

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS  
FORTY FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO 45 U S ARMY

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:Auth: CG 45 Div  
:Init: *EPH*  
:Date: 10 Feb 45  
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314.7

10 February 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Unit History.

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U S Army.

Transmitted herewith Historical Record of the 120th Engineer Combat Battalion, this command, for the period 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945.

For the Commanding General:

EMIL P NAVTA  
WOJG USA  
Asst Adj Gen

1 Incl:  
Hist Rec, 120th Engr C Bn (Trip)  
w/Supporting Documents.

*A 4951*

DISPATCHED  
HQ 45th INF DIV  
APO 45 U S Army  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SECRET 12 FEB 1945

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HQ 45th INF DIV  
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12 FEB 1945

NARRATIVE HISTORY OF THE 120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

JANUARY 1945

1. Situation at 0001A 1 January 1945:

a. 45th Inf Div was occupying positions before the Siegfried Line. 157th Infantry, supported by Co A, 120th Engr C Bn, was attacking along line DAMBACH-NIEDERSTEINBACH-HIRSCHTHAL to secure more favorable defensive positions. 180th Infantry, supported by Co C, 120th Engr C Bn, was occupying and organizing defensive positions along the line - 2 kilometers north of Bobenthal, Germany - 2 kilometers north of Nothweiler, Germany. 179th Infantry, supported by Co B, 120th Engr C Bn occupied and was organizing defense of line - 2 kilometers north of Nothweiler to 3 kilometers north of Wissembourg, France. 275th Inf (70. Inf Div) had begun movement into 45th Div area and upon arrival at Niederbronn was to be attached to 45th Division. To the left of 45th Division sector, the enemy had attacked Task Force Hudelson, composed of 62 AI Bn, and Cav units, and had made penetrations into their lines, in vicinity of Bannstein and south of Bitche, but penetration seemed to be checked.

b. Plans had been made for a possible withdrawal of 45th Division to the Maginot Line. In accordance with this plan, extensive demolitions had been prepared in the zone between the present front lines and the Maginot Line. All roads except those required for a withdrawal or for current use, were blocked.

c. None.

2. 1 January 1945:

a. During the day, the 45th Division continued to organize defenses throughout its sector. The Division was given the additional mission of sealing off from enemy attacks, all entrances to the Rhine Plain near Bannstein and Bitche. The 275th Infantry (70 Div) was attached to the 45th Division and occupied positions at Phillippsbourg and Baerenthal during the day. 313 Inf, less its 3rd Bn, was attached to the 45th Division, and moved to the vicinity of Reichshoffen. 36 Engr C Regt was attached to the Division as Infantry in the late afternoon, and relieved 179th Infantry in position. 179th Infantry assembled near Lembach. Co A, 120th Engr C Bn supported 157th Infantry, assisting them in organizing their sector for defense. Strung 450 yards of double concertina, installed one road block (abatis), prepared one bridge and one culvert for demolition between Niedersteinbach and the RJ 4 kilometers east of Niedersteinbach. A vehicle belonging to the 160 FA Bn struck a mine while gathering wood on a trail west of Langensultzbach. A detail checked the area, found no more mines, and assisted in recovery of the vehicle. Co C, in support of 180 Inf, placed sand on all roads in 180 Inf sector in order to reduce hazard of slipping on icy roads, and continued blocking trails in forward areas, and preparing

locations for demolition. Co B supported 179 Inf until their relief was completed at 2125A. Turned over all prepared demolitions in sector to Co G, 36 Engrs. They completed laying concertina in front of 2nd Bn 179th Inf. The road leading south from Weiler had numerous seeping springs which kept the road icy and unpassable to tracked vehicles. Ice was removed and cinders spread to relieve this condition. Cinders and sand were spread at critical points on other roads in sector to reduce ice hazard. Gun emplacements were dug for 106 AAA Bn. Work was continued on abatis, and demolition charges in sector in preparation for possible withdrawal to Maginot Line. CP located in Langensultzbach.

b. Plans were completed for the withdrawal of 45 Division behind Maginot Line, to begin at 0200A 2 Jan. Routes of withdrawal from Maginot line to a delaying position along line Niederbronn-Reichshoffen-Mertzwiller were selected and approved by G-3. Plans were laid to execute demolitions and blocks on all roads in zone between delaying position and Maginot Line, except the approved routes of withdrawal, along which demolitions would be prepared, but not executed.

c. B Co was ordered to support attack of 179 Inf, 275 Inf and 313 Inf on morning of 2 Jan.

### 3. Events of 2 Jan:

a. 157, 180 Infs and 36 Engr C Regt continued to defend along MLR until withdrawal began at dark, to Maginot Line. 179 Inf attacked Sarreinsborg and Goetzenbruck. 275 Inf attacked enemy near Philippsbourg and Baerenthal. 313 Inf cleared enemy from Wildenguth and Reipertswiller and launched an attack northwards from Reipertswiller. 1st Bn 314 Inf and 1st Bn 315 Inf were in Div reserve via Zinswiller. 276 Inf was attached to 45 Div and occupied positions at Wingen, Wimmenau and Rosteig. Co A 120th Engr C Bn continued to support 157 Infantry, laid wire in front of Maginot fortifications near Windstein, and prepared tree blocks on road east from Obersteinbach. As the 157 Inf began withdrawal to Maginot Line, tree blocks were executed on road between Hirschthal and Schonau; also blocked roads and trails leading onto all roads in sector; executed demolitions (2 bridges, 1 culvert, tree abatis) eastward from Niedersteinbach. Co B, supporting 179, 275 and 313 Inf Regts, manned a series of road blocks NW of Niederbronn, provided security guard for Rothbach (313 Inf CP) and maintained roads and trails for 179 Inf. Co C, supporting 180 Inf completed preparation for withdrawal, placed sand on icy places along routes of withdrawal, completed blocking of roads and trails no longer needed for operations and while waiting for withdrawal to begin, booby trapped house used by 180 Inf as a CP, destroyed one sawmill, two stacks of lumber and one abandoned M4 American tank. Detachment from Bn Hq completed construction of Arty gun pits for 171 FA Bn.

b. Plans were made to continue demolition behind Maginot Line to MLR shown on Div OI No. 3.

a. The following orders were given Co COs at conference at Bn CP at 1915A.

Bn will begin along Intermediate line (Niederbronn-Reichshoffen-Mertzwiller) blocking all trails and roads except those designated by G-3 as withdrawal routes. This work will begin as soon as present withdrawal plans are executed.

#### 4. Events of 3 Jan:

a. 45th Div, reinforced, withdrew to Maginot Line, and continued attack along line Rosteig-Lichtenberg-Philippsbourg-Dambach. 157th Inf (1st Bn 315 Inf atchd) and 36 Engr C Regt extended their flanks and relieved the 180 Infantry, which assembled NW of Dossenheim. 275 Inf, after heavy fighting, lost Philippsbourg. 1st Bn 274 Inf atchd to 45 Div, began assembling at Niederbronn; 313 Inf scored small gains at Picardie and Reipertwiller. 19th Armored Inf Bn was atchd to 179 Inf. 179 Inf attacked and scored local gains around Sarreinsburg; 276 Inf continued to develop line Rosteig-Wingen-Wimmenau. Co A, 120 Engr C Bn, in preparation for further withdrawal, prepared demolition charges on two bridges in Zinswiller, destroyed a bridge 2 kilometers NW of Zinswiller; placed charges on trees for an abatis 1 kilometer NW of Zinswiller, prepared bridge over railroad at Niederbronn, blocked all trails leading into the Niederbronn-Philippsbourg road, prepared bridge and 2 culverts for demolition between Dambach and Jaegerthal; placed crater charge under road in north edge of Jaegerthal; prepared abatis on north edge of Zinswiller and along Jaegerthal-Niederbronn road and blocked all trails leading into Jaegerthal-Niederbronn road.

Co B supporting 275, 179 and 313 Inf Regts, prepared demolitions and abatis along Philippsbourg-Niederbronn road, blocked all trails leading on to Philippsbourg-Niederbronn road, repaired damaged bridge in Ingwiller and garrisoned roadblocks at Rothbach with one platoon. Co C, after executing all previously prepared demolitions as infantry withdrew, prepared bridge one mile N of Woerth, bridge 2 kilometers S of Mattstall and culvert W of Mattstall for demolition, prepared abatis on roads leading to Lembach-Woerth road, prepared abatis in Langensultzbach and Woerth. 120 Engr C Bn CP moved during day to Eckarts-illers.

b. At 2030, the CO 120th Engr C Bn, was informed that 45th Division would not withdraw further, and plans for the strengthening of Maginot defenses were begun.

c. In the late afternoon the following instructions were given to the companies for execution the next day:

Co A to relieve Co B of support of 275 Inf, relieve Co C in sector (180 Inf sector prior to relief of 180 Inf). Co B (-2nd plat) to support 179 Inf and relieve 540 Engrs of roadblocks in sector. Co C (2nd plat Co B atchd) to relieve 540 Engrs of roadblocks in sector, support 313 Inf and 180 Inf.

#### 5. Events of 4 Jan:

a. 157 Inf (1st Bn 315 Inf atchd) and 36 Engrs continued to hold Maginot line. 275 Inf, 1st Bn 274 Inf atchd, held positions, and tried to retake Philippsbourg. 313 Inf, 1st Bn 314 Inf atchd, defended

Wildenguth and Weiterswiller, and captured Saegmuhl. 180 Inf completed movement to area NW of Dossenheim and attacked, gaining high ground N of Wimmenau. 179 Inf with Tr C 117 Ren Sqdrn and 19th Armd Inf Bn attached, defended Sarreinsburg, Goetzenbruce and Meisenthal. All infantry components of 70th Div were designated as Task Force Herren. 274 Inf held high ground vic Rosteig with 1 Bn, and moved the remaining Bn to Rothbach. 276 Inf continued to garrison Wingen-Wimmenau, losing Wingen to the enemy. Co A relieved B and C companies, 120th Engr C Bn of their obligations in the area north of Niederbronn-Reichshoffen line, constructed road block 3 kilometers NW of Zinswiller, felled abatis to block trails SW from Dambach, laid AT minefield, laid mine block near Baerenthal; cleared road block caused by aerial bomb detonating charges on trees, moved wire forward to 157 Infantry. Co B, less 2nd platoon, prepared three abatis for demolition, spread sand on icy spots on roads. Co C, supported 313 Inf with 1st plat Co C and 2nd plat Co B; maintained guards on demolition sites near Rothbach, and gravelled icy roads in sector. Remainder of Co C placed gravel on road from Erkartswiller to Wimmenau. Bn CP moved during morning to Gundershoffen

b. No new plans begun.

c. No new orders.

6. Events of 5 Jan:

a. The Inf Regts continued same operations as on previous day. The 180 Infantry made some advances and established solid line, while Task Force Herren continued to make small gains in attack on Wingen. 274 Inf recaptured Philippsbourg. Engineer dispositions remained unchanged. During the afternoon, tank dozer No 1, while working on an enemy road block near Rothbach, exploded a 100 lb demolition bomb which was embedded in the block. The tank was not damaged badly, but 2 men, Pvt Roberts and Tec 5 Dupont were seriously hurt and hospitalized, and the remainder of the crew was badly shaken up. Co A hauled and laid wire on infantry positions south of Dambach and prepared an abatis block NW of Zinswiller. B Co (-2nd plat) continued to man prepared road blocks in sector, and sanded icy spots on supply roads. Co C, with 2nd plat Co B atchd, opened trail from cemetery at Rothbach up valley south of Lichtenberg Tower. Work on this stopped when tank dozer detonated a 100 lb fragmentation bomb. Placed sand on icy spots on roads in sector.

b. Plans were made to move all engineer materials to Dossenheim next day. 125 Engrs to furnish 10 trucks and 2 squads of men to assist. Arrangements made with VI Corps for replacement crew from 6638 Mine Clearance Co for use in the event that tank dozer No 2 is knocked out tomorrow.

c. No orders published.

7. Events of 6 Jan:

a. 179 Inf and 180 Inf continued to attack and made small gains. 157 Inf and 38 Engr C Regt continued to hold Maginot Line. 275 Inf remained in position. 313 Inf, 1st Bn 314 Inf atchd, cleared small enemy pockets near Lichtenberg and Picardie. Task Force Herren continued fight for Wingen. Engineer disposition remained unchanged. Co A cleared trail North of Zinswiller for 275 Inf; checked, improved and manned roadblocks south of Dambach and Philippsbourg and removed 2 booby trapped grenades from a road block on Zinswiller-Philippsbourg road. Co B, less 1 platoon, removed friendly minefield and manned prepared blocks in 179 Inf sector, sanded roads to reduce ice hazard. Co C, 1 plat Co B atchd, sanded roads in 313 Inf and 180 Inf sectors, completed clearing road Rothbach to Lichtenberg; filled shell holes on same road. In clearing this road, tank dozer No 2 also struck 100 lb fragmentation bomb. Blade of tank dozer seriously damaged. Pfc Smouse injured. Tank dozer No 1 damaged in withdrawal from area. 120 Engr C Bn CP moved to Uttwiller.

b. No new orders.

c. No new plans.

8. Events of 7 Jan:

a. There was no major change in infantry dispositions. Task Force Herren recaptured Wingen, and after mopping up, assembled in the vicinity of Zinswiller and Rothbach and established blocks in that area. Engineer dispositions remained unchanged. Co A repaired and maintained the Niederbronn-Philippsbourg road, maintained guards on prepared demolitions near Philippsbourg and southeast assisted in laying wire 1 miles in Wingen for possible boom, Wingen, spread gravel and cinders on icy roads in area, guard on prepared road blocks. Co C repaired guard rail on bridge in Wimmenau, maintained guards on prepared demolitions in sector, and placed sand on icy spots on all roads in sector. The 2nd plat Co B was detached from Co C and attached to Co A in the late afternoon. Tank dozer No 1 was sent to 85 Ord MM Bn for repairs.

b. Plans were prepared to occupy the Haguenau line (Volksberg-Rosteig-Wingen-Wimmenau-Ingwiller-Pfaffenoffen) in the event that such withdrawal became necessary. This line is being prepared by Corps Engineers (540 Engr C Regt and 343 Engr GS Regt).

c. Operating Instructions No 1 was issued verbally at 1425A and published later in the afternoon.

9. Events of 8 Jan:

a. Task Force Herren assumed command of its troops (all components of 70 Div except 276 Inf) at 0800. 276 Inf assembled in vicinity of Muhlhausen. 180 Inf and 179 Inf and 313 Inf atchd, attacked but made very small gains. Other units continued to defend Maginot line. Engineer disposition was re-arranged in accordance with

C.I. No. 1. Co A, 120th Engr C Bn, with 2nd plat Co B atchd, supported Task Force Herren and 157 Inf (1st Bn 315 Inf atchd), sanded roads Reichshoffen-Mattstall, Reichshoffen-Niederbronn-Dambach, Niederbronn-Jaegerthal, and Niederbronn-Oberbronn; removed two tree road blocks to facilitate movement of supplies up small trails near forward positions. Co B, less 1 platoon, supported attack of 179 Infantry, sanded icy roads in vicinity of Wimmenau and Wingen and manned prepared blocks in sector. Co C, supporting 180th and 313th Infantry Regiments, maintained guards on all demolition charges in sector, and sanded icy roads in assigned area. Detail from H&S Co, under M/Sgt McAlarnis, placed guard rail around bomb crater in road near Menchhoffen.

b. Plans for development of Haguenau Line were continued.

c. No orders issued.

10. Events of 9 Jan:

a. 157 Inf (1st Bn 315 Inf atchd) and 36th Engr C Regt continued to garrison Maginot line positions. Task Force Herren continued to hold in their sector; 179 Inf Regt and 180 Inf Regt consolidated position, and 276 Inf Regt made slight gains, capturing Obermuhlthal. Engr dispositions remained unchanged. Co A, with 2nd plat Co B atchd, continued to sand roads in TF Herren and 157 Inf sector, made reconnaissance for an OP for TF Herren, and made ren of roadblock on Zinswiller-Baerenthal road; removal was impossible due to enemy fire. Co B, less 2nd plat, continued to maintain demolition guards and to sand roads in sector. Co C placed sand on Wimmenau-Wildenguth and Rothbach-Lichtenberg roads, and maintained demolition guards. Detail from H&S Co stockpiled sand at critical points in Ingwiller. Light snow fell during the day. Lt Lipscomb and Tec 5 Dugger, Co C, were wounded by mortar fire and evacuated.

b. Plans for Haguenau line continued.

c. No orders.

11. Events of 10 January:

a. 36 Engr C Regt, 157 Inf Regt (1st Bn 315 Inf atchd) and TF Herren continued to hold defensive positions. 313 Inf captured Lichtenberg Castle, 276 Inf and 180 Inf continued to attack but no progress was made. 179 Inf captured Althorn. Engineer disposition remained unchanged. Co A, 2nd plat Co B atchd, placed sand on all main roads in sector, removed two abatis from road between Langensoultzbach and Nehwiller; One abatis from road between Nehwiller and Jaegerthal to facilitate cross traffic in 157 Inf sector, and swept for mines, areas for gun positions near Villa Mellon. Co B, less 2nd platoon, continued to sand roads in sector, removed destroyed vehicles from streets in Wingen, manned demolition sites and covered over holes dug for asparagus type blocks prepared by 540 Engrs in Wingen. Co C continued to sand roads in sector, filled 4 craters caused by detonation of 100 lb bombs (tank dozer incident) on Rothbach-Lichtenberg road; cleared trees from 4.2 chem mortar positions.

b. No change in plans

c. No orders.

12. Events of 11 Jan:

a. 2nd Bn 157 Inf was moved from Regt'1 reserve positions and committed near Lichtenberg. 276 Inf made slight gains, capturing Hills 403 and 415. No other changes were made in infantry disposition. Engineer dispositions remained unchanged. Co A, with 2nd plat Co B atchd, sanded roads in sector. Co B continued to guard demolition sites; installed four additional prepared abatis and removed a friendly AT mine roadblock. Co C continued to man demolition sites and to sand roads in sector.

b. Plans were made to fill crater at Obermuhlthal on 12 Jan. Covering artillery fire was arranged for and tank dozer No 2 moved to Zinswiller. Plans for Haguenau line continued.

c. No orders.

13. Events of 12 Jan:

a. Front lines of infantry underwent no change during day. Engineer support remained unchanged. Co A, with 2nd plat Co B atchd, filled crater at Obermuhlthal without serious opposition, opened and operated sandpit south of Niederbronn, sanded roads in sector. Co B, less 2nd plat, sanded roads in sector and maintained demolition guards. Co C continued to sand roads in sector, prepared a bridge and a culvert near Wimmenau, prepared dugouts for guards at demolition sites and maintained demolition guards.

b. During the afternoon, Division ordered a general shift of troops, to begin at dark. The ultimate result of which would be the placing of TF Herren in Maginot line, the relief of elements of 79th Div (313, 314 and 315 Inf) and concentration of normal 45 division troops in the sector between Volksburg and Philippsbourg. Accordingly, plans for alteration of engineer support were begun.

c. No orders.

14. Events of 13 Jan:

a. Relief and shifting of units was begun but not completed on this day. At close of period, 179 Inf held line Meisenthal-Althorn. 180 Inf underwent no changes. 157 Inf relieved by TF Herren along Maginot line and moved to relieve elements of 276 Inf N of Lichtenberg. 36 Engr C Regt occupied high ground astride the Zinswiller-Baerenthal road, and TF Herren extended from high ground astride Niederbronn-Philippsbourg road to Dambach and thence eastward along Maginot line to 45 Division's eastern boundary. At 0900, Co A was ordered to relieve 36 Engr C Regt of engineer work in their old area and support TF Herren. Co B was ordered to support 180 and 179 Inf regiments.

was ordered to support 157 Inf and 36 Engr C Regmts. Co A sanded maintained roads in TF Herren sector, relieved Co G 36th Engr C Regt and posted guards on bridges prepared for demolition in sector. Co B opened up and improved trail into Althorn, sanded and maintained roads in sector, and maintained guards on demolition sites in sector. Co C removed 3 abatis, 11 Tellermines, 1 booby trap, 3 S mines from Reipertswiller-Rothbach road, opening it for traffic, maintained bridge guards near Wimmenau and Wingen until relieved by Co B.

b. Plans for improvement of Haguenau line were continued.

c. Operation Instructions No 2 issued at 0900.

#### 15. Events of 14 Jan:

a. 179 Inf attacked but made no progress; 180 Inf, 1st Bn 314 Inf and 1st Bn 315 Inf and 157 Inf Regt attacked, also attacked and made small gains. 36 Engr C Regt improved positions and TF Herren continued to defend Maginot Line. Engineer disposition remained unchanged. Co A, supporting TF Herren, continued to sand icy roads in sector, and maintained bridge guards in sector. Charges were removed from 2 bridges in Eberbach, covers prepared for bore holes, and guards removed. D-7 tractor dozed snowdrifts from Langensultzbach-Nehwiller-Jaegerthal road. Co B, supporting 179 and 180 Inf regts, sanded roads in sector, maintained guards on demolition sites, opened road North of Reipertswiller for 2 kilometers; in so doing, they removed 12 Tellermines 13 American AT mines, 7 S mines, 1 tree abatis, 1 German Mk3 75mm SP gun, destroyed another 75mm SP gun and filled a road crater. Co C, supporting 157 and 36 Engr C Regt, found that during the night, enemy infiltrating behind our lines had laid mines in the road from Rothbach to Reipertswiller. They re-swept this road and recovered 44 Tellermines. They also found a stock pile of 15 mines. Lt Thuring struck a mine with his peep on a trail nearby. They swept the road Obermuhlthal-Untermuhlthal, and maintained demolition guards on obstacles prepared in sector.

b. Development of Haguenau positions continued. Relief of TF Herren begun, relief of Co A planned.

c. Co A ordered to turn over combat support and control of area north of line Niederbornn-Woerth-Preuschdorf by regimental sectors as elements of 103 Div arrived. Upon arrival of 328 Engr Bn Hq, entire area to be turned over to them.

#### 16. Events of 15 Jan:

a. 179th and 180 Inf Regts consolidated and adjusted their positions. The 1st Bn 314 Inf was relieved, and moved to 79 Div. 157 Inf attacked, met very heavy resistance, made slight gains. 409th Inf relieved 1st Bn 275 Inf and 3rd Bn 276 Inf. Co A was relieved of area Lembach-Woerth-Preuschdorf-Drachenbronn, and of combat support of 409 Inf, by Co A 328 Engr C Bn. Otherwise there was no change in engineer disposition. Co A sanded roads in sector, hauled barbed wire from Niederbronn to Dossenheim, maintained guards on prepared road

blocks, and used dozer to cover graves for GRS. Co B installed 37 trip flares in front of 179 Inf positions, maintained demolition guards and used 1 platoon for support of attacking infantry. Co C reinforced bridge 1 kilometer south of Obermuhlthal to class 40, constructed 1/4 ton trail from Obermuhlthal to 1 1/2 kilometers SE of Philippsbourg and removed 2 S mines.

b. Plan for development of Haguenau line continued, and plans, overlays and other pertinent data prepared to turn over to 328 Engr C Bn.

c. No orders.

17. Events of 16 Jan:

a. After a day of heavy fighting, five companies of 157 Inf were surrounded by enemy. Only contact was by use of a light tank, which was destroyed on second trip. 179th and 180th Inf, and 36th Engrs reported no changes. 1st Bn 315 Inf was relieved and reverted to 79th Division. 276 Inf was relieved by 410th Infantry Regt on old TF Herren sector. TF Herren (less 274 Inf) detached from 45th Div and sent to XXI Corps control. Co A was relieved of combat support of infantry in 410 Inf sector by Co B 328 Engr C Bn. Otherwise there was no change in engineer disposition. Co A, supporting 274 Inf, continued to maintain guards on bridges in old TF Herren sector pending arrival of Hq of 328 Engr C Bn. Co B installed wire along 179 and 180 Inf fronts, laid 22 trip flares, reconnoitered for supply trails to 3rd Bn 180 Inf, and maintained demolition guards in area. Co C replaced old log bridge with double 36" culvert 1 km SE of Obermuhlthal, maintained demolition guards in sector.

b. Haguenau position developed by 540 Engrs.

c. No orders given.

18. Events of 17 Jan:

a. 45th Division left boundary was moved slightly. 36th Division's 141 Inf relieved part of 179 Inf left battalion. Co C 179 Inf sent at dark to assist 157 Inf. 179th and 180th Inf and 36th Engrs did not move during day. 157 Inf tried unsuccessfully to regain contact with five companies cut off. Area formerly held by TF Herren was turned over to 103rd Division. Co A, 120th Engr C Bn was completely relieved in sector and moved to Ingwiller. Hq 120th Engr C Bn turned control of sector east of line Menchhoffen-Zinswiller-Baerenthal to 328th Engr C Bn at 1200A. Co B, supporting 179th and 180th Infantry regiments sanded roads in sector, laid 70 rolls concertina and installed 2 trip flares in front of infantry positions. They tried to remove an abatis, but enemy fire prevented this. Co C covered graves for GRS with dozer, maintained demolition guards and sanded roads in area. Light snow fell during the day.

b. Plans were continued to strengthen Haguenau line, and to re-allocate engineer support.

c. At 1715 Co A was ordered to relieve Co C of support of

36th Engr C Regt and 157th Infantry. Upon completion of this relief, Co C ordered to relieve Co B of support of 180th Inf. Co C and Co A ordered to dig incinerators.

19. Events of 18 Jan:

a. In 157 Inf sector the situation became steadily more serious as attempts to re-establish contact with isolated companies failed. Remainder of front was static. 2nd Bn 411 Inf attached to 45th Div and assembled at Offwiller. Co A supported 36 Engr C Regt and 157 Inf, removed 2 abatis 3 kilometers NW of Rothbach and maintained demolition guards at sites along Baerenthal-Zinswiller road. Co B supported 179 Inf, laid 39 AP mines in front of infantry positions maintained demolition guards and sanded roads in sector. Co C supported 180 Inf, removed trees felled by wind from Wimmenau-Erkartswiller road, maintained demolition guards in sector. Two EM from signal section 120th Engr C Bn Hq were sent to mine detector repair school at Epinal. 2 earth augers were borrowed from 57 Signal Bn. Tank Dozer No 1 sent to Co A and tank dozer No 2 to Co B.

b. Plans were made to provide for withdrawal to Haguenau line.

c. Companies were instructed to bring all demolition projects between Haguenau line and present MLR to a high state of readiness.

20. Events of 19 Jan:

a. Positions of all infantry units remained the same through the day. All attempts to reach the isolated companies of the 157th Infantry were unsuccessful. Engineer disposition was not altered. Co A dug incinerator near Rothbach, prepared 2 crater charges and 1 bridge on road NW from Rothbach, maintained and sanded roads in sector, made reconnaissance of Haguenau line. Co B laid 13 AP mines in front of infantry positions, removed windfall trees from roads, maintained and sanded roads in sector, and kept guards on demolition sites. Co C prepared crater charge at bridge at Wimmenau, prepared 3 bridges near Reipertswiller for demolition, prepared abatis for execution on roads between Reipertswiller and Wimmenau, removed windfall trees and sanded roads in area. A detachment from the 84 Engr Camouflage Bn arrived and began applying snow camouflage to tanks and other combat vehicles. Snow fell during the day.

b. Plans were formulated for probable withdrawal of the 45th Division to the Haguenau line, and for future engineer support. Coordination was prepared with 328th Engrs to insure demolitions along Ingwiller-Rothbach road.

c. No orders issued.

21. Events of 20 Jan:

a. The elements of 157 Inf Regt which had been cut off were definitely given up as lost, and preparations were made to fall back to the Haguenau line. The first phase; withdrawal of the 36th Engr C Regt to the delay line took place without incident. Co A, supporting

157 Inf and 36th Engr C Regts, completed preparation of abatis and demolition charges. Withdrawal began at dark, and Co A executed all demolitions down to Zinswiller. At close of period a detachment of Co A, under Lt Simmons, was waiting for 274 Inf (attached to 103 Div) to clear. Heavy snowfall occurred during the night and three trucks, a squad of men from Co B, one truck with a detail from H&S Co and all available trucks of Co A were used to keep road from Zinswiller to Ingwiller open. Co B, supporting 179 Infantry prepared 2 abatis on trails 3 kms north of Wingen, and blocked two trails with abatis and minefields along division boundary 1 km south of Meisenthal and one 1 km south of Soucht, maintained demolition guards and roads in sector. Co C supporting 180 Infantry, prepared abatis between Wimmenau and Wildenguth between Reipertswiller and Wimmenau, abatis and crater charge on road north of Reipertswiller, prepared bridge and culvert in Saegmuhl for demolition, prepared abatis on road and trails NW of Wimmenau, prepared 2 crater charges, laid 2 minefields in Wildenguth, felled abatis in lane north and west of Wildenguth, sanded roads in sector. Lt Gilch was wounded, and evacuated.

b. Plans were completed to coordinate demolition projects with infantry movements. At noon, word was received that the first phase withdrawal plan would be executed that night.

c. Operations Instructions No 3, covering withdrawal was issued to company commanders, at 1300A.

## 22. Events on 21 Jan:

a. 2nd Bn 411 Infantry reverted to control of 79 Division. No further changes occurred until dark, when 157 Inf and 180 Inf fell back to new defensive line along Moder stream. No changes were made in Engineer disposition. Lt Simmons of Co A waited until noon before all elements of 274 Infantry (atchd 103 Div) were past. He then blew bridges at Zinswiller, was ordered by 103 Div not to blow bridges at Rothbach, but did blow a crater and abatis on road leading into our lines west of Rothbach. Co A also prepared abatis along lateral roads North of Ingwiller-Wimmenau road, dozed snow from roads in sector, demolished 1 bridge and 1 crater on road NW out of Rothbach. Co B continued to prepare abatis, crater charges and lay mines in their sector. They prepared 2 abatis, felled 1 abatis, prepared 4 crater charges, laid 1 AT minefield, dozed snow from main roads in sector. Co C executed all prepared demolitions in front of new MLR, destroyed 2 German 75mm SP guns, and 1 American half-track, laid 50 AT and 4 AP mines in Reipertswiller, destroyed an American TD, laid 30 AT and 12 AP mines, cut 61 trees to block roads in area. During the day they prepared 2 crater charges on Reipertswiller-Wimmenau road, 1 crater and 1 abatis on Wimmenau-Wildenguth road, prepared bridge in Wingen for demolition, and strung 100 rolls concertina wire. Sgt Stumpf was shot by an American infantryman while engaged in laying wire in front of their positions. Capt Frank was lightly injured when a fragment from one of the vehicles which they blew up struck him on the leg. Bn Hq moved to La Petite Pierre at 0900. Snow fell throughout most of the day.

b. Plans for strengthening present MLR got underway. Orders were received that further retreat would be made only when enemy pressure made such a move necessary.

a. Operations Instructions No 4 published at 1800A.

23. Events of 22 Jan:

a. 157 Inf was relieved by elements of 180 Inf and 36 Engr C Regt and assembled near Zittersheim to reorganize. No change in front lines during the day. Co A, supporting 36 Engrs, dozed snow from roads in sector, sanded slick spots on roads and maintained demolition guards, prepared 3 road crater charges in forward areas, prepared 2 abatis and 2 rock slick charges on road S of Lichtenberg to Rothbach cemetery. Co B supporting 179 Infantry dozed snow from roads in sector, sanding slick spots, maintained demolition guards. Co C, supporting 180 Infantry, strung wire along MLR near Reipertwiller sanded and dozed roads in sector, prepared an abatis near Lichtenberg, prepared underpass N of Wimmenau; felled one abatis, prepared another and strung 250 rolls concertina for 2nd Bn 180th Infantry.

b. Preparation of Haguenau line, and Vosges line continued.

c. No orders published.

24. Events of 23 Jan:

a. 274 Inf (70 Div) was atchd to 45 Division and relieved 179 Inf, which moved to right flank of the division in the late afternoon. Enemy forces during the previous day had shifted strong forces opposite the regiment on our right (103 Div). Co B supported 274 Inf upon completion of relief. Co A supported 179 Inf in right flank positions. Co A cleared trail north from Sparsbach to Ingwiller-Wimmenau road, assisted 179th Infantry into position by reopening trails south of Lichtenburg; dozed and sanded roads in sector. Furnished three trucks to haul 179 Inf personnel to new area and maintained demolition guards in sector. Co B furnished 8 trucks to haul 179 Infantry personnel to new area, dozed and sanded roads in sector, maintained demolition guards. Co C prepared 4 abatis, 1 bridge and 2 crater charges for demolition in sector, and laid 1 AP minefield, furnished 3 trucks to haul 179 Inf personnel, dozed snow from all roads in sector. Tec 4 Carkhuff and Pfc Noffsinger killed, and Tec 5 Worner wounded by an S mine. H&S Co furnished 5 trucks to haul 179 Inf personnel.

b. Plans and reconnaissance was begun to block right flank of division in case of enemy breakthrough in 103 Div sector. Bridge at Wimmenau was damaged in late evening and materials and equipment for its repair were arranged.

c. No orders.

25. Events of 24 Jan

a. In 103 Division sector, the enemy forces that occupied Schillersdorf were cut off and surrounded, and MLR re-established. No changes in our sector except remainder of 179 Inf moving into position. Co A prepared a system of demolition blocks NW of Ingwiller consisting of one abatis, a crater charge and a minefield, relieved Co C of blocks prepared near Sparsbach, removed 1 AT minefield and

abatis 3 kms northwest of Ingwiller, to permit moving 179 Inf into this area, continued improvement of trails in sector, dozed snow from all roads in sector and manned demolition sites. Co B dozed snow from all roads in sector, maintained guards on demolition sites, furnished 3 trucks to haul engineer supplies. Co C rebuilt Wimmenau bridge, prepared 1 bridge and 1 abatis for demolition 3 kms east of Sparsbach, dozed snow from roads in sector and maintained guards on demolition sites. H&S Co moved engineer dump to RR station at Hangwiller, set up shower at Kohlthalenhof. Dozed snow from landing strip at Petersbach.

b. Plans initiated, overlays and minefield charts prepared to give 60 Engr C Bn upon completion of proposed relief of 274 Infantry by 35 Division (XV Corps) and

c. O.I. No. 5, covering reassignment of tasks after completion of relief of 274 Infantry was issued in the afternoon.

26. Events of 25 Jan.

a. 157 Inf Regt moved to villages near Bust, to continue reorganization and training. 274 Inf Regt was relieved by 35th Div and in turn relieved the 2nd Bn 180 Inf and left battalion of the 36th Engr C Regt. Sector was quiet. Co A, in Engr Bn reserve, continued to remove snow and sand slippery places on all main roads in their sector. Trails were reopened into the area along the right flank to increase mobility of 179 Infantry. A forward CP dugout was excavated for the 179th Infantry. Demolition guards were maintained on prepared demolitions. Co B, supporting 36th Engr C Regt and 179 Inf Regt, dozed snow from roads in assigned sector, maintained guards on prepared demolition sites. Co C, supporting 180 Infantry and 274 Infantry, laid 19 rolls concertina for 180 Infantry, near Reipertswiller, prepared the rebuilt bridge in Wimmenau for demolition, dug gun positions for 171 FA Bn and 540 Engr Regt (Haguenau defenses) and maintained guards on prepared demolitions in sector.

b. Planning and reconnaissance was continued to (1) strengthen present MLR, (2) establish barrier line along right flank, (3) Coordinate road block defenses with units charged with counterattack and defense missions, (4) improve Haguenau defenses).

c. No orders given.

27. Events of 26 Jan.

a. The front was quiet. All regiments improved their defenses, and patrolled the front. Co A, in Bn reserve, removed a 20 tree road block from Lichtenberg-Rothbach road, dozed and sanded roads to reduce ice hazard, maintained guards at demolition sites. Co B, supporting 179 Inf and 36th Engr C Regiments, relieved Co A of guards and demolition sites near Wimmenau, moved wire into infantry forward areas, dozed snow from roads in sector. Co C, supporting 274 and 180 Inf regiments completed gun positions for 171 FA, installed 6 trip flares in front of 180 Inf positions, maintained guards at demolition sites, and dozed snow from roads in sector.

b. Plans, reconnaissance and liaison between infantry and Corps Engineer units in connection with preparation of Haguenau and Vosges defense lines continued.

c. No orders were published during the day.

28. Events of 27 Jan.

a. The entire 45th Division sector was quiet, no changes made in distribution of troops. Co A, in Bn reserve, started construction of firing range for a Division Snipers School; completed preparation of a road block on road west of Weiterswiller, improved trails leading from Sparsbach to Wimmenau, cleared approach roads to firing batteries of 693 FA Bn, maintained guards on demolition charges, and dozed snow from roads in assigned sector. Co B, in support of 179th Inf and 38th Engr C Regt, installed 800 yards of 4 strand barbed wire fence and 16 trip flares in front of 179 Inf positions; maintained guards on demolition sites, dozed snow from roads in assigned sector. Co C, supporting 274 and 180 Inf regiments, dug gun positions for 171 FA Bn, cleared snow from roads in sector, maintained guards at demolition sites.

b. Planning reconnaissance and coordination between Divisional units and Corps Engineers for the construction of Haguenau and Vosges positions continued.

c. No orders were published.

29. Events of 28 Jan.

a. 45th Division sector remained quiet. 274 Inf Regt was relieved after dark by 180 Inf and 38th Engrs. Co A, in general support, laid an AT minefield (98 mines) 1 km NE of Weinbourg, prepared holes for crater charge along Sparsbach-Weinbourg road, 1 km NW of Weinbourg, maintained guards on demolition already prepared, and cleared snow from roads on assigned net. Co B, supporting 179th Inf and 38th Engr C Regt, maintained guard on prepared demolition sites; cleared snow from roads in sector. Co C supporting 180 Inf and 274 Inf, dug 4 gun positions for 171 FA Bn, maintained guards on prepared demolitions, and cleared snow from roads in sector.

b. Plans were continued for the strengthening of the Haguenau and Vosges positions, and for providing of instruction to the 157th Inf Regt on mines. Reconnaissance and plans for sniper range completed and materials assembled. Arrangements for alerting of demolition guards were completed.

c. No orders were issued.

30. Events of 29 Jan.

a. 274 Inf regiment passed to control of XV Corps and at 1500A the division commenced relief of part of the 35 Div. The sector remained quiet. Co A continued on construction of sniper range, began construction of an experimental snow drag, maintained guards on demolition sites, cleared roads of snow on assigned area. Co B, supporting

h Engrs and 179th Infantry, improved two trails in forward areas, maintained guards on demolition sites, and cleared snow from roads in division sector. Co C, supporting 180 Infantry, dug two gun emplacements, maintained guards on demolition sites, and cleared snow from roads in assigned sector. A ceremony was held at Bn Hq at which Maj Gen Frederick presented Bronze Star ribbons to 22 members of the battalion.

b. Plans were made for the relief of those elements of the 35th Division who held positions within the new left boundary of the 45th Division as announced at 1500A.

c. Verbal orders were issued to the companies by S-3 at 1500-1600A. Text follows:

Co A: Relieve Co B of present assignment at once.

Co B: Relieve Co C, 60th Engr C Bn, of all work in their sector, by 0600A tomorrow morning. Move to the vicinity of Rosteig; support 179th Infantry.

Co C: No change.

### 31. Events of 30 Jan.

a. Relief of all elements of 35 Inf Div in our sector completed by 0600A. The front lines remained quiet and static. Co A relieved Co B, supported the 36th Engr C Regt, continued work on division sniper range; maintained guards on demolition sites, cleared trails south of Lichtenberg for the 36th Engrs and cleared snow from roads in assigned sector. Co B, supporting 179th Inf Regt, checked minefields in new sector with infantry, maintained guard on demolition sites taken over from 60th Engr C Bn, cleared snow from roads in sector. Co C, supporting 180th Inf Regt, cleared field of fire for 4.2 inch mortars, laid 40 rolls of concertina near Wildenguth, maintained guards on prepared demolition sites, bladed snow from roads and spread sand on icy spots.

b. No change in planning.

c. Operations Instructions No. 6 published.

### 32. Events of 31 Jan.

a. 45th Division area remained quiet. Co A, supporting 36th Engr C Regt, continued to construct sniper range, built road from Champagne south to connect with existing road, cleared roads of snow in assigned sector and maintained guards on prepared demolitions. Co B, supporting 179 Inf Regt, constructed 600 yards of 4 strand barbed wire fence, maintained supply trails for the 179 Inf, laid 11 trip flares, activated 8 others in front of infantry positions, maintained guard on prepared demolitions, and cleared roads of snow in assigned area. Co C, supporting 180 Infantry, checked area of 2nd Bn 180th Inf for mines and booby traps, dug gun emplacements for the 106th AAA Bn.

b. No change.

c. No orders issued.

33. Summary of Engineer Operations for the Month:

Roads:

Improved	miles	22
Built	"	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Swept for Mines	"	13
Cleared of snow with dozers	"	326 $\frac{1}{2}$
Covered with sand to reduce ice hazard	"	402

Bridges

Timber, repaired	No.	3
Demolished		17
Prepared for demolition		19

Culverts:

Constructed	No.	2
Demolished		3
Prepared for Demolition		5

Mines, AT

Laid, M1A1 (US)	No.	383
Removed, M1A1 (US)		71
Teller (German)		82

Mines, AP

Laid (M2A1, US)	No.	101
Removed, "S" (German)		12

Booby Traps

Laid	No.	8
Removed		3

Abatis

Prepared for Demolition	No.	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Executed		130
Removed		11
Felled		26

Graters

Prepared for Demolition	No.	24
Blown		13
Filled		2
Fenced off with guard rails		1

Emplacements, gun, dug

No.	52
-----	----

Signs painted

227
-----

Water issued to troops

gals.	542,740
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Trip flares, installed

No.	97
-----	----

Enemy guns destroyed

Ea.	3
-----	---

Houses prepared for demolition

5
---

Houses, destroyed

2
---

Incinerators dug

2
---

GP dugouts constructed

3
---

Graves covered for GRS

Wire laid:

Concertina, double	yards	450
Concertina, triple	"	4700
4 Strand Fence	"	1000

54. Administrative Activities:

a. Personnel: The turnover of personnel in this Battalion was not excessively high during the month of January 1945. Battle casualties, considering the active combat period, were not excessive. Two enlisted men were killed in action during the month; 2 officers and 7 enlisted men were wounded in action. A total of 4 officers and 41 enlisted men were hospitalized due to all causes during the period. During this period, 2 Officers and 48 enlisted men were returned to unit from hospitalization. Five officers and ten enlisted men were received as reinforcements. The average strength of the battalion during the month of January 1945 was 25 officers, 3 Warrant Officers and 630 enlisted men.

b. Temporary duty to US: No individuals were placed on TD to the US during the month. 1 Officer and seven enlisted men remained on TD to the US through this period.

c. Disciplinary action: Company B maintained the battalion stockade during the month of January. (The maintenance of this stockade is rotated among the companies on a monthly basis). A total of 7 enlisted men were in confinement at the end of the month. Of this number, 2 were held awaiting action of a General Court Martial, 2 were serving sentence of a Special Court Martial and 3 were awaiting trial by a Special Court Martial.

d. Awards and Decorations: At a ceremony held on 19 January 1945, Major General Frederick, CG 45th Infantry Division, presented a total of 22 decorations to members of the battalion. Of these, 1 Officer and 2 enlisted men received Oak Leaf Clusters to the Bronze Star Medal, 2 officers and 17 enlisted men received Bronze Stars. Recommendations were submitted, during the month, for one Legion of Merit award and four Bronze Star Medals.

e. Special Service Activities: Due to the tactical situation, prevailing during January, Special Service activities were somewhat curtailed. No shows or other forms of entertainment were available. Two issues of PX supplies (beer, candy, cigars, etc) and one issue of Special Service Supplies (assorted games, and pocket books) were made during the month. Two officers and six enlisted men were given 48 hour rest leaves in Paris.

f. Information and Education activities: During January, personnel of this battalion were kept posted on all items of I & E by means of posters, orientation maps, Army Talk booklets and newspapers received from higher headquarters. Copies of the Stars and Stripes, Beachhead News, and the 45th Division News were equitably distributed among the personnel of this battalion to assist in this program. All reinforcements received during the month were instructed in current policies affecting their future conduct in Germany.

g. Health and Sanitation: The general health of the battalion during the month of January 1945 is classed as "good". There were no cases of venereal disease, psychoneurosis, nor any prevalence of acute communicable disease within the command. Innoculation of all personnel was completed during the month

### 35. Supply Situation:

a. A new tactical situation, in this unit's experience, created a new and extremely difficult problem in Engineer supply during the month of January 1945. A planned retrograde movement involving the preparation and occupation of successive delaying positions, created several difficult supply problems. Sudden decisions and last minute changes in tactical plans at times further complicated the problem. Normally, this battalion operates only one engineer DP for issuance of Engineer Class II and IV items to the 45th Infantry Division and attached troops, however, in order to meet the huge tactical demand for fortification and demolition materials, it was found necessary to operate several strategically located dumps simultaneously during the greater part of this period. Normally, organic transportation is sufficient to move the dumps, and to keep them in operation; however, at times during this critical period, it was found necessary to call upon the Division QM Company and Corps units for additional trucks to supplement organic transportation. Excellent cooperation was secured from these units. During this period, the Division was considerably reinforced. Elements of nine infantry regiments were supplied with engineer material.

b. Dumps: On 1 January, two dumps were in operation; one at Lembach, the other in Woerth. A third was opened in Dossenheim on 2 January and a fourth dump was opened in Zinswiller on 4 January. The peak demand was reached on 5 January, and on 6 January the dumps were consolidated into one dump located near Dossenheim. On 24 January, the dump was moved to Graufthal RR station where it remained for the rest of the month. All dumps were successfully evacuated and no engineer material fell into enemy hands. Class II Engineer items were negligible. Army DPs had little or none for issuance to Divisions. In Class IV supplies, Army and Corps were forced to ration supplies to the divisions. Thru constant and energetic action upon the part of this battalion's S-4, the 45th Infantry Division received sufficient fortification and demolition materials to successfully complete its retrograde and holding mission. During this period 29,000 sandbags, 1700 rolls of concertina, 500 rolls of barbed wire and over 32,000 pounds of explosives were issued to the division and attached units.

c. Water Supply: Seventeen water distribution points were set up and operated by the battalion during the month of January 1945. A total of 544,870 gallons of water was distributed to the division and attached units during the month. During the period, an 8 head shower bath unit was operated in the vicinity of the battalion CP for the use of Division Special Troops and during periods of operation of a division Rest Center, this battalion operated a 32 head shower unit for the use of troops at this Rest Center.

36. Problems encountered:

a. The largest operational problem encountered during this period was that of rendering adequate engineer support to the division when the division was reinforced to approximately double its normal strength in combat troops and was occupying a frontage of almost three times that of a normal division. This problem was dealt with by giving each engineer platoon responsibilities normally given to an engineer company. Briefly, the battalion was spread thinner and worked harder.

b. The problem of snow removal from roads was quite serious during the month of January. No standard snow cleaning apparatus was available for this purpose, so it was necessary to use all seven of the battalion's bulldozers, during periods of heavy snowfall, to keep the main supply routes and connecting roads clear and passable. Bulldozers work very effectively as snow plows, however, extreme wear was caused to track assemblies due to large mileages covered over hard surfaced and semi-hard surfaced roads.

c. No administrative problems worthy of mention were encountered during the period.

d. Problems of supply have already been mentioned under paragraph 35. In general, the major problem of supply during this period consisted of a critical shortage of fortification material which was impossible to solve by this battalion since the shortage extended back through all echelons.

For the Battalion Commander:

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

OFFICIAL:

*John H. Dismant*  
JOHN H DISMANT  
1st Lt CE, 120th Engr C Bn  
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

*C. S. Monnier*

C. S. MONNIER

Lt Col CE

Commanding, 120th Engr C Bn

HEADQUARTERS 120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

AFC # 45, U S Army  
5 February 1945

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT FOR JANUARY 1945

1. Following is a report of the casualties suffered by this battalion during the month of January 1945:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
<u>KILLED IN ACTION</u>				
Kenneth R Carkhuff	Tec 4	"C"	S-mine	23 Jan 45
Arthur W Noffsinger	Pfc	"C"	S-mine	23 Jan 45
<u>WOUNDED IN ACTION</u>				
William P DuPont	Tec 5	"B"	Frag-bomb	5 Jan 45
Lester W Roberts	Pvt	"C"	Frag-bomb	5 Jan 45
Charles C Lipsecomb	1st Lt	"C"	Artillery	9 Jan 45
Joe C Dugger	Tec 5	"C"	Artillery	9 Jan 45
Glenn N Hayes	Cpl	"C"	Sl. injury	10 Jan 45
Charles J Kopasz	Cpl	"B"	Trip-flare	16 Jan 45
Clement Gilch	2nd Lt	"C"	Artillery	20 Jan 45
John E Stumpf	Sgt	"C"	GSW	22 Jan 45
Harold Dean Shinn	Pfc	"C"	Cratering charge	23 Jan 45

2. Following is a report of the casualties who returned to duty during the month of January 1945:

Wilfred Keats	Pvt	"B"	Fr LWA 5 Nov 44 to RTD 11 Jan 45
Arley J Webb	Pfc	"B"	Fr LWA 20 Oct 44 to RTD 12 Jan 45
Lester W Roberts	Pvt	"C"	Fr LWA 5 Jan 45 to RTD 29 Jan 45

For the Battalion Commander:

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

ROSTER OF OFFICERS  
JANUARY 1945

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
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
Roy C Smith	1st Lt	01100342	Recon O
John M Burger	1st Lt	01109165	SD (Div Hqs)

HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE CO:

Elmer S Pickett	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	Act 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
Frank W Peak	2nd Lt	0543107	1st Plat Comdr
Walter E Clesch	1st Lt	01106374	2nd Plat Comdr
William W Etherton	1st Lt	01107937	3rd Plat Comdr
Robert C Boedecker	2nd Lt	01117080	Co Adm O

COMPANY "B":

Wayne W Bridges	Captain	01112045	CO
John L Larzelere	2nd Lt	01109440	1st Plat Comdr
David J Dayton	1st Lt	0543901	2nd Plat Comdr
Ray F Boedecker	2nd Lt	01117079	3rd Plat Comdr
William C Pickett	1st Lt	01105740	Co Adm O

COMPANY "C":

Alvin L Frank	Captain	0461128	CO
Sidney L Simmons	1st Lt	01112974	1st Plat Comdr
Marvin S Prestwood	1st Lt	0540201	2nd Plat Comdr
Melvin A Thuring	1st Lt	0385599	3rd Plat Comdr
Richard C Westphal	2nd Lt	01103461	Co Adm O

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

31 December 1944

MEMORANDUM:

OFFICERS PROMOTED DURING DECEMBER 1944

1. The following officers were promoted to the rank indicated per Par 1, Ex SO # 268, Hqs Seventh Army, dated 21 December 1944, for outstanding performance in actual combat:

1ST LT TO CAPT

WAYNE W. BRIDGES, 01112045, CE

2D LT TO 1ST LT

DAVID J. DAYTON, 0543901, CE  
MARVIN S. PRESTWOOD, JR., 0540201, CE

For the Battalion Commander:

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

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