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Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

HEADQUARTERS 60TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 35 US ARMYInitials *RSC*Date *22 May 1945*
2 May 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy.

TO: The Adjutant General,
Washington, 25, D.C.

1. In compliance with the provisions of Par 10, C3, AR 345-105, submitted below is report after action against the enemy for the 60th Engineer Combat Battalion, covering the period 1-30 April 1945.

1 April 1945

At the beginning of this period, the battalion (-) was bivouaced at Gladbeck, Germany and was facilitating with engineer works the attack of the 35th Infantry Division. Co A, bivouacked at Buer Resse, was in direct support of the 134th Infantry Regiment. Co B, bivouacked in the vicinity of Buer Erle, was in direct support of the 137th Infantry Regiment, and Co C in direct support of the 320th Infantry Regiment. The 1103rd Engineer Combat Group was in general support of the battalion, with the 149th Engineer Combat Battalion in direct support.

Co A cleared roads of mines and debris, removed three road blocks in the 134th Infantry Regimental sector and removed explosives from the railroad underpass in Dinslaken. Co B cleared roads of mines and debris in the 137th Infantry Regimental sector and removed three crib road blocks, two near the autobahn in the vicinity of Gladbeck and one in the vicinity of Buer Resse. Co C cleared roads of mines and debris in the 320th Infantry Regimental sector and removed two road blocks, one near the autobahn south of Buer and the other on the main road between Horst and Butendorf.

2 April 1945

Battalion Headquarters and Co C moved by motor convoy northeast to Westerholt. Co A, closely supporting the advance of the 134th Infantry Regiment, cleared roads of mines and debris in its sector and filled a crater on a road southwest of Buer. Co B removed five road blocks in its sector on main roads in the vicinity of Herten, and destroyed four enemy anti-aircraft guns southeast of Buer Resse. Co C cleared roads of mines and debris in its sector and filled three craters, two on main roads in the vicinity of Recklinghausen, and one south of Buer. Co C also cleared a demolished railroad overpass from the autobahn south of Buer and removed two road blocks from the autobahn between Buer and Buer Erle. The battalion electro-magnet cleared metal fragments from the streets of Buer.

3 April 1945

During the morning Co's A and B assembled into bivouac with the battalion at Westerholt. Co A, in addition to clearing roads of mines and debris in its sector, extensive maintenance on organic vehicles and equipment, was performed. Co's B and C cleared debris and maintained roads in their respective sectors and Co C cleared a demolished overpass on the autobahn south of Herten. The battalion electro-magnet cleared metal fragments from all the main streets of Westerholt.

- 1 -
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DECLASSIFIED

735017

S E C R E T

Report After Action Against Enemy, Hq 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 2 May 45

4 April 1945

All companies accomplished extensive maintenance on organic transportation in addition to maintaining roads in their respective sectors. Co C removed a demolished overpass from the road south of Recklinghausen and removed explosives from a prepared crater on the road between Herten and Buer Erle. The battalion electro-magnet cleared metal fragments from the roads in the 35th Division sector.

5 April 1945

The 35th Infantry Division, with three regiments abreast, was now facing south along the Emscher Canal. As it was anticipated that the division would attack to the south, and because of the scarcity of engineer bridging equipment, it was deemed advisable to destroy the canal locks, thereby draining the canal so that heavy vehicular traffic and armor could cross on a culvert and fill. Shortly after midnight, patrols from all companies attempted to destroy the locks in their sector. Co A destroyed the north gate in their sector but while attempting to demolish the south lock, the demolition party was driven from the site by accurate enemy small arms fire. Co B destroyed the locks north-east of Herne but the demolition party from Co C was driven from their site by heavy enemy machine gun and mortar fire. During the day, Co B placed defensive wire at the north end of all bridges across the Rhein-Herne Canal and all companies continued extensive maintenance on all organic transportation. The battalion electro-magnet cleared metal fragments from the main streets of Herten and Buer Resse. Co A constructed an expedient foot bridge over the Emscher Canal on the main road between Buer Resse and Wanne-Eickel which was used by infantry patrols to cross to the south.

6 April 1945

Co B filled a crater on the main road south of Recklinghausen and constructed a two-way culvert and fill on a street in Recklinghausen Sud. All Co's maintained roads in their respective sectors and performed extensive maintenance on all organic vehicles. Co B maintained a motorized patrol and placed guards on all bridges and strategic points in the vicinity of Buer Erle and Langenbochum. As the 320th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 75th Division, Co C was relieved of direct support of the regiment at 2400 hours. Eighteen two and one-half ton vehicles were furnished by the battalion to transport elements of the 320th Infantry Regiment to Waltrop.

7 April 1945

Co A removed an enemy road block from the main road south of Herten and destroyed an enemy ammunition dump in the woods northeast of Buer. Co A also placed anti-personnel mines on the north bank of the Rhein-Herne Canal northwest of Wanne-Eickel to harass enemy patrols. Co B transported for AMG forty-five hundred pounds of water pipe and Co C maintained bridge guards and a motorized patrol in the vicinity of Buer-Erle and Langenbochum. All companies maintained roads in their respective sectors and the battalion electro-magnet cleared metal fragments from the streets of Recklinghausen Sud.

8 April 1945

Co A maintained bridge guards and a motorized patrol in the vicinity of Buer Erle, and Langenbochum. Co B filled a crater on the road south of Recklinghausen and removed three road blocks on main roads in the 137th Infantry Regimental sector so that two-way traffic could pass these critical points. Co C filled a crater on the autobahn south of Buer. The battalion electro-magnet cleared metal fragments from the streets of

DECLASSIFIED

735017

NADA Date

S E C R E T

Report After Action Against enemy, Hq 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 2 May 45

Recklinghausen Sud. All companies continued extensive maintenance of organic vehicles. As the 134th and 137th Infantry Regiments planned to attack to the south at 0600 on 9 April 1945, Co A moved to Buer Resse and Company B moved to Recklinghausen Sud so that they could better support their respective regiments.

9 April 1945

At 0600 the 134th and 137th Infantry Regiments abreast, attacked to the south across the Emscher and Rhein-Herne Canals. In the 134th Infantry Regimental sector, Co A constructed an expedient foot bridge over the Emscher Canal which was used by the assaulting troops. In the 137th Infantry Regimental sector, northwest of Herne, Co B decked a railroad bridge over both canals which allowed vehicular traffic and armor to cross in close support of the infantry. Co B also constructed two expedient foot bridges over the locks of the Rhein-Herne Canal at Horsthausen. Co C, in battalion reserve, maintained guard over several hundred persons (Allied Nationals) in the vicinity of Drewer Mark, and maintained guards at factories in the vicinity of Herten.

10 April 1945

In close support of the attacking regiments, Co A constructed a culvert and fill on the main thoroughfare in Gelsenkirchen and removed aerial bombs which were wired for demolition, from a railroad overpass in Rohlinghausen. All roads in the regimental sector were cleared of mines and all main streets in Gelsenkirchen were cleared of debris. Co B constructed an expedient road to facilitate the easy flow of traffic on the strip of land separating the Rhein-Herne and Emscher Canals at Recklinghausen Sud and removed three road blocks in the path of the attacking infantrymen. Co C maintained guard over displaced persons and factories in the division rear area as well as motor patrols and bridge guards.

11 April 1945

During the morning, Battalion Headquarters moved to Wanne-Eickel; Co A to Gelsenkirchen; and Co B to Herne. Co A, in addition to clearing roads of debris, removed road blocks in its sector, consisting of steel rails imbedded in the road. Co A also filled two craters on a road in the vicinity of Gelsenkirchen. Co B removed twenty-one road blocks in its sector, consisting largely of stone filled cribs, destroyed an enemy artillery piece with demolitions, and cleared roads of debris in its sector. Co C continued patrolling and guarding of factories and bridges in the division rear area. The battalion electro-magnet cleared metal fragments from roads between Recklinghausen Sud and Bochum.

12 April 1945

Co A moved to Bochum and continued clearance of roads and debris in its sector. Co A also removed eleven crib road blocks and filled numerous craters on important roads. Co B moved to Laerfeld and in its sector, removed eight timber road blocks. Co C continued patrolling and guarding of factories and bridges in the division rear area.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Report After Action Against Enemy, Hq 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 2 May 45

13-14 April 1945

The 35th Infantry Division had been pinched off, and was no longer in contact with the enemy. Plans were immediately made for the division to assemble east of Hanover and attack to the Elbe River. The division was attached to the XIII United States Army Corps but was assigned to the XIX United States Army Corps for operations until after arriving at the assembly area. The battalion moved north and east by motor convoy 220 miles, assembling into bivouac in Bahrdorf, Germany, at 1030, 14 April 1945. Plans were immediately made to attack east to the Elbe River the following morning.

15 April 1945

With normal combat team attachments in effect, the battalion moved east to Sandbelendorf, Germany. The 320th Combat Team with one platoon of Co C attached, was placed in XIX Corps reserve. The division, now attached to the XIII United States Army Corps, assembled along the west bank of the Elbe River. The Combat Teams were dissolved and the combat platoons of Co's A and B closed into bivouac at Sandbelendorf. Co A was placed in direct support of the 134th Infantry Regiment and Co B in direct support of the 137th Infantry Regiment.

16 April 1945

Co's A and B cleared roads of debris in their sectors and removed numerous road blocks. All Co's performed extensive maintenance on all organic vehicles.

17 April 1945

Twenty crib type road blocks were removed from the division sector by all companies and extensive road maintenance was performed. First and second echelon maintenance was performed on organic vehicles.

18 April 1945

Co A removed fourteen earth filled log obstacles in the 134th Infantry Regimental sector and cleared roads of debris and destroyed enemy vehicles. Co B removed road blocks in its sector and destroyed enemy explosives in the vicinity of Weissewarte. To thwart any enemy counter attack, and anti-tank mine road block was laid on the road east of Buch. Co C destroyed numerous enemy field pieces in the division rear area and performed extensive maintenance on organic vehicles.

19 April 1945

Co A cleared roads of mines and debris in its sector and laid anti-tank mine road blocks to thwart any mechanized attack the enemy might make. Co B destroyed enemy explosives in the vicinity of Briest and laid an anti-tank mine road block on the main road east of Grieben. Co C destroyed enemy explosives in the division rear areas as well as numerous field pieces.

20 April 1945

Co A cleared roads of debris and destroyed enemy munitions in the vicinity of Rogatz. Numerous trip flares were installed in this area so that enemy patrol activity could be easily detected. Co B cleared improvised enemy mines which had been buried

DECLASSIFIED

735017

NARA Date

S E C R E T

Report After Action Against Enemy, Hq. 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 2 May 45

just below the surface of the road running through the forest northwest of Colbitz. These improvised mines were probably laid by enemy troops operating in our rear areas, since this road had been travelled many times prior to the loss of a one-quarter ton vehicle. In the vicinity of Scheildorf, Co B constructed a two strand barbed wire fence with warning devices so that enemy patrols could be easily detected. Co C continued destruction of enemy munitions in the division rear areas.

21 April 1945

In addition to repair and maintenance of roads in its sector, Co A set trip flares on the 134th Infantry Regiment's outpost line of resistance and laid anti-tank mine road blocks. Co's B and C destroyed enemy mines, smoke pots and artillery pieces, and performed extensive maintenance on organic vehicles.

22 April 1945

The 1149th Engineer Combat Group was placed in general support of the battalion. Co A continued to set trip flares on the 134th Infantry outpost line of resistance and destroyed enemy explosives and a railway gun south of Salchau. Co B performed extensive road maintenance in the 35th Division sector and Co C posted guards at a captured signal supply point and maintained security motor patrols between Marlwinkle, Colbitz and Dolle.

23 April 1945

As the 320th Combat Team had been relieved of its mission, the platoon from Co C was released from attachment and assembled in Sandbeiendorf. The entire company moved to Hillersleben and guarded captured enemy installations in the area. Co A set numerous trip flares on the 134th Infantry Regiment outpost line of resistance and laid an anti-tank mine road block on the main road east of Heinrichsberg. Road patrols between Dolle, Marlwinkle and Colbitz were maintained by Co A while Co B performed extensive road maintenance in the 35th Division sector.

24 April 1945

Co A installed numerous trip flare warning devices in the 134th Infantry Regimental sector and Co C continued guarding of enemy installations in the vicinity of Hillersleben. During the rapid attack of the division, many woods had been by-passed and it was thought that enemy troops remained in the woods northeast of Colbitz. Co's A, B, and Headquarters Company, working in conjunction with one battalion of the 134th Infantry Regiment, cleared the woods but found no enemy troops.

25 April 1945

Co A installed numerous trip flare warning devices on the outpost line of resistance of the 134th Infantry Regiment, to harass enemy patrols in addition to continuing extensive road maintenance in the division sector in conjunction with Co B. Road patrols continued in the vicinity of Dolle, Marlwinkle and Colbitz and Co C continued guarding of enemy installations in the vicinity of Hillersleben. As the battalion planned to move to Hanover the following day, the 134th Infantry Regiment relieved the road patrol at 1600 hours and relieved Co C on the enemy installations which they were guarding at 1800 hours.

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735017

NADA: Date

S E C R E T

Report After Action Against Enemy, Hq 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 2 May 45

26-30 April 1945

On 35th Division order the battalion moved to Hannover, Germany, closing into bivouac at 1325 hours. The battalion was assigned the mission of occupying and governing the city and immediately relieved the troops who were patrolling the city. Fixed guard posts were established to guard enemy installations such as food warehouses, refineries, hospitals, ammunition dumps, and Russian, Czech, Polish, and Italian displaced persons camps. In addition, security patrols were operated twenty-four hours daily through the main sections of the city. Close liaison was established with the British Military Government establishments that were already in the city and a uniform policy was adopted. Liberated French prisoners of war had been previously armed by the British and these men were placed on guard duty at numerous enemy installations in the city. Numerous minefields approximately twenty miles southwest of Hannover were clearly marked and extensive road maintenance was immediately begun on the main thoroughfares of the city.

Battle casualties for the month of April 1945 are as follows.

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>FM</u>
KIA	0	0
DOW	0	0
SWA	0	2
SIA	0	0
LWA	0	2
LIA	0	0
MIA	0	0
TOTAL	0	4

During the month formal presentations of two Silver Stars and fifteen Bronze Stars were made. At Laerfeld, Germany, on 12 April 1945, the Bronze Star awarded by General Orders 25, Headquarters 35th Infantry Division dated 8 April 1945, was presented to Tec 4 Theodore F Binkowski, Company B, for heroic service at Rheinberg, Germany during March 1945. On the same date at Bochum, Germany, the Bronze Star awarded by General Orders 47 Headquarters 35th Infantry Division dated 7 October 1944, was presented to Sgt Edward Affenita, Company A, for heroic service in France during September 1944. On 24 April 1945 at Sandbelendorf, Germany, the Silver Star was presented to Tec 4 James G Meisel, Headquarters and Service Company, and Bronze Stars presented to Tec 4 Benjamin Juliano, Tec 5 Carl O Madsen, Pfc George J Muller of Headquarters and Service Company, and to Tec 5 Leo C Davis of Company B, for heroic service during the assault crossing of the Rhine River near Budberg-Eversael, Germany, 24 March 1945. These decorations were awarded by General Orders 27, Headquarters 35th Infantry Division dated 21 April 1945. On the same date at Sandbelendorf, Germany, the Bronze Star awarded by General Orders 26, Headquarters 35th Infantry Division, dated 12 April 1945, was presented to Tec 5 Roy H Mayone, Company B, for heroic service near Rheurdt, Germany, during March 1945. On 24 April 1945 at Sandbelendorf, Germany, Bronze Stars awarded by General Orders 27, Headquarters 35th Infantry Division, dated 21 April 1945 were awarded to 1st Lt Henry Townsend, Sgt Irving E Richardson, Tec 4 Howard H Smith and Cpl John R Spencer, all of Company B, for heroic service near Ossenbergh, Germany, during March 1945. On 30 April 1945, at Hannover, Germany, the Bronze awarded by General Orders 29, Headquarters 35th Infantry Division, dated 28 April 1945 was awarded to Capt Charles W Jones, Company B, for heroic service near Recklinghausen, Germany during this month. At Westerholt,

DECLASSIFIED

735017

NADA: Date

S E C R E T

Report After Action Against Enemy, Hq 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 2 May 45

Germany, on 5 April 1945, Capt Frank G Rennis was presented the Bronze Star awarded by General Orders 24 Headquarters 35th Infantry Division, dated 3 April 1945, for meritorious service in France, Belgium, and Germany. S Sgt George J Petricka and Pfc Francis R Keohan, both Company B, were posthumously awarded the Bronze Star by General Orders 25, Headquarters 35th Infantry Division dated 7 April 1945 and General Orders 26 Headquarters 35th Infantry Division, dated 12 April 1945, respectively, for heroic action during March 1945 during which actions both men were killed.

Awards received by members of this battalion are as follows:

	D S C		Legion of Merit		Silver Star		Bronze Star		Air Medal	
	Reg	OLC	Reg	OLC	Reg	OLC	Reg	OLC	Reg	OLC
OFFICERS	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
ENLISTED										
MEN	0	0	0	0	1	0	14	1	0	0

The number of Purple Hearts Medals awarded is: 15

Philip Botchin
 PHILIP BOTCHIN
 Lt Colonel CE
 Commanding

1 Incl:
 S-3 Journal 1-30 April 1945