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HEADQUARTERS
343rd ENGINEERS (GS)
APO 464, U.S. ARMY

4 February 1944

HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION 1 JANUARY 1944 TO 1 FEBRUARY 1944

I Major Changes of Station and Record of Events.

Regimental Headquarters located at bivouac area 1 3/4 miles N.W. of Vairano.

Regiment engaged in Road and Bridge work in II Corps Area, with the exception of F Company which was engaged in remodeling East and West Palace Stables in Caserta for use as Rest Camp.

II Construction.

During the month the regiment was engaged in the following construction:

(1) Bridges.

(a) Completing construction of two-way, class 40 timber bridge at H-012085 - 7074 man hours.

(b) Additional work including reflooring of bridge at Calvi Risorta (N-118899) and timber bridge at N-085020 - 315 man hours.

(2) Road Maintenance.

(a) Maintaining route #6 from Lepezze to Vairano - Relieved by 92nd Engineers - 3897 man hours.

(b) Maintaining route #85 from Vairano to Venafro - 37242 man hours.

(c) Maintaining roads to Picilli, Boiani, Terra Corpo and Campagnola - 13671 man hours.

(d) Maintaining route #6 from Vairano intersection to overpass at N-012085 - 24165 man hours.

(e) Maintaining road from R.J. at H-033065 to H-087075 - 10125 man hours.

(f) Maintaining route #6 from overpass at N-012085 to R.J. at G-955155 and crossroad from G-955155 to Venafro - 18540 man hours.

(g) Maintaining route #6 from R.J. at G-955155 to G-902181 - 6687 man hours.

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(h) Access roads and hardstandings at Vairano railhead (including signs) - 4581 man hours.

(i) Access roads for 162nd Medical Hospital in vicinity of 16th Evacuation Hospital - 468 man hours.

(j) Access roads and hardstandings at E-27 Depot near Vairano - 2205 man hours.

(k) Access roads for 11th Evacuation Hospital near Vairano - 2250 man hours.

(l) Access roads and hardstandings for Engineer Depot and 469th Engineer Maintenance Co. at Vairano - 4437 man hours.

(3) General Construction.

(a) Construction of 3 pre-fabricated huts; electric and water lines; sump pit and drainage lines; and parking lot and access roads for 2nd Medical Laboratory at 16th Evacuation Hospital near Vairano - 2079 man hours.

(b) Remodeling and repairing of West and East Palace Stables at Caserta for Rest Camp - 24291 man hours.

(c) Construction of concertina wire enclosure, latrines and access roads for Prisoner of War Camp at Vairano - 2574 man hours.

(4) Marking of enemy minefields at various locations in II Corps Area - 3357 man hours.

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Company C (contd):
 near Le Ferriere (963742)

30 January 1944

Bn Hq & H & S Co:
 Usual operations.

Company A:

Detail swept road for mines from RJ at 980297 to Cisterna di Littoria. This detail could not proceed at that point as the enemy still had the town. Sweeping was accomplished under cover of darkness. CO made reconnaissance of roads in that sector.

Company B:

Company moved to 2½ miles SE of Borgo Montello (995220) 2 mine detector details were attached to the 15th Inf for an attack.

Company C:

Details maintained the by-pass at Le Ferriere (963742).

31 January 1944

Bn Hq & H & S Co:

Staff officers spent part of the day in the forward areas. H & S Co usual operations.

Company A:

Details swept road for mines from RJ at 980297 to south edge of Cisterna di Littoria and put in by-pass in that sector (997313). D-7 dozer pull disabled tank off the road. Enemy artillery shelled the crew while trying to move the tank - no casualties.

Company B:

1st and 2d Platoons put in a by-pass across creek that empties into Canale Mussolini, 1½ miles north of Sessano (946267), completing it at 0600A. Detail of 2 squads from the 3d platoon repaired the bridge at 1½ miles NE of Le Ferriere (992254) (Bridge #8). One officer with 15th Inf, acting as Liaison Officer.

Company C:

Details laid AP mines along Mussolini Canal, 2½ miles NW of Le Ferriere (from 934280 to 950279). By-pass at Le Ferriere was maintained.

HEADQUARTERS
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APO 464, U.S. Army

1 March 1944

HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION 1 FEBRUARY 1944 TO 1 MARCH 1944

I Major Changes of Station and Record of Events.

Regimental Headquarters located at bivouac area 1 3/4 miles N.W. of Vairano.

Regiment engaged in road and bridge work in II Corps Area.

II Construction.

During the month the regiment was engaged in the following construction:

(1) Bridges.

(a) Construction of 80' DS Bailey Bridge over railroad and removal of fill on railroad - H015078 - 1296 man hours.

(2) Road Maintenance.

(a) Maintaining Rt # 85 from Vairano to Venafro - relieved by 92nd Engrs - 39,348 man hours.

(b) Maintaining roads to Picilli, Boiani, Terra Corpo and Campagnola - 0 man hours.

(c) Maintaining Rt #6 from RJ at Vairano (N088018) to overpass at N012085 - 13,572 man hours.

(d) Maintaining Rt # 6 from overpass at H012085 to G955155 and Rt #625 from G955155 to Venafro. - 31,707 man hours.

(e) Maintaining Rt #6 from RJ G955155 to G902181 - 17,793 man hours.

(f) Maintaining Rt #624 from H033065 to H087075 - 6,210 man hours.

(g) Maintaining road from RJ G965158 near S. Pietro to Corps Boundary at G890250 and road from RJ G965160 to junction with Rt #6 at G943158 - 3,231 man hours.

(h) Maintaining route #6 from Vairano, exclusive, to G895198 (This job supersedes previous assignments covering this area) - 5,112 man hours.

(i) Access roads and hardstanding at Vairano railhead - 1,638 man hours.

(j) Access roads and hardstandings for 94th Evac Hosp - 819 man hours.

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- (k) Access roads for QM Class 1 Depot at HO40062 - 171 man hours.
 - (l) Access roads for QM Depot Q539 near Mignano - 4 man hours.
 - (m) Access road for 54th Ambulance Unit HO23189 - 1,044 man hours.
 - (n) Access road for Express Highway at G075118 - 432 man hours.
 - (o) Access roads for Ordnance Depot at G075118 - 9 man hours.
 - (p) Access roads and hardstandings for New Zealand Corps Dump at G009086 on Rt #6 - 18 man hours.
 - (q) Operation of quarry for road maintenance - Primary rock crusher at quarry at G918167 to furnish stone for II Corps - 7,623 man hours.
 - (r) Placing road signs on routes #6, #85, and #624 - 1111 man hours.
- (3) General Construction.
- (a) Remodeling and repairing of west and east palace stables at Caserta for rest camp - 3,483 man hours.
- (4) Mine Reconnaissance and Minefield Marking.
- (a) Sweeping right of way of mines for pipeline from G970140 to Mt. Trocchio - 288 man hours.
 - (b) Marking of enemy minefields at various locations in II Corps Area - 3,363 man hours.

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- April 10 - 1800 - Water Point at Approx 950835 in operation by 1600 10 Apr 44
- April 12 - From M/Sgt Tierney, S-1, 48th to S-3 48th Engrs (Phone) 1 Officer and 1 EM to attend B Br school at Capua from 18 Apr to 3 May 44
1 Officer to attend Photo Interpretation school beginning 15 Apr 44 for 1 week at Capua.
- April 12 River crossing training to be held in vicinity of Castel Volturno 951702.
- April 12 - 1500 - From CO, 310th Engr Bn to CO, 48 (Written) The river crossing problem with CT8 is postponed for probably 2 or 3 days.
- April 12 - 1650 - From Co A, 48th to S-3, 48th (Phone) T/4 Ordogne accidently injured at B Br training site, 995869.
- April 13, - 1000 - Fr Capt Schowalter, S-3 48th to Capt Bowsher, Opns Section 1108th Gp (Phone) Request you obtain for training purposes a Bailey Bridge Pier.
- April 13 - 1030 - S-3 Inspected M-4 Vapor Detector kits, all kits were found defective.
- April 13 - 1600 - From Capt Bowsher, Opns Section, 1108th Gp to Capt Schowalter, S-3 48th (Phone) No B Br Pier available in 5th Army Bridge dump.
- April 13 - 1800 - Lt Thames and Lt Finnegan made a rcn of rds in area of Castel Volturno in preparation for assault of a river line excercise.
- April 13 - 1910 - Capt Busch, S-2 48th made arrangements with S-3 of the 756 Tk Bn to furnish a tank which is to be used with the snake to practice clearing mines. Tank will be at road junction 955842 at 1230 14 Apr 44 . Guide of 48th is to meet it. 756 Tk Bn will furnish tank for eight consecutive days.
- April 13 - 2115 - From Capt Bowsher 1108th Gp to Capt Schowalter, S-3 48th (Phone) What percent of your training thus far has been night training?
- April 13 - 2115 - Capt Schowalter informed 1108th Gp that 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of the training was during the night.
- April 14 - 0800 - From Col Swift, CO, 48th to Capt Schowalter S-3 48th - Extend Co B's time with Snake to include 17 and 18 April 1944.
- April 15 - 0800 - Fr Capt Bowsher Opns O, 1108th Gp (Phone Request you have one (1) O and three EM assist 235th Engrs in the construction of a pneumatic treadway bridge starting 17 Apr 44.
- April 15 - 1900 - From Capt Bowsher, Opns Section, 1108th Gp to Capt Schowalter, S-3 48th (Phone) Fifth Army School in Scouting and patrolling for Engr Units is starting 19 April and continues for 2 weeks. Teams consist of 1 Officer and 14 EM. Send as many teams as desired.

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- April 15 - 1900 - From Maj Winger, Opns Section, 1108th Gp to Capt Schowalter, S-3 48th (Phone) River Crossing exercise is cancelled.
- April 15 - 1905 - From Capt Schowalter S-3 48th To Maj Winger 1108th Gp (Phone) Request training period be extended one week.
- April 17 - 1700 - From Capt Bowsher, 1108th Gp to Lt Thames, ADE, 48th Engrs (Phone) Only 1 team to be sent to scouting and patrolling school which is to start about May 1st. Also school will be held on boat craft and watermanship. Capt Bowsher to send further information on this subject.
- April 18 - From Capt Bowsher, Asst Opns Officer, 1108th Gp to CO's 48th Engrs (Written) The attached letter, subject: Rafting and watermanship is forwarded for your information if you are interested in this school please submit by Wednesday 19 April the name, rank and ASN of people you wish to have attend, so that arrangements can be made by this Hq's for enrollment of said personnel.
- April 19 - 0810 - Fr Capt Bowsher Opns Section 1108th Gp to Capt Schowalter 48th (Phone) The request for 10 mules and 10 mule skimmers have been granted and final arrangements will be made Saturday 22 April 44.
- April 19 - 0815 - From Capt Schowalter S-3 48th to Capt Bowsher, Opns Section 1108th Gp (Phone) - Request clearance of Mt Massico for tramway training. Training will be conducted between 916869 to 932823.
- April 19 - 0820 - From Capt Bowsher, Opns Section, 1108th Gp to Capt Schowalter, S-3 48th (Phone) - Clearance of Mt Massico for tramway training is obtained.
- April 20 - 0850 - Fr S-3, Capt Schowalter to Capt Mardin Co B (Phone) - Make detail plans with S-4 for delivery of tramway. You will receive ten (10) mules with mule skinner on 24 April 44.
- April 20 - 0915 - Fr Cpl Wolf, S-3 235th Engrs to Capt Schowalter, S-3, 48th Engrs (Phone) - Request that you send a guard by 0630 23 Apr 44 to take over the equipment for the floating B Br.
- April 20 - 0945 - Fr Sgt Tierney, S-1 48th to Capt Busch S-2, 48th (Oral) - send one (1) NCO rank of sgt or above to attend an advance B Br school at SME Capua 26 April 44. Name to be submitted to 1108th Gp.
- April 21 - 0800 - Fr Col Swift, 48th Engrs to Capt Schowalter - S-3 48th Engrs (Oral)
(1) Get detailed schedules of inspections to be held by Co's on 22 April 44. (2) Arrange to have profile made of Aerial tramway site. (3) Arrange for observation flights in F.A. observation planes for all officers on 23 April or 30 April 44. Flights to follow a detailed flight plan with the following purpose in view. a. Training in aerial observation. b. Observation in camouflage of bivouac areas. c. preliminary recon of tramway site on Mt Massico. (4) Issue directives to Co's on disposition of chemical warfare equipment.

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- April 21 - 0905 - From Capt Schowalter S-3 48th to Capt Munson, Co A 48th (Phone) Send guard detail to floating B Br site 22 April 44 to take over guard of floating B Br equipment from 235 Engrs.
- April 21 - 1030 - From Capt Schowalter S-3 48th Engrs to Capt Bowsher, Opns Section 1108th Gp (Phone) Request 4 Cub planes for training in aerial observation.
- April 21 - Convoy clearance obtained for Co A from Selice to vic of Capua 190808 for 23 April at 0800. Convoy number is 5A-S199.
- April 21 - 1800 - From Maj Winger, Opns Section 1108th to CO, 48th (Written) - Intended II Corps Rest area is to be cleared of mines by 24 April 44. See Overlay.
- April 21 - 1800 - Fr Maj Winger S-3 1108th Gp to Capt Schowalter S-3 48th (Phone) (Conservation) Details on clearance of II Corps Area discussed. To be cleared of mines as soon as possible, preferably by dark 24 April 44. Report on progress evening of 22 April 44.
- April 21 - 2300 - Fr Capt Schowalter to Capt Reardon Co C 48th (Phone) Pick up O fr S-2, S-3 to guide you to area that is to be cleared of mines. Use every available man on afternoon of 22 April 44 for that purpose.
- April 22 - 1000 - Fr Maj Winger, 1108th Gp S-3 to Capt Schowalter 48th S-3 (Phone) Make arrangements with Capt Marinell, of II Corps Air OP to take O's of 48th on observation flight.
- April 22 - 1600 - Fr Capt Marinell, fr II Corps Air OP to Capt Schowalter S-3 48th (Oral) Have arranged to let you have four (4) planes for 23 April 44. Flight can start 0800; one flight each hr.
- April 22 - 2000 - Fr Capt Bowsher, Opns Section 1108th Gp to Capt Schowalter S-3 48th (Phone) - Submit the names for a camouflage team to consist of 1 O and 2 EM's. Officer will report to II Corps Engineer Office at 1000 23 April 44.
- April 23 - The names of T/4 Johnson, Co C and Acting Sgt, Camoufleur, Pvt Tschettters submitted to II Corps Engr Officer as camouflage inspection team of the 48th Engrs.
- April 23 - 1900 - From CO, Co C to Lt Thames Asst S-3 48th Engrs (Oral) Minefield half completed. Plan to work one plat only on 24 Apr 44. Not sure of completion by tomorrow night. Starting two (2) platoons on rolling B Br 24 Apr 44. Request one (1) D-7 and two dollies at the B Br site early on the morning 24 April 44.
- April 23 - 1045 - From Capt Schowalter S-3 48th to Co C 48th (Phone) Have entire Company clear assigned area of mines 24 Apr 44.

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- April 24 - 1100 - From Cap Schowalter S-3 48th Engrs to Capt Bowsher, Opns Section 1108th Gp (Phone) Requisition B Br Pier for training purposes.
- April 24 - 1100 - From Capt Bowsher, Opns Section, 1108th Gp to Capt Schowalter S-3 48th (Phone) Bailey Bridge Pier not available.
- April 24 - 1230 - From Capt Reardon, Co C 48th to Capt Schowalter S-3 48th (Phone) Mine clearing job completed by 1200 24 April 44.
- April 24 - 1410 - From Maj Winger, Opns Section, 1108th Gp to CO, 48th (Radio) You will take over maintenance of the aerial beacon vicinity N-004772 from the 235th Bn by 271800B. (To CO, 48th Engrs: information copy sent to CO, 235th Engrs.
- April 25 - 0730 - From Capt Schowalter S-3 48th Engrs to CO, Co C 48th Engrs (Oral) Co C will take over maintenance of an air beacon, vic N004772 at 271800B April 44. Make all arrangements with 235th Engrs, whom you are relieving, and with S-4 for supply of fuel.
- April 26 - 1030 - Lt Thames, Assistant S-3 48th Engrs contacted S-3 of 756 Tank Bn and made arrangements to have a Tank report to Co C 1200 27 Apr. Tank will report for 3 consecutive days to be used in training.
- April 26 - 1045 - From Capt Bowsher, Opns Section, 1108th Gp to Capt Schowalter, S-3 48th (Phone) Submit names of the officer and 2 EM who will attend a flame thrower school for two days starting 1 May 44, 0800B. EM are to bring their full field equipment; officers will bring equipment. School located at NO46870.
- April 26 - 1540 - Fr Capt Bowsher, Opns Section, 1108th Gp, to Capt Busch, S-2 48th (Phone) Build a jeep trail to any one of the OP's at the following locations: 938881, 927862, 907845, 881830. (2) Tentative date for demonstration of tramway has been set for Saturday 29 Apr 44.
- April 26 - From Capt Bowsher, Opns Section, 1108th Gp to Lt Thames, Asst S-3 48th (Phone) Clearance could not be obtained for area requested, instead firing range at 762914 can be used for firing at grenades.
- April 27 - 0910 - Names of the following officers and EM were submitted to 1108th Gp by Capt Schowalter as the ones to attend flame throwers school from 1 May to 2 May inclusive: 1st Lt Thames, T/4 Frazier, and S/Sgt La Fratta.
- April 27 - 0850 - Fr Col Swift, CO, 48th Engrs to Capt Schowalter, S-3, 48th Engrs (Oral) Arrange for Rifle grenade practice for officers 30 Apr 44. All O's are to assemble at Bn Hq at 0745. Each Co is to provide 3-M1's and 3 carbines (with grenade attachments).

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- April 27 - 0930 - From Col Swift, CO, 48th Engrs, to Capt Schowalter, S-3 48th Engrs (Oral- Co CO's are to go forward to 310 Engr area for 24 hours to familiarize themselves with this sector.
- April 27 - 1035 - From Capt Bowsher, Opns Section, 1108th Gp to Sgt Smukler, S-3 48th Engrs (Phone) the date for the tramway and Snake demon has been set ahead 1 May 44.
- April 28 - 1250 - Names submitted for advanced B Br School from May 4 to 19 are: Lt Brooker, and Sgt Grossman of Co C.
- April 28 - 1440 - From Capt Bowsher, Opns Section, 1108th Gp to Lt Thames, Asst S-3 48th (Phone) Demonstration will start at 10 o'clock 1 May 44 and will consist of mine demonstration, Snake and tramway. Submit schedule including location.
- April 28 - 1645 - From S-3 48th Engrs to Staff (Phone) At S-3, assemble by 0800 30 April 44 to fire grenade launcher.
- April 28 - 2030 - From Col Swift, CO, 48th Engrs to Lt Finnegan, Asst S-3 48th Engrs - Call off the firing of the grenade launcher 30 Apr 44.
- April 28 - Convoy clearance has been obtained for Co A to return fr the vicinity of Capua to previous bivouac area at 950836.
- April 29 - 1430 - From Col Swift, 48th to Capt Busch, S-2 48th (Oral) Request that you have the CO's of H&S, B and C Co and the CO of Co A, if it does not interfere with his movement plan and the Staff Officers to meet at Col Swifts CP at 1000 30 April to make final arrangements on demonstration to be held.
- April 29 - 1500 - From Lt Thames, Asst S-3 48th Engrs to Lt Jonah, Co C (Phone) Have one (1) Squad report to S-3 at 1330 30 April to prepare for demonstration.
- April 30 - 0900 - From Capt Schowalter, S-3 48th Engrs to Capt Bowsher, Opns Section, 1108th Gp (Phone) Is the school in Scouting and Patrolling to start on 1 May 44. Capt Bowsher replied that this school was postponed.
- April 30 - A meeting of the CO's and Staff was held at tramway site at 1000 hours to make final arrangements on demonstrations to be held 1 May 44.