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HEADQUARTERS 1340TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
Office of the Battalion Commander

BAR/wep
APO 230, U.S. Army,
2 December 1944.

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

THRU : Channels.

TO : The Adjutant General,
Washington, D.C.

In compliance with paragraph 10 (C3), AR 345-105, and letter, Headquarters First United States Army, dated 13 July 1944, subject: "Action Against Enemy, Report After/After Action Reports," file 319.1/401 (C), the After Action Report of the 1340th Engineer Combat Battalion for the month of November 1944 is submitted.

For the Commanding Officer:



Oliver I. Tuthill
OLIVER I. TUTHILL,
1st Lt., C.E.,
Adjutant.

1 Incl:
After Action Report

ENBN-1340-03

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MAP REFERENCES

GSGS 4416, 1:100,000 - Sheets S-1 and T-1

1. OPERATIONS (1 - 30 NOVEMBER):

a. Mission.

The following is a synopsis of the missions of the 1340th Engineer Combat Battalion during the month of November:

- (1) At the beginning of the month the battalion continued its close support of the 110th Infantry Regiment by opening and maintaining routes of communication and supply as the 28th Division opened its attack on the VOSSACK-SCHMIDT area.
- (2) On 6 November the battalion was committed as infantry in the vicinity of VOSSACK. The previous night the enemy had counter-attacked in this sector and had forced the withdrawal of infantry and engineers from the village of VOSSACK and along the road between VOSSACK and KOMMERSCHMIDT.
- (3) At the same time the mission of retaking VOSSACK was given the 146th Engineer Combat Battalion. This battalion, along with elements of the 20th Engineer Combat Battalion, was assigned the mission of defending and holding open to traffic the bridge southeast of VOSSACK (F-048313). The accomplishment of this mission on 6 November and the action which developed during the following three days is best depicted in statements made by officers of the battalion at the conclusion of this assignment. These statements are consolidated in inclosure number 3.
- (4) On 11 November the battalion returned to the task of maintaining the division supply routes. Continuous heavy traffic over earth and gravel roads, which remained wet from rain and snow, caused the maintenance

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problem to be a basic one of drainage. The daily pick and shovel work of opening bleeder drains, building up shoulders, opening culverts and the hauling of rock for these repairs constituted the bulk of the work during the period.

- (5) During the latter part of the month the 28th Division was replaced in the VOSSENACK sector by the 8th Infantry Division. On 21 November the battalion was put in direct support of the 12th Engineer Combat Battalion by the Group Engineer Plan, which said, in substance:

"The 8th Division, in conjunction with CCR, 5th Armored Division, attacks north and east and secures HURTGEM and approaches to it. This group supports the attack by taking over engineer work from the 12th Engineer Combat Battalion.

"The 1340th Engineer Combat Battalion will:

1. Maintain liaison with the 12th Engineer Combat Battalion.
2. Initial forward boundary RJ 013335 - GERMETER Road.
3. Initially, maintain road from RJ 991316 to RJ 003312 to RJ 013335.
4. Assume engineer work forward of present boundary upon request of Division Engineer, notifying Group Headquarters of action taken.
5. Render assistance as requested by Division Engineer to move 121st Infantry forward from present bivouac on morning 21 November.
6. Install telephone line from RJ 013335 to RJ 014348 for use in controlling traffic. (Line to be operated only on division order.)
7. Make available to Division Engineer, upon request, additional mine detector teams.
8. Push reconnaissance to forward limit of Division Engineer operations.
9. Establish forward radio station in Group Net in general vicinity high ground west of RJ 013335.
10. Give Group Headquarters prompt warning when it will be necessary to move battalion rear boundary forward and prompt warning as soon as all mine detector teams are committed."

b. Other events.

- (1) Church services, to include Protestant, Catholic and Jewish, were held several times during the month. Chaplain Winn and Chaplain Carpenter visited the battalion each time from the 1171st Engineer Combat Group Headquarters. The Jewish services were held at V Corps.

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- (2) Movies were held frequently in the battalion area.
- (3) On Thanksgiving Day the battalion enjoyed a dinner of turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy, celery, pudding, coffee and candy.
- (4) Showers were operated throughout the month by the battalion water supply, affording the men of the battalion two or three enjoyable showers during the period.

2. LOCATION:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Date Of Arrival</u>	<u>Date Of Departure</u>
a. Vossenack (988314)	31 Oct 1944	17 November
b. Rotgen (985318)	17 November	21 November
c. Vossenack (985316)	21 November	()

3. HEADQUARTERS TO WHICH UNIT WAS ASSIGNED:

During the month the battalion remained assigned to the First United States Army and attached to the 1171st Engineer Combat Group, which remained attached to the V Corps in support of the 28th and 8th Infantry Divisions, respectively.

4. COMMANDING OFFICERS:

a. Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel Truman H. Setliffe, 024350.

b. Companies.

(1) Medical Detachment

Captain Joseph B. Traywick, 01693094
(Killed in action 8 November 1944)

Captain Michael J. LaHood, 0414931
(Attached 9 - 18 November 1944)

Captain Thomas I. Cacioppi, 01690391
(Assigned 18 - 22 November 1944)

Captain Thomas E. Timney, 0512912
(Attached 22 November 1944)

(2) Headquarters and Service Company

Captain Guy A. Trifone, 01100804.

(3) "A" Company

Captain Frank P. Bane, 0447056.

(4) "B" Company

Captain Thomas F. Creegan, 0450687
(Injured in action 9 November 1944)

First Lieutenant Carl B. Setterberg, 0466415
(Assumed command 9 November 1944)

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(5) "C" Company

Captain Ralph E. Lind, Jr., 0406160
 (Injured in action 10 November 1944)

First Lieutenant Lumir T. Makousky, 01100212
 (Assumed command 10 November 1944)

5. BATTALION STRENGTH:

	<u>O</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
a. Beginning of period	29	3	620
b. Net increase	1	0	59
c. Net decrease	5	0	97
d. End of period	25	3	582

6. LOSSES IN ACTION:

a. The following named men were killed in action against the enemy during the month of November:

Davis, Jessie W.	T/5	34016331
Sammons, Frank	Sgt	34011333
Grigaitis, Edward G.	Pvt	12056609
Smith, Hilrie	Pvt lcl	34074619
Rivard, Wilton A.	Pvt	36855897
Novelli, Louis P.	Cpl	32179697
Gaspard, Max J.	Pvt	7080673
Birkenheier, John	Sgt	36188294
Dempsey, James M.	T/5	32274903
Cook, Craymond	Pvt lcl	34011271
Hamilton, William C.	Pvt lcl	6848903
Jansen, Frederick G.	Pvt	32479701
Siok, Edmund	Pvt	36694019
Leahey, Edward J.	Pvt lcl	32042644
Traywick, Joseph B.	Capt	01693094

b. The following named men were wounded in action against the enemy during the month of November:

Neighly, Robert N.	Pvt lcl	35230219
Pacourek, Edward	Pvt lcl	36331409
Lewis, Eugene T.	Pvt lcl	32161795
DeCaske, John E.	Pvt	33763000
Honsaker, James A.	Pvt	33689616
Creasy, Bruce E.	Pvt lcl	13056597
Sharpe, James R.	S/Sgt	34015984
Clark, Lawrence A.	Cpl	31126150
Reynolds, Kelly M.	Pvt	34842625
Boniko, Charles P.	Pvt	32952929
Boone, Arby E.	S/Sgt	34015804
Zralka, Albert J.	1st Lt	01325145
Martufi, Earnest P.	Cpl	35214012
Karo, Martin	Pvt	32969175
Willoughby, Solomon J.	Pvt	6973583
Gimmatteo, Michael	Pvt lcl	33399985
Boudreau, Leon L.	Pvt	31388358
Caughey, Leroy M.	Sgt	32314721
Miesko, Leon T.	Cpl	33245841
Vashaw, Robert J.	Pvt lcl	16050513
Bradford, Leo F.	Pvt	36404575
Hill, John M.	Pvt	7087114
Belmont, Michael	Sgt	33118979
Waddell, Herbert C.	Cpl	14045411

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Dunning, John F.	Pvt 1cl	32203878
Stewart, Woodrow W.	Pvt	7086134
Mishinski, Edward J.	Pvt 1cl	33177681
Zadorozny, Joseph	T/5	31056824
Haberberger, Bernard R.	Sgt	33271775
Quinn, Robert J.	Pvt	31025989
Casullo, John	Pvt	32311469
Lumadue, Peter G.	Pvt	33245690
Jackson, Clark W.	Pvt	34011339
Pratt, Charles G.	Pvt	36330922
Melly, Eugene B.	T/5	33104439
Hamlett, Thomas W.	Cpl	33536894
Bannick, William P.	Sgt	31095990
Simpson, Joseph S.	Pvt	32965898
Hess, Harry W.	Pvt	6065365
Estep, William E.	Pvt 1cl	34016094
Baughn, Jack H.	2nd Lt	01116088
Tyndall, Lauther	Pvt	34670319
Sikes, Webb	Sgt	34165592
Parisi, Victor M.	T/5	31123790
Kennedy, Raymond	2nd Lt	01114586
Chittom, Forest L.	Pvt	34871103
Freeman, Bill	Pvt	34016083
Hamblen, Frank A.	Pvt	35723905
Smith, Warren D.	Pvt 1cl	31116426
Graf, August P.	Pvt	32683961
Williams, Joseph P.	Pvt	34011334
Barnes, William H.	Sgt	34016211
McLaughlin, Edwin E.	Sgt	7087158
Woods, Merrill V.	Pvt	37540869
Cain, Monroe L.	Cpl	34613602
Renzallo, Arnold	Sgt	32280602
Morris, John M.	Pvt	6972394
Somma, Thomas C.	T/5	32179847
Shuler, Raymond L.	Sgt	34015987
Pancheri, Max V.	Pvt	33611234
Merrill, Dan M.	Sgt	34016224
Beard, Francis T.	T/4	33061559
Henderson, Arthur F.	Sgt	32179179
Grantham, Hosea B.	T/5	34011329
Gianniny, Clarence E.	Pvt 1cl	33442995
Gallager, Vincent J.	T/4	32272487
Britton, George W.	Pvt	35912540
Gibbs, Thad W.	Sgt	14045444
Draughn, Wade	Sgt	34016087
Hutchins, Carl J.	T/5	34027530
Williams, Jack L.	T/5	34356460
Doane, Ralph	Pvt	35872734
Smith, William G.	Pvt	34015998
Morgan, Herman C.	Pvt	34778181
Frame, Dudley P., Jr.	1st Lt	0-490759
Burke, Bernie	Sgt	14128646
Chiesa, Peter J.	Cpl	32926814
Odess, Floyd R.	Pvt	14127250
Potts, Richard S.	Pvt 1cl	34180471
Teague, Ben J.	Pvt	38478841
Levinson, Emanuel	Pvt	32247461
Paull, Robert E.	Cpl	36147993
Walden, John W.	Sgt	34016069
Cribb, Horace L.	Sgt	34011338
Saczek, Henry T.	Cpl	33129013
Mahaney, Ben H.	T/5	7003059
Drouant, John J.	Pvt	7080685

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Goddard, Frederick E.	Pvt	34736684
Kellas, John J.	Pvt	36754236
Newman, Paul E.	Pvt	32140771
James, Jack	Pvt 1cl	37357006

c. The following named men have been listed as missing in action against the enemy during the month of November:

Reid, Harris P.	S/Sgt	34074576
Wachtler, John P.	Cpl	36172780
Gigandet, Forest H.	Pvt 1cl	35456661
Cotten, Irvin L.	Pvt	35892904
Drevicky, Stephen W.	Pvt 1cl	35064530
Elks, Joseph B.	Cpl	33014143
Griffin, John B.	Pvt	34808837
Henry, William V.	Pvt	7085495
Koontz, Adven G.	T/4	34016046
Kraska, Stanley J.	Sgt	36331435
Mazzorana, Albert J.	T/5	36332259
Rufty, Thomas R.	Pvt	34016099
Sutton, Ray D.	T/5	13041752
Szvetitz, Joseph J.	Sgt	33115590
Wanat, Emil J.	Cpl	36332166
Charnock, Charles H. (Captured)	Pvt	33734282

7. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS:

None.

8. MEMBERS DISTINGUISHING THEMSELVES IN ACTION:

None.

For the Commanding Officer:

Oliver I. Tuthill
 OLIVER I. TUTHILL,
 1st Lt., C.E.,
 Adjutant.

5 Incls:

- Incl #1 - S-3 Journal
- Incl #2 - Journal File
- Incl #3 - Engineer Operations Reports
- Incl #4 - Miscellaneous Material Supplementary to work of the Battalion
 - a. Action in VOSSENACK area
 - (1) Sketches of area (2 sketches)
 - (2) Aerial Photographs (2)
 - (3) Statements by officers of the battalion (4)
 - b. Letters of Commendation
 - c. Suggested office truck
 - d. Dark room trailer
 - e. T/O & E Recommendations
 - f. Battalion news sheet
- Incl #5 - Photographs

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P H O T O G R A P H S

Inclosure No. 5
to
AFTER ACTION REPORT
November, 1944



BIVOUAC NEAR ROTGEN



FIRST SNOW IN BIVOUAC NEAR ROTGEN, GERMANY



FIRST SNOW OF WINTER '44 NEAR ROTGEN, GERMANY



FORWARD C.P. NEAR VOSSENACK - 1 to 16 NOVEMBER

Sheet 2 of 4 sheets
Inclosure No. 5
to
AFTER ACTION REPORT
November 1944



VOSSACK - 15 NOVEMBER



VOSSACK - 15 NOVEMBER



HOME IN THE HURTGEN FOREST



HURTGEN FOREST - HEAVILY MINED WITH A.P.'S

Sheet 4 of 4 sheets
Inclosure No. 5
to
AFTER ACTION REPORT
November 1944