

DECLASSIFIED

735017

NARA Date

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 60TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
APO 35  
US ARMY

Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

Initials: *Mc*

1 April 1945 - 16 Apr 45

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 1-31 March 1945.

1 MARCH 1945

At the beginning of this period the battalion was bivouaced in Ratheim, Germany with the mission of facilitating, with engineer works, the advance of the 35th Infantry Division. The division had successfully assaulted the Roer river line and Task Force Byrne was now spearheading the attack of the division to the Rhein. Company A, bivouaced in Wassenberg, was in direct support of the 134th Combat Team with one platoon attached. Company B, bivouaced in Wildenrath, was in direct support of the 137th Combat Team with one platoon attached. Company C, was attached to Task Force Byrne which was attacking NW along the E bank of the Roer river. The 1153 Engineer Combat Group was supporting the Battalion with the 280th Engineer Combat Battalion in direct support.

Facilitating the attack of Task Force Byrne, Company C cleared a demolished railroad overpass from the road NE of Gendorf and cleared roads of enemy mines and debris in the vicinity of Wassenberg. Co A removed AT mines, road blocks, and filled two craters on the road NW of Birgden. Co A also removed explosive charges from a culvert, cleared an enemy abatis, and filled an anti-tank ditch NW of Birgden, in addition to clearing two demolished railroad overpasses from the road N of Birgden. Co B cleared roads of mines and debris in its sector, removed anti-tank road blocks on the roads in the vicinity of Myhl, and removed explosive charges from two culverts, one on the road S of Arsbeck, and the other on the road W of Arsbeck. Co B also constructed an M-2 treadway bridge over a creek on the main road S of Arsbeck, and constructed a by-pass over the railroad tracks NW of Arsbeck.

2 MARCH 1945

Closely pursuing the retreating enemy Co C cleared roads of mines and debris NE of Venlo, Holland and continued the attack with Task Force Byrne. Co A moved by motor convoy to Venlo, Holland and cleared roads of mines in that area as well as filled 3 craters and an anti-tank ditch on the main road SW of Venlo, in Steil, Holland. Co B moved by motor convoy to Leuth and constructed and maintained the by pass S of Arsbeck until relieved by supporting Engineers. Battalion Headquarters moved by motor convoy to Kaldenkirchen, Germany.

3 MARCH 1945

In the early morning hours the spearheading tanks of Task Force Byrne penetrated into Sevelen but enemy soldiers infiltrated through our lines and demolished a bridge on the MSR, cutting off one Company of Infantry and one Company of tanks from support.

- 1 -  
S E C R E T

JUL 23 1945

7755  
master



DECLASSIFIED

holly

735017

NARA Date

## S E C R E T

## Report After Action Against Enemy, Hq, 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 1 April 45

Cpl Stanback and Tec 5 Meineker of Co C volunteering to patrol routes to the East and West of the demolished bridge located alternate routes and removed the demolitions from the bridges while the rest of the patrol engaged the enemy bridge guards, thereby making possible a quick reopening of the division MSR and a continuation of the attack without delay. Cpl Staubach and Technician Meineker have been awarded the Silver Star for this act.

Co A moved by motor convoy to Straelen, Germany and cleared roads of mines in that area. Co B cleared roads of mines SW of Venlo, Holland and removed aerial bombs which had been wired for demolition on a railroad overpass on the main road between Kaldenkirchen, Germany and Leuth, Germany. Co C moved to Straelen, Germany and filled a crater on the road SW of Westerbroek, Germany. The Battalion's electro-magnet road sweep cleared metal fragments from the road between Venlo and Belfeld. Battalion Headquarters moved to Venlo, Holland.

4 MARCH 1945

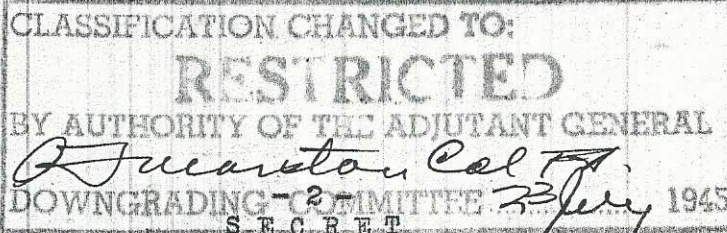
Continuing the attack North and East Co A filled two anti-tank ditches on the main road between Westerbroek and Geldern. Co B cleared roads of mines and debris, removed aerial bombs which had been wired for demolition on a small bridge over a stream NE of Rheurdt, and moved by motor convoy to Rheurdt. Co C removed explosives consisting of aerial bombs, artillery shells, and anti-tank mines from seven bridges in the vicinity of Nieukirk, removed explosives from two prepared craters, and removed three road blocks. Co C moved by motor convoy to Nieukirk.

5 MARCH 1945

The platoon from Co A which was attached to the 134th Infantry Regiment was released of attachment and the Company closed into bivouac at Leeg-Poelyck. Battalion Headquarters moved by motor convoy to Dahlenhof. At 0500 Co B closed into bivouac at Nieuwerk and removed explosives from a bridge over a creek SW of Lintfort. Co C removed explosives from prepared demolitions at two road junctions in Sevelen and from a bridge over a creek on the road W of Horstgen. Co C also cleared an abutment from the road NE of Sevelen and destroyed an enemy artillery piece west of Horstgen. In the afternoon Co B moved by motor convoy to Lintfort and cleared roads of mines in that area.

6 MARCH 1945

Battalion Headquarters moved by motor convoy to an area SW of Kamp. Co A removed explosives from a bridge which had been prepared for demolition on the main road SE of Sevelin. Companies B and C cleared roads of mines and debris in the division sector, Co C removed explosives from a culvert SW of Kamp, and moved by motor convoy to Lintfort.





DECLASSIFIED

735017

DATE

**S E C R E T**

Report After Action Against Enemy, Hq. 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 1 April 45

7 MARCH 1945

Co B moved by motor convoy to RHEINBERG and cleared roads of mines and debris in its area. Co B also removed explosives from a prepared abatis at the railroad tracks in WINTERSWICK. Co C removed explosives from a prepared crater north of LINTFORT destroyed an enemy artillery piece, and cleared the streets of LINTFORT of debris. Supporting engineers constructed a Class 40 Bailey Bridge over the Alter Rhein, on the main road north of RHEINBERG.

8 MARCH 1945

The bridge over the Goorley river west of LINTFORT has been destroyed by the retreating enemy, thereby daming the river. Co A supervised the clearing of this debris by civilian labor so that the water would not undermine the Bailey Bridge which had been constructed on the site by supporting engineers. Co B placed a tread on the Bailey Bridge North Of RHEINBERG and cleared debris from the streets of RHEINBERG. Task Force Byrne, attacking to the north, was assisted in their advance by Co C who cleared roads of mines and debris. Co C also destroyed an enemy AT mine dump north of Rheinberg.

9 MARCH 1945

Co A, in battalion reserve, conducted a "mine sweeper" school for the 807 TD battalion. Co B moved by motor convoy to LINTFORT and cleared roads of mines in the sector of the 137th Infantry regiment. Facilitating the attack of Task Force Byrne, Co C removed explosives from a prepared crater on the road north of KAMP, cleared roads of mines and debris, and destroyed enemy taffer mines in the vicinity of RUHLSHOF. Co C also constructed a modified class 40 treadway bridge over a stream on the road north of WESTERMANNSHOF and excavated gun emplacements for Division Artillery pieces in the vicinity of SAALHOFF. As the 134th Infantry Regiment was relieving Task Force Byrne the following morning, Co A was placed in direct support of the 134th Infantry Regiment to facilitate the attack north along the west bank of the Rhine.

10 MARCH 1945

Since Task Force Byrne was relieved by the 134th Infantry Regiment, Co C was relieved of attachment at 0630 hours. Co A, in support of the 134th Infantry Regiment moved by motor convoy to BAUERN. Co A cleared roads of enemy mines and debris in its sector and filled a large crater on the road west of BORTH. Co B cleared roads in its sector and filled a crater on the road north of OSSENBERG. Co B also repaired the treadway, extended the ramps of the Bailey Bridge on the main road north west of RHEINBERG and removed explosives from a prepared crater on the road west of RHEINBERG. Co C, in battalion reserve, cleared roads of debris in the division sector and excavated emplacements for Division Artillery pieces in the vicinity of NIEDERKAMP.



DECLASSIFIED

holly

735017

NANA: Dats

## S E C R E T

Report After Action Against Enemy, Hq, 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 1 April 45

11 MARCH 1945

Facilitating the attack of the 134th Infantry Regiment, Co A cleared 4 abutments in its sector as well as debris and enemy mines on roads. Co A constructed two culverts and fills, one of the road west of OSSINBERG, and the other over a ditch on the main road south west of BUDERICH. Co B cleared roads of mines and debris in its sector and filled two craters on roads, one north of RHINBERG, and the other north of OSSINBERG. Co B also removed destroyed tanks and equipment which were obstructing traffic on the road east of BORTH. Co C replaced a treadway bridge with a culvert and fill on the road south of ALPIN.

The 35th Infantry Division had reached its objective on the west bank of the Rhine, and plans were made for the 75th Infantry Division to relieve this division. As this division was to assemble in the vicinity of Kaldenkirchen, Co C replaced the Bailey Bridge on the main road west of HORSTGEN with a culvert and fill so that two way traffic could be maintained when the division moved over this road.

12-24 MARCH 1945

On 12 March 1945 the Battalion moved by motor convoy south and west assembling in bivouac HEIDENEND, Germany at 0825 Hours.

During the 14 Days the Battalion remained in this assembly area, extensive maintenance and repair of vehicles was performed and all weapons were fired and inspected. Full use was made of all available Special Service facilities, and ten mile conditioning hikes made periodically to keep the men in good physical condition.

25 MARCH 1945

The Rhine river had been successfully crossed and the 35th Infantry Division given orders to assemble on the east bank and attack to the east. Task Force Miltenberger was to cross on the night of 25 March 1945 and immediately attack to the east. Co A was attached to Task Force Miltenberger at 1500 and during the night crossed to the hostile shore.

26 MARCH 1945

At 0500, one platoon of Co B was placed in direct support of the 137th Infantry Regiment and crossed to the east bank of the Rhine with the regiment. 25 25 ton vehicles from the Battalion were used to transport troops of the 137th Infantry Regiment to an assembly area east of the river, and later the same day the Battalion (-) moved to DINSLAKEN-BRUCH. At 1500 hours Task Force Miltenberger was dissolved and Co A was relieved of attachment. The 134th Infantry Regiment in the left sector and the 137th Infantry Regiment in the right sector attacked to the east and Companies A & B were placed in direct support of their respective regiments at 1500 hours.



## S E C R E T

Report After Action Against Enemy, Hq, 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 1 April 1945

27 MARCH 1945

The 1103 Engr C Group was placed in general support of the Battalion with the 149 Engineer Combat Battalion in direct support.

Co A, supporting the 134th Inf Regt repaired a culvert over a small stream on the division MSR north-east of NEUKOLN and cleared roads of mines and debris in its sector.

Co B, cleared roads of mines and debris while Co C removed aerial bombs which had been placed in craters and culverts in the division sector. Co C also removed demolition charges on the railroad underpass in DINSLAKE.

28 MARCH 1945

To protect the right flank of the division, the 320th Infantry Regiment attacked to the south and east to the RHEIN-HERNE Canal. Co C was placed in direct support of the 320th Infantry Regiment at 0600 hours, and cleared roads of mines and debris in this sector. Co C also filled two craters on the road between BARMINGHOLTEN and HUHNERHEIDE and removed an abatis on the road south-west of HUHNERHEIDE. Companies A & B cleared roads of mines in their sector and Co B removed a road block on the road between NEUKOLN and WALSUMERMARK.

29 MARCH 1945

Battalion Headquarters and Co A moved by motor convoy to an area approximately 2 miles south-west of KIRCHHELLEN. Co A cleared roads of mines and debris and filled two craters on the north-south road between KIRCHHELLEN and BOTTRUP, west of GLADBECK. Co A also removed two abatis which were mined with Riegel mines on the road south of KIRCHHELLEN. Co B cleared mines and debris from roads in the sector of the 137th Infantry Regiment and removed enemy road blocks on the road between NEUKOLN and KONIGSHARDT. Co C cleared roads of mines and debris in addition to two abatis, one on the road south of LEIKAMPSTOF and the other on the road south of KONIGSHARDT. Three road blocks were removed, two on the roads in the vicinity of SCHMACHTENDORF and one on the autobahn north of Nunkelschlag, in addition to an aerial bomb from a prepared crater on a road north-east of Schmachendorf. Numerous roads in the Division sector were cleared of metal fragments by the Battalion Electro-Magnet.

30 MARCH 1945

In the early morning hours Co A moved to GLADBECK and filled numerous craters in the streets of the bomb-scarred city, in addition to the construction of a culvert and fill at the railroad tracks on the road south-west of the city. Co B moved by motor convoy to an area approximately 3 miles south of KIRCHHELLEN, cleared roads of debris in the area, filled a crater on the road north-east of KONIGSHARDT, and filled an anti-tank ditch on the main highway approximately 4 miles south of KIRCHHELLEN. Co B also constructed a culvert and fill over a stream on a road east of WALSUMERMARK and removed explosives from two prepared bridges on the autobahn in the 137th Infantry Regiment sector. Co C cleared roads of mines and removed an abatis on the road south of KONIGSHARDT. Co C also removed a timber road block on the autobahn and filled 3 craters in the vicinity of GLADBECK. Battalion Headquarters pumped out the water which had accumulated at the railroad underpass on the main road west of GLADBECK.



DECLASSIFIED

NOLLY

735017

NADA: Date

## S E C R E T

Report After Action Against Enemy, Hq, 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 1 April 45

31 MARCH 1945

Battalion Headquarters and Co C moved by motor convoy to GLADBACH. Co A cleared roads of mines and debris, filled a crater, and cleared an abatis on the main road north-east of BUER. Co A moved by motor convoy to BUER. Co B cleared roads of mines in its sector and removed 6 enemy road blocks in the 137th Infantry Regiment sector. A new type of road block was encountered by Co B which consisted of sloping concrete ramps on both shoulders of the road on which rested large drums filled with soil. At our approach, chuck blocks were removed allowing the drums to roll into the roadway, completely blocking the road. Co B also filled four craters on roads in the 137th Infantry Regiment sector and removed enemy demolition charges one which was attached to the railroad overpass in the vicinity of BOY, and the other to a culvert on a road north of BOY. Co B moved to BUTEN. Co C cleared roads in the sector of the 320th Infantry Regiment, and removed two timber road blocks on the outskirts of BOTTRUP. Co C also removed aerial bombs which had been wired for demolition, one group from the overpass at the railroad tracks south of BOTTRUP and another group on a road in the vicinity of KLOSTER.

Battle casualties for the month of March 1945 are as follows:

	OFF	HM
KIA.....	0.....	2
DOW.....	0.....	0
SWA.....	1.....	2
SIA.....	0.....	0
LWA.....	0.....	1
LIA.....	0.....	1
MIA.....	0.....	0
Total.....	1.....	6

Formal presentation of Silver Stars were made 13 March 1945 at HEIDENEND, Germany to T/Sgt Fred L. Creakman, Hq & Serv Co for gallantry in action during a reconnaissance near RHEINBERG, Germany, to Cpl Joseph B Stauback and Tec 5 Frederick J. Meineker, Co C for gallantry in action during reconnaissances near SEVELLEN, Germany and to Tec 5 James T. Stanislaw and Pvt Harold O. Wright, Co A for gallantry in action in the capture in tact of the bridge across the Roer river at HILFARTH, Germany. These awards were authorized by General Order 20, Headquarters, 35th Infantry Division, dated 20 March 1945, which also authorized the award of the Bronze Star to Pfc George Kormos, Hq & Serv Co for gallantry in action during a reconnaissance near RHEINBERG, Germany. Formal presentation was made to him also at HEIDENEND, Germany, 25 March 1945 and to 1st Lt. Ernest W. Argabrite Jr., Co A, as authorized by General Order 17, Headquarters 35th Infantry Division dated 10 March 1945 for Meritorious Service, and to Pfc George J. Wagnis as authorized by General Order 47, Headquarters, 35th Infantry Division dated 23 October 1944 for heroic action at a mine explosion in October 1944. These presentations were also made at HEIDENEND, Germany 13 March 1945 and 25 March 1945 respectively.



DECLASSIFIED  
holly 735017  
NADA: Date

SECRET

Report After Action Against Enemy, Hq, 60th Engr C Bn, dtd 1 April 45

Awards received by members of this battalion are as follows:

	DSC	Silver Star	Soldiers Medal	Bronze Star	Air Medal
	Reg Olc	Reg Olc	Reg Olc	Reg Olc	Reg Olc
Officers				1	
Enlisted					
Men		5		1	

The number of Purple Heart Medals awarded is: 7

*Philip Botchin*  
PHILIP BOTCHIN  
Lt Col CE  
Commanding

Inclosures:

S-3 Journal 1-31 March 45  
8 Photographs

*Not Recd  
in 13 Jan 45*



DECLASSIFIED

735017

NARA Date



9 March 1945  
Road fill so of Ewelen, Germany



DECLASSIFIED

735017

NASA Date



7 March 1945

Showing repair work on Bridge  
and road near Kamp, Germany



DECLASSIFIED

735017

NARA Date



8A-4

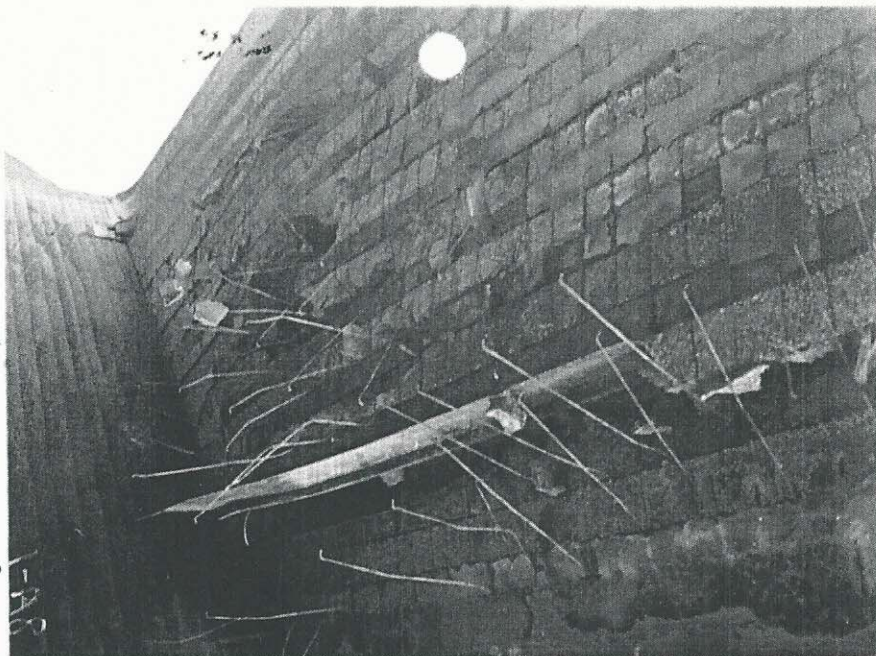
9 March 1945  
Road fill So of Sevelen  
Germany



DECLASSIFIED

735017

NAVA: DAF



8-4-1

7 March 1945

Damage to Bridge near  
Himf Germany - Underside



DECLASSIFIED

735017

NADA Date



9 March 45-  
Treadway - G C  
1 KM So of Luck, Germany