

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
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BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
HEADQUARTERS  
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT (C) *J. J. Layton Pol. CAC*  
APO 758 *DOVING GRADING COMMITTEE 1 Apr '46*

14 February 1945

File 319.1

SUBJECT: Monthly Activity Journal - January, 1945.

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

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

1 January 1945 - WOERTH, FRANCE: 1st Battalion: Companies "A", "B" and "C" employed in forward VI Corps defensive positions (BAERENTHAL - PHILIPPSBOURG-BANNSTEIN sector SE of BITCHE) under control of TF HUDELSON, and supporting 125th Engr Bn, 117th Cav Rcn Gp, and 62nd AIB. Strong and unchecked enemy infiltration forced withdrawal from positions. 2nd Battalion: (Co. "D" - LEMBACH - ZITTEZSHEIM; Co. "E" - LIEBERANENTHAL; Co. "F" - NIEDERBRONN). 2nd Battalion continued construction of MAGINOT Defense Line. Operation of REICHSHOFFEN Foundry was temporarily discontinued.

2 Jan - 5 Jan 45 - RAON L'ETAPE, FRANCE: 1st Battalion: Following serious loss of equipment and numerous personnel due to forced withdrawal from supporting defensive positions, 1st Battalion re-grouped OBERSOULTZBACH (Co. "A"); BOUXWILLER (Co. "B"); LA PETITE PIERRE (Co. "C"). 2nd Battalion completed orderly movement to PETERSBACH (Co. "D"); WEITERSWILLER (Co. "E"); NIEDERBRONN (Co. "F"). Work was discontinued on MAGINOT Defense Line and work was started on HAGUENAU position. Regiment engaged in MLR construction: defensive wire; preparing roads for mines and craters and designated roads and railway bridges for demolition action; prepared road blocks and maintained guard of road blocks and minefields; hauled and spread sand, gravel and cinders on roads.

6 Jan - 12 Jan 45 - LUTZELBOURG, FRANCE: Company CP's located at: (Co. "A" - OBERSOULTZBACH; Co. "B" - BOUXWILLER; Co. "C" - LA PETITE PIERRE and WEITERSWILLER; Co. "D" - PETERSBACH; Co. "E" - WEITERSWILLER and LA PETITE PIERRE; Co. "F" - 680289 E FRANCE MAP SH XXXVII - 14, 1:50,000). Construction of HAGUENAU position continued. MLR Details: procured materials and constructed defensive wire; including reinforcement of existing wire construction; preparation of abatis, CHEVAL DE FRES, gun emplacements and foxholes; clearing underbrush and numerous trees for improving fields of fire (141st Inf); furnished guard details for designated road blocks and bridges, prepared for demolition; swept suspected fields and trails in forward areas for mines.

ROAD WORK: Hauled material and established stockpiles of cinder/sand/gravel; spread cinder, sand and gravel at dangerous curves and grades; furnished equipment and personnel for clearing snow from roads in forward VI Corps area and patrolling details for clearing of snow drifts and obstacles from routes.

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BASIC - Hq 540th Eng. Regt(C)  
14 Feb 45 (Cont'd)

11 Jan - 12 Jan 45 - GENERAL: 1st Battalion alerted and moved to assembly area WIMMENEAU, preparatory to occupying supporting defensive line positions. (Co. "A" deployed in WIMMENEAU defensive out-post position). 2nd Battalion alerted for commitment as reserve Infantry support (Co. "E" and Co. "F" in out-post defensive positions WINGEN).

13 Jan - 20 Jan 45 - BOUXWILLER, FRANCE: Co. "A" - OBERSOULTZBACH; Co. "B" - BOUXWILLER; Co. "C" - WEITERSWILLER; Co. "D" - PETERSBACH; Co. "E" - LA PETITE PIERRE; Co. "F" - 680289 E FRANCE MAP SH XXXVII - 14, 1:50,000. Work on HAGUENAU defense line was continued. MLR Details: Procured materials and constructed defensive wire including improvement of existing construction; excavation of light and heavy gun emplacements and cleared brush, trees and stumps for improvement of fields of fire; laid defensive mine-fields and prepared mine-field signs; made preparations for and constructed abatis; swept forward area roads for mines and maintained bridge guard.

ROAD WORK: Continued establishment of cinder/sand/ gravel stockpiles; spread sand at dangerous curves and grades; improved drainage ditches and continued snow plow work on important routes, removing snow and slush.

GENERAL : Procured raw materials and operated factory at REICHSHOFFEN, producing pickets, drift pins and turn plate and hauled finished product to Engineer Dump. Work was discontinued 20 January.

21 Jan - 31 Jan 45 - LUTZELBOURG, FRANCE: Co. "A" - PHALSBOURG; Co. "B" - BOUXWILLER - LUTZELBOURG; Co. "C" - HENRIDORF; Co. "D" - BUST; Co. "E" - PHALSBOURG; Co. "F" - ESCHBOURG - PHALSBOURG. The HAGUENAU position was extended and improved and construction was started on VOSGES position. MLR Details: Laid designated minefields, constructed defensive wire; felled numerous trees to form abatis blocks; constructed T/D positions, machine gun and automatic weapon emplacements, including preparation of camouflage for gun positions and personnel shelters; prepared designated bridges, underpasses and culverts for demolition (less charges); prepared demolition charges in designated dumps and provided guard.

ROAD WORK: Maintained road patrol and continued establishment of sand stockpiles along highways, spread sand on icy stretches of highways and at dangerous curves and grades; continued snow plow work removing snow and slush from important routes; constructed snow-drift fence; furnished details for drainage of highways.

GENERAL : Removed stores of enemy ammunition from theater building at CIREY and checked building for demolition charges and booby traps.

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*George W. Marvin*  
GEORGE W. MARVIN  
Colonel, C.E.,  
Commanding.

B/L - Hq 540th Engr Regt  
14 Feb 45 (Cont'd)

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7 Inclosures:

- Incl #1 - Unit Journal, Personnel Section (trip)
- Incl #2 - Unit Journal, 2 Section, 540th Engr Regt (trip)
- Incl #3 - Unit Journal, 3 Section, 540th Engr Regt (trip)
- Incl #4 - Unit Journal, 4 Section, 540th Engr Regt (trip)
- Incl #5 - Unit Journal, S Co., 540th Engr Reg (trip)
- Incl #6 - Unit Journal, 1st Bn, 540th Engr Regt (trip)
- Incl #7 - Unit Journal, 2d Bn, 540th Engr Regt (trip)

Info cc - CG, VI Corps

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HEADQUARTERS  
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL OFFICER  
APO 758

L-1144

ACTIVITY JOURNAL

JANUARY 1945

- January 1, 1945 WOERTH, FRANCE Usual Regimental Personnel Section duties. BCR submitted on Captain Thomas G. Hudson and Tec 5 Charles J. Bay who were KIA on 31 December 1944. The section was alerted at 1000 hours for move to the rear due to the tactical situation. Loaded trucks and left Woerth at 2200 hours for Raon L'Etape, France.
- Jan 2 - 11, 1945 RAON L'ETAPE, FRANCE Arrived Raon L'Etape on the morning of 2 January 1945. Personnel Section was set up and operating by early afternoon of the same day. Usual Regimental Personnel Section duties, personnel correspondence, morning reports, G-1 reports and daily ration strength. Submitted BCR covering the casualties received by this regiment during the German attack of 1 January 1945. Prepared S/R's and allied papers of 3 EM returning to the US on temporary duty and on Tec 4 John Mast, Company "D" who was transferred to the 370th Engineer Bn per Ltr Orders, Hqs 7th Army, dated 2 January 1945. Submitted Personnel Replacement Requisition to G-1, 7th Army for 7 EM, 6 of these being hospitalized personnel awaiting return to this regiment. Received three officers as rotation replacements for Lt Behrens, Lt Chisholm and Lt Freemire. Lt Kilby assigned to Co "A", Lt Jones assigned to Co "B" and Lt Zanotti to Co "C". On 7 January the morning report section moved to Lutzelbourg, France to work with the Forward C.P. Discontinued allotments of Private Madora, Co "E" who had been AWOL for over 15 days. Section loaded trucks and moved to Lutzelbourg on 12 January 1945. Set up section in building previously occupied by the Forward C. P. which had moved to Bouxwiller, France.
- Jan 12 - 20, 1945 LUTZELBOURG, FRANCE Usual Regimental Personnel Section duties. Prepared Final Statement on Pvt Vincent Lazzaro, Co "C", who died of wounds received on 1 January. Prepared Missing Statements on 17 EM of this regiment who were still missing in action. Submitted these to O.C. CULBRETH, Major FD. Prepared BCR on Lt Trigg - from MIA for 12 days to alive and in hospital. Prepared DD payroll on Pvt Pobanz, Co "B" and submitted it to the Finance Officer. Checked and boxed effects of Captain Hudson and Tec 5 Bay and delivered them to S-4 for shipment to the Effects Quartermaster. Prepared officers pay vouchers and EM payrolls, obtained signatures and submitted them to the Finance Officer. Prepared inventory of effects on Pvt Lazzaro, checked and boxed effects and delivered them to S-4. Submitted Replacement Requisition for 6 EM to bring Regiment to T/O strength.
- Jan 21 - 31, 1945 LUTZELBOURG, FRANCE Usual Regimental Personnel Section duties. Prepared work sheets for officers efficiency reports and sent them to the reporting officers. Submitted Replacement Requisition for 8 EM to bring the regiment to T/O strength. Enlisted mens payrolls and officers vouchers for month of January 1945 paid. Prepared Non BCR on Sgt Bert Sons of Co "A" who was killed during an altercation with another soldier.

2 Incls:

Annex # 1 Assigned Present and Absent Strength  
and changes during month of January 1945

Annex # 2 Casualty Statement.

*H. Clifford*  
T. F. CLIFFORD,  
Captain, C. E.,  
Ass't Adj (Pers)

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ANNEX # 1, ASSIGNED PRESENT AND ABSENT STRENGTH  
AND CHANGES DURING MONTH  
1 JANUARY 1945 - 31 JANUARY 1945.

ASSIGNED PRESENT & ABSENT STRENGTH 31 DECEMBER 1944. (OFF) (WO) (EM)				TRANSFERS & ABS DRPD FR ROLLS				MIA KIA ETC			MISCELLANEOUS OTHERS TRFD OUT		REASGD FR DRPD FR ROLLS		ASGD OTHER REPL ETC		TRANSFERS WITHIN REGT		ASSIGNED PRESENT & ABSENT STRENGTH 31 JANUARY 1945. (OFF) (WO) (EM)	
Regt'l Hqs	13										2 Off				4 Off		- 3 Off		12	
Medical Det	5		41		3 EM			2 EM					1 EM		1 EM				5	38
H & S Co	3	1	167		2 EM								2 EM				2 EM		3	169
Hq 1st Bn	2		8														2 EM		2	8
Co "A"	5		200		6 EM		4 EM						4 EM				1 Off	1 EM	5	193
Co "B"	5		195		5 EM		1 EM	1 Off				1 EM(GP)	6 EM				1 Off		5	194
Co "C"	4		196		8 EM		14 EM				1 EM		2 EM				2 Off		5	175
Hq 2nd Bn	2		8																2	8
Co "D"	5		190		2 EM						1 EM		4 EM						5	191
Co "E"	4		196		2 EM						1 EM(GP)		2 EM				1 Off		5	195
Co "F"	5		193		2 EM								8 EM				1 EM		5	198
Totals	53	1	1394		30 EM		21 EM	1 Off			2 Off		29 EM			4 Off	5 Off		54	1369
																	3 EM			
																	3 EM			

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NARA Date [signature]



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540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL OFFICER  
APO 758

ANNEX # 2.

CASUALTY REPORT

MONTH OF JANUARY 1945

DOW

Pvt	Vincent J. Lazzaro	42102900	Co "C"	1 January 1945
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SWA

Tec 5	Orris W. Corney	36184049	Co "A"	1 January 1945
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LWA

Pfc	William Scheffer	32700674	Co "A"	1 January 1945
Pvt	Clarence J. Atchison	36338857	Co "C"	1 January 1945
Pvt	Arthur R. Cline	37143797	Co "C"	1 January 1945

MIA

*	1st Lt	William R. Trigg III	01109716	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Tec 5	Edward Baurele	33178081	Co "A"	1 January 1945
	Pfc	Donald B. Downs	37511846	Co "A"	1 January 1945
**	Pfc	Arthur W. Nellis	37264665	Co "A"	1 January 1945
	Sgt	Roy W. Cassidy	14017964	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Sgt	Andrew J. Hamilton	33275045	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Sgt	Charles J. Struckel Jr	35379277	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Tec 5	Paul F. Achterberg	18154088	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Pfc	Stewart H. Hatch	31301636	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Pfc	Birl P. Holmes	39040564	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Pfc	Bennie H. Honey	37626438	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Pfc	Harold G. Ireland	37729260	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Pfc	James S. Kelly	35497504	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Pvt	Eugene J. Lytle	38565777	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Pvt	Lloyd C. White	31034680	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Pvt	Leonard C. Woolery	37077039	Co "C"	1 January 1945
	Pvt	Jesse W. Lott	38266310	Co "C"	1 January 1945
***	Pfc	Gerald N. Coats	35291914	Co "B"	1 January 1945
	Pfc	Harold E. Cunningham	35357487	Med Det	1 January 1945
	Tec 4	John Johnsen	20244359	Med Det	1 January 1945

DIED (NBC)

Sgt	Bert Sons	36076748	Co "A"	14 January 1945
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\* From MIA to AIW - 13 January 1945

\*\* From MIA to RTD - 5 January 1945

\*\*\* From MIA to RTD - 5 January 1945

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HEADQUARTERS  
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SUPPLY OFFICER  
APO #758

6 February 1945

Subject: Journal for Month of January.

To : C. O. 540th Engr. Regt., A. P. O. #758.

During the month the S-4 Section requisitioned and issued to the Companies, all necessary rations, gas, oil, lubricants and anti-freeze. Tents and shoes in need of repair were taken into the Quartermaster Salvage Repair Company and repaired or exchanged and returned to the Companies.

The following items were procured and issued to the units within the Regiment for replacement of Battle Loss and Initial Issue:

116	ea	Jackets, field M-43
531	pr	Socks, wool, ski
107	pr	Shoe Pacs, Artic
196	pr	Overshoes, artic
404	ea	Bags, sleeping
388	ea	Cans, meat
404	ea	Poles, tent, shelter
4	ea	Range, field, M-1937
1,450	ea	Blankets, wool, O.D.
39	ea	Apparatus, decontaminating, 1½-qt
10	ea	Detector Sets, Mine, AN/PRS
1	ea	Alarm, gas
1	ea	Kit, chemical agent detector, M-9
4	ea	Watch, pocket
11	ea	Binoculars, M-3
7	ea	Trailers, 2-wheel, pole type
1	ea	Trailer, low bed, 8-ton
16	ea	Trailer, 1-ton, 2-wheel, cargo
1	ea	Tractor, W/angledozer, D-4
1	ea	Tractor, W/angledozer, D-7
2	ea	Truck, ½-ton, 4 x 4, C & R
2	ea	Motorcycle, Solo
10	ea	Carbine, Cal..30, M1A1
10	ea	Heaters, water, submersion type
24	ea	Panels, motor vehicle marking
3	ea	Telescope, M18
6	ea	Radio Sets, SCR-511, complete
502	pr	Gloves, heavy leather
300	pr	Socks, wool, heavy
8	ea	Guns, 57mm on carriage M1A2 & M1A3

The following listed Fuel and Ammunition was procured and distributed to the Units within the Regiment:

10	ton	Coal
4½	"	Coke
4,200	ea	Mines, AT

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9	Case	Ammunition, cal..30, Carbine
35	"	Ammunition, cal..30, 5-rd clips
35	"	Ammunition, cal..30, 8-rd clips
63	"	Ammunition, cal..30, 250-rd fiber belt, MG
7	"	Ammunition, cal..30, Tracer
105	"	Ammunition, cal..50, AP & Tracer (9-1) MLB
70	"	Grenades, Frag, hand
70	"	Grenades, Rifle, AT
1	"	Grenade, incendiary
70	"	Rockets, AT
680	"	Ammunition, 57mm, AT, AP

Two (2) days rations (1 "C" and 1 "K") was drawn and issued to the units of the Regiment to be carried in stock for emergency use only.

Water points were set-up and operated in Lutzelbourg, Raon L'Etape and Ingwiller for Corps and Army troops, a total of 246,825 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.

Monthly Material in Hands of Troops Report submitted to the Commanding General, 7th Army with an information copy to G-4 VI Corps submitted on the 17th January 1945.

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

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H & S Co

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HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE COMPANY  
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT  
A.P.O. #758, % POSTMASTER, N.Y., N.Y.

14 February 1945

SUBJECT: Journal for month of January 1945

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, 540th Engineer Regiment, APO #758, U.S.ARMY

Furnished necessary enlisted men personnel for the operation of the following Regimental Staff Sections, S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, Personnel and Regimental Motor Pool. Operated showers for Officers and enlisted men as well as troops in surrounding area. Operating Regimental gas dump, which supplies an average of 4000 gallons of gas and oil daily to regiment. Operating three water points at the following places Roan L'Etape, Ingweiler, Lutzelbourg, France which supplies an average of 50,000 gallons of water per day. All trucks and air compressors dispatched throughout the month to battalions for road, bridge and construction work on all highway, as well as hauling material for fixed front line sites. Operating switchboard and maintaining telephone and signal communication for regiment. Operating Officers and Enlisted men Rest Camp at Mirecourt, France. Operating and maintaining Regimental Heavy Equipment Motor Pool, as well as dispatching all equipment throughout the month. Furnished daily guard for Regimental Headquarters and our company, as well as daily guard for water points. Operating and maintaining generators which supplies electricity for Regimental Headquarters and our Company. Started moving bridge dump from Igney, to Lutzelbourg. Set up advance C.P., at Bouxweiler, on 14th January 1945. Moved from Woerth, France to Roan L'Etape, France on 1 January 1945 in advance to set up site for Regimental Headquarters. Moved from Roan L'Etape, France to Lutzelbourg, France on 6 January 1945, set up site for Regimental Headquarters. Normal Regimental Headquarters and Service Company functions.

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

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