

L-327

AFTER ACTION REPORT

December, 1944

CLASSIFICATION  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL,  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE.....  
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L-327

AFTER ACTION REPORT

After Action Report

1. S - 3 Journal
2. Journal File
3. Engineer Operations Reports
4. Miscellaneous Material Supplementary to the work of the Battalion.
  - a. Operations Memo Number 27.
  - b. Barrier Estimate.
  - c. Letter, Battle Experiences.
5. Photographs.

CLASSIFICATION  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
*W. J. [Signature]* 1st Lt 29 Oct 46  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE



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: AUTH: CO, 1340 ECB :  
: INIT: OJY :  
: DATE: 2 Jan 44 :  
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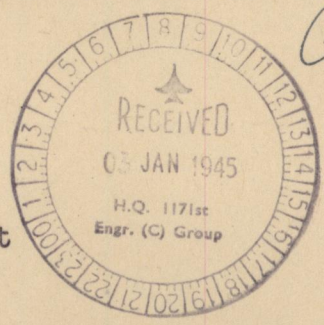
**HEADQUARTERS 1340TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**  
Office of the Battalion Commander

*BAR/wcp*  
APO 230, U.S. Army,  
2 January 1945.

**SUBJECT: After Action Report.**  
  
**TO :** The Commanding Officer,  
1171st Engineer Combat Group,  
APO 230, U.S. Army.

In compliance with letter, Headquarters V Corps, dated 28 December 1944, subject: "Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports," file 319.1, the After Action Report of the 1340th Engineer Combat Battalion, for the month of December 1944, is hereby submitted.

For the Commanding Officer:



*Oliver I. Tuthill*  
**OLIVER I. TUTHILL,**  
1st Lt., C.E.,  
Adjutant.

1 Incl:  
After Action Report

*ENBN-1340-0.3*

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CANCELED  
By Authority of The Secretary of War  
By Joseph W Whitney, Colonel, INF  
Document Downgrading Committee, AGO  
Date: **27 JAN 1947**

*J.W. JWW*  
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**JAN 29 1947**

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: DATE: 2 Jan 44 :  
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HEADQUARTERS 1340TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
Office of the Battalion Commander

BAR/wcp  
APO 230, U.S. Army,  
2 January 1944.

SUBJECT: Reports After/After Action Reports.

THRU : Channels.

TO : The Adjutant General,  
Washington, D.C.

MAP REFERENCES

GSGS 4040, 1:50,000 - Sheet 81 N

1. OPERATIONS 1 - 31 DECEMBER):

a. Mission

- (1) 1 -19 December: Direct support of the 12th Engineer Combat Battalion of the 8th Infantry Division.
- (2) 20-31 December: Normal Corps Engineer Assignment.
- (3) Synopsis:

At the beginning of the month the battalion continued its direct support of the 12th Engineer Combat Battalion of the 8th Infantry Division. The 8th pushed to the ROER River in the HURTGEN-BERGSTEIN sector, and the battalion supported the Division Engineers by maintaining supply routes forward to a line established by the Commanding Officer, 12th Engineers, as his own rear boundary. Work forward of this line was executed at the request of the Division Engineer, which included mine clearance, repair and maintenance along roads, removal of disabled armored vehicles from roads, the placing of mines as road blocks, and the laying of anti-personnel mines. During the operation close liaison was maintained with the 12th Engineer Combat Battalion through the Assistant Division Engineer, who lived at the Division Engineer Headquarters.

On 20 December the battalion moved south to the VERVIERS-MALMEDY area as V Corps shifted its boundaries to meet the German break-through in this sector. Here the battalion was assigned an area for road maintenance in rear of the 30th Division and, later, in support of the 1st Division.

The importance of keeping roads open in this sector was impressed upon all officers and men in statements from the Group Commander and the Corps Engineer. These

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DOD Dir. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1958  
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(After Action Report, 1340th Engr C Bn, 2 Jan 45, cont'd)

statements pointed out that the shifting of troops and the flow of supplies must not be interrupted by breakdown in the road net. Accordingly, all assigned roads were patrolled continuously by parties in 1/4 ton trucks, so as to discover and remove, in a minimum of time, any roadblock which might appear. These patrols maintained contact with the wrecker stations by radio SCR-300; these stations were placed at two stratigical points along the main supply route. Each station was composed of one working squad of men, one 4-ton wrecker, one R-4 dozer and one 2½ ton truck.

The roads in this sector, aided by the freezing weather, proved to be in excellent condition. Work here was concentrated on the repair and maintenance of a four thousand yard stretch of the EUPEN-MALMEDY Road, and upon spreading cinders on the icy roads. All dump trucks of the battalion were employed daily in the stockpiling of crushed rock and cinders.

Other assignments included the reconnaissance for location of minefields and road blocks, to conform to the V Corps Barrier Plan, and the estimate of time, men and materials required to execute these barriers. Preliminary work was done on several roadblocks, and an extensive minefield, employing both American and British anti-personnel mines, was laid and maintained.

b. Other Events

- (1) Church services, Protestant and Catholic, were held during the month. Special masses and services were held Christmas, by the Group Chaplains, in the church at SART and in the mess hall of Headquarters and Service Company.
- (2) During the last ten days of the month, for the first time since landing on the continent, the battalion was billeted in buildings near SART, Belgium. The Headquarters and Service Company was housed in a large inn. Its spacious dining hall, besides being used as such, provided a place for church services, movies, and recreation events for the battalion.
- (3) Nearby, in a garage, the water supply section erected its improvised showers for the convenience of nearby units as well as the men of the 1340th Engineers.
- (4) A distinct feeling of thankfulness and gratitude prevailed throughout the entire battalion on its third successive Christmas Day overseas. Turkey was plentiful.

2. LOCATION:

	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date of Arrival</u>	<u>Date of Departure</u>
a.	VOSSENACK, Germany. (985316)	21 November	19 December
b.	SART, Belgium (730100)	19 December	20 December
c.	SART, Belgium (739132)	20 December	( )

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(After Action Report, 1340th Engr C Bn, 2 Jan 45, cont'd)

3. HEADQUARTERS TO WHICH UNIT WAS ASSIGNED:

During the month the battalion remained assigned to the First United States Army and attached to the 1171st Engineer Combat Group, which was attached to V Corps.

4. COMMANDING OFFICERS:

a. Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel Truman H. Setliffe, 024350

b. Companies

(1) Medical Detachment

Captain Thomas E. Timney, 0512912  
 (Attached 22 November 1944)

Captain U. David Limauro, 0509154  
 (Attached 23 December 1944)

(2) Headquarters and Service Company

Captain Guy A. Trifone, 01100804

(3) "A" Company

Captain Frank P. Bane, 0447056

(4) "B" Company

First Lieutenant Carl B. Setterberg, 0466415

(5) "C" Company

First Lieutenant Lumir T. Makousky, 01100212

Captain Richard P. Darden, 0415274  
 (Assumed command 11 December 1944)

5. BATTALION STRENGTH:

	<u>O</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
a. Beginning of period .....	24	3	589
b. Net increase .....	4	0	36
c. Net decrease .....	2	0	54
d. End of period .....	26	3	571

6. LOSSES IN ACTION:

a. The following named men were killed in action against the enemy during the month of December:

Pavlovcak, Michael	Pvt 1cl	32179358
Manley, Cleon E.	T/5	33233306
Toomey, Charles E.	Pvt	35873676
Kerns, Howard F.	Pvt	33484941
Hill, Robert H.	Pvt	35229077
Gryskewicz, Walter G.	Pvt	33611217
Martineau, Jessie C.	Pvt 1cl	38001683

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(After Action Report, 1340th Engr C Bn, 2 Jan 44, cont'd)

Bailey, S. T.	Pvt	7080778
Rhoads, Harold L.	Pvt	35606404
Polanski, Stanley	Sgt	33260612
Mac Adoo, Lawrence R.	Pvt	33317372

- b. The following named men were wounded in action against the enemy during the month of December:

Bovard, John R.	Pvt 1cl	35600177
Chotain, Frank	Pvt	31350833
Kubasha, Joe S.	T/5	35005487
Mayberg, Ovadia I.	Pvt	37553918
Segear, Richard E.	Pvt	33579911
Schuld, Arthur C.	Pvt	36752530
Scott, Robert W.	Pvt	36565200
Silva, Jose	Pvt	38240433
Smith, Richard E.	Pvt	31229491
Still, Thomas N.	Pvt	14045573
Talkovsky, Wilbur	Pvt	32978841
Yates, Ratford	Pvt	34149129
Youngberg, Eugene L.	Pvt	39564450
Greenberg, Charles	Pvt	32203964
Klamer, Frank J.	Pvt	36208250
Walden, Marden R.	Pvt	7085681
Maglauchlin, Robert C.	Pvt 1cl	33233095

7. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS:

None.

8. MEMBERS DISTINGUISHING THEMSELVES IN ACTION:

- a. Lieutenant Colonel Truman H. Setliffe, 024350, was awarded the Bronze Star "...for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy during the period 6 June 1944 to 14 September 1944, in France ..."
- b. Captain Ralph E. Lind, Jr., 0406160, was awarded the Bronze Star "...for heroic achievement against an enemy during the period 6 November 1944 to 10 November 1944, in Germany ..."
- c. Technician Fourth Grade Eugene B. Melly, 33104439, was awarded the Silver Star "...for gallantry in action on 6 November 1944 and 7 November 1944, in Germany."
- d. Private First Class Edward J. Leahey, 32042644, was posthumously awarded the Silver Star "...for gallantry in action during the period 6 November 1944 to 8 November 1944, in Germany."

For the Commanding Officer:

*Oliver I. Tuthill*

OLIVER I. TUTHILL,  
1st Lt., C.E.,  
Adjutant.

5 Incls:

- Incl #1 - S-3 Journal  
Incl #2 - Journal File  
Incl #3 - Engineer Operations Reports  
Incl #4 - Misc Material Supplementary to work of the Bn  
    a. Operations Memo No. 27  
    b. Barrier Estimate  
    c. Letter, Battle Experiences  
Incl #5 - Photographs

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HEADQUARTERS 1340TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
Office of the Battalion Commander

BAR/wop  
APO 230, U.S. Army,  
26 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Battle Experiences.

TO : The Commanding Officer,  
1191st Engineer Combat Group,  
APO 230, U.S. Army.

In compliance with letter, your headquarters, dated 16 December 1944, subject as above, the following is submitted.

1. The attached sketch indicates how conditions of a site at a destroyed bridge near Florenville, Belgium, forced us to construct a Bailey Bridge in a rather unique manner.

2. The span, 110 feet, was located on a long gradual curve with approach roads approximately 15 feet higher than the adjacent fields. This greatly restricted the launching area and meant that after the bridge was launched it missed the far shore rollers by approximately 18 feet. The bridge was kept balanced in this off-center position by using 8 s/s bays in the launching nose against 8 t/s bays on the near shore, three forward of the rollers and five in the rear. The near shore plain rollers were removed and replaced with a cribbing of chess which was greased to permit the panels to slide sideways. The entire bridge was then pivoted on its construction rollers by using winch cables, from two 2 1/2 ton trucks, hooked on to the rear panels of the bridge. The bridge swung perfectly into position one foot above the far shore rollers where it was let down and pushed forward.

3. The remainder of the bridge was then constructed in the normal manner.

For the Commanding Officer:

OLIVER I. TUTHILL,  
1st Lt., C.E.,  
Adjutant.

1 Incl:  
sketch of bridge site





ONE-WAY ROAD TO HURTGEN - LOG-TRESTLE BRIDGE  
CLASS 40 - CONSTRUCTED BY "C" COMPANY AT NIGHT  
TO REPLACE M-2 TREADWAY.



SCENE ALONG ROAD TO HURTGEN BEHIND THE 8TH DIV.

Sheet 1 of 6 sheets  
to  
Inclosure No. 5,  
AFTER ACTION REPORT  
December, 1944





GERMETER - THIS ROAD LED TO VOSSENACK OR HURTGEN.  
"A" COMPANY PERFORMED DIFFICULT MAINTENANCE. BUILDINGS IN BACKGROUND LAID AS BASE FOR ROAD.



FILLING CRATER ON ROAD TO HURTGEN: "B" COMPANY

Sheet 2 of 6 sheets  
to  
Inclosure No. 5,  
AFTER ACTION REPORT  
December, 1944





HURTGEN



CHURCH IN HURTGEN

Sheet 3 of 6 sheets  
to  
Inclosure No. 5,  
AFTER ACTION REPORT  
December, 1944





HURTGEN: CLEARANCE OF RUBBLE AND OPENING OF  
DRAINAGE ASSIGNED TO "C" COMPANY.





30TH DIVISION SECTOR: NORTH OF MALMEDY, BELGIUM.  
"A" COMPANY LAYS A LARGE AP MINEFIELD AS PART OF  
V CORPS BARRIER PLAN. BRITISH SHRAPNEL MINES WERE  
BURIED IN FROZEN GROUND.



AMERICAN M-3's WERE STAKED AND WIRED DOWN AND CAMOUFLAGED.

Sheet 5 of 6 sheets  
to

Inclosure No. 5,  
AFTER ACTION REPORT  
December, 1944





ROAD CRATERED 31 DECEMBER AT K-745093  
BY V-1, BUZZ-BOMB.



REMAINS OF V-1. CRATER IN BACKGROUND

6 of 6 sheets  
to  
Inclosure No. 5,  
AFTER ACTION REPORT  
December, 1944