

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

AFTER ACTION REPORT
S-3, for May 1945

Period 1-8 May 1945: Area Ergolsbach, Germany, to Vocklabruck, Austria. Battalion CP located at Ergolsbach, Germany, 1 May 1945; Marklkofen, Germany, 2 May 1945; Simbach, Germany, 3-4 May 1945; Vocklabruck, Austria, 5-8 May 1945:

At the end of April the 80th Division was moving rapidly south and southeast from the Regensburg area. On 1 May the Isar River was crossed by Division infantry assault troops through efforts of Division engineers. As troops fanned out from the river area to the south engineers moved right behind them, clearing road blocks of a hastily made type in every case and erected two 24-foot treadway bridges. Movement was kept up in haste to the Inn River, where on 3 May Division troops were crossed by Division engineers in a second assault crossing within three days. Two timber bridges were constructed the same day, one class 40 and a class 10 type. With only scattered resistance hindering the forward push of the 80th Division, all units went steadily ahead. Bridges were de-mined, road blocks were removed, enemy ammunition was captured and destroyed by engineers of the Division, and preparation for continued engineer support of the swift infantry advance maintained. The 6th German Panzer Army was hurt to the extent that on 8 May it surrendered to the 80th Division near Leizen, Austria.

Period 8-31 May 1945: Area of Vocklabruck, Austria. Battalion CP located Vocklabruck, Austria, 8-31 May 1945.

With V-E Day having arrived at 0001 9 May 1945 active fighting was stopped. Some sniper and scattered small groups continued to hold out and harass Divisional personnel until either notified or convinced by force that the war was ended in Europe. For the first ten days after the completion of hostilities engineer work consisted in opening the road net, which consisted of about four hundred miles of usable and necessary highway, in the Division sector. Many knocked out or abandoned enemy vehicles were eliminated as traffic hazards along the route leading from the 6th German Panzer Army retreat from the Redoubt Area via Leizen, Kirchdorf, Vocklabruck and Leizen, Bad Aussee, Gmunden, Vocklabruck, and then from Vocklabruck to Strasswalchen to Mauerkirchen. These roads were improved and maintained further for use as Division MSR's. Railroads in the Division sector over an approximate two hundred miles of trackage was operated first under the direct supervision of Division Engineers, then under the supervision of the 179 Engineer Combat Battalion, supporting the 80th Division. By 25 May the railroad network was under administration of the Division G-4 and operating supervision of an Army Railway Operating Battalion. The railroad was used throughout its operation in May for supply to the Division from the rear, vicinity of Branaue, Austria, to as far forward as Kirchdorf, and evacuation of PW's, sick, and re-patriated persons from forward areas to rear disposal points. From 9 May until 31 May preparations for putting into operation an appropriate Information and Education program were made.

CLASSIFICATION

CANCELLED

-1-

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
M. Smith, Capt. AGO
DOWNGRADE 100-ENG-0.3

CONFIDENTIAL
8 Oct 46

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master

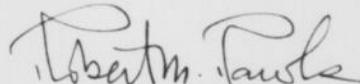
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After Action Report May 1945
S-3,305 Engr C Bn (cont'd)

courses of instruction by men of the Battalion was made. The Gmunden See Lake area was reconnoitered and recreational means such as boats, horses, fishing, and bathing arranged for benefit of the Division. Fishing was put under a controlled status, for feeding of the Division by Austrian fishermen, catches being collected by the Division engineers once weekly and transported to Division QM for distribution to units. A PW camp was begun at Lambach, Austria, for SS personnel, this under engineer supervision of the Division engineer.

Comments, Observations and Recommendations:

During the month of May the 179th Engineer Combat Battalion supported the 80th Division. On 1 May this organization constructed a floating treadway bridge over the Isar River and then moved forward to operate the railroad network in the Vocklabruck area. Cooperation between the 305th and 179th Engineer Battalions was excellent. The railroad management, after beginning under control of the Division Engineer, later in the month came to the joint cooperation of G-4 and the 179th Engineer Battalion. Finally, the 179th was relieved of its connection with the railroads and a special railway operating battalion from Army took over, this Army unit working directly under Division G-4 in the place of the 179th Engineer Battalion. Roads assigned by Corps to the 179th in the 80th Division sector for maintenance were continuously patrolled and defects noted corrected with means at hand.



ROBERT M. RAWLS
Major, CE
Executive Officer.

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

AFTER ACTION REPORT
S-2, Month of May 1945

May 1 - 3:

The division continued the pursuit of the retreating German forces moving to the Southeast from the area of Ergoldsbach to the Inn River and the Austrian border. Crossings were made at Simbach, Germany and upstream and downstream from Simbach.

Extensive air reconnaissance was made of the roads and bridges in the division zone to the Inn River, ahead of the advancing troops. Ground reconnaissance patrols moving with the advance elements covered the road net.

A detailed study of the bypasses around blown bridges on the Vils River and Rott River was reproduced for distribution.

The detailed river study (scale of 1/25,000) of the Inn River, within the Corps zone, was completed, reproduced, and distributed. The study was compiled from Photo Interpretation (PI Team Number 69); terrain study, and assembled map data. It presented information on river widths, road net, bridges, crossing sites, dikes, and dams, wooded and swamp areas.

Photo coverage was made of the Isar River crossing sites; the assault and motor boat crossings in the vicinity of Dingofling; the ferry site downstream from Dingofling; and at the floating treadway bridge site at Dingofling.

May 4 - 8:

This period was the final period of the war. We moved from Simbach, Germany across the Inn River into Austria at Braunau. VE Day found us at Vocklabruck, Austria.

The day the Inn River was crossed by vehicles, extensive aerial reconnaissance was made of the roads and rail net in the zone of advance to Vocklabruck. Ground reconnaissance preceded with the foremost elements of the division.

Aggressive and continuous air and ground reconnaissance of the road and rail net was continued in the division zone throughout this period. As a result of rail reconnaissances, equipment was secured and a train started in operation from Mauerkirchen to Vocklabruck Austria, on 5 May 1945.

A map of two sheets was reproduced for Task Force Smythe, to supplement the limited supply of 1/100,000 scale maps of the area assigned them for operations. It emphasized the road net, streams, towns, and wooded and mountainous areas.

Photo coverage was made of the Inn River crossing sites in the vicinity of Simbach; the ferry site upstream; the motor boat site at Simbach; the foot crossing over the rail bridge wreckage at Simbach; the floating treadway bridge at Simbach.

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

May 9 -31:

From VE Day to the close of this period the division continued to occupy the area Vocklabruck-Lambach generally South and East to the Enns Rivers.

Detailed road, bridge, and railroad reconnaissance was made of this entire division zone. Roads were classified and bridges on the MSR's were posted for capacity. A detailed study of the railroad system in our area (information largely compiled by our supporting engineers) was prepared, reproduced, and distributed.

A partial survey was made of the recreational facilities vicinity of Traun Oder Gmundner See.

A reconnaissance was made of the MSR's with emphasis on safety, and "Hill", "Curve", "Danger", and "Slow" signs were posted.

Extensive town reconnaissance was made with emphasis on engineer materiel.

Photo coverage was made of the recreational area Traun Oder Gmundner See; the Ebensee political concentration camp; and the first train operations in the evacuation of German Prisoners of War.

Richard H. Foerster
RICHARD H. FOERSTER
Captain, CE
Battalion S-2.

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

HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF SUPPLY, MAY 1945

1 May: The following Class III items were drawn: 1,080 gallons of gasoline, 20 gallons of oil SAE 30, and 5 gallons of oil SAE 50.

Sent one (1) generator, 3Kw and one (1) Welder, electric, Holbart Model to Engineer Maintenance for repairs.

Drew spare parts for heavy equipment from Maintenance Company.

1,040 10-1 and 320 C rations were drawn today. This was a two day issue because one day had not been drawn due to a long move made by the battalion.

Published Supply Bulletin Number 21.

2 May: Class I supplies drawn were: 670 10-1 rations. Additional 360 K rations drawn to bring reserves in company up to three (3) day reserve. Supplemental rations, such as, 200 pounds meat, and 400 pounds of bread were also drawn.

3 May: Moved to new bivouac area.

160 C rations and 530 10-1 rations were drawn today together with such supplementals as coffee and bread.

1200 feet of rope, 3/4" and 11 assault boats with paddles was given to A and B Companies to be used for river operations.

No gasoline was available at Class III. Troop movements had been so fast and frequent that this class of supply became critical. Bad flying weather also prevented this item from being flown in.

4 May: Published Supply Bulletin Number 22.

The following rations were drawn today: 690 10-1 and such supplementals as bread and coffee.

Was only able to draw 100 gallons of gasoline from Class III dump. The strict rationing of gasoline had begun.

"C" Company's full flat bed 16-ton trailer broke down some where enroute to their new bivouac area. It could not be moved by our Motor Pool because our 4-ton wrecker could not handle it. Therefore, the Engineer Maintenance was contacted and informed of its location. They agreed to get it, and in return gave us a salvage slip to secure another from the Engineer Depot Number 39 at Nurnberg, Germany, some 260 miles away.

Diesel oil was also on the critical list of Class III supplies. Therefore, sent some of the men in search of German diesel oil we had spotted on the road during a recent move. Discovered eight drums, 200 litres capacity, and added to our stock.

G-4 gave us an additional 500 gallons of gasoline. This was principally needed for our line companies because they were doing a lot of work.

5 May: Moved to new bivouac area, and, therefore was unable to draw any rations.

Submitted Critical shortage list on Engineer equipment and Weekly Battlefield Report to G-4.

After Action Report May 1945
S-4, 305th Engr C Bn (cont'd)

5 May (cont'd): Discovered whereabouts of German gasoline on flat cars. Was able to obtain 1,000 gallons before G-4 stopped us and said further issues would be allocated to units.

Sent back 40 miles to close Water Point §3 and move it to another location.

6 May: "B" Company had been selected as Task Force Engineers. We then had to give them the entire 1,000 gallons of German gasoline we drew the day before.

Drew 680 10-1 rations.

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

Was able to secure 1,980 gallons of German gasoline which was in 55 gallon containers. Therefore, we spent the entire day removing the contents from the containers and putting it into 5 gallon gasoline cans.

The new 16-ton flat bed trailer we had drawn from the Engineer depot §39 had broken down at Landau, Germany. Sent message to Engineer Maintenance as to location and reason for breakdown. Engineer Maintenance replied that they would pick it up, repair it and call us when it is completed.

7 May: The following Class I supplies were drawn: 1220 10-1's, 160 "C" in addition to supplementals, such as bread, coffee and meat.

8 May: Received message from G-4 that 500 gallons of German gasoline was allocated to us, but when we arrived at the railhead, it was discovered that the drums contained diesel oil instead. The only items we were able to draw were American products like grease and oil.

Drew some Engineer Class II supplies from Engineer Depot §39.

Received from Engineer Maintenance Repair Shop, 2 generators 3Kw and one welder.

Received another message from G-4 stating that 200 gallons of American gasoline was allocated to us.

9 May: Published Supply Bulletin Number 23.

Large recreational program being planned for the battalion now that the war is over with in Europe. Secured three outboard motors from a neighboring Engineer Unit. Gave them our assault boats to "A" company who was going to use them on the lake the Division had obtained for recreational purposes.

Drew 2000 gallons of gasoline.

540 10 in 1 rations and 160 "C" were drawn today.

Plans were submitted to S-3 concerning the Inspection and Inventory of Property in the battalion. The remaining days of the month were set aside for this inspection and inventory in order that a true picture of the condition of the property in the battalion could be presented.

10 May: The following Class III supplies were drawn: 750 gallons of gasoline.

Drew 700 10 in 1 rations.

11 May: Received message from G-4 to pick up 1000 gallons of

After Action Report May 1945
S-4, 305th Engr C L (cont'd)

11 May (cont'd): gasoline from Class III dump.

Sent blank Inventory and Inspection Form to all companies for the forthcoming inspections and inventory of property which was to commence May 12. This also included Individual Clothing and Equipment. All these blank forms were supplied in order to make the inspection and inventory simpler and quickly to complete.

Since the supply office owed plenty of gasoline to the companies, a search for German gasoline began, and from various sources we were able to discover some. 1,500 gallons were drawn and issued to companies in order that they may not want.

Drew 690 10 in 1 rations and an additional 100 K's for C Company.

12 May: Turned in the following excess Engineer equipment: 6 floats, pneumatic, 6-ton, 3 boats, reconnaissance, German, 6 O paddles and 1 German water pump.

The following Class I supplies were drawn: 690 10-1 rations.

Complied with instructions received from Division and turned in about 400 excess blankets.

Published Supply Bulletin Number 24.

13 May: Drew 660 10-1 rations together with supplementals such as bread, coffee and meat.

14 May: Picked up the following battlefield recovered equipment and turned same to respective branches of supply: 220 cans, gas 5 gallon capacity, 2 guns, submachine cal.45 M3, 1 rifle, browning automatic, cal.30 and 1 BC-6 for radio SCR 511.

Received message from G-4 concerning Nets, camouflage. Army wants all nets, camouflage picked up from divisional units and turned into Engineer depot 339. Had message sent to all divisional units to turn in such nets prior to 1200, 19 May 1945.

Medical Officer, 315 FA called for assistance on purifying water. He also requested calcium hypochlorite. This was to be used by the refugees in a nearby camp where dysentery existed due to drinking polluted water.

15 May: Published Supply Bulletin Number 25.

Gathered all ammunition and demolitions in excess of basic loads from all companies. This was all turned in to Ordnance Dump Number 59, and consisted of 18 tons of excess supplies.

Drew 690 type "B" rations.

Turned in excess detectors, mine, SCR 625, to Signal, and 250 empty 5 gallon gas cans to Class III dump.

16 May: Drew 635 "B" rations.

Received message from G-4 that 40 gallons of White paint was needed by 318th Infantry to paint a white PW on all prisoners of war which they were guarding. Didn't have enough in our own stock to give them, and, therefore, had to go on a reconnaissance in search of some. Discovered a carload of white paint in Ried, Austria, and was able to secure enough for the 318th's needs.

After Action Report May 1945
S-4, 305th Engr C Bn (cont'd)

16 May (cont'd): Since the recreational program is in full swing, more equipment was needed especially boats. Some German storm boats and motors were spotted in Ried, Austria, and these were obtained. The motors were tuned up by the Motor Pool mechanics and taken to the lake.

G-4 called a meeting of the special staff officers. Discussion of inspection and inventory of property was held. Wanted all units to submit shortages prior to 30 May. All special staff officers had to consolidate the shortages for their respective branch of supply. Also, forms were supplied to all divisional units.

17 May: Drew 620 "B" rations.

Class III supplies draw today were 30 gallons of oil SAE 30, and 30 pounds of General purpose grease.

18 May: Turned in excess and salvageable clothing and equipment to Quartermaster.

Purchased plywood for making blackboards to be used in the I & E program. Drew 620 "B" rations.

19 May: Sent nine (9) trucks to pick up German Storm Boats and motors for recreational purposes by the division.

Drew 620 "B" rations.

G-4 called and stated that Engineer Critical Shortage List and Weekly Battlefield Recovery Reports were no longer required.

20 May: Engineer companies began to operate railroads from division CP to lake and other divisional unit sectors.

Submitted report on payroll of foreign employees to General Purchasing Agent.

21 May: Company secured horses for further recreation. Had to draw enough forage for a week, through the Military Government.

Drew 620 10 in 1 rations.

Began to load available truck with nets, camouflage. Was able to obtain some more trucks from each line company. 12 trucks and 1 German trailer were loaded to capacity with nets, camouflage, which were to be turned into Engineer Depot \$39. Also recalled sniperscopes from organizations that had them, because Army had requested that they be turned in.

Drew 2000 gallons of gas, 80 gallons of Oil SAE 30, and 10 gallons of Oil SAE 90.

22 May: The following Class III supplies were drawn: 1000 gallons of gasoline. Received message from G-4 that Engineer Critical Shortage list will have to begin to be submitted again. The initial one to be submitted by 1800 today, and every Saturday hereafter. Submitted report on time.

Drew 690 "A" rations.

23 May: Returned American outboard motors to Engineer Unit they were borrowed from.

Drew 1000 gallons of gasoline, 60 gallons of Oil SAE 30 and 25 pounds of General Purpose Grease.

After Action Report May 1945
S-4, 305th Engr C Bn (cont'd)

23 May (cont'd): The following Class I supplies were drawn: 620 A rations, plus enough supplementals to bring up the battalion's reserve rations.

24 May: Drew 690 10-1 rations together with bread, coffee, and meat.

850 gallons of gasoline, 50 gallons of oil SAE 30, and 10 gallons of 90 oil were drawn.

Had difficulty in securing paint, olive drab, lusterless from Ordnance. Thus far they had only issued 15 gallons. Therefore, requisitions were given to Engineer Depot \$39 and based upon engineer equipment. In this manner we were able to obtain 100 gallons.

Submitted ammunition report to Ordnance.

25 May: Consolidated all shortages on the various class of supply submitted by the companies. Showdown shortages lists submitted to appropriate special staff officers.

Drew 690 10 in 1 rations for tomorrow's consumption.

26 May: Submitted Engineer Critical Shortage List to G-4. 690 10 in 1 rations were drawn today.

27 May: The following rations were drawn: 600 "A" rations. Consolidating Engineer shortages for the division.

28 May: Sent truck to Gotha, Germany for Map lithographic paper to be used in printing maps, and publications for the division. 70,000 sheets of 80 x 100 cm were purchased.

Sent to Ried, Austria for nails to be used in the construction of a PW camp being built by our line companies.

Drew 2000 gallons of gasoline and 690 "B" rations.

29 May: Had to draw 150 gallons of extra gasoline and enough diesel and took supplies to location of PW site for line company use. Drew 625 "A" rations.

30 May: Purchased wire, staples, and nails to be used for PWE. Sent for class II engineer supplies at Depot \$39. Drew 620 10 in 1 rations and supplementals such as bread and coffee.

31 May: Drew 800 gallons of gasoline, and 30 gallons of Oil SAE 30. The class I supplies drawn today were 690 "B" rations.

Drew some Engineer Class II supplies from Army. Was informed that hereafter until further notice requisitions from T/E shortages of Engineer equipment which seriously handicap any organization can be submitted for approval to Army Engineer. This is due to the redeployment of units to other theaters.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SUPPLY FOR MAY 1945

CLASS I:

The following rations were consumed for this month: 8,000 "A" in 1, 800 "C", 460 "K", 4000 "A", and supplementals such as 4500 pounds of bread, 500 pounds coffee, and 400 pounds meat. The majority of rations drawn were to complete our reserves, which had become depleted due to rapid and frequent moves.

CLASS II:

a. AIR FORCE: The shortages of T/E equipment in this branch of supply is 1 Kit, interpreter, photographic type F2.

b. CHEMICAL WARFARE: The following shortages of Chemical equipment was discovered upon completion on a showdown inspection that was directed by Army: Alarm, Gas M1 1; 32 apparatus, decontaminating, 1 1/2 qt M2; 6 curtains, gas proof; 32 mask, gas, service lightweight M3-10A1-6; 142 tube ointment protective; 436 tube, BAL eye protection; 1412 eyeshields; 4 kit chemical agent detector; 2 kits, repair, gas mask, company; 100 respirators, dust, M2-

c. ENGINEER: The following shortages exist in the division after the showdown inspection was made: These items are only the principle ones. The complete shortages are too numerous to enumerate here. 2 Altimeter, surveying 6000 ft, 10 ft divisions; 3 boats, assault, M2; 1 boat, recon; 5 box, sign, interior illuminated electric 4x15 message; 28 board, drawing MG w/case; 492 compasses, lensatic luminous dial w/case; 1309 Compass, wrist liquid filled w/strap; 4 glass magnifying self illuminated 2" diameter, w/blinker device vehicle 6 volt; 495 marker, luminous radio active Type I; 350 markers, luminous radio active type II; 8 polarimeters, British M1; 6 Pliers, stapling heavy grip type; 8 protractors, fan range deflection graduated in mils and yds, 1/25,000, 26,000 yds scale; 11 Protractor, fan range deflection grad in mils and yds, 1/50,000, 35,000 range scale; repair, equipment Set \$6 plywood boat; 1 reproduction equipment Set \$3 18x18; 1 sign reproduction equipment set \$1; 6 sketching equipment Set \$1; 75 stereoscope magnifying pocket w/cases.

Immediately upon the end of the War, all Engineer class II supplies formerly authorized by Army had to be considered excess. Notification to turn in these excesses would be made by Army.

Now that the redeployment of units had begun, Army Engineer is not issuing Engineer Class II supplies or equipment unless lack of supplies and equipment handicap the functioning of the units.

d. MEDICAL: Upon completion of the showdown inspection of Medical property the following items were found to be short: These had since been requisitioned. 1 case, blanket set small; 1 case, tent pin, complete; 1 Chest MD \$1, complete, 8 kits, 1st aid Motor vehicle 12 unit; and various miscellaneous components of different medical sets.

e. ORDNANCE: The Ordnance showdown inspection showed the following shortages: 1 binocular M13; 4 Clinometers, MG Cal.30 M1917; 307 bayonets, M1; 8 compasses, M6; 34 Launchers, Grenade M7; 8 Launchers, Grenade, M8; 1 Launcher, Rocket 2.36" AT M1A1; 1 Mount, Tripod Cal.50 M3; 83 rifles, US Cal.30 M1; 307 scabbards, M7; 1 Watch pocket 15 or more jewels; 50 axe, SB handled 4 pounds; 2 Watches, wrist, 15 or more

Highlights of Supply, May 1945
S-4, 305th Engr C Bn (cont'd)

jewel; 6 watch, wrist, 7 or more jewel; 2 chains, tow 16; x 5/8"; 1 Gun, lubr, high pressure manually operated 25 pounds capacity; 43 Mattocks, pick w/handle; 23 rope, tow 20'; 51 shovel, handled RP \$2.

f. Class II shortages (QUARTERMASTER) after the showdown inspection were as follows: 68 attachment packboard, plywood, cargo; 42 axe, intrenching M1910 w/handle; 2 Bags, canvas water sterilizing complete; 73 bags, carrying ammunition; 20 bags, carrying rocket M6; 33 buckets, canvas, water 18 qts; 9 buckets, general purpose hvy wt w/o lip 14 qts; 9 burner, oil stove; 1 can, corrugated nesting galvanized w/cover 10 gallon; 9 cans, water 5 gallon; 43 carriers, axe, intrenching; 74 carriers, pickmattock intrenching M1910; 241 carrier, shovel intrenching M1943; 19 carriers, Wire cutter M1938; 14 cases, canvas dispatch; 23 clippers, hair; 1 container hot food w/inserts; 19 cutters, wire M1938; 1 Flag, Geneva convention; 2 flags, guidon bunting; 1 foot measuring outfit men M1943; goggles M1944 179; 1 Kit, Barber, w/case; 10 kits, sewing; 2 lanterns, gasoline 2 mantle; 58 mask, fan launcher rocket; 11 outfit, cooking 1 burner; 34 packboard, plywood; 70 pickmattock intrenching M1910 w/hand; 2 screens, latrine w/pins and poles; 216 shovels intrenching M1910 w/handles; 1 stencil outfit; 9 stoves, tent, M1941; 68 straps quick release packboard; 2 trumpets G w/slide to F scale; 45 tubes flexible nozzle; 24 whistle, thunderer; 514 boots, rubber hip or knee; 16 gaunlets, barbed wire; 3 waders-over the shoe.

Now that war is over all individual clothing and equipment is controlled to the extent that only Class B items will be issued.

g. SIGNAL: 1 Chest unit TD 3; 48 flashlights; 2 headsets, HS-301 9 lanterns, electric portable hand; 1 microphones T-30; 6 panel sets AP-50-A; 1 reel cart RL 35; 4 reels, RL-39; 8 straps, ST 34; 6 straps ST 35; 4 telephone TD3; and 2 miles wire W-130 on DR 8 were found to be short in signal property during the showdown inspection.

CLASS III:

QUARTERMASTER: The following class III supplies were drawn for the month: 8,650 gallons of gasoline, 3,680 additional gallons of German gasoline; 250 gallons of Oil SAE 30; 55 pounds grease general purpose, 20 gallons of oil SAE 90; 300 gallons of Diesel and this was German diesel.

CLASS IV:

ENGINEER: All class IV items became controlled items immediately after the close of the War in Europe. All requisitions for such items have to be approved by Army Engineers before any can be obtained. This brings in the problem of Purchasing such items from civilians. A number of contracts had to be formed in order to secure class IV materials in order that our companies could build PW enclosures they were instructed to build. The reconnaissance section works daily on this class, seeking supplies.

CLASS V:

ENGINEER: Five (5) tons of demolitions were turned in this month. Some were in excess of basic loads which the companies had carried


Highlights of Suppl May 1945
S-4, 305th Engr C Bn, (cont'd)

CLASS V: ENGINEER (cont'd) - during their combat days. Other demolitions consisted of items which were no longer needed by our unit such as Cratering Explosives, and Firing Devices, Dely.

ORDNANCE: Two (2) tons of excess ammunitions were turned in. This had been accumulated by our line companies during the European campaign, and no longer needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

All recommendations for changes in T/E for the Combat Engineer unit had been submitted to S-3 for approval. These proposed changes are being sent to higher headquarters and eventually to Washington to have them approved.


OLIVER J. BUSSEN
1st Lt. CE
Bn. S-4

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

AFTER ACTION REPORT
S-1, May 1945

Table I.

<u>Date</u>	KIA	DOW	WIA	IIA	MIA	Total	RTD
1 May 1945			1			1	
3 May 1945							1
6 May 1945			1			1	4
11 May 1945							11
13 May 1945							1
14 May 1945							1
15 May 1945							6
18 May 1945							4
19 May 1945							5
23 May 1945							6
25 May 1945							1
27 May 1945							2
29 May 1945							1

Table II. Prisoners of War Captured.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>
1 May 1945	8

Table III. Reinforcements Received (Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>
1 May 1945	1
3 May 1945	1
6 May 1945	16
11 May 1945	2
12 May 1945	1
13 May 1945	1
14 May 1945	1
15 May 1945	6
19 May 1945	5
23 May 1945	6
25 May 1945	1
27 May 1945	2
29 May 1945	1

Table IV. Decorations awarded from 1 May 1945 through 31 May 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 the Silver Star Medal
0	Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously)
5	Bronze Star Medals
0	Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star

After Action Report, S-1
Hq 305 Engr C Bn, May 1945 (cont'd)

Table IV. Decorations (cont'd)

<u>Number</u>	
0	Air Medal
0	Purple Heart Award
0	Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart Award

BATTLEFIELD APPOINTMENTS

Second Lieutenant Edward F. Hoffman, 02015814, received his commission this month. Date of rank from 10 May 1945. Lt. Hoffman prior to his commission was platoon leader in Company B, and has proven qualities of leadership and engineer efficiency in that position. Lt. Hoffman was assigned duty as Battalion Reconnaissance Officer.

SPECIAL SERVICE

The battalion was located in and near Vocklabruck, Austria at the cessation of hostilities. Here a program for rest and recreation for the personnel of the Battalion was established.

Canoes and storm boats with outboard motors were secured and kept at Gmunden Lake. Twelve surf boards were made for aqua-planing.

Four stables were established with an average of 10 horses per stable.

Four softball diamonds were constructed. A soft ball league was established between companies.

Tennis courts were secured by one company.

One basket ball court has been made available to the personnel of this battalion.

Two volley ball courts have been constructed.

PX supplies were drawn every three days through the Division Special Service Office. Larger quantities and more varieties of merchandise was available to the men than ever before.


Movies were shown to the companies nightly.

A clubmobile was secured on 20 May and was sent to the companies with coffee, doughnuts, music, and American girls.

Towards the last of May the Division began sponsoring track and field meets, and as the month ends, men of the Battalion are preparing to participate.

Mountain climbing and fishing was available to all men at the Division Recreation Center.

A rifle and pistol range was constructed and used by the members of the battalion.


MORRIS EDELMAN
1st Lt. CE
Adjutant.