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* S-2 and S-3 *
* STAFF JOURNAL AND HISTORY *
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* NOVEMBER 1944 *
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Major Billups: At conference with the 2nd Bn 36th Engrs last night, it was agreed that the following roads would be their responsibility, with priority in the order indicated:

1. Rambervillers-Jeanmenil-293705
2. Rambervillers-Bru-St Benoit.
3. Bru-Jeanmenil (Not yet swept for mines).
4. Bru-237719 (Not yet swept for mines).
5. Roads vic Housseras and Autrey.

Tel from Lt Lipscomb, Co C: Co C moved to V252729.

New Bn CP established at V244697 (near Fraipertuis).

Lt Beine (6617 Engr Mine Clearance Co) reports: The 6617 tank dozer, working with Co A 120th Engrs, hit a mine after clearing road-block at V276730. There are three other road blocks to west of the one that was removed. The tank dozer was knocked out - blown track and cracked suspension system. Co A is clearing rest of road from west end of gap (from 273731).

Tel from Capt Devine (VI Corps Engr Office): There is a critical shortage of maps at present. Please turn back to VI Corps any maps not needed for immediate operations.

Major Billups: Co A cleared road from corner at 290730 to end of road cleared by Co C at 270733. The 6617 Mine Clearance Company's tank dozer attached to Co A, struck a mine, blew off bogies and broke a track. Tank is now at the 191st Tank Bn's shop. Co A cleared trail V296715-297726. At 297726 a field of Schu mines was found of which 30 were removed-remainder of field marked off. At 277731, Sgt Malfatto and Lt Etherton of Co A were injured as a result of setting off a Schu mine. The company reswept road from V281711-288717. Also operated a gravel quarry vic of Fraipertuis. Company C opened a road from paved road at St Benoit to RJ at 294750, also trail from V278747-288750. Encountered manned barricade road block 150 to 200 yards long. E&S Company continued laying landing strip at Ste Helene and removing landing strip at Serceour. The landing strip at Ste Helene is now in use.

At 1600 hours, Major Billups was informed by Division that the 179th Infantry will be relieved tomorrow afternoon by the 399th Inf. Co B 120th Engrs is relieved of all duties pertaining to the 179th Inf. Tomorrow at dawn, they will begin sweeping the road Rambervillers to Baccarat, to have it open by noon. The company will assemble in the vicinity of Fraipertuis to move as part of a Regimental Combat Team upon order.

Lt Fields (Co B) reported to Major Billups to accompany engineer officer from the 325th Engr C Bn. Lt Fields is to show this officer the work now being done by Co B, 120th Engrs.

Tel from Col Welker (CO 2nd Bn 36th Engrs): Corps Engr reports that work was continued along the road Rambervillers to St Benoit, road Rambervillers-Jeanmenil to RJ 293705. Road from Bru to Jeanmenil

was swept for mines but the road southeast from Bru was not swept; it will be swept tomorrow morning. The Corps Engr reports that a truck from a Corp artillery unit struck a mine at 221710. This was reported to the 36th Engrs who stated that the road in question was blocked. However, adequate measures will be taken to mark or clear the minefield.

The 36th Engrs were asked to follow Co B 120th Engrs up the road from Rambervillers to Baccarat, extending, widening and improving the route.

Maj Billups: Lt Oleson was sent to reconnoiter the road Rambervillers to Baccarat and to return with estimate of improvements needed.

Lt Oleson reports that the route Rambervillers-Baccarat is now open for traffic. All traffic must stay on hard surface, due to mined shoulders. There is a barricade road block on the north outskirts of Menil opened enough to allow 2½ ton trucks to go through. In Baccarat, there are trestle bridges over the two canals (cl 46). The main bridge in Baccarat is mined and booby trapped.

Maj Billups to Col Dobbin (191st Tank Bn) by tel: For the purpose of training an additional tank crew, the 191st Tank Bn will lend H&S Co an M4A1 tank, complete with bulldozer attachment, and it will be delivered to H&S Co tomorrow.

CO of Co C, 325th Engr C Bn reported to the En CP and stated that he had moved his entire company to V280691. He will go by Co B in the morning to look over work that Co B is now engaged in, and take over these responsibilities.

PERIOD 0001-2400 2 November 1944:

Tec 4 Mustad, water supply section, reports: Water points were removed yesterday from Pierrepont and Autrey. Water points were established at Fraipertuis (V242701) and at V282827.

Lt Oleson, Recon C, assigned temporarily to Co A, to replace Lt Etherton.

Tank dozer commander from the 191st Tank Bn reports that his tank needs some minor repairs, but he will have it ready for use in training our reserve crew by this afternoon.

The ADE of the 3rd Inf Div reported road conditions in the 3rd Div sector, and was given information on roads in the 45th Div sector.

ADE by tel to Maj Billups: 45th Cav Ren report on roads: St. Benoit-V272757-273770-280771. At this last point there is a block of 12 or 15 trees. G-3 wants these removed as soon as possible.

Lt Bridges, Co B: Have completed clearing road and shoulders from Rambervillers to Baccarat. 28 R mines and several Schu mines were removed. Two men were wounded by Schu mines, 1000 yards south of Menil. Menil is heavily mined and booby trapped. In one house, Schu mines were found stored in racks; one mine in the rack was booby trapped to an R mine. Barricade at north end of Menil has not yet been

removed, but traffic is getting through. All mines found have been destroyed. Schu mines were found with double explosive charge. Units have been removing tracing tape and mine signs that we put up and are moving into buildings.

Maj Billups: The 8617 Mine Clearance Co Tank Dozer, working with Co C, was knocked out by anti tank fire while working at block at V304760. The tank was not seriously damaged, but the instrument panel was smashed. Two men of the crew were lightly wounded. The 120th Engr tank dozer was sent to take it's place and to complete the job.

The 191st Tank Bn tank dozer was brought to Battalion area for training of replacement crew.

Tel: Maj Billups to S-3, 179th Inf: When will you want our Co B to move out with you for task force to Baccarat?

Answer: One platoon of engineers will be attached to the 2nd battalion, 179th Inf, and will prepare to move immediately. The rest of the company will move later.

Tel: Maj Billups to Col Reynolds (S-3): Major Billups is informed that Co B is attached to the 179th Infantry. The 2nd Bn is now moving to Baccarat. Regimental CP of the 179th Inf is located at Fraipertuis.

Lt Foster reports: Tank dozer of the 8617 Mine Clearance Company was damaged by armor piercing shell from a tank or SP gun, while clearing road 2 1/2 kilometers northeast of St Benoit. The shell did not enter the tank but hit the left front corner and ricocheted along the side, cutting completely through the armor and driving pieces of steel inside the tank. The driver received shrapnel wounds in the leg and the assistant driver had minor scratches from flying steel. The driver was evacuated through the 120th Med Clearing Station. Lt Fenstermacher asked to have Lt Bein contact him tomorrow. He would like to take the tank back to his company for repairs.

Lt Foster reports: Co C had one man seriously wounded (foot blown off) by a schu mine while sweeping for mines at roadblock V292750. The block was being removed under enemy anti tank, mortar and small arms fire. Capt Frank and Lt Safir personally gave first aid and removed the wounded man from the block after the explosion of the mine had attracted enemy fire.

H&S Company supplied Co B with 80: MINES, MINES CLEARED, BOOBY TRAPS, signs, for posting along road vicinity of Menil.

Three EM from Co A, one EM from Co B and one EM from Co C reported to H&S Company today to start training tomorrow as a reserve tank dozer crew.

PERIOD 0001-2400 3 November 1944:

Major Billups: School for the purpose of training an additional tank crew was started at 0800. The crew is attached to H&S Company.

Lt Lipscomb, Co C reported to S-2: Paved road V294751-295763-310765 does not show on 1/50000 and 1/25000 maps, but does show correctly on 1/20000 Forêt de Rambervillers map. Road shown on 1/50000 and 1/25000 maps is a secondary gravel road.

Capt Riskey, Co A to S-3: Co CP is now located at V284736 (near St Benoit). Co A has cleared road V294751-310744. Many schu mines and S mines are being encountered in this vicinity by the infantry.

Major Billups: 1st Bn 179th Inf is now attacking in the direction St Barbe to Thiaville via St Benoit and the road to the north. The 1st platoon of Co B will remove a road block of 15 trees in the vicinity of 280770, and will follow the 1st Bn 179th Inf in the attack.

Lt Bridges, CO Co B reports Co B, less two platoons, moving to Baccarat at 1345. Will try to locate CP in building along main street in town. Regimental, 2nd and 3rd Bn CP's are located in town.

Tel Maj Darling (VI Corps Engr Office): VI Corps is holding a mine school for new units, beginning tomorrow morning at 0700. Officers and enlisted men from all engineer units in the Corps will participate in instruction. Instructing personnel will meet at instruction area, just west of Autrey, this afternoon at 1430, to learn which part of the program will be their responsibility.

Tel Maj Billups to Lt Col Monnier: Co C, while clearing road, V294751-295763-310765, found culvert at V295763 prepared for demolition with 4000 lbs of amonal and a 21 day delay time fuze clockwork mechanism.

Lt Foster: The 120th Engr C Bn will provide one officer and four EM as instructors at the VI Corps mine school. They will also provide two R mines and two schu mines for the demonstration.

Tec 4 Mustad, water supply section: A water point is now in operation at Baccarat.

Major Billups: Co A today cleared road V290730-290748. Lt Picket's platoon, (Co B), cleared road V283739-270756-274770-283775, and removed a roadblock at 280771. Co C cleared a portion of unmapped highway from V295751-295763-295762.

PERIOD 0001-2400 4 November 1944:

Tel from Capt Riskey, CO Co A: The 120th Engr Tank dozer working on a roadblock at V315741, was knocked out when it struck a mine. The block was only half removed at the time. It will take a day to put the tank dozer in working order, and we want another tank dozer to finish clearing the block.

Tel CO 171st FA Bn to S-3: We want a road built for installing a battery of guns at V295747.

Tel Capt Frank to Lt Col Monnier: Many schu mines and R mines found at V305762. Mines are buried deep, and probing is necessary. Infantry had casualties on field last night and Co C probing party had one EM killed and one wounded this morning.

S/Sgt Lucero, recon section: The 191st Tank battalion tank dozer finished clearing road block at V315741 and has now returned to the Bn CP area. Tank which was damaged this morning is being repaired at site, and should be in operating condition by 1330. As soon as it is repaired, it will report to Co C.

S/Sgt Morrison, motor Sgt H&S Co: Companies A and B each drew a 2 1/2 ton truck, dump, today to replace trucks lost by mines last month. H&S Co recently drew two 2 1/2 ton cargo trucks to replace two which had been wrecked in road accidents.

Capt Rickey, CO Co A: Co A had three men wounded by schu mines while clearing road block at V317740, and evacuated. Two others were only slightly wounded. The 120th Engr tank dozer is now working on this block. (The dozer did not return to Co C)

Pvt Gille, recon section: Road V274789-Thiaville is cleared and swept for mines as far east as 299784. From there to 310796, the road is open but not swept. There is a roadblock at 310796. From that point into Thiaville, road is clear. 1st Bn 179th Inf is in the hills west of Thiaville and an infantry patrol is in the town. Road V274769-St Barbe-232778 has been cleared and swept three feet on each side by Lt Picket's platoon (Co B). Bridge at V313804, over Meurthe River, north of Thiaville, is blown, but could not get close enough to it to determine extent of damage.

Major Billups: Co B today cleared the following roads, vic of Baccarat: V201937-264838-300818; V268834-270835-268841-293862-293848-291831-276829; (roadblocks still in place at 293862 and at 294838). V291831-300835-300823 (roadblock still in place at last coordinate) Lt Picket's platoon cleared center of road (but not shoulders) from V299784-305295. Trails V295780-304788 and V301792-298700 have also been cleared.

PERIOD 0001-2400 5 November 1944:

Tel Capt Morris (VI Corps Engr Office): 325th Engrs have cleared road into La Salle, but have left road block (coordinates unknown) in place and built a trail around it. They will ask help from the 120th Engrs in removing the block.

M/Sgt McAlarnis and detail left to construct a footbridge in Fontenoy (Battalion Rest Area)

Tel - Major Large (S-3, Div Arty): Request mine sweeping party to sweep landing strip location in V2473 grid square.

Tel 2 Major Large: Field mentioned above found unsuitable for air strip. Request for mine sweepers cancelled.

Major Billups: Co B will be relieved tonight and will leave for rest area in Fontenoy at 0630 tomorrow morning.

Tel Capt Rickey: Recon 1/4 ton hit R mine at V289745. The driver Pvt Brown was wounded.

Pvt Oille, Recon Sect: Road V275731-279738-289749 is mined and blocked. Blocks are at V275733 and at V288746. There is also a block at V277732. Water point is located at V270734.

Tel from Capt Frank, CO Co C: Co C has cleared main road north-east to V318777. One 1/4 ton hit an R mine and was wrecked, but the driver was not seriously injured, though he has been evacuated. Four prisoners from the battalion stockade were wounded by artillery fire and evacuated, while digging emplacements for the infantry.

Pvt Roberts, tank dozer crew, reports: Our tank dozer with a broken clutch, was sent by the 191st Tank Bn to rear area in the vic of Fouxox for repairs. We got it as far as Rambervillers when it broke down completely. We have it off the road, near the 180th Inf Serv Co.

Lt Layer (120th Med Bn) to Maj Lowe: The 120th Medical Clearing Station near Epinal is badly in need of Engineer work in gravelling, etc.

Tel from Capt Frank: House at V309765 has R mines, S-mines and Schu mines stored in it. Civilians report house to be booby trapped. We have not examined it, but have posted it as booby trapped.

Maj Billups: Co B today relieved Co I, 36th Engrs, in building and completing timber bridge to replace a trestle over the canal in Baccarat. Lt Picket's platoon (Co B) completed clearing road into Thiaville, using road V302792-309297-312799-314798

PERIOD 0001-2400 6 November 1944:

Radio msg from Co B: Crossed IF at 0629.

Tel from Maj Hatter (S-4, 179th Inf): Request use of 10 trucks to help move the 179th Inf tonight.

Tel from 325th Engrs to S-3: Bridge blown at V330695 (east of La Salle). 22 foot gap. Is trestle available?
Answer: Will send Brockway truck with trestle to La Salle.

Tel from Major O'Neill (325th Engrs): The 6617 Mine Clearance Company tank dozer has been demonstrating to our Co C. It will be assigned to Co C, 325th Engrs.

Maj Billups: Co C, 325th Engrs cleared the following roads yesterday: V295705-308716-St Remy-V300705-302703; V308716-307706-313704; V307703-316704-317702-307704-La Salle; La Salle-323707-St Remy; V322770-323703-330709-325712; V317703-323707. Bridges are blown at 332723 (St Remy) and at V329695 (La Salle)

Overlay of known enemy minefields in division sector given to Assistant S-2, 325th Engrs.

Colonel Holmer, Army Ground Forces, brought to Battalion Headquarters, where he will stay as observer.

M/Sgt McAlarnis (S-3 section): Footbridge at Fontenoy rest area was completed today.

Tel, S-2, 399th Inf to S-2, 120th Engrs: Request information on main road from V320740-La Rappe.

Tel Maj Billups to Lt Col Monnier: Co C will move to rear area at Fontenoy at 0630 in the morning. May leave one squad to clean up the area.

Lt Foster, Ass't S-3: Co B instructed to begin gravelling job at 120th Med Clearing Co area, near Epinal, tomorrow. Job will require 100 to 125 loads of gravel. Seventh army gravel pit at Epinal has no power shovel but was supposed to get one today. Shovel did not arrive as scheduled, so I have made arrangements with Major Darling (Corps Engr Office) to procure shovel from the 2749 Light Equipment Co for the job. Will need shovel at Bruyeres tomorrow morning at 0700 to guide it to gravel pit. Co B trucks will be at the 120th Med Clearing Co between 0830 and 0900.

Capt Rickey: Road V292705-299716-312728-315734-La Rappe was cleared by Co A three days ago. Bridge is blown east of La Rappe.

Tel to S-2, 36th Engrs: Request information on minefields turned over to the 36th Engrs by the 157th Inf when the 157th Inf was relieved by the 36th Engrs in the vic of Rambervillers.

Answer: Mined roadblock at V302722 (VI Corps No 3) was removed by the 36th Engrs on 2 Nov. Minefields No 4 and 11 were turned over to the 117th Cav Rcn Sqdrn.

Tel to S-2, 117th Cav Rcn: Request information on minefields No 4 and 11, vic Bru, turned over to you when you relieved the 157th Inf in that area.

Answer: We did not remove those fields, but the sketches were turned over to VI Corps Engineer.

Major Billups: Co C will leave for the battalion rest area at Fontenoy tomorrow at 0630. Co A will support the 157th and the 160th Inf until 1800 tomorrow; after that the 160th Inf will be supported by Co B, 325th Engrs until the 160th Inf is relieved.

PERIOD 0001-2400 7 November 1944:

Tel S-3 157th Inf to Maj Billups: Need tank dozer to clear roadblock at V334747.

Answer: Tank dozer not available in your sector. Our tank dozer is in Epinal, being repaired. The 6617 Tank dozer is with Co C 325th Engrs, vic of La Salle. The 191st Tank dozer is at H&S Co training new crew, who are as yet not sufficiently trained to be put on the job.

Tel from Col Reynolds, G-3: General Eagles has ordered that the 157th Inf have priority on use of the tank dozer for clearing block at V334747.

Tel Major Billups to Maj Darling (VI Corps Engr Office): Request permission to use training crew from 6617 Mine Clearance Co with the 191st Tank Bn tank dozer to clear road block for the 157th Inf. This is apt to be a dangerous mission.

Answer: Will contact 6617 Mine Clearance Co to find out.

(Tel line to 45th Div switchboard broken from 0930 to 1030)

Pvt Gille, recon section; sent to Co C 325th Engrs to get tank dozer and guide it to RJ 293751.

Tel ADE to Maj Lowe: Co A will move 8 Nov at 0630 with elements of the 157th Inf Bn. H&S Co will move sometime in the morning of 9 Nov.

Capt Upchurch, CO Co A, 325th Engrs visits CP. His company will relieve our Co A in support of the 180th Inf. Sent to CP 180th Inf to coordinate with S-5 there and with Capt Rickey.

Tel Maj Large, S-2, Div Arty: Infantry regiment of the 100th Inf Div reports they have laid field of 15 US Mines (Type unspecified) at V286843.

Major Billups: Co B, 1st platoon, laid a block of 10 AT mines on 5 November at V310693. Sketch was turned over to the 179th Inf. Tank dozer in Co A area, but road block at V334747 has not yet been removed. Infantry positions are about 100 yards short of block, and the enemy has observation on the block from houses on the other side and from the ridge to the south. If houses are reduced, tank dozer will attempt to remove the block (consisting of 10-12 large trees) at dark, when enemy observation from the south will be poor.

Capt Rickey, Co A: Attempted to remove road block at V334747 this afternoon, but had to abandon it when counter attack developed. Tried again at dark, but it got too dark to perform the job. Tank dozer is on the way back to Bn Hq.

Major Billups: Co C 325th Engrs, today built a bridge east of St Remy at V333723. Bridge is class 24, will not carry tanks. Lt Oleson was building a bridge east of La Rappe. The 325th Engrs cleared road from La Salle to La Rappe.

PERIOD 0001-2400 0001-2400 9 November 1944:

Maj Billups: Co C 325th Engrs yesterday cleared the following roads (in vic of St Remy and La Rappe): V327723-334724 (road block at this last point); V312728-321723-327731; V321728-330724; V332730-325735-327738. There was 1/2 inch of snow this morning on the higher points in the division area.

Major Billups instructs Pvt Gille, recon section, to reconnoiter bridges over the Moselle River at Arnenil and at Epinal early in the morning and to report their condition to the Bn CP by 0700

PERIOD 0001-2400 9 November 1944:

Pvt Gille, recon section reports bridges in Arnenil and at Epinal are all intact despite high water.

At 0900, H&S Co and battalion headquarters began move to the battalion rest area at Fontenoy le Chateau and arrived there at 1230.

PERIOD 0001-2400 19 November to 21 November 1944:

Battalion in rest area in Fontenoy le Chateau, France.

PERIOD 0001-2400 22 November 1944:

Tel Capt Sachs (G-2 Office): The 179th Inf has been alerted to move at 1300 hours today. They will need maps of Saverne Pass area.

Tel B-3 to G-3: Request information on the 179th Inf move as it affects the engineers:

Answer: The 179th RCT will be prepared to move at 1300 hours and Co B 180th Engrs will move with them, but the order of march is not known. The rest of the division will move in order of 180th RCT, and the 157th RCT, time unknown.

Tel from Capt Master (S-2 Sect, 180th Inf): The 180th Inf has received orders to move today. Request maps of the Saverne Pass area.

Tel Exec C to G-3: Request information on move of the 180th RCT.

Answer: The 180th Inf has been alerted for possible move today. However, we are having difficulty getting enough trucks to move the 179th Inf, and will probably not be able to move the 180th Inf until those trucks return.

Major Billups: G-3 orders as received this afternoon are: To move one RCT with tanks and TD's to vicinity of Romanswiller. The prescribed route is Chatel-Rambervillers-Baccarat-Blamont-Cirey-St. Quirin-Harreberg-Romanswiller. RCT is to be prepared to move, upon Corps order, to Mutzig, to hold the pass and defend to the south, southwest and southeast. Co B will be attached to the 179th RCT and is to move to vicinity of 2nd Bn CP of 179th Inf, west of Spinal, to receive instructions.

PERIOD 0001-2400 23 November 1944:

Tec 4 Stephenson, radio section, reports an illegal transmitter operating in the near vicinity at the frequency of 9000 kilocycles. Text, apparently German, was copied and transmitted to G-2, 45th Div. The transmitter is operating so near, that it has no tone.

Tel Capt Tauscher, ADE: Tomorrow at 0800 hours, the 180th Inf and Co C attached, will move out and assemble in the vicinity of Cirey, followed by, according to tentative schedule, the 157th Infantry, H&S Company, and Co A, 180th Engrs.

PERIOD 0001-2400 24 November 1944:

H&S Co and Bn Hq began move from Bn rest area at Fontenoy le Chateau to vic of Sarrebourg. Lt Oleson sent ahead with quartering party to contact Div Hq and find location for battalion assembly area. Co A to pass IP at Darney at 1300, followed by H&S Co and Bn Hq.

At 1830, convoy meets Lt Oleson at Condrexange, 12 kilometers southwest of Sarrebourg. The division assembly area has been changed, and battalion headquarters and H&S Co is to proceed to vicinity of Wasselonne. Lt Oleson went ahead of convoy to find area in that vicinity.

At 2030 Lt Oleson reported back to the convoy, now at Hartzviller that the road over the mountains ahead is jammed with traffic, and suggests convoy stop over for the night in factory building between Biblikerchen and Trois Fontaines, just ahead. This suggestion was followed, and the convoy bivouaced for the night in the factory building.

PERIOD 0001-2400 25 November 1944:

New battalion CP established at Duntzenheim.

All three lettered companies remain attached to their respective RCT's. Co B, with the 179th Inf, is in vic of Weshoffen (Q753005), is attached to XV Corps. Co C, attached to the 180th Inf, is in Duntzenheim. Co A, with the 157th Inf is temporarily attached to the 44th Inf Div, and is located in vic of Brouviller (Q575188).

PERIOD 0001-2400 26 November 1944:

Tel G-3 to S-3: Send road reconnaissance out immediately on road: Duntzenheim-Ingenheim-Wilwisheim-Gottesheim-Riedheim-Bouxwiller-Uttwiller. All engineer companies remain attached to their RCT's.

Tel Capt Tauscher: FFI reports about 50 enemy tanks headed southwest toward Bouxwiller from vicinity of Wismenau. Division is ordered to vicinity of Bouxwiller. 179th Inf ordered to move to this vicinity and take up positions on line Q800253-820275-842274 immediately. One battalion of the 180th Inf, motorized, and ready to support the 179th Inf. Division headquarters will move to Hochfelden today.

Lt Oleson, reconn G: Road Duntzenheim-Ingwiller, is class Alg. Bridge over Rhine-Marne Canal at Wilwisheim (Q837158) is class 16. Bridge at Q831159 is too narrow for military traffic. Bridge at Detwiller (Q800164) is class 40 and road Ingenheim-Lupsten-Detwiller-Gottesheim is class Alg. Artillery observation plane from the 44th Inf Div warned us, north of Ingwiller, of two German tanks in the woods vic of RF Q830311. After plane dropped message to us, it was shot down by two Messerschmitts. The pilot, 2nd Lt O'Neal, O-11884423, was killed and the observer, 2nd Lt Porter was wounded. We moved him to Ingwiller and turned him over to civilian doctors in a hospital there. Afterwards with Lt O'Neal's body still by the plane on a stretcher, I destroyed the radio and told civilians to burn the plane, after recovering the body.

Infantry troops near Riedheim, told me later that both Messer, were shot down by AA fire, and I saw one of them burning in a. Civilians at Ingwiller told me enemy troops in woods vic of Q83 were approaching the town. There was an airport, with hangars 1. and apparently in good condition west of Dettwiller.

Major Billups (Information from G-3): The 45th Division, less 157th RCT which includes Co A 120th Engrs, and Co A 120th Med Bn, 158th FA Bn, goes into defensive positions to defend the Saverne Pass from an attack from the northeast. Division right boundary is Alteckendorf-Morschwiller-south edge of Metzwiller. The 45th Division will organize regiments abreast, 179th on the left and the 180th on the right. Boundary between regiments: Bosselshausen-the bridge at 860280 and Uhrwiller. Left boundary not established, but generally the hill line Neuwiller and Weiterswiller and Wainbourg. The MLR, left to right Weiterswiller-Oberscultzbach-Weiderscultzbach-to RJ 830280-Obermodern-bridge at 860280, which is contact point between regiments; Buewiller-Eltendorf and Alteckendorf, which is contact point between the 79th Div and the 45th Div. The div CP is moving to Hochfelder. The 179th Inf is only patrolling in place. The 180th Inf was given orders to move; the 1st Bn is now moving. Division sees no reason for us to move at the present.

Lt Oleson: From Duntzenheim to CR at 873132 to Gingsheim to RJ at 924131 to Wittelhausen to Muttelschaeffocheml to RJ at 979131 the road is class Blg. Bridge over the Marne Canal at 967127 is class 40, steel girders, one way. From RJ 979131 to RJ 963109 to Eckwersheim to Vendensheim to RJ 988077 road is class Alg. The bridge at 970121 is class 20. RR over highway overpass at 987076. From RJ 988077 to RJ 979231 to Brumath to Mommenheim to Scheinbratzheim to Dettwiller, the road is class A2. The bridge over canal at 988077 is two lane class 70. The bridge over the canal at 988080 is class 20. There is a RR underpass at 988094. Also there is a demolished locomotive at 989098. The road from 080147 to 960153 is class A1. From this point the road is flooded. There is a saw mill at 974154 which contains some lumber and materials. Road from 963153 to 967160 is A1; road from 930177 to 924165 to 903164 to 900173 is class Blg. Bridge at 925167 is class 20. There are two bridges there - one over the canal, one over the stream. There is some graded rock stock piled at 910165. Bridge at 903163 is reinforced with concrete and is class 20. Road from 898170 to 908170 to 903165 is flooded, but the bridge at 897165 appeared to be similar to the last bridge described (cl 20). Road from 876176 to 873133 is class Alg. The bridge at 877166 is class 20.

Lt Foster: Beginning at Duntzenheim west to Saersolheim to Altenheim to Furchhausen to RJ 766141 the road is Blg. Road from 766141 to RJ 743158 is Alg. Road from Saverne to Dettweiller is class A2. Road from 757159 to 747153 is class C1. From 747153 to 730158 the road is class B1. There is a low underpass under the RR at 743153, approximately 10 feet. From Furchhausen to Steinbourg, the road is class Blg. Bridge over canal at 765183 is class 40; road from 766181 to 748172 is class A2. Road from 753175 to 751177 to 743173 is class C1. Bridge at 753176 is one lane approximately 11 feet wide and is class 40. Bridge has both approaches damaged by bombs at 743170 and is impassable. Road is cratered by bombs at 745171. There is a large stock of barbed wire, 50 lb spools, in pile approximately 20 ft by 50

by 10 ft high at 744169. Road from 730155 to Marmoutier to Singrist to Wasselonne and down to 800038 is class A2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Road from Marmoutier to Lockwiller to CR 780116 to CR 790110 to Maennohsheim to Landersheim to Saessolsheim is B1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Road from Marmoutier to RJ 720078 to Salenthal to Allsenwiller to 750049 and from 752050 to Gossweiler to Wasselonne is all B1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Road from Romanswiller to the point 718036 is A2. Road from Wasselonne down to 788025 is B1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Class 40 bridge at 790040. Road from 804098 to Lutzelbourg is B1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Road from 804098 to Dabo to Birkwald to Dimbthal is class B1 $\frac{1}{2}$. From Salenthal to Singrist the road is class B1 $\frac{1}{2}$. From RJ 757076 to Jetterswiller to Zehnocken to Hohengeft to Woeltenheim to Rohr to 870117 to Duntzenheim is B1 $\frac{1}{2}$. There is a saw mill at 717036 and has approximately 125 pieces 3 x 9 x 15 stocked in yard and also some 3 x 4's and 4 x 4's. Above mentioned saw mill is water powered.

T/4 Nustad, water supply section reports a water point established in Hochfelder at 877172 and was opened at 1500 hours.

PERIOD 0001-2400 27 November 1944:

Message from the Commanding General: Companies A, B and C of the 120th Engr C Bn, effective at once, will revert to battalion control. Inform CO's of the respective Infantry Regiments.

CP closed at Duntzenheim and moved to Wickersheim. Engineer dump located at 813198, vic of Gottesheim.

Lt Oleson reports that a very large enemy engineer depot was located in Saverne. Has been bombed but large amounts of supplies remain in good condition. Large stocks of wire, hand tools, burlap bags and concrete mixers.

PERIOD 0001-2400 28 November 1944:

Major Billups made the rounds of the companies to secure report on road reconnaissance requested on 26 November.

Capt Frank called and inquired as to the availability of assault boats. Has small but deep stream to cross. Reports three stream crossings to be made on road between first phase line and objective line. Not possible to contact the 1101 Engr Group at this time. Liaison officer on mission to the 44th Div has not returned.

Capt Frank by tel reports that the site under consideration for use of assault boats is Pfaffenoffen.. Needs 16 boats.

Capt Tauscher reports by telephone that the 179th Inf is in Zutzendorf and in Schillersdorf and that they did not have any trouble in crossing the river, the bridges being intact. If necessary, the 180th Inf will be routed across these bridges.

Tel S-3 179th Inf to Maj Lowe: Bridge in Menchhoffen is blown and we are interested in getting a bridge across the stream as soon as possible. Major Lowe told S-3, 179th Inf that reconnaissance will be made and division priority will have to be followed in bridge construction due to the critical shortage of bridge materials.

Tel G-3 to Major Lowe: *If* The bridges at Ingwiller and Pffaffen-
orfen are found to be intact, then the bridge at Manchoffen will not
be necessary and you are to hold off on construction of bridge there.

Tel from S-3 179th Inf to Major Lowe: Bridges at Manchoffen and
at 837287 have 12 ft gaps and some heavy material that might be used
in repair work is available near the bridges.

Lt Olsson: Pvt Oille, recon section, has been sent to contact
Co A at Steinbourg and Co B at Imshelm. Co B is to be notified
to be prepared for possible bridge construction.

Lt Col Monnier: Corps is sending us three Brockway loads of
M1 treadway and thirty assault boats. The personnel with this equip-
ment will be billeted with H&S Co.

Pvt Oille: Fighting is in progress at Ingwiller and I was unable
to enter the town. Co B is on its way to commence work on bridge at
Manchoffen and the bridge southeast thereof.

Lt Col Monnier reports the bridges in the town of Ingwiller to
be intact.

Lt Picket, Co B reports infantry running into mines at road blocks.
Four, 3 kilogram charges were removed at south edge of Zutzendorf.
Charges were located near a small tree road block. Two Teller mines
and three kilogram charges were removed at south edge of Mulhausen.
All these mines were removed by infantry pioneer platoons. Lt Cohen,
Co B, removed timber post obstacles at south edge of Bouxwiller.
Lt Cohen recommends cutting off posts at ground level and filling
around remaining stubs. Complete removal with dozer leaves large ditch
which is very difficult to fill in soft ground.

Lt Col Reynolds: The 179th Inf is out of contact with your Co B.
They want a bridge across the creek, east of Mulhausen and they would
like to have it tonight.

Tel Capt Williams, S-3 179th Inf: We are very anxious to see that
the bridge at Mulhausen be fixed tonight as the attack tomorrow morning
depends on it. We have troops around the bridge and also in the town.
Booby traps with trip wires and one S mine were found.

Lt Foster: Lt Bridges is on the way to take a look at the bridge.
The situation up there is very indefinite. The 179th Inf is not too sure
of what they have up there. Lt Bridges is considering the possibility
of using a treadway. The bridge at the east edge of Manchoffen was
completed at 1815 hours.

Tel from Lt Bridges, Co B: Request 45 feet of treadway. The
Brockway crew were alerted and guided to Co B CP. No trestles were
available with bridge train.

PERIOD 0001-2400 29 November 1944:

Tel from Lt Bridges to Lt Foster: Gap of blown bridge in Mulhausen is 34 feet and I have no information available as to the classification of 45' span of unsupported treadway.

Tel Lt Foster to Lt Bridges: Bridge classification chart shows 45' unsupported treadway gives class 18 bridge. Build wood trestle if steel treadway is to be used; or corrugated steel culvert *and* fill.

Tel from Lt Bridges: Completed culvert and fill at blown bridge at Mulhausen (Q889315) at 0500 hours. Water is high and fill may not last. Treadway was not used. Brockways and equipment were returned to battalion CP.

Verbal from 1st Sgt Moraga, Co A: Yesterday Co A cleared the remainder of a tentative road block which another unit practically cleared at CR below Dossenheim and also the same at Neuwiller. Our bulldozer cleared a road block last night between Obersaultzbach and Wieterzwiller.

Lt Oleson: Pvts Gille and Arton and Tec 5 Davidow are to get road classification on roads Wickersheim-Obermodern-Pfaffenoffen-Wickersheim. From crossroads they are to take down an estimate of branching roads. Further reconnaissance will include an area bounded by Bouxwiller-Neuwiller-Weiterzwiller-Weibourg-Ottwiller-Obermodern-Kirrwiller.

Pvt Gille, recon sect, reports road classification: Road Wickersheim Zoberndorf-CR885219-Issenhause-Kirrwiller-Obermodern-Bueswiller-Pfaffenoffen-back to Ringendorf-Lixhausen is class B1/2. Road Luxhausen-Bossendorf is class B1/2; road Bossendorf-Wilshausen-Wickersheim is class B1/2. Road CR 887268 to Bouxwiller is class B1/2. Stretch of road Obermodern-Pfaffenhoffen is class A2. Concrete culvert at 858258 is in good shape and has 14 feet width.

Tel from Capt Frank: There is a 16 ft gap in bridge at Q887269, consisting of three holes from pressure charges. Want bridge installed immediately in order to get in to Pfaffenoffen (which is not yet taken). 30 feet of treadway, without floats, will be necessary. Send treadway to 180th Inf CP at Bueswiller.

Messenger (Cpl Dube) from Co B: Co B CP is now located at Menchoffen. The culvert installed at Mulhausen last night is passing traffic and remains in fair condition. It is impossible to do any maintenance work during daylight hours. Maintenance will be done under cover of darkness tonight.

Pvt Gille reports on road classification: Road Griesbach-Neuwiller Weinbourg-808319-Ingwiller is class B1/2. Pfaffenoffen-Ingwiller is class A2. Route Ingwiller-Neidensaultzbach-Bouxwiller is class B1/2. From CR 797266 to Neuwiller road is class B1/2. Road from Obersaultzbach to Weinbourg class B1/2. Bouxwiller to Kirrwiller, class B1/2. From CR 815294 to Uttwiller road is class C1/2.

Tel from Capt Rickey, CO Co A: Bridge at Bischoitz is in. The two bridges at Rothbach are partially destroyed, but are passable.

Tel from Capt Frank, CO Co C: The bridge at 885289 was completed at 8000 hours. It is a class 40 and the tracks are filled level in order to accommodate the tanks with adapters. 1/4 tons can go across if they want to risk it, but we do not anticipate any 1/4 ton crossings. One shell which dropped in the area caused one casualty.

Tel Lt Foster to Capt Sales (S-4): Lt Col Monnier wishes to have ready and available, lumber for future bridge building.

PERIOD 0001-2400 30 November 1944:

Tel from Capt Frank, CO Co C: Bridge at Pfaffenhoffen is reported to have a 40' gap blown. I am going to make a reconnaissance to determine accuracy of the information on requirements for repair. Request availability of Bailey Bridge.

Capt Frank was informed that Bailey equipment will be available here within 3 to 4 hours after request from Corps. Capt Frank submitted a bill of materials necessary to replace blown bridge at 885289.

Messenger from Co A: Yesterday, Co A removed seven log type road blocks from both sides of road at Ingwiller. Co CP is now located in Ingwiller.

Major Billups: Company A put in a timber stringer bridge on the northern of the two bridges at Rothbach and cleared out enemy road blocks on the north outskirts of Muhlhausen. Co A also put in a two span wooden stringer bridge on the road between Offwiller and Muhlhausen (888317). Capt Rickey says he will need 60 pieces of 3 x 12 lumber.

Capt McCullough: The bridge that Co A put in on the west side of Rothbach is class 40; there is a road block on the road between Muhlhausen and Offwiller at 888334. The road from Ingwiller to Rothbach is class Bl $\frac{1}{2}$.

Capt Tauscher: General Eagles wants us to start constructing a bridge immediately between Pfaffenhoffen and La Walck. If construction is not feasible, the General wants to know why.

Tel from Capt Sandelin (S-3, 180th Inf): La Walck is now clear of the enemy. One bridge at Pfaffenhoffen is intact but it is only a footbridge. There is fighting in Ueberach. His understanding is that Lt Col Duval (Exec O 180th Inf) and Lt Col Monnier had decided to temporarily leave the bridge out.

Lt Foster reports road classification as follows: Road Hochfelden-Aldorf-Ettendorf-Ringeldorf is class Bl $\frac{1}{2}$. Road Ringeldorf-Pfaffenhoffen is class B2. The road Ettendorf-Bueswiller-Pfaffenhoffen is class Cl $\frac{1}{4}$. Capt Frank reports bridge at Pfaffenhoffen has a 50 ft gap and one additional span of 25 ft damaged seriously enough to require replacement. 90 feet of Bailey Bridge is required to do replacement. Capt Frank also states that bridge repair in Pfaffenhoffen could not be made in time to aid the present plan. Lt Col Monnier, at Co C, gave orders to

Major Billups to contact Corps Engr with instructions to get reconnaissance on Pfaffenhoffen bridge immediately to make plans for replacement of bridge as soon as immediate situation permits. Capt Frank reports E bridge in Pfaffenhoffen is intact. Bridge appears to be class 40 but is narrow. Enemy activity prevents close reconnaissance but estimates nothing larger than 3/4 ton vehicles can pass over this bridge.

Tel from G-3: Install Bailey Bridge at Pfaffenhoffen immediately.

CP at Wickersheim closed at 1745 hours. New CP opened at Uttwiller at 1900 hours.

Tel Lt Col Monnier: Work on bridge site has not as yet been started. General Eagles hit a mine sometime during the evening and was wounded, not critically. Exact location or type of mine is not known. The work is not progressing on the Pfaffenhofen Bailey Bridge. I am going to check with the Corps Engr why the 1277 Engrs were not going ahead with their work. General Butler is temporarily in command of the division. He wants engineers to install road blocks on 4 roads leading into the hills on the division left flank. Blocks must be constructed so as to allow friendly (reconnaissance, etc.) to pass, and must be manned to deny enemy traffic. Blocks must be installed as soon as possible.

Tel from Capt Tauscher: I have heard from Major Billups. He has contacted Major Gunderson from the Corps Engr at the site and Major Gunderson had assured him that the bridge would be unloaded on the site by 2100 hours and work would proceed.

Major Billups reports by tel: Bridge at Pfaffenhoffen is to be 60 feet, double single Bailey. Should be completed in two hours.

APO # 45, U S Army
2 December 1944

ENGINEER INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN)

NO. 3)

I- On 30 November 1944, the 44th Infantry Division captured a stock pile containing ten (10) German "Topf" mines. The following description of this new mine is taken from OCE Hq. ETOUSA, APO 887, document no. 848.01

GERMAN ANTITANK TOPF MINE "A" AND TOPF MINE IGNITER

German Designation: Topf Mine A und Topf Minenzünder
(To.Mi. und To.Mi.Z.)

1. General.

The description given below on a new German non-metallic antitank mine has been extracted from a German field manual and no actual specimen of the mine has been recovered to date.

The Topf Mine is an entirely non-metallic antitank mine with plastic body. It will be used chiefly with the non-metallic pressure type Topf Mine Igniter. Assembled with this igniter, the Topf Mine cannot be detected by any metallic mine detector.

The Topf Mine is so constructed as to ensure its detonation even by tanks with wide track links (Churchill). The mine is also waterproof.

2. Data.

A. Topf Mine

Diameter	12.5 in. (33.4 cm.)
Height	5.5 in. (14.0 cm.)
Weight (total)	20.0 lb. approx. (9.0 kg.)
Weight of explosive filling	12.5 lb. (5.7 kg.)
Material	Plastic material and glass
Color	Black
Firing pressure	330 lb. (150 kg.)

B. Topf Mine Igniter.

Height (including protective cap)	3.5 in. (87 mm.)
Diameter of body	1.5 in. (38 mm.)
Firing pressure	132 lb. (60 kg.)

3. Description.

A. Mine. The main parts of the Topf Mine are the mine body, the booster plug assembly and the igniter.

The mine body is a hollow cylindrical disc of plastic material filled with explosive. Its top is a circular pressure plate surrounded by a shear groove. The cylindrical recess in the center of the mine body accommodates the primer plug. The carrying handle is attached to the mine bottom by two glass screws. Another glass screw in the mine bottom acts as a filler plug.

R E S T R I C T E D

The booster plug assembly consists of a glass screw cap and the cylindrical igniter housing, made of compressed bituminous cardboard material. The top of the igniter housing has a deep pocket with screw thread to accommodate the Topf Mine Igniter. The remaining space between the glass screw cap and the igniter housing is filled with the booster charge. In addition to the recess for the Topf Mine Igniter, there is an activating well leading into the primer charge from the bottom through a hole in the glass screw cap. This activating well has a standard igniter screw thread, and a thin bakelite detonator pocket protects it against moisture. A circular ridge, moulded on the side of the glass screw cap nearest to the mine body presses against a rubber washer when the booster plug assembly is fitted into the mine.

B. Topf Mine Igniter. This is an entirely non-metallic pressure igniter without safety device, and functions on chemical-mechanical action. It is used, together with a non-metallic detonator, as the main igniter for the Topf Mine.

The detonator No. 9 A1. will be used with this igniter until supplies of the non-metallic detonator become available in sufficient quantity.

The main parts of the igniter are a hollow cylindrical glass igniter body, and a hemispherical pressure head fitting into the igniter body.

Inside the igniter body there is a circular celluloid disc, with two small spherical glass capsules, containing liquid chemicals, fixed on to it by means of an adhesive. The lower part of the igniter body has two male screw threads, the bigger one fitting into the igniter housing while a protective detonator pocket of plastic material is held by the small screw thread. A circular shear ridge halfway up on the pressure head rests on the top rim of the igniter body and so holds the head in position with its flat portion slightly projecting into the igniter body, just above the two glass capsules.

4. Operation.

Under a load of at least 330 lbs. (150 kg.) the pressure plate of the Topf Mine shears along its shear groove and comes to rest on the pressure head of the igniter. This in turn gives way by the severing of the shear ridge and crushes the two small chemical glass capsules inside the igniter body. The chemicals mix causing a flash which sets off the detonator, and the mine.

5. Arming.

Topf Mines will not be armed before arrival on the laying site. There, the Topf Mine Igniter will be fitted with the detonator, the protective detonator pocket replaced on to the igniter, and the igniter can then be screwed into the booster plug. Next, the booster plug is firmly screwed into the mine body, making sure that the rubber washer and the ridge are perfectly clean so as to ensure that the mine will be water-proof.

A mine so armed with a Topf Mine Igniter will always be laid with the pressure plate on top.

6. Employment.

The Topf Mine will be laid in a similar fashion to Tellermine 42. Burying is always preferable to laying on the surface, which is permissible only when an enemy attack is imminent. To avoid sympathetic detonation, the distance between two Topf Mines will be no less than seven feet when buried, and no less than fourteen feet when laid on the surface.

The earth within a radius of 3 feet from a buried Topf Mine should be loosened in order to ensure the action of the mine. A camouflage layer of no more than two inches will be placed over the pressure plate.

6. Employment. (cont'd).

Where a rod-type igniter or other standard igniter is used, the mine will be laid upside down, and the igniter screwed into the activating well; in this case no Topf Mine Igniter will be fitted.

7. Disarming.

- (a) Uncover the mine completely and ensure that it is undamaged, especially along the circular shear groove.
- (b) Lift mine carefully, rest on one side and unscrew the booster plug.
- (c) Remove igniter from igniter housing.
- (d) Unscrew protective detonator pocket.
- (e) Carefully remove detonator and replace protective case on igniter.

8. Safety Regulations.

The document states that it is forbidden to transport Topf Mines armed with any type of igniter. Topf Mines without igniter may be carried with or without their packing crates, but must not be stacked without their crates. They are to be kept in a cool place and protected against heat and rain.

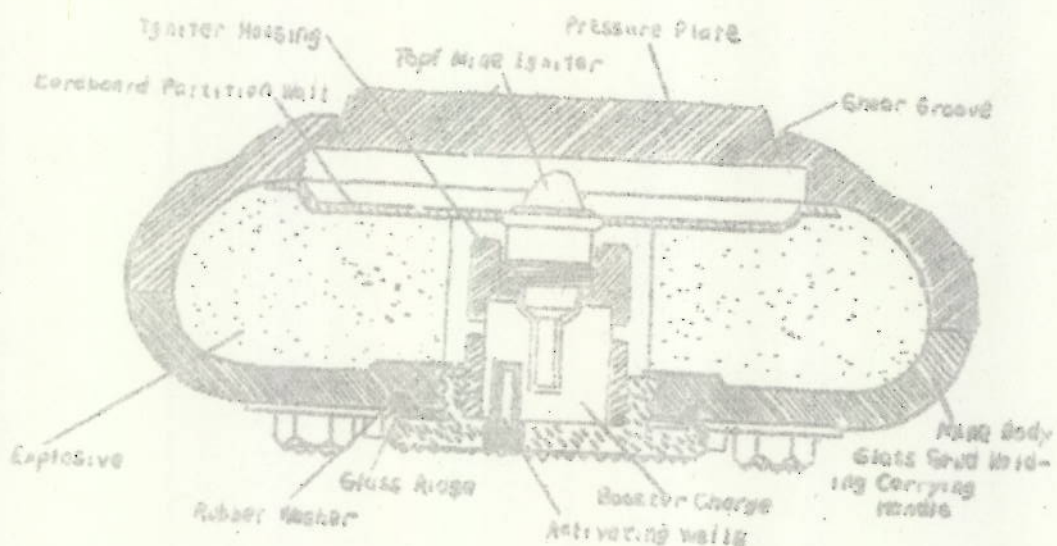
Topf Mine Igniters will only be carried in their wooden packing cases. Breakage of the igniter is dangerous and causes severe burns.

9. Packing.

Topf Mines will be supplied packed individually in open wooden crates, marked To. Mi. 4531.

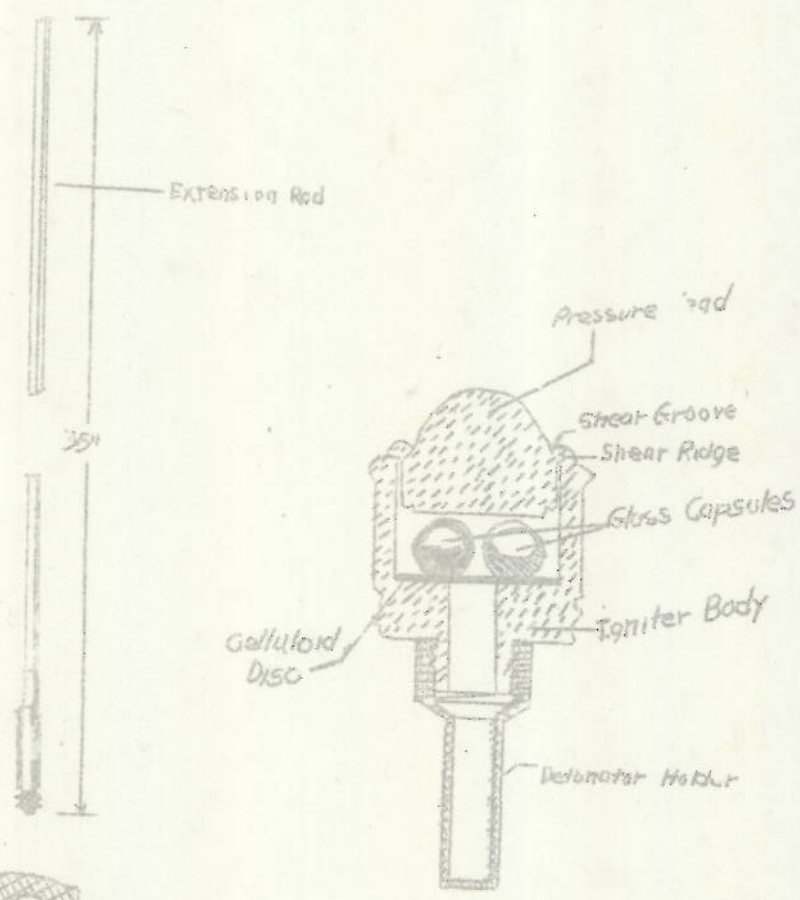
Topf Mine Igniters will be supplied in wooden packing cases, containing 5 igniters, marked To. Mi. 2. SF 1.

The non-metallic detonators will be supplied to units separately in small wooden boxes containing 15 detonators.

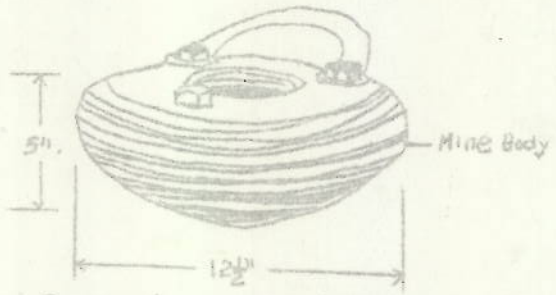


Topf Mine Cross-Section

German Antitank Tilt Mine 'A' And Tilt Mine Igniter



Gross Section of Tilt Mine Igniter



Perspective View of Mine Armed With Tilt Type Igniter

From the collection of:

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

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