

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 563D ENGINEER BATTALION  
APO 09154

AETSEB-WC

10 February 1975

SUBJECT: Historical Summary

Commander  
7th Engineer Brigade  
ATTN: AETSEB-IO  
APO 09154

Attached is a composite listing of support missions undertaken by the 563d Engineer Battalion. The list is quite extensive and includes many noteworthy projects which deserve highlighting.

**Barracks Life - Improving EM Living Conditions:** In February 1974, the 503d Engineer Company relocated into newly renovated barracks. New beds and wall lockers were requisitioned and issued to the soldiers and a neat, clean, well arranged living area established. Immediately a special grant for the unit fund was requested and money programed to establish a dayroom. The result of this expenditure and hard work rendered possibly the finest dayroom facilities in USARFUR. Also a job order was processed, approved and accomplished for the self help replacement of the unit sidewalks and the construction of a unit sports court and barbeque area. To improve the conditions and appearance of the large motor park and motor pool area, top soil was obtained and placed on bare areas and lawn grass seeded in. An attractive fence was constructed to replace the old unsightly one and the interior shop areas were completely painted by self help, much of it during off-duty hours. The billets are inspected on a daily basis and regularly during off duty hours to insure good order and discipline.

During the calendar year 1974, the 503d Engineer Company logged over 200,000 miles in addition to thousands of hours of heavy equipment operation without a single reportable personal injury due to equipment operation. As a result, the unit received the Battalion Safety Award for accident free operations.

The 503d Engineer Company has been one of the community leaders in community relations with our German counterparts. The 503d Engineer Company is considered the American counterpart of the Kornwestheim Community as many joint projects are undertaken to assist each other. Each year is culminated by the

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joint gathering and erection of the large Christmas tree on the top of the city hall. Many articles have been written about the impression and impact this unit has made upon the village of Bernloch, Oberstetten, Schuirden Fellbach, Gross Sachenheim and numerous other villages and communities. This unit operates its rock processing equipment year-around in a German owned quarry beside their German neighbors. This working relationship has resulted in many exchange parties, fests and invitations as well as demonstrations for other members of 7th Engineer Brigade.

From 6 May to 16 July 1974, the 38th Engineer Company provided dump truck support to the Range Maintenance Program at the 7th Army Training Center, Grafenwohr. The unit moved over 200 miles from its permanent station to Grafenwohr with all available 5 ton dump trucks; a total of 30 trucks made the journey. No problems were encountered on the way. Using foresight and the knowledge that many of the drivers were fairly inexperienced, a longer route, via the autobahn, was selected for the convoy as being easier due to less congestion than the alternate route which would have involved going through small towns and using secondary roads. While at the Training Center, on a sustained basis the unit provided 15 to a maximum of 18 trucks daily in support of the combat engineer battalions working on various projects. The major project to which the trucks were committed was hauling of rocks for the upgrading of 20 kilometers of tank trails. Approximately 1500 loads of rock were hauled and 33,000 miles driven during this period. Due to continual emphasis on operator maintenance and the accomplishment of the required services, all vehicles made the return trip to the unit's permanent station under their own power.

The 503d Engineer Company (LE), under the leadership of Captain John T. Lovo, constructed a sportsplatz for the school in Bernloch, Germany, between 18 March 1974 and 12 July 1974. During the course of the project the men of the 503d Engineer Company (LE), removed and stockpiled 22,000 cubic meters of topsoil, blasted, cut, and compacted the base course consisting of sedimentary and metamorphic rock and hardpan. A dancing area approximately 20 meters in radius was shaped and constructed, along with a parking area 120 x 65 meters which required 40,000 cubic meters of fill, and a 150 meter long berm for bleacher area which required an additional 500 cubic meters of material. During the course of the project the operators and mechanics stayed in a Gasthaus in Bernloch and lived with the people of the community. Many lasting friendships developed as a result.

The 93d Engineer Company (FB), commanded by Captain Joe L. Berry, completed the retiling of a recreation room for the Pattonville Dependent Youth Association (DYA) on 29 July 1974. The project consisted of relocating the furnishings, removing the existing floor tile, refinishing the floor base and the placing of 1300 pieces of asphalt tile. Despite the lack of prior experience in the placing of asphalt tile the project was completed in a highly professional manner.

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The dining facility, which is operated by the 563d Engineer Battalion on Ludendorff Kaserne, was closed on 1 October 1974, while undergoing rehab under the MOUSF Program. The dining facility completed with stereo sound system and \$15,000 decor package is scheduled to reopen in May 1975. In the meantime the personnel on Ludendorff are being bused to Wilkin Barracks.

The 38th Engineer Company (PB), under the direction of Captain Gary W. Meyer, provided panel bridge to the 237th Engineer Brigade, to be used during REFORGER 74.

The 503d Engineer Company (LE), answered the call to repair and upgrade the Crailsheim Training Area. Their efforts resulted in repairing 400 meters of rutted ground and the reestablishing of drainage ditch lines. Approximately 300 tons of rock was spread over the training area.

October 1974, saw REFORGER 74, and brought the requirement to the 563d Engineer Battalion to provide an umpire packet. The packet led by Major Dennis R. Lipscomb, consisted of 6 officers, 6 NCO's, and 10 lower enlisted personnel. The entire umpire packet attended the 3 day school at Grafenwoehr and then served as umpires for the 78th Engineer Battalion. Despite the varied duties of the members of the umpire packet, both the enlisted men and the officers agreed on two things-- the weather was lousy (rain and cold) and c-rations get old after the first week.

During the first part of November 1974, the 38th Engineer Company (PB), put their dump trucks to work hauling debris from the Ludwigsburg Property Disposal Office. Over 2000 cubic meters of debris was hauled to land fill areas in Pattonville and Boeblingen. Over 500 hours and 5460 miles of accident free operation were involved in the project. The men of the 38th Engineer Company (PB), truly lived up to their motto "You Call - We Haul!"

November found the 503d Engineer Company (LE), undertaking numerous projects on Ludendorff Kaserne. 13 November 1974, found them reworking the motor pool area for the 586th Maintenance Company. Approximately 148 man hours were involved in the ripping, the spreading of approximately 120 cubic yards of rock, and compacting the surface with a 5 ton vibratory roller. At the same time at the other end of the kaserne, other members of the 503d Engineer Company (LE) were removing the existing sidewalk in front of building 600 and 601. The base was leveled and compacted and over 1000 serviceable flat stones were placed where the old sidewalk had been.

The 93rd Engineer Company (PB), remained extremely busy during November with a project at the Rod & Gun Club on Nellingen Barracks. This project which involves carpentry work on the clubhouse as well as extensive reworking of the parking lot area and grounds is expected to be completed early in 1975.

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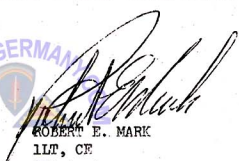
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The end of November brings the startling revelation that Christmas is rapidly approaching. Facing this reality the 563d Engineer Battalion began a program to collect and repair toys for Christmas. Under the direction of Captain Jimmy D. Jackson and SFC Earl Carp, a collection box was placed at the gate of Ludendorff Kaserne and the toys repaired by volunteers under the supervision of SP5 Jim R. Tramel, the NCOIC of the Ludendorff Kaserne Craft Shop. The repaired toys are to be distributed to needy German and American children by the Chaplains in the areas.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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ROBERT E. MARK  
1LT, CF  
Adjutant

## Support Missions &amp; Projects Completed By 563d Engineer Battalion During 1974

<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>REQUESTED ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
1 - 25 Ton Lowboy	Co D, 1st Engr Bn	16 Jan 74
5 - Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	4 Jan 74
1 - NCO & 3 Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	4 Jan 74
1 - 5 Ton Wrecker W/Operator	Community Commander	14 & 15 Jan 74
1 - Truck MTD Earth Auger	237th Engr Bn	8 - 16 Jan 74
1 - 20 Ton Crane W/Operator	1st Engr Div (FWD)	8 Jan 74
1 - Dragline Attachment for 20 Ton Crane	1st Engr Div (FWD)	9 Jan 74
Class 60 Float Bridge: (1) Bay Load (1) Ramp Load; (1) NCOIC.	9th Engr Bn	14 - 18 Jan 74
1 - NCO & 2 Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr	14 Jan 74
1 - 5 Ton Dump Truck & 6 Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	17 Jan 74
1 - 5 Ton Tractor W/25 Ton Lowboy	Cdr, 7th Engr Bde	18 Jan 74
1 - Earth Auger W/Selected Hand Tools	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	18 - 29 Jan 74
4 - 5 Ton Dump Trucks	OIC, AK 4841	22 Jan 74
80 Ft of DS Bailey Bridge	16th Engr Bn	4 - 18 Feb 74
Necessary Vehicles & Personnel	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	22 Jan 74
Necessary Material & Personnel	Installation Coordinator	31 Jan 74
4 - 5 Ton Dump Trucks W/Operators & Assistant Drivers; 1 - 1/4 Ton Truck Utility & (1) NCO	Community Commander	23 Feb 74
1 - Welder	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	27 Feb - 1 Mar 74
1 - Bay Load of Class 60 Bridge	Cdr, 9th Engr Bn	11 - 14 Mar 74
1 - Outboard Motor W/Operator 80 Ft of DS Bailey Bridge	Cdr, 9th Engr Bn	7 Mar 74
5 - Man Detail	Community Commander	5 - 8 Mar 74
4 - Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	5 - 8 Mar 74
Carpentry Tools; Air or Electric Jack Hammer; 1 NCO & 6 EM	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	5 - 8 Mar 74
1 - Welder	Installation Coordinator	11 - 30 Mar 74
10 - Man Detail; 2 Lowboys W/Operators	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	7 Mar 74
5 - Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	7 Mar 74
6 - 5 Ton Dump Trucks	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	14 Mar 74
1 - Front Loader	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	25 Mar 74
6 - 5 Ton Dump Trucks	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	25 Mar 74
1 - 5 Ton Dump Truck & 3 Man Detail	Community Commander	29 Mar - 8 Apr 74
2 - 5 Ton Dump Trucks	Installation Coordinator	26 Mar 74
1 - Earth Auger	237th Engineer Battalion	1 - 12 Apr 74
1 - 5 Ton Wrecker	Installation Coordinator	26 Mar 74
5 - 15 Man Assault Boats	Co C, 2/4th Inf	23 Mar - 4 Apr 74
Carpentry Tools; 1 - 5 Ton Dump Truck; 1 - NCO & 3 - EM	Community Commander	28 - 29 Mar 74
1 - 5 Ton Dump Truck; Shovels; Hammers; Post Hole Diggers; Nails/Wire Staples	Community Commander	1 - 5 Apr 74
10 - 5 Ton Dump Trucks	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	3 Apr 74
1 - Grader	Community Commander	3 Apr 74
1 - 1/2 Set Aluminum Footbridge & 1 - Instructor	Cdr, 1st Armd Div	22 - 26 Apr 74

<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>REQUESTED ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
As Needed Equipment	Installation Coordinator	29 Apr - 1 May 74
1 - 2 1/2 Ton or 5 Ton, 1 - NCO & 5 Man Detail	Chaplain	3 - 4 May 74
1 - Welder W/Operator	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	16 - 17 May 74
1 - 5 Ton Dump Truck & 2 Man Detail	Community Commander	16 May 74
1 - Truck & 2 Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	30 May 74
12 - Pneumatic Assault Boats; 120 Paddles 140 Life Vests	1st Inf Div (FWD)	7 - 19 Jun 74
3 - Pneumatic Assault Boats;	Co C, 34th Sig Bn	17 - 19 Jul 74
Overhead Anchorage System	Co A, 9th Engr Bn	1 - 3 Jul 74
1 - LTR Ponton W/Outboard Motor & Operator	9th Engr Bn	1 - 5 Jul 74
1 - Dozer	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	17 Jun 74
80 Ft of DS Bailey Bridge	42nd Engr Co	20 - 24 Aug 74
1 - Grader	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	20 Jun 74
5 - Man Detail & 1 - NCO & 1 - 1 1/4 Ton Truck	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	18 Jun 74
1 - Grader	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	18 Jun 74
3 - 5 Ton Dump Trucks	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	20 Jun 74
1 - Grader	Community Commander	19 Jun 74
1 - Dozer & 5 to 10 Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	18 Jun 74
5 - Pneumatic Assault Boats	235th ASA Co	25 Jul - 10 Aug 74
1 - Dozer	Cdr, 7th Engr Bde	25 Jul 74
1 - NCO & 3 Man Detail	Community Commander	4 - 7 Jul 74
1 - 5 Ton Dump Truck; 1 - Earth Auger & 3 Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	27 Jun 74
1 - 1/4 Ton Truck W/Driver & 2 Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	26 Jun 74
1 - 5 Ton Dump Truck W/Driver	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	29 Jun - 8 Jul 74
1 - Welder	Installation Coordinator	27 Jun 74
1 - Maintenance Tent	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	27 Jun 74
60 FT of DD Bailey Bridge	Cdr, 16th Engr Bn	22 - 23 Jul 74
Class 60 Bridge; 4 - Floats; Normal W/Ramps; LTR; 4 - Pontons; 3 - Bay Loads W/Ramps; Articulaters & 4 Motors; 1 Set of 462' of Footbridge	Cdr, 237th Engr Bn	19 - 23 Aug 74
6 - Pneumatic Assault Boats	Cdr, 1/26th Inf	15 - 19 Jul 74
3 - 5 Ton Dump Trucks	Installation Coordinator	17 Jul 74
1 - General Purpose Tent; 1 - 5 Ton Tractor	Installation Coordinator	19 Jul 74
80 FT of DS Bailey Bridge	Cdr, 237th Engr Bn	16 - 20 Sep 74
1 - 2 1/2 Ton Truck; 1 - NCO & 6 Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	14 Aug 74
12 - Pneumatic Assault Boats W/Paddles & Pumps	Cdr, 237th Engr Bn	27 Aug - 3 Sep 74
1 - Crane & 1 - Lowboy	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	27 Aug 74
8 - Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	28 Aug 74
1 - NCO; 1 - 1/2 Set of Aluminum Footbridge	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	23 - 26 Sep 74
1 - 5 Ton Dump Truck; 1 - NCO & 2 Man Detail	Cdr, 563d Engr Bn	20 Sep 74

<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>REQUESTED ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
6 - Graders W/Operators (REFORGER)	Cdr, 82nd Engr Bn	7 - 26 Oct 74
3 - Tractor W/Lowboy (REFORGER)	Cdr, 82nd Engr Bn	7 - 26 Oct 74
4 - NCO's; 12 EM	Cdr, 237th Engr Bn	22 - 23 Oct 74
2 - Tractor W/:Lowboy	Cdr, 1st Inf Div	5 - 7 Oct 74
3 - Tractor W/Lowboy (REFORGER)	Cdr, 82nd Engr Bn	3 - 26 Oct 74
1 - Grader W/Operator	Dachau Community Commander	13 - 27 Nov 74

MAJOR PROJECTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>REQUESTED ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Rifle Range Fellbach-Schmidlen	Cdr, VII Corps	1 Mar - 10 Apr 74
Bernloch Sportsplatz	Cdr, VII Corps	11 Mar - 15 Jul 74
Altdorf Sportsplatz	Cdr, 7th Engr Bde	20 May - 15 Jun 74
Munsingen Tank Trails	Cdr, VII Corps	20 May - 15 Jul 74
Ludwigsburg Army Airfield	Cdr, 7th Engr Bde	24 Jun - 15 Jul 74
Pattonville DYA	President DYA	1 - 24 Jul 74
Ludwigsburg PDO Haul	OIC, PDO	22 Jul - 12 Nov 74
Vielbrunn ASP	Cdr, 7th Engr Bde	29 Jul - 9 Aug 74
CDAAC Upgrade	Cdr, 7th Engr Bde	15 Aug - 21 Aug 74
Friendship Park	Cdr, 7th Engr Bde	17 - 30 Sep 74
Crailsheim	Cdr, 7th Engr Bde	2 - 12 Oct 74
Nellingen Rod & Gun Club	2nd Sup Com	1 Nov 74 - Jan 75
Rock Haul	3/71st ADA	5 Nov 74 - Feb 75
Nellingen EES Pad	2nd Sup Com	12 Nov 74 - Jan 75
586th Maintenance Company Motor Park Upgrade	Cdr, 586th Maint Co	13 - 20 Nov 74
Ludendorff Sidewalk Rehab	Installation Coordinator	14 - 26 Nov 74
Robinson Barracks Nursery Rehab	Stuttgart Sup Com	

G/A PROJECT

Rifle Range - Fellbach-Schmidlen - 503d Engr Co - Completed 10 Apr 74

Rifle Range - Kornwestheim - 38th Engr Co - Completed 14 May 74

Playground, Zuffenhausen - 503d Engr Co - Completed 3 Apr 74

Sportsplatz - Bernloch - 503d Engr Co - Completed 12 Jul 74