

## 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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e. 12 June-23 September 1945: Battalion ordered to bivouac area vicinity of Ottobeuren, Germany, (WX 9230), on 12 June 1945, closing in new area at 1730 hours. The march of 226 miles was made in good order with no serious accidents. The battalion relieved the 131st FA Bn, 36th Infantry Division. Mission was to occupy area and maintain law and order. Guard posts were placed in surrounding towns with the mission of traffic control, maintaining law and order, and directing stragglers to collecting points.

During period the battalion remained in Ottobeuren, Germany and mission remained unchanged. Some former members of the German Army were apprehended during this period and turned over to Division PW Cage. Minor infractions of military government orders by civilians were referred to military government for disposition.

The only trouble experienced during this period was with Polish DP's from the camp at Memmingen and from DP's living on farms in the area. Numerous complaints were received from farmers in the area that Polish DP's had robbed and plundered. In all cases it was impossible to apprehend the violators. The civil population remained cooperative and there were no cases of civil uprising, riots or disrespect to American troops. Every assistance was given by the local civil government.

"Swoop" operations were carried out under control of higher headquarters on several small towns and large quantities of Army rations and contraband were recovered. Suspects in black market operations were turned over to CIC for investigation and trial by military government. As in previous locations, major factors such as de-nazification, education and government were carried out by military government and higher headquarters.

f. 23 September-30 September 1945: On 23 September, the battalion was ordered to bivouac area in vicinity of Sonthofen, Germany (WX 9181). This was a motor march of 44 miles and the battalion closed in new area at 1100 hours. We relieved the 1st and 3d Bn of the 318th Infantry, 80th Infantry Division and assumed responsibility of their border guard posts. These posts operated on the American-French border as traffic control posts. No incidents of any importance occurred at these posts.

Billets occupied during this time were former barracks of Ordensburg which housed the Adolf Hitler School, and were superior in every respect. Complete cooperation was given by local caretakers and civil government. Relations with local civilians remained good and no acts of violence were committed against our troops.

During this period the battalion assumed military supervision over the DP Camp located in Sonthofen and administered by UNRRA. Conduct of personnel in this camp was orderly and above other camps we had been in contact with. Only minor trouble was experienced with a few DP's from this camp.

JAMES McM. SHEPHERD,  
 Lt Colonel, FA  
 Commanding.