

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

27 October 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Operations.

TO : Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO #80, U. S. Army.  
 (Thru Channels)

1. Narrative of Events:

a. 8-12 May 1945: Battalion occupied position in vicinity of Garsten, Austria with the mission of direct support to Task Force Smythe. Primary mission in this period was to assist in the disarming of the German Army in this area. No resistance was encountered and the disarming was carried out in an orderly manner.

b. At 1300 hours 12 May 1945, battalion was relieved from mission of direct support of Task Force Smythe and moved to assembly area vicinity of Rustorf, Austria, closing in new area at 1700 hours 12 May 1945.

c. 13-31 May 1945: Battalion bivouaced in the vicinity of Rustorf, Austria. During this period, emphasis was placed on rehabilitation of personnel, and equipment. Road blocks and guard posts were established along division boundary and roving motorized patrols covered the battalion area. These guard posts and patrols apprehended a number of German Army personnel who had not been properly discharged and German civilians without proper papers. These were turned over to Division Prisoner of War Cage or military government for disposition. The battalion was responsible for the exchange of Allied Prisoners of War and Displaced Persons with the Russian Army. A detachment from this battalion went to the Russian transfer point in Leoben, Austria to facilitate the transfer. During this period, this detachment was in the Russian zone, every courtesy was extended and the Russian Army made a sincere effort to expedite the transfer. It is the opinion of the officer who commanded the American detachment in Leoben that the APW's and DP's were well treated and well taken care of by the Russian Army after their liberation.

The relations between troops of this battalion and the civil population were good. There were no cases of resistance or disrespect toward American troops. Major factors such as de-nazification, education and religion, public health and government were carried out by higher echelons and military government.

d. 1-12 June 1945: Battalion remained in bivouac vicinity of Rustorf, Austria. Duties carried out were the same as listed above for the period 13-31 May. On 12 June 1945, battalion was relieved of duties with transfer of APW's and DP's and the detachment was recalled from Leoben, Austria. During this period approximately 11,000 Russians were evacuated from the American zone and approximately 5,000 French and Allied PW's arrived in area for transfer to respective countries.

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