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HEADQUARTERS
FORTY FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 45 U S ARMY

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:Auth: CG 45 Div
:Init: *EPH*
:Date: 11 Jan 45
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AG 314.7

11 January 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Records.

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U S Army,
(Attn: Historian).

Transmitted herewith Historical Record of the 120th Engineer Combat Battalion, this command, for the period 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944, inclusive.

For the Commanding General:

EMIL P NAVTA
WOJG USA
Asst Adj Gen

1 Incl:
Hist Rec of 120 Engr C Bn.

A- 4697

DISPATCHED
HQ 45th INF DIV
APO 45 US Army
Date _____

11 JAN 1945

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S E C R E T

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120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

COMPANY ACTIVITIES
FOR THE MONTH OF
DECEMBER 1944

Taken from the Station and Record of Events of the
Morning Reports

Bn CP located in Uttwiller, France.

Co A: CP in Ingwiller, France. The 1st platoon made a reconnaissance and prepared road blocks at:

1. Rothbach, by placing cratering charges in the road.
2. South of Rothbach, by placing a deliberate mine field of 75 AT mines across the road, in conjunction with felled trees.

Details were left at each road block as demolitionists and guards. The 2nd platoon prepared a road crater on the road one kilometer north-east of Ingwiller. After dark, the same platoon layed a 100 AT mine hasty mine field on a trail north of Ingwiller. All road blocks were prepared as a precaution against an enemy attack against the Division left flank. The 3rd platoon built a trail north of Offwiller for the use of tanks and TD's.

Co B: CP in Menchhoffen, France. Lt Picket and the 1st platoon destroyed 25 Teller mines that had previously been removed, and pulled three more Teller mines from the vicinity of Uhrwiller. They re-swept and maintained road from Uhrwiller to Nieffern. Also filled two shell holes in the road between Zutzendorf and Obermodern. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon swept and marked off the following road network: Obermodern-Menchhoffen-Schillersdorf-Muhlhausen-Zutzendorf-Nieffern.

Co C: CP moved to Pfaffenoffen: The 1st platoon swept road from Pfaffenoffen to Obermodern and in the vic of Kindwiller, laid traffic stripping at la Walck and gravelled approaches. The 2nd platoon swept road from Pfaffenoffen to 2 kilometers west of Miedern, and from Miedern-Weberach-la Walck-Kindwiller-Mitschhoffen. The 3rd platoon followed the advance of the 3rd Bn 180th Inf.

Bn CP in Uttwiller, France.

Co A: CP in Ingwiller. At 2330 the company was alerted to go forward to construct a bridge in Zinswiller. Arrangements were made to secure Brockways from XV Corps Engineer. The 2nd platoon relieved the 1st platoon guarding road blocks on the division left flank.

Co B: CP in Menchhoffen, France. Lt Picket and one squad of the 1st platoon swept and marked the road north of Uhrwiller and the road south of Uhrwiller. Another squad with the aid of the D-7 bulldozer, improved a bypass in Menchhoffen. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon replaced a treadway bridge southwest of Kindwiller with a two span wooden stringer bridge. S/Sgt Jones and one squad of the 3rd platoon swept and marked roads from Muhlhausen to Pfaffenoffen.

Co C: CP at Pfaffenoffen, France. Lt Prestwood and the 2nd platoon cleared a road block 500 yards west of Pfaffenoffen and also started the construction of a two span, steel I beam bridge west of Pfaffenoffen. Sgt Stumpf and one squad of the 3rd platoon swept road one kilometer north of Mitschhoffen.

Bn CP in Uttwiller, France.

Co A: CP at Ingwiller, France. At 0100, the 3rd platoon moved out to construct a bridge at Zinswiller. Construction could not begin due to heavy enemy fire, and the platoon had to return. At 0730, the town had been cleared by the 157th Inf and the platoon constructed a 15' timber bridge 800 metres northwest of Zinswiller. The 1st platoon maintained road from Offwiller to Zinswiller, by filling in shell craters. Also built a bypass at the bridge site in Zinswiller by blowing the banks of the stream, allowing tanks to cross on old bridge flooring lying in the stream bed. Work was done under heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire. After the town had been cleared, the 1st platoon constructed a 45' treadway bridge over the old bridge site and previously constructed bypass.

Co B CP at Menchhoffen, France. Lt Fickett and the 1st platoon placed two culverts on bridge site at Gumbrechtshoffen. During this work, Lt Fickett was wounded by a mortar fragment as the enemy laid down a heavy barrage of tank and mortar fire. Lt Dayton and one squad of the 2nd platoon filled holes left by removal of a road block on road east of Obermodern. Classification signs were posted on bridge that was constructed on 2 December. S/Sgt Jones and one squad of the 3rd platoon swept and cleared road of 15 felled trees in the vic of Uhrwiller. Lt Dayton and one squad of the 2nd platoon maintained the road in vicinity of the ford at Gumbrechtshoffen. Lt Dayton also made a reconnaissance for a bridge site in this vicinity. At 2230, Lt Dayton and one squad of the 2nd platoon, with the aid of the D-9, put in a three pipe culvert at Gumbrechtshoffen.

Co C: CP at Pfaffenhoffen, France. The 1st platoon swept road from Pfaffenhoffen to Ingwiller to Mietesheim. The 2nd platoon completed the construction of a class 40 bridge at Pfaffenhoffen. The 3rd platoon swept road from Bitschoffen to Mietesheim to approximately two kilometers southeast of Mietesheim. Removed one road block, 10 box mines, one Schu mine and cleared rubble and filled shell holes, all in the vicinity of Mietesheim.

PERIOD 0001-2400 4 December 1944:

D/111

Bn CP in Uttwiller, France.

Co A: CP at Ingwiller, France. The 2nd platoon was relieved from guarding road blocks on the division left flank by the 385th Engrs. The 1st platoon strengthened a treadway bridge at Zinswiller by building cribs to replace trestle. The 3rd platoon swept road for mines from Zinswiller south to 900634S, in the 179th Inf sector. No mines were found. One road block was removed at the edge of Zinswiller. The road block was composed of farm machinery which was booby trapped with 5 kg charges. Also cleared streets in Zinswiller and swept road from Zinswiller north to 903371.

Co B: CP in Menchhoffen, France. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon with the aid of the B-7, constructed a by-pass in Gumbrechtshoffen, consisting of three galvanized culverts and fill. Lt Peak and the 1st platoon swept and cleared roads of trees, north of Ingwiller. Also improved the by-pass in Gumbrechtshoffen. S/Sgt Jones and one squad of the 3rd platoon made a reconnaissance for tank crossings through swampy land west of Gumbrechtshoffen. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon and S/Sgt Jones and the 3rd platoon corduroyed a road north of Gumbrechtshoffen for the use of tanks.

Co C: CP in Pfaffenhoffen, France. The 1st platoon removed four road blocks in the 2nd Bn 180th Inf sector. The 2nd platoon removed one road block and gravelled approaches to treadway bridge 1000 yards west of Pfaffenhoffen. The 3rd platoon filled shell holes and cleared debris from roads in the regimental area.

PERIOD 0001-2400 5 December 1944:

B/112

Bn CP in Uttwiller, France.

Co A: CP moved to Offwiller, France. One squad of the 3rd platoon cleared one road block at the east edge of Zinswiller on the road to Gumbrechtshoffen. One squad of the 1st platoon maintained and strengthened a treadway bridge in Zinswiller. Also swept road for mines from Zinswiller to Oberbronn.

Co B: Co moved to Ingwiller. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon, S/Sgt Jones and the 3rd platoon corduroyed approximately 100 yards of road to permit passage to tanks, north of Gumbrechtshoffen. Lt Peak made a reconnaissance of a road north of Gumbrechtshoffen. Lt Peak and the 1st platoon, with the aid of the B-7 bulldozer, repaired a by-pass in Gumbrechtshoffen with sand bag revetment and additional fill. S/Sgt Jones made a reconnaissance for a road on which several tanks, which had bogged down, could be retrieved. Lt Bridges made a reconnaissance of a blown bridge east of Gumbrechtshoffen, but could not reach bridge site due to heavy enemy machine gun fire.

Co C: CP in Pfaffenhoffen. The 2nd platoon filled shell holes and removed 8 TOPF mines in vicinity of a blown bridge south of Mertzwiller. Also constructed a foot bridge over a stream on the southern outskirts of Mertzwiller. Swept for mines on road from Ueberach to CR 960279 north to Mertzwiller and removed one road block at 959283. Also swept road from Ueberach to Mertzwiller and removed one road block at 953293.

PERIOD 0001-2400 6 December 1944:

B/113

Bn CP in Uttwiller, France.

Co A: CP in Offwiller, France. The 1st platoon repaired road Gumbrechtshoffen to Zinswiller on the south side of the stream and road Zinswiller to Oberbronn. The 3rd platoon removed three road blocks on the road northwest of Zinswiller. 13 booby trapped hand

grenades and two S-mines were found on the near side of a timber road block. The company turned over maintenance of the bridge in Zinswiller to the 48th Engrs.

Co B: CP in Uhrwiller, France. S/Sgt Jones and one squad of the 3rd platoon put in a 150 yard corduroy road west of Gumbrechtshoffen and retrieved two tanks that had bogged down in the vicinity. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon filled numerous shell craters on the road west of Gumbrechtshoffen. Lt Peak and one squad of the 1st platoon filled shell craters in road in the vicinity of Nieffern. Also barricaded the road from Uhrwiller to Muhlhausen and posted same with "Bridge out" signs. Company turned over maintenance of culvert at Gumbrechtshoffen to the 48th Engrs.

Co C: CP at Pfaffenoffen, France. Lt Prestwood and the 2nd platoon constructed a footbridge which was to be installed in Mertzwiller, but due to an enemy counter attack, could not be installed. Capt Frank and an officer of the 48th Engrs made a road and bridge reconnaissance in the vicinity of Bueswiller.

PERIOD 0001-2400 7 December 1944:

E/114

Bn CP moved to Rothbach, France.

Co A: CP at Offwiller, France. The 3rd platoon removed an abatis road block on road 4 kilometers northwest of Zinswiller. The block was booby trapped with 50 mines and hand grenades. Further up the same road, they filled three large shell craters.

Co B: CP at Uhrwiller, France. All platoons maintained roads in the regimental area. Improved one bad spot in the road near Nieffern. Maintained road from Uhrwiller to Engwiller to Gumbrechtshoffen.

Co C: CP in Pfaffenoffen, France. Company following the advance of the 180th Infantry. Performed no engineer work.

PERIOD 0001-2400 8 December 1944

E/115

Bn CP in Rothbach, France.

Co A: CP at Offwiller, France. The 2nd platoon cleared a peep trail northwest of Niederbronn. One fixed log obstacle and three large trees were removed from the road northwest of Niederbronn. Cleared and swept road from Zinswiller northwest along the Sintel River to Unternouhthal. Cleared the road northeast of Oberbronn as far as 919385

Co B: CP in Uhrwiller, France. Sgt Riskall and a detail checked a house in Gumbrechtshoffen for booby traps. One squad from each platoon filled shell craters in roads in regimental area. The remaining squads cleaned squad equipment.

Co C: CP in Uttwiller, France. The company constructed three portable footbridges for use by the 180th Inf in coming operations.

PERIOD 0001-2400 9 December 1944:

D/116

Bn CP in Rothbach, France.

Co A: CP in Offwiller, France. The D-7 bulldozer aided in repairing a road for Battery A of the 938th F. A. Bn. The 1st platoon cleared a hasty road block at the railroad overpass at Niederbronn, from which they removed abatis and approximately 50 Teller mines, and filled numerous craters in the road approaching the block.

Co B: CP in Uhrwiller, France. Sgt Conley and a detail checked a house in Bouxwiller for booby traps. The remainder of the company cleaned personal and platoon equipment.

Co C: CP at Uttwiller, France. In support of the 180th Inf. Performed no engineer work.

PERIOD 0001-2400 10 December 1944:

D/117

Bn CP in Rothbach, France.

Co A: CP in Offwiller, France. The 3rd platoon assisted the 48th Engr C Bn in the construction of a treadway bridge in Jaegerthal. Also made reconnaissance for a by-pass, south of a road block in the vicinity of Jaegerthal. The 1st platoon, with the aid of the D-7 bulldozer, built a by-pass over the railroad in Niederbronn. The 2nd platoon removed two tree road blocks two kilometers north of Niederbronn and swept road for two kilometers northeast out of Niederbronn.

Co B: CP in Uhrwiller, France. Lt Bayton and the 2nd platoon built a 20' span stringer bridge on the road east out of Muhlhausen. Lt Cohen and the 3rd platoon removed a tree road block, 3/4 of a mile northwest of Niederbronn. They also removed a tree road block and 10 anti-tank mines previously put in by our infantry, on the road 1 1/2 miles northwest of Niederbronn. The trail leading north out of Niederbronn was maintained for two miles for Co K of the 3rd battalion 179th Infantry. The D-7 bulldozer dug gun positions for the 72nd AAA on the west side of the road where the Uhrwiller-Einswiller road forks to Gumbrechtshoffen.

Co C: CP at Gumbrechtshoffen-Oberbronn. Lt Safir and the 1st platoon prepared a treadway bridge site in Gundershoffen and cleared the town of debris. Swept road from Gumbrechtshoffen to Gundershoffen to two kilometers north of the factory area, and removed 53 mines. The 2nd platoon made a reconnaissance and swept the streets of Reichshoffen. Lt Thuring and the 3rd platoon swept road from Gumbrechtshoffen to Reichshoffen on the west side of the stream. Also swept road from Niederbronn to Reichshoffen to one kilometer south of the factory and removed 41 anti tank mines. Filled shell

craters on the road Gumbrechtshoffen-Reichshoffen. Also imp.
the bridge in Reichshoffen to class 40.

PERIOD 0001-2400 11 December 1944:

D/118

Bn CP in Rothbach, France.

Co A: CP moved to Niederbronn, France. The 1st platoon maintained the by-pass over the railroad in Niederbronn. Checked for mines on road from Niederbronn to Reichshoffen and removed 19 TOPF mines. Cleared road from Reichshoffen, north for two kilometers. The 2nd platoon cleared road from Jaegerthal to Neuwiller, after a reconnaissance had been made of the road. The 3rd platoon improved by-pass in Jaegerthal to permit the trestle bridge to be replaced by a permanent structure. The tank dozer removed a 200 yard tree road block on the main road south of Jaegerthal. The company CP was shelled by enemy artillery during the day; Pfc Chiwiwi was wounded by shell fragments.

Co B: CP moved to Gumbrechtshoffen, France. Sgt Jojola and a detail checked a building in Reichshoffen for booby traps. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon put in a road block one mile south of Windstein. Road block consisted of seven trees felled across the road and twelve anti-tank mines. They also swept the road from Niederbronn, north, and found four TOPF mines. Pfc Polbow captured two prisoners.

Co C: CP moved to Reichshoffen, France. Lt Safir and the 1st platoon swept roads in the 1st Bn 180th Inf area and removed four anti-tank mines; also maintained approaches to the trestle bridge in Gundershoffen. Lt Prestwood and the 2nd platoon swept road from Reichshoffen to Froeschwiller and removed six anti-tank mines; also cleared four small road blocks from the same road. Lt Thuring and the 3rd platoon cleared the town of Reichshoffen of debris; removed four small road blocks and maintained the road from Gumbrechtshoffen to Reichshoffen.

PERIOD 0001-2400 12 December 1944

D/119

Bn CP moved to Reichshoffen, France.

Co A: CP at Niederbronn, France. The 1st platoon cleared road from Reichshoffen to Jaegerthal by removing four small road blocks and four TOPF mines. All blocks were composed of felled trees, approximately 20 yards in length. Also swept road from Neuwiller to Froeschwiller. The 2nd platoon removed a road block on the road between Neuwiller and Langensultzbach. The tank dozer assisted in the removal of this block which was approximately 50 yards in length. Also removed a 50 yard road block and forty TOPF mines in Langensultzbach. On this site, a company dump truck struck a mine and was disabled. The D-7 bulldozer repaired a road in Niederbronn for the 48th Engineers. The 3rd platoon cleared the road from Langensultzbach to 006404

Co B: CP in Gumbrechtshoffen. S/Sgt Kolodziejczyk and squad of the 1st platoon swept road from Reichshoffen to Nehwiller, removed a small road block from the road approximately one mile southwest of Nehwiller. Lt Cohen and one squad of the 3rd platoon removed two road blocks northwest of Niederbronn on road to Philippsburg. The first block was composed of fifteen felled trees and the second consisted of three large trees felled across the road. Fifteen TOPF mines were found in the approaches to the road block which S/Sgt Kolodziejczyk's squad removed.

Co C: CP at Reichshoffen, France. Lt Safir and the 1st platoon swept road from Froeschwiller to Woerth and from Woerth to Goersdorf, and removed fifteen anti-tank mines. They put in two culverts and constructed a by-pass one kilometer north of Woerth. Lt Thuring and the 3rd platoon hauled gravel for the by-pass and removed three small road blocks. Lt Prestwood and the 2nd platoon swept road from Froeschwiller to Langenscultzbach, back southeast to the main road and from there to one kilometer north. They removed ten anti-tank mines from this road.

PERIOD 0001-2400 13 December 1944:

D/120

Bn CP at Reichshoffen, France.

Co A: CP moved to $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers south of Langenscultzbach, France. The 3rd platoon cleared and maintained a supply trail from Langenscultzbach to the 2nd Bn 157th Inf sector (016458) and removed five TOPF mines. The 2nd platoon put in a culvert one kilometer northeast of Langenscultzbach; repaired a culvert one kilometer south of Langenscultzbach by spreading six loads of gravel. Also cleared and opened a road from Langenscultzbach to 994430 northeast to 998437 east to 008438; cleared the entire road from Langenscultzbach to Mattstall.

Co B: CP in Oberbronn. Sgt Phillips and one squad of the 1st platoon marked off road, filled shell holes and destroyed six TOPF mines that had previously been removed, on road from Reichshoffen to Nehwiller. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon swept road from Froeschwiller two kilometers south and from Langenscultzbach two kilometers southeast. One squad from the 3rd platoon checked 15 houses in Langenscultzbach for booby traps. Another squad swept road from Froeschwiller, east, and removed and destroyed eleven TOPF mines.

Co C: CP moved to Froeschwiller. Lt Safir and the 1st platoon maintained a by pass one kilometer north of Woerth and removed two small road blocks approximately two kilometers northeast of Goersdorf. Lt Prestwood and the 2nd platoon swept road from the Bailey Bridge to a point two kilometers south of Lembach and removed a series of eight small road blocks. Lt Thuring and the 3rd platoon swept road from the railroad near Mattstall to Mattstall, and removed ten anti-tank mines.

Bn CP in Reichshoffen, France.

Co A: CP $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers south of Langensoultzbach, France. The 1st platoon hauled rock to maintain a culvert one kilometer south of Langensoultzbach; cleared road of mines and one small road block, northwest of Lembach. Several TOPK mines were found and destroyed, in the vicinity of the road block. The 2nd platoon hauled rock and maintained culvert on the road between Mattstall and Langensoultzbach; cleared mines from Langensoultzbach and Mattstall; cleared trails for 1/4 ton vehicles from 006438 to 018457.

Co B: CP in Froeschwiller, France. S/Sgt Kolodziejczyk and the 1st platoon constructed approximately 100 yards of access road for the 700th Ordnance at Reichshoffen. Lt Dayton made a bridge reconnaissance for the 179th Inf. Lt Cohen and a detail of the 3rd platoon checked a road near Froeschwiller for mines, for the 976th FA Bn; removed booby traps from houses vicinity of the Div Arty Air CP in Reichshoffen.

Co C: CP one kilometer south of Lembach. The 1st platoon filled shell holes and craters left by removal of a road block, vicinity of Lembach. The 2nd platoon cleared and swept road from edge of woods south of Lembach to Lembach; cleared and swept road from Mattstall to Lembach; cleared and swept road northwest of Lembach to one mile north and then east; removed charges from a bridge in Lembach; cleared the southern part of Lembach of debris. The 3rd platoon swept trails through the woods for the 3rd Bn 180th Inf; cleared the northern part of Lembach of debris; swept and cleared road into Wingen and removed seven anti-tank mines.

Bn CP moved to Langensoultzbach, France.

Co A: CP $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers south of Langensoultzbach, France. The 1st platoon cleared a road block on a trail northwest of Lembach for the 1st Bn 157th Inf supply route, and removed three S mines. The 3rd platoon cleared and removed road blocks from road leading northwest out of Lembach for the 3rd Bn 157th Inf supply route. While working on this road, the platoon received heavy mortar and sniper fire. Sgt Henderson received a shrapnel wound in his arm and one truck was slightly damaged.

Co B: CP in Froeschwiller, France. S/Sgt Kolodziejczyk and the 1st platoon maintained road southeast of Lembach, and removed a small road block from the same road. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon maintained the road from Langensoultzbach to Lembach. Sgt McKinney and a detail from the 3rd platoon located and marked two enemy S minefields upon information furnished by

two PW's from the 245th Engr Bn. The mines couldn't be removed due to extreme darkness. Lt Cohen and a detail from the 3rd platoon made a bridge reconnaissance northwest of Lembach. S/Sgt Jones and a detail from the 3rd platoon removed four TOFF mines on the road east of Froeschwiller.

Co C: CP one kilometer south of Lembach, France. The 1st platoon cleared the road from Lembach $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east; removed five R mines and two Tellermine; swept road southeast of Lembach to the RJ and from there to the main road. The 2nd platoon cleared roadblocks in Lembach and helped remove a tankdozer that had bogged down the previous day. The 3rd platoon swept road from Wingen to Clinbach as far as 072461; swept road one kilometer north and northwest of Wingen; swept trails through the woods behind the infantry to the German border as far as 080492. Platoon entered Germany at 1520 hours. The road from Wingen was swept to Ft Wingen and then north to the edge of the woods at 063483.

PERIOD 0001-2400 16 December 1944:

D/123

En CP in Langensoultzbach, France.

Co A: CP $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers south of Langensoultzbach, France. The 3rd platoon cleared a road for the 3rd En 157th Inf north of Lembach, by removing two tree road blocks and several TOFF mines. The 1st platoon cleared road from Wingen into Nothweiler and removed an abatis road block and 18 mines reported by the 157th Infantry.

Co B: CP in Froeschwiller. S/Sgt Kelodzjeczyk and the 1st platoon cleared road ditches and did general maintenance work on the main road through Langensoultzbach. Sgt McKinney and a detail from the 3rd platoon with two German prisoners as guides, cleared a minefield in the vicinity of Langensoultzbach and removed 42 S mines. Lt Cohen and the remainder of the 3rd platoon started construction of a two way class 50 timber bridge on the main road northwest of Lembach.

Co C: CP one kilometer south of Lembach. The 1st platoon swept trails for the 1st Bn 180th Infantry. Sgt Waibel and the 2nd platoon blew up twelve Tellermine and five R mines, which had previously been removed in the 2nd Bn 180th Inf area. Lt Frestwood, Sgt Bouldrey and the 3rd squad of the 2nd platoon made a bridge reconnaissance in the vicinity of Nothweiler, and Bobenthal. Lt Thuring and the 3rd platoon cleared roads in the vicinity of Bobenthal.

PERIOD 0001-2400 17 December 1944

D/124

En CP in Langensoultzbach, France.

Co A: CP $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers south of Langensoultzbach, France. The 1st platoon maintained main roads in vicinity of Nothweiler. During the day they sent four men with ten 6-man rubber boats to attempt a stream crossing north of Nothweiler. Several attempts were made throughout the night, but the crossing had to be abandoned because of intense enemy fire. The 2nd platoon cleared road northeast from Nothweiler as far as the last road block, which was under direct enemy fire. The 3rd platoon cleared trails for the 3rd Bn 157th Inf west and southwest of Nothweiler.

Co B: CP moved to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northeast of Pt Wingen. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon maintained the Div MSR leading northeast out of Pt Wingen. They worked from midnight to 0800 hours and were relieved by the 1st platoon who put down about 200 yards of plank road. The 1st platoon was relieved by the 3rd platoon at 1700 hours who put in an additional 100 yards of planks; also completed a two way timber bridge northwest of Lembach. One platoon of Co C assisted on the building of the road.

Co C: CP one kilometer south of Lembach. Sgt Sanders and a squad of the 1st platoon swept and cleared road in the vicinity of Nothweiler for the 1st Bn 180th Inf; also constructed two 24 foot footbridges to be used the following day by the 180th Inf. The 2nd platoon was attached to Co B.

PERIOD 0001-2400 18 December 1944:

D/125

Bn CP in Langensoultzbach, France.

Co A: CP moved to two kilometers south of Lembach. The 2nd platoon cleared a road block of felled trees, 400 yards long, on the road running northeast of Nothweiler; also improved a trail leading up into the vicinity of Bobenthal.

Co B: CP $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Pt Wingen. The 1st platoon and two squads of the 3rd platoon maintained the division MSR from Pt Wingen to Bobenthal. Reconnaissance platoon from the 645th TD Bn attached. The work consisted of improving drainage, gravelling and corduroying.

Co C: CP one kilometer south of Lembach; Lt Safir and the 1st platoon transported two 24" footbridges, which had been constructed the previous day, to the 1st Bn 180th Infantry. Lt Prestwood and a detail from the 2nd platoon made a reconnaissance for a new road between Nothweiler and Bobenthal. Lt Thuring and the 3rd platoon destroyed one pillbox and experimented with the use of thermite grenades in sealing pillboxes, in the vicinity of Bobenthal.

PERIOD 0001-2400 19 December 1944:

D/126

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A moved to 3 kilometers southeast of Nothweiler, France. The 2nd platoon cleared a tree road block and filled an anti-tank ditch on a road running northeast of Nothweiler. Both the tank dozer and the D-7 were used here. The 3rd platoon, using hand tools, cleared a tree road block just off the main road one kilometer north of Nothweiler; also sent a detail to the 2nd Bn 157th Inf to instruct infantry personnel in the use of flame throwers.

Co B: CP 1/2 mile northeast of Pt Wingen. All platoons worked on maintenance of the division MSR from Pt Wingen to Bobenthal. They were assisted by the 48th Engrs and the 2749 Engrs who sent trucks to help in hauling gravel and crushed rock to the road.

Co C: CP one kilometer south of Lambach. Lt Safir and the 1st platoon worked with the 1st Bn 180th Inf in removing road obstacles. Lt Prestwood and the 2nd platoon worked on a trail from Bobenthal to the highway 1 1/2 kilometers southeast of Nothweiler. Lt Thuring and the 3rd platoon constructed a bypass and installed a treadway bridge one kilometer north of Bobenthal. The D-7 was slightly damaged by enemy artillery fire at this bridge site.

PERIOD 0001-2400 20 December 1944:

D/127

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A: CP three kilometers southeast of Nothweiler, France. The 1st platoon with the aid of the D-7 bulldozer constructed a one way road through the company bivouac area, which met the main road two kilometers south of Nothweiler.

Co B: CP 1/2 mile northeast of Pt Wingen. All platoons maintained the Division MSR from Pt Wingen to Bobenthal. Lts Fields, Dayton and Cohen instructed personnel of the 179th Inf in the use of demolitions for blowing up pill boxes.

Co C: CP 1/2 mile south of Lambach, France. Lt Prestwood and the 2nd platoon put in a traffic strip on a timber bridge in Bobenthal, and prepared a treadway bridge southeast of Bobenthal for demolition. Lt Thuring, Sgt Emerizy and one squad of the 3rd platoon swept trails for the 3rd Bn 180th Inf.

PERIOD 0001-2400 21 December 1944:

D/128

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A: CP 3 kilometers southeast of Nothweiler, France. The 1st platoon constructed a CP for the 157th Inf Regt.

Co B: CP 1/2 mile northeast of Pt Wingen. All platoons maintained the Div MSR from Pt Wingen to Bobenthal.

Co C: CP 1 kilometer south of Lembach. Lt Safir and the 1st platoon constructed two culverts for the 180th Inf supply route. Lt Prestwood, Sgt Bouldrey and a squad of the 2nd platoon blew one pillbox and demolished the entrance to another, and prepared three more for demolition in the vicinity of hill 389. Lt Thuring and the 3rd platoon removed a treadway bridge one mile north of Bobenthal.

PERIOD 0001-2400 22 December 1944

D/129

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A: CP three kilometers southeast of Nothweiler, France. The 1st platoon built a CP for the 1st Bn 157th Inf and aid station, in Nothweiler. The 3rd platoon prepared a roadblock of cratering charges on the main road one kilometer north of Nothweiler; also prepared trees for roadblocks on trails immediately adjacent to the cratering road block. The 2nd platoon dug in two TDs at R057527.

Co B: CP moved to Rott, France. Sgt Jojola and a detail from the 1st platoon conducted a demolition demonstration for personnel of the 1st Bn 179th Inf. Lt Cohen and the 3rd platoon removed two roadblocks on the northern outskirts of Weiler, for the 160th FA Bn. One block had 20 felled trees and the other block consisted of 15 felled trees.

Co C: CP one kilometer south of Lembach, France. The 2nd platoon blew a pillbox two kilometers north of Bobenthal and maintained the 2nd Bn supply route. The 2nd platoon placed twenty anti-tank mines, two kilometers north of Bobenthal (091531), and prepared a cratering charge at 091530, two kilometers north of Bobenthal. The 3rd platoon gravelled the rock road two kilometers west of Bobenthal.

PERIOD 0001-2400 23 December 1944:

D/130

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A: CP moved to 043444. No engineer work performed.

Co B: CP at Rott, France. Lt Fields and a detail from the 1st platoon gave a demonstration to personnel of the 1st Bn 179th Inf on demolition of pill boxes. Lt Cohen and the 3rd platoon established a wire dump for the 3rd Bn 179th Inf and put in an anti-personnel minefield, of five M1 AP mines with trip wires, at 154528. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon dug an CP for the 179th Inf and laid a 15 AP minefield at 125531.

Co C: CP moved to Climbach, France. The 1st platoon maintained roads leading into Bobenthal. The 2nd platoon blew two pillboxes and one bypass, and cleared roads and supply trails for the 2nd Bn 180th Inf, 1/2 kilometer north of Bobenthal. The 3rd platoon swept trails and gravelled roads in the 3rd Bn 180th Inf area; dug in the 180th Inf CP and maintained road from Climbach cemetery to the treadway bridge near Bobenthal.

PERIOD 0001-2400 24 Dec 1944

D/131

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A: CP southeast of Lembach. The 1st platoon cleared a series of ten small abatis road blocks on the road from Hirschthal to RJ 024479 and removed thirty S mines and twenty TOPF mines. Two AM were wounded by S Mines and the tank dozer was disabled by an anti tank mine during the clearing of this road. The tank driver was slightly wounded. The 2nd platoon put in a culvert and cleared three small tree road blocks on the road from Jaegerthal to Dambach. The 3rd platoon built a 23 ft span timber stringer bridge on the Jaegerthal-Dambach road.

Co B: CP in Rott. The 3rd squad of the 1st platoon began reinforcing a bridge south of Weiler and also prepared it for demolition. A detail from the 1st platoon sawed logs for the 2nd Bn 179th Inf to be used in the construction of infantry emplacements. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon put in 1000 feet of three strand barbed wire in front of the 2nd Bn sector. Lt Cohen and the 3rd platoon established a wire dump for the 3rd Bn 179th Inf; also cut turn outs on road from Weiler to R134480 with view of making it a two way road.

Co C: CP at Climbach. Lt Safir and the 1st platoon cleared 400 yards of abatis road block on trails for the 1st Bn 180th Inf; swept road north of Wingen for two kilometers and from Climbach to Bobenthal. Lt Prestwood and the 2nd platoon constructed a 32 foot simple stringer bridge 1/4 mile southeast of Bobenthal; layed 200 yards of triple concertina across the valley road west of Bobenthal. Lt Thuring and the 3rd platoon placed 75 rolls of concertina in front of the 3rd Bn 180th Inf positions.

PERIOD 0001-2400 25 December 1944

D/132

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A: CP 3 kilometers southeast of Lembach. The 1st platoon cleared several small tree road blocks on the road into Hirschthal.

Co B: CP in Rott. The 3rd squad of the 1st platoon reinforced a bridge south of Weiler by adding another bent. Lt Dayton and 2 squads of the 2nd platoon blew two pill boxes and laid approximately 450 yards of triple concertina wire in the 2nd Bn 179th Inf sector. One squad and two trucks of the 2nd platoon sent to Bn S-4 to haul wire. One squad of the 2nd platoon laid

approximately 250 yards of triple concertina in the 2nd Bn 179th Inf area. Lt Cohen and the 3rd platoon laid approximately 600 yds of triple concertina in the 3rd Bn sector and prepared 3 pillboxes for demolition. Approximately 1500 lbs of demolition was used. The R-4 bulldozer dug pits to bury dead animals.

Co C: CP in Climbach. The 1st platoon cut logs for infantry emplacements and cleared roads in the 1st Bn 180th Infantry sector. The 2nd platoon completed a 32 ft simple stringer bridge at 091528 1/4 mile east of Bobenthal and strung triple concertina wire in front of the 2nd Bn 180th Inf area, 1 kilometer southeast of Nieder Schlettenbach. The 3rd platoon layed 33 rolls of barbed wire with 21 trip flares attached and five rolls of concertina, 1 kilometer northeast of Bobenthal. The R-4 bulldozer dug a road for the 2nd Bn 180th Inf. The D-7 bulldozer helped dig gun emplacements for the artillery.

PERIOD 0001-2400 26 December 1944:

D/133

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A: CP moved to 2 kilometers south of Lembach. The 2nd platoon cleared two tree road blocks on the road leading into Obersteinbach; swept road from Wineckerthal to one kilometer south of Obersteinbach; dug gun emplacements for the 938th FA Bn.

Co B: CP in Rott. The 1st platoon maintained road between Rott and Weiler; furnished one squad and two trucks to haul wire for Bn S-4. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon laid approximately 900 yards of triple concertina wire for the 2nd Bn 179th Inf. Lt Cohen and the 3rd platoon laid approximately 500 yards of triple concertina for the 3rd Bn 179th Inf.

Co C: CP at Climbach. The 2nd squad of the 1st platoon cut logs for the 1st Bn 180th Inf emplacements. The 2nd platoon laid 1500 yards of barbed wire and eleven trip flares in Co C 180th Inf sector. One squad of the 2nd platoon blew a dam at 083538 500 yards south of Nieder Schlettenbach. The 3rd platoon laid 24 rolls of wire and 36 concertinas for Co I 180th Inf. The R-4 bulldozer buried dead animals in the 180th Inf sector and removed a tank dozer that had broken down south of Bobenthal.

PERIOD 0001-2400 27 December 1944:

D/134

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A: The 1st platoon cleared road from Hirschthal to Schoneu and removed two 200 yard road blocks from the same road. The 3rd platoon cleared a tree road block, booby trapped with seven 3kg charges, and built a two culvert bypass east of Nieder Schlettenbach; removed six TOPF mines from the road; swept the road into Nieder Schlettenbach; dug two incinerators for the division and dug two emplacements for the 938th FA Bn.

Co B: CP at Rott. One squad and two trucks from the 1st platoon were sent to Bn S-3 to aid in hauling wire. Another squad maintained the road north of Weiler. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon laid approximately 1200 yards of triple concertina wire in the 2nd Bn 179th Inf sector and removed a minefield that we had previously laid. Lt Cohen and the 3rd platoon laid approximately 650 yards of triple concertina in the 3rd Bn area; built a single strand class 9 bridge and removed a small 35 yard tree road block in the 3rd Bn area.

Co C: CP at Climbach. The 1st squad, 1st platoon prepared a bridge for demolition, 1/2 mile southeast of Nieder Schlettenbach. The 3rd squad, 1st platoon, constructed a 20' x 20' x 10' dugout for the 1st Bn 180th Inf, one mile southeast of Nothweiler. Lt Frestwood and the 2nd platoon laid 700 yards of barbed wire for Co B 180th Inf, one mile southeast of Nieder Schlettenbach. Lt Thuring and the 3rd platoon laid 175 concertinas and four spools of wire northeast of Bobenthal. The D-7 bulldozer dug gun emplacements for the 171st FA Bn.

28 December 1944:

D-135

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A: Lts Simmons and Smith reconnoitered defensive positions from Windstein to Dambach. The 3rd platoon cleared road from north of Obersteinbach into town; removed a 200 yard tree road block, booby trapped with three S mines and removed nine TQPF mines from the road.

Co B: Lt Fields and two squads of the 1st platoon maintained the road south of Weiler. Sgt Phillips and the 3rd squad of the 1st platoon removed a 20 tree road block northwest of Weiler; surfaced and opened a trail approximately one kilometer long on the outskirts of Weiler. Lt Dayton and one squad of the 2nd platoon laid 250 yards of triple concertina for the 2nd Bn. A detail from the 2nd platoon ran a chain saw for the 2nd Bn to cut logs for infantry emplacements. Lt Cohen and the 3rd platoon laid approximately 500 yards of triple concertina wire for the 3rd Bn 179th Inf.

Co C: CP at Climbach. The 1st squad of the 1st platoon cratered road at the AF ditch 1/2 mile southeast of Nieder Schlettenbach; prepared abutment charges in a bridge, previously prepared for demolition, on the road one mile southwest of Nieder Schlettenbach. Prepared tree charges on roads leading off the main road at the bridge site; prepared and built dugouts for the 3rd Bn 180 Inf. Lt Frestwood and the 2nd platoon prepared three bridges for demolition, southwest of Nieder Schlettenbach. Lt Thuring and the third platoon prepared three bridges for demolition and put in a road block, west of Bobenthal.

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A: CP south of Lembach. The 2nd platoon laid a deliberate anti tank minefield consisting of 600 mines, at the eastern edge of Dambach. The 3rd platoon laid a deliberate minefield consisting of 350 anti tank mines just north of Wineckerthal.

Co B: CP in Rott. Lt Fields and two squads of the 1st platoon laid approximately 1100 yards of triple concertina wire in the 2nd Bn and 3rd Bn 179th Inf sectors. Sgt Jajola and one squad prepared a bridge for demolition in Weiler. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon prepared culverts and abatis for demolition in the 2nd Bn 179th Inf sector; prepared craters for demolition on the road from Rott to Climbach and prepared a 200 yard abatis road block for demolition on the same road. Lt Cohen and the 3rd platoon prepared five road blocks for demolition and constructed three road blocks in the 3rd Bn 179th Inf area; prepared nine Maginot Forts for occupation and removed several 9 mines therefrom.

Co C: CP at Climbach. The 1st squad of the 1st platoon prepared bridges for demolition $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Lembach. The 2nd squad prepared a culvert for demolition on the same road; laid 10 AT mines on the road one mile northeast of Nothweiler. The 3rd squad prepared tree charges on 48 trees. The 2nd platoon prepared a bridge in Lembach for demolition; blocked roads in the area south of Nieder Schlettenbach and west of Bobenthal. The 3rd platoon prepared 51 trees for demolition and cut 43 trees down in the 3rd Bn 180th Inf sector and put two cratering charges in the road. The bulldozer dug gun positions for the 171st FA Bn and the 106th AAA Bn.

PERIOD 0001-2400 30 December 1944:

D/137

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

Co A: CP moved back into former area three kilometers south of Lembach. The 1st platoon laid 500 yards of double concertina in the 1st Bn area on the flanks of their present positions. The 2nd platoon completed burying and marking off a minefield near Dambach. The 3rd platoon laid ten AP mines on trails leading into the 3rd Bn 157th Inf area; also booby trapped a mined road block 500 yards from Obersteinbach with anti-lifting devices. The M-4 bulldozer dug gun positions for the 171st FA Bn south of Lembach.

Co B: CP in Rott. Lt Fields and the 1st platoon laid 160 rolls of concertina for the 1st Bn 179th Inf. One squad removed two R mines south of Rott for the 106th AAA Bn. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon prepared five road blocks for demolition. One squad felled trees for two road blocks about $1/2$ mile southwest of Climbach. Lt Cohen and the 3rd platoon prepared tree road blocks for the 3rd Bn 179th Inf on the MLR. One squad prepared a bridge and road block for demolition vic of Climbach. One squad opened eight Maginot Forts and prepared them for occupation

Co C: CP in Climbach. The 1st squad of the 1st platoon prepared craters on road 1 1/2 miles north of Lembach; prepared bridge for demolition and placed charges on six trees on the east-west road 1 1/2 miles northwest of Lembach. The 2nd squad of the 1st platoon laid 33 anti tank mines and prepared 47 trees in the vicinity of two miles north of Lembach. The 3rd squad prepared 48 trees for demolition on the road from Ft Wingen to Nothweiler. The 1st and 2nd squads of the 2nd platoon prepared buildings in Bobenthal for demolition. The 3rd squad worked on road blocks in the 2nd Bn 180th Inf area. The 3rd platoon removed all trees and footbridges across the stream southeast of Bobenthal; prepared bridge on trail northeast of Bobenthal for demolition; 14 trees on the road north of Climbach prepared for demolition; 60 trees on trails one mile northeast of Climbach prepared for demolition.

PERIOD 0601-2400 31 December 1944:

D/138

Bn CP in Langensultzbach, France.

H&S Co furnished a detail from the S-3 section, with the aid of the R-4, dug gun emplacements for the 171st FA Bn vicinity of Woerth.

Co A: CP three kilometers south of Lembach. Prepared culverts for demolition at 997476. Installed a rope ladder for the 158th FA CP. The D-7 bulldozer dug gun emplacements for the 189th FA Bn vic of Woerth.

Co B: CP in Rott. Lt Fields and the 1st platoon laid 80 rolls of concertina wire, completing the wiring of the entire Regimental area. Lt Dayton and the 2nd platoon improved road blocks in the regimental sector; prepared a crater northwest of Weller; felled trees in the area northwest of Climbach, for road blocks. Lt Cohen and the 3rd platoon removed three S mines and marked off a suspected AP minefield in vicinity of tunnel entrance to the Maginet Forts; cleared out the system of tunnels; put in tree blocks and prepared abatis; put in a 40 AT minefield and constructed tree blocks along various trails southwest of Climbach. The D-7 bulldozer dug gun emplacements for the 180th FA Bn.

Co C: CP at Climbach. The 1st squad of the 1st platoon prepared 29 trees for demolition two miles northwest of Lembach and 69 trees two miles southeast of Nothweiler. The 3rd squad of the 1st platoon prepared 59 trees for demolition 1/2 mile south of Nothweiler. The 1st squad of the 2nd platoon prepared road blocks and craters and dug holes for a 14 AT minefield near Wingen. The 2nd squad prepared a road block west of Bobenthal. The 3rd squad of the 3rd platoon constructed two road blocks and prepared one other for demolition west of Climbach. The 1st squad of the 3rd platoon prepared holes for a minefield on the road from Lembach to Wingen.

OFFICIAL:

C. S. Monnier
C. S. MONNIER
Lt Col CE,
Commanding,
120th Engr C Bn

HEADQUARTERS 120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

APO # 45, U S Army
8 January 1945

NARRATIVE HISTORY OF THE 120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944

1. The first day of December 1944, found the 45th Infantry Division on its objective across the Moder River (Alsace, France) from Ingwiller to Niedermodern with the 157th Infantry on the left, 179th Infantry in the center and the 180th Infantry on the right. Companies A, B and C, 120th Engineer Combat Battalion, were in support of the 157th, 179th and 180th Infantry Regiments respectively. 120th Engineer Combat Battalion CP was located in Uttwiller; CP Co A in Ingwiller; CP Co B in Menchhoffen; CP Co C in Pfaffenhoffen.

PERIOD 1 December to 10 December:

During this period the Division advanced from the Moder River line to a line Niederbronn les Bains-Reichshoffen.

During this period Company A supported the advance of the 157th Infantry by constructing and manning road blocks to protect the division left flank; cleared and swept all roads in sector; constructed a class 40 bridge over Zintzel River at Zinswiller on 8 Dec and constructed two class 40 crossings in Niederbronn les Bains on 9-10 December.

Company B cleared and swept all roads in zone of advance of the 179th Infantry; constructed a class 40 timber bridge over Rothback River southwest of Kindwiller on 2 December; constructed an earth fill and culvert crossing over Zintzel River at Gumbrechtshoffen on 4 December.

Company C, in support of the 180th Infantry, cleared and swept all roads in the regiments zone of advance; constructed a class 40 steel and timber bridge over the Moder River in Pfaffenhoffen on 3 December; constructed a class 40 timber bridge over the Zintzel River in Reichshoffen on 10 December.

During the period the battalion CP moved to Rothbach.

PERIOD 11 December to 20 December:

During this period, the Division pushed through the Maginot Line entering Germany on 15 December, and reached a line Nothweiler-Bobenthal-Wissembourg.

Company A cleared and swept roads in the 157th Infantry sector from Zintzel River across the German border to Nothweiler. An especially difficult abatis road block was cleared 2½ kilometers northeast of Nothweiler under direct enemy observation from forward pillboxes of Siegfried Line on 19 December 1944.

Company B remained in support of the 179th Infantry during the first part of this period and assisted the infantry in establishing road blocks and positions to protect the division's long, exposed left flank. On 13 December, Co B was released from support of the 179th Infantry and placed on vitally needed supply routes in the rear of the remainder of the division. In this role, Company B constructed a class 40 timber bridge across a stream $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers northwest of Lembach to open up a valuable supply route, and opened a one-way supply route from Wingen across the German border to Bobenthal; a distance of approximately five miles thru difficult terrain, much of this road requiring a corduroyed surface.

Company C supported the 180th Infantry in its zone of advance throughout this period, clearing and sweeping three networks of roads from Reichshoffen-Woerth-Lembach over the German border to Bobenthal.

The battalion CP moved to Reichshoffen and then to Langensultzbach during this period.

PERIOD 21 December to 31 December

During this period, the 45th Infantry Division changed from the offensive to the defensive and made plans and preparations for possible withdrawal to the Maginot defenses in accordance with plans of higher echelons.

Companies A, B and C were committed to preparation of defensive positions, construction of obstacles, and preparation of all bridges in their respective regimental sectors for demolition. All pillboxes and fortifications of the Siegfried Line that were in our possession were demolished.

During this period 8 Siegfried pillboxes were demolished; 14 bridges prepared for demolition; 19 road craters and 104 abatis road blocks were prepared for demolition between the Maginot and Siegfried lines within the division sector.

The battalion CP remained at Langensultzbach during this period.

SERVICE FUNCTIONS:

During the month of December, Headquarters and Service Company carried on normal service functions. During the latter part of the month, all available personnel and trucks of H&S Company were utilized in transporting fortification materials for Army supply depots in the rear to forward engineer DPs.

During the month, Division Engr DPs were established at the following locations: Wickersheim, Zinswiller, Lembach and Woerth. During the month, the following quantities of fortification materials were issued: 115,000 sandbags, 3200 rolls of concertina, 133 rolls of barbed wire, 2850 pickets, 2500 anti tank mines and 365 anti personnel mines.

Eleven water distribution points were operated and delivered a total of 862,000 gallons of water to the division and attached troops.

15,000 sheets of maps were procured and issued to the division and attached troops during the month of December.

CASUALTIES:

Casualties for the month of December were unusually light considering the activities that the battalion was engaged in, and in comparison with previous periods of similar combat. One officer and five enlisted men were wounded in action.

WEATHER:

Weather conditions during the month made engineer operations extremely difficult. Rain during the first part of the month made quagmires out of unsurfaced roads and trails. Freezing conditions and snow during the latter part of the month made all roads extremely slick and greatly cut down on traffic speed within the division sector. During the month, there were 9 clear days, 8 cloudy days, 11 rainy days and 3 days of snow.

OFFICIAL:

Joseph W Lowe, Jr.

JOSEPH W LOWE, JR
Major, CE, 120th Engr C Bn
Executive Officer

HEADQUARTERS 120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

AGO # 45, U S Army
9 January 1945

OPERATIONS SUMMARY)

NUMBER 3)

OPERATIONS IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944

1. During the early days of the month, the 45th Division, under control of XV Corps, was advancing slowly northward in the Alsace plain, with the Vosges mountains on the left flank. Rain fell almost every day, and each small stream was swollen, and overflowing its banks. Vehicular movement was impossible except on paved roads.

2. Disposition of companies: Co C supported the attack of the 180th Infantry; Co B supported the 179th Infantry and Co A supported the 157th Infantry, and prepared defensive blocks along the division left flank. Co A 325th Engrs (100 Div) was attached, and was used to relieve Co A as the attack moved forward.

3. On 1 December, the 45th Division crossed the Moder River. One bridge was found intact at Obermodern. All other bridges were blown. A bailey bridge was constructed at Pfaffenhoffen, one steel stringer bridge rebuilt and an existing light bridge repaired.

4. The Zintzel River was crossed on 3 December. A ford was used initially at Einswiller, replaced by a treadway bridge as soon as initial armor was passed. Three 36" culvert pipes were placed at Gumbrechtshoffen. Considerable difficulty was encountered here on account of enemy shell fire, which was accurately placed.

5. The 45th Div returned to VI Corps at 0601 4 Dec 4. The 428th Engr C Bn was assigned to support the 120th Engrs.

6. The terrain north of the Zintzel River was found to be very boggy, with no roads in the central part of the Division sector. It became necessary to corduroy trails through the wooded areas to maneuver tanks into firing positions.

7. What are believed to be the first TOPF mines to be found in place, were found at Mertzwiller on 5 December.

8. On the night of 5-6 December, an attempt was made to install a bailey bridge at Mertzwiller, but accurate shellfire on the bridge site prevented this. The following day, enemy counterattacks drove all troops to the southwest bank of the river.

9. Two tank dozers for each Engineer battalion were authorized by CG VI Corps on 8 December.

10. On 9 December, the Rau de Falkenstein was crossed. Infantry were crossed in in the vicinity of Gundershoffen by improvised portable footbridges constructed and installed by Co C. Rubber reconnaissance boats were provided but not used. A treadway bridge was installed at Gundershoffen, and used by both 45th Division and the 103rd Division. In the vicinity of Reichshoffen, some tanks were forded across on the apron of a dam in the factory area. A timber deck was laid over a damaged bridge in Reichshoffen. Tanks were able to cross at will in Niederbronn, as the stream is covered through a large part of town. However, a treadway was laid over a blown RR underpass to speed traffic. The next day, a fill was cut by Co A near the treadway site to take traffic; the treadway removed, and a permanent timber structure was installed by the 48th Engrs.

11. On 11 December, a treadway bridge was installed on a bypass site at Jaegerthal, a timber bridge installed in the original gap, and the treadway removed.

12. A culvert was placed along side of a blown bridge, one kilometer south of Langensultzbach, on the Lembach-Woerth road, on 12 December.

13.. A Bailey bridge was installed one kilometer east of the above culvert, a treadway at Mattstall station, and a culvert placed two kilometers west of Mattstall on 13 December.

14. E.2. 44 igniters were found near Lembach on 14 December.

15. On 15 December, two German prisoners volunteered to remove some minefields which they had helped lay. This resulted in the removal of 60 S mines. On this day too, our troops entered Germany. Road nets were very meager, so improvements were begun on a trail leading from Ste Wingen, France to Bobenthal, Germany. It was eventually necessary to construct 300 yards of plank and log corduroy, and to haul several hundred loads of rock to keep this route open. The 645th TD pioneer platoon, and trucks from VI Corps and from 48th Engrs assisted in this task.

16. On 19 December, a fill was dozed into an AT ditch, two kilometers north of Bobenthal, and a treadway was placed over a crater 400 yards further north. A small bridge was constructed in the forward area on 27 December.

Operations Summary No 3, Hq 180th Engr C Bn
9 January 1945 (cont'd)

17. On 21 December, the Division expanded to relieve a portion of the 103rd Div, and the action passed from attack to a defensive phase, with pressure continuing to be applied to the Siegfried defenses. Nine pillboxes were taken, and eight destroyed. The ninth one was prepared for demolition but was retaken by the enemy before it could be blown. Wire was placed along the forward infantry positions, and preparations of a second defensive line, based on the Maginot line, begun. Bridges were prepared for demolition, all areas not in use were blocked by extensive abatis, minefields laid, crater charges prepared, and plans for a withdrawal operations were drawn up.

18. Tabulation of work accomplished:

Roads swept for mines	167 miles
Abatis cleared (not all recorded)	31 1/2
Mines removed	500
Bailey bridges constructed (actual construction by Corps troops)	2
Treadway bridges constructed	6
Other bridges constructed	6
Footbridges constructed	4
By-passes or ferds constructed	7
Corduroy road constructed	600 yards
Wire laid (triple concertina)	11800 yards
Trip flares laid	20
AP mines laid	22
AT mines laid	1190
Abatis felled or prepared (areas)	104
Crater charges placed	19
Bridges prepared for demolition	14
Gun (battery) emplacements dug	11
Towns checked for mines and booby traps	28
Incinerators dug	1
Pill boxes destroyed	8
Forts opened and cleaned	9
Treadway bridges removed	1
Road craters filled	3
Signs painted	746
Water supplied to troops	261940 gallons

19. Casualties

WIA - One (1) officer and five (5) enlisted men.

For the battalion Commander:

Benjamin E Dillups
BENJAMIN E DILLUPS
Major, CE
E-3

HEADQUARTERS 120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

APO # 45, U S Army
8 January 1945

MEMORANDUM:

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

1. The following personnel of this battalion received awards as indicated, during the month of December 1944:

1st Lt	William W Etherton	Co A	Bronze Star	Heroic Achievement in Action
1st Lt	Sidney L Simmons	Co A	"	"
Tec 5	Lowell B Hughes	Co A	"	Meritorious Service in Combat
Capt	James H Rickey Jr	Co A	Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal	"
Sgt	Harold D Gray	Co A	Bronze Star	"
Cpl	Elias P Williams	Co A	"	"
Cpl	John D Brown	Co A	"	"

For the Battalion Commander:

John H. Dismant
JOHN H DISMANT
1st Lt CE
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

AFPO # 45, U S Army
7 January 1945

MEMORANDUM:

BATTLE CASUALTIES

1. Following is a list of battle casualties incurred by this battalion during the month of December 1944:

WOUNDED IN ACTION

1st Lt	William C Picket	Co B	3 Dec 1944	Mortar
Pfc	Jose R Chiwiwi	Co A	11 Dec 1944	Artillery
Sgt	Fred L Henderson	Co A	15 Dec 1944	Artillery
S/Sgt	Francis L McQuaid	Co C	21 Dec 1944	Artillery
Tec 4	Manuel Holcomb	Co A	24 Dec 1944	"S" Mine
Pvt	Robert B Hall	Co A	24 Dec 1944	"S" Mine

2. Following is a list of former battle casualties who returned to duty during the month of December 1944:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Co</u>	<u>Date Wounded</u>	<u>Date to Duty</u>
Pfc	Guy R McFarland	Co B	WIA on 1 Sept 1944	1 Dec 1944
Pfc	Alvin F Wille	Co B	WIA on 1 Sept 1944	8 Dec 1944
Pfc	Nick Kovarbasich	Co C	WIA on 12 Sept 1944	9 Dec 1944
Pfc	Simon Mendoza	Co C	WIA on 29 Nov 1944	12 Dec 1944
Pvt	Joe F Sanchez	Co C	WIA on 23 Sept 1944	12 Dec 1944
S/Sgt	Francis H McQuaid	Co C	WIA on 21 Dec 1944	26 Dec 1944
Capt	Max R Hartnagel	Co B	WIA on 24 Sep 1944	27 Dec 1944
1 Lt	William C Picket	Co B	WIA on 3 Dec 1944	27 Dec 1944
Pvt	John J Biggans	Co C	WIA on 22 Sep 1944	30 Dec 1944
Pvt	Lee Duran	Co C	WIA on 11 Sep 1944	30 Dec 1944
Pvt	Robert B Hall	Co A	WIA 24 Dec 1944	30 Dec 1944

For the Battalion Commander:

John H. Dismant
JOHN H DISMANT
1st Lt CE
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS, 120TH ENGINEER C. BN.
OFFICE OF THE SUPPLY OFFICER

A.P.O. # 46
2 January 1945

SUBJECT: Class II, Class IV, Explosive & Demolitions,
Engineer Supplies issued from the 45th Division
Engineer Dump for Period Dec. 1, 1944 to Dec. 31,
1944.

CLASS II

ITEM	UNIT	AMT.
Acetylene	tanks	19
Axes, chopping, S.B. 4 lb. hld.	ea.	24
Nitrogen	tanks	24
Lumber, 3" x 9" x 14'	pcs.	825
Markers, luminous, radio active	ea.	195
Nails, common, wire, 8 D	lbs.	180
	10 D	135
	16 D	160
	20 D	100
	50 D	300
	60 D	2,005
Hydrogen	tanks	2
Oxygen	tanks	19
Paint, O.D.	gal.	5
Pins, drift	ea.	700
Plywood	pcs.	34
Rope, manila, 3/4" dia.	feet	4,500
Rope, manila, 1" dia.	feet	1,000
Saw, crosscut, 2 man 60"	ea.	6
Shovel, D-handled, rd. pt.	ea.	12
Signs, mine marking	ea.	140

ITEM	UNIT	AMT
Tape, tracing, cotton white	rolls	133
CLASS IV		
Bags, sand	ea.	114,900
Concertina	rolls	3,165
Culvert, 24" dia.	feet	60
Culvert, 36" dia.	feet	270
Pickets, drive, long	ea.	2,350
Pickets, drive, short	ea.	360
Pickets, short screw type	ea.	150
Wire, barbed	rolls	133
Wire, chicken	rolls	33
Wire, smooth, iron, galv	rolls	19

EXPLOSIVES AND DEMOLITIONS

Bangalore Torpedoes	ea.	150
Beehives, small M-2	ea.	16
Beehives, large, T-3	ea.	8
Caps, tetrytol, electric	ea.	374
Caps, tetrytol, non-electric	ea.	2,482
Charge, det. chain, tet. M-1	lvks.	98
Charge, det. chain, M-3 (G-2)	lvks	136
Cord, detonating	feet	6,250
Devices, firing, Full type	ea.	105
Devices, release type	ea.	4
Explosive, cratering charges	lbs.	9,000
Flares, parachute, M-48	ea.	250
Flares, ordinary M-49	ea.	200

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AMT.</u>
Fuse, time	feet	4,100
Grenades, thermite, Incend. (CWS)	ea.	97
Lighters, fuse	ea.	1,230
Mines, anti-Personnel	ea.	365
Mines, anti-Tank	ea.	2,440
Explosive, TNT	lbs.	9,228

W.M. Hales

W. M. HALESS
Capt., 120th Engr. C. Bn.
S-4

HEADQUARTERS 120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
OFFICE OF THE BATTALION SURGEON

APO 15, US Army
6 January 1945

MEDICAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944

1. Statistical Data:

Number of patients admitted to hospital	47
Battle casualties (5 MI and 1 Officer)	6
KIA	0
MIA	0
Recommended for Purple Heart Medal	2
Patients receiving Dental Treatment	42
New Venereal Cases	2
New Malaria Cases	0
Recurrent Malaria Cases	1

2. Comments:

a. During this month (December) the Battalion has been engaged in active Engineer work, each Company being with one of the Regiments of the Division; each of which have been actively engaged with the enemy over the Alsatian plains.

b. There have been a number of moves from one location to another for the Battalion Headquarters and the Medical Detachment. We started the month out at Uttwiller. The following locations and the dates follow:

Uttwiller from Dec. 1 to 9, 1944

Reibach from Dec. 9 to 11, 1944

Reichshoffen from Dec. 11 to 15, 1944

Langensulzbach from Dec. 15 to 31, 1944 inclusive

c. Early in the month we rejoined the VI Corps and have contacted old old friends. We like it better.

d. As the above records show the greatest number of cases admitted to the hospital are due to illness rather than wounds. This illness has been not necessarily upper respiratory tract diseases but also strains, sprains and backaches. The Venereal Disease cases result from contacts made during the rest period in the month of November.

For the Battalion Commander:

John H. Kilmer
JOHN H. KILMER
Capt. M.C.
Battalion Surgeon

ROSTER OF OFFICERS
120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1944

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS:

Charles S Monnier	Lt Col	0353106	CO
Joseph W Lowe Jr	Major	0293270	Ex O
Benjamin E Billups	Major	0403916	S-3
Hugh T McCullough Jr	Captain	0422440	S-2
Max R Hartnagel	Captain	01105497	Asst S-3
Arthur Tauscher	Captain	0460191	ADE
William M Hales	Captain	0405742	S-4
John H Dismant	1st Lt	0374920	S-1
Frank F Porter	1st Lt	01107053	Asst S-2
Walter E Oleson	1st Lt	01106374	Recon O

HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE CO:

Elmer S Fickett	Captain	01100733	CO
Ivan F Sandridge	1st Lt	01105784	Bn Motor O
Jim M Flanagan	CWO	W2117855	Asst Bn Motor O
George A Ferguson	WOJG	W2118645	Asst S-4
Charles P Rusher	WOJG	W2108256	Pers O

Medical Detachment:

John H Kilmer	Captain	0332720	Actg Bn Surg(Atchd)
Aubrey E Stowers	Captain	0375220	Bn Surg (US on TD)
Milton Wasserman	Captain	0481477	Bn Dent O

Company "A":

James H Rickey Jr	Captain	0469860	CO
Sidney L Simmons	1st Lt	01112974	1st Plat Comdr
Roy C Smith	1st Lt	01106342	2nd Plat Comdr
William W Etherton	1st Lt	01107937	3rd Plat Comdr
Frank W Peak	2nd Lt	0543107	Co Adm O

Company "B":

Wayne W Bridges	Captain	01112045	CO
Harry M Fields	1st Lt	01107411	1st Plat Comdr
David J Dayton	1st Lt	0543901	2nd Plat Comdr
Howard M Cohen	1st Lt	01112623	3rd Plat Comdr
William C Picket	1st Lt	01105740	Co Adm O

Company "C":

Alvin L Frank	Captain	0461128	CO
Charles C Lipscomb	1st Lt	01111197	1st Plat Comdr
Marvin S Prestwood	1st Lt	0540201	2nd Plat Comdr
Melvin A Thuring	1st Lt	0385599	3rd Plat Comdr

HEADQUARTERS 120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 45, U S ARMY

31 December 1944

MEMORANDUM:

1. The following is a list of signs painted by this organization for the month of December 1944:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Division Headquarters	88
120th Engr. C Bn	97
157th Infantry Regt	212
179th Infantry Regt	120
160th F. A. Bn	60
189th F.A. Bn	3
45th Div Military Police	56
45th Div. Quartermaster	98
45th Div. A.P.O.	6
Special Service	38
Total	<u>746</u>

For the Battalion Commander:

John H. Dismant
JOHN H. DISMANT
1st Lt. CE
Adjutant.

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[The 45th Infantry Division in World War II: An Unofficial Guide to Resources](#)

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