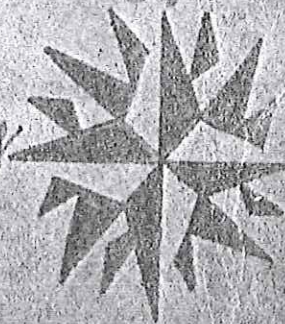




# OPERATIONAL REPORT

*257th Engineer C. Battalion*



*November 10, 1944 - May 8, 1945*



OPERATIONS  
257TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

in the  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

1944-1945

I. GENERAL

- A. The 257th Engineer Combat Battalion landed at Avonmouth, England on 10 November 1944 and was stationed at Howbery Park.
- B. While in England, one (1) month of training was conducted. The primary subjects were:
  - (1) Floating Bailey Bridge
  - (2) Fixed Bailey Bridge
  - (3) Mines and Booby Traps
- C. The Battalion embarked at South Hampton on 24 December 1944 and landed at Cherbourg, France on 26 December 1944, then moved directly to Barneville Le Plage, Normandy where it was attached to the 156th Infantry Regiment for coastal security.

II. NORTHERN FRANCE

- A. MISSION: - The 257th Engineer Combat Battalion was attached to the 7th Army on 6 January 1945 and joined it at Hermenil, France on 9 January 1945 where the Battalion was attached to the XV Corps and 1101st Engineer Combat Group for general engineer work in the Corps Sector.
- B. MORHANGE and VICINITY: -
  - (1) Movements and Attachments:-
    - (a) The Battalion joined the 1101st Engineer Combat Group at Morhange, France on 12 January 1945.
    - (b) On 27 January 1945 it was attached to XV Corps and the 1117th Engineer Combat Group.
    - (c) It was reattached to 1101st Engineer Combat Group on 9 February 1945.
  - (2) Operations:
    - (a) The Battalion primary mission consisted of:
      - 1. Maintenance of roads and bridges
      - 2. Guarding military installations

Oper. 257th Engr C Bn in the ETO - 1944-1945 (cont'd)

<u>Company Constructing</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Coordinates</u>	<u>Description</u>
Company "C"	06 Mar 1945	Q-558147	Replaced 100 ft. D3 BB with an 84 ft. class 40, one way, 3 span steel stringer fixed bridge. Constructed under BB.
	08 Mar 1945		
Company "B"	11 Mar 1945	Q-567507	Replaced 100 ft. TS BB with an 80 ft. class 40, one way, 4 span steel stringer fixed bridge. Constructed under BB.
	16 Mar 1945		

### III. BREAK THROUGH OF SIEGFRIED LINE TO RHINE RIVER

A. MISSION:- On 15 March 1945 the 257th Engineer Combat Battalion was assigned the mission of direct Engineer support of the 6th Armored Division. On 18 March 1945 the Battalion moved to Sarreinsming, France to await further orders.

#### B. OPERATIONS:-

- (1) On 21 March 1945 the Battalion started its advance with the 6th Armored Division. Companies "C" and "B" followed Combat Commands "A" and "B", respectively, with "H&S" and "A" Companies following Division Headquarters.
- (2) The Engineer work accomplished consisted of:-
  - (a) Removing road blocks
  - (b) Destroying mines
  - (c) Filling road craters
- (3) On 23 March 1945 the Battalion was relieved from attachment with the 6th Armored Division and reattached to the 1101st Engineer Combat Group.
- (4) The Battalion reassembled at Offstein, Germany on 24 March 1945 and moved to Monzernheim, Germany.

### IV CROSSING OF THE RHINE RIVER:

A. MISSION:- The 257th Engineer Combat Battalion was to follow up the assault crossing of the 15th Infantry Division with the construction of an M-2 Treadway Bridge in the vicinity of Hamm, Germany.

#### B. TROOPS INVOLVED:

- (1) 1101st Engineer Combat Group
- (2) 257th Engineer Combat Battalion



Oper. 257th Engr C Bn in the ETO - 1944-1945 (cont'd)

<u>Company Constructing</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Coordinates</u>	<u>Description</u>
Company "A"	10 Apr 1945	N-334819	Constructed a 195 ft. class 40, one way, 5 span steel stringer fixed bridge over blown gap.
	16 Apr 1945		
Company "C"	13 Apr 1945	O-186697	Replaced a 70 ft. DS BB with a 50 ft. class 40, two way, 2 span steel stringer fixed bridge. Constructed under BB.
	16 Apr 1945		
Company "B"	15 Apr 1945	O-261492	Built a 120 ft. class 40, M-2 Treadway bridge.
	16 Apr 1945		

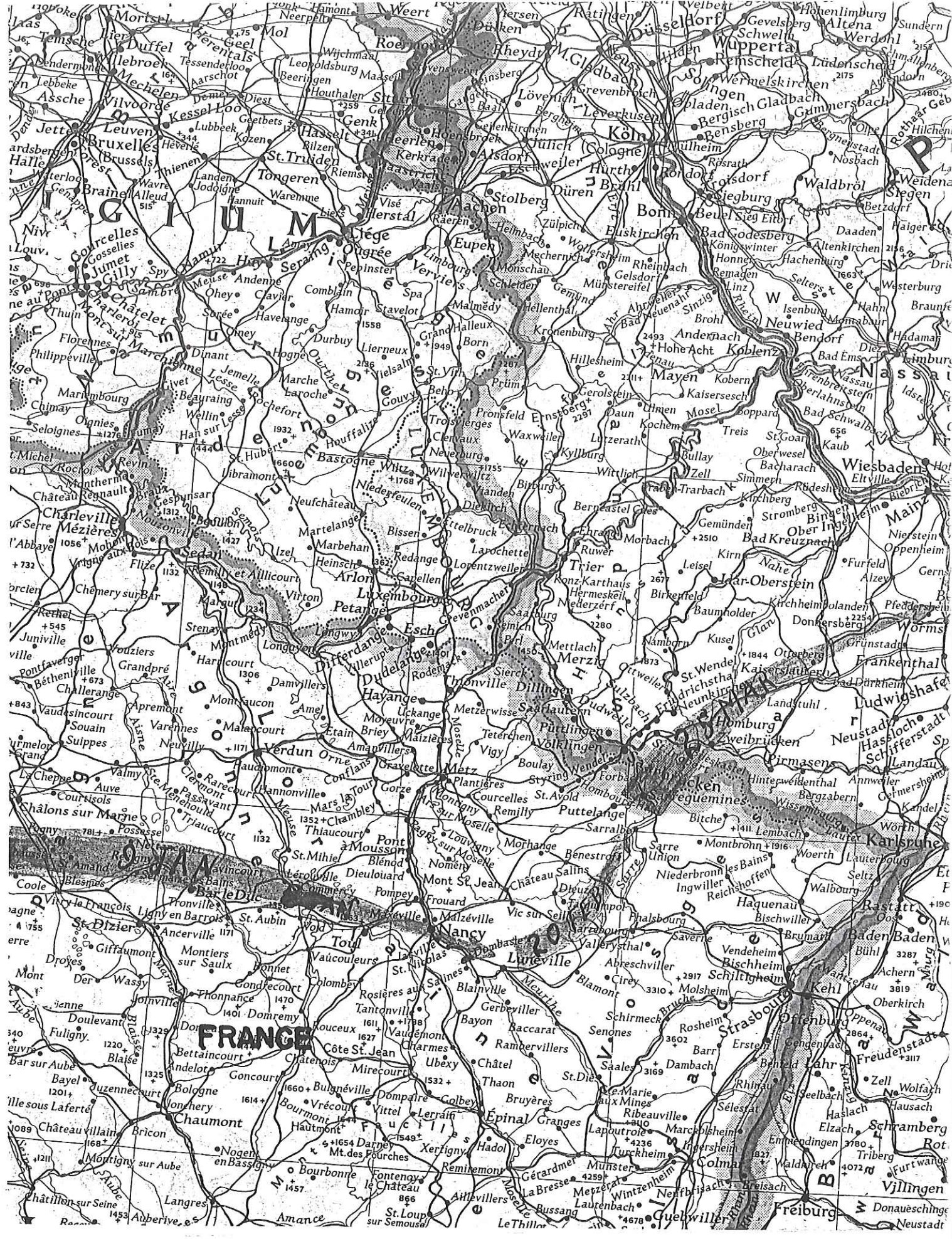
C. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- (1) On 17 April 1945 the Battalion was attached to the 45th Infantry Division per VCOG XV Corps, for operations in Nurnberg to post security guards and clear mines and booby traps from areas designated in T-Force Area. One company was attached to each of the Infantry Regiments (157th, 179th and 180th). The Battalion was released to continue general engineer work on 24 April 1945.
- (2) On 27 April 1945 the Battalion was assigned to the 7th Army Security Command, 44th AAA Brigade and 5th AAA Group, with the mission to guard installations of military value, to provide security patrols, control the movement of displaced persons and to represent the military authority in the assigned area.

VI. SUMMARY:-

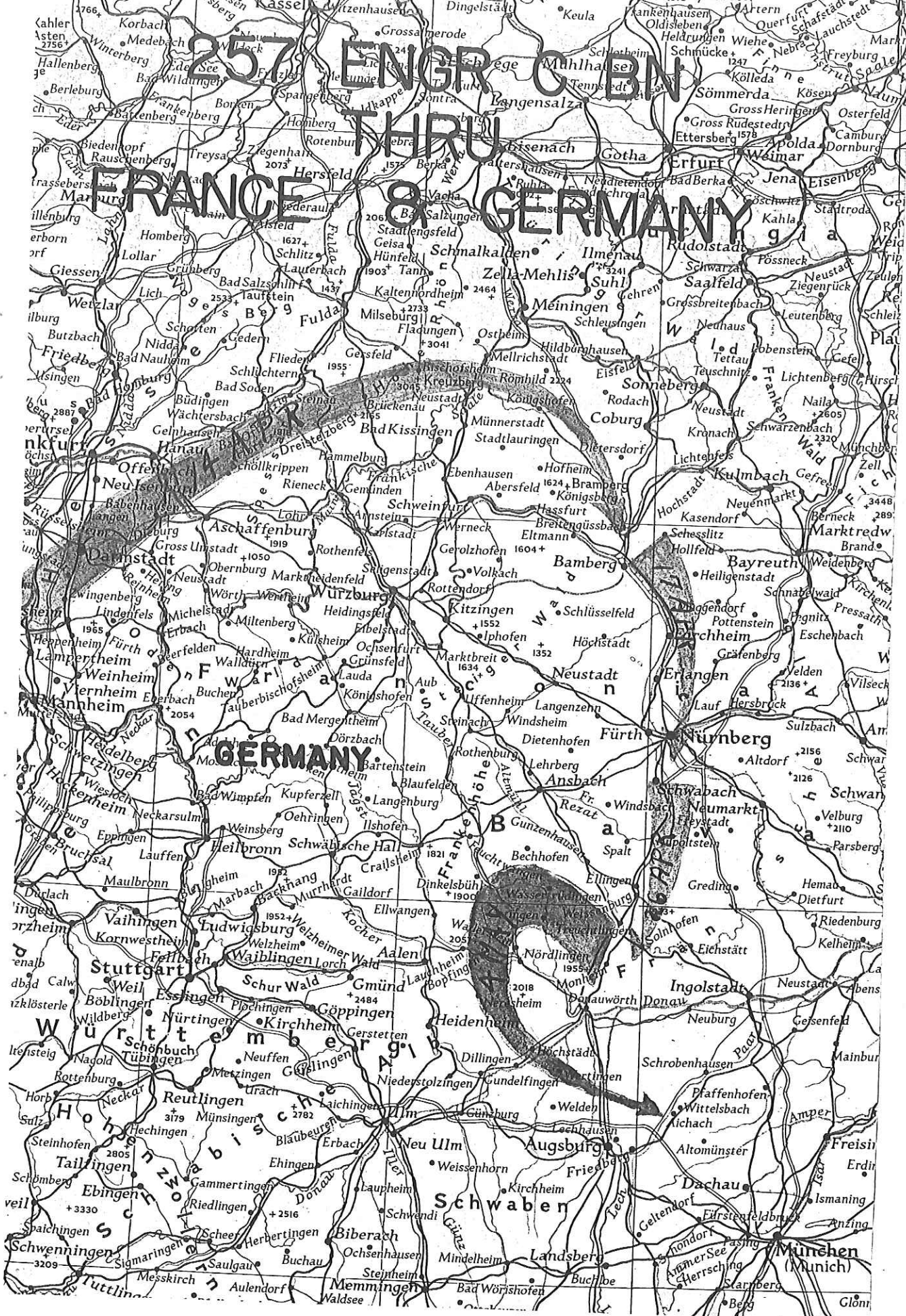
- A. Total number of bridges built - Twelve (12)
  - (1) Nine (9) Timber trestle bridges
  - (2) Two (2) Treadway Bridges M-2
  - (3) One (1) DS Bailey Bridge
- B. Total length of Bailey Bridges dismantled - 600 feet
- C. Total number of minefields cleared - Two (2)
- D. Largest area of engineer responsibility was 1100 square miles (approximately)







# 257 ENGR & DN THRU FRANCE & GERMANY





PHOTOGRAPHS  
of  
WORK ACCOMPLISHED  
by  
257TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

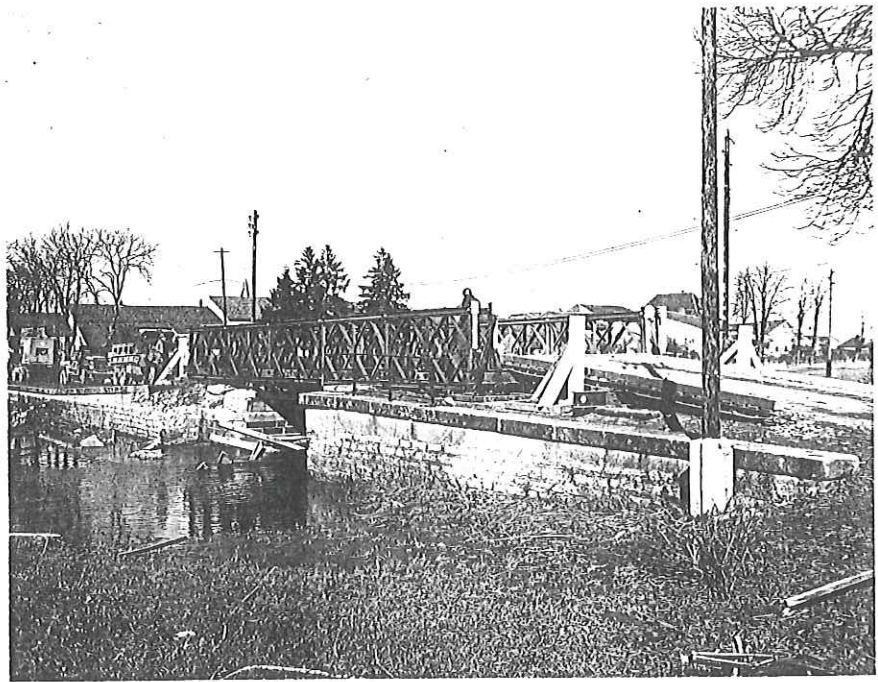


DESCRIPTION: ROAD MATERIAL  
PLACE: CONTHIL, FRANCE  
DATE: 19 JANUARY 1945

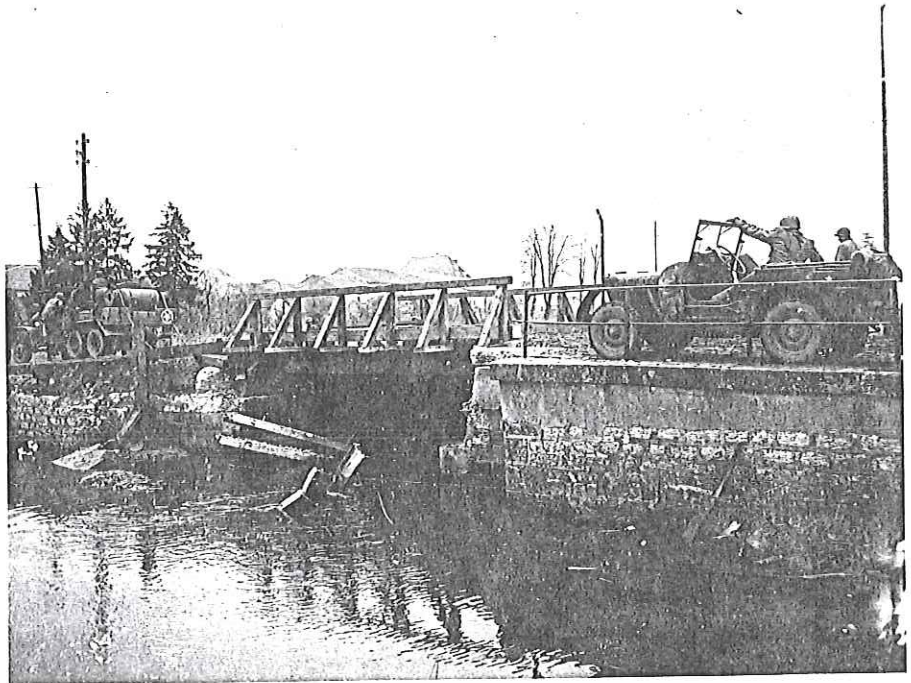


DESCRIPTION: FRENCH ROLLER ON N-74  
PLACE: VICINITY OF MORHANGE, FRANCE  
DATE: 28 JANUARY 1945





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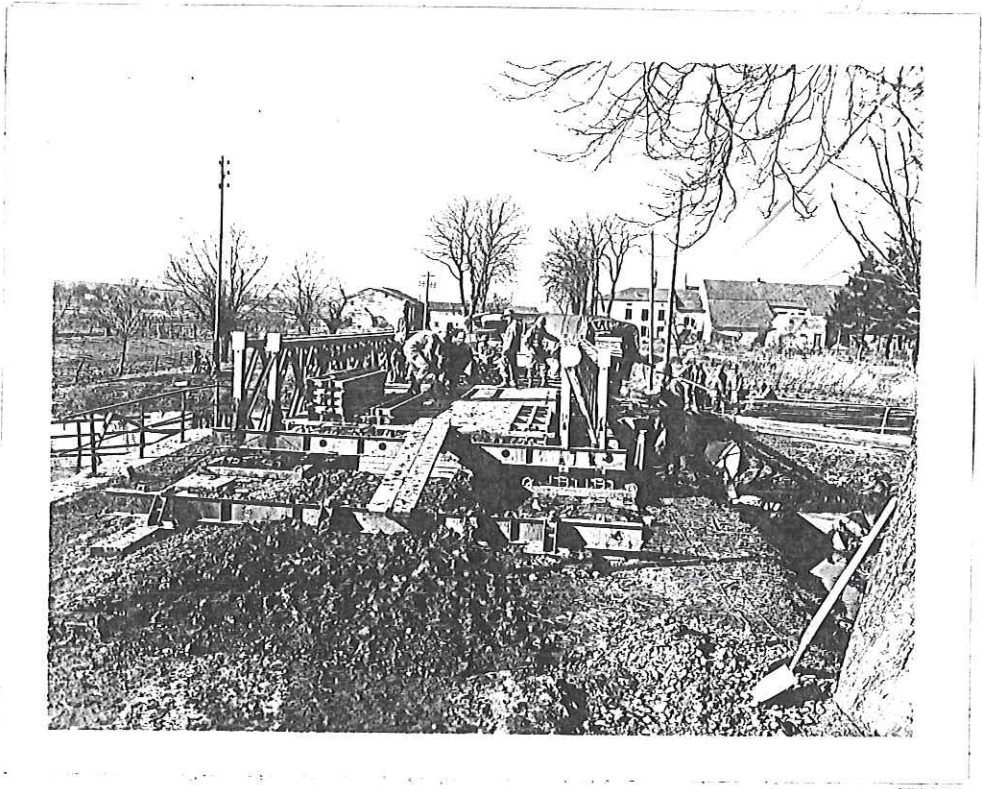
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DESCRIPTION:

$\frac{St}{ht}$  1W12  $\frac{3@36.2}{CL(40)}$   
HABOUDANGE, FRANCE.  
17 FEB. 1945.

PLACE:  
DATE :





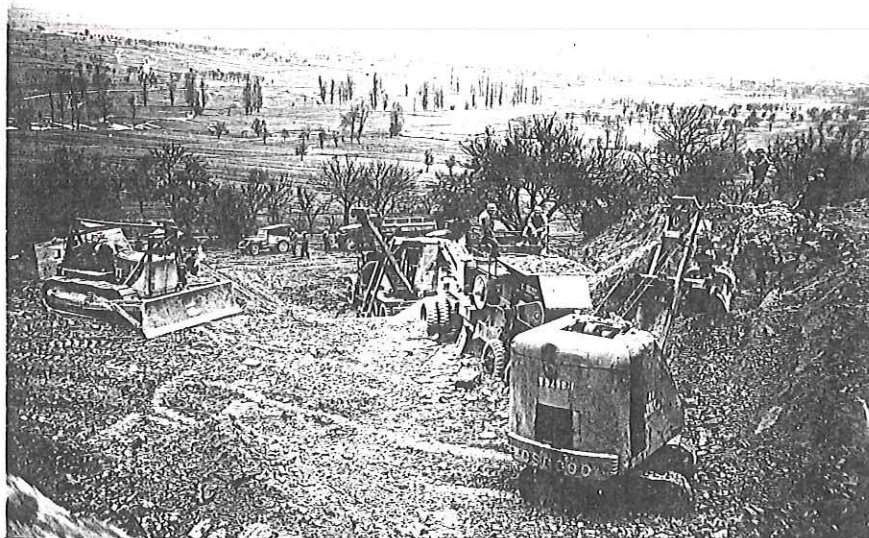
*DESCRIPTION:*

*REMOVING 50 FT. DS. B.B.*

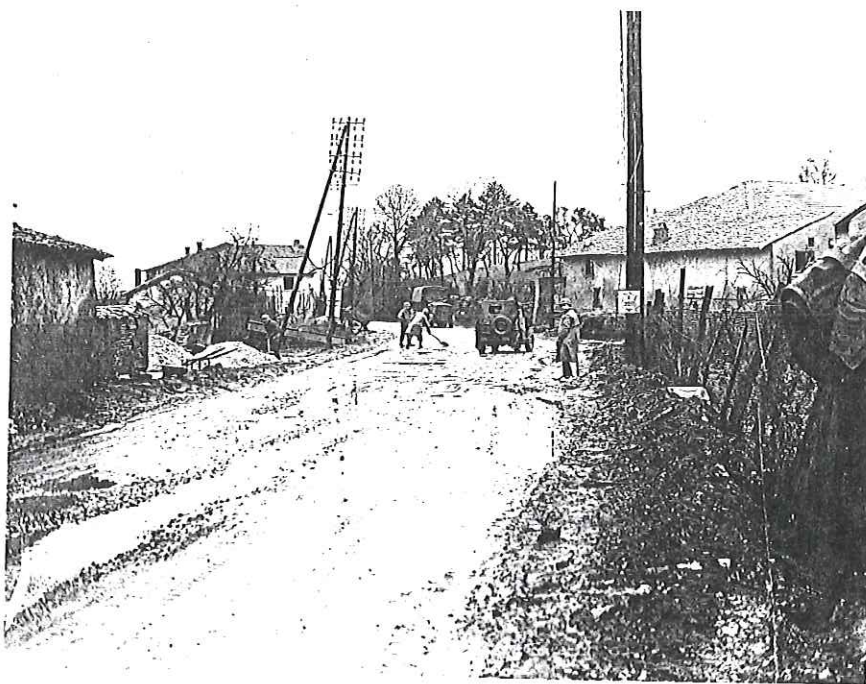
*PLACE : HABOUDANGE , FRANCE*

*DATE : 17 FEB. 1945.*



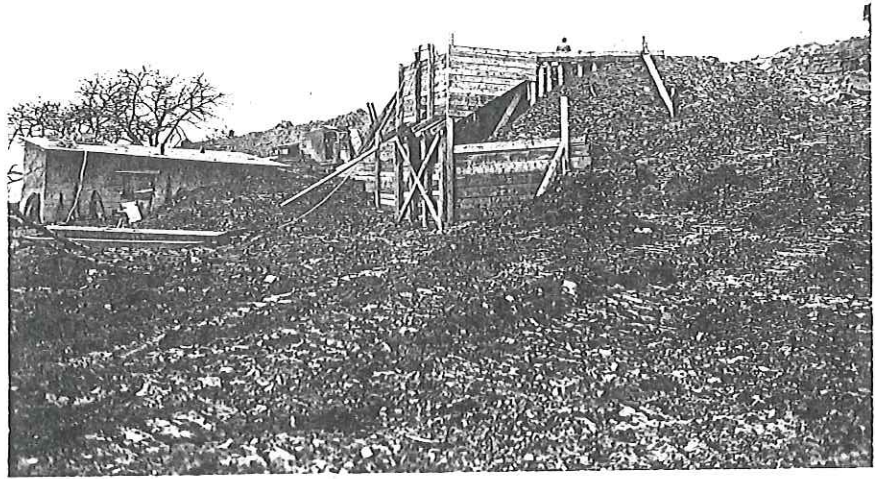


DESCRIPTION: QUARRY IN OPERATION  
PLACE: VICINITY OF RAHLING, FRANCE  
DATE: 25 FEBRUARY 1945

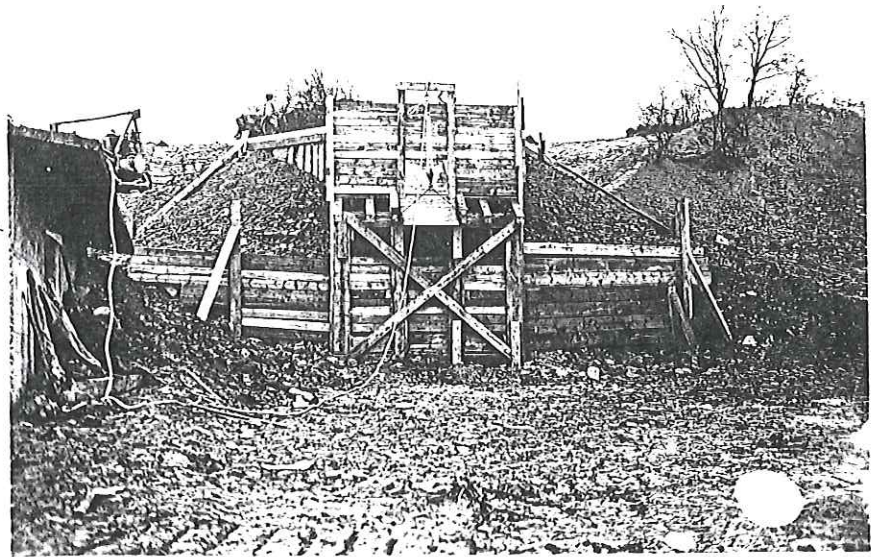


DESCRIPTION: MAINTENANCE OF N-399  
PLACE: CONTHIL, FRANCE  
DATE: 3 FEBRUARY 1945



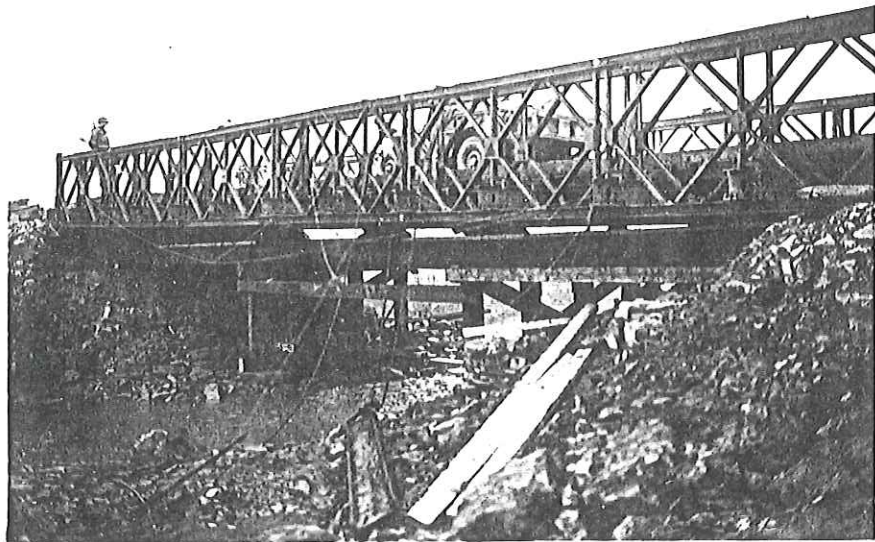


DESCRIPTION:  
LOADING SHUTE AT ROCK QUARRY



PLACE : VICINITY OF RAHLING, FRANCE  
DATE : 25 FEB. 1945





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DESCRIPTION:

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			1@ 9.2
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ht 7	Hoo		CL ④

PLACE:

ACHEN, FRANCE.

DATE:

28, FEB. 1945.





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DESCRIPTION: 1@17.9

1@35.0

ST 1W12 L 1@98

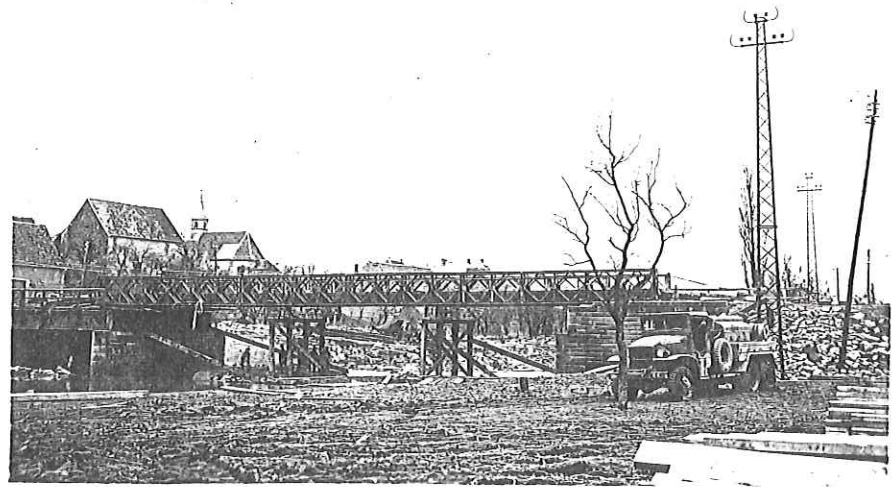
ht 18 H $\infty$  CL. (40)

PLACE: WEIDESHEIM FRANCE

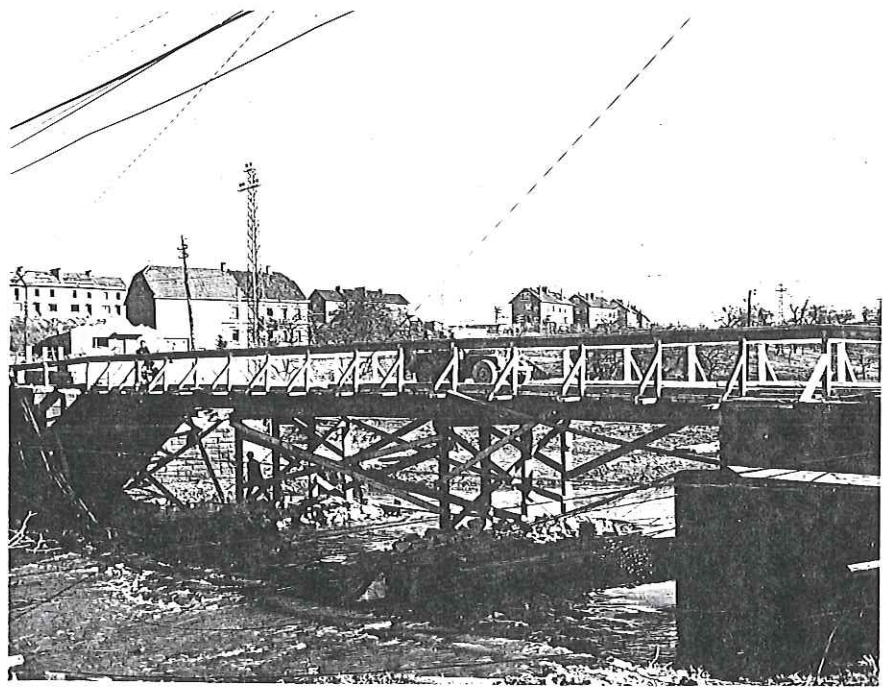
DATE: 08 MARCH 1945



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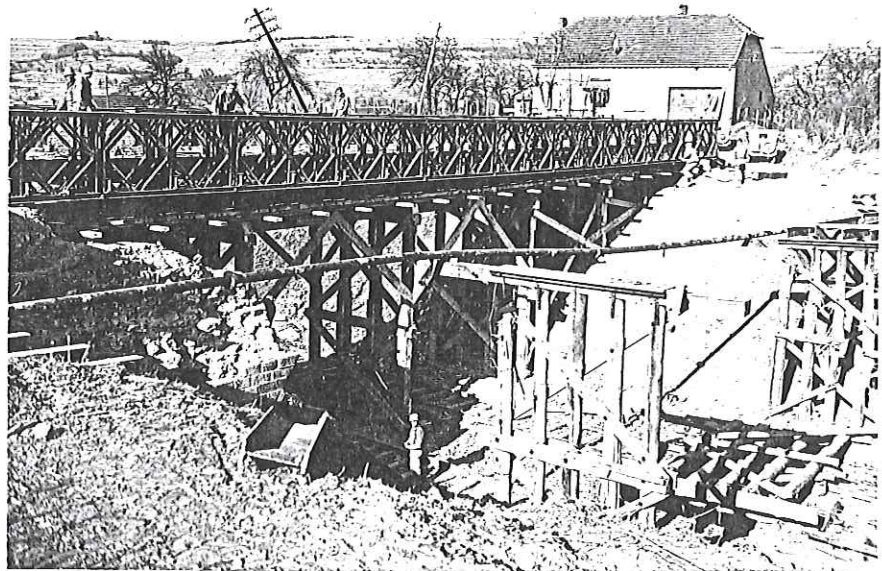
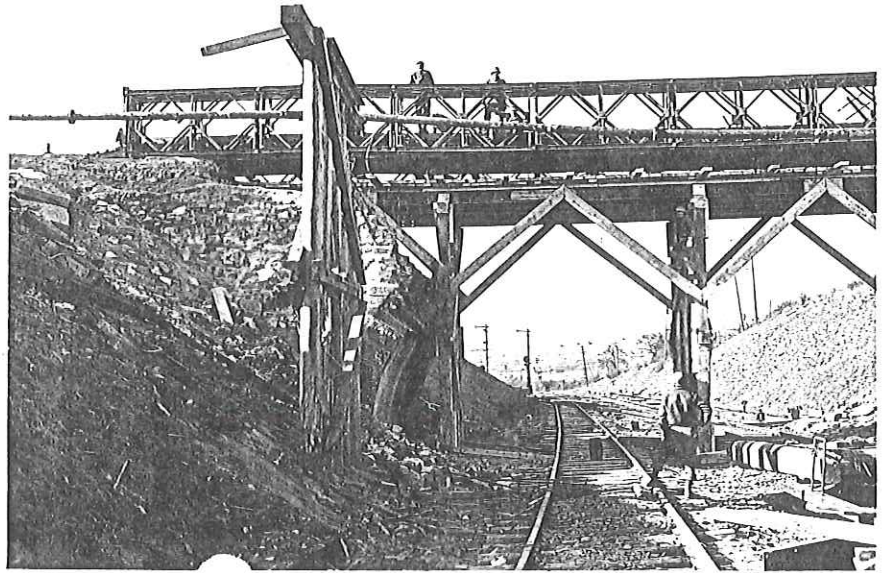


DESCRIPTION:

St. 1W12 L. 3 @ 28  
Ht. 13 H $\infty$  CL @

PLACE : OERMINGEN , FRANCE  
DATE : 11 MARCH 1945





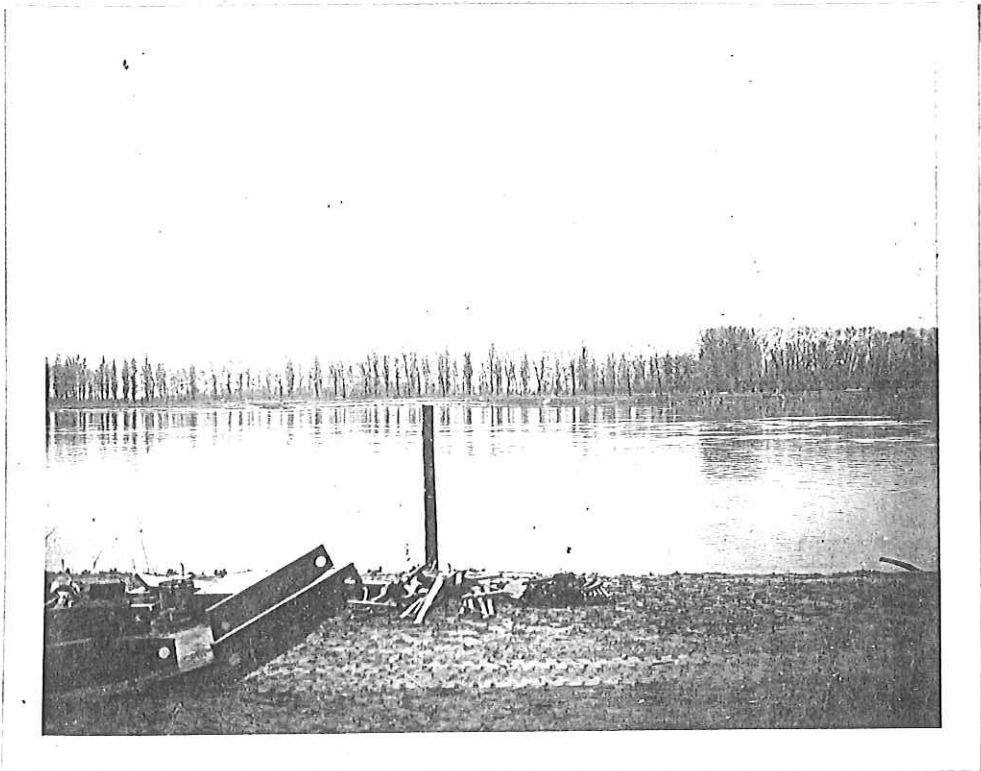
DESCRIPTION:

1 @ 13.1  
 1 @ 18.0  
 1 @ 19.0  
 1 @ 15.0  
 1 @ 16.0  
 CL (40)

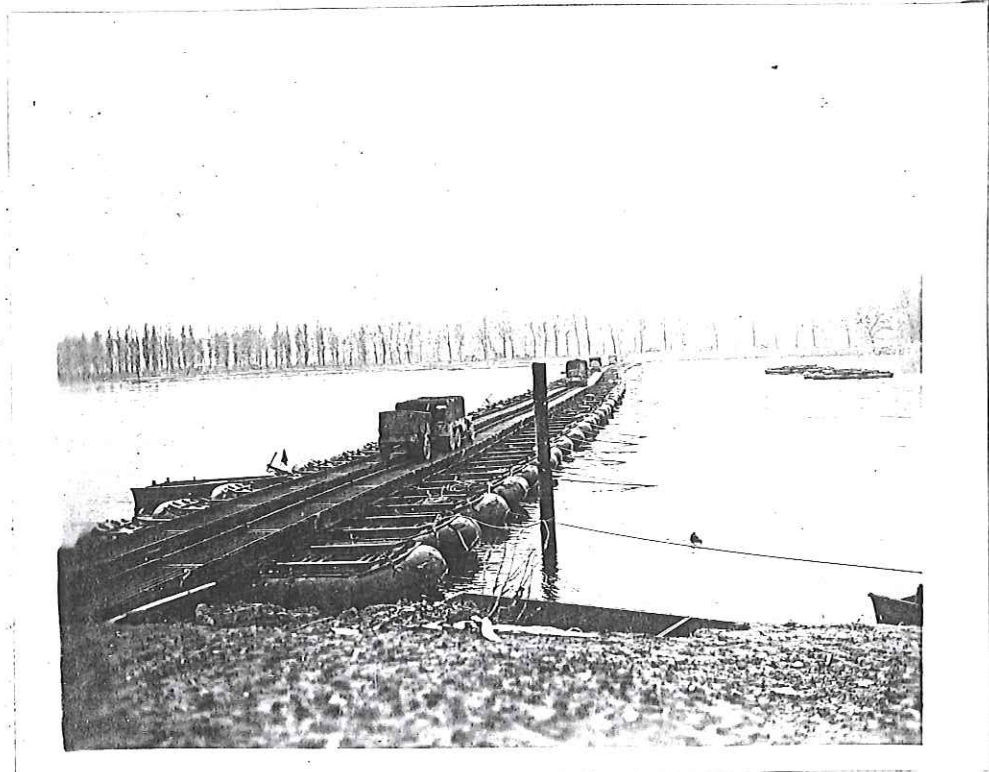
ST-1W12 L  
 H720 H∞

PIACE : WITTRING , FRANCE  
 DATE : 16 MARCH 1945





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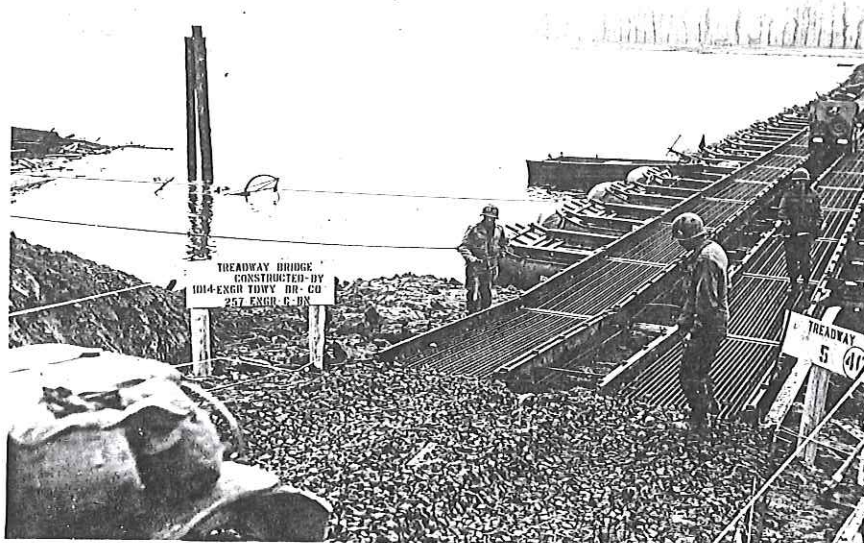
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DESCRIPTION: FLOATING TREADWAY BRIDGE M2 CL(10)

PLACE: VICINITY OF HAMM, GERMANY

DATE: 27 MARCH 1945



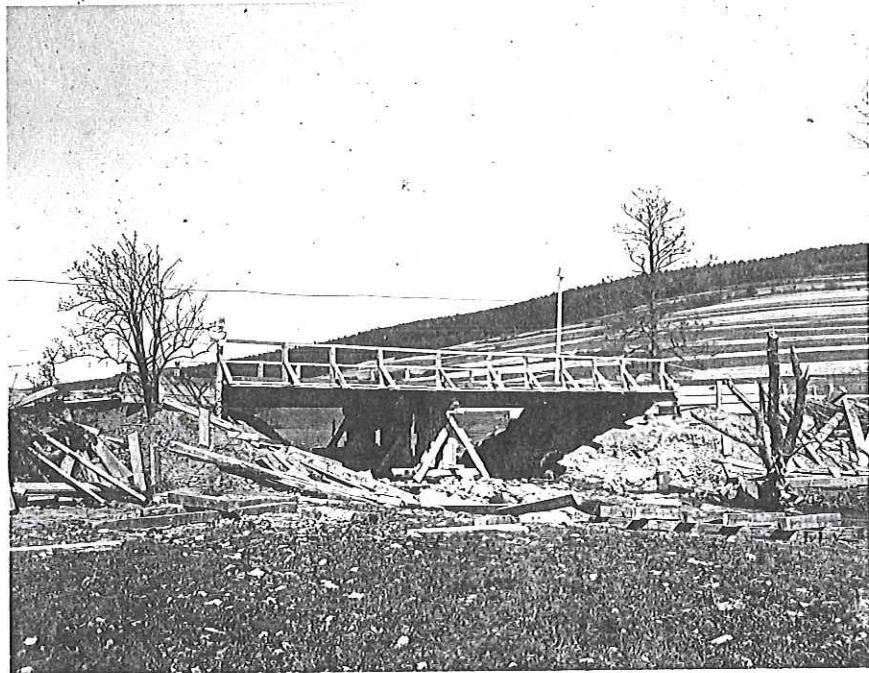


*DESCRIPTION*

*NEAR-SHORE APPROACH*

*PLACE: VICINITY OF HAMM, GERMANY*  
*DATE: 27 MARCH 1945*





DESCRIPTION:

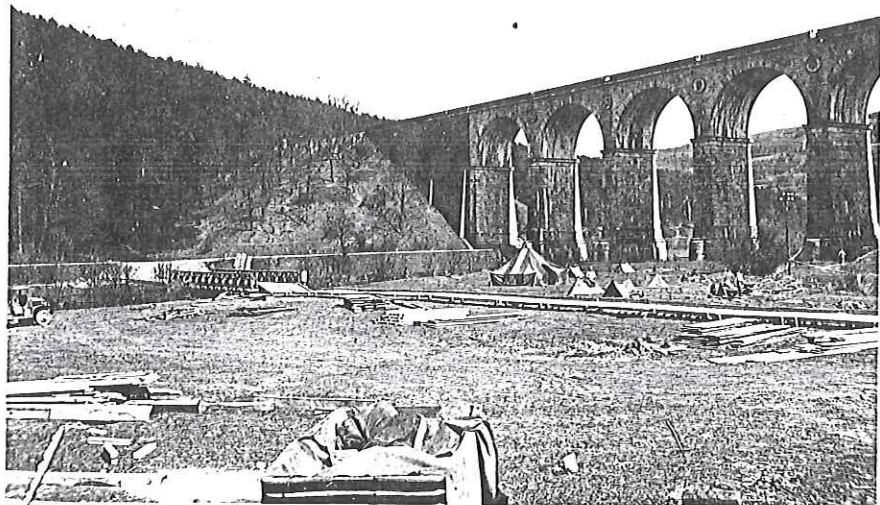
			1 @ 27
St.	2 W22	L.	1 @ 28
Ht.	8	H.	∞
		CL. W.	⑩
		2W.	⑩

PLACE: N-36 3867

DATE: 10 APRIL 1945



BY-PASS

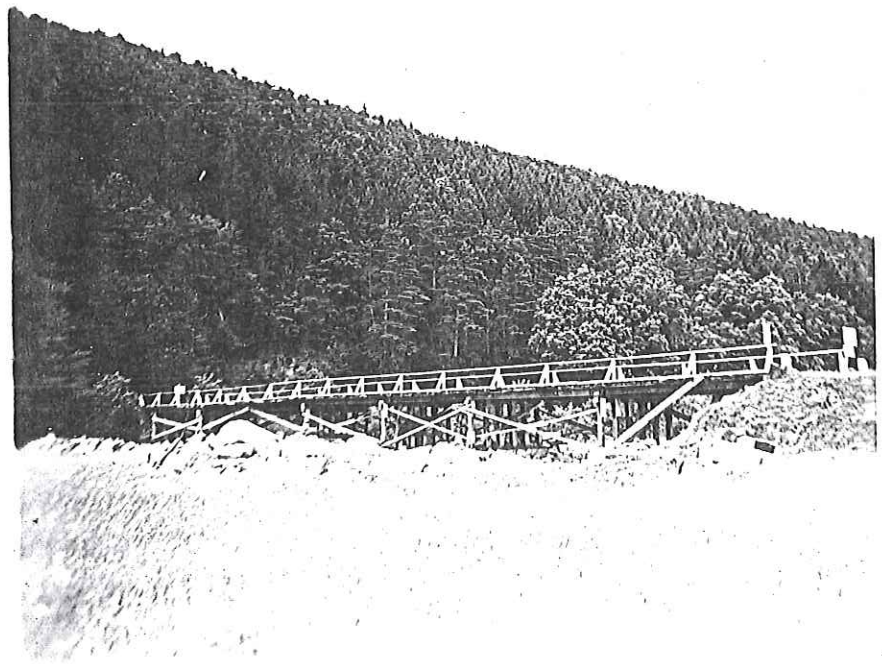
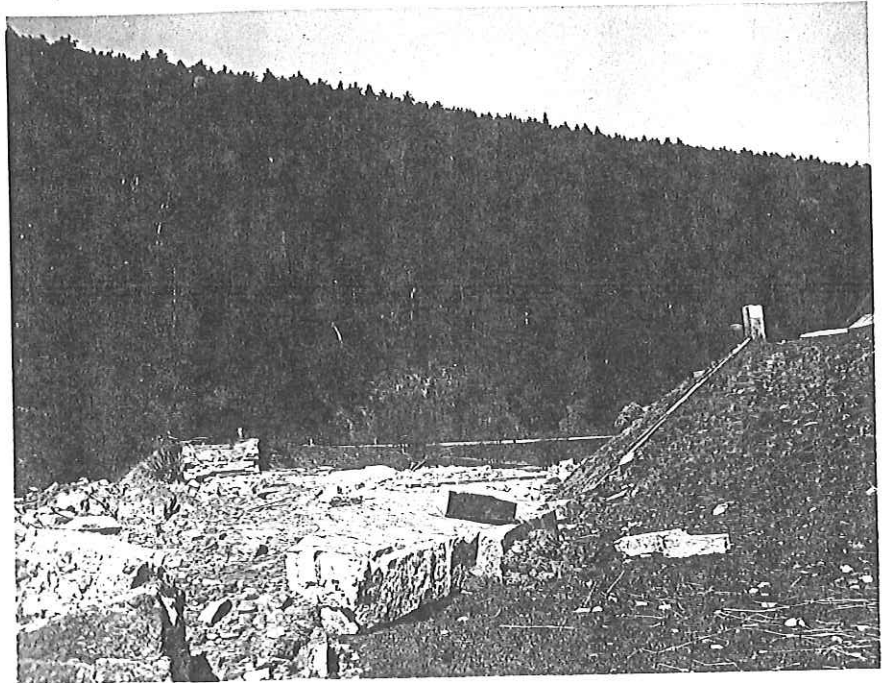


DESCRIPTION: 60 FT. DS BB CLASS 40  
400 FT. OF PLANK ROAD

PLACE: VICINITY OF JOSSA;  
GERMANY

DATE: 08 APRIL 1945





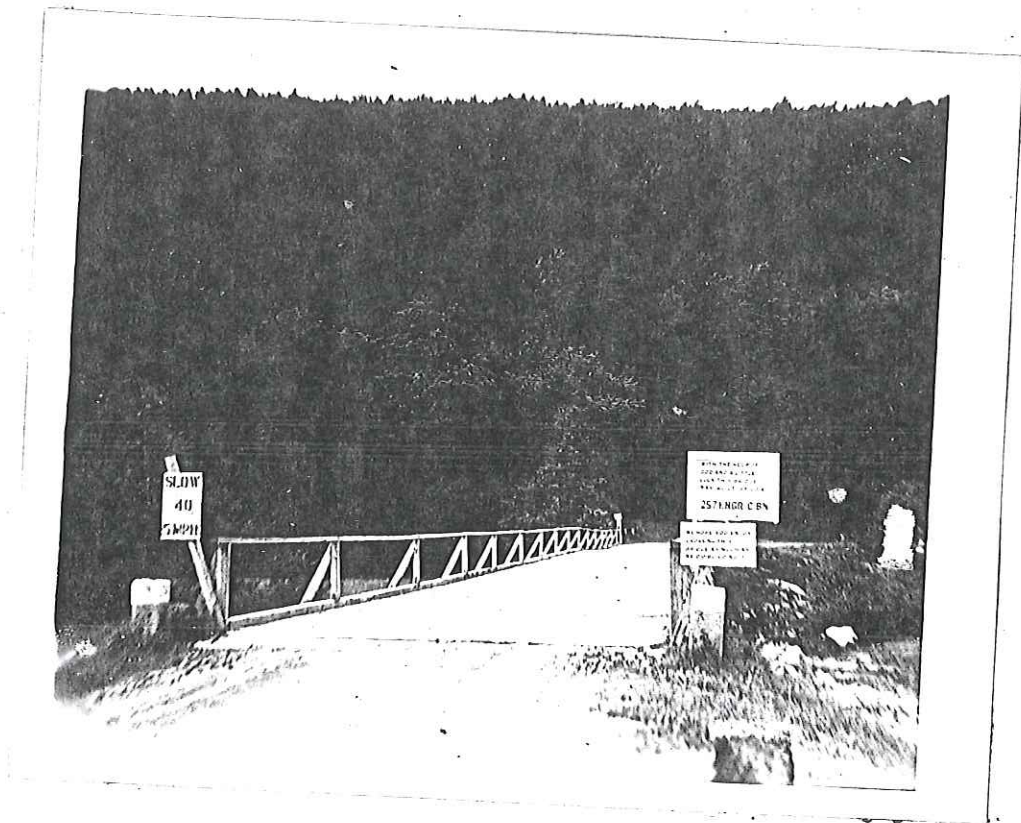
DESCRIPTION:

ST. 1W12	L. 1@ 47
HT. 8 H <sub>2</sub>	CL. 40

4 @ 23

2 @ 28

PLACE : VICINITY OF JOSSA, GERMANY  
 DATE : 14 APRIL 1945



DESCRIPTION: THE 195 FT. TIMBER TRESTLE BRIDGE

PLACE: VICINITY OF JOSSA, GERMANY

DATE: 14 APRIL 1945