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HEADQUARTERS  
60TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
APO 35 c/o Postmaster, New York, NY

Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

Initials *RH*

Date *13 Oct 44*

4 October 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 D Meckes*  
CHARLES D MECKES  
1st Lt CE  
Adjutant

3 Incls:

- 1 - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.
- 2 - Journal, 60th Engr Combat Bn *not rec'd 28 Nov 44 Combat Analysis mcz*
- 3 - Daily Engineer Situation Reports for the month of September *not rec'd 28 Nov 44 Combat Analysis mcz*

319.1 1st Ind  
(4 Oct 44)  
HQ 35TH INF DIV, APO 35, U S Army, 12 Oct 44

RGC/mla

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

Forwarded in compliance with paragraph 2, letter Headquarters Third U. S. Army, AG 314.7 (GNMCF), subject: Action Against Enemy, Reports After, dated 24 September 1944.

For the Commanding General:

*sf*

3 Incls  
n/c

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

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## S E C R E T

## HEADQUARTERS

60TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

APO 35 c/o Postmaster, New York, NY

ACTION AGAINST ENEMY, REPORTS AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORTS  
1-30 September 1944

At the beginning of this period, this battalion was engaged in the mission of constructing road blocks and fortifications for the protection of the right flank of the 35th Infantry Division from Orleans to Troyes, France. On 1 September 1944 Lieutenant Colonel John B Canada was assigned to this unit and assumed command and Major Edwin C Pumroy became Executive Officer. Other key officers were Major Philip Botchin, S-3; Capt Charles W Jones, S-2; Capt Robert H Houk, S-4; Capt Frank G Rennis, ADE; 1st Lt Charles W Harris, S-1; Capt Robert W Johnston, Commanding Officer Hq and Serv Co; Capt Tim Mercer, Commanding Officer Company A; Capt Elwyn W Smith, Commanding Officer Company B; Capt Fred B Waters, Jr. Commanding Officer Company C; Strength of the battalion was 28 Officers, 3 Warrant Officers, 566 Enlisted Men.

The Battalion was in bivouac 10 miles southwest of Troyes. Normal combat team attachments were in effect and the remainder of the battalion constructed and manned road blocks on roads leading from the south and southeast to Division Headquarters. On 2 September 1944, the Battalion (-) moved 48 miles to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of Rosnay l'Hopital. Very extensive road, bridge and engineer reconnaissance was made at this area.

On 8 September 1944 the Battalion moved to an area  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile northeast of Crezilles, France, a distance of 90 miles. At this area, preparations were made for the crossing of the Moselle River, approximately 10 to 13 miles southwest of Nancy. On 10 September 1944, Regimental combat teams were dissolved. Company A was attached to the 134th Infantry Regiment and Company B to the 137th Infantry Regiment. Company C was Battalion reserve.

The 1135th Engineer Combat Group was placed in support of the Division for the immediate river crossing operation.

One bridge across the Moselle river at Flavigny was seized intact by the second platoon of Company A under the command of 1st Lt Roland F Moureau and enemy wiring for demolition was cut. This platoon then crossed with the Second Battalion of the 134th Infantry Regiment and the bridge head was held for six hours. The bridge was destroyed by enemy heavy artillery. This force was then counterattacked by tanks and infantry and forced to withdraw across the river. Plans and preparations were made to force a crossing from the Foret de Benney to the northeast across the Moselle and the canal. Company B jumped off with the 137th Infantry Regiment with the 150th Engineer Combat Battalion in direct support to assault the river line at 3 sites in the 137th Infantry Regimental sector at 0500 11 September 1944 and encountered heavy enemy resistance. However, a small bridgehead was secured with approximately 2 companies of infantry. On 11 September 1944 at 1730, this force once again assaulted the river line and succeeded in crossing the bulk of the infantry regiment which more firmly established and enlarged the bridgehead. At 2300 the same day, construction of a treadway bridge was attempted in the vicinity of Grevechamps. However, heavy enemy small arms fire (20mm and 50 cal machine guns)

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forced a withdrawal of the engineer equipment and working parties at 0130 12 September 1944 south to the vicinity of Neuville-sur-Moselle. At 0400, Company B blew in the banks of the canal and constructed an expedient crossing. Enemy small arms fire was driven from this point during the morning daylight hours and construction of a treadway bridge was begun. Infantry support rafts were constructed by Company C and ferrying operations were begun at 1030. At 1230, treadway bridge, 156 feet in length was completed and opened to traffic. At 2350, 12 September, small arms fire was removed from the hostile shore and treadway equipment and work parties moved to that vicinity to begin construction. At 1220, 13 September, 360 feet of treadway bridge at that site was opened to traffic. At 1645, 13 September, Company C was attached to the 320 Infantry Regiment and the 133rd Engineer Combat Battalion was placed in direct support to assault the la Meurthe river in the vicinity of Rosieres aux Salines. At 1430 the same day, elements of the 320th Infantry Regiment had begun crossing the la Meurthe river in the face of light resistance. Two platoons of Company B seized a bridge intact over the la Meurthe river at Rosieres aux Salines, and constructed an expedient bridge across the canal. The following day Company C removed the expedient bridge and constructed a 50 foot Bailey bridge. Company A, still attached to the 134th Infantry Regiment, moved to a new assembly area south-east of Toul to join Task Force "S".

On the 15th September, the Battalion moved 2 miles southwest of Rosieres aux Salines. On 16 September, Company B blew in the banks of the L'Est canal east of Fleville so that passage of assault boats to the la Meurthe river for an assault crossing could be expedited. Company A constructed an expedient bridge over the L'Est canal in Nancy and advance elements of the 134th Infantry Regiment crossed without resistance. The following day Companies A and B cleared extensive minefields and roadblocks in their respective sectors while Company C constructed and maintained a 40 foot double-double Bailey bridge 300 yards east of Buissoncourt, facilitating the advance of the 320th Infantry Regiment.

On 18 September, the Battalion (-) moved to the vicinity of Gallencourt where the 1135th Engineer Combat Group was relieved of support and the 1117th Engineer Combat Group was placed in direct support.

During this entire phase of operations, the Battalion facilitated the advance of the Division by clearing numerous booby-trapped roadblocks and minefields and performed extensive maintenance of all roads and bridges in the Division sector.

On 19 September, Company C minus 1 platoon was relieved of attachment to the 320th Infantry Regiment. The following day Company B was relieved of attachment with the 137th Infantry Regiment and the Battalion was given the mission of protecting the right flank of the Division by defending and holding with engineer works, the line Sorneville, Mazerulles, west to the right flank of the 137th Infantry Regiment. Company A was relieved of attachment to Task Force "S" and reconnoitered routes of approach to engineer works in the Battalion sector.

On 25 September, the Battalion was relieved of its mission of protecting the right flank of the Division and assigned the mission of constructing extensive defense works on the Division main line of resistance. The 133rd Engineer Combat Battalion was in direct support of the 137th Infantry Regiment while the 150th Engineer Combat Battalion maintained the Division main supply route and roads in



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the Division rear area. As this Battalion was in direct support of the 134th Infantry Regiment, one engineer company was placed in support of each battalion in the Regiment. To expedite the progress of the 3rd Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment up to the main line of resistance, Company B constructed a class 10 expedient bridge over the la Seille river in the vicinity of Bey, using 6 ton pneumatic floats.

During this period, the Battalion destroyed a large enemy ammunition dump in the vicinity of Champenoux.

On 27 September, the Battalion (-) moved approximately 10 miles northwest to la Condale Farm a point centrally located in the 134th Infantry Regimental sector and continued to construct defensive works, utilizing barbed wire, AT and AP mines, booby traps, sandbags, and warning systems. Five bridges over the la Seille river in this sector were prepared for demolition and manned in the event of an enemy breakthrough.

On 13 September 1944, at a formal ceremony before the Battalion staff and Hq and Serv Company at Ceintrey, France, the Bronze Star Medal was awarded to Major Philip Botchin, Battalion S-3 for meritorious service performed at Orleans, France during August 1944. 1st Lt Richard C Strachan, S/Sgt John S Mortensen, Tec 5 Joseph B Staubach and Pfc Frederick J Meinekes, all of Company C were recommended for the Bronze Star Medal for gallantry in action at Manhoue, France. Cpl Thomas J J Downing was recommended for the posthumous award of the Silver Star Medal for heroic action at Flavigny, France. Major Edwin C Pumroy was recommended for the posthumous award of the Silver Star for gallantry in action at Nancy, France. Tec 5 Angelo J Mineconza was recommended for the posthumous award for the Bronze Star for gallantry in action at Nancy, France. Capt Elwyn W Smith, 1st Lt George W Bonc, Sgts Robert L Chesney, Elwin L Wright and Tec 5's Stanley, Delgado and William F Ague, all Company B, were recommended for the Silver Star for the capture of a bridge across the la Meurthe river at Rosieres aux Salines, France.

There were 5 Enlisted Men and 1 officer killed in action and 15 Enlisted Men and 1 Officer wounded during the period. The Battalion received 45 replacements and 26 hospital returnees. Two enlisted men were missing in action during the period. Most replacements were infantry trained with secondary Engineer MOS's and have proven very satisfactory. On 22 September the Battalion suffered a great loss when Major Edwin C Pumroy, Executive Officer, was killed in action while leading a patrol in the vicinity of Champenoux.

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