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November 1967



VERDUN CASTLE

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

THE FORMAL MESS

(11-67-1.jpg: COL Ingwerson giving talk on career counseling for Junior Officers.)

One of the finest traditions of the Army Officers Corps is the Dining In (A fixture since time immemorial). The Formal Mess is designed to promote an opportunity for older officers to instruct the newer ones in the finer things in life.

The officers of the 97th Engineer Battalion held one such event on Thursday, 2 November. The highlights of the evening were an address by Colonel Ingwerson on career opportunities for junior officers, his presentation to Delta Company of an Outstanding Construction Award for erection of a dayroom for 122nd Maintenance Battalion, at Fliegerhorst Kaserne, in Hanau, and his awarding of a letter of Commendation to the 97th for surpassing its goal in reenlistment for the month of October.

Mr Vice, the junior officer present, was 2LT Hubert Nance. He gave an illuminating speech on the history of the Engineers. "From Adam, the pioneer in the technology of baby making, the Gemini 4 and the automobile drivers of the 97th Engineer Battalion."

After the dinner and the passing of decanters – the Crud Champion of 1966, 1LT Larry F. Freeman, donned his sweatshirt and proceeded to demonstrate to the uninitiated the art of the game of Crud. His instruction was very successful for it wasn't long before the Champion of 1966 had fallen by the wayside. After a hotly contested game with reasoned officiating by LTC Dupont and COL Ingwerson, the Mr. Vice of 1967, proved to fill a dual role as Lt Nance became Champion Crud of 1967. With his victory, an illuminated and entertaining gathering disbanded only to be rejoined again in the future.

(11-67-2.jpg: Mr. Vice giving a talk on the History of the Engineers. (Photos by: SP4 Eisenschenk)

"D" Co., 97TH EBC GETS OUTSTANDING CONST. AWARD

(11-67-3.jpg: Picture of the 3rd Platoon at Pirmasens. 2LT Elliott receiving congratulations from LT Freeman, Company Commander.)

(11-67-4.jpg: Far right is one of the Masons, SP4 Pankow putting finishing touch on the foundation.)

The third platoon of Delta Company, 97th Engineer Battalion has just recently returned from the Hanau area where they completed a day room facility for Headquarters and A Company of the 122nd Maintenance Battalion. On 2 November 1967, COL Ingwerson presented the ECOM Outstanding Construction Award to the B Unit Commander, Lt Freeman. This was one of the best jobs ever completed by the 97th Engineer Battalion.

Located in the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, just outside of Hanau, Germany, the project construction officially began on 18 July 1967 following many weeks of planning. The job consisted of a concrete foundation and the erection of a 96'X20' Quonset Hut complete with power and hot water heating system. Much of the credit for the job must go to SSG Walter Williams whose superior knowledge of construction skills insured organized and effective performance by the men. SP4 Pankow, SP4 Wojtalewicz and SP4 put the finishing touches on the job by dressing up the front of the building with ornamental stonework. The electric work was expertly handled by SP4 Purgmann and PFC Galli, while SP4 Mohr and PFC Snider installed a first rate plumbing job.

(11-67-5.jpg: Concrete men floating surface of pad.)

During the construction, the site was visited by LTG Boyle, the V Corps Commander and the General was briefed by 2LT Elliott, the Project Officer. The 122nd Maintenance Battalion has been waiting over two years for the dayroom. They now have an excellent dayroom, thanks to the hard work by the third platoon of Delta Company, 97th EBC.

(11-67-6.jpg: 2LT Elliott is shown here briefing LTG Boyle, 5th Corps Commander.)

CONSTRUCTOR

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THE NEW 97th EBC CO

(11-67-7.jpg: LTC Albert A. Dupont)

On 23 August 1967, LTC Albert A Dupont assumed command of the 97th Engineer Battalion Construction from LTC Harold L Myron who is assigned to the US Army Engineer Command, Europe, in Frankfurt, Germany. A formal change of command ceremony took place.

LTC Dupont was born on 5 October 1926 at Providence, Rhode Island. He has a BS Degree in Civil Engineering from Rhode Island State College and a MS Degree in Industrial Engineering and Management from New York University. As a civilian, Lieutenant Colonel Dupont worked as Assistant Superintendent of HP Cummings Construction Company, Ware, Mass. LTC Dupont is married and has three children, a daughter and two sons.

LTC Dupont served as an Enlisted Man for a short period in 1945.

On 12 June 1950, LTC Dupont received a reserve commission in The Corps of Engineers in the US Army from ROTC. On 1 January 1951, he came on active duty as a platoon commander of Hq Company, 412th Engineer Battalion (Construction) at Camp Carson. The Commander received his RA Commission on 3 February 1956.

LTC Dupont's foreign service includes Japan, Korea, the Azores and USAREUR ECOM. The medals he has received are the Victory Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, General Staff Identification and the National Defense Service Medal with first Oak Leaf Cluster. LTC Dupont's campaigns include Korean Summer and Fall of 1952 and the Third Korean Winter.

LTC Dupont's assignments include the 412th Engineer Battalion FECOM, Student Detachment, Fort Belvoir, USA Engineer Division, North Atlantic Corps of Engineers (9802), Corps of Engineers Ballistic Missile Construction Office (2407), Los Angeles, California, Headquarters 1st Corps Group, USARPAC-Korea; Office, of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, (8535), Washington, DC, and his present assignment with the 97th Engineer Battalion (Construction).

OPEN SHED TURNED OVER

Company B of the 97th Engineer Battalion turned over nearly 100,000 square feet of open storage area to the US Army General Depot, Pirmasens. The project, which began in December 1966, consisted of four “Open Storage Shelters.” Three of the buildings were approximately 200 feet by 100 feet. One building was 300 feet by 100 feet.

Operation FRELOC (French Relocation) was at its peak when the project began. The prefabricated super structures of the buildings were dismantled at various points in France then transported to Pirmasens. The pressure of FRELOC necessitated the quick off loading of building parts at any available spot in the depot. Thus the building parts were scattered over a very large area. To add to this enigma, parts for five buildings of two entirely different types were delivered from which the four planned buildings were to be constructed with no structural plans on hand or nearly similar type buildings to use as examples. B Company began what seemed at first an impossible task during the bitter winter of 1966.

A total of 55,000 man-hours were consumed during construction. About 2,500 cubic meters of concrete went into the floors. A few thousand sheets of roofing tile were installed to have to be replaced three times due to storms. Eventually the severe weather and high winds in the Pirmasens area required that new roofing be utilized in conjunction with 1/3 larger fastening bolts to be placed at twice the normal density used to secure the same type of roofing in France.

Every platoon in B Company participated in the construction. Companies A, C and D provided support together with the 68th Engineer Company while it was attached to the 97th Engineer Battalion. Key personnel positions changed many times during the eleven-month project. All who participated however can take pride in a finished product well constructed, and in the high quality of work which was maintained continuously throughout the duration of the project.

THE 97TH EBC CELEBRATES ITS 34TH ANNIVERSARY ORGANIZATION DAY”

On Saturday, 23 September 1967, the 97th Engineer Battalion, presently stationed in Pirmasens, Germany celebrated their 34th Anniversary. The 97th Engineer Battalion was originally activated on 1 October 1933.

(11-67-8.jpg: Picture of Battalion Commander Trooping the line.)

A parade was held on the Pirmasens Airstrip at 0900 hours, Saturday with the officers and men of the 97th Engineer Battalion participating. Music was provided by the “Pathfinders,” the 8th Infantry Division Band.

After the parade, the festivities began at building 4131. The 8th Infantry Band played a concert. The men of the 97th Engineer Battalion participated in Log Sawing, Mechanics, Wheel Changing, Push-Ups, Egg Throwing, and Tug-of-War events, and for each event a trophy was awarded.

(11-67-9.jpg: Here HQ Co’s drill team shows their prowess in close order drill.)

(11-67-10.jpg: Sit-up Event. They must not have drunk much beer.)

(11-67-11.jpg:: Pushup Event, Organization Day.)

When it became B Company’s time to participate in the Wheel Changing event, SP4 Eugene Redding from B Company picked up the jeep while his partner placed the already raised jack under the frame and the proceeded to change the tire.

(11-67-12.jpg:: Picture of SP4 Redding picking up the jeep while his partner puts the jack under the wheel.)

After changing the tire, SP4 Redding again picked up the jeep so the jack could be removed from underneath. After the regular Tug-of-War competition, the officers challenged B Company, who had won the event thanks to the weighty advantage supplied by First Sergeant Christopher. The special Tug-of-War was won by the Officers of the Battalion.

(11-67-13.jpg: With the help of 1SG Christopher, B Co was able to win 1st place.)

There were APC rides for all the children and a popular music band, made up of personnel from the Battalion, and named the "Serpents," provided music throughout the afternoon.

The cooks of the 97th Engineer Battalion started Friday night to Bar-B-Que a side of beef. At noon the meal was served with the main dish being BBQ beef, chicken and frankfurters with all the trimmings.

The official scores and winners of each event, were as follows:

Parade: 1st Place, 100 points, A Company – 2nd Place, 99 points, Hq Company

Mechanics Event: 1st Place, 100 points, A Company – 2nd Place, 91 points, Hq Company

Log Sawing: 1st Place, 100 points, 2nd Place, 80 points, B Company

Wheel Changing: 1st Place, Company C, 2nd Place, 89 points, Hq Company

Push-Ups: 1st Place, 100 points, Hq Company, 2nd Place, 73 points, C Company

Sit-Ups: 1st Place, 100 points, 2nd Place, 94 points, B Company

Egg Throwing: 1st Place, 100 points, C Company, 2nd Place, 80 points, B Company

Tug-of-War: 1st Place, 100 points, B Company, 2nd Place, 80 points, C Company

(11-67-14.jpg: Members of C Company who copped most of the awards at Organization Day.)

A NEW CAPTAIN

(11-67-15.jpg: LTC Dupont, CPT Meadows & Susan Meadows)

The Stars and Stripes of 1 November 1967 carried a story of great interest to all senior first lieutenants in the Army. The main gist of the story was that first lieutenants would start being promoted after 24 months service as an officer. Implementation of this change from the previous 30 months required was to be initiated on 1 November 1967.

One very interested senior first lieutenant within the Battalion was First Lieutenant Thomas H.

Meadows who fell into the category for promotion on 1 November 1967.

At 0730 hours on 1 November 1967, the adjutant received a phone call from First Lieutenant Meadows during which he was given a dissertation on the many inadequacies of the S-1 Office to include its lack of alacrity in processing officer promotions. He was duly informed that the S-1 Section might be slow but was sure.

At 1030 on 1 November 1967, First Lieutenant Meadows became CPT Meadows in the Battalion Commander's Office in the presence of his wife, Susan and daughter, Melissa. The S-1 Office might have been slow, but they can keep a secret for a week.

THE 97TH GIVES A "HELPING HAND"

The Battalion is presently engaged in a number of varied construction projects. The smaller projects are widely known as Helping Hand projects. They are small because they involve few manhours, however they are important, perhaps even more important than the larger Command directed projects.

From a very selfish point of view most of these projects are to improve our own living conditions and that of other units on the post. These are priority "D" projects. Some of the projects presently completed by the Battalion include a concrete and bituminous extension of a taxiway at Pirmasens Air Field, a cinder overlay of the Nursery Parking Lot, and a double surface treatment on the NCO Club parking lot. Due to the fine job done on the NCO parking lot by members of the "A" Company Asphalt section they were treated to a steak dinner by SGT DeLoche (Ret), manager of the NCO Club.

The Battalion is presently working on a Auto Crafts Shop, grading and compacting a storage area and the PX parking lot.

Now let us consider another aspect of Helping Hand Projects. There are projects we do for the German people. These projects are priority "E" projects. An example taking place at this very moment is the Niederwurzbach project. A few men are widening an existing trail to a recreation area. These men are living with the German people. Each will learn about the other's customs and way of life. It is

only through mutual knowledge that a better understanding can be reached between people. Better understanding leads to more tolerance and a stronger friendship and this is what is being accomplished at Niederzbach.

THE 97TH HELPS IN SEARCH

(11-67-16.jpg: Search party)

On 8 September 1967, Company B, and the 1st Platoon of Company C, 97th Engineer Battalion, located at Pirmasens, Germany, APO 09189, went into immediate action after notification was received of a 10 year old German child missing in the Rodalben area. The men started the search just outside of Pirmasens and swept through a large area of woods finding only a few articles possibly belonging to the lost child, however, none of the articles led to the child's discovery. The German Labor Force from General Depot, Pirmasens and the German police with police dogs combined with members of the 97th Engineer Battalion, totaling approximately 1,000 people, searched throughout the day with no hopeful results. At present the German authorities are offering a reward for information leading to the German girl's whereabouts.

97TH ECB SETS RE-UP RECORD

The month of October was a plentiful one for the 97th Engineer Battalion in respect to reenlistments. Ten men from the 97th reenlisted to take advantage of the many varied benefits offered to a reelee in today's Action Army.

Two career men, SSG Joseph E Stadler, and SSG James Mangrum, reenlisted for six years to fill their own vacancies. One first term RA man, SP5 Dale D Ward, reenlisted for six years, to fill his own vacancy. Two first term RA men reenlisted for six years also for their jobs in the 97th, SP4 Donald D Bailey and SP4 William N Perry. Three men reenlisted for RVN tours – PFC Lesley R Morris, Jr, SP4 Roger D Roy, and PFC Marvin G Tallavast. One draftee, PFC Varnell enlisted for four years to be reassigned to Italy and receive a VRB of two.

The breakdown by Companies was: Hq Company – 2, A Company – 1, B Company – 4, C Company 2, and D Company – 1.

SSG Stadler, the Battalion Reenlistment NCO has been filling a triple role as the Battalion Reenlistment NCO, Medic Chief, and German Liaison Officer. He has been doing an outstanding job in all three capacities. The credit for attaining the highest number of reenlistments with the Engineer Command correctly goes to SSG Stadler and the Company Reenlistment NCO's with the Battalion.

"C" CO PARTY AT PRUM MESS HALL

The second Platoon, C Company, 97th Engineer Battalion, currently working on a mess hall in Prum, Germany, was treated to an afternoon of food, drink and a good time. The second platoon, commanded by 2LT Edward Reynolds, missed the Battalion Organization Day this past August due to their TDY status on the "A" priority job. LTC Dupont, Battalion Commander, and CPT [Thomas] Meadows, Company Commander, made the journey to Prum to enjoy the festivities with the men. First Sergeant [Stanley J.] Grindy, SFC Ben Miller, and SSG Cecil Calico took the cooking responsibilities. Seems like a lot of cooks for the same pot, but the men did not complain about the food. A good time was had by all.

The mess hall facility is being constructed as a consolidated mess for the 293rd Signal Battalion and is scheduled for completion in December.

The building is a "T" Shaped Acomal, Pre-Fab completely finished in the interior, too include heating, plumbing and electricity.



(11-67-17.jpg: Wanted cooks at Prum! Show here is C Company's party at Prum, Germany.)

SERVING PROUDLY

Congratulations to the men in our Battalion who reenlisted during the month of September. SFC Robert E Oliphant, Hq Co, SP4 Harold E Garrison, Jr., C Co, SP4 George Gonzales, C Co, and PFC Franklin W Wagner, Jr, D Co.

We say good-bye to SP5 Ezra R Peck, Company D, who reenlisted for a USAREUR assignment in Bamberg, Germany.

A special salute to the men who helped set ECOM reenlistment record for October: SP4 Roger D Roy, PFC John W Varvell, PFC Leslie R Morris, SP4 William N Perry, SP4 Donald D Bailey, SP4 Ira A Self, SP5 Dale D Ward, SSG James H Mangrum, SSG Joseph E Stadler, PFC Marvin Tallavast.

What does VRB mean to you??? If you have a critical MOS, (Look up the list on your Company Reenlistment Board) you can qualify for a Variable Reenlistment Bonus. If you have any questions just call 8143 or walk into Hq Company, Room 101 and talk to your Battalion Reenlistment NCO.

(11-67-18.jpg: Unknown soldier)

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

(11-67-19.jpg: SP4 Willie J Banks)

SP4 Willie J Banks shown here after taking Soldier of the Month for the month of October. He is now serving with Company C, 97th Engineer Battalion.

SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER

Reid C Coleman having a nice time on the 25 dollars he just won for being 97th Engineer Battalion's Soldier of the Quarter. He also was ED for a period of 30 days. He is a heavy equipment operator. SP4 Coleman is now serving in Company B.

(11-67-20.jpg: SP4 Reid C Coleman.)

CWO CAMPBELL IS PROMOTED TO CW3

(11-67-21.jpg: LTC Dupont, CW3 & Mrs. Campbell)

Shown here getting his orders and a handshake of congratulations from LTC Dupont while his wife pins on his CW3 bars. Mr Campbell is presently working in Battalion Maintenance.

SPORTS CORNER

Football this season B Co had two men playing for the Platinate District football team, which ended the season with 7 wins and 1 loss. SP4 Mack Drayton played left guard and was the teams place kicker. Playing right guard was SP4 Glen B Andrews.

The Pirmasens Sub-District "Flag Football" league standings are:

"A" Co. 7-4-0

"C" Co. 5-4-1

"Hq" Co. 4-4-2

"D" Co. 2-8-1

"B" Co. dropped out of strong competition. It seems that most of the games were played on a rain soaked field resulting in more "MUD" than "TD'S."

WANTED

The names of men within the Bn. Who bowl in the "Winter Golden League." Team Captains send names to Commanding Officer, 97th Engineer Battalion, ATTN: S-3.

BASKETBALL

Beat the rush sign up now for your company basketball team. Hq. Co. is saying they will have an undefeated team this season. Let's make them work for it. Who knows maybe the Officers will field a team with the aid of Go-Karts.

VOLLEYBALL

The word is out that the Officers of the Bn challenge any team of EM's on any Saturday morning.

If you are interested in playing Volleyball contact: SFC Hayes, S-3 Sec. Hq. Co.

SPORTS AWARD

The first sports award goes to the Officers of the Bn for somehow winning the "Tug-of-War" during "Organization Day."

97TH EBC PROMOTIONS

Hqs Co

<u>TO</u>	<u>NAME</u>
CW3	CAMPBELL, Charles E
SP5	CHENERY, Carleton J
SP5	FISCHER, Edward W
SP5	THOREN, Denny L
SP5	WISDOM, Robert E
CPL	PRESTON, Gary D
SP4	BARROWS, David R
SP4	BOELKE, Robert A Jr
SP4	EPLEY, Charles I
SP4	JOHNSON, Terrance G
SP4	McWEE, Royce F Jr
SP4	MITAL, Gary R
SP4	MONTOYA, Tomas M
SP4	SKINNER, David W
SP4	SPENCE, Jerome D
SP4	STILLINGS, Donald L
SP4	STOCKINGER, Gilbert R
SP4	WEINICK, Leonard
SP4	YOUNG, Larry C

A Co

1LT	CURL, Terry W
SP5	BANKS, Teodore N
SP5	BOYER, Paul M
SP5	CLIFTON, William A
SP5	CRADDOCK, Gary D
SP5	HALLIGAN, Ronald C
SP5	PILLA, Edward J
SP4	BELL, Joe E
SP4	BROWN, Arthur W
SP4	BROWN, Walter E Jr
SP4	BURNS, Vance H
SP4	CLARK, Henry B Jr
SP4	EARLY, Edward
SP4	EMRICH, Edwin K
SP4	FINNEY, Steven S
SP4	FRIZZELL, Bruce L
SP4	HAMMOND, Leland C
SP4	HICKS, Thomas L
SP4	HIGHTOWER, Jimmie W
SP4	JACKSON, Ronald L

A Co

SP4	KELLY, Robert D II
SP4	KING, Thomas D
SP4	KNAUER, George W
SP4	LARSON, Gary L
SP4	MORRISON, Samuel L
SP4	OSBORNE, Owen L
SP4	PERDUE, Kenneth L
SP4	POWELL, Tony G
SP4	TAKACH, Arthur G
SP4	TAYLOR, Robert L
SP4	WALKER, Richard A Jr
SP4	WEBER, Harold C

B Co

1LT	HOLLAND, Wayne R
SSG	MCCLAIN, John W Jr
SP5	CALLAN, Frank P
SP5	ELKINS, Lewis S
SP5	FENDER, James R
SP5	FLINDERS, Robert B
SP5	LE BLEU, Steven R
SP5	SILVIA, Earl L
SP5	STAIB, Richard L

SP4 AYALA, Michael A
 SP4 BAILEY, Donald
 SP4 COLEMAN, Reid C
 SP4 COOLEY, Tommy
 SP4 CULP, Edward H
 SP4 DEVINE, George D
 SP4 GALINDEZ-FIGUEROA, Jose M
 SP4 JOHNSON, Charles R
 SP4 KEMP, Marion G Jr
 SP4 LOVETT, Robert W
 SP4 MEYN, Ronald H
 SP4 MOOG, Forrest J
 SP4 NORTH, Roger C
 SP4 ORTIZ-BENITEZ, Julio E
 SP4 PANTOJA, Roberto D
 SP4 PERRY, William N

B Co

SP4 QUEEN, Grover A
 SP4 REDDING, Eugene
 SP4 RIDLEY, Robert C
 SP4 ROY, Roger D
 SP4 RUOFF, James L
 SP4 SHAMBO, Gary D
 SP4 SHERMAN, Kenneth L
 SP4 SMITH, James H
 SP4 STEWART, Kenneth R
 SP4 WALTERS, Danny L
 SP4 WELDI, Michael D
 SP4 WHATLEY, Carl H
 SP4 WILKINS, Elmer M

C Co

SGT HOPKINS, Walter C
 SP5 DOCKERY, Colon Jr
 SP5 GERLACH, Charles T
 SP5 GREGORY, William H
 SP5 HESSELINK, Curt J
 SP5 KUKAHIKO, Herman K
 SP5 MALLISHAM, Lincoln J
 SP5 PITTS, James E
 SP5 RENNICKE, Norbert L
 SP5 SCHULTHEIS, George E
 SP5 SHEPHERD, James F
 SP5 TEN BERGE, John

SP5 VIERRA, Alvin J Jr
 SP4 ELLEFSON, Clifford D
 SP4 GIBSON, Larry
 SP4 GONZALES, George A Jr
 SP4 HETHERWICK, Allen J
 SP4 HICKEY, Allen N
 SP4 JOHNSON, Jerry R
 SP4 KNIGHT, Michael J
 SP4 PAGE, Benny H
 SP4 PRESLEY, David C
 SP4 RABE, Dean A
 SP4 STEAGALL, Jerry G
 SP4 TAFOYA, Frank
 SP4 THOMPSON, Robert
 SP4 VELA, Daniel
 SP4 WHITEHEAD, Billy R

D Co

1LT JOHNSON, Ross A
 SP5 BARINGER, Warren W Jr
 SP5 BARNARD, Van P
 SP5 BARTKO, Thomas E
 SP5 BIRD, William C
 SP5 ERGLE, Ronald D
 SP5 FOSTER, Wilfred L
 SP5 KINSMAN, Richard A
 SP5 MCKINNEY, Darrell L
 SP5 MITCHELL, Roger D
 SP5 NOHL, Steven L
 SP5 PAGEL, Gary W
 SP5 SZULCZYNSKI, Bernard A
 SP4 ARCHULETA, Edmund R
 SP4 ARMIJO, Eufrazio S
 SP4 BERGMANN, Andrew J
 SP4 CARRILLO, Carlos F
 SP4 CLINE, Phillip L
 SP4 FARIAS, Romulo L
 SP4 HARRIS, Cris J
 SP4 HODGDEN, Danny R
 SP4 KING, Ernest D
 SP4 LUTT, Terry L
 SP4 MOHR, Phillips E
 SP4 OBRIEN, George M Jr
 SP4 ORTIZ, Larry L
 SP4 PANKOW, Edward J Jr
 SP4 PERDUE, Rubin E Jr

SP4 RABE, Dennis A
 SP4 ROGERS, Edward
 SP4 SIGMORE, Kendall
 SP4 SMITH, Phillip E
 SP4 WALTERS, George H
 SP4 WEAVER, Timothy P
 SP4 WEBSTER, Willie J Jr
 SP4 WHITE, Sammy G
 SP4 WILLIAMS, Vincent

WESTERN NIGHT AT POCOM

Like Sutters Mill a century ago the Pirmasens Officers and Civilians Open Mess became the site of a frantic gold rush, 14 October 1967. Dudes and settlers from the local Army post, responded to the cry of promised riches and scurried to stake their claims.

With foresight the wives club established a lucrative gambling house and hopefully prepared to relieve the gold diggers of part of their earnings.

Mary Lou Essex, wife of LTC Frank Essex, the manageress of the new concern, appealed to the gambling talent of the 97th Engineer Battalion for helping maintain a winning house. She promised longer hours and littler food.

Inspired by such honesty, five bold officers of the 97th Engineer Battalion took their places behind the gambling tables. At Blackjack were Lieutenants, David Jerhigan, and Mike King. At Chugalug were Lieutenants Brain Meverin and Ross A Johnson and doing a good job. Lt Robert Mentell was dealer for the Women's Poker Table.

The interior decorating for the House, contracted to the Pirmasens branch of the United States Army Depot under the supervision of COL Jacob Cooperhouse, was completed ahead of schedule. It featured murals depicting the fertile soil of the old Southwestern United States, a stagecoach, and swinging saloon

doors. Antiquated wagon wheels and cactus were imported from a German farmer.

To inspire law and order, Major Wallace Evans of 22nd Aviation was sworn in as sheriff. He quickly made rounds and brought in the usual complement of fastidious Easterners. These individuals were detained in the town jail until bail was collected, grudgingly, from the unit slush funds.

Due to the sturdy construction of the jail by the Utilities Section of the 97th Engineer Battalion under the direction of Staff Sergeant Carl Mitchell, there were no successful jail breaks.

Displaying his genius for photographic maneuvers, Lt Dee Shapell took mug shots of well known personalities to decorate the bare walls of the local post office.

To the tune of country music pastry enthusiasts began a cake walk organized by Anna Workman, wife of Lt George Workman, Bunny Kinser, wife of David Kinser, helped in distributing the rounds of calories to the winners. Bakers from the 97th Engineer kitchens included Reta Dupont, wife of LTC Dupont; Jeanette Cornell, wife of Captain Jerry N Cornell; and Sandra Freeman, wife of Lt Larry Freeman. Guests from the 97th Engineer Battalion were the Lone Ranger and Tonto, in the persons of Lt Mike Hemsley and his wife Bitsey. They were active participants in the wives clubs campaign to determine the best man in the West. Being from the East, Lt Hemsley didn't win, but the Engineer Delegation still maintains that a Ranger is still pretty good.

Tickets for admission to the gambling house and a chuck wagon buffet were designed by Lt Mentell and distributed by his wife Alicia. With perseverance she sold over 350, leaving only 650 to throw away. It was a night of fun for a worthwhile cause – The Wives Club.

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