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

6 February 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 January 1945.

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

A. E. McCollam
A. E. McCOLLAM
Lt Col. CE
Commanding.

Incls:

Section I
Section II
Section III
Section IV
Unit Journal
Situation Report
Overlays.

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

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After Action Report

Section I

Summary of Daily Operations and Actions, Month of January 1945.

1. The battalion continued operating under orders from Hq 80th Infantry Division. Each one of our line companies supported one of the division's regiments.
2. Period 1 - 5 Jan 45, area West and Northwest of ETTLEBRUCK, Luxembourg.
 - a. Bn CP located in the castle at SCHONFELS (P615256) during this period. The division continued to maintain a defensive position, protecting itself against possible enemy attacks from the North or East.
 - b. A number of minefields were laid, and daisy chain mines used; abatis were prepared, in some cases actually executed; bridges throughout the division area were prepared for demolition, and some even blown. Some of the Infantry CP's had to be dug in, and our engineers provided Infantrymen with log covers for their foxholes and MG emplacements. Our line companies kept guards on many of the prepared obstacles. As a "sideline", dead animals in the area were buried.
 - c. Roads presented a big problem, they had to be kept open in spite of the ice and snow on them. We maintained continuous patrols to check the condition of the roads, hauled sand and spread it on the highways. In some cases cinders were used for this purpose. In ~~very~~ bad spots, the ice had to be scraped off the road surface.
3. Period 6-21 Jan 45, area N and S of SURE River, between ETTLEBRUCK and ESCH-SUR-SURE, Luxembourg.
 - a. Bn CP located in MERZIG (P753380) from 6 Jan to 10 Jan, then in BISSEN (P797335) from 11 Jan to 20 Jan. The division continued maintaining its defensive positions on the right (East) flank, but started moving North on the left (West) flank. The division front thus gradually shifted from an East-West line to a line running from Southeast to Northwest.
 - b. Our work was rather varied during this period. On one hand we had to clear roads and remove obstacles, on the other hand install them and block the Eastern approaches into the division sector. Knocked out tanks were removed from the roads; abatis and other obstacles were removed; enemy AT and AP mines were cleared; even friendly minefields had to be removed in the sector of our advance. Towns were checked for mines and booby traps.
 - c. Other work performed in the advance was the construction of a bypass, building a drain under a road, filling a bomb crater, retrieving US tanks which slid off the road, and installing trip flares in front of Infantry positions to prevent their being surprised by an enemy counterattack.
 - d. In the defense we again prepared bridges and culverts for demolition, prepared abatis and daisy chain minefields; some minefields were laid, bridges blown, and craters & abatis actually executed. Guards from the battalion were posted on bridges and obstacles in the area. Various types of improvised road blocks were installed, and again foxhole covers cut and delivered to the Infantry.
 - e. Weather conditions again necessitated much work on the roads. Sand was hauled and spread on them; ice and snow cleared from the roads, and various other repair and maintenance jobs performed on the roads in the division area. On days that the snow let up a little, we stockpiled sand along the highways.
 - f. More dead animals were buried. Field Artillery units were instructed by our experts in the use of demolitions for their emplacements.

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Hq 305 Engr C Bn
After Action Report, Jan 45, Sec I (Cont'd).

7. Comments, Observations and Recommendations.

a. Roads were our biggest problem during the month. They had to be kept open, yet were at all times icy and covered with snow. This in addition to the fact that we were operating in the hilly ARBENNES, with its steep grades and sharp curves, even along the best of highways. We were continuously sanding the roads, day and night, and in some spots had to make practically a dirt road in order to keep traffic moving. Tracked vehicles had more difficulties than other vehicles. There was only one sand pit in the area, and as we advanced North, the haul to secure sand became very long. We could not find any additional sand, due mainly to the fact that everything was covered with snow. Roads had to be patrolled all the time to check their condition. On high ground, we were troubled with deep snow drifts. We were furnished with snow plow attachments for 2½-ton trucks. These worked part of the time, but could not take care of hard packed icy snow. Besides they developed mechanical difficulties, and had to be repaired a few times. The D-6 and D-7 bulldozers were extremely helpful in clearing snow and ice. A regular commercial snow plow would be the best solution. In order to prevent snow drifts, snow fences were built, either consisting of bushes and trees lined up parallel to the road, or a chicken wire fence with interwoven garlands. In slack moments, the roads were stock piled with sand, but these stockpiles were used up rapidly.

b. We gained considerable experience in working out a barrier plan. It showed us the need for planning, based on accurate reconnaissance. The actual work was divided on an area basis, with the supporting engineers. Again the need for accurate and detailed records of obstacles was apparent, especially when we took over another division's area, that had many obstacles in it.

c. Enemy mines caused us considerable work, and a high number of casualties, compared with the past. The snow and ice made mine detection very difficult, and it is known that many mines were missed in clearing roads and fields. Two improvised methods of picking up mines were used. In a number of cases a bulldozer or tank dozer scooped up the mines laid in the snow on a road. This was very effective with AP mines, but entailed the risk of the dozer being hit by an AT mine.

d. In digging emplacements and holes for the burial of animals, the dozer blade could not cut into the frozen soil. The initial hole had to be blasted, and then the cat could go to work. Infantrymen had to use demolitions to dig their foxholes.

e. Our bridging operations were not on an extensive scale, the rivers we crossed were not wide. Comparatively short treadway bridges and Bailey bridges put in by the supporting engineers, did the trick. In one case, at HEIDERSCHIEDERGRUND the 166th Engineers built a treadway bridge during the night in front of the Infantry, who used the bridge to make their assault crossing the next morning.

f. One important factor is not to be forgotten. During the entire month the weather was bitter cold and below freezing. Our men were out day and night. In addition they were subjected to more artillery, mortar and nebelwerfer fire than ever before.

g. During the last week in January, with only one Infantry regiment of the division on line, two of our companies operated in the rear area. They were still quite busy, but had some time for care and maintenance of their equipment. The Bn CP operated with the division CP again, during the latter part of the month.

Robert M. Rawls
ROBERT M. RAWLS,
Major, CE,
S-3.

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

January 1945

HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF SUPPLY

1 January: The 305th Medical Battalion turned in eight (8) compasses, wrist liquid filled with straps which they had picked up from the battlefield. These were added to our stock to be issued.

Put into effect a stock and requisition status record. This record reflects the requisitions received from divisional units; the items they received from the Engineer Supply Officer; and, the back orders on the requisitions from units within the division.

In addition to the above, a small supply of expendable items which are frequently consumed is kept on hand for emergency purposes. This is also shown on these records.

The chief disadvantage of this system is the added paper work. However, the advantages of this system overshadow the chief and petty disadvantages, thereby making this method of keeping records worthwhile.

This status record system only applies to the Engineer the Supply Office handles for the Divisional Units.

2 January: During the German breakthrough in Belgium and Luxembourg, a necessary tactical move took us a considerable distance from the Engineer Class II Depot at Toul. The Engineer Depot located in Belgium was in danger of being captured; therefore, no supplies were issued from it. The Supply Office had only one choice, and that was to go eighty-five miles to Toul for supplies. It took exactly eight and one-half hours to make a complete trip. We made six such trips to Toul before a new Engineer Depot was established.

Drew 850 gallons of gasoline to replenish our stock which was consumed by the companies.

3 January: XII Corps Camouflage Officer informed us about camouflage material for camouflaging vehicles and artillery guns for the winter season. Although the publications of higher headquarters stipulated that white wash or lime would be used, inactivated carbide was the only desirable substitute they could furnish. The inactivated carbide came from gas generating concerns in Luxembourg, it had the consistency of thick mud. Only water had to be added to change its consistency, and it had a non-corrosive nature. This solution could not be used in a spray gun, but had to be applied with a brush.

In order to secure this carbide, the supply office had to go on a scavenger hunt for drums of 55 gallon capacity. Those we discovered had to have the tops removed and the foreign matter within burned. This took two days.

About this time snow began to cover the countryside and plans were devised to camouflage front line troops. The Division had to obtain some white cloth, and had given it to the Corps Camouflage Officer in order to make Snow Suits or Snow Capes. A two piece Snow Suit was finally decided upon. (Although they were never used as such, they make darn good pajamas.)

Drew 450 gallons of gasoline.

Historical Journal of Supply (Cont'd)

4 January: Received armored cabs for D6 tractors. These cabs had to be constructed by a French concern at Pompey upon plans drawn by the S-3, because such cabs could not be secured through normal channels.

5 January: Turned in miscellaneous items of Individual Clothing and Equipment which were recovered from the battle field.

Ordnance began to issue 2½ ton dump trucks for our 2½ ton cargo trucks which were in the possession of our line companies. Also, all 3/4 ton (Command and Recon) trucks were exchanged for 3/4 ton Weapons Carriers with a twelve volt system for installation of the Radio SCR 284.

Tried to obtain flares, trip, and flares, parachute, but was unsuccessful. There were none to be had on the continent.

Drew 650 gallons of gasoline, 150 gallons of diesel, and 25 gallons of oil SAE #10.

Received Engineer Class II supplies from Depot #14, and issued same to divisional units.

6 January: Weekly Critical Engineer Shortage List and Weekly Battlefield Recovered Equipment Report was submitted to G-4.

7 January: Drew 1050 gallons of gasoline and 10 gallons of oil, SAE #90.

Received 175 snow suits from XII Corps, and distributed them as per allocation by G-4.

Obtained 775 gallons of inactivated carbide from Rodange and distributed to priority units, such as, Tanks, Tank Destroyers, Half-Tracks, Artillery Guns and Artillery Tractors.

8 January: Drew 110 snow suits from XII Corps, and distributed them to divisional units.

775 gallons of gasoline and 20 gallons of oil, SAE #10 were drawn today.

In order to replenish our bridge lumber stock, we drew 38 pieces of 3" x 12" x 12'.

Obtained demolitions from ASP #38 in order to complete our basic load.

9 January: Received 135 snow suits from XII Corps for distribution to divisional units.

Drew 750 gallons of gasoline, and 150 gallons of diesel oil.

Picked up miscellaneous Signal Equipment from battlefield. Retained the wire, W-110 B on Reel DR 4 since wire is on the critical list and very much needed for communications in the battalion.

10 January: Drew 1000 gallons of gasoline.

The following items had to be drawn in order to complete our unit of fire carried in the battalion as a reserve. 160 mines, AT HE M1, 5376 Cart. AP, Cal. .30 M1 8/clip, 25 grenades, hand frag., and 30 rockets, HE M6A1.

11 January: Drew 200 gallons of inactivated carbide from XII Corps for distribution to units in the division. Received 249 snow suits from XII Corps and issued same to divisional units with priority.

12 January: Army informed us to pick up three improvised snow plows for our line companies.

Historical Journal Supply (Continued)

12 January (Cont'd): These were mounted upon 2½ ton Dump Trucks. One water pump returned from repair.

Drew Engineer Class II Supplies from ASP #14 and issued same throughout division.

Quartermaster issued 303 Bags, Sleeping EM and distributed them to the line companies. These were the first issue of winter equipment we received.

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

Drew 220 gallons of inactivated carbide from Corps for division distribution.

Returned one snow plow to 981st Engineer Maintenance for repair. It was discovered these improvised plows had several flaws, and this caused the plows to buckle in the center when used. However, the flaws could easily be corrected by strengthening certain sections.

Engineer Class II Supplies drawn from ASP #14 and issued same to units in the division.

14 January: Drew 120 snow suits from Corps and issued them according to G-4 breakdown.

Since the arrival of winter, the artillery units began to draw demolitions in order to make gun emplacements. Therefore, the supply office had to draw an additional supply of demolitions for them.

15 January: Drew 550 gallons of inactivated carbide from Corps.

The Division Ordnance Officer informed the Supply Office that ASP #38 was carrying some flares of a British make. We were fortunately able to obtain 100 of them, in lieu of flares, Trip M49 and Flares, Parachute M48 which were still on the critical list. Experiments proved that the Flare, Trip, Mark 12, British was not a very good substitute. It only acted as a warning, giving forth a noise similar to a rifle shot which was followed by a burst of a few colored stars, and all this lasted for only a fraction of a second. The companies wanted something that would give forth a good light silhouetting the intruder.

Plans and ideas for better substitutes were originated. The plans were whittled down to three good possibilities, and these involved the Grenade, Incendiary M14, Signal Ground, White Parachute, and a German Very Pistol Signals. The experiment with the Signal Ground, White parachute proved a failure almost causing serious injury to the Supply Officer. The German very pistol signal was a success, but since the supply was limited due to our being unable to capture enough German Ammo Dumps containing this item, this experiment was also abandoned. Also, the work involved in constructing them was a disadvantage feature. The Grenade, Incendiary, M14 was the most successful of the three plans. It gave forth a bright light which lasted for about ten seconds, and was easily to construct as a trip flare.

16 January: Turned in Battlefield Recovered Quartermaster equipment.

Drew more bridge lumber to replenish our stock.

Historical Journal of Supply (Cont'd)

17 January: Drew 1125 snow suits from Corps and distributed them throughout the division.

In order to replenish our basic load of the following, these items were drawn from the Ammo Depot: 290 AT Mines, HE M1A1, 20 Mines, AP, British.

18 January: One Drafting Equipment Set #2, Company, and three Repair Equipment Sets #3, Float General, was drawn against our Engineer Critical shortage.

Quartermaster issued 325 Bags, Sleeping EM, 638 socks, wool, and 375 cases, water repellant for sleeping bags. This completed our initial issue on bags, sleeping EM. Many men were not keen about them. They preferred to have the four blankets instead of one bag, sleeping, and two blankets.

19 January: Drew replacement for three boats, recon. 2 man, which were lost in combat.

Army notified us to pick up our critical shortage consisting of one Shop Equipment, General Purpose.

20 January: Drew 1150 gallons of gasoline, 150 gallons of diesel oil, and 15 gallons of oil, SAE #10.

Picked up 3 tons of coke for the battalion's consumption.

Took a special trip to the front lines to pick up a German four wheel trailer reported by the Reconnaissance Section. This trailer would aid us to the extent of carrying our excessive loads.

21 January: Drew 900 gallons of gasoline, 150 gallons of diesel oil, 20 gallons of Oil SAE #10, and 10 gallons of kerosene.

Recovered Signal and Ordnance Equipment from the battlefield.

22 January: We were able to secure gasoline torches for each of our water points. The supply had been trying to get them for the past month. These were urgently needed in order to thaw the hoses and water pumps during this sub-zero winter weather.

Received Engineer Class II Supplies from ASP #14.

23 January: Received one pump, sump, pneumatic against critical Engineer shortages.

Drew 1100 snow suits from Corps. 1100 gallons of gasoline and diesel and 25 gallons of oil SAE #10 was drawn to replenish our stocks.

24 January: Turned in to Ordnance some battlefield recovered equipment.

Quartermaster issued 450 shoe pacs for our line companies. This was the first issue of this winter item.

25 January: Medical Detachment turned in some Engineer equipment they had recovered from the battlefield.

Prepared report on Engineer Equipment within Division for Army's Information.

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

Historical Journal of Supply (Cont'd)

26 January (Cont'd): Recovered some Signal equipment from the battlefield.

Since no units within the division desired anymore camouflage paint, the supply office received permission from G-4 to abandon 5 drums in Wiltz before our next tactical move. This helped us to the extent that we would not have to shuttle our supplies.

27 January: Spent the entire day moving and setting up supplies in our new bivouac area.

28 January: Sent to ASP #14 for Engineer Class II supplies. Drew 2 tons of coal for the battalion's consumption.

29 January: Drew 625 snow suits and distributed same throughout division.

560 gallons of gasoline were drawn today. Had to draw plywood from Engineer Depot to construct cabs upon weapon carriers.

Recovered Ordnance equipment from the battlefield.

30 January: Drew Engineer Class II Supplies and issued them to units in the division.

Received 310 snow suits from Corps and distributed same to priority units.

31 January: Drew 2 tons of coal for battalion's consumption. Picked up 250 gallons of inactivated carbide. Strangest request received for the month: The requestant asked for one Esquire Calander. We politely informed the requestant that since Luxembourg had some beautiful girls, but not as beautiful as the Esquire Girls, we would gladly supply them. . . .without calander, of course.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SUPPLY

January 1945

CLASS I:

1. Quartermaster:
 - a. "K" rations were placed on a semi-critical list, and were only to be used during emergencies for front line operations.
 - b. During this month more "B" rations were consumed than "C", "K", or "D" rations.

CLASS II:

1. Air Corps: The kit, interpreter, photographic type F-2 still remained on the Critical Shortage list of supplies.
2. Chemical Warfare: All chemical warfare shortages have been received to date except the following: 4 brushes, decontaminating; 4 kits, chemical agent detector, M9.
3. Engineer:
 - a. The following equipment still remained on the critical shortage list at the end of the month for the divisional units:
 - 1 Drill, pneumatic, portable piston type, non-reversible
 - 1 Grinder, pneumatic, rotary type, 5x1" vitrified, 8x1 organic wheel
 - 9 Nets, camouflage Set, #2
 - 42 Nets, camouflage twine, garnished w/fabric, 36 x 44,
 - 68 Nets, camouflage twine, garnished w/fabric, 22 x 22
 - 2 Reproduction Equipment Set #3.
 - 1 Repair Equipment Set #6, Plywood Boat.
 - 49 Scales, coordinate sq. grid in meters, 1/25,000 and 1/50,000
 - 32 Scales, plotting, steel arty, #1 MK-I grid in meters and yds. 16", 1/25,000
 - 19 Scales, plotting, steel arty, #1 MK-I grid in meters and yds. 30" 1/25,000
 - 48 Stereoscopes, pocket magnifying w/case.
 - 1 Sprayer, paint, pneumatic portable w/compressor.
 - 1 Sign, Reproduction Kit #1.
 - b. During the month of January the following Engineer equipment had been recovered from the battlefield:
 - 12 compasses, wrist liquid filled w/strap
 - 5 compasses, lensatic luminous dial w/case
 - 1 Compass, watch, pocket.
 - c. It had been discovered that Engineer equipment which is issued in complete sets cannot always be drawn. Therefore, in order to obtain this type of equipment, the items of the set had to be drawn individually. In this manner the supply office was able to remove the following sets from the critical shortage list:
 - 1 Drafting Equipment Set #2, Company
 - 3 Repair, Equipment Set #3, Float General
4. Ordnance
 - a. The end of January found the following items of Ordnance equipment on the critical list:
 - 29 Watches, wrist, 15 jewel or more.
 - 36 Bayonets, Knife M4 w/scabbards
 - 9 Trailers, 1/4 ton.

Highlights of Supply (Cont'd)

2 Trucks, 6 ton, 6x6, Primer mover.

5 Binoculars, M13

b. Among the Ordnance battlefield recovered equipment for January was:

48 Rifles, US Cal. .30 M1

12 Carbines, US Cal. .30 M1

1 Gun, Submachine, Cal. 145 M3

1 Launcher, Rocket M1A1, 2.36"

2 Bayonets, M1903 w/scabbard

1 Bayonet, M1

2 Scabbards M2

1 Gun, Machine, Cal.50 M2 complete.

5. Quartermaster:

a. Our winter issue of equipment for the month consisted of:

625 Bags, sleeping EM

450 Shoe Pacs.

b. Shoe pacs were received on the basis of 150 per line company.

c. The following items were on the critical list:

Brushes, scrubbing

Brooms

Hoods, protective

Jacket, field OD

Stoves, cooking 1 and 2 burner

Tent, shelterhalf

Cup canteen

Typewriters, portable and non-portable

Shoes, Service (certain sizes only)

d. During January the following Quartermaster equipment was recovered from the battlefield:

12 Ground sheets

5 Raincoats

10 Blankets OD

20 Blouses, wool OD

14 Leggings, canvas dismt'd.

6. Signal:

a. The most critical supplies in signal equipment were:

Expendable supplies for Photographic equipment.

Wire, W-110 B on Reel DR 4

b. We had been able to decrease this critical supply on photographic expendable supplies by drawing them from the Engineer Depot.

c. The following Signal equipment was recovered from the battlefield during the month:

1 Detector Set SCR 625

2 Radios SCR 510

1 Wire, W-110B on DR 4

2 Handsets for Telephone EE-8A

11 Tuning units for SCR 511

CLASS III:

1. Quartermaster: Oil SAE #10 was becoming a critical item. Otherwise, all other Class III supplies were fairly easy to obtain.

Highlights of Supply (Cont'd)

CLASS IV:

1. Engineer: Lumber, and other Class IV items were fairly easy to secure from Army Depots. Those that could not be secured through normal channels had to be purchased from the local foreign governments.
2. Quartermaster: Coal was becoming a scarce item, and higher headquarters began to publish memorandums stressing the practice of economy on utilizing coal.

CLASS V:

1. Chemical Warfare: The grenade, incendiary M14 is being used as a substitute for trip flares since there is a considerable quantity of them available.
2. Engineer: Demolitions are very easy to secure from any Army Supply point.
3. Ordnance: In ordnance class V items, the Flare, trip, M49 and Flare, Parachute, M48 are still on the critical list. However, we were able to secure some Flares, Trip, Mark 12, British, but they proved to be poor substitutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ENGINEER:

During the month of January our principle trouble involved generators, both 1½ Kw and 3Kw.

Generator breakdowns have been too frequent. This, we believe is caused by the lack of proper maintenance. Memorandums have been published denoting the improper maintenance upon the generators. This only improved conditions a little.

It is believed that if Army Engineers could detail a small maintenance crew, who would be thoroughly familiar with these generators, they could visit each unit authorized them, and explain its characteristics and how to prevent breakdowns. This would considerably relieve the burden of constantly repairing them for minor difficulties, which could easily be taken care of by the units mechanics.

Another problem concerning generators is the difficulty in procuring spare parts in order to repair them. The generators that we received from the Army Engineer for issue to divisional units came from three different supply branches, Ordnance, Medical, and Engineer. Although the generators became Engineer Property, there spare parts and components did not. This prevented generators from being repaired quickly. Often it took from one to three weeks to have a minor repair preformed. Recommend that the Service of Supply divert these spare parts to relieve the repair situation.

SIGNAL:

Many of our line companies prefer to work with the old detector set SCR 625 instead of the new Detector Set AN-PRS/1. The reason for this is that all men have been trained thoroughly in the use of the detector set SCR 625, and have never been so trained with the Detector AN-PRS/1. Therefore, the uncertainty of the adaptability of this detector AN-PRS/1 causes the men to have little faith in it. It does work differently than the Detector Set SCR 625. Also, batteries for the detector set AN-PRS/1 are more difficult to obtain.

Recommend that these new detectors AN-PRS/1 be turned in and the old detector set SCR 625 be issued in lieu thereof. Also, recommend that two (2) detectors be issued per squad instead of the one. More can be accomplished in that way.

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

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SUMMARY OF EVENTS - S-2 Section

1 - 13 January 1945:

The S-2 section was busily involved in Engineer intelligence work in support of the 80th Division's counter-offensive against the southern flank of Von-Rundstedt's dwindling offensive.

During the early part of the period we were piecing together information for a terrain study of our sector of advance. (See annex Nos 1 and 2). Information was obtained from the Division M. I. I. team, who published reports periodically of bridge and railroads north of the Sure River. Also, photo interpretation offered unlimited source of information. This terrain study was reproduced in two sections and completely covered the sector in which the 80th Division operated. A study of climatic conditions in Western Germany was also published for Division and attached units (see annex No.3).

13 - 27 January 1945:

Enemy demolitions were quite extensive during this period. A new type of Schu mine was revealed by a PW and a complete report of it's characteristics was included in our daily engineer situation report. Also uncovered was a new type 3 Kg charge found in a ramp type mine removed from the approaches to the main road bridge leading northeast out of Wiltz. Both of these reports were later published in a Third Army Engineer Intelligence Bulletin Number 3, dated 29 January 1945.

Reconnaissance played a very important role in gathering this vast amount of engineer information, both company reconnaissance teams and our reconnaissance section were actively engaged in front line reconnaissance missions during this period.

The map depot continued to operate as efficiently as always, and many distributions of varied scaled maps were made. Increasing use was made of the battalion photographer, who obtained many excellent "shots" of engineer technical data on bridge sites and areas in our field of advance. Prints from the official government photographer, made during the German occupation, proved to be of immense value to both the engineers and the infantry.

27 - 31 January 1945:

At the close of the period the section was principally involved in preparing minefield status reports and proposed barrier plans. Also in progress are terrain studies of this new area of operations and a 1/10,000 blow-up map to be reproduced by hectograph (ditto) for Division distribution. The work request for this map only allowed a 48-hour lapse from plan to completed map in 8 sheets (see annex No. 4). Work was divided among eleven different draftsmen from all sections within the Battalion as well as Division P.I. team No. 69. At the end of 50 hours the job was completed and distributed as requested by G-2. 645 work man-hours were devoted to preparing this map. The section simultaneously continuing with normal Engineer Intelligence Functions.

Recommendations:

That Intelligence sections of Infantry and other divisional units maintain continual liasion with combat teams engineers.

Frank Feleppa
FRANK FELEPPA
Captain CE
S-2

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

January 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Section IV: S-1 Summary

Battle casualty report by type of casualty (Figures taken from G-1 Periodic Report) up to and including 31 January 1945 for the period 1 January 1945 - 31 January 1945.

Table Number 1:

<u>Date</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>LOW</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>IIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTDs</u>
1 January 1945			1			1	2
6 January 1945			1			1	1
8 January 1945			1			1	2
12 January 1945							9
14 January 1945							1
15 January 1945							2
19 January 1945			8			8	
22 January 1945							4
23 January 1945			1			1	
24 January 1945			2			2	2
25 January 1945			5			5	
26 January 1945							1
27 January 1945			1			1	
29 January 1945			1			1	
30 January 1945							1
TOTALS			21			21	25

Table Number 2: Prisoners of War captured.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>
27 January 1945	7

Table Number 3: Reinforcements received (Including Hospital Returns)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>
1 January 1945	2
6 January 1945	1
8 January 1945	2
12 January 1945	9
13 January 1945	1
14 January 1945	1
15 January 1945	2
22 January 1945	4
24 January 1945	2

Table Number 3: Reinforcements received (Cont'd)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>
26 January 1945	1
27 January 1945	1
31 January 1945	1
TOTAL	27

Table Number 4: Decorations awarded from 1 January 1945 to 1 February 1945.

<u>Number</u>	
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
8	Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously)
3	Bronze Star Medal
0	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
0	Air Medal
0	Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
0	Soldier's Medal
28	Purple Heart Awards
5	1st Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
0	2d Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

Battlefield Appointments:

S/Sgt John Labriole, Company "A", with an outstanding record as platoon leader in combat, was discharged on 31 January 1945, so as to accept appointment as Second Lieutenant, Army of the United States. X

Special Service:

The Battalion was, during the first week of the month, able to secure movies almost nightly for the companies. Films were secured from Division Special Service.

On 10 January a USO show played to the personnel of this Battalion at Bissen, Luxembourg. The dance hall of a beer garden was arranged with sufficient benches to seat the Battalion.

American Red Cross Clubmobiles served doughnuts and coffee to Companies "A" and "B" on 13 January.

PX supplies were obtained weekly from Warehouse at Metz, France. Fruit juices, candy, cookies and assorted items were available for sale to the Battalion.

Limited passes to Paris were allowed this Battalion. Two men went to the United States through the rotation plan.

Magazines, books, games, and cards were secured through Special Service and distributed to all companies for circulation among the men.

On 28 January 1945 the Battalion moved to Larochette area, Luxembourg. Here a partial rest from the continuous grind, to which the Battalion has been accustomed, was had. Some recreation and reorganization took place.

Special Service (Cont'd)

Upon arrival the following morale boosters were immediately secured.

- a. Beer was secured in quantity for the Battalion.
- b. Showers were arranged for the Battalion.
- c. Movies were shown.
- d. Passes to Luxembourg City.
- e. A USO show for the Battalion was held in Mersch.

Observations and Recommendations.

Engineer enlisted reinforcements have been almost impossible to get since our arrival in France. During the month of January few reinforcements were available to this organization. Casualties were comparatively few, leaving a present for duty understrength of 35 enlisted men. Recommend that more engineers be transferred and be available to front line troops, and that enlisted men on permanent Detached Service and Temporary Duty be dropped from the rolls.

Morris Edelman
MORRIS EDELMAN
1st Lt CE Adj.

[REDACTED]