

Authority: NA 735017  
By: MLR NARA Date: 11-4-80

S E C R E T

REPORT AGAINST ENEMY, REPORTS AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT

Organization: 308th Engineer Combat Battalion

From: 0001, 1 July 1944

Period of Report:

To: 2400, 31 July 1944

Date of Submission: 6 August 1944

For the first three days of July this Battalion practised assault river crossings with the three Infantry Regiments, near CARENTAN. Platoons not participating in this training continued their reconnaissance of mine fields to our front and maintained supply roads in the division area. On the afternoon and evening of 3 July one U.S. truck demolished by an enemy mine and several friendly road blocks were removed in front of the MLR to permit the use of roads for the attack.

On the morning of 4 July at 0445 hours the division attacked, with this Battalion supporting and continued until the division was relieved on 29 July to go into Corps Reserve.

During the early part of the operation the Engineer Companies were in close support of the Infantry Regiments. They constructed hasty bridges, maintained defensive positions at night, and blew hedgerows for the advance of tanks. On the 6 July the Battalion was assembled and took up a defensive position approximately 500 yards South of CARREFOUR DES CHEMPINS. This position was held until 1400 hours 7 July when Battalion was relieved.

The advance of the division continued until 18 July when the division went into the defensive. At that time extensive wire obstacles were installed and hasty mine fields and blocks were laid generally along a line RAIDS (328766) to LE CANAL (353745) to AUXIAS (358749). An attempt was made to secure the tip of the LE VARDE peninsula in order to improve the defensive position. The three bridges along the causeway between LE MOULIN and LE VARDE had been destroyed by the enemy. On the 18 July a 50 foot Bailey Bridge was constructed at LE MOULIN. On the night of 20 July the two remaining gaps were spanned by two 30 foot treadway bridges under fire. During the next day two treads were damaged by enemy action. These were replaced one at 1200 hours and the other at 1800 hours. At 1800 hours the Bailey Bridge was destroyed by enemy artillery fire. The Infantry withdrew from LE VARDE and no further attempt was made to construct bridges until the night of 27 July, at which time a 45 foot treadway bridge was installed at a by-pass near Bailey Bridge and two more, thirty foot spans were installed where previous bridges had been destroyed. On the LE VARDE peninsula the enemy had laid a considerable number of AP Mines which were removed or blown in place.

B Company which was supporting the 330th Infantry in the 9th Division Area crossed the LOZON River near REMILLY-SUR-LOZON on the night 20 July with a treadway bridge. This crossing was made under heavy enemy fire but was successful.

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SECRET

During the entire operation the following work was accomplished:

- 9 Treadway bridges were installed
- 10 Light footbridges were constructed
- 5 Vehicular bridges were constructed
- 2 Air strips were built for artillery observation planes
- 41 miles of main highway were swept for mines & posted with signs
- 22 miles of secondary roads and trails were swept and posted
- 3 miles of new roadway was built thru fields
- 7 miles of existing roadway was repaired
- 26 Enemy tanks and trucks were removed from roads
- 16 Large craters were filled
- 1200 Mines were laid
- 3000 Yards of triple concertina wire obstacles were installed
- 1000 Yards of triple concertina wire obstacles were removed
- 130 Hedgerows were blown with explosives
- 11 CP's and 3 - 155mm gun battery positions were dug in
- 2 Water points were operated, each furnishing approximately 20,000 gallons per day.
- 20,000 Sheets of maps were distributed
- 2 Shower points were operated
- 365 Dead animals were buried

GAINS: Five (5) Officers replacements received.  
 Twenty-one (21) Enlisted Men replacements received

LOSSES: BATTLE LOSSES

Killed In Action - One (1) Officer; Eight (8) Enlisted Men.  
Wounded In Action - Two (2) Officers; Thirty-nine (39) Enlisted Men.  
Missing In Action - One (1) Enlisted Man.

NON-BATTLE LOSSES

Transferred - Two (2) Officers  
Disease - Four (4) Enlisted Men  
Exhaustion - Seven (7) Enlisted Men  
Injured - One (1) Officer; Two (2) Enlisted Men.

MORALE: The morale of the troops was Excellent.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: Unit Journal, 1 July 1944 thru 31 July 1944.

*ROY T. DODGE*  
 ROY T. DODGE,  
 Lt. Col., CE  
 Commanding.