

17 January 1945:

The battalion continued with its plans and preparations for the coming operation.

Co A: The company remained in direct support of the 405 Inf. All platoons devoted the time to the care and maintenance of equipment, improvement of living conditions, and physical inspection.

Co B: The company continued in direct support of the 406 Inf. The first platoon had maintenance of equipment, orientation, and a class on enemy minefields, demolitions, and the bangalore torpedo. The TNT explosive charges for the Infantry were finished by the second platoon. The third platoon less the third squad made satchel charges and the third squad was at the Division Rest Center.

Co C: The company remained in direct support of the 11 Cav Gp. The first platoon did some experimental work with the bangalore torpedo and its action in breaching mine fields. The second platoon destroyed disabled armored vehicles and made TNT charges for the Infantry. The third platoon continued its work on the roads at Custom Recreation Center.

18 January 1945:

The battalion continued with the plans and preparations for the coming operation along with the orientation work on the "snake".

Co A: Company remained in direct support of the 405 Inf. Entire Company utilized time for the improvement of sanitary conditions and for the care and maintenance of equipment. In addition to this, liason in reference to the coming operation was maintained with the 405 Inf.

Co B: The Company continued to remain in direct support of the 406 Inf. The first platoon in addition to cleaning equipment and weapons, primed one hundred bangalore torpedos. The second platoon made a mock up of the front lines by laying hasty minefield and triple concertinas. This mock up front line is to be used for experimental purposes. The third platoon less one squad, which was working at the Division Rest Center, made 70 satchel charges. They also cleaned equipment and weapons.

Co C: The company continued to remain in direct support of the 11th Cavalry Group. The first platoon was at the Battalion Rest Center. The second platoon had a detail working on the "snake", and a detail hauling excess mines to the battalion dump. In addition to this, the TNT charges for the Infantry were completed, making a total of 2500. The roads between LINNICH and LINDERN were checked for mines. The third platoon returned from the Custom Recreation Center.

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After Action Report

19 January 1945:

The battalion continued its support of front line units and with its plans and preparations for the coming operation. In addition to this the instruction on the snakes was continued.

Co A: The Company continued its direct support of the 405 Inf. The first and third platoons practiced assembling and disassembling the snake in the vic EDEREN. The second platoon prepared pole and satchel charges for the 405 Inf. Co hq made preparations for the 6000 mile vehicle inspection and for the school to instruct radio operators in the use of the SCR 300.

Co B: The company remained in direct support of the 406 Inf. All of the mine boxes were taken back to the dump at Puffendorf by the first platoon. The second platoon delivered 1800 individual TNT charges and 20 satchel charges to the 406 Inf. The third platoon, less one squad which was at the Division Rest Center, utilized time for maintenance of equipment and the improvement of living quarters.

Co C: The company continued to remain in direct support of the 11th Cav Gp. The first platoon was at the Bn Rest Center, and the second platoon made individual TNT charges for the Inf. The third platoon under cover of darkness laid two sections of a deliberate minefield, fenced in the field, and placed concertinas in front of the field. This field is to be used for Bangalore Torpedo experimentation.

20 January 1945:

The battalion as a whole continued to support front line units and to further its plans and preparations for the coming operation.

Co A: Company continued to remain in direct support of the 405 Inf. The first platoon utilized the time for the care and maintenance of equipment. One squad from the second platoon was on a special detail for the battalion while the remainder of the platoon prepared satchel and pole charges for the 405 Inf. The third platoon conducted experiments on breaching minefields with demolitions. The motor pool continued with its 6000 mile inspection and the radio section began the school for the instruction of the men on the SCR 300.

Co B: The company continued to remain in direct support of the 406 Inf. The first platoon spent the day in maintaining equipment. The second platoon delivered individual charges of TNT and satchel charges to 406 Inf. They also experimented on blowing gaps in minefield and tactical wire. Maintenance of equipment and personal sanitation was conducted by the third platoon.

Co C: The company remained in direct support of the 11 Cav Gp. The first platoon returned from the Bn Rest Center and made preparations for damming the canal in LINNICH. The second platoon was at the Bn Rest Center. One squad of the third platoon had a class on the "snake". Road repair was conducted in addition to filling and fencing an AT ditch for a troop crossing. A detail made a 100 foot gap in a deliberate minefield practice field and swept the roads in the vic LINNICH for mines.

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After Action Report

21 January 1945:

The battalion continued to support front line units and to further its plans and preparations for the coming operation.

Co A: The Co remained in direct support of the 405 Inf. They prepared explosive charges for the 405 Inf which are to be used in the coming operation. Road maintenance in the division sector was executed, and the remainder of the Co trained in gapping minefields.

Co B: The Co continued to remain in direct support of the 406 Inf. They continued to prepare charges for the infantry and also to continue their instruction in the use of the snake and minefield gapping. Disabled armored vehicles in their assigned sector were destroyed.

Co C: The Co remained in direct support of the 407 Inf. The Co continued with its training in minefield gapping and the use of the snake. They also maintained road patrols. Several roads were swept for mines and minefields were fenced in. In addition to this the Co prepared charges for the Inf.

22 January 1945:

The battalion continued its support of front line units in addition to furthering the plans and preparations for the coming operation.

Co A: The Co remained in direct support of the 405 Inf. In view of the accident which occurred at Co B, all platoons unloaded their explosives and formed a dispersed Co dump. The first platoon made repairs on a road for the 379 FA. The 2d platoon less one squad, which was at the Division Rest Center on detail, completed pole and satchel charges for the Inf. In addition to this an underpass was reconnoitered for demolition. The 3d platoon conducted experiments on breaching minefields and also reconnoitered an assigned sector of Setterich for possible defenses.

Co B: The Co remained in direct support of the 406 Inf. No work was accomplished due to the accidental explosion which occurred. Complete information on explosion attached as inclosure.

Co C: The Co remained in direct support of the 11 Cav Gp. The 1st platoon attended a class on the "snake" for the first part of the day and then made satchel charges for the remaining portion. The 2d platoon returned from the Bn Rest Center and then prepared for a night detail which was later called off. A detail was then sent to the road between Welz and Linnich which they cleared of dirt and debris, with the aid of the dozer. The 3d platoon was at the Bn Rest Center.

23 January 1945:

The Bn continued with its plans and preparations for the coming operation and also continued its support of front line units.

Co A: The Co remained in direct support of the 405 Inf. The first platoon spent the entire period constructing minefield markers. The 2d platoon prepared pole charges for Co B to replace the ones lost in the explosion. The 2d platoon also prepared an underpass for demolition and had one squad on detail at the Div Rest Center. The 3d platoon did maintenance work on roads in their assigned sector.

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23 January 1945 (Cont'd)

Co B: The Co remained in direct support of the 406 Inf. The 1st and 3d platoons both of which were at the Bn Rest Center, sent details to Gereonsweiler to gather up all the equipment that could be found. These same details then conducted an inspection in order to determine the actual loss of equipment due to the explosion. The 2d platoon cleaned the streets of Gereonsweiler of debris, which was caused by the explosion. They also made fifteen prima cord nets. In addition to this they removed the demolitions from the bridge at Lindern and also put on a demonstration in conjunction with Co A, 701st Tank Bn in the use of the snake.

Co C: The Co remained in direct support of the 11 Cav Gp. The 1st platoon engaged in road patrol, filling holes in the Ederen Puffendorf road the Gereonsweiler Road, and the roads in Ederen. The gravel for these jobs was obtained from the pit on the Gereonsweiler-Puffendorf Road. The 2d platoon blew a gap in a minefield and swept a road for mines. Then under cover of darkness they removed several road blocks. The 3d platoon rested during the period.

24 January 1945

The Bn continued its support of front line units; and further planned and prepared for the operation in the near future.

Co A: The company remained in direct support of the 405 Inf. The 1st platoon prepared charges for blowing mines and prepared minefields for gapping in the regimental sector. The 2d platoon prepared 43 pole charges for use by Co B, demolished an underpass and cleared debris. The 3d platoon received instruction in chemical warfare.

Co B: The Co remained in support of the 406 Inf. Plans for the coming operation were coordinated with those of all elements to take part in the operation in the regimental sector. During the day Capt Elliott held class for platoon comdrs, Sgts and squad leaders to completely familiarize them with their responsibilities in the operation. The 1st platoon prepared and delivered pole charges to 3d Bn 406 Inf. The 2d platoon made and delivered primacord rolls to 2d Bn 406 Inf. The 2d and 3d platoons prepared gaps in minefields and wire as previously planned.

Co C: Co was relieved of supporting 11 Cav Gp and became direct support of 407 Inf. The 1st platoon cleared deliberate minefield section by blowing with TNT, and hauled three loads of gravel to fill holes where the mines were blown. The 2d platoon cleared gaps in minefields in regimental sector. The 3d platoon repaired Welz-Linnich road, hauling three loads of gravel and three of brick rubble to accomplish the same, and breached minefields during the hours of darkness.

25 January 1945:

The Bn continued in support of the Inf regiments and during the night of 25-26 January performed its assigned missions during operation "Swift".

25 January 1945 (Cont'd)

Co A: Co remained in support of the 405 Inf. The 1st platoon breached minefields in area to be passed through by 405 Inf. The 2d platoon worked on road in regimental sector and cleared debris therefrom; cleared road of mines. The 3d platoon sent quartering party out to seek new location for Co. The Co bulldozer worked on road removing debris, dug in positions for 548 AAA. The bulldozer struck an anti-tank mine while performing the latter task. (Dozer was operating near a friendly field which had been fenced previously, a portion of the fence had been blown down by enemy fire)

Co B: Co was in support of 406 Inf. Plans were coordinated with the infantry regiment during the day and in the evening and early morning of the 26th the plans with some changes were successfully executed. In addition to preparing gaps in barrier, the Co checked Brachelen Streets for mines.

Co C: Co was in support of the 407 Inf for the coming operation. The 1st platoon prepared 600 lbs TNT charges. The 2d and 3d platoons prepared to gap minefields and did so during the early morning of the 26.

Operation "SWIFT" - the attack on Randerath, Brachelin, etc., was accomplished with no enemy opposition and no unusual difficulty. All letter Cos immediately began investigation of roads and houses for mines and booby traps.

26 January 1945:

The Bn remained in support of the infantry regiments.

Co A: The Co remained in direct support of the 405 Inf. The 1st platoon wired the far side of a minefield on the MLR. They also swept the Wurm-Kleinsiersdorf road for mines, but did not clear it of road blocks. The 2d platoon furnished engineer support to the 2d Bn 405 Inf and after making preparations they blew gaps in a minefield and fence in the division sector for operation "Swift". They also swept the Lindern-Randerath and the Wurm-Honsdorf roads for mines. The 3d platoon was in direct support of the 1st Bn 405 Inf. In addition to this they cleared the roads between Leiffarth-Honsdorf-Randerath-Himmerich.

Co B: The Co remained in direct support of the 406 Inf. and as planned, they blew the minefield gaps. Three details were formed from the 1st platoon for the purpose of searching pillboxes for booby traps and other details from the 2d platoon searched the houses of Brachelin for booby traps. Lindern-Brachelin and Brachelin-Randerath roads were swept for mines. During the daylight hours the Co cleared the streets of Brachelin of mines and obstacles.

Co C: The Co continued to be in direct support of the 407 Inf. The 1st platoon remained in reserve. The 2d and 3d platoons both supported the 407 Inf in a successful attack at Brachelin by making gaps in minefields in the Linnich-Lindern vicinity.

27 January 1945:

The Bn continued to support front line units and clear roads and suspected areas of mines.

27 January 1945 (Cont'd)

Co A: The Co remained in direct support of the 405 Inf. The 1st platoon made repairs on the Honsdorf-Randerath road in addition to locating enemy minefields. The 2d platoon supervised the turning in of explosives by the infantry and cleared mines from roads in their assigned sector. The 3d platoon swept roads in their assigned sector for mines and also built two foot bridges across the Wurm River at Randerath. The material for these bridges was salvaged from nearby buildings.

Co B: The Co remained in direct support of the 406 Inf. The 1st platoon cleared snow drifts from the road between Gereonsweiler and Lindern. The 2d platoon cleared mines from roads in their assigned sector. The 3d platoon picked up TNT satchel charges, pole charges, and bangalore torpedos from the 406 Inf. The 4th platoon, which is the attached platoon from the 279 Engr C Bn erected a two strand wire fence around a minefield on the MLR.

Co C: The Co remained in direct support of the 407 Inf. The 1st platoon made 20 1/2 pound TNT charges for the 11 Cav Gp. The 2d platoon swept one road for mines and put signs on the others. They also fenced in an area that contained 59 Regal mines. The third platoon with the aid of the dozer, cleared a road which was partially blocked by dirt, and a detail from this platoon hauled an infantry support bridge from Flosdorf to the Bn Dump.

28 January 1945:

The battalion remained in direct support of the front line units and continued with the removal of enemy mines from roads and fields.

Co A: One platoon from the Co was in direct support of the 11 Cav Gp. The first platoon located and marked enemy minefields, made repairs on the road from HONSDORF to RANDERATH, and repaired minefield fences on friendly minefields between PRUMMERN and SUGGERATH. In addition to this Lt O'Brien established liason to support the 17 Cav. The 2d platoon blew and cleared a railroad underpass in order to widen the opening for the road from BEECK to WURM & LEIFFARTH. They also fenced and marked friendly minefields. The third platoon burned enemy demolitions on the abutment of a bridge in RANDERATH. They also removed road blocks.

Co B: One platoon in direct support of the 406 Inf and the entire Co moved to a new location, vic GEILENKIRCHEN. The first platoon cleared pillboxes of booby traps and then moved to the new Co location. The 2d and 3d platoons moved to the new area and spent the remaining part of the period in improving their quarters and maintaining their equipment.

Co C: One platoon from the Co was in direct support of the 407 Inf. The first platoon checked a minebelt and repaired the fence where needed. They also in addition to putting up booby trap signs on an AP minefield, put up a double strand of barbed wire around a section of minefield. The 2d platoon swept a road for mines and fenced in a section of minefield. The 3d platoon fenced in an enemy minefield and swept a road for mines. They also repaired the road at the Water Point in BAESWEILER.

29 January 1945:

The Battalion continued to remain in direct support of front line units and staff planning was again initiated regarding the crossing of the Roer River.

Co A: The first platoon remained in direct support of the 11th Cav Gp. A reconnaissance was made and footbridge equipment was moved to the site where it was to be used in the future. The second platoon removed explosives from trees between BAESWEILER and GEREONSWEILER, removed road blocks, and repaired minefield fences. The third platoon recovered unused demolitions from the Infantry and removed and fenced minefields.

Co B: One platoon remained in direct support of the 406 Inf. The first platoon picked up all the "Daisy Chains" in Gereonsweiler and Lindern and returned all the salvaged mines to the dump at Puffendorf. The second platoon made an inspection of CWS equipment for defects and shortages and the supplies and equipment needed for laying of an AP minefield were moved to the proposed site. The third platoon cleared mines from AT gun positions in assigned sector and mines from Brachelen were picked up and destroyed. Under cover of darkness an infantry reconnaissance patrol was ferried across the Roer River, and the engineer boatmen reconnoitered the area for possible bridge sites at the same time.

Co C: One platoon remained in direct support of the 407th Inf. The first platoon fenced in a minefield and placed the booby trap signs on the fence. One squad was at the 30th Inf Div Recreation Center. The second platoon blew wooden box mines and put up a concertina road block. The 3d platoon searched suspected enemy minefields for mines, also enemy roads for mines.

30 Jan 45. The battalion supported front line units and the staff planning for the crossing of the Roer River was continued.

Co A: One platoon remained in direct support of the 17th Cav. The first platoon disassembled and returned the "snake" (to the ASP) and made preparations for the construction of a footbridge at FLOSSDORF. The second platoon made preparations and a reconnaissance for a night patrol. The third platoon removed road blocks which were no longer necessary and made preparations for a night patrol.

Co B: One platoon in direct support of the 406 Inf. The first platoon conducted an inspection of Chemical Warfare Service Equipment and also a class in use of the light weight gas mask. The remainder of their period was utilized for personal hygiene. The second platoon laid two sections of a minefield and prepared pillboxes for demolition. The third platoon practiced footbridge construction on Wurm River, and inspected CWS equipment for shortages and defects. A night river crossing was attempted but small arms fire prevented completion of mission. Reconnaissance from shore for footbridge locations on Roer River was conducted.

Co C: One squad from first platoon to Custom Recreation Center. Remainder of platoon removed road blocks. The second platoon conducted Chemical Warfare Training. Also used time for care and maintenance of equipment. The third platoon constructed a two strand barbed wire fence around a minefield.

31 Jan 45. The battalion supported front line units and the staff planning for the crossing of the Roer River was continued.

Company A: The company remained in direct support of the 11th Cavalry Group. The first platoon improved the sanitation in the company area, furnished one detail to the Battalion Supply Officer to transport demolitions, and during the night of 31 Jan and 1 Feb an officer and detail from the platoon assisted in the crossing of a night patrol across the Roer river in the vicinity of FLOSSDORF. The second platoon fenced and marked minefields during the day and during the night furnished a reconnaissance party who determined the stream velocity of the Roer in the vicinity of LINNICH. The third platoon repaired craters, furnished a detail to the Battalion Supply, and during the night conducted a reconnaissance to determine velocity and depth of the Roer river vicinity of RURDORF, and to select possible bridge sites and assault boat crossing sites.

Company B: The company remained in support of the 406th Inf. The first platoon reconnoitered a structure that appeared to be a barn and during the night supported an infantry company that attacked the same. The platoon's mission was to destroy the structure and following a fire fight when the charges were set six enemy within surrendered. The second platoon completed a minefield, reconnoitered pillboxes to be blown, and inspected and inventoried Chemical Warfare Equipment. The third platoon conducted a 2 hour class in river crossing on the Wurm river including the following aspects of such operations: Launching boats, paddling, unloading boats, and guy line control. The platoon also cleared mines in vicinity of HONSDORF, checked pillboxes to be destroyed.

Company C: The company remained in support of 407th Inf. The first platoon had one squad in the rest center at Rolduc and the balance of the platoon maintained equipment. The second platoon furnished a detail to Battalion Supply; removed charges from trees on GEREONSWEILER-LINNICH and GEREONSWEIFER-LINDERN roads. The third platoon had classes and inspections on Chemical Warfare, and cleaned and maintained equipment.

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