

S-2 and S-3

STAFF JOURNAL AND HISTORY

OCTOBER 1944

OP 0001-2400 1 October 1944:

Capt Billups reports: Last night Co A swept roads DESTORD-RJ V182676-RJ V182693-185728 (Rambervillers); road DESTORD-PADOUX; road DESTORD-BULT; road BULT-RJ V182676-175717-177713; road V 185728-191728 Road RJ V182724-190731. Co C swept road RJ V205663-212635; also re-swept road DESTORD-PADOUX. Co B swept road V175615-RJ 195607-195602-Vimenil. Co C yesterday afternoon had one man killed and four wounded by artillery fire. Co A, in moving to area just of Rambervillers this afternoon

Tel from 117th Ren Sqdrn to S-3: The following message is from Special French Forces: "243839 mined. Enemy in woods northeast of that point. Road 244650 probably mined. Enemy radio car at 219816. Enemy patrol from 219842 is on S37 line. Two AT guns at 243839. 300 enemy in BACCARAT. Enemy expects attack from northeast (?)". The following message is from troop C, 117th Ren Sqdrn. "2nd platoon has section at 210747. Infantry in this area getting sniper and occasional artillery fire but is still moving.

Tel from Col Arnote, Div Arty to S-3: Wants positions for medium artillery battalion swept for mines in vic of Rambervillers.

PERIOD 0001-2400 2 October 1944:

At 0800 Co A swept gun areas for the 189th FA Bn.

Lt Rickey: Swept the following roads last night, and cleared road blocks:

Rambervillers - 206738

Rambervillers - 190721

211712 - 217712

186720 - blown bridge at 176724.

Sgt Munson, S-2 Div Arty, by tel: 189th FA bn reports area mined at 167591. Area has piano wires all over the place. Several casualties have been inflicted.

Lt Oleson, Ren C, reports: Bridge at 777725: span 40', gap 34'. Road 14' wide, 9' to water, water 5 feet deep. Road block on west approaches. Bridge at 183725: span 68', gap 56', road 19' wide, 6' to rubble, no water. Five locomotives in Rambervillers, four with damaged cylinders, one intact, but on damaged turntable. Two saw-mills in Rambervillers, side by side. One is bandsaw, other jigsaw. Stock of 3 x 8, 10 x 10, 3 x 12, and 1" stuff.

Col Arnote, S-3 Div Arty: 405 Arty gp would like to have landing strip area swept for mines, vic PADOUX.

PERIOD 0001-2400 3 October 1944:

Capt Tauscher: Div Hq is moving to GIRECOURT, and will need some work. Col Frantz will need an @ to see what is needed.

Lt Oleson to tell Cos B and C each to furnish three trucks to S-4 to move dump.

Tankdozer and crew from 6617 Engr mine clearing Co arrived and unloaded. Crew of five men with tank.

Lt Ficket to Co A to check on bridge at Rambervillers. In answer to radio request from Lt Rickey which was sent late yesterday and not received because of transmission trouble.

Tankdozer with crew from 6617 Engrs sent to Co C.

Radio from Co A: Bridge is blown at 183725; is out. 45' gap. Is this 36th Engrs Job?

Radio from Capt Billups to Co A: Bridge will not be built by us;

Lt Cohen, Co B: 1 EM, killed, 2 EM wounded yesterday at 1630, by "R" mine. Mine had been pulled, and killed man who went back to untie the rope, before he touched mine, it exploded. We cleared road from 196606 to 220806, and from RJ 213606 north to edge of woods at 210613 to connect with Co C job. Also cleared trail 2086060212600, and small dirt road to bypass RJ 213606. We are continuing work on trail.

Lt Picket: Co A extended road clearing 211711-215706-213705 and along RR track near 213705.

PERIOD 0001-2400 4 October 1944:

Capt Frank Co C: Road cleared NW from Fremifontaine (225260) to join our previous work at 220654. Fremifontaine to Perrpont cleared. Trimmed trees on blocks previously cleared in 180th Infantry sector. Destroyed "R" mines along roads. Began clearing road west from 216635 to 219635.

Capt Billups: Co A reports 157th Infantry drew 400 AT mines from Engineer dump. Sgt Jones, 1st Bn pioneer Sgt is in charge of mine laying detail.

Tel Capt Tauscher to Capt Billups: Minefield sketch from 157th Infantry was incomplete. Have requested revised sketch.

Capt Billups: Co B today cleared roads RJ V220606-233613; east along road Grandvillers-Bruyeres to 225603; mountain trail 213600-220600-224592.

Co C cleared road 219634-232628

Lt Col Monnier: Lt Hardies and Sgt Belcher both of Co C, have been missing since 1830. Disappeared on trail 230631-233633. Combat patrol sent to find them had to turn back because of small arms fire.

PERIOD 0001-2400 5 October 1944:

1st Sgt Trujillo, Co B: Pfc Grant Chavez was killed yesterday by "R" mine at V233611. Yesterday Co B cleared trail 232613 to road block at 237610. This road block is being removed today, and Co will continue clearing road to east. Was unable to clear trail 208600-218602-223592 because of intense enemy artillery fire.

Lt Simmons Co "A": Last night, found "R" mine booby trapped with egg grenade. Grenade had button removed and pull cord was tied to handle of mine.

Lt Picket: Co A clearing mines out of fields south west of Rambervillers. Co B clearing trails and small roads east of Grandvillers. Co C built two entrances to 180th Inf bivouac area, cleared bivouac area for 645th TD Bn.

1st Sgt Trujillo, Co B: Two of our men, Hanson Jones and Pvt Jeff Campbell were killed when pile of "R" mines exploded prematurely while being destroyed. Another man, Pvt Watson, was wounded by sniper fire while engaged in mine sweeping.

Lt Bridges: Am sending Lt Gordon in to Senfer with you.

Lt Gordon: The men were destroying "R" mines which had been previously recovered. On the west side of Deyvillers, there was a pile of approx 15 mines near a building. The men were moving them out in the open and blowing them up in lots of six. Approximately nine mines were left in the pile, when an explosion occurred, killing two men. One of the men, apparently had one mine in his hands at the time.

PERIOD 0001-2400 6 October 1944:

Notice given to S-1 for inclusion in the Daily Information Bulletin: All personnel are cautioned not to move "R" mines. They will be pulled with a rope from a safe distance.

Lt Riekey: Co A performed no work during the night:

Lt Col Monnier: Germans reported to have brought train into Bruyeres during the night. There was also considerable motor activity in Les Rouges Eaux area. It is believed that the enemy task forces in this sector are being relieved by a regular division. Enemy in 180th and 179th Inf sectors was considerably more aggressive, using infiltration tactics and counterattacking on 179th Inf Sector.

Co B reports that a few "R" mines found in vic of Grandvillers had one of the shear wires removed. Rigged in this manner, the mine would hang by the igniter pin only, and might detonate even with a slight shock.

Lt Bridges, by tel, reports that Infantry wants to use tank dozer in defensive position at road block. Also desires to use one squad riflemen from Engineers to support tank. Possible that entire company may be requested in line at early time.

Capt Tauscher: Division wants B Co to clear road blocks at 192580 and 205571. Cav Ren troop will furnish security and will contact Co B at Co B CP.

Capt Billups to Lt Bridges: You will clear roadblocks along road 192580-205571. Cav Ren will provide security and will contact you at your CP.

Lt Gordon, Co B: One man wounded today, bullet wound in left shoulder. No further progress during the day. 179th S-3 called up and ordered one platoon to reinforce F Co, then cancelled the request several moments later.

PERIOD 0001-2400 7 October 1944:

We just completed the job with Cav Ren. It was rather difficult but we could not have used the tank dozer. The cavalry were very good people to work with and provided us with exactly what we wanted for security.

Lt Bridges of Co B gave version of troubles with 179th Inf as follows: Yesterday, in the early afternoon, S-3 179th Inf ordered one of my platoons to remove the road block at 225603. Knowing that the block was not tenable, due to enemy observation and fire, I refused to commit any troops to that job until infantry gained possession of hill at 233603, from which we had been receiving fire, and had already caused casualties to my company. When the enemy counterattack came later in the day, and Co Myers was wounded, Lt Col Murphy ordered Lt Cohen to take his men (1 squad re-inforced, and, later told by S-3, his tank dozer,) and hold in vic of road block at 225603 until relieved by Co B 179th Inf. I heard the order and told the Colonel I'd have to notify my battalion that part of my company was being committed. He informed that he was commanding and that I would follow his orders. without any argument. I sent Lt Cohen out, then telephoned battalion.

When I left and came back about an hour later and was informed that Lt Cohen was to be relieved. Lt Cohen then brought his men back to the Company area, where they were fed. At about 1900 last night, Lt Cohen was ordered by S-3 179th Inf to move his men out and re-inforce Co C 179th Inf at the same roadblock at 225603. I was absent at the time, so he alerted his platoon. A few minutes later, S-3 179th Inf called to tell him that the proposed commitment was cancelled."

Co C prepared bridge at Autrey for demolition. 350 lbs TNT were placed. Guard of four BM were posted. Bridge to be blown on order of 180th Inf. Co C drew 120 AT M1 mines for disposition of 180th Inf.

2nd Bn 36th Engrs was notified that 1/4 ton belonging to them with two dead nearby, had been located at 212608.

Co A exploded 67 "R" mines previously removed. Tel from 3rd Bn 180th Inf: GRS of that unit have found bodies of Lt Hardies and Sgt Belcher of Co C.

PERIOD 0001-2400 8 October 1944:

Capt Tauscher: Cav Ren will not move down the road Co B cleared due to the effect of the enemy counterattack on 179th Inf. It was felt that it would be impossible to exploit gains.

S-4: 1st Bn 157th Inf wanted to draw pull type igniters. They were told it would be necessary to clear thru Division and Bn S-3.

G-3: I will have to inquire into the matter of anti personnel mines. I do not anticipate any movement for the next few days and think this would be an excellent time to relieve and retrain your companies.

Capt Tauscher: Co C putting in roadblock consisting of abatis and anti tank mines at V 230639 on order of 180th Inf. Sketch follows.

Capt Billups: Co B preparing defensive positions for 3rd Bn 179th Inf and maintaining trails still in sector. Plans made out and orders given for Co C to relieve Co A of support 157th Inf tonight. Co A will relieve Co B of support of 179th Inf in the morning. Co B will move to vic Sercoeur tomorrow to begin three day rest and training period. Co C laying two mined roadblocks near Fremifontaine. Co C burying horses near Deyvillers. Co B has inspected masks and submitted shortage lists, but as yet has held no mask drill. Co A is complete with both mask drill and inspection and has submitted shortage list. Policy on minefields: No extensive AT fields without Division approval. No AP mines or devices at all without Division approval.

G-3: Major Lord: Co B will clear blocks for 45th Cav Ren troop and will be prepared to support Cav Ren Troop in defending ground gained.

Capt. Billups to Lt Gordon, Co B: One platoon will go behind Cav Ren troop to sweep roads and clear blocks. Remainder of Co will remain in present area, prepared to move in support of Cav Ren with defensive fires. Continue to support 179th Inf in minor missions. Call Bn for aid from Co A for missions requiring one platoon or more.

Capt Billups to Lt Picket, Ass't S-3: Notify Co A to be prepared to assist Co B in support of 179th Inf.

Capt Billups to Capt Frank: Relief will take place as originally planned. You will relieve Co A of support of 157th Infantry

Radio to Co A: You will relieve Co B as originally planned. Have at least one platoon in position by 0900.

Capt Billups to CO Co A: You will relieve Co B as originally planned. Move as early as possible. Have at least one platoon at Co B CP by 0800. B Co will move to Sercoeur as soon as relieved. Co C will relieve you now. They have been notified. Also send liaison to 179th CP early in the morning.

PERIOD 0001-2400 9 October 1944:

Tel Lt Bridges to S-3: Co A has completed relief of Co B. New Co B CP will be at V132615 (Dompierre). Co A took over old Co B CP at Vimenil.

Lt Thuring, Co C: Lt Safir's platoon laid mined roadblock of abatis and 20 AT mines at V232639 last night. Another mined road block is being laid this morning at V230635. Sketch is submitted of first block and sketch will be submitted of second when it is finished.

Cav Recon Troop to S-3: Co B 120th Engrs has quit work on roadblock at V228577. Capt Baker wants to know when block will be cleared.

T/S Lamphere, Tankdozer crew: Lt Simmons platoon, Co A, which relieved Co B platoon, clearing road block at V228577. Winch was attached to roadblock when enemy machine gun opened fire on truck of Cav Recon troop. Repeated attempts to recover truck have failed because of enemy fire. There are also two mine detectors with the truck.

Lt Lipscomb: Sketch of mine roadblock is submitted, which was laid by Lt Safir's platoon, Co C at V230635.

Capt Billups: Co A lost 2 1/2 ton truck and two mine detectors on roadblock at V229579. The roadblock at V228577 was as yet not secured and Cav Recon Troop had told Lt Simmons that roadblock at V229579 was secure and could be removed. The block consisted of heavy trees, and when winch truck failed to move it, engineers attempted to cut it out with hand tools. The noise of chopping, drew enemy fire from front and to the right, and they were forced to withdraw, leaving truck and tools there. When they attempted to return, they drew fire from both left and right sides, as well as front. Later, mortar shells began to fall in the area, and they were forced to withdraw entirely.

Co B, before being relieved by Co A this morning, completed clearing trails V224604-228609, and 225606-233610. Co A is now clearing, trail (not on map) V221606-225615.

Tel Capt Tauscher: Co A reports having recovered truck, not badly damaged, and two mine detectors from roadblock V229579.

Lt Oleson reports: Quarry at V184587 (Vimenil) has not been worked for 20 years, has soft stone only. Quarry at 195598 (near Grandillers) has some gravel, but is 40-50% dirt. It is sandstone quarry for tile. Razed building at Dompierre large stone suitable for sub-grade. At 075572 (Jeuxey) is some crushed rock along side of road. There is also quarry here from which some gravel can be obtained.

PERIOD 0001-2400 10 October 1944:

Capt Billups: Co 179th Inf is to attack south from V228586. 45th Cav Recon Troop will attack east from V225578. One platoon of Co A 120th Engrs will secure right flank of Cav Recon, and another platoon will be in reserve for support. Other platoon of Co A will follow 179th Inf for engineer support. The above plan was proposed by G-3

Co C maintaining four man patrol to bridge at Autrey.  
Tel from Col Martin (Chief of Staff) to Lt Col Mennier: Gen  
disapproves of plan to have Co A support Cav Recon troop as  
infantry. Engineer troops are not to be used as infantry unless  
necessary.

Lt Oleson: Road Epinal to Nancy via N 57 is all A2 except for two  
bridges north of Epinal and a bypass to N413, from Crevechamps, Benney,  
and two span Bailey Bridge at Flavigny. From Nancy to Pont A Mousson.  
Route 413 from Flavigny to Mirecourt is A2. From Mirecourt to Epinal  
(N 66) is all A2 except for bypass at Uxegney. There are no bridges  
left intact over Moselle River between Epinal and Nancy, but one way  
class or two way class 40 timber bridge has been built at Chatel Sur  
Moselle. At Vincey there is no bridge, but civilians are building one.  
Just south of Langley the railroad bridge over Moselle is blown, 230  
to 250 foot gap. Four spans blown, (stone arch bridge) and only one  
pier is left intact. There are 60 carloads coal at Essagney. One loco-  
motive with left driver rods removed at same place. At Charmes, they  
have two single lane class 50 bridges. The original bridge has two  
gaps, with total of 210 feet to be spanned. Bridge 50 ft above water.  
Bailey bridges at Flavigny are being replaced with steel trestle  
bridges. At Vincey there is a large foundry and wire factory. At Pompey  
is a large steel mill and one at Pont A Mousson still operating. Best  
route to Nancy from Epinal is by way of Mirecourt. There is an airport  
being constructed at Clery by aviation battalion.

PERIOD 0001-2400 11 October 1944:

Tel from Lt Col Frantz: Start work on job immediately. See  
Col Frantz before work begins. This job had been discussed with Capt  
Billups earlier today.

Tel G-3 to Major Lowe: Thinks road block at 224560 can be cleared  
now. Cav Recon far enough advanced to permit clearing without danger  
from small arms fire.

Lt Col Mennier: Tomorrow morning Co B will relieve Co A. Co A  
was unable to finish clearing roadblock at V226581 before dark tonight  
so Co B will do the job in the morning.

Capt Billups: Co A, upon relief by Co B in the morning, will  
relieve Co C. Co C, upon relief by Co A, will begin job of graveling  
entrance road and building duckboard walks at Div CP at Girecourt.

PERIOD 0001-2400 12 October 1944:

Capt Billups by tel reports: Roadblock on road east of Grand-  
villers at V228602 removed by tank dozer. Job completed at 1030 hours  
and road appears to be clear of mines as far forward as can be seen  
from place roadblock was removed. Roadblock at 224560, south east  
of Grandvillers should be completely removed by 1200 today. Graveling  
job underway at Division.

Co A cleared mines from roadblock on side trail at V183711,  
south of Rambervillers. Found three "R" mines 43. There were strands  
of barbed wire strung low over trail to simulate trip wires.

Capt Tauscher: Enemy counterattack in progress at 228588.

Capt Tauscher: Enemy counterattack beaten off. Estimated str-  
ength was two tanks and 100 men. One tank KO'd.

PD 0001-2400 13 October 1944:

Lt Cohen, Co B: I just got my men and equipment on the job yesterday, when the 179th Infantry called it off, as they were moving a battalion there today (13 Oct) and did not want the enemy's attention drawn to that area. Instead, I cleared a trail 220578-220579-213580-213576, then took over Lt Dayton's job in the afternoon, and improved the entire road 181546-213576.

Pvts Gille and Dutton, Ren Sect. report: RR is blown at St Laurent. Approx. 100 yard gap. RR bridge at Jarmentil blown. Repairs are now underway. Trees felled across RR between Jarmentil and Chemineil. Telephone and telegraph lines are destroyed. Decelles RR yard switches blown, crossover blown on main line. Can be replaced at Lepanges, crossover blown on main line. 30 to 40 pieces of rails in yard at Lepanges. Also at Lepanges lumber yard: 2" x 6" x 10" lumber and reinforcing steel and angle iron. Also 40 pcs 8" x 40' I beams. Between Decimont and Lepanges there is a rail blown on each of numerous curves. Intervals of about 400 yards. Enough rails in Decimont to replace those blown. No cars or locomotives along road. Road Condition: Epinal, St Laurent, Archettes, Jarmentil, Decelles, Deycemont, Lepanges - Good. One way bypass between Jarmentil and Chemineil at present time.

PERIOD 0001-2400 14 October 1944:

Tel from Capt Tauscher, ADR: Lt Cohen, Co B, has removed road-block at V224580. Heavy logs were removed last night, but work was stopped because of machine gun fire. Remainder of block was cleared out this morning. There are two more blocks ahead on this trail (to northeast) which cannot be reached as yet. Co A in support of 157th Inf: Co B in support of 179th Inf: Co C in support of 180th Inf, as per orders from Capt Billups.

Capt Billups: Co A cleared road 204742-206737-204733-198733. This trail is a soft dirt, one lane road, which is requiring extensive maintenance. Co B cleared blocks at 224579, NE road swept first

Lt Col Monnier: Co A is relieved as Division Reserve. Will clear road from 157th Inf from Rambervillers to Bru.

Capt Tauscher to S-3: Earlier information is all wrong. Road Rambervillers to Bru not to be touched. Road from Grandvillers to Bruyeres is the one to be opened. Capt Tauscher will take care of getting correct information to Co A, Capt Billups and Co B.

Lt Gleason reports jeep wrecked by tank across river.

Tel from Capt Tauscher: Contacted Lt Bridges, Co B, and plan is set for Co B tomorrow to perform work as follows: 1st platoon will clear main road from Grandvillers to Bruyeres, when advance of infantry permits. 2nd platoon will clear trail from V224579 to north east as tactical situation permits. 3rd platoon will work on five trails to 1st and 3rd battalion, 179th Infantry.

PERIOD 0001-2400 15 October 1944:

Tel from VI Corps Engr to S-3: PW reports mines and booby traps on both sides of RR tracks in grid square V2255.

Capt Tauscher: G-4 wants us to build incinerator in vic 45th Div Clearing Co.



Lt Col Mennier reports: Everything going okay on road Grandvillers to Bruyeres. Engineers keeping road clear behind 179th. Clearing company 180th Medics needs few loads of gravel. No truck available from Co B just now. A Co may be able to take care of this job.

Lt Olesen reports picking up, in Spinal, member of French Police Force at 0930 today and taking him to VI Corps Engr Section. He has information on roads in area east of line between Rambervillers and Bruyeres and in southerly direction toward Plainfaing.

Capt Billups reports: Co B cleared trail from 224579 to 226585. Hand work on road block at 227583 stopped by small arms fire. Removal of block completed by tank dozer. A Co will dig incinerator tomorrow morning in vic 075555 and will begin hauling gravel to 45th Div clearing station.

PERIOD 0001-2400 16 October 1944:

Tel Capt Tauscher to S-3: 1st Bn 36th Engrs is being committed as infantry to reinforce the 2nd Bn vic of Autrey. The Bailey and treadway at Rambervillers will still be maintained by rear echelon 1st Bn, but any construction work will have to be done by us.

Lt Fields, Co B to S-3: Lt Cohen's platoon yesterday cleared trail V223574 to 229585. Today, providing infantry secures ground, he will clear from 229585 to 226590. Lt Pickett's platoon will clear trail 21959--224586, and will build trail from 224586 to 226588. Lt Dayton's platoon is maintaining trail 213690-219601-226590 and trails northwest of Grandvillers-Bruyeres road, and is prepared, with tank dozer to clear further on Grandvillers-Bruyeres road.

S/Sgt Debney, Co B: One R mine found yesterday at roadblock 227583. Two prisoners were taken by security patrol at this block.

Capt Wins, S-3 179th Inf: There is a Col from an AA unit here, who wants some one to dig in a radar near Gagnecourt. He will require a dozer for about 2 hours.

Capt Frank: Needs 150 loads of rock bad. There are buildings near Fremifontaine of which only the walls are standing. G-3 does not believe we have authority to tear them down. They are needed at 220623.

Lt Dayton, Co B: Trail V229585-226590 has been cleared by Lt Cohen's platoon. There were no roadblocks on trail.

ADP to S-3: Corps Engr reports that 36th FA Bn had some casualties from mines at V190607. At least one more mine has been found. Want Engineers to sweep area.

PERIOD 0001-2400 17 October 1944:

S/Sgt Debney, Co B, reports mine removed yesterday at 220598. One of our trucks was disabled by a mine and the mine removed had been covered by the truck.

Capt Billups reports road Ste Helene to Destord is very muddy. Road Ste Helene to Bult is now open all the way. West of Ste Helene a small usable quarry was located. Located at 188662. This quarry is about 8 feet deep with one to one and a half feet of limestone rock. Bridge at Ste Helene needs new decking. A Co will do this tomorrow.

Capt Billups: Bridge at Ste Helene will be closed to traffic tomorrow from 0800 to 1200 while new decking is placed.

Tel from Col Martin, Chief of Staff: Gen Eagles will like to have someone from Co B start work on road east from Grandvillers at once. Have officer from Co B contact 179th Inf about road conditions.

Tel Lt Bridges, Co B to S-3: Have cleared Grandvillers-Bryeres road to point 100 yards short of house at V233597. Have cleared trees from roadblock to this point, have 15 left to clear. Tank Dozer hit an R mine at this point, knocking off one tread and one bogey wheel. Tank dozer has been retrieved, and is being repaired by 191st Tank Bn. Will be in operating order again sometime tomorrow. Request Co C dozer to finish road clearing job in morning.

Capt Billups to CO Co C: Have your tank dozer meet Lt Bridges at cross road in Grandvillers tomorrow morning at 0800.

PERIOD 0001-2400 18 October 1944:

1st Sgt Debney, Co B: Mine that tank dozer exploded last night at 233597 was an R mine 43, and was only mine encountered in the block. Lt Bridges pulled 12 R mines out of road just north of this before starting to clear block.

Lt Col Monnier: Co B has now cleared Grandvillers-Bryeres road as far south as V233592. Co F, 179th Inf has crossed the road from west to east at this point.

Lt Lipscomb: While clearing roadblock today at V233612, northeast of Grandvillers, one man was killed and four men lightly wounded by a mine in the block. Mine was probably a tree charge with trip wire in the block. The man killed was Pvt Lupe Turley. This was the only mine found in the block.

PERIOD 0001-2400 19 October 1944:

Capt Billups to Co B: Destroy all R mines that you have pulled.

Policy: All R mines found by units of this Battalion will be destroyed as soon as the situation permits. They will not be left alongside roads.

Lt Col Monnier sent instructions to Capt Frank to help 92nd AAA dig in power plants and other equipment to morrow if possible. This is not to be done if Infantry needs entire company and equipment support.

PERIOD 0001-2400 20 October 1944:

1st Sgt Debney, Co B: Co B has cleared road Grandvillers-Bryeres as far south as RJ V243586. There is a roadblock just north of the UF. 10 R mines 43 were removed from the road during the day. Lt Picket's platoon is clearing and improving trail northeast from V233597.

Lt Picket, Co B: Have cleared trail northeast from V233597. Removed roadblock at V233598. Trail is not wide enough for tanks.

Tel Lt Bridges: Removed roadblock at RJ V243586. 442nd Inf reported to 179th Inf that they have cleared road from Bryeres north to RJ 243586. There were R mines both in front of and behind this block. Block was constructed of logs buried end up, back by horizontal logs, supported from behind by diagonal timbers. Block was removed with one sweep of tank dozer. Have had one squad demolishing piles of removed mines in rear areas, and this project will be completed in 179th Inf sector by tomorrow.

Tel Capt Carroll, S-3 157th Inf to Major Billups: Enemy shown much activity tonight in vicinity of Bru. We have no reserves present in vicinity of Rambervillers, and would like to move Co A of the engineers to the east of the town as reserves in case of an attack from Bru.

PERIOD 0001-2400 21 October 1944:

Lt Burke, ASST S-3, 157th Inf: Everything remained quiet during the night. We do not think it probable that anything new will develop.

1st Sgt Debney, Co B,: 1st platoon reconnoitered with tank dozer for a road or trail 243586-241593. 2 platoons with 1st battalion, 179th Infantry.

Capt Tauscher: Gen Butler wants to know possibility of obtaining snake for use against wire and similar objects.

Capt Lee, Corps Engr Supply Co: There is one snake demolition M-1, less bolts, at Epinal. 10 are on order, and supposedly on the way. Use is under control of Corps G-4.

Tel from Lt Col Monnier to S-3: One squad of Co A with mine detectors is to reinforce Co B, although Lt Bridges did not think he would need them. One platoon Co A alerted to reinforce roadblocks east of Rambervillers. Are not moving from area yet. Opening trail from RJ V248585 to vic 244590 for tanks. Roads in back part of Division sector are in need of drainage and gravel. Co A will probably be assigned job tomorrow. 48th Engrs, supporting 3rd Div, will take over maintenance of road Bruyeres-Grandvillers-Gugnecourt-Cirecourt-Aydoilles. 3rd Battalion of 36th Engrs has been committed as Inf to support rest of regiment. 10th Engrs OP east of Viminal. They will take over maintenance of road Grandvillers-Ste Helene-RJ V187687.

Lt Lipscomb, Co C, to S-3: Co C has not been able to clear trails northeast of Grandvillers beyond points previously reported.

Maj Hanson, 10th Engrs to S-3: Co B, 10th Engrs has cleared road RJ V243586-RJ246585. Co A 10th Engrs has cleared road Bruyeres-RJ248585 (one tree was left across road). Co B, 10th Engrs has opened trail from RJ V248585 to V242593. It is intended to develop this trail down into Brouvelieures as the tactical situation permits. 10th Engrs have also opened trail V241585-236388-233579-Bruyeres.

Lt Oleson, Recon Co: Contacted M. Andre, French Forest Service, in Rambervillers for road information east from Rambervillers to Raon L'Etape and Etival. The Brigadier of forest service in St Benoit is M. Gros.

Tel Maj Hanson, 10th Engrs: Elements of 15th Inf have come north from Brouvelieures to vic bridge at V254613. Would like to know if we have cleared trail Grandvillers to V251618 for use of tank destroyers tomorrow. Do not know as yet if foot troops of 15th Inf have contacted 3rd Bn 180th Inf, in this sector.

Maj Billups to Maj Hanson: Trail in question is not yet cleared beyond V237613. Inf has not yet made contact. We will have Co C start clearing this trail early in the morning if the tactical situation permits.

PERIOD 0001-2400 23 October 1944:

Tel from Col Reynolds, G-3: Force consisting of recon and one battalion of 180th Inf is to cross bridge at V241643 and secure high ground on east bank. Want engineers to build bridge if necessary. Elements probably 2nd Bn 179th Inf which is near Brouvelieures, will be withdrawn. Remaining elements of 45th Div in that sector will clean up any scattered resistance and will then be withdrawn.

Tel from S-3 to Co C: Be ready to install bridge if necessary, at V241643. If you need treadway it can be obtained from 36th Engrs bridge train in Rambervillers.

1st Sgt Debney, Co B: Co B yesterday removed roadblock on main road to Brouvelieures. Entire road into town is clear. Co B also destroyed 108 "R" mines yesterday in division rear areas.

Lt Foster, Ass't S-3: Co B's tank dozer is in repair at 191st tank Bn shop at Aydoilles for motor repairs, will not be serviceable until tomorrow.

Major Lowe called and rpts that Lt Simmons reported one platoon of Co A manning roadblocks near Rambervillers. Festions were taken over during night.

Lt Col Monnier reports by phone: 180th Inf is reaching river at 241645. Bridge train at Rambervillers alerted to furnish materials for bridge at that point. Also reports that he does not know yet whether or when we will move. Another river crossing is being considered in 36th Engrs sector northeast of Autrey.

Capt Frank: Bridge at 241645 not totally destroyed. personnel recon to bridge was not possible right down to bridge but as nearly as he could ascertain the Germans have been trying to repair the bridge and it will take approximately three sections of treadway to make crossing.

Lt Simmons's platoon will relieve 3rd platoon this afternoon on outposts and roadblock guard positions.

Lt Col Monnier ordered Capt Rickey to begin work laying matting on Div Arty OP and to maintain contact with 36th Engrs for information on proposed river crossing north of Autrey. Co B can relieve Co A on one of the jobs if the river crossing is definitely decided upon.

Tel from S-3 179th Inf: Wan liaison officer from Engineers to report to them this afternoon. Operations may necessitate engineer assistance.

Tel from Sgt Dykens, ADE sect: Message from Maj Billups: Inf has not crossed river at 241643 as yet. Only damage done to bridge is a shell hit (240mm, large crater) at the approach of bridge. Will use treadway. All arrangements completed. Waiting for infantry.

Major Billups: Co C has treadway ready to install at bridge 241643. Trail 240637-240643 has been cleared, also trail 226648-233544. Infantry has not crossed bridge 241643. One man of Co C lightly wounded by rifle fire. Co B CP moved to 206620.

Pvt Dutton: Recon Section: Made recon to bridge at 229654. RR overpass just west of bridge is intact. Bridge is blown, has total span of not more than 30 feet, with firm abutments. Area is heavily mined, 36th Engrs are starting to clear mines.

Lt Col Monnier: 180th Inf was not successful in attempt to cross bridge at 241643. Will try tonight to cross south of this point, 48th Cav Ren to the north. Lt Cohen's platoon, Co B, will open trail 238614-251618. Trail to bridge at 241643 had been swept for mines twice (once by the Infantry and once by Co C), yet first tank down road hit a mine in center of road. Evidence seems to show that "R" mines are being laid from 18 to 24 inches deep, making them difficult to pick up with detector. 36th Engrs report far approach to Autrey bridge needs filling.

Major Billups to Maj Darling, Engr VI Corps: Is it possible to assign 48th Engrs to maintenance of any of the following roads: Cirecourt-Rambervillers; Grandvillers-Cirecourt; Aydoilles-Rambervillers-Padoux-Epinal; Grandvillers-Rambervillers; Destore-Pierepont.

Answer: 48th Engr Bn is now supporting all three regiments in VI Corps. They have already been assigned road Bruyeres-Grandvillers-Cirecourt-Aydoilles.

Lt Ficket and Lt Dayton, Co B: Trail east from V234597 is cleared to 241601, and trail north west from RJ 248585 is cleared to same point. There is a roadblock just north of this point.

Tel ADE to S-3: 180th Inf will not attack via bridge 241643 until 0530 tomorrow morning.

PERIOD 0001-2400 23 October 1944:

Tel Capt Tauscher: 180th Inf attacked this morning at 0830 at bridge 241643. No report as yet as progress of attack. G-3 says that bridge at 229654 will not be used.

Tel Capt Tauscher: Capt Frank, Co C reports infantry has crossed bridge 241643. Impossible at present to install treadway bridge because of heavy artillery fire, but brockways are ready in Fremifontaine to install treadway when artillery lets up. Will keep us informed. Co A, 48th Engrs, in in general support of 45th Div. Capt Snyder is in command. CP is south of Cirecourt. Will take over maintenance of road Cirecourt-Destord-Rambervillers.

1st Sgt Debney, Co B: Tank Dozer is still in repair shop. Would like to get Co C's tank dozer to clear large roadblock from trail north west of Brouvellieures.

Lt Col Monnier: Chief of Staff reports 179th Inf has advanced north to vic 252650. There is a roadblock at 252626 which we want removed.

Tel from ADE: Capt Rickey has laid 150 ft of single Sommerfeld mat for air strip at Berceour and 100 ft of second row of mat.

Co B has cleared road Brouvellieures-253613-255165-253612. Are now clearing roadblock at this last point, and will work north to roadblock 252626.

Lt Col Monnier: Trail 253620-259624 cleared, work continuing. Tank dozer working on paved road north at about 253622. I am going up to see Capt Frank and then to landing strip.

Lt Thuring, Co C: Co C has cleared trail 232613-239609 and trail 232612-238615.

Tel from ADE: 36th Engrs report gap in bridge at 229654 to be 45'.

Tel from Lt Oleson: Lt Col Monnier wants road maintenance immediately on road 205633-Fremifontaine-240643.

Lt Oleson, reported to Lt Safir at 179th CP (by tel) that bridge at 241643 was secured. It would require 60' of treadway. Troops in vic of bridge still receiving small arms fire.

Lt Col Monnier: 157th Inf will take sector next to 180th Inf, vic of Autrey. 36th Engrs and 117th Ren will take sector between VI Corps and IV Corps, vic Rambervillers. Treadway bridge being installed at bridge 241643 (60'), will have to be trestled up to take heavy traffic. Co B was clearing trail 236614, east, last night and this morning, but job was called off by 179th Inf as unnecessary. 2nd Bn 36th Engrs is alerted to put in bridge at 229654, but due to change in sector, we may have to do this job.

Major Billups: Co B has swept road from 253621 north as far as 251630, and are continuing to work this road to the north. Also cleared road 254620 to 268629.

ADE to S-3, tel: Bridge at 241643 is open for light traffic, will be ready for heavy traffic in about 2 hours.

Tel S-3 to Maj Darling, VI Corps Engr: Request assistance in maintaining and improving road Fremifontaine-241643.

Answer: Will try to get at least one platoon from Corps Engr to help with this job.

PERIOD 0001-2400 24 October 1944:

Tel from Capt Gilbert, VI Corps Engr Sect: 48th Engrs will take over road Co A has been maintaining, as far as Fremifontaine.

Tel from Col Dulaney, CO 180th Inf: Bridge at 241643 was completed last night and tanks were passed over it.

Lt Lipscomb: Treadway bridge at 241643 was completed at 1900 last night for light traffic. Trestles were put in by 2400 and tanks crossed immediately after. Road 241643-244644-249649 was swept for mines.

1st Sgt Debney, Co B: About 800 yards of abatis was removed from road between points 254620 and 251635. 2 "R" mines found on road 254620-268629.

Col Reynolds, G-3: Corps has approved use of 36th Engrs to build bridge at 229655.

Capt Tauscher: We need a mine sweeping detail for Div CP vic of Fremifontaine. Lt Col Monnier reports that bridge at 241643 has deteriorated to where only 1/4 tons can cross. Co C's tank dozer is still on near side. Want Co B tank dozer, which is working vic of Morgagne, to come around to 251635 to work north toward bridge.

Messenger, Co B: One truck 2 1/2 tons hit mine in front of our present bivouac area 1/2 mile north of Grandvillers. One squad of 3rd platoon was going out on job. T/4 Shedd was seriously wounded, his right leg being badly mangled. Lt Dayton has gone to medical aid sta with him. Am sending Brown (ren driver) in with T/5 Butler, driver of the truck which was blown up, and Pvt Harolan who at the present are both suffering from shock. Lt Bridges and Lt Fields are out hunting a new bivouac area.

New Bn CP established at V208617, 1/2 mile north of Grandvillers.

Lt Col Monnier: Co's B and C have met each other on road sweeping job on east side of Mortagne river, Co B working north from Bourvelieures and Co C south from bridge V241643. Bridge at 241643 had part of fill wash away during the morning, making bridge unsuitable for anything but 1/4 ton traffic. An extra 30 ft of treadway with an extra trestle was used to strengthen it, and is now passing tanks.

Lt Ricker, Co B. Trails 253821-254826-267629. Today we cleared trails V267629-279635; V270631-271639-273644-273646-270650; and V274634-273640-271639. Also cleared road V273644-268643. Infantry cleared trails V272644-270646-270650-, and V274644-273646.

Pvt Roberts, Co B, tank man: Tank dozer cleared road V230636-256641. Hit a mine at this last point and tank is disabled. One track is blown off and one suspension system is probably wrecked. Lt Bridges will contact 191st Tank Bn to have them pull out tank dozer and take it back for repairs.

Major Billups reports Co A, 48th Engrs was asked to improve and maintain road Brouvelieures north toward Autrey.

PERIOD 0001-2400 25 October 1944:

Capt Tauscher: 36th Engrs reports bridge south of Autrey, and road from Autrey to Bridge, swept for mines.

Major Billups: Road Autrey to bridge 241643 is now open also road has been cleared from Autrey to 230674.

Capt Tauscher: Div CP now moving to new area. Capt Frank called and said road open 251637-261642. Road has box mines found at 254627. Marked off and left in place.

By radio from Co C: Tank dozer, threw track at 256640. Co CP moving to 229636.

Major Billups reports road from 250637 to 272644 now open. Road from Autrey to 239664 also open. Co A improving approaches at Autrey bridge. Given orders to continue and to put in more gravel. Co B, Lt Cohen, working road from 250637 toward treadway bridge 241643.

Lt Bridges, Co B: The following trails have been cleared: V268629-255635, V266631-270635, V226652-263655, V262642-262647-264648-263644. This last trail was cleared by Co C, the rest by Co B.

Tel ADE: 36th Engrs are no longer maintaining Bailey Bridge at 230654, and there is no maintenance crew at the bridge.

Lt Gleason: There is some lumber available at sawmill at V246642, mostly one inch stock, but also some 3" x 9". There is also a little lumber at sawmill at V250634.

Major Lowe: Mr Flanagan reports that our tank dozer, which hit a mine last night, will be repaired by tomorrow afternoon. Tank dozer detached from 6617 Mine Clearing Co, which threw a track today is back in operation now.

Lt Sanderlin, 180th Inf: Minefield at V239625 (VI Corps No. 7) was removed by Co C 180th Engrs. 179th Inf reportedly laid two minefields, one north of road junction V233613 and one south of same Junction. 180th Inf removed 10 AT mines from north field, but south field has apparently not been removed.

Capt Rickey: 191st Tank Bn had two tank Retrievers damaged by mines on road V233656.

Tel from Capt Rickey: Request tank dozer for job in morning. Have it meet Lt Smith at Autrey at 0530 in the morning.

Tel to Capt Frank: Send tank dozer with you (6617 Mine C1 Co) to meet Lt Smith at Autrey at 0530 in the morning.

Answer: Tank dozer is still in shop. Track is replaced but tank needed maintenance and won't be operating until tomorrow afternoon

PERIOD 0001-2400 26 October 1944:

Tel Capt Frank to Lt Col Monnier: Bridge at 241643 had transom damaged. Will be closed for repairs for about two hours.

Pvt Dutton, Ren Section: Road V240665-252661 has been cleared by Co A. Co C cleared road 251655-252661. Bridge at 252661 is blown, but is only a small job. Will be repaired by Co A this afternoon. Road 243662-Housseras will be cleared this afternoon by Co A. Road V240665 to 238660-251655 is a better road than V240665-252661, but is heavily blocked and has one weak stretch of about 100 yards.

Major Billups: Co A is clearing road V222668-220664 this afternoon. Have cleared road V235676-242680-Housseras, and road V242680-250670.

Tel Lt Bridges: Will clear road V269652-251655. Will also carry equipment across valley to start clearing road from V264660 west toward bridge 253662. Co C is clearing east from this bridge, and two parties will meet. Also clearing north from 264660-264668.

Tel Maj Billups to Capt Riskey: Has Lt Smith finished bridge at V253662. Answer: Bridge is finished, class 20. Have also cleared road from V222668 north to 220683. American mined roadblock at 222672 (VI Corps No. 8) has already been removed, and mines were on ground beside road.

Major Billups: Have Lt Smith reinforce bridge 253662 to class 40.

Tel Lt Fields: Co B today cleared roads V269652-251655; V253662-264660-263667; V262663-261668.

Major Billups: Bridge at V253662 is class 40. Co B cleared roads (in addition to those previously reported): 264660-269661; 261668-263667-268673; 240664-239660-251655. Co A cleared road Housseras-268667, and completed clearing road 243680-253662.

Tel Capt Tauscher: Minefield RJ 229669 (VI Corps No. 10) has been removed, mines are stacked near road.

Pvt Hirschman (G-2 Sect): 157th reports piles of wood booby trapped on both sides of road, between 240678 and 265666.

PERIOD 0001-2400 27 October 1944:

Tel S-3 to G-3: Request permission to pull treadway bridge at 241643.

Major Billups: Co A moved to 213604, west of Autrey. Co A has cleared and swept the following roads: Housseras, north to 244688, 268687-269696 and road 219683-218690.

Major Billups: Road reported (at 1145) cleared from 266687 to 269696 (100 yards short of road west of Jeanneil) should have been reported 266687-278694. Co C has been maintaining road Autrey-Sie Helene since noon. Lt Smith is rocking road 240665-253661. Co A is clearing trail 260679-270778-279683-277687. Co B cleared trail 269661-280667-291666-295683-295676-287676-285674-277675. Lt Olesen reports road 269682-294658 is open, also road 294638 south to Les Rouges Eaux (3rd Div MBR). Co C had maintenance crew on bridge 241643, and Co A maintained bridge at 229654.

Maj Billups to Co C: Remove burned out tank destroyer from road 227648.

Tel 10th Engrs to S-3: Request to use some of our trucks to help haul gravel from pit via 265625 on to road 278655-284638.



el Capt Billups to Capt Rickey, (Co A): Drain roads via 229671  
243664. Clear road 218690-214706 and Housseras-217703.

Capt Rickey: Lt Peak's platoon finished clearing trail 260679-  
270678-270675.

Tel 645th TD Bn to S-3: Request to have road from Housseras  
northeast toward RJ 216703, cleared. There are four roadblocks on  
this road.

PERIOD 0001-2400 28 October 1944:

Capt Frank by tel: CP moved to 245658. Want to use tank dozer  
tomorrow morning.

Maj Billups: Co B gravelling and improving trail 264660-291666-  
295677-287676-286673-270674-263667-264660. Three of Co B trucks are  
hauling gravel for the 10th Engrs on road 270632-284636. Co A is  
clearing trail 270677-278684 and north and is improving same trail  
and trails 770677-260679-268686-274695.

Lt Olesen, Ren: Quarry reported yesterday at 280683 is actually  
at 279678.

Capt Sonnehsen, Adj, 2nd Bn 36th Engrs: 2nd Bn 36th Engrs  
expected to be in support of 45th Div. 48th Engrs will follow the  
3rd Div.

Maj Billups to VI Corps Engr: Verify report of Capt Sonnehsen.  
VI Corps rear boundary will run along line Padoux-Cirecourt.

Lt Col Monnier: The following roads are clear and being used:  
255643-287652, 278675-278692.

Capt Rickey reports Co A now clearing the northwest entrance to  
town of Housseras for TD's.

Capt Rickey, by phone: Believe good quarry or gravel pit can be  
opened at 271683. Reports road closed 278688 to 278691. Capt Rickey  
was ordered to maintain road Autrey to Housseras and Autrey to bridge  
253661. Also to maintain roads Housseras to 260680 and from 260680  
to 275694 and 278691.

Maj Billups by tel to VI Corps reported: Location of gravel pit  
in vic 271683 was informed that Corps now has light equipment co  
attached with following equipment on hand: 4- $\frac{1}{2}$  yd shovels, 6 compressors  
2 Quickaway cranes, 6 graders (road patrol) 2-8 yd carryalls, 4-D7's  
2-D4's, 3 dump trucks.

Major Billups requested one shovel be allotted for our use at  
an early date pending examination of quarry and determining need  
for gravel on roads we are now maintaining. Request was approved and  
investigation in quarry will be made tomorrow and corps notified if  
shovel is needed and when.

PERIOD 0001-2400 29 October 1944:

Lt Bein (6617 Mine Clearing Company): Our tank dozer cleared road  
blocks near Housseras (vic V234687-236686) last night.

Tel Lt Col Monnier: Co C is installing two culverts at V243700  
and is bringing up tank dozer to start clearing main road east (and  
south) out of Jeanmenil. 157th Inf has out other road east out of  
Jeanmenil at V260711 and at 269709. Patrols are supposed to be in  
Jeanmenil now, and as soon as situation permits, 2nd Bn 36th Engrs,  
will be assigned maintenance of these two roads. Road V239669-229673

s is open to ambulance traffic only during daylight.  
oster (ass't E-3): Co C during night cleared roads V244689-  
698, V244688-280698. Tank dozer was guided to Housseras where it  
turned over to Capt Frank at 1000. Capt Frank will use it to help  
putting in culvert at V243700, and then will use it to clear road V  
243701-280699. Bridge at V280699 is reported intact by infantry.  
Infantry also reports roadblock via 257899.

Lt Beine (6617 Mine Clearing Co): We would like to bring another  
tank dozer of ours up tomorrow to work with the 120th Engrs to pull  
the present dozer back for two days to give the crew further training.  
We also expect to get more tank dozers from rear soon, including an  
M-4A1 (similar to the present one) and would like at that time to train  
a reserve crew for the 120th Engr tank.

Pvt Dutton, ren sect: Trail V278891-277895 is open, and also main  
road from V288898. Trail V277888-286876 is open, but is good for  
1/4 tons only.

Maj Billups: Good gravel in quarry at V273883.. Co A is to build a  
approach road into quarry this afternoon.

Tel from Chief of Staff to Maj Lowe (Exec C): A bn of 36th Engrs  
is now in support of 48th Div. Assign them job of clearing main road  
east and west of RJ V243701 now, and of maintaining same road from  
Rambervillers east as it is opened. This will be the Division MTR.

Tel Major Lowe to Lt Col Monnier: Msg from Chief of Staff con-  
cerning 2nd Bn 36th Engrs: 36th Engrs Regt probably has patrols in  
Jeanmenil now. If that is true, tell 2nd Bn to start work on road east  
out of Jeanmenil. If that is possible, have them start working on road  
243701.

Mt Flanagan, Mot C: Culvert at 243700 has been installed and is  
passing traffic.

Lt Col Monnier: Co C has cleared road V243701-280699. The tank  
dozer is at this last point and is ready for Co A to clear from there  
to east in 157th Inf sector.

Tel from Gen Eagles to Maj Lowe: Open Jeanmenil-La Salle road as  
far east as 29 grid line as soon as possible. Have seen Col Boatner  
(36th Engrs) and instructed him to start work on road out of Jeanmenil  
with the 2nd Bn 36th Engrs.

Capt Tauscher (AMB) to Maj Lowe: 938th FA wants about 15 trees  
cut out of firing positions at 268878. Need power saw and men to do  
job. Have party report to Capt Ratchof at 935th FA CP in Autrey at  
0800 tomorrow morning.

Capt Riskey, Co A: Lt Smith's platoon is clearing Jeanmenil-La  
Salle road west from RJ V277894 toward Co C. Can get tank dozer from Co  
B to use working west on same road if I need it.

Ans: Co C has cleared road west to 28 grid line. Gen Eagles wants  
us to clear entire road west to 29 grid line tonight if possible.

Maj Billups: Co A is maintaining and improving road Housseras-  
280678-277887-270878.

Tel from E-3 to Capt Scennichsen, (Adj. 2nd Bn 36th Engrs): Want  
your battalion to clear road from Jeanmenil east to 243701. Inf reports  
no blocks in that part of road. We are clearing road as far west as  
29 grid line tonight, and want you to take over maintenance of that  
road to that point. You will also open road V211713-Housseras  
and road V216703-Autrey, and road Jeanmenil-245716.

Maj Billups: Co C, using tank dozer, is clearing trail V243701-  
245716. On this trail this afternoon they found "R" mines tied in  
trees with trip wires.

Radio S-3 to Co A: Send power saw and six men tomorrow morning to 938th FA CP in Autrey to saw trees. Also look for new Company area in sector.

Lt Col Monnier: Tank dozer (180th Engrs) which has been in Autrey for minor repairs since 1700, is now back in operation and is being sent to Co A:

PERIOD 0001-2400 30 October 1944:

CO Co C: CP moving to 243697.

CO Co A: New CP at 270687.

Tel, 2nd Bn 36th Engrs to S-1: Power shovel will not be available until about 1300.

Lt Foster: Road Jeanmenil-253901 is now open. 36th Engrs are now clearing shoulders and side streets in Jeanmenil. Tank destroyer hit mine last night on road from Jeanmenil to Bru.

Lt Fenstermacher (6617 Mine Clearing Co) reports to Bn CP to replace our tank, which will return to rear to tr-train crew.

Maj Lowe: Capt Frank, Co C, reports work for today will include clearing the following roads: V227713-257717-263718-257735 (St Benoit) V235714-236719-240718-246728-257735.

Tel Capt Frank, Co C: Field of Schu Mines found at V245716. Has been properly wired off and posted with signs. Roads listed in message to Major Lowe this morning, have been cleared, but northern part of loop is still subject to enemy fire.

Maj Billups, S-3: Co A today cleared roads V261699-277711-277712- and V277711-280707-273898. Co B cleared roads V277712-292707-293605 and V290705-293705-207694-293690.

Lt Foster: Gravel Pit now established, with shovel in operation, at 274683.

Lt Col Monnier: Co C swept roads V240718-246719-251727; and V246722 250726. Infantry encountered "Schu Mines", and suffered several casualties from them, in and around buildings at 247745. One mine was in a hay stack, another under rubble.

Tel ADE to S-2: 158th FA reports booby trapped and mined road block at 248676. There is also much explosives scattered around area.

Lt Bridges, CO Co B: Co B today installed roadblock at 311686, consisting of six felled trees and 10 "T" mines.

T/Sgt McAlarnis: Provisional platoon from H&S Co today took our four strips of landing mat for cub planes at Sercocour. These will be used for new landing strip at Ste Helene tomorrow. Remaining strips at Sercocour (about 10) will be removed and used as they are needed

PERIOD 0001-2400 31 October 1944:

Maj Lowe to Capt Frank, Co C: Use disciplinary squad for burying cattle via Housseras.

T/Sgt Russby to Lt Sandelin, S-3, 180th Inf: Request information on mine fields No 8 (Vic 232674) and No. 9 (vic 232657), laid by 180th Inf. No report has been received as to whether they have been removed.

Maj Billups to ADE: Co C is now working clearing streets in Bru. 36th Engrs, 2nd Bn were told to open road Rambervillers-Bru-St Benoit- also to open road from Bru to Jeanmenil.

Major Lowe: Sgt McAlarnis is going to remove all of landing strip at sercoeur to complete field at Ste Helene. He will need six more men in provisional platoon to do the job.

Lt Bridges: 1st Bn 179th Inf wants us to lay AP devices, with handgrenades and AT mines, in front of their positions. This has not yet been cleared by Gen Eagles. A hasty roadblock is to be placed in front of 1st Bn by mine platoon. Correct coordinate of block, consisting of six trees and 10 AT mines, laid yesterday by Lt Picket, in V312694.

Tel Gen Eagles to Maj Lowe: 157th Inf reports road St Bencit V289730 is good gravel road. Want this cleared as soon as possible.

Tel - Col Welcher, CO 2nd Bn 36th Engrs: Road 200693-St Gorgen has been closed.

Lt Leyer, 120th Med Bn to Maj Lowe: Request engineer aid in gravelling 120th Med Clearing Co area. Have been doing some gravelling ourselves, getting one or two loads of gravel a day from 7th Army quarry near Epinal. Cannot do this any more until permission is obtained from 7th Army Engineer to draw gravel.

Maj Billups: 180th Inf 1st Bn turned their minefields over intact to 36th Engrs when they were relieved. Roads reported yesterday as cleared by Co A, should be corrected to read 274695-278706-2847070 285710. And 284708-284710-; and 288706-288700. Co A today cleared roads 2807120-292722-; 291308-290729; 284710-272715.

Lt Col Monnier: 2nd Bn 36th Engrs are still clearing shoulders of road Rambervillers-Bru.

Tel Capt Frank, Co C to Maj Billups: Co C has cleared road Bru-St Bencit-273731. Also road 258735-St Bencit.

Maj Billups: Co A hauled rock from quarry at 273683 for gravel road from 274693 to 286710. Built gun platform for a battery of 158th FA guns in vic of 274695. Opened and maintained trail from 288699 to 289708. Opened road 293705-292708-272715. Opened trail 28071- to 292723. Opened road 291708, 289712, 292723 and 290728. And were removing block at 290728. Also maintained road Housseras to 260679 to 275695. Co B cleared road 293705-298698 to CR 307703 and road 297701 to CR 307704. Maintained trails in 179th Inf sector. Cleared from CR 293705 along the main road to CR at 307703 and then parallel road to the north which begins from 297701 to 307704. Also maintained road to 179th Inf from 277695 to 278698 to 283690 and trail from 293705 south to 298694 to 294690 to 286674 to junction of main road at 295674. HAS Co removed somerfeld matting from air strip at Sercoeur and laid six rolls on new strip at Ste Helene.

Maj Billups: Road block extending from 276713 to 268717 cleared and swept by Co A. Deeply buried charge damaged 1 truck and injured three men. Road will be reswept before opening for traffic. From 290725, road opened to 289730 to 276730. Installed a road block as a counter attack was in progress.

Co A will complete work to join with Co C at 273372 and will open trail beginning at 290730 east to 295732 and north to 294737 tomorrow.

Gen Eagles to Lt Col Monnier: Want improvement on road Jeanmenil to La Salle. Also would like to have Bru-Jeanmenil road open now. Road from Autrey east to here no longer of importance.

HEADQUARTERS 120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

APO # 45, US Army  
10 November 1944

OPERATIONS SUMMARY)

NUMBER 1)

I. General: This summary covers the period 1-31 October 1944.

a. This period was characterized by slow and difficult advances against desperate enemy resistance through the Rambervillers Forest, and extensive enemy use of timber abatis and mines in the wooded portions of the Division sector, causing the tasks performed by engineer troops to be both difficult and dangerous. Bobby traps in abatis were frequent, and were a primary source of casualties.

b. The increase in barrier defenses caused a larger proportion of engineer work than usual to be performed in forward areas, resulting in greater demands upon supporting Corps Engineers.

c. The bulk of work done by the battalion consisted of reducing enemy barriers and construction and maintenance of trails through the Rambervillers forest.

d. Throughout most of the month, rainy weather increased the difficulty of keeping roads open. Even paved roads became coated with a layer of mud which caused the highways to become dangerous.

II. Tabulation of work performed:

	<u>Job</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>No.</u>
a.	Roads and trails swept for mines (road surface plus three (3) feet)	miles	135
b.	Abatis or other barriers removed	each	55
c.	Bridges constructed	each	3
d.	Bridges repaired	each	2
e.	Culverts installed	each	8
f.	Bypasses constructed	each	1
g.	Mines removed (approximately)	each	750
h.	Minefields laid	each	2
i.	Minefields removed (friendly)	each	2
j.	Airstrips (200 yard Sommerfeld Mat) for Air CP	each	2
k.	Bridges prepared for demolition	each	1
l.	Abatis constructed	each	3
m.	Road corduroyed	yard	200
n.	Company as infantry	days	4
o.	Battery positions for FA (includes platforms)	each	3
p.	Access roads in Div CP gravelled, 750 lin ft board walk laid		1
q.	Signs painted by H&S Co		875
r.	Water supplied to troops	gals.	896,220
s.	Division Shower operated	days	15
t.	Road repaired for the 120th Medical Clearing Station		

III. Training

a. Tank dozer crew was trained by the 191st Tank Battalion. Crew functioned and performed well in action during latter part of the month.

b. 45 EM trained in use of infantry assault boat by VI Corps

a. Gas mask drill by all personnel

IV. Miscellaneous:

a. Casualties:

	<u>Off</u>	<u>EM</u>
KIA	1	6
WIA		14

b. Tank dozers proved to be invaluable for the reduction of road blocks. Their weight and size enables them to move large logs with ease, and armor protects the crew from blast of mines and charges. Four (4) AT mines were exploded under tank dozers. In every case the track was broken, one or more bogie wheels damaged. Occasionally, Bogie suspension or dozer arm was damaged. Only one casualty was suffered by the tank crew, a ruptured ear drum by the tank commander. Without tank dozers, at least twenty (20) men would have been killed or seriously wounded, gauged by the casualty rate before tank dozers were utilized, (9 WIA, 5 KIA). In every case, the tank was back in action within 36 hours.

c. Status of materiel destroyed:

- 2 trucks, 2½ ton cargo - Traffic Accidents
- 2 trucks, 2½ ton cargo - Mines
- Mine Detector SCR 625 - Artillery Fire

d. Company A was committed as infantry for a four (4) day period, manning road blocks in the Rambervillers area, behind the MLR.

For the Battalion Commander:

*Benjamin E Billups*  
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 Major, CE  
 S-5

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