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Hq 327th Engr Combat Bn  
After Action Report  
S-3 Standpoint

A. From the S-3 Standpoint.

1 May 1945: The battalion remained in Gardelegen and continued its searching and clearing operations within its assigned area. Road patrols were operated throughout the area, enemy military equipment was evacuated to the airfield, and road guards maintained to direct displaced persons to the DP Camp. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued and one platoon each company remained attached to respective RCTs.

2 May 1945: The battalion remained in Gardelegen and continued the operation of Military Government control in its assigned sector. Areas and towns were cleared and searched, and burgermeisters were screened by CIC. All displaced persons not already settled on farms were sent to DP camps. Instructions were received from 102d Division Artillery assigning new area of responsibility to the 327th Engr C Bn, and each company was given a new area of responsibility. Effective date to be 3 May 1945. One platoon, each company, remained attached to its respective RCT. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge continued.

3 May 1945: The battalion remained in Gardelegen and organized its new area of responsibility. Clearing and searching operations continued, and all captured enemy equipment was evacuated to dumps of its respective category. A dump for captured Engineer Equipment was opened and operated by S-4 and guarded by Company B. Dump consists of box cars spotted on a siding in which equipment is stored. Company C was designated to destroy all explosives located that could not be evacuated. Four trucks were sent to the Provost Marshal to haul PWs to rear areas. One platoon, Company C supported the 407th Inf in carrying on enemy surrender negotiations across the Elbe River. One platoon each company, remained attached to its respective RCT. Elbe River water gauge reading was continued.

4 May 1945: Clearing, searching, and Military Government operations were continued in the battalion's assigned sector. Roving motorized patrols were operated throughout the area and the guarding of the military hospitals in Letzlingen was taken over by Company B from the 252 FA. Company B moved to Letzlingen and was relieved of the guarding of the captured Engineer equipment dump by Company A. One platoon, each company remained attached to its respective RCT and one platoon, Company C supported the 407th Inf in its operation on the Elbe River. Its mission to operate an assault boat ferry on the river. All companies were notified to have three trucks on a two hour alert to be used in the formation of the 102d Division Provisional Truck Company. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued.

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5 May 1945: Clearing, searching, and Military Government operations were continued. Motorized roving patrols were operated throughout the area, and guards were maintained at the military hospitals and medical supply dump in Letzlingen. Twelve trucks were furnished to the 102d Divisional Provisional Truck Company to haul PWs to PWE, and Company C relieved Company A of the guarding of the captured Engineer Equipment Dump. Company A moved to Jeggau and one platoon, each company remained attached to its respective RCT. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued.

6 May 1945: All companies less CT attachments continued their searching and Military Government operations. Motorized roving patrols were operated throughout the sector, and guards were maintained at the military hospitals and the medical supply dump in Letzlingen. Twelve trucks were furnished to the 102d Division Provisional Truck Company to haul PWs, and the operation of the captured Engineer Equipment Dump was continued. Minor road repairs were accomplished on highway 188 vic Gardelegen airfield. At approximately 1630 hours, instructions were received from 102d Division Artillery stating that Company B would go under the operational control of the 405th Inf. At 1800 two platoons moved out to Stendal. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued. Coordinated operation of the 102d Division Railroad with the 279th Engr C Bn was begun.

7 May 1945: The battalion less Company B and RCT attachments continued its Military Government operations. Motorized roving patrols were operated throughout the area, military hospitals and a medical supply point were guarded, and 12 trucks were furnished to the 102d Division Provisional Truck Company to haul PWs. Company B remained under the operational control of the 405th Inf Regt and one platoon, each company, remained attached to their respective RCTs. One squad from Company C was assigned the mission of operating the equipment for the Commanding General's crossing of the Elbe River to meet the Russians. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued as was the guarding of the captured Engineer Equipment Dump. The coordinated operation of the 102d Division railroad with the 279th Engr C Bn was continued.

8 May 1945: The battalion continued its Military Government operations in its zone of responsibility. Motorized roving patrols were run, and guards were maintained at the medical supply dump and the two military hospitals in Letzlingen, and at the enemy Engineer Equipment Dump. One platoon, each company, remained attached to its respective RCT. Twelve trucks were furnished to 102d Division Provisional Truck Company, and the reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued. Three areas in the vicinity of Gardelegen which were suspected to be minefields were checked and no mines were located. The coordinated operation of the 102d Division Railroad with the 279th Engr C Bn was continued and Co B was released from the operational control of the 405th Inf.

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9 May 1945: The battalion continued Military Government operations in assigned sector. Motorized roving patrols were operated, and Company B relieved Company A of guarding the military hospitals and medical supply dump in Letzlingen. Company B released from operational control of the 405th Inf Regt. The coordinated operation of the 102d Division Railroad was continued, and one platoon, each company, remained attached to its respective RCT. Companies A and B each constructed liaison plane landing strips in the vicinity of their respective CPs to facilitate special communication between the various CPs of 102d Division Artillery and attachments. Twelve trucks were furnished to the 102d Division Provisional Truck Company to haul PWs and DPs. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued.

10 May 1945: As per instructions from 102d Division, Companies A, B and C prepared to turn over their areas of responsibility to elements of 380 FA. However, the 380th FA was not prepared to effect relief so Companies A, B and C continued their Military Government operations in their respective areas. Companies A and B who had moved into Gardlegen in compliance to instructions from Battalion Headquarters, moved back to Jeggeu and Letzlingen respectively. Motorized roving patrols were run, and guards were maintained at the medical supply dump and military hospitals in Letzlingen. The operation and guarding of the enemy Engineer Equipment Dump and the coordinated operation of the 102d Division Railroad with 279th Engr Combat Bn continued. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued. RCT attachments terminated and platoons from companies A and C returned to their respective company. Company B, RCT attachment remained in 406th Inf area to construct PW cage at Sachau.

11 May 1945: The battalion remained in its assigned area and continued its Military Government operations. Motorized roving patrols were run and guards were maintained at the military supply dump in Letzlingen. The guarding and operation of the enemy Engineer Equipment Dump and the coordinated operation of the 102d Division Railroad with the 279th Engr C Bn continued. Trucks were again furnished to the 102d Division Provisional Truck Company, and the reading of the Elbe River water gauge continued. A provisional company to act as the "Guard of Honor" for a ceremony to be held in honor of the Russians on 16 May 1945 was organized. Guard consists of 98 EM and 3 officers.

12 May 1945: The battalion continued its Military Government operations until 1530, at which time, relief of the entire zone of responsibility was effected by the 380th FA. Motorized roving patrols were operated throughout the area and guards were maintained at the medical supply dump and military hospitals in Letzlingen until relief was effected by the 380th FA. One platoon, Company A, initiated the construction of a dock on the Elbe River at Tangermunde. The provisional company continued its preparations for the Russian ceremony on 16 May 1945.

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12 May 1945: One platoon, Company B, remained in 406th Inf area and initiated construction of a PW cage at Sachau. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued, and trucks were furnished to the 102d Division Provisional Truck Company to haul DPs. The coordinated operation of 102d Division Railroad with 279th Engr C Bn continued. Orientation Film "Two Down and One to Go" was shown to the entire battalion.

13 May 1945: One platoon, Company B, continued construction of PW cage at Sachau and one platoon, Company C initiated construction of a dock on Elbe River at Rogatz. The provisional company continued its preparations for the Russian ceremony on 16 May 1945. The operation and guarding of the enemy Engineer Equipment Dump was continued and twelve trucks were furnished to the 102d Division Provisional Truck Company to haul DPs. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge continued and the coordinated operation of the 102d Division Railroad with the 279th Engr C Bn continued. Construction of dock at Tangermunde continued.

14 May 1945: One platoon, Company B, continued the construction of the PW cage at Sachau; and one platoon from Company A continued the construction of the dock on the Elbe River at Tangermunde. The provisional company organized to be the "Guard of Honor" for the Russian ceremony to be held 16 May 1945 continued its preparations. Twelve trucks were furnished to the 102d Division Provisional Truck Company to haul DPs; and the coordinated operation of the 102d Division Railroad with the 279th Engr C Bn was continued. The guarding and operation of the enemy Engineer Equipment Dump and the reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued. The construction of the dock at Rogatz was discontinued inasmuch as the Russian representatives are going to cross the Elbe River at Tangermunde only.

15 May 1945: One platoon, company B, continued construction of PW cage at Sachau, and one platoon, Company A, continued construction of dock on Elbe River at Tangermunde. The provisional company made final preparations for the Russian ceremony to be held on 16 May 1945, and trucks were again furnished to the 102d Division Provisional Truck Company. The guarding and operation of the enemy Engineer Equipment Dump and the reading of the Elbe River Water gauge was continued. The coordinated operation of the 102d Division Railroad with the 279th Engr C Bn was continued.

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16 May 1945: One platoon, Company B, continued construction of PW cage at Sachau; one platoon, Company A, completed construction of dock on the Elbe River at Tangermunde; and the provisional company acted as "Guard of Honor" for the reception given in honor of the Russians. The operation and guarding of the enemy Engineer Equipment Dump was continued; and trucks were again furnished to the 102d Division Provisional Truck Company. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge; and the coordinated operation of the 102d Division Railroad with the 279th Engr C Bn was continued. Plans and preparations were made to relieve the 309th Engr C Bn of the guarding and operation of the ferry at Wahrenberg.

17 May 1945: One platoon, Company B, completed construction of PW cage at Sachau, and returned to company. One platoon, Company A, remained at Tangermunde to transport the Russian delegation back across the river and also to maintain the dock. And the provisional company remained intact until approx 1830 for the purpose of clearing all borrowed property and also to complete the check of personnel records. The operation and guarding of the enemy Engr equipment dump and the coordinated operation of the 102d Div RR with the 279 Engr C Bn continued. Trucks were furnished to the 102d Div provisional Truck Company and the reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued.

18 May 1945: One platoon, Company C, relieved 309 Engr C Bn of operation of ferry at Wahrenberg, and a detail of seven men remained at Tangermunde to maintain the landing dock on the Elbe River. All companies operated recon patrols for the purpose of locating Engineer work in the Div sector and one platoon, Company A, initiated the rehabilitation of a pistol and rifle range vic Gardelegen. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge and the coordinated operation of the 102d Div RR with the 279 Engr C Bn was continued. The operation and guarding of the enemy Engr equipment dump was continued.

19 May 1945: One platoon, Company C, continued to operate the ferry at Wahrenberg, and one platoon, Company B, started the construction of a PW cage at Dahre. The rehabilitation of the pistol and rifle range vic Gardelegen and the maintenance of the landing dock on the Elbe River at Tangermunde was continued. Recon patrols for the purpose of locating Engr work and the operation and guarding of the enemy Engr equipment dump and the coordinated operation of the 102d Div RR with the 279th Engr C Bn and the reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued. Trucks were again furnished to the 102d Div Provisional Truck Company and plans were formulated for the construction of a battalion shower unit.

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20 May 1945: Inasmuch as Sundays were declared a day of rest, operations were kept to a minimum. One platoon, Company C, remained at Wahrenberg to operate the ferry and a detail of six men remained at Tangermunde to maintain the landing dock and construction of a foot bridge across the Elbe River at Wittenberg was started by Company C. The purpose being to expedite the flow of DPs across the river. The guarding of the enemy Engr equipment dump and the coordinated operation of the 102d Div RR with the 279th Engr C Bn and the reading of the Elbe River Gauge continued.

21 May 1945: One platoon, Company B, continued construction of PWE at Dahre; six men remained in Tangermunde to maintain landing dock; and one platoon, Company C, operated ferry at Wahrenberg. Engr recon patrols were operated throughout the area; the reading of the Elbe River water gauge was continued; and one platoon, Company A, initiated construction of a battalion shower unit. The operation and guarding of the enemy Engr equipmen dump; and the coordinated operation of the 102d Div RR with the 279th Engr Bn was continued. Trucks were again furnished to the 102d Div Provisional Truck Company to haul displaced persons.

22 May 1945: Construction of PWE at Dahre continued; six men maintained landing dock at Tangermunde; and construction of footbridge at Wittenberg was continued. Engr recon patrols were operated; one platoon, Company C, continued to operate DP ferry at Wahrenberg; and the construction of the battalion shower unit was continued. The operation and guarding of the enemy Engr equipment dump; the reading of the Elbe River water gauge; and the coordinated operation of the of the 102d Div RR with the 279th Engr Bn continued; Trucks were again furnished to the 102d Div Provisional Truck Company.

23 May 1945: One platoon, Company C, continued operation of ferry at Wahrenberg; six men remained in Tangermunde to maintain wharf; and one platoon, Company B continued construction of PWE at Dahre. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge and the coordinated operation of the 102d Div RR continued. Engr recon patrols were operated and the operation and guarding of the enemy Engr equipment dump was continued. An assault boat ferry was constructed and operated at Tangermunde to transport a Russian concert band across the Elbe River; and the continuation of the construction of the battalion shower was done.

24 May 1945: One platoon, Company C, continued operation of DP ferry at Wahrenberg; six men remained at Tangermunde to maintain landing dock; and the construction of the PWE at Dahre was completed. The construction of the battalion shower unit; the coordinated operation of the 102d Div RR with the 279 Engr Bn; and the reading of the Elbe River water gauge continued. Engr RCN patrols

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24 May 1945 (Cont'd) were operated within the 102d Div Sector; the operation and guarding of the enemy Engr equipment dump was continued; and a battalion parade was held at which awards were presented to officers and enlisted men of the battalion. Trucks were furnished to the 102d Div Provisional Truck Company to haul DP's.

25 May 1945: One platoon, Company C, continued operation of DP ferry at Wahrenberg; six men remained at Tangermunde to maintain the landing dock; and the construction of the battalion shower unit continued. Engr recon patrols were operated throughout the division sector; the operation and guarding of the Engr equipment dump was continued; and the coordinated operation of the 102d Div RR with the 279th Engr Bn continued. Trucks were furnished to the 102d Div. Provisional Truck Company and the reading of the Elbe River water gauge continued. A provisional training platoon was organized to train reinforcements received from other branches of the Army in basic Engr. subjects. One squad, Company B, checked a reported area vic. Born, Germany, for mines and destroyed all that were located.

26 May 1945: Due to the fact that the battalion was scheduled to move on 29 May, 1945, the provisional training platoon was disbanded. Reorganization to take place after arrival in new area. The coordinated operation of the 102d Div RR with the 279th Engr Bn terminated, and the 279th Engr Bn was relieved of its operational responsibility. At the termination of the railway operation approximately 380 Kilo of track was in use in the Division area, and was operated under the control of the **Division Engineers**. The reading of the Elbe River water gauge and the operation and guarding of the Engr equipment dump was continued. The operation of the DP ferry continued and Engr Recon patrols were operated throughout the division sector. The landing dock on the Elbe River at Tangermunde was removed in preparation for the battalion move to the new area.

27 May 1945: A physical inspection of clothing and equipment was conducted to determine servicability and shortages. The operation of the DP ferry at Wahrenberg terminated and the operating platoon returned. The operation and guarding of the Engr equipment dump and the reading of the Elbe River water gauge continued. The provisional truck platoon was disbanded and all companies prepared to move to new area.

28 May 1945: All companies made final preparations to move to new area. The operation of and guarding of the enemy Engr equipment dump was discontinued and all materiel stored in the dump was reported to XIII Corps. Relief of the reading of the Elbe River water gauge was effected by British troops. Air raid shelters at Neuwaldensleben and Klost Neuendorf were destroyed and covered up.

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29 May 1945: Battalion moved from Gardelegen to Neudietendorf, Germany in preparation for the relief of the 314 Engr C Bn, 89th Infantry Division. Companies A, B, and C closed in in Bischleben, Ingersleben and Wandersleben respectively. Battalion CP closed in at Neudietendorf. Time of closing in 1700 hours.

30 May 1945: Relief of the 314 Engr C Bn was effected and Military Government security patrols were operated. Care and maintenance of equipment and a program of organized athletics was initiated.

31 May 1945: Fifteen trucks were furnished to move the rear echelon from Stendal to new area. Military Government security patrols were operated throughout the 327th Engr C Bn assigned sector. The provisional training platoon was reorganized to continue the training program started in Gardelegen. Training to start 1 June 1945. Company B moved from Ingersleben to Neudietendorf.

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