

At 9:30 a.m. it was raining steadily and road was becoming very slippery. 4 mi. west of Cozad Class B #47905 skidded off the road into shallow ditch and was pulled out by Class B #414673 at 10:30 a.m. Mack #51481 carrying tractor, went into ditch nearby and was recovered by Mack Blacksmith Shop #4. Militor rescued 4 Class B's from the ditch. Later Militor skidded into the ditch and was buried almost to the frame in "gumbo" but was extricated by the crew without assistance in 2 hrs. 25 trucks skidded into the ditch during day. Very apparent all trucks should be equipped with chains for front wheels as well as rear. Two weak bridges reinforced before Convoy passed over. Rain and cool. Roads gumbo mud. Made 30 mi. in 10½ hrs. Arrived Gothenburg, Nebr. 5 p.m.

Aug. 3

Departed Gothenburg, 7:30 a.m. During morning tractor had all 12 engineers trucks to tow at once, and at another time towed 3 Macks, 1 Riker and 1 Class B for 2 or 3 miles. Also towed one Mack 7 miles into camp. With the exception of the Engineers' trucks and the F.W.D.'s, the Militor towed every truck in the Convoy at least once during the day. At one time, 9 trucks chained together were unable to move under their own power, and the Militor pulled them through. Winch was used twice during the day, once to pull the Militor itself out of a deep ditch into which it slid sideways. Dodge #110228 had to have sand cleaned out of carburetor. Class B tanker blew out front cylinder head gasket. Several fan belts broke on F.W.D.'s. Dodge Light delivery truck burned out connecting rod bearing. Sand under Mack chains made them tighten up and sprung torsion rods. Cloudy and cool. Roads sandy, some quicksand. Made 34 mi. in 9¾ hrs. Arrived North Platte, Nebr. 5:15 p.m.

Aug. 4

North Platte, rest period. Forced to suspend movement for 24 hrs. and remain here, owing to many little mechanical adjustments which had become necessary through the heavy work of the trucks during the last two days. Convoy re-organized under the direction of Lt. Col. Sheppard, M.T.C. All vehicles thoroughly lubricated.

Aug. 5

Departed North Platte, 6:30 a.m. 9 mi. west Class B machine Shop #414319 sank in sandy road and was pulled out by 3 Class B's. One mile beyond Class B #48043 sank in soft sand, both right wheels and differential being buried. After five unsuccessful attempts, this truck was finally rescued by the combined efforts of the Militor and the Tractor, the cargo having first been removed. All trucks, except the F.W.D.'s and some of the Class A trucks had to be pulled thru this 200 yd. stretch of quicksand. The Militor handled 16 trucks, the Tractor 10, and in 8 instances the combined efforts of both Militor and Tractor were required. Delay 7 hrs. 20 min. 5 small bridges were damaged during day. Between Paxton and Roscoe 2 smaller sand holes were encountered, one on an up-grade, the F.W.D.'s and Militor only going through unassisted. Civilian automobile ran into Mack #51482, 8 mi. east of Ogallala. Fair and warm.

