

SECRET
 HEADQUARTERS, FIRST BATTALION
 540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT (C)
 A.P.O. #758 U. S. ARMY

/rm
 1 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

TO : Commanding Officer, 540th Engineer Regiment (C), A.P.O. #758, U. S. Army.

1. Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

The events of this Battalion for 1 & 2 January 1945 are to be found in Statement Form of Officers and Enlisted men. The following is an index in order in which the Statements appear in this Journal.

		Page
Major John C. O'Brien	1st Bn. Hqs.	2
Capt. Frederick C. Woods	1st Bn. Hqs.	" 4
Capt. Bernard L. Cohen	1st Bn. Hqs.	" 6
Capt. Robert B. Irvin	Company "A"	" 7
1st Lt. Donald M. Soutar	Company "A"	" 9
1st Lt. Robert G. Mills	Company "A"	" 10
1st Lt. Albert B. Phillips	Company "A"	" 12
2nd Lt. William H. McLellan	Company "A"	" 13
S/Sgt. Curtiss E. Young	Company "A"	" 14
S/Sgt. John J. Pinto	Company "A"	" 15
Capt. Harry G. Poivey	Company "B"	" 16
1st Lt. Daniel A. Nesbitt	Company "B"	" 17
1st Lt. Benjamin F. Sparks	Company "B"	" 18
1st Lt. Robert P. Pearson	Company "B"	" 19
1st/Sgt. Elmer E. Hettinger	Company "B"	" 20
1st Lt. Guy F. Coons	Company "C"	" 22
1st Lt. William F. Marks	Company "C"	" 24
1st Lt. Frank Zvirblis	Company "C"	" 25
S/Sgt. William L. Cox	Company "C"	" 27

SECRET

1st BN

SECRET

Page 2 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

LOG OF OPERATIONS

31 December 1944.

- 1400 Notified by the S-3, Task Force Hudleson of the probability of employing the battalion as infantry that night.
- 1430 Notified Baker Company and went over and contacted the 117th Recon.
- 1600 Notified Able Company of the alert.
- 1700 Contacted Regimental Headquarters and told them of the task force plans.
- 1900 Contacted task force Engineer for any further information or plan.
- 2400 CO to TF Hudleson called stating that in all probability they would use us with Baker Company the first to be employed.

1 January 1945.

- 0100 Contacted "B" Company Commander and went with him to the 117th Recon. CP. waited there until approx. 0200 when the CO of the 117th ordered "B" Company to be able to move on a moments notice.
- 0245 "B" Company moved to assembly area.
- 0300 Alerted "A" Company to move on one half hour's notice.
- 0430 Two platoons of "A" Company left their area reverted to the control of Captain Knight, "A" Company, 125th Engineers for the purpose of trying to retrieve a platoon cut off in the vicinity of BANNSTEIN Q-8345.
- 0500 The other platoon of "A" Company, ordered to the vicinity of Headquarters at BARENTHAL Q-8442 for task force reserve. One platoon of Company "C", ordered to the vicinity Q-8243 for support in that area - (Captain Knight).
- 0700 Two platoons of Company "C" left area to go into line on left flank of Company "B", of the 62nd AIB.
- 1130 A change was effected moving the third platoon of Company "C", to the vicinity of Battalion Headquarters at BARENTHAL with the third platoon of Company "A", replacing the third platoon of Company "C".
- 1135 The third platoon of Company "C" employed on a line running E-W from Battalion Headquarters, to BARENTHAL - PHILIPPSBOURG road.
- 1145 An enemy artillery barrage was put down in the vicinity of the Bn. Hqs. in the town of BARENTHAL.
- 1200 Immediately upon lifting the barrage the enemy came from the woods to our NE. Bn. personnel entered into fire fight.
- 1230 Two men left the Hqs. for information at the TFH as Communications had been severed since 1200.
- 1300 An Officer and EM left to get information as the others hadnot returned.
- 1400 Another man left by jeep also for information on the situation.
- 1430 Jeep returned with information that the town was being evacuated.
- 1445 Closed CP and directed personnel to report to Regimental CP at Woerth. Checked in at TFH for information, was informed that they did not have information on my companies. In turn they asked me what information I had. I asked if there were any orders - there were none. I then stated that I was returning to Regimental.

SECRET

SECRET

Page 3 - Daily Journal report for the month of January 1945.

1600 Called Regimental Headquarters and then started to look for my CO's.
2115 "A" Company had been located at Obersoultzbach - Part of "B" Company was in the same area and part in Bouxwiller - "C" Company was contacted at Philippsbourg. They were still in the line with the 62nd AIB.

2 January 1945 - Company "C", returned to Battalion Control at 1300.

JOHN C. O'BRIEN
Major, C. E.
1st Battalion Commander,
540th Engineer Regiment.

SECRET

SECRET

Page 4 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

STATEMENT

At about 1400 hours on 31 December 1944, Battalion Headquarters was notified by TF that some of the companies of the Battalion would probably be employed as infantry troops. At about 2400 hours on 31 December 1944, a call was received at Battalion Headquarters from TF that it was intended that "B" Company was to be the First Company used. Shortly after 2400 hours on 31 December 1944, Major, O'Brien 1st Battalion Commander, left Battalion Headquarters to contact Captain Poivey, CO of Company "B". At about 0230 hours on 1 January 1945, Major O'Brien returned to Battalion Headquarters and told me that "B" Company had been ordered into an assembly area by the Commanding Officer of the 117th Recon. At about 0300 hours on 1 January 1945, Battalion Headquarters received word from Company "C" that they had been alerted and placed on one-half hour stand-by, by the 62nd AIB. I was ordered by Major O'Brien to go to Company "C" and make contact with Lt. Coons, the CO of the Company. When I arrived at Company "C", Lt. Coons was preparing to leave for the CP of the 62nd AIB. I went to Lt. Coons to the CP of the 62nd AIB and reported to the Commanding Officer of the Battalion. At this time, approx. 0330 hours, the Commanding Officer of the 62nd AIB told me that he wanted Lt. Coons to remain at his Headquarters and he would tell him where and when he was to take his men into position. I returned to "C" Company CP to assist the company in preparing their gear and to brief the company officers as much as possible. At about 0505 hours on 1 January 1945, I received orders from Major, O'Brien that one platoon of Company "C" was to report to Captain Knight of the 125th Engineers in the vicinity of Q-8243. Lt. Trigg and the first platoon were sent at this time. At about 0700 hours on 1 January 1945 the two remaining platoons of Company "C" left the area to take up position with and under the direction of the 62nd AIB in the vicinity of Philippsbourg. At about 0730 hours on 1 January 1945 I returned to Battalion Headquarters to learn from Major O'Brien that two platoons of Company "A" had been committed to Captain Knight of the 125th Engineers to attempt to relieve one of his platoons that were cut off by the enemy in the vicinity northwest of Barenthal. At about 0900 hours on 1 January 1945, work was received from TF to relieve the 1st Platoon of Company "C" and put one Platoon of Company "A" in its place. This was effected. At 1115 hours on 1 January 1945, word was received at Battalion Headquarters from Task Force Engineer that the first platoon of Company "C" was to take up a position along the clearing from approx. 300 yards E-W from Battalion Headquarters to the Barenthal - Philippsbourg road. At this time I was dispatched with Lt. Trigg and the 1st Platoon of Company "C", to take up this position. Prior to dispatching Lt. Trigg I was to make personal contact with the TF Engineer, who told me where he wanted the platoon placed and said that there would be a company of Infantry who would also take up a position in this area. At this time he also instructed Lt. Trigg that he was to personally report to him when he had placed his platoon into position. At about 1145 hours 1 January 1945, an enemy barrage of mortars and artillery was placed on and in the vicinity of Battalion Headquarters. Immediately after this barrage lifted the enemy was seen coming from the woods to the NE of Battalion Headquarters and at this time the personnel of Battalion Headquarters engaged in a fire fight with the enemy. At about 1300 hours on 1 January 1945 I was ordered by Major O'Brien to leave the CP and attempt to make contact with TF. I left the CP at this time with one private of "C" Company. As we arrived on the street leading to TF we were met by an enemy patrol and were fired on by small arms. It was impossible at this time to return to Battalion Headquarters or get to TF Headquarters. We made our way to the south east corner of town and got into the woods. At about 1530 on 1 January 1945 we

SECRET

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Page 5 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

made our way through the woods and were attempting to get back into town when we met Major O'Brien coming out in a vehicle. We went with him to Regimental Headquarters.

FREDERICK C. WOODS
Captain, C. E.
Executive Officer,
1st Battalion, 540th
Engineer Regiment.

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Page 6 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January, 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

My Battalion Aid Station was located in a school house with 1st Battalion Headquarters, in Baerenthal. On January 1, 1945, when at approx. 1115 hours, the enemy suddenly opened up with an artillery barrage in our vicinity. During the barrage I received word that there were some wounded Americans in a house 300 yards North East of us. I dispatched my ambulance with a driver Pfc Harold Cunningham to pick up these men at about 1120 hours. At the same time one of our aid men Tech 4 John Johnsen went towards this house on foot from the rear of the school house to the wounded soldiers. I do not know what happened to Sgt. Johnsen, he has been missing in action ever since. My ambulance reached the house containing the wounded, and appeared to be riddled by enemy mortar fire. Pfc Cunningham went into the house which was suddenly attacked by a German patrol several of whom entered the same house. As a result my ambulance was captured. The fate of Cunningham remains unknown. Between the hours of 1200 and 1400 I gave medical attention to two wounded men from Company "C", 540th Engineer Regiment, and one wounded man from Company "A", of the 540th Engineer Regiment. During this time we were under intense small arms, mortar and artillery fire from the woods north of us and the house my driver was trapped in. At 1430 hours Major D'Brien told me I could attempt to evacuate the wounded and my five remaining men of my section. I had the three patients loaded on my truck under the protection of my red cross flag sacrificing equipment to make room for the wounded. I then proceeded through the rear of Baerenthal, stopping to treat some wounded Germans who were prisoners of 14th Armored Division Personnel. I took one additional patient on the truck and proceeded to Woerth, from there my patients were evacuated to a hospital by ambulance.

BERNARD L. COHEN
Captain, C. E.
1st Battalion Aid Station,
540th Engineer Regiment.

SECRET

Authority 87354
By CP NARA Date 12/10/68

Page 7 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

STATEMENT

On 1 January 1945 at 0300 hours we were alerted by Major John C. O'Brien, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment (C) to be ready to move in thirty (30) minutes. I alerted the Company at this time, issuing rations and ammunition. At 0330 hours, I was again called by Major O'Brien and ordered to move two platoons to an assembly area where I would meet an officer from Company "A", 125th Engineers for final instructions. Major O'Brien stated that we would take all orders from Captain Knight. Company "A", 125th Engineers or his representative. At 0415 hours, I moved two platoons into designated assembly area where I contacted a Lt. from Company "A", 125th Engineers, who said he was sent their by Captain Knight, Company "A", 125th Engineers, to take us to final assembly area. The Lt. from Company "A", 125th Engineers, stated that they had sent out a platoon earlier in the morning and had not heard from them. Captain Knight's instructions were for the two platoons from Company "A", 540th Engineer Regiment to try to contact his platoon and give them any assistance they might need. We moved out of assembly area with two platoons at 0450 to sector south and south west of Bannstein to take up a defensive position and to send out patrols to try to contact an ambushed platoon from Company "A", 125th Engineers. At 0530 hours contacted six men from Company "A", 125th Engineers, who were with the ambushed platoon who stated, that the platoon had dispersed in the woods and did not have a chance to set up any of their weapons so were not an organized force. At 0545 hours, I contacted Captain Knight, Company "A", 125th Engineers about the situation. He said to set up defensive positions in the sector we were in. At 0615 hours, I set up positions and organized a patrol to check a house in the ravine 300 yards ahead. At 0700 hours, on way to ravine the patrol was fired on by mortars located in back of house. Small arms fire and personnel seen indicated a platoon strength. At 0800 hours, patrols on right flank contacted enemy and had a small fire fight, strength of the enemy force unknown. At 0900 hours, activity on our right flank grew more active denoting more enemy activity. At 1000 hours, the third platoon from Company "A", 540th Engineer Regiment relieved one platoon from Company "C", 540th Engineer Regiment, on our right sector. At 1000 hours, mortar fire from new enemy and previously unknown positions fell on our right flank. At 1100 hours I tried to get information on situation when units began to vacate positions in our sector. At 1200 hours, went to Bn. Hq. to secure additional information. When the enemy began an attack first by throwing a barrage of artillery fire on Barenthal and then by infiltrating from the woods into town. I started back to our position to warn our flank of the action. At 1230, on the way back to our positions from our Battalion CP, I stepped at the house where Company "A", 125th Engineers had their CP to contact Captain Knight to see what his next orders were concerning our position. I could not find anybody there from Company "A", 125th Engineers or anyone there who could give me any information of their change in position. At 1300 hours I contacted my platoon officers to pull their platoons to another position where we had a better field of fire. At the same time I sent a runner to Lt. Mills, who was under Captain Knight's orders but had pulled out of the area to withdraw to the new position with the rest of the Company. At 1330 hours, began to set up new positions at cross roads to cover more territory. At 1400 hours, as we were moving into position enemy infantry Approx. two companies and a column of tanks came down the ravine south of Bannstein. The enemy knocked out one of our half tracks and two jeeps on corner and infiltrated our unprepared defense. At 1430 hours, sent message to company to start packing trucks and vehicles in order to move some equipment. To set up another

SECRET

SECRET

Page 8 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

defense at this time with the loss of our automatic weapons and the complete dispersal of the remaining company was impossible. All other units in this area had already abandoned their positions and had pulled to the rear. At 1530 hours, men from Company still fighting enemy. Checking them in order to save some of the equipment in area. At 1600 hours, pulled them out of the area with approx. 50% of Company to an assembly area at Obersoultzback. At 1700 hours contacted Colonel Marvin, Regimental CO, 540th Engineer Regiment, by phone and notified him of our new location and what had happened. He told me to contact Lt. Colonel Knapp, CO, 2nd Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment who was located at Weinbourg, for further instructions. A check was made at 0800 hours, 2 January 1945 revealing two (2) men wounded and six (6) missing, (believed to be safe). Began to reorganize Company and reclothe as much as possible.

ROBERT B. IRVIN
Captain, C. E.
Commanding, Co. "A"
540th Engineer Regiment.

SECRET

Page 9 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January, 1945.

SECRET
S T A T E M E N T

At 0300 hours in the morning of January 1, 1945, our company was alerted by the Battalion Commander, to move out and defend a sector south of Bannstein, France. Captain Irvin, Company Commander with two platoons left the Company area at 0430 hours and on the way to the front they were delayed by half-tracks and other vehicles retreating back to positions south. At 0455 hours our CO contacted the CO of the 125th Armored Engineers who led them to a position in which we were to deploy our men. At 0515 hours our last remaining platoon, Commanded by Lt. Mills was called out by the Battalion Commander to defend the town of Barenthal. At this time I remained in the Company area with the Headquarters platoon. At approx. 1100 hours I was at the Company CP in a draw south of Bannstein. The Company Commander tried to make contact with the artillery to lay a barrage down on a house north of us which was occupied by the Germans who were laying mortar fire on our Company sector. He returned in approx. one half hour and told me Barenthal was taken by the Germans and he could not contact anyone from the artillery units. At 1300 January 1, 1945 my Company Commander ordered me to fall back on the south side of the road extending from Barenthal to Mouterhouse and contact our third platoon Commander to dig in at the position indicated. When I finally contacted Lt. Mills he informed me that all the armored artillery was moving out to positions south of Barenthal without informing anyone, to his knowledge. At that time approx. 50 men from the 125th Armored Engrs. who were on our right flank came up to me and asked me what direction they could go to be in a safe place. I asked them where their officer was and they said they did not know. I tried to organize them into a firing line to protect our third platoon which was given orders to withdraw. It was to no avail as they took off over the hills. Finally our first platoon arrived at our point and I had them deploy and lay down fire to cover our third platoon's withdrawal. Two DT's were covering our sector and when the German tanks appeared they left us instead of firing at them. We tried to defend our position but at least two companies of Germans supported by tanks forced us to retreat as we had no weapons other than rifles and carbines and no one was on our flanks but Germans. I marched the men over the hills to our rear where our camp was set up and there met our Company Commander. We withdrew to the town of Obersaultzbach to reorganize.

DONALD M. SOUTAR
1st Lt. C. E.
Company "A", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

SECRET

SECRET

Page 10 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

On the morning of 1 January 1945, at about 0300 hours, Company "A", 540th Engineer Regiment was alerted by 1st Battalion Headquarters and two platoons moved out, leaving my platoon in the area. At about 0400 hours, Major John C. O'Brien called Company "A" Hq. and gave me orders to move my platoon to 1st Battalion Hqs., 540th Engineer Regiment, to go into Task Force Reserve. I carried out these orders and reported the platoon in to Major O'Brien at about 0500 hours. At about 0700 hours, Major O'Brien ordered my platoon to report to Captain Knight, 125th Engineers to relieve Lt. Trigg's platoon who was also in Task Force Reserve, situated at about Q-819426. Upon arriving at Q-819426, I reported to Captain Knight and he didn't know where Lt. Trigg's platoon was. He ordered me to dig in on hills 363 & 292 to wait further orders or until he could locate Lt. Trigg. I moved my platoon into position and after making a recon. found formation of terrain features and general position undesirable. I reported back to the CP (Q-819426) and gave this information to Captain Knight, and requested that I be allowed to withdraw across the road and take up positions on the forward slopes of Hills 325 and 220 where I could get good fields of fire, and also cover my flanks. Captain Knight then told me to take my whole platoon and dig in on Hill 363, this was at about 1000 hours. I carried out his orders and when my platoon was in position I went back to his CP and reported the fact to him but he had left and no one had any idea of his whereabouts. My runner who I left at the CP at 0800 hours reported to me that the Captain had left, and from 1000 hours on my runner was unable to locate him. At about 1030 hours I met a Major (name and Organization unknown) who told me that two platoons of the 19th Armored Infantry were going to go through my positions and take up positions in advance of me and that at that time I would be relieved. He also told me that the Infantry was unaware of my position on the hill, and they believed them in enemy hands. At about 1130 hours I met the Captain in charge of the two platoons of the 19th AI and informed him that my men were in position on Hill 363, cautioning him to look for them. I had previously informed my platoon of the infantry coming through them. He explained this mission to me, and he was to secure Hills 363, 331 and 343. I then went back to the CP and tried to contact Captain Knight again but by this time the whole CP was gone. At about 1300 hours I met Captain Irvin on the road, and he informed me that the Germans were in Barental, and since my right flank was exposed to pull back across the road. A little later Lt. Soutar informed me that the Germans were advancing from the West and that he could see them. At this time the light tanks pulled out and the TD's covering us retreated past (Q-819426) headed south. I assembled my platoon and started back across the open ground and just as I got to the road a German tank supported by approx. one company of Infantry came down the draw from the direction of Bannstein, and opened fire on us. We took cover at about Q-817427 where we were joined by a Lt. and 13 men from Company "C", 62nd AI who said that they were the last to get out of Bannstein. We decided to try to go back over the hill, out back on the road where we could try and join the company. This we did being subject to small arms fire, MG and mortar fire. We kept to the ridge line until we were in the clear and came back to the road at Q-802403, where we met Captain Irvin who took charge and moved us to Obersoultzbach. I was without communication with Captain Knight from 1000 hours on. All supporting troops (Arty, tanks and TD's) pulled out and left while I was still in position with Germans closing in on three sides of us. The intense fire we encountered coming across the open ground made it impossible for me to reform my platoon. My platoon was the last troops across the road, and the German

SECRET

Page 11 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

Armor (estimated 3 tanks) made it impossible for me to hold.

ROBERT G. MILLS
1st Lt., C. E.
Company "A", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

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SECRET

Page 12 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

Approximately 0500, 1 January 1945, Company "A", 540th Engineer Regiment, was alerted by 1st Battalion Headquarters, 540th Engineer Regiment. My platoon (1st) and the 2nd platoon were given the mission by Captain, Robert B. Irvin, my Commanding Officer to advance up the road at Q-809425 toward Annstein and endeavor to relieve a platoon of the 125th Engineers who were cut off by the German attack. We started our advance up the road approx. 0430 the 1st platoon taking the right flank of the draw. We had advanced to about Q-815439 when Captain Irvin gave me the order to take up a defensive position at this point. Approx. 0900 I sent a five man patrol with a patrol of the 2nd platoon to make an attempt to reach the 125th Engineers. They made contact with the enemy about 500 yards to the north but were forced to withdraw because of mortar fire. About 1200 one of my outposts observed German troops at approx. Q-822437 moving south down the draw. I notified Captain Irvin and a few minutes later he gave the order to withdraw and take up a defensive position at the road junction Q-819426 running a line to the North West. We were fired on as we were withdrawing and we killed or wounded several of the enemy by rifle fire. We reached our new position about 1230 and joined with the 2nd and 3rd platoon in forming a line. About 5 minutes later the enemy was advancing on us from the hills, at the same time throwing lots of MG and mortar fire at us. My 50 cal. MG which was on the half-track knocked down quite a number of the enemy and a couple of minutes later the track was blown up by enemy fire. Two American TD's (organization unknown) were setting at Q-816425 and when they observed enemy tanks coming down the road at Q-822428 they immediately withdrew. I believe (our TD's) could have knocked out the enemy tanks. About 1240 due to a superior enemy force we were forced to withdraw toward our bivouac area. The enemy machine gunned and dropped mortars on us for nearly a mile before we were out of range. I contacted Lt. Soutar & Lt. Mills and we had the men move through the woods to our old bivouac area where we withdrew by trucks to Obersultzbach.

ALBERT B. PHILLIPS
1st Lt. C. E.
Company "A", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

SECRET

SECRET

Page 13 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

At 0300 hours two platoons, 1st and 2nd, of my Company were ordered out to try to retrieve a platoon of the 125th Engineers which was trapped by the enemy. This platoon was trapped approx. 700 yds. south of Bannstein, France. One officer from the 125th Engineers was with us to show us the location of their platoon and Captain Irvin was directing the operation. At 0400 hours Captain Irvin, Lt Philips and myself with our two platoons went up the valley. After we advanced approx. 600 yards up the valley and ridges, we contacted the enemy. There we set up our MG for security and then sent out a patrol to contact the 125th Engineers. After they had advanced 100 yards they were fired upon by rifle, MG, and mortars so they withdrew. We had no communication of any kind with other troops so we did not know of the front until I contacted one of the soldiers who was to my immediate front and he said that his company had been routed from their position. After our patrols returned my Commanding Officer ordered us to withdraw 100 yards. There we received concentrations of enemy mortar fire and had one casualty. As things grew worse, we withdrew to a high ridge overlooking a valley where we had laid wire. Just as our troops reached the ridge the enemy was pouring down the valley with supporting tanks. There were two TD's and some armored half-tracks that left us as the German advanced. As the enemy advanced we opened up with MG causing heavy casualties. As they reached our wire they were receiving our fire so they starting to use mortars, fired on us. There we organized and withdrew to our bivouac as to save our equipment. Some of the troops were able to leave the bivouac area on trucks while those who covered the withdrawal got trucks farther from the bivouac area. As soon as we got the heavy equipment ready to move out, I took it, and one seriously wounded soldier from bivouac area to Reipertswiller. We placed the wounded soldier in an ambulance and at the same time I met a Captain from the 125th Engineers. He asked me how we made out. At this time I asked him who he was and he said he was from the 125th Engineers. After that I proceeded with the equipment to Obersoultzbach.

WILLIAM H. Mc LELLAN
2nd Lt. C. E.
Company "A", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

SECRET

SECRET

Page 14 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

The third platoon of Company "A", 540th Engineer Regiment of which I am Platoon Sergeant, was ordered by Lt. Mills my Platoon Commander, to dig in on Hill 363 and 292 at about 0800 hours. Then I got orders from Lt. Mills to move the platoon to Hill 363. At about 1400 hours, Lt. Mills ordered the platoon to move back across the road because the Germans had broken through on both our flanks. As the platoon moved across the open field we were subjected to heavy tank, small arms and MG fire from two directions, and Lt. Mills and I got separated. I took cover and got into position to fire. A little later I met Sgt. Pinto, Company "A", 540th Engineer Regiment, and we formed what men were left, and started out to find the Company so as to get reorganized. We went to Repertswiller, and turned left, where we met Major O'Brien, 540th Engineer Regiment, who ordered us to go to Rothback where a truck would take us to the place where the Company was reorganizing. We caught the truck and it took us to the Company "A", CP, 540th Engineer Regiment, at Obersatzbach. We arrived at about 1830 hours, 1 January 1945.

CURTISS E. YOUNG
S/Sgt. C. E.
Company "A", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

SECRET

SECRET

Page 15 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

At 0300 hours, two platoons, 1st and 2nd, of my Company were ordered out by Lt. Mc Lellan, to retrieve a platoon of the 125th Engineers, which was trapped by the enemy. One officer of the 125th Engineers was going to show us the location of their platoon. At 0400 hours, Lt. Mc Lellan, told me to organize the platoon and move up into the valley, taking the left flank while the 1st platoon was going to take the right flank. After we reached a point well in the valley we were ordered to set up a defense line. Lt. Mc Lellan told me to send a patrol to try to contact the enemy. The patrol consisted of myself and 4 men. We advanced about 125 yards and were fired upon by the enemy from within a house. We returned the fire. In turn MG and mortars opened up on us from the hill. Lt. Mc Lellan came up with men and covered our withdrawal. We reorganized and withdrew 100 yards. There we received a concentration of enemy mortar fire and had one casualty. I was given orders to withdraw to a high ridge overlooking the valley, which we had layed wire the previous days. Just as we reached the ridge the enemy was proceeding down the valley with tanks supporting them. One of our half-tracks was hit and caught on fire. As the enemy advanced we opened up with our MG and rifles causing heavy casualties. As they reached our wire, they were receiving our fire. They finally started mortaring and firing on us with tanks. Our MG power stopped. All we had left was rifle power. The enemy kept on firing mortars and MG at us. We reorganized the men, which was about 35 and started back for the Company bivouac area. We reached our area approx. 1600. We proceeded through our area and on to Reipertswiller, turned left at Reipertswiller and Major O'Brien gave me orders to proceed to Rothbach. We reached Obersoultzbach from Rothbach by truck and I reported to the Company CP.

JOHN J. PINTO
S/Sgt. C. E.
Company "A", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

SECRET

SECRET

Page 16 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

On December 31st at approximately 1100 hours, Major O'Brien notified me that the 117th Cavalry would call for my company to support them in case they were attacked. At approximately 0100 hours, January 1, 1945, I was called to the CP of the 117th Cavalry to report to S-3. I reported to their CP and was informed that my company, Company "B", 540th Engineers would probably be used as infantry to reinforce the 117th Cavalry Group. I returned to the company and alerted them, and then returned to the 117th Cavalry CP to await further developments. At 0230 hours, I was ordered by Lt. Col. Hodges of the 117th Cavalry that I would report to Captain Zacca of the 117th Cavalry and take orders from him. Captain Zacca ordered me to be ready to move out in ten minutes. About thirty minutes later we pulled out with Captain Zacca in charge of the convoy, riding in Lt. Col. Hodges' radio equipped jeep. We moved to the vicinity Q-776452. Captain Zacca went into conference with some officers of the 117th and myself. He ordered me to have one platoon to report to some officer in charge of light tanks as reserve, one platoon to "A" troop, 117th Cavalry, and one platoon to "B" troop. I stayed in the CP in a foxhole near the crossroads near Q-776452, until about 0700 hours January 1, 1945. Then I moved around trying to contact the platoons, and then I returned to the CP in the bivouac area of Company "B", to obtain rations for the company. Meanwhile Captain Zacca's CP was moved to the rear near Q-787445. I moved there also about 1100 hours. Approximately 1345 January 1, 1945, Captain Zacca told me that I was no longer under his control, and that I would take orders from an infantry commander of the 19th Armored Infantry. I reported to this officer a Captain, within five minutes, and he told me to get my company together and to put a platoon on a small ridge to cover the withdrawal of the 117th Cavalry. This I did. I located the other two platoons who came down the road in tanks. Then I was ordered to get my company together and get out. I called in the platoon from the ridge, and we mounted a truck and two company half-tracks and followed the 117th Cavalry out. I had been previously told that the withdrawal route would be through Lembourg. However, the convoy was routed through Sarr-ensbruck. I followed the 117th Cavalry to Wingen, and reported to the S-3 at approximately 1800 January 1st, and secured rations and told him that I was moving to Bouxwiller and try to reorganize the company. Which I did. My Bn. Hqs. was contacted that night about 2100 hours. All my men were accounted for and were present by 0700 - January 2, 1945.

HARRY G. POIVEY
Captain, C. E.
Company "B", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

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Page 17 Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

STATEMENT

At approx. 0100 hours the first platoon of company "B", 540th Engineer Regiment, received orders to prepare to move out to reinforce the 117th Recon. The men were moved out at approx. 0200 hours and arrived at crossroads at Q-778462 around 0230 hours. Captain Poivey, Commanding Company "B", 540th Engineer Regiment, told me to report to Captain Barnaby of "B" troop, of the 117th Recon. and to take orders from him. Around 0240 hours, Captain Barnaby told me to place the platoon between crossroad 346 and south toward crossroad 351. The platoon was in support of two recon cars and three light tanks. Our mission was to hold the road and cover the withdrawal of the platoon of the 117th Recon. This was accomplished at 0700 hours. Under orders from the 117th Recon. a defensive position was established of the armored vehicles plus two half-tracks of the 540th Engineer Regiment, from Q-782459 to Q-780457. The men of the platoon were deployed around the armored vehicles as protection and nothing of consequence took place until approx. 0750 hours when several Germans were seen coming up on our right flank over the ridge of a hill. The order was given to fire until two of their number, one wounded and the other an aid man, surrendered and came over to our lines. Several enemy dead and wounded were noted in the area. None of our men were injured or killed. At approx. 0815 hours we started to receive rifle fire from snipers in the area of attack, and at the same time enemy shelling and mortar fire. The snipers were located and one shot the other surrendered. Two men from the 117th Recon. were wounded during this sniper fire. A report from Sgt. O'Riley of the third platoon of Company "B", 540th Engineer Regiment, who had taken up a position on the other side of the ridge on our right flank at approx. 0745, told that our fire had driven off an attack of around a company strength and that most of the company had been either killed or injured. The position was held until 1330 hours when the orders from 117th Recon. to withdraw were received. The men of the platoon mounted the armored vehicles and half-tracks and proceeded in a general withdrawal from the area to Sarrensborg. Before entering Sarrensborg the convoy was strafed and bombed by planes bearing American insignia. Pvt Krusely was wounded in the hand by a 20mm shell. The platoon joined the third platoon at approx. 1600 hours and waited for the remainder of the company. At Sarrensborg, I reported to Captain Nugent of the 117th Recon. and left a runner at his CP. We were given no further mission. Captain Poivey assumed command of the Company again at Sarrensborg. Captain Poivey, Lt. Sparks and the third platoon joined us at approx. 1700 hours and the Company proceeded to Bouxwiller arriving at 2100 hours.

DANIEL A. NESBIT
1st Lt. C. E.
Company "B", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

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Page 18 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

At about 0100 hours January 1, 1945, 2nd Platoon, "B" Company, 540th Engineer Regiment, was alerted to move out immediately with half-tracks. At about 0200 hours the platoon was loaded and moved out with Lt. Sparks. At about 0230 hours we arrived at the 117th Recon. CP. While waiting for the 1st and 3rd platoons to take up positions we took up flank protection on the road. At 0400 hours the 2nd platoon was ordered to move up and report to Lt. Syms of the 117th Recon. for orders. He instructed us to take up frontal positions at cross roads (780462 - Bitche 1/50,000) to support his men whose tanks and armored cars were along the road extending East along the intersection. While moving into position enemy machine guns and small arms fire was encountered from the North of the road. Lt. Syms tanks and cars returned fire. By 0430 hours my men were dispersed along side and back of these vehicles. We were instructed to hold this position by Lt. Syms until his vehicles started moving back. Then we were to mount vehicles and drop back to new lines being established by Captain Barnaby about three-hundred yards to the rear. At 0700 hours the 117th tanks and armored cars along with two TD's began pulling back. My men mounted these vehicles. The TD's took up positions along the second defensive line and my men riding these vehicles took up positions along with them. The second platoon half-track had also taken up this position along with men of the first platoon. At 0730 hours the second platoon of Company "B", took up a new position about a quarter of a mile back. About 0830 hours the men with the TD's and the half-track joined the platoon in our new position on both sides of the road at 790455 along with tanks and armored cars of the 117th Recon. From 0830 hours until our withdrawal from this position we were shelled continuously. At about 1100 infantry from the 14th Armored Division came up and began moving up to the left and right of our position. About 1330 hours the infantry unit began to withdraw. Shortly afterwards armored tanks and vehicles began to withdraw. We were ordered by Captain Poivey to remain and hold our positions until all tanks and armored cars had withdrawn. Three squads and the half-track held this position until the last vehicle had withdrawn. We then mounted the half-track and followed the convoy in withdrawal. Our convoy reached Mouterhouse at 1545 hours and by that time our company CP was deserted and under shell fire. Captain Poivey instructed us to follow the convoy to Sarreinsburg along with tanks and armored cars. We arrived there at 1700 hours and joined the first and third platoon. We then proceeded to Bouxwiller arriving at 2100 hours. No casualties.

BENJAMIN F. SPARKS
1st Lt. C. E.
Company "B", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

Page 19 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

STATEMENT

At approximately 0100 hours 3rd platoon received orders from the Company CO to move out. Men were loaded on platoon trucks and moved with the company in convoy at approximately 0200 hours and arrived at 117th Recon. CP at approx. 0230 hours. At 0245 hours the platoon took up positions to protect 117th Recon. CP from flank and rear attack by the enemy. One squad took positions on the left flank and two squads with one 30 cal MG took up positions on the right flank and rear. Intermittent enemy aerial bursts of artillery were received and at approximately 0500 hours intermittent MG fire passed high overhead. This fire was answered by MG fire by the 117th Recon. At 0530 MG fire under the same circumstances was received and it was answered by the MG fire of the 117th Recon. At approx. 0715 hours the third platoon was ordered to move into position at 722458 and reinforce one platoon of the 117th Recon. At approx. 0745 hours we moved into position with 14 listening posts of from 3 to 6 men each. At approx. 1330 hours the order to withdraw was received from Captain Poiver. While moving down the road we received enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. As one outpost was drawing down a ditch beside the road the order was given to blow an abatis which had previously been prepared. One armored car skidded on the ice and overturned. Pvt Pulver who was riding on this car was injured about the face. We then proceeded along the route of withdrawal. Between Lemburg and Sarrensberg we were bombed and strafed by planes bearing American insignia. One man was hit in the right hand. At approx. 1605 we entered Sarrensberg where we joined the 1st platoon and reformed. We then received that the second platoon and the CO were enroute from Mouterhouse. At 1700 hours we joined by the 2nd platoon and proceeded to Bouxwiller arriving at 2100 hours.

ROBERT P. PEARSON
1st Lt. C. E.
Company "B", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

Page 20 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

At around 0115 hours, I was told to report to the CP. At the CP Captain Poivey told me that the three platoons were going into the lines. I would be left in charge to load the supply and kitchen and when the platoon trucks returned to load the balance of the Companies equipment. I was to follow the 117th Cavalry Recon. out of the bivouac area. I sent a runner to the CP of the 117th to await instructions from them. About 0730 hours, Sgt Craner reported to the CP with instructions to go to Company "A" when we left the bivouac area. Shells were falling in the area at this time. At about 1000 or 1030 hours, Captain Poivey returned to the Bivouac area. He told me to unpack the CP and set the rest of the company back in function again as everything was running smooth and there was not a thing to worry about. I sent for the runner that I had earlier dispatched to the 117th Recon. CP giving him instructions to return to the motor pool of this Company. I was further instructed to set up the kitchen and to have a hot meal for the men when they returned. Captain Poivey contacted Battalion Hqs. by phone, and before leaving, told me to have C rations sent to the men but to go ahead with the other meal that we had started. Shells were falling in the area at this time causing the cooks to leave the kitchen until such times as the intensity of the hostile fire abated. At around 1400 hours our noon meal was mostly ready. I notified the men and returned to the CP. About five minutes later an ambulance drove through this area past the CP at a speed in excess of 30 miles an hour, a rate normally excessive for this type of area and roads. There was a soldier waving him on telling him to get out. I ran to the 117th Cavalry Recon. CP. It was occupied by civilians. There was a jeep in front of the CP with a Lt Colonel in it. There was small arms fire coming in the area at this time. I asked the Colonel where the 117th was. He told me they had pulled out and said that the enemy was coming this way. I told him the name of my outfit and that we were to be informed if anything happened by this organization. I then asked him if the road to Barenthal was open. He told me that it was cut off and that the only road open was the road to Sarrebourg. I asked him what we should do. He said that he wasn't interested in what I did, that the enemy was in the area and that we had better get out. The small arms fire became more intense and seemed to come from behind the buildings of the 117th Cavalry Recon. I ran to our Kitchen and to the motor pool and told them to throw everything on the trucks we were having to pull out. The mail clerk and I loaded the CP by the time the shell fire and small arms fire was getting heavier. The motor Sgt. told me he could not get the 20 ton trailer out. I told him to unhook it because the fire coming into the area would hit all the trucks as there was no protection. We hooked up the CP trailer. The only other trailer I saw was the water trailer which was frozen to the ground. A piece of shrapnel hit the tire of our kitchen truck. If we left the trucks in the open we would lose them. The way out of the area was past the 117th Recon CP out to the road. This was the direction from which the fire was coming and if the enemy took the entrance of the area we would be unable to get the trucks out. Small arms fire and mortar fire was increasing and I told the truck drivers to pull out with the men and equipment we still had before we lost that. After leaving the bivouac area and on the road to Sarrebourg, we ran upon a convoy of the 14th AI. They stopped at Sarrebourg, so we pulled out and around and went south. I was told by an officer of Company "E", this Regiment, who I met on the road that Company "A" was moving into the next town and to report to them. I reported to Captain Irvin of Company "A" at about 1730 hours, found a place to

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Page 21 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

to put my men and guards and Captain Woods came to see me about 1930 hours. I gave him my story, the number of men and amount of equipment we had at the present time and told him that we had reported to Captain Irvin. About 2100 hours, the 1st Bn. messenger had the guard get me up and said that Captain Poivey and 120 men were in Bouxwiller. I left with trucks to pick them up. The men were sleeping in buildings and the Captain Poivey told me to return the next morning and pick them up. The next morning Captain Poivey told me to bring all of the men and equipment to Bouxwiller.

ELMER E. HETTINGER
1st Sgt. C. E.
Company "B", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

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Page 22 - I y Journal Report for the month of January 45.

S T A T E M E N T

On 1 January 1945, at 0100 hours I was ordered by Major O'Brien to alert Company "C", and proceed to 62d Armored Infantry Headquarters and await orders there. The 62d Armored Infantry Headquarters was located in Phillipsbourg and I was to receive my orders from Colonel Meyers of that Headquarters. At 0445 hours Colonel Meyers ordered me to send a platoon to Barenthal under the Command of Task Force Headquarters, which I did. Lt. Trigg and the 1st Platoon then moved on to join all three half-tracks and automatic weapons which were already there. I had no more contact with them until two days later. At 0545 hours I received Colonel Meyers' order to move the balance of the Company North to Phillipsbourg, where a patrol was to contact with the 117th Recon. troops of Q-853443, who were engaged in a fire fight. The plan was that one platoon would assist them, one platoon would proceed to high ridge at Q-8623446 to dig in to prevent any Germans from moving down the main road to Phillipsbourg. The company moved out at 0645 hours, detrucked at Phillipsbourg and marched 4 kilometers up to Q-862546 where we dug in on the ridge. We covered our flanks, checking woods and ridges to our right as we went up. Since we had no contact on either flank, no telephone or radio communication and no support weapons, only rifles and grenades. This was accomplished by 0800 hours. Eventually an artillery observer arrived, with a half-track. He was hesitant about setting up on the high ground forward, since the town in the valley had not been checked for snipers. At 0845 hours our patrol came back, having come under heavy mortar fire 1/2 mile south of Q-853443, and reported that the Recon. was pulling out to the west, having received orders to withdraw. At 1000 hours we spotted a German armored column moving down the road toward us. The officer from artillery finally got up on this ridge, but by this time was cleared and the enemy troops had gone into the hills on the left. He was unable to radio target designation and the armor was changing direction as our barrage came down on the enemy area. The artillery observer informed us at approx. 1100 hours that the road to our rear was only accessible to vehicles. He then took off. Since I had no communications I then drew back my forward elements to the next ridge to my rear, in order to cover the road. I also sent a message by jeep back to arrange for communications for us, and to arrange for artillery or mortar support, since we had good observation. The messenger got back shortly after 1200 hours with the information that a TD and an assault gun were coming up to us. In the meantime, I went back to request support myself, since we were observing horse drawn artillery, foot infantry, marching down the Bannstein - Barenthal road in a continual stream, about 2 miles up the road. I then received orders from Colonel Meyers to establish my MLR on a line with that of Company "B", of the 62d, which I did, making contact myself. During the afternoon we were subject to both shelling and mortar barrage as we gradually took up the new position. Company "B", of the 62d arranged for a telephone for us but due to lack of men our flanks did not meet. On orders from the 62d's CO, we set up at Q-876443, establishing an all around defensive position with two TD's borrowed from the 117th Recon. (15) fifteen men were attached to us. At 1800 hours two companies of Infantry passed us moving to forward positions. At 2000 hours one platoon of infantry, having run into an enemy patrol, withdrew and temporarily took up positions with us until they reorganized, then were ordered forward. During the night there was enemy small arms fire to our forward flank and to our rear. At 0500 hours the 117th withdrew, taking their two MG's

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Page 23 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

At 0500 hours the Infantry that had passed us during the night, came back toward Phillipsbourg, telling us they were withdrawing to reorganize. On VOCO of the CO of the 62d Armored Infantry, at Phillipsbourg, we withdrew to the new ridge to the rear. Q-880427 and took up positions on the right (exposed, no contact on our right), flank of his Company "B" and dug in. We were relieved at 1000 hours on 2 January 1945 on orders of Colonel Meyers, with the rest of the Task Force. We rejoined our Battalion at Petit Pierre on the afternoon of 3 January 1945, at which time I reported to Major O'Brien, my Battalion Commander. By this time the rest of our Company had assembled there and reverted back to my command.

GUY F. COONS
1st Lt. C. E.
Company "CW", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

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Page 24 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

At 0545 hours January 1, 1945, Company "C", was alerted for Infantry duty, by 1st Lt. Guy F. Cocks, Company Commander. The 2nd and 3rd Platoon left the Company area at approx. 0645 hours by truck for Philippsbourg where we detrucked and received orders from our Commanding Officer, Lt. Guy F. Cocks. We were ordered to defend the high ground to the north and west of the highway N-62. To reinforce and protect Philippsbourg. My platoon was ordered up one ridge to give security and as covering force for our third platoon which was advancing west on N-62, to reinforce and help the withdrawal of a squad of the 117th Recon. My platoon succeeded in reaching the high ground at Q-865446 where we dug in defensive positions and set up our CP. This was completed by 0900 hours. Due to lack of information concerning the enemy; as to neighboring units; to our right and the position in the line we spent the entire day; either on Recon. patrol or withdrawing to other key points, at 1600 hours our company withdrew to a point overlooking the town of Philippsbourg, after falling back from ridge to ridge. We set up defensive positions overlooking route and covering the westward approach to Philippsbourg at a point Q-875432 which was completed at approx. 1830 hours, January 1, 1945. At this time in this position, we had telephone communications or liason with companies on our right. At approx. 1700 hours a Company of 70th Infantry was sent up in our support, but due to lack of information or any definite plan the infantry advance was on highway N-62 in two columns, passed the defensive positions of our company and adjacent company. They carried with them from my observation, no extra ammo. or any supporting weapons. At a point west of mine approx. 500 yards they met the Germans and one platoon was almost wiped out. After a bitter fire fight one platoon of Infantry withdrew to our positions in the rear, at which time we tried to reorganize them and had them to dig in on the ridge next to ours. After they returned and completed digging in, and an order from their CO came by runner requesting them to their own unit. At 0530 hours, 2 January 1945, a man from one of our outposts came with the message that the enemy was coming down the road which was to the rear of our present position. At his direction I saw a large column of 70th Infantry were withdrawing to the rear of our position. On highway R-107 columns of half-tracks and infantry from the 62AIB were also moving to the rear. We received orders from the CO of 62AI to withdraw to a new position and went to a position east of town and reorganized my platoon to await further orders. At 0700 hours, 2 January 1945, I received orders to put up a defense on a high hill just Northeast of Philippsbourg Q-880425 at which we immediately took up and held until 1000 hours when we were relieved. During the operation we did not have communication with Battalion Headquarters, 62 AI or were we informed of the situation. We had two tanks in support, and had no liason with any supporting units direct etc. 83rd Chemical 4.2 mortars, or field artillery, other than through 62 CP which was of no help. When artillery was needed it took 30 minutes and then it was not observed. All during the operation the second platoon and third platoon did nothing but fight a rear guard for the 62AIB.

WILLIAM F. MARKS
1ST Lt. C. E.
Company "C", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

Page 25 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

On 1 January 1945, the company was alerted about 0545 hours. Approx. 0645, my platoon, the 3d platoon of Company "C", along with the 2d platoon moved out for Infantry duty under command of my CO, Lt. Coons for Phillipsbourg to receive further information on the mission. In Phillipsbourg my company commander told me and my platoon to proceed to high ridge at Q-8625446 to dig in and prevent any Germans from coming down the drive and main road to Phillipsbourg. About 0800 hours, on 1 January 1945, I sent a four man patrol up the RR tracks on my left flank to try and make contact with a platoon from the 117th Recon. which was trapped. The patrol was prevented from making contact with the Recon. platoon along the RR bed at Q-855440 and they were under small arms fire and were without support. At 1000 hours, five German half-tracks were observed coming down the road (the main road) and then crossed RR tracks at Q-858441 into field, dispersed, and approx. 60 Infantry men piled out. The artillery officer with us had not as yet set up his OP and was at the base of the ridge with his half-track. He was immediately notified to lay down an artillery barrage but by the time he climbed the ridge the Germans had proceeded into the hills. A barrage of artillery was laid down in the vicinity with results unknown. It was presumed the Germans were heading for Barenthal. Approx. 1020 a jeep was seen coming down road to Phillipsbourg with two Germans. Both jeep and Germans were captured. The jeep belonged to the 117th Recon. was in bad shape and could not be used any more. At this time the artillery officer received word that the road to Phillipsbourg was accessible to vehicles only and to try to make a withdrawal to Phillipsbourg. Without passing the message on to me or my CO, he withdrew leaving us without any communication system. At 1130 I sent S/Sgt Niland to Hqs. of the 62d IA at Phillipsbourg to receive further orders and to tell the CO our situation. Up to this point my patrols were constantly patrolling my right flank and no contact was made with the enemy or our troops and we did not know at any time the situation on our right flank. At approx. 1215 hours S/Sgt Niland reported back from Hqs. with the message that an assault gun and one TD was being sent up. At this time my company commander left for Hqs. of the 62d IA for further orders. About 1300 hours, one battalion of Germans were seen moving out at Q-850441 to Bannstein, by horse drawn vehicles, civilian cars and trucks. About 1310 hours the assault gun arrived and was told to fire on the column. The non-com. in charge of the gun said it was impossible as he had no means of firing indirect without an OP and he had only two other EM with him. A message was sent to the 62d AI about the German column. The TD failed to arrive. At approx. 1345 hours, my CO arrived and said toward the ridge at Q-871435 was the withdrawal route and we dug in. After we left the ridge it was covered by German mortar fire. While moving up to our next position we were fired upon by mortars again. At 1530 hours, I was told to move my platoon to Q-874532 and join our second platoon, and dig in for the night. At approx. 1730 hours our out-posts and security went out. One patrol was sent out and no contact was made with either enemy or friendly troops. At about 0500 hours, 2 January 1945, one of our out-posts reported that our Recon. outfit attached to us had taken off with their MG's which we were using. Some of the TS's attached to us were withdrawing. At about 0630 hours, 2 January 1945, we withdrew to the other side of Phillipsbourg reorganized and moved up to the hill at Q-876431. We dug in on the right flank of the second and third platoons of Company "B", 62d AI. We were relieved at 1000 hours, 2 January 1945, and left for Battalion.

Authority 87354
By CP NARA Date 12/10/06

Page 26 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

My platoon consisted of 46 men armed with M1 rifles and approx. 9 hand grenades in the whole platoon. We had no automatic weapons or communication or knowledge of the situation of units on our right flank.

FRANK ZVIRELIS
1st Lt. C. E.
Company "C", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

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Page 27 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

At 0200 hours in the morning of January 1, 1945, Company "C", was alerted by Lt. Coons to move out. The first platoon left the company area at 0330 hours. Lt. Trigg, our platoon leader, reported at Barenthal. We then went to the first bridge west of Barenthal and were met by a runner from the 125th Armored Engineers who led us to the 125th Engineers bivouac area. There we reported to Company Commander, Captain Knight, who had us take position on the hills so that he could relieve his men and withdraw equipment. There about 1000 hours Captain Knight told Lt. Trigg that we were to be relieved by one platoon from Company "A", 540 Engineers and to proceed to 1st Battalion Headquarters with my platoon. We arrived at Battalion Headquarters at 1100 hours. I was told that German patrols were in the woods between Barenthal and Philippsbourg. My orders were from Lt. Trigg. They were to place the men at strategic points to protect the road leading to Philippsbourg. I left Battalion Headquarters at 1100 hours, placed first four men proceeded in squad column up the road advancing 50 yards. The first four men were placed in woods about 300 yards from Battalion Headquarters. We then encountered an artillery barrage which lasted 10 or 15 minutes, which pinned my platoon down in the open. Lt. Trigg was missing after the first part of the barrage. I believe that he was killed or captured. After the barrage lifted we were attacked almost immediately by enemy infantry of undetermined number. One squad had withdrawn to the road and was protecting the squad still in the open. They fired from this position till they could not see any of our men in the open. Then this squad tried to contact the other and advanced up the road to a house and held this position for about three hours keeping the enemy from crossing the road from Battalion Headquarters. This squad tried to contact the others during this time being unable too, they withdrew toward Battalion Headquarters and left Barenthal by truck at about 1500 hours on orders from Major O'Brien.

WILLIAM L. COX
S/Sgt. C. E.
Company "C", 540th
Engineer Regiment.

Page 28 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

The following is a list of MIA and KIA sustained by the First Battalion 540th Engineer Regiment, on 1 January 1945.

1ST BATTALION MEDICAL DETACHMENT

1. JOHNSON, John (NMI)	T/4	202 4359	MIA	1/1/45
2. CUNNINGHAM, Harold E.	PFC	352 7487	MIA	1/1/45

COMPANY "A"

1. BAUERLE, Edward W.	T/5	331 081	MIA	1/1/45
2. DOWNS, Donald B.	PFC	375 346	MIA	1/1/45
3. NELLIS, Arthur W.	PFC	372 665	MIA	1/1/45 ret 1/5/45
1. COREY, Orris W.	T/5	361 049	MIA	1/1/45
2. SCHEFFER, William (NMI)	PFC	327 674	WIA	1/1/45
3. HEGWOOD, William (NMI)	T/5	361 753	* WIA	1/1/45
4. CHASTEEN, Robert L.	PVT	140 117	* WIA	1/1/45

COMPANY "B"

1. TARBORELLI, Victor B.	T/5	31070861	MIA	1/1/45	ret 1/3/45
2. LOPO, Edward (NMI)	PFC	32732014	MIA	1/1/45	ret 1/3/45
3. COATS, Gerald N.	PFC	35291914	MIA	1/1/45	ret 1/3/45
1. KRUSELY, William (NMI)	PVT	32229797	* WIA	1/1/45	
2. STAPLES, Frederick C.	PFC	11068159	* WIA	1/1/45	
3. PULVER, Seymour L.	PVT	32602724	* WIA	1/1/45	
1. DIMASI, Dominick F.	PVT	32299337	To Hosp. With Trench Feet.		
2. SIRNES, Otto M.	PVT	32322608	"	"	"
3. MAGDICK, Micheal (NMI)	PVT	32250959	"	"	"

COMPANY "C"

1. TRIGG, William R. III	1st Lt.	0-1109716	MIA	1/1/45	ret 1/13/45
2. CASSIDY, Roy W.	SGT	14017964	MIA	1/1/45	
3. HAMILTON, Andrew J.	SGT	33275054	MIA	1/1/45	
4. STRUCKEL, Charles, J Jr	SGT	35379277	MIA	1/1/45	
5. ATCHERGERG, Paul F.	T/5	18154088	MIA	1/1/45	
6. HATCH, Stewart H.	PFC	31301636	MIA	1/1/45	
7. HOLMES, Birl P.	PFC	39040564	MIA	1/1/45	
8. HONEY, Bennie H.	PFC	37626436	MIA	1/1/45	
9. IRELAND, Harold G.	PFC	37729260	MIA	1/1/45	
10. LYTLE, Eugene J.	PVT	38565777	MIA	1/1/45	
11. WHITE, Lloyd G.	PVT	31034680	MIA	1/1/45	
12. WOOLERY, Leonard C.	PVT	37077039	MIA	1/1/45	
13. LOTT, Jesse W.	PVT	38266310	MIA	1/1/45	(Captured)
1. ATCHISON, Clarence J.	PVT	36338857	WIA	1/1/45	
2. LAZZARO, Vincent J.	PVT	421-2900	WIA	1/1/45	
3. CLINE, Arthur R.	PVT	37143797	WIA	1/1/45	

* NOT HOSPITALIZED

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Page 29 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

3 January 1945:- After reorganization, Companies "D" and "F" are now under control of the Second Battalion. Companies "D" and "F" are now under control of the First Battalion. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Started working on MLR in conjunction with 179th Infantry. Mined road and bridge at Q772345. 1 platoon employed in security Engineer Dump at Saverne. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Started construction of MLR by installing 400 yards of double apron fence from Q743353 to Q746352. Battalion Headquarters:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal first aid duties.

and "B" are now under control of the Second Battalion. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Started working on MLR in conjunction with 179th Infantry. Mined road and bridge at Q772345. 1 platoon employed in security Engineer Dump at Saverne. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Started construction of MLR by installing 400 yards of double apron fence from Q743353 to Q746352. Battalion Headquarters:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal first aid duties.

4 January 1945:- Companies "A" and "B" still under Second Battalion control and Companies "D" and "F" under First Battalion control. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Mined road and bridge at Q769348. Installed triple concertina from dumps at Q778344 to Q774345. Security Engineer Dump at Saverne. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Construction of MLR:- Installed double concertina from Q781340 along the road to Q797326. Prepared road for mines and abatis at Q802357 and Q789361. Maintained guard of road blocks in allocated areas. Co. "C":- La Petite Pierre, France:- Hauled and spread sand on roads between Q700322 and Q734356. Battalion Headquarters:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal first aid duties.

Second Battalion control. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Mined road and bridge at Q769348. Installed triple concertina from dumps at Q778344 to Q774345. Security Engineer Dump at Saverne. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Construction of MLR:- Installed double concertina from Q781340 along the road to Q797326. Prepared road for mines and abatis at Q802357 and Q789361. Maintained guard of road blocks in allocated areas. Co. "C":- La Petite Pierre, France:- Hauled and spread sand on roads between Q700322 and Q734356. Battalion Headquarters:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal first aid duties.

5 January 1945:- Companies "A" and "B" still under Second Battalion control and Companies "D" and "F" under First Battalion control. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Extended triple concertina by installing 500 yards from Q774345 to Q773344. Started construction of 50 yards of double apron fence from Q757347 to Q758345. Constructed 300 yards of double apron fence from Q774343 to Q769344. Maintained guard of mined bridge at Q769348 and Q772345 at Wimmeneau. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Continued construction of MLR installing wire fortification from Q775344 to Q781340 and from Q794328 to Q801320. Maintained guard of road blocks in allocated area. Co. "C":- La Petite Pierre, France:- Hauled and spread sand, gravel, and cinders on roads between Q695289 and Q730295, between Q730295 and Q725320, Q695289 and Q692273 and Q570322 and Q720342, Q695289 and Q711280, Q695289 and Q691287, and in the streets of the city of La Petite Pierre. Battalion Headquarters:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal first aid duties.

6 January 1945:- Companies "A" and "B" still under Second Battalion control and Companies "D" and "F" under First Battalion Control. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Completed 1900 ft. of double apron barbed wire fence from Q764348 to Q767343. 75 yards from Q773342 to Q771342. Secured 6 truck loads of barbed and concertina wire. Maintained guard of mined bridges at Q769348 and Q772345 at Wimmeneau. Started sanding of roads in allocated area. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Continued reinforcing of MLR BY INSTALLING wire fortifications from Q775344 to Q801320. Maintained guard of road blocks in allocated area. Co. "C":- La Petite Pierre, France:- Hauled and guarding sand, cinders and gravel on roads between Q695289 and Q682230, Q725307 and Q761349, Q724307 and Q703315, Q725320 and Q708324 and between Q570322 and Q730254. Battalion Headquarters and Medics:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal functions.

Page 30 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

7 January 1945:- Companies "A" and "B" still under Second Battalion control and Companies "D" and "F" under First Battalion Control. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Installed 1200 feet of triple concertina from Q763347 to Q760351. Maintained guard of mined bridges at Q769348 and Q772345 at Wimmeneau. Continued sanding of roads in allocated area. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Continued reinforcing of MLR. Installed wire fortifications from Q775344 to Q801320. Maintained guard of road blocks in allocated area at Q789361 and Q803357. Started sanding of roads between Q790277 and Q798275. Co. "C":- La Petite Pierre, France:- Hauled and spread sand and cinders on road between Q695355 and Q731361 (Wingen) Q66289 and Q682230, Q714355 and Q733357, and between Q710288 and Q730278. Battalion Headquarters:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal first aid duties.

8 January 1945:- Companies "A" and "B" still under control of Second Battalion and Companies "D" and "F" under control of First Battalion. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Installed 450 feet of triple concertina from Q760351 to Q757352. Constructed 650 feet of double apron barbed wire fence from Q757352 to Q751353. Drove posts for 1000 feet of double apron barbed wire fence. Secured 3 truck loads of concertina from Engineer dump at Labonan. Continued sanding of roads in allocated area. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Continued reinforcing of MLR. Installed wire fortifications from Q775344 to Q801320. Continued sanding of roads in allocated area. Co. "C":- La Petite Pierre, France:- Construction of MLR:- Installed triple concertina from Q723364 to Q727363, between Q735357 and Q742354, and between Q727363 and Q734358. Hauled and spread sand and cinders on roads between Q735358 and Q741356, Q735356 and Q712335, and between Q730295 and Q761349. Battalion Headquarters:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal Headquarters function. Battalion Medics:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal first aid duties.

9 January 1945:- Companies "A" and "B" still under control of second Battalion and Companies "D" and "F" under control of First Battalion. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Installed 650 feet of triple concertina from Q746352 to Q746353. Constructed 1500 feet of double apron fence from Q751353 to Q748353. Maintained guard of mined bridges at Q769348 and Q772345 at Wimmeneau. Lt. Thering, Company "C", 120th Engineers relieved Company "A" of Bridge guard at Wimmeneau. Continued sanding of roads in allocated area. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Continued reinforcing of MLR. Installed wire fortifications from Q775344 to Q801320. Spread sand and cinders on roads in allocated area. Co. "C":- La Petite Pierre, France:- Construction of MLR:- Installed triple concertina from Q727363 to Q728362, Q740356 to Q743354, and from Q730361 to Q733359. Hauled and spread sand on roads between Q724365 and Q742354, Q715337 and Q735357, Q714335 and Q735357, and between Q695286 and Q714223. Battalion Headquarters:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- La Petite Pierre, France:- Normal first aid duties.

10 January 1945:- Weather - Cloudy. Companies "A" and "B" relieved of attachment to the Second Battalion and reverted back to control of the First Battalion. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Installed 500 feet of triple concertina from Q746352 to Q746353. Constructed 1000 feet of double apron barbed wire fence from Q74853535 to Q74653530. Secured 6 loads of concertina wire from the dump at Saverne.

SECRET

Page 31 - Daily Journal Report for month of January 1945.

10 January 1945:- Continued - Continued sanding of roads in allocated areas to reduce ice hazards. Co. "B":- Company "B" changed location of bivouac in the city of Bouxwiller, France. Company is now located in the Municipal Square. Construction of MLR:- Prepared abatis at Q783346. (Not felled). Dug machine gun emplacements at Q799319 and Q80118. Hauled and spread cinders on allocated roads. Co. "C":- Entire Company moved from La Petite Pierre, France to Wietswiller, France. Hauled and spread sand on roads between Q745352 and Q760349, between Q710289 and Q732293, and between Dessenheim Q755235 and Phalsbourg Q560190. Battalion Headquarters moved from La Petite Pierre, France to the outskirts of the city of Bouxwiller, France - Q807261. Battalion Medics moved from La Petite Pierre, France to Bouxwiller, France in the center of the city near Municipal Square.

11 January 1945:- Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Constructed 4 Cheval de Fres for gaps where MLR crosses roads in assigned area north of Wimmeneau. Strengthened existing triple concertina and double apron fence by erection of single concertina wings. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Construction of MLR:- Constructed double apron barbed wire fence between Q792331 and Q796327. Secured 5 truck loads of concertina wire for future use. Co. "C":- Weiterswiller, France:- Sanding roads and established sand piles between Wimmeneau and Ingwiller, La Petite Pierre and Ingwiller, and from Dessenheim west through Q660210 then SW to Rt. #4 on IC - 133. At 1545 hours Col. Marvin entered the Battalion CP at Bouxwiller and alerted the Battalion to move to the front. All Companies were immediately notified and ordered to move out to the vicinity of Wimmeneau. Battalion Headquarters and Medical Aid Station moved out of Bouxwiller at 1725 hours, arriving at Wimmeneau at 1810 hours and immediately set up the CP and Battalion Aid Station. At 1800 hours Major O'Brien checked in at the 180th Infantry CP at Wimmeneau. At 1845 hours Captain Poivey reported in at the CP and reported that his Company was standing by in a wooded section on the outskirts of Wimmeneau. At 1855 Lt. Coons reported in to the Bn. CP and reported his Company as standing by in Wimmeneau. At 1900 communications were installed with PASSPORT (180th Infantry). Captain Irvin reported to the Bn. CP at 2135 hours. Company "A" was deployed as outposting the city of Wimmeneau. At 2245 hours communications were installed with Company "A".

12 January 1945:- Entire Battalion remained on the alert in the city of Wimmeneau, France. At 0020 hours communications were installed with Company "C". Nothing of importance happened throughout the night. At 0815 hours Company "B" relieved Company "A" of outposting of the city of Wimmeneau. At 0943 hours communications were installed with Company "B" at the assembly area. Routine reports were submitted to the CP and forwarded to Regimental Advance Headquarters at Ingwiller. The Battalion remained on the alert throughout the day until 1640 hours at which time Colonel Manning called Major O'Brien informing him that he was to move his Bn. back to their old areas. All Companies were notified and ordered to move back to their old areas. Closed the Battalion CP and Battalion Aid Station at 1700 hours and returned to Bouxwiller where the CP and Aid Station were again set up. Company "A" returned to Obersoultzbach, France. Company "B" returned to Bouxwiller, France. Company "C" returned to Weiterswiller, France. Other than several cases of Beet being frost bitten no enemy action or casualties were sustained by the Battalion during this alert. The entire Battalion now remains on a two hour alert.

SECRET

SECRET

Page - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

13 January 1945:- Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Installed 400 yards of single concertina from Q775347 to Q781342. Completed excavation of two gun emplacements with personnel shelters. Shelters were covered with logs and camouflaged. Q777341 and Q783334. Started excavation of two machine gun emplacements at Q787334 and Q783338. Filled eight culverts with barbed wire entanglements at Q754355, Q759352, Q763351, Q765351, Q773347, Q776344, Q777346, and Q787337. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Construction of MLR:- Constructed single apron fence from Q793331 to Q794330. Installed single concertina, attached to enemy side of railroad from Q801319 to Q809314. Blocked culvert with concertina at Q809314. Constructed 4 strand wire cattle fence from Q805311 to Q809311. Installed triple concertina from Q823308 to Q821304. Co. "C":- Weikerswiller, France:- Hauled and spread sand over roads from Q765282 to Q653188, Q763285 to Q730295, Q766310 to Q725307, Q770345, Q811350, Q761349 to Q724308. Battalion Headquarters:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion remains on two hour alert. Battalion Medics:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal first aid duties. Lt. William R. Trigg, ML since 1 January 1945, succeeded in getting back to our lines after spending 12 days behind the enemy's lines in the vicinity of Barenthal. After being interrogated he was sent to an evacuation hospital. Lt. Trigg was suffering from exhaustion and badly frozen feet.

14 January 1945:- Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Constructed 175 yards of double apron fence from Q770350 to Q771349, 600 yards from Q773349 to Q779347, and 175 yards from Q780344 to Q782344. Constructed two TD positions at Q767341 and Q766341. One was completed the other is yet to be completed by camouflaging. Continued the construction of machine gun positions at Q776341, Q781338, Q784336, Q785335, Q779340, and Q787334. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Construction of MLR:- Constructed single apron barbed wire fence from Q794331 to Q796327. Constructed 4 strand cattle fence from Q813324 to Q812323, Q804316 to Q805350. Constructed double apron fence from existing 4 strand cattle fence from Q805314 to Q809312. Installed triple concertina from Q821304 to Q820293. Relieve 344th Engineers of bridge guard at Q815305 and Q814302. Co. "C":- Weikerswiller, France:- Hauled and spread sand over roads between Q689222 and Q679188, Q730295 and Q725307, and between Q761349 and Q720296. Established sand piles on routes between La Petite Pierre and Q730295, and in the vicinity of Dossenheim Q754225, and between Q761349 and Q730296. Battalion Headquarters:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal first aid duties.

15 January 1945:- Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Installed 125 yards of triple concertina from Q764352 to Q765352, 150 yards from Q772349 to Q773349. Constructed 400 yards of double apron fence from Q766351 to Q769350. Constructed 7 machine gun positions with log covering at Q781388m, Q770341, Q771341, Q767341, Q767342, Q768342, and Q770342. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Construction of MLR:- Constructed single apron barbed wire fences from Q796327 to Q800321, Q812323 to Q812319, and from Q812318 to Q813313. Removed demolitions charge from bridges at Q815305 and Q814302. Co. "C":- Weikerswiller, France:- Hauled and spread sand over roads between Q689222 to Q679188, Q724308 to Q733334, Q730296 to Q753306, to Q763283 (Weikerswiller). Established sand stock piles between Q752225 and Q706221, Q724308 and Q753306 and between Q730295 and Q763283 (Weikerswiller). Battalion Headquarters:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal first aid duties.

SECRET

SECRET

Page 33 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

16 January 1945:- Temperature - 0300 - 23° F. Weather - Cloudy with slight breeze. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- Construction of MLR:- Constructed 7 open machine gun positions at Q761341, Q762341, Q763341, Q764341, Q765342, Q766342, and Q766341. Constructed 3 machine gun positions with shelters at Q764341, Q783337, and Q785335. Constructed 800 yards of double apron barbed wire fence from Q753355 to Q761352. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- Construction of MLR:- Installed single concertina between Q800321, and Q801319. Existing entanglement between Q812325 and Q813325 was made into double apron barbed wire fence. Co. "C":- Weiterswiller, France:- Hauled and spread sand over roads from Q689222 to Q679188, and from Q730295 to Q797309. Established sand stock piles between Q706221, and Q693225, Q730295 and Q797309, and between Q730295 and the town of Weiterswiller (Q763283). Battalion Headquarters:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal first aid duties.

17 January 1945:- Temperature - 0800 - 21° F. Weather - Skies overcast with intermittent light snow. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- BO-1 - Construction of MLR:- Constructed 3 machine gun positions with log covering and 3 supporting fox holes per position at Q748351, Q746351, and Q750351. Constructed 3 open machine gun positions with 4 supporting fox holes per position at Q755354, Q759352, and Q761352. Constructed 7 machine gun positions with shelters at Q783337, Q758342, Q758341, Q760340, Q760341, Q761341 and Q762341. Constructed 100 yards of double apron barbed wire fence from Q760352 to Q761352. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Existing cattle fence between Q792331 and Q798323 was made into single apron barbed wire fence. Strengthened existing triple concertina between Q823308 and Q820293 with smooth wire which was staked to the ground. Co. "C":- Weiterswiller, France:- BO-2 Hauled and spread sand over road Q689223 and Q693188. Established 13 sand stock piles between Q693225 and Q686223 using 24 yards of sand, 12 sand stock piles between Q730295 and Q797309 using 30 yards of sand, and 10 sand stock piles between Q730295 and Obersoultzbach (Q790281) using 20 yards of sand. Battalion Headquarters:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal first aid duties.

18 January 1945:- Temperature - 0800 - 17° F. Weather - Cloudy. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 3 machine gun positions with 5 supporting fox holes per position and 1 - 6' x 6' x 6' shelter per position at Q752352, Q754351, and Q756351. Constructed 5 open machine gun positions without shelters at Q759347, Q759346, Q759344, Q759345, and Q758342. Constructed 2 machine gun positions with shelters at Q788333 and Q789332. Repaired breaks in wire caused by enemy artillery fire in the vicinity of Wimmeneau. Secured short and medium pickets from the dump at Reichoffen. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Existing cattle fence between Q798323 and Q804317 was made into a single apron barbed wire fence. Constructed double apron barbed wire fence between Q809313 and Q813312. Co. "C":- Weiterswiller, France:- BO-2 Hauled and spread 12 yards of sand between Q730295 and Q763283 (Weiterswiller), and between Q730295 and Q797309. Established 6 sand stock piles between Q730295 and Q797309 using 12 yards of sand. Established 5 sand stock piles between Q730295 and Q763283 (Weiterswiller) using 10 yards of sand. Established 12 stock piles between Q686223 and Q678219 using 24 yards of gravel. Battalion Headquarters:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal first aid duties.

Authority 87354
By CP NARA Date 12/10/06

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Page 34 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

19 January 1945:- Temperature - 0000 - 41°F. Weather - Strong wind with rain and sleet throughout the day. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 3 machine gun positions with six fox holes and one shelter for each position at Q758350, Q759350 and Q761350. Constructed 3 machine gun positions to existing wire fences: 50 yards to NE at Q755355, 50 yards to NE at Q757354, 75 yards to NE at Q758354, and 100 yards to NE at Q758353. Constructed 2 open machine gun positions with shelters at Q791331, and Q791331. Constructed 3 open machine gun positions with log covering at Q759347, Q762348, and Q762347. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed approx. 3 miles of minefields fence (single wire) in the vicinity of Q812325 to Q821293. Secured metal for 1000 mine signs 50% of which was cut to size and painted. Co. "C":- Weiterswiller, France:- BO-2 Established 14 sand stock piles between Q678219 and Q653188 using 28 yards of sand, established 24 sand stock piles between Q730295 and Q810304 using 60 yards of sand, established 18 sand stock piles between Q730295, and Q790281 (Obersoultzbach) using 45 yards of sand. Improved drainage ditches between Q753225 and Q689224, Q730295 and Q810304, and between Q730295 and Q791331. Battalion Headquarters:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal first aid duties.

20 January 1945:- Temperature - 0800 - 31°F. Weather - Snow throughout the day. Total of three inches. Co. "A":- Obersoultzbach, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 2 machine gun positions with five two man fox holes per position at Q749351 and Q750351. Constructed 3 machine gun positions with log covering and six fox holes per position at Q758351, Q759350, and Q761350. Constructed one anti-tank position at Q773341. Constructed two machine gun positions with shelters at Q787333 and Q790331. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Entire Company continued work of laying minefield. Co. "C":- Weiterswiller, France:- Spread sand over roads between Q730295 and Q797309, from Q797309 to Q805316 to Q769345 using 25 yards of sand. Sanded between Q765281 to Q752225 to Phalsbourg using 26 yards of sand. Sanded between Q689222 and Q692188 using 8 yards of sand. Sanded between Q730295 and Obersoultzbach using 22 yards of sand. Battalion Headquarters:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Bouxwiller, France:- Normal first aid duties.

21 January 1945:- Temperature - 0800 - 20°F. Weather - Cloudy with light snow in late afternoon. Co. "A":- Company Headquarters moved from Obersoultzbach, France to new bivouac at Phalsbourg, France. Reconnaissance was made of new allocated area for proposed MLR. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Entire Company continued work of laying minefield. At 1330 hours approximately 18 to 20 rounds of large caliber enemy artillery were fired on the third platoon while at work at Q825305. Co. "C":- Entire Company moved from Weiterswiller, France to new bivouac at Heinrichsdorf, France. Made reconnaissance of roads, bridges, and new proposed MLR in newly allocated area. BO-2 spread 6 yards of sand between Q730295 and Q765283 (Weiterswiller). Spread 6 yards of sand between Q765282 and Q798275. Secured one truck load of barbed wire and pickets from the dump at Saverne. Battalion Headquarters and Battalion Medics moved from Bouxwiller, France to new BIVOUAC AT DANNELEBOURG, France.

SECRET

Page 35 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

22 January 1945:- Temperature - 0800 - 2° F. Weather - Overcast sky. Co. "A":- Company Headquarters moved from bivouac at the sawmill in Phalsbourg to an apartment building on Saverne by-pass in Phalsbourg. Reconnaissance was made on additional wire obstacles for existing MLR west of Wimmeneau and also for newly proposed MLR. 1 platoon was employed in securing materials for MLR. Sanded roads in allocated area throughout the day and night. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Entire company employed in laying of minefield. BO-2 Continued clearing snow from roads with snow plow in Bouxwiller, Ingwiller, and Wimmeneau road net. Co. "C":- Heinrichdorf, France:- Made recon for construction of field fortifications between Q726321 and Q735310 and also between Q710325 and Q726321. BO-2 Spread sand on roads between Q654438 and Q639222 using 25 yards of sand, and between Q66289 and Q682230 using 25 yards of sand. Battalion Headquarters:- Dannelbourg, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Dannelbourg, France:- Normal first aid duties.

23 January 1945:- Temperature - 0800 - 26° F. Weather - Snow starting at 1300 hours continuing throughout the day and turning to sleet in the late evening. Co. "A":- Phalsbourg, France:- BO-1 Made reconnaissance of assigned area in conjunction with 2nd Battalion of 130th Inf. Assembled materials and drove concrete short pickets for 6 and 3 pace double apron fence from Q759348 to Q762342 to Q763346 and started stringing wire for same. Layed out pickets for proposed wiring. 3LU-2 Placed guards on prepared demolition dumps formerly guarded by 343rd Engrs. Started consolidation of demolition dumps at Lutzelbourg. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Entire company employed in laying of minefield. BO-2 Continued clearing snow from roads in Bouxwiller, Ingwiller, and Wimmeneau road net. Co. "C":- Heinrichdorf, France:- Made reconnaissance for field fortifications for 180th Infantry between Q696333 and Q733298. BO-2 Hauled and spread sand on roads between Q730295 to Q761285 continuing through Weinbourg to Q806316, Q730295 to Q770345 (Wimmeneau). Q701319 to Q725320, Q702315 to Q724308, Q6501888 (Phalsbourg to Q697289, La Petite Pierre) and between Q589221 and Q692189. 105 yards of sand were used. Battalion Headquarters and Battalion Medics moved from Dannelbourg, France to new bivouac at Lutzelbourg, France. Set up Battalion CP and Battalion Aid Station.

24 January 1945:- Temperature - 0800 - 30° F. Weather - Skies overcast. Co. "A":- Phalsbourg, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 1200 yards of double apron barbed wire fence from Q759348 to Q762342 to Q763346. Drove pickets for double apron fence from Q763346 to Q764342 to Q766346. 3LU-2 Prepared charges for bridges taken over from 343rd Engrs. were consolidated in a dump (sawmill) near Lutzelbourg on Route GC-36. (Q639144). Guards were placed at the dump. Co. "B":- Bouxwiller, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Entire company still employed in laying of minefield. Co. "C":- Heinrichdorf, France:- BO-2 Hauled and spread sand over roads along Route GC-114 between Q514159 (Sarrebourg) to RJ with Route GC-36 at Q603098, also used D-4 dozer to clear snow along the same route. Sanded route N-4 between Phalsbourg (Q654189) to Sarrebourg (Q501153). Sanded roads along route GC-36 from Q645188 to RJ where route GC-36 intersects with route GC-114 at Q603098. D-4 and D-7 dozers were used to remove snow from these roads. Total of 52 yards of sand were used. Battalion Headquarters:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal first aid duties.

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SECRET

Page 36 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

25 January 1945:- Temperature:- 0800 - 20°F. Weather - Skies overcast. Co. "A" Phalsbourg, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Dug 2 tank positions at Q-759346 and Q-763341. Constructed 850 yards of double apron barbed wire fence from Q-763346 to Q-764342 to Q-766346. Constructed double apron fence from Q-764341 to Q-766342 to Q-765344. Drove stakes for double apron fence from Q-767341 to Q-768341. BO-2 Sanded road N-4 between Phalsbourg and Saverne, on IC-132 from Saverne to Lutzelbourg. 4 ton with snow plow was used on Saverne hill and Saverne to Lutzelbourg section. 28 cubic yards of sand were used. 3LU-2 Maintained guard of prepared charges at Demolition Dump in Lutzelbourg. Co. "B":- Entire Company moved from Bouxwiller, France to new bivouac at Lutzelbourg, France. BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Completed laying of minefield east of Ingwiller, France. Co. "C":- Heinrichdorf, France:- 3LU-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 4 machine gun emplacements Q-720305, Q-722304, Q-724304, and Q-726305. BO-2 Hauled and spread sand on road along route GC-114 from R at Sarrebourg to RJ with GC-36 at Q-60309 on GC-36 from Q-654188 to RJ where GC-36 intersects with GC-114. D-7 dozer used on these roads as snow plow. Battalion Headquarters:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal first aid duties.

26 January 1945:- Temperature:- 0800:- 25°F. Weather - Snow throughout night continuing until 1330 hours. Total of 12 inches. Co. "A":- Phalsbourg, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 750 yards of double apron barbed wire fence from Q-767344 to Q-768341 to Q-770349. Constructed 500 yards of double apron fence from Q-772343 to Q-775340. Dug 3 machine gun positions at Q-750348, Q-759346 and Q-767341. Co. "B":- Lutzelbourg, France:- 3LU-4 Road Patrol and Maintenance. Removed snow with D-7 and D-4 dozer from Route N-4 between Sarrebourg and Saverne, and on Route IC-132 between Saverne and Lutzelbourg. Sanded Route N-4 between Phalsbourg and Saverne using 40 yards of sand. Co. "C":- Heinrichdorf, France:- 3 LU-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 7 machine gun emplacements at Q-725304, Q-725304, Q-726304, Q-727304, Q-728304, Q-717307, and Q-717306. Battalion Headquarters:- Lutzelbourg, France:-, Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal first aid duties.

27 January 1945:- Temperature:- 0800:- 25°F. Weather - Snow throughout the day. Total of 13 inches of snow now on the ground. Co. "A":- Phalsbourg, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 300 yards of double apron barbed wire fence from Q-764342 to Q-762342 to Q-761341. Constructed 275 yards of double apron fence from Q-759348 to Q-762348. Two officers made reconnaissance of newly proposed MLR in conjunction with 1st Bn. 157th Inf. Co. "B":- Lutzelbourg, France:- 3 LU-4 Sanded roads between Sarrebourg and Saverne on Route #4, from Phalsbourg to Lutzelbourg on Route GC-36. 40 yards of sand were used. Snow was also cleared from these same routes with D-7 and D-4 dozers. Cleared snow from Class III dump road net in Sarrebourg. 3LU-2 Maintained guard of prepared charges at Demolition dump in Lutzelbourg. Co. "C":- Heinrichdorf, France:- 3 LU-1 Construction of MLR: Constructed 8 machine gun emplacements at the following coordinates: two emplacements at each coordinate, Q-713313, Q-711313, Q-724304 and Q-723305. Battalion Headquarters:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal first aid duties.

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SECRET

Page 31 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January 1945.

28 January 1945:- Temperature -0800 - 25°F. Weather - Snow through out the day. Total of 15 inches on the ground. Co. "A":- Phalsbourg, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Completed construction of 300 yards of double apron barbed wire fence from Q-766342 to Q-768341 to Q-774341. Constructed 850 yards of double apron fence from Q-760346 to Q-759341 to Q-761341. Co. "B":- Lutzelbourg, France:- 3LU-4 Cleared snow from Route N-4 between Sarrebourg and Saverne, on Route GC-114 between Q-514519 and Q-538128. Sanded Route N-4 between Sarrebourg and Q-528161 and between Q-692188 and Saverne, on Route GC-114 between Q-514519 and Q-538128. Hauled and used 30 yards of sand. 3LU-2 Maintained guard of prepared charges at Demolition Dump in Lutzelbourg. Co. "C":- Heinrichsdorf, France:- 3LU-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 12 machine gun emplacements, 2 at Q-711313, 2 at Q-712314, 2 at Q-723305, 2 at Q-720306, 2 at Q-733303, and 2 at Q-730301. Battalion Headquarters:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal first aid duties.

29 January 1945:- Temperature - 0800 - 9°F. Weather - Clear. Co. "A":- Phalsbourg, France:- 3LU-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 4 anti-tank emplacements at Q-733295, Q-732293, Q-737292, and Q-738291. Constructed 10 machine gun emplacements at Q-733295, Q-734295, Q-735294, Q-738292, Q-738293, Q-738294, Q-740292, Q-741292, Q-742292, and Q-743292. Co. "B":- Lutzelbourg, France:- 3LU-4 Road Maintenance:- Removed snow from route N-4 between Sarrebourg and Saverne, from route GC-114 between Q-514519 and Q-538128. Sanded route N-4 between Sarrebourg and Q-528161, Q-692188 and Saverne on route GC-114 between Q-514519 and Q-538128. 6 yards of sand were used. 3LU-2 Maintained guard of prepared charges at Demolition Dump in Lutzelbourg. Co. "C":- Heinrichsdorf, France:- 3LU-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 2 machine gun emplacements at Q-731299 and Q-732299. Started construction of 2 machine gun emplacements at Q-721306, 1 emplacement at Q-720306, and 1 emplacement at Q-708313 which are 75% complete. Battalion Headquarters:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal first aid duties.

30 January 1945:- Temperature - 0800 - 7°F. Weather - Light snow starting in early afternoon turning to fine rain in late evening. Co. "A":- Phalsbourg, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 3 machine gun positions at Q-776340, Q-777340, and Q-778340. Constructed 200 yards of protective wire, single strand, from Q-776341 to Q-778340. Constructed 125 yards of tactical wire from Q-778340 to Q-779342. Constructed 2 TD positions at Q-742350 and Q-745350. Co. "B":- Lutzelbourg, France:- 3LU-4 Road Maintenance:- Cleared snow from route N-4 between Sarrebourg and Saverne, on route GC-114 between Q-514519 and Q-538128. Sanded route N-4 between Sarrebourg and Q-528161, Q-692188 and Saverne, on route GC-114 between Q-514519 and Q-538128. Used 30 yds of sand. 3LU-2 Maintained guard of prepared charges at Demolition Dump at Lutzelbourg. Removed German ammo from theatre building at Cirey (V-415985). Ammo was stored behind building with a large sign marking it as dangerous. No booby-traps were found in the building. Co. "C":- Heinrichsdorf, France:- 3LU-1 Construction of MLR:- Completed construction of machine gun emplacements at Q-720306, Q-708313, and 2 emplacements at Q-721306. Constructed 3 machine gun emplacements at Q-735299, Q-736299 and Q-719307. Battalion Headquarters:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal first aid duties.

Page 38 - Daily Journal Report for the month of January, 1945.

31 January 1945:- Temperature:- 0800 - 41°F. Weather - Cloudy and warm.
Co. "A":- Phalsbourg, France:- BO-1 Construction of MLR:- Constructed 150 yards of single concertina from Q-775342 to Q-776343, and 150 yards from Q-775343 to Q-774344. Constructed 2 TD positions at Q-738350 and Q-740350. Made reconnaissance of newly assigned area and started construction of machine gun position from Moderfeld to Puberg. Co. "B":- Lutzelbourg, France:- 3LU-4 Road Maintenance:- Cleared snow from route N-4 between Sarrebourg and Saverne, from route GC-114 between Q-514519 and Q-538128. Spread sand and salt on route N-4 between Sarrebourg and Q-528161, Q-692118 and Saverne, and on route GC-114 between Q-514519 and Q-538128. 18 yards of salt and 12 yards of sand were used. 3LU-2 Maintained guard of prepared charges at Demolition Dump in Lutzelbourg. Co. "C":- Heinrichdorf, France:- 3LU-1 MLR Construction:- Constructed 2 machine gun emplacements at Q-715309. Started construction of 2 emplacements at Q-703315, and 2 at Q-705315, 50 % completed. Started clearing of TD emplacement at Q-731295, 10% completed. Battalion Headquarters:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal Headquarters functions. Battalion Medics:- Lutzelbourg, France:- Normal first aid duties.

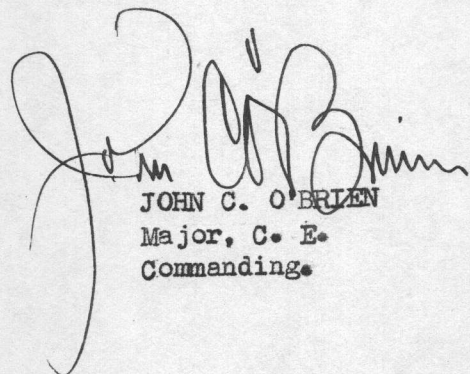
2. Battalion Strength:-

a. Battalion Strength as of 1 January 1945:-

Officers	16
Enlisted Personnel	599

b. Battalion Strength as of 31 January 1945:-

Officers	17
Enlisted Personnel	570


JOHN C. O'BRIEN
Major, C. E.
Commanding.