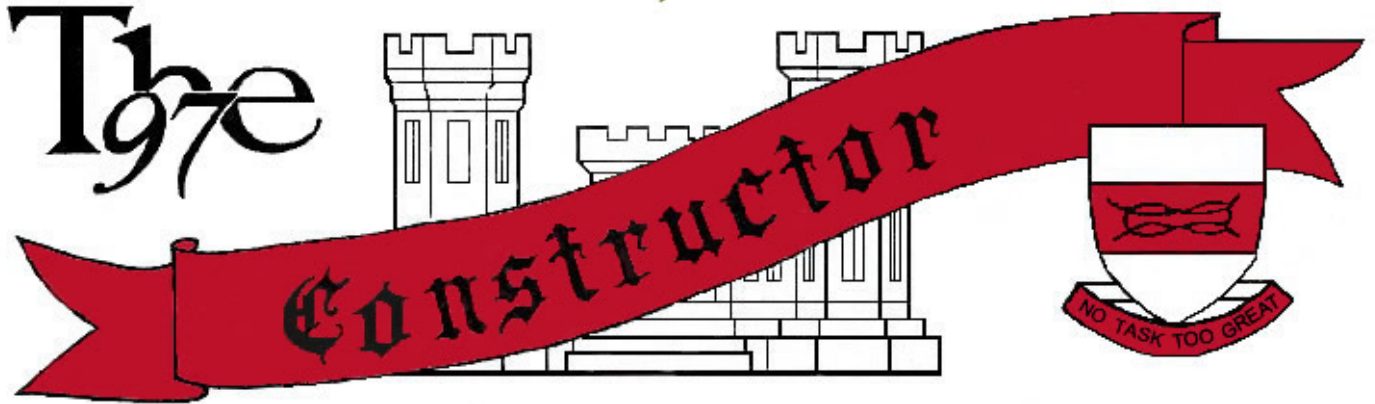


Fort Riley, Kansas



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

HO, HUM! ANOTHER ORGANIZATION DAY

“Ho, Hum, another Organization Day.” That was the reaction of many to the news that another Organization Day was to be held at Ft Riley. How many times have we driven by Anzio Park on the way to Main Post and seen a group of cars and mess tents, a couple of beer kegs and a group of people milling around. Not so at the 97th Engr Bn Organization Day held 28 Sep at Camp Forsyth. Much inventive planning and lots of work went into the event and it all paid off.

The day started at 0800 hrs with a Bn parade. BG Linton S Boatwright was the reviewing officer. He also attached a new streamer to the Battalion Colors. On 15 Apr 1943, the Dept of War had awarded the Battalion a Meritorious Unit Citation in recognition for its outstanding work on the Alcan Highway during 1942. However, the streamer representing the award had never been attached to the Colors. This was accomplished at the parade, commemorating the 35th anniversary of the organization of the Bn. BG Boatwright then spoke to the men of the Bn praising them for their successful redeployment from Europe and adjustment to life in CONUS. After the parade, there was a one-hour break for everyone to change clothes for the forthcoming festivities.

At 0915 hrs, the competitive events started and they continued until 1130 hrs. The events included such trying tests as pie eating, volleyball, tug of war, and a chariot race. The pie-eating event was won by SGT Biltoft of C Co after a stiff, hard fought battle with SSG Bailey of A Co. The rules of the game included a provision that hands were not to be used which added great interest to the event. Even though SSG Bailey lost the match, he won a moral victory as he continued to eat heartily throughout the afternoon.

Another infesting event was the egg throw that resulted in the only victory of the days for HQs Co. Mr Fisher and SGT Stillings easily outdistanced all competitors by virtue of SGT Stillings soft throws and Mr Fishers soft hands. However, after their victory, the champs went after a record – that’s where their

downfall came. A mighty Fisher toss ended up as a new eggy Stillings coating.

The mad dash down the field in the chariot race was another hotly contested event. LT Kinzer whipped his steeds on to victory in the time honored charioteers manner while LT Jernigan bought up the rear in his unconventional “single pipe, four body” vehicle.

Those who chose not to watch the antics of the Kinzers and Fishers or desired a break were free to take M-60 tank rides or view the extensive equipment in the Bn. This impressive array lined the athletic field where the competitive events were being conducted. Movies about the Army were also shown to any who were interested and a continuous flow of beer and soft drinks was provided. For those who were still not satisfied were invited to tour our representative billets, the Bn HQs and an orderly room.

An extravagant lunch featuring Bar-B-Que Roast Beef and chicken was provided. “Light Extension” provided music.

First place plaques were presented and a trophy to Co A for overall achievement by LTC Dupont. Tank rides in an M-60 tank were had by all throughout the morning.

Distinguished guests included, BG Linton S Boatwright, Post Commander; COL Frank A La Boon, CO, 138th Engr Gp; COL Howard D Balliett, DPC; LTC James S Sibley, CO, 3rd Engr Bn; LTC Charles A Bietz, CO, 264th Maint Bn; LTC Justice B King, CO, 67th Sig Bn; LTC Fredrick P Reynolds, CO, 83rd Engr Bn; LTC Robert Boaker, CO, 265th Maint Bn; Mayor & Mrs Carl E Ware, Junction City; and Mr Dan Loeb, Junction City Chamber of Commerce.

Thanks from all to CPT Wayne Holland, CPT Richard Kuhar, SFC Blankenship, and all the cooks, and all those who helped contribute to Organizational Day.

The contest winners were as follows:

	PLACE	1 ST	2 ND
Volleyball		A	D
Pie-eating		C	A
Tug-War		A	C
Chariot Race		B	A
Parade		A	HQ

Push-ups and Sit-ups	A	C
Three-legged race	A	B
Quarter-mile race	C	A
Wheel-barrow race	B	C
Egg throwing	HQ	D
Overall 1 st	A Company	
Overall 2 nd	C Company	

- (11-68-1.jpg: It's not the brains that count.)
- (11-68-2.jpg: Look! The officers are even in step!!)
- (11-68-3.jpg: They didn't have forks in Germany either.)
- (11-68-4.jpg: Are you sure this isn't A Co's?)
- (11-68-5.jpg: Believe it or not HQ Co?)
- (11-68-6.jpg: It's the brawn that counts.)
- (11-68-7.jpg: I'm going to be first in the chow line.)
- (11-68-8.jpg: Olympic training?)
- (11-68-9.jpg: A Co does it again!)
- (11-68-10.jpg: Oh! For a hardboiled egg.)
- (11-68-11.jpg: Job well done. Thank you! Cooks.)
- (11-68-12.jpg: Job well done. Thank you! Cooks.)
- (11-68-13.jpg: Job well done. Thank you! Band.)
- (11-68-14.jpg: Job well done. Thank you! Band.)

NEW ARRIVALS

By Janice Serencko

Mass confusion and turmoil; a kaleidoscope of many conflicting emotions; excitement and smiles; apprehension and yes, I admit it, even tears. Being a good Army wife, never complaining, accepting the inevitable cheerfully, is not inborn. It takes time to acquire such a quality. And arriving at one's first duty station, not only to the new Post, but also new to Army life itself, can be, to put it mildly, extremely unsettling! (To be more truthful, it's very frightening.) There is so much to learn.

Thank goodness there are more experienced Army wife's to whom the newcomer can turn with her

problems. These wives have been through it all before (some of them many times) and understand just how the newcomer feels. They go out of their way to make her feel welcome and let her know that she has friends right away. They fill her in on all the details and offer many helpful hints to make the transition from civilian to Army life much easier.

There certainly are differences between the two. I would be willing to bet that every wife, new to the way of the Army, has had more than one meal spoil because she expected her husband home by 5 o'clock just because his day is suppose to end at four-thirty!

Starting off at one's first duty station may be a harrowing experience in some ways, but it is also an experience that will never be forgotten. In years to come, it will be related to another newcomer to show her that she can cope with everything and that it will all work out in the end.

CONSTRUCTOR

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Commanding Officer: LTC Albert A Dupont

Information Officer: 1LT Gary S Burgin

Editor: SP5 Donald Fullman

Assistant Editor: 1LT John H Lacey

Const Photographer: SP5 Donald Fullman & SP4 Harold Franklin

Artists: 1LT David H Jernigan, SGT Donn R Tolls & SP4 Reuben S James

Staff: 1LT Gary S Burgin, SP4 Harold D Rawlings, SP4 Gilbert R Stockinger, SP4 Richard C Brown, 1LT John H Lacey, CHAPLAIN William Brander, Mrs Janice Serencko, SP5 David H Hunter, SGT Dan S Reichert, & SP4 Reuben James

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[DID NOT TYPE 'A DAY TO REMEMBER, ' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

THE CONSTRUCTOR OF THE MONTH

SP4 Reuben S James, repair part section, Field Maint, has been selected The Constructor of the month. The selection was based on knowledge of military subjects and current events. SP4 James represented Camp Forsyth for the Post Soldier of the Year Award.

SP4 James soundly defeated all opposition at platoon, company, battalion and group level.

A graduate of Jewett High School, Winterhaven, FL, SP4 James attended Butera Art School in Boston, MA. He entered the Army in Dec 1966 and took BCT at Ft Dix, NJ. Prior to assignment with the 97th Engr's, in Jun 1967, SP4 James completed AIT at Ft Lee, VA.

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

DEPARTURE

By Harold D Rawlings

Many of us will always remember the excited and tensed feeling of leaving Germany and redeploying back to the Good Old United States.

Going through customs and boarding airplanes were just the beginning of a new way of life for the men of the 97th Engr Bn.

On the morning of 15 Jul, the main body of the 97th Engr's boarded buses that took them to Frankfurt, Germany.

At customs I had the opportunity to watch the baggage checker go through some of the baggage, and it appeared that some of the troops must have sent their military clothing away in order to have room for their German bought civilian clothes and souvenirs.

When the final bag was opened, inspected and closed, the men took their seats in the waiting room. In the eyes of these men you could plainly see the joy of finally returning home for perhaps the first time in two years. For some men, leaving Germany was like leaving home for the first time. Some of the men had really fallen for some of the German Frauleins.

As we gazed through the windows of the huge Caribbean aircraft, we could see the green mountains of Germany slowly disappear beneath the large cotton white clouds.

As I sat back in my seat, I overheard one fellow say; "My tour in Germany was like a vacation, and if I could go there again I would; but no matter how many times I go there or how far my journey takes me I'll always hold these words clear to my heart, "There is no place like home." We all sat back in our seats, I could feel my eyes becoming a little glazy. Maybe it was the reflection from the sun. Then I began wondering how many other fellows aboard the plane felt this glazy feeling in their eyes.

[DID NOT TYPE 'ARMY SEEKS DRILL SERGEANTS,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'GOOPLY-----GOOK,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

[DID NOT TYPE 'LIVING WITH OURSELVES,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

NEW LIEUTENANT

By 1LT Barry N Clayton

D Co welcomes 1LT Larry R Garner to the best company in the 97th Engr Bn. 1LT Garner was born 16 Aug 1946 in Cassville, MO. As a civilian, he worked at the Motor Wheel Corp in Detroit, MI. He entered the service on 26 Jan 1966. After completing Basic Training at Ft Leonard Wood, MO and Advanced Individual Training at Ft Ord, CA, he served six months with the 798th MP Co at Ft Ord.

1LT Garner entered Engr Officer Candidate School at Ft Belvoir, VA, on 16 Oct 1966. He was graduated and commissioned a 2LT in the Corps of Engineers on 7 Apr 1967. After his graduation, 1LT Garner was assigned to the 11th Engr Bn (Combat), Camp Stanley, Korea where he served three months as a platoon leader of Co B, and was later assigned as Bn Maint Officer.

On 25 Jul 1968, 1LT Garner was assigned to D Co where he is now platoon leader of the 1st Const Platoon.

MIXING BOWL

At last, at last, we have our own Company Mess Hall Teams to represent each of us in this year Best Mess playoffs.

The captains for this seasons teams are: SSG Hall (H) (reportedly serving the best chow); SFC Blankenship (A) (reportedly serving the best chow); SSG Martin (B) (reportedly serving the best chow); SSG Hornsby (C) (reportedly serving the best chow); and SSG Alamo (D) (reportedly serving the best chow).

A brief rundown of some of the teams will show you it shall be an interesting and exciting battle to see which two mess halls survive the fierce competition and clash in the annual Mixing Bowl Game.

All the teams have an equal chance to win as all the planning and practice is being conducted in the new individual mess halls. Some circles feel C Co will come charging through in their traditional fashion. This is based on the numerous reports that the referee (LTC Dupont) has shown favoritism by giving the Mess Stewards of C Co a day off for their fine execution of SSG Hornsby's Original Tabasco Seasoning play.

D Co backers feel the lack of equipment and the fact that the team captain had to spend most of the preseason time scrounging is not a sufficient handicap to keep them from winning. After all, many have been the times that the team starting out behind has thrown away the proverbial crying towel with all its problems and have won the league play on sheer determination – right Detroit fans?

SFC Blankenship is also a favorite with his cool head and vast knowledge of the game. His team sports outstanding players as SP5 Peterson, SP4's Schmidt,

Younger, Uber, and Olson and two new recruits PVT's Gardner and Alexander who just broke through into the big league. For tight situations SFC Blankenship relies heavily on SP5 Takach and his Tasty, Pastry Plays.

This year promises to be an exciting season, full of surprises and upsets. So each and every one of you follow the play by play action in the comfortable chairs and relaxing atmosphere of your Mess Hall as you support your company's team.

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

97TH EBC PROMOTIONS

HQ Co

SGT Donald Stillings
 SP5 William Evans
 SP4 John King
 SP4 Ronald Scher
 SP4 David Millette
 SP4 Jesse Anderson

Co A

SSG John McCants
 SP4 Douglas Gabrielle
 SP4 John E Winter
 SP4 Earl C Bolden
 SP4 Joseph L Schmidt
 SP4 Jerry Carroll
 SP4 William T Gorham
 SP4 Billy W Kirtley
 SP4 Ronald O Piwetz
 SP4 Howard A Secrest

Co B

SSG James Lane
 SP4 Franklin S Jones
 SP4 Robert W Craighill
 SP4 Byron G Hamilton
 SP4 Milton C Paunker
 SP4 William R Snyder
 SP4 Elton L Adams
 SP4 James H Byrd
 SP4 Stanley G Ingle
 SP4 Grady Kendricks

SP4 David W Skinner
SP4 Jeffery J Violet

Co C

SSG Jensen Wright
SP4 Gary J Glenn
SP4 Troy Tenny
SP4 Robert James
SP4 Jerry Wright, Jr
SP4 Lynn F Overall
SP4 Stephan M Crouse
SP4 Larry P Samford
SP4 Gerald M Williams
SP4 Barney D Buxton
SP4 Gary R Ronzheimer
SP4 Richard L Chavez
SP4 William L Roth

D Co

SSG Ronald Williams
SP4 Freddie Washington
SP4 Eugene Morey
SP4 Leon Donnelly
SP4 Joseph Hutchings

SP4 Kenneth W Cross
SP4 James A Barnes
SP4 Joseph C Piatt
SP4 James H Juffer
SP4 Thomas D Reeder
SP4 James B Hickerson
SP4 Patrick W Woodward
SP4 Allen R McCrary

[DID NOT TYPE 'WIND CHILL FACTOR CHART,' AS NO 97TH HISTORICAL VALUE.]

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

I'LL BE

The Infantry is the King of Battle:
The Artillery is the Queen:

We all know what the King does to the Queen:
But where would they be without the Engineers to
build their needs?

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

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