

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, NND PROJECT
NUMBER 735617, BY RB/RW, DATE 6-94

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HEADQUARTERS
284TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

APC 403, U. S. Army
31 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

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

THRU : Command Channels.

Submitted herewith is the After Action Report of this unit for month
of May 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

HENRY J. RIPP
1st Lt CE
Adjutant

1 Incl:
After Action Report (in trip.)

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JOURNAL

S-3 JOURNAL

From: 0001 1 May 45
To : 2400 31 May 45
Place:

284th Engineer Combat Battalion

Date	Time	Messages, Orders	Action Taken
<u>May</u>			
1	0900	Battalion move completed. B Co given maintenance of MSR from Siegenburg to Pfeffenhausen. C Co given maintenance of MSR from Pfeffenhausen to Landshut	
	1130	Group ordered 15 signs reading "To Bridge".	Cpl Cole painting signs now.
	1230	Message from Group: Have one platoon report to 72d CP (WU098200) at 1245 to go to Landshut to stockpile bridge. This is in addition to platoon already sent to site to construct bridge.	B Co notified to send platoon.
	1300	Message from Group: Send one Co to BB site at Landshut to report to Col. Fields.	Notified C Co. to send 2 platoons.
	1400	Above order cancelled. B Co to build a Double Single Bridge 70 ft long & a triple double bridge 130 ft long at Landshut. C Co will continue to work on the road between Siegenburg and Landshut, particularly on cut-off at railway bridge at Landshut.	Companies notified.
	1800	B Co reported 3 prisoners taken today	
	1810	C Co reported 15 prisoners taken today.	
	2000	Major McGrath back from bridge site reported B Co's 60 ft double single Bailey Bridge in by 1700. B Co's triple double Bailey Bridge begun at 1730. Estimated completion date is 021200. Major McGrath brought the following report back from Gp: We will take up the area to the river including bridges and approaches. C Co will maintain roads, approaches, and guards on the Treadway, effective 020800B. C Co will develop a 2-way street circulation within Landshut to the bridges across the Isar River by 1200 tomorrow. Upon completion of Bailey Bridge, treadway will be taken out by B Co. Capt Whiter and Maj Harris will go to Landshut for billets for battalion if agreeable with Col. O'Neil.	Companies notified.
2	0800	Move cancelled.	
	1630	Lt LeClair came from Group with following information: We will mark C & D routes according to an accompanying overlay. The 291st Engr Bn will patrol all roads between Danube and Isar Rivers. We will receive all future major tasks as far as bridge and road work is concerned. We will place a guard on a building containing surveying and drafting equipment at Neuhausen. Continue tasks we are doing. No change in area.	CCo given detail
	1900	Lt Finger reports TDBB complete at 1830.	
3	0900	Lt LeClair brought following orders from Group: 284th to be responsible for maintaining road between Altdorf and road just south of Landshut, including guard and maintenance of bridge in Landshut. We are relieved of guard at	

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Date	Time	Messages, Orders	Action Taken
May			
3		Neuhausen. Command inspection will be conducted not later than 062400. Inspection will include all vehicles, motor driven equipment, clothing & personal equipment. A Co relieved from 14th Cav. Gp effective 030800. Battalion will move to Landshut today. Pvt. Quinn killed & Sgt Bastress injured in vehicle accident, this A.M.	Companies notified.
	1800	Move to Landshut completed. CO meeting held at once. Subjects discussed were: Passes to Paris; command inspection; dropping of all trailers over 1 ton; 10 O'clock curfew; work area; slower driving; BSO to put in new water point. B Co to maintain road and take over bridge guards as of 1900 tonight.	Companies notified.
4	1400	Lt LeClair returned from liaison meeting at Group with following information: helmet camouflage nets to be turned in to unit supply; close hair cuts to be required; wearing of improper uniform to be stopped. Barn at Ober-Neuhausen to be located and any materiel to be turned in to Group S-4. Recon requested by Group S-2.	Hatcher sent on this job.
	1600	Hatcher returned from recon and reported he could find nothing of value.	
	1630	Major McGrath reported above to Major Cassack who directs that a more thorough search be made and a negative report be submitted if nothing more can be found.	Job given to C Co.
	1730	CO meeting: B Co to continue maintenance of road and bridges until 051900. To be relieved at this time by A Co.	
	2100	Capt Heubach reported that he could find nothing of value at Ober Neuhausen but is not satisfied and will look again in morning.	
5	0900	Capt Ohmen called from Dragline wanting to know what time companies were to hold showdown inspection.	
	1045	Sgt Brooks came in with one tripod and stated that that was all the equipment that was found in the barn, C Co was told to inspect.	
	1130	Major Cusach called and wanted: 1 surveyor, 1 assistant, 3/4 ton truck, transit, tape - to report to Group at 1330.	Sgt Flynn told to report to Gp.
	1330	Dragline called and reported Group is opening theater in town - shows twice a day - 1500 & 1900.	Notified companies.
	1335	Capt Funk called and wanted a recon of town as to steel material.	Recon sent out immediately.
	1345	Lt Ripandelli reported from liaison meeting: Group to construct two fixed bridges. We change guard tomorrow.	
	1530	Major Cusak called and ordered posting of No Entry signs at critical points on one way roads to and from Bailey Bridge at Landshut.	Notified Sgt Major Sgt Worley placed in charge of sign posting detail.
	1730	CO meeting: Showdown inspection discussed, orientation of battle fronts.	

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May			
5	1935	B Co reported sniper fire coming from vicinity of German Hospital. Three men fired on.	Notified M.D. & Group. Capt. Henry went to investigate.
	2200	Major Cusach called asking us if we wanted generator. Sgt Flynn completed survey on fixed bridge.	
6	1230	Capt. Thomas reported Hq platoon has finished clothing inspection. Company taking showers and maintaining bridge guards.	
	1500	Lt. Ripandelli returned from liaison meeting with following information: Bn will not build bridge; work area extended northward to include Pfeffenhausen. Army route numbers to be put up immediately.	C Co assigned to road effective 061900.
7	1430	Sgt Brooks reports that Co C foot inspection is complete.	
	1550	Sgt from 52d Field Hospital unit came in and wanted one D7 to pull C-47 (with wounded) out of mud.	Notified B Co.
8	0800	CO meeting, with following items discussed: Battalion to "Go Garrison". Battalion to be prepared for move on short notice. Vehicles will not give rides to liberated Allied PW's or civilians. Wash vehicles. Conserve gas. One hour of close order drill per day from 0900 to 1000. Athletics from 1330 to 1630. Companies to put in for equipment. Daily inspection of billets. Steel helmets must still be worn.	
	1425	Lt Ripandelli returns from Group with pass word: Twain-Mark. Also information on censorship.	
	1745	CO meeting, with following items discussed: A Co to take over road maintenance, censorship rules changed, passes to U.K., companies to draw one suit of summer underwear per man, BSO to set up pump for washing vehicles, Lt Wohl to set up schedule for volley ball, turn in suggestions for TO/E change.	
	2130	Col. Fields message to Major McGrath: Bn can move to either Furth or Nurnburg as long as Group and this Bn are in the same town.	Co's. notified. Billeting party, consisting of 1 officer & 1 squad per line company and the S-2 section from H/S Co will leave as advance party at 090800.
9	1000	Major Cusak called and ordered move to be made at 100830.	Companies notified.
	1630	CO meeting, with following subjects discussed: Moving time - H/S at 0830, A Co at 0840, B Co at 0850, C Co. at 0900. Rate of move 15 mph, using Route B all the	

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May			
	9	way. Water point to be set up immediately upon arriving at billets. Pull out old water points. A Co to receive guards back from Group. C Co's bridge guards relieved at 100900. Paint sign on billets here.	
	10 0830	Battalion moved out.	
	1600	Battalion completed move to Nurnburg (w0844302).	
	1630	Lt Ripandelli notified us that Group is located at 39 Mommsenstrasse.	
	2200	CO meeting - subjects discussed were: guard, orderly service, steel helmets and weapons, non-fraternization, laundry, cancel close order drill for tomorrow, clean swimming pool, fatigues may be worn by enlisted men, blackout from 2045 to 0545, curfew 2200 for military, no firing of weapons.	
	11 1145	Message from Group: You are directed to send one officer to Army P.W. enclosure #21 at Langensenn (2204) as soon as possible (III Corps specified by 1200 today) in connection with moving enclosure to new location. Your officer will contact Major Johnson there for full details. One platoon will be alerted to perform above task.	A Co. notified to send officer and alert one platoon.
	1400	Lt. Ripandelli back from liaison meeting with order to post clearance signs on all overpasses in vicinity of Nurnberg.	Sgt Campana in charge of job.
	1800	CO meeting: following subjects discussed: Paris passas, changing CP signs, guard duty, non-fraternization, wearing of helmet liners, swimming pool, signs for underpasses, PW cage at Langenzenn, conserve water and electricity, trip tickets for vehicles.	
	2130	Capt Thomas & Capt Arvin returned from recon of situation at Langenzenn. Report that job requires entire battalion. A whole new area is needed for 32,000 PW's. Drainage, roads, latrines required.	Area divided 3 ways. Each have 1 platoon working continuously. Capt Thomas to get other companies started. 2 graders already on job. 2 angle-dozer & 1 grader from 629th to be picked up in the morning. Lt. Quimby to get 1000 gals. of gas per day till completion. This job has all priority
	12 1400	Lt. Ripandelli reported back from liaison meeting with following orders: roads N11, N8, N14, A3 have 1st priority on maintenance. Eliminate 1-way bottlenecks. Bn. to see "Two Down and One to Go" on 19th of May.	

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May			
12	1430	Sgt Worley reported that generator at Altdorf was in by 1300 this afternoon.	
13	1330	Liaison meeting: send one officer to 6th Conval. Hospital at Stein (3896) to contact company in regards to engineering work on roads around hospital. Give Group a work estimate. Sketch items and CO sign it. Pass word - 13-14 May - Show Boat 14-15 May - Wander Lust	B Co. notified.
	1800	CO meeting: PW cage to be completed tomorrow. Hospital work discussed. One squad from C Co. to motor pool for fencing. A Co. to pick up barbed wire. A Co. to turn over shovel to PW enclosure. Showers & swimming pool discussed. Supply & fraternization rules discussed.	
14	1400	Group ordered us to construct road at hospital at Stein.	B Co. to send 2 squads for job.
	1800	Group ordered us to send enough men to repair generator to "Stars & Stripes" office at Altdorf.	Sgt Worley placed in charge of detail.
	1810	CO meeting - subjects discussed were: DDT powder, garbage situation, no battalion officers' mess, PW enclosure at Langenzenn, work area.	
15	0100	Sgt Worley reported back in from Altdorf that work on generator there will not be completed before 151800. Sgt Worley and detail encountered a road block on return route.	
	1400	Lt. DeClair's report from liaison meeting: For light maintenance work go through S-4. For light equipment go through S-3. No more liaison meetings. New disposition report form will be used in place of overlay. We are to remove swastikas from Nurnberg Stadium and turn in estimate of men, tools, and material needed to put utilities of stadium in working order.	C Co. given job.
	1800	CO meeting: subjects discussed were: A & C Co's to give B Co 6 trucks, A Co to have one platoon on roads, swimming pool opening, battalion profile.	
	2000	Sgt Worley reported work on generator at Altdorf finished.	
16	1300	Group requested release of 1 grader if possible.	Release found impossible as one of Co B's graders has broken down.
	1315	Capt Henry reported the finding of mines in work area at hospital.	1 Sqd. of B Co working with mine detectors to clear area.
	1400	Job slip received from Group: Contact Col. Dunn, CO of 401st FA Gp at Roth, regarding contemplated housing of	Job given to 1 Pl. of C Co.

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16	1400	PW's. Make reconnaissance and work estimate for following and start work: PW housing, fixed bridge in place of RR bridge. Obtain priority. FA Gp desires other work to be accomplished, if authorized.	
17	1300	Explosion heard NE of our C.P.	Lt Wohl sent to investigate. 1 Pl. A Co alerted for fighting fire. Alerted platoon led by Capt Thomas sent.
	1430	Fire caused by explosion reported to be getting out of control. Group ordered that men be sent on fire fighting detail.	
	1530	Capt Thomas reports fire extinguished. Fire resulted from explosion of ammunition & chemicals ignited by burning gasoline accidentally set off by German child.	
	1600	Sgt Worley reported that all necessary plans and charts have been obtained for repair of Nurnberg Stadium.	Army O.K. on our undertaking job is awaited.
	1800	CO meeting: subjects discussed were: collection from battalion to replace \$1600 stolen from mail clerk; arms need not be carried to movies, mess or athletics; curfew 2100-0600 for military; men must remain in bn. area; turn in all CWS to Co. Supply; supply problems; black-out no longer in effect.	
18	0800	Lt LeClair reported that Group ordered him to attend liaison meeting at 180900.	
	0930	Job Slip No. 11 received from Group: do necessary work on DP enclosure for AMG, as per plan signed by Lt. Col. Klise. PW labor will be utilized to maximum extent practicable.	B Co. given job.
	0935	New work area received from Group.	1 recon party from each Co to leave for area.
	1830	CO meeting: subjects discussed were: unlimited supply of "I" beams (18") at Plainfield; recon of new area; Sundays are now holidays; weight classification for vehicles; supply problems. Bn to see "1 Down 2 to Go" at 0945 and 1300 tomorrow.	
20	1500	Lt Ripandelli returned with recon party. An overlay was turned in on the classification of all roads & bridges in our pending work area above Bayreuth.	
	1500	Job Slip #14 received from Group: Have officer contact Capt. Werner at U.S. Military Cemetery vic Buchenbuhl (O 4406) in regard to construction of cinder path around grave plots and surfacing 3000 lineal ft of approach road. Perform necessary work.	A Co. given job.

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Date	Time	Messages, Orders	Action Taken
May			
21	0800	Group ordered by-pass on Rt. 2 to Barnes to be built at 425726. Repair one-way bridge at Barnes, making it Class 10. Timber trestle bridge not to built as previously planned.	Work will be done under Job #13. A Co. to be assigned.
	1530	Lt. Finger reported hospital job at Stein complete.	
22	1000	Major McGrath reported back from Group with following information: Military Govt will have civilians patch military roads in our area if we will furnish equipment to clean rubble from Nurnberg streets.	Maj. McGrath accepted. We will furnish 3 bulldozers & 8 2 1/2 ton trucks.
	1930	Lt McAllister reported that the bridge outside Roth is complete and that two 5 mph signs are required.	Sign job referred to Sgt Campana.
23	1700	B Co reported DP enclosure at Nurnberg finished.	
24	0950	Group called: we will not make planned move. Continue present work.	
	1000	Job Slip No. 18 from Group: make reconnaissance of all existing installations within your area that are usable or readily adaptable as general depots, warehouses, vehicle parks or similar storage purposes. Only those installations providing greater than 10,000 sq ft of covered storage or 100,000 sq. ft. will be reported.	
	1330	Dragline notified us to pick up Quickway Shovel from 629th.	A Co. notified.
	1400	Military Govt requested 5 trucks for 250700.	Maj. McGrath granted request.
	1500	Dragline orders that one dozen sign posts be made for Corps by 280800. Specifications to be brought down from Corps.	Cpl. Cole put in charge of detail
	1530	Dragline reported A Co has left cemetery job before completion and requests reason.	Dragline informed that Quickway Shovel with clam, broke a cable making it impossible to complete job till repairs are made.
	1545	Dragline reported that deadline on cemetery job is 291800. Gen. Patton will attend Memorial Services on the 30th of May.	A Co. notified.
25	0830	Group ordered that a demolitions man be sent to Military Govt to open safes. To report at 251300.	Sgt Harmon sent.
26	0930	Group ordered that we will build four railroad spurs near Congress Hall, Nurnberg.	A Co given job.

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Date	Time	Messages, Orders	Action Taken
May			
26	1000	Group order: continue with top soil at cemetery, but do not install sprinkler system. All PW's will be ordered before 1700 on the day previous to their use.	A Co. notified
	1030	C Co requests 50 PW's on the morning of 28 May.	
28	0800	Job Slip received with orders to post 6 directional signs at designated points. Group also orders that unauthorized & unnecessary signs on roads in our area will be removed.	B Co given task
29	1200	B Co reported sign posting job finished.	
	1300	A Co ordered 50 PW's; B Co ordered 40 PW's	Order placed with 211th FA.
	1400	Group ordered that we will take over job of repairing Nurnberg Stadium.	C Co given task.
	1600	Group ordered that we will guard & work the 700 PW's at the enclosure on route 4 between Nurnberg and Erlinghausen. We will also place a guard on Congress Hall.	A Co given task.
	1630	Job Slip #25 received: Furnish 2 squads for work on PW enclosure vicinity of Erlangen. Cavalry will furnish 10 2½ ton trucks for hauling materials and PW's for labor. We will also furnish 1 officer for technical advice, small tools for PW labor and materials from group dump using 14th Cav trucks.	C Co given guard detail. A Co given task.
	1800	A Co reported completion of cemetery job (No 14c)	Report relayed to Group.
30	1100	Capt Roth, Dragline, ordered that each company hold two one hour orientation classes per week. Schedule will be submitted today.	Companies notified. Schedule sent to Group.
	1130	991st Trdw Co will relieve us of care of 700 PW's at Bouch, effective 301200	

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APC 403, U. S. Army
31 May 1945

DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

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Narrative (cont'd)

#21 at Langenzenn was initiated by one platoon from each line company. The posting of overpass clearance signs on all Army road nets was begun on this date also.

Sgt. Worley completed the installation of the generator at Altdorf by 121300. Under Major McGrath's supervision, the battalion carried on the patrol and maintenance of roads in our assigned area. These roads included: N 14, A 3, N 2, N 8, and A 43.

On May 15th B Company began the construction of a road at the Stein Hospital, as well as the construction of a culvert at the PWE Enclosure at Langenzenn. Sgt. Worley's crew was called out again to repair two generators at Altdorf. Successful recons were held during the last few days which resulted in the finding of cobble stone and gravel stockpiles, two D8 tractors, and a carry-all. By noon all the needed work at the PWE Enclosure at Langenzenn was completed.

May 16th brought C Company the job of making a detailed report on all the necessary men, tools, equipment, and plans to put Nurnberg Stadium and its utilities in complete repair. C Company was also assigned the work of removing all the metal swastikas from the erect flagpoles sprinkled so generously around the stadium. By this date the whole battalion was enjoying the swimming pool which the men had converted from a large emergency water reservoir. Capt. Henry reported that his men located several teller mines buried in the Stein Hospital work area.

On May 17th C Company began the construction of a timber trestle bridge and a PW Enclosure at Roth. At this point the Stein Hospital road was 60% completed, 30% of the swastikas were removed from the Nurnberg Stadium, and 80% of the Army net roads had been posted with overpass clearance signs.

On May 18th B Company completed the road at the Stein Hospital and received orders to have one squad of men install floors and build miscellaneous furniture at the hospital.

B Company began the construction of a DP Enclosure in Nurnberg on May 19th. A recon party found an unlimited supply of 18 inch still "I" beams at Pleinfeld. The Army film "Two Down One to Go" was shown to the battalion at 0900 and 1300. A Company was informed to drop the timber trestle bridge job at Roth and was assigned to the construction of a by-pass and the repair of a one-way bridge at Barns.

May 20th brought A Company the task of constructing a cinder path in a cemetery at Buchenbuhle and the surfacing of 3000 lineal feet of approach road. The deadline for this job was set at May 29 1800 since Memorial Day Services, at which General Patton would attend, were scheduled to be held there.

On May 21st B Company reported that the carpentry work at the Stein Hospital was finished.

At 1930 22 May A Company reported the completion of the by-pass and the bridge at Barns. Military Government requested equipment with which to clean the rubble from the streets of Nurnberg. Major McGrath offered to take over the street cleaning job if the civilians would patch the roads in our area. An agreement was made

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Narrative (cont'd)

and B Company, with three bulldozers and eight trucks, was assigned the street cleaning task.

B Company reported the completion of the DP Enclosure in Nurnberg at 231700.

On May 24th, S-2 began a reconnaissance of all existing installations within our area that are useable or readily adaptable as general depots, warehouses, vehicle parks or similar storage purposes. Only those installations providing greater than 10,000 sq. ft. of covered storage or 100,000 sq. ft. of open storage were to be reported.

Prisoners of War were used in our major tasks whenever possible. We could order any number we needed as long as our order was in by 1700 the day previous. Our experience with these men found them good and apparently, willing workers.

On May 25th Group requested that a demolitions man be sent to Military Government to blow several German safes. Sgt. Harmon, who was sent, insisted that he had no civilian life experience at this job.

On May 26th we received the task of building four railroad spurs, with a total of 27,000 feet of rail, at a supply point in Nurnberg. This job was turned over to A Company. Major McGrath estimated the date of completion as July 17 1800.

C Company was assigned the job of repairing the Nurnberg Stadium, as per plan and estimates turned in previously, on May 29th. C Company also was to place a guard on Congress Hall. A Company received two new tasks on this date, the guarding and working of 200 PW's at the enclosure on Route 4, and the erection of a PW enclosure near Erlangen. Capt. Thomas reported the completion of the cemetery job at Buchenbuhle.

C Company received the two final tasks of the month. On May 31st they began the operations of a saw-mill at Buchenbuhle and the repair of a hospital in Nurnberg.

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