

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

6 February 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 January 1945 to 31 January 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 OBERFEULEN, LUXEMBOURG with mission of D/S 317th Inf, reinforced by 512th FA Bn. With the exception of active patrolling by both sides there was little activity from 1 - 5 January 1945. Although the visibility was generally poor, a normal number of observed missions were fired accompanied with a large number of harrassing and interdiction missions. 5 January, Co A, 91st Clm Bn was attached with the mission of reinforcing our fire. Plans were made for an attack on the towns of KEHMEN and BOURSCHIED, and a preparation prepared on call. The clm mortars went into position ready to support the attack. The attack was postponed.

b. 6 January, D Btry displaced forward to obtain more effective range. The numbers 1 and 2 pieces of D Btry were set up to form a "road runner" on the road leading from KEHMEN to BOURSCHIED. The pieces were emplaced so that their line of fire was a prolongation of the road. Listening posts were set up by the infantry and whenever any traffic was reported, the "road runner" was fired. By this method of emplacing the howitzers range dispersion did not hinder the effect of the fire as it would still be on the road.

c. The night of 7 - 8 January, the clm mortars fired approximately one hundred and fifty rounds of white phosphorous into the town of KEHMEN and started many fires. 8 January the enemy strongly counter-attacked in the sector of the 319th Inf. The 80th Div Arty, reinforced, fired several previously prepared missions with the result that the counter-attacks were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy.

d. 9 January, the clm mortars fired one hundred and eleven rounds of white phosphorous into the town of BOURSCHIED, which started several fires that continued to blaze throughout the night. 11 January, the clm mortars fired white phosphorous into the town of SCHEIDEL, and started several fires. 12 January, Co A, 91st Clm Bn was relieved from attachment to this battalion.

e. There was no unusual activity during the next few days. Several propaganda missions were fired in conjunction with speeches given by the Psychological Warfare Department. They met with little success. 16 January the following units were placed under this battalion for fire control:

- 1 -

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