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HEADQUARTERS 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80 U.S. Army

6 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945 inclusive. (Section I - Summary of daily operations and action).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Through Channels).

1. NARRATIVE OF EVENTS:

a. At the beginning of the period, the 80th Infantry Division occupied defensive positions, 313th Field Artillery Battalion in position vicinity of ERMSDORF, LUXEMBOURG with the mission of general support of the division and reinforcing the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. From 1 Feb through 6 Feb there was little activity either enemy or friendly. Schools were held for the new officers in the battalion. Gunnery schools, and radio schools were held for all forward observers and their parties. Defensive positions were improved. Some recreational facilities were available. During this period fire control was exercised over the tanks from Co A, 702nd Tank Bn.

b. On the morning of 7 Feb 45 the division attacked, in conjunction with a coordinated attack by the XII Corps, the SIEGFRIED LINE. The battalion fired a ninety five minute preparation and accompanying fire for the attack which was launched successfully. The OUR RIVER was crossed and the attack carried to the pillboxes and bunkers of the SIEGFRIED LINE. From the 7 Feb through the 12 Feb the battalion continued to reinforce the fires of the 905th FA Bn. During this time fire control was exercised over the fires of the tanks from Co A, 702nd Tk Bn and destroyers from Co B, 811th TD Bn.

c. On 13 Feb 45 the mission of the battalion was changed to direct support of the 317th Inf. The battalion displaced to new positions in the vicinity of BEAUFORT, LUXEMBOURG in order to support the attack by the 317th Inf which had been committed in that sector. The 512th FA Bn was given the mission of reinforcing our fires. The attack was continued and on 15 Feb 45 the howitzer batteries again displaced to the east.

d. On 16 Feb 45 the first elements of the battalion entered GERMANY when D Btry displaced to positions north of BOLLENDORF. Reconnaissance was made for positions for the remainder of the battalion and on 17 Feb the remaining batteries (less Service) crossed the OUR RIVER and occupied positions north of BOLLENDORF. The attack continued and on 17 Feb D Btry displaced to a new position in the vicinity of BIESDORF, GERMANY. Reconnaissance was made for new position in the vicinity of ROHRBACH, GERMANY and on 20 Feb 45 the battalion displaced to these positions.

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(After Action Report, continued)

e. The advance continued steadily and on 25 Feb 45 resistance decreased markedly. On that date the battalion displaced to new positions in the vicinity of FREILINGEN, GERMANY. The 512th FA Bn relieved from reinforcing our fires. The advance continued rapidly and on the morning of 26 Feb 45 the battalion again displaced, to positions in the vicinity of BAUSTERT, GERMANY. Again the next day the battalion displaced to keep up support of the infantry. Positions were occupied in the vicinity of WIERSDORF, GERMANY. on the 28 Feb 45 the period ended with the battalion in these positions.

2. SUMMARY

a. Missions Fired.

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| TOT | 95 |
| Counter-battery | 36 |
| Infantry | 168 |
| Machine Guns | 9 |
| Mortar | 3 |
| Tanks | 22 |
| Vehicles | 3 |
| OPs | 17 |
| Interdiction | 145 |
| Harrassing | 24 |
| Smoke | 26 |
| Propaganda | 43 |
| Preparation | 108 |
| Registration | 29 |
| Emergency Barrage | 2 |
| Ammunition Dump | 3 |
| TOTAL MISSIONS | 733 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Average number of rounds per mission | 29 rounds |
| Percent of total missions fired in which fire for effect was fired by the battalion | 38% |
| Percent of total missions fired in which Pozit fuzes were used | 11% |
| Percent of total missions fired in which delay fuzes were used | 6% |
| Percent of total missions fired in which time fuzes (M54) were used | 10% |
| Percent of total missions fired which were observed missions | 31% |

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(After Action Report, continued)

b. SURVEY - The 1/25,000 map has been excellent, and the number available has been sufficient to meet normal needs.

c. COMMUNICATIONS - During this period wire has been the primary means of communication between Bn and batteries while radio has served primarily with liaison officers and forward observers.

A new system of using radio channels was tried and proved to be very successful enabling the 2 and 3 sections to be frequently and fully informed of the situation. As a result of more positive communications closer support was given the infantry by forward observers especially on targets of opportunity.

The battalion laid approximately 169 miles of wire during operations for this period.

d. AIR OP - A total of 46 missions were fired by the air OP during the period. Missions as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Registration | 22 |
| Enemy troops | 10 |
| Enemy Btry | 4 |
| Smoke missions | 3 |
| Enemy Vehicles | 2 |
| Machine Guns | 1 |
| Anti-tank gun | 1 |
| Tank | 1 |
| Ammunition Dump | 1 |
| Mortars | 0 |
| TOTAL MISSIONS | 46 |

e. AMMUNITION - The supply of ammunition was adequate. White Phosphorous ammunition became available and was used with very good results on trucks, and armored vehicles. Ammunition was expended as follows during this period:

| | <u>m-2</u> | <u>m-3</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Shell HE Fuze M48 | 7602 | 4664 |
| Shell HE Fuze M54 | 3853 | 91 |
| Shell HE Fuze Pozit | 2458 | |
| Shell Propaganda | 80 | |
| Shell Smoke WP | 1194 | 290 |
| Shell Smoke HC | 924 | 46 |
| Shell Red Smoke | 11 | |
| Totals | 16274 <i>12813</i> | 5091 |
| GRAND TOTAL (m-2 and m-3) | 21365 <i>21213</i> | |

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f. MISCELLANEOUS:

During the past period many of the new officers in the battalion acquired experience as forward observers. This experience proved very valuable because as the operations progressed there was a noticeable improvement in the execution of their mission.

A British 25 pounder was issued to the battalion towards the end of the period to be used for Harrassing and Interdiction missions. Due to the fluid situation there was no opportunity to use it, but classes were held to give instruction in its use.



BURTON E. BECK

Captain, Fa.
S-3.

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APO #80 U. S. Army

4 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945 inclusive. (Section II - Intelligence Operations).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Through Channels).

1. At the opening of the period Battalion occupied defensive positions in the vicinity of ERMSDORF, LUXEMBOURG. Our troops occupied the ground south of the OUR and SAUER RIVERS. The enemy defended his positions on the north side in the SIEGFRIED LINE from pillboxes and field fortifications. With the natural obstacle of the rivers, and from vantage points on the north side, and feeling secure in the strength of the pillboxes, he was content to use second-rate troops again on this front. Enemy troops in contact at this time were elements of the 352d VG Division, and the 212th VG Division. The enemy was not aggressive and only defended from those positions. All available information at this time indicates that the enemy has no striking power in the west to employ as an offensive force, but does have available Panzer reserves which he can employ in a defensive role to halt any breakthrough on the front. It is known that the enemy is low on gasoline and oil reserves, and his Panzer reserves must be hoarded.

2. On 7 February 1945 we crossed the OUR RIVER and established bridgeheads in the vicinity of HOSDORF and DILLINGEN. Artillery and mortar fire increased during the period, especially on the crossing sites. Small arms and machinegun fire were received from pillboxes on the north shore. As we advanced into the SIEGFRIED LINE, identification by prisoners-of-war revealed the presence of elements of the 560th VG Division and reconstituted remnants of the 9th and 352d VG Divisions. The opposition was overcome and our troops widened the two bridgeheads, continuing to mop up resistance from pillboxes and field fortifications. Many pillboxes were destroyed and a large number of prisoners-of-war were taken.

3. Elements of the 2d Panzer Division were committed in the sector of this Division in an attempt to halt the breakthrough. This confirmed earlier beliefs that the enemy had available armor for this purpose. However, the enemy had too little too late. Working with the U. S. 4th Armored Division, the 80th Division pierced the vaunted SIEGFRIED LINE and by the end of the period had advanced in our zone and closed up on the PRUM RIVER. At this time we were following closely behind the U. S. 4th Armored Division which already had seized a bridgehead across the PRUM RIVER, and was continuing its advance. Elements of the Division had crossed the PRUM RIVER, and was mopping up resistance on the west side of the river. During the later part of the period contact was made with elements of the 340th VG Division.

4. During the entire period we were in contact with elements of the following units:

352d VG Division
212th VG Division
340th VG Division
2d Panzer Division

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5. During the period covered, the Division destroyed a great deal of materiel and captured a number of tanks, artillery pieces and trucks. We destroyed 47 tanks and captured 4091 prisoners-of-war.

John W. Bussey
 JOHN W. BUSSEY,
 Captain, FA,
 S-2.

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HEADQUARTERS 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80 U.S. Army

4 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945 inclusive. (Section III - Logistics, supply procedure, problems).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Through Channels).

1. Class I Supply: Very satisfactory during the month of February. The present system of issuing rations in the morning is very good. It enables prompt delivery to all batteries during day light hours. The issue of condiments are still being issued far below actual needs.

2. Class II Supply: Binoculars and Pistols are being back ordered when necessity is great for Forward Observers. Class II in most cases is satisfactory under the conditions.

3. Class III Supply: Gas supply throughout the month was excellent. Shortage of transportation continues to be our main difficulty. The Table of Equipment authorizes only one vehicle for Battalion Supply, this being used exclusively for Class I. Sanitary reasons should forbid the use of the same vehicle for Class I and Class III. Suggest another 2½ ton 6x6 cargo be issued each Light Field Artillery Battalion for Class III under present conditions.

4. Class V Supply: Ammunition Supply has been very satisfactory during the month of February except for one fault. ASP is located too far from the Battalion area.

5. Battalion Motors: Difficult weather and terrain conditions have proven disastrous to the split type differentials being used in general service vehicles in front line areas. Suggest Banjo type differentials being used by rear areas of less importance be released or transferred to front lines.

Recommend 4 ton wrecker to replace 2½ ton wrecker in Light Field Artillery Battalion due to inefficient performance, (i.e.) not heavy enough to pick up front of 2½ ton without having its own front end go off the ground. It is too light to pull another GMC any distance.

Modification is needed on 2½ ton GMC to prevent the breaking of brake hoses.

Critical parts urgently needed that are unobtainable:

- a. Brake fluid
- b. Hot patches
- c. Valve cover gaskets
- d. ¼ ton brake lining
- e. ¼ ton chains
- f. ¾ ton chains

Lack of proper tools result in inefficient maintenance, (i.e.) 9/16 x 1/2 box end wrench, etc.

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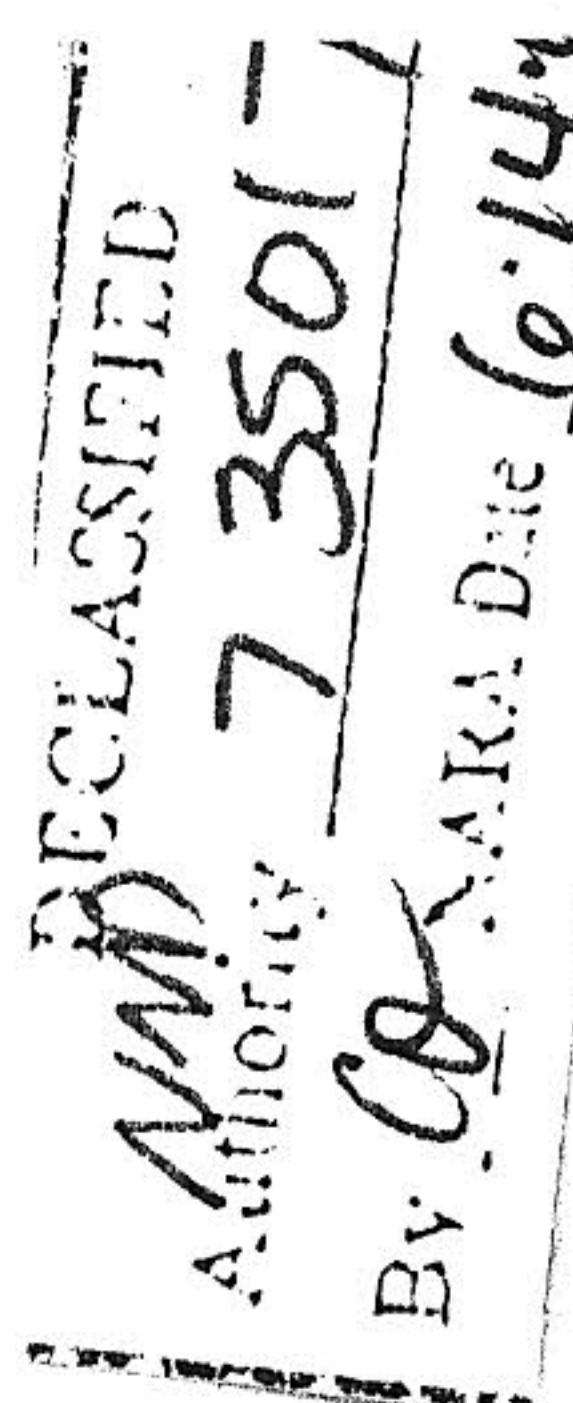
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Due to an addition of vehicles of Cannon Company in this organization, suggest the enlisted strength of the Battalion Motor Maintenance Section be increased by at least one motor mechanic.



A. L. SERVILIO,
Captain, FA,
S-4

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HEADQUARTERS 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80 U. S. Army

4 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945 inclusive. (Section IV - Personnel and Allied Administration).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Through Channels).

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY

(Figures taken from Morning Report up to and
(Source of Information)
including 28 February 1945 for the period 1 February 1945 to
28 February 1945 inclusive.

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>KIA</u> | <u>DOW</u> | <u>WIA</u> | <u>LIA</u> | <u>MIA</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>RTD's</u> |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 Feb | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 2 Feb | | | | | | | 2 |
| 3 Feb | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| 7 Feb | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 9 Feb | | | | | | | 1 |
| 14 Feb | | | | | | | 1 |
| 15 Feb | | | | | | | 1 |
| 17 Feb | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 19 Feb | | | 1 | | | 1 | 3 |
| 22 Feb | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 23 Feb | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 |
| 25 Feb | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | | | 7 | 1 | | 8 | 9 |

CANNON COMPANY, 317TH INFANTRY (Atchd)

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>KIA</u> | <u>DOW</u> | <u>WIA</u> | <u>LIA</u> | <u>MIA</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>RTD's</u> |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2 Feb | | | | | | | 1 |
| 3 Feb | | | | | | | 1 |
| 7 Feb | | | | | | | 1 |
| 15 Feb | | | | | | | 1 |
| 20 Feb | | | | | | | 1 |
| 21 Feb | | | | | | | 1 |
| 22 Feb | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 24 Feb | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 26 Feb | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | | | 3 | | | 3 | 6 |

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TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

DATEPW's

None

TABLE NUMBER 3.

REINFORCEMENTS RECEIVED

(Including Hospital Returnees)

317th Cannon Company included in figures

DATENO.

| | |
|--------|----|
| 2 Feb | 2 |
| 3 Feb | 1 |
| 4 Feb | 1 |
| 5 Feb | 1 |
| 6 Feb | 3 |
| 7 Feb | 2 |
| 8 Feb | 1 |
| 9 Feb | 1 |
| 10 Feb | 2 |
| 11 Feb | 5 |
| 12 Feb | 4 |
| 13 Feb | 3 |
| 15 Feb | 5 |
| 16 Feb | 3 |
| 17 Feb | 3 |
| 20 Feb | 4 |
| 21 Feb | 3 |
| 22 Feb | 2 |
| 24 Feb | 11 |
| 25 Feb | 1 |
| 27 Feb | 3 |
| TOTAL | 61 |

Decorations awarded from 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945 incl.
 (317th Cannon Company included in figures)

NO.

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Silver Star Medal |
| 9 | Bronze Star Medal |
| 1 | Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) |
| 4 | Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal |
| 15 | Purple Heart Award |
| 2 | (1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart. |

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(After Action Report, continued)

2. Payment of Battalion: All officers and enlisted men of the Battalion and Cannon Company, 317th Infantry, were paid on 28 February 1945.

M. R. Callaway
 M. R. CALLAWAY,
 WOJG USA,
 Personnel Officer.