

Authority NND 735017By KNARA Date 9-7-10

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

28 February 1945

SUBJECT: Narrative Report of Operations.

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

THRU : CHANNELS.

1. On the first of February the division was in a rest, reorganization, and training period in Belgium. The tactical part of the Signal Company (both forward and rear) were in Hamoir with the command post and the company headquarters and supply was in Petit Houmart, Belgium.

2. The month of February found the Signal Company split in the usual three echelons, Forward, Rear and Supply. The Forward was located in Hamoir, Belgium; the Rear also was located at Hamoir; and the Supply was about five miles distant in Petit Houmart. The division was a part of VII Corps and was in a rest, reorganization, and training period.

On 6 February the Forward moved to Dalhem, Belgium; the Rear moved to Argenteau, Belgium; and the Supply moved to Eysden, Holland. The Division was now a part of XIX Corps, and on the secret list. The code name was changed from Blackstone to Armor King, and the rest, reorganization and training was continued.

On 23 February the Forward moved to Schaufenberg, Germany; the Rear to Alsdorf, Germany, and the Supply to Mariadorf, Germany. The secrecy was lifted and the division reverted to the old code name of Blackstone. The division was in reserve except for the 330th Regiment which was attached to the 29th Infantry Division across the Roer River.

On the last day of the month, the 28th, the Forward moved to Hasselswiler, Germany, and the other two echelons remained in their last mentioned positions.

3. The Construction Section used about three quarters open wire in the installations in Hamoir, but before the operation was over one half of the open wire was replaced with W-110 because of cross talk and swinging shorts. In the installation at Dalhem and Argenteau, seventy miles of W-110 was used, this was the best area we had passed through in Belgium for laying wire. Greatest cause of trouble was the windy weather, the insulation was worn off causing shorts and crosses. There were several cases of other units picking up our wire that was in use. On the Alsdorf - Schaufenberg installation, all units were close together, so W-110 was used. On the move to Hasselswiler, German cable was used, 56 drums, this was the axis, and had a river crossing on the Roer River a foot bridge was used. It took two teams eleven hours to install the cable. One jeep was lost when it ran over a mine, also two men were injured.

4. The Forward Telephone and Telegraph team, operating at Hamoir, had the usual number of locals but the number of trunks installed was smaller than under combat conditions. The Rear and Supply boards also cut their installations

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to a minimum. In the Dalhem area the board had 14 trunks and 25 locals. The Rear at Argenteau had 2 trunks and 12 locals. The German boards used at Rear have given little or no trouble. The Supply board had 2 trunks and 9 locals. In this period the HO-17 was improved by mounting a telegraph switchboard, the wire chief's phone, coils for simplex, and light fixtures and wiring. When the CP closed down at Dalhem, a BD-72 was cut in and used as a switch until all units had moved. In the Schaufenberg installation the G's and the War Room were in the same building and 5 pair cable was used. There were 24 locals and 17 trunks. At Alsdorf, there were 2 trunks and 12 locals out of the German board. The Supply board had 3 trunks and 5 locals. On the last day of the month Forward moved and a switch was cut in.

5. Message Center made two scheduled runs to all units in the division and to corps in the Hamoir area. The division runs were continued in the Dalhem area but the corps run not necessary, so it was discontinued. Two jeeps that had been evacuated were returned, making a total of 9, which greatly eased the transportation problem. In this same area a jeep was stolen, but was recovered the next day down in one of the regiments. When the 330th Regiment was detached, scheduled runs were made to them.

6. At Hamoir all operators of the Radio Section were given written tests as specified by Ninth Army. The resulting average was satisfactory. Also at Hamoir, experiments were conducted to determine the efficiency of batteries operated in cold weather, and to devise suggestive methods of keeping batteries at an efficient operating temperature under field conditions. The results were submitted to the Division Signal Officer in a report. During the experiments an illustrative moving picture was filmed by the Photo Unit, then attached to the division. One of the 3/4-ton C & R's was replaced by a 3/4-ton W/C as allowed in the change in T/O & E. The only operating done during the period was by the team with the 330th Regiment when they were detached.

7. The Repair and Maintenance Sections did the usual amount of work. Radio took in 241 sets of which only six had to be evacuated to the depot due to lack of parts. About 15% of the work was from the attached units. The strength of the section is ten men.

The T & T Repair Section took in 117 jobs including 64 telephones, 19 switchboards, 4 typewriters, 1 teletypewriter, and various other items.

8. The Signal Supply drove their trucks 1,340 miles making 10 trips to the depots. On the move from Houmart to Eysden, 5 Quartermaster trucks made one trip and the rest of the 15 loads was shuttled by the company. On the Eysden to Mariadorf move 13 Quartermaster trucks were used to move the 17 loads of equipment. Stock on hand includes 21,335 batteries, 617 miles of wire, and other items.

The Division Signal Officer Section turned out the normal publication of SOI items, and future items were worked on. The section draftsman made up daily circuit and traffic diagrams, and also handled distribution of maps to the company. The section has published a daily news sheet "The Division Radio News".

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9. The Supply Section was active during the month. A new supply officer was appointed necessitating yet another inventory added to those already made. New type artic field jackets were received for the first time in the company. The sales PX was maintained and coca cola was sold along with cigarette lighters and other scarce articles.

10. The Motor Section performed six 1000 mile inspections, 38 monthly and 124 weekly inspections. In addition to this one battlefield recovery was made. Three wrecks were repaired, necessitating frame and body straightening. Maintenance was performed on the PE-95 power units in the division and a modification added which greatly improved the performance of these units. One valve grinding job was done and two head gaskets replaced. Numerous small welding were done and 72 flat tires were repaired.

11. The Mess Section continued operating two mess set ups. Pastry was served through out the month. A combination "A & B" ration was served which seriously rivaled garrison rations. Hot meals were served at all times; even while a move was in progress.

Marion L. Harkey
MARION L. HARKEY
Capt, Signal Corps
Commanding.

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