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

6 March 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal.

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

1. Transmitted herewith are the After Action Reports for the 305th Engineer Combat Battalion for the month of February 1945.

2. Attached thereto are Daily Situation Reports, Unit Journal, and maps and overlays as outlined in Section II.

A. E. McCOLLAM
Lt Col. CE
Commanding

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

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HEADQUARTERS 305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 80, United States Army

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Summary of Daily Operations, February 1945

1. Period 1 - 6 February: [redacted] area East of DIEKIRCH, Luxembourg, Battalion CP located at LAROCHETTE, Luxembourg throughout the period.

The 80th Infantry Division continued in a defensive position, while making preparations to cross the OUR and SAUER Rivers and breach the SIEGFRIED Line. The division's engineers continued maintaining the roads in the division sector. Snow was removed and the roads were sanded. Our trucks hauled this sand from sandpits in the vicinity. Continuous reconnaissance was conducted to check on the condition of the roads. Bridges were maintained. In the forward areas roads were cleared of enemy mines and other obstacles. Craters were filled, as were shell holes. A few culverts were built. At the same time we were busy preparing craters, abatis, minefields, demolition of bridges and culverts and other obstacles to prevent a possible enemy penetration. Only in places where none of our troops were located, were any of these obstacles actually executed. Shortly prior to our next operation, all friendly obstacles which would interefere with our advance, were cleared and removed. Very active reconnaissance for crossing sites of the OUR and SAUER Rivers was conducted by the line companies. Pole and satchel demolitions chrages were prepared for use on SIEGFRIED Line pillboxes. Troops of one infantry regiment received training from us in crossings with assault boats. Our equipment was cleaned and brought into good condition. Among the few odd jobs performed by the battalion were the cutting of logs for FA units of the division, digging in of AA guns, burials of dead cattle and the running of a ferry for Infantry troops across the SURE River.

2. Period 7-14 February: [redacted] area vicinity of junction of OUR and SAUER Rivers. Battalion CP remained at LAROCHETTE, Luxembourg throughout the period.

The 80th Infantry Division crossed the OUR and SAUER Rivers into GERMANY, and breached the SIEGFRIED Line. The initial assault crossings were accomplished by the supporting engineers of the 1135th Engineer Combat Group, while our companies busied themselves with road work and mine clearance on the far shore. We continued making pole and satchel charges for the Infantry, and gave Infantry units still on the near side some assault crossing training and training in the use of demolitions. Extensive road and bridge site reconnaissances were conducted. Bridges across the OUR and SAUER Rivers were constructed by the supporting engineers. Our companies repaired roads, filled craters (or temporarily bridged them) and shell holes, repaired road shoulders, corduroyed some sections of roads and installed culverts where needed. We cleared enemy mines from roads and in towns. Booby traps in towns were checked for and cleared. Enemy abatis were cleared, and I-beams obstacles in roads removed. We crossed the troops of one Infantry regiment in boats over the SAUER River, and were continuously busy ferrying supplies until adequate bridges were completed. Sometime and energies were devoted towards retrieving bridge equipment, lost in the flooded rivers at night. Three 36-foot and one 24-foot treadway bridges were built by us, also one 50-foot Bailey bridge. The embrasures and doors of pillboxes were destroyed to prevent enemy re-entrance. Two pillboxes were blown up completely by us. Again we buried dead cattle. A dugout for an Infantry CP was built.

3. Period 15-22 February: [redacted] area East of VIADEN, Luxembourg, Battalion CP located at LAROCHETTE, Luxembourg 15-17 February, at BETTENDORF, Luxembourg 18-19 February and at DIEKIRCH, Luxembourg 19-22 February 1945.

Having broken into the SIEGFRIED Line, and established a firm bridgehead into GERMANY, the division continued its attack to the Northeast. Our engineer

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troops continued clearing roads of enemy mines, numerous abatis and knocked out vehicles and tanks. Log road blocks were encountered and removed. One enemy mine dump was found and destroyed. Debris and rubble in towns was cleared out. Repair of roads and maintenance on them was again a big job. Very many craters were filled, over 1000-feet of corduroy road built, road shoulders repaired, and culverts constructed. Mud was scraped from roads. Bridges in our sector were maintained by us.

Three more pillboxes were destroyed. Additional pole and satchel charges were made and given to the Infantry. One 600' x 21' air strip was built, one 28-foot timber bridge for light vehicles and one class 40 sixty-foot Bailey bridge was erected. Repairs had to be effected on many partially damaged bridges. Demolitions were removed from one bridge captured intact.

Miscellaneous jobs were burial of more dead animals, cutting trees for air strip, posting road signs and building dugouts and CP huts for Infantry.

4. Period 23-28 February: area West of BITBURG, Germany. Battalion CP located DIEKIRCH 23-24 February, at GAY MILL, Germany 25 February, and at METTENDORF, Germany 26-28 February 1945.

The division's bridgehead was enlarged, and now that the SIEGFRIED Line had been breached, our next mission was to move Northeast and establish a bridgehead over the PRUM River. The 4th Armored Division worked with and ahead of us, and not only crossed the PRUM River, but crossed the NIMS River as well and reached the KYLL River to the east. Our division followed closely behind them, mopping up and holding the ground gained. Contact with units of the VIII Corps was established thus completing clearance of the SIEGFRIED Line throughout the XII Corps and VIII Corps sectors.

We continued maintaining roads. Reconnaissance of roads in their respective sectors was continued by our companies. They filled more craters and repaired roads. Two class 40 36-foot treadway bridges were built and maintained. one ford was constructed and maintained. More enemy mines were removed and destroyed. In addition to clearing roads of mines, areas were swept for use by the field hospital FA positions and a FA air strip. Log road blocks were removed, as were knocked out vehicles and tanks which were blocking passage. Towns were checked for booby traps, and the few that were found were immediately destroyed. Six enemy guns were destroyed, and a total of 27 pillboxes were blown up during the period. More dead animals were buried.

5. Comments, Observations and Recommendations:

a. Very valuable assistance was rendered by the units of the 1135th Engineer Combat Group (Commanding Officer: Colonel KELLER), which supported the 80th Division throughout the month. The supporting engineers did most of the assault crossings and built all the larger bridges. During the river crossings they worked on a mission basis, but once the bridgehead was secure and all bridges in, we again agreed upon an engineer rear work boundary. Occasional missions forward of this boundary were requested and accomplished by them. The river crossings were very difficult and the 1135th lost many men and some equipment. Generally speaking the flood stage of the rivers and the resulting swift currents were the main technical causes for the difficulties in putting in footbridges and conducting assault crossings. Enemy artillery and mortar fire continuously harassed engineer troops in their missions, and a few times damaged our bridges. In addition, the Infantry regiments had a large percentage of green reinforcements, who had no experience with assault river crossings. All this added up to much hardship, loss of time, lives and equipment. Nevertheless, the crossings were quite successful.

b. In breaching the SIEGFRIED Line the engineers had no part in the actual assault and taking of pillboxes. We did destroy or seal up some of the pillboxes, after they had been taken and there was some danger of enemy infiltrating

back into them. The enemy was entirely on the defensive and as a result it was not deemed necessary to completely destroy all pillboxes.

c. By far our biggest job was the maintenance and repair of roads. At first the weather caused us headaches. Roads were still icy and needed sanding. Then a strong thaw set in, first week in February, and we discovered that the ice had damaged many roads. In Germany we were confronted with many craters and shell holes. Craters were either filled or bridged if they carried drainage channels. Treadway was again the simplest way of bridging the smaller craters, the larger one were spanned with Bailey bridges.

d. Some improvised log and I-beam road blocks were encountered, but presented no particular problems, Many minefields were run into, both AT and AP. In view of the fact that there were so many and that some had been in the ground a long time and would be difficult to detect, only gaps were cleared in minefields. The fields themselves were well posted and marked. This battalion has cleared over ten thousand (10,000) enemy mines todate, since our arrival in France in August 1944. Many of the pillboxes were found to be booby-trapped.

e. Recommendations: (1) It was quite evident that assaulting a permanently fortified line is a specialized Infantry operation, and that engineers are not needed in the assault teams.

(2) More river crossing practice is needed, especially when the Infantry receives many inexperienced reinforcements. When possible, each deliberate crossing should be rehearsed.

(3) If at all possible, when rivers are flooded, wait a few days until they go down before attempting any crossings. We have experienced too many difficulties in crossing flooded rivers.

Simeon Perlman
SIMEON PERLMAN
1st Lt. CE
Assistant S-3.

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HEADQUARTERS 305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 80, United States Army

February 1945

S-2 AFTER ACTION REPORT

February 1 - 12

During this period, the S-2 Section was busily engaged in collecting, evaluating, and disseminating Engineer intelligence information. The 80th Division's objective was to cross the OUR and SAUER Rivers, and to breach the Seigfreid Line defenses.

Complete and exact information as to best possible crossing sites and the defenses on the far shores was needed. With excellent cooperation among the Division PI Team and MII Teams, the desired information was gathered and compiled into one report. Included in the report was invaluable information obtained by our Engineer Company reconnaissance teams, operating alone and with the Infantry patrols.

From papers found in the possession of a captured German Engineer sergeant, we were able to pin-point almost every known pill-box and bunker in addition to enemy minefields, bridge demolitions, and road craters. This map was reproduced and distributed to all units in the Division (Annex #1). It later proved of further value as a means of recording the destruction of pill boxes by our Engineers.

February 12 - 18

Prior and during the river crossing operations, the rivers were at super flood stage, and did not subside till long after the construction of the fixed bridges. A recording stake was placed at two points and reports were submitted by our "C" Company twice daily and these reports were sent to G-2.

Enemy demolitions were very numerous, in one instance there were eight craters blown in a stretch of road two kilometers long. Minefields were very extensive, and our companies destroyed numerous Teller and Riegel mines. No new types of mines were found during the period, although a new type of 100 cap exploder was found and sent to higher headquarters for further study.

Sketches of demolished bridges appeared frequently in our Daily Situation Reports, which included the daily report of roads swept for mines.

February 19 - 28

At the request of the G-2, we started work on a road, bridge, and stream study of the PRUM and NIMS Rivers (Annex #2), which were the next natural barriers in our sector of advance. The information was again gathered from photo interpretation, MII, and PW sources and reproduced in a complete report. After successfully crossing these rivers, the enemy began a hasty withdrawal that sometimes seemed to turn into a rout. Consequently, a further study of the next river barrier (KYLL River)(Annex #e) was needed, and this was completed and reproduced as in previous studies and proved quite valuable.

Map distribution was maintained and as usual, kept ahead of the tactical situation. Our reconnaissance teams, although hampered by the numerous close in firefights involved in liquidating the pill-boxes of the Seigfried Line and combat losses, still reported valuable Engineer information. Increasing use was made of the Battalion photographer, who operated with each company and recorded pictorially the work done by them. Excellent bridge pictures were also made, showing

the demolished site and the newly constructed bridge.

At the close of the period, the S-2 section was engaged in reproducing extracts from captured documents (Annex #4), showing important Engineer information.

Bernard A. Kelsky

BERNARD A. KELSKY
2nd Lt. CE
Assistant S-2.

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HEADQUARTERS 305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 80, United States Army

HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF SUPPLY FOR FEBRUARY 1945

1 February: Drew lumber from the Army Saw Mill in order to complete our basic load on bridge material.
Sent to Corps for Camouflage suits and camouflage paint.
Published Supply Bulletin #7.
The following critical shortages were drawn from the Engineer Supply Depot:
1 Drill, pneumatic, portable, piston type non-reversible.
1 Grinder, pneumatic, rotary type, 5x1", Vitrified, 8x1" organic wheel
1 Sprayer, paint, pneumatic portable wo/compressor.
470 gallons of gasoline was drawn from the Class III Supply point.

2 February:
Received the following battefield recovered equipment from the Medical Battalion:
2 Compasses, Lensatic luminous dial w/case
1 Compass, wrist liquid w/strap
Drew 700 gallons of gasoline, 25 gallons of Kerosene, and 50 gallons of Diesel Oil.
A new procedure on requisitioning for Engineer Spare Parts was initiated by the Army Engineer. We had formerly been drawing our spare parts direct from the Army Depot. Under this new plan we would have to draw them from the Engineer Maintenance Company who preformed 2nd and 3rd echelon work on our engineer equipment.
This involved considerable more paper work, and also unnecessary long trips. Sometimes the spare parts were needed to repair deadlined equipment, but could not be received when needed. This kept the equipment on deadline for several days. However, since this system is just an experiment, the defects will soon be ironed out and transactions will be completed quicker.
Corps issued 360,000 feet of Garnishing, Cloth, White to be distributed to Field Artillery units for the purpose of camouflaging their gun during the winter.
Drew three (3) rolls of Tape, Scotch for the Divisional units for the month.

3 February:
Picked up and turned into the Ordnance the following battlefield recovered equipment:

37 rifles, US Cal. .30 M1
6 Carbines, US Cal. .30 M1
1 Gun, Submachine, Cal. .45 M3
1 Launcher, Rocket, 2.36" M1A1
1 Mount, Craddle, MG M1917A1 Cal. .30
2 Guns, Machine, Cal. .30 M1919A1
1 Barrel, MG, Cal. .50 M2
3 Bayonets, w/scabbards
5 Scabbards, M7

Drew Engineer Class IV Supplies from ASP #13.
675 gallons of gasoline, 25 gallons of oil #10 were drawn from Division Class III Supply Point.
Drew demolitions and mines to complete our basic load.

4 February:
Received word that our line companies would need quite a lot of demolitions in order to make Pole and Satchel charges for the Infantry regiments. Therefore, the day was spent drawing the necessary material.

Took two (2) generators, 3Kw for repair to the Engineer Maintenance Company, and discovered a new system that was being originated by the Army Engineer concerning generators.

The Army Engineer had decided to repair only Engineer issue Generators, 3kw, which were manufactured by ONan and Sons. Of course, they would accept generators of other manufacture, but they would not guarantee its immediate repair. The reason was that they only carried spare parts for the Onan make generator, and that other services of supply carried the other makes and these were difficult to secure. However, if these generators would not be repaired within a reasonable time, a salvage slip was issued, and in this manner the Army Engineer would issue a replacement.

Exchanged 14 unserviceable flamethrowers, portable, M1A1 at Chemical Warfare Depot #16, because the Infantry Regiments were to use them in the coming tactical operation.

5 February:

Upon moving into a new sector, the supply was given the job of turning in mines that were abandoned by an Engineer Unit formerly occupying the sector. The following mines were turned into ASP #38:

6222 Mines, AP M3
740 Mines, AP II British
890 Mines, AT M1A1 HE

The following Class III supplies were drawn from the Division Supply Point:

725 gallons Gasoline
175 gallons Diesel Oil
60 gallons Oil #10

6 February:

Since more demolitions were requested to make pole and satchel charges by our line companies, the following were drawn:

18,000 lbs Block, demolition, Ind, M3 (Composition C2)
900 ft. Fuze, blasting time
4,800 ea Caps, blasting non-electric
75 ea Charges, shaped, beehive, T-3
200 ea Torpedo, bangalores M1A1
4,800 ea Lighters, fuze.
28,000 ft. Cord, detonating.

Corps issued one submarine gun to the Division engineers. This was to be used in the next tactical operation on the Siegfried Line. Its purpose was to seal the steel doors of pillboxes by shooting bolts into the doors.

7 February:

Drew 2000 gallons of gasoline.

The following were drawn in order to aid the companies in making pole and satchel charges:

130 Torpedo bangalores, M1A1
10,000 lbs Block, demolition Ind M3 (C2)

Received orders to draw bridge material from an Engineer Light Ponton Company and delivered it to the bridge sites.

8 February:

Drew steel rope for the bridges the engineers were building.

825 gallons of gasoline and 25 gallons of Oial SAE #10 were drawn from ASP #71.

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9 February: Published Supply Bulletin #8. Drew more steel cable for bridges.

10 February: Received message at 0330 am to deliver pots, smoke, M4 floating to selected site for launching before dawn in order to screen bridge crossing.

Submitted Critical Shortage List and Weekly Battlefield Recovered Equipment Report to G-4.

Drew 890 gallons of gasoline, 25 lbs. of General Purpose Grease, and 15 gallons of Oil SAE #10.

The Signal issued the supply office one ¼ ton truck with a radio mine detector mounted thereon. It was to be used to clear roads of mines, and this works much faster than an individual with a mine detector. Although other organizations claim that this is successful, it remains to be determined by this organization.

The following demolitions were drawn for pole and satchel charges: 10000 lbs block, demolition, Ind. M3 (C2)

11 February: Drew 550 more pots, smoke, M4, floating to be used in bridge crossings.

At the beginning of the month the supply office committed its 14 boats, assault for river crossings. By 11 February a considerable bridgehead was secured, and we received orders to get our 14 boats. When we reached the river, we discovered that the Germans were still shelling the bridge area. However, we were able to find 14 fairly good boats, a pole type trailer, and 420 paddles; these boats took two days to repair.

Exchanged empty flamethrowers, portable, M1A1 at the Chemical Depot #16 in order that the Infantry might be able to utilize them.

12 February: Had to secure tools for improving roads, a job involving PWs.

Drew Engineer Class II Supplies and issued same throughout division

Picked up andturned in 14 floats, pneumatic 6-ton as battlefield recovered equipment.

The Ordnance issued the engineer unit one 3/4-ton weapons carrier with a magnet attachment. This truck is used to pick up nail, shrapnel, and other metals from the roads in order to prevent vehicles from getting flat tires.

Took 250 pots, smoke, M4, floating to site to be released when bridge crossing is made.

13 February: Anti-aircraft battery turned in the following battlefield recovered equipment: 3 compasses, wrist liquid filled w/strap and 1 compass, watch pocket.

Received message to pick up 2,000 pounds of TNT abandoned by someone in a neighboring town. We turned in only 1200 pounds of it, and used the remainder to complete our basic load.

Turned in all excess rope, cable and bridge material accumulated after crossings were effected.

Picked up eight German tires abandoned on the battlefield. The tires were added to our stock of tires for emergency purposes.

Drew 1300 gallons of gasoline, 10 gallons of Oil SAE #10, and 25 pounds of General Purpose Grease #1.

The following demolitions were drawn to complete the basic load: 3,000 caps, blasting non-electric; 12,000 ft cord, detonating; 3,000 lighters, fuze.

14 February: Picked up and turned into Ordnance the following battle field recovered equipment: 7 rifles, US cal. .30 M1; 3 bayonets, M1 w/scabbards M7.

Published Supply Bulletin #9.

Drew 12,000 lbs of block demolition Ind M3 (C2) for pole and satchel charges.

In order to complete our basic load on six inch "I" beams, 26 were drawn. These had been picked up at an old bridge site.

15 February: Drew 1100 gallons of gas, and 25 gallons of oil, SAE #10.

Published Supply Bulletin #10.

Medical Detachment turned in as battlefield recovered equipment 1 compass, wrist liquid filled w/strap, and 1 compass lensatic luminous dial w/case.

Since the snow had completely disappeared, the three snow plows were turned into the Engineer Maintenance Company. One of these snow plows was retained to scrape mud off the roads.

Since some of the line companies were given the job of blowing up pillboxes, a considerable amount of demolitions were needed. The following was drawn for that particular purpose: 10,000 pounds block demolition Ind, M3 (C2).

Turned in excess caps, blasting electric, and adapters, grenade.

16 February: Picked up and turned into Ordnance the following battlefield recovered equipment: 3 rifles, US cal. .30 M1; 1 rifle, Browning Auto, cal. .30; 1 carbine, US Cal. .30, M1; 9 clips, carbine; and 3 bayonets, M1 w/scabbards M7.

17 February: Submitted Critical Shortage Engineer List and Weekly Battlefield Recovered Equipment Report to G-4.

Picked up and turned into Signal the following battlefield recovered equipment: 1 detector, AN-PRS/1.

18 February: Quartermaster picked up 8 nets, camouflage twine garnishing w/fabric, 36 x 44 from the battlefield. Since they were serviceable, issue was made to units desiring them.

Medical Battalion turned in the following battlefield recovered equipment: 2 compasses, watch, pocket.

Drew Engineer Class II supplies and spare parts.

The following was drawn at the Division Class III Supply Point: 1040 gallons of gasoline; 40 gallons of Oil, SAE #10; 25 pounds Grease #1; and 50 pounds Grease, wheel bearing.

Received message to draw landing mats and components for Division Liasion planes.

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Received the following battlefield recovered equipment from the Medical Battalion: 2 compasses, wrist liquid filled w/strap.
Picked up and turned into Ordnance and Signal respectively the following battlefield recovered equipment: 2 rifles, Browning, Auto, cal. .30; 1 radio set SCR 510.

20 February: The following battlefield recovered equipment was turned into the Ordnance: 3 rifles US cal. .30 M1; 1 MG, Cal .50 M2 less barrel.
Drew 800 gallons of gasoline, and 20 gallons of oil, SAE #10.

21 February: Submitted monthly Chemical Warfare Ammunition Report.
The following battlefield recovered equipment was turned in by the Medical Battalion: 3 compasses, wrist liquid filled, w/strap.
Drew 1250 gallons of gasoline, 25 gallons oil, SAE #10, 25 pounds General Purpose Grease #1, and 50 opounds of grease #2.

22 February: Picked up and turned into the Engineer Depot the following battlefield recovered equipment: 3 sections, center for float, 6-ton; 220 paddles. Drew engineer Class II supplies.
Turned in the following battlefield recovered equipment to Ordnance: 1 Mortar, 60 mm complete.
Picked up the following abandoned equipment and retained same: 1 pole upright 12'3"; 1 pole, upright 4'9".

23 February: Published Supply Bulletin #11. Drew Engineer Class II supplies.
Quartermaster issued us camouflage face paint, and we, in turn, issued them to each Infantry regiment.
Received the following battlefield recovered equipment: 2 flamethrowers portable M1A1; 2 compasses, wrist liquid filled w/strap.

24 February: Submitted Critical Shortage List on Engineer Equipment and Weekly Battlefield Recovered Report to G-4.

25 February: Drew Engineer Class II supplies. Had trouble concerning water point locations and spent the day in changing them.

26 February: Drew 1020 gallons of gasoline. Began to streamline loads, and turned in excess charges, T-3.

27 February: Turned in excess block, demolition Ind. M3 C2 to Engineer Class IV Depot. Picked up and turned in the following battlefield recovered equipment to Ordnance: 3 rifles, US cal. .30 M1.
Received 1 compass, wrist liquid filled w/strap from Medical Battalion as battlefield recovered equipment.

28 February: Drew 4 trailers, ¼-ton, and 2 trucks, 6-ton prime movers against T/E shortages.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SUPPLY

CLASS I:

The majority of rations consumed during the monthwere the "B" type. Few operational rations, such as, "K","C", or "D" were drawn because they had been consumed for tactical reasons.

CLASS II:

a. Air Corps: The outstanding shortage of Air Corps equipment still remains 1 kit, interpreter, photographic type F-2.

b. Chemical Warfare:

(1) The critical shortages on Chemical Warfare equipment are as follows: 4 brushes, decontaminating; 24 apparatuses, decontaminating, 1½-qt capacity.

(2) During the month the following battlefield recovered equipment was turned into the Depot: 2 flamethrowers, portable M1A1.

c. Engineer

(1) The following items of Engineer equipment appeared on the Critical Shortage List for Divisional Units on the last day of the month: 146 compasses, lensatic luminous dial w/case; 68 nets, camouflage twine garnished w/fabric 22'x22'; 2 reproduction equipt. set #3, gelatin process 18"x18"; 1 repair equipt. set #6, plywood boats; 32 scales, plotting steel arty #1 MK-I grid in meters & yards, 16", 1/25,000; 49 scales, coordinate sq. grid in meters, 1/25,000 & 1/50,000; 19 scales, plotting steel arty #1 MK-I grid in meters and yards, 32", 1/25,000; 53 stereoscopes, pocket, magnifying w/case; and 1 sign reproduction kit #1.

(2) Among the miscellaneous expendable supplies on the critical shortage list were: 6 paper, tracing, white trans. 22 x 30; 428 pencils, china marking red; 372 pencils, china marking black; 319 pencils, china marking blue; 118 pencils, china marking brown; 58 pencils, china marking green; 210 tape, scotch 3/4" wide 30 yd (ro); 9 frames, main 29x29; 27 frames, extension 14x29.

(3) Certain critical supplies, such as tape, scotch, are very difficult to secure. Ocassionally the supply officer obtains the rolls that are about an inch wide and seventy-two yards long. Whenever we receive this type of roll, the roll is cut into two equal parts with a sharp instrument. In this manner we were able to satisfy the units within the division who constantly request it.

(4) The battlefield recovered equipment for February is as follows 14 boats, assault w/paddles; 9 compasses, lensatic luminous dial w/case; 18 compasses, wrist liquid filled w/strap; 2 compasses, watch pocket; 14 floats, pneumatic 6-ton; 8 nets camouflage twine garnished w/fabric,36x 44; 395 paddles, for boats, and floats; 7 sections, center for float, pneumatic 6-ton.

(5) A system was originated by G-4 whereby a Salvage team organized by the Division Quartermaster would pick up nets, camouflage along the battlefield , andturned them into us if serviceable. With this plan in effect it would reduce our critical shortages on nets, camouflage.

d. Ordnance

(1) Amontg the outstanding shortages in ordnance equipment for the month were: 36 bayonets, knife M4 w/scabbard; 29 watches, wrist 15 jewel; 8 compasses, M6; 2 Launcher, grenade M7; 5 trailers, ¼-ton; 3 chains, towing, 5/8"x16'; 7 watch, wrist, 7 jewel; 6 binoculars, M3, w/ case.

(2) Also, it is very difficult to secure miscellaneous tools for the various echelon sets. In fact, some of the requisitions are a year old on such tools, and still none have been received.

(3) During the month the following battlefield recovered equipment was turned in: 46 rifles, US Cal. 30 M1; 2 guns, Machine,cal.50 M2; 1 rifle, US cal.30 M1903; 6 carbines,US cal. 30 M1; 1 gun, submachine, cal. 45 M3; 3 guns, machine light cal. 30; 1 launcher, grenade M2; 5 scabbards M7; 9 bayonets, M1 w/scabbards M7; 1 barrel, MG cal.50 M2; 1 tripod MG cal.30; 1 craddle, MG cal.30; 3 rifles, browning auto M1919A4; 9 clips, carbine; 1 mortar, 60 mm complete.

e. Quartermaster

(1) Among the outstanding shortages for the month were: 9 burners, oil stove tent M1941; 1 flag, Geneva Convention; 1 foot measuring outfit; 1 fly, tent wall large; 58 mask, face launcher, rocket; 1 safe, field, keylock; 1 stencil, outfit, complete w/figures; 11 straps, quick release packboard.

(2) Individual clothing and equipment requisitions are being fulfilled much better than they were last month.

(3) The battlefield recovered equipment for February was: 7 covers, canteen; 8 leggings, canvas distd; 3 liners, helmet Steel M1; 6 mackinaw, wool OD; 4 tent, shelterhalf; 15 sheets, ground; 6 blouse, wool od; 5 overshoes, artic; 3 belts, cartridge, dismtd; 2 canteens; 22 blankets, wool, od; 5 shoepacs; 1 pole, upright 12"3'; 1 boots, rubber hip or knee.

Have attempted to secure some Tents, pyramidal to be used as CP tents and Supply Tents for the line companies whenever they move into the field. QM informed us that we might be able to secure twelve for just such purposess.

f. Signal

The outstanding shortages of signal equipment still remained critical: 2 chests, TD 3; 8 straps, ST 34; 4 telephone TP3; 3 wire, W-130 B on DR 8 spool (miles)

During the month the following battlefield recovered equipment was turned in: 1 detector Set AN-PRS/1; 1 radio set SCR 510.

CLASS III:

The amount of Class III items consumed for the month are as follows: 13,095 gallons gasoline; 225 gallons oil, SAE #10; 250 gallons diesel; 75 pounds grease, general purpose #1; 75 pounds grease wheel bearing #2; 25 gallons kerosene.

This great consumption was caused by tanks being attached to each line company for tactical reasons.

CLASS IV:

a. Engineer: Lumber and I beamswere fairly easy to obtain. However, we had to go to various Army Saw Mills in order to get the desired type of lumber.

CLASS V:

a. Ordnance: The following ammunition was critical for the month: Flares, trip parachute M48 and Flares, trip M49.

b. Engineer: Twenty-seven (27) tons of demolitions were drawn this month. Many times the supply office had to make trips to two or three ASP, located in Luxembourg, Belgium and France in order to obtain what we actually needed for tactical operations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Engineer: Since expendable items, such as Pencils, china Marking, plastic, acetate and tape, scotch are very critical, the Army Engineer Supply Point only issues a maximum of 200 pencils, china marking, 9 rolls of plastic acetate, and 4 rolls of tape, scotch a month. This cannot fill the outstanding requisitions for these items to divisional units authorized them. Therefore, the following plan was devised.

Beginning with the month of March, a distribution of the above mentioned items will be made to divisional units. No requisitions will be accepted for those items. They will be issued automatically. Certain units like the Infantry, Division Headquarters, Field Artillery, have been given priority over other divisional units. Attached units will submit their requisitions on these type of expendables and secure a special allotment from the army engineer supply point.

Signal: It is believed that since the detector AN/PRS/1 is not being utilized by our line companies, it would be to our advantage to exchange these detectors for the detector SCR 625. Arrangements have been made with Signal Supply to save all serviceable SCR 625s which they recover from the battlefield. We could then trade all our detectors AN-PRS/1 for the detectors SCR 625. Our line companies have not had enough training with the detector AN-PRS/1 to have much faith in it.

Oliver J. Bussen
OLIVER J. BUSSEN
1st Lt. CE
Battalion S-4.

OPD
ETO-1

HEADQUARTERS 305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 80, United States Army

February 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Section IV: S-1 Summary

Table 1

Battle casualty report by type of casualty (figures taken from G-1 Periodic Report) up to and including 28 February 1945 for the period 1 February 1945 - 28 February 1945:

	KIA	DOW	WIA	IIA	MIA	TOTAL	RTD
1 February 1945							3
5 February 1945			4			4	5
6 February 1945							1
7 February 1945			1			1	
8 February 1945			2			2	1
9 February 1945			2			2	2
10 February 1945			1			1	
12 February 1945	1				2	3	
14 February 1945							1
15 February 1945							1
16 February 1945							1
19 February 1945			1			1	3
23 February 1945							3
24 February 1945			3			3	1
25 February 1945			1			1	1
Total	1	0	15	0	2	18	23

Table 2: Prisoners of War Captured

Date	Number
15 February 1945	1
19 February 1945	36
20 February 1945	3
23 February 1945	9
28 February 1945	4
Total	53

Table 3: Reinforcements received (including hospital returns)

Date	Number
1 February 1945	4
5 February 1945	22
6 February 1945	1
8 February 1945	1
9 February 1945	2
11 February 1945	1
14 February 1945	1
15 February 1945	1
16 February 1945	2
19 February 1945	3
23 February 1945	3
24 February 1945	1
25 February 1945	1
28 February 1945	10
Total	53

Table 4: Decorations awarded from 1 February 1945 to 1 March 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 the Silver Star Medal
12	Bronze Star Medal
0	Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously)
0	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal
0	Air Medal
0	Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
1	Soldier's Medal
12	Purple Heart Awards
1	Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart
2	Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart
1	Third Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart.

Battlefield Appointments

Technical Sergeant Bernard Kelsky who had made an outstanding record for himself as Intelligence Sergeant was discharged on 25 February 1945 to accept commission as Second Lieutenant, Army of the United States. Lieutenant Kelsky was commissioned on 26 February 1945. He will remain with this battalion and be assigned as Assistant S-2. Other recommendations for battlefield appointments have been submitted by this headquarters, but are pending approval of higher headquarters. Engineer reinforcement officers have been difficult to secure, but excellent material from this battalion, commissioned through battlefield appointments, have proven most successful.

ENGR
FEB

After Action Report, Sec. IV
305th Engr Combat Bn (cont'd)

SPECIAL SERVICE:

During the first few days of February the battalion was centered around LaRochette, Luxembourg. Here men availed themselves of recreation and rest when possible. Special Service arranged for nightly movies. Beer was secured on two occasions from Luxembourg breweries.

The 80th Division band gave a concert for companies "A" and "C". This was enjoyed by all.

Delicious ice cream, manufactured by a concern in Luxembourg City, added greatly to the Sunday dinners. (Now ice cream is regularly securred for Sunday's dinner for the battalion).

The Post Exchange was able to secure many personal items not issued.

Pass convoys were sent daily into Luxembourg City. As many as 70 and 80 men left by battalion convoy for the city.

One officer and three enlisted men were sent from this battalion to the United States through the rotation plan. These awards were given men who had distinguished themselves by outstanding service in combat.

On 9 February 1945 a movie team from a Special Service Company joined the battalion and stayed until 15 February 1945. During this period (since the battalion, too, had its own movie equipment) movies were sent to two companies each night; by so doing, companies were shown a movie every other night.

On 18 February the battalion moved north toward Diekirch, Luxembourg. Here all engineers were energetically engaged in the crossing of the Our and Sauer Rivers, nevertheless, movies continued to be shown whenever the situation permitted.

Games, magazines, books, cards, and stationery were secured through Special Service and distributed to the personnel of the battalion.

The battalion crossed the German border during the last days of the month. Here once again each man was informed of the strict Allied non-fraternization policy.

Morris Edelman
MORRIS EDELMAN
1st Lt. CE
Adjutant.