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HEADQUARTERS

60TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

APO 35 c/o Postmaster, New York, NY

2 September 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

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

THRU : Commanding General, 35th Infantry Division,
APO 35 c/o Postmaster, New York, New York.

In compliance with 1st indorsement, letter Headquarters First United States Army, File Ref: 319.1/401 (C) dated 13 July 1944, forwarded herewith Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

For the Commanding Officer:

Charles W. Harris
CHARLES W HARRIS
1st Lt CE
Adjutant

2 Incls:

- 1 - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/
After Action Reports.
- 2 - Journal, 60th Engr Combat Bn

319.1

1st Ind

RGC/mla

(2 Sep 44)

HQ 35TH INF DIV, APO 35, U S Army, 20 Sep 44

TO: Commanding General, XII Corps, APO 312, U S Army

Forwarded in compliance with paragraph 2, Memo 2, Headquarters XII Corps,
2 August 1944.

For the Commanding General:

Richard G. Chadwick
RICHARD G. CHADWICK
Lt. Col., A. G. D.
Adjutant General

2 Incls
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HEADQUARTERS

60TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 35 c/o Postmaster, New York, NYACTION AGAINST ENEMY, REPORTS AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORTS.
1-31 August 1944

On 1 August 1944, 60th Engineer Combat Battalion was located $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of St Lo, Manche, France. Key officers were: Major Edwin C Pumroy, Commanding Officer; Major Thomas E Virgin, Executive Officer; Major Philip Botchin, S-3; Capt Robert W Johnston, S-2; 1st Lt Charles W Harris, S-1; 1st Lt Robert H Houk, S-4; Capt Frank G Rennis, Assistant Division Engineer; Capt Elwyn W Smith, Commanding Officer Hq and Serv Co; Capt Tim Mercer, Commanding Officer Company A; Capt Charles W Jones, Commanding Officer Company B; Capt Fred B Waters, Jr, Commanding Officer, Company C. Strength of the battalion was 28 Officers, 3 Warrant Officers, 578 Enlisted Men.

At the beginning of this period, this battalion was facilitating the advance of the 35th Infantry Division in its southward attack toward Torigni-sur-Vire and the Vire river. In this operation, the battalion's missions were to reconnoiter Souleuvre river for crossing sites; assist in crossing foot elements; construction of fords for movement of anti-tank weapons across river; assist in the construction of treadway bridges across Souleuvre river by supporting units; sweeping, posting, and maintaining roads in division zone. After the capture of Torigni-sur-Vire and the crossing of the river, the division was pinched off four miles north of Vire.

Battalion remained in bivouac, alerted for movement 5-6 August 1944 and moved out at 2300, 6 August 1944 for bivouac in the vicinity of St Hilaire du Harcourt, a distance of 60 miles, closing at 0410, 7 August 1944. Here the division's mission was to resist the enemy attempt to break through at Mortain. The battalion supported this mission by preparing an engineer barrier plan, directly supporting the three infantry regiments, operating defensive patrols, clearing roads into and in Mortain of knocked out tanks, tank destroyers, vehicles, animals and debris, and maintaining main supply routes in division zone.

On 13 August 1944, battalion moved on night motor march to the vicinity of Le Mans. CP closed at 132305 and opened at 141000. Here, division was detached from First United States Army and attached to Third United States Army and began participation in its eastward advance. Battalion moved from Le Mans to Boussy, 16 August 1944, as advance guard for the division artillery and moved from there to Theville, three miles south of Chateaudun on 16 August 1944. One platoon, Company B, was attached to Task Force "S" which moved on to occupy Orleans. Company B (-) was in direct support. This company removed incendiary and delayed action devices on steel girders and supports in Free French Headquarters in Orleans, cleared debris from streets and operated water units in the city. Approximately 60,000 to 80,000 gallons of water per day was supplied for civilian and military use in Orleans despite the fact that one of the cities two supply sources, and city water mains had been destroyed by the retreating enemy, and the La Loire river was inaccessible due to small arms, mortar and artillery fire. In addition to normal intelligence information, special reports were prepared in connection with a large enemy air field and a well stocked enemy map depot captured at Chateaudun.

Battalion moved 19 August 1944 to three miles north of Artenay. While there, 338 captured railway cars loaded with enemy equipment were inventoried. On 21 August 1944, battalion moved to five miles south west of Montargis. There, a mined and boobytrapped

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Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports HQ 60th Engr C Bn 1-31 Aug 44.

abatis 350 feet long was cleared from the main supply route, and a steel rail obstacle removed. Company A captured bridges on the east-west highway through Montargis, intact, and Company C seized bridges on the north-south highway through Montargis, intact. Extensive road and bridge reconnaissance was made of this area.

On 25 August 1944, battalion moved to $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Courtenay. Prepared engineer barrier plan from Orleans to Troyes, and repainted blotted out highway signs along the highway between the two cities.

Battalion moved on 29 August 1944 to 10 miles southwest of Troyes. Battalion established and manned road blocks southwest of Troyes and made preparations for destroying all bridges crossing Seine river from Verrieres to Courtenot, to protect division south flank from armored threat. Throughout most of the month, normal combat team attachments were in effect.

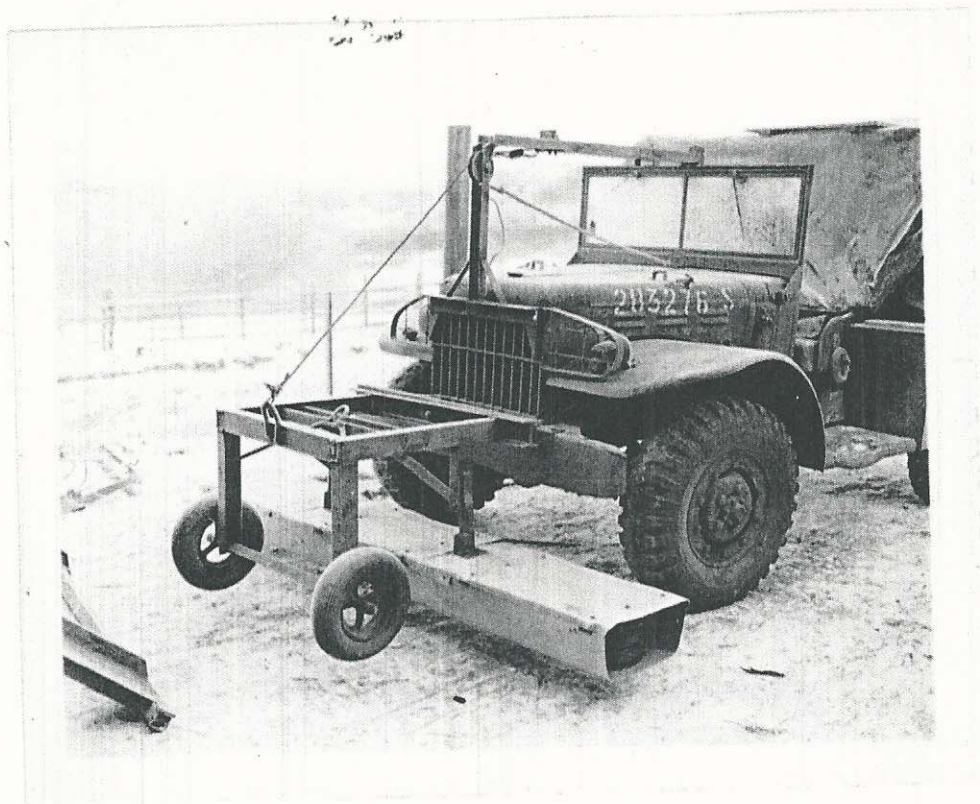
The construction of a ford across the Souleuvre river on the night of 2-3 August 1944 under intermittent small arms, mortar and interdicting artillery fire by a squad and a bulldozer, under the command of 1st Sgt James B Glidewell, Company A, was of great importance in that it permitted early crossing of anti-tank weapons in support of the infantry which had waded across the river. 1st Sgt Glidewell was recommended for appointment as second lieutenant, Corps of Engineers. At a formal presentation ceremony held 13 August 1944, the citations for the six Bronze Stars awarded members of Company A, were read to the battalion, and awarded to S Sgt Haroldean Miller and Tec 4 Jack Hack. Sgt Arthur Velten, Pfc Louis J Yasparro, Pvt Edwin J McIntyre, and Pvt Charles Smith were not available for the presentation, having been previously wounded in action and evacuated.

There were three enlisted men wounded in action, and nine enlisted men of Company A were captured by the enemy in the action at Mortain. There were 27 non-battle casualties, most of which were sickness. Battalion received seven replacements, and seven enlisted men returned to duty from hospitals.

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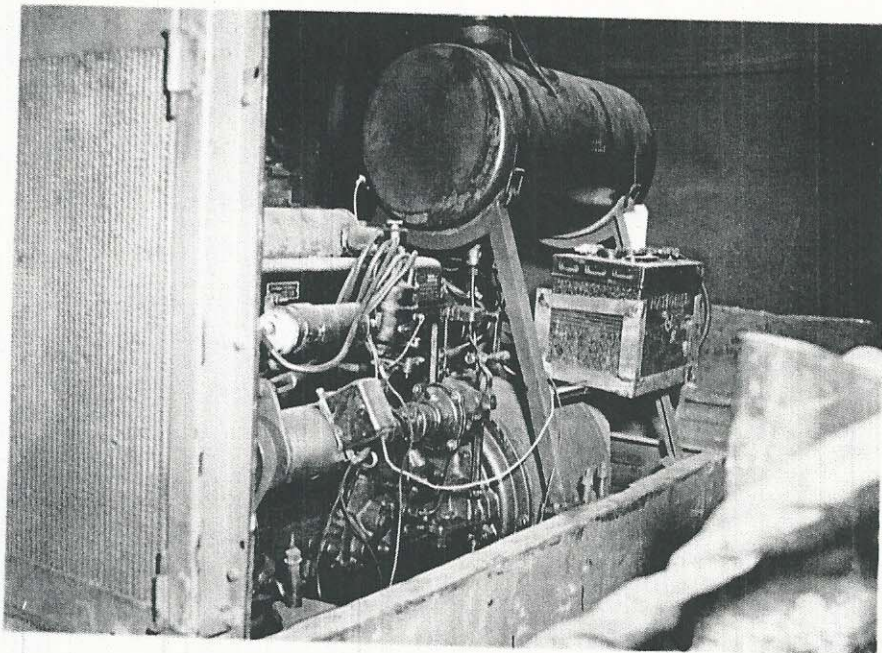


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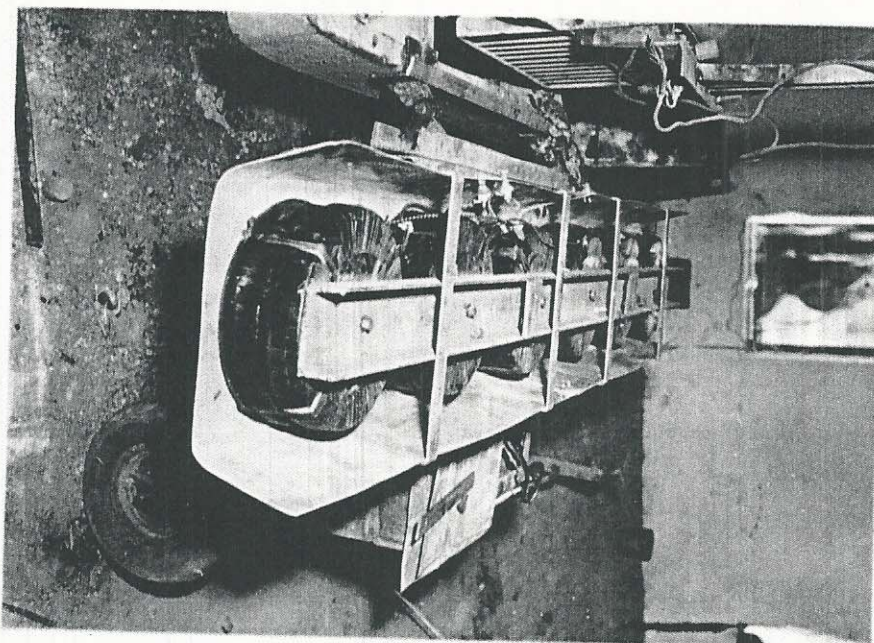
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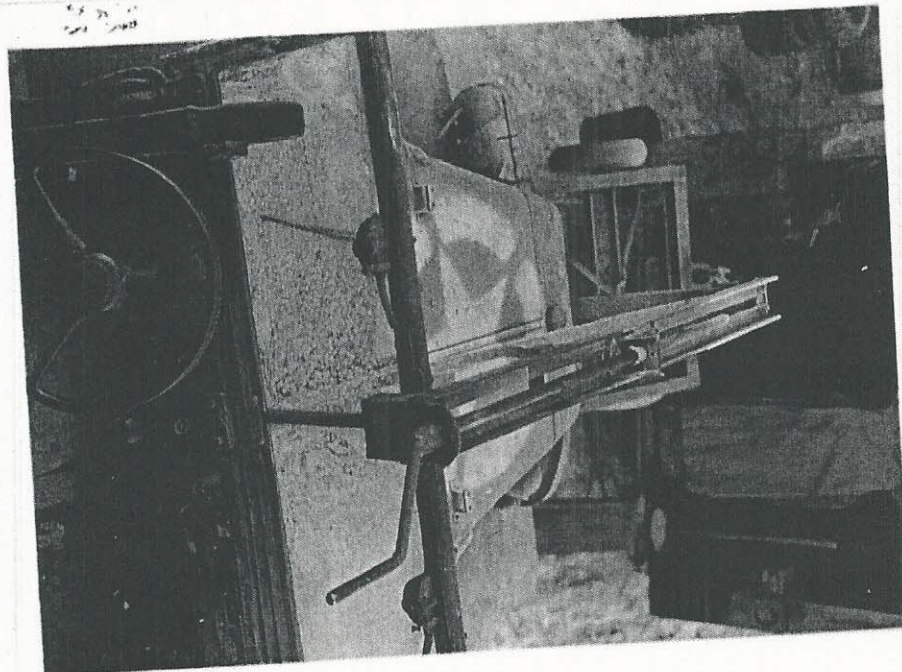
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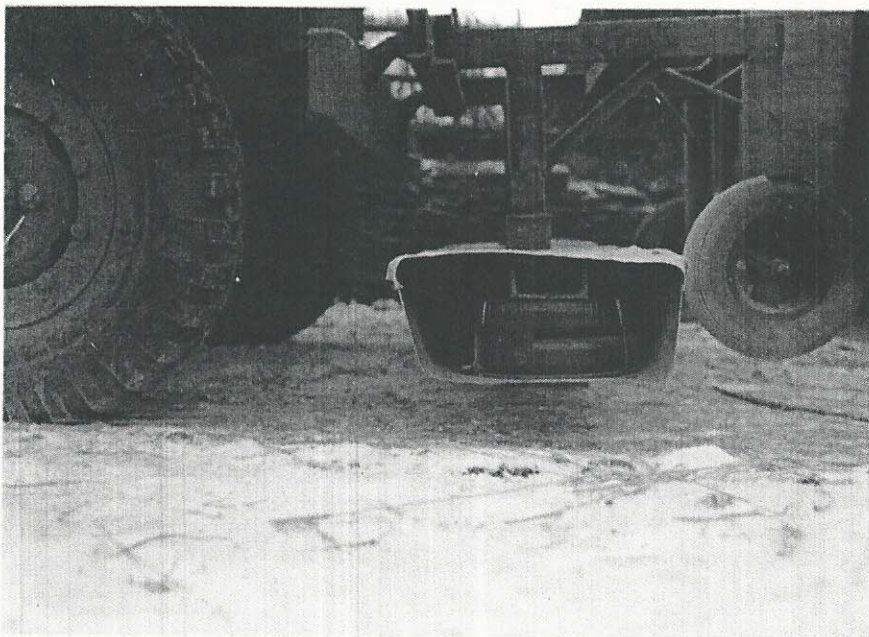
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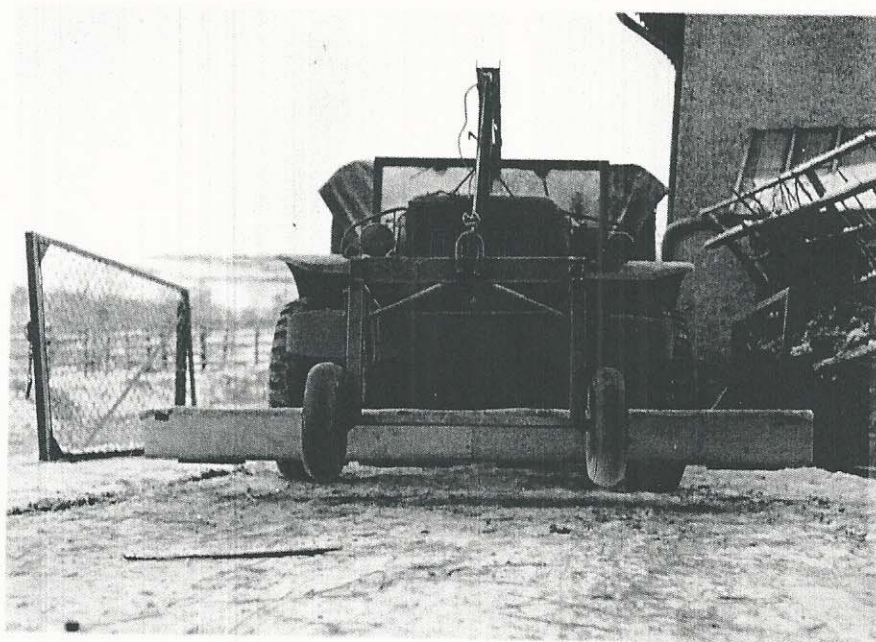
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No. 1 DATE 30 JULY 44

To CD 60TH ENGR C BN

CP CLOSES AT OLD LOCATION

HND OPENS AT T-626665

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CD 1121 ENGR CGP

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