

RESTRICTED  
HEADQUARTERS  
164TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

5 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Battalion's Second Anniversary.

TO : All Members of this Command.

I wish to congratulate each man in this battalion on its second anniversary.

This battalion was activated on 5 May 1943, at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, and embarked at Camp Shanks, New York, on 26 February 1944, enroute to England. The unit debarked at Greenock, Scotland, on 10 March 1944, and arrived in Painswick, England, on 11 March 1944. All time in England was spent in preparing for invasion of fortress Europe which came on 6 June 1944. On D-Day, 28 men of this organization participated in the landing operations on the beaches of Normandy and later were followed onto French soil by the remainder of the battalion. The men participating in the initial assault received the Distinguished Unit Badge as a result of their excellent performance during the landing operations.

On 30 June 1944, the organization proper landed on Utah beach, and began operations as a part of the 1128th Engineer Combat Group. During the time this battalion was attached to the 1128th Engineer Combat Group, its primary missions were constructing bridges and maintaining roads. On 17 July 1944, the battalion began construction at Beuzeville La Bastille, France, of the first pile bent bridge to be built on French soil by Allied forces since D-Day, and, during its construction, started another pile bent bridge at Etienville, France. Both bridges were constructed in an excellent manner.

On 1 August 1944, the battalion was attached to the 1110th Engineer Combat Group and continued building upon its already commendable reputation. One of the highlights of operations was the construction of a pile bent bridge, 270 feet long, across the Meuse River at Dinant, Belgium, in 7 days. All supplies were obtained from local sources and all obstacles were overcome by the ingenuity of men of the command. The battalion was highly commended by various higher headquarters for the construction of this bridge in record time, made possible by the cooperation, endurance, and perseverance of all its members. After the completion of this job, the unit was assigned various other bridge construction jobs and the maintaining of roads across Belgium and into Germany. These missions were accomplished in a very efficient manner.

On 22 December 1944, this battalion was billeted at Brand, Germany, when it was ordered to support the VII Corps when the German Army broke through the Ardennes. The unit moved under very difficult conditions to Huy, Belgium, where it was immediately ordered to start construction of a Floating Bailey Bridge at Andenne, Belgium, across the Meuse River. This bridge was vital for the flow of supplies to the front-line troops. The bridge was built in a magnificent manner and the battalion received a commendation from the Commanding Officer, 1110th Engineer Combat Group.

During the remainder of the winter, the battalion was engaged in road maintenance on roads in Belgium which helped move the Army forward to drive the Germans back into Germany. This road maintenance included the building of several miles of corduroy road, the conquering of unusual road maintenance problems, and the beating

RESTRICTED

of the European winter.

On 7 March 1945, while engaged in work in the vicinity of Kalterherberg, Germany, the battalion received orders to move on Remagen, Germany, where the 9th Armored Division captured the Ludendorf Bridge intact. Its primary mission was to provide security for the bridge against enemy floating mines and swimmers. The unit arrive at Remagen, 8 March 1945 and proceeded to successfully accomplish its mission under heavy harassing fire. On the night of 17 and 18 March 1945, security patrols captured two German swimmers who were forced ashore by the concussion of depth charges set off in the Rhine River as a part of the security measures taken. These swimmers had the mission of destroying the bridge by demolitions. Floating mines were observed by observation posts the same night and exploded by small arms fire before they could damage the bridge. During this time, the battalion was attached operationally to the III Corps. After this job was completed, the battalion was attached operationally to the V Corps to provide similar security for other bridges on the Rhine River.

On 25 March 1945, the battalion was assigned the security of all Rhine River installations in First Army area.

At this time, the day of its second anniversary, the battalion is engaged in another important task, building a Semi-Permanent Pile Bent Bridge across the Rhine River at Neuwied, Germany.

The record of the battalion is a source of immeasurable pride to the battalion commander who realizes this record would not have been possible except for the spirit and cooperation of all members. Congratulations are extended to each and every man on the excellent record created for the battalion, as it looks toward increasing its already enviable reputation.

*H. F. Cameron, Jr.*  
H. F. CAMERON, JR.,  
Lt. Colonel, CE.  
Commanding.

RESTRICTED