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HEADQUARTERS  
343rd ENGINEERS (GS)  
APO 758, U.S. Army

HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION - 1 AUGUST to 31 AUGUST 1944

I Major Changes in Station and Record of Events.

1. Regimental Headquarters located 4 miles W. of Napoli in Staging Area number 4.

Regiment assigned to AFHQ (effective 30 June 1944) and attached to Seventh Army for Administration.

Regimental Headquarters and H&S Company attached to VI Corps for operations, 1st Bn. Companies attached to 45th Division for operations and 2nd Bn. Companies attached to 3rd Division for operations.

2. 8 August 1944 - 2nd Bn. Hq., D, E and F Companies boarded USS Thurston in Napoli harbor at 0800 hours.

3. 9 August 1944 - 1st Bn. Hq. and A, B and C Company boarded HMT Dilwara in Napoli harbor at 1200, 1200 and 1330 hours respectively. Regimental Headquarters and Med Det boarded USS Marine Robin in Napoli harbor at 1630 hours.

4. 13 August 1944 - Convoy left Napoli harbor 1400 hours.

5. 15 August 1944 - 2nd Bn. Companies left USS Thurston at 0950, 0945 and 0930 hours respectively on LCA's, landing at beach near la Nartelle, France at 1100, 1030 and 1030 hours respectively. 1st Bn. Companies left HMT Dilwara at 1137, 1135 and 1137 hours respectively on LCA's landing at beach near la Nartelle, France at 1225, 1224 and 1225 hours respectively. Regimental Headquarters left USS Marine Robin at 1600 hours on LCI, landing at beach near la Nartelle, France, at 1630 hours. Regimental Headquarters located in bivouac area  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile W. of la Nartelle, distance travelled  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Letter companies bivouaced within radius of approx. 7 miles.

6. 19 August 1944 - Regimental Headquarters left bivouac area  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile W. of la Nartelle at 1100 hours arriving at bivouac area in Flassans at 1600 hours, distance travelled 40 miles.

7. 22 August 1944 - Effective 0001 hours Regiment attached to Seventh Army for operations.

Regimental Headquarters and H&S Company relieved of attachment to VI Corps, 1st Bn. from attachment to 45th Division and 2nd Bn. from attachment to 3rd Division.

8. 24 August 1944 - Regimental Headquarters left bivouac area at Flassans at 0830 hours arriving at former German Hospital in Aix at 1130 hours, distance travelled 46 miles.

9. 30 August 1944 - Regimental Headquarters left bivouac area at Aix at 0845 hours arriving at bivouac area  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles NE of Avignon at 1230 hours, distance travelled 82 miles.

10. 31 August 1944 - Regimental Headquarters left bivouac area  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles NE of Avignon at 0830 hours arriving at bivouac area 3 miles NE of Avignon at 1015 hours, distance travelled  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

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11. Awards:

Purple Heart Award: During the month of August, two (2) enlisted men.

12. Regiment awaiting shipment to Southern France and preparing equipment for shipping from 1 August to 9 August 1944, during which time 2750 man hours were devoted to conditioning marches. The Regiment with the exception of part of H&S Company left Napoli harbor landing in Southern France in the vicinity of Ste Maxime on 15 August 1944, "D" Day. Additional elements with equipment arrived on D+5, D+10 and D+15 convoys. From 15 August to 22 August 1944 when 1st and 2nd Battalion were attached to 45th Division and 3rd Division respectively, they were engaged in clearing road blocks, road maintenance and repair, bridge construction and operation of water points. From 23 August to 31 August the Regiment under Seventh Army was engaged principally in bridge construction in Seventh Army Area. A total of 93 enemy prisoners were taken by the Regiment during the month.

II Construction.

1. Bridges.

- (a) Construction of Class 40 Bridge 1 mile N. of Ste Aygulf. 480 man hours.
- (b) Construction of culvert and fill at destroyed bridge near Le Luc. 1200 man hours.
- (c) Construction of Bridge near Bormes. 400 man hours.
- (d) Construction of Bridge near Mirabeau across Durance River. 560 man hours.
- (e) Construction of Bridge on Route #7 in Aix. 1200 man hours.
- (f) Class 40, 70' D/S Bailey Bridge at T800646. 684 man hours. (Man hours includes guarding bridge from 24 August to 30 August 1944)
- (g) Repair of Railroad Bridge 1.5 Km SE of Aix. 4649 man hours.
- (h) Repair of Railroad Bridge over Durance River near Meyrargues at T585550. 5002 man hours. (Incomplete 31 Aug. '44)
- (i) Replace Treadway Bridging parts now in place on suspension Bridge. 2655 man hours.
- (j) Preparation of Bridge over Durance River at Cavailon to permit passage of two-way traffic. 2012 man hours.
- (k) Repair Bridge on Route #7 at Orgon to take two-way Class 40 traffic. 566 man hours. (Incomplete 31 Aug. '44)
- (l) Repair Bridge on Route #7, 7 miles east of Senas to take two-way Class 40 traffic. 1364 man hours. (Incomplete 31 Aug. '44)

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- (m) Maintaining ford at Cavailon-64 man hours. (Incomplete 31 Aug. '44)
- (n) Repair Railroad Bridge south of Avignon across Durance River to serve as two-way road and railroad Bridge. 665 man hours.  
(Incomplete 31 Aug. '44)

2. Mine Clearance and reconnaissance and minefield marking.

Reconnaissance for and necessary marking of areas reported mined.  
893 man hours. (Incomplete 31 Aug. '44)

3. Road Maintenance and improvement.

- (a) Maintenance of roads in assigned area. 1400 man hours.
- (b) Maintenance of roads in Army Area as assigned. 2000 man hours.  
(Incomplete 31 Aug. '44)
- (c) Improve by-pass at demolished bridge site on main road just south of Aix, by enlarging culvert and placing rock on approaches.  
1107 man hours.
- (d) Clearing vehicles from Highway between Orgon and Avignon.  
480 man hours.

4. General Construction.

- (a) Guarding German Engineer Dumps at Brignoles and Ste Anastasia.  
3784 man hours.
- (b) Operation of water point near la Lande - les - Maures. 48 man hours.
- (c) Operation of water point at Gonfaron. 396 man hours.
- (d) P.W. cage at St Maximin, capacity 5000 men. 848 man hours.
- (e) Operation of water point near Brignoles. Cancelled.

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HEADQUARTERS  
343rd ENGINEERS (GS)  
APO 758, U.S. Army

HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION - 1 SEPTEMBER to 30 SEPTEMBER 1944

I Major Changes in Station and Record of Events.

1. Regimental Headquarters located in a Chateau 3 miles NE of Avignon.
2. 14 September 1944 - Regimental Headquarters moved from Chateau 3 miles NE of Avignon to overnight stop at a Chateau 2 miles N. of Lyon, distance traveled 141 miles.
3. 15 September 1944 - Regimental Headquarters moved from Chateau 2 miles N. of Lyon to buildings 1/2 mile S. of Besancon, distance traveled 126 miles.
4. 23 September 1944 - Regimental Headquarters moved from buildings 1/2 mile S. of Besancon to a Chateau 1 1/2 miles W. of Luxeuil, distance traveled 46 miles.
5. Awards:  
 Bronze Star: During the month of September, one (1) enlisted man.  
 Purple Heart Award: During the month of September, two (2) enlisted men.
6. The Regimental Commander and the Regiment were commended by the Army Commander for work on railroad bridges in Southern France during the months of August and September, by letter.

DNRG - 343-0.2



II Construction.

1. Bridges.

- (a) Repair of single track railroad bridge at T520378, 1.5 Km. S. of Aix. Bridge installed utilized a German 270mm gun traversing base. The bridge was 104'-0" long, 9'-0" wide, of two spans of 50' each, making use of existing masonry pier in the center. Bridge open for traffic 29 Aug '44, but cross-bracing of steel I beams between piers added in September. 2184 man hours.
- (b) Repair of single track railroad bridge at T585550 near Meyrargues. Bridge is quadruple-single Bailey Bridge, 170' long, of two spans, 80' and 90' each. (Continuous Bailey). Intermediate support used was a triple bent, each of five timber posts, with battered posts on four sides. Base for bent is piles capped with reinforced concrete. Base completely enclosed in sheet piling. 24900 man hours.
- (c) Repair of two-way Class 40 highway bridge on Rt. #7 over railroad and canal at T182794, Orgon. Damaged bridge supported by double timber bent, each row having eleven columns, 6" x 12" x 18'; floor slab patched. 220 man hours.

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- (d) Repair of two-way Class 40 highway bridge on Rt. #7 over irrigation ditch at T290618, 7 miles E. of Senas. Bridge is 75' long 24' wide, 4 spans of 25', 25', 15' and 10' respectively; stringers are 16" steel I beams; 3 single bents of 9', 6" x 12" timber, each of 11 columns with battered post at each end. 750 man hours.
- (e) Maintenance of ford at Cavaillon. Maintenance ended with opening of bridge S. of Avignon (f). 2790 man hours.
- (f) Repair of two-way highway and two-track railroad bridge at T925825 across Durance River S. of Avignon. Work consisted of building 4 bridges to replace blown out arches. Bridges were 70'-0", 73'-0", 71'-0" and 70'-0" long, respectively. Each bridge was of 3 spans; stringers were steel I or H beams of sizes available; each bridge had two double timber bents of 26-6" x 12" legs, an average of 28' high. 31290 man hours.
- (g) Construction of two-way Class 40 each way Bailey Bridge on Rt. #7 at N915532 S. of Montelimar over Roubion River. Bridge was 90' D/S Bailey Bridge. 880 man hours.
- (h) Maintenance of crossings at Manosque and Mirabeau. Relieved by letter Hq, Seventh Army, AG 823 - EN, dated 2 Sept. '44, subject: Assignment of Mission. 816 man hours.
- (i) Construction of temporary bridge across Durance River near Cavaillon, necessitated by high water. 128 man hours.
- (j) Construction of single track railroad bridge over Rt. #7 at N890372 S. of Donzere. Bridge was 17' long, 5' wide; stringers were 4-21" I beams, two under each rail.
- (k) Construction of single track railroad bridge across Roubion River at N910532 SW of Montelimar. Bridge was 120' long, 30' wide, of 2 spans, each 60' long; stringers were 4-30" I beams; 1 double timber bent of 6-12" x 12" x 24' high. 1774 man hours.
- (l) Repair of single track railroad bridge at N990780 near Livron. Bridge was 310' long, 6' wide of 10 spans each 31' long; stringers (2 per span) were 39" steel I beams; 9 single bents of 6 columns each 16" x 16", 15' high; abutments were timber cribs on existing masonry. 14483 man hours.
- (m) Repair of single track railroad bridge on Valence-Lyon line over Isere River at H996023 near Valence. Bridge is 132'-0" long; stringers were 2-40" I beams, making a continuous span supported by 5 timber bents each of which consisted of 6-16" round legs 20' high. 2918 man hours.
- (n) Reconstruction of timber bridge on highway #19 over Vesoul-Lure line at K090067 near Lure. Removed center bent of 3-bent bridge to allow single track railroad line to pass beneath. Center bent replaced with six A-frames and six stringers. Removed rubble and debris from track. 3288 man hours.

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- (o) Repair of railroad bridge at J683210 near Jussey for one track traffic. 5428 man hours. (Incomplete 30 Sept '44)
  - (p) Repair of railroad bridge at J650228 west of Jussey for one track traffic. 3790 man hours. (Incomplete 30 Sept '44)
  - (q) Repair of railroad bridge at Z830642 on Mirecourt-Epinal line. 3405 man hours. (Incomplete 30 Sept '44)
2. Mine Clearance and reconnaissance and minefield marking.
- Reconnaissance for and necessary marking of areas reported mined. 1457 man hours.
3. Road Maintenance and improvement.
- Maintenance of roads in Army area as assigned. 48 man hours.
4. General Construction.
- (a) Construction of PW Cage in vicinity of Meyrargues. 256 man hours.
  - (b) Clearing of railroad tunnel on Vesoul-Lure line at K030060 west of Lure. 4320 man hours. (Incomplete 30 Sept '44)

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HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY  
APO 758 US ARMY

AG 370.5 - C

28 September 1944

SUBJECT: Assignment Status of Unit.

TO : Unit Listed below.

To clarify assignment status of mentioned Unit, following is published:

Effective 0001B hours 18 August 1944 PAC NATOUSA Letter, dated 16 August 1944, File AG 370.5/0 88C-0, Subject: Assignment of Units; the following unit is relieved from prior assignments and/or attachments as indicated, and is assigned to Seventh Army:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Attachment</u>
343rd Engr GS Regt	AFHQ	SOS NATOUSA For Supply

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ W. G. Caldwell  
W. G. CALDWELL,  
Colonel, A.G.D.,  
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:  
1 - Staff Section Concerned

Certified True Copy:

*William C. Lightfield*  
WILLIAM C. LIGHTFIELD  
Captain, CE, 343rd Engineers (GS)  
Adjutant

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HEADQUARTERS  
343rd ENGINEERS (GS)  
APO 758, U.S. Army

*Jan Feb, Aug - Oct 44*

HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION - 1 OCTOBER to 31 OCTOBER 1944

I Major Changes in Station and Record of Events.

1. Regimental Headquarters located in a Chateau 1 1/2 miles W. of Luxeuil.
2. 3 October 1944 - Regimental Headquarters moved from Chateau 1 1/2 miles W. of Luxeuil to Hotel du Parc in Bains-les-Bains.
3. Awards:

Legion of Merit: During the month of October to Sgt Wallace R. Johnson, ASN 19 102 340.

Bronze Star Medal: During the month of October to Lt. Col. Thomas E. Holt, O 243 773 and to a former member of this command, Major William E. Harrison, O 900 582 for services rendered while a member of this command.

4. Regiment engaged in clearing a railroad tunnel in vicinity of Lure, repair of two railroad bridges near Jussey, one near Mirecourt, three near Epinal, and one near Luneville, a railroad and highway bridge near Epinal, a highway bridge in Epinal and one in Thaon, establishment of a rest area for a Division, rehabilitation of a bulk fuel installation in Golbey, construction of air strip near Besancon, guarding engineer dump in Luneville and maintenance of roads in assigned area.

II Construction.

1. Bridges.

(a) Repair of railroad bridge in vicinity of Jussey (J683210) for one track traffic. 5880 man hours.

(b) Repair of railroad bridge west of Jussey (J650228) for one track traffic. 984 man hours.

(c) Repair of railroad bridge on Mirecourt-Epinal line at Z830642. 10873 man hours.

(d) Repair of rail and road bridge over canal on Rt. #66 (V007553) just west of Epinal, for both rail and road traffic. 7264 man hours.

(e) Repair of railroad bridge just NW of Epinal at V030562. 1392 man hours.

CNR 86-343-012

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**CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO**  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE  
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- (f) Repair of railroad bridge just north of Epinal at V031570. 3336 man hours.
- (g) Repair of railroad bridge at V033556 on Rt. #66, north edge of Epinal. 1488 man hours.
- (h) Repair of highway bridge at V040550 across Moselle River north edge of Epinal. 8540 man hours.
- (i) Repair of railroad bridge at V009965 on Epinal-Luneville line for single track Cooper's E-40 (single locomotive) operation. 9824 man hours.
- (j) Construction of highway bridge at V028623 over canal in Thaon. 1912 man hours.

2. Road Maintenance and Improvement.

Maintenance of roads in assigned area. 21670 man hours.  
(Incomplete 31 October 1944)

3. Tunneling.

Clearing of railroad tunnel at K030060 on Vesoul-Lure line.  
24844 man hours. (Incomplete 31 October 1944)

4. General.

- (a) Construction of air strip at O-835595 in vicinity of Besancon. 800 man hours.
- (b) Rehabilitation of bulk fuel installation at V042560 in vicinity of Golbey (north of Epinal) including cleaning of tanks, laying pipeline and miscellaneous work. 1600 man hours.
- (c) Guarding engineer dump at Luneville. 448 man hours.  
(Incomplete 31 October 1944)
- (d) Preparation of rest area for a Division. 9652 man hours.  
(Incomplete 31 October 1944)