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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.

RECEIVED

04 DEC 1944 H.Q. 1171st

Engr. (C) Group

For the Commanding Officer:

OLIVER I. TUTHILL, 1st Lt., C.E., Adjutent.

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After Action Report

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MAP REFERENCES

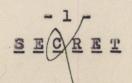
GSGS 4416, 1:100,000 - Sheets S-1 and T-1

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 VOSSENACK-SCHMIDT area.
- (2) On 6 November the battalion was committed as infantry in the vicinity of VOSSENACK. The previous night the enemy had counter-attacked in this sector and had forced the withdrawal of infantry and engineers from the village of VOSSENACK and along the road between VOSSENACK and KOMMERSCHEIDT.
- (3) At the same time the mission of retaking VOSSENACK 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 VOSSENACK (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 HURTGEN 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:

Place			Date Of Arrival		Date Of Departure	
a.	Vossenack	(988314)	31	Oct 1944	17	November
ъ.	Rotgen	(985318)	17	November	21	November
e.	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)

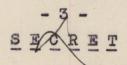
(2) Headquarters and Service Company Captain Guy A. Trifone, Olloo804.

(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:

a.	Beginning of period	29	WO 3	EM 620
ъ.	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:

Derric Teccio W	T/5	34016331
Davis, Jessie W.		
Sammons, Frank	Sgt	34011333
Grigaitis, Edward G.	Pvt	12056609
Smith, Hilrie	Pvt lel	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 lel	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 lel	36331409
Lewis, Eugene T.	Pvt lel	32161795
DeCaske, John E.	Pvt	33763000
Honsaker, James A.	Pvt	33689616
Creasy, Bruce E.	Pvt lel	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.	lst Lt	01325145
Martufi, Earnest P.	Cpl	35214012
Karo, Martin	Pvt	32969175
Willoughby, Solomon 3		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. Stewart, Woodrow W. Mishinski, Edward J. Zadorozny, Joseph Haberberger, Bernard Quinn, Robert J. Casullo, John Lumadue, Peter G. Jackson, Clark W. Pratt, Charles G. Melly, Eugene B. Hamlett, Thomas W. Bannick, William P. Simpson, Joseph S. Hess, Harry W. Estep, William E. Baughn, Jack H. Tyndall, Lauther Sikes, Webb Parisi, Victor M. Kennedy, Raymond Chittom, Forest L. Freeman, Bill Hamblen, Frank A. Smith, Warren D. Graf, August P. Williams, Joseph P. Barnes, William H. McLaughlin, Edwin E. Woods, Merrill V. Cain, Monroe L. Renzallo, Arnold Morris, John M. Somma, Thomas C. Shuler, Raymond L. Pancheri, Max V. Merrill, Dan M. Beard, Francis T. Henderson, Arthur F. Grantham, Hosea B. Gianniny, Clarence E Gallager, Vincent J. Britton, George W. Gibbs, Thad W. Draughn, Wade Hutchins, Carl J. Williams, Jack L. Doane, Ralph Smith, William G. Morgan, Herman C. Frame, Dudley P., Jr Burke, Barnie Chiesa, Peter J. Odess, Floyd R.	PYTTOSPET LE	34015987 33611234 34016224 33061559 32179179 34011329 33442995 32272487 35912540 14045444 34016087 34027530 34356460 35872734 34015998 34778181
Williams, Jack L. Doane, Ralph Smith, William G. Morgan, Herman C. Frame, Dudley P., Jr Burke, Barnie	Pvt Pvt Pvt lst Lt Sgt Cpl	35872734 34015998 34778181 0-490759 14128646 32926814 14127250 34180471 38478841 32247461 36147993 34016069 34011338

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

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

Reid, Harris P.	s/sgt	34074576
Wachtler, John P.	Cpl	36172780
Gigandet, Forest H.	Pvt lel	35456661
Cotten, Irvin L.	Pvt	35892904
Drevicky, Stephen W.	Pvt lcl	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.	Pvt	33734282
(Captured)		

- COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS: None.
- 8. MEMBERS DISTINGUISHING THEMSELVES IN ACTION: None.

For the Commanding Officer:

Oliver I thill A.
OLIVER I. TUTHILL,
1st Lt., C.E.,
Adjutant 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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PHOTOGRAPHS

Inclosure No. 5
to
AFTER ACTION REPORT
November, 1944



BIVOUAC NEAR ROTGEN



FIRST SNOW IN BIVOUAC NEAR ROTGEN, GERMANY

Sheet / of /sheets
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to
AFTER ACTION REPORT
November 1944



FIRST SNOW OF WINTER '44 NEAR ROTGEN, GERMANY



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

Sheet 2 of # sheets
Inclosure No. 5
to
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November 1944



VOSSENACK - 15 NOVEMBER



VOSSENACK - 15 NOVEMBER

Sheet 3 of 4 sheets
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AFTER ACTION REPORT
November 1944



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