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HEADQUARTERS 305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
APO #80, U. S. Army

~~5 January 1945~~

305 ENG  
Dec

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

TO : Commanding General, 80 Infantry Division  
Attn: Division Historian

1. Transmitted herewith are the After Action Reports for the 305th Engineer Combat Battalion for the month of December 1944.
2. Attached thereto are Daily Situation Reports, Unit Journal, and maps and overlays as outlined in section II.

*A. E. Mc Collam*  
A. E. MC COLLAM  
Lt Col. CE  
Commanding

- Incls:
- Section I
  - Section II
  - Section III
  - Section IV
  - Unit Journal
  - Situation Report
  - S-2 Maps and Overlays

380-ENG-0.3

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE *WDT*

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HEADQUARTERS 305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
APO #80, U. S. Army

After Action Report

Section I

Summary of Daily Operations and Actions, December 1944

1. The battalion continued to operate under orders from Headquarters 80th Infantry Division. Each one of our companies supported one of the division's Combat Teams.

2. Period 1-9 December 1944 - Area East of ST. AVOLD, France.

a. The attack which had started 8 November 1944 was continued. The division's original plan was to move East from vicinity ST AVOLD and establish a bridgehead East of the SAAR River, between SAAREBUCKEN and SAARGEMUND. Engineers to continue clearing all obstacles and continue supporting the division advance. Due to other United States units moving up towards SAARGEMUND along the East side of the SAAR River, and due to heavy enemy opposition vicinity FARBERSVILLER, our main attack shifted more to the North, towards FORBACH.

b. During the period our main efforts were expended in clearing various obstacles. Roads were repaired and maintained; craters and shell holes were filled; roads were cleared of mines; abatis and other road blocks; culverts and bridges were repaired; bypasses built for emergency use; debris and rubble had to be cleared in towns. The battalion constructed three Class 40 steel treadway bridges, one Class 40 80-foot Bailey bridge and one 2-way Class 70 fixed timber trestle bridge during the period.

c. In addition to blocking the roads, the Germans had blown all railroad bridges and cut the rails very badly. Only where this actually interfered with the movement of the division were our engineers concerned. One example was a blown railroad overpass in MERLEBACH, blocking an important road. This was a sizeable clearance job, done by C Company.

d. The Germans had left time bombs in ST AVOLD, and the battalion spent much time checking public buildings and utilities. We were called upon to fight a fire started by one explosion and to clear rubble from others. Victims were rescued, dead bodies extricated and equipment salvaged from five blown buildings in ST AVOLD.

e. Many aerial bombs (used as explosives), duds, and large quantities of explosives and ammunition were cleared and destroyed.

3. Period 10-16 December 1944 - ST AVOLD and Vicinity.

This week was the first official rest period for the division and the battalion, after over 102 days of contact with the enemy. Our troops continued to be busy, however, with such work as maintaining roads in the division area, training Infantry units in assault on fortified positions and the use of explosives and demolitions. Our own crews were given training in acetylene welding, as an expedient for sealing pillboxes. Clothing, equipment and vehicles were cleaned, maintained and brought into first class condition again. Our headquarters was busy planning the breach of the SIEGFRIED Line.

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Hq 305th Engr C Bn, After Action Report  
December 1944, Section I (Continued):

4. Period 10-16 December 1944 - Vicinity of BINING, France

The battalion moved South with the division, preparatory to attacking and breaching the WESTWALL. One regiment had already started the attack, and B Company had cleared some roads, when the division was ordered up to LUXEMBOURG to check the German counter-offensive. Only minor engineer work was performed during the period.

5. Period 19-21 December 1944 - Vicinity City of LUXEMBOURG, Luxembourg

The battalion moved up, each line company moving with the supported Combat Team, and assembled North of the City of LUXEMBOURG. Original plans were to defend the city from the North. Plans were made for defensive positions, one bridge was repaired and one road block installed, then removed.

6. Period 22-26 December 1944 - West of ETTELBRUCK, Luxembourg

a. Defense plans were abandoned, and the division attacked to the North into the flank of the German salient. The enemy's MSR was cut at ETTELBRUCK. The SURE River was reached (except for the center sector). Engineers supported the attack in the same manner as in previous attacks. Roads were checked and cleared of mines and obstacles. Fourteen enemy guns and four prime movers plus ammunition were destroyed. One friendly minefield and three enemy road blocks were cleared. Some mines and abatis were installed as flank protection.

b. A platoon of B Company was attached to the task force which relieved the besieged American troops at BASTOGNE.

7. Period 27-31 December 1944 - West of ETTELBRUCK, Luxembourg

a. Having reached the SURE River, the division was ordered to defend temporarily. From 27-29 December the battalion assembled in a concentration area, ready to defend the division's right (East) flank, if it became necessary.

b. In preparation of the division's defensive positions minefields were laid, five bridges were blown, abatis and road blocks were installed, craters blown. Other bridges and culverts were prepared for demolition, road blocks and abatis and craters were prepared with guards left on all dumps of explosives and mines. Log foxhole covers were cut for Infantry units.

c. In addition, we cleared enemy mines, built a Class 6 expedient rubber float bridge, cleared dead animals in town, destroyed enemy ammunition and explosives, and sanded roads which had become very icy.

8. Comments, Observations and Recommendations

a. The battalion reorganized under the current T/O & E during the month. This did not materially affect our operations. We secured larger bulldozers, which were of great help in clearing obstacles.

b. During the attack East from ST AVOLD, obstacles continued to be numerous. In contrast, our operations at end of the month in Luxembourg were not as extensive, as most of the division area had been liberated during the Fall and had not been retaken by the Germans. Consequently, there were practically no obstacles in our way up to the SURE River. Luxembourg roads were found to be better than the French roads encountered previously.

Hq 305th Engr C Bn, After Action Report  
December 1944, Section I (Continued)

8. (Cont'd)

c. Mines: - Few were found at beginning of the month, and practically none towards end of December. No new types of mines were encountered. The J-Feder time delay devices used in ST AVOLD by the Germans were among the first found in France.

d. Roads: - Condition of roads was good throughout, except at spots in France, where the Germans had created obstacles. The ground was still muddy there, and canalized vehicular movements. In Luxembourg the weather became cold and cross-country tank operations became possible, for the first time in a very long while.

e. Bridging operations were on a smaller scale than in previous months. Only small creeks had to be crossed. The only sizeable river encountered was the SURE River in Luxembourg. Preparations were made for bridging it, but the change of mission to the defense caused this river to be used as a protecting obstacle. The bridges across it in our area, still intact, were blown by us. For the first time in combat did we ourselves blow bridges instead of repairing them.

f. Friendly obstacles (hasty minefields, craters, abatis) were prepared and only partially executed, our defense being only of a temporary nature, and many obstacles being along roads still in use by the division. A complete barrier plan was set up to protect the division in case of a large scale German attack.

g. Water supply was as usual. On the long moves the points went with the line companies, who in turn moved with the Combat Teams of the division. The cold weather threatened to present the problem of ice forming and preventing the chlorine from mixing. So far this problem has not been serious, but methods of heating our water (in the tanks) are being sought.

h. Supporting engineers: - During the first ten days of the month, the 248th Engineer Combat Battalion of the 1117th Engineer Combat Group (Commanding Officer; Lieutenant Colonel TAYLOR) was in direct support of the division, and again during the period 17-18 December in BINING. During the rest period no other engineers supported us. For the first few days in Luxembourg (while the division was attached to III Corps), the 145th Engineer Combat Battalion of the 1137th Engineer Combat Group (Commanding Officer; Lieutenant Col. McGOUGHEN), was in direct support of the division. Upon the division's return to the XII Corps, the 166th Engineer Combat Battalion of the 1135th Engineer Combat Group (Commanding Officer; Lieutenant Colonel CURTIS) came into direct support. In all cases the supporting engineers took over all engineer work behind the Engineer Work Boundary, established by mutual agreement, and altered as the situation called for. Direct liaison was maintained with the supporting engineers, and they worked very smoothly with us. The 166th Engineer Combat Battalion rendered invaluable assistance to the division in sanding roads in the division area.

9. As the year 1944 comes to a close, this organization can look back with pride at its accomplishments, at the important share it had in defeating the common enemy. The equipment given us was excellent throughout, and our training and maneuvers proved their worth time and again. But above all credit is due each and every member of the battalion, who did his share and more. Though we did not enter Germany, we reached the border at MERLEBACH.

We are now a battle-wise outfit, know our jobs well, and look forward to an early victorious end.



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December 1944, Section I (Continued).

9. (Cont'd)

Following Engineer units were in support of 80th Infantry Division during December 1944 on dates as indicated:

248th Engineer Battalion: 1 December 1944 - 6 December 1944  
248th Engineer Battalion: 17 December 1944 - 18 December 1944  
145th Engineer Battalion: 19 December 1944 - 27 December 1944  
166th Engineer Battalion: 28 December 1944 - 31 December 1944

Battalion C.P. was located in France and Luxembourg on dates and in places as outlined below:

1 Dec 44 to 17 Dec 44	St. Avoild, France	France, 1/50,000-UV 25/27
18 Dec 44 to 19 Dec 44	Bining, France	France, 1/100,000-UV 65/49
20 Dec 44 to 23 Dec 44	Luxembourg, Luxembourg	France & Belgium, 1/100,000-P48/12
23 Dec 44 to 25 Dec 44	Schonfels, Luxembourg	France & Belgium, 1/50,000 P82/26
25 Dec 44 to 29 Dec 44	Berg, Luxembourg	France & Belgium, 1/50,000 P81/36
29 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44	Schonfels, Luxembourg	France & Belgium, 1/50,000 P82/26

" A R T E V E L M A R T E "

*Robert C. Marshall*

ROBERT C. MARSHALL  
Captain, C of E  
S -3.

HEADQUARTERS 305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
APO 80, U. S. Army

December 1944

SECTION 2. INTELLIGENCE SECTION

December 1 - 18, 1944

I. Rehabilitation Period (St. Avold, France)

During this period the S-2 section was occupied with terrain studies of the next area of operations. A study of the Seigfreid Line defenses of the Zweibrucken area (annex #5) was also made. A 1/7,500 map (annex #2) was made and the division photo interpreting team #69 annotated these maps and made additions that did not appear on any available maps of that area. The Corps Topo (673 Engineer) company blew up the section of map we were interested in, and to this 1/10,000 map we added in red overprint all the latest defense installations taken from the latest photo coverage, including the angle of fire of each gun determinable (see annex #1). 900 sets were distributed to units within the division. Overlays showing roads swept for mines of our new area were also reproduced and distributed to all units.

December 18-20, 1944

II. Zweibrucken Area (Bining, France)

The division had hardly settled down in this new area of operations when enemy counter-attacks received in VIII Corps sector prompted us to proceed to Luxembourg at once. Advance reconnaissance before arrival of the Division was carried out. The Division Map Officer working all day and night managed to obtain road maps for all vehicles for the 125 mile trip. He then proceeded to Corps, Army, and 4th Division Map Depots ahead of the division so as to have complete map coverage of the new area. The map depot personnel did a fine job and worked 48 to 54 hours before lying down for a well earned rest.

December 20 - 21: Road March

December 21 - 31, 1944

III. Luxembourg Area (Luxembourg City, Schoenfels, and Colmar - Berg)

As the Division was committed immediately, there was a little time lost in obtaining needed engineer intelligence information. An VIII Corps Road and Bridge study (see annex #3, #4) proved very useful. This study was reproduced on 1/50,000 scale and distributed to units of the division. A terrain study was made of this area which was forwarded to the Chief of Staff. Ground and aerial reconnaissance was again very helpful. Also, patrol reports from 4th Engineer Battalion helped us to obtain much of the information needed by the Division Engineer. A 1/12,500 scale map was made of the area adjacent to the Sure River. Material was being collected and put together for all Staff Officers involved in the plans for the next offensive operation.

IV. Maps Used in These Operations

<u>Scale:</u>	<u>1/25,000</u>	<u>1/50,000</u>	<u>1/100,000</u>
<u>Sheets:</u>	6806	37/12	V-1, V-2
	6807	36/12	U-1, U-2
	6808	36/13	T-1
	36/13 5-6, 7-8	37/13	17
	6810	152	13
	6102	137	
	6202	126	
	137 (N)	107	
	122 (S)		

Road maps 1/200,000 4 and 57

See Annex 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Recommendations and Observations

For the past several months the S-2 -3 Sections have been operating together in the same office. This has brought a strong cooperation between both, combining all the assets of Intelligence and Operations.

*Frank Feleppa*  
FRANK FELEPPA  
Captain, CE  
S - 2.

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HEADQUARTERS 305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BN.  
APO #80, U.S.Army

December 1944

SECTION III. HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF SUPPLY

The beginning of December presented a problem of maintaining a minimum stock of bridge lumber and "I" beams. Our minimum stock to consist of 100 pieces of lumber and 48 "I" beams. Our problem of hauling these was solved in the previous month. Maintaining this minimum level constituted the real problem as our operations took us further away from an abundant source. As we traveled we kept a constant lookout for both these items. However, the stocks found were few. Since these two items were difficult to procure, the supply office had to make several runs (approximately 80 miles) to the source of supply. Bridge lumber had to be obtained from an army sawmill near Nancy, and the "I" beams were purchased from a French concern in Pompey.

At one time during the month, the 1117th Engineer Group was supplied with 160 pieces of lumber for an emergency river crossing.

Another problem during the month was the procuring and hauling of six extra tons of explosives. The explosives were easily obtained as Army had Engineer Class V supplies issued from the Army Ammunition Supply Points. Previously, these explosives had to be requisitioned from an Engineer Dump, which only carried Engineer Class V supplies.

The problem of hauling such an excess quantity was solved by obtaining another 2½ ton pole type trailer to haul some miscellaneous supplies which were on various trucks. As the tactical situation changed, the explosives were given priority over the "I" beams, and some of them were abandoned, making two trucks available to haul the explosive, solving the transportation problem for our excess explosives.

Due to the fact that moves were made quite frequently, a problem concerning gasoline had to be ironed out. All companies were given their T/E allowance plus their ETO allowance of gas cans. In addition to that carried by the companies, the supply office carried an extra 750 gallons of gasoline. This aided in increasing our reserve supply. Previously, in order to make a run for gasoline, the Supply Office had to go to the companies to pick up the empty gas cans, and then go to the ASP to draw full cans. This caused a waste of time. Under this new plan, the companies brought their empty cans to the supply office and exchanged them for full cans. When enough empty cans are accumulated, the supply makes a trip to the ASP to replenish its stock. In this manner the supply office keeps enough gas on hand to meet any immediate emergency.

A similar plan concerning diesel oil was put into effect.

This month brought freezing weather and problems effecting the water points. Before the water point personnel retired for the night, all pumps and hoses had to be drained of water. However, a very small amount of water would remain in the pumps and hoses. This would freeze overnight.



Hq 305th Engr (C) Bn., Engineer Action Report  
Section III, Supply (continued)

Some mornings ice prevented the pumps from operating. Therefore, a torch was needed to melt the ice. Since torches weren't available, supply tried to secure them, through various Engineer Supply Depots, but unsuccessfully thus far. We then decided to purchase them through the French Authorities. This method of obtaining them is still doubtful as this appears to be a critical item. In addition to the torches, it was decided that tents, pyramidal for each water point would help to protect the equipment for the winter months. Since the tents, pyramidal are in excess of our T/E, they were difficult to secure. Fortunately, a diplomatic transaction was effected with the QM and the tents were obtained.

December 15, 1944 brought orders giving us the authority to begin operating under the new T/O and E, 5-15, 13 March 1944. This new T/E brought a number of unexpected changes.

In the Chemical Warfare Equipment, we were no longer authorized the apparatus, decontaminating, 3 Gal., and the Flame Throwers, Portable, M1A1 with its various kits. The Apparatuses were of no importance. On the other hand, the Flame Throwers can be utilized when the tactical situation permits. Army orders specified that Engineer Combat Units within Divisions would retain the Flamethrowers.

The Engineer Equipment was considerably increased with many new items such as Drill, Pneumatic Portable Piston Type, non-reversibly, grinder, pneumatic rotary type 5x1, vitrified 8x1 organic wheel, knives, engineer pocket 4 blade w/clevis, Pump, Sump, Pneumatic 3" Discharge, 175 GMP at 25' head, Repair Equipment, Set #3, General Float, repair equipment set #6 plywood boat, Manifold inflation and deflation, Shop, equipment motorized, general purpose, Sprayer, paint pneumatic portable w/o compressor, Tape Steel, US, 100' Tamper backfill, pneumatic, Sing, reproduction kit #1, Tractor w/bulldozer, D6 and Trailer, low bed 16 ton.

These items were immediately requisitioned, but higher headquarters informed us that it would take at least one month before we began to receive any of these supplies. We were able to exchange our Tractors, R4's for Tractors, D6's and our 8 Ton trailers for 16 ton trailers.

Equipment no longer authorized under the new T/E were, Floats, pneumatic, 6 ton, and Kits, repair floats. Army permitted us to utilize the floats until they were either lost, destroyed or damaged in action.

In Ordnance Equipment, the new authorization brought an increase in Rifles, M1, Bayonets M1 w/scabbards, and Pioneer Equipment. The new equipment authorized was Bayonet-knife w/scabbards, Truck 6 ton prime mover in place of the truck, 4 ton D.T., and 1/4 ton trailers.

In Quartermaster Equipment, we were now authorized the following new equipment: Attachment, patchboard, plywood cargo, Bag, delousing, containers, hot food round w/inserts, Foot measuring outfit M1942, Mask fan launcher grenade, Patchboard, plywood, Safe field, Selector Qualification Card, and Strap, quick release packboard.

The following equipment was no longer authorized in QM equipment: Scabbards, rifle, scabbards, submachine, Cal.45 and Stamp rubber official.

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Section III. Supply (continued)

In Signal equipment the following new equipment was authorized: Reel cart RL 35, Reel, RL 39, Soldering Equipment TE 26, Telephone TD-3, Tool Equipment TE 41, Test Set, I-56-J, Tool equipment TE-48, Wire W-130 on DR 8. Excess Signal equipment, were Radios SCR 511 and Scr 593.

In addition to all the above mentioned new equipment, from Army Air Force Supply we were authorized a Kit, Interpreter Photo, F-2.

During the month, since tires and tubes were critical, supply went on a "Scavenger-hunt". German Artillery Trailers had the tires we desired. Three of these trailers were located netting a total of 15 tires. As some of these tires weren't too good, they were mounted on our trailers, the trailers not traveling as much as the trucks. In connection with tires and tubes, patches were also on the critical list in ordnance supplies. We utilized the patches in the Kit, repair float for patching tubes. Requisitions were then submitted to the Engineer Depot to obtain more patches, until a small reserve was accumulated.

During the month the following equipment was evacuated: 2 Trucks, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  ton, 4 trucks,  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton, 1 Truck, 6 ton, 1 Tractor, R4, 1 MG, Cal.50, and 1 SMG Cal.45. The majority were damaged due to enemy action. The remaining became unserviceable through use.

The supply office has not evacuated any personnel (injured or deceased) within the battalion to date though it is one of its functions. As our line companies are attached to combat teams casualties are evacuated by their medics.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF VARIOUS SUPPLIES

AIR FORCE: An entirely new item, Kit, interpreter photo F2 is now authorized. It has already been requisitioned.

CHEMICAL WARFARE: Orders were released to issue all gas masks and other chemical warfare items normally issued to individuals. To date the following items have not been received: (4) Brushes, decontaminating, (4) Kits, chemical Agent M9 and (1) Kit Repair Gas Mask Universal, M8.

ENGINEER: The following items of engineer equipment and supplies are considered critical: (80) Compass, lensatic luminous dial w/case, (105) Compass, wrist liquid filled w/strap, (1) Drill pneumatic portable piston type non-reversible, (1) grinder pneumatic rotary type, 5x5 vitrified, 8x1 organic wheel, (9) Nets, Camouflage sets #2, (1) Pump, Sump, pneumatic 3" discharge 175 GPM at 25' head, (2) Reproduction Equipment Set #3, 18x18, (3) Repair Equipment Sets #3, pneumatic float, (1) Repair Equipment Set #6 plywood boat, (45) Scales coordinate square grid in meters 1/25,000 and 1/50,000 (32) scales, plotting steel arty, #1 MK-I grad in meter-yds, 16", 1/25,000, (19) scales, plotting steel arty #1 MK-I meters and yards, 30", 1/25,000 (62) Stereoscopes magnifying pocket w/case (1) Shop motorized, general purpose (1) Sprayer, paint pneumatic portable w/compressor, (1) Sign Reproduction Kit #1, (17) Plastic acetate cellulose trans, matte finish one side, adhesive other side, 24" x 20 yd roll, (224) Tape, scotch, 3/4 x 36 yd., (482) pencils, china marking black (565) pencils, china marking Red, (527) pencils, china marking Blue, (268) Pencils, china-marking Brown, (241) pencils, china marking Green.

Hq 305th Engr. (C) Bn. After Action Report  
Section III: Supply (Continued)

Some Pencils, china marking were purchased through P and C Contracts. However, this still does little to reduce the quantities requested by units.

ORDNANCE: Part of the newly authorized equipment has been received. Tires and tubes are still on the critical list.

AMMUNITION: Although the Flares, trip para.M48 and Flares trip M49 were fairly easy to secure during the early part of December, it was impossible to obtain any during the last two weeks of the month.

The Fuze, AP M3 for the Mine AP M3 had to be exchanged for Caps, blasting non-electric and Firing Devices of the desired type, because of the defective nature of the Fuze AP M3.

Although supply is not authorized to carry a unit of fire for each weapon in the battalion, it does so, as it saves time in so far as not having to make a run for ammunition each time the companies expend a minimum amount.

SIGNAL: All excess radios SCR 511 and SCR 593 are being collected and turned in.

QUARTERMASTER: Individual clothing and equipment is still fairly easy to obtain. However, blouses are being issued in lieu of Jackets, field, O.D.

Bags, sleeping EM are still critical. Each individual has been issued four blankets in lieu of 1 Bag, sleeping and 2 blankets.

Socks are being turned in daily for laundering, thereby, permitting individuals to have a clean pair everyday.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

CHEMICAL WARFARE: It is believed that the Flamethrowers portable M1A1 together with the necessary kits could be turned in, as the Army Chemical Warfare Depot retains a sufficient stock on hand, filled and prepared, to be used at a moment's notice. They now constitute one of the several excess loads that supply carries. For the past two months this office has discontinued recharging this item finding a considerable saving of time by direct exchange with CWS.

ENGINEER: Recommend that the 3,000 pounds of Cratering Explosives be turned into the nearest Engineer Class V Depot. This item is part of our basic load, and has been carried for six months but never used. If we could turn this quantity in, we could utilize the space it occupies for other excess priority supplies.

When Cratering Explosives are needed, they can usually be procured within two hour from an ASP.



Hq 305th Engr C Bn, After Action Report  
Section III: Supply (Continued)

Supply also carries about 200 pounds of Block, Demolition Chain M1 which is in excess of our basic load. This is carried for the purpose of fulfilling demolition expenditures for authorized units throughout the division.

If it were possible to issue Block, Demolition, Individual M2 (composition C) entirely, it would standardize our demolition supplies. As it is now, Supply carries Block, Demolition Chain, M1, Block Demolition Individual M2 (composition C), cratering Explosives, Charges, shaped T-3, and T.N.T., The Block Demolition, Individual M2 is utilized more than any of the above mentioned explosives.

Recommend that a 2½ ton pole type trailer be secured for each water point. A body can be constructed on this trailer large enough to accommodate a complete unit.

As it is now, part of the water point equipment is carried in a 1 ton trailer, making it necessary to transport the rest of the unit on a 2½ ton truck, whenever it is relocated.

A 2½ ton trailer with the recommended construction, would haul the entire unit at one time. The trailer could easily be placed anywhere. This would also aid in protecting the equipment against cold and inclement weather. Using this plan a 2½ ton truck could haul the water point from place to place without having to load and unload its basic cargo.

*Edward F. Pacheco*  
EDWARD F. PACHECO  
Captain, C of E  
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HEADQUARTERS 305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
APO 80, U. S. Army

December 1944

SECTION IV : S - 1 Summary

Battle Casualty Report By Type of Casualty (Figures taken from G-1 Periodic Report) up to and including 31 December 1944 for the period 1 December 1944 - 31 December 1944.

Table Number 1.

<u>Date</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>IIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD's</u>
3 December			1			1	
4 December							3
5 December							1
9 December							1
10 December							2
13 December							2
15 December					2	2	1
26 December							2
29 December	1		3			4	
30 December							3
Total	1		4		2	7	15

Table Number 2. Prisoners of War Captured.

<u>Date</u>	<u>PW's</u>
3 December	1
5 December	22
22 December	5
26 December	2
Total	<u>30</u>

Table Number 3. Replacements Received (Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>
4 December	3
5 December	1
9 December	1
10 December	2
13 December	2
15 December	1
22 December	1
24 December	2
26 December	2
30 December	6
Total	<u>21</u>

Table Number 4. Awards and Decorations - Decorations awarded from 1 December 1944 to 1 January 1945.

Number

0	Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
0	Distinguished Service Cross
0	Silver Star Medal (Posthumously)
0	Silver Star Medal
0	Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
0	Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously)
29	Bronze Star Medals
0	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
0	Air Medal
0	Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
0	Soldier's Medal
10	Purple Heart Awards
4	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
0	(2nd) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

BATTLEFIELD APPOINTMENTS

This Battalion had one battlefield appointment this month. ~~Staff Sergeant~~ ~~Ross W. Smith~~, Company "B", who had made an outstanding record as platoon leader in combat, was Honorably Discharged on 10 December 1944, so as to accept appointment as Second Lieutenant, Army of the United States. Lieutenant Smith remained in this Battalion and was assigned to Headquarters as Assistant Battalion S-3.

SPECIAL SERVICE

The month of December was one of the busiest for the Special Service Activities since the Battalion landed in France. During the rest period which began 5 December 1944 at St. Avold, France, picture shows were arranged nightly. Latest films were secured through Division Special Service. The theater was a garage in St. Avold.

Several G.I. shows were obtained. These played before large gatherings of the battalion.

The American Red Cross Clubmobile girls were quartered in the building with Headquarters and Service Company. Doughnuts and coffee were often served to the personnel during their stay, which terminated 16 December 1944. The Clubmobiles were always a morale booster.

Beer was secured from French breweries. This was enjoyed by the troops.

Hq 305 Engr C Bn, After Action Report  
Section IV, December 1944 (Continued)

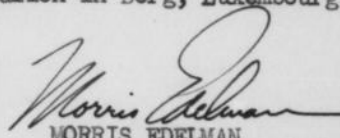
SPECIAL SERVICE (Cont'd)

Climax of the rest period was a Dance given at Merlebach, France, exclusively for the Battalion. This was the first dance held in the Division since it landed in France. Officers and enlisted men attended. Music was furnished by the 80th Division Band, and girls came in groups from the city. All made an attempt at the American way of dancing. Refreshments were served. The American food was a treat to the Civilians. Attendance was arranged through the Town Mayor of Merlebach, Civil Affairs, and CIC Detachment.

Pass convoys were sent daily into Nancy, France. Two trucks of enlisted men with an officer in charge left at 0800 daily for the city. Limited passes were allowed to Paris, France, also.

Magazines, books, games, and cards, were gotten and distribution made to all companies for circulation among the men.

Picture shows again toward the latter part of December were brought to the bivouac of all companies. "Dough Girls", "Rationing", "The Minstrel Man" and "Bride By Mistake" were movies shown to the battalion in Berg, Luxembourg.

  
MORRIS EDELMAN  
1st Lt. C of E  
Adjutant