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S E C R E T

EIGHTY THIRD SIGNAL COMPANY  
 A. P. O. 83  
 United States Army

31 December 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Report of Operation.

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

THRU : CHANNELS.

1. December first found the division still in Luxembourg about to relieve the Fourth Infantry Division in the Duren sector, and the Fourth Infantry Division was to take over the Eighty Third Division's position in Luxembourg.

2. On 4 December 1944 an advance party consisting of a Message Center detachment, a Construction team, a Telephone and Telegraph detachment, and a Radio team left Luxembourg to proceed to Kreminkel, Germany - a move of approximately 120 miles. The Rear Echelon and Service Echelon of the company followed on 7 December and located themselves at Aachen, where they remained until 13 December at which time they moved to Vicht, Germany. At Vicht considerable effort towards bivouac security was emphasized due to the isolated positions of the Signal Company in relation to the rest of the division. Considerable air activity on the part of the enemy was noticed about this time, and several incidents of strafing occurred. Two casualties occurred due to the falling "flak" and this further emphasized the necessity for adequate shelter. Following the breakthrough of the Germans on the Luxembourg border, the neighboring field artillery, armored, tank destroyer, and anti-aircraft units left for the battle sector, leaving the company virtually alone and making it necessary to wire in the entire service echelon with concertina rolls, and have an inter-communication system for security. On 23 December, the service echelon was moved to Aachen to occupy the same area as it had previously. On 27 December the division having received a new mission in Belgium, the company was moved to Havelange, Belgium where it remained throughout the rest of the month.

*We spent  
 Christmas in  
 Gressenich  
 Germany, near  
 Aachen.*

3. Communication during the first part of the month in Germany was mainly wire and messenger. Wire suffered the usual interruptions due to broken circuits, shortcircuits and grounded circuits. The gumbo-like mud hampered operations somewhat along with the damp cold which brought the threat of trench foot. The initial wire system was 100% field wire and consisted of eight trunk lines of about three miles each, and taking about five hours to install. The Construction Section also utilized some of the existing wire facilities left by the 4th Division. Laterals of spiral four cable were laid between the regiments, but were broken several times by shellfire. At the completion of operations in Germany sixty miles of wire 110-B and twelve miles of spiral four cable were laid. Upon arriving in Belgium the Construction Platoon laid between 90 and 100 miles of wire 110-B, but no cable. The platoon also utilized six miles of open wire.

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Appendix No. 1.

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