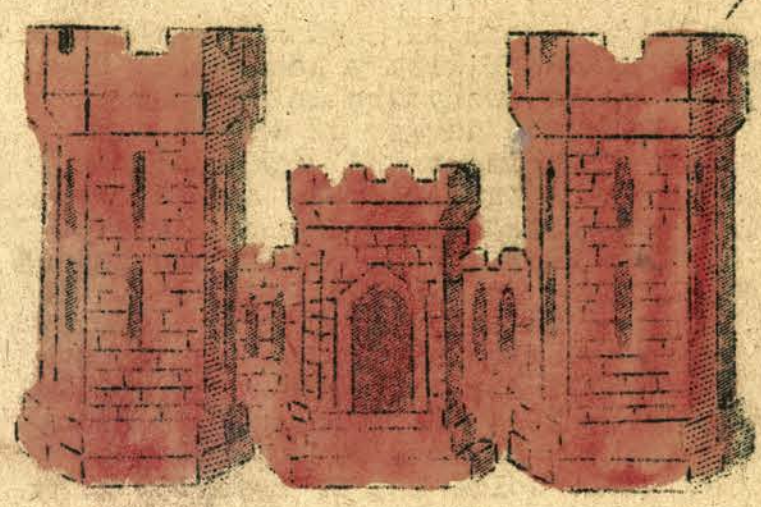
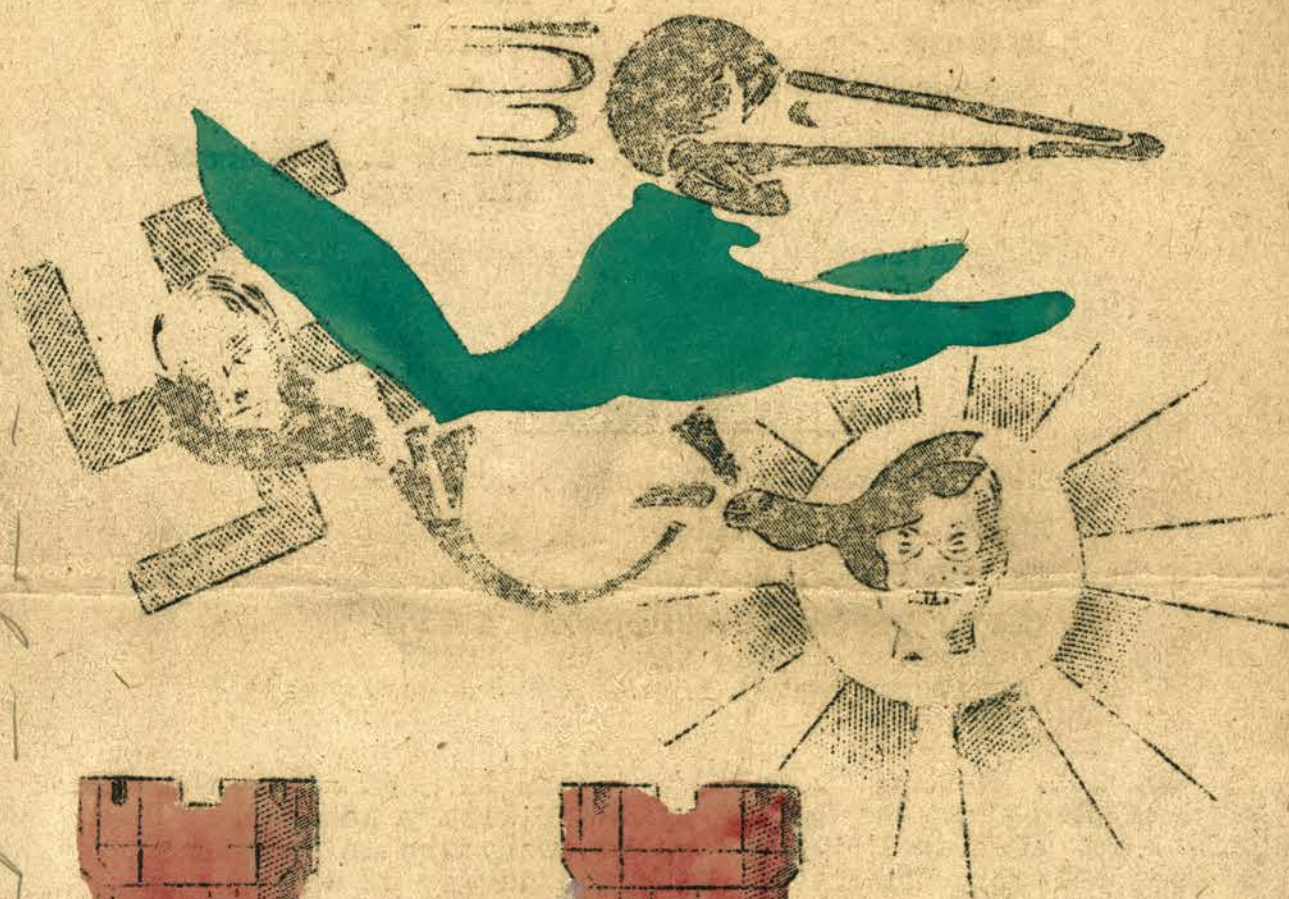




Keep this for me



COMPANY



1284

COMBAT ENGINEER
BATTALION

McGraw-Hill



STAFF

Editor	Donald A. LeFrancois
History	James P. Quinn
Personnel	John D. Keller
Artist	Donald A. LeFrancois Eli Marge
Suggestions	Robert J. Ridlen

BATTALION OFFICERS

Lt. Col. Richard D. Wolfe	Commander
Major James L. Allen	Executive
Bart Barton J. Beadle	Adjutant
(Major William HisWisniski, Battalion Commander at the time the 1284th En Engineer Combat Battalion was activated)	

Lt. Col. Richard D. Wolfe was born in Spokane, Washinton. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1939. He spent two years as an instructor at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. With the advent of war he was sent to the 5th Combat Engineer Regiment and with that organization sailed to Iceland in September 1941. He was connected with the purchasing and contracting of engineer supplies. In October 1942 he flew back to the States and joined the 354th General Service Regiment at Camp Maxey, Texas. He sailed with the 354th to England in July 1943. This regiment was assigned to general reconstruction of the wreckage caused by the Germans bombers. The built depots, houses, Hospitals, railroad yards, etc. On July 1, 1944 they crossed the Channel to Cherbourg, France. Their principal duty there was building marshalling yards. Col. Wolfe was transferred in the late summer to the Normandy Base Section where he became the executive officer to the Base Engineer. On January 19, 1945 he was transferred to the 1284th Engineer Combat Battalion as Battalion Commander.

COMPANY OFFICERS

Captain David L. Eggers	Company Commander
Lt. Frank J. Koch, Jr.	Company Officer
Lt. Joseph King	" "
Lt. Alfred Okin	" "
Lt. Anthony P. Weber	" "

TOP KICK

Robert J. Ridlen	First Sergeant
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Captain David L. Eggers began his military career in his early 'teens, at which time he entered the New York Military Academy at New York State. After completing the six year course at the age of twenty-one, he was awarded a reserve commission as a second Lieutenant in the Army of the United States in 1936. From 1936 to 1941 he was a reserve Infantry Officer. In 1941 he was called into active service and due to his Civil Engineering experience he was made an area engineer for up State New York. He held this position until the early months of 1942. Later he attended the Engineer School at Ft. Belvoir, Va. From there he was sent to the 1146th Engr. C. Grp at Camp Swift, Texas. He was sent to Ft. Belvoir twice more for Officer's Cadre and Field Officer training. He was executive Officer of the 1284th and later became Commanding Officer of Company "B".

FORWARD

Although I am known principally as a bird of travel and action, rather than a literarian, I shall endeavor to put into writing a short account of the deeds and wonderings which have gained for me what fame I now possess. There are many who claim that my efforts and my voyages have been to no avail, that I have acquired no wealth or fortune and have at the same time lost personal contact with my friends and loved ones at home. These skeptics consider wealth exclusively as a financial matter, but through my travels I have acquired the diamonds of knowledge. What my stay-at-home friends have read in books or can repeat from hearsay I have seen personally. While I have failed to attain money and power, I have gained a wealth of knowledge and experience.

TRAINING IN TEXAS

Summertime in Texas is a hot, dry, and dusty season. The Texas winters are cold and raw, autumn is a season of perpetual rain. In fact April is probably the only month of the year when a stranger in Texas can feel that he is welcome.



It was on the fourth day of April in 1944 that the nucleus of my battalion, the 1284th Engineer Combat Battalion was activated. At that time each company was composed of fourteen men, the cadre from the 260th Engineers. It would be virtually impossible in so short a narrative to follow the movements and accomplishments of all four. I shall limit this history to one company only, that of Company "B".

In June of that year fillers began to arrive from other organizations and camps. To complete the quotas of the four companies men were brought in from the Air Corps, the Medics, the Military Police, the Field Artillery, Coast Artillery, Chemical Warfare, and the Infantry. All these branches of service contributed their share of embryo engineers. As these potential engineers learned to build and destroy and fight, their record for extra curricular activities will be discussed in central Texas for a long time to come.

Perhaps the most fabulous was the hastily conceived battalion softball team, with several of its star players from Company "B". Camp Swift's old established teams fell in defeat before the underdog engineers who started as nothing and fought their way to the Camp Championship. Rated as also rans in a competition so keen that one loss would eliminate a team from the tourney, my boys carried on to the Texas State Championship finals. In the last game of the tourney they were eliminated by an Air Corps team, which eventually won the National Softball Championship for that year.

In the summer of 1944 Camp Swift decided to reverse the usual procedure and give a gala show for the civilians of Austin and the neighboring communities. Since the Camp had a large swimming pool, an aquacade was selected as the most natural entertainment to present. Try-outs were given the aspiring applicants and when the final selections were made it was discovered that more than two thirds of those chosen to participate were from the 1284th Engineer Combat Battalion. When the big show was produced the Stars and Stripes were flown from one end of the pool while the Golden Castle of the 1284th waved from the other end.

Although their fame did not spread widely outside the Post, our Harmony Singers were well known throughout the Camp, and were always greatly in demand at parties and entertainments given by the various organizations at Camp Swift.

EMBARKATION

These are only a few of the most outstanding diversions which added to the laurels of our Battalion. While the organization was still in its infancy the call to arms sounded. After a weeks stay at Camp Shanks, New York, we set sail on the H. M. S. Esperance Bay, and after two weeks at sea we arrived at Avamouth, England. Most of the boys will never forget our short stay outside the town of Gloucester. The W.F.F's, the A.T.S., and the W.L.A's did their best in their own way to cement Anglo-American relationships. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by all the Yankee Soldiers.

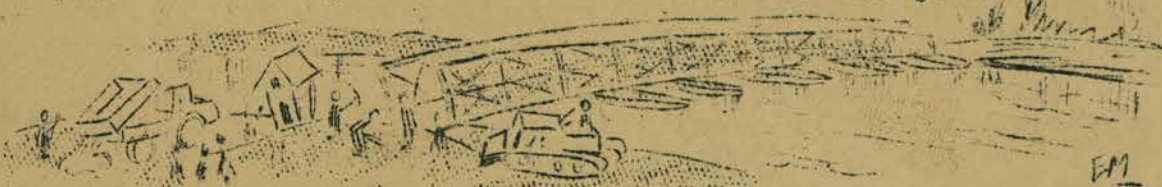


When Von Runstedt's drive made clear the immediate need for infantrymen at the front, the 1284th underwent an intensive training in infantry tactics and stood ready for call as infantrymen on a moments notice.

When our final training in England was completed we took up the sword and assisted in the mighty effort to push the Germans back into their lair and banish Naziism forever from the earth. We left Southhampton, England on an L.S.T. and crossed the choppy waters of the English Channel, landing the next day on the ruined coast of Le Havre, France. From there we picked our way along to Rouen, where we got our first lesson in bargaining with wine merchants and cajoling the mademoiselles, especially was it difficult when we couldn't speak their language and they could not speak ours. We pushed northward into Belgium, then drove eastward across Holland into Germany.

BATTLE OF THE RUHR

When we left Aachen and Julich there was nothing left to see. We settled down for a two weeks rest at Alsdorf, but before our two weeks were ended the siege of the Ruhr Valley had begun. There was no such thing as rest when we could hear the guns blasting away outside of Essen and Dusseldorf. There were the Rhine and the Ruhr Rivers to be crossed and experienced engineers were needed to do the job.



There were towns to be taken and held and battle wise troops were essential. No, there could be no rest in Alsdorf. In the early spring of 1945 the 1284th moved into the Valley of the Ruhr. The nauseating stench of death permeated the air where the Nazis last greatest stronghold surrendered to the avenging 'Yankees. Here our boys encountered the gory results of the Nazis version of justice. In a field outside of Essen we uncovered countless manacled and mutilated bodies of Russian slave laborers, many of whom had been buried alive.

Here our forward motion was ended. We were sidetracked to occupy the city of Mulheim, Ruhr. There were a few reconnaissance parties sent out, but they found more wine cellars and souvineers on their azimuth than they found Germans. My boys reaped the harvest of victory in the established military fashioned.



But for a few die-hard S. S. Troopers, our part in the European War was ended. The non-fraternization law was

abided by with the same respect accorded to the prohibition law in America in the 1920's.

WESTWARD BOUND

On the fourth of June, one year after the battalion had been brought up to fighting strength, we started the westward trip back across Europe with the garland of Victory wrapped 'round us. We received a hero's welcome in Liege, Belgium, in Luxemburg, Nancy and Dijon, France, where we camped enroute to the sea. On June 8, we arrived at our destination, the seaport of Calas, a suburb of Marseilles, on the Mediterranean Sea. Our opinions of the French were varied and many, some liked the French, others hated them.



On July 11, we boarded an American transport ship, the U. S. S. General S. D. Sturgis and said our farewell to Europe, for the most of us, it was goodbye forever. There is no record of U. S. Army troops ever making a longer sea voyage than the one we made on leaving France. We sailed through the Mediterranean the Straits of Gibraltar and to the mighty Atlantic. It was a memorable experience to see the Rock of Gibraltar, Spain, and the coast of Africa all the same day. After twelve days at sea we pulled into the Panama Canal. On the 23rd of July we began the second leg of our voyage across the Pacific Ocean. Christmas Island, the Gilberts, and many others came within our view. The first time we dropped anchor was at the port of Hollandia, one of the many seaports set up for the use of our troops in the battle of the Pacific. On the twentieth day of August, the rocky hills of Bataan and Corregidor were sighted and shortly afterwards we entered Manila Bay, after spending forty-one days at sea.

The following day we left the ship, wobbling down the gangplank on our new sea legs. The Mayor of the city was there to greet the first arrivals from Europe. Our Colonel accepted the proffered hand and said, "I have returned". "So glad you could make it Joe", replied the mayor, "the war ended only a week ago".

We're still here on Luzon, corralling die-hard, half starved, half crazed Japs as they come reluctantly down from the hills. At the same time we're making a scientific study of the potency of 'Three Kings Whiskey' and 'Panaqui Rum'.

My story doesn't end here, destiny is now shaking the dice for another roll, seven eleven, or snake eyes? Home Alive In Forty-Five or the Golden Gate in Forty-Eight? I don't know the answer, if I did know I wouldn't tell. If I could gaze into a crystal ball and see my whole future laid out before me, I would turn the other way and let time tell the tale. The winding path to the pot of gold with a new experience at every turn, is the only road for me.

THE END

"WHAT DID
YOU SAY YOU
HAD FOR
SALE?"



"BANANA!"

- ELI
MARGE -

GEORGE - the LIVING EXAMPLE - BY ELI MARGE



It is with pleasure that each of us can look forward to a continued friendship after leaving our army life behind. It is the desire of every man listed below that sometimes in the future these addresses will be used for that purpose.

ALABAMA

Addison, Reno
Anderson, Thomas F.
Avery, Asa G.
Immler, Francis G.
Shaw, James C.
Truett, Howard

Coroova
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Trussville, RFD No. 1, Box 65 1/2
1233 So. 22nd St., Birmingham
Anniston, R.R. No. 4, Box 215
Newell

ARIZONA

Millett, Francis T.

Hunt (via) Holbrook

ARKANSAS

Bryant, Clifford J.
McDonald, William L.
New, Willard I.
Red, Hugh E.
Strozier, Harvey W.

Weona, Box 82
Okolona
Bentonville, R.R. No. 1
Little Rock, R.R. No. 7, Box 82
Abbott

CALIFORNIA

Goodwin, Jesse C.
Hodges, Lyle A.
Mace, Clyde N.
Cabral, Milton A.
Hale, Edward E.
Massaro, Leonard D.
Meyer, David L.
Millis, Jack B.
Nielsen, Robert R.
Sutter, Farren E. III
Tuttle, Adrien C.

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PGL - 21st & San Pablo
Samoa, Humboldt County
Carlsbad, R.R. No. 1, Box 265
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4818 U. St., Sacramento
1219 Stanyan St., San Francisco
414 Virginia Ave., Modesto
2833 25th Ave., Oakland
7732 Kraft Ave., North Hollywood

COLORADO

Cody, James R.
Foos, Harold
Valko, Peter S.

3536 W. Alys, Denver
Hudson
4729 Gaylord St., Denver

CONNETICUT

Clark, Charles H.
Martocchio, Mario A.
Paglia, Edmund L.
Proto, Neil

943 Stratford Ave., Bridgeport
138 Melton Court, Hartford
125 Poplar St., New Haven
104 Exchange St., New Haven

CUBA

Sanchez, Diego B.

110 Santos Suarez, Havana

FLORIDA

Broder, Sol

230 1st St., Miami

GEORGIA

Brackett, Carl L.
Bramblett, Clarence

222 Bluff St., Rockmart
White, R.R. No. 1

ILLINOIS

Burgwaldt, Edgar B.

3507 N. Damen, Chicago

ILLINOIS CONT'D

Donnelley, Melvin L.	617 N. 1st St., Vandalia
Hyde, John E.	613 Center St., East Peoria
Johnson, William L.	701 Charleston Ave., Mattoon
Lierly, Wilbur K.	323 Illinois Ave., Galesburg
McCollum, Donald B.	Tower Hill, R.R. No. 1
Skolnick, Stuart B.	5400 So. Harper Ave., Chicago
Swanson, Kenneth J.	1603 So. 17th Ave., Maywood
Zihala, Joseph P.	1513 So. Keeler Ave., Chicago
King, Louis A.	Cave In Rock
Nagy, Delbert M.	1748 No. California Ave., Chicago

INDIANA

Eagen, Frank J.	804 1/2 W. 3rd St., Mishawaka
Ridlen, Robert J.	123 So. Franklin St., Garrett

IOWA

VanWinkle, Max M.	Oskaloosa
White, Theodore Z.	1319 Ave. "G", Ft. Madison

KANSAS

Edwards, William N.	Moline, R.R. No. 2
Ruhn, Lawrence E.	Clay Center, R.R. No. 4
Sutlief, Harold E.	563 Loula, Olathe

KENTUCKY

Burns, Willie A.	Burkesville, Box 141
Keller, John D.	525 W. 17th St., Hopkinsville
Langley, Paul D.	Big Clifty
Souder, Gus	Dry Ridge
Waits, Hartful	Nicholasville

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MAINE

Chamberlain, Raymond	653 Hammond St., Bangor
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MASSACHUSETTS

Campeau, Norman A.	1618 Slade St., Falls River
Devin, Thomas P.	51 Marcella St., Roxbury
Flanagan, Lawrence M.	359 Boylston St., Brookline
Fryc, Edward C.	46 Meadow St., Adams
LeFrancois, Donald A.	542 Sawyer St., New Bedford
Mendelovitz, Bernard	59 Stanwood St., Roxbury 21
Proulx, Reginald E.	99 Berlin St., Clinton
Stephens, Frederick E.	14 Cole St., Beverly
Weagle, Robert C.	119 Washington Ave., Waltham

MICHIGAN

Avromov, Raide	3520 Medbury, Detroit
Conaton, Frank H.	141 John M. St., Clawson
Martell, Richard D.	613 So. Blair Ave., Royal Oak
Hodges, Jack S.	Clarkston, Box 715
Maxson, Robert D.	Pinconning, R.R. No. 3
O'Toole, Joseph B.	10849 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit
Orders, Jack E.	15395 Linwood Ave., Detroit
Shiflett, Lawrence C.	806 LaSalle Ave., Benton Harbor
Smith, Lucius R.	Freeland, Box 260

MINNESOTA

Johnson, Herbert A. Renville
Johnson, Joseph C. 1007 Douglas St., Alexandria

MISSISSIPPI

Norwood, Joseph H. Etta

MISSOURI

Fletcher, Jesse H. 7046 Idlewild, Jennings
Thomas, Rayford A. Noble
Trendall, Samuel J. 3185 A. So. Grand, St. Louis
Richardson, Len W. Essex, R.R. No. 1

NEBRASKA

Liposcak, Matthew 1309 So. 12th St., Omaha

NEVADA

Rowden, Walter L. Henderson

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McCurry, Norris L. Forest City, Box 210
Oakes, Sidney E. Greenville, P.O. Box 280
Burrow, Jesse A. Ruralhawl, Star Route

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Moore, Rupert L. Salisbury
Tibbetts, Robert R. Gilmanton, Iron Works

NEW JERSEY

Bush, Theodore R. 12 East Main St., High Bridge
English, Daniel C. 40 Hampton Terrace, Orange
Jorgensen, William H. 220 Madison Ave., Perth Amboy

NEW MEXICO

Tafoya, Mike R. Berna Lillo

NEW YORK

Haukenes, Asmund AO 871 53rd St., Brooklyn
Hohmann, Edward H. 183 Sickles Ave., New Rochelle
Kroll, Stephen P. 725 Perry St., Buffalo
Marge, Elias 179 Whitehall Rd., Albany
Martinelli, Michael A. 1170 67th St., Brooklyn
Mustico, Carmen J. 663 Magee St., Elmira
Nolan, Joseph H. 364 18th St., Brooklyn
O'Connor, William P. 289th W. Houston St., New York City
Parker, Ely W. 103 W. Dominick St., Rome
Raviele, Harry 3237 43rd St., Long Island City
Rocchio, Frank E. 2431 Fuller St., Bronx
Viviani, Rocco J. 345 E. 122nd St., New York City
Wisniewski, Edwin F. 150 Simonsun Ave., Mariners Harbor S.I.
Woroniecki, Walter J. 604 So. Park Ave., Buffalo
Quinn, James P. 265 E. 197th St., Bronx
Bauman, Arthur 64 Lincoln Road, Brooklyn

OHIO

Allen, Robert V. Mingo Jct. R.R. No. 1
Armbrust, David C. Northfield, Box 36
Brooks, Alfred L. 23 Fairview Ave., Canfield
Hough, Carl L. 161 Hill St., Xenia
Kline, Robert B. 138 Watt St., Circleville

OHIO CONT'D

Lowe, Roy Sr.	176 E. Center St., Akron
Parsons, Rex	Warner
Rogers, Arden W.	665 So. 8th St., Upper Sandusky
Schulz, Paul J.	9 Saratoga St., Cincinnati
Vitucci, Joseph A. Jr.	4999 Western Hills Ave., Cincinnati

OKLAHOMA

Crouse, Lloyd M.	Hillsdale, Box 165
Dyer, Millard T.	Weber Falls, R.R. No. 1
Lipsey, James T.	802 So. W. 7th St., Oklahoma City
Nicholas, John A.	Turley, Box 37

OREGON

Erickson, Walter M.	Marquam
Marcus, Robert L.	Grants Pass, R.R. No. 2, Box 302
Robertson, Gordon A.	Carlton
Stevenson, Robert J.	Forest Grove, R.R. No. 1

PENNSYLVANIA

Boyce, George J.	1438 N. Peach St., Philadelphia
Drab, Ferdinand A.	188 Mazer Ave., Millvale
Hudak, Joseph T.	1246 3rd St., Nanty-Glo
Luberda, Edmund R.	1317 Juanita St., Philadelphia
Malingowski, Stephen J.	23742 42nd, Pittsburg
Marcavage, John	240 So. Wood, Shamokin
McKinney, Thomas E.	1007 Edgemont Ave., Chester
Miller, Robert U.	21 Penn St., Point Marion
Myers, William C.	New Stanton, Box 28
Nagy, John A.	Leckrone
Shanta, Charles J.	Turtle Creek, R.R. No. 1, Box 507
Soiffer, Bernard	5719 Wyndale Ave., Philadelphia
Stevens, Carl M.	Karns City
Terbovich, Daniel M.	632 4th Ave., McKeesport
Sawchyn, William C.	1108 E. 26th St., Erie

SOUTH CAROLINA

Anderson, Fletcher Jr.	Hartsville
------------------------	------------

TENNESSEE

Huddleston, James H.	Murfreesboro, R.R. No. 3
Morris, Robert K.	4103 9th Ave., Chattanooga

TEXAS

Bonds, Thomas G.	1906 Bernard Place, Terrace City, Dallas
Carter, Paul W.	501 Ave. E., North East Childress
Cowan, Burnice O.	Star Route "B" Box 126, Austin
Lang, Glenn T.	3238 Trezevant St., Dallas
Seay, Thomas J.	610 Stilwell Blvd., Port Arthur

UTAH

Moffat, James A.	1740 So. 3rd, East Salt Lake City
Stam, Henry Jr.	2585 So. 5th, East Salt Lake City

VERMONT

Granger, Archie J. Jr.	33 W. Center St., Winooka
Page, Rodney F.	Morrisville, Box 172

VIRGINIA

Campbell, Harvey U.	Churchland, Box 126
Craig, Russel T.	Bassett

WEST VIRGINIA

Acord, Roger	Bolt
--------------	------

WEST VIRGINIA CONT'D

Elswick, Calvin W.	Glendenin
Stanfield, Claude W.	1413 Caroline Ave., Bluefield
Tonkovich, John	Farmington
Kish, Frank S.	Rivesville, Box 73

WISCONSIN

Hansen, Norman L.	1521 W. 6th St., Racine
Hartwig, Harold A.	Hammond
Leary, Merle R.	428 So. Illinois Ave., Stevensport
Robinson, Earl D.	Fontana, Box 3
Missling, Kenneth F.	926 Hawes Ave., Appleton

COMPANY OFFICERS

Eggers, David L.	15 So. Drive, Larchmont, New York
King, Joseph	29 3rd St. Manhasset, L.I., New York
Koch, Frank J. Jr.	21 Oakland Terrace, Newark, New Jersey
Okin, Alfred	2245 E. 19th St. Brooklyn, New York
Weber, Anthony P.	7526 Emerald Ave., Chicago, Ill.

To make the history of Company "B" complete it is only fitting that two of the fellow's favorite songs be mentioned. Throughout the existence of Company "B" these two songs have been a source of entertainment when everything else had failed. In years to come a glance at these songs will bring back memories that otherwise would have been forgotten, in fact you might even try them out on the folks at home, they'd appreciate turning back the pages of time and enjoying with you a cool refreshing bottle of something-or-other and singing in true Company "B" fashion the two following songs.

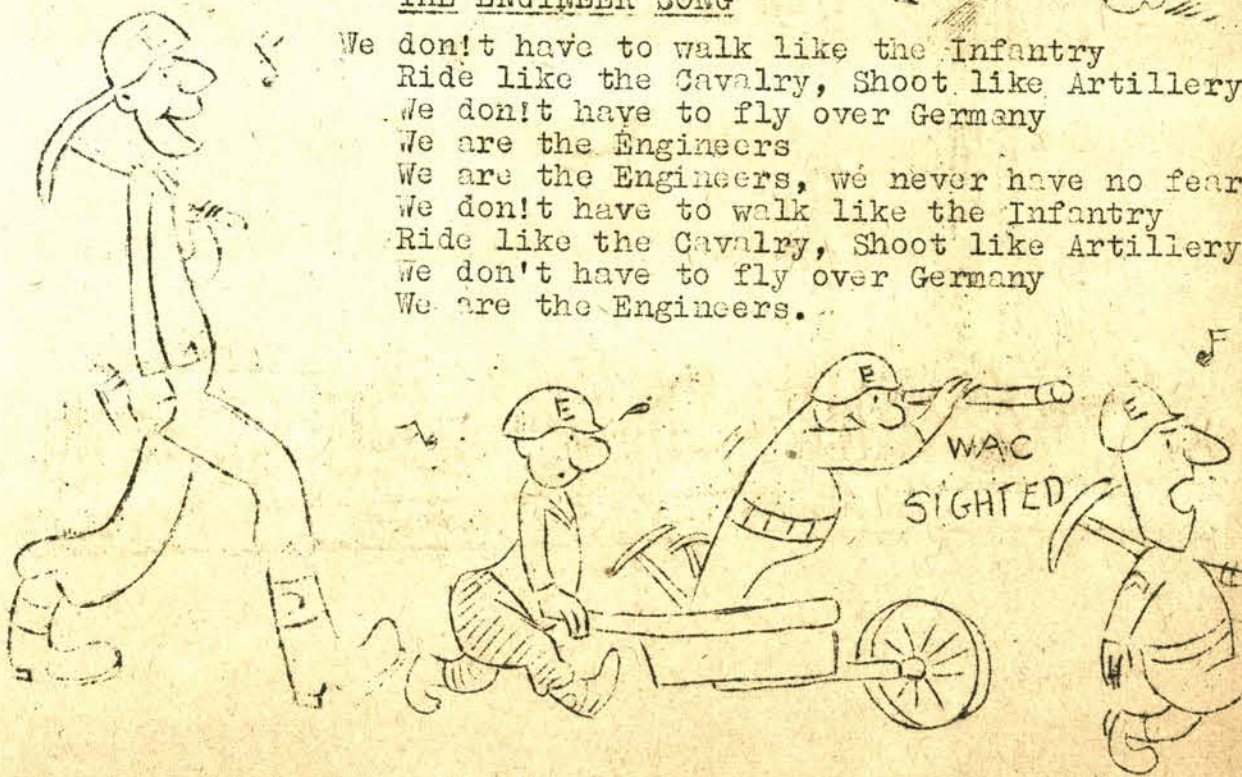
ELSIE

There was a little girl,
I donnot know her name.
She hangs around the corner every night,
She wears a watch and chain
A derby hat and cane
OH! Elsie, Elsie, Elsie, Elsie, Elsie.
Goodnight darling I must leave you
One more kiss before I go
I will see you Sunday Night
If we do not have a fight.
Down where the water lillies grow



THE ENGINEER SONG

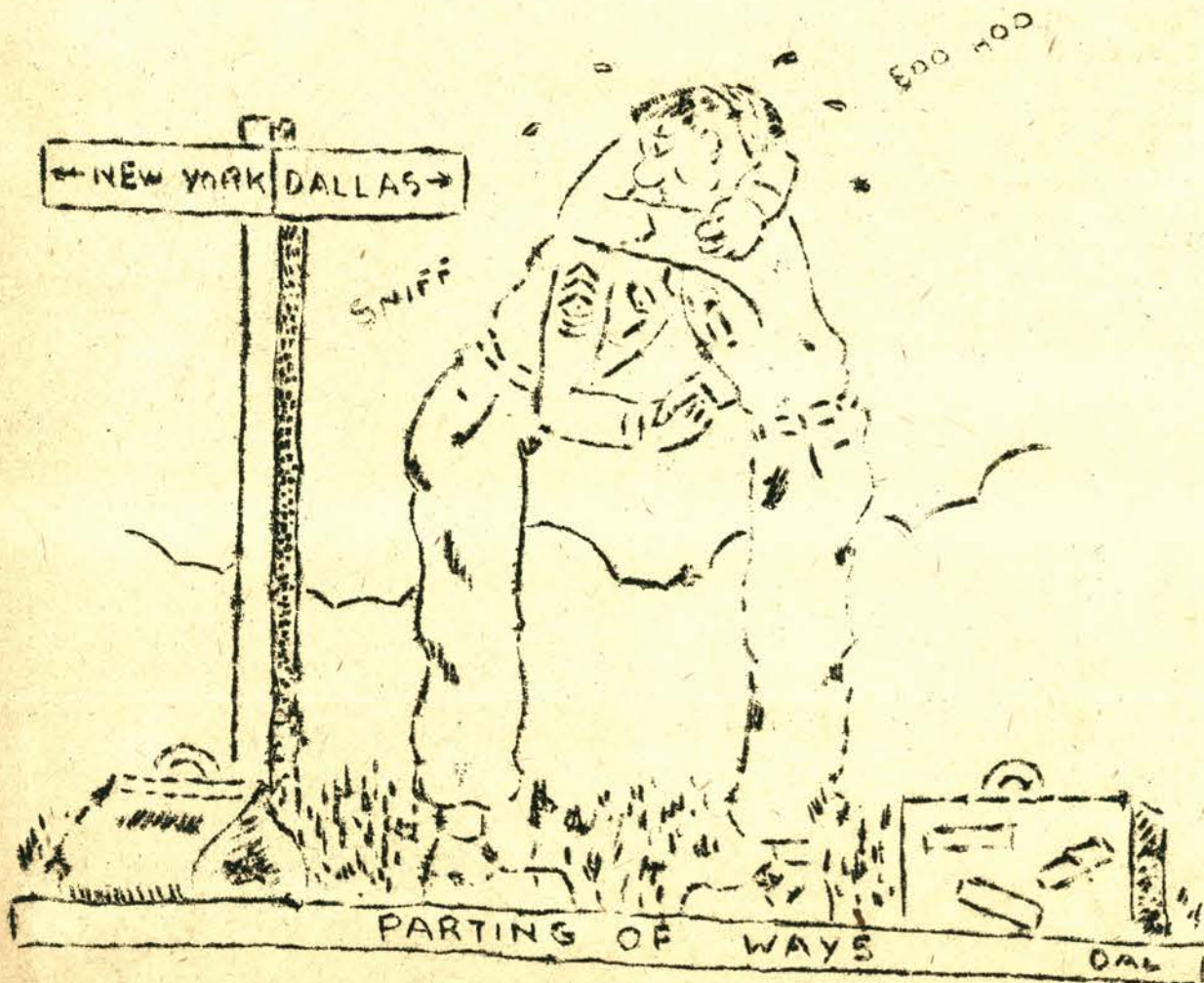
We don't have to walk like the Infantry
Ride like the Cavalry, Shoot like Artillery
We don't have to fly over Germany
We are the Engineers
We are the Engineers, we never have no fears
We don't have to walk like the Infantry
Ride like the Cavalry, Shoot like Artillery
We don't have to fly over Germany
We are the Engineers.



FINALE

It's all over now. The shooting has ceased, the crescendo of cheering has dropped off to an undertone. The world is safe once again for democracy. The peoples ~~of the~~ world will soon forget that Americans have fought and died to liberate them from the scourge of slavery and militarism, but can they ever forget and return to their former existence after having tasted an American -Dish of Tolerance and Yankee ingenuity.

Now, in conclusion, the staff wishes to express to those who have accompanied us on our journey from Texas to Luzon, to those who have fallen by the wayside, and to those who have joined us on the way, our most sincere gratitude for your loyalty and to wish you the best of luck at every turn of the road.



AUTOGRAPHS

