

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 285TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

- December 17, 1943** Activated this date at Camp Crowder, Missouri under Table of Organization 5-15 (15 Jul 43) with 29 officers, 3 warrant officers and 632 enlisted men.
- Into 1944** Received full complement of personnel, organized units and trained at Camp Crowder, Camp Campbell, Kentucky and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.
- October 22, 1944** Sailed from NYPOE aboard the SS Marine Raven and landed at Barry, Wales on 2 Nov 44. Moved by rail to Delamere Park Camp, 1 mile NW of Cuddington Station, England. Continued unit training.
- January 7, 1945** The "Battle of the Bulge" terminated training and unit embarked from Southampton, landing at Le Havre, France on 9 Jan 45. Existed at Camp Twenty Grand, near Duclair, France on salmon, cheese and bread and marmalade for over a week. Moved by "40 & 8's" from Twenty Grand arriving at Ukange, France on 20 Jan 45 then on by truck to Dalheim, Luxembourg.
- January 22, 1945 to March 1, 1945** The first mission of the 285th was as an infantry holding force along the Moselle River - part of Task Force Reed, whose mission was to screen the right flank of XII Corps, Third U.S. Army under Gen. Patton.
- March 1, 1945** Relieved from Task Force Reed and assigned to 1137th Engr. C Gp.
- March 13, 1945** Crossed Sauer River from Luxembourg into Germany!
- March 16, 1945** Put in Direct Support of the 11th Armored Division.
- March 24, 1945** Put in Direct Support of the 4th Armored Division.
- March 25/27, 1945** Crossed the RHINE at Oppenheim with XII Corps.
- March 31, 1945** General Support of the 4th Armored under 1135th Engr. C Gp.
- April 7, 1945** Put in Direct Support of the 71st Infantry Division.
- April 19, 1945 to May 22, 1945** Put in Direct Support of the 26th Infantry Division.
- Notes:**
1. The war in the ETO ended at Midnight, 8 May 45 with the 285th then located in Mistlberg, Austria.
 2. From 3 Nov 44 to 8 May 45 the Battalion CP was located at 32 various sites in England, France, Luxembourg, Germany & Austria!
 3. The 285th participated in three campaigns in the ETO: Ardennes-Alsace, Rhineland and Central Europe.
 4. Inactivated 19 Nov 45 at Camp Patrick Henry, Oriana, Virginia. This is now the site of the Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport.
 5. The Command Posts and routes of each element of the Battalion varied considerably during the campaigns in Europe.