

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

After Action Report

Summary of Daily Operations, March 1945

1. Period 1-9 March 1945: Area vicinity of BITBURG, Germany. Battalion CP located at METTENDORF, Germany, 1-5 March, RITTERSDORF, Germany, 6-9 March.

Having crossed the PRUM River and reached the KYLL River, the 80th Division did not receive orders to go further East. Instead the 5th Division followed the 4th Armored Division's breakthrough to the RHINE River North of the MOSELLE River. The 80th continued mopping up in the sector between the PRUM and KYLL Rivers, North of BITBURG.

As for the engineers, our largest job was again maintenance and repair of roads. The road net West of BITBURG was generally poor and the wet weather and heavy traffic did not improve the roads any. We hauled gravel, dug ditches and filled many craters in the roads. A crew of German PWs and our own troops were continuously busy working on the roads.

Work directly caused by the enemy was the clearance of numerous abatis, log road blocks at the entrance and exit of each little town and village, and removal and destruction of AT and AP mines. Some of the abatis were found to be booby-trapped.

In addition we repaired one bridge and five culverts and fills, and built one class 70 culvert and fill.

Some time was devoted to training during the last few days of the period. Infantry NCOs and members of the 305th Medical Battalion were trained in mines and mine detection, firing positions were built on a rifle range, German tanks were towed as targets for bazooka practice; when the German tanks were towed as targets for bazooka practice, the Infantry conducted training in use of OPs, we blasted sample OPs for them. As usual, we buried a number of dead animals.

2. Period 10-18 March: Area between SAARBURG, Germany and ST WENDEL, Germany. Battalion CP located at MONDORFF-les-BAINS, Luxembourg on March 10th, BEURIG, Germany 11-14 March, FROMMERSBACH, Germany on March 15th and in LOSHEIM, GERMANY 16-18 March.

The XII Corps having cleared nearly all of the area North of the MOSELLE River and west of the RHINE River, the 80th was transferred to the XX Corps, whose mission was to participate in clearing the area between the SAAR and RHINE Rivers, South of the MOSELLE River. The 80th Division was the center division in the Corps and as soon as a breakthrough was made, the 10th Armored Division passed through the 80th. This breakthrough took place towards the end of the period.

We came to a new area, but the work remained the same, only more of it. We cleared and swept roads for mines, of which there were many. Roads were maintained and repaired when necessary. About a dozen craters had to be filled. Shell holes in the roads were repaired. Rubble in towns was cleared. Knocked out vehicles were removed from the roads. Upwards of a dozen large abatis were cleared. One 200 yard stretch of road was built, a bypass through town was constructed, to afford 2-way traffic. One culvert was built, two 36-foot treadway bridges were installed. Two footbridges were built, three vehicular fords were built and improved. Explosives were removed from a bridge captured intact. Approximately fifty log road blocks at entrances to towns were removed and widened for two-way traffic.

3. Period 19-23 March: Area between ST WENDEL, KAISERLAUTERN, and East to the Rhine River. Battalion CP located at ST WENDEL on March 19th. KAISERLAUTERN on the 20th and BAD DURKHEIM on 21-23 March 1945.

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After Action Report, S-3,  
305 Engr c Bn, March 1945, (cont'd)

(Period 19-23 March cont'd)

The 80th Division broke through to the RHINE River in the fastest moving operation yet encountered. Roads were cleared as we moved. No mines were encountered. Again numerous town road blocks were removed. Rubble was cleared in towns. Four craters were filled. A ford was repaired and maintained. The approaches to a treadway bridge was improved and the bypass to it worked on. Many vehicles were removed from the road. On the road from KAISERSLAUTERN to BAD DÜRKHEIM six bulldozers in one afternoon cleared an estimated five hundred vehicles to which had been knocked out by the air corps on the previous day.

4. Period 24-26 March: Vicinity ROCKENHAUSEN, Germany. Battalion CP located in ROCKENHAUSEN throughout the period.

The division was pulled back briefly in reserve, preparatory to crossing the RHINE River. No engineer work was done, and our companies used the occasion to clean and maintain their equipment and vehicles.

5. Period 27-31 March: Area MAINZ, WIESBADEN and North towards KASSEL. Battalion CP located in MAINZ 27-29 March, WIESBADEN and LICH on March 30th and in NEUKIRCHEN on the 31st.

Plans for crossing the RHINE and MAIN Rivers were made within a few hours, supporting engineers organized and equipment brought up one day the actual crossing made the next morning during the hours of darkness. 319th Infantry regiment crossed the RHINE over the XII Corps bridge, then made an assault crossing over the MAIN River - 600 feet of water - East of MAINZ, while the 317th Infantry regiment made an assault crossing of the RHINE in MAINZ, while the 318th Infantry crossed the RHINE into the 317th's bridgehead. Though in its original planning stage the RHINE crossing. Enemy opposition was initially moderate, but vanished after the first waves got across. Assault waves of two companies crossed in assault boats. All other foot troops were crossed in Navy landing craft. Our engineer troops did not conduct any of the crossing or bridging operations. We supervised the crossings, guided Infantry to the boats, crossed ourselves and cleared the far shore of obstacles. Three landing sites and 75 yard approaches to them were built by us. Some mines were cleared in MAINZ. Roads and towns were cleared of wreckage and debris. Once the bridgehead was consolidated, the division continued the pursuit until we reached the area just South of KASSEL. Little engineer work was performed by us during this phase.

6. Comments, Observations and Recommendations.

a. Supporting Engineers: During the first period, the 1135 Engineer Combat Group, which had been supporting the division, left us, and we were without engineer support. Upon arrival in the XX Corps, the 1139th Engineer Combat Group started supporting us, the 179th Engineer Combat Battalion was in direct support of the 80th Division. 10-23 March, they worked with us on a mission basis. Supporting engineers concentrated mainly on the Division MSR. During the RHINE and MAIN crossings, (27-28 March) the entire 1139th Group was in support of the division. Two combat battalions crossed the assault and later waves of Infantry, two combat battalions each with a treadway bridge company attached built the large floating treadway bridges, an engineer light ponton company hauled equipment and US Naval Unit No. 2 operated landing craft on the RHINE. After the crossings were completed, the 206th Engineer Combat Battalion remained in direct support of the 80th Division (29-31 March 1945).

b. No permanent fortifications or obstacles were encountered. We did, however, have much work clearing road blocks which the enemy had installed at all entrances and exits in each village and town. Initially they were log road blocks, and bulldozers could clear them. Often, when time was pressing civilians were put to work removing them. Near BAD DÜRKHEIM we ran into many concrete and stone

After Action Report, S-3  
305 Engr C Bn, March 45 (cont'd)

(6. Comments, recommendations, cont'd) - blocks in the towns. On the other side of the RHINE, very few such blocks were encountered.

c. In the area West of BITBURG we had a fair road net, and much road work due to weather conditions, shell holes, etc. We were not capable of making any permanent repairs, and the continuous heavy military traffic caused a rapid deterioration of the roads. A similar condition existed East of SAARBURG, through the road net was better in that area. Supporting engineers loaned us graders whenever they could; we hauled truckload after truckload of gravel. It is felt that the supporting engineers should have more road graders and shovels or similar equipment to crush and load gravel. One road grader in direct support of a division and two continuously operated gravel pits - which can be leapfrogged - in the Corps area, would be needed for work on roads. This equipment would be in addition to that considered necessary to do work behind the division rear boundaries.

After the breakthrough in the PALATINATE, road work was no longer necessary. We had an excellent road net, made extensive use of the 4-lane concrete autobahn from KAISERLAUTERN to the RHINE, and from FRANKFURT to KASSEL. Even the secondary roads were much better than anything previously encountered.

d. Mines and booby traps were still being encountered in the BITBURG area and East of SAARBURG. But once we broke through, as expected, the enemy did not have sufficient time or organization to plan and lay minefields. We found, as in the past, that in a fast moving situation, few mines are laid. Nevertheless, they have to be watched for in individualspots.

e. The terrain is mentioned here because of one factor. East of SAARBURG we operated through some very large woods, and encountered many abatis. Many of the abatis were booby-trapped, and in one case each tree had to be deactivated and removed individually under enemy fire. As most of Central Germany is wooded, we anticipate many abatis wherever the enemy has time and opportunity to install them.

f. Enemy demolitions of bridges and culverts were extensive initially, but once we passed ST WENDELL, most bridges and culverts were captured intact. We did run into many craters, many of which were caused by friendly bombers prior to our arrival. It is anticipated that there will be many such craters and rubble in large towns, and industrial areas which have been bombed. Enemy civilians clear some of the rubble, but often additional work is required to fill craters, improve fills and clear rubble for a two way MSR.

g. We had no serious problems with our equipment, though it may be mentioned again, that the bulldozer is the most useful, and used piece of equipment. Though the R-4 can be used to good advantage, the D-7 is still the needed dozer, and each engineer line company should have at least one D-7 with a reserve D-7 in Headquarters and Service Company. An armored cab on the dozers is necessary, as work is often done under enemy small arms and artillery fire.

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



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

March 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT, S-2

March 1-5 1945:

After breaking through the Seigfried Line defenses the division's mission was to pursue the enemy and destroy all his forces. The enemy had many natural lines of defense such as small rivers, ridges, etc. Extensive reconnaissance was necessary, to find all possible crossings that were intact or the best suitable bypass around any obstacle. Minefields were extensive, although no new types of mines or demolitions were found in this period. Studies of the Enz and Kyll Rivers were reproduced, the information gathered from photo interpretation, MII, and PW sources. All companies were engaged in reconnaissance of roads in front of each regimental sector and the reconnaissance section also turned in valuable engineer intelligence information. A J. Feder 504 clockwork igniter was found in its case, but not in a firing position.

March 5-10 1945:

Extensive reconnaissance revealed large quantities of enemy engineer supplies and equipment. A captured map revealed the location of all rock quarries and gravel pits in the Bitburg area. These supplies were sorely needed at the time in order to maintain roads and bridge approaches.

March 10-24 1945:

After receiving orders to move to a new area the Map Depot left in advance to obtain maps necessary for future operations. The maps were obtained and distributed in record time, and the Map Depot personnel deserve a lot of credit for their tireless efforts and determination.

Reconnaissance of the possible crossing sites over the Zerf River was conducted by the reconnaissance Section. As the division pressed their attack the situation soon developed into a rout and the enemy used fewer and fewer obstacles to slow our advance. Log crib obstacles (sperries) built in every town by civilians seriously hampered our trafficability, but in most cases they were removed by our companies or by civilian labor.

Numerous wrecked vehicles marked the swift advance of our troops and great quantities of engineer supplies and equipment was found. Captured Map Depots were found in Kaiserlautern, and Bad Dürkheim.

Map distribution developed into a difficult and extremely important operation. Keeping the division supplied with the necessary maps, as we travelled at a terrific speed and constantly changing directions and objectives taxed the Map Depot personnel to the limit.

March 24-31 1945:

After being relieved from contact with the enemy, the division spent several days rehabilitating its personnel and equipment. An extensive road reconnaissance was made from our assembly area in vicinity Rockenhausen to the bridgehead area of the 5th and 90th divisions in vicinity of Oppenheim.



After Action Report, S-2,  
305 Engr C Bn, Mar 1945, (cont'd)

(March 24-31 1945, cont'd)

The division was given the mission to cross the Rhine River in the vicinity of Mainz, and with little preparation and reconnaissance it successfully established a bridgehead across the Rivers Rhine and Main. Use was made of the Navy LCVP and LCM craft in the crossing. Many excellent shots of these craft in operation were obtained by the battalion photographer.

At the close of the period the intelligence section and reconnaissance section were busily engaged in gathering and disseminating engineer intelligence information. Great quantities of engineer supplies and equipment were captured including two large Maps Depots of Weisbaden, acetate, gyro compasses, etc., in vicinity of Zemnern.

*Bernard A. Kelsky*  
BERNARD A. KELSKY  
2nd Lt. CE

#### RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

Reconnaissance of forward areas is of prime importance, even in a fast moving situation. Valuable time is lost and equipment tied up if this policy is not carried out to its fullest extent. Aerial reconnaissance, particularly of long stretches of rivers, can save hours spent on ground reconnaissance of the same area. In rapid advances, the 1/100,000 scale map drawn in operational quantities and distributed as a small scale map can satisfy the immediate needs of a division.

### Historical Journal Of Supply For March

March 1: Drew 950 gals of Gasoline, and 116 gals of Diesel Oil

Sent Lumber to bridge site, which was being constructed by B Company.

Received 12 tents, pyramidal. These were to be used as Company CP and Supply Tents during the inclement weather.

March 2: Picked up and turned in to Ordnance the following battlefield recovered equipment: 5 rifles, US Cal. 30, M1.

The following Class III items were drawn: 800 gals of Gasoline, 140 gals of Diesel, 25 gals of oil, SAE #10.

Engineer Class II Supplies were drawn and issued to divisional units.

Excess demolitions and ammunition turned in were: 345 mines, AP, M3, 4 Charges, shaped, T-3, 24 Charges, shaped, M1, 200 Grenades, Incendiary, M14, and 50 Torpedoes, Bangalore, M1A1. This excess quantity had been drawn in preparation for operations against the Siegfried Line, but no longer needed.

In order to complete our basic loads, the following were drawn: 40 mines, AT HE, M1A1, 150 Flares, trip parachute, M48, Flares, trip, M49.

March 3: 990 gals of Gasoline, 15 gals of Oil SAE #10 and 5 gals of Oil SAE #90 were drawn today.

Received message from division approving the return of 24 Flamethrowers, portable, M1A1, 1 Kit, Service, 1 Kit, Fuel Filling, 1 Kit, Fuel Mixing, and 1 Kit Repair to the Chemical Warfare Depot. Since 15 December these items became excess equipment due to a change in our T/O & E 5-15, but orders were received to retain them. After crossing the Siegfried Line, they were not needed and only constituted a transportation problem.

March 4: Submitted Engineer Critical Shortage List, and Battlefield Recovered Equipment Report to G-4.

Drew bridge lumber for line companies.

The following battlefield recovered equipment was picked up and turned in to the appropriate supply branches: 2 Flamethrowers, portable, M1A1, 21 Bayonets, M1 w/scabbards M7, 1 Binoculars, 5 flashlights, TL-122, 1 Radio SCR 284, and 1 Firing Site, German, and 1 Auger, posthole digger, 8 to 14' extension.

March 5: Class III items drawn today were: 725 gals of Gasoline, 125 gals of Diesel and 25 gals of Oil SAE #10.

Drew Engineer Class II Supplies and issued same throughout division.

Sent to AESP #16 to draw bridge lumber in order to complete our basic load.

March 6: Back orders on Engineer Spare Parts were drawn today.

720 gals of gasoline, and 50 gals of Diesel oil were drawn from Class III supply points.

March 7 : Prepared to move to new bivouac area. Had difficulty in freeing vehicles and trailers from hub deep mud. It took approximately two hours to accomplish this.

Sent for Treadway which was to be used for road drags to clear the muddy roads.

The following battlefield recovered equipment was turned in to the appropriate supply branches: 2 Launchers, Rocket, 2.36", M1A1, 1 Rifle, US Cal .30 M1, 1 Rifle, US Automatic, Browning, Cal.30, 1 Microphone, and 9 Panels, AP 50 A.

Secured bolts, cable and steel plate for constructing road drags.

Drew 1350 gals of Gasoline, 15 gals Oil SAE #30, today.

Published Supply Bulletin #13.

March 8: Engineer Class II supplies were drawn and issued to Divisional units.

Turned in the following battlefield recovered equipment and supplies: 5 Flamethrowers, portable, M1A1, 1,000 lbs block, demolition, individual, M3, (C2), and 30 Torpedoes, Bangalore, M1A1.

Companies turned in the excess demolitions they were carrying duringt the Siegfried Line offensive. It amounted to 7,200 lbs block, demolition, individual M3 (C2).

Called XII Corps Camouflage Officer in reference to turning in all the winter camouflage material. Received reply that since all such material was not a Quartermaster item, the Quartermaster would collect it in the near future.

Drew 925 gals of Gasoline, and 125 gals of Diesel Oil from the Class III supply point.

March 9: In order to have enough mine signs on hand, the supply office must secure the metal sheets from the Engineer Class II Depot since they rarely have the regular standard sheets available, and then take them to Luxembourg to have them cut into the desired sizes. This was accomplished today.

The following Class III items were drawn: 875 gals of gasoline, 15 gals of Oil SAE #30, and 75 lbs of Chassis Grease.

March 10: Secured a serviceable 4 wheel German Trailer, and began to construct a body upon it in order to haul one complete water point.

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

Drew 200 gals of gasoline.

March 11: Moved to new bivouac area.



March 12: Two trucks and trailers were dispatched to another bivouac area in order to hold it for the company.

Drew 800 gals of gasoline.

Prepared to move again, but before we did, 800 more gals of gas were drawn.

March 13: Engineer Class II Supplies were drawn and issued to units requisitioning same.

Drew Engineer spare parts. Also turned in excess spare part sets for Trailer, 8 ton, which had accumulated after our change in T/O & E 5-15, when such trailers were turned in for new equipment.

The Division was transferred to the XX Corps, and this meant that we would have to deal with another Engineer Maintenance Unit for servicing our dead-lined Engineer Equipment. This also meant that we would have to close all accounts with the previous maintenance outfit, or, have the accounts transferred to the present maintenance organization.

Picked up 5 boats, pneumatic, reconnaissance 5-man, German made from the battlefield. Salvaged three and retained remainder.

March 14: Received message as to the location of some abandoned American demolitions in the cellar of a German house. The German cellar yielded the following demolitions: 7,000 Lbs block, demolitions, individual, M3 (C2), 1,000 ft Cord, detonating, 5,000' ea. Fuse, lighters, 3,000 ft Fuse, blasting time., 2,000 ea Caps, blasting, non-electric, All were retained except the Block, demolition M2 (C2) which was turned in to the ASP.

Class III Supplies drawn today were: 1175 gals of gasoline, 100 gals Oil SAE #10, 5 gals Oil SAE #90, 25 lbs Grease, general purpose #2, and 24 lbs Grease, Wheel bearing.

March 15: Drew 6,000 lbs Block, demolition individual, M3 (C2) for company making pole and satchel charges for the Infantry.

Picked up and turned in to Ordnance the following battlefield recovered equipment: 3 Carbine, US Cal. 30 M1, 1 Rifle, US Cal. 30 M1, 1 Gun, Submachine Cal. 45, and 1 Cover, Gun, Machine Cal. 50, M2.

March 16: In order to complete basic load of bridge lumber, we had to draw about 75 pieces 3x12x12 from the Bridge Depot.

The following battlefield recovered equipment was picked up and turned in to the Chemical Warfare Depot: 1 Flamethrower, portable, M1A1.

Drew 450 gals of gasoline.

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

Turned in the following Ordnance battlefield recovered equipment: 13 Rifles, US Cal. 30 M1, 2 Rifles, Browning Automatic, Cal. 30.

March 18: 715 gals of gasoline were drawn today.

Two truck loads of Nets, camouflage twine garnished were drawn for divisional units.

March 19: Drew 400 gals of gasoline.

Moved to new bivouac area.

Upon arrival at new bivouac area companies were in great need of gasoline, and, therefore, an additional 1,000 gals were drawn.

March 20: Moved again.

Submitted Chemical Ammunition Report.

March 21: Companies still required more gas than ordinarily due to frequent and far moves. Therefore 2,00 gals were drawn.

Picked up a serviceable 4 wheel German Trailer, and it was remodeled to haul a water point. This was the second we had picked up this month.

March 22: Today we were able to pick up another serviceable 4 wheel German Trailer, and, this was also used to haul a water point. This is the third one we picked up this month.

Drew 1,500 gals of gasoline.

Found 15 serviceable German tires.

March 23: Moved to new area.

Class III items drawn today were: 850 gals of gasoline.

March 24: Moved to a new bivouac area.

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

Discovered location of a German Engineer Dump. It consisted mostly of Class IV and bridging material. However, there was a few Class II supplies. Therefore, 10 hammers, claw type, German, and cable 3/16" were removed from the dump and issued to divisional units.

Drew the following Class III Supplies: 1260 gals of gasoline, 55 gals of Oil SAE #30, 20 gals, of Oil SAE #90, 5 gals Oil SAE #10, 30 lbs of Water Pump Grease, and 38 lbs Grease, Chassis.

March 25: Sent to Arlon, Belgium, for Engineer Class II Supplies. This is the only depot handling Class II items, and it is approximately 150 miles one way. This requires two days to accomplish.

Turned in the following Ordnance battlefield recovered equipment: 27 Rifles, US Cal 30 M1, 1 Carbine, US Cal .30 M1, and Gun, Machine

Cal. 30, M1919A4.

Water point #2 had one of its complete water purification unit badly damaged by fire. Two fire extinguishers were secured from parked vehicles and emptied, but this did not extinguish the flames. Therefore, wet blankets were tried without success. Finally mud was heaped upon the unit until it was completely buried. This put out the fire. In order that Water Point could continue to operate, a water purification unit was taken from our reserve unit.

March 26: Sent to Engineer Class II Depot for water purification unit to replace damaged one. Also, fire extinguishers were drawn in order for each water point to have the available at all times to prevent any re-occurrences of any fire incident as previously described.

Drew 550 gallons of gasoline.

Published Supply Bulletin #16.

XX Corps wished to have all the paddles we had on hand, but we were able to give them 268 German paddles which were located in the German dump.

Moved to new bivouac area.

The following Class III Supplies were drawn today: 1875 gals of gasoline, 55 gals of Oil SAE #30, 5 lbs of Water Pump Grease.

March 27: Transported water point #2 to a new area.

Drew Engineer spare parts and issued same.

1375 gallons of gasoline were drawn today.

14 boats, Assault and 300 paddles were given to the 135 Engineer Bn who were pushing the Infantry across the Rhine River.

Moved water point #1 at midnight to new location.

March 28: Picked up and turned in the following battlefield recovered equipment to the proper supply branches: 1 Gun, Submachine, Cal .45 M3, and 1 Radio Set SCR 511.

Drew 900 gals of gasoline, 20 gals of Oil SAE #90, 15 gals of Oil SAE #30, 60 lbs of Grease #1, 50 gals of Diesel Oil.

March 29: Received message from XX Corps Engineer concerning the return of the Cox Driving Gun (Dynamite Gun). A reply was sent to the effect that the gun was returned to the 981st Engineer Maintenance when it was located at Esch S/Alazette. This gun had been issued for tactical operations against the Siegfried Line, but was never used.

March 30: Moved across Rhine River into a new bivouac area.

875 gals of gasoline.



Picked up 2½ ton Pole Type Trailer and twelve boats, Assault. 14 Assault boats were loaned to the 135 Engineer Bn for use in assault crossing of the Rhine River. Two boats were lost in the operation.

Moved into a new bivouac area.

Set up Water Point #3 for operations but orders were received to have them discontinue its water issue because division was moving to another location.

March 31: Received some Plastic Acetate from G-3: Since this is a very critical item and every unit in the division desires some, it will be distributed equally among divisional units.

Sent to pick up water point #4 which was located some sixty miles away.

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

Drew 900 gals of gasoline, and 45 gals of Diesel Oil.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SUPPLY

### Class I:

#### 1. Quartermaster:

- a. The majority of rations consumed during the month were the "B" type, together with a few operational rations.
- b. Orders were received 30 March from higher headquarters that no more "B" rations would be issued until further notice. Only operational ration will be issued. This is due to: (1) "B" rations being bulky to transport require more vehicle space than any other type. (2) Preparation of "B" rations during constant and frequent moves is rather difficult.

### Class II:

#### 1. Air Force:

- a. Although this battalion had begun operating under the new T/O & E 5-15, 13 March 44 about 15 December 44, the following critical item has not been received to date: 1 Kit, Interpreter, Photographic Type F2.

#### 2. Chemical Warfare:

- a. All Flamethrowers, portable, M1A1, and its component kits were turned in this month. These items became in excess of our T/E allowances by a change in the T/E.
- b. The items which remained on the critical list for March were: 4 Brushes, decontaminating, and 32 Apparatus, decontaminating, 1½ qts.
- c. The following were picked up from the battlefield during the month: 6 Flamethrowers, portable, M1A1, and 17 Mask, Gas, Service.

#### 3. Engineer:

- a. The following is a list of Engineer Critical Shortages as of 31 March for divisional units: 215 Compasses, Lensatic, Luminous Dial w/case, 30 Nets, camouflage, twine garnished w/fabric 22'x22', 1 Repair equipment, set #6 Plywood boat, 2 Reproduction Equipment Gelatin Process #3, 18'x18', Plotting, Steel Arty. MK-I Grad in meters & yds 1/25,000 scale, 19 Scales, plotting Steel Arty MK-I grad in meters & yds 1/25,000 scales, 32", 1 Sign Reproduction Kit #1, 52 Sterescopes, pocket magnifying w/case, 297 Pencils, China Marking, Black 269 Pencils, China Marking Blue, 92 Pencils, China Marking Brown, 33 Pencils, China Marking Green, 353 Pencils, China Marking Red, and 202 Tape, Scotch 3/4" wide x 36 yds.
- b. During the month the following items were picked up from the battlefield: 1 Auger, post hole digger 8' to 14' Extensions, 5 Boats, pneumatic, 5 man, German, 10 Hammers, claw German type, 268 Paddles, boat and float, German type, and 4 Trailers, (German) 4 wheel, 2½ ton capacity. The Auger, post hole was turned in to a higher depot. The hammers were issued to units that requisitioned them. 2 Boats were put in our stock to complete our T/E on this item, and the other three were salvaged. The paddles were given to the Group Engineer to be used for an assault crossing of the Rhine River because there was a shortage of paddles. The German Trailers were remodeled in order to carry our water points. The one ton trailers we were issued weren't large enough to carry all the equipment for the water points. Part of the equipment had to be also loaded on a 2½ ton truck. With the German trailers, all the equipment could be safely carried, and the only additional necessary thing needed was a truck to haul it from place to place.
- c. Among the items removed from the Engineer Critical Shortage List during the month were: 90 Nets, camouflage twine garnished w/fabric, 22'x22', 29 Nets, camouflage twine garnished w/fabric 29' x 29', 30 Nets, camouflage twine

garnished w/fabric 36' x 44', 34 Scales, coordinate sq. grid, in meters 1/20,000 & 1/62,500 and in yds 1/50,000 and 1/25,000, 1 Stereoscope pocket magnifying w/case 50 Compasses, lensatic luminous dial w/case. 17 Frames, Extension, 14' x 29' and 9 Frames, Main 29' x 29'.

d. One Tractor, crawler type, Diesel engine driven DBHP 70 - 90, D7 became unserviceable, and was exchanged for a D6. However, the D6 that we received was not in very good shape, and it became deadlined, and was sent back to the Engineer Maintenance for repairs, or exchange.

4. Medical:

- a. 4 Kits, 1st Aid, 12 unit type were drawn for the water points because they received minor cuts which went unattended for the lack of a kit.
- b. Exchanged a Chest Gas Casualty for the Gas Casualty Set M2.

5. Ordnance:

a. The following equipment was on the critical list in March: 2 Trailers, 1/4 ton, 2 Trucks, 1/4 ton, 2 Trucks, 2 1/2 ton Dump, 1 Pistol, Cal 45, 10 Watches, wrist, 7 jewel, 29 Watches, wrist 15 jewel (For Officers), 9 Binoculars, M13 w/case, and 8 Compasses, M6. Numerous miscellaneous tools of the various tool sets have not been received for the past five months.

b. Battlefield Recovered equipment for this month were: 42 Rifles, US Cal 30 M1, 4 Carbines, US Cal 30 M1, 1 Gun, Machine, Cal. 30 M1919A4, 2 Guns, Submachine, Cal 45 M3, 21 Bayonets w/scabbards, 1 Binoculars, M13, 2 Launchers, Rocket, 2.36", 3 Rifles, Browning Auto, Cal. 30 M1928A4, and 1 Cover, MG, Cal. 50 M2.

6. Quartermaster:

a. Among the critical items for this month are: 1 Kit, barber, complete w/case, 6 cans, corrugated nesting, 24 gal. w/cover, 2 Outfit, cooking 1 burner, 2 Pans, cake, 1 Safe, field keylock, and various sizes of Jacket, HBT, Trousers, HBT, Shoes, Service (especially sizes in the EE class) and drawers, cotton.

b. Orders were received during the month to turn in certain types of winter clothing and equipment. Some of the items are as follows: Showsuits and capes, Shoepacks w/inserts, Socks, artic and ski, Hoods, wool protective, Overcoats, mackinaws, gloves, wool, Cap, wool, knit, Mufflers, Bag, Sleeping, mountain, w/liner, Blankets, wool (excess) Tentage (Used for housing during inclement weather) and Stoves, tent, M41 w/accessories.

c. The following articles were picked up from the battlefield during the month: 3 Shovels, intrenching w/handle and carrier, 2 Pickmattocks, intrenching w/handle and carrier, 1 Cot, Canvas folding, 3 Packboards, w/attachments, 140 Hoods, wool, protective, 3 Bags, sleeping EM, 30 Blankets, wool OD, 5 Carriers, Pack, and 2 Cups, Canteen.

7. Signal:

a. The articles which still remained on the critical list are as follows: 3 Chest, TD 3, 8 straps ST-34, 4 Telephone, TP 3, miscellaneous tubes, photo supplies, and miscellaneous mast sections.

b. Microphone, 9 Panels, AP 50 A, 1 Radio Set SCR 510 were the articles picked up from the battlefield.

Class III:

1. Quartermaster:

a. Our rapid progress across Germany caused us to consume the following for the month: 26,010 gals of gasoline, 645 gals of Diesel Oil, 170 gals Oil SAE #10, 155 gals Oil SAE 30, 50 gals Oil SAE #90, 75 lbs Chassis Grease,



25 lbs General purpose Grease #2, 60 lbs General purpose Grease #1, 24 lbs Wheel Bearing Grease, 36 lbs Water Pump Grease.

Class IV:

1. Engineer:

a. Very little bridge lumber and I beams were drawn this month. I Beams were secured from captured German sources.

Class V:

1. Engineer:

a. About 7,000 lbs of Blocks, demolition, individual M3, C2 was utilized this month. No other demolitions were needed.

2. Ordnance:

a. This month we were able to draw enough flares, M48 and M49 to make up our critical shortages. We did not draw any of these flares for that past two months.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

ENGINEER:

That the Army Engineer Supply points, both Class II and IV be moved further East than its present location. Since our move into Germany, we have only been able to make one run a week to the Class II Depot which is located at Arlon, Belgium. The depot is about 400 miles away at the present time. The trips usually require from 14 to 24 hours, however, since we are moving so rapidly and need the trucks to move our equipment, fewer and fewer trips are being made.

At the present time we are carrying 2,000 lbs of Cratering Explosives, which we believe are not needed. Only a thousand pounds of this explosive has been consumed since our arrival on the Continent.

*Oliver J. Bossen*  
OLIVER J. BOSSEN  
1ST LT. CE  
BATTALION S-4

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

AFTER ACTION REPORT

S-1, March 1945

Table 1

Date	KIA	DOW	WIA	IIA	MIA	Total	RTD
4 March 1945							2
7 March 1945							1
10 March 1945							1
14 March 1945			2				
15 March 1945			2				
23 March 1945							2
28 March 1945							2
							<hr/>
Total			4			4	8

Table 2: Prisoners of War Captured.

Date	Number
14 March 1945	10
15 March 1945	4
17 March 1945	2
18 March 1945	5
21 March 1945	18
22 March 1945	11
23 March 1945	3
24 March 1945	2
25 March 1945	2
30 March 1945	80
	<hr/>
Total	137

Table 3: Reinforcements received (including hospital returns)

Date	Number
4 March 1945	2
7 March 1945	1
10 March 1945	1
13 March 1945	3
23 March 1945	3
28 March 1945	2
	<hr/>
Total	12

Table 4: Decorations awarded from 1 March 1945 through 31 March 1945.

Number	
2	Croir de Guerre (French Medal)
0	Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)

Table 4: Decorations Awarded (cont'd)

0	Distinguished Service Cross
0	Silver Star Medal (Posthumously)
1	Silver Star Medal
0	Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal
0	Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously)
5	Bronze Star Medal
3	Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal
0	Air Medal
0	Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal
0	Soldiers Medal
3	Purple Heart Award
1	Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart Award
0	Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart Award

BATTLEFIELD APPOINTMENTS

Two (2) platoon sergeants were commissioned second lieutenants this month by battlefield appointments. Lt. Frank J. Lembo and Lt. James E. Wiser received their orders of appointment on 8 March 1945. These two officers have been assigned duty as platoon commanders in their parent companies.

SPECIAL SERVICE

During the month of March, engineers were very busy clearing the way for the fast moving Infantry through Germany, however, time was spared occasionally for movies at night and several excellent shows were secured from Special Service.

Many personal items not issued were secured through the post exchange. During the last of March the post exchange ceased to function temporarily as we had advanced some 250 miles from the Exchange Depots. Processing of amateur films continued throughout the month.

Officers and men were sent to Paris on 3 day passes. Passholders now go by train from Luxembourg City. It is difficult to provide transportation to Luxembourg, since all vehicles are needed to move troops in this rapid advancing situation.

One officer and three enlisted men were sent from this battalion to the United States through the rotation plan. Deserving men with most length of service in combat were selected. Two men were given seven (7) day furloughs to the Riviera.

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

The end of March found the Battalion east of the Rhine River.

*Morris Edelman*  
MORRIS EDELMAN  
1st Lt. CE  
Adjutant