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* S-2 AND S-3 *
* STAFF JOURNAL AND HISTORY *
*
* DECEMBER 1944 *
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TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

PERIOD 0001-2400 1 December 1944:

- 0445 Major Billups: Bailey Bridge at Pfaffenoffen was begun at 2000 and completed at 0400. It was built by the 1277th Engrs
- 0815 Capt Rickey, CO Co A: Reports to Bn CP to discuss various methods of constructing roadblocks on the division left flank. It was decided that cratering charges placed in the road would be most practical if the terrain is suitable, because of lack of sufficient time to construct a more elaborate block in time to be effective.
- Culvert at Rothbach prepared for demolition by 1st Plat Co A. Minefield & mined road block and cratering charge placed at Q839338 by Co A Minefield and mined road block placed by 2nd Platoon Co A. sketches submitted 2 Dec
- 0840 Tel Maj Lowe, Exec O, to G-3: Request information on road block construction control.
- Answer: Infantry support will be given. Joint engineer-Infantry reconnaissance should be made to determine sites. G-3 will take initial action to inform Infantry and Cavalry groups of desired cooperation. Blocks will be closed upon order of CO 397th Inf or of CO 157th Inf, depending upon sector. G-3 will inform us when blocks are no longer needed. Infantry will furnish fire power to cover blocks.
- 0910 Verbal from 1st Sgt Debney, Co B: Co B yesterday removed four (4) road blocks in the vicinity of Obermodern. Also removed culvert previously installed east of Muhlhausen. One platoon supported the advance of the 179th Inf.
- 0910 Lt Col Monnier to Gen Butler: Recommend that road blocks on the division left flank consist of cratering charges.
- Answer: This will be satisfactory if the terrain is suitable.
- 0915 Tel Lt Col Monnier from Lt Col Wanner (Exec O XV Corps Engr): The 44th Inf Div found a stock pile of 10 TOPF mines in their sector yesterday. None were found laid.

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- 1000 Tel Lt Foster to Lt Lipscomb, Co C: Major Billups requests you sweep roads Pfaffenoffen northwest to Muhlhausen; road Nieffern to Engwiller to a point northeast thereof (coordinates 903340). Road Uhrwiller back to Muhlhausen; road Pfaffenoffen straight north to Engwiller; road Pfaffenoffen to Miestesheim; road Pfaffenoffen to Ueber+ach. These roads are to be swept carefully. The roads not cleared and leading off therefrom must have warning signs.
- 1030 Tel T/Sgt Huseby, S-2 section, to XV Corps Engr: Request information on TOPF mine. Answer: TOPF mine is entirely of plastic and wood, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " high, overall weight is 20 lbs, contains 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds explosive, has a glass chemical igniter and is of a black color. Detailed information is found in OCE Publication 848.01, copy of which is available at XV Corps Headquarters
- G-2 notified. OCE publication obtained from XV Corps Engr and reproduced in Engr Int Bull. No 3 (2 Dec) Dist made to all Div units.
- 1105 Tel Capt Frank, CO Co C, to Maj Billups, S-3: Request the use of a tank dozer and would like to have it sent to Company CP located in Pfaffenoffen.
- Lt Foster sent to guide dozer from Wickersheim to Pfaffenoffen.
- 1115 Tel from Capt Padgett (Div CWO): Inform Major Billups that the nearest Chemical Dump is located at Epinal.
- 1145 Tel Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Contact Division G-4 about an MSR route to Pfaffenoffen so that we can in turn notify XV Corps Engr.
- 1200 Tel Capt Tauscher to Maj Billups: The route, as approved by G-4 is: The route Hochfelden-Altendorf-Ettendorf-Ringeldorf-Pfaffenoffen will become the MSR as soon as the Quartermaster moves to Pfaffenoffen.
- 1345 Tel Capt Frank, CO Co C to Maj Billups: The road from Pfaffenoffen west to Obermodern has been swept by us. At 882262 we found two wooden box mines each consisting of 8 kilograms of explosive with a pressure igniter. One mine was buried in the shoulder of the road. In this vicinity was found a German motorcyclist who had hit a mine.
- 1420 Tel from Capt Tauscher to Maj Billups: Lt Terrell (General Eagles' aide) reports that he came down the road from Muhlhausen towards Pfaffenoffen. Just east of the RJ at 902275 he found a tree road block and beyond that at 906273 the bridge is out.

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- 1430 Tel from Lt Bridges, CO Co B to Maj Billups: We have almost completed sweeping road between Obermodern to Pfaffenoffen, also Menchhoffen east to Obermodern. The bridge at Nieffern (873297) is class 40, steel girders and concrete. It is approximately 16 ft wide and 20 ft long. We have swept all the roads in our sector as far as the GR at 900325.
- 1600 Lt Foster (Ass't S-3) to Maj Billups: Our tank dozer which is with Co A 325th Engrs was unable to work on road block at 793330 due to enemy fire. The tank dozer is to return to Weinbourg and block will be removed tomorrow if situation permits. Co "A" 325th Engrs was instructed that if the dozer was urgently needed by the 120th Engrs tonight, we will contact them with orders as to where the dozer is to report.
- 1645 Tel Maj Billups to Lt Lipscomb, Co C: The wooden stringer bridge at Pfaffenoffen (909275) according to bridge classification chart is class 12, and must have a classification marking indicating such. It will pass 2½ ton vehicles. Notify the 180th Infantry and the MP's.
- 2025 Lt Fields, Co B to Maj Billups: The following are the company's activities for today: Lt Picket's platoon supported the attack of the 179th Inf; swept roads Uhrwiller-Nieffern and picked up 3 Teller mines. He destroyed 31 Teller mines altogether. Lt Dayton took care of road clearing, except from Muhlhausen to Nieffern and Obermodern-Pfaffenoffen. The road Muhlhausen to Nieffern is not swept for mines. The Muhlhausen to Uhrwiller road is blocked, but it's a class C1½. Major Billups ordered Co B to block road Uhrwiller east and south to 899300 and also to remove the treadway bridge from 887289. As soon as the situation permits, Co B is to clear road Engwiller south to Pfaffenoffen.
- 2040 Tel from Capt Frank, CO Co C to Maj Billups: The company swept the following roads: Pfaffenoffen to Neidermodern east to the RJ on the 94 grid line. From Neidermodern east to Ueberach to la Walck to Kindwiller to Bitschhoffen to Pfaffenoffen. Cleared road blocks in town of Bitschhoffen and repaired roads therein. 2 wooden mines were found at 882272. Major Billups: Co B will work on bridge on road leading northwest from Pfaffenoffen if they are not needed elsewhere.

PERIOD 0001-2400 2 December 1944:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
	Weather: Partly cloudy - Warmer	
0815	Tel from Lt Bridges and was given these instructions from Maj Billups: Sweep for mines on road Muhlhausen down towards Pfaffenoffen until you contact the sweeping party from Co C.	
0850	Tel Capt Frank to Lt Col Monnier: I have on hand 9 14-inch I beams, 27 ft long for a 24 ft span for bridge at Pfaffenoffen. What will be the class loading of such bridge?	
0910	Tel Maj Billups to Lt Lipscomb, Co C: The classification of such bridge will be class 37, using only the material on hand now.	
0915	Tel Maj Billups to Capt Frank: I will send one Brockway truck and the acetylene welder to you at Pfaffenoffen.	
0930	Tel Maj Billups to Lt Bridges, CO Co B: The lumber for your timber structure at 886289 is on the way. Go ahead and remove the treadway bridge. Traffic is not flowing much thru there.	
1020	Capt Martin (Liason O 1101st Engr Grp): There is 72 ft of M2 Treadway available at Lutzelbourg.	
1040	Conference at the battalion CP: Discussion of the draft of the plan of operations. The general plan is that the 45th Div is to attack to the north and extend the left half of the sector so that our forward line runs in a north-south direction along the Zintzel stream line. The attack is to take place in three phases, the first one beginning today. Co A is to follow the 157th Inf and be prepared to bridge stream vicinity of Zinswiller, and later in the vicinity of Niederbronn. As the attack progresses, Co A will perform the engineer work necessary to seal off the left flank of the division in cooperation with the 157th Inf. Co B will continue in support of the 179th Inf and will prepare to cross the bridges in vicinity of Gumbrechtschoffen and later along the stream line between Gundershoffen and Niederbronn, somewhere in the near vicinity of Reichshoffen which will be the company's right flank.	

Co C will continue to support the 180th Inf, and will be prepared to make at least one crossing near Uttenhoffen. They will also be prepared to make a crossing between Gundershoffen and Metzwiller. The attack will be followed closely to obtain early reconnaissance along the stream line and detailed information will be submitted as soon as obtained through battalion headquarters in order that bridge equipment will be properly ordered. The reconnaissance section will continue to check along stream line for possible sites and the woods line on the division left flank for possible routes of entry to be blocked by engineer work.

- 1130 Major Billups requests the use of a Quickway crane from the 1101st Engr Group to be employed in bridge construction at Pfaffenoffen. Crane sent by 1101st Engrs to Co C in Pfaffenoffen.
- 1245 Message - Morning Report: Co B swept the following roads yesterday. Obermodern-Menchhoffen Schillersdorf. From Muhlhausen to Zutzendorf to Nieffern and from Uhrwiller to Nieffern.
- 1300 Verbal Lt Foster, Ass't S-3: Reports that one Brockway truck and one welder with cutting tools were taken to Co C to assist in bridge construction. Brockway was not needed because quickway crane arrived earlier than expected. Tec 5 Stoj is now at Co C and will be returned to H&S Co as soon as work is completed.
- 1430 Tel from Capt Tauscher, ADE: New Division left boundary (100th Inf Div on left) runs on straight line through points Q780340-880430.
- 1445 Tel Lt Col Monnier (calling from Co C): Quickway crane from the 1101st Engr group is now being used to place steel stringers on Co C's bridge at Pfaffenoffen, will be through with that job at 1530. From there it will go to Co B's bridge at Q886289 to place bent. From there it will go to Niedermodern where Co C will use it to pull vertical members out of roadblock. Have someone guide it from Q886289 to Niedermodern.
- 1530 Tel Lt Col Monnier to Maj Billups: I have two men from Lt Dayton's platoon (Co B) to act as guides for the quickway crane. The crane, upon completion of work now engaged in (setting steel for bridge at Pfaffenoffen) will go up to Co B for use in setting the center bent of bridge at Q886289. Upon completion of that task, it will be released. There is an officer with the crane and he will take the crane back to its rightful place. Co "B" was contacted and arrangements made

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There have been a change in the plans for the division. The new division boundary has been assigned as follows: 7834-7938-795405-820425-830450. The 397th Infantry is pushing off to arrive at this boundary tomorrow. Lt Col Monnier thinks it would be wise to leave one tank dozer at Co A 325th Engrs and to have the other one available for use in the other sector.

1840

Pvt Dutton (Rcn Section); reports road reconnaissance and road classification as follows: Road Offwiller to CR 866339 to Bischholtz is class C1 $\frac{1}{2}$. From CR 866339 to Muhlhausen road is class C1 $\frac{1}{2}$. There is a class D1, 1/4 ton trail from 859325 to 869332 now in use. Road Nieffern-Uhrwiller class C2; road Uhrwiller to CR 887289 is class B2. road leading east and south from Uhrwiller to Kindwiller is class D1 $\frac{1}{2}$; road leading northwest from Pfaffenoffen to CR 887289 is class B2. The road Pfaffenoffen-Bitschhoffen-Mietesheim is class B1 $\frac{1}{2}$; the road Bitschhoffen-west to Kindwiller is class C2 and the stretch of road from Obermodern to 836322 is class C1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

1820

Tel Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: The 179th Inf is well up and into the woods west of Gumbrechtschoffen vicinity of 900340. This afternoon an enemy counterattack of tanks and infantry developed coming out of Gumbrechtschoffen west along the road and extended up as far as the curve on the road at 905342. This counterattack is under control. The plans for tomorrow appear to be that one battalion will continue attack on Engwiller; another battalion is to attack northeast into Gumbrechtschoffen but they think they will not be able to take the town; another battalion intends to cross the creek west of Gumbrechtschoffen and take the high ground in the vic of 920350. The plans of the infantry are not completely settled as yet, but it is almost certain that there will be no crossings tonight.

1915

Tel Capt Frank to Maj Billups: Today we swept the road leading from Pfaffenoffen to Mietesheim. The bridge which we are working on at Pfaffenoffen will not be completed until tomorrow.

1940

Tel Lt Bridges to Maj Billups: One battalion of the 179th Infantry is jumping off to take Gumbrechtschoffen before midnight; they do not know the exact hour. They hope to be able to take the town. The tanks to accompany troops going across the river will not have track extensions. Therefore we may be able to use M1 treadway. I will pick up bridging material, whatever is available at the Bn CP.

- 2000 Tel Maj Billups to Capt Williams (S-3, 157th):
Capt Williams informs Maj Billups that the unit supporting the attack (47th Tank Bn) does not have tanks with track extensions therefore M1 treadway will suffice for our needs
- 2030 Tel Maj Billups to Capt McQuaid (Ass't S-3, 157th):
Capt McQuaid states that the 157th Inf does not intend to make any further advances tonight.
- 2100 Tel Maj Billups to CO 47th Tank Bn: CO 47th tank Bn states that he believes there are some units which have their tanks equipped with track extensions therefore the need arises for M2 treadway.
- 2105 Tel Capt Sandelin (S-3, 180th Inf): We do not expect to make any river crossings tonight, however, there is a remote possibility of crossing at 926338.
- 2120 Tel from CO 47th Tank Bn to Maj Billups: Our Co "C" tanks, operating in the northwest, has track extensions. Our battalion maintenance has removed these extensions from the other company tanks
- 2125 Tel Maj Billups to Lt Fields, Co B: The tanks employed tomorrow in the 179th Inf attack do not have track extension but the tank company supporting the 180th Inf will require M2 treadway bridge, therefore we must plan on adapting the bridge to meet the need. The time interval between the two passing units is enough to permit necessary work on the bridge.
- 2140 Tel Mr Ferguson, Ass't S-4: We have on hand here 200 pcs of 3 x 9 lumber and 1 truck load of 6 x 8's.
- 2145 Tel Lt Fields to Maj Billups: Lt Dayton's bridge at 886288 was completed and opened for traffic at 2000 hours. ADE, G-3 notified.
- 2320 Tel Capt Tauscher, ADE to S-3: G-3 reports that the 157th Inf is now in Zinswiler and is asking for a bridge.
- 2330 Tel S-3 157th Inf to Maj Billups: S-3, 157th Inf reports that infantry troops entered Zinswiler with no opposition and have proceeded beyond the town. The bridge there is out and Capt Rickey, CO Co A, has been in contact with the 157th Inf CP. Bridge will be put in tonight.

PERIOD 0001-2400 3 December 1944:

Weather: Rain, unsettled

<u>TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
0025	Capt Rickey (Co A) to S-3: As yet we have no information on bridge in Zinswiller other than that it is Blown. Lt Etherton has gone to make a reconnaissance of the bridge, but the town has not yet been all cleared. Will want 45 ft of treadway ready in forward area in order to put bridge in as soon as site is secured.	Bridge train with 45 ft of M1 Treadway alerted with orders to proceed with Capt Rickey to Offwiller
0050	Tel Maj Carroll (S-3, 157th Inf) to Capt Rickey: 2nd Bn reports that they now are about half way through the town of Zinswiller and still have met no resistance. A fire fight is going on to the east, apparently from the 179th Inf sector. Have no further report on the bridge.	
0215	Tel Lt Farley (S-2 Office, 157th Inf) to S-3: We have a combat patrol of 50 men in Zinswiller, who have reached the bridge site and are receiving fire from the other side. We will establish a bridgehead for Co A of the Engineers to build a bridge. Gap has been reported as 60 feet. Capt Rickey (Co A) has left to go to the site, and requests another Brockway truck and additional treadway.	
0350	Capt Williams (S-3, 179th Inf) reports town of Gumbrechtshoffen taken. Bridge out. Wants Lt Bridges to contact his regiment at once.	Lt Bridges, Co B instructed to report to 179th Inf CP
0430	Lt Picket, Co B reports by tel that he has been to bridge at 921339. It has a 70 ft gap. He has found a place where he can install a double culvert with fill. Tanks had gone across the stream nearby.	Co C notified to deliver one culvert to Co B at Obermodern.
0530	Tel Maj Billups to S-3 157th Inf: S-3, 157th states that at this time, Capt Rickey informs them that the tank ford at Zinswiller is located 100 yards downstream from the bridge.	
0815	Tel Lt Bridges Co B: Reports that Lt Picket was wounded by enemy fire. The bypass at 922338 was not completed. Two trucks were damaged, neither seriously, but one has a hole through the gas tank. The area is under fire and we cannot continue work until the high ground is taken. The first tank across struck a mine. The area was swept for mines and we do not know at this time whether or not more tanks have crossed.	

<u>TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
0930	Tel Lt Bridges: Reports to Maj Billups that General Butler orders a tank dozer for the completion of work on bypass at 922338	Tank dozer at Co C will be sent to meet Lt Bridges at Obermodern at 1015
0950	Tel Lt Bridges to Maj Billups: Bridge site at 921339 is suitable for a bailey bridge. The two culverts are now installed at the bridge site however, the bailey bridge can be constructed over them.	
1010	Tel S-2 157th Inf to S-3: Co A of the Engineers is working on stream crossing in Zinswiller and will have traffic crossing in 30 or 45 minutes.	
1015	Message from XV Corps Engr (Lt Col Wanner): "Info is requested as to which roads in your zone have been swept for mines, width of lane swept, and whether or not signs have been posted."	
1030	Capt Hales (S-4): We now have water points in operation at Hochfelder, Bouxwiller and Ettendorf.	
1040	Tel Capt Frank (Co C) to S-3: What bridging will be available to me for stream crossing in the 180th Inf sector? Answer: We have available 72 feet of M2 treadway 45 or 90 ft of M1 treadway (depending on what Co A uses), plenty of lumber, and 2-36 inch culverts ready assembled.	
1045	Tel - Lt Col Monnier (calling from 157th CP) to S-3: Co A will have bridge at Zinswiller completed in about 30 minutes. Gap is supposed to be only 30 ft, and treadway is being used. Co A has completed sweeping road Offwiller-Zinswiller. Bridge at 982364 (northeast of Zinswiller) is reported blown. The road at Co B's bridge in Gumbrechtshoffen is 16-18 ft wide.	
1100	Pvt Oille (Recon section, reports road Offwiller-Zinswiller is class Bl.	
1115	Tel - Capt Tauscher (ADE) to S-3: Lt Oleson, Recon Officer, suggests XV Corps Engr be notified of broken sewer in Bouxwiller, and that, meanwhile, we fence off the hole in the street. MP's are re-routing traffic.	
1125	Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Maj Billups: Capt Rickey has not yet completed the bridge at Zinswiller on account of enemy artillery fire.	

- 130 Tel - Maj Billups to 1101st Engr Group: There is a broken sewer line in the town of Bouxwiller. We would like for someone from your unit to repair it. Maj Billups is informed that the 1101st Engr Group does not have any bailey bridge material available but this can be obtained from XV Corps Engr dump.
- 1145 Tel - Capt Frank reports to Maj Billups: For the proposed stream crossing at 947314, tread-way equipment is preferred rather than steel culverts. If it is decided to install steel culverts, four of them will be necessary, together with a tank dozer to cover the culverts.
- 315 Radio - Capt Rickey (Co A) to Maj Billups: Tanks forded across creek in town. Bridge not hit. CAPT Tauscher Notified
- 1340 Radio - Capt Rickey (Co A) to Maj Billups: Bridge not in yet. Answer: Inform us when bridge is in. Capt Tauscher and Lt Col Monnier notified.
- 1345 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Lt Oleson (Recon O): The steel bridge constructed by Co C at Pfaffen-noffen was opened for traffic at 1130 hours. Capt Tauscher notified.
- 1405 Radio - Capt Rickey (Co A) to S-3: The bridge at Zinswiller will be in by dark. Will send details later.
- 1430 Verbal - Maj Billups returning from Co A 325th Engrs reports our H&S tank dozer is now en route from Co A 325th Engrs to Co C 120th Engrs. Lt Col Monnier Notified.
- 1435 Tel - Lt Col Monnier (calling from Div Hq): Capt Frank has swept the road for mines from la Walck to Mietersheim to Engwiller and back to la Walck.
- 1505 Tel - S-3 179th Inf (Capt Williams) to Maj Billups: Lt Bridges (Co B) is at the bridge at 921339 with a tank dozer now and has guided other tank across the stream. At present it is difficult to work on the bridge. G-3 is notified of present bridge situation.
- 1530 Tel - Lt Bridges (Co B) to Maj Billups: One of the culverts at 921339 has been partially damaged by tank dozer, therefore the ford will have to be used. The two tanks which hit mines in the ford will be removed. Capt Tauscher notified.
- 1535 Tel - Maj Zebley (S-3, 397th Inf) to Maj Billups: Confirmation Co A 325th Engrs, attached to this unit, will have use for the tank dozer now at Rothbach. A check will be made and you will be notified. received thru G-3, thru ADE from the 397th Inf.

1600

Tel - Lt Lipscomb, Co C, to Maj Billups:
If treadway equipment is required at 947314, we
will notify you. We have one steel culvert on hand.

1625

Tel Lt Bridges, Co B, to Lt Col Monnier:
A Bailey bridge can be installed at 921339; one
hundred feet should suffice. We need a tank
retriever to remove the two tanks from the ford.

A tank retriever
was asked for
from 47th Tk Bn
maint, thru G-3.
Lt Bridges was
notified.

1635

Verbal - Pvt Oille, recon sect: Reports
road classification as follows: Road Pfaffenno-
ffen west and north to Zutzendorf is class C1;
road Uhrwiller north to Zinswiller is class B1½;
from CR 900326 east to Engwiller north to
Gumbrechtshoffen is class C1½.

1705

Tel - Capt Williams, S-3 179th Inf) to Maj
Billups: Will we have a bridge at Gumbrechtshoffen
tonight that will carry all traffic?
Answer: We have developed a ford near the bridge
site which is now carrying all traffic, although
the far bank needs some improvement. The bridge
will take some time to complete..

1710

Tel - Maj Billups to 1st Sgt Co B: Send tank
dozer (191st Tank Bn) to Rothbach to report to
Co A, 325th Engr Bn.

1725

Tel S-3, 325th Engrs to Maj Billups: We will not
need to use the tank dozer tonight. Will call you
for it in the morning if and when we need it.
Answer: Dozer will be available at any time for
the next 24 hours, on your call.

Co B, also
Lt Baxter,
325th Engrs
notified.
Tank dozer
held at Co B

1745

Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A to Maj Billups:
The bridge now under construction at Zinswiller
should be completed soon. You will receive a
radio message confirming such. We constructed
a bridge for 1/4 tons at the edge of the woods,
northwest of Zinswiller. The reserve battalion
of the 157th Inf now has one platoon blocking
trails into woods on the left flank.

1750

Tel Lt Col Monnier to Capt Rickey, Co A:
The culvert in the woods at 883364 is out,
thereby serving the purpose of a road block.
Contact the CO Co A 325th Engrs and arrange
for this unit to take over the blocking of
trails into the woods.

1915

Radio - Maj Lowe (Exec O) to Capt Rickey:
Is the bridge completed?

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- 1935 Radio - Capt Rickey (Co A) to Maj Lowe:
Bridge has been completed.
- 1945 Tel Lt Col Monnier to Colonel Pohl, XV
Corps Engr: Gen Butler believes we may have to
install a bailey bridge (approx 60-80 ft)
tonight at Gumbrechtshoffen
1101 Engr Group
and XV Corps
Engr dump notified
to have bridge
train ready.
- 2015 Tel - Gen Butler to Lt Col Monnier: The
bridge problems now are at: 947314, east of
Mietesheim and at 942341, Gundershoffen. This
route will become important in the near future.
Contact XV Corps Engr and request they replace
the present treadway bridge in Pfaffenhoffen with
a timber structure.
Tel conversation
with S-3 180th Inf
confirms bridge
problems. Capt
Frank notified.
- 2040 Tel - Tec 4 Sebeckis, radio sect to Maj Lowe:
Time of completion of Co A's bridge in Zinswiler
is 1900 hours.
- 2100 Verbal - Lt Foster (Ass't S-3): M/Sgt Mc-
Alarnis has delivered to Co C at Pfaffenhoffen
72 ft of M2 treadway and one 36" corrugated
steel culvert.
- 2145 Maj Billups: Report on crossing site at
Gumbrechtshoffen: The culvert which Co B put
in at bridge site is not passing traffic after
one of the pipes was broken this afternoon.
The ford near the bridge site is passing all
traffic, but wrecked tank on far site is still
there. There is enemy artillery fire (self-
propelled) falling close to bridge site and
along approach road on near side. This fire
would make it infeasible to bring bailey bridge
or other heavy equipment to site. One or two
more culverts could be added and more fill put
in, but this would make it more difficult to
put in a more permanent bridge later. Recommend
if possible, to do no more construction until
high ground to northeast is cleared of enemy.
- 2200 Tel - Gen Butler to Lt Col Monnier: Have
Co B repair culvert at Gumbrechtshoffen tonight,
even if it does damage site for mor permanent
bridge. We cannot take a chance on water
rising too high to use.
Maj Billups
orders Co B to pu
additional pipes
in culvert tonight
- 2220 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Col Murphy, 179th Inf:
Request any possible action to reduce enemy self
propelled fire on bridge site in Gumbrechtshoffen
Answer: 180th Inf is attacking tonight toward the
area where fire is apparently coming from. Also
Major Smith, 179th Inf, may be able to give your men
more assistance.

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2215

Tel Maj Billups to S-3, Div Arty: Request artillery support for engineer work party at Gumbrechtshoffen to reduce self-propelled fire.

Lt Bridges Co B, notified to contact Maj Smith and also to inform Div Arty of effect of arty fire.

2230

Tel Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: 180th Inf has not taken bridge sites at Q948315 (two bridges) and Q943327, and does not think they will be gained tonight. Also, they do not expect to get into Gundershoffen tonight. Therefore, we will not be able to build any bridges tonight.

2235

Tel - Lt Col Monnier notifies XV Corps Engr and the 1101st Engr Group that Bailey bridge, requested for possible use at 1945, will not be needed tonight.

2300

Tel Maj Billups to Maj Studebaker (G-3 Off): Tank retrievers have not yet pulled wrecked tanks out of by pass at Gumbrechtshoffen, as was previously requested. Would rather that they do not come up there tonight now, as they might draw fire on our work party.

G-3 notified that tank retrievers have not yet removed wrecked tanks & do not want them on site until tomorrow morning.

PERIOD 0001-2400 4 December 1944:

Weather: - Cloudy; intermittent showers.

0300

Tel - Lt Dayton, Co B, reports to Maj Billups: The culvert at Gumbrechtshoffen now has a 3 feet covering of earth. ADE notified

0600

Tel - Pvt Dutton (Reconn Section) reports to Maj Billups: At point 903334, trees piled in the road by the wind are blocking the road.

Lt Bridges, Co B B, notified; his mine sweeping party in that vicinity will be able to remove block

0835

Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Two 1101st Engr Group officers have gone to check bridge site at Gumbrechtshoffen. Permanent structure will be constructed by XV Corps Engrs southeast of Menchhoffen (836287) and east of Mulhausen (869315). LtPeak (now on SD with Co B is sweeping the road for mines to Engwiller and N.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
0915	Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Bridges, Co B: Clear the road North of Zintzel River, Gumbrechtshoffen, Niederbronn (922342) to Zinswiller (895358) as soon as situation permits.	
0920	Verbal - Tec 4 Nustad (Water Supply Section) reports water points established at Ingwiller, Pfoffenhoffen and Bouxwiller.	ADE notified.
0925	Tel Maj Billups to S-3, 1101st Engr Group: What are the possibilities of obtaining more treadway equipment for future bridging operations?	
0945	Tel Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: Div G-3 has ordered for CO Co A 325th Engrs to assume responsibility of blocking roads into woods in the 157th sector as far north as Rothbach.	Capt Rickey, Co A is notified to make necessary arrangements with CO 325th Engr Bn.
1000	Tel Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: 179th Infantry wants stream bridged at 926361.	Lt Bridges to check site and will report material necessary.
1015	Verbal - Capt Denny, 1101st Engr Group returning from bridge site at Gumbrechtshoffen, reports to Maj Billups that the water flowing through culverts fills tubes about half way. There is $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet of earth over the culverts. There was no traffic across the road at the time he was there but trucks show that the road had been used to some extent. At the time he was there, two tank retrievers were attempting to remove the two tanks which struck mines in the vicinity of the ford and had the road blocked with cables.	
1030	Tel - Capt Tauscher to Maj Billups: It is confirmed that the 45th Division passes to VI Corps at midnight tonight. VI Corps forward CP is at Brumath.	
1100	Verbal - Maj Billups to Capt Martin (1101st Engr Group Liason Officer): Request Capt Martin furnish us an additional 45 ft of M1 treadway not later than 2000 hours tonight. We will expect an answer this afternoon. Also requested for the 1101st Engr Group to make plans to replace the treadway bridge at Zinswiller and to improve the crossing at Gumbrechtshoffen as soon as situation permits.	
1415	Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: The road from Mietesheim east to Mertzwiller has been swept	

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- as far as possible at present (950300). Ten box mines and one Schu mine were found on this road. The road leading NE from Mietesheim has been swept as far as the hill (vic 940314). One mine sweeping party is now working from Mietesheim towards Uttenhoffen. The 180th Inf is attacking at 2000 hours to secure ground at Uttenhoffen and at 948314. Request bridging material be available.
- 70 ft M2 treadway, and if possible, 90 ft of M1 treadway will be ready.
- 1430 Verbal - Maj Billups returning from bridge at Gumbrechtschoffen reports the water flow of the Zintzel River has increased and the culverts are passing the maximum capacity of water. Brush has accumulated at the mouth of the culverts, directing stream flow to hit beside mouth of one end culvert thereby washing away fill at that particular area. One of the tanks which hit a mine in ford has been removed by the 47th Tank Bn retriever (T2).
- Lt Bridges Co B notified of condition of culverts and ordered to remove brush and install re-vestment by damaged culvert. ADE notified.
- 1435 Verbal - Capt Martin (1101st Engr Group) Arrangements are being made to turn over our M2 Treadway equipment to VI Corps. Your request for 45 feet of M1 treadway was not approved. The 1101st Engr Group will remain with XV Corps and will go to the west side of Vosges Mountains in support of Corps
- VI Corps Engr requested by Maj Billups for bridging material: 45 ft of M1 treadway, 1 trestle and 2 ramps.
- 1505 Lt-Col Frantz reports to Maj Lowe: The bridge at 926361 has a 6 foot gap. General Butler orders a bridge be installed at this point
- Lt Col Frantz notified that Lt Bridges Co B is on a bridge reconn to site in question.
- 1600 Verbal - Pvt Oille, recon section reports road classification as follows: Road Pfaffenoffen northeast to Mietesheim northeast to Uttenhoffen and from Mietesheim to Mertzwiller is class B1. The road Mietesheim west to Engwiller is class C1; the road Engwiller south to Pfaffenoffen is class B1.5..
- 1620 Tel Lt Fields, Co B to Maj Billups: Lt Bridges has one platoon sweeping road leading from Gumbrechtschoffen north towards the bridge at 926361, and has assigned Lt Peak to do the work necessary on culverts at Gumbrechtschoffen.
- 1700 Lt Peak, Co B reports culvert at Gumbrechtschoffen has been sand bagged and cleared of brush. Is running about half capacity.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

1730

Tel - Lt Peak, Co B, reports further details to Maj Billups: The culverts were sandbagged only at the head; there was no need of placing anything on top of the culverts or on the downstream side.

1735

Tel Capt Devine (VI Corps Engr Sect) to Lt Col Monnier: The 45 ft of M1 treadway which you requested can be obtained at XV Corps Engr dump. We will be able to relieve your Co C of guard duty at the sheet metal fabricating plant at Pfaffenhoffen; also the maintenance crew of 1277 Engrs now on the bailey bridge at Pfaffenhoffen. For the proposed stream crossing west of Gundershoffen at 941340, 90 to 100 ft of bailey bridge will be arranged for.

Capt Frank Co C notified of guard relief at metal plant and of availability of bailey bridge for 5 Dec. G-3 notified of availability of bailey bridging material

1745

Tel Maj Billups to Capt Reed (XV Corps Engr sect): I am sending back one Brockway truck to your dump. My needs are: 45 ft of M1 treadway, one trestle and two ramps.

1800

Tel - Lt Bridges, Co B (calling from the 179th Inf): to Maj Billups: The bridge reported out at 926361 is only a small footbridge. The problem there is that the area around the bridge is all swamp, about 150 yards wide, will require corduroy to pass any traffic. Notify Lt Fields to alert the 2nd and remainder of the 3rd platoon. Have them stand by with their pioneer tools.

Power, 5 and G-3 notified of swamps. Lt Fields notified to alert the 2nd and 3rd platoons.

1805

Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, reports to Maj Billups that the 180th Infantry's proposed plan of attack for tonight has been changed. We have two road blocks (vic 950350) to remove tonight.

confirmation of change of plan received thru ADE.

1920

Verbal - Capt Rickey, Co A to Maj Billups: Co A 325th Engrs has taken over the road blocks on our left flank as far as offwiller as of 1200 today. Four 3 kilogram charges were removed while clearing road Zinswiller southeast to CR 907343. The road from Zinswiller north to CR 903371 is class B1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and has been swept to CR 903371. The streets in the town of Zinswiller have been cleared of debris. Major Billups has ordered for Capt Rickey to sweep the parallel road north of Zintzel River.

1940

Tel Lt Baxter (CO Co A 325th Engrs) to Maj Billups: Tank dozer at Co B now, will work tonight clearing road blocks.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

2030 Tel Lt Bridges, Co B reports to Maj Billups:
The 179th Inf has elements on hill beyond swamp at
928361 and in order to supply and reinforce these
elements, the vehicles have to pass through 150
to 200 yards of swampy ground. I will commence
cutting of road through there at 2400 hours;
help has been offered me by Cd Murphy but I believe
this won't be necessary. With my company working
there, this work can be completed within five to
six hours. If this work is completed on time, I
will move my CP.

PERIOD 0001-2400 5 December 1944:

Weather: Partly cloudy, showers.

0001 45th Division passed to VI Corps control.

0500 Treadway equipment requested from XV Corps
arrived at the Bn CP. This consists of 45 ft
M1 treadway, one trestle and two ramps.

0605 Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: One hun- G-3 contacted,
dred yards of corduroy road was constructed at but no infor-
928361. At this time we do not know whether tanks mation was se-
have crossed. Co B CP will move today to woods cured on tank
NE of Uhrwiller. There is still one remaining crossing over
tank in the ford at Gumbrechtshoffen, but it is corduroy road.

0920 Tel Lt Col Schlotzhauer, G-4 to Maj Billups:
The division MSR will eventually be the route:
Pfaffenoffen north to Engwiller to Gumbrecht-
shoffen. However, an alternate route is being
considered and that is Pfaffenoffen east,
then north to Mertzwiller. At the present
time, the route Mulhausen and Northeast is in use.

0955 Verbal, Maj Billups: Reconnaissance section has
been assigned the mission of locating a better
route that will carry light vehicles to reach point
934364.

1015 Radio, Capt Rickey, Co A to Maj Billups:
Company moving to Offwiller.

1020 Radio - Maj Billups to Capt Rickey, Co A:
Check with the 157th Inf on block west of Zinswiller.

1025 Tel Lt Col Monnier (calling from 180th Inf):
Arrange with VI Corps for 70 to 80 feet of Bailey
Bridge for the 180th Inf stream crossing, west of
Mertzwiller tonight.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

0
Tel Lt Col Moanier (calling from 180th Inf) to Maj Billups: Co C has one platoon at bridge site. Foot troops are across stream but the bridge is definitely out.

1035

Capt Thompson of the 48th Engr Bn visits the CP to discuss with Maj Billups, the desired support his organization can give us. The 48th Engr Bn is supporting the 45th Division only. Their CP is in the RR yards at Bouxwiller. Co A is moving up into the Division sector this afternoon. It is agreed that the 48th Engrs will take over maintenance of all roads behind the Pfaffenoffen-Obermodern-Ingwiller road (inclusive), in addition to roads Pfaffenoffen-Mulhausen, and Obermodern-Uhrwiller. Also discussed possibility of having the 48th Engrs build bailey bridge in Mertzwiller tonight, if bailey is to be used there.

1115

Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Devine (VI Corps Engr Office): 180th Inf is now crossing stream at Mertzwiller Bridge there is blown, and infantry reports gap to be 70 or 80 ft. If bailey bridge is needed, when will it be available.

Answer: Bailey bridge train is on its way to 45th division sector now, with one company of the 48th Engrs to build the bridge.

(Capt Thompson interposes to say that the 48th Engrs have no bailey bridge with them that they have only five Brockway trucks with treadway with them.) Arrangements made to send bailey bridge train to Co A 48th Engrs, which will build the bridge at Mertzwiller. Bridge train and Co A will be together and ready to build bridge by 1800.

Capt Thompson contacted Maj Darling to arrange to get bridge train to his company.

1125

Tel - Capt Frank, CO Co C, to S-3: Gap in bridge in Mertzwiller is 60 to 70 feet. The site is good for bailey bridge construction, with straight approach, but not very good for treadway. Want party from organization which will install bridge to reconnoiter the site.

Capt Thompson notified to send party from Co A 48th Engrs to bridge site this afternoon.

1/4 ton vehicle of the 171st FA Bn hit a TOPF mine near the bridge site this morning, and we found 8 more in place (on bridge and in alley near the bridge). The mine had about the same effect on the vehicle as a Teller mine. Mines were planted in groups of three, and were easy to spot by eye.

VI Corps Engr, ADE, G-2 and Co B notified of TOPF mine.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1145 Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: Tanks have not been able to get across corduroy road Co B built last night at Q928361. The first tank that tried it got bogged down before it reached corduroy.
- 1150 Tel Maj Billups to Capt Williams (S-3, 179th Inf): What is the situation at stream crossing and corduroy road at Q928361?
Answer: Tanks are stuck in the road. Lt Bridges knows what the situation is. We have not as yet taken the bridge at Gundershoffen, but the bridge is blown (gap 30 feet) and river is flooded in the vic.
- 1200 Tel - Col Thomas, VI Corps Engr, to Maj Billups: Reserve areas at Menchhoffen, Uttwiller and Pfaffenhoffen for VI Corps engineer units supporting the division. VI Corps units found a small booby trap, looking like a powder box or snuff box in a German CP in the southern sector. This will be sent forward to all VI Corps Engr units for inspection. We have also found two new types of delay devices, which will also be sent around. We want samples of the TOPF mine for inspection.
- 1215 Tel - Lt Bridges, Co B, to S-3: Tanks got stuck on trail approaching corduroy road at Q928631 before they reached the corduroy. 179th Inf was warned before corduroy was begun that tanks might get stuck in road on either side. I can see no way in which a satisfactory road could be opened in time to be of practical use. A detail from Co B is being sent up to mark a Schu mine field in vic of Q9334 (exact location not known). Another party is being sent to examine a bridge at Q934348, which was captured intact.
- 1240 Verbal: Lt Col Monnier reports that Capt Rickey, Co A has located a ceramic plant (enamel and cast iron) at Zinswiller.
- 1255 Tel Lt Col Reynolds, G-3, to Maj Billups: The bridge at Zinswiller must be replaced with a permanent structure, likewise for the bridge at Gumbrechtshoffen. Maj Billups states traffic must be doubled over neighboring bridge while replacement is under way.
- 1305 Tel: Maj Billups to Capt Frank, Co C: Co A 48th Engrs will install bailey bridge west of Mertzwiller. The reconnaissance party will check the bridge site before dark, the bridge train will proceed thereafter to bridge site. Maj Billups informs Lt Bridges he will be able to commit 1 platoon Co to help corduroying res

<u>TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
1310	Tel Lt Bridges, CO Co B to Maj Billups: I will contact the CO of the supporting tank company and inquire as to type of work required for adequate tank operations.	
1345	Tel - Lt Col Reynolds, G-3, to Maj Billups: Enemy troops now in vicinity of Mertzwiller are being reinforced with elements from Haguenuau, transported in every possible way. Maj Billups informs G-3 that bailey bridge will be installed by the 48th Engrs.	S-3 180th Inf is informed of bridge situation
1400	Lt Col Swift, CO 48th Engrs, reports that five trucks of M2 treadway are available at Co A 48th Engrs if needed. Installation of the bailey bridge West of Mertzwiller, provided local security is adequate, should not be difficult. Lt Col Monnier has requested the 48th Engrs assume responsibility of the bridges in Pfaffenoffen constructed by us; and has also requested the bridge at Zinswiller and the three culverts at Gumbrechtschoffen be replaced with permanent structures.	Lt Col Swift personally checks designated bridges.
1425	Tel Maj Billups to Lt Lipscomb, Co C: The M2 treadway will not be used. Notify the crew to return with equipment to their unit. Capt Snyder(CO Co A 48th Engrs) is now on the way to check bailey bridge site.	XV Corps Engr sect informed of treadway being returned.
1440	Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE to Maj Billups: Division requests road Mulhausen east to Uhrwiller be blocked at both ends.	
1605	Maj Munson (48th Engrs) reports that he is on the way to the 48th Engr CP at Ingwiller to contact and ready the bailey bridge train. An officer of the 48th Engrs will be assigned to stay at this office. Co A 48th Engrs will move upon orders received from this headquarters.	
1610	Msgr from Co B: CP now located at 907325, 800 yards north of Engwiller.	
1615	Pvt Dutton, recon section, to Maj Billups: (Report on reconnaissance of Foret de Frohret, vic of grid square Q9136): All trails through woods which tanks have used are by now unusable for any traffic; 1/4 ton vehicles are passing through woods but are not using trails. The trail from Q904366-906367-909363-912363 is passable for light traffic, but has not been used; on the same trail, 916361-921361- heavier traffic could be used, as it has a rock bottom. The trail 921361 to 918368 is passable. The trail 921358-910350 is passable for 3/4 ton vehicles and is being used. The trail 912352-912363, although	

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

in bad condition, is passable. The road 910350-903369 is class C1. The road running parallel to Zintzel River on the north side is class B1½.

- 1710 Tel Lt Col Monnier, calling from Co C) to Maj Billups, informs Capt Sand-
Maj Billups: Bailey bridge train has arrived elin; S-3, 180th
at Co C CP. CO Co A, 48th Engr Bn has been to the bridge site and has returned to his company. Inf, and estimate
One hundred feet of bailey bridge will be re- operation will
quired. require 8 to 10
hours.
- 1745 Tel Capt Frank, CO Co C, to Maj Billups:
The road from Ueberach east to CR 960275 and north
towards Mertzwiller has been cleared to the edge
of the woods (960283) and one road block was re-
moved at this point. The road from Ueberach NE
to Mertzwiller has been cleared and one road block
was removed at 953293. We found 10 TOPF mine boxes
and 8 TOPF mines in the vicinity of blown bridge
(960295) and constructed a small footbridge at
bridge site 960295.
- 1800 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Lipscomb, Co C: Lt
Col Swift, (CO 48th Engrs) suggests Capt Snyder,
now at your Co CP pick up enough timber for
traffic strippings.
- 1830 Verbal, Lt Col Monnier (returning from Co C):
reports that 1277 Engrs have reinforced the class
12 timber bridge in Pfaffennoffen to class 40.
- 1840 Tel -Lt Col Monnier to Lt Col Swift, CO 48th
Engrs: Go ahead and send bridge train to site.
- 1915 Tel - Maj Erwin (G-4 Office) to Maj Billups: 48th Engrs,
Vehicle headlights may be used as far east and S-4 notified.
north as Hochfelden. Dim out lights however, will
be used in town.
- 1925 Tel Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: G-3
informs us the next area for division operations
will be along stream line from Gundershoffen
north to Niederbronn. This area will probably
not become important for about two days yet.
Ans: See if you can obtain for us aerial photos
of this area.
- 1950 Tel: Lt Peak, Co B, to S-3: We added more
fill on culvert at Gumbrechtshoffen today and
are going to add sandbags tonight. 3rd platoon
is now getting tanks out of mired road near Q928361.
Ans: 48th Engrs will take over maintenance of
crossing at Gumbrechtshoffen tomorrow. They will
extend length of culvert pipes, increase fill, and add
head walls.

TIME
2000

REMARKS

ACTION TAKEN

Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to S-3: Bailey bridge and 48th Engr crew have not yet arrived at bridge site in Mertzwiller.

48th Engrs contacted; bridge train left Pfoffen at 1900. Lt Oleson sent to try to locate train

2005

Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A to S-3:
Today Co A swept road for mines from Zinswiller east to Gumbrechtshoffen. Road is class Bl $\frac{1}{2}$. Also swept road from Zinswiller north to Oberbronn; road is class Bl $\frac{1}{2}$. We also jacked up bridge at Zinswiller and added more cribbing (were not able to use trestles because of wreckage of old bridge underneath). We have not put in a road block on road north west out of Zinswiller, into hills, but are prepared to do so when it is called for.
Answer: 48th Engrs will build timber bridge at Zinswiller tomorrow to replace treadway. This is their first priority job. Bridge will be closed about 2 hours while this is being done.

2025

Tel - Lt Lipscomb, Co C to Maj Billups: The bailey bridge train of the 48th Engrs has not arrived and Capt Frank is looking for them now.

2030

Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Frank, CO Co C: Bridge train left here at 1900 hours and Lt Lipscomb reports it has not arrived yet. I am sending Lt Oleson to check on this bridge train and he is to call from your company CP

48th Engrs notified. Maj Munson (S-3) has left to check on bridge train

2125

Tel - Capt Frank to Maj Billups: Bridge train arrived at 2030 hours. Enemy self propelled fire is falling to the left and to the other side of town, but I don't believe any is hitting near the bridge.

G-3, CO 48th Engr, VI Corps notified that bridge is on site and construction begun.

2400

Tel Maj Billups (calling from 2nd Bn 160th Inf) near bridge site at Mertzwiller: 48th Engineers have only started unloading bailey bridge train. Enemy fire from a self-propelled gun is falling at the site, and one officer of the bridge train has been wounded. One truck of bridge train also damaged. Have not been able to proceed with unloading of bridge. Fire seems to be coming from southern or south-east part of town. Major Munson of the 48th Engineers has gone back to consult with Lt Col Swift, CO, 48th Engrs.

TIME
PERIOD 0001-2400 6 December 1944:

REMARKS

ACTION TAKEN

Weather: Partly cloudy, showers.

0025	Tel - S-3, 48th Engrs, to Lt Col Monnier: Our men at bridge site in Mertzwiller think enemy fire is coming from southeast. They don't think there is any infantry on the right flank, to the south. Do not think that bridge can be put in tonight, and it will be impossible after daylight.	S-3, 180th ... contacted. Co C has OP on hill to south of bridge site, which patrol just returned from. They think enemy fire is coming from the north.
0200	Tel - Chief of Staff to Lt Col Monnier: Bailey bridge job at Mertzwiller will be called off for tonight. Try it again tomorrow night, unless there is a heavy fog in the morning and you can do it then.	
0400	Maj Billups returns from bridge site at Mertzwiller. Reports that bailey bridge train has been pulled off into woods to west of bridge site. Enemy fire was still falling at site at 0230.	
0940	Tel Lt Col Monnier to Lt Bridges, Co B: barricade both ends of Muhlhausen-Uhrwiller road and post with "Bridge Out" signs.	
0945	Tel - Lt Foster, to Lt Lipscomb: Send the three trucks of M2 treadway to this CP.	
1010	Tel CO Co C 48th Engrs to Lt Foster: Will pull treadway bridge at Zinswiller at 1200. New bridge will be open by nightfall. Will notify you as soon as bridge is opened.	MP officer, 179 Inf notified to route traffic over bridge at Gumbrechtshoffen.
1110	Maj Munson, S-3, 48th Engrs, arrived at Bn CP to discuss with Maj Billups the plan for bridging stream at Mertzwiller. Decision arrived at is that installation of bailey bridge being first priority, will be attempted. If this is not feasible, culverts will be placed in site and the abutments broken down on these culverts. Maj Munson reports Co C of his unit is now located at Menchhoffen; Co B at Niedersoultzbach; and Bn CP at Ingwiller. Co A attempted to remove guard wall at bailey bridge site but were unable on account of incoming enemy artillery fire. Consequently, the bridging operation was postponed.	CO Co A 48th Engrs notified. Maj Billups contacts Div Arty for fire support during bridging operations. Col Monnier & ADE received this information

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

This afternoon we will have a scouting party check the stream below the site for a possible crossing

- 1240 Tel Maj Billups to Lt Col Monnier: Div Arty has been contacted for fire support during bridge construction at Mertzwiller tonight. -Lt Col Monnier orders for bridge construction to begin at dusk, although there is a possibility of the bridge being called off. Col Dulaney, CO 180th Inf and ADE are notified of proposed plan.
- 1250 Tel - Lt Manson (Ass't S-3, 179th Inf) to Maj Billups: The bridge (culverts) at Gumbrechtschoffen at present require attention. Lt Col Monnier notified. Lt Munson informed 48th Engrs are responsible but in meantime our Co B will help
- 1430 Verbal - Lt Col Monnier reports that the 48th Eng work party is now at the bridge at Zinswiller and Gumbrechtschoffen. Capt Rickey, Co A, has been ordered to assign a squad to drain water on road Bischholts to CR 866338 to Offwiller. Lt Bridges, Co B on bridge reconnaissance to Gunderschoffen (943341) was unable to reach site due to enemy fire; however a 179th Inf Officer reports the bridge blown at this point (943341) (a 60 to 70 ft gap) and the area north of bridge is flooded.
- 1445 Tel - Lt Col Reynolds, G-3, to Lt Col Monnier: There is no change in the bridge plan.
- 1530 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Lowe: The MP commander reports traffic block at 873297 is caused by a crater and requests engineers fill this over. Lt Bridges, Co B, ordered to fill crater.
- 1550 Maj Billups, returning from Div Arty and Div Hq): Div Arty Commander (Lt Col Arnote) now has 8 inch howitzers firing on two houses which are suspected of being used as OP's by the enemy, (971291 and 971295) and is making provisions for placing continuous harassing fire along the forward edge of the woods east of Mertzwiller on every possible gun position in that area. He has also arranged for coordinated fire with infantry and the chemical mortar units to provide continual coverage of the entire zone in our immediate front. At 1730 hours, in conjunction with 180th Inf, he is arranging to stage diversion area fires on Griesbach, Gunderschoffen and Reichshoffen. Lt Col Swift CO 48th Engrs notified of infantry and artillery plans

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

At Div Hq, I contacted Col Reynolds and inquired to what extent we were to be prepared to go in obtaining crossing and he stated that he was not prepared to say. An officer from the 48th Engrs at the bridge site in Mertzwiller reports that a heavy enemy artillery concentration fell in the vicinity of the bridge site during the day. Also, an enemy demolition party en route to our bridge site was dispersed.

1558 Tel Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: There may be a change in the bridge operations for tonight, due to an enemy counter-attack now in progress. Stand by for further information.

1600 Lt Porter, Ass't S-2, obtains, from PIU, photos (4 adjacent prints of area around Reichshoffen, dated 4 Sept).

1600 Capt Rickey, Co A, reports to S-3: Co A today improved road on south side of stream from Zinswiller to Gumbrechtshoffen, and road from Zinswiller north to Oberhonn. Removed 3 tree road blocks northwest of Zinswiller. 13 booby trapped hand grenades and 2 S-mines were found on the near side of a timber road block in same vicinity.

1610 Pvt Cille, recon section, to S-3: Tank dozer (191st Tank Bn) is in Rothbach and is out of commission. Is being repaired by maintenance crew from 48th Arm'd Div. Will be repaired by 1800 and will report to Co A.

1620 Lt Foster, Ass't S-3, sent to Co C to find out details of tactical situation vic of Mertzwiller.

1625 Tel - Lt Col Swift, CO 48th Engrs, to Lt Col, Monnier: Our medical officer was looking for aid station site in Mertzwiller at 1545, when counter attack developed and infantry started to leave the town to go back into woods this side of town. He saw two of our tanks still in town (on near side of river), but all infantry seemed to be leaving.

1640 Capt Thompson, Liason C 48th Engrs, to Maj Billups: The bridge now being replaced at Zinswiller should be completed at about 1800 hours.

1930 Verbal - Lt Foster, returning from Co C reports that Capt Frank states the bridging operation for tonight is definitely off. We do not have any troops on east side of river; our infantry has dug in on this side of the river.

Lt Col Swift is informed of the situation.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
1735	Radio - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE: "Frank says no infantry on river. Digging in this side."	
1755	Tec & Nustad, water supply section, reports water point in Ingwiller closed. Three water points now in operation - Zinswiller, Bouxwiller and Pfaffenhoffen.	
1800	Radio - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: Bridge job called off for tonight.	
1805	Tel - Lt Col Swift, CO 48th Engrs, to Lt Col Monnier: Harrassing enemy artillery interfered with our work on bridge at Gumbrechtshoffen today.	
1850	Special msgr - Capt Tauscher to Maj Billups: "Bridge job called off for tonight."	
1930	Tel Maj Munson, S-3, 48th Engrs, to Maj Billups: I shall notify VI Corps that treadway equipment was removed from bridge at Zinswiller so that they can in turn notify XV Corps.	
1955	Tel - Capt Thompson (Liason O, 48th Engrs) to Maj Billups: The bridge constructed at Zinswiller is one way, class 40 and was opened for traffic at 1730 hours.	ADE notified.
2400	Tel - Capt Harrington (G-3 Office) to Maj Billups: 180th Inf has moved a platoon back across stream at Mertzwiller.	

PERIOD 0001 - 2400 7 December 1944:

Weather: Cloudy, intermittent showers.

0830	Tel - Maj Lord (G-3 Office). The 180th Inf has no troops on far side of stream at Mertzwiller. It was combat patrol they had across last night (not a platoon).	Maj Munson informed.
0835	Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: We are still getting complaints that vehicles are getting stuck in bad spot in road near Nieffern (873297).	Lt Bridges notified & he states he has a group of men working on site.
0905	Tel Lt Lipscomb, Co C to Maj Billups: At present there is not much work being done. We constructed a footbridge to put in at stream crossing at Mertzwiller and will place it as soon as the situation permits. The Bailey bridge train has returned to Co A, 48th Engrs CP at Ingwiller; there was some decking left	

behind near the bridge site.

- 1010 Tel - Sgt Little (VI Corps Engr Office) to Maj Billups: We wish to know where the officer from the 378th Engrs, wounded at Mertzwiller, was evacuated to. Maj Billups left to trace thru 45th Div Clearing Co.
- 1100 Lt Col Monnier, (returning from Div Hq) reports a change in the 45th Div sector. The Division's right boundary runs in the general direction: Engwiller north through Gumbrechtshoffen and points north. All divisional units east of Engwiller and Gumbrechtshoffen must move inside the division boundary. For the stream crossing at Niederbronn, Col Monnier suggests treadway bridge train be arranged for and held in readiness at a point below Oberbronn. Lt Col Swift Notified.
- 1125 Tel - Maj Billups, to Lt Duval (Ass't S-3 48th Engrs): The bridging operation at Mertzwiller is definitely called off. Our new boundary of operations runs approximately from 8627 in the direction of Uffenhoffen (940325). Our Div MSR will be shifted to the left and will run through our previous MSR namely, Dettwiller-Bouxwiller-Ingwiller. The present Div MSR running from Hochfelden north to Pfaffenhoffen will not be used by us.
- 1140 Tel - Capt Harrington (G-3 Office) to Maj Billups: Col O'Brien, 157th Inf CO, wants an engineer officer at his CP (Zinswiller) for a conference at 1300 hours. Maj Billups reports for conference.
- 1330 Pvt Lester, Tank Commander, reports he has brought the tank dozer here for repairs.
- 1345 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Lt Col Swift: According to operations plan, 157th objective is the high ground beyond Niederbronn (935410) and our job is to bridge the stream at Niederbronn. Lt Col Swift states that a part of the new Div MSR (Dettwiller-Frintzheim-Imbsheim) is unsuitable on account of tank traffic which has partially damaged it. His suggestion is that the road from 774162 to Steinbourg to Hattmatt to Imbsheim be used. Lt Col Schlotzhauer (G-4) approves change. Lt Col Swift Notified.
- 1405 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Lt Col Swift, CO 48th Engrs: The new Div MSR from 774162-Steinbourg Hattmatt-Imbsheim-Bouxwiller-Ingwiller-Rothbach-Offwiller and as far as Zinswiller Lt Col Swift agrees to maintain Div MSR. ADE notified

<u>TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
1500	Tel - Capt Hales, S-4, reports water point at Bouxwiller closed and a new water point established at Uhrwiller.	ADE notified
1520	Tel Maj Billups, calling from 157th Inf: Lt Smith's platoon, Co A, will make stream crossing tonight or early in the morning at Q921399, northeast of Niederbronn, for the 3rd Bn 157th Inf to cross to ground to north. Arrangements have been made for a truckload of M2 treadway to be on hand at Co A if it is needed for the crossing, although it is thought culvert will suffice. Co A has been alerted to give local security to bridge train if treadway is used. The 48th Engrs have agreed to take over maintenance of MSR Rothbach-Zinswiller. Send tank dozer from Co C to Co A.	ADE notified
1615	Tel - Div Arty to T/Sgt Huseby, S-2 section: Request use of a bulldozer to dig in guns for the 938th FA Bn supporting 158th FA Bn at 885350.	Told to contact Co A in Zinswiller for dozer.
1630	Bn CP closed at Uttwiller. (819277)	
1800	New Bn CP opened at Rothbach (849342).	
2000	Tel Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Cavalry Recon reported a crater at 865380 to Co A. Co A proceeded to commence work on this reported crater but encountered a tree road block beginning from 870372 and extending to 865380. Co B maintained the road from Uhrwiller to Engwiller and from Engwiller north to Gumbrechtschoffen. Co C is moving to Uhrwiller. The 48th Engrs have agreed to maintain the new Div MSR; in addition the road from Rothbach to Muhlhausen and the road Obermodern to Zutzendorf to Nieffern to Uhrwiller to RJ899325 to Gumbrechtschoffen. Notify the MP's to post signs for direction of traffic flow along the new Division MSR.	

PERIOD 0001-2400 8 December 1944:

Weather: Cloudy, slightly warmer, showers.

0905	Tel Capt Tauscher to Maj Billups: The Div QM requests the use of a bulldozer at Menchhoffen	Lt Bridges Co B, ordered to furnish dozer for QM
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1030

Tel Maj Darling (VI Corps Engr Sect) to Maj Lowe: Col Thomas, VI Corps Engr, requests Lt Col Monnier to be present for a meeting of all division engineers to be held in Dettwiller at 1400 hours.

1035

Tel Lt Col Schlotzhauer (G-4) to Maj Lowe: Under authority VCGG VI Corps, each infantry divisional engineer unit is authorized two tank dozers.

S-4 notified that the one tank dozer from 191st Tank Bn will be signed for on shipping ticket

1100

Tel - Maj Billups: The 157th Inf has not made any stream crossing yet.

1125

Capt Thompson (LO 48th Engrs) reports to Maj Billups for discussion of bridging plans at Niederbronn and Reichshoffen. Capt Thompson suggests that arrangements be made with 45th Div Chemical Off for laying a smoke screen at these two places to protect bridging crew.

Maj Billups contacts Capt Padgett, Div CWO and a meeting is arranged for the afternoon.

1130

Maj Billups to Maj Munson (S-3 48th Engrs) Our infantry has not crossed the stream at Niederbronn yet. Capt Snyder (CO Co A 48th Engrs) and Capt Rickey are now at the 157th CP and are keeping abreast with situation.

1245

Tel - Capt Padgett (Div CWO) to Maj Billups: According to the Corps Cml Off, the nearest chemical dump is at Epinal; this is too distant to serve any good purpose at present. However, there is a smoke generator company located now at Dortzheim and we can arrange for 300 smoke pots which should suffice for one bridging operation. The manner in which these pots are used, is six per 100 yards, the life of one pot is six minutes. My plan is to have a dummy screen going at the same time. For the other bridging operation at Reichshoffen, I can obtain more smoke pots if notice is received with sufficient time in advance. An alternate plan would be to employ the chemical mortar troops to lay a smoke screen provided their present ammunition supply is adequate.

Capt Padgett will obtain smoke pots and will inform this headquarters of their location

1320

Tel - Tec 5 Zampol, ADE sect, to Maj Billups: The 179th Inf has removed their road block at 929371, consisting of nine M1A1 mines.

1325

Maj Billups reports that the 180th Inf has requested six, eight man rubber assault boats

Capt Frank notified.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

1410	Verbal - Pvt Oille, Recon sect: Reports the bridge out at 928392. The road from Oberbronn to the bridge at 919401 is blocked by trees at two places, one at 915394 and one at 921397; the latter, as seen from a distance, being deliberate; also the trail leading to the left (915395) is blocked at its initial point. The bridge at 919401 is a timber structure and will not carry any vehicles over a 2½ ton; past this bridge, 30 yards from point of road intersection, and on roads running parallel to stream, there are two blocks.	
1510	Maj Lowe returns from Div Hq with this information: G-3 states that the 180th Inf will need a footbridge for crossing Sunday. Gen Fredericks wants an engineer plan written up to cover proposed operation. Lt Col Monnier knows the tactical plan. The field order will be out this evening. Power 6 wants this engineer plan by 1500 hours tomorrow.	
1555	Tel Maj Billups to Maj Darling, VI Corps Engr sect: We will need six, 8-man rubber boats and one hundred feet of footbridge for a stream crossing 10 December.	Maj Darling has no definite information but will make arrangements for this equipment.
1600	Tel - Capt Holland (45th Clear Co) to Maj Billups: At our present location (Bouxwiller) we have encountered a booby trap with a warning sign posted by your unit.	Lt Bridges, Co B ordered to have one of his men remove the trap.
1625	Tel Capt Lee (VI Corps Engr Supply O): Reports stream crossing equipment requested by Maj Billups is available at E-206 Epinal.	Maj Billups notifies S-4 to pick up material at Epinal.
1645	Tec 4 Nustad, water supply sect: Reports water point at Pfaffenhoffen closed and new water point opened at 897337.	ADE notified.
1745	Tel - Capt Padgett (Div CWO) to Maj Billups: There are 590 smoke pots available at Div Hq.	M/Sgt McAlarnis sent to pick up smoke pots.
1800	Lt Col Monnier (returning from Div Engrs conference at VI Corps Engr Office) reports: A French Army Major who worked on the construction of the Maginot Line will be available at VI Corps Hq for information to those units attacking the line in VI Corps sector. He has with him detailed maps, overprints and specifications	

of the various installations. The overprints are being reprinted for distribution. The two critical items of engineer supply in VI Corps are explosives and bridging material. Each division will have available for the operation 120 ft of M2 treadway and 130 ft of Bailey bridge which will be turned over to relieving units upon relief.

- 1900 Pvt Gille (Recon sect) reports capturing one prisoner from the 245th Div. There were about 60 men in his company. There are machine guns covering the bridges at 923397 and 927393. He did not know whether bridges are prepared for demolition. One Mark VI tank was seen moving on road NW from Niederbronn. At 1300 hours, the stream, as observed at 918391 is carrying very little at present. Tracer fire was observed fired from vicinity 953393 towards vicinity 940404. S-3 157th Inf is given this information upon his request.
- 2015 Tel - Capt Rickey, CO Co A, to Maj Billups: 157th Inf now has 2nd Bn on second objective. The 1st battalion did not go into town of Niederbronn. Today we swept main road NE from oberbronn as far as 919385.
- 2210 Tel Maj Billups to Capt Padgett, Div CWO: Do the infantry regiments propose to use flame-throwers when attacking the Maginot Line? If they do, we would like to know now in order to make the necessary arrangements for flame-thrower fuel.

PERIOD 0001-2400 9 December 1944:

Weather: Cloudy, cold, intermittent rains. Visibility poor

- 0830 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Bridges, Co B: Request you furnish S-4, 3-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks Send them to Uttwiller, and S-4 will pick them up at that place.
- 0835 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Co A cleared two road blocks in the vicinity of 920401. There is a wooden bridge (919401) capable of passing 1/4 ton vehicles and possibly 3/4 tons. The road NE from Oberbronn is swept as far as 919385; road Oberbronn cleared and swept to bridge at 919401. There is a crossing at the factory area and I don't know whether they crossed tanks through there or across the railroad. Co A also cleared the road from Zinswiller northwest to Untermuhlthal (857394) from which were removed tree abatis, and approximately 50 Teller mines. The craters on this road were filled. The railroad overpass this side of Niederbronn (928392) is definitely blown. Co B yesterday furnished a bulldozer for the Div QM dump at Menchhoffen.

- 0845 Radio - Maj Billups to Capt Frank, CO Co C: Furnish two 2½ ton trucks for S-4. They will be picked up by S-4 at your CP.
- 0905 Tel - Maj Billups to S-3 157th Inf: What is the tactical situation at Niederbronn. Answer: Co B is now at 928391, just outside of Niederbronn on the southwest. Companies A & C are coming down into the town from the northwest.
- 0910 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: The 1st Bn 157th Inf is now going towards the town of Niederbronn.. The bridge train (48th Engrs) is still being held in readiness in vic of the 157th CP. The 191st Tank dozer is being used; our second tank dozer is at my company CP at Offwiller. The road from Niederbronn northwest, on the north side of the stream is class A2. if it is needed. Lt Col Swift (CO 48th Engrs is informed that the bridge train has not been used as yet but is being held ready.
- 0955 Tel - S-3 191st Tank Bn to Maj Billups: When our T2 section arrived at Oberbronn yesterday to work on the tank dozer, they were unable to locate it. We now have an order from VI Corps to transfer our tank dozer on shipping ticket to your unit.
- 1025 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Frank, CO Co C: S-4 has sent trucks to Epinal to pick up the rubber assault boats and 200 ft of M1938 foot-bridge. Capt Frank disapproves of M1938 foot-bridge and prefers Infantry assault treadway. Capt Hales, S-4 notified of change; he will contact Cadet 115 to notify NCO in charge of detail.
- 1045 Tel - Maj Billups to Col Arnote (Div Arty CO): We are considering the use of a smoke screen tomorrow in the 180th Inf sector. Will this interfere with your artillery operation? Answer: This may involve a shifting of OP's, but if you will furnish us detailed information arrangements can be made so that this screen will not hinder artillery operations.
- 1115 Tel - Capt Sandelin (S-3 180th Inf): We have reverted back to the original plans and will make a crossing at Gundershoffen.
- 1500 Verbal - Lt Col Monnier reports that the 1st Bn 157th Inf has entered the town of Niederbronn and hold as far east as RJ 936389. The highway overpass at 928391 is blown and has a 20 ft gap. There is 36 ft of treadway ready to be installed but the site can not be approved because it is under enemy observation, therefore this will be installed under cover of darkness. There is an underpass under the railroad at 926392 which is too narrow for tanks but will pass small vehicles.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

The stream crossings are no problem since it runs underground in Niederbronn. The 48th Engr Bn has been notified the treadway to be installed will have to be replaced by a permanent timber structure at 028391. Division G-4 orders water points revert to battalion control tomorrow morning

- 1630 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, reports that the gap of blown highway overpass at 928391 is 26 ft 3 inches. The 48th Engrs have started to work installing the treadway bridge at this point.
- 1645 Tel - Lt Oleson, Recon O (calling from Co B): Information obtained from an infantry Lieutenant on bridge at Gundershoffen (942341) is that blown gap is 30 ft. Information obtained from civilians is that blown gap is 10 metres. This can be bridged with 45 ft of treadway.
- 1745 Tel - Maj Billups to Maj Munson, S-3, 48th Engrs: The treadway bridge over RR at Niederbronn will be completed at about 1800 hours. We have 72 ft of treadway and smoke pots available for bridge for the 179th Inf, at Gundershoffen in our dump at 910350. Q: Will you replace the treadway at Niederbronn with a timber bridge?
Ans: We are looking for material now to construct a permanent timber bridge at Niederbronn as soon as possible.
- 1800 Radio - Maj Billups to Capt Frank, CO Co C: Is Sgt Frulla here for bolts or boats?
- 1820 Radio - Capt Frank to Maj Billups: Frulla was sent for boats.
- 1815 Verbal - Pfc Bitonti, transportation sect: The stream crossing equipment sent for at Epinal is here now.
- 1845 Radio - Maj Billups to Capt Frank: Do you need manifold to inflate boats?
- 1850 Tec 4 Nustad, water supply section, reports new water point established at 908332 (Gumbrechtshoffen). Water point at 847337 (vicinity of Rothbach) was closed.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1855 Tel - Capt Hales, S-4, to Maj Billups:
Each lettered company in this battalion has
one manifold issued to them.
- 1900 Lt Oleson, Recon O, to Maj Billups: I Division G-2,
contacted a platoon commander of Co E, 179th S-2, 180th Inf,
Infantry, who informed me that the total notified.
gap of bridge at 944341 was about 30 feet.
I also spoke to a civilian resident of Gund-
ershoffen and the information he gave me
was that the bridge itself was 10 metres
long. The water on the north side of the
bridge is not over two feet deep. Further
north the water is deeper. South of the
blown bridge, at 935448, there is a foot-
bridge which has been used by the German
patrols. There was a German machine gun
set up at the intersection at 944341 firing
down the road across the bridge. This
information was turned in to S-3, 180th
Infantry.
- 1905 Capt Rickey, Co A, reports treadway Lt Col Reynolds, G-3,
bridge at Niederbronn (928392) was comp- notified.
leted at 1930 hours.
- 2010 Tel - Maj Billups, to Lt Bridges,
CO Co B: We want a small timber bridge con-
structed tomorrow at 899315 (Muhlhausen).
It does not have to exceed class 5.
- 2020 Radio - Maj Billups to Capt Frank, Co
G: Reconnaissance boats and old footbridge
is on the way to you.
- 2130 Tel - Maj Munson, S-3, 48th Engrs, to
Maj Billups: We are assigning a maint-
enance crew out of our unit to stay at the
treadway bridge at Niederbronn. Maj Billups
states that Capt Rickey's bulldozer (D-7)
will be used to construct a by-pass near the
treadway bridge to pass traffic during the
time the treadway bridge is being replaced.

PERIOD 0001-2400 10 December 1944:

Weather: Cloudy, cold; visibility poor.

- 0825 Capt Hales, S-4, reports that the stream crossing equipment sent to Capt Frank is not needed by the 180th Inf and has been returned to this Hq. Lt Col Monnier orders the equipment to be kept in 120th Engrs Dump.
- 0830 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Summary of lettered company activities for 9 Dec: D-7 repaired road for the 938th FA Bn. Co "A" swept road Oberbronn to Niederbronn and from 921400 east to CR 936389 in Niederbronn. They also assisted Co A 48th Engrs in constructing the 45 ft treadway over the blown overpass at Niederbronn. Co B checked the 45th Clearing Station quarters in Bouxwiller for booby traps at Capt Holland's request. Co C was sent some stream crossing equipment but it was not needed any longer.
- 0850 Tel - Capt Padgett (Div CWO) to Maj Billups: The Corps Chemical officer has allotted this division 24 flame throwers with 120 gallons of prepared fuel which will be stored at the Division Rear in Bouxwiller. This office will provide for the chemical warfare property, the engineer items will have to be arranged for by your organization. A recent survey indicates that Regimental commanders are not in favor of using flame-throwers on fortified positions.
- 0950 Tel - Maj Munson (S-3, 48th Engrs) to Maj Billups: Capt Snyder of Co A, located a bypass to the left of the one reported too narrow (926392). We have 72 ft of treadway bridge now west of Gumbrechtschoffen ready for the 180th's crossing.
- 1010 Tel - Capt Schroeder (S-2, 180th Inf) to Maj Billups: We have infantry and tanks across Zintzel River in factory area south of Reichshoffen, at 943358, flak fire from 20mm gun falling in vicinity of bridge site from 964361. We have called for artillery to counter this. Company A and C have crossed into southern part of Gundershoffen, where they are meeting small arms fire. They have no tanks across with them. K Co has armor across with them at 940376, and are running into TOPF mines in that vicinity. I Co has a platoon and a half at 949365, and a platoon at 953362. 50 enemy were seen moving out of Reichshoffen to the north east this morning.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1050 Tel Capt Frank, (Co C) to Maj Billups: We have a crossing below Reichshoffen, in factory area, at 944358 and tanks are passing over a concrete slab on the dam. There were eight TOFF mines found on road leading Northwest and along the stream to Reichshoffen, two of which had been run over by tanks but were not set off, indicating a possibility of defective mines. This is a gravel road Class C1. There is one platoon which will leave Gumbrechtshoffen on road east to Gundershoffen. There are now two footbridges in use below the blown bridge at Gundershoffen.
- Maj Darling,
VI Corps Engr
sect, notified.
- 1145 Tel Capt Rickey (Co A) to Maj Billups: We have bypass over railroad to west of treadway overpass at 928391. Job required only a little cutting with bulldozer. Treadway bridge can be removed, and the 48th Engrs have been notified. Road to northeast out of Neiderbronn is open to forward troops of the 157th Inf, but can not be used or worked on, in daylight because of enemy observation from the northeast. Lt Smith's platoon will work on this road.
- 1200 Lt Colonel Monnier (Returning from Div Hq): Reports that G-3 recommends we continue using crossing below Reichshoffen and not install a treadway bridge at Gundershoffen as planned. Lt Col Monnier has suggested that our Co A sweep the road on west side of the Zintzel River from Niederbronn southeast to Reichshoffen as soon as the tactical situation permits.
- 1300 Verbal - Lt Oleson, Recon O) reports locating a supply of engineer and signal materials in a factory vic of 923398, west of Niederbronn. The stock of materials consists of oxygen and acetylene tanks, steel construction beams, switches, wire, shovels, tracing tape. Previously, this factory was producing steam chests for locomotives, but was converted to an armament factory and was turning out 80mm mortar cases and projective cases for artillery shells. The road from Oberbronn east to 930372; the road from 923385 south to road intersection at 923385 are class D1.
- Col Thomas (Corps Engr) and ADE notified.
- 1425 Tel - Maj Billups (calling from Co C) to Lt Oleson: Capt Frank needs two welders with the necessary cutting equipment to work on bridge at Gundershoffen.
- Lt Sandridge
(Bn Mot O) notified and 2 men will be sent to Co C CP
- 1430 Tel - Maj Darling, (VI Corps Engr Sect) to Lt Col Monnier: Q: We have now available some new type, radar equipped, vehicle mounted, mine detector How many do you require?

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

Ans: Lt Col Monnier requests four of these

- 1510 Tel - Maj Billups calling from Co C: reports that the gap of blown bridge at Gundershoffen (944341) is 41 ft. Completion of bridge is expected to be at about 1800 hours. ADE notified
- 1620 Lt Col Monnier reports that 48 ft of treadway is being installed at (944341) Gundershoffen.
- 1710 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE: The 48th Engrs are still at work replacing treadway bridge at Niederbronn with timber bridge. VI Corps Engr (Col Thomas) notified.
- 1720 Verbal - Capt Snyder, (CO Co A, 48th Engrs) reports to Maj Billups the completion of treadway bridge at Gundershoffen (944341) at 1700 hours. Lt Col Monnier, ADE notified.
- 1725 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Maj Billups: Lt Col Swift of the 48th Engrs has requested relief of maintenance on our division secondary MSR which runs from Obermodern-Zutzendorf-Nieffern-Uhrwiller- and on to Gumbrechtshoffen.
 Lt Col Monnier believes this is feasible at present; he is of the opinion that the 48th Engrs can be assigned the MSR Zinswiller-Oberbronn-Niederbronn and down to Reichshoffen and a second route, the road Zinswiller (on the North side of the Zintzel River) to Gumbrechtshoffen to Reichshoffen.
- 1800 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: We have a report here that the road north from Gundershoffen has been swept as far as the 36 grid line. Has this been done by our Co C? Capt Frank's (Co C) report confirm this.
- 1810 Tel - Capt Frank (Co C) to Maj Billups: The treadway bridge at Gundershoffen was completed at 1700 hours. We have swept the road from Gumbrechtshoffen to Gundershoffen and south to the division boundary at 947339. There is a sign at this point, reading "Road swept to this point." We also swept the main road on the east side of the river from Gundershoffen to the road intersection in the town of Reichshoffen. The bridge at 946369 was poorly prepared for demolition and the charge set off only damaged the flooring a little. We are now repairing it. The road from Niederbronn down to Reichshoffen was cleared by the infantry only. There are still some road blocks on the road through the town of Reichshoffen but we will get those in the morning. We found some "S" mines at Gundershoffen on the right side of the bridge and marked them off, they will be removed tomorrow. Tomorrow we will be able to push ahead and are to make a bridge reconnaissance around the town of Woerth. At Gundershoffen, on

The south side of the town, there was a road block from which were removed some charges. The road from Gundershoffen-Reichshoffen-Niederbronn is Class A2.

- 1925 Tel - Maj Carroll (S-3, 157th Inf) to Maj Billups: There is a road block reported at 960414; at 962414 a small bridge is reported out and about 200 yards ahead there is another bridge reported out also. Our infantry has swept up to 964415. Altogether, our infantry has picked up 17 TOPF mines. Col Thomas (VI Corps Engr) and Lt Col Monnier notified.
- 1930 Tel - Capt Rickey, CO Co A) to Maj Billups: We have swept the main road north from Niederbronn as far as 960414, and found a total of six TOPF mines, two of which were on the trails leading off into the woods. This road is class A1½. On the road south of Niederbronn towards Reichshoffen we did not sweep any part of it, however, we will perform this work tomorrow. The road leading northwest from Niederbronn, has been swept as far as 942403. Lt Col Monnier, Capt Tauscher, ADE, and Col Thomas (VI Corps Engr) notified.
- 1940 Tel - Lt Bridges (Co B) to Maj Billups: We constructed a bridge at Mulhausen as requested, and removed two abatis road blocks (921401) from the main road leading west from Niederbronn, but there were some AT mines left there for the infantry to lay a block with. Lt Col Monnier, and ADE notified.
- 2350 Tel - Lt Etherton, Co A, to Maj Billups, calling from the 157th Inf CP: Infantry is in Jaegerthal. Bridge there has a 21 foot gap, is in center of town. There is a ford suitable for tanks but other vehicles cannot cross. 36 feet of treadway will be needed for bridge. 36 ft of treadway ordered from 48th Engrs. Sent to 157th Inf CP to meet Lt Etherton for guide to job.

PERIOD 0001-2400 11 December 1944:

Weather: Cloudy, cold, intermittent rain.

- 0030 Tel - Lt Duval (Ass't S-3, 48th Engrs) to Maj Billups: Detachment of Co A 48th Engrs with 36 ft of treadway bridge will report at your CP. They will be on the way shortly. Capt Weiss (VI Corps Engr sect) Capt Thompson (LO 48th Engrs) notified
- 0735 Tel - Sgt Gregor (S-3 Sect 157th Inf): We have had no reports on the bridge situation in Jaegerthal.
- 0835 Verbal - Maj Munson (S-3 48th Engrs) reports to Maj Billups he is now going to the bridge at Jaegerthal. Today, by 1000 hours, the treadway bridge at Niederbronn (928392) will be completely removed and ready for use elsewhere.

0945

Tel Capt Tauscher, ADE to Maj Billups: Division headquarters requests a house checked and cleared of booby traps in Reichshoffen (951367) The engineer party going there will either meet a guide in the town or will find a sign posted indicating location. Treadway bridge at Jaegerthal was completed at about 0600.

1000

Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: G-3 reports that the 157th and the 180th Infantry's motorized elements are on their objectives; also that there is no need of attaching our engineers to them but they are wanted in close support, with most emphasis on the 180th Inf. I informed him that at the present there exists a shortage of bridging material.

Maj Billups states that there is now 48 ft of treadway ready for use.

1005

Radio - To Co B (Lt Bridges): Send party to sweep Division CP. Guide or signs pointing to building will be at RJ 951367. Complete work by noon.

1010

Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Lee (VI Corps Engr Supply Officer): The 48th Engrs, with the assistance of the 180th Engrs, laid 24 ft of treadway at Jaegerthal. This was completed at 0600 hours.

Lt Duval (Ass't S-3 48th Engrs) informed; he will notify the CO, Lt Col Swift.

1035

Verbal - Lt Cohen, Co B, to Maj Billups: Co B CP is now located at Oberbronn.

1040

Tel - Lt Col Reynolds (G-3) to Maj Billups: Your engineer companies will have to keep in close contact with the 180th and the 157th Infantry. There is very little enemy opposition, therefore, their motorized elements will drive towards the second objective. Give the 180th Inf priority in bridging material.

Maj Munson (S-3 48th Engrs) & Lt Bridges, Co B notified.

1045

Tel - Capt Schroeder (S-2, 180th Inf) to Maj Billups: The tactical situation is this: Our infantry is as far as the town of Froeschwiller around which was encountered very little opposition; there were just a few enemy personnel in the town and on the outskirts. Maj Billups would like for Capt Frank to be notified that there is 48 ft of treadway available and possibly 96 ft, by dark.

1055

Tel - Maj Munson (S-3 48th Engrs) to Maj Billups: The treadway bridge installed at Jaegerthal was not necessary, due to the fact that the stream is only 7 or 8 inches deep. Forging of the stream by all vehicles could have been performed by the infantry's pioneer platoons. Capt Snyder will be able to commence work replacing this treadway bridge at Jaegerthal at about 1200 hours, the tactical situation permitting.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- The treadway bridge at Niederbronn has been removed and was sent back to our Co A; it is available for whenever needed. I don't know when the treadway bridge at Gundershoffen will be removed.
- 1110 Verbal - Tec 5 Dutton (Recon section) reports road from the point 961425 south to a point 964410 is a class Bl $\frac{1}{2}$.
- 1130 Radio - Maj Billups to Lt Bridges, CO Co B: "Do you have a telephone?"
- 1135 Tel Maj Munson (S-3 48th Engrs) to Maj Billups: I have a report here stating that there are some trees blocking the road leading to bridge at Jaegerthal and there are still possibly some mines around these blocks. Can you have someone clear them?
 Answer: Yes. Our Co A will be able to perform this work.
- 1150 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Bridges, Co B: Send a detail of men to check the proposed division CP at Reichshoffen (951367). There will either be a guide or a sign indicating location.
 Lt Bridges states that at present one platoon is going to put in some road blocks for the 1st Bn 179th Inf; he also states there were four TOPF mines found.
- 1155 Radio - Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: There is no telephone at the company, but you can still reach me here at the 179th CP.
- 1215 Verbal - Lt Col Monnier reports locating structural members for bridging and wire cable in a factory south of Reichshoffen (943359). Inventory will be made of stock. An abatis road block reported at 970380 will be removed by our Co C.
- 1230 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE to Lt Foster (Ass't S-3): Division CP is moving to Reichshoffen at 1315 hours. Q: Do you have any information on the clearance of the road Niederbronn-Reichshoffen?
 Ans: No, we do not have any information.
- 1300 Tel - Maj Munson (S-3 48th Engrs) to Maj Billups: We have 48 ft of treadway and 2 squads of men ready for the 180th Infantry.
- 1315 Tel - Lt Smith, Co A, to Maj Billups: I have reconnoitered the road from bridge at Jaegerthal north and south to a point 968414. This is a good Bl $\frac{1}{2}$ road. The infantry has advanced cross country mostly.

Tec 5
 Dutton,
 Recon Sect
 confirms this
 report.

Maj Billups in-
 forms Capt Tausch-
 er that the engr
 party may not have
 CP cleared by 1315
 hours.

CO informed.

TIMEREMARKS

- 1330 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Maj Darling, VI Corps Engr Section): We have located some engineer materials in a wire cable factory south of Reichshoffen (vic 943359). Am taking an inventory and will inform your office
- Bridge problems will arise when the town of Woerth is taken and we do not expect to construct any bridges.
- Maj Darling does not believe we will have to do any bridge construction there.
- The 48th Engrs have been allotted 24 ft of additional treadway today.
- 1335 Tel Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: The main road from Niederbronn to Reichshoffen has been swept for mines; the road Niederbronn north to Jaegerthal has been swept as far as 964413; Lt Smith, Co A, has swept the main road north and south to a point 968414.
- There were approximately 18 mines removed from the road Niederbronn to Reichshoffen.
- Maj Billups has ordered Capt Rickey to remove the treadway from the bridge at Jaegerthal, and to construct a temporary bypass until the 48th Engrs are able to construct a permanent structure there. Maj Billups informs Capt Rickey that there will be no treadway equipment available for his company supporting the 157th Inf; priority will be given to Co C, now supporting the 180th Inf.
- 1350 Tel - Lt Col Monnier, to Maj Munson: Q: We have information here that VI Corps Engr has authorized your organization an additional 24 ft of treadway. How much will you have on hand now?
- Ans: We will have 72 ft of treadway.
- 1635 Verbal - Pvt Oille, recon sect: Road Reichshoffen-Fwoeschwiller is class A2-; road (east side of river) Reichshoffen south to Gundershoffen is class A2-; and the road Gundershoffen (on north side of river) west to Gumbrechtshoffen is class B1-.
- 1640 Verbal - Tec 4 Mustad, Water Supply Sect, reports: A new water point established at (938388) Niederbronn, at 1700 hours.
- 1720 Tel - Maj Billups to Maj Munson, S-3 48th Engrs): The 24 ft of treadway installed at Jaegerthal have been removed. We would like for your organization to pick it up now.
- 1750 Tel - Maj Billups to Sgt Smith, G-4 Sect: The traffic flow of the division thru the route Gumbrechtshoffen northeast to Reichshoffen is too heavy; we suggest that the traffic be directed

Lt Col Monnier,
Maj Munson (S-3,
48th Engrs)
notified.

through the route Zinswiller-Oberbronn-Niederbronn-Reichshoffen.

1800

Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups:
We constructed a bypass around the treadway bridge at Jaegerthal.

The road leading north from Reichshoffen was cleared as far as the edge of the woods (954389); this is a class Bl $\frac{1}{2}$ road; this road will be completed tomorrow.

Lt Smith is now at work removing road blocks on the north side of Nehwiller, but there has not been any reports yet.

1825

Tel - Maj Munson (S-3, 48th Engrs) to Maj Billups: The treadway bridge at Gundershoffen will be replaced tomorrow, beginning at 0730 hours; completion is expected to be at about 1200 hours.

Request you arrange for MP's to divert traffic flow Gumbrechtshoffen northeast to Reichshoffen.

1835

Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, "DE:
Request you contact G-4 and recommend division traffic flows from Zinswiller-Oberbronn-Niederbronn to relieve congestion on route Gumbrechtshoffen northeast to Reichshoffen. Also arrange for MP's to divert traffic flow from Gumbrechtshoffen northeast to Reichshoffen while Corps Engineers replace treadway bridge at Gundershoffen. Inform VI Corps Engineer office of the work done today: The road Niederbronn north to Jaegerthal to the edge of the woods at 971410, class Bl $\frac{1}{2}$, and was swept to this point; road swept from Niederbronn to Reichshoffen east to Froeschwiller, class A2; the road swept from Reichshoffen north to the edge of the woods at 955389 is class Bl $\frac{1}{2}$; a road from Reichshoffen (953370) north and joins another road at 953380, was swept. Our Co A removed the treadway from bridge at Jaegerthal and constructed a bypass nearby.

Notify the Corps Engineer office that behind the building where their sign was posted there is a railroad shop and quantities of machine tools and that it is a suitable location for an Army RR. There are also two lumber yards in the vicinity.

1925

Tel Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: G-3 and G-4 approve of replacement of treadway bridge tomorrow; the Corps Engineer may have to furnish their own men for MP's until Div MP's arrive because at present G-4 is having difficulty contacting the MP's.

The General disapproves of routing division traffic north around Niederbronn on account of the intermittent enemy artillery on that road.

Lt Col Swift
(CO 48th
Engrs)
notified.

- 2040 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups:
The 180th Infantry is to have patrols as far as the Bieberach river tonight. The 157th Infantry is to continue advance tomorrow.
The 411th Infantry (103rd Div) is in the town of Woerth, but they were not sure whether the bridges were in.
- 2230 Tel - Capt Thompson (48th Engrs) to Maj Billups: We will have 96 ft of treadway on hand by noon tomorrow, plus 48 ft on two trucks which are not in running order. We will have finished timber bridge at Jaegerthal by sometime tomorrow, though job is taking longer than we thought, because stream bed is soft and we are having difficulty placing bent. Our Co A will move to Niederbronn tomorrow
- Maj Billups, suggests Capt Frank be notified to have engrs accompany inf patrols to bridge at 006393

PERIOD 0001-2400 12 December 1944:

- 0830 Weather: Clear to partly cloudy, cold, intermittent rain.
to visibility fair to clear
1000 m Bn CP moving from Rothbach to Reichshoffen.
- 1015 Capt Frank, Co C, reported to Maj Lowe with the information that the 103rd Division Engineers had not built any bridges in Woerth. He had seen Gen Frederick, and the general said that if the 103rd Division Engineers do not start right away, the 45th Division Engineers would build the bridge.
- 1115 Tel Maj Billups, S-3 (Calling from ADE Office) to Maj Lowe: Lt Col Monnier, General Frederick and the CO of the 180th Inf have just completed a conference and it was decided that we would proceed with bridge construction at Woerth. Bailey Bridge has been ordered from VI Corps and the train is on the way; it will be two hours before it reaches the bridge site. The 103rd Division Engineers were contacted by telephone and they state that their treadway bridge train is on the way or at the bridge site now and that they plan to go ahead with the bridge. Lt Col Monnier has left for Woerth to find out what the situation is. Maj Billups asks that one truck load of smoke pots be alerted and held at the CP.
- 1200 Tel - Lt Col Monnier called ADE and informed Maj Billups that the 103rd Div Engrs are on the bridge site and are starting bridge construction, therefore we will not have to build any bridge.
- Capt Frank notified that Col Monnier is out looking for him. Capt Frank returned to CP to meet him.

Alert called off on smoke pots. Arrangements are being made to stop VI Corps Bailey Bridge train.

1250 Verbal - Maj Billups returning from Companies A, B, and C and 180th Inf CP reports: Co A swept roads Reichshoffen north to Jaegerthal east to Nehwiller, then north and east to RJ 989413 at which point a road block was reported. One man Pvt Chiviwi, was wounded as a result of enemy artillery yesterday. Co B removed one road block at 900404 this morning; yesterday they removed one at 908406. They were instructed this morning to clear the road Reichshoffen northeast to Nehwiller for use of the artillery; this road is a class A2.

Information obtained at the 180th Inf CP was that the bridge reported at 997393 is a culvert. It is intact and capable of supporting tanks. The bridge at 006343 is out. One battalion of the 180th Inf is to cross bridge at Woerth and tanks will follow route as soon as possible. Captain Frank, Co C, reported there were two blown bridges (vic Woerth). One is a 61 ft gap another just beyond with a 20 ft gap, and there was no one at work there. Col Dulaney, CO 180th Inf, ordered for Capt Frank to start construction there.

Capt Frank and Maj Billups conferred with G-3 on bridging problems. At that time, Col Monnier reported the information that the 103rd division did not have bridging equipment necessary for operation. 70 ft of bailey bridge were asked for from VI Corps Engineer; soon thereafter, the ADE (103rd Div) informed Maj Billups that construction of bridge at Woerth had been started.

1345 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Rickey, Co A: Sweep road from Nehwiller (980406) south to Froeschwiller (986384).

1425 Verbal - Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: The main road leading northwest from Niederbronn has been swept to the shoulder to a point to 883417; from this point to 920400 road has not been swept to the shoulders.

1500 Tel Capt Padgett (Div CWO) to Maj Billups: We now have on hand 12 flame throwers, one mixing and one full fueling kit, 100 gallons of prepared fuel and 16 3/4 pound packages of NaPalm mixture. Three of these flame throwers were filled with NaPalm but no nitrogen or hydrogen. These are items of engineer supply and must be obtained thru the engineers.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1530 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE to Lt Col Monnier:
The bridge under construction at Gundershoffen was reported in at 1400 hours.
- 1620 Tel - Maj Billups, to Col Arnote, CO Div Arty):
The road from Reichshoffen (953371) north to Nehwiller (on the east side of the stream) will be open by 1800 hours. The road from a point 954376 north is in bad condition for about 500 yards. If any heavy traffic is to be routed over this road, a bridge will be required at the stream crossing. Capt Tauscher, ADE, notified.
- 1625 Verbal - Tec 4 Nustad (Water supply section) reports new water point established at Reichshoffen (948373). Water point at Rothbach (847337) closed. Maj Brogan, (S-4, 180th Inf) notified.
- 1630 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE:
The bridge at 006394 is reported out and the gap is 65 ft. We have a bailey bridge train ready.
- 1650 Tel - S-3, 180th Inf to Maj Billups:
General Butler wants a bridge installed at 006394 and he wants the road from Woerth to Goersdorf opened.
Maj Billups informs Capt Sandelin that this work is being done now.
- 1700 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups:
The blown bridge at 006394 was a 55 ft timber structure. Culverts can be placed on site to pass traffic. Lt Col Monnier does not want the site damaged; culverts will be installed beside bridge site.
- 1710 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Thompson, LO 48th Engrs: We have a bypass around the bridge site at 006394. I hope the bridge train has not left.
Capt Thompson believes bridge train has left. The 48th Engrs have a reconnaissance party going to the bridge site at 006394. Maj Billups states our Recon Off is in that vic and suggests both parties join and reconnoiter to the bridge site beyond 006394.
- 1750 Tel - Maj Billups to Maj Munson, S-3 48th Engrs: The Bailey bridge train was reported passing thru the town of Reichshoffen.
- 1850 Tel - Lt Col Swift, CO 48th Engrs) to Maj Billups: We have a report that the bridge train is returning from Woerth.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

1855	Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE to Maj Billups: Our tank dozer with Co A, is now at Nehwiller and is in need of repairs.	Capt Rickey is notified by Maj Billups that mechanics will be sent to repair dozer.
1900	Tel - Capt Thompson (LO 48th Engrs) to Maj Billups: Maj Munson will try to stop the Bailey bridge train. Lt Col Swift suggests someone from your unit be sent to stop train and have it stand by in case it is needed further ahead.	Lt Foster (ass't S-3 sent to contact bridge train. A later report indicates bridge train is in WOERTH.
1905	Tel - Capt Frank, Co C to Maj Billups: The next bridge at 016400 is reported out and infantry is reported 800 yards beyond this point. Capt Frank has suggested Lt Prestwood, Co C, contact Capt Snyder, CO Co A 48th Engrs, and show him the route to the next blown bridge.	
1940	Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: The tank dozer is at the north edge of the town of Nehwiller. The road from Nehwiller to Froeschwiller has been swept for mines. This is a class Cl $\frac{1}{2}$ road.	Lt Bridges, Co B, notified.
1925	Tel - Lt Foster to Maj Billups: I am holding the 48th Engr bridge train at Froeschwiller.	Maj Billups suggests Capt Snyder call Maj Munson at 48th Engr CP.
1955	Tel - S-3 Div Arty to Maj Billups: Request information on road from RJ 989369 east to Woerth and from RJ 989309 North to main road.	ADE asked to contact ADE 103rd Engrs for this information.
2010	Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE to Maj Billups: The road from RJ 989369 east to Woerth has been cleared and is a class Cl $\frac{1}{2}$. There is no information on the road north from RJ 989369 to the main road.	S-3 Div Arty notified.
2025	Tel - Div G-2 to S/Sgt O'Neill, S-2 sect: 160th FA Bn reported to Div Arty town of Langensculzbach heavily mined with glass and plastic mines.	Lt Bridges, Co B informed.
2030	Tel - Lt Foster (calling from 160th Inf CP) Capt Snyder has returned to 48th Engr CP but bridge train commander is remaining at Froeschwiller with the bridge train	Lt Duval (Ass't S-3, 48th Engrs) notified.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 2035 Lt Oleson - Recon Officer, to Maj Billups:
Gap of blown bridge at 016399 is 70 ft.
- 2200 Maj Billups returning from a conference with Lt Thuring, Co C informed of plan
Lt Col Monnier: Division G-3 states that it is essential bridge at 016399 be installed tonight, as some changes in plans have occurred.
Lt Col Swift, CO 48th Engrs, was notified Lt Bridges, Co B informed of plan.
Company A will be permitted to sleep until 0400 hours and construction of bridge will start at dawn. They expect to complete the bridge by 0800 hours. This plan met with approval of division G-3.
We will have an officer guide at the 180th infantry CP at 0430 hours to guide the bridge train to the bridge site over the best route.
Co C is to clear the road between 007393 and the bridge site at 016399.
- 2205 Radio - Maj Billups to Capt Frank, Co C:
Have officer guide at 180th Inf CP at 0430 hours.
Clear road and bridge site at 016399.
- 2210 Tel - Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups:
The road from Reichshoffen (953370) north and east to Nehwiller is open.
Maj Billups requests Lt Bridges furnish a detail for the purpose of checking the proposed Div CP at Langensoultzbach tomorrow morning. Detail to report to Capt Tauscher, ADE, at present CP site in Reichshoffen.
- 2240 Tel - Col Arnote, CO Div Arty, to Maj Billups: Request information on roads Froeschwiller north to Langensoultzbach.
Ans: This road has been cleared by the engineers.
- 2245 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, calling from the 180th Inf CP, to Maj Billups: Culverts have been placed to the left of the blown bridge at 006393 but there is still some work being done on it and should be completed at about 0200 hours.
Capt Thompson, (LO 48th Engrs) informed.
Capt Frank states that he does not have any officer guide for the Bailey bridge train but will sweep the bridge site at 006393 and a place nearby for a turn-around for the trucks.
Lt Oleson, Recon O, will guide the bridge train to site.
- 2250 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Frank, Co C:
Lt Oleson, Recon Officer, will guide the bridge train to site.

PERIOD 0001-2400 13 December 1944:

- er: Cloudy and cold; visibility, fair
- 0040 Tel - Lt Col Swift (CO 48th Engrs) to Lt Col Monnier: Bridging operations at 016399 has not been started on account of enemy activity in vicinity of bridge site. Infantry patrols killed some Germans on the bridge site. Bailey Bridge train is now back at 007393. Col Dulaney, CO 180th Inf contacted report on Germans confirmed but he says they are stragglers.
- 0820 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, reports one 2½ ton truck struck a TOPF mine in Langensultzbach; there were no casualties, but the rear end on the truck was damaged. There were 41 TOPF mines picked up in the town of Langensultzbach. CWO Flanagan, 2nd Lt Bn motor Officer, notified.
- 0830 Tel - Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: We are repairing the road Reichshoffen (953370) to Nehwiller, this morning. Maj Billups requests Lt Bridges furnish a reinforced squad for security of bailey bridge crew at 016399; clear road Froeschwiller south to RJ889369; road Langensultzbach (east side of stream) down to the next bridge at 007393; also check town of Langensultzbach for mines.
- 0840 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Co A has a group supporting each battalion of the 157th Inf. The road Nehwiller-Langensultzbach has been cleared; road Langensultzbach southeast cleared to 006404. One truck was damaged by a TOPF mine in Langensultzbach. Co B cleared road Niederbronn northwest to 890407; infantry patrols went into Philippshourg. Installed road block at 961425 (north of Jaegerthal); cleared road from Nehwiller southwest to Reichshoffen (953373). Co C cleared road Froeschwiller-Woerth-north to bridge site at 016400; also road Froeschwiller north and east to factory at 000400. Road cleared from 011376 north to Goersdorf north and east to bridge at 016400; cleared road as far north from Froeschwiller as 006392. Culverts for a bypass were installed to the left of blown timber bridge at 007393.
- 0945 Tel - Lt Col Monnier (calling from 180th Inf CP): The bailey bridge at 016399 is in. Requirements were only 40 ft of bridging. There is a road block reported 100 yards ahead; the bridge beyond is reported out and is somewhat similar to the one at 016399. Another bridge is reported out at 034436 and culverts can be used on this site. Maj Billups cancels outpost security squad previously ordered for Bailey Bridge. M/Sgt McAlarnis delivered 1 steel culvert to Co C

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

There is a Schu minefield reported at 020410; another minefield (type not reported), located at 003390.

Lt Bridges, B, ordered to clear minefield

A timber bridge is being constructed over blown bridge site at 006393

1040

Tel - Lt Peak, Co A to Maj Billups: The only work we are doing at present is Lt Etherton's platoon sweeping road north out of Langensoultzbach as far as woods at R000421. Infantry reported mines on this road. Lt Smith is waiting here for any work requests that might come in from the infantry. No one as yet has worked on road from Langensoultzbach to Mattstall.

Maj Billups: Have someone put on road to Mattstall; as it will be needed by tonight, clear it as far as you can go. As far as stream crossing at R011423, all it needs is mine sweeping. Bridge is out at 0241, and Lt Thuring Co C, found Schu mines there. His clearing party will meet yours in Mattstall.

1100

Tel: Pvt Hirschman (G-2 Office) to T/Sgt Huseby, S-2 Section): Troop A, 121 Cav Rcn, reports road block with anti-tank and AP mines 2½ kilometers east of Baerenthal.

1110

Tel - Captain from Div Arty Air OP reports booby traps in at least two of the houses at 937354. Booby traps are reported to be hand grenades, possibly American. We have signs on houses, but would like to get them cleared for use.

1120

Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: Div Ordnance shop is moving up to factory area south of Reichshoffen and would like to have us repair bridge there. I suggest that all that is needed is to fill in tracks with boards. Have someone meet man from Ordnance at my office at 1245 to go and look over job to see what can be done.

Maj Billups: Cannot promise that job will be done, but will send Lt Foster to your office at 1245. Lt Col Monnier reports 36 ft of treadway will be put at R020410. Lt Thuring is removing road blocks near bailey bridge at R015400.

1150

Tel - Pvt Hirschman (G-2 Sect) to T/Sgt Huseby, S-2 section: Troop A, 121st Cav Rcn reports mines on road vic Q825437.

1345

Radio - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: Company moving to 995392.

1350

Radio - Maj Lowe, Exec O, to Capt Rickey:

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- Phone CP without delay.
- 1410 Tel - Lt Foster, Ass't S-3, to Maj Erwin, Ass't G-4: I have looked over the job at the factory area south of Reichshoffen and estimate that it will take one platoon about 4 hours work to do the necessary work. At present, a fire has started and is endangering all the buildings in the area.
- Maj Erwin states that civilian fire dept has been notified and they will attempt to extinguish the fire. Maj Billups, and ADE notified.
- 1510 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Foster, Ass't S-3: Contact Capt Rickey, Co , by the best means available and instruct him to commence work on bridge at 011424 as soon as possible.
- Maj Billups is informed that Mr Flanagan and mechanics from 191st Tank Bn could find nothing wrong with the tank dozer and that the crew from Co A had not returned to their tank at the time Mr Flanagan last saw the dozer.
- 1520 Radio - Lt Foster, Ass't S-3 to Capt Rickey: Bridge out at 011424; 8 ft gap. Proceed to work at once.
- 1550 Radio - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Lt Foster: Repairs being made.
- 1600 Lt Foster, Ass't S-3, reports: The commander of Tank dozer No 2 was here at the CP. I sent him to contact Mr Flanagan to find out what arrangements had been made about getting motor replaced in the tank. He was also instructed that his complete crew was not to desert the tank in the future as they did this time.
- 1615 Mines and booby traps Officer from 7th Army Headquarters at Bn CP seeking information on any new types of mines, booby traps and firing devices that we have contacted in this sector.
- 1620 Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Treadway bridge at 020410 was completed and opened for traffic at 1530 hours.
- Timber bridge replacing culverts at 006393 and will be completed by about 2400 hours.
- Co C cleared road from the bailey bridge at 016399 north as far as 033435; and the road leading north from the fork at 020410 was swept as far as the south edge of the town of Mattstall.
- Co A has swept road Langensultzbach north-east to the bridge at 011424; also road Langensultzbach north and east to a point northwest to Mattstall (009438).

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

Capt Tauscher informed Maj Billups that CIC has reported some mines located in the town of Reichshoffen. These mines are to be found in chateau of Count de Leusse, near the stream. Some of the mines are still in crates and it is believed there are some planted in the area.

Maj Billups requests Capt Tauscher contact Div G-4 and ask that the 180th Infantry MP's now posted on bailey bridge (016394) and treadway bridge (020410) be relieved by Div MP's.

The road Woerth northeast to Goersdorf is class B2; road from 020410 north to Mattstall is class D1; road from 016399 to Langensultzbach is class B2; road Langensultzbach northeast to Mattstall is class D1.

1700

Tel - Maj Darling (VI Corps Engr Office) to Maj Billups:

A: Do you still have on hand a footbridge which is not in use. If you do, we would like to let the 79th Div use it?

1715

Tel - Maj Billups, to Maj Darling: Footbridge is now located at out dump west of Gumbrechtshoffen (910350).

1800

Tel - Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: The road Froeschwiller northeast to 006393 has been swept and 11 TOPF mines were removed. The minefield reported (003390) actually began at 004391 and extended across the main road. It was fenced off with heavy smooth German wire and German danger signs.

The road from Froeschwiller south to 989369 and road Langensultzbach, on east side of stream, down to 006393 have been swept as requested.

Maj Billups requests Lt Bridges furnish one platoon tomorrow to work in factory area south of Reichshoffen as requested by Div Ord. The platoon will report to Lt Foster.

1805

Radio - Maj Billups to Capt Rickey, Co A: Send tank dozer to Bn CP.

1810

Radio - Co A to Maj Billups: Message "Send tank dozer to Bn CP received."

1845

Radio - Capt Rickey, Co A to Maj Billups: We do not know whereabouts of tank dozer.

1850

Radio - Maj Billups to Capt Rickey, Co A: "Where is tank dozer crew"?

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

1855

Tel - S-3 Div Arty to Maj Billups: Request following road information: road Langensoultzbach northeast to Mattstall; road from 020410 north to Mattstall and trails leading from this road.

Ans: Road Langensoultzbach northeast to Mattstall is a poor road; at present a culvert is being installed at 011424 and road will be open in the morning. The road from 020410 north to Mattstall is swept to south edge of town only. The trails leading from this road have not been swept and are marked off.

1955

Radio - Capt Rickey, Co A to Maj Billups: Tank dozer crew is back at old CP in Niederbronn.

1800

Radio - Major Billups to Capt Rickey: Has Lt Smith installed culvert?

2025

Radio - Capt Rickey, Co A to Maj Billups: Lt Smith finished culvert at 1830 hours.

Capt Tauscher
ADE, notified.

2030

Radio - Maj Billups, to Capt Rickey: Did Lt Smith sweep road from culvert east to town?

2050

Radio - Capt Rickey to S-3: Yes, road swept from culvert to Mattstall.

2150

Radio - S-3 to Co A: Is tank dozer at your company now?

2235

Tel - Lt Fink (duty off, S-3 Sect, 180th Inf): 2nd Bn 180th Inf has a road block to remove tomorrow morning. Request use of a tank dozer; would like to have it report at 2nd Bn CP at 0700 hours.

2235

Radio - Co A to Maj Billups: "CO thought you had taken care of it."

2240

Radio - Maj Billups to Capt Frank, Co C: Have someone contact 180th about tomorrow's operations.

2300

Radio operator reports no contact with Co C:

M/Sgt McAlar-
nis, S-3 sect,
delivered
message to Capt
Frank at
Freeschwiller
at 0330 hours.

PERIODA 0001-2400 14 December 1944:

0330 r: Clear to partly cloudy, cold; visibility fair.
M/Sgt McAlarnis (S-3 Sect) sent to notify Capt Frank at Froeschwiller to have tank dozer report to 2nd Bn 180th Inf CP at 0700 hours.

0905 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE:
Company A opened road from Langensoultzbach (998410) north to 994430 and east to the edge of woods at 998437, then east to 008438; road Langensoultzbach northeast to Mattstall (017430); installed culvert at 010424.

Company B swept road from Langensoultzbach south to 007393 and from Niederbronn northwest to 890407 and cleared from Froeschwiller south to 889369; repaired road from Nehwiller southwest to Reichshoffen.

Company C cleared the road from the bypass at 006393 to the edge of the woods at 035435 and from 020410 to the south edge of Mattstall (910410); prepared a hasty bridge east of 021410 for 1/4 ton vehicle traffic early before the bridge was installed.

The 48th Engrs have constructed the following bridges in our sector: a bridge at 006393, timber structure, 3 bents, estimated time of completion about 2400 hours. They started work on a bridge at 016400, completed bailey bridge there at 0930 hours; installed 36 ft of treadway at 020410 at 1530 hours.

Forty one TOPF mines were removed in Langensoultzbach.

121st Recon reports a road block mined with both anti-personnel and anti-tank mines in the vicinity of 865429.

Div Arty reports house booby trapped with American hand grenades in Reichshoffen (937534).

There are Schu mines under the railroad ties at 020410 along the railroad.

Lt Emmons, 180th Inf. mine platoon reports discovery of a new mine. He describes it as being approximately 10" diameter, 3 to 4 inches thick with steel body similar to a Teller mine but it had a TOPF mine igniter. This was found in building at 005403 along with S mine cases.

0940 Radio - Lt Bridges, Co B to Maj Billups: Intend to move today. Our CP is at Froeschwiller.

1005 Tel - S-2 157th Inf to T/Sgt Huseby, S-2 sect: We are now using road R-15428-R013439-R006438; this road is good for all traffic.

The trail from 006438-009442-007444-015449-013454-015458-015456-018458 is good for 1/2 ton vehicles. There is a culvert at 013454 capable of passing all traffic.

There is an enemy road block at 026470 and is covered by fire.

40 Switchboard operator to Maj Billups: Our telephone communication with 48th Engrs have been out since last night.

1100 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to T/Sgt Huseby, S-2 section: 180th Inf found an EZ 44 pressure release clockwork igniter in their sector. At present it is at Co C, and will be passed on to B and A Co, and then sent to VI Corps Engr. I will notify VI Corps Engr and G-2.

1120 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to T/Sgt Huseby, S-2 section: Lt Col Monnier reports bridge at R034436 is intact. Bridge in Lembach is partly demolished. Lt Col Monnier wants reconnaissance of bridge in Lembach and to have the 48th Engrs alerted for bridge train there.

Radio Msg to Lt Oleson, Ron C; "Want information on bridge in vic 039439".

1140 Messenger - Tec 5 Kricsfalusi (S-2 Sect to CO 48th Engrs: Alert for possible bridge job in Lembach. Infantry now in town. Main bridge partly demolished. No information on others. Our recon there now.

1230 Maj Billups reports that bridge in Lembach is passing traffic. One of the bridges is partly demolished.

G-3, Lt Moore (S-3 180 Inf) VI Corps Engr notified.

1235 Tel - Lt Moore, S-3 180th Inf, to Lt Col Monnier: Col Dulaney, CO 180th Inf, wants roads Lembach-Wingen and Lembach Northeast cleared.

1240 Messenger - Tec 5 Kricsfalusi, S-2 section, returns from 48th Engrs CP with message: Our forward recon reported bridge in Lembach as passing tank traffic; report was in as of 1100 hours. Signed: Maj Munson (S-3).

1245 Radio - Maj Billups to Capt Frank, Co C: Contact 180th Inf about road clearing from town.

1250 Tel - Maj Billups to Maj Darling, VI Corps Engr section: The M1938 footbridge has not been picked up from our Engr Dump yet. Maj Darling informs Maj Billups that the 79th Division has no need for it. It is decided that footbridge be returned to VI Corps Engr dump at 962275 south of Mettzwiller

- 1305 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups:
Request information on road Mattstall to Lembach:
I have information reported that there are three road blocks on main road leading northwest of Lembach and would like to use the tank dozer to remove them.
- 1315 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Sandelin, S-3 180th Inf: Q: Have you any information on the road Mattstall-Lembach?
A: I have information that the road has been cleared as far as the edge of the woods (032437) but beyond that I have no further information; I have no information on the bridge at this point (032437).
- 1320 Tel - Tec 5 Dutton, recon sect, calling from the 180th Inf CP to Maj Billups: The main road on east side of stream is cleared into Lembach and the bridges therein are not blown; there is one squad of our Co C working in the town now. Traffic has been coming into town on the road from Mattstall (west side of stream).
Maj Billups has requested Tec 5 Dutton make a check of the roads leading north and NE from Lembach.
- 1325 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Rickey, Co A: The main road on the east side of the stream into Lembach is now open; traffic was seen moving into Lembach over the road from Mattstall.
I will contact Capt Frank and arrange for a tank dozer.
- (Addition to entry of 1230 hours): The 48th Engr Bn at present has 90 feet of bailey bridge complete with end ramps and end poles; by tonight 48th Engrs will have 130 ft of bailey bridge.
- 1350 Radio section reports they had temporary contact with Co C; not sure that message of 1245 was understood by Co C operator.
- 1415 Tel - Lt Col Monnier (calling from 180th Inf CP): road clearing from Lembach to Wingen has been started by Co C.
- 1500 Tec 5 Dutton, recon sect, returning from Lembach reports: Bridge being used in Lembach (039439) is timber structure, class 40; one side rail damaged (mortar shell probably). Bridge had been prepared for demolition by Germans. ADE notified.
An adjacent steel bridge (039450) was blown; another bridge, a concrete structure, at east side of town (043418) of Lembach was blown also, but the next bridge immediately following (044448) is intact.

The two parallel main roads leading north from Lembach have both been swept as far as the 45 grid line. The road to Wingen is a class B1 $\frac{1}{2}$; the road on the left, leading northwest is class B2; the main road leading east then north to Climbach is class B2.

The steel culvert installed by Co A at 011423 is saving in.

There is a tree road block on main road leading northwest from Lembach to 034460.

At 1505, ADE is notified that Co A has filled this over with rock.

- 1600 Lt Foster, Asst S-3, reports tank dozer from Co A has arrived at Bn CP.
- 1620 Tel - Lt Bridges, Co B, to Lt Oleson, Recon O:
Q: How far have the roads from Lembach been cleared?
Ans: The road Lembach-Wingen has been swept as far as R045460; the road from Lembach north and leading west has been swept as far as R034460. Co A is now removing a road block at this point.
- 1905 Tel - Maj Carroll, S-3 157th Inf, to Maj Billups: Our 1st Bn is in vicinity of 035475, the 2nd Bn at 035464 and the 3rd Bn at 029479.
Lt Simmons, Co A, was working on road blocks on road northwest from Lembach and should have them removed by noon.
- 1920 Tel, Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: The Chief of Staff requests a mine and booby trap clearing detail with a commissioned officer in charge, to recheck present building occupied by Division CP.
- 1935 Tel - Capt Sandelin, S-3 180th Inf, to Maj Billups: The bridges in Wingen are in; Co C has cleared the road from Lembach to Wingen. Maj Darling, VI Corps Engr sect, notified.
- 2115 Tel - 1st Sgt Co A, to Maj Billups: The tank dozer dropped into stream at 032464 (NW Lembach) while at work removing road blocks; there was no one hurt. Request arrangements to be made to have two tank retrievers pick up tank dozer early tomorrow morning. Lt Col Monnier notified. Maj Billups contacts S-3, 191st Tank Bn and arrangements are made for 2 tank retrievers.
- 2200 Maj Billups, to Lt Bridges, Co B: Request maintenance of roads Froeschwiller-Langensultzbach-S007393 and Langensultzbach-Mattstall-Lembach
Furnish officer and detail to thoroughly check Div CP area for mines, booby traps, time charges and explosives. Upon completion have the officer report to Maj Peterson (Div Hq Co Comd't)
- 2230 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A to Maj Billups: Tank dozer was in use by Lt Prestwood, Co C, when we

arrived. It ran off the main road and track is up to the top in water. The other is off the ground, on high water. We will continue working on road block.

PERIOD 0001-2400 15 December 1944:

Weather: overcast, cold, light haze. visibility, fair.
0825 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE:

Summary of work for 14 Dec: Co A cleared town of Langensultzbach and Mattstall of all mines. Filled over with rock, the damaged culvert at 010424; cleared trails for 1/4 ton vehicles from 006428 north to 018457; one platoon worked on fill at 997393, vicinity of CP.

Co B had one platoon build approach roads and entrance to the factory area south of Reichshoffen for the 700th Ord and 45th Ord; removed booby traps from house in Div Arty CP in Reichshoffen.

Co C cleared roads Mattstall-Lembach, and the main road in east side of stream into Lembach; Lembach northwest to edge of woods at 037457; Lembach north then east to Wingen. At Wingen bridges were found intact.

1000 Bn CP moved from Reichshoffen to Langensultzbach (004400).

1335 Tec 5 Dutton, Recon Sect, reports bridges in Wingen are culverts; road Wingen-R067476-063483-062482 is class C1; road R062482 south to Wingen is class C1½.

There is a crater in road at 064476; a tree road block at 071477.

Road Lembach north then east has been cleared as far as R033464.

1440 Lt Oleson, Recon. Co, reports bridge out at R026474; gap is 15 ft.

157th Inf requests the gap be bridged as soon as possible.

1445 Maj Munson, S-3 48th Engrs, to Maj Billups: We are ready to remove the bailey bridge installed at 016400 and would like to have traffic routed through Langensultzbach-Mattstall-Lembach, for approximately one hour. Maj Billups, contacted G-4 and arrangements are made for traffic diversion

1510 Verbal - Capt from Div MP's (IPW) to S-3: We have 2 German engineer prisoners in stockade near here now, who say they know where there are some mines, with anti-lifting devices, about 1 kilometer from here. They are willing to help us take them out. Do you have someone to go with them?

Ans: We will send a squad from Co B to do the job, and they will stop by the MP Hq to pick up the prisoners on the way.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1515 Tel Capt Williams, S-3, 179th Inf, to Maj Billups: There is a bridge out at 026474, and we would like to have a bridge put in there as our Co G is going up that road. There is a sawmill close by with good lumber which could be used.
- 1517 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Has Lt Col Monnier told you what he wants to do with the bridge at 026474?
Ans: The Col wants a two-way timber structure there.
- 1520 Lt Foster sent to Co B to get squad of mine-sweepers to pick up German prisoners for guides to minefield.
- 1530 Verbal - Tec 4 Nustad, Water supply sect: Water point in Zinswiller closed; new point opened in Lembach at 039449.
- 1535 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Williams, S-3, 179th Inf: I have notified Lt Bridges, Co B, about the timber bridge construction at 026474. What local security is there at present in vicinity of bridge site?
Ans: G Co is on the way to that point; they will go beyond and occupy high ground at 020483 cutting the main road running west and the road running north.
- 1925 Tel - Capt Williams, S-3 179th Inf, to Maj Billups: Co G has secured the high ground at 020483 and have blocked the main roads as ordered by Division. G-3 notified.
We have a report that the bridge at 032463 has been blown by some engineers; the vehicles having passed this point are now cut off. Will you contact Lt Bridges and ask him to report at 2nd Bn aHq in Lembach, before he starts work.
- 1730 Maj Billups, reports that the stream crossing equipment (footbridge and rubber boats) have been picked up by VI Corps from our Engineer dump.
- 1805 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C to Maj Billups: The bridge at 032463 was damaged by us when the tank dozer was pulled out.
The road Wingen-Climbach was swept as far as 072461 at which point a culvert is blown. The gap of blown culvert is 15 feet. The bridge is in at a junction point 075463; between the blown culvert and the bridge at 075463 there is a tree road block.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

The road Pt Wingen northwest, is swept to the edge of woods at 063483; a trail leading from Pt Wingen to the northwest was swept as far as the German border (083493). We were in Germany at 1330 hours. This trail is class D1.

1820

Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Hales, S-4:

Q: What stringer material do you have available for bridging?

Ans: We have 32 pieces 6 x 8 x 18 and 100 pieces of 3 x 12 x 13.

Maj Billups requests Capt Hales draw more lumber and explosives from VI Corps Engr Dump.

1915

Maj Billups receives report from Lt Simmons; Co A: We will need a tank dozer for Co A's operations tomorrow.

Tank dozer previously working with Co A but was returned to Co C: Maj Billups contacted Capt Frank who state dozer is in need of repairs at present.

2115

Tel - Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: The 179th Inf has asked us to repair bridge at 026474 so that they can feed their Co G and to reinforce them with tanks. The bridge we intend to build there will take too long to construct to serve immediate purpose, so the infantry pioneer platoon has gone to the bridge site to put in an expedient of some sort.

Ans: If the pioneer platoon is unsuccessful, it might be possible to develop a ford to the north of the bridge site.

Lt Simmons, Co A, reports that the right fork of the road north of the bridge has been cleared to point around the first bend.

Lt Bridges: The German prisoners did point out two S minefields and one TOPF mine in road and they say they know where there are more.

2220

Tel - Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: Pioneer platoon of the 179th Inf have installed an expedient at bridge site 026474 consisting of loosely laid planks. We will start timber bridge there in the morning. The 157th Inf reports a road block on right fork of road to north, before the bend, which no one has yet been able to remove because of enemy mortar fire.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

PERIOD 0001-2400 16 December 1944:

Weather: Partly cloudy, cold; visibility fair.

0820

Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE:
Co A cleared road Lembach northwest to 027479.
Co B took the two German engineer prisoners from enclosure and had them point out the location of the minefields. One minefield at 989399 had 30 S mines; another at 996413 had 8 S mines. These minefields were just marked off last night and will be removed today; the German prisoners will point out which S mines are rigged up with anti-lifting devices and have volunteered to help remove them. Co B today is making preparations to build a two way, simple stringer timber structure at 025475.

Co C cleared road Wingen to Climbach as far as the blown culvert at 072462; there is a tree road block beyond blown culvert and a bridge beyond road block. This bridge is not blown. They also cleared road Wingen northeast to Petit Wingen north to edge of woods then south to the town of Wingen; cleared trail running northeast from Petit Wingen and along edge of woods to the German border.

The trail leading to German border is Class D1; the road triangle within Wingen is Class C1; road Lembach leading northwest is class B2; road Lembach-Wingen is class B1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The new mine which the 180th Inf mine clearing platoon located recently has definitely been classified as the EZ44 igniter. Samples of it were sent with box to VI Corps Engineer.

We also sent to VI Corps a case containing S mine accessories which consisted of nine 3 prong igniters, 9 ZZ42 igniters and caps.

There is a sawmill located on road leading northwest from Lembach at 034464 and a gravel pit east of Lembach at 051452 which we are checking this morning for possible use.

0840

Tel - Capt Snyder (S-2 157th Inf) to Maj Billups: There is some road clearing to be done at 025475; elements of the 179th Inf are just past this point and the battalion commander states that this area is safe. Does Capt Rickey have a tank dozer to work with there?

Ans: Capt Rickey does not have a tank dozer he only has a bulldozer which could be used.

Capt Snyder states that 157th Inf has had reconnaissance on the road northwest from Wingen as far as 057500 at which point they located 18 mines.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 0845 Tel message to Capt Frank, Co C, from Maj Billups: "157th Inf patrols going north from Wingen, report 15 mines at 057500".
- 0900 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Thompson, 48th Engrs: We would like to borrow your Quickway crane.
Capt Thompson states that at present Quickway crane is being used.
- 0940 Lt Bridges, Co B, reports to Maj Billups: The two German prisoners have picked up the S mines from minefields located at 989399 and 996413. PW's were of the 245th Engr Bn. Minefield at 998399 had 30 S mines. Minefield at 996413 had 12 S mines, instead of 8 as previously reported.
The mines were laid in a regular pattern bounded by small wire.
The row to the German side was spaced an even 4 metres apart. In the two succeeding rows they were spaced two metres apart. In these particular fields only the S mine Z35 pressure igniter was used.
PW's state that their company had received no instructions whatever in the use of the EZ 44 release mechanism.
- 1000 Maj Munson, S-3 48th Engrs, reports that his unit will take over maintenance of MSR Lembach to Wingen and from Lembach northwest to bridge under construction at 026474.
- 1050 Tel - Lt Col Monnier, calling from Div Hq, to Maj Billups: Division right boundary has been extended to include Bobenthal. 180th Inf has troops west of the town, and the 103rd Div has troops east of it.
- 1055 Tel - Maj Carroll, S-3 157th Inf, to Maj Billups: I asked Capt Rickey last night to remove the roadblock at 026480 this morning early. The work was not started until 1040 hours this morning.
- 1110 Lt Foster, Ass't S-3, sent to contact Co C with instructions for them to develop supply route Wingen north to Bobenthal. Assistance will be rendered by one company of the 48th Engrs.

TIMEREMARKSNO. 12345

- 1125 Tec 5 Dutton, recon sect, reports on road reconnaissance: Road 071482-083495-0804960080500-084505 has been opened as far as 084505 for traffic; tanks and 1/4 tons have been over this route and is strictly one way. At present road repairs will be necessary from 083496 down the hill to a point 080496.
- 1200 Lt Foster, Ass't S-3, returning from Co C reports: Capt Frank now has a mine clearing squad working with each infantry company, on the road leading to Bobenthal; as soon as he receives a report on what is needed for development of this road he will notify us.
- 1505 Tel - S-3 Div Arty: There is a tree road block on the road at 004403; we would like to have this block removed and checked for mines and booby traps in order to pass vehicles to the air field which is about 1000 yards ahead. Lt Foster, Asst S-3, notified.
- 1520 Tel - S-3, Div Arty: Cancel the request for road block clearance. Our vehicles have bypassed the road block. Lt Foster, Asst S-3 notified.
- 1525 Capt Rickey, Co A, reports to Bn CP with the following information: Road northwest from Lembach has been opened from 028480 northeast to 043504. Road Wingen northwest has been swept to fork at 047505.
- 1700 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: Lt Thuring swept road north of Bobenthal to 092529. At this point there is an anti-tank ditch. The roadway across the ditch there has a crater 25 to 30 feet in diameter and 12 feet deep. The 180th Inf CO wants this crater bridged. Maj Billups contacts Capt Price G-3 office, who informs him that the 180th Inf left boundary includes part of the roads from Nothwiller NE to Nieder Schlettenbach.
Colonel Dulaney, CO 180th Inf, also wants us to clear roads Nothwiller to Nieder Schlettenbach; we already have men sweeping this road.
Major Billups states that this road is in the 157th Inf sector and not the 180th.
- 2100 Tel - Lt Col Monnier, to Maj Billups: The 48th Engrs have agreed to take over maintenance of road Lembach northwest to R025480 east and north to 043518, south to Wingen, southwest to Lembach; will also render assistance in bridge construction at R072541,

and in bridging the crater at R090529.

2110

Tel - Capt Frank, Co C; to Maj Billups: Lt Safir, Co C, while working on road Nothweiler-Nieder Schlettenbach, before approaching the blown bridge at R072541, encountered the following obstacles; one timber road block with gate and wired beam lodged on top; next a blown culvert approximately 15 feet gap; next a small tree road block; next a road block 1/4 mile long (abatis); next a blown culvert with 25 ft gap; infantry is just beyond the first tree road block.

Maj Billups informs Capt Frank that Lt Bridges, Co B will have about two platoons commence work improving the trail from Ft. Wingen northeast to Bobenthal, in the morning; also tank dozer has been repaired and will be sent to Co C CP, south of Lembach, in the morning.

2125

Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Rickey, Co A: The tank dozer has been repaired and is now here at Bn CP. I am sending it at 0045 hours to Nothweiler at which point it can be picked up and guided to road blocks. For the blown culverts, I will have one 24" and one 36" steel culverts delivered to your CP (032429).

2315

Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Maj Billups: Gen Frederick reports that trail from Petit Wingen north to Bobenthal will become a division MSR tomorrow and will probably not be able to carry much heavy traffic in its present condition. He wants two platoons of engineers put to work improving it immediately so that it will be able to carry tomorrow's traffic.

Lt Bridges, Co B, instructed to start work on road immediately.

2330

Tel - Maj Billups, to Lt Duval, 48th Engrs: Can you loan us any dump trucks tomorrow for hauling gravel?

Ans: All of our trucks will be busy, but we might be able to provide you some if the need is urgent. There will be two Brockway trucks with treadway standing by from about 0900 hours on.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

PERIOD 0001-2400 17 December 1944:

Weather: Clear, cold; visibility good.

0855

Tel - Lt Foster, Ass't S-3 to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Co A yesterday swept road from R028480 east and north to 043504; from R043504 southeast to Wingen; removed tree road block and 15 mines from R056500.

Co B removed two German S minefields with the assistance of two German PW's from the 245th Engr Bn. The S minefield at Q989399 had 30 mines; the minefield at Q996413 had 12 mines instead of 8 as previously reported. They completed the two way timber bridge at R026474 sometime after dark; with exception of traffic stripping.

Co C swept trail from German border at R082494 to Bobenthal north to anti-tank ditch and crater at R091529.

0920

Tel - Col Wickham, Div C of S, to Maj Billups: Col Wickham requests information on road situation north of Wingen and into Bobenthal.

Ans: Maj Billups reports that at present we have a better part of two companies working on the road, and believe we can pass all traffic on this road although we will have some difficulty with tanks. We are trying to get it in shape for all traffic before nightfall. The 48th Engrs are furnishing about six dump trucks and a quick-way shovel in vicinity of Lembach to load gravel.

0945

Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Lipscomb, Co C:
Q: What infantry battalions of the 180th are working this morning?

Ans: There two working now, the 1st and 3rd. Lt Safir's platoon is broken down into one squad per infantry company while the 3rd platoon with the 3rd Bn is working as a platoon. The 3rd Bn is keeping on the road while the 1st Bn is going cross country.

Q: Maj Billups: Does Capt Frank have any men left in the company?

Ans: Yes, we have a few.

1000

Tel - Lt Col Mennier, calling from the 180th Inf, to Maj Billups: At present there is one platoon from Co B and one from Co C working on trail Wingen-Bobenthal, but they have no officer to supervise road repair. Request you assign one officer to supervise it now.

Capt Frank, Co C, has sent his D-7 bulldozer to cover crater at R091529. This might require bridging since the crater is 48 ft across and 12 feet deep.

Maj Billups has assigned Lt Oleson, Recon O, to supervise work.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

The road Pt Wingen-Climbach east to R087466 north to R098483 northeast to main road R108447 northwest to Bobenthal is reported open. Part of this route is a trail thru the woods (from R087466-098483-108447) and will carry 2½ ton vehicles. Have someone check this route.

Lt Col Monnier states he will now check road Nothweiler-Nieder Schlettenbach where Co A is working.

Maj Billups has sent Tec 5 Dutton, recon sect, to check this route

Maj Lowe, Exec O, and ADE notified

1030

Tel - Lt Col Austin, CO 645th TD Bn, to Lt Foster, Ass't S-3: I would like to know if your unit can use my pioneer platoon, consisting of approximately 20 men, with an air compressor and a few other tools. This pioneer platoon has had experience in lifting mines and other engineer functions.

Lt Foster informs Lt Col Austin that Lt Col Monnier will be notified.

1230

Lt Col Monnier reports road Nothweiler-Nieder Schlettenbach has been cleared and swept as far as R066540 by Co A; the 500 yard tree road block has not been removed yet. In front of the tree road block there is a blown culvert, and in front of blown culvert is the blown bridge R072542. There will be 48 ft of treadway at Nothweiler together with one culvert ready for bridge at R072542. Estimated requirements to bridge gap at R072542 are 36 ft of treadway and one culvert. Road Nothweiler-Nieder Schlettenbach is class C1. The road Pt Wingen-Bobenthal is being corduroyed at present with slabs which are hauled from a sawmill nearby. The crater at R091529 is 43 ft 8 inches across.

ADE notified

Capt Tauscher informs Lt Col Monnier that the blown culvert at R074463 has not been repaired and the main road leading west from Climbach has not been swept far enough to connect with clearance from the east side.

1500

Capt Frank, Co C, reports to Maj Billups: The 103rd Engineers have constructed a bailey bridge at R107495. It was constructed and extended perpendicular to the main road and any vehicle over a 2½ ton can not make the turn in either direction. We can improve this if Division has any interest in this route.

The route from Climbach R087466-098483-108447 is class C1½.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1310 Tec 5 Dutton, Recon Sect, reports to Maj Billups: Road Climbach R087466-098483-108477 is class Fl $\frac{1}{4}$.
- 1315 Tel - Capt Thames, Actg S-3, 48th Engrs, to Maj Billups: We have three dump trucks at vic R035437 ready but would like to have someone guide them to the place where they are needed. Maj Billups informed Capt Thames that Lt Bridges, now at Bn CP(Langenscultzbach) will stop by and guide the trucks. Maj Billups requests their three trucks be loaded with gravel from the pit nearby. Maj Billups informs Capt Thames that there is a possibility of using a bailey bridge over the crater at R091529.
- 1320 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Capt Price, G-3 Office: The 103rd Division Engineers have a bailey bridge at R107495 constructed in such a manner that its extending onto main road prevents large vehicles from making the turn. If we can get clearance on this route, we can commit our men to improve this.
- 1330 Lt Col Monnier to Maj Billups: We will plan on constructing a bypass beside the crater at R091529 and a two way timber bridge later. Maj Billups notifies Lt Duval, Asst S-3 48th Engr Bn.
- 1335 Tel - Capt Sandelin, S-3 180th Inf, to Maj Billups: Lt Col Duval would like to contact one of the engineer officers now working in vicinity of Bobenthal for the purpose of rigging up some demolition. Maj Billups informs Capt Sandelin that Lt Thuring of Co C is now working in vic of Bobenthal.
- 1350 Tel - Maj Billups to Col Arnote, Div Arty CO: We propose to remove treadway bridge at R020410; will this hinder your supply route? Ans: This will not affect us any; we can use the main road Woerth to Lembach. Lt Col Schlotzhauer, G-4, notified; approval granted for removal of treadway. CO 48th Engrs notified.
- 1415 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Maj Billups: The 103rd Division will have one company of their own engineers improve the bailey bridge main road turn at R107495; therefore we will not be required to do this work.
- 1515 Radio - Maj Lowe, Exec O, to Lt Bridges, Co B: "Dump trucks waiting for guide at SCOOP".

- 1605 Lt Oleson, Recon O, reports: Road from Bobenthal to R006496 is class A1 $\frac{1}{2}$; there is a treadway bridge at this point but the approach in the road is too sharp to turn large equipment. It is impossible to turn any vehicles with trailers. From this point to Climbach the road condition is class F1 $\frac{1}{4}$.
At R075463, there is a road block consisting of R mines, a large crater and a number of tree abatis. This road is not open.
The road Climbach to Pt Wingen is class E1 and is in good condition.
The road from Pt Wingen to Nothweiler is in good condition; the road Nothweiler-Nieder Schlettenbach is class A1 $\frac{1}{2}$. There is a road block extending from R064539 to R072541. There is a pill box at R075541 covering the road and as yet it has not been neutralized. There is a ditch across the road within the tree abatis at R067539.
- 1610 Tel - Capt Thames (Actg S-3 48th Engrs, to Lt Oleson, Recon O: We would like to get 45 ft of 18" steel culvert to install at R075463 on the main road from Lembach east to Climbach. The R mines and the tree road block have been removed. Lt Oleson notifies Maj Billups.
- 1630 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: The 48th Engrs have removed treadway bridge at R020410, and will block the road leading to Mattstall. The MP's on the other end in the town of Mattstall would like for us to block the road at that point to deny it completely.
- 1700 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Hales, S-4: The 48th Engrs will need about 45 ft of steel culvert. How much do you have now?
Ans: We have 140 ft of 36 inch steel culvert in the dump in Lembach. Twenty feet of this is assembled. Capt Hales suggests that if the 48th Engrs want this culvert now, they can go to the Engr dump and draw it provided it is signed for. Maj Billups notifies the 48th Engrs to draw the culvert.
- 1715 Tel - Maj Darling, VI Corps Engr Office, to Maj Billups: We have a report here to the effect that you need more engineer support. If it is engineer personnel, this is not possible at present, but we may be able to furnish engineer equipment.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

We will be able to furnish you with 4 or 5 dump trucks soon; at present they are being used to haul lumber to Engineer dumps.

We are getting 45 tons of explosives for our VI Corps Engr Dump; it is an assortment of every type of explosives.

1740

Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: The 157th Inf is making a stream crossing tonight and have requested ten rubber boats and a dozen satchel charges. I have already notified Capt Hales, S-4.

G-3 disapproves road clearance over route Pt Wingen-Climbach north to main road.

1745

Tel - Maj Carroll, S-3 157th Inf, to Maj Billups: We would rather have the rubber boats delivered deflated, but we do want two men from your company to inflate the boats and two men to instruct our infantry how to use the satchel charges.

1820

Tel - Col James, 157th Inf, to Capt Rickey Co A (at Bn CP): For the stream crossing tonight at 2200 hours, get ten rubber boats, six bee hive charges and six satchel charges. When you have all these together, stop here at the CP (Lembach). There will be someone here to guide you to where they must be delivered.

1830

Tel - Capt Frank, calling from the 180th Inf CP, to Maj Billups: The 1st Bn 180th Inf will make a stream crossing at 2330 hours, and they will need two footbridges.

Have someone contact Lt Safir at the Co CP and tell him to commence building two footbridges. I do not have any steel members to splice it with.

Maj Billups states he will arrange for steel members for splicing.

Lt Porter, Asst S-2 sent to notify Lt Safir at Co C and will also pick up bolts for steel members of bridge at Engr Dump at Lembach

1855

Tel - Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: The road repairing of route Pt Wingen to Bobenthal is almost completed and will be ready for traffic. Part of the route, from Pt Wingen to the top of the hill at RO84498 is two way, but from this point down to the valley, it is only one way. The 179th Inf does not have any planned work for us tomorrow.

Maj Billups has instructed Lt Bridges to complete repairs and to continue maintenance of this route.

1855

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

1900

Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: Div G-4 requests some one from our organization make a reconnaissance to Wissembourg over the route Pt Wingen east to Climbach to Wissembourg for the purpose of finding a good bypassing route around the town or the best route through the town. Have whoever is sent out report at Div CP when he returns.

Maj Billups states there will be someone sent early in the morning on this mission.

2015

Tel - Maj Billups to S-3, 645th TD Bn: We will be able to use the pioneer platoon out of your unit to help corduroy the present Div MSR. The tools required will be mainly axes and shovels.

Have the officer in charge contact Lt Bridges, Co B, at his CP R072463 N of Wingen.

2325

Lt Foster, Asst S-3 leaves to deliver steel plates and bolts for splicing foot-bridge to Co C.

PERIOD 0001-2400 18 December 1944:

Weather: Cloudy, cold, intermittent rain. Visibility: Poor

0840

Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Co A cleared roads Nothweiler north to R045531 and Nothweiler northeast to R066640.

Co B, with the assistance of one platoon from Co C laid approximately 300 yards of corduroy on division MSR between Pt Wingen and Bobenthal, (R080493 to R084494); also completed traffic stripping on two way timber bridge at R026474.

Co C (less one platoon assisting Co B) had one platoon supporting the 1st Bn 180th Inf and another supporting the 3rd Bn.

The 645th TD Reconnaissance platoon will be used to repair and maintain the Div MSR between Pt Wingen and Bobenthal; they will be attached to Co B for operations.

The road Lembach-Climbach is not open as yet; the 48th Engr Bn have not replaced the blown culvert at R075463.

0855

Tel - Capt Thompson, LO 48th Engrs, to Maj Billups: Q: Will the treadway bridge be put in today at R072542?

Ans: We do not believe this will be feasible due to the tactical situation; at present we have information that neither the 157th or the 180th Inf made a stream crossing and only one pill box was neutralized.

Capt Thompson reports that on the west side of the blown culvert at R075463, the 48th Engrs removed five Riegel mines and two Tellermines. According to reports from your unit, this road had been cleared to the blown culvert.

0935 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: Companies B and C of the 180th Inf, have crossed the stream; K Co neutralized one pillbox. One platoon of Co C 157th Inf has crossed the stream vicinity of Bundenthal.

1035 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: The 157th Inf succeeded in crossing one company in the vicinity of blown bridge at R053558; this was done while infantry at a point further below attracted the enemy's attention by attempting to cross in rubber boats.

We have not been able to remove the tree road block at 069540, yet: this will be possible as soon as the tactical situation permits. I have been maintaining contact with the 180th Infantry.

1045 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: The 179th Inf supply officer has reported to Division G-4 that two of his vehicles have struck TOPF mines somewhere along a traffic route previously reported cleared of mines.

I suggest that in the future all mines removed be stockpiled and destroyed to prevent any possible rearming and re-laying.

1050 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Maj Lowe, Exec O: Contact Maj Billups and tell him to have someone check the trail R058499 northeast to Bobenthal.

The tree road block (vic 069540) has not been removed yet. I have ordered Lt Smith, Co A, to go ahead and clear this block as soon as possible.

1245 Tel - Capt Thames, Actg S-3 48th Engrs, to Maj Billups: In view of the plan to bridge blown crater at R091529, we would like to know the present condition of the road between Pt Wingen and Bobenthal.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

Ans: Suggest that the 48th Engrs send reconnaissance over this road because we have not received information as to its present condition. Division traffic has been over this route, between the time corduroying job was completed and now.

Capt Thames reports road between Lembach and Climbach opened at 1200 hours. At that time the culvert was passing traffic one way but would be improved for two way traffic soon.

- 1300 Tel - Lt Kimbler, Asst Div CWO, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: The 157th Inf wants nine flame throwers readied as soon as possible. Will you make arrangements for nitrogen and hydrogen and have the flame throwers filled. We have the flame throwers and the prepared gasoline fuel mixture.
- Capt Hales, S-4, contacted; he states there are 6 nitrogen cylinders in the dump, one hydrogen cylinder was ordered from 7th Army dump today
- 1320 Tel - Capt Padgett, Div CWO, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: The division Chemical Warfare dump is now in paper mill in Bouxwiller, We have there twelve flame throwers, three of which I believe are filled, one mixing kit and 100 gallons of prepared fuel. Sgt Frank, Div Cml section, is in charge of the dump.
- 1330 Capt Hales, S-4, left for 7th Army Engr Dump to contact Tec 4 Josephs, S-4 section, and expedite delivery of one hydrogen cylinder on order. The hydrogen cylinder will be delivered to the Chemical Warfare dump at at Bouxwiller.
- 1335 Sgt Nelson, Bn Cml Sgt, left with two men to pick up nitrogen cylinders for delivery to the Div Cml Warfare dump at Bouxwiller, and will ready the nine flame throwers for the 157th Inf.
- 1340 Tel - Maj Lowe, Exec O, to Lt Kimbler, Asst Div Cml O: Contact 157th Inf and notify them the nine flamethrowers will be ready for them to pick up in Bouxwiller at 1730 hours.
- 1420 Tel - Capt Trauscher, ADE, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: Division prepares to open a rest camp, capable of accomodating 300 men, in Niederbronn on 20 December and has requested the use of our shower unit there. The shower unit is to be installed tomorrow.
- Capt Rosheger is in charge and he is now staying at Hotel Kur in Niederbronn.
- WO Ferguson, Asst S-4, states this plan is satisfactory. The shower unit now in operation for the division will be closed and opened in Niederbronn.

Maj Lowe informs Capt Tauseher that we do not have enough personnel to operate and maintain shower unit; however one efficient operator plus civilian employees would solve this problem.

1525 Tel - Capt Thames, Actg S-3 48th Engrs, to Maj Billups: We have a reconnaissance report on the trail from R058499 northeast to Bobenthal 1/4 ton vehicles and other larger vehicles have been as far as the fork at R061505. The trail branches in three directions; the trail to the left is good for about 500 yards; the middle one goes into the valley and is very poor; the branch to the right follows the ridge and is also a very poor trail. All vehicles have turned back.

Capt Thames states his reconnaissance has not been as far as the blown crater above Bobenthal to obtain information as to diameter, depth and abutments of the gap.

Maj Billups informs him that the crater is 43 ft, 8 inches in diameter, 12 feet deep and there are no abutments whatever. The road leading thereto is capable of passing heavy traffic at present. The road from Ft Wingen-Bobenthal is a one way route and we are trying to negotiate a return route from Bobenthal southeast to R107497, south to Climbach in the 103rd Division sector.

1535 Lt Col Monnier to Maj Billups: Lt Prestwood of Co C, is now checking trail from R058499 northeast to Bobenthal, with view of improving it for traffic (1/4 ton vehicles.) G-3 notified

1600 Tel - Capt Lee, VI Corps Engr Supply Co, to Maj Billups: We will be able to furnish you five dump trucks for about 3 days. There are now available at the 2749th Light Eqpt Co located south of Mertzwiller. If you will send a guide, we will release them tonight. M/Sgt McAlarnis S-3 sect, sent to guide the dump trucks. They are to be delivered to Lt Bridges at Co B.

1615 Tel - Capt Thames, S-3 48th Engrs, to Maj Billups: The rock crusher and shovel are now in operation at 038437. They are capable of loading 20 trucks per hour. At present our Co B is using it and they only have 5 or 6 trucks to be filled per hour.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

Maj Billups states that we are now getting 5 dump trucks and will have them draw the crushed rock to repair the division MSR

1710 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Lt Col Monnier: Have developed the trail R057500-073515-Nieder Schlettenbach so that it will take 1/4 ton and 2 1/2 tons, but probably nothing heavier. However, it has very steep grades and runs along a cliff part of the way. The lower part of the trail is pretty swampy, and we are draining it now. Lt Prestwood thinks he may find a way around the cliff.

The tank dozer No 2 which has been working with Lt Smith, Co A, has broken down (blade broken I believe) and I am sending tank dozer No 1, which has been with me, to him.

The 103rd Div did not want Lt Thuring to destroy the two pillboxes in their sector which the 180th Inf took. They said they would put guards on them.

VI Corps Engr notified.

1717 Tel - Lt Col Darling (VI Corps Engr Office) to Lt Col Monnier. Col Thomas (VI Corps Engr) wants you and Lt Col Swift (CO 48th Engrs) at VI Corps Hq for a meeting tomorrow morning at 0930. The 48th Engrs are to be relieved by the 540th Engrs. We will send Lt Fenstermacher and a tank dozer from the 6638 Engrs up to you to work with you.

1750 Tel - M/Sgt Matthews, Div Cml Warfare Office, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: The 157th Inf has requested nine more flamethrowers; we have only three more and this is all we will be able to furnish them.

Maj Lowe: We will send Sgt Nelson back to Bouxwiller in the morning; the 157th Inf can pick up these three at about 1000 hours in Bouxwiller.

1830 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Col Reynolds, G-3: One of our tank dozers while clearing a road block at 069540, broke down this evening and we are committing our second tank dozer. However, we do not intend to run the risk of operating it during darkness, but we propose to start work early tomorrow. We would like to know if this plan is satisfactory.

Ans: Lt Col Reynolds approves.

1850 Tel - Capt Thames, S-3, 48th Engrs, to Maj Billups: We will be able to furnish you six dump trucks. They will be ready at 0800 hours here at our CP. Request #72-send a guide.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

1905

Tel - Maj Billups, to Lt Col Schlotzhauer Div G-4: From the trail beginning at R057500 northeast to fork at R061505, one fork runs into the valley to about R074515 then east to Bobenthal, and is a very poor trail. It will pass 1/4 ton vehicles and possibly 3/4 tons, but it will not carry any sustained traffic whatsoever. It is swampy most of the way. We have some people working on the alternate route now. Beginning at R061505 to the east it passes thru the point R078505 then into Bobenthal. This is a poor trail but it will pass 2 1/2 ton vehicles.

The Div MSR is open one way and will carry most any traffic. We have one company of engineers working on it now. It will require continuous maintenance.

1930

Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Padgett, (Div CW Office): The 157th Inf picked up their nine flamethrowers at Bouxwiller. Of the three remaining, two have leaky connections and one has a faulty ignition system.

Capt Padgett states that for the next order of nine more flamethrowers, he can draw six at Epinal and will notify this office when they arrive.

Maj Billups has suggested that Capt Padgett transfer his flamethrowers and fuel to our engineer dump, to be kept there in the event they are called for, and also that the flamethrowers be returned to our engineer dump for refueling and re-servicing every time they are used.

Capt Padgett states that he wishes we make all possible effort to repair the three flamethrowers now at Bouxwiller.

1940

Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups:
At what time will the tank dozer start removing the remainder of the tree road block vic R068480)?
Ans: We plan to have it start work at daylight.
Capt Frank requests Maj Billups notify Col Dulaney, CO 180th Inf, of this plan.

CO 180th
Inf notified

2040

Messenger S-3 to Lt Bridges, Co B: Have guide for six trucks from the 48th Engrs at the 48th Engr CP at 0800 hours tomorrow.

The quarry at the 48th Engrs is now in operation; its capacity is twenty trucks per hour and you will be the only one using it. Put all trucks from VI Corps that M/Sgt McAlarnis is bringing and those six trucks from the 48th Engrs to hauling gravel to your road.

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2130 Tel - Maj Pryor, S-3 645th TD Bn, to Maj Billups: Q: How did our boys who were helping you out do today?
A: Alright. We had them draining a road preparatory to gravelling it.
Maj Pryor tells Maj Billups that we can use his men, now with us, for probably another week. He will give us a day's notice when he wants them back.

PERIOD 0001-2400 19 December 1944:

Weather: Cloudy, cold, mist and light rain during morning.
Visibility, poor.

0835 Tel - Capt Padgett, Div CWO, to Maj Billups
I believe we will be able to pick up eight flamethrowers from Epinal instead of the six as reported last night.

Maj Billups states he is sending Sgt Nelson Bn Cml Sgt, to Bouxwiller this morning. Sgt Nelson is to bring all the flamethrowers and equipment to our dump in Lembach and we would like to have the eight flamethrowers delivered to our dump in Lembach.

Maj Billups suggests that requests for flamethrowers be cleared thru the Div CWO and flamethrowers will be receipted for.

0840 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE:
Co A improved trails leading up into vicinity of Bobenthal and removed approximately 100 yards of tree road block at R068540; they still lack approximately 150 yards from completing the job.

Co B, reinforced with one platoon of approximately 40 men from the 645th TD Bn, continued improvement of the road leading from Pt Wingen to Bobenthal thru the woods. This work consisted of improvement of drainage, gravelling and corduroying.

Co C started opening the trail from R057500-061505-082513 to Bobenthal. It will pass 2½ ton vehicles; but it will not carry heavy traffic for a long period of time.

We made reconnaissance of roads in the division sector; also turned over to the infantry nine flamethrowers.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

Capt Tauscher informs Maj Billups that beginning this morning at 0700 hours, the Div MSR Pt Wingen north to Bobenthal will be for one way traffic only; return route will be Bobenthal southeast to R107447 south to Climbach west to Pt Wingen. The Div MSR from Pt Wingen to Bobenthal will be used mostly for light vehicles and communication purposes, the heavy artillery, etc., will be routed around by way of Wissembourg then to Bobenthal over the good road.

- 0845 Radio - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: Co A moving to R053502.
- 0925 Tel - Lt Smith, Co A, to Maj Billups: The replacement tank dozer sent from Co C to work on the tree road block at R068540 has broken down. Tank dozer driver estimates it will require a minor welding operation of approximately 15 minutes. ADE notified.
Maj Billups informs Lt Smith that Lt Sandridge, Battalion Motor O, is now on the way up to pick up the No 2 tank dozer blade, vic of R068540. Meanwhile, Lt Smith is to put his men to cutting trees from the road block with saws while tank dozer No 1 is repaired.
- 1000 Radio - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: Send welder to Lester's tank dozer (tank dozer No 2). CWO Flanagan, Asst Bn Mot O notified.
- 1040 Radio - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: Send Welder and wrecker to Lt Sandridge in Nothweiler. Tec 5 Amundson, Motor Pool, notified.
- 1115 Tel - Capt Thames, S-3 48th Engrs, to Lt Oleson, Recon O: The rock crusher at present time is not producing a sufficient quantity of rock needed for repair and maintenance of the Div MSR. The two officers supposedly in charge are not present. The information I have is that rock crushing operation is to be expedited by a demolition party soon. Lt Oleson notifies Capt Thames that he will inform Lt Col Monnier as soon as possible.
Capt Thames will inform VI Corps Engr Office with view of getting action on the rock crushing operation.
- 1125 Tel - Col Arnote, Div Arty CO: to Lt Oleson, Recon O: We propose to set up two batteries of field artillery within the road triangle vic of R045505 and would like to know whether you have information of any S mines in this particular area.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

Lt Oleson informs Col Arnote that we have encountered S mines only in vic of R025470; we have no information of any being encountered vic R045505.

1140 Tel - Lt Oleson, Recon Co, to Capt Thames, S-3, 48th Engrs: Lt Col Monnier states that the dump trucks waiting for crushed rock are parked on the Div MSR and requests the route be cleared as soon as possible.

Capt. Thames says he has decided to commence using the gravel stock piled in vic of C Co 48th Engr CP.

1145 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Lt Col Darling, VI Corps Engr Exec O: What information do you have in regard to the tank dozer which Lt Fenstermacher (6638 Mine Cl Co) was to deliver to us?
Ans: Lt Col Darling informs Lt Col Monnier that Lt Fenstermacher is now on the way with his tank dozer and will report to our CP.

Lt Col Monnier: Our two tank dozers at present are undergoing repairs; one of these, will be back in operation soon.

1245 Tel - Tec 5 Dutton (recon sect) to Lt Oleson: We have checked trail beginning at R051523 northeast to a junction at R074533. Tanks have been over this trail as far as R066533. All the trails branching from the junction at R074533 are blocked by felled trees at a distance of 75 yards from the junction. The best trail however is the one running parallel with the stream-Bobenthal northwest to a point at the main road at R068538.

Lt Oleson requests Tec 5 Dutton make a complete check of this trail in to Bobenthal; also to check trail Nothweiler (R047523) north to R049535 north to R049540 north to R050547 then northeast to stream S. Bundenthal (R054549).

1305 Tel Maj Lowe, Exec O, to 1st Sgt Co A: Contact Capt Rickey and ask him if he would like to use the R-4 bulldozer to remove tree road block while tank dozer is undergoing repairs.

1310 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: I do not believe there will be any need for the R-4 bulldozer. The tank dozer will be back in operation very soon

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Lt Smith has removed the tree road block as far as the anti tank ditch; it is reported that there are only a few trees across the road beyond that anti tank ditch.

1315

Tel - Capt Hales, S-4, calling from Co C CP) to Maj Lowe, Exec O: Lt Fenstermacher (6638 Engr Mine Clearance Co) has arrived with his tank dozer here at Co C.

Lt Col Monnier is here at the CP also. We have drawn a supply of bangalore torpedoes and thermite grenades.

1340

Tel - Lt Lipscomb, Co C, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: Lt Fenstermacher's tank dozer has been sent to help Co A remove tree road block at R069540.

1445

Tel - Capt Padgett, Div CWO: We have been unable to get the eight flame throwers from Epinal as yet. I am sending for them again this afternoon and will notify your office as soon as they are in.

Maj Lowe, Exec O, notified

1515

Lt Col Monnier reports: Tank Dozer No 1, while returning to their CP was forced off the road in vicinity of R044505 by an ammunition truck parked in road, causing the tank dozer to lose one track and to damage the side of the road.

Lt Col Monnier requests Maj Billups be informed that the road where the tank dozer was forced off, will require repairs.

CWO Flanagan, Asst Bn Mot O, notified; on contacting 191 Tank Bn to request 2 tank retrievers, he is informed that arrangements had already been made by an officer from this Hq.

1555

Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, calling from the 180th Inf CP: We propose to bridge gap of 15 feet in the 3rd Bn sector (180th Inf) at R091531 sometime tonight and I would like to know what material I can have. If treadway is available I will need 2 sections (24 feet). I can furnish a guide for the bridge train; but the route Pt Wingen-Bobenthal is not good.

1605

Tel - Maj Lowe, Exec O, to Capt Thompson, 48th Engrs: There is a bridging operation for tonight for which requirements are 2 sections of treadway (24 feet) These are to be put in beyond the road crater (R091529) at the blown bridge at R091531. The gap of the blown bridge is 15 feet

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

Capt Frank will notify us when this will be needed and will send a guide to your CP:

Capt Thompson: What about the timber structure that we were to construct at the blown crater at R091529?

Maj Lowe: We are not much concerned with this now, since we are bypassing it.

1610

Capt Thames, S-3 48th Engrs: We would like to know if the Brockway trucks can be sent to Bobenthal before dark?

Maj Lowe: Yes, we believe this can be done; we will use the route Lembach-Climbach-Wissembourg-Bobenthal. Since we have decided on this early move, a guide will be necessary for the bridge train over this route.

Lt Oleson, Recon O, sent to 48th Engr CP at Lembach to guide bridge train. Capt Frank, Co C, notified; he will meet bridge train at Bobenthal.

1630

Tec 5 Dutton, Recon sect, returning from road reconnaissance, reports: The trail beginning north of Nothweiler at R047523-049535-049590-0505470054549 is a poor route; vehicles have gone over it as far as R048536. At present the area in vicinity of R048536 (under enemy observation) is receiving enemy artillery fire.

1650

Lt Oleson, Recon O, leaves to report to 48th Engr Bn CP; from there he will guide the treadway bridge trucks to Bobenthal over the route: Lembach-Climbach-Wissembourg then to Bobenthal where Capt Frank will meet them.

1715

Maj Billups: The tree road block at R069540 has been cleared. Tank dozer No 1 has pulled out of the side ditch into which it was forced this afternoon;

1730

Tel - Capt Padgett, Div CWO: The eight flame throwers plus 100 gallons of prepared fuel are now here in Langensultzbach and I am sending them to your dump at Lembach.

Maj Billups is notified.

1900

Tel - Capt Thames, S-3 48th Engrs, to Maj Billups: Our reconnaissance has returned from vic of Bobenthal (R091520). They report that the bypass over the anti tank ditch has not been started.

Lt Col Monnier, Capt Tauscher, ADE, notified.

The treadway bridge train left the CP here at 1730 hours.

Capt Thames: What are the possibilities of

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

a bridge being installed tonight in the 1st Bn (180th Inf) sector?

Maj Billups: I do not believe that the tactical situation will permit bridging operation tonight. We will notify your unit if any bridge is called for.

The tree road block in front of the bridge (Vic R069540) has been removed; the anti-tank ditch is being filled over at present.

Capt Thames: It is my belief we will not be able to build the timber bridge we were planning to construct over the crater at R091529 (North of Bobenthal). Tomorrow at 1200 hours the 540th Engrs are taking over and everything will be turned over to that unit by about 1800 hours. Our unit will leave the following day.

1915

Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Kirker (S-3, 1st Bn 180th Inf): What are the possibilities of a bridging operation at R071541 tonight?

Ans: We had better wait until the tactical situation betters. At present there is no contact between Co B and Co A; our troops are along the road on the edge of the hill. We expect them to reach the top of the hill. We will notify your office whenever we are ready.

Lt Col Monnier,
Capt Tauscher,
ADE, notified.

1925

Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Harrington, G-3 Office: The tree road block at R069540 has been removed; the anti-tank ditch is being filled over, and as the situation stands we are informed we had better wait to put in bridge at R071541.

Capt Harrington: This plan is satisfactory since there is no apparent rush for a bridge, but we do want the road cleared to the bridge if possible because we propose to have self propelled guns fire from that area near the stream tonight.

Lt Col Monnier,
Capt Tauscher,
ADE, notified.

1930

Lt. Col Monnier reports that Col O'Brien, G0 157th Inf plans to withdraw the four platoons he has across the river tonight.

1935

Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Lipscomb, Co C: I have been informed by the 48th Engrs that two tank dozers pulled in to the area in the vicinity of your company.

Lt Lipscomb states that there is one tank dozer there now, it is the No 3 tank dozer that completed the road block clearing for Co A

The third platoon of our company is in vicinity of blown culvert and should be nearby when the bridge train arrives. Capt Frank and Lt Thuring are now also in that vicinity (3rd Bn 180th Inf).

2015 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Rickey, Co A: When Lt Smith, Co A, completes filling of anti-tank ditch and removes the remaining trash in front, have him hold up; we will not build a bridge there tonight.
Capt Rickey: Today the 3rd platoon cleared a road block at R043534 for the 3rd Bn 157th Inf.

2000 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE: The tree road block at R 070540 is now clear; the anti tank ditch is being filled over. We do not believe a bridge will be put in. There are two platoons of infantry across the stream and according to reports they did not contact Co A 157th Inf.
Capt Tauscher reports a change in Operations Instructions No 32; Provisions of Par 3a and b and 4 a are cancelled.

Lt Col Monnier notified.

PERIOD 0001-2400 20 December 1944:

Weather: Overcast, cold; visibility: poor

0200 Tel Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: The treadway bridge at R091531 is in; we used 36 ft. We constructed a by-pass over the anti-tank ditch and passed the Brockway truck over it; it will not stand up very long under sustained traffic. It will require repairing today.

The tractor was hit by shell fragments. I do not believe any extensive damage was caused, but it cut the cables.

0820 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Thompson, 48th Engrs: The treadway bridge at R091531 was completed at about 0200 hours. We had a by pass over the anti tank ditch to pass the brockway truck, but from all indications it will require repair today. Our bulldozer was hit by enemy self propelled fire.

Last night they did not want us to perform any bridging operation in the 1st Bn 180th Inf sector (R07154) on account of the tactical situation. However, we did fill the anti tank ditch and cleared the road beyond that. During the removal of the tree road block we had two tank dozers break down.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

Capt Thompson: We will not be able to furnish you our trucks today. The rock crusher will be in operation today.

0830

Tel - Maj Erwin, Asst G-4, to Maj Billups: Hold the six flame throwers for the 157th Inf at your dump. However, we want these checked for servicability and readied for possible use. If the flamethrowers do not function, notify us at this office.

0845

Tel - Maj Billups, to Sgt Brannon, S-3 sect, 157th Inf: What was the outcome of las night's proposed plan?

Ans: The four platoons across the stream were not withdrawn.

0905

Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, 4DE: Co A cleared a trail for the 3rd Bn 157th Inf beginning at R043534. They completed the clearing of road block down to the anti tank ditch at R070540. At this time we do not know whether the filling of the anti tank ditch has been completed.

Co B reinforced by six trucks from the 48th Engr Bn, 5 trucks from VI Corps and a 40 man reconnaissance platoon from the 645th TD Bn worked on the division MSR; the repair work consisted of continuation of gravelling, drainage and corduroying.

Co C built a bypass around the anti tank ditch at R091529 and put in 36 ft of tread-way over blown culvert at R091531. They improved trail R058500-062506-070510-078509-082512-089515.

Maj Billups: For your report on status of major items of Engr Equipment: one tank dozer (No 2) with broken arm, was repaired and is back in operation.

Tank dozer No 1, with bent arm, was partially repaired and is being returned to our motor pool.

The third tank dozer (No 3) now assigned to Co C was sent up to help Co A clear the road block and then returned to Co C: Tank dozer crew (No 3) at present is attached to Co C.

Co C's bulldozer (D-7) while working on AT ditch at R091529 last night was slightly damaged by enemy self-propelled fire. Our motor pool has been notified and arrangements made to have it repaired.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

0925

Tel - Capt Williams, S-3 179th Inf to Maj Billups: We would like to have someone from your unit instruct our infantrymen how to breach a pill box (that is, the engineer phase of this operation). We have about three groups that we wish to have instructed. Our CP is now located at Wingen.

Maj Billups: We will be able to furnish three instructors for this afternoon at 1300 hours, for about 1½ to 2 hours. As far as demonstration is concerned we won't be able to do this.

0930

Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups:

All the work has been completed as requested - the AT ditch was filled over and the remaining brush beyond was cleared. We do not know what is in the shack in the trapezoidal ditch.

A PW taken by the infantry reports that there was a German anti-tank gun covering the road which Co A was clearing. They did not fire because they were afraid to draw counter-battery fire. The information on exact location was given to the infantry. I do not know the exact location, but I do know the general location.

Some of the men out of my company report having gone to bridge site and estimate gap at 25 to 30 ft, which is similar to other reports received. One infantry lieutenant reports the blown gap as over 30 ft.

1030

Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups:

The MPs will not permit traffic to return over the one way road Nothweiler southeast to Wingen; my bulldozer is at 157th Inf CP at Nothweiler and it is only a short way to our CP at R053505 but the MPs insist on sending it around by way of Lembach and back to this point which is about 15 miles.

Maj Billups informs Capt Rickey that this situation cannot be remedied and that the bulldozer will have to go around.

1100

Tel - Lt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups:

The repairing and maintenance of the Div MSR (Pt Wingen-Bobenthal) is being continued, progress has been satisfactory and we believe this route will sustain all traffic well. The gravel supply for operations has been poor; we are getting a poor grade of rock but we believe it is worth hauling.

The reconnaissance platoon of the 645th TD Bn is still working with us.

Maj Billups requests Lt Bridges furnish instructor group for the 179th Inf. The instructors are to show their group how the shaped charges are rigged up but they are not to go to any extensive demonstration.

Maj Billups: As far as we know, the pill boxes in the 180th Inf sector have not been destroyed. The first three taken were turned over to the neighboring unit (3rd Bn 411th Inf, 103rd Div); but the pill boxes taken yesterday our infantry decided to occupy and use to best advantage.

Capt Frank, Co C, installed a 36 foot treadway bridge in vic of 3rd Bn 180th Inf sector (R091531) and constructed a bypass over AT ditch before the bridge at (R091531). The bulldozer was slightly damaged by enemy fire while constructing bypass over AT ditch.

In the 1st Bn 180th Inf area, Co A completed clearing tree road block, filled anti tank ditch and cleared the remaining trees felled in road beyond the AT ditch.

1130

Sgt Nelson, Bn Cml Sgt, to Maj Billups: The eight flamethrowers delivered to our dump last night are now ready for operation.

Capt Padgett, Div CWO, notified; he requests that requisitions for flamethrowers be cleared thru him.

1155

Tel - Capt Thames, S-3, 48th Engrs, to Maj Billups: On account of the present undergoing change of supporting units (540th Engrs relieving the 48th Engrs) and the tactical situation as it stands, we may not be able to put in the timber bridge at R091629 (north of Bobenthal) or the treadway bridge at R071541 (west of Nieder Schlettenbach).

As soon as the relieving unit arrives (540th Engrs) we will show them the places where the bridges are to be put in and will also instruct them to maintain contact with your unit.

1200

Tec 5 Dutton, recon section, to Maj Billups: The 1st Bn 180th Inf informed us that the enemy has reoccupied the pill box at R074542 and is covering the crew of the blown bridge at R071541; we did not attempt to approach the site to get measurements as requested; we may be able to accomplish this under cover of darkness.

Capt Thames, S-3, 48th Engrs, notified.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

1450 Tel - Mr Ferguson, Asst S-4, to Maj Billups: We issued 60 bangalore torpedoes to the 180th Inf this morning; they state these bangalore torpedoes are old style and do not carry caps or fuze. How much fuze should we give them?
Ans: Issue them 12 inches of fuze per bangalore.

1650 Tel - Maj Gen Frederick, Div Commander, to Lt Col Monnier: Request you attend meeting here at Div Hq immediately.

2030 Tel - Capt Thames, S-3 48th Engrs to Maj Billups: Part of the 540th Engr Bn to relieve us have arrived; they have some of their people with our treadway bridge standing by at Nothweiler with view of witnessing bridging operation, if any. If nothing happens, it is my plan to give them some instruction tomorrow.

Our unit is to leave the morning of 22 Dec. Maj Billups: There is no apparent rush for a bridge at R071541. The enemy has reoccupied the pill box covering that vicinity; the pill box is at R074542. One of our M12s was to try to neutralize it today, but we have not heard any results. Our infantry took some pillboxes also on our right flank but we believe the enemy has reoccupied these and are causing disturbance.

The treadway bridge installed north of Bobenthal (R091531) has been prepared for demolition. An enemy self propelled was firing on the party setting up the bridge. At present we so not know the condition of the bypass constructed before the bridge site.

2045 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Frank, Co C: Did you prepare the treadway bridge north of Bobenthal for demolition?

Capt Frank: Yes, we placed one hundred packs of tetratol on each pin joint; two hundred packs total.

The pillboxes which were taken the other day are being reoccupied by the enemy and are causing trouble. Today we put traffic strippings on the bridge at R091531; we did not work on the bypass because it isn't necessary, further more, it has been heavily shelled.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

The 180th Inf wants the road blocks and anti tank ditches to be left in.
I have my tank dozer (no 3) in Bobenthal and it is behind the 180th Inf CP (3rd Bn).
Maj Billups: For tomorrow, S-4 has requested two trucks with drivers and three additional men; have them report at this CP in the morning at 0830.

2055 Messenger - S-3 to Capt Rickey, Co A and Lt Bridges, Co B: Furnish two trucks with drivers plus three additional men to S-4 tomorrow morning. Have them report to S-4 at Bn CP at 0800.

PERIOD 0001-2400 21 December 1944:

Weather: Overcast, cold; visibility fair.

0850 Lt Col Knapp, CO 2nd Bn 540th Engrs, visits CP to discuss with CO and S-3 general policies of support expected from his battalion when it relieves the 48th Engrs tomorrow.

1045 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C to Maj Billups: We are getting ready to use demolition on the pillboxes this afternoon. There are eight of them and we are going to destroy five.
Maj Billups: Before you destroy these we would like to get information on the pill boxes such as height, thickness of walls and enemy weapons therein. This information is to be sent to higher headquarters.

Capt Frank: What is the method prescribed for the destruction of these pill boxes?

Maj Billups: It is recommended that you use from 125 to 150 lbs of explosive placed next to the embrasure. Be sure the door is closed. A safe distance for troops is 100 yards.

We will send Lt Porter, Asst S-2, to photograph the pillboxes before and after destruction. He will report to your company CP at about 1300 hours.

Lt Col Monnier to Capt Frank: Division G-3 states that the future policy on the enemy pillboxes will be to destroy them soon after capture.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1145 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Frank, Co C:
Report to CP this afternoon. Capt Frank reports
to Lt Col Monnier
at 1255 hours.
- 1200 Radio - S-3 to Capt Rickey, Co A and Lt
Bridges, Co B: Report to Bn CP immediately Co B received message
at 1225 hours. No con-
tact with Co A.
- 1230 Capt McCullough, S-2, reports engineer
replacement personnel that arrived this
morning have received instruction on security.
- 1245 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Rickey, Co A:
Request you report to Bn CP immediately.
Capt Rickey: Col O'Brien, CO 157th Inf,
has requested I report to him also.
Maj Billups: Report to Col O'Brien first;
take one of your officers to whom you can pass
on the instructions received, then report to
Bn CP.
- 1250 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Lt Col Reynolds,
Div G-3: Will you approve of my sending an
officer to secure road information on division
right flank?
Ans: Yes; also be prepared to remove the
treadway bridge at R091531 tonight. Capt Frank, Co C
notified.
- 1255 Capt Frank, Co C, reporting to Bn CP rec-
eived the following instructions from Maj Billups:
Prepare to remove the treadway bridge at R091531.
prepare for demolition the fill over the anti
tank ditch at R092527. He is to demolish pill
boxes now in possession of the 180th Inf; he is
to be prepared to take over the maintenance of
roads further to the east. He is to contact
the 180th Inf and determine what work is needed
to develop defensive positions in the 180th Inf
sector.
- 1305 Maj Billups, to Lt Bridges, Co B: The 179th
Inf less one battalion has been alerted to occupy
the area to the right of the 180th Inf, now held
by elements of the 103rd Div. The exact boundary
is not known as yet.
Lt Bridges will be prepared to move in support
of this regiment.
The other battalion of the 179th Inf will
be in division reserve.

Lt Bridges will contact the 179th Inf and determine what he can do to help them develop defensive positions in their sector.

1315 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: The division will require a plentiful supply of sandbags and wire. What is the availability of these items?

Ans: We believe we have enough now.

Capt Tauscher: I spoke to Capt Williams of the 179th Inf and suggested to him the use of trip flares in avenues of approach; he approves of it.

There is a new overlay being prepared; the Division right boundary has been extended as far as the edge of woods north of Wissembourg.

1325 Tel - Maj Lowe, Exec O, to Maj Erwin, Asst G-4: We have not had any difficulty in the recent drawing of engineer supplies.

Maj Erwin: We recommend an increase in your present stock of sandbags (40,000) to 140,000.

Mr Ferguson, Asst S-4, notified

1330 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Thompson, S-3 48th Engrs: We are prepared to remove the treadway bridge installed by your unit at R091531 tonight.

Capt Thompson: We are relieved as of now by the 2nd Bn 540th Engrs and do not believe we will be able to help remove the bridge.

1335 Tel - Maj Billups, to Lt Lipsecomb, Co C: Notify Capt Frank to be prepared to use some of his own men to remove the treadway bridge at R091531 tonight.

1340 Maj Billups to Capt Rickey, Co A: Prepare to block all entrances into our positions between Nieder Schlettenbach and Dambach. The 157th Inf is taking over the defense of a barrier line between these two points: specifically to block the road between Rumbach and Nothweiler.

Capt Rickey states that the anti tank ditch running between R040541 to about R044541 cuts and effectively blocks this road and also the road running southwest out of Rumbach.

There is a tree abatis felled by the Germans at R044537.

Maj Billups: We want you to check the area between R046526 and R045532 for possible abatis barrier. If this is suitable, prepare trees on both sides to fall across the road. Where possible use TOPF mines as a preliminary charge on trees

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

to effect demolition; also to examine the fills at R049517 and R059533 and be prepared to place cratering charges.

Capt Rickey: The road north of R025482 to Hirschtal still has enemy mines and tree abatis. The infantry platoon which is garrisoned at Hirschtal goes in by crossing bridge at R017481 west to R008483 following a trail around the hills thru points R018485 to Hirschtal. This is the route they are using now. There is a tree abatis on the road at R998476 to R001478

Maj Billups: Prepare bridge at Tannenbruck (R026474) for demolition and prepare blocks on both roads. Check the area in vicinity southwest of this bridge to Windstein for possible entrances or trails.

1345

Maj Billups to Capt Stephens (2nd Bn 540th Engrs): Request your unit establish a water point in Langensultzbach to replace ours. Our water point will be sent to the 179th Inf sector.

1350

Messenger - Maj Billups to CO 2nd Bn 540th Engrs (Field message): 1. We are prepared to remove treadway bridge at R091531 tonight.

2. Request that you send two empty Brockway trucks to Co C 120th Engrs by dark tonight. Their location is R044438.

3. We will be glad to furnish personnel to remove bridge, if you so desire. We will also welcome a few selected observers.

4. Situation is changing; will send complete report as soon as situation is stabilized.

Maj Lowe (Assisting Bn S-4) states there will be 600 AP mines; 200 per Inf Regt.

Capt Rickey, Co A, Capt Frank, Co C, Lt Fields, Co B, notified.

1415

Tel - Lt Col Monnier (calling from Div Hq) to Maj Billups: Division commander and G-3 approve use of AP mines; there are to be used on orders of regimental commanders.

Emphasize the importance of accuracy of sketches - exactly where and how these AP mines are laid.

Notify S-4 and company commanders.

There is a limited quantity of these mines available, therefore they are to be used conservatively.

157th, 180th and 179th Inf Reg't S-3 notified

1555

Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Legendre (S-2 645th TD Bn): What does your Bn CO propose to do with the reconnaissance platoon now attached to our unit?

Ans: We are planning to have them revert to our Bn control beginning tomorrow.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
1605	Tec 5 Dutton, Recon Sect, to Maj Billups: Gap of blown bridge at R071541 is 25 ft; 36 ft of treadway will suffice to bridge it.	
1620	Lt Oleson, Recon O, to Maj Billups: There are five rubber recon boats left behind at vic R064544. These boats have the paddles yet; I picked up the air pumps.	Capt Rickey, Co A, notified at 1740 hours and instructed to pick them up tonight.
1635	Tel - Lt Lipscomb, Co C, to Maj Billups: We are planning to send the Brockway trucks and personnel as far as Bobenthal before dark; if it is decided not to remove the treadway at all, they can return them.	
1730	Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Frank, Co C: Division G-3 states that removal of treadway bridge at R091531 he left up to the CO 180th Inf. Capt Frank: The 180th Inf want the bridge removed; we are doing as ordered.	
1740	Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Rickey, Co A: There were 5 Recon boats with paddles and inflating pumps left behind in vicinity of R064544. Someone has taken care of the pumps; send someone out there tonight to retrieve them before it is too late. Capt Rickey: Today we worked on construction of the 157th Regimental CP at R038497. Tomorrow I will need an air compressor.	
1810	Tel - S-3 160th FA Bn to Maj Billups: We proposed to set up one battalion of artillery north of Weiler. There is a road block at approximately R124493 consisting of a few trees and mines which will require removal before we can pass anything thru. If Lt Bridges is anywhere around the 179th Inf CP, I will try to contact him there.	
1900	Lt Porter, Asst S-2, to Maj Billups: Of the five pill boxes to be blown this afternoon, one was definitely destroyed, one attempted and three prepared for demolition. Approximately 200 lbs of explosives (the equivalent of 16 TOPF mines) were used on the one destroyed. There were no satisfactory results obtained on the second pillbox due to failure of fuze.	

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1940 Tel - Maj Erwin, Asst G-4, to Maj Lowe,
Exec O: We have authorized issue of 3000
sand bags to the 157th Inf. Mr Ferguson, Asst
S-4, notified.
- 1950 Tel - T/Sgt Jeffrey, G-2 sect, to T/Sgt
Huseby, S-2 section: Higher headquarters has
given us warning of the enemy capability of in-
filtrating into our lines, by ground or air, in
British or American uniform, with mission of
disrupting communications and raiding CPs.
- 2040 Tel - Lt Bridges, Co C, calling from the
179th Inf CP: We are moving to Rott tomorrow
morning after breakfast and will not be able to
furnish S-4 the one truck and 3 men as requested.
Tomorrow we are most likely to call for anti
personnel mines, sandbags, wire and pickets.
Maj Billups states that he will arrange
for a truck and 3 men from another source.
Lt Bridges is informed that at present there
is available information on roads used in the
103rd division sector.
When the 179th Inf moves to the division
right flank, the Division MSR Pt Wingen to Bob-
enthal will be the responsibility of our Co C.
In regard to engineer materials to be drawn,
Maj Billups has informed Lt Bridges that anti-
personnel mines will be used conservatively
and accurate minefield sketches made thereof.
There is a frozen quantity of sandbags for each
infantry regiment, if the demand exceeds this
allowance, timber and chicken wire will be used.
Maj Billups has instructed Lt Bridges to
remove the tree and mine road block for the
160th FA Bn at R124493.
- 2055 Maj Billups, to Pfc Tomaszewski, Co A: The
following message to be given Capt Rickey:
In reference to the request for the truck for
S-4 tomorrow, instead of the one truck and 3 men,
send 2 trucks and six men. Have them report to
S-4 at Bn CP at 0830 hours tomorrow.
- 2330 Tel - Lt Lipscomb, Co C, to Maj Billups:
The treadway bridge at R091531 has been removed

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

PERIOD 0001-2400 22 December 1944:

Weather: Clear, cold, visibility good.

0835 Tel - Lt Lipscomb, Co C, to Maj Billups: Yesterday we destroyed one pill box and attempted to demolish another one. This next one is not exactly a pill box because it consists of a number of bricks. We removed the treadway bridge at R091531 last night.

0840 Tel Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: Yesterday we worked on the construction of the 157th Inf CP until dark and today we are continuing this work. We are making reconnaissance of the new positions. So far we have not put anything in. I am going to see Col O'Brien (CO 157th Inf) this morning.

0845 Tel Maj Billups to Lt Lipscomb, Co C: The one truck and three men requested of your company have not reported here yet.
Lt Lipscomb: The unit moving out of this area has caused a traffic congestion; our truck will report to S-4 as soon as it can get thru.

0900 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Co A dug in the 157th Inf CP installations; they made reconnaissance and prepared plans for construction of defensive positions along the division left flank.

Co B with elements of the 645th TD Bn and 5 trucks from VI Corps continued maintenance of trail Pt Wingen to Bobenthal.

Co C destroyed one pill box with 16 TOPF mines and prepared another pill box for demolition: They started to blow the second pill box but did not succeed; they will finish this up this morning. The 180th Inf could not furnish guides to the other pill boxes at the time. The treadway bridge at R091531 was removed last night.

All three lettered companies furnished trucks and men to S-4 for the purpose of hauling engineer supplies yesterday.

Status of tank dozers:

Tank dozer No 1 is at the shop of the 85th Ordnance Co as of yesterday.

Tank dozer No 2 is in operation and is with Co A.

Tank dozer No 3 (6638 Mine clearance Co) is in operation and with our Co C.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 0905 Tel - Capt McCullough, S-2 to VI Corps
Engr section: Have the maps arrived yet?
Ans: Yes.
Capt McCullough: Did the 163rd Div turn in
any relief maps?
Ans: We do not know at present, but will
check up on this.
- 1000 Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: We have
definitely planned to place a block on the road
between R044532 and R046526. This will consist
of abatis prepared for demolition and possible
a road crater. The 2nd Bn which is occupying
the long ridge from approximately R031510 to the
division left flank at present plans only to
install warning flares along ridge line in front
of their positions.
The 157th Inf CP is moving back to the vic
of Lembach today.
We plan to use one platoon to work in the
area north of Nothweiler and two platoons along
the remainder of our front for the time being.
We have representatives with each battalion
working out detailed defensive plans this morning.
One platoon is continuing the work of constructing
positions in the vicinity of regimental CP at
R038497.
We also plan to block the trail leading
over the hill on the west side of the road from
Hirschthal to Lembach.
I think the main road is sufficiently
blocked between Hirschthal and R025480.
- 1010 Tel - WO Ferguson, Asst S-4, to Sgt Nelson,
S-3 section: The 157th Inf reports that two
of the flame throwers drawn are not functioning
properly; they have been returned to our dump
at Lembach for repair.
- 1020 Tel - Maj McCabland (CO 45th Div MP Platoon)
to Maj Billups: Request your unit furnish two
4' x 6' road signs with large letters reading
"One Way - Do Not Enter".
- 1130 Tel Lt Oleson, Recon Co, to Maj Billups:
The 45th Recon CP at R540417 and are running
foot patrols over the high ground up to Q991432.
The high way is not being used.
Enemy forces occupy the high ground, north
of the highway.
In the other sector the high ground at Q866433
to Q866435 out of our sector.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

was taken by the enemy last night. This makes the point Q886468 to 883435 out of our sector. Do you want me to go to that point?

Ans: No, make the reconnaissance in the area where you are now then return.

Lt Oleson: At 962427 and at 958432 there are two demolished bridges in a row. Beyond that point there is nothing that we have control over. Do you want me to check these bridges?

Ans: Yes.

1230 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Padgett, Div CWO: The two flamethrowers returned by the 157th Inf only needed refueling; they are ready for use and we understand they want to draw them this afternoon.

Capt Padgett: Yes, permit the 157th to take them again.

1245 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: I will move my CP to Climbach tonight or tomorrow morning.

Have conferred with Col Dulaney, CO 180th Inf, and am opening trails and roads to the 180th Inf's new positions this afternoon. Tomorrow we will help them dig in new positions. This afternoon we will demolish another pillbox.

1250 Lt Col Monnier, to Maj Billups: MSR No 1 as shown on VI Corps overlay of this morning: R032518-034530-063541-088580-115840-Oberotterbach, becomes effective at once. The 540th Engr Regt will support the 45th Div and task force Huttelson on the left. Immediate reconnaissance is wanted on MLR No 2, which in our position, consists of Maginot line positions.

1305 Capt Ferry, Adjutant 2nd Bn 540th Engrs to Maj Billups: We have one company at Niederbronn; one company is moving in the vicinity of where Co C 120th Engrs is now; the third company is located in that vicinity now. 2nd Bn Hq is moving to this same area while Regt'l Hq. is at R017400.

Capt Ferry reports that at the bridge over the canal at Reichshoffen, there is still a large amount of TNT under the bridge in the abutments and he is planning to lay a treadway on the one side, remove the bridge and the charges, and try to recover some of his stringers from the old bridge and rebuild a one way stringer bridge.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1315 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Div G-4: Our Co C will move to Climbach. Do the 120th Med Bn propose to move in their present place?
Ans: No, unless there is a change in the tactical situation.
Lt Col Monnier states that he will permit a part of the 540th Engrs to move in there.
Div G-4 requests maintenance be continued of the MSR from Pt Wingen to Bobenthal and trail opened by Co C from R058498 northeast to Bobenthal.
- 1340 Lt Oleson, Recon Co, (returning from vic of Windstein) reports to Maj Billups: At Q967420 there is a culvert 24" x 30" x 37' and 8 ft below level of the road. At Q967417 a pill box constructed by French is suitable for use. It will not house weapons larger than a machine gun.
In the town of Windstein there is a class 40 timber trestle bridge with stone filled pier midway, a 32 ft span and 14 ft roadway. This bridge should be prepared for demolition.
There is a dam at Q962419; up the road there is an enemy road block with double slots suitable for placing timber. At the bend (Q962427) a .30 cal machine gun is covering the road. Further up the road the bridge is blown and has an 18 ft gap. On the south side there are two smaller bridges.
Lt Oleson suggests a cratering charge be placed at about 50 yards behind the two smaller bridges; the roadway at this point is 24 ft wide. It is believed this would be effective because water from the stream would fill up blown crater thereafter.
Lt Oleson further reports that Troop A 121st Cav Recon was pushed off the high ground at Q887468 back to approximately the 45 grid line, by 75 enemy.
- 1350 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Riskey, Co A: Co C is moving out soon; do you want to move into their CP?
Ans: Yes. I will make a check of this CP this afternoon.
Today we are digging in some tank destroyers at bend of road at R057527. On the road to the north, we are putting in a cratering charge with alternate firing means.
- 1425 Tec 5 Dutton, Recon sect, returning from vic of Wissembourg, reports: Crater in road at R167497 is 12 ft in diameter, 4 ft deep and has about 3 ft of water now.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

Blown bridge at R159482 is now being reconstructed by the 125th Engrs of the 14th Armd Div.

RR overpass blown on to road at R168475; the road is blocked by debris about the blown overpass and 8 inches of water.

Bridge at R147457 blown, it has a 15-20 ft gap, however the road is not being used.

Deep ruts in road at RJ R169466.

- 1545 Tel - Maj Lowe, Exec O, & actg S-4, to Maj Billups: In view of the frozen quantities of sandbags for infantry regiments and a possible shortage, the 180th Inf has requested we submit a sketch on use of wire and timber for construction of emplacements.
- 1550 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: Lt Col Embry, CO 180th FA Bn, reports knowledge of location of long steel pickets. Also Capt Frank, at this office at present, states there are some pickets located at RR station in Mattstall together with some angle iron; another stock is to be found in a small open field along trail leading from R058498 northeast to D^Bobenthal.
- 1600 Msg from Co B: Co B CP located at Rott (129473)
- 1645 Tel - Maj Lowe (Exec O and Actg S-4) requests arrangements be made for six trucks and 18 men for early 23 December.
- 1810 Tel Lt Manson - S-3 sect 179th Inf to Maj Billups: Co B is requested to furnish an instructor group similar to the previous one for the purpose of teaching our infantry men how to breach a pill box. We would like to have him report to this CP at 1000 hours.
- 1815 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Manson, S-3 sect, 179th Inf: We have no communication with our Co B.
Lt Manson states that he has already contacted Lt Bridges and arrangements made for the instructor group.
- 1820 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: The 157th Inf has picked up the five rubber recon boats and I am getting them tomorrow.
Maj Billups: I suggest that you keep your three which belong to your company and return the remaining two to our dump at Lembach.
Capt Rickey: Stone culvert at R045531 is six to eight feet below road level; we have prepared it for demolition by placing 100 lbs of TNT and 300 lbs of TOPF mineexplosive.

Maj Billups checks with radio sect and is informed there is no contact with Co B.

The two trails leading to the west have been blocked; at R045530 the trail is prepared for blocking; the charges have been placed on the sides of the trees. There are now three men assigned to this block; Nearby are tank destroyers at the edge of the woods.

Today we dug in two TDs at R057527.

Maj Billups: Send a detail to Mattstall railroad station to pick up some pickets and barbed wire and have this delivered to our dump in Lembach. Place priority on the pickets and be sure that work is started on this hauling. Capt Frank knows of some location where steel pickets are to be found. These are somewhere along the side of trail R057500-Bobenthal. Do not try to locate these yet.

Capt Rickey: Today we dug in installations for the 2nd Bn 157th Inf CP and also dug some for the medical detachment of that battalion.

PERIOD 0001-2400 23 December 1944:

Weather: Overcast, cold; visibility fair.

0900

Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE:
Co A: A stone culvert 6 to 8 ft below level of road at R045531 is prepared for demolition with 100 lbs of TNT and 300 lbs of explosive extracted from TOPF mines. At R044531 explosive charges from TOPF mines have been prepared on sides of trees to fell and form road blocks. Three men have been posted at this place as guards. At R037497 they dug in installations for the 2nd Bn 157th Inf CP; made reconnaissance along the division left flank to determine what work could be done; dug in two TDs at R057527.

Co B: Moved to new location at Rott and continued school on demolition of pill boxes for the 179th Infantry; made reconnaissance in the area and started preparation of defensive positions for the infantry; removed two tree road blocks north of Weiler for the 160th FA Bn.

Our reconnaissance checked positions along the trails in vicinity Jaegerthal and Dambach. They also inspected fortification in vicinity of Lembach and made reconnaissance of roads in division right flank vic of Wissembourg.

Status of tank dozers is unchanged.

0915

Lt Col Knapp (CO 2nd Bn 540th Engrs) reporting to Bn CP received instructions from Lt Col Monnier to maintain roads Lembach-Climbach-Wissembourg-Bobenthal and to make reconnaissance to treadway bridge at R105496 for the purpose of making plans to replace it with a one way timber structure.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1025 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups:
We destroyed one pill box last night and two this morning, also destroyed the bypass at R091529. Will furnish detailed information later.
- 1150 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, reports having received a notice from VI Corps stating that the 540th Engr Regt is moving in to Woerth.
- 1200 Lt Col Monnier: The 540th Engrs will take over maintenance of road Lembach-Climbach-Wissembourg-Bobenthal. They will also replace bailey bridge at R147488 with a timber structure and will also put in a timber bridge at Mattstall Station. Both battalions of 540th Engrs will reconnoiter Maginot Line positions with view toward preparing it for reserve MLR. The reserve MLR will follow the Maginot Line all the way through the division sector.
- 1315 Tel - Maj Carroll (S-3 157th Inf) requests Capt Rickey, Co A, be contacted and instructed to report to his office at once. Radio to Co A - "Contact Maj Carroll at once."
- 1629 Tel - Lt Col Knapp, CO 2nd Bn 540th Engrs, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: Our telephone line is connected to Power board. Code name of our unit is Caustic. Motorcyclist messenger is to remain as an alternate means of communication.
- 1755 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Lt Oleson, Recon O: We propose to move thru Windstein tomorrow and would like to obtain general information as to road conditions thru there.
Lt Oleson informs Capt Rickey that there is a dam at Q962419 beyond which is an enemy road block with double slots, suitable for our use. Beyond this are two small bridges, then a large bridge which is blown and has an approximate 18 ft gap. There is also a class 40 timber trestle bridge in the town of Windstein. This bridge is in. Lt Oleson states that three sections of roadway will suffice to bridge gap of blown bridge.
- 1940 Maj Billups reports: Today I reported to Major Large at Div Arty the artillery plotting sheets and firing data which Lt Oleson found in the Four d'Chaux fortification.

The road Lembach to Climbach has been cleared for mines, three feet on each side. For a distance of approximately two kilometers east of Lembach, the road follows along high ground looking down to the north over a wide open field, then the road enters the woods at R064454 and winds through pine timber approximately 10 inches in diameter and with very little underbrush.

At Climbach, Capt Frank gave me the location of the pill boxes which have been demolished during the morning hours. The 180th Inf is laying wire along their MLR. Capt Frank is furnishing each infantry company with a detail to supervise the laying of wire.

At Co B CP in Rott, Lt Bridges furnished me the information that the trail for the 180th FA Bn north of Weiler has been cleared. At the time there were two platoons out working and he could not say what progress had been made.

At Wissembourg, Capt Holcomb of the 36th Engrs is constructing a timber bridge under the bailey bridge therein. They estimate completion of work by tomorrow night.

At the 179th Inf Regtl CP in Weiler, I met Lt Dayton, Co B, who was having trouble locating the line which he was to wire in. We arranged the exact details of alignment with Capt Williams (S-3 179th)

We also arranged that Lt Bridges, Co B, would furnish the companies a wire laying party. Each infantry company would furnish a guide and would deliver wire to the construction site so that the wire laying party would proceed with their work. Lt Dayton, Co B, laid one anti personnel minefield today. At the time, I discussed the situation with Capt Williams (S-3, 179th Inf) he was perturbed over the fact that his right flank neighbors from the 79th Division were preparing his OPL along the continuation of the line which the 179th Infantry was preparing as a MLR. This would result in an exposed flank of approximately 2000 yards of the 179th Inf right flank. Because of this discrepancy, the exact location of the final MLR was not known. However, as work must be commenced, the infantry were beginning work on the MLR as now laid out.

Lt Col Monnier was at the 179th Inf CP and emphasized the necessity for complete and accurate reports on minefields. Capt Williams stated that he was hoping Lt Bridges would lay all anti personnel fields for his regiment. This was agreeable to Lt Col Monnier and instructed Lt Bridges to wire off any such mine fields and to make extensive use of dummy mine fields.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1945 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Harrington, G-3,
Office: Did the 179th Inf and 79th Div on our
right settle difficulty encountered in the MLR
OPL?
Ans: Yes.
- 2010 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A to Maj Billups:
Tomorrow's plan of operation is to push thru
on road through Windstein; the infantry also
want the road to Hirschthal opened. The 2nd Bn
157th Inf is going thru Windstein. What is the
condition of bridge below Windstein?
Maj Billups: Information reported by re-
connaissance is an 18 ft gap. We can arrange for
bridging material now.
Have any anti personnel minefields been
laid for the 157th Inf?
Capt Rickey: Under the present plan the
157th Inf does not intend to use these, but they
may put in some trip flares.
Maj Billups: The orders at present are
for you to move out of your present CP before
Monday (25 Dec) night. A suitable location for
your company is Mattstall. The bridge at
R020410 will be put in by the 540th Engrs.
- 2035 Tel - Capt Wiley, 2nd Bn 157th Inf, to Maj Capt Rickey, Co A,
Billups: Company C 179th Inf is leading attack notified; he is to
tomorrow morning at 0930 hours. They will have contact Capt
an officer guide near the CP at vic north of Wiley for further
Jaeger thal for the purpose of showing you where arrangements.
the troops are located.

TIME
PERIOD 0001-2400 24 December 1944:

REMARKS

ACTION TAKEN

Weather: Clear, cold. Visibility good:

- 0855 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE:
Co A moved to new area to R043444; continued reconnaissance of their sector. This morning they are supporting the attack of the 157th Inf.
Co B continued improvement of trails leading up into their sector and commenced to string wire; laid minefields (one anti tank, one anti personnel).
Co C furnished wire stringing parties for the 180th Inf.
H&S shower unit is now being used at Niederbronn Rest Camp.
The pill boxes demolished by Co C were located at R093535, 094538, 091532, 092534 and 093532.
Capt Tauscher; Of the 78 men of the 157th Inf isolated at Budenthal, all but four were withdrawn under cover of an artillery barrage. Three PWs were brought back by this group.
- 0920 1st Sgt Debney, Co B, submits a sketch of one AP minefield laid by Co B at R154529 and one AT minefield at R125531. Copy to ADE
- 0935 Tel - Capt Padgett, Div CWO Off, to Maj Billups: Ready two flamethrowers for the 179th Inf by 1300. Sgt Nelson, Cml sgt, notified.
- 1040 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Notify G-4 that beginning at 1200 hours today, the bridge at R106496 will be closed to all traffic until tomorrow morning. We will notify you when it is opened again.
- 1105 Tel - Lt Col Schlotzhauer, Div G-4, to Lt Col Monnier: Do not issue all the trip flares to one unit; the 600 which we now have are all we will be able to get.
- 1415 Tel - Capt Padgett, Div CWO Off, to Maj Billups: Location of stored enemy smoke pots was not found. Request Lt Oleson help in locating it. Lt Oleson, Rcn arranges to guide Capt Padgett to site tomorrow.
- 1420 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: I have contacted Lt Hill of the AT Co 179th Inf and told him that the buried red kitchen pot with exposed handle is not a suitable landmark for the AT minefield at R155528. The suggestion I offered was the use of a blazed tree, but Lt Hill states that trees on road side are subject to felling for road blocks.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

What we can do is change on our minefield record (Div #1) the Datum Point to Landmark.

Maj Billups disapproves of Landmark or Datum point changes; only two corrections are necessary, one on sketch sheet, coordinate 151528 must read 155528; and all double mines laid must be indicated as double; single mines indicated as single.

1425 Tel Maj Billups to Lt Col Eschenburg, Div G-3: S-4 notified.

A field artillery battalion proposes to use 1/2 lb of TNT blocks as a warning signal against enemy infiltration around fenced off artillery positions. We believe that this is more of an anti personnel device, capable of injuring our own troops.

Lt Col Eschenburg states that they can use these devices provided it is cut down to 1/4 lb.

1425 Tel - Capt Bridges, Co B, to Lt Oleson, Ren O:

Today we laid 1000 feet of barbed wire for the 179th Inf; tonight we will demolish pill boxes.

1845 Tel - Capt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: Today

we prepared the bridge at R130487 for demolition. Holes were bored in bridge to place explosives in and at present are covered with planks. At the same time the bridge was strengthened by the addition of one bent.

Lt Dayton has two pillboxes to demolish and 1000 yards of wire to lay. He is using 400 lb TNT in place of TOPF mines for explosive because the explosives in this particular case have to be carried a long ways by the individual.

For tomorrow's work, Lt Cohen has been assigned the task of demolishing four pill boxes.

In accordance with the present policy of mine laying, Capt Bridges is informed that engineers are charged with the responsibility of laying or supervision of laying, of minefields.

Maj Billups requests Capt Bridges furnish two trucks and a squad of ten men with non-commissioned officer in charge, for S-4 tomorrow. This detail is to report to S-4 at 0630 hours.

1940 Tel - Lt Simmons, Co A, to Maj Billups: Tank

Dozer No 2 struck a mine in south edge of Hirschtal; one track is broken and one bogie wheel is pulled out. The driver, Pettey, received a small scratch on the right cheek.

One man, Tec 4 Holcomb lost a foot as a result of a mine explosion and another man was lightly injured by an S mine explosion.

Today we removed ten tree road blocks; altogether we encountered 30 TOPF mines and about 25-30 S mines. The S mines were armed with ZZ 35 igniters.

Maj Billups contacts S-3 section, 191 Tank Bn and arrangements made for a repair crew to go to Hirschtal tonight.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

The road is now clear as far as the south edge of Hirschthal.

2045 Tel - Maj Billups to 1st Sgt Co A: Request your company furnish S-4 two trucks. Have them report to S-4 tomorrow morning at 0800.

2100 Messenger - Maj Billups to Capt Frank, Co C: Have two trucks from your company report to S-4 tomorrow morning at 0800 hours.

2120 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A to Maj Billups: The individual injured by S mine explosion will be evacuated. Lt Simmons is going to recheck the road he swept today. Tec 4 Holcomb caused the S mine to explode under the shovel when he applied pressure with his foot as he was digging into the earth.

We do not believe that we will be needing a tank dozer for tomorrow's operations. The road has been cleared as far as Q938438;

At Q959433, a 36" steel culvert was installed. We constructed a bridge at Q954435. The gap of blown bridge was 23 feet, work was completed at 1630 hours. Unexploded enemy demolitions were found in abutments by Sgt Gray who, while working on bridge site, pierced one TOPF mine with his pick. The TOPF mine was not set off.

Maj Billups: Has anyone been on the road Windstein to Obersteinbach?

Capt Rickey: No, there has been no one. On the other road Lembach to Niedersteinbach, the troops are as far as R000478. There is a tree road block in front of these positions; further ahead, at Q997476, the bridge is reported out.

Maj Billups: Did you notice any pill boxes in the vicinity of Windstein?

Capt Rickey: Yes. I saw one on the left hand side of the road beyond the bridge in Windstein.

Maj Billups: Whenever you locate any of these, have sketches made of them and submit them to this office.

2210 Msgr from Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: Tank Dozer no 3, broke down north of Nothweiler. Will you arrange to have a T2 sent to recover it?

Arrangements made with 191st Tk Bn to send T2 to recover the dozer.

PERIOD 0001-2400 25 December 1944:

Weather: Clear, cold. Visibility good.

Weather: Clear, cold; visibility good

- 0800 Field Message from Capt Hudson, CO Co E, 540th Engr Regt, to Maj Billups: "Completed construction of fixed timber bridge at R105496 and opened it for traffic.
- 0830 Tel - Maj Billups to S-3 191st Tank Bn: Request a tank retriever to recover out tank dozer at Nothweiler.
- 0845 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Co A started clearing road at R024480 northwest of Lembach to the south edge of Hirschthal; tank retriever from the 191st Tank Bn was sent after tank dozer last night. A total of 30 TOPF mines and from 25 to 30 S mines were removed during road clearing operations.
On the road thru Windstein they installed a 36" culvert at Q959453, and a timber bridge at Q955434. This road was cleared as far as Q939438.
There were 3 men injured during yesterday's operation. Tec 4 Holcomb lost a foot as a result of an S mine explosion and another man was slightly injured by the same mine. No 2 tank dozer Pettey received a scratch on the right cheek when his tank dozer struck a mine at the south edge of Hirschthal.
Company B prepared bore holes for charges over bridge R129487. They installed one bent under this bridge to strengthen it and prepared a site for a second bent; also laid about 1000 feet of wire of which a sketch will be made. They are cutting turn outs on road Weiler to R134480 with view of making it a two way road.
Capt Tauscher: Information found in G-3 journal for today indicates that engineers (Co B) demolished pill boxes in the 179th Inf sector.
Co C maintained the road Pt Wingen-Bobenthal and constructed a timber bridge east of Bobenthal. One platoon maintained the road from Climbach (087487) along the stream to the main road at R106496 at which point the 540th Engrs constructed a timber bridge and removed the treadway bridge.
- 0920 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Sandridge, Bn Mot O: Tank dozer No 1 is undergoing repairs at the 85th Ordnance shop; tank dozer No 2 is at the 191st Tank Bn repair shop and tank dozer No 3 is to be recovered at a point north of Nothweiler this morning and repaired.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

0925 Tel - Maj Billups to Maj Large, Div Arty S-2:

Lt Oleson, Recon O, will be in the Four a Chaux fortifications area this morning. If you will send someone to contact him, there, he will show him the exact location of the plotting sheets and firing data.

Capt Padgett, reporting to Bn CP at 0945 accompanies Lt Oleson.

1000 Tel - Maj Brogan, S-4 180th Inf, to Maj Billups: We would like to use one of your R-4 dozers this morning to cover up seven dead mules left by the 103rd Div in our present 3rd Bn area. We will furnish an officer guide for this dozer.

Maj Billups contacts Capt Bridges, Co B, and arranges for 1 small dozer.

1010 Tel - Maj Billups to Maj Brogan, S-4, 180th Inf: Arrangements have been made to have a small dozer meet your officer guide near bridge at R106496 at about 1130 or 1145.

1015 Tel - Capt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: Lt Dayton, Co B, demolished two pill boxes and laid 800 yards of triple concertina. Today Lt Cohen, Co B, has four pill boxes to demolish. These pill boxes consist of 3 rooms; the walls are 3 feet thick and each has 2 embrasures. He has planned on using 150 lbs of explosive for each individual pill box.

1025 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: The 191st tank retriever has not recovered the tank dozer at Nothweiler yet.

Maj Billups: The tank retriever is on the way now. What work was done by your company yesterday?

Capt Frank: The 1st platoon cleared 400 yards of tree road block from trails in the 1st Bn 180th Inf area; swept road north from Wingen two kilometers, and road Climbach to Bobenthal for a distance of two kilometers. The 2nd platoon constructed a 32 ft simple stringer bridge 1/4 mile southeast of Bobenthal; layed 200 yards of triple concertina across the valley road north of Bobenthal. The 3rd platoon hauled 76 rolls of concertina to front of the 3rd Bn 180th Inf positions.

1055 Tel - Lt Oleson, Recon O, to Maj Billups: I located approximately 100 eight pound thermite bombs with caps and wires in Four a Chaux fortifications area this morning. Capt Padgett has been shown one of these. There are also many empty TOFF mine cases nearby where these bombs were located.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1530 Tec 5 Merithew, Tank Dozer crew No 2, reports to Maj Billups: The tank retriever from Co B, 191st Tank Bn, put bogie and track back on the tank dozer last night, and that dozer is now being taken to the 191st Tank Bn Service Co shop for completion of repairs.
- 1550 Tel - S-3 sect, 1st Bn, 179th Inf, to Maj Billups: We want to have a demonstration of flamethrowers tomorrow morning at 0900 hours, and request that you fill one of our flame throwers for us and furnish us one NCO to supervise the demonstration.
 Ans: We will furnish you with a filled flame thrower and our chemical sergeant for the demonstration. When flame throwers are emptied return them to our dump, and we will re-issue them upon clearance from Div Cml Warfare Officer.
- 1615 Tec 5 Merithew, tank dozer crew No 2, to Maj Billups: Tank dozer, now at the 191st Tank Bn Service Co will be repaired by tomorrow morning.
- 1630 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: Lt Simmons completed clearing the road block at Hirschthal this morning. Tomorrow, the 2nd Bn 157th Inf is going ahead, and Lt Smith's platoon is supporting them.
 Maj Billups: You will be responsible for laying of mines and wire in the 157th Inf sector, and also for blocking of roads once objective "A" has been reached. Have you done any fortification work in that sector as yet?
 Capt Rickey: No. No definite defensive work has been asked for yet.
- 1800 Tel - Lt Dayton, Co B, to Maj Billups: Co B, today, laid 850 yards of triple concertina; prepared more pill boxes for demolition; constructed another bent under the bridge at R130487 (Weiler) and buried seven dead mules for the 180th Inf, 3rd Bn.
 Maj Billups: Request a sketch be made on 1:25000 scale of the laying of the triple concertina and submitted to this office. Lt Dayton is informed by Maj Billups that a new field order has been put out but this does not affect the 179th Infantry Regiment or its supporting units.

Sgt Nelson, Bn Cml Sgt, instructed to perform demonstration.

Capt Rickey, Co. A, notified.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

1805

Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: Co C today completed timber bridge at R093513; dug in artillery positions for the 171st FA Bn and for its supporting anti-aircraft unit; laid 33 rolls of barbed wire, installed 20 trip flares in front of infantry positions and cut logs for dug-outs. Tomorrow we plan to build a road with our D-7 up to where the tank dozer No 3 is stuck so as to recover it with a T2.

Maj Billups: Request a sketch be made on 1:25000 scale of the barbed wire laid today and submitted to this office.

1835

Tel - Maj Billups to Tec 5 Zampol, ADE sect: Co A today completed clearing of road in Hirschthal.

Co B today laid 450 yards of triple concertina and prepared four pill boxes for demolition; constructed another bent under bridge at Weiler, (R130487), and buried seven dead mules in the 3rd Bn 180th Inf area.

Co C completed timber bridge at R093513; dug in gun positions for the 171st FA Bn and its supporting AA unit; laid 220 yards of triple concertina; installed 20 trip flares in front of infantry positions and sawed logs for cut and cover shelters. They plan to recover tank dozer No 3, by building a road up to it then using the Tank retriever.

Status of tank dozers:

Tank dozer No 1 at present is in 85th Ord shop but is expected to be back in operation tomorrow.

Tank dozer No 2 is in the 85th Ord shop.

Tank dozer No 3, 6638 Mine Clearance Co, bogged down in mud north of Nothweiler; it is expected to have it recovered and repaired tomorrow.

1910

Tel - Capt Sachs (G-2 Office) to S/Sgt O'Neill, S-2 section: The 2nd Bn 179th Inf reports a fire at R142537. This fire is 300 yards wide, crescent shaped and pointed towards the 2nd Bn 179th Inf.

We are suspicious of this and believe it is possible that it is a point for enemy paratroops landing or for bombing. Request you notify your companies.

All companies notified.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

PERIOD 0001-2400 26 December 1944:

Weather: Clear, light ground haze, cold; visibility good.

- 0230 Tel - Div G-3 to Maj Billups: Eight unidentified parachutists were observed landing between Niederbronn and Oberbronn.
- 0845 Tel - Maj Erwin, Asst G-4, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: CG VI Corps requests trash pile accumulated near your CP be disposed of. Lt Sandridge, Asst Mot O, instructed to dispose of trash.
- We would like to have a two-pit incinerator dug for use of division troops in vic of Lembach. Notify this office of location and time of completion of incinerator.
- How much wire and pickets did S-4 draw?
Maj Lowe: They drew 700 yards of concertina with pickets, but no sandbags.
- 0925 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE, to Maj Billups: Division G-3 states that beginning tomorrow infantry regiments will submit sketches of defensive positions on 1:25000 scale instead of 1:100000 scale.
Lt Hill, AT Co 179th Inf, reports hearing 180th Infantry is laying some T6E1 heavy type mines. Are these a new type of mine and are there any available?
Maj Billups: This is a new type mine as far as we know and there are none in this theater.
- 0930 Tel - Lt Keeler, Btry A, 938th FA Bn, to Maj Billups: Request the use of a bulldozer to dig in gun positions. Our CP is now located in Lembach. See entry of 1040.
- 0935 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Harrington, G-3 Office: We have here two representatives from the Corps Engineer who would like to make a definite decision on the 2nd MLR. Could you arrange for someone from your office to go over the ground with us this afternoon so as to check it from your point of view? Or, arrange for someone from the infantry regiments to check the defensive ground since they are the ones who will occupy it.
Capt Harrington suggests a conference be held with Lt Col Eschenburg (Div G-3).
- 1000 Radio - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: Company moved to new location at R031431 south of Lembach.
- 1040 Messenger - Maj Billups to Capt Rickey, Co A: Send D-7 bulldozer to dig gun positions for the

938th FA Bn in vicinity of Lembach. A guide will be waiting for bulldozer in the square at Lembach at 1300 hours. If the D-7 bulldozer is busy at present, notify us at this office.

Capt Rickey, reports the D-7 bulldozer is being used.

1100 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Kimbler, Asst Div CW Officer: We put on a demonstration in the use of the flamethrowers for the 1st Bn 179th Inf and they are requesting a similar one this afternoon for another company. We would like to check with you for approval of fuel expenditure.

Lt Kimbler: Capt Fadgett says this meets with his approval.

1105 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Lipscomb, Co C: Is your D-7 bulldozer being used today?

Ans: Yes, it is opening a road leading to bogged down tank dozer No 3 north of Nothweiler and will be used to dig cut and cover shelters.

The 1st Bn 180th Inf wants an anti tank ditch crossing prepared for demolition vic of RO69540.

1115 Tel - Capt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: The proposed plan of wire laying for last night was called off because it is believed this can be performed during daylight hours with reasonable safety. A sketch of the wire already laid out is being made; this will be turned in to S-2 for reproduction.

The AT Co 179th Inf have laid a minefield and sketch will be submitted soon.

The two pillboxes prepared for demolition by Lt Cohen, Co B, each have 370 pounds of explosive. Infantry personnel are charged with the destruction. Lt Cohen gave the responsible infantry NCO instructions on how to demolish the pill boxes.

1140 Tel - Maj Billups to Maj Erwin, Asst G-4: We will not be able to commence digging of the division incinerator until tomorrow morning on account of our bulldozers being used today elsewhere.

1205 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: Will you arrange for a tank retriever to be at 1st Bn 180th Inf CP in Nothweiler at 1400.

Maj Billups contact S-3 191 Tk Bn and arranges for use of a T2.

1305 Tel - CWO Flanagan, Asst En Mot C, to Maj Billups: Tank dozer No 2 is being fueled at the motor pool. It will require one hour to

paint markings and division insignia on the dozer.

1410

Tel - Lt Col Monnier, calling from ADE office, to Maj Billups: Request information on weapon emplacements, minefields and barbed wire laid, bridges, abatis and anti tank ditches prepared for demolition, by regimental sectors.

Ans: In the 157th Inf sector there is no wire laid; but there is one bridge and 3 abatis prepared for demolition north of Nothweiler. Co A dug two gun emplacements Northeast of Nothweiler for the 157th Inf. In the 179th Inf sector, there is 1500 yards of triple concertina, 300 yards single strand barbed wire thru trees and brush, 3 anti tank and one anti personnel minefields and one bridge prepared for demolition at R129487. In the 180th Inf sector, there are 220 yards of triple concertina, six anti tank minefields of which we have no sketches, 20 trip flares installed, gun emplacements for the 171st FA and its supporting anti aircraft unit, and one anti tank ditch crossing prepared for demolition.

1720

Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: Today we dug in two artillery pieces for the 938th FA Bn; will dig in the remaining two tomorrow. We have found a suitable location for digging of division incinerator.

The 157th Inf has found some gravel which we believe is the camouflage sand ("Tarnsand") used for TOPF mines by the enemy; will bring a sample to Bn CP tonight.

1730

Tel - Capt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: Today we laid 70 rolls of barbed wire for the 3rd Bn 179th Inf. The wire laying details have not reported in tonight.

The infantry has requested trip flares to install around their front line positions for warning purposes. Does this meet with your approval?

Maj Billups approves of infantry using flares for warning purposes. Capt Bridges is instructed to demolish enemy 57mm AT gun located on the outskirts of Rott.

1740

Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: Tank retriever requested from the 191st Tank Bn reported at 1700 hours; by that time we had recovered the tank dozer with our D-7 bulldozer. The tank dozer will be towed to the service company of the 191st Tank Bn where it will undergo repairs.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

Tomorrow, we plan to prepare the bridge at R059533 for demolition and will need six cratering charges.

We laid 1800 yards of single concertina in the 2nd Bn 180th sector. A sketch will be submitted to your office in the morning.

There are two platoons out laying wire tonight; today they constructed dug outs.

We have not laid any anti personnel mines, but we did lay 20 anti tank mines on the shoulders of the road; these could not possibly be laid in the hard surface during hours of darkness, because tools used created sparks visible to the enemy.

1835

Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Bridges, Co B:

Have two trucks and additional six men with an NCO in charge report to S-4 tomorrow morning at 0800 hours.

Capt Hales, S-4, states that the 179th Inf drew an additional 200 rolls of concertina and 8000 sandbags making a total of 370 rolls of concertina for the day.

1840

Capt Rickey, Co A, reporting to Bn CP is instructed by Maj Billups to furnish two trucks for S-4 tomorrow at 0800.

Capt Rickey states that Lt Smith, Co A, cleared tree road block at Q943461 and Q945462; cleared road from RJ945440 to RJ944461 to RJ937472. It is planned to install two culverts at blown bridge site at Q997476 tomorrow.

Capt Rickey brings in sample of gravel found buried around TOPF mines by the 157th Inf. It is foreign to the surrounding soil and may be "Tarnsand".

2050

Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Hales, S-4: How many cratering charges are there in our dump?

Capt Hales: We have 115 at present.

Maj Billups: In the event of a withdrawal, what items would you give highest priority for removal?

Capt Hales: Explosives would be first priority fortification material second. The dump all together could be moved in twenty truckloads.

2055

Tel - Maj Billups, to Lt Col Darling, Ex O VI Corps Engr Sect: Our Co A located what we believe is enemy "Tarnsand" used around non-metallic mines. It is crushed quartz capable of passing thru a $\frac{1}{2}$ " screen; this quartz will not

react to our mine detectors. A sample of this will be sent to your office.

After a conference with representatives of the 540th Engrs on the 2nd MLR, I found that we arrived at almost the same conclusions. I discussed the plan with Lt Col Eschenburg, Div G-3, and he wishes to take our recommendation. He states that he does not believe the infantry regiments will have much time to do any checking of fortifications. I was instructed to put the plan on paper and turn in our ideas to him. Meanwhile the 540th Engrs will clear out the roads directly behind those positions and rehabilitate existing fortifications. We will submit this idea to the regimental commanders involved and they are to check over the ground with representatives of the 540th Engrs and arrive at a final conclusion as to what is to be done.

We differ from VI Corp order on contact point with the 79th Division and have selected a contact point further up to the north which we are certain is to our advantage.

At the present time, we are laying a considerable amount of barbed wire. Sketches will be submitted to your office as soon as they are turned in to us.

Our reconnaissance section located a number of enemy smoke pots in Four a Chaux fortification and reported them to our division CW office.

Lt Col Darling: What caused the second explosion in the pill box demolished by your unit?

Maj Billups: We believe this was an ammunition cache.

Lt Col Darling: From our location in Goersdorf we are observing a semi-circular fire burning tonight; it is in a northwest direction from us and the two crescent tips are facing towards us.

Maj Billups: We received a report last night of a similar fire to the northeast of us but the tips were facing the enemy.

Maj Bishop, G-2, notified; he states fire reported night of 25 Dec was caused by eml mortars.

2205

Tel - Capt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: With tomorrow's detail, I am including two prisoners, who under armed guard, are to be sent to the battalion stockade.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
	Weather: Clear, cold; visibility good.	
0815	Tel - Lt Kivy, S-3 sect, 3rd Bn, 157th Inf to Maj Billups: We want engineers from your Co A, with a tank dozer to support our 3rd Bn this morning. Request you notify Capt Rickey, Co A.	Capt Rickey notified.
0830	Tel - Sgt Dykens, ADE section, to Maj Billups: Division Hq requests a 12" x 12" "War Room" sign be painted.	M/Sgt McAlarnis s-3 Sect, Notified.
0845	Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Yesterday Co A dug in two guns for the 938th FA Bn. They located what is believed to be enemy "Tarnsand" used around non-metallic mines; a sample of which will be sent to VI Corps Engr. Lt Smith, Co A, cleared road block at Q943461 and Q945462, cleared road from RJ945440 to RJ944461 to RJ937472. Co B laid 70 rolls of barbed wire in the 3rd Bn 179th Inf sector. Co C recovered tank dozer No 3 with their D-7 bulldozer. From Nothweiler it will be taken to the ordnance shop where it will undergo repairs. They laid 1800 yards of triple concertina in the 2nd Bn 180th Inf sector and constructed dug outs for reserve infantry companies. H&S Co: Sgt Nelson (Bn Cml NCO) conducted a demonstration in use of flamethrowers for the 1st Bn 179th Inf; dug a trash pit with the R-4 bulldozer and covered the existing trash accumulated by all division units in vic of Bn CP.	
0900	Msgr from Co C delivered an overlay of barbed wire and sketches of minefields laid by Co C in the 180th Inf sector.	
0925	Tel - Capt Padgett, Div CW Officer, to Maj Billups: We propose to turn in the flamethrowers now in the division to Seventh Army, because we are authorized these only for a certain period of time. I will contact Maj Noble, S-4 157th Inf, and ask to have the flamethrowers now in his regiment turned in. We may be able to keep four or five for instruction purposes.	
0935	Field message, S-2 157th Inf to Capt McCullough, S-2: We are sending a sample of what we think is enemy "Tarnsand". It was found on mines and was covered with tar in vicinity Q975483.	
1100	Tel - Maj Billups, to Lt Col Monnier at Div Hq: I was starting out for VI Corps Hq when I received a call from Col Thomas, VI Corps Engr, who states that if it is convenient, he would like to see you at his office now.	

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- 1150 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to M/Sgt McAlarnis, S-3 section: Lt Simmons, Co A, at present time needs the tank dozer to clear road blocks. Will you make a check and let us know what time the tank dozer No 2 will be repaired and ready for operation?
- 1200 Tel - M/Sgt McAlarnis, S-3 section, to Capt Rickey, Co A: I have checked with the repair crew and they estimate tank dozer No 2 will be ready at about 1500 hours.
- 1205 Tel - Col Wickham, O of S, to Maj Lowe, Exec G: Notify Lt Col Monnier that Gen Frederick wants him to attend a meeting in the General's office at 1500, this afternoon. Lt Col Monnier, At VI Corps Hq, is notified.
- 215 Capt Rickey, Co A, reports completion of division incinerator pits at R029434; the necessary signs have been posted.
- 1250 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Rickey, Co A: We believe that tank dozer No 2 will be ready by 1500 hours or before. Where do you want the dozer to go? Capt Rickey: Send the tank dozer direct to Hirschthal. Maj Billups: A half-track vehicle of the 540th Engrs, on one of the roads behind the Lembach fortification area, struck a TOFF mine. Upon inspection of the road, they noticed a felled tree at the end of the mine block. On the stump of the felled tree they found a green stripe painted by the enemy. Further ahead, a road sign facing the enemy had a green stripe marked on one side. Similar marking was found on a stump of felled tree at the end of a mine road block in road branching to the left. Maj Bishop, Div G-2, notified.
- Capt Rickey: Lt Etherton, now working on the road from RJO27474 to Obersteinbach has encountered a number of mines. In one instance, he rode over a TOFF mine in his 1/4 ton vehicle but did not set the mine off. Numerous booby traps have been removed from the tree road block near the blown bridge at Q997476. The road block is being bypassed by using a trail to one side, so as to commence work on blown bridge at Q997476.
- 1310 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Padgett, Div CWO: We have nine flamethrowers ready for use, five cleaned and packed in boxes, and six are being used by the 157th Inf. In order to complete the flamethrowers service kit, we will need nineteen batteries, one generator and one regulator valve.

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Capt Padgett: Maj Noble believes that the six flamethrowers which he now has will be ready to turn in to our dump tomorrow. He will notify us when they are ready and we in turn will notify you.

1350 Tel - Col Thomas, VI Corps Engr, to Maj Billups: We received information sometime ago in regard to your unit locating two saw mills in your sector.

Maj Billups: Yes, there are two; one of these we are sure is water powered and of the other one we do not have any information.

Col Thomas: Will you check these two saw mills this afternoon and give us information as to capacity how these are powered and location.

1425 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Bridges, Co B: Lt Col Monnier requests you be present for a meeting to be held at Bn CP at 1830 hours. Bring an overlay showing the defensive positions constructed today.

Capt Bridges: We have removed the NW group of five anti tank mines from the minefield laid the other day by Lt Cohen, Co B; Will you notify Capt McCullough to indicate this change in the sketch and to send a copy of this sketch to the 179th Inf Regt.

The 57mm enemy anti tank gun which you requested to be destroyed was not found; we believe someone hauled it away.

1430 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Frank, Co C: Lt Col Monnier requests you attend a meeting to be held at the Bn CP at 1830 hours. We plan to have the artillery fire a few rounds at the same time that you blow the anti tank ditch crossing in vic of R068541.

Capt Frank: This will not work satisfactorily; the enemy is very near to the ditch and will observe every move we make during daylight hours. But we are going to blow this crossing tonight under cover of darkness.

Maj Billups: Do not blow the anti tank ditch crossing until further instructions.

Capt Frank: We have prepared the bridge at R059533 for demolition. The charges have been placed on the ends of the stringers; placing of charges in the abutments was not feasible.

- 1515 M/Sgt McAlarnis, S-3, section reports tank dozer No 2 is now leaving for Hirschthal.
- 1655 Msgr from Co C to S-2: Sketches of 6 minefields laid since 22 Dec by the 180th Inf. Copies sent to ADE
- 2000 Capt Rickey, Co A, reports the company's work for today: They cleared road Hirschthal north to a point south of Schonau at R012510, between these two points there were two timber road blocks removed, each approximately 200 yards in length. Also cleared booby trapped and mined timber road block beginning from Q999477 to Q997476 from which were removed seven 3kg charges and six TOPF mines. They installed two steel culverts at Q997476, dug two gun positions for the 938th FA, and dug two incinerator pits for division units at R029434.

PERIOD 0001-2400 28 December 1944:

Weather: Clear to partly cloudy, cold, light snow at close of period; visibility fair.

- 0815 Tel - 1st Sgt Co C reports the company's work for 27 Dec: They prepared bridge at R059533 for demolition, cut logs and started construction of cut and cover shelters for 1st Bn 180th Inf; cleared trails in 2nd Bn sector; cleared 150 yards of road block in area $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Nieder Schlettenbach; laid 700 yards of single concertina one mile southeast of Nieder Schlettenbach and 176 rolls of concertina and 4 spools of wire northeast of Bobenthal. Dug gun positions for the 171st FA Bn. Capt Tauscher, ADE, notified.
- 0910 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Co A cleared road Hirschthal north to a point south of Schonau at R012510; between these two points there were two 200 yard timber road blocks removed. Also cleared booby trapped and mined timber road beginning from Q999477 to Q997476 from which were removed seven 3kg charges and six TOPF mines. They installed 2 steel culverts at Q997476; dug two gun positions for the 938th FA and dug two incinerator pits for division units at R029434.
Co B 2nd platoon laid approximately 1200 yards of triple concertina in 2nd Bn 179th Inf sector and removed part of a minefield previously laid. The 3rd platoon laid approximately 650 yards of triple concertina in the 3rd Bn sector; constructed a 12 ft simple stringer class 9 bridge at R157513 and removed a road block extending from R157573 to R158511. The 1st platoon maintained road north of Weiler.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
0835	Tel - Maj Lowe, Exec O, to 1st Sgt Co A: Request your company furnish one cargo truck to S-4 this morning. This truck will be used by S-4 all day.	WO Ferguson, Asst S-4, notified.
0915	Tel - Lt Col Darling, Exec O VI Corps Engr Sect, to Maj Lowe, Exec O: We will be able to permit your unit the use of an earth auger for periods of 2 or 3 days at a time only. Arrangements have been made with Co B 57th Sig Bn; we will give you the unit's location at this headquarters.	Maj Billups notified.
0920	Tel - Capt Padgett, Div CWO, to Sgt Nelson, Bn Cml Sgt: We found 9 flamethrowers in your dump fully charged. Will you remove these charges before we transfer the flamethrowers to VI Corps Engr Dump.	
1005	Tel - Lt Col Monnier (calling from Div G-3), to Lt Oleson, Recon O: Send a copy of engineer operations instructions on MLR No 2 to Div G-3 immediately.	Pencil copy delivered to Div G-3 and returned to this office.
1055	Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Lt Oleson, Recon O: What disposition is to be made of track and blade of tank dozer No 3 which were left behind north of Nothweiler.	
1100	Tel - Lt Oleson, Recon O, to Capt Barnard, S-3 sect 191st Tk Bn: What do you propose to do about the track and blade left behind by tank dozer No 3 in vic north of Nothweiler. Capt Barnard: We are sending a tank retriever to pick up tank dozer track at Nothweiler but about the tank dozer blade still at the place where the tank dozer was stuck, we do not know. We doubt whether the tank retriever will be able to pick up the blade, however, we will try it if it is pulled out to the main road. Where would you like to have tank dozer blade delivered? Lt Oleson: We want the tank dozer blade here at our motor pool in Langensultzbach.	Lt Sandridge, Bn Mot O, notified and instructed to send wrecker to recover tank dozer blade. If it is not possible to deliver blade to Bn motor pool it will be left at Nothweiler for the tank retriever to haul.
1130	Capt Barnard: The tank dozer will be sent to an ordnance shop and we estimate it will require one week to have it repaired. Sgt Nelson, Bn Cml Sgt, returning from the 120th Engr dump at Lembach reports that twenty flamethrowers have been picked up by Division Cml Warfare officer to turn in to VI Corps Cml dump. The 125 gallons of prepared fuel, the hydrogen and nitrogen cylinders, and the three kits were left in the dump for possible future use.	

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- 1210 Tel - Capt Harrington, G-3 Office: Request two pieces of steel rail four feet long and two metal sheets 3 ft square to use in counter-sabotage demonstration in Lembach this afternoon. Maj Billups notified.
- 1250 Tel - Lt Lipscomb, Co C, to Lt Oleson, Ren C: I will meet H&S Co wrecker at road junction in Nothweiler and will guide it to location of tank dozer blade. Lt Sandridge, En Mot O, notified.
- 1330 Tel - Capt Harkey (191st Tk Bn), to Maj Billups: We have picked up tank dozer track but were unable to handle tank dozer blade with T2. The tank dozer will be sent to the ordnance shop because we do not have the parts necessary for repairing it.
Maj Billups: If our wrecker truck is unable to pick up tank dozer blade, we plan to detach the blade from another tank dozer and in this manner recover it and have it delivered to our motor pool.
- 1430 Tank dozer No 1 and crew returning from 85th Ord Repair shop reported to Maj Billups. Blade from tank Dozer No 1 was detached and tank dozer was sent to recover blade of tank dozer No 3 from vic of Nothweiler and to return to this headquarters.
- 1550 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Col Darling, Exec C VI Corps Engr Sect: Tank dozer No 3 (6638 Mine C1 Co) has been sent to 85th Ord shop to be repaired. The blade left behind by this dozer is being recovered and will be brought to our headquarters. We would like to have this information given to Lt Bein of the 6638 Mine C1 Co.
- 1605 Lt Col Knapp, CO 2nd Bn 540th Engrs, to Maj Billups: Request information on the policy in regard to the laying and marking of mine fields.
Maj Billups: We prefer the standard mine field markings consisting of a two strand fence completely around all minefields except those which were a part of the final protective line laid in front of concertina. In this case, concertina would form one fence. Our engineers, after all was accomplished, would remove the fences.
Lt Col Knapp: What is the plan for the covering of the defenses before Lembach.
Maj Billups: We are trying to get a plan approved which would provide a complete minefield across the valley.
Maj Billups: We are trying to get a plan approved which would provide a complete minefield across the valley.

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Capt Frank, Co C, reporting to Bn CP states that the 180th Inf has planned and asked for a minefield beginning at the anti tank obstacle beginning at R033042 to the bend in the stream at R035041; up to the anti tank obstacle at approximately R044443; another minefield to extend from R029455 to R034445, and still another minefield across the draw at R016449.

- 1625 Lt Sandridge, Bn Mot O, to Maj Billups: Dozer blade of the tank dozer No 3, has been recovered by wrecker truck and is now at the motor pool. msgr sent to notify tank dozer crew to return to CP.
- 1750 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: Today Lt Etherton cleared road west to Obersteinbach as far as Q972484; removed a tree road block on this road in which were found 9 TOPF mines and 3 booby-trapped S mines. The working party received heavy enemy artillery fire before and after completion of removal of road block.
Tomorrow morning we plan to start laying mines and wire.
Lt Simmons is going to contact 1st Bn 157th Inf in regard to laying of wire. We do not know how much he will need.
- 1756 Lt Col Monnier reports snow and requests lettered companies and infantry regiments be notified to maintain road patrols. All lettered companies and Inf Regts notified.
- 1800 Tel - Capt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: Today we continued improvement of the road Weiler southeast to R132480; hauled gravel ashes, had bull dozer cut turn outs along the road, and also covered and removed ice from surface of road. We are keeping one platoon wiring the forward positions. One battalion of the 179th Inf proposes to occupy the fort south of Climbach and we plan to open entrances to it.
Tomorrow we are going to prepare two bridges, abatis and road craters for demolition as required by operations instructions.
- 1825 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Col Darling, Exec O, VI Corps Engr Sect: We wish to know to whom the bridge at Wissenbourg belongs, to the 45th or to the 79th Div? We propose to prepare it for demolition and do not want it to interfere with the neighboring unit's plans.
Lt Col Darling: We do not have any definite information on this. Lt Col Monnier notified.

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- 1845 Tel - Lt Col Muldrow, CO 189th FA Bn, to Maj Billups: We plan to have 12 gun positions prepared in advance in the vicinity of Goersdorf and Woerth and request the use of a bulldozer to do this work. Arrangements can be made to have your bulldozer sent to meet a guide at R017400
 Maj Billups: I cannot promise immediate help, but will send an officer to check and mark proposed gun positions. Have your guide meet my officer at R017400 at 1000 hours. Lt Oleson, Rcn O, instructed to check proposed gun positions.
- 1910 Tel - Sgt from S-3 sect 179th Inf to Maj Billups: Request a flamethrower demonstration for one of our companies just out of the line.
 Maj Billups: This can not be done; all the flamethrowers have been recalled by VI Corps Cml Warfare Office.
- 1920 Tel - Maj Billups to Maj Erwin, Asst Div G-4: I have instructed our companies and the infantry regiments to maintain road patrols in their sectors on main roads to prevent snow accumulation and consequently a traffic halt. In the event that snow plows are needed, there are 4 available at the 540th Engrs.
 Maj Erwin: Notify artillery units also to maintain similar road patrols. Div Arty notified
- 1935 Tel - Capt Harrington, Div G-3 sect, to Maj Billups: What do you plan that your engineer unit will do in case of a withdrawal?
 Maj Billups: We will construct barrier lines, prepare minefields, prepare and effect demolitions upon order, and block all approaches in the division sector.
 The 540th Engrs are to prepare the Maginot fortifications and to lay a barrier zone in the immediate vicinity of the MLR and to rehabilitate positions in the MLR proper.
 In regard to required attendance to the Division Counter-Sabotage demonstration, we are unable to release the number of personnel requested. However a few selected key men will attend.
- 1930 Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Bridges; Co B: On 30 Dec there will be a counter sabotage demonstration held in Lembach for divisional units; arrange to have 15 or 20 men attend this, but do not permit it to hinder the daily necessary work. Submit an attendance report to this office.
 Capt Bridges: The two pill boxes demolished by Lt Cohen of this company were reduced to rubble, according to a German FW report.
 Maj Billups: We plan to have an earth auger tomorrow for the purpose of boring holes to place

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demolition charges where needed; it will be sent to you, if you want it.

2005 Tel - Col Arnote, Div Arty CO) to Maj Billups: Will bridge at R020410 pass a 23 ton vehicle?
Maj Billups: Yes; it will pass a 40 ton vehicle.
Col Arnote: Will the road north to Mattstall pass two way traffic?
Maj Billups: No, this is a one way road; I suggest you arrange with G-4 for road clearance if you are planning on having any heavy traffic on it.

2040 Tel - CO Co B 57th Sig Bn to Maj Billups: We will permit your unit to use our earth auger; at present we feel we cannot spare an operator but if you will send a capable man he will be given instructions on use of auger.
Our location is approximately 1/2 mile south of Morsbroan les Bains.

Lt Sandridge, Bn Mot O, instructed to send after auger; he suggests 1 man from each company be instructed in use of earth auger.

2100 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: We are going to blow crater in road at R059540, tonight. Bridges prepared for demolition are at R059533, Nothweiler (R046522), Bobenthal (R089514), R093513, R106496, plus 2 others whose location is indefinite. We are going to prepare for demolition a crater in the road leading southwest from bridge at R106496 also one bridge in Lembach.

2120 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Harrington, G-3 Office: We are requesting a definite decision be made as to whom the responsibility belongs for the demolition of, or the blocking off, of the bridge in Wissembourg and road from R107496 to R088467; the former happens to be on 79th Div and 45th Div boundary; the latter on 180th Inf and 179th Inf regimental boundary.
Capt Harrington: There is no definite information on this problem at present, but I will take this up with Division G-3.

PERIOD 0001-2400 29 December 1944:

Weather: Clear to partly cloudy, cold, light ground haze; visibility fair.

0825 Maj Nicholas, French Liaison Officer and fortification expert, requesting printed copies of Hochwald fortified area, is sent to contact Capt Devine, S-2 VI Corps Engr section.

0840

Tel - Maj Billups, to Capt Tauscher, ADE:
Co A cleared road west towards Obersteinbach as far as Q972484, removed 3 S mine booby traps and nine TOPF mines with the tree road block on this road.

Co B continued improving road Weiler southeast to R132480 by laying gravel and ashes, and cutting frequent turn outs in the road; also cleared road of ice.

Co C Blew crater in anti tank ditch crossing at R059540 and prepared the following bridges for demolition: R059533, R045522, R089514, R093513, R106496 and two others which location we do not know.

Status of Tank Dozers: No 1 returned from repair shop and is back in operation; No 2 in operation and assigned to Co A; tank dozer No 3 in ordnance shop undergoing repairs. The blade for No 3 tank was recovered yesterday by our wrecker truck.

1055

Tel - Capt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups:
Capt Frank, Co C, is going to be responsible for the blocking of road from R107496 southwest to R087487.

According to the present plans, the 179th Inf is to use the road from Weiler southeast to R134480.

We have found the entrances to the fortification south of Climbach and after inspection the infantry battalion concerned believe that it is very satisfactory. Co F 540th Engrs have almost completed the work assigned to them. They have prepared and marked off a minefield and prepared an abatis for demolition.

The laying of wire continues both in forward positions and in rear fortifications.

The cratering charges to be installed will not be placed without primers; we propose to insert primers at the time of execution.

Maj Billups: In view of movement of artillery units, we would like to use your bulldozer in the near future to prepare gun positions.

Capt Bridges: Our bulldozer is in use; the 160th FA has asked us to prepare some positions for them.

1110

Lt Oleson, Ren O, returning from vicinity of Woerth reports that gun positions for the 189th FA Bn have been marked off.

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- 1200 Messenger - Maj Billups to Lt Col Knapp (CO 2nd Bn 540th Engrs): Can you send me an overlay detailing the work that your battalion now has under way along our MLR? I am particularly interested in the plans of your E and F companies, as I have some information on your D Company.
- 1300 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Picket, Co B: Send your 8 ton trailer to Capt Rickey at Co A.
Contact the 160th FA and have them indicate location of proposed gun positions which they want prepared.
- 1310 Tel - Lt Picket, Co B, to Maj Billups: Co A notified.
Our prime mover is not in operating condition, therefore we will not be able to send an 8 ton trailer. Will you arrange for Co A to send after the trailer.
- 1320 Tel - Maj Billups to Maj King, S-3 189th FA:
We are sending a small bulldozer to commence digging gun positions for your organization in vicinity of Woerth; later in the afternoon the D-7 bulldozer will be sent there also. The small dozer will commence working on Battery A's positions on account of the ground being softer there.
- 1330 Tel - Ammunition Officer, 157th Inf to Maj Billups: We are planning to lay a few anti personnel mines. What is the present policy in regard to the laying of these mines?
Maj Billups: Anti personnel minefields will be laid upon order of your regimental commander and the laying will be done by or supervised by the engineers.
- 1415 Tel - Capt Harrington, G-3 Office, to Maj Billups: For the division counter sabotage demonstration tomorrow, we have scheduled the total unit attendance of 50 men from your organization for in the morning.
- 1440 Tel - Col Arnote (G-3 Div Arty) to Maj Billups: We wish to use a bulldozer to dig gun positions for the 938th FA Bn which is reinforcing our fires. They plan to have their positions in the Q9938 grid square.
- 1445 After a three party telephone conversation (CO 938th FA Bn, S-3 Div Arty and Maj Billups) it is decided to send one representative from one battery (938th FA Bn) to indicate proposed gun positions; as soon as one battery's gun positions are completed, notice will be sent to

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CO 938th FA who will send representative of second battery. The gun positions for the 938th FA will all be dug in this manner.

1455 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Picket, Co B: Earth Auger from Co B 57th Sig Bn will be sent to your company tomorrow.

1635 Capt Hartnagel (Asst S-3 returning from the 79th Div GP) to Maj Billups: ADE of the 304th Engrs, 79th Div, states bridge at R146488 has been prepared for demolition; demolition is to be executed upon order of the CO 315th Inf Regt. The 304th Engrs have also made preparations for the blocking of the road in the event the need arises.

1720 Lt Oleson, Ren O returning from Vic of Woerth, to Maj Billups: Digging of gun positions for Btry A 189th FA Bn has been completed.

1725 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: Request use of earth auger for the purpose of digging holes to place charges on main road along the valley to Bobenthal, tonight.
Maj Billups: Div CG says to go ahead and blow the big bridge in Lembach, but give this operation a low priority.

H&S Co instructed to notify earth auger operator to report to Capt Frank, Co C, at Climbach.

1735 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: We have completed laying one anti tank mine field in vicinity of Dambach. It has been marked off; the two trails straddling the minefield have been blocked by abatis.

Another anti tank minefield, incomplete as yet, was laid at Wineckerthal (R945443).

There was no barbed wire laid today. The 157th Infantry attempted hauling the wire on mules to the forward positions but the terrain was too difficult to pass. Another attempt will be made tomorrow, this time the pioneer platoon will be used to clear a good route of approach.

What information do you have about a proposed anti personnel minefield for the 3rd Bn 157th Inf?

Maj Billups: The supply officer 157th Inf, today drew 25 anti personnel mines from us.

For tomorrow we request you have two or three men accompany Capt Yox (Div Ammunition O) on a tour of inspection of tunnels in Four a Chauz fortifications.

We also request a few of your men attend a counter-sabotage demonstration at 0900 tomorrow in Lembach.

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1835 Tel - Capt Hales, S-4, to Maj Billups: There are 600 rolls of concertina to be unloaded tonight and we will need a six man detail; have them report to my office at 1930 hours. M/Sgt McAlarnis S-3 sect, to furnish detail.

1940 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: Notify Capt Hudson, CO Co E 540th Engrs, that changes in plan have occurred. These will affect his work. It is requested that he contact Maj Sandelin at Service Co 180th Inf tomorrow at 0900 hours.

2000 Messenger - Maj Billups to Capt Hudson, CO Co E 540th Engrs:
1. I just received word of a change in plans which will affect your work.
2. CO 180th Inf desires that you meet Maj Sandelin at 180th Inf desires that you meet Maj Sandelin at 180th Inf service Co tomorrow at 0900 hours to discuss changes.

2100 Messenger - Lt Col Knapp (CO 2nd Bn 540th Engrs) to Maj Billups: Co E of my battalion knows of this change and is expecting to meet 180th tomorrow morning. I will have a representative there.

PERIOD 0001-2400 30 December 1944:

Weather: Clear to partly cloudy, cold, light snow at close of period; visibility fair to limited.

- 0755 Tel - Lt Lipscomb, Co C, to Maj Billups: We want to use the earth auger again this morning; have it stand by at road intersection in Lembach. The work for this morning is to be done just north of Lembach.
Maj Billups: As soon as your work is completed, send the earth auger to Co B CP in Rott.
- 0820 Tel - Lt Oleson, Recon O, to S-3 189th FA Bn: We will have a bull dozer at your B battery and C battery at about 0900 to prepare gun positions. Request you provide camouflage nets to cover the spoil at these emplacements.
- 0840 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, ADE: Yesterday Co A dug gun emplacements for A battery 189th FA Bn; completed laying of one anti tank minefield in vicinity of Dambach, another anti tank minefield, incomplete so far, was laid at Wizeckerthal (R945443). There was no wire laid because the infantry was unable to haul the wire to the location needed.
Co B prepared bridges for demolition at R075463, R129487 (Weller) and culvert at R129502; prepared abatis for demolition, 200 yards in length, from R089467 to R091469, R075463, abatis blocking three trails from R127504 to R130502, trail intersection R137530, R147517, R149518 and R153517; felled trees at R156513, R156509 and at trail intersection R160509; placed cratering charges on road at R104473; laid 400 yards of wire to complete the block, and opened fortifications for occupation; dug gun emplacements for the 160th FA Bn.
Co C laid 10 anti tank mines at R056527; placed cratering charges at R104499, R097480; R025475; R039449; felled abatis at R106516, R105507, R108503; prepared abatis for demolition at R046526, R044512, R056527, R058525, R086514, R115533, R117528, R099516, R097478; checked area for possible unblocked entrances from R070540 along stream to R057527, across ridge down to stream at Bobenthal, then to Nieder Schlett-
onbach and down to R070540.
- 1000 Tel - Lt Col Darling, Exec O VI Corps Engr sect, to Maj Billups: The bridge at Wissembourg will be your responsibility.

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- 1145 Tel - Maj Blue, S-3 499 AFA Bn, to Maj Billups: Request use of a bulldozer to dig gun positions for the 499 AFA Bn in vicinity of Lembach. We will send an officer to your office to make necessary arrangements.
- 1250 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Lipscomb, Co C: The 499 AFA Bn has requested use of a bulldozer to prepare gun positions in vicinity of Lembach.
Lt Lipscomb: We will furnish D-7 dozer for them. Have guide report to our CP (Climbach). Will you arrange with the 499 AFA for transportation of dozer operator to and from proposed site.
- 1255 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Picket, Co B: Check on availability of your D-7 dozer for another work project.
- 1300 Tel - 1st Sgt Co B to Maj Billups: Our D-7 has completed digging gun positions for one battery of the 160th FA Bn and is going to start digging gun positions for Battery B 160th FA Bn.
- 1305 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C, to Maj Billups: What is the plan for the blocking of the Pt Wingen-Lembach road?
Maj Billups: As far as we know, there is no definite plan, however, either mines or cratering charges would be the logical block.
Capt Frank: If mines are used, it will require a large quantity; if a crater is blown, it can easily be by passed.
- 1320 Tel - Maj Billups to Lt Sandridge, Bn Mot O: Co A's D-7 dozer track requires repairing; request you send two or three mechanics to Co A now. Lt Oleson, Recon O, is leaving for Co A: Lt Sandridge: We have no transportation for the mechanics; we will send them with Lt Oleson. Lt Oleson notified.
- 1325 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Bridges, Co B: Send R-4 dozer operator with prime mover to pick up R-4 dozer in dump at Woerth and report to our Bn CP in Langensultzbach. He will be kept here until the digging of gun positions has been completed.
- 1340 Tel - Maj Billups to Maj Blue, S-3 499 AFA Bn: I have a guide ready to go to work on your gun positions. Have someone go and pick up the D-7 dozer at our Co C CP in Climbach. Will you arrange to have dozer operator transported to and from work.
- 1430 Tel - Capt Tauscher, ADE to M/Sgt McAlarnis, S-3 section: Div Arty reports 157th Inf has laid an AT minefield at Q921453, vic of Dambach.

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- 1440 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: The 3rd Bn 157th Inf proposes to lay booby trapped anti tank minefields. What is the availability of these anti lifting devices?
Maj Billups: I will make a check of these items and furnish you the information later. If your R-4 dozer is not being used now, we want to keep it here and use it to dig gun positions.
- 1450 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Rickey, Co A: S-4 reports there are 900 anti-lifting devices in our dump; the proposed minefield with these devices must be laid only by engineer personnel.
- 1955 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: Today we laid 675 AT mines on the main road southeast of Dambach (Q928443) in the 2nd Bn 157th Inf sector, laid 600 yards of double concertina in the 1st Bn sector; completed blocking with abatis the trails around the AT minefield at Q946443, and laid a minefield of 12 anti personnel mines, a sketch for which will be submitted. Three men attended counter sabotage demonstration at Lembach today. A work detail out tonight, will lay 10 anti tank mines, four of which will be booby trapped with anti lifting devices.
- 2055 Tel - S-3 Sect Officer, 3rd Bn 180th Inf, to Maj Billups: Request that CO Co E 540th Engrs be notified that the CO 3rd Bn 180th Inf (Lt Col Bird) will meet him at Serv Co 180th Inf in Lembach at 0900 hours tomorrow.
- 2215 Messenger - Maj Billups to CO Co E 540th Engrs: Lt Col Bird, 180th Inf would like to see you at 180th Inf Serv Co CP in Lembach tomorrow morning at 0900 hours, if you can be there.
- 2220 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Lt Col Darling, Exec O VI Corps Engr Sect: A new infantry regiment is being attached to our division and will require the support of an engineer company. Is there any possibility of getting a company of the 540th Engr Regt to support them?
Lt Col Darling: Yes. Contact CO 540th Engr Regt; there is a possibility of getting a company from the 1st Bn now working on the 45th Division sector.
Lt Col Monnier: We have one of the new US anti tank mine T&E1 Heavy. What information can you give us on this mine?

TIMEREMARKSACTION

Lt Col Darling: Reports received indicate that these mines have been detonated when arming. Any foreign matter in the igniter well, at the time of arming these mines, might cause the mine to be set off. However, if reasonable care is taken, in this respect, the mine should prove to be very satisfactory.

2040 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Lt Col Eschenburg (Div G-3): I believe we can get a company of engineers from the 1st Bn 540th Engrs, now on our left, to support the new infantry regiment being attached to the 45th Division.

Lt Col Eschenburg: How would our new field order read?

Lt Col Monnier: Field order must read: "One company of engineers in support". We do not know what lettered company it will be.

2045 Tel - Maj Lowe, Exec O, to WO Ferguson, Asst S-4: Have Tec 4 Mustad, water supply sect, notify units drawing water from Bobenthal water point that this point will be closed today.

PERIOD 0001-2400 31 December 1944:

Weather: Clear, cold, light snow; visibility fair.

0830 Tel - Maj Billups to Capt Tauscher, "DE": Co A yesterday laid 875 anti tank mines at Q928446, completed blocking of trails around anti tank minefield at Q946443; laid 600 yards of double concertina in the 1st Bn 157th Inf sector; laid a small anti personnel minefield consisting of 12 mines.

0850 Tel - Lt Prestwood, Co C, to Maj Billups: Is earth auger reporting to our company this morning?
Ans: Yes.

0855 Tel - Lt Fenstermacher, 6638 Mine Clearance Co, to Maj Billups: Tank dozer No 3 and crew, attached to your Co C, is returning to VI Corps Engr on order of Col Thomas, VI Corps Engr. Tank dozer will undergo repairs and we do not know whether we will return to your C Co.

0900 Tel - Lt Picket, Co B, to Maj Billups: Co B yesterday laid barbed wire from R118530 to 130537 and from 158522 to 166517; prepared abatis for demolition at R132493, RJ111502, 128517, 135522, 138520, 142514, 146512, along trail from 074465 to the culvert at 076463 and along another trail at 076465 and 078446; 074462, 077463. Prepared culvert for demolition at 076463; located 8 mines laid around boxes in fortification area.

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- 0945 Capt Rickey, Co A, arriving at Bn CP reports on Co A's work for yesterday: Strung concertina from R004505 to 006508; laid anti tank mine road block at Q973484 consisting of 10 anti tank mines of which two are activated and 3 anti personnel mines.
- 1120 Tel - 160th FA Bn Officer reports a 3/4 ton vehicle from his unit, while hauling timber for dugouts, struck a mine at R009399 at about 1045 hours.
- 1130 Sketch submitted by Co C indicates work done on 30 Dec: Abatis prepared for demolition: 16 trees at R011482, 30 trees at Q29480, 17 trees at Q40495, 8 trees at Q53502, 50 trees at Q60483, 8 trees at Q62483, 29 trees at Q60504, 18 trees at Q75509, 25 trees Q66514, 30 trees at Q78511, 51 trees at Q87513, 27 trees in draw extending from Q79499 northeast to Q89509, 81 trees blocking a circular area enclosed in points from Q83496-Q90496-Q99500-100503-Q95596-Q90504-Q84500-Q83496, 8 trees at Q97474, 12 trees at Q99478 10 trees at 103486; house prepared for demolition in Bobenthal at Q91513 and one at Q91517; bridges prepared for demolition at Q18481, at 101513; cratering charges placed at Q18481, at 101513; laid 30 AT mines at Q23482.
- 1300 Two enlisted men from the 160th FA Bn arriving at the CP request a mine clearing detail to sweep area in vicinity where a 3/4 ton vehicle from their organization struck an enemy mine. They state that the location is Q999399 instead of R009399 as previously reported.
- 1345 Tel - Col Wickham, Div C of S, to Maj Billups: An order received from VI Corps commander states there will be no celebrating either among officers or enlisted men tonight. All troops will be especially alert to guard against any surprises that the enemy may undertake.
- 1720 Tel - T/Sgt Moore to Maj Billups: I have issued 125 AT mines to the 180th Inf mine platoon. An out of TNT supply.
- 1750 Lt Oleson, Recon C, reports completion of digging of gun positions for the 189th FA; our Co A's D-7 dozer sent to work with M/Sgt McAlarnis (S-3 sect) digging gun positions for the 171 FA.

Co A instructed to send mine sweeping party.

All companies notified.

S-4 notified.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

- 1800 Tel - Lt Col Monnier to Maj Billups: Div G-4 recommends west edge of Niederbronn as a suitable location for water point for new infantry regiment. The 540th Engrs will furnish this water point, and we will notify them of this location. S-4 notified.
- 1810 Tel - Capt Rickey, Co A, to Maj Billups: Today we started preparing the culverts at Q997476 for demolition; we are not putting the primers on these charges. Built a rope ladder for the 158th FA OP; strung two rolls of concertina on the friendly side of minefield at Q973484. 157th Inf requests a cratering charge be placed beside prepared culverts at Q997476 to effectively block the road when demolition of culverts is executed.
We wish to borrow an air compressor for tomorrow's operations.
Maj Billups: We will try to get one from either B or C Co. Request a check be made of your sector for any unblocked entrances to unused areas and either block them or prepare them for blocking.
- 1835 Tel - Capt Frank, Co C to Maj Billups: Today we cut trees for blocking road in vicinity of Nothweiler; put in crater on road Pt Wingen-Lembach; dug mine holes on road between Pt Wingen and Nothweiler; prepared trees for demolition north of Climbach. Tank dozer from the 6638 Mine Clearance Co has gone back to VI Corps Hq.
- 1845 Tel - Cpl Frank, S-3 sect 157th Inf, to T/Sgt Euseby, S-2 sect: Who are we supposed to submit minefield record sketches to?
Ans: Submit one copy to this office and one copy to Div G-3.
- 2035 Tel - Capt Bridges, Co B, to Maj Billups: Today we laid 80 rolls of wire; tied in with the 79th Div on the right and lack approximately 150 yards to complete tie with regiment on our left. Prepared crater for demolition at R115498, approximately 800 yards from old treadway bridge site; prepared mine field location at a point south of cratering charges. Blocking of trails for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns 179th Inf will be completed tomorrow. Road blocking detail worked on north and south road beyond Climbach they will continue tomorrow and complete to the outpost line. Cleared debris in tunnels of Fort Hochwald; partially removed S minefield located in vicinity of forts; 2 or 3 S mines were found.

TIMEREMARKSACTION TAKEN

A 2½ ton truck was driven in tunnels as far as possible to provide light. Entrance from this point on was limited to vehicles not exceeding height of 4 ft 11 inches.

Maj Billups: Do not block trail beginning at R061453 and leading southwest to O44445.

Capt Bridges: Demolitions and blockings end at a point R064450 and do not go further west. Our D-7 bulldozer has completed digging of gun positions for Btry A 160th FA Bn; 79th Division has requested use of our dozer.

2330

Tel - Capt Sachs, G-2 Office, to T/Sgt Huseby: Nineteen enemy paratroopers have been dropped at Kurtzenhausen; civilians report 2 enemy paratroopers in Bischwiller (both towns south of Hagenu).

All companies notified.

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