Bratton, Lieutenant General Joseph K.
Interviewed September 1985 and November 1987 by Dr. John T. Greenwood

Lieutenant General Joseph Bratton was born in 1926 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1948 as a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. General Bratton later attended the Engineer Officers Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff College, and the United States Army War College, and received a master's degree in nuclear engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Besides Korea, his service included a number of overseas assignments in Europe and Asia. He also served in a number of capacities in the U.S., including as Chief of Engineers. He retired in 1984.

Bussey, Lieutenant Colonel Charles M.
Colonel Bussey's 1991 book, Firefight at Yechon, was excerpted by Dr. Arnold G. Fisch, Jr.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Bussey was born in 1921 in Bakersfield, California. He studied engineering at Los Angeles City College, and in 1941 volunteered for the U.S. Army. He completed pilot training at the Tuskegee Army Flying School and flew with the 332d Fighter Group in Italy. Colonel Bussey later attended the University of Southern California and San Francisco State University, completing his bachelor's degree. In August 1948 he returned to active duty with the 74th Engineer Battalion, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In 1950 he was reassigned to the U.S. Army of Occupation in Japan, serving first with the 538th Engineer Service Battalion, before assuming command of the 77th Engineer Combat Company. The 77th Engineer Combat Company transferred to Pusan, Korea, in July 1950. Colonel Bussey later returned to flight status, serving at several bases in the United States and Germany.

Cochran, Colonel Harrington W., Jr.
Interviewed in March 1987 by Herbert Hart

Colonel Harrington Cochran, Jr., was born in 1919 in San Diego, California. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1941, receiving his commission in the Coast Artillery Corps. He transferred to the Corps of Engineers in 1948. He later received a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M, and an MBA from The George Washington University. In addition to his tour in Korea, he served in a number of other overseas assignments in the Pacific and Europe. His stateside assignments included an assignment as District Engineer for West Virginia. He retired in 1971.

Korean Service Campaign Medal with seven Campaign Stars
Davidson, Lieutenant General Garrison H.
Interviewed in November 1980 by Dr. John T. Greenwood

Lieutenant General Garrison Davidson was born in 1904 in New York, New York. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1927 as a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. General Davidson also holds Honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Williams College and the University of Akron. In addition to his service in the Korean War, General Davidson's overseas assignments included World War II service in North Africa and Europe. He commanded Seventh Army, 1960-62. His stateside assignments include service as superintendent, U.S. Military Academy, 1956-60; and commanding general, First United States Army, 1962-64.

Dawson, Brigadier General Miles M.
Interviewed in May 1980 by Dr. Laurence Suid

Brigadier General Miles Dawson was born in 1902 in Viroqua, Wisconsin. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1925 as a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. He later earned a degree in civil engineering from Cornell University and a Master of Science degree from the University of Iowa. In addition to his overseas duty in Japan, General Dawson served in a wide variety of assignments in the Pacific and in Europe. His extensive stateside assignments included service as commanding general, Granite City Engineer Depot, Granite City, Illinois, 1954-56. He retired in 1956.

Elder, Lieutenant General John H., Jr.
Interviewed in July 1982 by Dr. Lynn Sims

Lieutenant General John Elder, Jr. was born in 1920 in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia, in 1941, with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and was commissioned as a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers Reserve. He was called to active duty 1 August 1941. His overseas assignments included service in France, Germany, Korea, and Vietnam, where he commanded the 18th Engineer Brigade. General Elder's stateside assignments were numerous and varied and included service as Chief of Plans & Programs, J-5, and Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C.

Farnum, Colonel Lawrence B.
Interviewed in May 1997 by Dr. Barry W. Fowle

Colonel Lawrence Farnum was born in 1921 in Ashley, Michigan. He began his military career at Michigan College of Mining & Technology where he enrolled in the ROTC basic course for two years. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering. He later received a master's degree in mining engineering. He served in the Air Corps during World War II. He received his Regular Army commission in the Corps of Engineers in 1950. In addition to Korea, his other over-
seas service included numerous Pacific and European assignments. His stateside assignments included serving as Engineer, Office of the Engineer, HQ, U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command, Washington, D.C., and Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

**Fowler, Colonel Delbert M.**
Interviewed in April 1994 by Dr. Barry W. Fowler

Colonel Delbert Fowler was born in 1924 in Fannin County, Texas. He attended Texas A&M and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1945 with a commission as a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. He later earned a master’s degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M, and a master’s degree in international affairs from The George Washington University. In addition to 19 months in Korea, Colonel Fowler’s other overseas assignments included duty with engineer units in Europe and Vietnam. His stateside assignments included service with the Office of Plans, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. He retired in 1972.

**Gray, Colonel George B., Jr.**
Interviewed in July 1985 by Thomas Tulenko

Colonel George Gray, Jr., was born in 1926 in Georgetown, Louisiana. After high school, he served three years as an infantryman and military policeman, and was commissioned in 1952 at the Engineer Officer Candidate School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Colonel Gray attended Louisiana Polytechnic Institute and received a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the Missouri School of Mines. He later received a master’s degree in international relations from Boston University, and a master’s in civil engineering from Iowa State University. Besides Korea, his overseas service ranged from Greenland to Vietnam to Saudi Arabia. His stateside assignments included service as Deputy Director for Plans, Requirements, and Technology at the Defense Mapping Agency Topographic Center.

**Hoskins, Colonel Harry D., Jr.**
Interviewed May-July 1995 by Dr. John T. Greenwood

Colonel Harry Hoskins, Jr., was born in 1914 in Trinidad, Colorado. He graduated from the Colorado School of Mines and received an ROTC commission as a 2d lieutenant in the Army Reserve. He entered military service in 1942 and served in the Pacific, North Africa, and Italy. He was heavily involved in establishing the engineer special brigades in the South West Pacific. Following his tour in Korea, Colonel Hoskins served in a variety of assignments stateside and in Europe. He retired in 1963.

**Hyzer, Brigadier General Peter C.**
Interviewed in December 1984 by Herbert Hart

Brigadier General Peter Hyzer was born in 1914 in Rockford, Illinois. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1937 as a 2d lieutenant, Infantry, and later
received a master's degree in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He served in England, France, and Germany with the 5th Infantry Division during World War II. In Korea, he was battalion commander, 3d Engineer Combat Battalion, 1950-51. He later served in a variety of other assignments in the Pacific and in the United States. He retired in 1967.

Itschner, Lieutenant General Emerson C.
Interviewed in July 1977 by Dr. Frank Schubert

Lieutenant General Emerson Itschner was born in 1903 in Chicago, Illinois. He was appointed to the U. S. Military Academy, and in 1924 was commissioned a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. In 1926 he received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Cornell University. General Itschner's overseas duties included a variety of engineer and command assignments in Europe and Asia. His stateside assignments included service as Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, 1956-61.

Johnson, Major General James A.
Interviewed in March-April 1993 by Dr. Charles Hendricks

Major General James Johnson was born in 1924 in Stoughton, Wisconsin. He graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 1947, and was commissioned a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. He later received a Master of Science degree from Stanford University. General Johnson served in a variety of overseas and stateside engineer and command assignments, and retired as Deputy Chief of Engineers, 1979-80.

Love, Colonel Robert W.
Interviewed in April 1994 by Dr. Barry W. Fowle

Colonel Robert Love was born in 1916 in Madisonville, Tennessee. He attended Vanderbilt University for one year because he was too young to go to the U.S. Military Academy. He graduated in 1938 from the Academy as a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. Colonel Love later attended Harvard University Business School and received a master's degree. In addition to his assignment to Korea, Colonel Love's other overseas assignments included duty in Latin America, Europe, and the Pacific. His stateside assignments included service as Division Engineer, Missouri River Division. He retired in 1968.

McIntyre, Brigadier General Kenneth E.
Interviewed in October 1984 by Dr. Martin Reuss

Brigadier General Kenneth McIntyre was born in 1926 in Randolph, Vermont. He attended the U.S. Military Academy and was commissioned a 2d lieutenant in 1949. Further education included a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from Harvard University, and a Master of Science degree in business administration from The George Washington University. In addition to his service in Korea, his other overseas service included command assignments in the Pacific and Vietnam. His nu-
Medding, Captain Walter S.
Interviewed in October 1997 by Dr. Barry W. Fowle

Captain Walter Medding was born in 1922 at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated from Central High School, Memphis, Tennessee, in 1940. He joined the Enlisted Reserve Corps and was called to active duty for basic training and Officer Candidate School (OCS). He graduated from OCS in April 1943 and was commissioned a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. His later education included a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in sanitary engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, respectively. In addition to his assignment to the 14th Engineer Combat Battalion, other overseas assignments included duty in Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Africa. His stateside assignments included duty as Operations and Intelligence Officer, 92d Engineer Construction Battalion, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1963-64.

Parfitt, Major General Harold R.
Interviewed in May 1986 by Dr. Charles Hendricks

Major General Harold Parfitt was born in 1921 in Coaldale, Pennsylvania. He attended Kutztown State College, the Sullivan Preparatory School, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Military Academy, where he was commissioned in 1943 as a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. He later received a master's degree in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and attended the Advanced Management Program of the Harvard Business School. As part of the 6th Engineer Special Brigade, he was wounded on D-day during an amphibious landing on Omaha Beach. In September 1950 he was assigned to the 2d Engineer Combat Group, Korea, and later became commanding officer of the 8th Engineer Combat Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. Among other assignments, he later served as commanding general, U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and as the last governor of the Canal Zone. He retired in 1979.

Pickett, Lieutenant Colonel Evan S.
Interviewed in June 1993 by Dr. Barry W. Fowle

Lieutenant Colonel Evan Pickett was born in 1920 in St. George, Utah. He attended Dixie College in St. George. In 1939, the Utah National Guard organized C Company, 115th Engineer Combat Battalion at St. George, Utah, and Pickett became an original member. The unit was called to active duty, and he applied for Officer Candidate School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, graduating in 1942 as a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. In addition to his assignment to Korea as battalion commander of the 73d Engineer Combat Battalion,
Colonel Pickett's overseas tours included North Africa and Italy with the 1108th Engineer Combat Group, and duty in the Philippines, Japan, and Turkey. His various stateside tours included serving as commanding officer, 73d Engineer Combat Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas.

Roberts, Colonel Claude L., Jr.
Interviewed in March 1997 by Dr. Barry W. Fowle

Colonel Claude Roberts, Jr., was born in 1924 in Birmingham, Alabama. He attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now Auburn University. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and served as a corporal in the 417th Infantry Regiment, 76th Infantry Division, in Europe. Released from active duty, he returned to Auburn and in 1948 received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He later earned a master's degree in civil engineering from Iowa State College. He returned to active duty in 1950 and was commissioned in the Regular Army. In addition to his tours in Korea, and in Europe during World War II, his other overseas tours included assignments in Germany and Thailand. His stateside assignments included service as Engineer and Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, U.S. Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Rowny, Lieutenant General Edward L.
Interviewed 1986-93 by Dr. Barry W. Fowle

Lieutenant General Edward Rowny was born in 1917 in Baltimore, Maryland. He graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Johns Hopkins University, and, in 1941, from the U.S. Military Academy. He later earned two masters' degrees from Yale University. Both before and after Korea, General Rowny served in a variety of overseas tours in Africa, Europe, and Asia, and in numerous stateside assignments. He retired in 1979 and subsequently served as Chief Negotiator, Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) and special advisor to the president with the rank of ambassador.
Strong, Brigadier General Paschal N., Jr.
Interviewed in January 1984 by Dr. Paul K. Walker

Brigadier General Paschal Strong was born in 1901 in Savannah, Georgia. He was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy and commissioned a 2d lieutenant, Air Corps, in 1922. He transferred to the Corps of Engineers two months later. General Strong attended Cornell University where he earned a degree in civil engineering. General Strong was assigned as Engineer, Headquarters, Eighth Army, Japan, 1949-50. He continued as Eighth Army Engineer when Eighth Army moved to Korea. His other overseas assignments included service in the Philippines and the United Kingdom. Stateside, General Strong served in a variety of engineering assignments, culminating with duty as Engineer, Ohio River Division, before retiring in 1954. General Strong wrote several books and articles, however his most popular work was the radio serial, “Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy,” which broadcast during the 1930s and 1940s.

Stukhart, Colonel George, Jr.
Interviewed in July 1992 by Dr. Barry W. Fowle

Colonel George Stukhart, Jr., was born in 1927 in Hoboken, New Jersey. He received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy under the category “Sons of Deceased World War I Veterans.” Stukhart graduated in 1949 and later earned a Master of Science degree from New York University and a doctorate from the University of Ohio. In addition to his tour in Korea, Colonel Stukhart’s other overseas assignments included tours in Okinawa, France, Italy, and Vietnam, and another tour in Korea. His various stateside tours included a final assignment in the Office of the Chief of Engineers, 1972, before retiring.

Trayers, Colonel James L.
Interviewed February-March 1996 by Dr. Barry W. Fowle

Colonel James Trayers was born in 1927 in Providence, Rhode Island. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1950 as a 2d lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. Colonel Trayers subsequently received a master’s degree in civil engineering from Iowa State and a master’s degree in math from the University of Missouri. His initial assignment in the Army was to the 8th Engineers, 1st Cavalry Division. Other overseas tours included service in Germany, Iran, and Vietnam. His stateside duty included numerous engineering assignments, such as Director, Coastal Engineering and Research Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and a tour with the Office of the Chief of Engineers in 1979. He retired in 1980, but returned to active duty for three years as commanding officer of the Engineer Activity, Capital Area.

Korean Service Campaign Medal with seven Campaign Stars
Wells, Major General Richard M.
Interviewed in June 1991 by Dr. John T. Greenwood

Major General Richard Wells was born in 1929 in Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, D.C. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and was commissioned a 2d lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1951. General Wells earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Iowa and attended the Naval War College. In addition to service in the Korean War, other overseas service included an additional tour in Korea and other assignments in Vietnam and Saudi Arabia. His stateside service included a variety of engineer and command assignments, culminating with duty as Director, Defense Mapping Agency, and Deputy Chief of Engineers. He retired in 1984.

Williams, Colonel Charles T.
Interviewed in February 1985 by Thomas Tulenko

Colonel Charles Williams was born in 1926 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was the son of the late Colonel Charles F. Williams, U.S.A. (CE, Ret., USMA 1913). Colonel Williams graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1946 and was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers. He subsequently received his master's degree in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. Colonel Williams served in Korea with the 73d Engineer Combat Battalion and the 8224th Engineer Construction Group Headquarters. His other overseas tours included various engineer and command assignments in Europe and Asia.

Wright, Colonel Floyd D.
Interviewed in September 1994 and September 1995 by Dr. Barry W. Fowle

Colonel Floyd Wright was born in 1923 in Asheville, North Carolina. He reported to the 6th Officer Candidate School Class at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In 1942, at the age of 19, he was commissioned a 2d lieutenant in the U.S. Army and assigned to the 51st Engineer Combat Regiment. He stayed with the 51st as it changed to a group, and its 1st Battalion became the 51st Engineer Combat Battalion, and went to Europe during World War II. He subsequently graduated with honors from Clemson University and received a Regular Army commission. He earned a master's degree in applied science from Montana State University and a master's degree in structural design from the University of Illinois. Besides the European battlefields of World War II and the Korean War, Colonel Wright's other overseas assignments ranged from Tokyo, Japan, to the Canal Zone. His various stateside assignments included service as the commander, 575th Engineer Construction Battalion, Fort Stewart, Georgia.
During the 1950s and '60s, certain participants in the Korean War endeavored to describe their experiences. Various government agencies published official accounts, and a number of popular battlefield histories appeared, although the conflict never quite captured the popular imagination the same way accounts of World War II did. The 50th anniversary of the Korean War has stirred a renewed interest and certainly will result in additional titles. Compared to the numerous other aspects of the conflict, however, the engineers' role in Korea has not been broadly described. This fact makes the excerpted oral interviews in this volume all the more important.


The following bibliographic overview is not inclusive. The intent here is to highlight, wherever possible, books describing U.S. Army Engineers' activities in Korea without overlooking the important general histories of the war.

Official Publications


Another very useful official publication is John G. Westover's Combat Support in Korea (Washington: CMH, 1955). Originally copy protected by the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA), and since reprinted more than once by CMH, this collection of Army officer and enlisted interviews includes 39 pages devoted to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel.

Students of the Army Corps of Engineers in Korea certainly will want to look at William R. Farquhar, Jr., and Henry A. Jeffers, Jr., Bridging the Imjin: Construction of Libby and Teal Bridges During the Korean War (October 1952-July 1953) (Fort Belvoir, Va.: OCE History Office, 1989) edited by Charles Hendricks.

Less valuable is Russell A. Gugeler's Combat Actions in Korea (Washington: CMH, 1970), a revised edition of a 1954 publication. Gugeler captures the cold, the mud, and the harsh terrain of Korea in a series of small unit actions, but without treating the engineer contribution specifically.

Other official writings that capture aspects of the build-up in Korea, the subsequent engineer supply problems, and the early fighting include James A. Huston, The Sinews of War: Army Logistics, 1775-1953 (Washington: CMH, 1966), and William Glenn Robertson, Counterattack on the Naktong, 1950, Leavenworth Paper 13 (Fort Leavenworth: Combat Studies Institute, 1985). Finally, for the years of the conflict and immediately thereafter, the periodical The Military Engineer contains a number of articles about the engineers in Korea (see, for example, vols. 43 and 44, 1951-52, for three articles on bridging by Delbert Fowler). Contact The Military Engineer for information on reprints.

For a perspective on the African-American experience in Korea, see William T. Bowers, William M. Hammond, and George L. MacGarrigle, Black Soldier, White Army: The 24th Infantry Regiment in Korea (Washington: CMH, 1996). This study contains valuable references to both the 65th Engineer Combat Battalion and the 77th Engineer Combat Company.

Secondary Works

Very likely, the best-known books on the Korean War are S.L.A. Marshall's The River and the Gauntlet (N.Y.: Morrow, 1953), and T.R. Fehrenbach's This Kind of War: A Study of Unpreparedness (N.Y.: Macmillan, 1963). This last book, as the subtitle suggests, is not only a combat narrative, but also a cautionary tale. Fehrenbach elaborated further in The Fight for Korea: From the War of 1950 to the Pueblo Incident (N.Y.: Grosset & Dunlap, 1969). In his later years, once his turn at "official history" was completed, Roy E. Appleman continued to add to the literature about Korea. Four critical works, East of Chosin: Entrapment and Breakout in Korea (1987); Escaping the Trap: The U.S. Army in Northeast Korea, 1950 (1987); Disaster in Korea: The Chinese Confront MacArthur (1989); and Ridgway Duels for Korea (1990) all were published by Texas A&M University Press.
Charles M. Bussey’s, **Firefight at Yechon: Courage and Racism in the Korean War** (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, [1991], 2002) is one African-American veteran’s description of perceived bias in official accounts of the segregated 24th Infantry Regiment. Putting this larger goal aside for the moment, Bussey’s book provides excellent insights into at least one engineer unit’s operations in Korea.

Editing the unit history of the 8th Engineer Combat Battalion, combat engineer Lt. Frank H. Armstrong has contributed additional original material, and the result is Frank H. Armstrong, The 1st Cavalry Division and their 8th Engineers in Korea (South Burlington, Vt.: Bull Run of Vermont, Inc., 1996).


Three well-written oral histories are worth mentioning for an insight into the individual soldier or airman’s experiences. Although none deal specifically with engineer troops, they contain gripping accounts of the fighting and really catch the sense of terror, cold, and resourcefulness of the individual soldier. Two of these books are by Donald Knox, *The Korean War, Pusan to Chosin: An Oral History* (N.Y.: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1985), and *The Korean War, Uncertain Victory: The Concluding Volume of an Oral History* (1988) published by the same publisher after Knox’s death. These books have been justifiably popular. More recently, Rudy Tomasi’s *No Bugles, No Drums: An Oral History of the Korean War* (N.Y.: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1993) is a good read that includes individual accounts, not only by soldiers, but also by Navy and Air Force airmen, a British soldier, and a Marine Corps general. Military historians will recognize the names of at least two of the contributors, Edwin Simmons, and Harry G. Summers, Jr.


One final title is of real value to students of the engineers in Korea: *The Korea War, An Encyclopedia*, edited by Stanley Sandler (N.Y.: Garland Publishing, 1995). This reference work has a good four-page section on the engineers in Korea, a photograph, between pp. 200-201, of one of the engineers’ bridge construction efforts, and an excellent 28-page bibliography of the war.