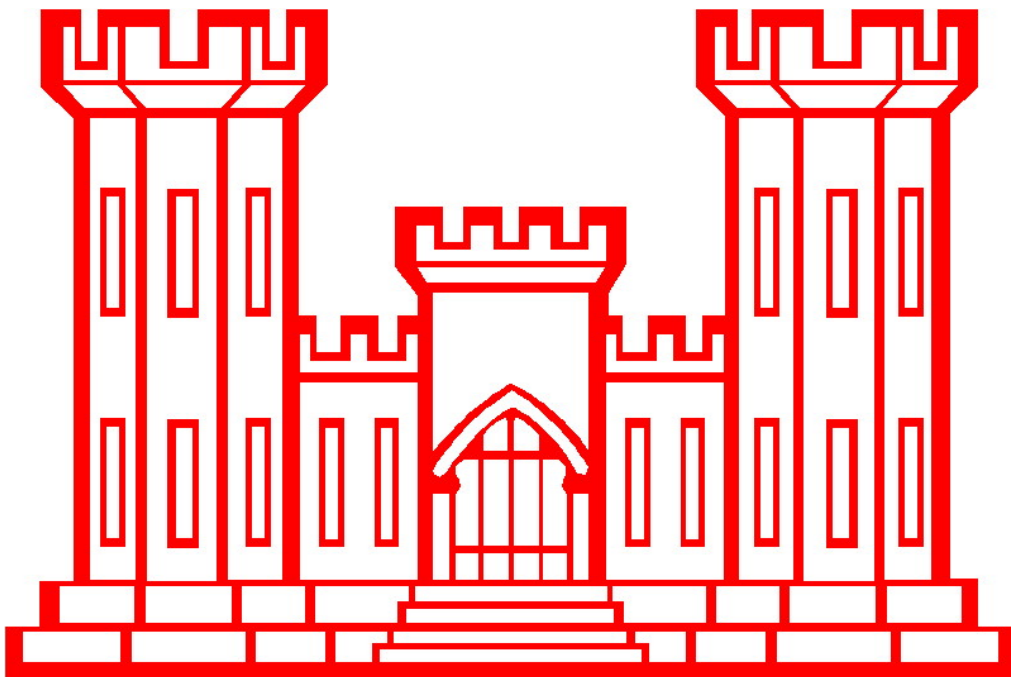


# Fort Riley, Kansas



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

### SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER

The Soldier of the Quarter is PFC John Johnston of Delta Co, 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn.

PFC Johnston has been with the 97<sup>th</sup> for about two months and works as the company clerk in D Co. Before entering the service he was a student at William Jewell College in Liberty, MO where he majored in Mathematics. He plans to return to graduate school upon completion of his service. PFC Johnston is a native of Kansas City, MO.

Congratulations John!

### SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

The Soldier of the Month for September is PFC Ford of B Co, 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn (Const).

PFC Ford was selected by the Solider of the Month Board, which consists of the SGM of the battalion, CSM Theodore B Rucker, and the five 1SG's of the battalion.

PFC Ford's home is in Tyler, TX. He works as a carpenter for B Co.

Congratulations PFC Ford!

### HHC GETS NEW CO

CPT Edward Arnold Canright assumed command of HHC, 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn (Const) from 1LT Paul H Floyd on 6 Oct 70, in the HHC area. CPT Canright has just returned from the 61<sup>st</sup> Assault Helicopter Co in Vietnam. 1LT Floyd will be entering civilian life next month.

Welcome CPT Canright!

### CONSTRUCTOR

The Constructor is an authorized unofficial Army Newspaper published monthly by HQ, 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn, Ft Riley, KS 66442, Phone BE9-7179 under the 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 Department of the Army.

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### 97<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATES IT'S 37<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

By LTC Fred W Aron

Happy Birthday 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn (Const)! You are 37 years old and have served your country in an outstanding manner throughout CONUS, Alaska, New Guinea, France and Germany.

The 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn (Const) originally appeared on the rolls of the Regular Army on 1 Oct 1933 as the 56<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn (Separate). Over four years later, on 1 Jan 1938 the unit was redesigned as the 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn (Separate), and it has retained this numerical designation ever since.

The battalion was first activated for full military service at Camp Blanding, FL, on 1 Jun 1941 as the nation was preparing for the war, which was soon to include the United States. Two designations occurred within 13 months: on 22 Feb 1942 the unit was reorganized as the 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Regiment (General Service) and on 1 Aug 1942 the official designation became the 97<sup>th</sup> Engr General Service Regiment.

At this time the regiment had been in Alaska a few months and was beginning to construct the Alaskan portion of the world famous Alcan Highway. From this tough but successful mission, the unit redeployed to New Guinea for the duration of WW II. For these operations in the American Pacific Theater during the

war, the regiment earned the Meritorious Unit Streamer.

After the war the unit was reorganized as the 97<sup>th</sup> Engr General Service Battalion in the Philippine Islands where, on 15 Mar 1948, the unit was deactivated.

With the outbreak of a new war in Korea just two years later, the newly designated 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Const Bn was activated at Ft Leonard Wood, MO on 1 Oct 1951. Within a year the battalion was notified for overseas shipment and on 23 Nov 1951 arrived in Europe.

While serving in France, the battalion had HQ's at Toul, Verdun [and Etain], under first the European Command, Army Engineers and then the Advance Section of the Communications Zone (ADSEC), United States Army Europe (USAREUR). Activities of the 97<sup>th</sup> primarily supported the mission of the Theater Army Support Command (TASCOM) in forming a chain of supply posts linking the seaport towns of France with the main element of troops stationed in Germany.

After 14 years of continuous operations in France, (the greatest duration for the 97<sup>th</sup> in any single location). Official notification was received on Mar 1966 to relocate under United States Army Europe (USAREUR) to Pirmasens, Germany.

While thoroughly engaged in construction projects necessitated by French Location (FRELOC), the main body of the 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn (Const) arrived in Germany in Mar 67. Later that year, on 20 Dec 67 the order to redeploy to Ft Riley, KS was received. When the main body of the 97<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn (Const) departed in Jul 68, it had completed nearly 17 years of service in the European Theater.

The history of the 97<sup>th</sup> here at Ft Riley is known to many of you. We have supported Ft Riley by completing many construction tasks, performing the RPMA mission at Camp Forsyth, supporting ROTC, and performing many essential details. Members of the 97<sup>th</sup> have a great deal to be proud of – the battalion's history and its current accomplishments. The battalion has always lived up to its motto "No Task Too Great."

On 16 Oct, CMMI permitting, we will celebrate the battalion's birthday by declaring that day Organizational Day. The day will commence with a battalion formation. After this ceremony, we will have food, beer and inter-unit game competition. Your

wife's, families and girl friends are invited. I know we will have lots of fun.

## A MESSAGE TO THE 97<sup>TH</sup> ENGR BN (CONST)

By LTC Fred W Aron

I recently discussed a variety of subjects with the companies during Commanders Call. Many of you were not present due to details, leave, pass, etc. For those who did not hear me, I will briefly summarize some of the more important discussion subjects.

The battalion will not be participating in an ATT in the near future. It has been cancelled by Post because they are short of funds and are attempting to conserve money. I do not know when it will be re-scheduled, but I'm sure it will not be during the remaining of calendar year 1970. With the cancelling of the ATT, we will have more time for construction prior to the cold weather.

Starting on 12 Oct 70, recall will be 1630 hrs rather than 1730 hrs. This does not mean you will stop work at 1630 hrs every day, because it is up to your company commander to determine your quitting time. Each company has a mission (i.e., a certain task to be done within a particular time limit), and thus your company commander has to determine your working hours in order to accomplish his assigned mission.

I want to thank all of you for a job well done during Sep in accomplishing the Local Disturbance Reaction Force (LDRF) mission. This thanks is especially for A and C companies who had to each muster 30 men in 30 minutes. For the month of Oct our LDRF mission is to muster only 100 men in two hours, which is being divided between B, C and D companies.

While writing this, the battalion is still waiting to receive its Command Maintenance Inspection (CMMI). We have been preparing for this inspection since I assumed command of the battalion on 28 Feb 70. We have come a long way since then in improving our maintenance standard. It involved many inspections and many long hours to reach our current level. I want to thank all of you for your support. We must continue improving our maintenance level until the CMMI. After the CMMI we are not going to neglect maintenance, but will maintain and improve our standard. It is relatively easy to maintain a certain

standard once you reach that level, but it is difficult to raise your level after dropping to a low standard.

[DID NOT TYPE 'TO THE MAN WITH THE HABIT,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'CHILDREN AND DRUG FAD'S EQUAL DISASTER,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE, 'TO WRITE, IS RIGHT!,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE, 'WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO YOGI BERRA?,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE, 'FRESHER LETTUCE TEST UNDER WAY,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE, UNITED NATIONS DAY - 1970,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE, 'COLLEGE CREDIT FOR SERVICE TRAINING,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE, 'CAMPUS UNREST,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE, 'PAIN RUNS HIGH IN SMALL FAMILIES,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE, 'SPORTS QUIZ,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE, 'KNOWING LAKE AND RIVER "PERSONALITY" IMPROVES FISHING!,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

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

### PROMOTIONS

#### TO SP5

Bieze, David HHC

#### TO SP4

Jenkins, Michael HHC  
 Cordova, Edmund HHC  
 Butts, Cyrus HHC  
 Hamilton, James HHC  
 Sigg, Michael HHC

Annibale, 4  
 Aron, 2, 3

Betts, 4  
 Bieze, 4  
 Butts, 4  
 Byrd, 2

Canright, 2  
 Cook, 4

Wormley, Robert HHC  
 Sanders, James Co A  
 Gaskin, James Co A  
 Siddon, Myron Co C  
 Dunaj, Phillip Co C  
 Goodyear, Robert Co D  
 May, Kenneth Co D  
 Annibale, David Co D  
 LeGrand, William Co D

#### TO PFC

Dobbs, Richard Co A  
 Hanna, Robert Co A  
 Furroughs, David Co C  
 Lewis, Robert Co C  
 Demarath, Alan Co C  
 Richardson, Bruce Co C  
 German, Richard Co C  
 Hartwick, Billy Co D  
 Jerland, Steven Co D  
 Tarrell, Robert Co D  
 Salge, Michael Co D

### RE-UP CORNER

Santiago, Nicolas E-6 Co B  
 Montanye, Chris E-4 Co A  
 Kirkland, Curtis E-5 Co C  
 Betts, Ronald E-5 HHC  
 Riley, Rufus E-3 Co C  
 Short, Patrick E-4 HHC  
 Cook, Craig E-5 Co C  
 Ledford, Bob E-6 Co A

[DID NOT TYPE, 'CONSERVATION HONORS,' AS NO 97<sup>TH</sup> HISTORICAL VALUE.]

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