

DEC 1945
Authority 87354
By CP NARA Date 12/10/06

HEADQUARTERS
290TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

APO 758, U.S. ARMY
3 AUGUST 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT--JULY

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BATTALION FOR THE MONTH OF JULY WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO DISTINCT, SEPARATE PHASES. THE DIVISION WAS BROUGHT ABOUT DUE TO THE NEW DUTIES ASSIGNED TO THE BATTALION. SEVENTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS PLACED THE 290TH ENGINEERS IN CATEGORY 1, ARMY OF OCCUPATION, AND IN ORDER TO TAKE OVER NEW DUTIES ASSIGNED TO THE BATTALION, THE UNIT MOVED ON JULY 11TH TO REILINGEN, VICINITY OF MANNHEIM, TO PERFORM THEIR PRIMARY MISSION OF OPERATING FACTORIES AND THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF BRIDGES AND ROADS.

UP UNTIL THE 11TH OF THE MONTH THE BATTALION REMAINED AT BAD MERGENTHEIM AND CONTINUED IN THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF PRIMARY AND THROUGH SECONDARY ROADS, IN THEIR ASSIGNED AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. IN THIS WORK THE BATTALION COMMANDER HAD EACH COMPANY USE TO THE MAXIMUM ANY CIVILIAN LABORERS THEY DEEMED NECESSARY. DURING THIS PERIOD APPROXIMATELY FIFTY GERMAN ROAD LABORERS WERE EMPLOYED. TWO BRIDGE JOBS WERE STARTED DURING THIS PERIOD; COMPANY C BEGAN WORK ON THE BRIDGE AT CREGLINGEN (S663993), WHILE COMPANY B STARTED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE AT HOHEBACH, (S449869). THE COMPLETION OF THESE BRIDGES WAS TURNED OVER TO THE 286TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, UPON OUR ORDERS TO MOVE ON JULY 11. DURING THIS FIRST PERIOD OF JULY, A VIGOROUS PROGRAM BOTH IN A&R AND I&E ACTIVITIES WAS CONDUCTED. LT. HERMEY INSTALLED A COMPETITIVE SPORT PROGRAM CONSISTING OF VOLLEYBALL, SOFTBALL, HORSESHOE, BADMINTON AND PING-PONG. SEVERAL ENLISTED MEN WERE PUT ON DETACHED SERVICE WITH THE 1150TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL TEAMS. SPECIAL TRIPS WERE TAKEN TO SWIMMING SITES FOR THOSE INTERESTED. LT. DITTRICH, AFTER RETURNING FROM THE I&E SCHOOL AT PARIS, MADE PLANS FOR A LARGE I&E SCHEDULE.

ON THE 11TH OF JULY THE BATTALION WAS RELIEVED FROM THEIR DUTIES IN THE VICINITY OF BAD MERGENTHEIM, BY THE 286TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, AND MOVED TO THE VICINITY OF MANNHEIM AND HEIDELBERG. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS AND H&S COMPANY, WITH THE MEDICAL DETACHMENT LOCATED AT REILINGEN (R605775); COMPANY A BILLETED AT NUSSLOCH (R695815), COMPANY B, WAS AT WALLDORF, (R660780), AND COMPANY C LOCATED AT SCHWETZINGEN (R616878). THE BATTALION, UPON THIS MOVE, SEVERED CONNECTIONS WITH THE 1150TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP, AND BECAME ASSIGNED TO THE 540TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP, LOCATED IN MANNHEIM. THE NEW AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY ASSIGNED TO THEM WAS THE SAME AREA THAT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED TO THE 283RD ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE ABUNDANCE OF FACTORY WORK ORDERS TURNED OVER TO THE BATTALION, THE TRANSFER OF THE NEW AREA WAS HELD UP UNTIL THE 25TH OF JULY. IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL IN THEIR NEW AREA THE BATTALION BEGAN THEIR NEW DUTIES, THAT OF OCCUPATIONAL TROOPS, BY RECEIVING WORK ORDERS, PROVIDING

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AFTER ACTION REPORT--JULY (CONT'D):

FOR FACTORY SUPERVISION AND OPERATION, AND BRIDGE AND ROAD WORK. IT WAS ON THE 12TH OF THE MONTH WHEN THE BATTALION MADE "AUF WIEDERSEHN" TO THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER, LT. COL. McDERMOTT, WHO HAD RECEIVED ORDERS TO REPORT TO THE 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION, TO TAKE COMMAND OF THEIR ENGINEER BATTALION. MAJOR DITZ, WHO HAD BEEN S-4, WITH THE 1150TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP, BECAME OUR COMMANDING OFFICER. OTHER IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE STAFF WERE MADE AND AT MONTH END, THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS MADE UP OUR NEW COMMANDING OFFICER'S STAFF: CAPT. TUTTLE BECAME EXECUTIVE OFFICER, REPLACING MAJOR CUTTER, WHO WAS TRANSFERRED TO 1150TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP; MAJOR GOULD, WHO HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO 1150TH GROUP THE PREVIOUS MONTH, RETURNED AND ASSUMED HIS FORMER WORK OF S-3, AND MAJOR NORVELL WAS TRANSFERRED BACK TO 1150TH ENGINEER GROUP; LT. FRAMPTON REMAINED AS S-1, FILLING THE JOB THAT LT. FORNCROOK HAD UNTIL HIS TRANSFER TO 1150TH ENGINEER GROUP LAST MONTH; CAPT. RICHTER, FORMERLY OF 1150TH ENGINEER GROUP, TOOK OVER THE S-2 WORK, AND ASSUMED THE WORK OF PRODUCTION CONTROL OFFICER, TEMPORARILY; LT. DUBOW, FORMERLY OF THE 48TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, BECAME PRODUCTION CONTROL OFFICER, BUT WAS PLACED ON TEMPORARY DUTY WITH CORP; CAPTAIN ROGERS BECAME ASSISTANT DIVISION ENGINEER, REPLACING CAPTAIN TUTTLE; LT. GILLERMAN REMAINED AS S-4; LT. HOOKER ASSUMED THE DUTIES OF MOTOR OFFICER. LT. HOOKER WAS TRANSFERRED TO THIS BATTALION FROM THE 48TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION. THE FORMER MOTOR OFFICER, LT. MICHAELSON, BECAME THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF H&S COMPANY TO FILL THE VACANCY BROUGHT ABOUT BY CAPT. WRIGHT'S TRANSFER TO COMPANY A.

UPON ASSIGNMENT TO THE NEW GROUP AND UPON RECEIPT OF OUR NEW FACTORY JOBS, THE BATTALION COMMANDING OFFICER, INITIATED A NEW SUB-SECTION UNDER THE ADE SECTION, THAT OF PRODUCTION CONTROL, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF LT. DUBOW. AT MONTH END THIS SECTION HAD UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION TWELVE FACTORIES, WHICH CONSISTED OF THREE CEMENT WORKS, THREE TAR PAPER PLANTS, A PLYWOOD FACTORY, A NAIL FACTORY, A PAINT FACTORY, A PAPER BOX FACTORY, AN ELECTRIC LIGHT SOCKET PLANT AND A TRANSFORMER PLANT. THE PRIMARY CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE BATTALION SINCE COMING TO THE NEW AREA CONSISTED OF A ROAD REPAIR JOB ON THE LADENBURG TO SCHRIESHEIM ROAD; REPAIRING THE ROAD SURFACE ON THE AUTOBAHN IN THE VICINITY OF (R650812); WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WAREHOUSE FOR THE QUARTERMASTERS AT (R535980); WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE QM BASE DEPOT FOR THE 59TH QUARTERMASTER; COMPLETED THE CONSTRUCTION OF BANANA RACKS FOR THE 59TH QM BASE DEPOT AT (R541970); CLEARANCE OF RUBBLE AND THE FILLING OF CRATER HOLES FOR THE SEVENTH ARMY SIGNAL DEPOT AT MANNHEIM; AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PONTON BRIDGE OVER THE NECKAR RIVER AT HEIDELBERG. ON ALL OF THESE CONSTRUCTIONS, WHERE NECESSARY, THE BATTALION EMPLOYED THE USE OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

ALONG WITH ALL OTHER TROOPS IN THE SEVENTH ARMY AREA THE BATTALION ASSISTED IN THE 100 PERCENT HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION OF ALL

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GERMANS ON THE 21 JULY. THIS INSPECTION BEGAN AT 0430 IN THE MORNING AND CONTINUED UNTIL ALL HOMES WERE SEARCHED.

DURING THE LAST WEEK OF THE MONTH THE BATTALION COMMANDER, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF HIS STAFF, PRESENTED AWARDS TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE BATTALION. AT SEPARATE RETREAT FORMATIONS IN THE COMPANIES THE AWARDS, CONSISTING OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL, THE BRONZE STAR, THE PURPLE HEART, AND THE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL WERE PRESENTED TO THOSE MEN AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE THEM.

TO ENABLE THOSE MEN OF THE ORGANIZATION, WHO DESIRED TO VISIT HEIDELBERG AND MANNHEIM, THE A&R OFFICER HAD SCHEDULED TRIPS EACH NIGHT, GOING TO THESE CITIES. IN ADDITION THE BATTALION OPENED THEIR OWN THEATER, AND RAN FIRST RUN PICTURES EACH NIGHT. ON THE 29TH OF JULY MANY MEN OF THE BATTALION HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE IN PERSON THE JACKBENNY SHOW, WHICH WAS PUT ON IN THE HEIDELBERG STADIUM.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

HAROLD A. GOULD
MAJOR, CE
S-3.