

HEADQUARTERS
818TH ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALION

UNIT HISTORY

JANUARY 1944

During the month of January, the life and activities of the battalion did not differ greatly from the previous four months; that is, until a movement was executed at the very close of the month. All aspects of the unit, construction, administration and recreation continued at Honington as before.

Early in the year, on the 7th of January, important promotions in Company "B" were announced. S/Sgt. Raymond L. Hardy, 35255981, was appointed the First Sergeant of the company. Two Sergeants, George G. Aldridge, 35256022, and Henry E. Buzsek, 32233000, were promoted to the grade of Staff Sergeant as platoon sergeants.

Other than the promotions mentioned, the only other noticeable change among enlisted personnel of the battalion were a few losses. On 4 January, Pvt. Lucian Shinabarger, 39185874, Company "A", was transferred under guard to the 2912th Disciplinary Training Center (par. 6, SO No. 332, Hq. EBS, 28 Dec 1943). Pvt. Andrew B. Beauchamp, 36170527, Headquarters & Service Company, was transferred under guard to the ETO Disciplinary Training Center on 17 January (par. 10, SO No. 14, Hq. EBS, 14 Jan 1944) and was followed by Pvt. Philip S. Damiano, 12038343, and Pvt. Roy A. Boggs, 37146068, Headquarters & Service Company, on 22 January (par. 14, SO No. 17, Hq. EBS, 17 Jan 1944) and par. 6, SO No. 18, Hq. EBS, 18 Jan 1944) and by Pvt. Frank A. Bieszczat, 35255482, on 26 January (par. 1, SO No. 26, Hq. EBS, 26 Jan 1944). Two men, Tec 5. Carl N. Smith, 32207396, Headquarters & Service Company, and Pvt. Philip Germanaro, 33070987, Company "A", were transferred to the Detachment of Patients of the 36th Station Hospital and the 231st Station Hospital respectively (par. 4, SO No. 5, Hq. 818th Engr Avn Bn, 11 Jan 1944 and par. 3, SO No. 13, Hq. 818th Engr Avn Bn, 25 Jan 1944).

Replacements, however, more than made up the losses. Tec 5. Frank W. Kelly, 32199002, who had been previously transferred to a hospital, rejoined the battalion on 7 January (par. 27, SO No. 3, Hq. 10th Repl Depot, WBS, 3 Jan 1944). On 18 January, Pfc. Joseph Steffin, 33459734, Pvt. Vestal B. Lewis, 34374110, and Pfc. Philip J. Nisastro, 32198444, another former member of the organization, reported for duty (par. 12, SO No. 15, Hq. EBS, 15 Jan 1944 and par. 1, SO No. 14, Hq. 10th Repl Depot, 14 Jan 1944). The following day, Pfc. Louis J. Bouselli, 33603031, Privts. Warren J. Cotes, 36122532, Paul L. Spratt, 35576596, Henry Vernaci, 19174797, and Kenneth E. Sickles, 15110529, joined (par. 19, SO No. 17, Hq. EBS, 17 Jan 1944). Pfc. Charles V. Berrett, 33399977, reported on 22 January (par. 34, SO No. 19, Hq. 10th Repl Depot, WBS, 19 Jan 1944).

Only two changes occurred among the officers of the unit. Lt. Dewanap received his promotion to First Lieutenant on 1 January (par. 10, SO No. 1, Hq. ETOUSA, 1 Jan 1944). And on the twenty fifth of the month, Lt. Angle was assigned to Company "B", leaving his former duties at Company "C".

As to the mission, by 26 January it was approximately 92% complete. A total of 148 buildings, Nissen, WO, Robin, Romney, Sece, T-2 Hangars, Transit Sheds, brick and prefabricated type were erected. 16,000 feet of sewer lines and a filtration sewage disposal plant were constructed, with 115 manholes. A steel water tower of 60,000 gallons capacity and 65 feet high was assembled. On the fighter base to be, a steel mat runway 1800 feet in length and 150 feet in width, and a tarmac runway 1250 feet long and 150 feet wide were laid. In addition, such work as the laying of road fillets, electrical installations, plumbing and boiler facilities, water lines, the construction of a fuel compound, oil installation and wash racks, the grading and filling of a motor park and the clearing and grading of approximately 50 acres were undertaken and completed.

The battalion was never to complete the depot. On 27 January, it departed from Homington, at 0815 hours, en route to Great Barrington, Oxford, arriving at 1615 hours the same afternoon. (MO No. 82, Hq. EBS, 24 Jan 1944). At its new station the mission of the unit was the planning and the execution of an intensive training period during the next two months.

The conditions at Great Barrington were the worst encountered since the early days of overseas service. A portion of a half-constructed, supposedly winterized camp, situated on the estate of a Colonel Wingate, was assigned to the battalion. Nissen huts were available only for headquarters installations. The living quarters of the unit were pyramidal tents. In the middle of the English winter, stoves to heat the tents were not available for two weeks. The camp water supply was found to be contaminated and the available running water supply was out off. Facilities for messing, for almost any other purpose, were at a minimum. It was two weeks before the battalion began to be comfortably settled.

The change of station also brought a change in the status of the unit. On 27 January, it was relieved of further attachment to Eastern Base Section and from assignment to the Eighth Air Force (Ltr. USSTAF, 23 Jan 1944, 322, subject: "Assignment of Units"), and was assigned as part of the Ninth Air Force. On the same day, Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, made the battalion a part of the IX Engineer Headquarters, soon to be the IX Engineer Command (par. 6, GO No. 22, Hq. Ninth Air Force, 27 Jan 1944).

RESTRICTED

HQ EBS SOS ETOUSA APO 517

SO No 332

EXTRACT

28 Dec 1943

6. The following EM, now in conf, are trfd to 2912th Dis Tng Center, APO 508, and will be sent under gd to the CO thereof for further conf. A physical inspection of EM prior to shipt will be held in accordance with Sec I PAR 2, Adm Cir No 12, Hq SOS ETOUSA, 26 Apr 1943. Records and equipment specified in pars 3c and 3e, Cir No 20, Hq ETOUSA, 22 Feb 1943, as amended, will accompany EM: TCNT TDN 91-5 P 431-02 A 212/40425.

Pvt Lucien A Shinabarger 39185874 818th Engr Avn Bn

By order of Col PLANK:

L. M. SHIELDS
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

S/ W. D. NIXON
W. D. NIXON
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

RESTRICTED

HQ EBS SOS ETOUSA APO 517

SO No 14

EXTRACT

14 Jan 1944

10. The following named EM, now pris in conf, are trfd under gd to the ETO Dis Tng Center No 4, and will proceed thereto in the custody of the gds indicated.

Pvt Andrew B Beauchamp, 36170587, H&S Co, 818th Engr Avn Bn

By order of COL PLANK:

L. M. SHIELDS
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

S/ W D NIXON
W D NIXON
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

RESTRICTED

HQ EBS SOS ETOUSA APO 517

SO No 17

EXTRACT

17 Jan 1944

14. The following named EM, now pris in conf, are trfd under gd to the ETO Dis Tng Center No 4, and WP thereto in the custody of the gds indicated.

Pvt Philip S Damiano, 12038348, Co A 818th Engr Avn Bn

By order of COL PLANK:

L. M. SHIELDS
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

S/ W D NIXON
W D NIXON
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

RESTRICTED

HQ EBS SOS ETOUSA APO 517

SO No 18

EXTRACT

18 Jan 1944

6. Pvt Roy A Boggs, 37146068, 818th Engr Avn Bn, now in confit at that sta, is trfd to the ETO Dis Tng Center No 4, and will be sent thereto in the custody of Sgt Martin J Collins, 32147351, 818th Engr Avn Bn. -----

By order of COL PLANK:

OFFICIAL:

S/ W D NIXON
W D NIXON
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

L M SHIELDS
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

RESTRICTED

HQ EBS SOS ETOUSA APO 517

EXTRACT

SO No 26

26 Jan 1944

1. Pvt Frank A Bieszczyk, 35255482, Co C, 818th Engr Avn Bn, now in confit thereat, is trfd to ETO Dis Tng Center No 4, and will be sent thereto in the custody of Sgt Thomas G. Stallbaum, 35284291, Hq Co, 818th Engr Avn Bn. *****

By order of COL PLANK:

OFFICIAL:

S/ W D NIXON
W D NIXON
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

L M SHIELDS
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

RESTRICTED

HQ 10TH REFI DEPOT
EBS SOS ETOUSA
APO 874

SO NO. 3)

EXTRACT

3 Jan 1944

27. PAC Adm Cir No 37, HQ SOS ETOUSA, 1943, the following named EM are hereby rel'd fr atchd unasn't to Gas Det, 10th RD (orgn named) and are atchd unasn'd to Gas Det, 10th RD (Co C, 37th) for shipment and are assigned to orgn indicated below, to report to their proper sta and orgn reporting upon arrival to the CO thereat for dy:

318 Engr Avn Bn, APO 527, U S Army
Fr Co B, 49th Repl: T/5 KELLY, FRANK W., 32199002 013-CE

By order of Colonel KILIAN:

OFFICIAL:

S/ W. H. Stone
W. H. STONE
Major, AGD
Asst Adjutant

ROBERT J NORTON
Major, Infantry
Adjutant.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC AIR FORCES
IN EUROPE
Office of the Commanding General

SECRET
:Auth CG, USSAFE
:Date 23 Jan 1944
:Init:q1q

23 January 1944

322
SUBJECT: Assignment of Units.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force
Commanding General, Ninth Air Force

1. The following units are relieved from attachment to the Eastern Base Section, SOS, and from assignment to the Eighth Air Force and are reassigned to the Ninth Air Force effective 27 January 1944.

Hq & Hq Serv Co, 926th Engr Avn Regt
818th Engr Avn Bn
830th Engr Avn Bn

2. The attention of the commanders concerned is directed to the provisions of AR 345-800 and AR 345-900.

By command of Lieutenant General SPATZ:

S/ JAMES B. GORDON
Colonel, ATD
Asst Adj Gen.

SECRET
HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE
SECTION I: ASSIGNMENT OF UNITS
SECTION II: ATTACHMENT OF UNITS

SECRET
:Auth CG 9 AF
:Date: 27 Jan 44
:Init:_____

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER.....22

EXTRACT
SECTION I
APO 696, U S Army
27 Jan 1944

6. The following units having been assigned to the Ninth Air Force by letter, USSAFE, file 322, dated 24 January 1944, subject: "Assignment of Units", are further assigned to Engineer Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, eff 27 Jan 1944:

Hq & Hq Sv Co, 926th Engr Avn Regt
818th Engr Avn Bn
830th Engr Avn Bn

By command of Major General BRERSTON:

OFFICIAL:
S/ C M SEIBACH
Col, A G D
Adj Gen

V. H. STRAHL
Brig Gen USA
C of S

SECRET

FILE TO
RESEARCH STUDIES
INSTITUTE
U. S. A. F.
HISTORICAL DIVISION
ARCHIVES BRANCH

*Work 818
Feb 44*

Feb 44

818 - Engr - Avn - En

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RSI Cont. No.
S11358

SECRET

MICROFILMED

: SECRET :
: Auth: CO 818th EAB :
: Init: *W* :
: Date: 4 Mar 1944 :
: : :

961.1196
5

HEADQUARTERS
818TH ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALION
A.P.O. 636, U S ARMY

FEBRUARY 1944
UNIT HISTORY - 818TH ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALION

1. Organization - Negative.
2. Strength, commissioned and enlisted - 30 officers, 776 EM
3. Movement: Negative
4. Casualties - Negative.
5. Decorations - Negative.

James J. Corral
JAMES J. CORRAL
1st Lt, CE
Historian

RSI Cont No
S11358

HEADQUARTERS
818TH ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALION

UNIT HISTORY

FEBRUARY 1944

The first few days at Great Barrington, Oxford, were passed in housekeeping and in making preparations for the coming training period. A regular program of six days of training, eight hours a day, and one day off a week for the entire battalion was planned and approved by the 926th Engineer Aviation Regiment, the unit responsible to Engineer Headquarters for the training of subordinate units.

The training program was under way by the second of the month. At the outset, emphasis was placed on basic infantry training with intensive physical exercises. Close order, extended order, manual of arms, the use of the obstacle course, calisthenics and other simple but necessary classes were stressed during the first week. As the battalion became better trained, emphasis was placed on more advanced subjects such as the laying and clearing of mine fields, camouflage and combat principles. A ten mile and a fifteen mile hike in conjunction with an overnight bivouac in Barnsley Wold, Gloucestershire were taken by each company. Although the battalion was handicapped all during the period by being unable to acquire the necessary prepared training aids, the program during this month was well planned and executed.

In addition to the regular training exercises, members of the battalion were afforded the opportunity to engage in specialized training. Several enlisted men were detailed to radio and cryptographic schools to become specialists which the organization badly needed. Lt Merbitz and a group of motor pool personnel attended a school in vehicle waterproofing to prepare them for future operations. A small group of gunners were sent to Northern Ireland to a course in firing the 50 cal. anti-aircraft machine gun. The remainder of the gunners of the unit were given the opportunity to visit a range at Minehead, Somerset, to fire the 50 cal., the 30 cal., machine guns and the 37MM anti-tank gun. Later in the month, another group of men under Lt Dewsnap and Lt Lund attended an anti-aircraft course at an Army Air Force station in southern England.

Further training and experience was gained by units of the organization by two missions assigned to the battalion by regimental headquarters. Lt Widowski and the second platoon of Co A left Great Barrington for Ashford, Kent, to construct a Butler combat hangar at an airfield there, a job which, under unfavorable conditions, lasted fifteen days (FO# 5, Hq, 926th Engr Avn Regt, 3 Feb 1944). On the twentieth of the month, Lt Pearson proceeded to Patcham, Sussex, accompanied by fourteen men, to build a takeoff for a Flying Fortress which had made a forced landing on the English countryside while returning from a mission over Europe. The Fort took to the air before the end of the month (FO# 11, Hq, 926th Engr Avn Regt, 20 Feb 1944).

During the month, the organization increased in enlisted strength. Pfc James J. Collura, 31068628, a former member transferred to the hospital, reported on 3 February (par 13, SO# 30, Hq, 10th Repl Dep, 30 Jan 1944). Two other former members rejoined their units the following day when Tec 5 Jack C Hart, 39385537, and Pfc Jacob G Goldman, 31068377, reported for duty (par 15, SO# 30, Hq, 10th Repl Dep and par 63, SO# 30, Hq, 10th Repl Dep, 30 Jan 1944). On 6 February, Tec 3 Joseph L Terrill, 7001121, Tec 4 James E Matthews, 13017178, Tec 5 James E Welchel, 6973614, and Tec 5 Joseph A Biggar, 33028178, were placed on temporary duty with the battalion pending the receipt of permanent transfer orders (par 1, SO# 18, Hq, 926th Engr Avn Regt, 6 Feb 1944).

Losses in the battalion were extremely few. Tec 4 Earl F Oesterreich, 36302708, was relieved from assignment to the battalion and transferred to the Air Corps, to be returned to the United States for training as an Aviation Cadet (par 9, SO# 41, Hq, ETOUSA, 10 Feb 1944). Pvt Andrew J Wosnock, 33252770, Co A, was transferred to 58th General Hospital 24 Feb 1944, and Sgt Francis Schmid, Co B, was assigned to the same organization on the last day of the month.

Among the officers, Lt Hill, the Supply Officer, and Lt Smith, commanding Co B, received promotions to the rank of captain on the first of the month (par 25, SO# 32, Hq, ETOUSA, 1 Feb 1944).

Recreation during the month was cut to a minimum. Except for the movies which were shown in camp every evening, circumstances did not lend themselves to elaborate recreational facilities. Away from camp, the personnel of the unit continued to travel to London during passes. The nearest large city was Oxford, rich in tradition and culture, but even more crowded than had been the towns of Thetford and Bury St Edmunds. A quiet, friendly town was found in nearby Burford, famous for its old hotels and public houses. After the first ten days, an armored battalion was billeted in the town, and conditions there were the same as in Oxford.

The month ended on a sore note. On the 27th of February the battalion made a forced march to Barnsley Wold. The schedule called for the 13 miles to be completed in three hours. The March began shortly after 0600 hours in the morning and by 0930 hours, just a few minutes behind schedule, the unit arrived at its destination. In a snowstorm, exercises were held at the training area and dinner was served in the field. At 1330 hours, the battalion began the march back to Great Barrington, scheduled to arrive at 1730 hours. The time allowed was improved upon, and the head of the march entered camp shortly after 1730 hours. About half of those that started the march were able to finish. And those that finished were not in condition to do much more than crawl into bed.

S E C R E T

HQ 926th ENGR AVN REGT

.....
 : SECRET :
 : AUTH: CO, 926th EAR :
 : INITIALS WJR :
 : DATE: 3 Feb 1944 :
 :.....

926th ENGR AVN REGT
 APO 638, U. S. Army
 031200 Feb 1944

FIELD ORDER)

NUMBER 5)

E X T R A C T

Map: GSGS 3907, Sheet No. 126

I. INFORMATION: No change.

II. MISSION:

a. 926th Engr Avn Regt is assigned mission of erecting two Butler Type Combat Hangars; one at ALG in vicinity of Ashford, Kent; other at ALG in vicinity of Woodchurch, Kent.

III. DETACHMENT:

a. 818th Engr Avn Bn will move necessary troops by unit transportation to ALG, ref (405585) near Ashford, Kent, to erect one Butler Type Combat Hangar in location shown on annex 1, SW end of runway.

g. (1) In accomplishment of mission the assigned troops will consider the Butler Hangar as their primary subject of instruction.
 (2) It is imperative that camouflage discipline be maintained.
 (3) Troops and vehicles will not be allowed on runways, taxiways, or hardstandings at any time.
 (4) Missions will be accomplished by 142400 February 1944.

IV. a. (1) Rations for detached units will be supplied by the respective battalions.
 (2) POL products Contract Station Ashford, Kent; petrol available at Woodchurch, phone Brooklyn 239.
 (3) Hangars drawn from G-45 (release No. SR 20500-G) and moved to sites by your own troops. Contact Lt. Gray (phone Newbury 1349).

b. (1) Billets available at Kingsnorth. Contact F/Lt. Robinson, phone Ashford 738. ***** Billets unlighted and unheated. Some wood available. Must haul water. No beds or bedding available.
 (2) No latrine facilities available. Straddle trenches prohibited. Battalions furnish buckets and arrange waste disposal.

g. Upon arrival contact this headquarters and Engr. Hq, Ninth AF direct, giving exchange and telephone number of their unit at new location.

d. Upon completion submit complete statistical report to this headquarters on all phases of the mission, including troop movements.

OFFICIAL

S E C R E T

DOUGAN
 Comdg.

S/ Ray S-3

S E C R E T

O : : : : : S E C R E T : : : : :
 AUTH: CO 926th Engr Regt
 : INITIAL: JJK :
 : DATE: 20 Feb 1944 :
 : : : : : S E C R E T : : : : :

926th Engr Avn Regt
 APO 638 U. S. Army
 201630 Feb 1944

FIELD ORDER)

NUMBER 11)

Map: 5th Edition, Ordnance Survey of England and Wales, Sheets 93 and 134, scale 1" to 1 mile.

I. a See current intelligence directives.

b No change

(1) A B-17 airplane has made a forced landing on the west slope of Scare Hill (ref. 735293). The plane is currently being repaired by the Mobile Repair crew from the MRU Section, AAF Station 127. It is estimated that the plane will be in flying condition by 26 Feb 1944.

II. The 926th Engineer Aviation Regiment has been assigned the mission of reconnoitering the site of the forced landing and carrying out the necessary construction to prepare a take-off runway for the ship.

III. The 818th Engineer Aviation Battalion will prosecute the construction necessary to fly the ship off the ground according to the plan set forth in Annex "A" and sketch, Annex "B".

IV. a. Organizational equipment and expendable supplies will be utilized. Additional necessary supplies will be requisitioned through this headquarters.

b. Personnel will be quartered and rationed in the nearest community. Receipts will be submitted to this headquarters for expenditures and men will be reimbursed accordingly.

(1) Report to S-1, this headquarters, the names, grade and Army Serial Number of men engaged in this mission for issuance of travel orders.

c. A complete chronological report of progress of construction, with photographs, will be submitted to this headquarters immediately upon completion of mission.

V. a, No change

b. This command post will remain at Great Barrington (ref 652344).

OFFICIAL:

DOUGAN
Comdg.

S/ KELLEY
S-3

S E C R E T

R E S T R I C T E DHQ 10TH REPL DEPOT
MBS SOS ETOUSA
APO 527SO NO. 30)E X T R A C T

30 Jan 44

13. PAC Adm Cir No. 37, HQ ETOUSA, 1943, the following named EM are hereby reld fr atchd unasn't to Cas Det, 10th RD (301st Repl Co) and are atchd unasn'd to Cas Det, 10th RD (303rd Repl Co) for shipment and are assigned to orgn indicated below, WF o/a 1 Feb 44, to their proper sta and orgn reporting upon arrival to the CO thereat for dy:

81st Eng Avn Bn., APO 527, US Army
Pfc COLLURA, JAMES J., 31068628 521-CE

By order of Colonel KILLIAN:

OFFICIAL:

S/ W. H. Stone
W. H. STONE,
Major, AGC,
Asst. Adjutant.

ROBERT J. NORTON,
Major, Infantry,
Adjutant.

HQ 10TH REPL DEPOT
MBS SOS ETOUSA
APO 527SO NO. 30)E X T R A C T

30 Jan 44

15. PAC Adm Cir No. 37, HQ SOS ETOUSA, 1943, the following named EM are hereby reld fr atchd unasn't to Cas Det, 10th RD (Orgn named) and are atchd unasn'd to Cas Det, 10th RD (303rd Repl Co) for shipment and are assigned to orgn indicated below, WF o/a 1 Feb 44, to their proper sta and orgn reporting upon arrival to their CO thereat for dy:

Fr 322nd Repl Co: 81st Eng Avn Bn., APO 527, US Army
T/5 HART, JACK G., 39385537 245-CE

63. *****

Fr 301st Repl Co: 81st Eng Avn Bn., APO 527, US Army
Pfc GOLDMAN, JACOB G., 31068377 521-CE

By order of Colonel KILLIAN:

OFFICIAL:

S/ W. H. Stone
W. H. STONE,
Major, AGC,
Asst. Adjutant.

ROBERT J. NORTON,
Major, Infantry,
Adjutant

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
926TH ENGINEER AVIATION REGIMENT
A.P.O. 638, U S ARMY

SPECIAL ORDERS:

6 Feb 1944

NO 18:

E X T R A C T

1. Having reported to this orgn per par 4, SO 28, Engr Hq, Ninth AF, 4 Feb 1944, the following EM TP to orgn indicated on temp dy, pending permanent assignt.

<u>218th Engr Avn Bn</u>	
Tec 3 Joseph L Terrill	7001121 (359)
Tec 4 James E. Matthews	13017178 (359)
Tec 5 Joseph A Biggar	23023178 (244)
Tec 5 James E. Welchel	6973614 (359)

By order of Lieutenant Colonel DONALD:

OFFICIAL:

S/ Earl R Legler
EARL R. LEGLER
1st Lt, 926th Engr Avn Regt
Adjutant

EARL R. LEGLER
1st Lt, 926th Engr Avn Regt
Adjutant

RESTRICTED
Hq ETOUSA

SO 41

10 Feb 1944

EXTRACT

9. The following EM, orgn as indicated, are trfd in gr to the AC, unasgd, are atchd to 12th Repl Dentl Dep, AAF Sta 591, VIII AFSC, Eighth AF, pending T to the US for Avn Cadet Tag:

Tec 5 EARL F. OESTERREICH, 36302708, Hq & Sv Co, 818th Engr Avn Bn

By command of General EISENHOWER:

R. B. LORD

Colonel, GSC, Deputy Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

R. B. LOVETT,
Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General

Hq ETOUSA

SO 32

EXTRACT

1 Feb 1944

25. Announcement is made of the temp promotion of the following O, EBS, SOS, ETOUSA, to the grade indicated in AUS with rank fr date of this order:

**
1st Lt to Capt

LANDON F. HILL, 0412355, CE

ROLLIN C. SMITH, 0410675, CE

**

By command of General EISENHOWER:

R. B. LORD,

Colonel, GSC, Deputy Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

R. B. LOVETT,
Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General

RESTRICTED

SECRET

RETURN TO
RESEARCH STUDIES
INSTITUTE
U. S. A. F.
HISTORICAL DIVISION
ARCHIVES BRANCH

Mar 44

818. Engr - Am - Bn.

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SECRET

BSI Cont. No
S11359

MICROFILMED

HEADQUARTERS
818TH ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALION

UNIT HISTORY

MARCH 1944

The month of March was one of the most active months in the history of the battalion. At one time or another, almost every member of the battalion was absent on temporary duty. Three missions were assigned during the month, and a detachment from the organization was detailed to participate in a landing exercise held on the southern coast of England. At one stage, only nine officers and less than 300 enlisted men were still in Great Barrington.

On 2 March, Lt. Henry and the ~~second~~ ^{first} platoon of Company "C", with attached personnel, which gradually amounted to some 45 enlisted men, departed for Grittleton, Wiltshire. The mission of the detachment was the establishment of a tented camp for reception of the 878th A/B Engineer Aviation Battalion arriving from the United States (FO #13, Headquarters, 926th Engineer Aviation Regiment, 28 February 1944). By the fourteenth of the month, all details at Grittleton were complete and the personnel returned to their station.

Lt. Batchelder, with the first platoon, Company "D", and attached personnel, gradually amounting to a total of approximately 65 men left Great Barrington on the fourth to erect a Butler combat hangar at Staplehurst, Surrey (FO #14, 2 March 1944). The deadline established for the assembly of the hangar was met and on the 16th of March the detail returned to their organization.

Company "A", minus 25 men, was detailed on temporary duty to Membury, Wiltshire, on 4 March. The company was assigned the construction of a Marshalling Area of pierced plank at an Army Air Force Station (FO #12, Hq. 926th Engr Avn Regt, 27 Feb 1944). The assignment was completed on the date established and the unit rejoined the battalion on the tenth.

On 7 March, Col. Hall led a detachment of the battalion on Exercise "FOX" (FO #2, Hq. 29th Inf. Div., 5 Mar 1944). Eleven officers and 143 enlisted personnel left Great Barrington for the south coast to participate in a loading and unloading exercise, climaxed with the construction of an emergency landing field. The exercise was a success and the mission accomplished. A week later, the party returned to camp.

Lt. Lund and Lt. Dewsnap were at an Eighth Air Force Machine Gun School with thirty gunners. On 10 March, Lt. Henry left the job at Grittleton and with Lt. O'Malley took another detail of thirty men to the same course. It was at this point that only 7 officers and less than one third of the battalion was on duty at Great Barrington.

The regular training of the battalion continued as best possible under circumstances. Firing on the rifle range continued and, during the two months of firing, 75% of the personnel fired the weapon with which armed. All available members of the unit were put through an infiltration course.

Still later in the month, two other groups were ordered to attend service courses. On 22 March, Lt. Widowski and 64 men journeyed to Northern Ireland to receive the Eighth Air Force Cal. .50 AA School. And a group of sixteen men were detailed to attend a waterproofing school on 26 March.

The first decoration to be conferred upon a member of the battalion was presented on 17 March. M/Sgt. John C. Owens had been awarded the Legion of Merit, for meretorious service as the battalion motor sergeant since July 1942 (GO #17, Sec II, Hq. ETOUSA, 16 Feb 1944). The medal was presented to Sgt. Owens by Brigadier General James B. Newman, commanding Engineer Headquarters, at a Regimental parade in which the 926th, the 816th and 830th took part.

The entire battalion, less Headquarters & Service Company, departed from Great Barrington on a three day exercise, 23 March with stripped T/BA and a three day supply of "C" and "K" rations. The unit left camp at 1015 hours by motor transport. At 1300 hours the same day, field headquarters in a 2½-ton truck was established at Brockhampton, Gloucestershire, and camp was pitched. During the afternoon the letter companies executed assigned missions and the battalion operated as normal. In the evening, a movie was shown in camp with a field arrangement for the projector.

After further exercises the following morning, the battalion broke camp at Brockhampton at 1500 hours and moved by motor march to Guitting Wood, Gloucestershire, a distance of 4 miles, arriving at 1600 hours. Again the battalion pitched camp and exercises were held during the night and the following morning. At 1300 hours on 25 March, the exercise came to a close and the unit proceeded back to Great Barrington.

With the close of the exercise, the training period of the battalion came to a close. The unit received a warning order that it was to move at the close of the month. During the training mission, the unit had received valuable conditioning. Aside from the physical training, the refreshing of members in basic infantry training and in long marches, which they had largely forgotten, the training received in weapons firing, in the use of the machine guns and 37 mm guns, experience in the waterproofing of vehicles and actual participation in an embarking and loading exercise would prove helpful to the unit in future operations. Work on steel plank and on combat hangars added to the battalions' qualifications. The static conditions of the preceding year were discarded and to a great extent, the desired mobility of a unit of the type was achieved. Bivouac and training in the field and, last but not least, knowledge gained in the bad and good of the "C" and "K" ration, all helped to make the unit a more well rounded one.

As if to prove that the program had been a rugged one, ten men were lost to the battalion during March. Pvt. Ruben J. Lawson, 35803259, Tec 5. Mitchell Moore, 35256300, Pfc. William R. Goodwin, 35255428, Tec 5. Earle S. Connell, 31068310, Cpl. Eli H. Kraman, 32199003, Tec 5. Roscoe P. Miller, 35255037, Pvt. Sol Geier, 32115642, Pvt. Albert B. Mass, 37616292, Tec 5. Ralph Leonard, 33131565, Pvt. Chester E. Troxell, 35798040, were all transferred from the organization to hospitals.

Only five new men were assigned to the battalion. Two of those reporting, Tec 3. Everett L. Wickizer, 35255134 and Sgt. Francis Schmid, 36045669, who joined on 10th and 26th of the month, were former members of the unit (par. 7, SO #61, Hq. 10th Repl Depot, 1 Mar 1944 and par. 23, SO #78, Hq. 13th Repl Contl Depot, 23 Mar 1944). Pfc. Marcus G. Smith, 38553946, Pvt. Robert G. Gosser, 35679260 and Pvt. Irving F. Mann, 36650527 reported to the unit on 18 March, on temporary duty, pending the arrival of permanent assignment orders (par. 4, SO #35, Hq. 926th Engr Avn Regt, 18 Mar 1944).

A few changes also occurred among the officers. On 5 March, Capt. Smith was relieved of command of Company "B", was assigned to Engineer Headquarters, and Capt. John M. Frassrand, 0387906, was received as a replacement (par. 15 and 16, SO #69, Hq. Ninth Air Force, 9 Mar 1944). Also on 5 March, 2nd Lt. Geesler, who had been absent on detached service since April last, was relieved of assignment to the unit and was transferred to the Engineer Bridge School, SOS (par. 21, SO #58, Hq. ETO, 27 Feb 1944).

The battalion was finally brought up to the limits in officer rank with the promotion of Chaplain Arnold to Captain. (par. 2, SO #75, Hq. ETOUSA, 15 Mar 1944). All grades allowed by the T/O were occupied.

The battalion began preparation for the move contemplated on the first of the next month. On 25 March, orders were received to execute a permanent change of station to Alconbury, Huntingdonshire (ltr, Engr Hq, Ninth Air Force, 25 Mar 1944). Preparations were made accordingly. Two days prior to movement, verbal orders from Engineer Command were received through the Regimental commander that the change of station was to be made to North Witham, Lincolnshire. Orders were received the following day and, again plans were made accordingly (ltr. Engr Hq, Ninth Air Force, file 370.5, 29 Mar 1944).

SECRET

SECRET
:Auth: C.O. 926th Engr Avn Regt
:Init: 22
:Date: 28 Feb 1944

926th Engr Avn Regt
APO 638, U.S. Army
282325 Feb. 1944.

FIELD ORDER)
NUMBER 13)

EXTRACT

II. This organization has been assigned the responsibility for reception of the following units:

UNIT	FROM	TO	ARR. DATE	STRENGTH
876th A/B Engr Avn Bn	USA	Grittleton Wlts	8 Mar	29 501
1294th MP Co Avn	USA	Grittleton Wlts	8 Mar	2 102

III. a. The 916th EAB will be responsible for reception of units arriving at Grittleton.

*

*

*

Bougan
Comdg

OFFICIAL:

W. KELLEY
-3

SECRET

SECRET
:Auth: CO 926th Engr Avn Regt :
:Init: :
:Date: 2 March 1944 :
: :

926th Engr Avn Regt
APO 638, U.S. Army
22100 March 1944

FIELD ORDER)
:)
NUMBER 14)

E X T R A C T

II. The 926th Engr Avn Regt has been assigned the mission of constructing one (1) Butler Type Combat Hangar at each of the following AIGIs.

- KINGSNORTH (462563)
- STAPLEHURST (245606)
- HIGH HALDEN (333577)

III. b. The 818th Engr Avn Bn is assigned the mission of constructing hangar at STAPLEHURST.

DOUGAN
Comdg.

OFFICIAL:

s/t/ KILNEY
S E

SECRET

.....
: SECRET :
:Auth: C.O. 926th EAR :
:Init: :
:Date: 27 Feb. 1944 :
:.....:

926th Engr Avn Regt
APO 638, U.S. Army
2/1200 Feb. 1944

FIELD ORDER)
:
NUMBER 12)

Maps: Ordnance Survey Mpa of England and Wales, scale 1/63360. sheets
112 and 113.

- I. a. See current intelligence data.
- b. No change.

II. Pierced plank marshalling areas will be constructed at Membury and Welford Park in accordance with drawings, appendix I and appendix II. Marshalling areas adjacent to runways will be 800 ft x 100 ft (including existing pavements), plus 200 foot fillets as shown in drawings.

- a. Construction will be completed prior to 2400 hours 11 March 1944.
- b. Your attention is directed to Engineer Bulletin No. 115, Headquarters, ETO, Office of the Chief Engineer, dated 25 January 1944 for installation methods.

- III.a. The 818th Engineer Aviation Battalion will be responsible for pierced plank construction at Membury (745955).
- b. The 830th Engineer Aviation Battalion will be responsible for pierced plank construction at Welford Park (850932)

IV. a. Supply

Class I - - To be arranged for locally by units concerned.

Class II - - Organic equipment will be utilized. Additional requirements will be requisitioned verbally on this headquarters.

Class III - - To be arranged for locally by units concerned.

Class IV - - Pierced plank will be delivered to site from G-45 by Ninth Air Service Command trucks commencing 27 February 1944. Units will unload plank in the most expeditious manner for immediate turn-around of vehicles. Release numbers for plank are as follows:

Membury SR 20800
Welford Park SR 20801

SECRET

Copy No. 76

S E C R E T

.....FOX.MO.13.....
 :Auth: CG, 29 Inf Div :
 :Init: :
 :Date: 5 March 1944....

HEADQUARTERS, 29TH INFANTRY DIVISION

5 March 1944

MOVEMENT ORDER NO. 2 - EXERCISE "FOX"

1. Following units will move from present stations to destination shown below, to arrive not earlier than 1000 hours, 5 March 1944, and to cross prior to 2400 hours, 7 March 1944. Unit commanders will contact immediately the WFO nearest to their present station, who will issue the units detailed movement instructions. These instructions will advise when units will move, and their exact destination.

UNIT	LOCATION	PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT	DESTINATION	TRANS
Co "A", 818th Engr Avn Bn,	Great Barrington, Gloucestershire	168 persons 24 vehicles	RCRP D-2	Motor

2. All units will bivouac in areas indicated. All units moving by organic transportation will move to RCRP, D-2. Movement, shelter, and housing will be arranged by SOS.

GERHARDT,
Maj Gen

OFFICIAL:

s/t/ WITTE,
G-3

S E C R E T

RESTRICTED

GO 17

Hq ETOUSA

16 Feb 1944

EXTRACT

II--AWARD OF LEGION OF MERIT.

* * *
Master Sergeant John C. Owens (Army Serial No 34116788), Corps of Engineers, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services as battalion motor sergeant from 15 July 1942 to 23 August 1943. Master Sergeant Owens was instrumental in the training of operators, in the supervision of repairs and in the maintenance of motor vehicles and heavy equipment of his unit. In many instances he improvised parts of machinery which were not obtainable through supply sources, insuring the constant operation of vital equipment. By his marked professional ability, active personal interest, leadership and efficiency, Master Sergeant Owens has so effectively maintained the motor vehicles and heavy equipment in his charge that his unit has never experienced a major breakdown of equipment. Entered military service from North Carolina.
(AG 200.6 MT)

* * *
By command of General WISSEHOWER:

R. B. LOED,
Colonel GSC, Deputy Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/t R. B. LOVETT,
Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General.

RESTRICTED

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

APO 696, U.S. Army
9 March 1944.

(SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER.....69)

E X T R A C T

15. CAPT JOHN H. FRASER, 0387906, CE, is reld fr asgmt w/ 13th Repl Control Depot, reld fr DS w/ Engr Hq, Ninth Air Force, Sta 491, asgd, WP 818th Engr Avn Bn. TDN by MP, mil acft or rail. 91-5 P 431-02 A 212/40425.

16. CAPT ROLLIN C. SMITH, 0410675, CE, is reld fr asgmt w/ 818th Engr Avn Bn, asgd to 13th Repl Control Depot, Sta 491, placed on DS, WP Engr Hq, Ninth Air Force, Sta 491. Upon completion of this DS, he WP proper orgn and sta. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 91-5 P 431-02 A 212/40425.

By command of Major General BARNETT:

VH STRAHM
Brig Gen USA
C of S

OFFICIAL:

S/ LT J R BIRBARI
Lt Col A C
Asst Adj Gen

C O N F I D E N T I A L

R E S T R I C T E D

HQ EPOUSA

SO 75

15 March 1944

E X T R A C T

2. Announcement is made of the temp promotion of the following O, Ninth AF to gr indicated in AUS w/rank fr date of this order:

1st Lt to Capt

MORRIS F. ARNOLD, 0511972, Ch C

By command of General EISENHOWER:

R.B. LORD,
Brigadier General, GSC,
Deputy Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

R. B. LOVETT,
Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General

TRUE COPY:

JAMES J. CORRAL
1st Lt. 818th Engn Avn Bn
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
926TH ENGINEER AVIATION REGIMENT

APO 638, U.S. Army
18 Mar 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NO 35)

EXTRACT

4. The following named EM, having reported to this orgn on temp dy per par 8, SO 59, Engr Hq, Ninth AF, 15 Mar 1944, WP to orgns indicated on temp dy, pending receipt of permanent asgmt O.

618th Engr Avn Bn

Pfc Marcus C. Smith,	38553946	(913)
Pvt Robert C. Gossler,	35679260	(227)
Pvt Irving F. Mann,	36650527	(214)

By order of Lieutenant Colonel DOUGAN:

EARL R. LESLER
Capt, 926th Engr Avn Regt
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

/S/ EARL R. LESLER
/T/ EARL R. LESLER
Capt, 926th Engr Avn Regt
Adjutant

A TRUE COPY:

JAMES J. CORRAL
1st Lt. 618th Engr Avn Bn
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
10TH REPLACEMENT CONTROL DEPOT

APO 638, U.S. Army
21 March, 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 78)

E X T R A C T

23. The following named Em, Repl Pool, 13th RCD, are trfd in gr WP
orgns and stas as indicated. Rations in kind will be furn by QM while
traveling. TDN by rail or GWT. 91-5 P 431-02 A 212/40425. (Perms of sta)

Sgt Francis (NMI Schmid (059) 36035669 818TH ENGR BN (AVN) STA GREAT BARRINGTON

By order of Lt. Col. MARSHALL:

LEROY C. HUTCHISON
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

/S/ LEROY C. HUTCHISON
/T/ LEROY C. HUTCHISON
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant

A TRUE COPY:

JAMES J. COPRAL
1st Lt. 818th Engr. Avn. Bn.
Adjutant

SECRET

.....
 : SECRET :
 : Auth: CG 9 AF :
 : Init: :
 : Date: 29 Mar 44 :
 :.....

ENGINEER HEADQUARTERS
 NINTH AIR FORCE

UE-3-56

APO 638, U.S. Army
 29 March 1944

In reply refer
 to 370.5

SUBJECT: Movement of Troops.

TO : Commanding Officer, 926th Engineer Aviation Regiment,
 APO 638, U.S. Army.

EXTRACT

1. So much of paragraph 1, letter, this Headquarters, dated 25 March 1944, subject: Movement of Troops, as reads:

UNIT	STRENGTH	FROM	TO	DATE
318th Engr Avn Bn	29 - 772	Gt Barrington Gloucestershire	(Alconbury) Hunts	1 Apr 44

is amended to read:

UNIT	STRENGTH	FROM	TO	DATE
318th Engr Avn Bn	29 - 772	Gt Barrington Gloucestershire	North Witham Lincs	1 Apr 44

By command of Brigadier General NEWMAN

s/t/ C. S. KUNA
 Lt Col, CE
 A-3

OFFICIAL:

s/t/ C. S. KUNA
 Lt Col, CE
 A-3

SECRET

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: SECRET :
: Auth: CG 9 AF :
: Init: _____ :
: Date: 25 Mar44 :
:

ENGINEER HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

UE-G-56

APO 636, U.S. Army
25 March 1944

In reply refer
to: 370.5

SUBJECT: Movement of Troops.

TO : Commanding Officer, 926th Engr Avn Regt, APO 636, U.S. Army.

E X T R A C T

* * *

1. The following moves are ordered.

818th Engr avn Bn
(UNIT)

2 - 772 (STRENGTH)
Gl Barrington Gloucestershire
(FROM)

Alconbury Hunts
(TO)

1 Apr 44
(DATE)

* * *

By command of Brigadier General NEWMAN:

s/t/ C. S. KUMA
Lt Col, CE
A-3

OFFICIAL:

s/t/ C. S. KUMA
Lt Col, CE
A-3

SECRET

RECEIVED INSURANCE U. S. A. F. HONOLULU, HAWAII	RESERVE OFFICERS CLUB
--	-----------------------------

APR 44
 11-11-44
 11-11-44

Apr 44

11-11-44

11-11-44

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SECRET

MICROFILMED

RSI
S11360

HEADQUARTERS
818TH ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALION

UNIT HISTORY

APRIL 1944

The month of April opened with the movement of the battalion on the very first day. At 0830 hours, the unit left Great Barrington en route to North Witham in accordance with orders previously received. The motor convoy moved as planned and halted for lunch north of Bedford. Colonel Hall, who had preceded the battalion to North Witham by a few hours, met the convoy at this point. He issued instructions that the unit should proceed to Kettering, Northamptonshire, and not to North Witham, on the verbal orders of the Commanding Officer, Eastern Base Section. At 1530 hours, the battalion took its station at the EBS Transient Camp #1, on the estate of the Duke of Buccleugh.

The official status of the unit at this point was not clear. Unofficially, the unit, a part of the newly activated IX Engineer Command, Ninth Air Force, was to be attached again to Eastern Base Section. Orders on the change were never received and confusion as to the exact duties the unit was to perform added to problems. The Engineer at VIII District, EBS, seemed to have no doubts as to the status of the organization from a technical point and assigned various construction missions. As far as administrative and supply were concerned, however, the unit seemed to be neither fish nor fowl, being part Eastern Base Section and part IX Engineer Command, with a touch of the EBS Transient Camp #1 added.

After almost two years in the United Kingdom, the organization was not too proud to be established in a transient camp used for the benefit of incoming units from the United States. After arrival, the usual housekeeping was done and assignments were eagerly awaited. In the meantime, the battalion had to be contented with making improvements, such as latrines, grease traps, etc., on the transient camp, a far cry from the construction of an \$8,000,000 aerodrome at Great Dunmow.

The camp, as such, was a great improvement over that at Great Barrington. It was well arranged, with adequate huts for battalion and headquarters installations. Sanitary facilities were more than enough. Even the tented living areas were better than usual. Even its location, in Burton Park, only two miles from Kettering, was above the average.

The battalion as a unit did not remain in Kettering for long. As construction missions were assigned, detachments and companies of the outfit moved to the sites of the missions, all movements by the verbal orders of the Commanding Officer, Eastern Base Section. Lt. Pearson and the second platoon of Company "C" moved to the AAF Station 549 at North Witham on 7 April to construct a combat hangar on the base. On the tenth, Company "A", less the first platoon, followed to North Witham to construct another combat hangar and an additional road on the field. Lt. Batchelder and the first platoon of Company "B" were detailed to AAF Station 110 at Poolbrook, Northamptonshire, to make repairs on concrete at the station. Company "B" departed from Kettering on the tenth to take station at AAF Station 125, Deenethorpe, Northamptonshire, again to make repairs on runways and hardstandings. Company "C" less the platoon at North Witham, took station at AAF Station 111, Thurlleigh, Bedfordshire, for the same purpose. The remaining platoon of Company "A", under Lt. Betts, was assigned the mission of erecting a combat hangar at AAF Station 102 at Alconbury, Huntingdonshire.

The unit was ordered to participate on its second loading and landing exercise during this period. On the 18th of April, a detachment of the battalion, consisting of 30 officers and 226 enlisted men, under the command of Major Cutter, departed for temporary duty with Exercise "BOOMERANG" (FO "Boomerang" 2, Hq. IX Engineer Command, 14 Apr 1944). With the battalion scattered over a wide area, this detachment left the strength at Kettering at a mere 6 officers and 107 enlisted men.

With the return of the detachment from Exercise "BOOMERANG", Headquarters and Headquarters & Service Company departed from Kettering on the twenty-third for a permanent change of station to Alconbury, Huntingdonshire (MO #380, Hq. EBS, 16 Apr 1944). Prior to the move, the battalion had received numerous inquiries from both higher headquarters as to why the movement had not been made on 16 April, as specified. Orders for the movement were not received until 17 April, however, and, in view of Exercise "BOOMERANG," a further extension on the date for movement was granted.

The new station again was a tented area, located near AAF Station 102 and AAF Station 547. There were no huts available, but the engineer battalion that had occupied the area had made the most of it. Facilities were good, and the clear, warm weather that prevailed made living conditions excellent.

Only one further change in location occurred during the month. On 26 April, Lt. Widowski and the 2nd platoon of Company "A" left North Witham and established itself at AAF Station 130, Glatton, Huntingdonshire, to resurface the runways at the base.

One of the greatest losses suffered by the organization occurred on the 18th of April. Lieutenant Colonel Hall left the battalion, assigned to the 922nd Engineer Aviation Regiment and Major Lloyd A. Cutter assumed command (par. 5 and 6, SO #19, Hq. IX Engr Command, 17 Apr 1944). The loss of Colonel Hall was a shock to all members of the unit. It had been hoped that he, who had seen the activation of the unit and commanded it overseas, would be its commander at its demobilization.

Captain Bauer was appointed to be the executive officer of the battalion and Lt. Wiedeman was relieved from assignment to Company "B" to assume command of Company "A".

Two promotions to the first three grades were announced during the month. Sgt. Elmer E. Knaus, 35046425, was promoted to Staff Sergeant on 14 April as Supply Sergeant, Headquarters & Service Company. On 17 April Sgt. Ellis B. Thornhill, 7000961, Company "B", was promoted to Staff Sergeant replacing Glen A. Beesley, 35255965.

During the month, the following replacements were received by the battalion. Pvt. John T. Zilonis, 33670560, Pfc. Michael W. Zelfel, 37470851, Pvt. Joseph A. Simpson, 37357950, Cpl. Edward L. Kliner, 35601696, Pvt. Ralph R. Watkins, 35895729, Cpl. Joe B. Randal, 38539695, Pfc. Thomas E. Slater, 16112054, Pvt. Kenneth Sanders, 35143135, Cpl. Odes B. Wideman, 7003558, Sgt. Bernard A. Wojciechowski, 32479073, Tec 4. Kenneth L. Rufford, 37254297, Pvt. Edwin P. Washburn, 35256114, Pvt. Junius M. Butler, 37187782, Pfc. Rosario Adragna, 32329556, Pfc. Harry R. Angwin, 32346019, Pfc. Marshall D. Beard, 6359951, Pvt. Robert A. Fessler, 33496574, Pvt. Grover A. Josey, 33360271, Pvt. Charles Kaminski, 32308036 and Cpl. Eli H. Kraman, 32199003, formerly a member of the battalion. Pfc. Marcus G. Smith, 35553946, Pvt. Robert G. Gosser, 35679260 and Pvt. Irving F. Mann, 36650527, who were on temporary duty with the unit, were assigned.

Only six men were lost to the organization through transfer to hospitals. They were Cpl. Louis Richter, 32199027, Pvt. Earl V. Humphrey, 34772310, Pvt. Kenneth A. Coombs, 31068433, Pvt. Albert P. Mass, 37616292, Tec 4. Kenneth L. Rufford, 37254297, and Pvt. Robert E. Remy, 35037646.

The first officer of the unit to be married in the ETO was Captain Landon P. Hill. On the 26th of March, his marriage to Miss Zita Tinning - Widdrington was solvenized in St. Matthews Church, Bayswater, London, with Lt. Corral acting as the best man.

Before the month was out the battalion was alerted for overseas shipment. Orders were received to that effect on the twenty-eighth of the month and preparations began immediately.

SECRET
HEADQUARTERS
IX ENGINEER COMMAND

SECRET
: AUTH: CG, IX E. C. :
: INIT: CSK :
: DATE: 14 Apr 44 :
: : : : : :

Copy No. 61

E-6SK-58

EXTRACT

APO 638, U. S. Army
14 April 1944

F. O. "BOOMERANG" 2.
(F. O. "BOOMERANG" 1, this Headquarters, dated 11 April 1944, is hereby rescinded).

MAPS: GSGS 3907, 1 inch to 1 mile, Sheets No. 132, 141, and 142/

1. a. No change.
- b. Detachment "A" of the following units will participate in Exercise "Boomerang" according to the listed schedule.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE OF ARRIVAL AT MARSHALLING AREA</u>
818th Engr Avn Bn	19 April 1944

2. a. Designated units of IX Engineer Command will participate in Exercise "Boomerang", consisting of alerting units, moving them to the marshalling area, waterproofing and de-waterproofing vehicles, moving from marshalling area to the "hards", practice loading on LVT's and taking a short sea voyage to a beach area, unloading onto and across a beach, and moving units back to base.

By Command of Brigadier General NEWMAN:

H. W. EHRGOTT
Col. C. E.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

S/ C. S. Kuna
C. S. KUNA,
Lt. Col., C.E.
A-3

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL
HQ Hqs 305 AFUSA APO 517

16 April 1944

370.5
(Movement Order No 380)

Subject: Troop Movement.

To: Commanding Officer, 818th Engr Avn Bn, APO 634, U.S. Army

1. Hq & Hq Co, 818th Engr Avn Bn (consisting of approximately 15 officers and 235 enlisted men) will proceed on or about 16 April 1944, from Kettering, Northants (wL 3298) to Alconbury, Hunts (wF 6496) for station, for the purpose of carrying out the instructions of the Commanding Officer, 818th Engr Avn Bn.

2. Unit will be quartered in tents.

3. Individual and T/E equipment will be taken.

4. Movement will be accomplished by organic transportation. The unit commander will immediately present a copy of this order to the nearest RTO, who will make arrangements for the movement. The unit commander will also comply with the provisions of paragraph 4, Section II, Adm Cir 52, Hq SOS, 17 Aug 1943.

-1-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

5. Within 24 hours of arrival at destination, the Commanding Officer, 818th Engr Avn Bn, will comply with the provisions of letter, this headquarters 370.5, 3 Feb 1944, subject "Reports of Movements". TDM. FSA 91-5 P 431-02 A 212/40425.

By order of Colonel GROWER:

William Sanders
WILLIAM SANDERS,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

CG, ETO.....	18	Transportation O, EBS.....	1
C Engr, SOS.....	2	FTO, Eastern Command.....	4
C Sig O, SOS.....	2	RTO, Northern Command.....	1
91st AFU.....	1	Ea Serv Supply O, EBS.....	1
Postal O, SOS (Scheme Sec).....	1	CO, VIII Dist, EBS.....	1
CO, WBS.....	2	C/EBS, EBS.....	1
CO, 818th Engr Avn Bn.....	10	C/Adm, EBS.....	1
Engr, EBS.....	3	C/Opn, EBS.....	1
AG Pers, EBS.....	1	CO, First US Army Gp.....	2
Sig Message Center, EBS.....	1	Records.....	1
Planning, EBS.....	1		
IG, EBS.....	1		
Spec Serv O, EBS.....	1		

HEADQUARTERS
IX ENGINEER COMMAND

(G-2-4)

APC 638, U.S. Army
17 April 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 19)

E X T R A C T

* *
5. Lt Col GILBERT B. HALL, 021430, CE, is reld of asgmt to and comd of
818th Engr Avn Bn, is asgd, WP 922nd Engr Avn Regt, USAAF Sta 422.
TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 91-5 P 451-02 A 212/40/25.

6. Maj LLOYD A. CUTTER, 0237183, CE, is reld of asgmt as Exec Off, 818th
Engr Avn Bn, is aptd CO, 818th Engr Avn Bn, vice Lt Col GILBERT B. HALL, 021430,
CE, trfd.

* *
By Command of Brigadier General NEWMAN:

H. W. EHRGOTT
Colonel, C.E.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/ J. H. Goodloe
t/ J. H. GOODLOE
Lt. Colonel, A.C.
Adjutant General

SECRET

May 44

818-Eng. Am. Bu.

RETURN TO RESEARCH SERVICES INSTITUTE U. S. A. F. HISTORICAL DIVISION ARCHIVES BRANCH	<i>7500-018-11</i> <i>MAY-44</i>
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MICROFILMED

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
818TH ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALION

ENGR-818-141
MAY 1944
: SECRET :
:Auth: CO, 818th EAB :
:Init: *et* :
:Date: 6 June 1944 :
: :

APC 126, U.S. Army
6 June 1944

UNIT HISTORY

MAY 1944

1. Organization - Negative
2. Strength, - commissioned and enlisted - 29 Officers, 780 EM.
3. Movement - Left Alconbury, Huntingdonshire by motor transportation on 11 May for permanent change of station to Great Barrington, Gloucestershire, arriving same date.
4. Casualties - None.
5. Decorations - None.

[Signature]
JAMES H. CORRAL
1st Lt, EE
Adjutant

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RSI
S11361

S E C R E THEADQUARTERS
818TH ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALIONUNIT HISTORY

MAY 1944

The first part of May found the battalion officially stationed at Alconbury, Huntingdonshire, with units scattered over various airdromes in the vicinity. Work continued under the supervision of the VIII District, Eastern Base Section, to which the battalion was attached. Technically, during the early part of the month, the battalion came under the command of the Western Base Section. The Eastern Base Section was disbanded, and the VIII District, EBS, became part of Western Base Section. But, as previously, the unit was still considered to be a part of Engineer Command, Ninth Air Force, and came under the Base Section only for construction.

Prior to being relieved from the construction tasks, several other subordinate units of the battalion were detached and assigned typical missions. On 6 May, Lt. Widowski and his platoon from Company "A" made a change of station from North Witham, Lincs to AAF Station 111 for the purpose of repairing the airdrome. Lt. Betts moved with his platoon of the same company from station at Alconbury to AAF Station 106 at Grafton-Underwood, Northants, to conduct construction operations there. And, on 2 May, Lt. Lund and a platoon of Company "C" moved from Thurleigh, Bedfordshire to Harrington, Northants on a similar mission.

Work on the assigned missions came to an abrupt end with the receipt of movement orders directing a permanent change of station for the entire battalion from Alconbury to AAF Station 422, Great Barrington, Gloucestershire, from where it had departed six weeks before (Ltr. Hq. IX Engr Cmd, 7 May 1944, file 370.5, subject: "Movement of Troops"). Battalion Headquarters executed the move on 11 May, and, by the thirteenth of the month, all other subordinate units and detachments had arrived at the new station.

The battalion was relieved of attachment to the Western Base Section (Ltr. Hq. ETOUSA, 10 May 1944, file AG 322 OpGC, subject: "Troop Assignment No. 63") and again came under the sole command of IX Engineer Command (Par. 8, GO #135, Hq. Ninth Air Force, 15 May 1944). Upon arrival at Great Barrington, the unit was attached to the 922nd Engineer Aviation Regiment, the Executive Officer of which was Lt Col. Hall, formerly commander of the battalion. (Ltr. Hq. IX Engr Cmd, 7 May 1944, file 370.5, Subject: "Attachment of Unit").

While at Great Barrington, the battalion was engaged in various activities. After the preliminary task of erecting a complete tent camp to live in, units were engaged in construction of more permanent installations for AAF Station 422, in training, in preparing men and equipment for shipment overseas. On 18 of the month, Company "A" and Company "C", a platoon of Company "B" and elements of Headquarters & Service Company left Great

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Barrington on a mission to Ashton-Keynes, Glos. A problem was set up, consisting of the assumption that the unit was to construct an advance landing ground six miles in the rear of the front line. Midway during the operation, the units were subjected to a simulated bombing, strafing and gas attack, a breakthrough in the line, and evacuation of the site within an hour and a half was required. The evacuation with all heavy equipment was accomplished according to schedule. The units then returned to the site and continued construction on the strip. Considerable difficulty was encountered in completing the mission, as the ground chosen was verily a bog and one that lended itself unfavorable to good construction. After passing the nights of the 18th and 19th in bivouac on the job, the units returned to their proper station.

Facilities for recreation at AAF Station 422 were limited. Due to the situation, passes were limited to within 25 miles of the camp and only for a period of 18 hours at the maximum. Not more than 10% of the personnel could be on pass at any one time. Liberty vehicles were scheduled to Oxford, but the city had little to offer in the way of recreation. Movies were still held nightly in the battalion theater and the summer weather brought on an inter-company baseball league. To supplement the program, dances were held at Great Barrington by units of the battalion, at which the battalion band performed in the usual expert manner.

During the month, the enlisted strength of the battalion decreased, partly due to the fact that four men were transferred to other units as overage. Tec 5 Joseph S. Rajkowski, 32198343, Pvt. Kenneth E. Coombs, 31068433, Tec 5 Ralph D. Leonard, 33131565, Pfc. William R. Goodwin, 35255428, Tec 5 Earle S. Connell, 31068310, were reassigned to the organization from various hospitals. Losses included the transfer of Pvt. Wenzel J. Rebitz, 36235072, Pvt. Joseph Novak, 35263057 and Pvt. Joseph L. Wanser, 12018066 to other organizations for the serving of court-martial sentences. Four men, Pvt. Charles Styles, 31068373, Pvt. Robert E. Flocks, 31091610, Pvt. William L. Golden, 32212991, and Pvt. Dellon B. Arrington, 38046582 were transferred to 902 Engineer Air Force Headquarters Company, AAF Station 491 (Par. 3 SC #47, Hq. IX Engr Cnd, 18 May 1944). Tec 4 Frank M. Cliva, 32198945, Tec 4. William E. Perkins, 35256136, Tec 5. Hubert P. Langley, 36160278, Tec 5. Floyd L. Stevens, 35256008, Pvt. William Q. Clear, 15098900, and Pvt. Frederick A. Perkins, 31068388 were all lost by transfer to the hospital.

Among the officers, considerable change was made. On 13 May, Lt. O'Malley was assigned to Company "C" and was relieved from duties as Personnel Adjutant. With the expected transfer of Capt. Frassrand for rotation to the United States, Lt. Pearson was moved from Company "C" on the same date and was appointed in command of Company "B". Lt. Wohead was relieved from assignment to Battalion Headquarters as Assistant Engineering Officer and was assigned to Company "A". Lt. Angle, Company "B", was placed on Special Duty with the Engineering Section to replace Lt. Wohead. Orders relieving Capt. Frassrand from assignment to the organization were received on the 20th of May (Par. 10, SC #45, Hq. IX Engr Cnd, 16 May 1944). On 25 May, 1st Lt. James A. Brown, Jr., 01104064, CE and 1st Lt. Robert Pettus, 01101993, CE, joined the battalion (Par. 6, SC #53, Hq. IX Engr Cnd, 24 May 1944), were assigned to Battalion Headquarters and Company "B" as Assistant Engineering Officer and Platoon Leader respectively.

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Lt. Fulmer received a promotion to the grade of First Lieutenant on 15 May (Par. 10, SO #136, Hq. ETOUSA, 15 May 1944).

During the month, a detachment of one officer and 9 enlisted men were placed on detached service at Camp Blandford, Dorset, and were not expected to rejoin the unit for a long period. They were 1st Lt. Betts, Tec 3. Everett L. Wickizer, Tec 5. Howard J. Lloyd and Eugene Writtenberry, Pfc. Joseph H. Taylor, and Pvts. Salvatore J. Castaldi, Henry D. Cunningham, Edward G. Hoellman, Gottlieb Lembke and Calvin C. Nebling.

S E C R E T

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SECRET
: Auth: CG, 9 AF :
: Init: C.S.K. :
: Date: 7 May 44 :
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HEADQUARTERS
IX ENGINEER COMMAND

APC 126, U.S. Army
7 May 1944

In reply refer
to: 370.5

SUBJECT: Movement of Troops.

TO : Commanding Officer, 818th Engineer Aviation Battalion, APC 126, U.S. Army.

1. The following move is ordered:

UNIT	FROM	TO	DATE
818th Engr Avn Bn	Alconbury, Hunts	Great Barrington, Glos	11 May 44

2. Movement will be by rail and/or Motor Transport. 91-5 P 433-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08- A 212/40425.

3. a. This is a permanent change of station.
b. All organizational equipment will be taken.

4. Provisions of Memorandum 55-2, Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, dated 6 December 1943, and Circular No. 52, SOS, ETOUSA, will be complied with.

5. Provisions of Letter, this Headquarters, 10 February 1944, subject: "Movement Data", will be complied with.

By command of Brigadier General NEWMAN:

H. W. EHRGOTT
Colonel, C.E.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/t/ C. S. KUNA
Lt Col, CE
A-3

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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY

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: SECRET :
:Auth: CG, ETCUSA :
:Init: RPK :
:Date: 10 May 44 :
:.....

AGO 887
10 May 1944

AG 322 OpGC

E X T R A C T

SUBJECT: Troop Assignment (No. 63).

TO : Commanding Generals:
US Strategic Air Forces in Europe
First US Army
Third US Army
Adv Sec, Com Zone
Base Section Commanders

16. The following units, assigned to the US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, are relieved from attachment to WBS, SOS, ETCUSA, effective 4 May 1944:

818th Engr Bn (Avn)

By command of General EISENHOWER

s/t/ RICHARD P. FISK
Lt. Colonel, A.G.D.,
Assistant Adjutant General

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

.....
: SECRET :
:Auth: CG 9 AF :
:Init: CRB :
:Date: 15 May 44 :
.....

APC 696, U.S. Army
15 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)
: NUMBER.....135)

E X T R A C T

ASSIGNMENT AND ATTACHMENT OF UNITS

8. The following listed units assigned to IX Engineer Command (Prov) are relieved from attachment to WBS, SCS, ETCUSA, effective 4 May 1944 by letter, USSTAF, file 322, 12 May 1944, subject: "Troop Assignment").

Hq & Hq & Sv Co 925th Engr Regt (Avn) 818th Engineer Bn Avn

By command of Lieutenant General BRERETON:

V H STRAHM
Brig Gen USA
C of S

OFFICIAL:

s/t/ C R BIRBARI
Lt Col, A G
Asst Adj Gen

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
IX ENGINEER COMMAND

.....:F:.....:
: S E C R E T :
:Auth: CG 9 AF :
:Init: C.S.K :
:Date: 7 May 1944 :
:.....:.....:

APC 126, U.S. Army
7 May 1944

In reply refer
to: 370.5

SUBJECT: Attachment of Unit.

TC : Commanding Officer, 922nd Engineer Aviation Regiment, APC 126, US Army.
Commanding Officer, 818th Engineer Aviation Battalion, APC 126, US Army.

Upon arrival of the 818th Engineer Aviation Battalion at Great Barrington, Glos, o/a 11 May 1944, this unit is attached to the 922nd Engineer Aviation Regiment.

By command of Brigadier General NEWMAN:

H.W. BHRGOTT
Colonel, C.E.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/t/ C.S. KUNA
Lt Col, CE
A-3

S E C R E T

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HEADQUARTERS
IX ENGINEER COMMAND (PRCV)

(G-Z-4)

APC 126, U.S. Army
24 May 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 53)

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6. The following named O, having reported to this Hq on 23 May 1944 in compliance w/Par 10, SC 142, Hq 8th AFRD, 21 May 1944, are held fr asgmt to this Hq are asgd, WP orgn and sta indicated. TDN by MT or rail. 91-5 P 431-02 A 212/40425.

NAME		ARE ASGD, WP	
1st Lt James J. Brown, Jr	01104064	818th Engr Avn Bn	Sta 422
1st Lt Robert NMI Pettus	01101993	818th Engr Avn Bn	Sta 422

Travel directed is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq ETCUSA, 3 Nov 1943.

By command of Brigadier General NEWMAN:

H.W. EHRGOTT
Colonel, C.E.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/t/ J.H. GUDLCE
Lt. Colonel, A.C.
Adjutant General

Hq ETCUSA

SO 136

15 May 1944

E X T R A C T

10. Announcement is made of the temp promotion of the following O, Ninth AF, to the gr indicated in AUS w/rank fr date of this order.

2nd Lt to 1st Lt

EIMER W. FULMER, O204796, CE

By command of General EISENHOWER

R. B. LORD
Brigadier General, GSC,
Deputy Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/t/ R. B. LOVETT,
Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General