

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, NND PROJECT
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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
284TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. Army

14 March 1945

SUBJECT: Monthly After Action Report.

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

THRU : Command Channels.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105, After Action Report, month of February 1945, for 284th Engineer Combat Battalion is submitted herewith.

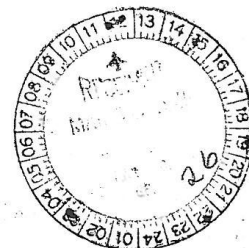
2. All supporting documents were destroyed by fire.

For the Commanding Officer:

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

1 Incl:
Recommendations.

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Incl #3

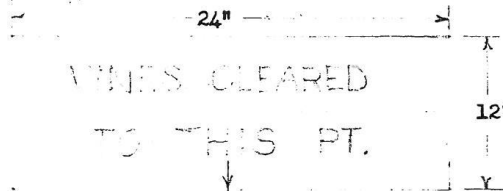
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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. An ETO SOP for marking roads cleared of mines be set up and followed throughout this theater. All roads which have been cleared of mines, regardless of the width of clearance, should be marked with the following or similar sign:



If this sign is used, there would not be any confusion as to the actual width of clearance and, furthermore, if cleared area was widened at a later date by another unit, no additional signs would be needed.

2. Combine all radio operators in H/S Company under present T/O into one communications section under Battalion Communication Officer. In addition, a wire section should be added with additional transportation.
3. Add to each company's T/E one 250 gallon water trailer.
4. D7 angledozers should be issued to all battalions instead of D7 bulldozers.

Paul F. O'Neil

PAUL F. O'NEIL
Major, 284th Engr Combat Bn
Commanding

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284TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. Army

14 March 1945

NARRATIVE

On 1 February the battalion was a part of Task Force Reed Reserve (2d Cal. Gp.) and was located in vicinity of Oetrange, Luxembourg. Our intensive training program on Infantry tactics was just being concluded preparatory to moving into front line positions along Moselle River from Remich to Ihnen.

On 3 February the Battalion CP moved to Dalheim, Luxembourg and relieved elements of C.T. Hargis along Moselle. A and B Companies were located at Lennigen and Bous and were occupying prepared positions along river while C Company was in C.T. Darling Reserve. The sector which the Battalion was occupying was taken over by C.T. Darling (9th TD Group) from C.T. Hargis and consequently we were attached to the 9th TD Group. These positions were occupied and defended for period 3-8 February inclusive. During this period the battalion had its first casualty. Private Steven Moraglia, B Company, was hit by mortar fragments at Remich, Luxembourg. Also during this period, the battalion drew for the first time all its T/O vehicles.

The battalion departed from Dalheim 091000 and moved by motor to the vicinity of Heinerscheid, Luxembourg, arriving there during the afternoon of the 10th. After a day's rest and after being attached to CCB of the 6th Armored Division, the battalion relieved the 9th Armored Infantry Battalion in their bridgehead on E side of Our River, E of Heinerscheid. While moving up to position three casualties were incurred by A and C Companies from small arms fire. This bridgehead, immediately in front of Siegfried Line, due to the unit on our right withdrawing west of the river was potentially about the hottest spot that a comparatively green Engineer Battalion could have been put into. However, Jerry did not seem to realize this and we held the bridgehead successfully through the night of the 14th, being relieved by the 9th Armored Infantry Battalion early on the morning of the 15th. C Company suffered one more casualty while moving away from the position, this time from artillery fire.

Immediately upon being relieved from the line, the battalion moved out by motor to Ober Forstbach, Germany where we were assigned to 1st Army and attached to the 1159th Engineer Combat Group which was assigned to III Corps. So, at long last, we were to enter upon the mission for which we had been designed and trained.

The battalion's first assignment as Engineers was the maintenance of roads and other normal engineer functions in rear part of Corps Area. The roads in the area taken over were in bad condition, but decided improvement was shown.

At about 221700 Private Duvall, A Company bulldozer operator, was ordered to go at once to ASP 137. An accidental explosion had occurred there and shells were still exploding and burning. In spite of this, Pvt Duvall without regard for his own safety pushed shells, earth and debris into the crater caused by the explosion, eliminating whatever danger existed.

On 25 February the battalion moved into bivouac in Hurtgen Woods east of Zweifall and area of responsibility was moved up in front of 276th Engineer Combat Battalion.

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Narrative (cont)

At 252300 C Company moved out of bivouac area to vicinity of Winden on the Roer River. At 260500 construction was begun on 254' DS and TS Bailey Bridge across the Roer River. Bridge consisted of 1 span of TS, 92' long and two 81' spans of DS. Existing piers on partly demolished bridge were used for intermediate supports. A considerable amount of unexploded demolitions were removed from existing piers and abutments. Bridge was complete and first traffic went across at 261745.

On 28 February the battalion supported move of 9th Armored Division through area of responsibility. On the previous night C Company, with all the dump trucks in the battalion attached, hauled 130 loads of crushed rock on section of road west of Grosschau. This road the following day took the passage of the Division very satisfactorily. Another casualty was incurred on this date when Private Nick Kochuba of A Company was run over on the road and killed by a M8 Armored Car.



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