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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #80, C/O POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

1. Transmitted herewith is completed After Action Report, in four sections, for the month of January 1945, for this Battalion, in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3, and Memorandum Number 64, Headquarters, 80th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1944.

2. Unit and Staff Journals, together with their supporting documents, are attached.



*John W. Browning*  
JOHN W. BROWNING  
Lt Col, 905th FA Bn  
Commanding

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- #1 - Section I
- #2 - Section II
- #3 - Section III
- #4 - Section IV
- #5 - Unit & Staff Journals & Supporting Documents

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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #80, U. S. ARMY

1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy. (For the Month of January 1945)  
Section I - Summary of Daily Operations and Actions.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.



1 January - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained in its same location with the Command Post at Mon Zahnen (752429) between the towns of Heiderscheid and Feulen in Luxembourg. The mission was direct support of the 319th Infantry, whose mission was to hold the high ground south of the Sure River and in the vicinity of Heiderscheid. The fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion were reinforced by the 315th Field Artillery Battalion. Both radio and wire communications were used throughout the day. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion fired 15 observed concentrations, 4 TOT's, and 15 harassing missions on enemy troops and communications.

2 January - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained in its same location with a continued mission of direct support of the 319th Infantry in the defense. The Battalion fired a preparation for an attack made by the 26th Division. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion also fired 5 observed missions, 1 TOT, and 11 harassing missions on enemy troops, vehicles, and communications. The fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion were reinforced by the 315th Field Artillery Battalion. Communications continued with radio and wire.

3 January - Situation remained the same. Few missions were fired because of poor visibility. The missions fired were 4 TOT's, consisting of 4 concentrations for the 26th Division, and 10 harassing missions -- all unobserved. The 315th Field Artillery Battalion continued to reinforce the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion.

4 January - Situation unchanged. Visibility was only fair. The limitation was due to snow flurries. There were 17 observed targets, 3 TOT's, 12 harassing and 2 preparations consisting of 9 concentrations fired. The 315th Field Artillery Battalion continued to reinforce the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion.

5 January - Situation unchanged. During the day the 905th Field Artillery Battalion received the 276th Field Artillery Battalion (105 self-propelled) and Company "B", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion as reinforcing Artillery. The 315th Field Artillery Battalion continued its reinforcing mission. Five registrations were completed by the Air Observation Post, one of which was for the 276th Field Artillery Battalion. As the registrations were in progress "B" Battery received approximately 50 minutes of shelling, causing 4 casualties, one of which was the executive officer. The Air Observation Post switched from its mission of registrations to that of locating enemy artillery. It located 3 gun positions and one four-piece mortar position, all of which were fired upon by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. The effect was very good as observed by the Air Observation Post. Eleven observed missions, 4 TOT's, and 11 harassing missions were fired. There were a total of 8 registrations completed: 5 by the Air Observation Post and 3 by ground Observation Posts. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion prepared plans for a 30 minute preparation to be fired prior to by the 319th Infantry.

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Section 1 - Summary of Daily Operations and Actions. (Continued)

6 January - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained in its same location with the same mission of direct support of the attack of the 319th Infantry. The 319th Infantry attacked in the order of 3d Battalion, 1st Battalion, 2d Battalion with the mission of taking the towns of Goesdorf, Dahl, and Nocher. The 3d Battalion was to take Dahl, the 2d Battalion to take Goesdorf, and the 1st to relieve the 3d in Dahl while the 3d took Nocher. As the direct support Battalion, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion planned the artillery preparation for the attack of the 319th Infantry. This preparation was on call by the 1st or 3d Battalion Artillery Liaison Officers. Dahl and Goesdorf were taken without firing the preparations; however, several observed concentrations were fired by forward observers. The preparation on the 3d Battalion's second objective (Nocher) was fired by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and its reinforcing units (315th Field Artillery Battalion, 276th Field Artillery Battalion, and the two available platoons of Company "B", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion). The 3d Battalion was unable to take the town of Nocher because of heavy enemy fire and darkness. The 3d Battalion withdrew to Dahl under cover of artillery fire called for by the observers. Defensive fires and counter-preparations were prepared in support of the 319th Infantry in their new positions. Most of the communication was by radio and radio relay; however, later in the afternoon, a forward switching central was established to aid in wire communications. Missions fired were: 25 observed, 1 TOT, 17 harassing, and 1 preparation consisting of 6 concentrations.

7 January - At 0315 the 1st and 3d Battalions, 319th Infantry received an enemy artillery preparations which was followed by an enemy counter-attack from the North. Later it shifted to the East and then to the West. Wire communication to the two Battalions was disrupted and it was necessary for them to resort to radio communications entirely. The first request was for all normal barrages. This was shortly changed to one normal and two emergency barrages. Upon further information received from the artillery liaison officers with the 1st and 3d Battalions, the artillery fired 5 different counter-preparations. These counter-preparations were fired by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion, the 315th Field Artillery Battalion, and the 276th Field Artillery Battalion. Elements of the 80th and 26th Division Artillery and Company "B" of the 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion fired on Nocher. Company "B", 91st Chemical Battalion used WP with excellent effect. Various observed concentrations were fired on retreating <sup>TROOPS</sup> with good effect. The 2d Battalion also feared a counter-attack; but upon verification found everything well under control. At 0415 the pressure eased on the infantry elements of the 1st and 3d Battalions and at 0520 all was reported quiet. "D" Battery moved to a forward position Southwest of Goesdorf and the mortars of Company "B", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion also moved to a location approximately 500 yards South of "D" Battery. Otherwise, all other elements of artillery under the 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained in their positions. The 1st and 3d Battalions, 319th Infantry organized defensive positions at Dahl, the 2d Battalion did likewise at Goesdorf. The 2d Battalion also attempted to clean out woods and draw east of Goesdorf and tried to reach Bockholz. They were forced to return to Goesdorf only accomplishing a portion of the mission. The return to Goesdorf was accomplished under heavy fire laid down by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and its reinforcing artillery on enemy installations. Prisoners of War taken reported an attack was to take place on the 8th of January. Wire communications between all artillery liaison officers, with 319th Infantry Headquarters, and forward observers. Radio was used by those not having wire communication and

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Section I - Summary of Daily Operations and Actions. (Continued)

also when wire was shelled out. Missions fired were 31 observed, 5 TOT's, 12 harassing, 11 defensive fires and counter-preparations.

8 January - As indicated by the Prisoner of War taken on the 7th of January, a counter-attack took place at about 0530, 8 January. Heavy mortar and artillery concentrations fell in the towns of Dahl and Goesdorf. It was soon apparent that it was a preparation fired by the enemy for their counter-attack. At 0600 the 1st and 3d Battalions of the 319th Infantry were attacked from the North and Northwest of Dahl by Infantry and about 8 to 12 tanks. The liaison officer advised the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and as a result heavy artillery counter-preparations, barrages, and counter-battery missions were fired by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion, 315th Field Artillery Battalion, 276th Field Artillery Battalion and other units from Division Artillery. As a result heavy casualties were inflicted on enemy infantry. The counter-attack was repulsed and the situation was well under control by 0930. Of the tanks employed in the attack, some entered the town of Dahl, but only three enemy tanks were reported able to leave the scene of the battle -- the rest were destroyed. By 1000 the situation was completely cleared up. Throughout the day the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and its reinforcing Battalions, (315th Field Artillery Battalion, 276th Field Artillery Battalion) fired on enemy infantry and tanks through Forward Observers and the Air Observation Post. No further signs of attack were apparent and the situation remained static. An Officer Prisoner of War said that our artillery was tremendously effective; that our shell fragmentation was great; and that duds were few. Ninety-six observed missions on enemy infantry, tanks, vehicles; 51 defensive fires (normal and emergency barrages and counter preparations); 29 harassing and interdiction missions and 14 TOT's were fired during the 24 hour period.

9 January - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion still in position with its Command Post at Mon Zahnen continued in its direct support mission of the 319th Infantry. The 319th Infantry prepared defensive positions about the towns of Dahl and Goesdorf. One Company of the 1st and 2d Battalions received the mission of cleaning out the woods to the East of Goesdorf and although the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and reinforcing units fired 10 minutes of a 15 minute preparation, the mission of the Infantry was cancelled before the jump-off. Harassing and interdiction missions were reduced to a minimum due to an ammunition allowance; however, maximum use was made of the Chemical Mortars (Company "B", 91st Battalion) for this purpose. Eleven observed missions on enemy infantry, mortars, and trucks; 21 harassing missions and 2 TOT's were fired.

10 January - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued in its direct support mission of the 319th Infantry and the 319th Infantry continued its mission of defense, and improved its positions. There were no evidences of a counter-attack. There were 10 observed missions on enemy infantry, 2 TOT's and 4 harassing missions were fired.

11 January - Company "E", 319th Infantry attacked and took the town of Bockholzs/Sure. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion fired 7 observed missions on enemy artillery batteries and vehicles, 2 TOT's and 6 harassing missions.

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Section I - Summary of Daily Operations and Actions (Continued)

12 January - Except that approximately 100 rounds of enemy artillery and mortar fire fell upon the towns of Dahl and Goesdorf, there was little change in the situation. There were only 8 observed missions, 5 TOT's and 5 harassing missions fired.

13 to 17 January (inclusive) - There were no material changes. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion still remained in position with the Command Post at Mon Zahnen. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion's fires were reinforced by 315th Field Artillery Battalion, 276th Field Artillery Battalion, and Company "B", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion. The mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained that of direct support of the 319th Infantry which was in a defensive position. Wire and radio communication were both used. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion fired 25 observed missions, 9 TOT's, 20 harassing and 17 registrations during this period.

18 January - The 3d Battalion plus "G" Company attacked Nocher and the high ground Northwest of Nocher and at 0900 Nocher was taken. This attack was preceded by an artillery preparation fired by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and its reinforcing Battalions. The 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry advanced towards the high ground in the vicinity of Masseler; however, they received heavy small arms and mortar fire from their flanks and were ordered to withdraw to their original positions at 1600. Visibility during daylight hours was limited to 300 yards but in spite of this the forward observer with the 1st Battalion called for one gun one round and adjusted his fire by sound; then fired a battery for effect. This enabled the 1st Battalion to return with few casualties as it neutralized somewhat the enemy small arms fire. Communications to the two Battalions in the attack was mostly by radio; however, as soon as the 3d Battalion was established on their objective, wire was started to their position.

19 January - "K" Company, 319th Infantry, attacked and took the buildings 500 yards West of Nocher after a preparation fired by the artillery. Company "B", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion was relieved of its mission with the 905th Field Artillery Battalion at 1600 hours. There were 24 observed missions on infantry, vehicles, counter-battery; 1 preparation, and 7 harassing missions fired.

20 January - The 319th Infantry set up a defensive position. There were 17 observed missions on infantry and vehicles, 1 TOT, and 4 harassing missions fired.

21 to 22 January (inclusive) - Situation remained the same except that Company "F", 319th Infantry pushed through the wooded area southeast of Nocher and established positions on the high ground. Company "B" 91st Chemical Battalion, less one platoon, was again attached to the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Eight observed missions and 6 harassing missions were fired during this period.

23 January - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to forward positions with A, B, and C Batteries Southeast of Goesdorf, "D" Battery east of Dahl and the Battalion Command Post in Bockholz s/Sure. Wire communication was established as soon as the Battalion closed in its new location. Just prior to the displacement of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "B", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion and 315th Field Artillery Battalion, were relieved of their mission with the 905th Field Artillery Battalion plus the 512th Field Artillery Battalion taking the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Nine observed missions, and 1 harassing mission were fired.

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Section I - Summary of Daily Operations and Actions. (Continued)

24 January - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued its mission of direct support of the 319th Infantry. Positions and communications were improved during the day. The 276th Field Artillery Battalion and 512th Field Artillery Battalion reinforced the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Eight observed missions were fired on enemy strong points in houses assisting the 319th Infantry to take Kautenbach and Alschied.

25 January - The 512th Field Artillery Battalion and the 276th Field Artillery Battalion were relieved of their reinforcing mission with the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued with its mission of direct support of the 319th Infantry. Forward positions were reconnoitered and surveyed in. Only three missions were fired, those being registrations.

26 January - The mission of the 319th Infantry was changed and they pulled out of the line and moved to the vicinity of Diekirch to relieve units of the 4th Division. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion followed the 319th Infantry to a bivouac in vicinity of Diekirch. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion closed in its area at 2100 hours.

27 to 28 January (inclusive) - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion relieved the 42nd Field Artillery Battalion and took over direct support of the 319th Infantry by 0800. While the relief was taking place the 974th Field Artillery Battalion and 20th Field Artillery Battalion took over the fires. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion after occupying position had the 974th Field Artillery Battalion and 20th Field Artillery Battalion as reinforcing battalions. One platoon, Company "B", 802nd Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the 905th Field Artillery Battalion for fire control. Only one mission was fired, that being a harassing mission.

29 January - The 974th Field Artillery Battalion and the 20th Field Artillery Battalion were relieved of their mission with the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Defensive positions were maintained and normal H & I missions carried out.

30 to 31 January (inclusive) - The 313th Field Artillery Battalion and 315th Field Artillery Battalion were assigned missions of reinforcing the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. 319th Infantry was relieved by CCB 4th Armored Division. Upon completion of this relief, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion took over direct support of CCB. Registrations were maintained and normal H & I missions fired.



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Section I - Summary of Daily Operations and Actions. (Continued)

Comments, Observations and Recommendations:

It has been observed that in a direct support Battalion such as this, the switchboard facilities are inadequate. In many cases a forward switching central is necessary using a BD 72. With the large number of lines coming into the switchboard at the Command Post, it is necessary to use one BD 71 and one BD 72, leaving no boards available for displacements. If an additional BD 72 were included in our equipment the problem of displacement would be eased.



*Oswald H. Linck*  
OSWALD H. LINCK  
Major, 905th FA Bn  
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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
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1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy. (For the month of January 1945)  
Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.



1 January - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued in direct support of the 319th Infantry. Liaison Officers were with Regiment and each battalion. Forward Observers were with each rifle company (two observers being obtained from the reinforcing battalion, 315th Field Artillery Battalion); air observation posts continued to function from either Division Artillery or battalion air strips; direct contact was had with the 14th Field Observation Battalion and an organic ground Observation Post was maintained. Enemy interdiction and harassing fire continued on our forward infantry elements. The heaviest concentration reported was twenty rounds. Enemy artillery was presumed to be in the wooded area south of Eschweiler; observation on that area was inadequate due to distance and terrain. Small enemy infantry groups and a few vehicles could be observed. Two enemy guns were located through Battalion observation. Our infantry elements were in contact with the 226th, 208th, and 212th Regiments of the 79th VG Division. Prisoners of war taken by infantry spoke of enemy artillery reinforcements which never arrived. Enemy aircraft were over the Regimental sector during the day. Seven propaganda missions were fired on towns in enemy territory.

2 January - Enemy artillery was less active; the heaviest concentration reported was six rounds. Artillery and nebelwerfer fire continued to harass forward positions. At least one direct fire weapon operated against 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry. Elements of the 9th VG Division and the Fuehrer Brigade were identified by the infantry during the day.

3 January - Low visibility grounded air Observation Posts. Enemy artillery activity decreased sharply-the only enemy artillery fire reported was five rounds in the 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry sector. Patrols report some vehicular activity. A mess line was reported by a prisoner of war-harassing fire was placed upon this area.

4 January - Weather conditions again impaired air and ground observation. Enemy artillery increased during the afternoon; nebelwerfer and mortar fire fell on forward elements in the enemy. An enemy battery was observed and adjusted upon by a forward observer, with unknown results. Two gun locations were secured from the 14th Field Observation Battalion; TOT's were fired on these positions. Patrols indicated some vehicular movement, possibly armor. An increase in flare activity was noticed

5 January - Enemy artillery, mortar, and nebelwerfer fire increased. Thirty rounds, estimated 75mm artillery fell in "B" Battery position causing four casualties. The air Observation Post located and fired upon three enemy guns with good effect. Prisoner of war taken by the infantry reported enemy anticipating attacks from our troops. Service Battery 905th Field Artillery Battalion was shelled during the evening and some damage was caused to a truck and trailers.

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(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc., continued)

6 January - The 319th Infantry moved forward in an attack on the towns of Goesdorf, Dahl, and Nocher. During the movement toward Goesdorf and Dahl, heavy concentrations were received, especially by the 3rd Battalion, 319th Infantry. After these two towns were taken, heavy concentrations of nebelwerfer and artillery fire were received. Prisoners of war were taken from the 276th VG Division which was relieving the 9th VG Division.

7 January - The 1st and 3rd Battalions, 319th Infantry, in Dahl, received a 15 minute artillery preparation in early morning. Shortly thereafter, the enemy counter-attacked from the north and northeast. In forty-five minutes the counter-attack was beaten off by infantry and artillery fires. The size of the attacking force remained undetermined but enemy infantry groups of one hundred men or more were reported throughout the day. Four anti-tank guns were reported through infantry channels. Low visibility grounded air Observation Posts. Prisoners of war indicated enemy intention to counter-attack again. Prisoners of war taken were from the 406th Volks Artillery Corps. Two additional forward observers were obtained from the 276th Field Artillery Battalion.

8 January - Prior to the counter-attack at 0600, enemy artillery continued to harass our infantry positions. During the preparation fires, heavy concentrations were received in Dahl and Goesdorf, the latter receiving approximately three hundred rounds in one concentration alone. The 1st and 3rd Battalions, 319th Infantry, were counter-attacked by an enemy force of battalion strength supported by fifteen tanks. Heavy losses were inflicted upon the enemy and his armor was destroyed on the outskirts of Dahl. Estimates of enemy artillery employed in the preparation ranged between six and eight battalions located north and east of Wiltz. By 0930 the situation had stabilized. From prisoners of war the following units were identified: 8th Battery, 406th Volks Corps and 5th Battery, 276th Artillery Regiment which was composed of five battalions of three batteries each having six guns. An officer prisoner of war stated that our artillery was tremendously effective in that the splintering effect was greater and the duds fewer than before. During the afternoon Dahl received forty rounds of artillery fire during a two minute period; mortars harassed infantry positions during the late afternoon. Four battery positions were reported by prisoners of war; the 14th Field Observation Battalion reported location of nebelwerfers based on intersection.

9 January - An increase in the use of flares was noted during early morning. The 14th Field Observation Battalion reported increasing activity-personnel, vehicles (horse-drawn and motor), and self propelled equipment in the vicinity of Consthum. No definite directional movement could be ascertained. Enemy artillery and mortars were active in the Regimental sector. Nebelwerfer fire was received in the morning and afternoon. Enemy armor was reported on the roads leading into infantry positions but interrogation produced no confirmation. Deserters indicated that the enemy has withdrawn to north and east taking their artillery with them. Prisoners of war had no knowledge of enemy armor in the area. Scattered reports indicated enemy groups digging in at periphery of our infantry installations.

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(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc., continued)

11 January - The enemy continued on the defensive and Bockholz S/Sure was cleared of the enemy after slight resistance. Sixty-five prisoners of war were taken by the infantry and the town was found heavily mined and booby-trapped. Enemy artillery and mortars continued to harass our positions. Nebelwerfers fired at intervals throughout the day. Azimuths of fire indicated a shift of enemy artillery to the northeast. Patrols indicated enemy digging in east of Dahl.

12 January - Approximately one hundred rounds of artillery and mortar fire fell on infantry lines between mid-morning and the afternoon. Nebelwerfer fire was received in Dahl during the evening. Nebelwerfers were located by the 14th Field Observation Battalion and a camouflaged gun position was reported by an infantry patrol. "D" Battery position area received several rounds of artillery fire. The largest group of enemy observed during the day was fifty men. Both enemy and friendly troops are now clad in snow suits. Patrols reported the enemy digging in at several points.

13 January - Enemy artillery was active during most of the day. The heaviest concentration reported was thirty rounds of mortar fire. Harassing and interdiction fires continued. At dusk fifteen rounds of estimated 150mm artillery fell in Dahl. Rocket guns were active in the evening. Prisoners of war indicated a lowering of the enemy's morale with food and supplies inadequate. Patrols, however, reported the enemy drinking and spirited. The 14th Field Observation Battalion observed considerable vehicular traffic between Holzthum and Consthum. Photomaps with superimposed concentrations were made available to the battalions in Division Artillery. Two prisoners of war were taken by "D" Battery personnel. Prisoners of war report decimated units holding lines to our north and east. Our air Observation Post located one direct fire weapon; one forward observer picked up two guns.

14 January - Nine enemy guns were located and adjusted upon by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion Air Observation Post. A battery of nebelwerfers was also located. During the morning Goesdorf and Dahl received fifty rounds concentrations of nebelwerfer and heavy artillery fire. Artillery fire, nil throughout the day, resumed at dusk with concentrations on the towns in the Regimental sector. "B" and "C" Batteries were shell-ed with one casualty in "B" Battery. Four propaganda missions were fired. Patrols indicated enemy still digging in and tanks in Nocher. Vehicular traffic was observed in the vicinity of Alschad; no predominant direction of movement could be determined.

15 January - Enemy artillery fell in the vicinity of the bridge across the Sure River north of Heiderscheidergrund. Sporadic fire fell on infantry elements throughout the day. An increase in time fire was noted in harassing missions. A rocket bomb passed over the Battalion Command Post in the afternoon. Tank activity to the north east was reported by the 14th Field Observation Battalion. Enemy medics were reported in Nocher evacuating wounded men by sleds.

16 January - Enemy artillery fire decreased on our forward positions during the day. Mortar fire was received in Dahl during the morning and evening. In the afternoon some aircraft described as P-47's flew over Dahl; four of the planes bombed and strafed the town causing casualties to 3rd Battalion personnel.

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(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc., continued)

17 January - A heavy concentration of enemy artillery fell in Dahl in the afternoon. Eight possible gun positions were reported by infantry elements. Prisoners of war taken by 3rd Battalion, 319th Infantry indicated that they were replacements but that enemy companies were much under strength. Estimates of the enemy on the Regimental front vary from 500-600 men.

18 January - Several direct fire weapons were located and adjusted upon by forward observers. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was heavy during the day. As the 3rd Battalion, 319th Infantry moved forward on the attack on Nocher, it received heavy fire which continued intermittently during the afternoon and night after the town was taken. Enemy tanks or self-propelled artillery fired upon Dahl and Bockholz S/Sure. During the evening large caliber artillery and mortars pounded Nocher. Approximately one-half the rounds received by our infantry elements was mortar fire. "K" Company, 319th Infantry engaged the enemy west of Nocher in a house-to-house fight. Several artillerymen were injured during this engagement. The 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry moved out to seize high ground in the vicinity of Masseler, but after receiving small arms and mortar fire in the wooded area east of Dahl, it was forced to withdraw. An artillery prisoner of war, a replacement, observed that our time fire was twice as effective as the quick fuze; fewer duds were observed in our concentrations; and that enemy food and supplies were adequate but organizations were much understrength.

19 January - An enemy gun was observed by the 905th Air Observation Post; observation on an enemy gun in a shed was had by a forward observer; infantry elements reported an anti-tank gun. Enemy artillery and mortars were active during the day but a considerable decrease was noted from the previous day. Prisoners of war indicated that yesterday's attack on Nocher took place as the 987th Regiment was to relieve the 212th Regiment. The enemy had received replacements from Wiltz. The enemy left the newly won ground well mined; several reconnaissance vehicles were destroyed by mines in the vicinity of Nocher. "K" Company, 319th Infantry continued "mopping up" operations west of Nocher. One forward observer was severely injured during the engagement. An enemy mess line was reported and fired upon. Eleven prisoners of war from the 987th Regiment were taken in today's operations; one prisoner of war reported an impending counter-attack upon orders from higher headquarters.

20 January - Enemy artillery harassed our positions throughout the day. Dahl received light mortar fire during the morning. Goesdorf and Nocher received heavy artillery fire during the night. The predominate directions of fire were due north and east. Trucks, wagons, and personnel were observed moving east through Consthum. Some small arms fire was received by our infantry north of Nocher.

21 January - The enemy continued to interdict main roads and shell forward infantry positions. Nebelwerfer fire was also received in the Regimental sector. Patrols encountered enemy dressed in "GI" uniforms.

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(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc., continued)

22 January - Enemy artillery activity decreased. Thirty rounds of direct fire fell in the vicinity of Dahl and Nocher during the late afternoon. The location of the direct fire weapon or tank was reported by infantry elements and fire placed upon it. The 14th Field Observation Battalion reported heavy traffic on roads leading into Consthum. Patrolling by infantry elements cleared the enemy from Masseler. A P-47 crashed in the west portion of the Regimental sector in the afternoon.

23 January - Infantry elements moved out to Merkols and Kauntentbach. In the latter town, mortar concentrations were received along with harassing artillery fire.

24 January - Fifteen enemy guns were observed and adjusted upon by the 905th Air Observation Post. Adjusted data was secured and TOT's covered the area. Enemy artillery, mortar, and nebelwerfer fire was received in Alscheid during the morning and afternoon. After "E" Company, 319th Infantry took the town which was found to be heavily mined and booby-trapped. Kauntentbach, which was still partially held by the enemy, received artillery and mortar fire. Main roads were interdicted by light artillery during the day. Prisoners of war taken in the vicinity of Kauntentbach indicated five hundred enemy troops dug in across the river between Kauntentbach and Alscheid. Prisoners of war were taken from the 423rd Regiment, 212th VG Division that was relieving the 79th VG Division. One rocket bomb was reported in the Regimental sector. Two artillerymen (deserters) from the 79th VG Division reported that U.S. artillery fell on Consthum in quantity but that one round in five was a dud. Prisoners of war further indicated that a delaying action was taking place and that the bulk of enemy troops and armor was withdrawing to positions on the Siegfried line. Stories of enemy infiltration were not substantiated by company combat patrols who combed the Regimental area. An officer prisoner of war reported the decimation of enemy infantry companies and showed a comprehensive knowledge of the 80th Infantry Division gained from documents obtained from prisoners of war.

25 January - Six enemy guns were reported by the 905th Air Observation Post. Nebelwerfers were reported by the 276th Field Artillery Battalion, (reinforcing the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion). During the morning nebelwerfers fired upon Merkols. Approximately eighty rounds of artillery fire (possibly self-propelled gun) fell in Nocher during the night. Direction of enemy fire was generally east. Two prisoners of war indicated that a general withdrawal to the east was in progress.

26 January - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to assume positions occupied by the 42nd Field Artillery Battalion. Liaison Officers and forward observers joined their units.

27 January - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion took over positions of the 42nd Field Artillery Battalion. Light artillery and mortar fire fell on two areas during the day and evening. Some activity was observed around pill boxes across the Our River. Prisoners of war indicated that remnants of the 914th, 915th, and 916th Regiments, 352nd VG Division have been consolidated into the 915th Regiment and that some troops were leaving for the Russian Front.

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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #80, U.S. ARMY



(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc., continued)

28 January - Slight artillery and mortar activity was noted throughout the day. Twenty-four rounds of mortar fire fell on "B" Company, 319th Infantry during a patrol skirmish. Heavy mortar fire was received on an outpost during the evening. Enemy in white camouflaged suits were observed pulling sleds in towns in the Regimental sector. Observation Posts have been established in conjunction with reinforcing battalions.

29 January - Only two reports of artillery fire were received during the day. Estimated 150mm artillery harassed Fouhren during the late afternoon. Several tanks (possible dummies) were reported on the outskirts of Gentningen. CCB 4th Armored Division relieved the 319th Infantry, taking over positions in toto.

30 January - Four organic observation posts were surveyed in and zones of observation were determined. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion occupied six Observation Posts on the Regimental front. The reinforcing battalions (313th and 315th Field Artillery Battalions) each were assigned zones of observation and each surveyed in two organic observation posts. Ten observation posts were manned by artillerymen in this sector. Small arms fire was received at several points but low visibility prevented observation on enemy pill boxes and personnel. An infantry patrol received small arms fire in the vicinity of Hoesdorf.

31 January - Enemy activity was negligible with only small arms fire being reported in the Regimental sector. Combat patrols, into enemy territory, indicated that enemy outposts and installations were alert to sound and movement. Prisoners of war indicated low morale among enemy troops with their mission only to defend. Prisoners of war further stated that enemy artillery was shifted to our direct front but no estimates could be obtained on artillery capabilities. Several Polish deserters found their way to our lines. Five propaganda missions were fired during the day.

The end of the period found the enemy with inferior troops in defensive positions across the Our River in the Regimental sector. Prisoner of war reports and reconnaissance activity indicated understrength units being on the line, anticipating attacks from our forces (this impression was probably due to the noise accompanying our moving into the area and to combat patrols.) Enemy artillery activity was practically negligible though direct observation was probably had on our infantry, forward elements. Interdiction and harassing fire was present though no pattern or plan for our area could be ascertained. The enemy in this sector is probably lacking in heavy infantry weapons as indicated by prisoner of war information and enemy infantry activity. With shortages of supplies facing him, the enemy probably could not counter-attack beyond battalion strength. Prisoner of war reports indicated the 352nd VG Division reduced to regimental size.

During the period 2 prisoners of war were taken by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. A total of sixty-five shelling reports were submitted to higher headquarters. Suspicious civilians were turned over to CIC Detachments for investigation. Enemy maps, overlays, and letters were placed in the hands of higher headquarters.

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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #80, U.S. ARMY

(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc., continued)

Comments and Recommendations.

1. Maps are inadequate. The 1/25,000 scale maps contain imperfections as to locations of roads and other man-made works. Wooded areas are inaccurately indicated. The vertical control is not satisfactory. Only one copy of 1/50,000 scale maps is available per battalion. This does not permit necessary maps for air observation posts, service units, and general planning. More emphasis should be placed upon the accuracy, care, and distribution of maps by higher headquarters.
2. More aerial photos should be available to direct support artillery units. Copies of photos should be in the hands of liaison officers and forward observers to improve study and reporting of terrain with relation to friendly and enemy activity.
3. At least one relief map per battalion should be available. Graphic presentation of plans and checking of observation would be greatly facilitated.
4. Personnel occupying forward positions should be more security-conscious. Forward observers should frequently check members of their sections for "tell-tale" letters and documents. Forward observers should reduce, to a minimum, written information carried.
5. More monitoring of radio messages is necessary. Familiarity between operators tends to increase information that will give enemy stations clues as to identity and operations of the unit.
6. Coverage on shelling reports must be continually stressed. The time element and the completeness of reports must be emphasized to all personnel together with information on the work done by counterbattery.
7. Orientation of all personnel should now include data on the geographical and political subdivisions of Germany and a brief history of German and Prussian states. Education for the military occupation of Germany should begin at once.



*Eldred M. Swingen*  
ELDRED M. SWINGEN  
1st Lt, 905th FA Bn  
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SUPPLY OFFICE  
905th FIEL D ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 80, United States Army

1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy  
Section III Logistics, Supply Procedure, Problems

TO : The Adjutant General  
Washington, D.C.

1. In accordance with Paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3, the following report is submitted for the calender month of January 1945:

a. Class I Supplies: No problems.

b. Class II Supplies:

(1) Clothing and Equipment:

Replacement of small size clothing and EE width shoes continues to be slow or non-available, though some shoe pacs have been issued in lieu of the EE width shoes.

(2) Expendable Supplies:

For the 30 day period ending 31 January this organization requisitioned a total of 96 brushes (brush, floor, hand and brush, toilet type, 17-inch handle). No brushes were received. This organization also requisitioned 22 cases of soap, laundry, ordinary. Only 4 cases were received. The lack of these supplies have affected kitchen mess-kit washing facilities to the extent that inspecting surgeons have considered that proper sanitation is threatened.

c. Class III Supplies: No problems.

d. Class IV Supplies: None authorized.

e. Class V Supplies: No problems.

2. Medical Supply and Evacuation.

The evacuation of casualties and the procurement of Medical supplies by the Medical Detachment, 905th FA.Bn., were accomplished without difficulty. Casualties were evacuated within a half hour, or less after their arrival at the Aid Station; and Medical supplies were received less than twenty-four (24) hours after the submission of the requisition.

Considerable difficulties were encountered in transporting the equipment and supplies from one bivouac area to another due to the limited space in the vehicles.

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3. Comments, Observations, Recommendations:

a. This past month has seen the easing of the tire problem to a large extent, though there is still some shortage of tubes. Replacement of vehicles is still not fast enough. Small size clothing continues to be a thorn in the side. Ammunition supply has straightened out somewhat, but ASP personnel have not yet offered the degree of cooperation in helping to load ammunition that is considered proper and expedient to hasten the clearing of vehicles from ASP's.



*Lester H. Salter*  
LESTER H. SALTER  
CAPT., FA  
S-4

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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #80, U. S. ARMY

1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy  
Section IV, Personnel and Allied Administration for Month of  
January 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

1. In accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105 as amended by Change 3,  
the following report is submitted for calendar month of January 1945.

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY  
(Figures taken from Battle Casualty Reports up to and  
(Source of Information)  
Including 31 Jan 45 for period 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45.  
(Date) (Dates)

<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 Jan							1
5 Jan			4			4	
7 Jan			1			1	
9 Jan			1			1	
10 Jan							1
14 Jan							1
15 Jan			1	1		2	1
16 Jan			1			1	
17 Jan							1
20 Jan							1
24 Jan							1
TOTAL	0	0	8	1	0	9	7



TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PW's</u>
13 Jan	2
TOTAL	2

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TABLE NUMBER 3.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED  
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
2 Jan	1
10 Jan	1
14 Jan	1
15 Jan	1
16 Jan	1
17 Jan	1
20 Jan	3
24 Jan	1
25 Jan	1
28 Jan	2
TOTAL	<hr/> 13



TABLE NUMBER 4.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45 incl.  
(Date) (Date)

NO.

22 Bronze Star Medal  
3 Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal  
1 Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star  
18 Purple Heart  
1 Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

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2. Graves Registrations - None.
3. Battlefield Appointments - None.
4. Special Service - At every opportunity the Special Service Officer arranged movies for the men.
5. Comments, observations, and recommendations.

All administrative and personnel work of the Battalion was satisfactorily accomplished by the Personnel Section in the Division Rear Echelon. All enlisted men and officers were paid for the month of January 1945 on 31 January 1945.



*William M. Gosman*  
WILLIAM M. GOSMAN  
Maj 905th F.A. Bn.,  
Exec and S-1