

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority 87354  
 By CP NARA Date 12/10/08

**SECRET**

HEADQUARTERS  
 540TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP  
 OFFICE OF THE S-4  
 A.P.O. #758

2 March 1945.

Subject: Journal for month of February.

To : C. O. 540th Engineer Combat Group, APO #758.

During the period 1st to 14th, this section requisitioned and issued to the companies all rations, gas, oil and lubricants. Tents, Tarpaulins and shoes in need of repair were taken in to the Quartermaster Salvage Repair Company and repaired or exchanged and returned to the respective units.

Quartermaster Class II Supplies in need of salvage were taken in and replaced. All Quartermaster and Chemical Warfare shortages were requisitioned and about 98% received and distributed within the Regiment.

All Company Property Records in the Regiment were inspected and a report of the condition of records made to the Commanding Officer, 540th Engineer Regiment.

A thorough inventory was made of all items of Engineer Property in this Organization, the equipment was checked for U.S. Reg. Numbers, Serial Numbers, Motor Numbers, Name of Manufacturer and all necessary data was checked and recorded so that information would be available for requisitioning spare parts when required. This information was assembled and a complete report submitted to Headquarters, Seventh Army.

On the 15th the 540th Engineer Regiment was inactivated and the personnel and equipment utilized to activate the 540th Engineer Combat Group. All property on hand was shipped to the Supply Officer, 540th Engineer Regiment, this section then prepared shipping tickets and re-shipped the property to the organizations in the Group making distribution in accordance with Authorized Tables of Equipment. New Company Property Books were prepared and delivered to all units within the Engineer Group.

This Section turned in the following equipment which was in excess of T/O & E's authorized for this Organization:

7	ea	Truck, 4-ton, 6 x 6, cargo
2	ea	Truck, $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton, 4 x 4, Amphibian
5	ea	Truck, $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton, 4 x 4, C&R
2	ea	Truck, $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ton, 4 x 4, cargo (Captured Vehicles)
6	ea	Trailer, 8-ton, full low bed
3	ea	Tractor, crawler type, R-4
3	ea	Tractor, Crawler type, D-4
17	ea	Car, Half-track, M2
18	ea	Gun, 57mm on carriage M3A1 & M2

**SECRET**  
 - 1 -



S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY  
540TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP  
APO 758 US ARMY

9 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Journal for Month of February 1945.

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, 540th Engineer Combat Group, APO 758, US Army.

Furnished necessary enlisted men personnel for the operation of the following Regimental Staff Section, S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, Personnel and Regimental Motor Pool. Operated showers for Officers and Enlisted Men as well as all troops in surrounding areas. Operated Regimental Gas Dump, which supplies an average of 4,000 gallons of gas and oil daily to the Regiment. Operated water point at Lutzelbourg, France which supplied an average of 10,000 gallons of water per day. All trucks and air-compressors dispatched daily to battalions, for road, bridge and construction work on highways, as well as hauling material for fixed front line sites. Operating switchboard and maintaining telephone and signal communication for the Regiment. Operating Officers and Enlisted Mens Rest Camp at Mirecourt, France. Operating and maintaining Regimental Heavy Equipment Motor Pool, as well as dispatching all equipment daily. Furnished daily guard for Regimental Headquarters and our company, as well as daily guard for water point. Operating and maintaining generators which supplies electricity for Regimental Headquarters and our Company. Moved bridge dump from Igney, France to Lutzelbourg, France. Headquarters and Service Company, 540th Engineer Regiment (C), re-designated as of 15 February 1945, Headquarters Company, 540th Engineer Combat Group. Turned over Enlisted Men and equipment to new formed Headquarters and Service Companies. Furnished necessary enlisted men personnel for the operation of Group S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4. Operating and maintaining Headquarters Company vehicles. Operated showers for Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Normal Headquarters Company functions.

*Frederick J. Finnegan*  
FREDERICK J. FINNEGAN  
Captain, C. E.,  
Commanding.

S E C R E T





S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS  
2833RD ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
APO 758 U. S. ARMY

11 March 1945.

SUBJECT: ACTIVITY JOURNAL - February 1945.

THRU : Commanding Officer, 540th Engineer Combat Group, APO 758, US Army.

TO : Commanding General, SEVENTH ARMY, APO 758, US Army.  
(Attention: Historian)MAP REFERENCE: Map of France (Nord de Guerre)  
1:200,000; Sheet No. 62.

1. Following is a condensation of activities engaged in by this Command during the month of February, 1945. Reference is made to attached detailed Section Journals giving complete details of operations. Effective 15 February 1945 this headquarters was designated from 2nd Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment:

1 - 14 February 1945 - PHALSBOURG, FRANCE (2nd Bn, 540th Engineer Regiment):  
(Company "D" at BUST and Companies "E" and "F" at PHALSBOURG)---

DEFENSIVE MLR CONSTRUCTION (WEITERSWILLER-STEINBOURG) - Companies "E" and "F" engaged in construction and improvement of defensive wire, improving and digging gun emplacements (1 - 6 February).

ROAD WORK AND QUARRY OPERATION (Ref. S-3 Journal, Inclosure No. 1)-

a. Patrol, grading, maintenance and improvement of roads in designated areas; drainage and clearing of mud, water, and debris from roads and road shoulders, including construction and improvement of road shoulders, drainage ditches and culverts.

b. Located and operated Quarry (Co. "D") to obtain proper and substantial filling material for road maintenance and improvement program.

TRAINING: Elements of Battalion engaged in Bailey Bridge Training program, involving nomenclature, recognition of parts, loading and unloading from trucks and actual bridge construction.

MISCELLANEOUS: Took over three demolition dumps from 1109th Engineers, loading all demolitions and hauling to designated dump area VILSBERG (Co. "D"); repaired 7" water main SAVERNE (Co. "F"); erected and removed reviewing platform for VI Corps, SAVERNE (Co. "F"); furnished guard detail for garbage pit, VI Corps (Co. "F"); complied with request for VI Corps for furnishing numerous painted signs (Co. "D").

15 February 1945 - PHALSBOURG, FRANCE: 2nd Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment redesignated 2833rd Engineer Combat Battalion, 540th Engineer Combat Group. Proceeded with required reassignment and transfer of personnel (Ref: Journal, Personnel Section, Inclosure No. 3). 34 proceeded with reequipping Battalion, under new equipment authorization.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE *2 Apr 46*  
*W. H. H. H.*

S-E-C-R-E-T



S-E-C-R-E-T

ASIC - Activity Journal, February 1945  
2833rd Engineer Combat Battalion.

11 March 1945.

16 - 28 February 1945 - PHALSBOURG, FRANCE: (Company "A" located at BUST;  
Companies "B" and "C" located at PHALSBOURG):

## ROAD WORK AND QUARRY OPERATION (Ref: S-3 Journal, Inclosure No. 1)-

a. Continued road patrol, grading and maintenance in designated area, clearing mud and debris and draining water from roads, road shoulders and drainage ditches; improved roads, shoulders and ditches.

b. Located and operated new Quarry and rock crusher on twenty-four hour basis, furnishing required filling for road maintenance and improvement program.

TRAINING: Elements of Battalion continued Bailey Bridge training program; infantry tactics training also conducted.

## MISCELLANEOUS:

a. IG inspection of Battalion completed 22-23 February 1945.

b. Checked 166th Medical Battalion area for booby traps (Co. "E"); continued furnishing details for guard and traffic direction at VI Corps garbage pit and also constructed two garbage pits (Co. "F"); operated water points.

*Seaman A. Knapp, Jr.*  
SEAMAN A. KNAPP, JR.  
Lieutenant Colonel, C.E.,  
Commanding.

## 3 Inclosures:

- Incl #1 - Journal, S-3 Section, 2833rd Engr C Bn (Feb 45)  
#2 - Journal, S-4 Section, 2833rd Engr C Bn (Feb 45)  
#3 - Journal, Pers. Section, 2833rd Engr C Bn (Feb 45)

- 2 -

S-E-C-R-E-T



Authority 87354  
By CP NARA Date 12/10/06

**SECRET**

HEADQUARTERS  
540TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP  
APO 758 US ARMY

15 March 1945

File 319.1

SUBJECT: Monthly Activity Journal - FEBRUARY, 1945.

TO : Commanding General, SEVENTH ARMY (Attention: Historian),  
APO 758, U. S. Army.

1. Following is a general consolidation of UNIT ACTIVITY JOURNALS, this Command, for the month of February, 1945:

1 Feb - 14 Feb 45 - LUTZELBOURG, FRANCE: Company CP's located at: (Co. A - PHALSBOURG; Co. B - LUTZELBOURG; Co. C - HENRIDORF; Co. D - BUST; Co. E - PHALSBOURG; Co. F - PHALSBOURG). MLR Details: construction and improvement of defensive wire; preparation of AT, TD and MG emplacements; cleared underbrush and numerous trees for improvement of fields of fire; prepared camouflage for gun positions. Work on HAGUENAU defense positions was completed 5 February and work discontinued on VOSGES defense positions as of 1800 hours, 6 February.

ROAD WORK & QUARRY OPERATION: Hauled material and spread gravel at dangerous curves; established stockpiles of gravel and sand; filled pot-holes; improved drainage ditches; cleared mud and debris from roads; repaired and constructed road shoulders. Operated two rock quarries for purpose of obtaining essential materials for road work.

BRIDGE WORK & TRAINING: Repaired abutments and decked two bridges; constructed steel stringer 45 feet, one-way, class 40 bridge, vicinity of LUTZELBOURG and widened existing steel stringer, 22 feet, one-way, class 40 bridge, vicinity of SAVERNE, to accommodate heavier traffic. Engaged in Bailey Bridge training program, including nomenclature, part recognition, loading and unloading from vehicles and actual bridge construction.

GENERAL: Maintained two check posts for security, vicinity of LUTZELBOURG on routes GC 36 and 1C-32. Furnished guard details for demolition dumps and VI Corps Garbage pit.

15 February 1945 - LUTZELBOURG, FRANCE: Effective this date, the 540th Engineer Combat Regiment was reorganized and redesignated the 540th Engineer Combat Group, per General Orders No. 46, Hq SEVENTH ARMY, dated 10 February 1945, in accordance with T/O & E 5-132, 25 August 1944, Colonel GEORGE W. MARVIN, Commanding. The 1st Battalion, 540th Engineer Combat Regiment was redesignated the 2832nd Engineer Combat Battalion, Major JOHN C. O'BRIEN, Commanding and the 2nd Battalion, 540th Engineer Combat Regiment was redesignated the 2833rd Engineer Combat Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel SEAMAN A. KNAPP, JR., Commanding. Both Battalions were reorganized under T/O & E 5-15, 13 March 1944, and C 1 thereto, dated 2 August 1944. Companies D, E and F, 2nd Battalion, 540th

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
**SECRET CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE



SECRET

B/L - Hq 540th Engr C Gp, 15 Mar 45, Sub: "Monthly Activity Journal -  
FEBRUARY, 1945" - Continued -

Engineer Combat Regiment were redesignated Companies A, B and C.

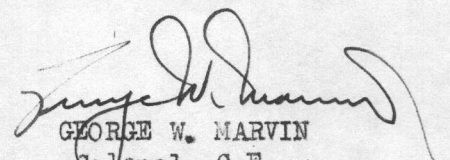
15 Feb - 28 Feb 45 - LUTZELBOURG, FRANCE: Location of CP's: 2832nd Engr C  
Bn; (Co. A - PHALSBOURG; Co. B - LUTZELBOURG; Co. C - HENRIDORF).  
2833rd Engr C Bn; (Co. A - BUST; Co. B - PHALSBOURG; Co. C - PHALSBOURG).

ROAD WORK & QUARRY OPERATION: Hauled sand/gravel for establishment of  
stockpiles; filled potholes; improved drainage ditches; graded and patrolled  
roads; constructed and repaired road shoulders. Continued operation of rock  
quarries for essential road maintenance.

TRAINING & BRIDGE WORK: Training in Infantry tactics was initiated and  
Bailey Bridge training continued. Constructed a permanent 200-300 yard, 25  
target rifle range for VI Corps. Completed widening of existing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  way,  
Class 70 bridge in LUTZELBOURG to 18 feet, to accommodate heavier traffic.

GENERAL: Checked 166th Medical Battalion for booby traps; furnished  
personnel for check posts for security and for forestry project in VI Corps  
area.

2. Complete details of monthly activities are furnished in appended  
section and unit Journals, this command.

  
GEORGE W. MARVIN  
Colonel, C.E.,  
Commanding.

6 Incls:

- Incl #1 - Unit Journal, S-2 Section, 540th Engr C Gp (trip)
- Incl #2 - Unit Journal, S-3 Section, 540th Engr C Gp (trip)
- Incl #3 - Unit Journal, S-4 Section, 540th Engr C Gp (trip)
- Incl #4 - Unit Journal, Hq Co., 540th Engr C Gp (trip)
- Incl #5 - Unit Journal, 2832nd Engr C Bn (trip)
- Incl #6 (w/3 section Journals), 2833rd Engr C Bn (trip).

cc - CG, VI Corps(Info)

SECRET



DECLASSIFIED

authority

NND 735017

by

NARA Date

4/12/06

S-E-C-R-E-T

PERSONNEL SECTION

HQ 2833RD ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

APO #758, US Army

4 March 1945.

MAPS: Map of FRANCE  
1:200,000; Sh #62.

ACTIVITY JOURNAL - Month of February, 1945:

(2nd Bn, 540th Engr Regt) -

1 - 11 Feb 45 - LUTZELBOURG, France: Usual UPS functions, extension of Payrolls and entry on Service Records, processing of allotments, allotment changes, and other payroll deductions, processing of Morning Reports, G-1, Ration, Weekly Over-Under Strength Reports, processing of PTA's and Soldiers' Deposits, Personnel Section correspondence, etc.

12 Feb 1945 - PHAISBOURG, France: Movement completed this date and personnel section set up at new location.

13 - 14 Feb 45 - PHAISBOURG, France: Usual UPS functions.

(2833rd Engineer Combat Bn) -

15 Feb 1945 - PHAISBOURG, France: Effective this date, 2nd Bn, 540th Engineer Regiment was redesignated 2833rd Engineer Combat Battalion, 540th Engineer Combat Group, and reorganization under T/O 5-15, 13 March 1944 and Change 1 thereto, 2 August 1944 directed (GO #46, Hq Seventh Army, 10 February 1945). Completed preparation and processing of Final Rosters and Morning Reports for units of 2nd Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment.

16 Feb 1945 - PHAISBOURG, France: Completed preparation and processing of Initial Rosters and Morning Reports for Units of newly designated 2833rd Engineer Combat Battalion.

17 - 28 Feb 45 - PHAISBOURG, France: Completed processing of Records and 201 files of personnel transfers to effect reorganization of Unit and reduce strength to new T/O authorization (See ANNEX #1). INSPECTION OF PERSONNEL SECTION RECORDS COMPLETED BY IG (VI CORPS) 23 Feb 45. Prepared and submitted Battalion EM Payrolls and Officers' Pay & Allowance Vouchers (total \$ 30,118.10), usual UPS functions, preparation and submission of allotments, allotment changes, payroll deductions, Morning Reports, G-1, Ration and other Personnel Section Reports, preparation of Officers' Letters of Promotion recommendations (4), correspondence, etc.

GENERAL:1. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Purple Heart Medal

- 1st Lt Rudolph J. Janeczek (Bn Hq)

- Tec 5 Leo Pagini (Co "C")

- Tec 5 Emery C. Spruell (Co "C")

2. BATTLE CASUALTIES :

- None

3. NON-BATTLE CASUALTIES :

- Injuries (2) -

Pfc Marshall W. Currier (Co "B")

Pvt Edsel J. Stelmach (Co "B")

(EM injured in vehicle accident -

investigation in process at end of month)

4. COURTS-MARTIALS :

General Courts-Martial - None

Special Courts-Martial - Pvt Joseph A. Madora (Co "B"), SCMO #3, Hq 540th Engr Regt, 14 Feb 45.

Summary Courts-Martial - Pvt Sam Antar (Co "C"), Sum #1, Hq 2833d Engr C Bn.

*John M. Cairns*  
JOHN M. CAIRNS,  
1st Lt., CE,  
S-1

1 INCL:

ANNEX #1

S-E-C-R-E-T





HEADQUARTERS  
2833RD ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
APO #758  
US ARMY.

BATTALION STRENGTH - SCHEDULE OF GAINS & LOSSES  
Month of February, 1945 (See Note)

UNIT (See Note)	- - - - - G A I N S - - - - -			- - - - - L O S S E S - - - - -			STRENGTH 28 Feb 45
	RE-ASGD FR DROPPED FR ROLLS	TRF IN FR OTHER UNITS (540TH ENGRS- REORGANIZATION)	DROPPED FR ROLLS (Hosp. Pers.)	TRF OUT OF OVER- STRENGTH PERSONNEL	MISC OTHER TRF OUT	TRF OF PERSONNEL BETWEEN UNITS	
Hq & Hq & Svc	2 Off; 8 EM	2 Off; 1 WO; 52 EM			1 EM	7 Off; 1 WO; 106 EM	
Company "A"	5 Off; 191 EM			11 EM		3 Off; 165 EM	
Company "B"	5 Off; 195 EM		2 EM	18 EM		2 Off; 161 EM	
Company "C"	5 Off; 198 EM	1 EM	1 EM	19 EM		1 Off; 163 EM	
Medical Det.	- - - - -	1 Off; 16 EM		1 EM		1 Off; 15 EM	
T O T A L S	17 Off; 592 EM	3 Off; 1 WO; 69 EM	3 EM	49 EM	1 EM	20 Off; 1 WO; 610 EM	

NOTE - Effective 15 February 1945, the 2nd Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment was redesignated 2833RD ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION and reorganized in accordance with T/O&E 5-15, 13 March 1944 and Change 1 thereto, 2 August 1944 (GO #46, Hq Seventh Army, 10 February 1945). Units were redesignated as follows:

Old Designation	New Designation
(2nd Bn, 540th Engr Regt)	(2833rd Engr Combat Bn)
Hq Det, 2nd Bn.	(Bn Hq
Company "D"	(Hq & Sv Co
Company "E"	Company "A"
Company "F"	Company "B"
(Attached Med)	Company "C"
	Med Det, 2833rd Engr C Bn.



Authority 13507  
By AR NARA Date 4/14/06S E C R E TGO #46, Hq 7th Army  
10 Feb 1945, contd.

## DISTRIBUTION:

"A" Plus	
ETOUSA	26
6th Army Gp	5
TAG	1
Each Unit	10
Central MRU	5
Each Div	2
Each Corps	2
G-3	3
4th MRU	1
8th MRU	1
20th MRU	1
52d MRU	1
CAS	1
DBS	1
SOLOC	5

- 2 -

S E C R E T

authority NND 735017  
 by SN NAR: Date 4/12/06

CONFIDENTIAL

L-7148

HEADQUARTERS  
 540TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP  
 APO #758 U.S. Army

S-2 Journal for February 1945:

1. LIAISON - Daily liaison with Higher Headquarters was maintained throughout the month either by the former Regimental S-2 Officer or by the new Group S-2 Officer, who assumed his new duties on 15 February 1945. The officers daily attended the VI Corps Liaison meetings; returned to the Regiment or Group to post situation maps and issue the S-2 Summary.

2. MAP DISTRIBUTION - During the period covered by the journal, the Section built racks in a small trailer to accommodate the usually large supply of maps. The supply is designed to be sufficiently flexible as to cover rapid movements and to fulfill requests for 1/25,000, 1/50,000 and even 1/100,000 maps. Average stock of map sheets on hand is about 400. Almost daily withdrawals and additions are made. In addition to routine map distribution, as indicated by the needs of the battalions in the group, special orders for maps are received upon occasion and are filled from the stock on hand or are drawn especially to fill the order.

3. PUBLICATION - THE EAGER BEAVER, official publication of the 540th Engineer Combat Group, continued during the period. One hundred and eighty-four issues have been published since the 540th came to France.

4. SECURITY - The Section was engaged in several Security and Security Training measures during the period. One security poster entitled "Keep Your Secrets," and graphically setting out the need for telephone security was prepared in the section; was distributed to the battalions. Late in the month, shipping tags, with string to attach them to all telephones in use in the Group, carried the message: "Keep Your Secrets...Jerry May Be on This Line Too!" Civilian employees of the Group were listed and checked with the CIC. An EM, apprehended in the mess line of one of the companies, was reported to CIC. A French civilian, who found a carrier pigeon and brought the bird to the S-2 Section, was interviewed there and, after investigation of circumstances, was released. The bird, and a report of the incident, was furnished VI Corps. Two French soldiers, uniformed but without passes or identifications, were taken to CIC at Saverne after being stopped by MPs at Lutzelbourg. Another French soldier, who carried identification but did not know the password, was interviewed by S-2, in cooperation with S-3, was released and directed to report to a French unit for the password.

5. INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUMS - The first two of a series of Intelligence Memorandums were issued during the period. Memo No. 1 covered the subject of Engineer Reconnaissance. The second of the series covered in detail all general S-2 functions. They were published particularly to acquaint new personnel in the S-2 sections of the battalions with their duties.

6. INTELLIGENCE ANNEX - To a number of S-2 Summary issues were attached Intelligence Annexes on subjects of varied military nature. Many of these dealt with intelligence concerning the German army as "German Use of the Password," "Moral Decay of the German Officer Corps," "Enemy Capabilities - Discussion," "New German Rocket," etc.

7. JOURNAL - In addition to the foregoing daily, routine functions, the Section submits the following detailed Journal for February 1945:

1. Bimonthly check on Security Training within the then Regiment; report prepared.

3. Intelligence sergeant made reconnaissance for sand and gravel pit locations and reported same to S-3.



**C O N F I D E N T I A L****S-2 Journal for February 1945 (Cont'd)**

4. Road reconnaissance of 540th area begun.
5. Checked list of Civilian employes with CIC...Arranged with the 344th Engrs to have 540th men see film "Your Job in Germany," at Sarrebourg, 11 Feb.
6. Second reconnaissance for sand and gravel pits.
7. Completed arrangements to obtain gravel from 40th Engrs gravel pit at Marmoutier.
8. Published "Keep Your Secrets" security poster...Located gravel pit on Mittelbron road....Continued road reconnaissance.
9. Published and distributed road reconnaissance overlay. Contacted Seventh Army and obtained plans for snow plow.
10. Submitted report to CIC of man apprehended in mess line of "E" company, 540th Engineers, on the night of mess line check ordered by Army.
11. Took photographs and processed them, on snowplow-equipped TankDozer.
12. Developed and printed pictures for VI Corps.
13. Briefed Lt. Soutar, new S-2 for 2832 Engineer Combat Battalion, on his new duties.
14. Interviewed French civilian who found carrier pigeon; reported circumstances and took bird to VI Corps G-2.
15. Capt. J. W. Robeysek relieved Capt. A. D. Gavura as S-2 Officer.
16. Situation map prepared for Col. D. J. Manning, Group Executive Officer.
17. Filled special map order for Lt. Janacek, S-2, 2833 Engineer Combat Battalion.
18. Developed captured German film for G-2, VI Corps....Mounted new road condition overlay...1/50,000 maps delivered to S-3, 2833 Engineer Combat Bn.
19. Posted road condition reports on new road condition overlay.
20. Indexed TMS and FMs on file in the section.
21. Photographed rock quarry operations and road maintenance work.
22. Conferred with CO of 2832 Engineer Combat Bn., on photographic equipment for his S-2 section.
23. Issued Intelligence Memo No. 1.
24. Obtained 1/500,000 situation map of Western Front.
25. Obtained 1/25,000 maps for 2832 Engineer Combat Bn....Intelligence Memo No. 2 published.
26. Photographed Bailey Bridge training class; construction of rifle range.
27. Photographed platoon in infantry training - class on "scouting and patrolling."
28. S-2 EM engage in study on road reconnaissance.

*J. W. Robeysek*  
J. W. ROBEYSEK,  
Capt., C.E.,  
S-2.

**C O N F I D E N T I A L**



HEADQUARTERS  
540TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP  
APO 758 US ARMY

9 March 1945.

SUBJECT: S-3 Monthly Activity Journal for February 1945.

TO : Commanding Officer, 540th Engineer Combat Group, APO 758, US Army.

1 - 6 February 1945 - LUTZELBOURG, France. 540th Engineer Combat Regiment continued to maintain roads in assigned areas, filling potholes, improving drainage, and repairing shoulders. Replaced guard rails and curbs on bridges. HAGUENAU Defensive Positions completed on 5 February 1945. VOSGES Defensive Positions discontinued on 6 February 1945. Continued to maintain two check-posts on Routes GC-36 and IC-32.

7 - 14 February 1945 - LUTZELBOURG, France. Bailey Bridge training was begun and continued to 15 February 1945. General road maintenance continued. Opened and operated VI Corps garbage dumps. Levelled loading area in Class III dump in SARREBOURG. Hauled and spread gravel for VI Corps Commandant. Repaired abutments and decked two bridges. Constructed steel-stringer 45 ft, one-way Class 40 bridge in vicinity of LUTZELBOURG. Widened existing steel-stringer 22 ft, one-way Class 40 bridge in vicinity of SAVERNE to 18 ft to accommodate heavy traffic. Opened and operated two rock quarries. Hauled sand, policed area, and constructed platform at Headquarters, VI Corps. Hauled gravel to 3rd Replacement Battalion.

15 - February 1945 - LUTZELBOURG, France. Effective 150001 Feb 1945, authority General Orders #46, Hq 7th Army, the 540th Engineer Combat Regiment was reorganized under T/O & E 5-192, 25 August 1944 and T/O & E 5-15, 13 March 1944, and Change 1 thereto, dated 2 August 1944. Concurrently with reorganization the unit was redesignated as the 540th Engineer Combat Group, Col G. W. MARVIN, Commanding, 2832nd Engineer Combat Battalion, Major J. C. O'BRIEN, Commanding, 2833rd Engineer Combat Battalion, Lt Col S. A. KNAPP, Commanding.

15 - 23 February 1945 - LUTZELBOURG, France. 2832nd and 2833rd Engineer Combat Battalions, under the supervision of Group Headquarters, continued general road maintenance in allocated areas, building culverts and drainage ditches, cribbing shoulders, and filling potholes. Operated two rock quarries and maintained VI Corps garbage dumps. Supplied equipment w/operators for VI Corps forestry project. Continued to maintain check-posts for security program. Completed widening of existing 1½-way, Class 70 in LUTZELBOURG to 18 ft. Moved engineer material from IGNEY to LUTZELBOURG.



**SECRET**

23 - 28 February 1945 - LUTZELBOURG, France. Policed allocated areas within Corps sector. Started infantry, treadway, and Bailey Bridge training. Built a permanent 200 to 300 yd 25-target rifle range for VI Corps.

Main Duties of the S-3 Section during the period 1 - 28 February 1945

1. Preparation of Engineer Situation Report to VI Corps Engineer.
2. Assignment and supervision of all work projects assigned to this Hq.
3. Preparation and reproduction of overlays of HAGUENAU and VOSGES Defensive Positions.
4. Dispatch of engineer equipment and allotment of trucks for operational purposes within the unit.
5. Request and assignment of borrowed engineer equipment.
6. Liason with VI Corps Engineer Section.
7. Issued Operations Memorandums on the following subjects:
  - "Standard Signs"
  - "Destruction of Equipment and Supplies in Event of Imminent Capture in Combat Zones"
  - "Minefield Recording Procedure (Friendly)"
  - "Reports"
  - "Road Drainage"
8. Issued "Training Memorandums" on the following subjects:
  - "Engineer and Infantry Training"
  - "Chemical Warfare"
9. Issued Training Procedures on the following subjects:
  - "Infantry Training - Scouting and Patrolling"
  - "Infantry Training - Squad and Platoon Combat Tactics"
  - "Infantry Training - Arm and Hand Signals, Extended Order Formation, Cover and Concealment, Extended Order, Zeoring the Piece, Squad Weapons and Musketry"
  - "Treadway Bridge"
  - "Chemical Warfare"
  - "Bailey Bridge"
10. Prepared all signs for this Headquarters.

*Carl A. Looney*  
CARL A. LOONEY  
Major, C.E.  
S-3



S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS  
2833RD ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
APO 758 U. S. ARMY

8 March 1945.

SUBJECT: S-3 Monthly Journal for the month of February 1945.

TO : Commanding Officer, 2833rd Engineer Combat Battalion, APO 758, U. S. Army.

On the 1st of February 1945, Company "D", 540th Engineer Regiment was maintaining highway N61 from Phalsbourg to Siewiller, from Petersbach to La Petite Pierre to Phalsbourg to Dossenheim to La Petite Pierre and other roads in 45th Division area. Companies "E" & "F", 540th Engineer Regiment were constructing a defensive line from Weterswiller to Steinbourg. On 7 February due to thawing, the road maintenance in the area became a critical work project and Companies "E" and "F" were called off the defensive line work. Company "E" was assigned N4 from Saverne to Phalsbourg, Route IC-133 and IC-22 to Dossenheim and La Petite Pierre. Company "F" was assigned the Phalsbourg by-pass. Company "D" retained the remainder of their previously assigned roads.

By 8 February 1945, it became evident that the stockpiles of crushed rock, gravel, and standard road construction and maintenance materials in the area assigned were not sufficient to maintain the roads in a passable condition. All quarries in the Battalion area contained soft red sandstone. It was not possible to use this rock as a wearing surface due to its tendency to sluff off as mud when subjected to traffic and moisture. A search was made and a limestone quarry was found in the vicinity of Q-587198. Operations were started by Company "D" on 9 February 1945.

On 15 February, the Second Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment was redesignated 2833rd Engineer Combat Battalion. Captain ROBERT D. STEPHENS was assigned as S-3 by G.O. #2, this Headquarters.

Company "A" abandoned rock quarry at Q-587198 and took over running of Primary Rock Crusher at Q-582219 on 17 February. This quarry was operated for the remainder of the month on a 24 hour basis with the average daily production of 242 cubic yards of crushed rock.

Main problems of interest in engineering encountered during this month were connected with road maintenance. All roads in this area had a bituminous binder 8" to 12" thick holding primary sized rocks. Beneath this wearing surface was only yellow clay to the depth of from four to six feet resting on sandstone. When the weather changed and the soil thawed an excessive amount of moisture was created at all sections on the road where drainage was anything but the best, the entire base of the road became jelly-like. With

- 1 -

S-E-C-R-E-T



Authority 735017  
 By AR NARA Date 4/14/06


S-E-C-R-E-T

B/L - Hq 2833rd Engr C Bn, 8 Mar 45, Subj: S-3 Monthly Journal Report for the month of February 1945, continued.

heavy traffic, the road at these damp points became rutted and in the areas between ruts the bituminous wearing surface ruptured. This permitted a great amount of the base to spurt out and the road would completely disintegrate. The only satisfactory method of maintenance at these points was complete rebuilding of road bed. The fastest method is to dig out one half the road bed to a depth where the clay becomes dry. (Sometimes 4' to 6'). Fill this gap with football sized sandstone with an eight inch wearing surface of primary sized limestone. By using a detail of one squad of engineers and three trucks hauling rock, a section of road 30 feet in length, 12 feet in width, and 3 feet in depth can be rebuilt each 12 hour working day.

y.

On 23 February 1945, the S-3 issued a Training Procedure for Bailey Bridge training. Company "A" completed training two platoons, Company "B" trained one platoon, and Company "C" trained one platoon on Bailey Bridge before the program was discontinued. On 26 February, the S-3 issued a Training Procedure accompanied by a schedule on Infantry training. Company "C" completed the four-day training period with one platoon before the program was suspended. The Infantry training program encompassed the most important factors of squad and platoon tactics during assault and defense. The training was so realistically carried out that several civilians in a small village near the training site thought they were being attacked, and prepared to leave at once. Later in the day the class in "Concealment" was somewhat hampered by hordes of children who wandered among the trainees and pointed out each place of concealment. One platoon of Company "A" completed one day of Treadway Bridge training.

  
 ROBERT D. STEPHENS  
 Captain, C.E.,  
 S-3.

- 2 -

S-E-C-R-E-T



Authority 735017  
 By AR NARA Date 4/14/86

S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS  
 2833RD ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
 APO 758 U. S. ARMY

8 March 1945.

SUBJECT: S-4 Monthly Journal for the month of February 1945.

TO : Commanding Officer, 2833rd Engineer Combat Battalion, APO 758,  
 U. S. Army.

1 - 14 February all supplies for the companies of the Second Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment, was issued by S-4, 540th Engineer Regiment.

15 February the 2833rd Engineer Combat Battalion Supply was activated by General Order #2, this Headquarters. First Lieutenant Woodrow E. Hoch, was designated as Supply Officer.

16 February - Contacted companies in Battalion and adjusted old property books. Shipped two (2) Water Supply Equipment sets to Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Company. Distributed rations, 2,000 gals of gas.

17 February - Filed Requisitions for expendable Quartermaster items. Filed Requisitions for Engineer Equipment for Engineer Section. Returned 2,300 AT mines, 400 rds. of 57mm ammo to ASP 421. Distributed rations.

18 February - Cleared dump of barbed wire, British mines, and 57mm ammo. Turned in G-4 Report to 540th Engineer Group Headquarters. Received Engineer equipment from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 540th Engineer Combat Group. Shipped same items to Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Company, this Battalion.

19 February - Drew Engineer equipment for Engineer Sections in Battalion. Quartermaster items for Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Company. Distributed rations, 2,500 gals. of gas.

20 February - Signed for Primary and Secondary Rock Crusher, Engineer Dump #210.

21 February - Turned over to companies 2833rd Engineer Combat Battalion Property Record books. 6,400 gals. of water distributed to companies, distributed rations 1,500 gals. of gas.

22 February - Checked all companies for daily ration report, found all in order. Received P.X., made distribution. Received two (2) 1/4 ton trucks from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 540th Engineer Combat Group, for exchange in Battalion. Filed requisition with Ordnance for vehicles to bring Battalion up to TO/E. Distributed rations; 6,400 gals. of water, 2,000 gals. of gas.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CANCELED  
 AUTHORITY SECRETARY ARMY

- 1 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

DATE 26 Sep 40  
 Signature

3 1334 *ma*

D 2 B 2 - 2833 - 4.2



SECRET

Journal for month of February  
S-4, 540th Engr Group.

After the Company Property Books had been closed by the Company Commanders of Headquarters and Service Company and the Second Battalion of the 540th Engineer Regiment, they were taken in to this section and checked to ascertain if they were in good order and are now stored with records of this Office.

Water Points were set-up and operated in Lutzelbourg for Corps and Army troops, a total of 76,100 gallons of water was dispensed during the month.

The following reports were submitted by this Section:

Weekly G-4 Report to G-4, 7th Army with an information copy to G-4 VI Corps submitted each Sunday.

Signal Loss Report submitted to Headquarters, VI Corps on the 17th and 28th of the month.

Engineer Equipment Report covering all Numbers, Manufacturer and Nomenclature of equipment on hand, submitted to Hq. 7th Army on the 15th of the month.

Monthly Material in Hands of Troops Report submitted to Commanding General, 7th Army with an information copy to G-4 VI Corps, submitted on the 16th February 1945.

*Decater Brown*  
DECATER BROWN,  
Capt., C. E.,  
Supply Officer

SECRET