

365 Oct

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HEADQUARTERS 305TH INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 80, U S ARMY

Summary of Daily Operations, October 1944

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

Dates

Operations

Location

1-7 Oct

Dug in emplacements, CP's, installations;
Cleared enemy mines, laid and cleared friendly mines;
Repaired, built and cleared rds;
Buried telephone wires.

Br hd MOSELLE R
E of DIEULOUARD

8-17 Oct

Removed numerous enemy mines; cleared enemy abatis, installed abatis; destroyed enemy explosives and mortar shells;
Built and repaired rds, installed culverts, maintained bypass, cleared rds of debris and wrecked vehicles;
Dug in CP's, OP's, cut logs for dugout covers;
Buried dead cattle; Rcn of SEILLE R.

Same

18-31 Oct

Continued rcn SEILLE R crossings;
Rd construction & maint, built plank rds;
Hauled and spread gravel, scraped mud off rds; repaired br;
Buried cattle;
Cleared enemy mines, destroyed enemy mine dump; laid trip flares;
Cut logs for dugout covers, drained gun emplacements & dugouts; Dug in CP's.
Cleared rubble and debris;
Built and maintained showers;
Conducted tng for own and other units in mine detection, assault of fortified pos, bazooka, Snake, demolitions; constructed bazooka targets;
Care and maintenance of wps and equipment.

Between SEILLE
and MOSELLE R's
E of DIEULOUARD

380-ENG-0.3

Section II

Comments, Observations and Recommendations-

1. The Bn assisted the Division in enlargements and improvement of br hd E of MOSELLE R. Much work was performed in preparation of def pos. Movement of these positions necessitated clearing many friendly minefields which had been laid. New mines were laid continuously. Almost all mines had however been cleared by end of the month.

2. Work sectors were established, each co working generally in the area of one CT. Supporting engrg performed all work beyond a boundary line which had been agreed upon. Due to frequent changes in pos occupied by the CT's, work sectors were shifted around a lot.

3. Cos are now working in direct sup of respective CT's, no

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Hq 305th Engr C Bn
Summary of Opns, Oct 1944 (Cont'd)

Section II (Continued)

attachments were in effect. This worked out quite well, the entire co being under unified control, and nearly all missions requested of us were performed. It is contemplated however on long moves, such as we had in August, to have one plat of each co go with the CT (in direct sup), with the balance of the co following. Under the above system we were able - and frequently did - attach parts of one co to another co which had more work to do.

4. Continued removing many enemy mines, the total score as of 31 Oct 1944 being-

364	Teller mines
2271	Riegel mines
559	"S" mines
365	Other AP mines (Schü, Stook, improvised)
3,559	Total

For the first time, friendly mines were laid extensively. These were cleared later on. Difficulty was experienced when Inf units shifted sectors, and new units were not properly oriented on the ground as to the location of a friendly field. Again the need for accurate and detailed reports was evident.

5. Roads were a large and constant problem. It rained almost daily. Existing rds were full of mud and slippery, new rds had to be constantly maintained. Plank rds were built to keep up Inf MSR's.


6. Rcn activity slackened towards end of the month, as almost the entire sector was covered. All necessary information was obtained on the SEILLE R, to our front. Engrs went with Inf patrols at night to obtain technical information.

7. Water points functioned smoothly except for two details. We had to call upon sup engrs for more water pts, due mainly to the numerous units attached to and sup the div in our sector. A flood of the MOSELLE R temporarily caused the water to be muddy, but this condition soon bettered itself.

8. With the assistance of H&S Co much time was spent in experimentation. A sawmill was operated with a captured generator. Prefabricated culverts were built of local materials. Rd scrapers were built and effectively used. Attachments to medium tks were built for use with the Snake.

9. Extensive tng was conducted the second half of the month for our own troops as well as for units within the division.

10. Though the situation was static to a certain extent, our troops were busy every day of the month. In spite of a small percentage of casualties our efficiency remained excellent.


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

INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS, USE OF SECTION, ETC.

Month of October

The Chief of Staff was provided with a complete terrain study of the area of future operations. The intelligence section spent long hours in preparation of this study. Reconnaissance went on as usual and provided much needed knowledge on the river and terrain. The daily reports began to include panoramic sketches and detailed bridge drawings drawn by members of this section. Photography also played its part in obtaining useful information and many excellent "shots" were obtained by our photographer. The section kept the Division units informed as to road conditions, roads swept for mines, and possible crossing sites of the Seille River by publishing overlays periodically.

Frank Feleppa
FRANK FELEPPA
1st Lt., CE
S-2

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

8 November 1944

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, S/2 Section
October, 1944

1. During present comparatively static period W of Seille River, information about terrain, obstacles, mines, river, etc. was gathered from map studies, captured documents, MII, PW, PI, and civilians. Data just beyond enemy front lines could not be verified by either personal reconnaissance or close inspection. Special foot patrols were organized but could not penetrate deep into enemy lines.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recommend Air force reconnaissance missions be made more accessible to Division Engineer Intelligence Section. The type planes available at Division Artillery are not suited for missions over enemy territory.

NOTE: Rivers - Previously the Moselle, now the Seille have been effective for the enemy in slowing down our advance.

Frank Feleppa
FRANK FELEPPA
1st Lt., CE
S-2

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HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF SUPPLY

SUMMARY

October, 1944:

This month was spent in securing supplies which were critical, and greatly needed in order that our unit could function properly.

Two more radios SCR 284 were received, thereby, still further improving the communications within the unit. Tubes and mast sections were very critical, but were obtained.

Some of the expendable supplies for the Photo Equipment were critical, but were also obtained in order that the photographer could continue his work.

We were able to secure some signal equipment which was critically needed.

An Engineer Magazine contained an article pertaining to portable and easily constructed culverts. These were constructed and are now ready for use, at the next river crossing.

This Supply Section secured all the floats, pneumatic, 6 ton which we had lost at a river crossing. Also, snakes, demolition, M2 and charges shaped, were obtained for training purposes.

Most of the month was spent in a collection campaign. All equipment, servicable or unservicable, German or American, was picked up and turned into supply branches concerned.

This Supply Section began to publish a Supply Information Sheet in order that companies could keep abreast of the supply data being handed down by higher headquarters.

Edward F. Pacheco
EDWARD F. PACHECO
Captain, CE
S-4