

**RG 407 RECORDS OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S
OFFICE, 1917 -**

WW II OPERATIONS REPORTS, 1941 - 48

ENGINEERS

ENBN-285-0.1

to

ENBN-287-0.3

Box 15193

Entry 427

HM 2008

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NND 735017

RG#	ENTRY	BOX #
407	427	

ENBN-285-0.1 (21133) History - 285th ENGR combat BN

year 1943

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HEADQUARTERS
285th ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

Camp Crowder, Mo.
19 January 1944.

ORGANIZATION HISTORY FOR YEAR 1943

1. Original Unit:
 - a. Designation, 285th Engineer Combat Battalion.
 - b. Date of organization: 17 December 1943, with Capt Frank E. Plume (0379091) in command. 18 December Capt Roger L. Young (0344979) assumed command until Major Earl W. Wheeler (0320145) assumed command on 29 December 1943.
 - c. Place of organization: Camp Crowder, Missouri.
 - d. Authority for organization: Letter orders No. A-350 (Activation of 285th Engineer Combat Battalion), Headquarters, Second Army, Office of the Commanding General, Memphis (15) Tennessee, 4 December 1943. Letter reproduced as follows:

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE
15 July 46

Domestic

ENBN-285-0.1

HEADQUARTERS SECOND ARMY
Office of the Commanding General
Memphis 15, Tennessee

In reply refer to:
AG 322.03-28 (GMMBF)

4 December 1943.

SUBJECT: Letter Orders No. A-350. (Activation of 285th Engineer Combat Battalion)

TO : Commanding Officer, 285th Engineer Combat Battalion, Camp Crowder, Missouri.

In compliance with provisions of letter Headquarters Army Ground Forces, 321/230 (Engr) (R) (25 Nov 43) GNGCT, dated 25 November 1943, subject: "Organization of Engineer Units in December 1943", the following unit is hereby activated, effective 17 December 1943, at Camp Crowder, Missouri:

<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
285th Engineer Combat Battalion	5-15	29	3	632
	(15 July 43)			

Handwritten initials

- a. Cadre furnished by 295th Engineer Combat Battalion.
- b. An initial overstrength in grade seven equal to Table of Organization cadre strength is authorized.
- c. Tables.
 - (1) Tables of Equipment, 5-15, 5-16 and 5-17, dated 15 July 1943, will govern issue of organizational equipment.

99 JUL 1944
2050

-1-
R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

21133
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- (2) Table of Equipment 21, 10 March 1943 with Changes Nos. 1 and 2, will govern issue of clothing and individual equipment not provided for in other tables.
- (3) Table of Allowances 20, 10 March 1943, and Table of Basic Allowances 5, 1 December 1942, with changes Nos. 1 and 2, will govern issue of training equipment.

d. In accordance with paragraph 10, AR 310-200, 1 May 1943, the 2d Detachment Special Troops is charged with the responsibility that the 285th Engineer Combat Battalion has in its possession a six months supply of publications and blank forms.

e. Upon activation above unit is assigned to XI Corps.

f. Upon activation, commanding officer of the new unit will request assistance of a mechanical adviser from Engineer Field Maintenance Officer, Post Office Box 1679, Columbus, Ohio.

By command of Lieutenant General FREIDENBALL:

NORMAN A. WIMBERLEY,
Colonel, A. G. D.
Adjutant General.

A TRUE COPY.

WILLIAM W. CHUSTAK,
1st Lt., A.G.D.
Adjutant.

-2-

e. The cadre (63 enlisted men and four officers) was furnished by the 295th Engineer Combat Battalion, on temporary duty in the California-Arizona Maneuver Area. The authority for the cadre is shown in the following order:

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

4TH HQ & HQ DET SP TRS

California-Arizona Maneuver Area

Yuma, Arizona.
7 December 43.

SPECIAL ORDERS)
 : E-X-T-R-A-C-T
NUMBER 150)

12. The following named Os and EM 295th Engineer Combat Bn are reld from asgnt 295th Engr Combat Bn and atchd unasgd to Sta Complement Camp Crowder Mo pending activation of the 285th Engr Combat Bn WP Camp Crowder Mo from Yuma, Arizona by rail T so as to arrive there at 17 Dec 43.

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150 4th Hq & Hq Det Sp Trs CAMA dtd 7 Dec 43 (cont'd)

Co C		T/O CADRE POSITIONS	SSN
S/Sgt Richard M. Alloway Jr	13021866	Mess Sgt	824
S/Sgt George P. Chiocca	31286166	Motor Sgt	813
S/Sgt Ernest F. Lundberg	31329320	Supply Sgt	821
S/Sgt Gilbert H. Treloar	33431031	Platoon Sgt	651
S/Sgt Alfred L. Weldon	31261099	do	651
S/Sgt Kenneth F. Riddell	33431174	do	651
Sgt Warren R. Salzer	31327631	Unit Foreman	059
Sgt George E. Oakes., Jr	33431148	do	059
Sgt Theodore Kordecki	33439472	do	059
Cpl John W. Hughes	33431198	Co Clerk	405
Tec 4 Arthur A. Keough Jr	33431256	Cook	060
Tec 5 Louis Lappa	33439463	Cook	060
Tec 5 Ferris C. Loeffler	33481093	Toolroom Keeper	242
1st Sgt Roy M. Satterfield	6972976	First Sgt	585

The CO of EM will notify the RTO Yuma, Ariz seventy-two (72) hours prior to departure of cadre from sta.

TC will furnish T one way (1) way.

In accordance with AR 30-2215 the TC will furnish such meal tickets for sixty-three (63) EM as the length of the journey may require.

Travel by privately owned conveyance is authorized under provisions of Par 1 j AR 35-4820.

TPA TDM1-5200 P 433-02 03 07 08 A 212/40425

AUTH: TWX CG CAMA Cap Young, Calif dtd 4 December 1943.

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

150 4th Hq and Hq Det Sp Trs CAMA dtd 7 Dec 43.

By order of Colonel HERVEY:

FRANK X. MEYERS
Lt Col A G D
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

FRANK X. MEYERS
Lt Col A G D
Adjutant

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

This cadre arrived 17 December 1943, except for Capt William A. Jenny (0298959) who was on DS at Fort Belvoir, Va. Capt Roger L. Young (0344979) and 1st Lt Sherman A. Smith (01109673) were from the 250th and 251st Engineer Combat Battalions at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and were ordered to this Battalion per SO #253, par. 7 Hq. XI Corps, Fort Riley, Kansas, dated 3 December 1943. Capt Audavee (NMI) Gaston (0419666) and 2nd Lt Phillip R. Walls (01105250) from Camp Hale, Colo, being relieved from the 126th Engineer Combat Battalion per SO #253, par. 7, Hq XI Corps. Capt Frank E. Plume, 1st Lt William A. Hamilton (01106788) and 2nd Lt Arrington G. Farnsworth (01115253) from Camp Carson, Colo, relieved from the 171st Engineer Combat Battalion, per SO # 253, par. 7 Hq XI Corps.

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CAPT WILLIAM A. JERRY 0298959 CE
 2ND LT RAYMOND E. KELLY 01557737 CE
 2ND LT LEONARD F. MARBURGER 01595005 CE
 2ND LT JAMES L. MATHIS 01115022 CE (In charge)

H & S Co

M/Sgt Paul H. Nickerson 11024531
 M/Sgt Ashwell B. Harward 7084886
 1st Sgt Clarence L. Walker R 352380
 T/Sgt William C. Jones 34390945
 T/Sgt Harry D. Dowlan., Jr 20318460
 T/Sgt Phillip P. Kastner 12007635
 S/Sgt Edris M. Griffith 7020949
 S/Sgt Thomas R. Hopeck 31326753
 S/Sgt Paul E. Price 6993907
 S/Sgt Andy Charney Sr 33439491
 S/Sgt Sam Janowitz 32063198
 Sgt Benjamin Teeter 33562829
 Cpl John Sisti 31291365
 Tec 4 John E. Ciocho 33431184
 Tec 4 Cornelius Boogerman 32924021
 Tec 5 Joseph Grasso 31286649
 Tec 5 Henry B. Fout., Jr 33560971
 Tec 5 Richard E. Crum 33439942

T/O CADRE POSITIONS SSN
 Bn Motor Sgt 813
 Master Sgt 584
 First Sgt 585
 Mech Foreman 121
 Pers Sgt 816
 Bn Supply Sgt 321
 Const Foreman 059
 Water Supply Sgt 253
 Mess Sgt 824
 Co Motor Sgt 813
 Co Supply Sgt 821
 Const Foreman 059
 Co Clerk 405
 Cook 060
 Auto Mech 014
 Cook 060
 Stenographer 213
 Toolroom Clerk 242

Med Det

S/Sgt Percival E. Burroughs 33559980
 Tec 3 Bernard Strasnick 31302577
 Tec 5 Edward O Sivonen 31260993

Med 673
 Surg Tech 861
 Med Tech 409

Co A

1st Sgt Henry H B Avery 6927917
 S/Sgt Milton Gibbens 15058855
 S/Sgt Michael Lupo 31202610
 S/Sgt William J. Donohue 32109898
 S/Sgt Ervin J. Nicholson 31302671
 S/Sgt James R. Stewart 15064816
 S/Sgt Francis W. Fratianni 33561395
 Sgt John R. Penn 33439233
 Sgt David B. Parkhurst 31317759
 Sgt Willard D. Wolfe 33561448
 Cpl Aldo E. Giannini 33431166
 Tec 4 Barlow Roark 14030814
 Tec 5 John F. Crider 33440407
 Tec 5 Arthur A Goodrich 33431129

First Sgt 585
 Mess Sgt 824
 Motor Sgt 813
 Supply Sgt 821
 Platoon Sgt 651
 Platoon Sgt 651
 do 651
 Unit Foreman 059
 do 059
 do 059
 Co Clerk 405
 Cook 060
 Cook 060
 Toolroom Keeper 242

Co B

1st Sgt Henry Bialy 66674444
 S/Sgt John W. Lovelady 34033404
 S/Sgt John H. Sheenan 11007754
 S/Sgt Bruner Wright 7002042
 S/Sgt Richard E. Tucker 7000051
 S/Sgt Frank L. Buchel 6879439
 S/Sgt Joseph T. Azar 31302725
 Sgt Benjamin W. Rogers 31327621
 Sgt Joseph E. Allen., Jr 31293184
 Sgt George C. Hodak 33439494
 Cpl John C. Clunk 33561218
 Tec 4 Harry A. Moullet 33424819
 Tec 5 Lloyd A. Wyman 11014205
 Tec 5 Walter L. Szymanski 31329447

First Sgt 585
 Mess Sgt 824
 Motor Sgt 813
 Supply Sgt 821
 Platoon Sgt 651
 do 651
 do 651
 Unit Foreman 059
 do 059
 do 059
 Co Clerk 405
 Cook 060
 Cook 060
 Toolroom Keeper 242

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2nd Lt Tommy B. Mock (01648610) and 2nd Lt Grover J. Smith (01648162) were sent to this Battalion after completing the 6th Engineer Course at Fort Belvoir, Va., per SO # 305 Hq Engineer School, par. 19 dated 22 Dec 1943. 1st Lt Charles B. Lynch (01100657) arrived from the 314th Engineer Combat Battalion (89th Light Div) per SO # 237, Hq Second Army, dated 2 Dec 1943. 1st Lt Jacob S. Soldovnick (0532565) D.C. was transferred to this Battalion per SO #357, par. 8, Hq 7th Service Command, dated 23 Dec 1943. Major Earl W. Wheeler (0320145) reported in from Camp Carson, Colo. (Temp. duty-21st Det. Second Army) per SO # 337, par. 2. Hq Camp Carson, Colo. Previous to this temporary duty Major Wheeler had been on duty with the 1110th Engineer Combat Group Hdqs.

2. Change in organization: None.
3. Strength, Commissioned and enlisted:
 - a. On activation: 10 officers, 63 enlisted men.
 - b. Net increase during month: 5 officers, no enlisted men.
 - c. Net decrease during month: None.
 - d. Strength as of 31 December 1943: 15 officers, no Warrant Officers, 63 enlisted men.
4. Station: Camp Crowder, Missouri.
5. Marches: None.
6. Campaigns: None.
7. Battles: None
8. Commanding officer in important engagements: None.
10. Members who have distinguished themselves in action: None.
11. Photographs: (Attached are copies of photographs of personnel present on 31 Dec 1943.)

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Cadre of Enlisted Men of the 285th Engineer Combat Battalion
as of 31 December 1943.

First Row: Tec 4 Arthur A. Keough Jr., 33431256, Cook, Co C; Sgt Joseph E. Allen Jr., 31293184, Unit Foreman, Co B; Tec 5 Arthur A. Goodrich, 33431129, Toolroom Keeper, Co A; Sgt Benjamin Teeter, 33562829, Const. Foreman, H/S Co; Tec 5 Joseph Grasso, 31286649, Cook, H/S Co; Tec 5 John F. Crider, 33440407, Cook, Co A; Tec 4 Barlow Roark, 14030814, Cook, Co A.

Second Row: Tec 5 Edward O. Sivowen, 31260993, Med Tech, Med Det; 1st Sgt Roy M. Satterfield, 6972976, Co C; 1st Sgt Henry H. B. Avery, 6927917, Co A; 1st Sgt Henry Bialy, 6667444, Co B; WO(jg) Ashwell B. Harward, W-2127905, (Formerly M/Sgt as Bn Sgt Major, H/S Co); M/Sgt Paul H. Nickerson, 11024531, Bn Motor Sgt, H/S Co; Tech Sgt Philip P. Kastner, 12007635, Bn Supply Sgt, H/S Co; S/Sgt William J. Donohue, 32109898, Supply Sgt, Co A; Tech Sgt William C. Jones, 34390945, Mech Foreman, H/S Co; Tec 5 Richard E. Crum, 33439942, Toolroom Clerk, H/S Co.

Third Row: S/Sgt Kenneth F. Riddell, 33431174, Plat Sgt, Co C; S/Sgt Ernest F. Lundberg, 31329320, Supply Sgt, Co C; S/Sgt Bruner Wright, 7002042, Supply Sgt, Co B; S/Sgt James E. Stewart, 15064816, Plat Sgt, Co A; S/Sgt Percival E. Burroughs Jr., 33559980, Med Sgt, Med Det; S/Sgt Francis W. Fratianni Jr., 33561395, Plat Sgt, Co A; S/Sgt Ervin J. Nicholson, 31302671, Plat Sgt, Co A; S/Sgt Michael Lupo, 31302610 Motor Sgt, Co A.

Fourth Row: Tec 5 Walter L. Szymanski, 31329447, Toolroom Keeper, Co B; S/Sgt Andy Charney Sr., 33439491, Motor Sgt, H/S Co; S/Sgt Sam Janowitz, 32063198, Supply Sgt, H/S Co; Tec 3 Bernard Strasnick, 31302577, Surg Tech, Med Det; S/Sgt George P. Chiocca, 31286166, Motor Sgt, Co C; S/Sgt John W. Lovelady, 34033404, Mess Sgt, Co B; S/Sgt Joseph T. Azar, 31302725, Plat Sgt, Co B; Sgt Benjamin W. Rogers, 31327621, Unit Foreman, Co B; Cpl Aldo E. Giannini, 33431166, Co Clerk, Co A.

Fifth Row: Cpl John W. Hughes, 33431198, Co Clerk, Co C; Cpl John Sisti, 31291365, Co Clerk, H/S Co; S/Sgt Edris M. Griffith, 7020949, Const Foreman, H/S Co; S/Sgt Frank L. Buchel, 6879439, Plat Sgt, Co B; S/Sgt Richard E. Tucker, 7000051, Plat Sgt, Co B; S/Sgt John H. Sheehan, 11007754, Motor Sgt, Co B; S/Sgt Thomas R. Hopeck, 31326753, Water Supply Sgt, H/S Co; S/Sgt Paul E. Price, 6993907, Mess Sgt, H/S Co; Sgt David B. Parkhurst, 31317759, Unit Foreman, Co A.

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Cadre of Enlisted Men of the 285th Engineer Combat Battalion
as of 31 December 1943 (Continued).

Sixth Row: Tec 4 Cornelius K. Boogerman, 32924021, Auto. Mech,
H/S Co; Sgt Warren R. Salzer, 31327631, Unit Foreman, Co C;
Tec 5 Henry B. Fout Jr., 33560971, Stenographer, H/S Co; Sgt
George E. Oakes Jr., 33431148, Unit Foreman, Co C; S/Sgt
Alfred L. Weldon, 31261099, Plat Sgt, Co C; S/Sgt Gilbert H.
Treloar, 33431031, Plat Sgt, Co C; Tec 4 John E. Ciocho,
33431184, Cook, H/S Co; Sgt John R. Penn, 33439233, Unit
Foreman, Co A.

Enlisted Men absent when picture was taken.

1st Sgt Clarence L. Walker, R-352380, H/S Co; T/Sgt Harry
D. Dowlan, Jr., 20318460, Pers Sgt, H/S Co; S/Sgt Milton Gibbens,
15058855, Mess Sgt, Co A; Sgt Willard D. Wolfe, 33561448, Unit
Foreman, Co A; Sgt George C. Hodak, 33439494, Unit Foreman, Co
B; Cpl John C. Clunk, 33561218, Co Clerk, Co B; Tec 4 Harry A.
Nouillet, 33424819, Cook, Co B; Tec 5 Lloyd A. Wyman, 11014205,
Cook, Co B; S/Sgt Richard M. Alloway Jr., 13021866, Mess Sgt,
Co C; Sgt Theodore Kordecki, 33439472, Unit Foreman, Co C; Tec
5 Louis Lappa, 33439463, Cook, Co C; Tec 5 Ferris C. Loeffler,
33481093, Toolroom Keeper, Co C.

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OFFICERS of the 285th ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
as of 31 December 1943:

First Row: 1st Lt. Sherman A. Smith (01109673)
H&S Co. C.O.; Capt. Roger L. Young (0344979) Bn. Ex.
Officer; Maj. Earl W. Wheeler (0320145) Battalion
Commander; Capt. Audavee (NMI) Gaston (0419666)
Bn. S-4.

Second Row: 1st Lt. William A. Hamilton (01106788)
C.O. B Co.; 2nd Lt. Raymond E. Kelly (01557737) Plat.
Comd. A Co.; 2nd Lt. Leonard F. Marburger (0159005)
Bn. M.T.O.; 2nd Lt. James L. Mathis (01115022) Bn.
Adjutant.

Third Row: 2nd Lt. Phillip R. Walls (01105250) Bn.
Asst. S-3; 2nd Lt. Arrington G. Farnsworth (01115253)
Plat. Comd. C Co.; 2nd Lt. Tommy B. Mock (01648610)
Plat. Comd. B Co.

Officers absent when picture was taken:

Capt. Frank E. Plume (0379091) Bn. S-3 (On Leave)
1st Lt. Charles B. Lynch (0110065) C.O. Co.A (In Hospital)

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