

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWO 87354
By CP NARA Date 12/10/06

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
FORTY-EIGHTH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

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: S E C R E T
: Auth: VOGO, 48 E
: Init:
: Date: 9 Aug 1945
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APC 758, U. S. Army
9 August 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Record and History of Organization.

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APC 758, U. S. Army (Thru channels).

- 1. Following is a history of this unit for the month of July 1945:
 - a. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WARRANT OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>
30 June 1945	25	2	585
31 July 1945	26	2	474

- b. Following is a history of the activities of this battalion during the month:

July 1 - July 10: During this period reconnaissance was made of nail and acetylene torch plants in the vicinity of Eberbach, Germany. Road construction was started on a three mile stretch of road for the 529th Engineer Depot. A request was made for an extension of the loan of three R-4 bulldozers, three eight ton trailers, and a road grader in order to continue the road construction without unnecessary delay. A gauge was placed in the Neckar River at Heidelberg for the purpose of keeping a record of the rise and fall of the river. A M1 and Carbine rifle range was constructed. The garbage dump south of Seckenheim was closed. Reconnaissance was made and findings submitted on the construction of a pile bent fixed bridge at Heidelberg. The tasks of constructing a Heavy Ponton Bridge at Heidelberg and the construction of a stadium for the Seventh Army Swimming Meet were assigned to Company C. The battalion was assisted in these two tasks by engineers from the 84th Division. Reconnaissance was made of a bridge site at Mauer. Reconnaissance made and report submitted to higher headquarters on the chemical plastic reported in the coal tar plant and railroad cars in the vicinity of Cologne. Received notification from Seventh Army Headquarters that the battalion was placed in Category IV for eventual return to the United States and deactivation. Personnel of this battalion who participated in the D-Day invasion of Southern France on 15 August 1944 were awarded the Bronze Arrowhead per instructions contained in a letter from Headquarters Mediterranean Theater of Operations.

July 11 - July 20: The river gauge at Heidelberg was moved to a new location one thousand meters downstream from the pile bent fixed bridge in Heidelberg. Work of maintaining the river gauge was turned over to the 290th Engineer Battalion. The battalion was relieved of all production control work on factories by the 290th Engineer Battalion effective July 16th. The battalion commenced work on the construction of showers, repairing of plumbing facilities, and painting of miscellaneous signs to be used in the battalion assigned area. Four hundred cubic yards of gravel was put at the disposal of the 290th Engineer Battalion from the gravel pit at Dossenheim on 15 July. The 290th Engineer Battalion relieved the battalion of work on the Heavy Ponton Bridge at Heidelberg. A reconnaissance was made of the possibility of transporting 10,000 cubic yards of gravel from the

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Dossenheim gravel pit to the 502nd QM Dump by rail. This gravel was to be used by another Engineer Battalion in the construction of a gasoline dump. A reconnaissance was made of all gravel pits suitable for quarry operations in the battalion assigned area.

July 21 - July 31: The battalion commenced the loading and supervising the transportation of the 10,000 cubic yards of gravel for the construction of a gasoline dump. At the unloading point, all facilities for unloading boxcars were made available. Cars were unloaded at destination by crane, clam, and conveyor. Gravel was obtained from quarries at Dossenheim and Weinheim. Notification was received from the 2832nd Engineer Battalion that they were able to produce more than fifteen cubic yards of hot gravel and asphalt per day at their mixing plant, and that this material was available for use by this battalion. The battalion was relieved of the operation of water points at Michaelstadt and Beerfelden. All work in the area now assigned to the 1120th Engineer Group was turned over to that Group. Company B was notified that the 540th Engineer Group and the 1120th Engineer Group had granted permission for Company B to remain in their present location at Heppenheim. Company A was notified that they would have to move from their present location as it was in the area to be occupied by Seventh Army. The Battalion Operations Officer reported to 540th Engineer Group Headquarters for a meeting to determine to what extent civilian repair and maintenance could be expected on the roads in the area assigned to the battalion. A reconnaissance was made of shelter for troop housing and open and covered space for depots and shops. Throughout the month an athletic and Information-Education program was carried out. Numerous softball games and volleyball games were played between the companies of the battalion and other units. Discussion classes were held weekly on subjects provided by "Army Talks". Redeployment transfers during the month transferred out of the battalion practically all personnel with Adjusted Service Rating Scores of less than 75 points. Over 100 officers and men with scores of over 85 were transferred into the battalion. Approximately forty enlisted men and two officers were returned to the Zone of Interior for discharge.

J. E. Foley, Jr.
 J. E. FOLEY, JR.,
 Lt. Col., CE,
 Commanding.