OPERATIONS
257TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
in the
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
1944-1945

I. GENERAL

A. The 257th Engineer Combat Battalion landed at Avomouth, England on 10 November 1944 and was stationed at Howbarry 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 Barnevile 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 Hermani, 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 reassigned to 1101st Engineer Combat Group on 9 February 1945.

2. Operations:

   a. The Battalion’s primary mission consisted of:
      
      1. Maintenance of roads and bridges
      2. Guarding military installations

- 1 -
Oper. 257th Engr C Bn in the ETO - 1944-1945 (cont'd)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Constructing</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company &quot;C&quot;</td>
<td>06 Mar 1945</td>
<td>Q-558!/47</td>
<td>Replaced 100 ft. DS BB with an 81 ft. class 40, one way, 5 span steel stringer fixed bridge. Constructed under BB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company &quot;B&quot;</td>
<td>11 Mar 1945</td>
<td>Q-567507</td>
<td>Replaced 100 ft. TS BB with an 80 ft. class 40, one way, 4 span steel stringer fixed bridge. Constructed under BB.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Nonzernheim, 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)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company &quot;A&quot;</td>
<td>10 Apr 1945</td>
<td>N-33 4819</td>
<td>Constructed a 195 ft. class 400, one way, 5 span steel stringer fixed bridge over blown gap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Apr 1945</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company &quot;C&quot;</td>
<td>13 Apr 1945</td>
<td>O-18 6697</td>
<td>Replaced a 70 ft. IS RB with a 50 ft. class 400, two way, 2 span steel stringer fixed bridge. Constructed under BB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Apr 1945</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company &quot;B&quot;</td>
<td>15 Apr 1945</td>
<td>O-26 1492</td>
<td>Built a 120 ft. class 400, M-2 Treadway bridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Apr 1945</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS:

(1) On 17 April 1945 the Battalion was attached to the 45th Infantry Division per VOG 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, 14th 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)
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
DESCRIPTION:

REMOVING 50 F1. 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-393
PLACE: CONTHIL, FRANCE
DATE: 3 FEBRUARY 1945
DESCRIPTION:
LOADING SHUTE AT ROCK QUARRY

PLACE: VICINITY OF RAHLING, FRANCE
DATE: 25 FEB. 1945
DESCRIPTION:
1@17.9
1@35.0
ST 1W12 L 1@98
ht18 H∞ CL.40
PLACE: WEIDESHEIM FRANCE
DATE: 08 MARCH 1945
DESCRIPTION:

PLACE: OERMINGEN, FRANCE
DATE: 11 MARCH 1945
DESCRIPTION:

ST - 1W12 L
H120 H∞ CL 40

PLACE: WITTRING, FRANCE
DATE: 16 MARCH 1945
DESCRIPTION: FLOATING TREADWAY BRIDGE M2 C140
PLACE: VICINITY OF HAMM, GERMANY
DATE: 27 MARCH 1945
DESCRIPTION

NEAR-SHORE APPROACH

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

ST. 2 W 22 L. 1 @ 28
HI. 8 H. - CL. 1 W. @
2 W. @

PLACE: N-36 3867

DATE: 10 APRIL 1945
DATE: 08 APRIL 1945
PLACE: VICINITY OF JOSSA, GERMANY
DESCRIPTION: 60 FT. 08. 68 CLASS 40 400 FT. OF PLANK ROAD
BY-PASS
DESCRIPTION: S7. 1W12  L. 1 @ 47
H1. 8  H. 0  CL. 20

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