

HEADQUARTERS
208TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 230

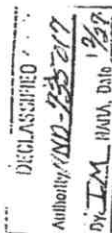
JOURNAL

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



28 September 1944 (cont'd)

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.

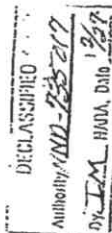
Fifteen men were treated by the Dentist. Eight false teeth plates were sent in for repair. 1115th Group Dentist instructed the Battalion Dentist on information for reports etc. Battalion Ambulance was sent to Hospital at Maastricht with civilians. A Belgium boy was treated at the Battalion Aid Station. 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.

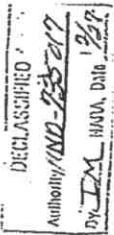
30 September 1944.

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



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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APO 339

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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. ~~At 0830~~

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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Journal, Hq 208th Engr C Bn. Contd

4 November 1944.

The battalion commander visited Company "C" bridge at 1100 hours. He discussed the bridge assignment with all officers and NCO's of the company and brought out all deficiencies. The deficiencies involved better organization of working parties, better supervision of working parties, more thought and consideration given to planning of work and ~~falling~~ tasks in order to keep a number of operations going at one time, discussion on construction methods in order to save time and do a better job. He returned to battalion headquarters at 2100.

5 November 1944.

The S-2 sent one reconnaissance party in search of water points. At 1000 hours, the battalion was assigned a job of making pipeline survey in North Maastricht. Lt Pascoe and M Sgt Hegy accomplished this at 2100 hours.

Lt. Colonel Scott visited Company "C" to inspect work at ASP and Company "B" road maintenance work.

6 November 1944.

Lt. Colonel Scott visited and inspected Company "B". He talked with Capt. Scovill, the CO, and all of the company officers present. Talked personally with Privates Stumbaugh and Wolfe, recently reduced NCO's. He also talked with two other EM regarding supply discipline.

Further survey was made of the demolished bridge in North Maastricht, by Lt. Pascoe and M Sgt Hegy, completing the job at 2200.

The medical detachment evacuated two men to the 41st Evacuation Hospital. One had ear trouble and one for recurrence of an old ankle injury.

Road reconnaissance was made by two reconnaissance parties. Photographs were taken of possible pipe laying operating. Captain Baral went to the Engineer Depot in Maastricht to secure maps.

7 November 1944.

Two reconnaissance parties were sent out. One was on normal road reconnaissance, the other to Maastricht to look for saw mills. In the afternoon, Lt. Moore and S Sgt Harned went to Tongers to check on sawmills there.

Capt. Baral went to Company "B" to investigate courts-martial charges against EM.

Lt. Colonel Scott contacted Company "A" and after inspecting the area and recommended that it be changed because of mud. He also talked with the new commanding officer, Capt. Hill.

Company "A" was assigned the mission of locating sawmills in their assigned area, place them under contract and begin the hauling of timber to the mills immediately, milling them to specified sizes, and hauling it to the Army Engineer Depot # 4.

Company was also assigned the mission of road and hard standing construction at Class III Dump at K-578420.

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Journal, Hq 206th Eng C. Bn. Contd.

8 November 1944.

Lt. Colonel Scott discussed present status of lumber assignment in a conference with the Executive Officer, S-3 and S-4. He visited Company "C" and work being done at the ammunition dump.

At 0800 hours, Lt. Moore went to Lixne to try to find a civilian who would show him the location of available standing timber in that area. He returned at 1200 hours with a negative report. Photographs were taken of Company "B" bridge assignment near Vise.

The battalion was assigned the mission of building a PWE at K-715540.

9 November 1944.

The medical detachment evacuated one man to the 105th Evacuation Hospital with Gonorrhoea (new). Captain Couture reported this case as the first of the month.

Capt. Baral went to group headquarters to see Major McWilliams to report that the bridge at Bassenge had been incorrectly marked a Class 40 when it should have been a Class 15.

Operation of sawmills by the battalion was begun.

Lt. Col Scott inspected the bridge at Bassenge and discovered that the battalion reconnaissance was unsatisfactory and that the bridge strength was incorrectly figured. A class was held with all the personnel of the Recon Section to prevent any future errors. Inspected work at Class III Dump.

10 November 1944

Battalion Headquarters and H&S Co. moved from K-5445, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile South of Eben Emael, Belgium to K-4741, Boris, Belgium. This was accomplished due to very rainy weather and muddy bivouac area, which was liable to affect the health of the troops. Billets were obtained at the new location.

Company "C" assigned construction of PWE at K-722542.

The CO inspected the Class III railhead Depot.

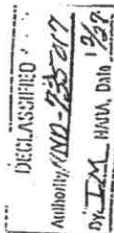
11 November 1944

Company "C" completed the PWE at 1800 hours. Lt. Col. Scott inspected all sawmills in operation and with Lt. Fraley contacted the civil affairs in Leige regarding the periodic shutdowns of power. The shutdowns were caused by some breakdowns and an effort to save power. They were informed that power would be furnished continually barring the breakdowns. The Bn CO inspected the Class III railhead dump and Co. "E" in Heer.

The Medical Detachment evacuated one man to the hospital with a torn ligament of the left knee.

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S E C R E T



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Journal, Hq 208th E C Bn.

12 November 1944

Two reconnaissance parties sent out at 0830 hours. One looked for timber, the other for gravel pits.

Operations orders were received, assigning a new area and reconnaissance assignment for it. The medical detachment evacuated one man to the 105th Evacuation Hospital with Gonorrhoea, (new). Company "C" began work on Railroad crossing at K-766496 for a railhead.

Lt. Col. Scott inspected the Class III railhead Dump job. He instructed the Company CO to prepare a drain from the low or center position of the hard standing running south under the tracks to a low field.

13 November 1944

The battalion received a new area of responsibility effective at 2000. Company "C" completed the Railroad Crossing task at 1800 hours this date. One R-4 Dozer, 4 hours, Aircompressor-4 hours, 20 dump truck hours, 234 man-hours were used.

The battalion commander inspected the railhead-railroad crossing (Army Job #81) and advised the O in charge that the hardstanding be tested. It was found that the water level was 6" below the surface and recommendation was made that the standing be stabilized before using it. The battalion commander discussed the Class III Railhead job with the Group CO, and requested additional trucks and a rock crusher. Arrangements were made to pick up the crusher at the Army Engr Dump the following morning. Fifteen additional trucks were also arranged for with the Army Engineer to be met at Canne the following morning. Trucks were to be available for two days.

14 November 1944.

Company "C" working on Army Job No. 21, road improvement at Ammunition Dump #910; indefinite maintenance; 1 platoon, continuous operation. Company "C" is constructing an Engineer Class III railhead. Company "A" is securing lumber for Engineer Dump No. 4.

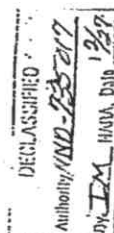
A 25 cubic yd. portable rock crusher was picked up at the Army Engineer Dump. It was set up in an excellent quarry near Bombaye, Belgium. Company "C" was assigned the mission of operating it. One platoon of that company was moved to the site of the crusher. The battalion commander visited the Quarry site and instructed the platoon commander, Lt. Anderson, in how the crusher was to be set up. The Bn CO also visited the Class III railhead job.

15 November 1944.

Lt. Fraley, S Sgt Tremaine and S Sgt Harned started at 0900 hours to

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15 Nov Contd.

get data on sawmills, returning at 1400 hours, at which time two reconnaissance parties started out to complete this job.

Army Job # 85 was assigned to Company "C"---reinforcing Bridge at K-7546.

Assigned to Co. "A" the mission of hauling 40 logs to the 172d Engr C Bn sawmills. The battalion commander visited the Class III railhead job, the quarry in operation and road maintenance on N 43.

16 November 1944

H&S Co. and Battalion Headquarters moved to Gulpen, Holland (K-7048) from Boirs, Belgiu. Did work on converting a Monestary to a Hospital at K-7346, and had two platoons working on road maintenance on MSR through Aachen, Germany. (One of the platoons from Company "A" and one from Co. "C".)

The battalion Commander inspected the Class III railhead and the sawmills in operation. The battalion was assigned the task of reinforcing the bridge at the Monastery for convelesant hospital.

17 November 1944

The companies continued work on previous assignments. S Sgt Harned and a reconnaissance party carried out reconnaissance for gravel pits.

The Medical Detachment evacuated one man to the 41st Evacuation Hospital with an old head injury.

The battalion commander inspected the hardstanding at the Monastery job. He also inspected road work through Aachen, Germany.

18 November 1944

One man was evacuated to the 41st Evacuation Hospital with an old head and Upper Respiratory Infection.

The battalion commander inspected the Class III railhead job and the Monastery hard standing job.

19 November 1944

The companies continued work on previous assignments.

The battalion commander inspected with the executive officer all sawmills and loading of logs in the area. The construction of roads at the bridge school in Eysden was assigned to Company "B". Major Senn went to inspect the road. Army Job 98, QM Dp road maintenance was assigned to Company "A".

20 November 1944

The battalion commander inspected the Monastery Job which was completed at 1200 hours. 606 manhours, 1000 LF woodstrips, 378 LF blackout paper, 675 yards of rock and gravel were used. Inspected road maintenance through Aachen.

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S E C R E T

Journal, Hq 208th Engr C Bn.

21 November 1944

A mechanic was sent to the Monestary job at K-7346 to repair a water pump. Two reconnaissance parties did work on sawmill reconnaissance. The companies continued to do the same work as previously assigned.

The battalion commander inspected road maintenance in Aachen, Germany and Class III railhead job. He also inspected road construction at Eysden Bridge School. Job 98, QM Ds road maintenance was completed at 1700. 80 man hours, 20 motor grader hours and 6 bulldozer hours were used.

22 November 1944.

The companies continued work on previous assignments. Two reconnaissance parties were sent out today in quest for sawmills.

The battalion CO inspected the class III railhead job which was completed at 1700 hours. 5000 manhours, 100 bulldozer hours, 1280 truck hours, 94 shovel hours, 1500 cubic yards of rock were consumed.

The battalion was relieved of the Eysden bridge school job at 1700, the job being turned over to the 3052d Engr C Bn. The battalion was relieved of maintenance responsibility of highway N 43 to the same unit.

23 November 1944.

Company "A" did road maintenance in assigned areas. The other companies continued on previous assignments.

One man was evacuated by the medical detachment to the 105th Evacuation Hospital with Gonorrhoea.

Company B was assigned the task of repairing the installation of the Ponton Bridge at South Maastricht. Damage was caused by high flood stage of the Mass River. Job was completed at 100 hours. Six men were given a special assignment by Group Headquarters.

24 November 1944.

The battalion commander inspected road maintenance in Aachen and Sawmills in operation.

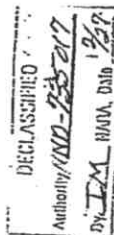
25 November 1944

Company "C" continued to work on the job of putting the Monastery heating system in operation. The battalion commander inspected road maintenance in the assigned area.

26 November 1944.

Company "C" repaired damage to the bridge on highway N 1 near Gulpen. The battalion CO inspected road maintenance in Aachen and other road maintenance in the assigned area.

S E C R E T



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S E C R E T

Journal, Hq 208th Engr C Bn. Contd.

27 November 1944

Companies continued on previous assignments. Co. "B" was assigned the job of repair of shell crater in arch bridge on Highway N 18 near Vise.

28 November 1944

The medical detachment evacuated one man to the 41st Evacuation Hospital, Diagnosis--Large infection lateral aspect of neck.

Company "C" completed work on heating plant in the Monastery. Man hours: 106. Lt. Conlin contacted Military Authorities in Aachen to investigate the possibility of using German Civilian labor. Germans were cooperative. Major Michael made inspection of road work in vicinity of Aachen. He returned at 1700 hours.

Company "B" completed work on Bridge Repair Job on Route N 18, Man hours: 320. Liaison Officer reports new job assigned. The job is transferring 65,000 board feet of lumber from 1390th Forestry Company to Engineer Dump No. 4.

Capt. Kierstead, the group adjutant, inspected records at battalion headquarters. Records were found to be satisfactory.

29 November 1944

Company "A" is securing lumber for Engineer Dump # 4. Company "C" continued job of maintenance on MSR through Aachen. Company "B" continued road maintenance. Company "A" is working on the preparation of a new sawmill in German territory.

30 November 1944

The medical detachment evacuated one man to the 41st Evacuation Hospital.

At 0800 Company "C" began work on PW enclosure at K-8650. Job was completed at 1600 hours. Total man hours: 104.

The battalion began hauling 65,00 board feet of lumber from K-8632 to Engr Dump # 4. Estimated completion date: 3 Dec 44.

The battalion commander inspected work on the PW enclosure at K-8650. He also inspected road maintenance in Aachen.

END

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BY: JAM HADA, DIA

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AUTH: CG NUSA

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DATE: 1 Jan 45

HEADQUARTERS
208TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
AFO 339

RECORD OF EVENTS

1 December 1944

Company "A" is employed cutting trees and hauling logs to sawmills. Six sawmills are in operation, sawing lumber for Engineer Dump #4.

Company "B" is doing general maintenance on assigned roads, patching blacktop and building up shoulders. Three men are guarding bridge at Berneau, because of fresh cement patch in existing flooring. Two sawmills are being operated in Maastricht by one squad, sawing lumber for Engineer Dump #4.

Company "C" is doing general maintenance on assigned roads. Aachen roads are being patched with concrete. Other roads are being widened and the shoulders improved. Recon. was made of St Maria school job. Holes were cut in walls for new door ways, and some frames were put in. Ditches for proposed roadway into school were dug.

S-1 picked up seven replacements at the 18th Replacement Depot, and assigned them to various companies, wherever the need called for them.

Lt Colonel Scott, with Lt. Colonel Pethick, visited Company "C" assigned jobs between 1100 and 1530 hours. Also visited concrete road patching in Aachen with him, and the road and rehabilitation work at 108th Evacuation Hospital.

2 December 1944

Company "A" is employed cutting trees and hauling logs to sawmills. Six sawmills are in operation sawing timber for Engineer Dump #4.

Company "B" is doing general maintenance on assigned roads, patching blacktop and building up shoulders. Three men are guarding bridge at Befneau. Two sawmills are being operated in Maastricht by one squad sawing lumber for Engineer Dump #4.

Company "C" is doing maintenance on roads in Aachen. The St Maria school job is well under way. Work is being done repairing roadway and replacing glass in damaged windows. The work is approximately 25% complete.

Lt. Colonel Scott visited 108th Evacuation Hospital job at 1400 hours. Instructed Lt. Malleta and Captain Schoenly to install a drainage for the road. Two pits were constructed adjacent to the road.

3 December 1944

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Company "A" is still engaged cutting logs for Engineer Dump #4.

Company "B" continuing on previously assigned jobs.

Company "C" is doing maintenance on roads in Aachen. The St Maria school job is well under way. Work is being done repairing roadway and replacing glass in broken windows. Plumbing is being installed and the roadway is nearing completion.

The Sergeant Major, received a call stating that two Lieutenants, 1st Lt. Tom W. Patterson and 1st Lt. Erle R. Richardson, both Infantry officers, were assigned to this battalion. Copies of orders not received from army, so he requested a copy of these orders from group headquarters. Both are on DS with army headquarters.

Lt. Colonel Scott visited Company "B" headquarters and road repair work on N-27. Visited Aachen road work and discussed the assignment with Lt. Illum.

4 December 1944

Company "A" and "B" continuing on previously assigned jobs.

Company "C" is doing maintenance on roads in Aachen. The St Maria school job is well under way. Work is being done repairing roadway which is almost complete. A culvert has been installed to complete the drainage system.

Lt. Colonel Scott talked with Lt. Rhodes, a new officer who reported for duty as of 1300 hours. He was assigned to Company "C" as Administrative Officer.

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Date: 1/2/97

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S E C R E T

Journal, 208th Engr Combat Bn, Dec 44, Dec 5, (cont'd)

5 December 1944:

S-4 picked up and distributed Quartermaster Class I, II, and IV supplies and in the afternoon distributed them to the companies.

The medical detachment evacuated one man to the 105th Evacuation Hospital, Diagnosis and LOC undetermined. Dental survey of the battalion was begun today by Captain Jackson, Group Dental Surgeon.

Company "A" is securing lumber for Engineer Depot #4. Hauling logs to sawmills.

Company "B" is securing lumber for Engineer Dump #4. Patching road Nr. 1, Gulpen to Vaals.

Company "C" continued on Army job #86, maintenance of MSR at Aachen. Job 115, Preparation of hospital at K-7953. Replacing windows and doors at St. Maria and plumbing repair. H&S Company coordinating work and securing materials and equipment needed.

4th Colonel Scott visited sawmills being operated by Company "A". Suggested methods of reducing the number of men being used daily.

6 December 1944:

Company "A" secured lumber for Engineer Dump #4, and hauled logs to sawmills. Hauling rocks to water points at K-6440 and K-6761.

Company "B" secured lumber for Engineer Dump #4 and repaired road shoulder on Nr. 1 from HEER to GULPEN, and continued maintenance of N-27 from Mersch to Newfchatear.

Company "C" worked on Job #86, maintaining MRS in Aachen, Job #115, preparing hospital, access roads, sump pits, blacking out windows and constructing flooring.

Sergeant Snyder took oil to sawmills. Corporal Donnelly went to ~~HERZOGENTRATH~~ to work on power line.

Lt. Colonel Scott visited site of felling timber and inspected method of hauling and loading timber. Visited road work in AACHEN.

7 December 1944:

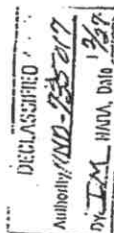
Company "A" continued cutting timber, hauling logs and cutting lumber for Engineer Dump #4. A total of forty trees were cut and thirty were distributed among eight sawmills. The sawmills turned out 15,734 board feet of lumber. Major Michael went to mill at HERZOGENTRATH as it was reported power was in bad condition, and that Engineer unit had cut the cable while working near it. It was impossible to tell where it was cut without digging it out of the ground. Arrangements were made to have it dug out and necessary repairs made. The Germans working had to have their passes renewed, therefore, were not available until the afternoon. During the noon hour, one of the Germans checked the cable and found it was in good shape. At 1600 hours the inspector left to turn on the power.

Company "B" continued maintenance on N27 and N1 and built up sand depots along highway Nr. 1. One half a squad was employed in sweeping for mines at an intended supply dump. No mines were found. The two sawmills continued operation with an output of 5,575 board feet per day. Captain Scovill discussed with Lt. Conlin, the dump that is being proposed for Company "B" operations. This dump is going to be used to stock pile materials for bridge across the Roer. Dud shells were reported in the area and reconnaissance was then made by Captain Scovill, Captain Barel and Lt. Conlin. Area is small and crowded but can be used for purpose needed. Sergeant Snyder went to procure Quickway to load H-beams on two ~~Brick~~ways and a 20 ton trailer. Work discontinued on AAA Road after clearing roads with a D=7, and explaining to AAA personnel how to continue maintenance.

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By: JIM
Date: 12/2/82

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Company "C" continued maintenance of assigned roads in the city of Aachen. Approximately 15 yards of concrete was used in patching road. The St Maria school hospital job was near completion with one platoon planning to complete the job before morning. Lt. Moore made an inspection of the blackout job at the hospital. A large part of the day was spent assembling materials for road repair job in Aachen.

In the morning S Sgt Tremaine was sent out on reconnaissance in corps area. Capt Baral went to group as liaison in Lt. Fraley's absence. Lt. Moore went out to check sawmill at Hoensbroek. Later Lt. Moore returned with information that sawmill was being run by the British. In the afternoon Lt. Moore went out to check Company "C" jobs for S-3. Captain Baral went to Miaridorf with Capt Scovill and Lt. Conlin to show them the factory which was to be used as an assembly point for bridge materials for the contemplated Rohr River Bridge.

The purchasing and contracting officer spent the morning filing contract papers and mailing demands and receipt forms to the general purchasing agent of European Theatre of Operations. The forms were from purchases in the city of Brussels for sawmill parts and saw files necessary to operate sawmills by this organization. He received a bill for a cement culvert used on road drainage by Company "B" and called group headquarters to get the location of more culvert.

Group headquarters called in regard to location of culvert and indicated it was in our area and that the battalion could pick up the culvert. Company "B" was notified as to the location and quantity of culvert. The P & C officer went to the 71st Finance Disbursing Section of Ninth U S Army to settle bills paid in the month of November for various items needed for operations in this battalion.

8 December 1944

All of Co. "A" cut timber, hauled logs and operated seven sawmills. The electricity at Herzogenrath sawmill was turned on and the electric saws were put into operation. Major Michael checked the job at Herzogenrath.

Company "B" is employed in general maintenance of roads, highways N-1 and N-18, and operating two sawmills at Maastricht. Sand depots are being built up on N-1. Sgt Snyder located new depots on some of the lesser used roads, N-18 and N-27. The new dump received lumber and steel stringers for the Roer river bridge. It is planned to start putting nailing strips on the steel stringers tomorrow.

Company "C": The company is still maintaining highways in Aachen, part of the company being employed. Tec 5 Donnelly took a generator to Aachen to operate two cement mixers. Only one would operate. Work continued on the St Maria school job of blackout in the nurses quarters.

SECRET

14

S E C R E T

Journal, 208th Engr C Bn, Dec 44, Dec 8 44, cont'd

S - 4 requisitioned Class II supplies, that were lost by message center personnel to be covered by report of survey and requisitioned Engineer Spare Parts.

Purchasing and Contracting Officer, returned empty glass crate to manufacturer and settled account for glass used in converting school building into hospital. ~~Group headquarters~~ was notified to have turn around at water point put into shape.

S - 2, Captain Baral, and Lt Conlin went to ~~ESCHWEILER~~ and STOLBERG to look for bolts and piles to be used on bridge at JULICH. No bolts were found, but plenty of piles were found in the lumber mill at STOLBERG.

In the evening Lt. Fraley returned from group, with instructions to pick up some road rollers at ALDENHOVEN.

9 December 1944:

Company "A", except for two squads, continued operating seven sawmills, hauling logs and cutting timber. ~~The~~ Two squads were employed in repairing road into ~~out~~ water points. Piles were gathered and loaded for bridge material assembling point. Four men are working at battalion maintenance shop repairing and servicing sand spreading machine obtained for assigned work, from local highway commission.

Company "B" is carrying on maintenance of assigned road net. The building up of sand depots along highway N1 between HEER and AACHEN is still in progress. The two sawmills in MAASTRICHT are still in operation. One squad is employed at the new dump, maintaining area and fabricating parts of intended bridge at JULICH.

Company "C", except for one squad, the entire company was employed on assigned roads in AACHEN, patching with concrete. Sgt Snyder and Lt. Anderson made a recon of road net with which Company "C" will be responsible.

S - 2, Captain Baral, and Lt. Conlin went to ~~ESCHWEILER~~ to check on piles. Sgt Tremaine and Sgt Harned went to ALDENHOVEN, Germany, to find two road rollers that were reported in that area, and also to see how they could be moved to E-4 dump. They returned at 1100 hours with the information that both rollers were small and could be loaded on one 20 ton trailer. In the afternoon, at 1330 hours, Sgt Tremaine took a detail from Company "A", to ALDENHOVEN, and loaded the rollers.

The medical detachment evacuated 1 man to the 41st Evacuation Hospital, diagnosis: Senuisitis.

The purchasing and Contracting Officer took requisitions to Army headquarters for approval for bridge, at JULICH. Bridge section asked questions about bridge that could not be answered because no blue prints or other information was available. Bridge section approved the requisitions for bridge material. Requisition was taken to Engineer, S-4, and approved as requisitioned. One was placed in the hands of Captain Ingram of Engineer Depot #4, to be checked by an officer in case of substitutions. Other requisitions proceeded and material drawn from depot.

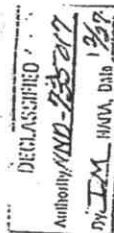
The group S-3 arrived at battalion headquarters at 1330 hours. The proposed bridge project was discussed and a request made for a bill of materials and blue prints. Group S-3 stated all lumber necessary for building bridge to come from sawmills operated by this battalion. Captain Zornek withdrew requisition held by Captain Ingram.

10 December 1944:

The medical detachment evacuated one man to the 105th Evacuation Hospital with a disease undetermined.

Bill of Material for JULICH bridge received. System set up for secur-

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Journal, 208th Engr C Bn, Dec 44, Dec 9 44, cont'd

ing material for bridge job, and parties concerned notified to deliver or requisition material for job. Receipt for leather belting for sawmills prepared and plans for going to BRUSSELS to secure belting made..

Lt. Fraley and Captain Baral accompanied Colonel Scott and Major Senn to the factory at MARIADORF which is being used as a bridge dump. Lt. Thorwart and Lt. Priest were working there, and Captain Scovill and Lt Soper were visiting.

S - 4 received and distributed PX rations, which consisted of five packs of cigarettes per man, and a small assortment of toilet articles.

Company "A" is employed in cutting trees and hauling logs or piles. The piles are going to the GULICH bridge dump. The logs are going to the sawmills, where after milling will be sent to proposed bridge depot and Engr. Depot #4.

Company "B": One platoon is employed in operating bridge dump and pre-fabricating stringers for bridge. General maintenance is being carried on at assigned roads. One culvert was placed for proper drainage. One squad is building up sand depots along highway N1.

Patching roads in AACHEN is still in progress at Company "C". The sand depots are being built up on assigned roads. One squad is building road into a Quartermaster dump at SPEKHOLZIRHEIDE, one culvert placed, 50% of road complete.

From 1300 hours to 1700 hours Colonel Scott visited forward bridge dump at MARIADORF, Germany, with Major Senn and Lt. Fraley. Talked with Lt. Priest, on the job, who is supervising this work. Talked with Captain Scovill and Lt. Thorwart who had moved a platoon there to accomplish prefabrication of bridge materials. Investigated accident in H&S Company.

11 December 1944:

Colonel Scott discussed with Captain Scovill the assignment of collecting bridge materials for Julich Roer River bridge. Discussed Lt. Soper and his assignment as Orientation Officer. Talked with Captain Schoenly regarding roads in Aachen. Discussed at 1000 hours personnel changes in H&S Company. Discussed assignment of Pre-Mix plant in the evening with Major Senn.

Company "A": First Platoon continued operation of six assigned sawmills. Second platoon is hauling logs from K-688522, and hauling piles from Stolberg and the third platoon operating a sawmill at K-846530, and cutting logs at K-890356. Major Michael inspected the seven sawmills which the company is operating and found the work satisfactory. ~~Herzogenrath~~ mill broke down and was idle for a short time until repairs were made.

Company "B": One platoon of company operating a forward dump at K-9152. It is guarding prefabricating and making inventory of all available bridge materials. Part of company maintaining a third class highway between K-5848 and K-6643. Road requires continuous maintenance. Operating two sawmills in Maastricht sawing bridge timbers. ~~One and one half squads guarding company area.~~

Company "C": First platoon doing maintenance work on streets in Aachen. Second platoon is patching road from Hadren to Aachen, using materials from mixing plant being operated by the second squad. The third squad is working on Speckholzerheid road. It completed ditching and drainage, hauling rock for base course of road. This work is about 50% complete.

S - 2: In the morning Sgt Tremaine went out on recon in corps area. S Sgt Harned went out to check on gravel pits in this area. He reported existing stock piles have been depleted. In the afternoon Lt. Fraley went on routine inspection with Major Senn to Mariadorf bridge dump and Eschweiler. When Lt. Fraley returned from group in the evening, he brought an assignment to photograph some equipment at 625th Engr Lt Equip Co.

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S E C R E T

Journal, 208th Engr C B. 11 Dec 44, cont'd

Purchasing and Contracting Officer traveled to the city of Brussels and got two leather belts ordered 6 December 1944. The belts are to be used in sawmill operation. He visited General Purchasing Agent of the 21st Army Group, to learn of new methods of purchasing in the city of Brussels.

S-4 picked up supplies for the Julich bridge.

S-1 picked up five men at the 18th Replacement depot at 1000 hours. Three of these men were assigned to H&S Company, the remainder to Company "C".

12 December 1944:

The whole of Company "A" is employed in cutting trees for logs and piling. The logs are being hauled to the sawmills which are sawing lumber for Engineer Depot No. 4, and proposed bridge. The piles are being hauled to the forward dump for bridge materials. Plans were made for Company "A" to take over the two Maastricht sawmills formerly operated by Company "B". This will give Company "A" a total of nine sawmills.

Company "B" is prefabricating some bridge parts ~~is~~ being carried on by one platoon also operating a forward dump. The sand depots are being carried on by one platoon also part of a third, plus general maintenance on highway N27.

Company "C" general maintenance is still in progress on assigned roads in Aachen, which includes operating cement mixer and putting in cement patches. Group headquarters notified S-3 that the maintenance of Aachen would be dropped from our assignment. The company was notified they will operate a tar mix machine in addition to a rock crusher. Captain Baral and Lt. Conlin made a reconnaissance of the plant. It was found that many civilians were employed and had not been paid for sometime. This difficulty was to be looked into by Captain Zornek and Captain Schoenly immediately. ~~Along with obtaining materials necessary to operate the mix plant, the companies detail will be attached to Company "B" for rations due to nearness to mix plant.~~

Plans for orientation classes are being carried out with Lt. Soper in charge. Major Michael obtained various maps and a bellopticon which is being repaired. S Sgt Beltran is drawing additional maps for classes ~~and other plans were made to modify other training aids.~~

The S-2 section made a reconnaissance in corps area, and took photographs of the snow plow at 625th Engr Lt Equip Co.

Lt. Colonel Scott talked with Colonel Pethick in his office at 1130 hours. Talked to Lt. Richardson reporting for duty and assigned him to S-3 section. Informed Major Senn to contact the CO, 121st Engineers, 29th Division, the next morning at 1000 hours. Visited forward bridge depot at 1630 hours at Mariadorf. Discussed personnel assignments with Major Senn, and bridge preparations with Major Senn. ~~Shown~~ *Phoned* Major Prout the Julich bridge, ~~depot.~~ *Regarding*

13 December 1944:

Company "A" is employed in cutting trees and hauling logs to the sawmills. The mills are sawing lumber for Engineer Dump #4 and the forward bridge dump. The two mills at Maastricht were taken over, relieving Company "B".

Company "B": One platoon is maintaining the forward bridge dump. Some prefabricating of bridge parts is being done with the aid of several welders from H&S Company, and one from the 172d Engineer Combat Battalion. General maintenance of assigned roads is being carried out in addition to continuance of building up sand depots along highway N1. One squad hauled gravel for battalion headquarters parking lot. Plans were made for improvements

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S E C R E T

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on forward bridge dump. Lt. Conlin located an electric crane which, if in operating condition, will be used.

Company "C": Plans were made for company to take over rock crusher. Captain Zornek and Captain Schoenly made some arrangements for civilian labor at both the crusher and tar mix plant. Arrangements were made to pay civilians and hire some additional men. ~~It was found the rock crusher would not put out proposed capacity. A new quarry is being sought.~~ S-3 will receive daily reports from crusher and tar mix plant.

The Aachen roads have been dropped altogether with the continuing of patching surfaces with concrete. Major Michael and Lt. Richardson look over the quarry and tar mix plants to acquaint the latter, newly assigned to S-3, after being picked up from the 18th Repl Depot by M Sgt Walters in the morning. Captain Schaeffer returned from DS with 9th US Army, Prov Marshals Office, and he assumed his duties as Liaison Officer.

S-4 picked up and delivered demolitions to Company "C" for operation of rock quarry in the vicinity of Vise, Belgium.

14 December 1944:

Company "A" is employed in cutting trees and hauling logs to sawmills. The sawmills are sawing lumber for Engineer Depot #4, and forward bridge dump. After a recon by Lt. Pascoe, Lt. Conlin made plans to operate a second german sawmill.

Company "B" continued prefabricating bridge parts, in addition to general maintenance of forward dump. H&S Company is assisting in this with welders and electricians. Various electrical appliances, cranes and drill presses were worked with, to see if they could be put in working order. ~~Shortage of work and time was a great hinderance.~~ A layout was made to aid Lt. Priest, planing general layout for a more systematic working condition. Road maintenance still in operation.

Company "C": The rock crusher and tar mix machine are in full operation. Captain Zornek and Captain Schoenly are still working on paying the civilians and trying to hire more. General maintenance of roads near the company area is in progress. Signs were posted along assigned roads, for sand depot. ~~Loads of Cinders~~ were hauled to build up these stockpiles.

P&C Officer traveled to Bombye, Belgium to inspect quarry operated by Company "C". Quarry inspection completed, he traveled to Vise, to make arrangements for employment of civilians, through Belgian authorities. Labor bureau promised 12 to 15 men to report for duty the following morning. Laborers are to be paid by the Belgian government and to be fed noon meal by US Forces. He also contacted Holland labor office in afternoon to get proper papers and payrolls for men employed at Pre-mix plant. Also tried to determine if the rental of Equipment at pre-mix plant was on a fair price. The price paid up to the present time was 50 Guilders per day. The price fixing bureau in Maastricht is going to determine a fair price. Decisions to be handed down tomorrow.

Colonel Scott inspected pre-mix plant at 1330 hours. Talked with Lt. Maletta. Together with Major Senn, visited bridge dump site at Mariadorf. Talked with Lt. Priest in charge of welding and Captain Scovill in charge of work.

15 December 1944:

Company "A" is operating sawmills and securing lumber for Engineer Dump #4, and supplying bridge material for forward dump.

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Journal, 208th Engr C Bn, 15 Dec 44, cont'd

Company "B": Five squads are guarding and working at forward dump, prefabricating materials for bridge work, using welding equipment borrowed from 625th Engr Lt Equip Co and H&S Company. An electrician is doing work on cranes and various electrical equipment. Shortage of wire is a handicap, or equipment would speed up work. One platoon draining intersection N18, Wassage, hauling rock and laying culvert.

Company "C": First Platoon operating pre-mix plant mixing 96 yds. of crushed rock, per day. Second platoon operating pre-mix plant mixing Tarmac producing 12 yds. per day. The third platoon is hauling cinders for stock piles on assigned roads. 75 yds. of cinders hauled.

~~P&C officer, Captain Zornek, performed his normal S-4 functions today.~~

The medical detachment evacuated one man to the 105th Evacuation Hospital, with disease undiagnosed; one man to 41st Evacuation Hospital with Septol Deformity, LOD, Yes.

Colonel Scott together with Major Senn at 1300 hours, visited Lt. Illum at quarry and suggested changes in order to control deficiencies and changes to increase production. Inspected road maintenance on N18 and N27 and talked to Lt. Soper supervising the job.

Talked with Captain Scovill at Company "B" CP in Heer and discussed bridge job and road maintenance.

16 December 1944:

Company "A" is continuing on previously assigned jobs.

Company "B" continuing on prefabricating parts for the proposed bridge. Plans are being made to install lights so that night work will be possible. Reconnaissance section picked up Volt meter and reflectors for that purpose. Sand piles are being built up in assigned areas in addition to general maintenance. A roadway is being built into an AAA unit area between Mehen and Nonheek. Plans were made for two culverts to be laid in order to drain the road.

Company "C": Two platoons are operating a quarry and Pre-mix plant. Dutch civilians are working at both places. A ramp is being built to speed up operations of dumping rocks directly into crusher. The stock piles of cinders are being built up along assigned roads. Cinders are much easier to obtain than sand, and works as well against slippery roads.

Lt. Fraley took Captain Schaeffers place as Liaison Officer in the morning. Captain Schaeffer was serving as Defense Counsel on a General Court Martial. In the afternoon Lt. Fraley went out to factory at Wesweiler to get reflectors and lamps to be used to set up lighting system in the Rock Quarries.

Captain Zornek, P&C officer, went to army engineer section, and obtained the release on one Primary Rock Crusher and 200 pounds of tar to be used at the Quarries operated by Company "C". Captain Zornek also contacted army publications to obtain memos and publications for this unit.

The medical detachment evacuated one man to the 41st Evacuation hospital. Diagnosis: possible appendicitis, LOD, Yes.

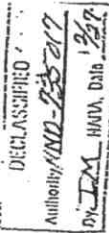
17 December 1944:

Company "A" is employed as yesterday. A new sawmill located at Sweiffel has been under repair for several days and is expected to be operating soon.

Company "B": One platoon is operating the forward bridge dump in addition to prefabricating some parts of the bridge. The dump is increasing in materials for proposed bridge. The roadway leading to the AAA unit is near completion with three culverts being placed. General maintenance on highway #27 is being carried on, building up soft shoulders with rock.

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S E C R E T

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Company "C": Two platoons are employed in operating quarry and tar mix plant. Civilians are working at these two places. The chute for the second crusher unit was completed today and repairs on the bridge leading into the quarry is 50% complete. The 12 men went to the pile driving school at the 355th Engineer Regt.

Captain Zornek, P&C Officer, went to Army to arrange for renting or buying a Pre-Mix machine. Proper Holland authorities could not be found. He also arranged for tar and other materials for asphalt plant. Captain Zornek turned over German Employees payroll to Captain Hill who will pay said employees. Arrangements were made to turn in payrolls for men employed in pre-mix plant in Holland and Rock Quarry employees in Belgium.

18 December 1944

Company "A" is employed in cutting trees and hauling logs to the saw-mills, which are sawing lumber for Engineer Dump #4, and forward bridge dump. The new sawmill at Zweiffall is being put into operating condition, and is expected to begin operation tomorrow.

Company "B": One platoon is maintaining forward dump for proposed bridge. Prefabricating of some bridge parts is being carried on, such as welding and making up channel beams together forming H-beams. The platoon is aided in this work by welders from H&S Company. Sgt Snyder took timbers to the dump to make up a boom to handle bridge parts during construction. General maintenance of assigned roads N18, N1 and N27 is being carried on such as building up shoulders of the roads and hauling sand to the depots along these roads.

Company "C": Two platoons are operating a quarry and a tar-mix plant. Civilian labor is employed at these two places. Sgt Klein and Tec 4 Statler went to the tar-mix plant experimenting with heating units and different types of German captured tar in order to determine the best use for it. The repairing of the bridge at the entrance of the quarry is finished.

Reconnaissance was made of the area around Herzogenrath and South of Aachen for timber. Six trees were found around Herzogenrath and the recon party recommended that logging to be done so as to get logs that were off the road. Maps were secured at the Map Depot in Aachen.

S-4 secured Class V Engineer supplies from Engineer Depot #4, for proposed Julich bridge job, and secured lumber for keeping water tanks off the ground. The P&C Officer made arrangements to requisition 3 more civilians to work at Pre-Mix plant. He contacted the Casualty Section of Army in regard to the missing mounted messenger, information was also given to Provost Marshall's office about the messenger.

Two men were evacuated to the 95th Evacuation Hospital with possible Venereal Disease.

Colonel Scott visited sawmill in Stolberg with Major Senn and Lt. Conlin. Plant shut down because civilian workers were required to stay home.

19 December 1944

Captain Zornek, P&C Officer, traveled to Maastricht with payroll for Holland civilians employed at Pre-Mix plant. Lt. Maletta at Pre-Mix plant had a bill for some graphite gaskets for municipal works at Maastricht. This bill was paid and receipt and obtained.

Company "A" is employed in cutting trees and hauling logs to the saw-mills. The sawmills are sawing lumber for forward bridge dump and the Engineer dump. The sawmills at Zweiffall started operation at 1000 hours.

Company "B": One platoon is guarding and maintaining the forward bridge dump, and also prefabricating the proposed bridge parts. H&S Company is assisting in this work by doing the necessary welding. General maintenance on assigned roads is being carried such as building up shoulders and

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~~and~~ building up sand depots.

Company "C": Two platoons are operating a quarry and a tar-mix plant. Civilians are working at both places. The third platoon is helping in setting up crusher by building a chute and repairing approach~~d~~ and crusher.

H&S Co.: Upon receipt of instructions from group, a vehicle and personnel identification checking station was established on NR-1 near its CP. Initial operations of checking started at 2000 hours and will continue until receipt of changing instructions.

20 December 1944:

The medical detachment evacuated two men to the 41st Evac Hosp, one with possible maguinal Hernia, one with fracture of right wrist.

Lt. Fraley, Lt Conlin and Capt Baral went to the sawmill at Herzogengrath. ~~Worked ceased by the time they got there as it was lunch time.~~ They went south of Aachen to see how much timber was available. Plenty of trees were found suitable for cutting.

Co. A: The entire company is employed in cutting trees and hauling trees to the sawmills. The sawmills are sawing lumber for Engr Dump # 4 and the forward bridge dump. Through out the day the company operated ten sawmills, but Group Hq notified S-3 that the 172d Engr C Bn will take over three of the sawmills.

Co. B: One platoon is maintaining forward bridge dump. Work is being done on prefabricating some bridge parts. General maintenance is being done on assigned roads.

Co. C: Two platoons are operating a rock quarry and a tar-mix plant. Civilians are working along with company men at both places. The bridge at the entrance of the quarry was completed. One squad and a half helped Co A in cutting timber for sawmills.

~~The first~~ Orientation class was held in H&S Co by Lt. Soper.

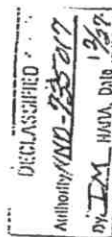
21 December 1944:

Capt Zornek and Capt Hill, P&C officers, discussed payment of German civilians. Policies of various finance officers of the army are different.

Co A: The entire company is employed in cutting trees and hauling the cut trees to the sawmill. The 172d Engineer Combat Battalion took over the four sawmills indicated yesterday in the Journal. Some men were left at each mill to get the 172d started.

~~The~~ Group headquarters notified S-3 of a probable change in area, which would carry the battalion back to West of Liege. About 2200 hours, that probability was extinguished by them. They assigned us the area around and south of Aachen. Group commander and 172d Engineer Battalion commander met with Colonel Scott ~~and~~ the S-2 and S-3.

In the evening Colonel Pethick was in to see Colonel Scott with instructions concerning ~~possible~~ new area. Company reconnaissance per-



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Journal, 208th Engr C Bn. 21 Dec 44, cont'd

ties were to be used as much as possible. Captain Baral telephoned to companies and told each one to have a reconnaissance party report to battalion headquarters in the morning.

Lt Colonel Scott visited Mariadorf bridge dump. Colonel Pethick with Major Prout, contacted this battalion with plans and instructions that we ~~would~~ probably move to new area and assume responsibility of area south and east of Aachen, occupied by the 164th and 207th Engineers.

22 December 1944:

Captain Zornek, P&C officer, travelled to Maastricht to be sure the employees of the Pre-mix plant were paid and also to collect for the meals served to employees by US Forces. The regular paymaster was not present, therefore money for meals was not collected. The commanding officer of group headquarters, requested water points established in a forward area.

Plans were made for 1146th Engineers to take over all remaining sawmills except Zweifall which was our last sawmill to get into operation. An Engineer recon party made a search of the proposed area which changed later on in the day.

Two platoons are operating a quarry and tar-mix plant. Civilians are employed at both places working with our men. Upon moving, this equipment will be turned over to Communication Zone Engineers. Some men were employed in cutting timber for Company "A" sawmills. General maintenance is being carried on assigned roads. No equipment was turned in as the company is carrying normal functions until orders to move is given and arrangements made for ASCZ Engineers to take over.

Colonel Scott and Major Senn went to investigate proposed area which group had given us and also spot new bivouac area. Upon returning to Hq, he was informed that the change in area had been confirmed by group. The change was some what different, but Colonel Pethick later in the evening put his OK on selected bivouac area. Companys' were informed about new areas and the probability of moving tomorrow.

23 December 1944:

Company "A" was relieved at 1200 hours, of all sawmills, except one at Zweifall. Company started moving to new location near Brand, Germany, by infiltration

All other companies relieved of their assignments and at 1200 proceeded to new area of responsibility, by infiltration, near Brand, Germany.

Lt. Colonel Scott visited group headquarters and talked with Colonel Pethick in regard to battalion work. Visited road repair work in Aachen.

24 December 1944:

Company "A": The first platoon is operating road blocks in battalion area, using mines and machine guns. Second Platoon guarding bridges on assigned roads and furnishing security for bivouac area. The third platoon is operating sawmill at Zweifall and maintaining roads in assigned areas.

Company "B" is maintaining road block at K-8642, by First platoon, using mines machine guns and a 2½ ton truck. Four and a half squads preparing rock quarry for operation at K-9639 and K-9536. Remainder of company in assigned area.

Company "C": One platoon is operating a pre-mix plant at K-5552; produced 60 yards of Asphalt. One platoon on general road maintenance of R28. One platoon furnishing interior guard for the battalion.

The medical detachment evacuated one man to the hospital with upper respiratory infection.

Two reconnaissance parties ~~looked over our~~ ^{made Recon. of} newly assigned area.

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S E C R E T

Journal, 208th Engr C Br 24 Dec 44, cont'd

Lt. Colonel Scott visited group headquarters and talked with Colonel Pethick in regard to battalion work. Visited road repair work in Aachen.

25 December 1944:

Company "A": One platoon is operating the sawmill at Zweifall. Work on mine supports is being carried on in addition to assigned bridge guards. ~~Work was discontinued at noon except for the guards.~~

Company "B": Some work was done in the quarry in preparing it for operation.

Company "C": The tar mix plant is still in operation at Maastricht. General maintenance is being carried on assigned roads. Recon is being made on other roads, for needed repair and maintenance. The battalions work was discontinued at noon today, except for assigned guards.

The battalion commander inspected battalion assignments in the morning.

26 December 1944:

Colonel Scott visited the 7th Armored Group regarding defense of area. Met Colonel Rau, CO, and talked with Major Wise, S-3. Was informed that we would receive 2 extra officers from Corps, to assist in organization of defense. Visited group headquarters and talked with Colonel Pethick regarding defense plan and battalion work.

S-4: Mr. Drifke procured 141 axes single bit w/handle, 4 lb. on Mem/R from 172d Engineer Combat Battalion, for company use. A new water point was established at 1600 hours. The rest of the day was spent doing normal routine duties.

Company "A": Three sawmills are in operation, sawing lumber for Engineer dump. General maintenance of assigned roads is being carried on, such as filling pot holes. Three guards are being maintained at water point, assigned bridges and group headquarters. The work of peeling logs for mine work is still in progress at the Onderspeckholtz sawmill.

Company "B": Two quarries are being set up for operation; one at Zweifall, and one at Vicht. The crusher was moved in this morning. General maintenance of assigned roads is being carried on using asphalt and rocks for patching. One platoon furnished battalion guard.

Company "C": The company was relieved of tar-mix plant at Maastricht. Work on assembling materials for cement mixing plant was being started in Aachen. The whole city of Aachen north of "V" route is being maintained by this company. General maintenance of assigned roads was carried out.

Two enlisted men from 1142d Engineer Combat Group, were placed on TD with this headquarters. One man was to study functions of S-1 section, the other, S-4 functions.

27 December 1944:

Company "A": Three sawmills are in operation sawing lumber for the Engineer dump. A guard is maintained at assigned bridge and at one water point. General maintenance is being carried on assigned roads using tar-mix plant. The work of peeling logs for the mine is in progress, with the aid of 188 civilians.

Company "B": Two rock quarries are in operation, with the help of civilian labor. General road maintenance is being done on highway from Aachen to Brand, such as patching holes with tar-mix. Stockpiles of sand are being built up along assigned highways with aid of civilian labor. Work on a concrete mixing plant is being carried on. Cpl Donnelly of H&S Company is assisting by getting electricity to the plant.

Company "C": General road maintenance of assigned roads is being done on patching pot holes with concrete and tar-mix. Much of this work is done in the city of Aachen. A guard is being maintained of assigned bridges.

S E C R E T

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: 110-735717
By: JLM HQA, Date: 12/27

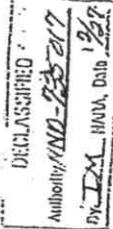
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S E C R E T

Journal, 208th Engr C Br 27 Dec 44, cont'd

The medical detachment evacuated two men to the 41st Evacuation Hospital, 1 with possible trench foot, 1 with possible Inguinal Hernia.

Together with Major Senn, Colonel Scott contacted Colonel Mercandino, CO of 430 AAA battalion, at Stolberg, in regard to security of area. Visited XIX Corps headquarters Provost Marshall, in regard to security of area. Recommended changing of area boundaries to coordinate defense better. Requested radio and half track in order to maintain contact in Security control. Talked with Lt. Colonel Pethick and an officer from 9th Army headquarters.



28 December 1944:

Company "A": Three sawmills are in operation sawing lumber for the Engineer Dump. Civilians are assisting in peeling logs at Speckholderhide, for a mine. Some men are employed in hauling logs to the sawmills. General maintenance of assigned roads; civilians are also employed in replacing of cobblestone.

Company "B" and "C" are continuing on previously assigned jobs as yesterday.

S-2: S Sgt Tremaine went out in the morning on recon checking items that had been incompletely reported on previous day.

In the afternoon, Lt. Fraley and Lt. Moore went on recon to locate all units in the area, and find out their strength in connection with anti-airborne operations, by the enemy, which Colonel Scott is controlling in this sector.

First Lieutenants Tom M. Patterson and Earl Richardson (Infantry Officers) were transferred to 12th Army Group from this organization. One EM was trfd to 12th US Army group.

A Special Court was called to try Private Dean Patterson and Private Marshall Resetar, both of Company "B", this battalion, for using a government vehicle without authority.

Colonel Scott contacted Major Wood of the 567th AAA battalion, in regard to area security. This unit is just moving into the area. Together with Major Michael, the battalion commander visited hospital winterizing job; tarMix patch; and patching work in Aachen. Discontinued concrete patching due to freezing weather. Lt. Fraley was sent out with Lt. Moore on recon, to locate all units in area of security.

29 December 1944:

Company "A", Company "B" and Company "C" continuing on previously assigned jobs, as yesterday.

S-2: In the morning Sgt Harned continued previous recon, checking items that had been reported. Sgt Statler went out to recon medical depot at Brand Germany, and drew up a plan for demolition of the depot.

In the afternoon, Lt. Fraley went out on recon for Colonel Scott, looking up units in connection with the defense area. Sgt Tremaine went out to reconnoiter present area for Engineer materials.

Colonel Scott contacted 7th Armored Group headquarters and talked with Major Wise, regarding area security. (Of Brand). Contacted the 567th AAA battalion, talked with Major Potter, Executive Officer, regarding area security, and appointed their CO as sub-area commander. Phoned Major Wise regarding this plan and informed him of a possible change.

Major Woods, S-3, 567th AAA battalion visited headquarters and discuss his responsibilities in defense plan. Informed him to submit plan tomorrow. Sent Lt. Fraley to recon sub section B, to locate new units and discuss plans with new sub area commander. Worked on area security plan with Major Senn, and inspected road work in Aachen.

S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

Journal, 208th Engr Comb. Bn, December 44, cont'd

30 December 1944:

Company "A", Company "B" and Company "C" are continuing on previously assigned jobs, as yesterday.

Lt. Fraley and S Sgt Harned went out to the factory in the vicinity of Duren, to inventory materials there in accordance with instructions.

Lt. Colonel Scott visited concrete plant in operation at Aachen, and road repair work. Informed by phone that the 567th AAA unit was moving out this call was from Major Woods, S-3.

Submitted area security plan to Commanding Officer, Seventh Armored group. Talked to Colonel Pethick on phone regarding reconn of machine shop near Duren, Germany.

31 December 1944:

Lt. Colonel Scott visited Seventh Armored group headquarters regarding area security. Talked with Major Wise and Colonel Rat. Visited Lt. Colonel Hoffman, Commanding Officer, 587th QM battalion, regarding sub area security, and informed him he would be the sub area commander. Sent out Lt. Fraley and Lt. Moore on reconn to spot new AAA unit who were setting up in this area. Visited road work in Aachen and area.

Company "A": There are three sawmills in operation sawing lumber for the Engineer dump. A guard is being maintained at a water point in addition to guard at group headquarters. General maintenance is being done with tarmac and replacing cobblestone and repairing shoulders, on responsible roads. Company is continuing with previous assignments.

Companies "B" and "C" are continuing with previous assigned jobs, as before.

~~H&S Company did usual staff and service functions this date.~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: 100-735-017
Date: 12/28/92
BY: JEM

25

SECRET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
208TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 339AUTH: CG NINTH US ARMY
INIT:
DATE: 6 Dec 1944

JOURNAL

L-257

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: AND-23217
By: JIM HUDA Date: 1/29/991 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 Ganne (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 Ganne.

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 Drmond, 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.

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 between Sittard due to proximity of front line. Work caused too much light have drawn enemy fire.

CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

-1-
SECRET

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HEADQUARTERS XIX CORPS
Office of the Engineer
APO 270

11 March 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : Commanding Officer, 208th Engineer Combat Battalion

1. The 1104th Engineer Combat Group consisting of 1104th Group Headquarters, 246th Engineer Combat Battalion, 247th Engineer Combat Battalion, 208th Engineer Combat Battalion, 554th Heavy Ponton Battalion, 611th Engineer Light Equipment Company, 503rd Engineer Light Ponton Company, 978th Engineer Maintenance Company, has completed successfully one of the most difficult tactical missions in the Roer River Crossing. This river crossing deserves to stand high among our military accomplishments.

2. The Roer River was in flood, the current rapid, the banks were swamps, the terrain provided no cover, the roads were all poor and the crossing was made at night. Success was achieved only by superior planning, and splendid coordination within the Engineer units and the supported division. Special equipment and unusual methods were used and individual initiative and personal heroism were common. The result was a tactical surprise and complete military success. It is remarkable that no lives were lost through drowning due to unusual life saving precautions.

3. I wish to add the highest commendation to the 1104th Engineer Combat Group for superior planning and coordination and to the 246th, 247th, 208th Engineer Combat Battalion, 554th Heavy Ponton Battalion, 611th Light Equipment Company, 503rd Light Ponton Company, and 978th Engineer Maintenance Company, for the skillful execution of their particular missions. I wish to congratulate the many men decorated for their personal bravery in this operation. There were, I know, many acts of heroism which were not witnessed and have not been publically recognized. There were also many men ready and willing to make greater sacrifices if the situation required. To these men who cannot be officially recognized by name I would like to make it clear that we all know that battles are won only by team work such as they displayed and accordingly we commend the entire unit to which they belong. I am certain the Roer River Crossing will be recorded by history as one of great military accomplishments of this war and every member of the 1104th Engineer Combat Group has a right to be proud of the part he played in this operation.

A TRUE COPY:

Michael P. Kelly
MICHAEL P. KELLY
WOJC, USA
Ass't Adjutant
208th Engineer C Bn

H. S. Miller
t/ H. S. Miller
Colonel, CE
Engineer

HEADQUARTERS

BERLIN DISTRICT (MASTERWORK)

APO 755, U S Army
1 Aug 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO: Colonel I. D. Brent, District Engineer, Headquarters Berlin District, APO 755, U S Army.

1. It is desired to commend the District Engineer and his staff and the companies of the 208th Engineer Combat Battalion for the efficient and rapid manner in which the wooden messhall for the Tripartite Conference area was completed.

2. Working under extreme difficulties due to lack of materials and failure of certain basic material to arrive on time, the companies of the 208th Engineer Combat Battalion constructed this messhall in the short period of five days and had it ready to function by the target date that was set. The efficiency and skill displayed by these Engineer companies reflects great credit upon their battalion and the Corps of Engineers, U S Army.

Signed:

F. L. PARKS,
Major General, U. S. A.
Commanding.

1st Ind.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, U. S. HEADQUARTERS BERLIN DISTRICT,

APO 755, U. S. Army, 3 August 1945.

TO: Officers and Men, 208th Engineer Combat Battalion (Through Headquarters, 1105th Engineer Combat Group, APO 755, U. S. Army).

Forwarded with added appreciation, for dissemination to all concerned.

Signed:

I. D. BRENT,
Colonel, CE
District Engineer
Hq Berlin District.

201.22

"Commendation"
HQ Berlin District
(Masterwork), 1 August 1945.

CAM/cm

2nd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 1105th Engineer Combat Group, APO 755, 5 August 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 208th Engineer Combat Battalion, APO 755,

The 208th Engineer Combat Battalion has re-demonstrated in Berlin the same drive and energy which characterized it on the long road through France, Belgium, and over the Rhine. My heartiest "nice going" to all of you.

Signed:

CHESTER A. MOSS,
Colonel, CE
Commanding.

(True copies)

HEADQUARTERS XVI CORPS
Office of the Engineer
APO 197, U.S. Army

26 March 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : Commanding Officer, 208th Engineer Combat Battalion, APO
339, U.S. Army.

1. The assault crossing of the Rhine has been completed successfully by the Engineers of the XVI Corps. This is an historic achievement in which all Engineers have a right to be proud.

2. Each Engineer unit had a part to play in one or more phases, assault boat, ferrying, bridge and mine boom construction, road construction and maintenance, moving and launching heavy amphibious equipment and other tasks supporting, maintaining and supplying the main effort. All missions have been accomplished.

3. I wish to commend the officers and enlisted men of the 208th Engineer Combat Battalion for your part in Operation Flashpoint, the assault crossing of the Rhine River.

HUBERT S. MILLER
Colonel, GE
Engineer