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

1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History For Month of January 1945.

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

Transmitted herewith is the history for the month of January 1945, of this Battalion, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1, Change 3, AR 345-105.

John W. Browning
JOHN W. BROWNING
Lt Col, FA
Comdg

1 Incl:
Unit History for Month of January 1945.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1945
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80, C/O POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

1. Original Unit:
 - a. 905th Field Artillery Battalion.
 - b. Organized 15 July 1942.
 - c. Organized at Camp Forrest, Tennessee.
 - d. Authority for organization: General Order Number 1, Headquarters, 80th, Infantry Division, dated 15 July 1942.
2. Changes in organization:

None.
3. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:
 - a. 1 January 1945 = 32 Officers & Warrant Officers 460 Enlisted Men
 - b. Net increase = 3 " None
 - c. Net decrease = None None
 - d. 31 January 1945 = 35 Officers & Warrant Officers 460 Enlisted Men
4. Stations: Month of January 1945:
 - a. Arrived in France 6 August 1944.
 - b. 1 January Command Post at $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northwest of Feulen, Luxembourg (75.10-43.00) 1/25,000 Luxembourg.
 - 24 January Command Post at Bockholz s/Sure, Luxembourg (75.1-48.6) 1/25,000 Luxembourg.
 - 26 January Command Post at Gilsdorf, Luxembourg (88.4-41.9) 1/25,000 Germany.
5. Marches:

All marches during January were for the purpose of changing position to support the tactical situation.

All Command Posts at towns mentioned:

24 January $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northwest of Feulen, Luxembourg to Bockholz s/Sure, Luxembourg, 10 miles, weather cloudy and cold, roads slippery.

26 January Bockholz s/Sure, Luxembourg to Gilsdorf, Luxembourg, 27 miles, weather snowing and roads slippery.
6. Campaigns:
 - a. Battle of Germany.
 - b. 15 September 1944 to present.
 - c. To conquer Germany.
 - d. Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces.

7. Battles:

1. The Enemy:

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

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1945 (Continued)
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

7. Battles: (Continued)

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.

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.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1945 (Continued)
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

7. Battles: (Continued)

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 periods; 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.

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.

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