

HEADQUARTERS 305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 80, U S ARMY

Summary of Daily Operations, September 1944

<u>Date</u>	<u>Section I Operations</u>	<u>Approximate Location</u>
1-2 Sept	Rcn of rds; removed rd blocks, booby traps	COMMERCY
3 Sept	Rcn of RR, engr sup; operated captured enemy gas DP	E of COMMERCY
4 Sept	Removed mines, abatis; Rcn of MOSELLE R; Seized & held one br across MOSELLE R	N of TOUL
5 Sept	Ferried CT319 across MOSELLE R; attempted crossing CT317 over MOSELLE R; Conducted road rcn, rail rcn.	TOUL- PONT-a-MOUSSON
6-11 Sept	Rcn crossing sites MOSELLE R; prep for deliberate assault crossing; cleared rds W of R and rds E of TOUL	Same
12 Sept	Assault crossing of MOSELLE R by 2 CT's; Constructed ferries, canal fills	DIEULOUARD
13 Sept	Swept rds, cleared abatis	Same
14 Sept	Cleared mines, abatis, rubble; br security.	E of DIEULOUARD
15-16 Sept	Br security; One co committed as Inf; recovered br equipment; removed booby traps, mines, abatis	Same
17-18 Sept	Cleared and repaired rds	E & W of R vic DIEUL.
19 Sept	Maintained wons & equipment; Cleared mines; buried dead cattle.	E of DIEULOUARD
20 Sept	Stacked br timber; Cleared Ap & AT mines	N-S of VILLEVAUVAL
21 Sept	Br security; patrolled rds; laid hasty mines	Same
22-24 Sept	Installed rd blocks; improved rds; buried cattle; Committed as Inf; built bypass	Br Hd E of MOSELLE R
25 Sept	Filled craters; cleared abatis, debris, mud fr rds; laid mines; removed enemy mines	Same
26-30 Sept	Cleared rds; buried cattle; built dugouts, def pos; laid barbed wire and minefields	OP's, Same.

Section II

Comments, Observations and Recommendations-

1. Main activities of the month were crossing of MOSELLE R, and subsequent def of br hd E of R. Deliberate assault crossings under fire were successfully accomplished. Engrs did an excellent job.
2. Many more mines were encountered and cleared. A definite mine policy was established. Laying of temporary and deliberate minefields showed need for accurate and detailed records and reports. It was found that some units failed to report minefields they laid.
3. Rds in area were good, but constant rain caused mud to become a problem, especially towards the end of the month.
4. Bn built brs within its capabilities, supporting engrs built the Cl 40 and permanent brs. Excellent help was given by them. All sup of br material were obtained locally.
5. ~~Water~~ points presented no problem.
6. Map sup became a routine function with no particular problems.
7. Engrs were employed for the first time as Inf, when enemy counterattacks threatened the br hd. Engrs posted security on some brs. These were necessary missions at the time.

305-ENG-103

10435
master

Comments, Observations and Recommendations (contd) -

Robert M. Rawls

ROBERT M. RAWLS

Major, CE
S-3

INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS, USE OF SECTION, ETC.

Month of September 1944

The intelligence section was kept quite busy collecting and disseminating enemy information to other units. River and road reconnaissance was kept up continuously and the enemy were making more and more use mines, booby-traps, and demolitions. Much of the reconnaissance was made under observed artillery and mortar fire of the enemy.

Frank Eleppa

FRANK ELEPPA

1st Lt. CE

S-2

HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF SUPPLY

SUMMARY

September, 1944

Supplied fourteen boats, assault for a river crossing. The line companies who were responsible for the return of these boats and the pole type trailer upon which they were hauled, never did return them, due to the situation. Some were destroyed during the action that occurred at the river crossing and as these boats were considered a critical item in the Engineer Depots. It prompted us to go on a scavenger hunt for assault boats. The hunt resulted in securing sixteen assault boats, fourteen of which were slightly damaged and easily repairable, eleven boats, reconnaissance, and two pole type trailers. The fourteen assault boats were repaired and ready for the next crossing. The eleven reconnaissance boats reduced our T/E shortage on that item. The extra pole type trailer was used to carry some of our supplies, thereby, further reducing the loads of our vehicles.

*Diesel
Waco*
This Supply Section was able to secure a Tractor, D-7, and a trailer, low bed, 20 ton. These were frequently utilized from then on, because the tractor, D-7, could perform twice the work accomplished by a tractor, R-4. About this time, the truck, 6 ton, Corbitt, which was hauling the tractor and trailer around began to develop engine trouble. It was difficult to repair. Parts were borrowed from various Ordnance outfits. The Corbitt ran for awhile, and then joined the ranks of evacuated vehicles due to a crack cylinder. The possibilities of securing another are dark indeed.

Edward F. Pacheco

EDWARD F. PACHECO
Captain, CE, S-4

HEADQUARTERS 305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 80, U.S. Army

PERSONNEL AND ALLIED ADMINISTRATION FOR THE MONTH
OF SEPTEMBER, 1944

Communications problems were ironed out this month. Three additional SCR 284 radios were secured, one to each line company, which abets the problem. Wire system was improved through the acquisition of an experienced wire man.

Special Service was able to secure a number of U.S.O. shows, club-mobiles, etc., which strengthened the morale of the battalion.

The personnel was paid in mid September instead of the first of September, 1944. Personnel experienced a problem in getting payrolls signed while the men were in combat.

Personnel of the battalion sent several thousand dollars back to the U.S.A. via Personal Transmission Accounts, since they had not been able to spend money in France.

S-1 converted their 2½ ton truck into a Command Post for Message Center and could move on short notice.

Morris Edelman
MORRIS EDELMAN
1st Lt. CE
S-1

CW - 30 mi.
VOICE - 7 mi.
Vehicle by way of
HAND GEN CO
PWR SOURCE