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Report date: 14 January 1945

Title: Training progress reports (by date).

Author: U.S. Army Air Forces, IX Troop Carrier Command, Pathfinder Group (Provisional)

Abstract: The following are training progress reports for 7 December 1944, 10 December 1944, 6 January 1945, 9 January 1945, and 14 January 1945 for the Airborne Pathfinders.

Number of pages: 9 p.

Notes: From the MCoE HQ Donovan Research Library, Fort Benning, GA. Documents collection. Call #: D809.15 .U509-A.

Classification: Unclassified; Approved for public release

D 809.15 Training Progress report
.U 509-A 14 Jan 1945.
1/14/45 dU

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DECLASSIFIED - DOD Directive
No. 5200.9, 27 Sep 58
by Ruth Wesley, Librarian
on 18 January 1961

HEADQUARTERS
IX TCC PATHFINDER GP (PROV)
Office of the Corps Pathfinder Officer

D. 809.15
U. 509-A
(1/14/45)
du

AP0 133 U. S. Army
14 January 1945 50

SUBJECT: Training Progress Report 1 Dec 44 - 14 Jan 45.

TO : Commanding General, XVIII Corps (Airborne), APO 109, U.S. Army.

1. On 8 December 44 eleven (11) officers and eighty nine men from the 101st A/B Division arrived at this base for training as Airborne Pathfinders. Result of the training program for this unit is as follows:

Number of officers completing course	9
Number of Officers failing to complete course	2
Total	11
Number of EM completing course	83
Number of EM failing to complete course	6
Total	89

The officers failing to complete the course were hospitalized due to illness and are still in the hospital as of the date of this report.

The enlisted men who failed to complete the course were returned to their units for breaches of discipline and inaptness.

2. On 12 December 44 nine (9) officers and ninety seven (97) enlisted men from the 82nd Airborne Division arrived at this base for training with results as follows:

Number of officers completing course	9
Number of EM completing course	91
Number of enlisted men completing course	6

The enlisted men who did not complete the course were returned for breaches of discipline and inaptness. One enlisted man was hospitalized and was therefore not able to attend classes.

3. It is understood that, inasmuch as there is no T. O. providing personnel for this type of work, the selection of men for such work presents a problem to a company commander. It is the opinion of the undersigned that in some cases men were selected without too much regard for qualifications. Due to the fact that both divisions were in combat it was not deemed possible to secure replacements nor was it deemed advisable to keep men at this base who were not qualified to receive instruction when they were needed by their units for combat duty. In the future it is requested that more consideration be given to the selection of men for this type of training in order to provide competent and dependable Pathfinders.

4. During the course of instruction each man was provided with lesson sheets covering the subjects taught. This was deemed advisable due to the time allotted for training. A copy of these lesson sheets is enclosed. (See inclosure #1)

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Training Progress Report 1 Dec 44 - 14 Jan 45, Hqs IX TCC Pathfinder Gp (Prov) (Cont'd)

5. Upon arrival at this station it was learned that many of the men were poorly equipped due to the fact that clothing requisition covering losses, wear, etc., during the Holland campaign had not been filled. Immediate steps were taken to procure all items needed to fully clothe the men. The Station Quartermaster was very cooperative in this matter. Prior to departure all men were up to TE insofar as clothing and individual equipment was concerned with the exception of a small number of sleeping bags.

6. Inasmuch as facilities for safe guarding arms are limited at this station it was requested that men sent for training leave their weapons with their units. Men who dropped at Bastogne were equipped by the Group S-4. The entire Pathfinder attachment was alerted for commitment on 22 December 44 and a requisition for complete combat equipment was filled with no delay. This equipment was retained at this base upon departure of personnel to their units.

7. On 24 December 44 orders were received to prepare to commit two teams to an infantry unit cut off on the western front. Orders were received at 0330 and cancelled at 0400. It is understood that this unit was overrun by the enemy.

8. On the morning of 24 December orders were received to place three Pathfinder teams on TD with the 50th Wing, IX TCC. Col. Joel L. Crouch and the undersigned accompanied these teams to 50th Wing Headquarters and arranged for their commitment with the wing A-3. A ^{2nd} team from each Airborne Division was sent on this mission. No teams were committed and personnel returned to this base on 8 January 45 upon being released by Headquarters, First AAA. During the period 22 December - 8 January 45 four Pathfinder teams were kept on a thirty minute alert for possible commitment on a combat mission. This was discontinued on 8 January 45 and preparations were made to return personnel to their home stations. Weather delayed the departure until 14 January 45.

9. A complete report on the Bastogne drop and resupply is enclosed. (See Enclosure #2) (see document D464,69,05509)

10. Commanding Officer, IX TCC Pathfinder Group requested that two teams (2 officers, 18 men) from each Division be retained at this base in the event a situation demanding use of Pathfinders on the western front occurred. This request was forwarded to 101st Airborne Division and approved by TWX on 10 January 45. A similar request to 82nd Airborne Division has not been answered as of this date. The personnel (2 officers, 18 men) are still at this base.

11. Major Derey and Lieutenant Bales returned to the U.K. on 10 January 45 with IR and DADF (MC-619) equipment. This equipment had been assigned to the Chief Signal Officer, Com Zone, Paris, France. In order to begin immediate training with this equipment a telephone request that the equipment be diverted to this base was made to the G-4 Section, First AAA. This request was approved and Major Derey and the undersigned procured the equipment from ATC and moved it to this station on 13 January 45.

12. a. A production schedule for the forthcoming IR and MC-619 (DADF) is en-

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Training Progress Report 1 Dec 44 - 14 Jan 45, Hqs IX TCC Pathfinder Gp (Prov)
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closed. (See encl. #3) All items listed in the first paragraph of this letter (Memorandum from Mr. Gould, O.S.R.D. to General Borden dated 6 Jan 45) are at this station.

b. Following equipment will not be needed for training:

250 type F Metascopes
18 Tuning Meters for tuning MC-619
20 IR Beacons, Airborne M-1

c. Request that shipping instructions be furnished so that this equipment can be turned over to the Signal Officer XVIII Corps (Airborne) for issue to using units.

d. Inasmuch as this equipment will be routed to the Chief Signal Officer Com Zone, Paris, France as fast as it is produced it is deemed advisable that G-4 or the Corps Signal Officer make arrangements for receiving this equipment upon arrival by contacting the office of the Chief Signal Officer, Com Zone, Paris, France.

e. It is further suggested that steps be taken to secure Air Transport priorities for this equipment in order to put it into use as soon after it is manufactured as possible.

13. a. Close liaison has been kept between the O.S.R.D. branch of the American Embassy and this office. Arrangements have been made to furnish such Air Transportation as may be needed by members of O.S.R.D. engaged upon official business in this theater. This was done as an effort to repay O.S.R.D. for the help and cooperation in procuring the IR and MC-619. Col Joel L. Crouch was very cooperative and made this gesture possible by furnishing necessary aircraft and flying personnel.

b. Visits have been made to ABTC Detachment and Colonel Honeycutt has been kept informed of the situation and training program being carried on by this unit. He expects to take this information back to Airborne units training in the U. S.

14. Following a recommendation made by Col. Joel L. Crouch, one hundred aircraft loads of resupply was procured from the 490th Q.M. and stored at this base. This resupply is packaged and bundled for aerial delivery and will be available to any unit of XVIII Corps (Airborne) upon request. A list of such supplies is attached. (See Encl #4)

15. Lesson sheets are being prepared on the MC-619 from the TM brought back by Major Derey. Sufficient copies for distribution to students were not available so a stencil was cut and the TM will be reproduced in sufficient copies to allow distribution to each student who attends future courses. An original copy is attached for your files. (See Encl #5)

16. Prior to the present campaign plans were being made to train Pathfinder teams from an Airborne Combat Team which was then attached to XVIII Corps Airborne. Preparations are being made to receive a maximum of two hundred students from this combat team or any other unit that may be attached to XVIII Corps (Airborne) in the near future. It is requested that at least one weeks notice be given prior to arrival of students to allow requisitions for rations, fuel, etc., to be made.

17. In the event new students are to be trained it is requested that they

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Training Progress Report 1 Dec 44 - 14 Jan 45, Hqs IX TCC Pathfinder Gp (Prov)
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furnish at least one truck, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton per one hundred students to provide transportation during the training period. Inasmuch as this group is a provisional one it does not have adequate transportation facilities to provide transportation for Airborne units stationed on this base.

18. Upon return to the continent both Airborne Divisions were issued one complete set of equipment for marking DZ's and/or LZ's. This equipment may be used if a resupply by air is needed. This equipment should be returned to this base after a period of two to three weeks for recalibration and check. This will be taken care of by the Group Radar Officer. No arrangements by your headquarters will be necessary inasmuch as a new set of equipment will be delivered and the old equipment picked up.

19. On 10 December 44 Dr. Charles E. Waring, O.S.R.D. returned to the United States to assist Lt. Bales and Major Derey with procurement. He also initiated research work on a project for marking DZ's and LZs with infra-red lights. Verbal reports received from Major Derey indicate that a satisfactory beacon has been designed and is receiving tests in the United States. Your headquarters will be kept informed of the progress made along these lines.

20. Further tests have been run at this base on the method mentioned in last months' report- viz: Using two beacons set up behind the lines with the DZ at the third point of a triangle. Results proved very satisfactory. Arrangements are being made to demonstrate this equipment to the Commanding General, IX Troop Carrier Command. A full powered model of the radar equipment is under construction by Mr. A. Eicher, British Branch Radiation Laboratory. A lower powered set was used for preliminary tests. Mr. Eicher is preparing a detailed report covering the method and a copy of this report will be forwarded as soon as it is completed. Attention is invited to the fact that perfection of this method will allow the first serial of aircraft to drop without the aid of pre-dropped Pathfinders thereby maintaining security for a greater length of time. If this method is adopted it is planned to drop Airborne Pathfinders with the first serial of aircraft to give following serials the benefit of additional Pathfinder aids.

21. A copy of Technical Instructions on Beacon, Airborne, M1 with Metascope Type US/F is enclosed for your information. (See Encl #6) (see doc V6421, E54 [12-27-44])

22. It is recommended that two qualified communications men from each Airborne Division be placed on TD with this unit immediately in order that they may be trained to maintain beacons within the Division. If it is impracticable to relieve qualified technicians at this time it is suggested that reinforcements be secured from any available sources inasmuch as this requires technical skill and a knowledge of radio repair work. These men need not be qualified parachutists or men with

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Training Progress Report 1 Dec 44 - 14 Jan 45, Hqs IX TCC Pathfinder Gp (Prov)
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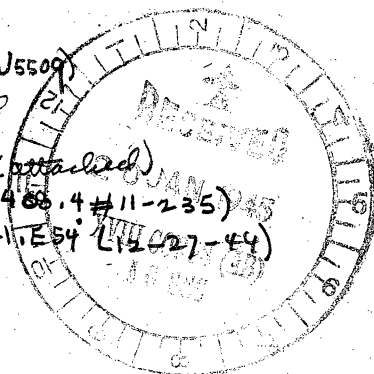
combat experience. It is expected that once trained these men would be assigned to the maintenance Section of the Division Signal Company.

Frank L. Brown

FRANK L. BROWN
Captain, Inf (Prcht)
Corps Pathfinder Officer

*See
Note*

Encl #1 Lesson sheets, Pathfinder Course *attached*
Encl #2 Bastogne Report, Operation "Nuts". *(see D 767.69, U5509)*
Encl #3 Production Schedule for IR & DADF Equip *attached*
Ltr. to General Borden from Mr. Gould O.S.R.D. *(attached)*
Encl #4 Packed Parachute Delivery Supplies at AAF 465 *(attached)*
Encl #5 TB 11-235 Homing Modification Kit MC-619 *(see U 465.4 #11-235)*
Encl #6 Tl Beacon A/B M-1 with Metascope US/F. *(see U 662.1, E54 11-27-44)*



Distribution:

- 1 - Commanding General XVIII Corps (Airborne)
- 1 - Commanding Officer IX TCC Pathfinder Group (Prov)
- 1 - File Copy

N. 13.

6 Inclosures w/d ; 1 added.

L.R.

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HEADQUARTERS
490TH QM DEPOT CO

SECRET
AUTH: CO, 490TH
QM DEP CO
DATE: 9 JAN 45
INITIALS: M F J

AFPO 133, US Army
9 January 1945

SUBJECT: Packed Parachute Delivery Supplies at AAF 465

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, First Allied Airborne Army,
AFPO 740, US Army, ATTN G-4

Herewith list of supplies, packed for parachute delivery, which
have been shipped to Chalgrove, AAF 465, to the IX Troop Carrier Pathfinder
Group.

For the Commanding Officer:

MARVIN F. JACORS
1st Lieut., QMC
Operations Officer

1 Incl (dup)
List of packed supplies.

DISTRIBUTION:

2 copies	CG, FAAA, Attn: G-4
2 copies	CG, IX TCWS (P), ATTN: Capt OGLE
1 copy	CG, IX TCC Pathfinder Gp, Attn: A-4

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Ralph Z. Levy
RALPH Z. LEVY
1st Lt., QMC,
Group S-4

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ENCL #4 TNG. PROGRESS REPORT/DECH4-14 JANUARY 45, HQ IX TCC PFGR. (PROV.)
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Packed airborne supplies shipped to IX TCC Pathfinder
Group at Chalgrove, AAF 465

CODE	NOMENCLATURE	NO OF ROUNDS	TYPE CONTAINER	NO OF BUNDLES
1CAH	Carbine	(172 800	A-6 rds	24
		(115 200	A-7	24
TIHHA	Cal .30, M2, 8/cp	258 800	A-7	100
TIHDF	Cal .30, M2, AP-Tr, MGB	100 000	A-7	50
TIHDF	Cal. 45, M1911, Ball ctn	36 000	A-7	10
RIGIB	37mm Gun, M3, APCTrM51 w/Tr	400	A-5	10
RIGIB	57mm Gun, M1, AP-Tr, M70	480	A-5	40
R4CAA	60mm Mortar, HE, M49A2, w/PDF M52	3 132	A-5	58
RIMDA	75mm How, M1, M3, HE, M48, w/PDF M54	144	A-5	16
		1 206	A-6	134
R4PCA	81mm mortar, HE, M43A1, w/PDF M52 (light)	1 584	A-5	88
R1SCA	105mm How. HE, M1, w/PDF M54	280	A-5	70
S4GHA	Gren. hand, frag., MkII	600	A-5	6
S4HBA	Gren. rifle, AT, M9A1	120	A-5	3
S4HNB	Gren. rifle, frag, M17	120	A-5	3
	Gasoline, MT-80 (V-80)	1 060 gals	rene-sling	53
	Bats, "K"	4 800 rats	A-4	100
	Blood plasma	110 pkgs)		
	First aid bandages, lge	187 ea)		
	First aid bandages, small	363 ea)	A-5	11
	Morphine	187 ea)		
TOTAL BUNDLES				800

Packed Parachutes

Blue	105
Green	56
White	12
Red and Yellow	667

TOTAL

840

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Ralph Z. Levy
RALPH Z. LEVY
1st Lt., QMC
Group S-4

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TO: WOG:evc

January 6, 1945

MEMORANDUM

To: Brig. Gen. W. A. Borden, New Developments Division, War Department
From: Wendell O. Gould, Office of Scientific Research and Development

Major C. H. Derey and Lt. Robert Bales have successfully completed their mission and are returning to the ETO with the following equipment:

- a) 250 Type F Metascopes - (There are 165 Type F Metascopes overseas with the First Airborne Army at present.)
- b) 24 Infra Red Beacons, Airborne M-1 less battery acid
- c) 30 Flashlight Adapters M-374 and Infra Red Filters M-439
- d) 2 Battery chargers for Infra Red Beacon Batteries
- e) 5 Modification Kits MC-619. (This unit consists of the Direction Finding Loop for the SCR-536 and the necessary attachments for the SCR-536.)
- f) 2 Radio Beacon Transmitters AN/CRN-12. (This is the nomenclature for the new transmitter developed from the modified CRN-4 which Major Derey brought with him as a model. It is the radio beacon for the SCR-536 Direction Finding Loop listed above as MC-619.)
- g) 20 Tuning Meters for the tuning the Modification Kit MC-619.

Major Derey and I have obtained the following production schedule for the balance of the requirements from the various procurement officers involved, which is based on the best information attainable at this date. Shipping instructions are required immediately, particularly for the January production.

- a) Type F Metascope - 1400 January 1945 600 May, 1945
2400 February 1945 4000 June and each month
2500 March 1945 thereafter until
6000 April 1945 completion in
January 1946.

Shipping weight packed 1.68 lbs each.

Shipping volume packed .09 cu.ft. each.

1 EXTRA COPY IN
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ENCL #3 TNG. PROGRESS REPORT 1 DEC 44 - 14 JAN 45, HQ. IX TCC PF GR (PROV)

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Jan. 6, 1945

- b) Infra Red Beacon, Airborne M-1 - 50 March 15, 1945
126 June 1, 1945

Shipping weight packed 122 lbs each
Shipping volume packed 3.3 cu ft each

- c) Flashlight Adapter M-374 and
Infra Red Filter M-439

1000	January 1945	4000	March 1945
2000	February 1945	970	April 1945

Unpacked weight .25 lbs each
Unpacked volume .02 cu.ft. each

Estimated shipping weight packed .5 lbs each
Estimated shipping volume packed .03 cu. ft. each

- d) Battery Charger for Infra Red Beacon - 8 December, 1944 (Ready
for shipment now.)

Shipping weight packed 109 lbs each
Shipping volume packed 4.3 cu. ft. each

- e) Modification Kit MC-619 - 1000 January 1945
3000 February 1945
4000 March 1945

Unpacked weight 9.3 lbs each
Unpacked volume .57 cu. ft. each

Estimated Shipping weight packed 18 lbs each
Estimated shipping volume packed .75 lbs each

- f) Radio Beacon Transmitter AN/CRN-12 -

60	January 1945	50	March 1945
50	February 1945	48	April 1945

Unpacked weight 37 lbs each
Unpacked volume 1.15 cu. ft. each

Estimated shipping weight packed 60 lbs each
Estimated shipping volume packed 1.25 cu.ft. each

- g) Tuning Meter for Tuning the Modification Kit MC-619-

This requirement is filled in the equipment being
taken by Major Derey today

Distribution:

Com. Gen. FAAA - 2
C.G. XVIII Corps (Airborne) - 2
OSRD, Washington - 1
OSRD, London (Dr. Waring) - 1

C. O. IX T.C. Pathfinder Group (Prov.) - 1
Major Derey, Lt. Bales - 2
NDRC, TO - 1
Dr. Bush - 1
Dean Moreland - 1

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