97th Engr Bn as Construction Platoon Leader of B Co and in Oct 67 became Earthmoving Platoon Leader. In Feb 68, 1LT Kinzer was assigned as D Co's Operations Officer until Aug 68 when he was assigned as Commanding Officer of B Co.

C COMPANY: 1LT Hubert M Nance, Jr was commissioned through ROTC while attending NC St Univ in Raleigh, NC in Jun 67. After completion of Engr Officers' School at Ft Belvoir, VA, 1LT Nance was assigned to C Co, 97th Engr Bn, in Oct 67 as both the Operations Officer and Construction Officer. In Sep 68, 1LT Nance served as the S-3 Officer until Mar 69, when he was assigned as Commanding Officer, C Co.

D COMPANY: CPT Thomas E Todd was commissioned after completing Engr Officers Candidate School in Ft Belvoir, VA in 1966. Prior to OCS, CPT Todd completed a 44-week Special Forces School and is qualified as a Sr Parachutist. CPT Todd served at Ft Irwin, CA from Aug 66 to Mar 67 before being assigned to Vietnam. While in Vietnam, CPT Todd served as the Maint Officer in the 507th Engr Detachment, as a Unit Commanding Officer in the 28th Engr Detachment, and as XO in the 82nd Engr Detachment and was promoted to the rank of CPT on 3 Aug 68. In Dec 68, CPT Todd was assigned to the 97th Engr Bn as the Assistant Executive Officer and on 9 Jan 69 was assigned as D Co's Commanding Officer.

[DID NOT TYPE 'THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'SWIM SAFELY,' 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 Roy Ziegler
 Editors: SP4 William A Morganstern & PVT Thomas Livesay
 Photographer: SP4 David Galvond
 Artists: PVT Thomas Livesay
 Staff: 1LT David H Jernigan, SP5 Norman Viens, CPT Ronald K Kuhar & SGT Donald Stillings

IN THIS ISSUE

KNOW YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER 2
CONSTRUCTOR 2
IN THIS ISSUE 2
BOOKCASES DUE 3
PROMOTION TO CAPTAIN 3
PRE-FAB SHELTERS 3
CORRECTIONAL TRAINING FACILITY 3
BEST COMPANY AWARD 3
JUNE SOLDIER OF THE MONTH..... 4

B COMPANY ACTIVITIES..... 4
NEW PERSONNEL 4
THE PHYCHEDELIC SERGEANT 5
PVT DURK UP FOR COMMISSION..... 5
INDEX Error! Bookmark not defined.

[DID NOT TYPE 'THE HAZARD OF BEING SHORT,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

CORRECTIONAL TRAINING FACILITY

[DID NOT TYPE 'LEGAL AID, ' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

BOOKCASES DUE

B Co is presently constructing 10 bookcases under the supervision of 2LT Robert G Stewart and 2LT David D Canaday. Each company within the Bn will be given two bookcases and they will be used for manuals, reports and other material.

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

[DID NOT TYPE 'INDEPENDENCE DAY,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

PROMOTION TO CAPTAIN

1LT John P Kuspa was promoted to the rank of CPT on 7 Jun 69. Promotion ceremonies were conducted by LTC Thomas E Gioiosa, Commanding Officer, 97th Engr Bn, at Bn HQ.

CPT Kuspa graduated from West Point in 1967 and was assigned to the 97th Engr Bn, then stationed in Germany. During Operation REFORGER (deployment of the 97th Engr Bn to Ft Riley, KS) CPT Kuspa was the Platoon Commander of Field Maint in charge of Bn support activity.

In Aug 68, CPT Kuspa became the Commanding Officer of A Co, 97th Engr Bn. He received a Certificate of Achievement for his competence during the REFORGER operation as well as for his service as A Co's CO.

CPT Kuspa is presently on leave prior to departure for RVN.

PRE-FAB SHELTERS

Construction of some 27 prefabricated storage shelters on Custer Hill began 20 May 69 and is expected to be completed by 15 Aug.

2LT Thomas G Trivan's platoon and 2LT Robert L Barna's platoon of C Co have been working overtime in order to meet the completion date. Most of these shelters measure 24', 3", by 15', 3".

D Co has initiated projects for CTF (Correctional Tng Facility) in their bivouac area. 2LT Reid's earthmoving platoon began construction Sat, 7 Jun, and worked continuously through Sun and Mon constructing a concrete pad for CTF's Mess area. CTF's bivouac area is located about one mile north of the tank trails (also constructed by the 97th Engr Bn). The 48' x 22' pad will support a 16' x 32' mess tent (G.P. Medium). SSG Jackson, also of D Co, is assisting in the supervision.

1LT Stroble's platoon is also working on this project and is in charge of the construction of 11 squad frames (for living quarters). A drainage ditch is also being built from old Hwy 77, 650 feet west to the bivouac area.

Estimated completion date for this project is 20 Jun 69.

[DID NOT TYPE 'ARMY SERVICE NUMBER OUT,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'LAIRD CONCERNED OVER CREDIBILITY,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'SGT SITTINGBULL,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

BEST COMPANY AWARD

An incentive award has been initiated by HQ's, 97th Engr Bn, to determine the best company of the month. Under the program the best company will be selected under a point plan with the highest scorer of the five companies becoming the winner. Factors used to determine the recipient of the "Best Company" award will be as follows:

	<u>MAX POINTS</u>
- CO/S-3 Evaluation of Mission Accomplishment	100
- Maintenance	50
- Appearance of Company Area	25
- Mess Hall and Dayroom	25
- Accident Free Miles/Exposure	25
- Reenlistment Rate	15
- Savings Bond Participation	15

- Soldier of the Month	25
- News Releases	15
- Athletic Competition	25
- Outside Inspections	+10

In addition, points will be subtracted from the monthly total for the following.

- Court Martials	-25
- Accidents	-10
- AWOL's	-10
- DR's	- 5

The company winning the award will have their name inscribed on the "Best Company" plaque and will be awarded a training holiday on a Sat morning the following month. The Co receiving the award the most times during the year will be presented with the plaque at the end of the 12-month period.

[DID NOT TYPE 'ACE'S HOLE,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

JUNE SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

B Co has done it again. Congratulations to SP4 Donald Denning of B Co for being selected as "Soldier of the Month" for the 97th Engr Bn during Jun 69. Criteria for selection included knowledge of MOS, military justice, military courtesy, current events, and general military knowledge.

B COMPANY ACTIVITIES

SGT Donald Stillings, PIO, NCO

It seems that this battalion is famous for standing in the dark as to what each of the companies are doing at any given time. Although I can't speak for the other, I can give you a rundown of "Best" Companies activities as of late, and relieve at least one fifth of the communications constipation.

The construction platoons have been kept busy with construction of nine miles of tank trails near the intersection of old J-70 and Hwy 82. Their biggest and seemingly never-ending problem has been drainage. As you remember the weather this last month has been sporadic to say the least. Not only must the trail be built strong enough to withstand the constant pounding of Division's summer training schedule, it

must also survive a summer's battle with the elements. This means the utilization of culverts, French drains, and fords.

Making the decisions on construction problems is Best Company's earthmoving platoon commander, 2LT Theodore J Sanko. Despite his inexperience, he has already show the same ingenuity that has made Best Company the most reliable on Forsyth. For instance, the shortage of culvert material has been no great hindrance to the men on the trails. 2LT Sanko is using the discarded shipping cases from Honest John missiles.

Another project came down shortly thereafter for 65 field latrines to be used by ROTC during this summer's camp. By utilizing a mass production type system, 2LT Robert G Stewart, 2nd Const Platoon Cmdr, the project, including painting and delivery, was completed in less than two weeks. Morale on this project seemed to be a high, also. It was reported that during the two weeks of construction there was a sign hanging just inside Best Company's tool room that advertised "Kinzer's Kamod's: Best Seat in the House."

Best Company is also expecting some hand-me-down projects from the 83rd Engr's, namely the completion of a football field and track at the Custer Hill Junior High School. This will probably include hauling the cinder for the track all the way from the other side of Topeka. This explains our stepped up preventive maintenance program on the 5-ton dumps.

This, plus the never-ending requirements for ROTC support, just may make this one of the busiest construction seasons Best Company's seen since the Alcan Highway.

NEW PERSONNEL

The 97th Engr Bn would like to welcome the following personnel into the unit.

SFC Jerry Sexton
SSG Rogers
SSG Alfonse Deluna
SP5 Donald Seymour
SP4 Earnest McFellard
PVT Jerry Allen
PVT Jerry Glover
PVT William White

PVT Joe Denniston
PVT Whitlow

THE PHYCHEDELIC SERGEANT

SGT Donald Stillings Strikes Again

Well, the IG is over with, the CG's wrath seems to have cooled somewhat, and the warmth of summer is sporadically taking some of the tensions away. All in all the summer seems to hold some fresh changes in store for the better part of the troops in this area. Namely after hours activities.

Although they will never be able to match the excitement or lore of a weekend in your hometown, the Special Services Dept is coming through with a few more summer fun in the sun goodies. By utilizing good "ole" Milford Lake (of Corps of Engineers fame), boating at reasonable prices has been laid at our feet. For a few bucks a day, you can rent a ski boat with all the accessories including a driver. That should please the greater majority of the water nuts on Post. Unfortunately, if you happen to dig surfing like I do, we're just gonna have to wait till they install a wave machine I guess. It seems that the two and three inch breakers that rampage the shore lines of Milford and Tuttle are not quite strong enough to entice me to drag my board all the way from the coast. By the way, you can get more details on the boat rentals from you AER Officer.

On the music scene, the summer is coming thru with a few decent concerts also. The only one I've been able to get a date on is the "Blood, Sweat and Tears' gas" the 26 Jul at KC. But word has it that Steppenwolf, Glen Campbell and Jimmi Hendrix may also find their way to KC or Denver this season. The best bet I've found yet for interesting amateur talent is right over in Manhattan. About three nights a week and Sat and Sun the possibilities finding a young group working out at the amphitheater in the part are fairly good. And considering the fact that there's no charge, it's a good way to blow some time as long as you don't get too

critical. But if you choose to make this your bag, do me a favor and leave the rowdies back at the barracks. The acceptance of GIs who keep their mouth shut and alcoholic consumption down seems to be pretty good so far, so please don't blow it.

If you keep your ears open the first few weeks in Jul you just may see some familiar faces putting out some heavy sounds in the area. You German veterans may recognize SP4 Shelley and yours truly of serpent fame. Rhythm guitar will be handled by an old friend from Stuttgart, Greg Adams, now with the 823rd Ord Bn to round out the rock sound that pleases us most. We've been able to acquire the Iron Butterfly talents of SP4 Nickerson from HQ Co. A full day of jamming this last Sat proved to be quite gratifying and promised that the good ole 97th will once again spawn forth some of the original talent that filled USO shows throughout Europe. Besides that, I'd like to use my magic bus for something other than hauling off half my supply room every time an inspection pops up. PEACE.

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

PVT DURK UP FOR COMMISSION

Many of you remember PVT Durk of D Co who set a battalion record by weighing in at just over 35 pounds last Jan. Because of his size, PVT Durk was often misused by the Officers and men of D Co to the extent of several Article 15's and in his own words, "was treated like a dog."

Times change however, for PVT Durk now weighs in at over 104 pounds and is up for a direct commission.

"It all started when I read a Charles Atlas ad in a Marvel comic book," said Durk, "I didn't send in the coupon, but I did eat the comic book, and well you know how many comic books there are in D Co."

PVT Durk is currently on TDY as assistant driver for CPT Todd.

INDEX

Adams, 5

Allen, 4

Barna, 3

Canaday, 3

Deluna, 4

Denning, 4

Denniston, 5

Durk, 5

Galvond, 2

Gioiosa, 2, 3

Glover, 5

Jackson, 3

Jernigan, 2

Kinzer, 2, 4

Kuhar, 2

Kuspa, 3

Livesay, 2

McCarthy, 2

McFellard, 4

Morganstern, 2

Nance, 2

Nickerson, 5

Reid, 3

Rogers, 4

Sanko, 4

Sexton, 4

Seymour, 4

Shelley, 5

Stewart, 3, 4

Stillings, 2, 4, 5

Stroble, 3

Todd, 2, 5

Trivan, 3

Viens, 2

White, 5

Whitlow, 5

Ziegler, 2