

HEADQUARTERS  
208TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
APO 230

JOURNAL

27 September 1944

At 0600 hours, Lt. Colonel Scott received orders from Colonel Moss, Commanding Officer, 1105th Engineer Combat Group, to report to Colonel Miller XIX Corps Engineer for instructions relative to a special task force assignment. The battalion was relieved of all duties under the 1105th Engineer Combat Group. Lt. Colonel Scott reported to Colonel Miller in Maastricht at approximately 0930 hours and was informed that the battalion was attached to the 1115th Engineer Combat Group. The battalion was assigned tentatively by Colonel Shuler, Commanding Officer, 1115th Engineer Combat Group, in support of the 7th Armored Division on a special task force mission to secure the right flank of the 2nd British Army and establish a bridge head at Roermond. Lt. Colonel Scott informed Colonel Miller and Colonel Shuler that he could have his unit moved to vicinity of Maastricht before 1900 hours. Bivouac area was picked and guides posted by the 1115th Engineer Combat Group. Lt. Colonel Scott reported back to his unit at approximately 1230 hours and reported to Colonel Moss the instructions he had received. Colonel Moss would not release the battalion until he had confirmed orders from First Army Headquarters. In the meantime the battalion was ready to move at 1500 hours. Orders releasing the battalion were received from Commanding Officer, 1105th Engineer Combat Group at 1750 hours. At 1415 hours, Lt. Cox, the Adjutant, Lt. Fraley, the Reconnaissance Officer, with a billeting party left Battalion Headquarters with instructions to report to Captain Durham, Liaison Officer, 1115th Engineer Combat Group at XIX Corps Headquarters. Upon arrival at Corps Headquarters, Lt. Cox reported to the 1115th Engineer Combat Group Executive Officer, Lt. Colonel Sauernman, giving him this message from the Battalion Commanding Officer, "That battalion would move at 1500 hours if released and would be at Junction N43 and N1 at 1700 hours". Captain Durham proceeded to Junction N43 and N1 to await arrival of battalion. Lt. Cox and the billeting party proceeded to bivouac area to lay out company areas. Areas were laid out, Lt. Cox posted guides along the route and arrived at Junction N43 and N1 at approximately 2030 hours at which time battalion had still not arrived. XIX Headquarters received instructions from First Army Headquarters that battalion had not been released by 1105th Engineer Combat Group and would not move until the next morning. Guides were picked up and rations for 30 men were furnished by XIX Corps and the billeting party proceeded to bivouac area for the night. At about 2200 hours, Lt. Colonel Scott reported to XIX Corps Headquarters that battalion was coming behind and would wait at Junction for routing to bivouac area. The battalion had not received instructions to wait until the next morning to move. It was raining considerably and the battalion remained on the road the remainder of the night and planned to move to the bivouac area at day-break. Medical Detachment drew Medical supplies through S - 4.

28 September 1944

Arrived in bivouac area in vicinity of Mechelen at 0700 hours. Lt. Colonel Sauernman, 1115th Engineer Combat Group Executive Officer, conferred with Lt. Colonel Scott in the area at 0900 hours. Lt. Colonel Scott accompanied Lt. Colonel Sauernman to the 82nd Engineer Combat Battalion and the 33rd Armored Engineer Combat Battalion to discuss plans. Lt. Colonel Scott was informed that this battalion would be in reserve for the 7th Armored Division. Lt. Colonel Scott and Captain Weinberger, Liaison Officer, reported to the XIX Corps Headquarters for instructions and were informed that due to the fact that the battalion was expected a day late, another battalion was assigned to the mission with the 7th Armored Division. Subsequently the

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battalion was assigned the mission to support a task force composed of a Belgium Brigade under the command of Colonel Perone and supported by a Tank Destroyer Group under the command of Colonel Elms with attachment of one light and one medium tank company. The 990th Engineer Treadway Bridge Company, and the 512th Engineer Bailey Bridge Company less one Bailey Bridge Platoon was attached to this battalion. Lt. Colonel Scott and Major Michael accompanied Colonel Shuler to the 82nd Engineer Combat Battalion to discuss plans and was informed to see Colonel Elms at Kinroy. Discussed the mission of the task force with Colonel Elms at Kinroy, the mission was to push north on the western side of the Meuse River, crossing the Wasson Canal and meeting the 7th Armored Division north and west of Roermond.

Major Braden, 1115th Engineer Combat Group Surgeon, visited the battalion to give instructions to the battalion Surgeon.

Battalion celebrated its second anniversary of activation.

29 September 1944

The Battalion S-4 conferred with 1115th Engineer Combat Group S-4. Battalion received QM supplies Class I & IV. Battalion received QM Supplies Class III for 1115th Group and distributed them according to group Instructions. Requisition was prepared for QM Class II Clothing short on previous salvage. Ordnance Class V supplies received and distributed. Engineer Class IV supplies received and distributed. Request for shoe repair sent to companies. Companies were ordered to send requisition for winter clothing to Battalion S-4. Lt. Cox and Master Sergeant Walters conferred with 1115th Engineer Combat Group Adjutant.

Fifteen men were treated by the Dentist. Eight false teeth plates were sent in for repair. 1115th Group Dentist instructed the Battalion Dentist on information for reports etc. Battalion Ambulance was sent to Hospital at Maastricht with civilians. A Belgium boy was treated at the Battalion Aid Station. He was hit by a 4 ton driver or H&S Company.

At 0800 hours, the Commanding Officer and S-4 went to Task Force Headquarters at Kinroy with Captain Hill, Liaison Officer. The Liaison Officer remained there. The Reconnaissance Officer and party with security of one squad reported to Task Force Headquarters and remained. The Third Platoon of Company "C" trained for two hours on construction of foot bridge. The Commanding Officer had a meeting of all officers in the battalion to explain the battalion's mission. The adjutant and Personnel Officer went to Army Headquarters to make arrangements for pay of the troops and to pick up hospital returnees. The commanding Officer conferred again with Colonel Elms at Kinroy at 1830 hours and with Colonel Miller at XIX Corps Headquarters at 2100 hours to report the situation and plans.

30 September 1944.

The Battalion S-4 went to Army for approval on a requisition for winter clothing, salvage and QM supplies that have been short for one month. Shoes were sent to QM for repair. Empty gas cans were returned for credit. Unit received Class "C" Rations. Made a requisition for Engineer and Signal supplies. One water point was established for Battalion's use. Corps ordered one water point established which was complied with.

Lt. Colonel Scott visited Task Force Headquarters at 0900 hours and discussed the proposed plan of attack. Plan was to attack at 1500 hours with the mission to secure south approach to Wasson Canal. Engineer reconnaissance was to accompany infantry to report on approach roads, assault areas, Canal and Lock. Major Evans of 1115th Engineer Combat Group visited the battalion in the morning to determine the situation. Captain Baral, S-2, accompanied Major Evans to Brigade Headquarters to find Captain Hill and

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learn the situation. At Brigade Headquarters they learned the attack was scheduled for 1500 hours. Two reconnaissance Parties joined the Forward element of the Task Force. At 1500 hours the 512th Engineer Light Ponton Company, Company "C" and the Forward Echelon of H&S Company and Medical Detachment began to move by infiltration to assembly area in vicinity of Kinroy, Belgium. Movement was completed at 1630 hours. The Forward CP was established at K-578847. Four EM hospital returnees were picked up at Third Replacement Depot and returned to Battalion.

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**S E C R E T**

**SECRET**

**AUTH: CG NINTH US ARMY**

**HEADQUARTERS**

**INIT:**

**208TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**

**DATE: 6 Dec 1944**

**APQ 339**

**JOURNAL**

1 November 1944

Sgt Klein went to Heerlen and Maastricht to obtain plans of demolished bridge on site of bridge being built by Company "C" at Ammunition Dump # 910. There appeared to be an obstruction on the bed of the stream or Geleen Creek. This plan showed that there was a concrete slab through the entire width of the stream which was 20 inches thick and fifty feet long. This was a part of the original arch bridge which formed a culvert. It was decided that a crib bent would be constructed where originally a pile bent was planned.

A cemetery road at K-705664 near Sittard, Holland was surveyed by the battalion. The job was assigned to Company "B".

Company "A" completed a by-pass at Canne (Job # 28). Company "C" completed a parking lot at ASP # 910 in the vicinity of Nuth, Holland. The Bn CO inspected Company "C" bridge job at Ammunition Dump # 910. Company "B" road maintenance of shoulders on N 43 between Vise and Heer. He also inspected the cemetery road location near Sittard and the completed by-pass at Canne.

2 November 1944

Lt. Colonel Scott inspected work on ASP 910 bridge across Geleen Creek and instructed the Company Commander to construct a crib bent in place of an obstacle. He also inspected the bridge repair job on highway N 43 just north of Vise, and also inspected shoulder maintenance work on N 43. Talked with the Group CO at Group Headquarters regarding Geleen Creek bridge job.

The Medical detachment evacuated one man to the hospital with a dislocated old fracture of the right wrist.

The S-2 section sent Tec 5 Dankleman to Company "C" to take pictures of work assignments. Normal reconnaissance was done today. S/Sgt Harned reported the location of a washed gravel pit at Ormond, but after using some of this it was found unsatisfactory for the type of work we were doing at the time.

3 November 1944

Two men and an ambulance from the 564th Ambulance Company, attached to the Medical Detachment for rations, quarters and administration. ~~AK-2222~~

At 0830, S Sgt Harned and S Sgt Tremaine were sent out to look for bolts and a cement mixer, to be used on current operations. Photographs were taken of Company "C" bridge today.

Lt. Colonel Scott talked with Captain Schaeffer, CO, Co. "A" and informed him that he would be relieved of his command and reassigned as Assistant Division Engineer.

The battalion received orders to discontinue cemetery road job near Sittard due to proximity of front line. Work caused too much activity which might have drawn enemy fire.

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