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HEADQUARTERS
284TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

APO 403, U. S. Army
1 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Reports.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

THRU : Command Channels.

1. Transmitted herewith is the After Action Report for this unit for the month of April 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

Henry J. Hipp
HENRY J. HIPF
1st Lt CE
Adjutant



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NARRATIVE

April 1, 1945 found the battalion in Selters, maintaining III Corps MSR from Autobahn to the Lahn River. This was quite a large area and at the time, was well in the rear of the front lines. Part of this area was taken over, however, by the Engineers of the 28th Infantry Division.

The battalion moved on 3 April to Ebsdorf where we were assigned an area for maintenance of Corps MSR from Lahn River to just south of Marburg. While at Ebsdorf, the Battalion S-2 set up his own Military Government, since we were the only unit in the town, and he was kept quite busy collecting arms, answering questions, and issuing and refusing passes. In addition, at this town, the companies began to bring in quite a few prisoners which had been by-passed by more advance elements.

On 5 April, 1945 the battalion moved to Neiderasphe and began maintenance of Corps Route B from its junction with Marburg-Frankenburg road to Hatzfeld. While at Neiderasphe the S-2 was again busy with PW's and Military Government. III Corps moved out into an attack NW into the Ruhr pocket, with the 1159th Engineer Combat Group and consequently us in support. On the 8th we were again given additional areas, up to the vicinity of Berleburg.

On April 10th, 1945 the battalion moved to Wemlighausen and was also on this date placed in direct support of the 7th Armored Division. S Sgt Moore, Reconnaissance Sergeant, on this date went out on reconnaissance with Pvt Hatcher driving the jeep. The jeep struck a mine and S Sgt Moore was killed. Pvt Hatcher was luckily uninjured and returned to the outfit with the news about 1900 on this night.

On 11 April the battalion moved to Fredeburg, continued maintenance of Corps Route B within 1159th Group's area. At 2400 this date we were relieved of direct support of 7th Armored Division, but continued in general support. The 12th the assigned area was inclosed and additional routes maintained and cleared of mines. At a small ceremony the Corps Engineer presented Bronze Star Medals to three officers and six enlisted men of C Company. The night of the 12th Lt. Hochberger made his freak capture of a German Captain and four enlisted men in a German "jeep".

The battalion remained at Fredeburg through the 18th, continuing road maintenance, road clearing, bridge guarding in an ever increasing area as the "Rose Pocket" was cut smaller and smaller. During the week the headquarters was at Fredeburg the battalion total of PW's captured was 106. On the 17th and into the early hours of the 18th we furnished 30 trucks to help haul prisoners from the PW collection point at Balve back to Brilon. The 18th was spent mostly in preparing for a long move.

At 0300 on the 19th the move started, back to 3d Army but still with III Corps. The column halted at approximately 0100 the 20th just east of Wurtzburg for a few hours rest. Leaving early in the morning we arrived at Markt Bibart around 1000 hours. The next two days were spent in resting, cleaning equipment and making general engineer reconnaissance of the area from Neustadt to Furth. During this period we were attached to the 1111th Engineer Group.

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Narrative (cont'd)

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On 22d the battalion moved into a wood in the vicinity of Furth and started maintenance of the highway toward Furth and the bypasses at Langenzenn. Company A was attached to the 14th Cavalry Group. The 1159th Engineer Combat Group arrived and we were once more assigned to that unit. Official orders came through relieving the battalion from First Army and assigning it to Third Army. The following day the work assignment was the same, that night however, the battalion received orders that it was attached to the 14th Armored Division. At 1000 hours on the 24th we moved to wood just west of Hilpoltstein. One platoon of treadway bridge from the 998th Engineer Treadway Bridge Co. was attached to the battalion. Two battlefield commissions came through and S Sgt Pou and 1st Sgt McAllister were sworn in as 2d Lieutenants. Major McGrath, S-3, returned from seven days rest at the Riviera and taken on from here.

On 24th April, the battalion, minus A Company, was still attached to the 14th Armored Division and A Company was attached to the 14th Cavalry Group. One platoon of C Company was still with CCB of the 14th Armored Division and one platoon of B Company was with CCR. C Company's platoon put in the Treadway bridge at Beilngries with the assistance of the 125th Engineers. Early on the morning of the 24th, Lt. Col. Morrison of the 125th Engineers was seriously injured when his vehicle hit a mine. Captain O'Neal, S-3 of that outfit, took command and the situation was somewhat muddled. We moved the afternoon of the 24th to a woods west of Krafttuck.

Effective at 1000 on 25th April we were relieved from attachment to the 14th Armored Division and reverted back to the control of the 1159th Engineer Combat Group. We remained in direct support of the division however. Group immediately put us to work on the Autobahn from Kinding to Greding. From 251800 to 272200 the battalion, minus A Company, completed two 110' TSBB, one 100' TBBB, one 70' DSBB, filling one gap, and constructing a bypass from Autobahn to Kinding thus opening Autobahn to Group's forward boundary.

On the 26th of April the trucks of both B and C Companies were used to haul Bailey Bridging material that was stocked in the engineer dump at Furth. In the meantime C Company was constructing a bypass on the Autobahn. At 261900 word was received from 1159th Group that the 998th Treadway Company was relieved of attachment from 1159th Engineer Combat Group and attached to 1111th Engineer Combat Group. And that the platoon that was attached to us was to go immediately to Titlenfeld. One platoon of C Company was to report to Lt. Col. Connell who was at Diefurt to remove treadway. Our Recon Officer went to Group for they were working in the vicinity of Sheamhaupten tonight.

The 27th of April brought word that Lt. Kipperman was unable to locate treadway at Dietfurt and after a search of six hours discovered that they treadway was removed by the 991st Treadway Company. B Company started construction of 90 ft. Triple Single Bailey Bridge at 1000 at Greding. At 1030 nine trucks left to pick up 60 more feet of Bailey Bridge from dump at Furth. B Company put dirt in an underpass on Autobahn. Companies notified of possible move.

On the 28th, 1159th Engineer Combat Group ordered us to dispatch ten dump trucks to 291st Engineer Combat Battalion CP which was located at Heinheim. At 280800 Lt.

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Leskanic reported B Company completed 70 ft Double Single Bailey Bridge at 272200. H/S Company alerted to move out at 2900, followed by C Company. B Company to complete work on Autobahn and move up with the battalion when work is completed. Advance CP opened 1 mile northeast of Tettenager at 281900. Sgt Campana posted the B Route from Beilngingen to bridge at Heinheim. Our ten trucks which we loaned to 291st Engineers was released at 281600. The battalion was released from direct support of the 14th Armored Division and reverted back to 1159th Engineer Combat Group control.

At 0730 of 29th the companies completed moving to present bivouac area. At 0830 Sgt Campana reported B Route posting is completed. 1159th Group called up and asked us for the loan of a jeep. We gave them Lt. Ripandelli's jeep for two days. At 1530 the 129th AAA dropped in to ask us if we would dig some gun emplacements at Pinkerbrunn. Word came down from Group to send one platoon to treadway at Hienheim to pick up footbridge and load it on 72d Engineer's trucks. B Company got this work order at 2100. Capt. Cusack from 1159th Engineer Combat Group called up and ordered us to put in treadway bridge at Newstadt. B Company to build bridge, C Company to build approaches. Work to begin first thing in the morning.

On April 30th the two companies were working on the Treadway Bridge when word was received from Lt. LeClair that the battalion was to move in the vicinity of Egghausen immediately. Work was called off on Treadway Bridge and advance CP was established in woods southwest of Bfeffenhausen and so ended the month of April.

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