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HEADQUARTERS 90TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80, C/O POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

1 April 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History For Month of March 1945.

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

Transmitted herewith is the history for the month of March 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
Commanding

1 Incl:

Unit History for Month of March 1945

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF MARCH 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 March 1945 - 41 Officers & Warrant Officers 467 Enlisted Men
- b. Net Increase - None None
- c. Net Decrease - None 5 Enlisted Men
- d. 31 March 1945 - 41 Officers & Warrant Officers 462 Enlisted Men

4. Stations: Month of March 1945:

- a. Arrived in France 6 August 1944.
- b. 1 March Command Post at 700 yards southwest of Altscheid, Germany
(03.4-58.1) Battle Map Germany
- 3 March Bickendorf, Germany (11.8-60.4) 1/25,000 Germany
- 8 March Eisenach, Germany (14.5-44.0) 1/25,000 Germany
- 9 March Bickendorf, Germany (11.8-60.4) 1/25,000 Germany
- 11 March Faulbach, France (92.9-96.3) 1/25,000 Luxembourg
- 12 March Irsch, Germany (17.3-12.1) 1/25,000 Germany
- 14 March Oberzerf, Germany (23.5-10.4) 1/25,000 Germany
- 15 March Greimerath, Germany (24.0-07.5) 1/25,000 Germany
- 16 March Bergen, Germany (24.8-04.2) 1/100,000 Neunkirchen
- 17 March Nunkirchen, Germany (34.8-98.7) 1/100,000 Neunkirchen
- 18 March Theley, Germany, (48.4-00.2) 1/100,000 Neunkirchen
- 19 March Bubach, Germany (66.3-96.5) 1/100,000 Neunkirchen
- 20 March Kaiserlautern, Germany (02.2-93.9) 1/100,000 Kaiserlautern
- 21 March Maxdorf, Germany (40.5-98.5) 1/100,000 Kaiserlautern
- 22 March Pfeddersheim, Germany (39.3-15.3) 1/100,000 Kaiserlautern
- 23 March Dielkirchen, Germany (06.0-17.8) 1/100,000 Kaiserlautern
- 27 March Bauschheim, Germany (46.2-51.4) 1/100,000 Frankfurt
- 28 March Bischofsheim, Germany (44.5-54.5) 1/100,000 Frankfurt
- 29 March Hochheim, Germany (51.9-70.0) 1/100,000 Frankfurt

5. Marches:

All marches during March were for the purpose of changing positions to support the tactical situation.

All Command Posts at towns mentioned:

3 March Altscheid, Germany to Bickendorf, Germany, 9 miles, weather cloudy and snowy, roads muddy and congested.

8 March Bickendorf, Germany to Eisenach, Germany, 34 miles, weather cloudy roads fair.

9 March Eisenach, Germany to Bickendorf, Germany, 14 miles, weather cloudy

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

5. Marches: (Continued)

11 March Bickendorf, Germany to Faulbach, France, 69 miles, weather cloudy, roads good.
12 March Faulbach, France to Irsch, Germany, 28 miles, weather cloudy, roads good.
14 March Irsch, Germany to Oberzerf, Germany, 7 miles, weather clear, roads good.
15 March Oberzerf, Germany to Greimerath, Germany, 2½ miles, weather clear, roads fair.
16 March Greimerath, Germany to Bergen, Germany 2½ miles, weather clear, roads fair.
17 March Bergen, Germany to Nunkirchen, Germany, 8 miles, weather cloudy, roads good.
18 March Nunkirchen, Germany to Theley, Germany, 15 miles, weather clear and warm, roads good.
19 March Theley, Germany to Bubach, Germany, 16 miles, weather clear, roads good.
20 March Bubach, Germany to Kaiserlautern, Germany, 30 miles, weather fair, roads good.
21 March Kaiserlautern, Germany to Maxdorf, Germany, 31 miles, weather clear and warm, roads good.
22 March Maxdorf, Germany to Pfeddersheim, Germany, 23 miles, weather clear and warm, roads good.
23 March Pfeddersheim, Germany to Dielkirchen, Germany, 29 miles, weather clear and warm, roads good.
27 March Dielkirchen, Germany to Bauschheim, Germany, 50 miles, weather cloudy, roads good.
28 March Bauschheim, Germany to Bischofsheim, Germany, 4 miles, weather fair, roads good.
29 March Bischofsheim, Germany to Hochheim, Germany, 7 miles and then 12 miles to Munster, Germany, weather cloudy, roads good.

Total distance travelled for the month of March was 411 miles during which the Battalion crossed the Rhine and Main Rivers.

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 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued in direct support of the 319th Infantry Regiment. There was slight contact with enemy infantry elements in the vicinity of the 1st Battalion near Mauel, Germany. Air Observation Posts of the 80th Infantry Division Artillery reported 9 enemy tanks during the morning. One dug in tank was destroyed by fire adjusted from the Air Observation Post. In the early afternoon, an enemy column was observed withdrawing north of Plutsheid and an enemy column was

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

7. Battles: (Continued)

observed moving east in the vicinity of St. Thomas. Four propaganda missions were fired by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Infantry elements took 5 prisoners from Combat Team Kelp who reported they retreated one thousand meters during the morning due to the attack on their flank. The total prisoners thus far for the operation by the 319th Infantry Regiment are 1262.

2 March - A large ammunition dump was reported with beebie traps attached to all types of ammunition. Air Observation Posts reconnoitered the Kyll River for possible crossing sites.

3 March - Some enemy artillery fire was received during the day. One Nebelwerfer position was reported by the Air Observation Post.

4 March - The enemy was cleared from the Kyllburg area during the period.

5 March - Prisoners of war reported an enemy minefield sown with American mines. Further progress of the 4th Armored Division was reported. Some enemy tanks and horse drawn artillery were observed by forward elements during the day. Several prisoners were taken from the 9th V.G. Division. Instructions were given to secure areas for the maintenance of equipment and the rehabilitation of personnel.

6 to 10 March (inclusive) - Rapid advances of the 4th Armored Division were noted.

10 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion, as a component part of the 319th Combat Team, moved to the vicinity of Eisenach-Gilzem to reinforce the 76th Infantry Division.

11 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion returned to the vicinity of Bickendorf, Germany--its reinforcing mission terminated. Approximately 15 rounds of enemy artillery fire fell in the vicinity of "D" Battery.

12 March - Forward observers and a liaison officer were sent to the 313th Field Artillery Battalion. Some artillery fire fell in the vicinity of Oberzerf. Resistance varied along the sector of advance. A ground observation post was surveyed in.

13 March - Considerable resistance was reported in the vicinity of Greimerath, Germany. Friendly elements received heavy Nebelwerfer fire in the wooded area to the north of Greimerath. Prisoners reported two Nebelwerfer batteries in the vicinity of Greimerath. Tanks and self-propelled guns operated against forward infantry elements. Mortar fire was reported during the period. Task Force Davissen operated on the right flank of the 319th Infantry Regiment. Prisoners were taken from the 712th Regiment, 416th Division. Our infantry elements took 39 prisoners.

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

7. Battles: (Continued)

14 March - Fifteen tanks were reported south of Britten. The 905th Air Observation Post destroyed two tanks during the afternoon. Our infantry elements received direct fire in their advance. The infantry took 28 prisoners. Units identified were Combat Team Klincke and Combat Team Hancke. Prisoners stated they were ordered to retreat to the vicinity of Britten. Nebelwerfer fire was received during the afternoon. Small arms fire was received from pillboxes in the sector of advance.

15 March - Enemy vehicular traffic into Lesheim was noted. Enemy tanks were reported east and south of Lesheim. Six rounds of 150mm artillery were reported. The 2nd Battalion met considerable resistance from pillboxes south of Greimerath. Enemy columns were reported withdrawing to the east. Our infantry elements took 72 prisoners who reported that they had detrucked in Lesheim on the previous night and were ordered to counter-attack toward Britten on the night of 15 March. Prisoners reported the location of three 150mm guns and a Nebelwerfer battery. Prisoners also reported enemy tanks in Britten and Lesheim. Excellent results were obtained from TOTs on the town of Hausbach. The 2nd Battalion received small arms and machine gun fire on its move toward Lesheim.

16 March - Infantry elements reported one self-propelled gun knocked out in Britten. Prisoners stated that Lesheim was held by four companies of approximately twenty-five men each. One enemy tank was destroyed by our Air Observation Post. Five guns were destroyed or neutralized west of Lesheim. The exodus of the enemy from Lesheim was noted. The 2nd Battalion received artillery and mortar fire in their attack on Lesheim. The Air Observation Post was especially helpful in reporting the forward location of infantry elements. Several rounds of light artillery fell in the "C" Battery position area. As a result of the TOT on Hausbach, on the previous evening, five Nebelwerfers, two self-propelled guns, three half-tracks, one Volkswagen, two horsedrawn vehicles were destroyed or damaged. Groups of enemy dead attested to the effectiveness of our artillery fire. Our infantry elements took 585 prisoners.

17 March - "C" Battery took 4 prisoners. Several rounds of artillery, estimated 105mm, fell in the batteries position near Niederlesheim. The 3rd Battalion moved with "D" Battery attached, from Britten in the shuttle movement behind the 10th Armored Division. The 905th displaced to Niederlesheim with the infantry elements moving forward slowly. Roadblocks, supported by small arms fire, hindered the advance of the forward elements. The Air Observation Post reconnoitered for crossings of the Prims River. The 3rd Battalion received considerable Nebelwerfer fire during the midafternoon. Enemy guns in the vicinity of Bettingen, Germany, were fired upon. Enemy columns were reported moving to the east at 1500. An adjustment on a Nebelwerfer was obtained by the Air Observation Post and the location of an enemy battery was reported. One hundred eighty-four prisoners were taken. Roadblocks and some resistance by enemy infantry hindered the advance of the 2nd Battalion and 3rd Battalion.

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

7. Battles: (Continued)

18 March - The infantry elements rapidly advanced behind the 10th Armored Division. Enemy infantry were observed withdrawing to the east during the morning and afternoon. An Air Observation Post located a three gun enemy battery west of St. Wendel. Headquarters Battery, 905th Field Artillery Battalion took one prisoner. Elements of the 10th Armored Division were held up by tanks, self-propelled guns, and infantry. Five U.S. Tanks were destroyed west of St. Wendel. Approximately 300 prisoners were taken by our infantry elements during the period. Elements of the 10th Armored Division were fighting in Marpingen at the close of the period. Enemy artillery was sporadic throughout the day, but Marpingen received considerable artillery fire during the late afternoon and evening from the vicinity of Setzweiler. Enemy defense lines extended in a semi-circle one thousand meters west of St. Wendel and on the high ground east of Marpingen where an estimated battalion of infantry was dug in. Our Air Observation Post received machine gun and 20mm fire west of St. Wendel in the late afternoon.

19 March - The 319th Combat Team (motorized) followed the 10th Armored Division into St. Wendel and through to the east. Headquarters Battery, 905th Field Artillery Battalion captured eleven prisoners in the town of Bubach.

20 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion made a rapid motor march from Bubach to Kaiserslautern. Thirty-two prisoners were captured during the day.

21 March - Some artillery and small arms fire was reported in Ruchheim, Germany, during the late evening. Some artillery fire was reported in Oggersheim. Enemy civilians reported that the enemy was engaged in transporting poison gas across the Rhine in the vicinity of Ludwigshafen-Mannheim. Civilians further reported that fifteen field artillery pieces were in position in Ludwigshafen plus a number of tanks and green troops. After the artillery preparation on Mutterstadt, the enemy withdrew from the town after attempting to slow the advance of our armored elements with mortar fire. Our infantry elements took approximately 250 prisoners during the period. The location of one self-propelled gun was reported by a liaison officer.

22 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to the vicinity of Pfeddersheim and liaison was established with the 11th Armored Division Artillery.

23 - 25 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion occupied an assembly area near Dielkirchen.

26 March - Infantry elements south of the Main River received some artillery and mortar fire. 88mm anti-aircraft guns, used as artillery, harassed towns behind the infantry lines. "D" Battery, 905th Field Artillery Battalion received fourteen rounds of artillery fire during the morning. A forward observer obtained adjustments on two enemy 88mm guns in the early evening. Some small arms and machine gun fire was received by the infantry as they moved across the Main River by boat. Six hundred and eighty-seven prisoners were taken by the 319th Combat Team. One anti-aircraft prisoner of war was taken. Large numbers of 88mm anti-aircraft guns in the Weisbaden area. The enemy was observed.

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

7. Battles: (Continued)

29 March - Infantry elements moved forward rapidly against no resistance. Prisoners and stragglers were easily taken.

30 March - The 319th Combat Team moved by motor on an autobahn to the vicinity of Grossen Buseck. There was no resistance in the sector of advance. Headquarters Battery, 905th Field Artillery Battalion captured two prisoners.

31 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion took fifty-three prisoners in Rabelshausen. Several enemy aircraft flew over the 319th Regimental sector during the period.

The end of the period found the enemy slowly facing destruction from encircling and pressure moves of allied forces. Elements of the 166th and 356th Divisions were attempting a fortress stand of Kassel and its vicinity. The breakthrough of the Saar Basin defenses, the crossing of the Rhine and Main Rivers, the destruction of enormous quantities of materiel and the capture of thousands of prisoners made further determined stands of the enemy questionable. The enemy was estimated to be capable of making small counter-attacks supported by tanks.

2. Action:

1 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued in direct support of the 319th Infantry. The mission of the 319th Infantry was that of defense along the Frum River. Company "A", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion continued in its attachment to the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. The 315th Field Artillery Battalion reinforced the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Radio and wire communications both were used to higher and lower echelons. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion used the British 25 pound gun on H & I missions. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion was located in vicinity of Altscheid with Command Post in Altscheid (036581), "A" Battery at (037545-8475), "B" Battery at (0422258732), "C" Battery at (0402058385), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (0403558816). The 905th Field Artillery Battalion fired the following missions: 2 Infantry, 1 mortar, 10 TOT's and 4 propaganda.

2 March - Mission, attachments, and reinforcements remained the same. Cannon Company, 319th Infantry and Company "A", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion displaced to vicinity of Philippsweiler; Cannon Company was located at (0318862226). No missions were fired.

3 March - The mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion was changed to general support. The 315th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of its mission of reinforcing the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Company "A", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion remained attached to the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to positions in vicinity of Bickendorf, Germany.

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

7. Battles: (Continued)

Battalion Command Post located at (118604), "A" Battery at (114895829), "B" Battery at (1162559646), "C" Battery at (1134059540), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (11833574). Mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion was changed to reinforcing the fires of the 314th Field Artillery Battalion. The only mission fired was registration observed by the Air Observation Post.

4 March - Situation remained unchanged. A Battalion forward position was reconnoitered and selected in vicinity of Malberqweich, one gun from "B" Battery was taken forward for the purpose of registration and interdiction of a bridge in St. Thomas. Due to poor visibility and extensive patrolling by the Infantry the 905th Field Artillery Battalion was unable to register. No missions were fired.

5 March - Situation remained the same except for a short period of time when the 905th Field Artillery Battalion took over the direct support of the 318th Infantry, for the 314th Field Artillery Battalion. This was done while the 314th Field Artillery Battalion displaced. There were no missions fired. Radio and wire were both used for communications.

6 to 7 March (inclusive) - No change in situation. No missions fired.

8 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion was alerted and moved with the 319th Infantry as a Combat Team to vicinity of Salm. The 319th Combat Team was attached to the 76th Division. While enroute the mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion was changed to reinforcing the fires of the 355th Field Artillery Battalion of the 76th Division. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion went into a rendezvous at darkness prior to receipt of this order. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion bivouaced in the vicinity of Helenenbergs (145405) with the Command Post located at (145423). No missions were fired. Company "A", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion was relieved of its attachment.

9 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of its reinforcing mission with the 355th Field Artillery Battalion prior to going into surveyed in positions and with the 319th Infantry formed the 319th Combat Team. The 319th Combat Team was ordered back to the 80th Division. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion returned to Bickenderf, Germany, billeted the Battalion in town with the Command Post at (117603).

10 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion was alerted for movement to XX Corps with the 80th Division to the vicinity of Menderff, Luxembourg (U9301). A quartering party was sent with the 80th Division quartering party for the purpose of reconnoitering for billets.

11 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved from Bickenderf, Germany to Faulbach, France.

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

7. Battles: (Continued)

12 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to Irsch, Germany (172121) with the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 313th Field Artillery Battalion. The 313th Field Artillery Battalion was in direct support of the 317th Infantry. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion was permitted one registration which was observed by Corps Air Observation Post. Plans were received for 2 hours of accompanying fires, consisting of 30 missions, for an attack made by the XX Corps. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion Command Post was located at (171122), "A" Battery at (2146512095), "B" Battery at (2157711915), "C" Battery at (2104511830), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (2123911833).

13 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued in its mission of reinforcing the fires of the 313th Field Artillery Battalion. The accompanying fires for the attack of the 317th Infantry were fired. This consisted of 30 concentrations and lasted 2 hours. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion was alerted to take over direct support of the 319th Infantry when committed. It was anticipated that the 319th Infantry would be committed on the south flank of the 80th Division, therefore our Forward Observers and Liaison Officers were sent to the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 319th Infantry. Cannon Company, 319th Infantry was moved to a forward position at 22581092. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion fired 17 counter battery missions, 9 Infantry, 12 H & I's, 1 Smoke, 3 Registrations and 2 hours of accompanying fires.

14 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion's mission was to reinforce the fires of the 313th Field Artillery Battalion. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to the vicinity of Oberzerf, Germany with the Command Post located at (235108), "A" Battery at (2285509425), "B" Battery at (2332509820), "C" Battery at (2313509576), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (2258009110). The mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion changed to direct support of 319th Infantry. The 315th Field Artillery Battalion was given the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion fired 13 TOT's, 1 Counter Battery, 1 Tank, 10 H & I's and 2 Registrations.

15 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion was in direct support of the 319th Infantry. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to vicinity of Greimerath with the Command Post at (236075), "A" Battery at (2340207229), "B" Battery at (2348307069), "C" Battery at (2371407254), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (2333-007025). No missions fired.

16 March - No change in mission. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to vicinity of Bergen, Command Post located at (238041), "A" Battery at (2400004416), "B" Battery at (241103519), "C" Battery at (2519003455), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (2439004150). The 905th Field Artillery Battalion fired the following missions: 3 TOT's, 5 Counter Battery, 15 Infantry, 2 machine guns, 3 tanks, 1 enemy Observation Post, 2 Smoke, 1 preparation consisting of 7 missions, and 2 registrations.

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

7. Battles: (Continued)

17 March - The 319th Infantry started to move early with 3rd Battalion motorized. Cannon Company, 319th Infantry was given the mission of direct support of 3rd Battalion and followed in column with the Infantry. Cannon Company took up position in Nun- kirchen (346659770). The 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to positions in vicinity of Niederlesheim with Command Post located at (305005), "A" Battery at (3057201220), "B" Battery at (3033800866), "C" Battery at (3005500947). The 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained there approximately 6 hours while the 319th Infantry moved forward. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion then displaced to vicinity of Nun- kirchen with the Command Post located at (348987), "A" Battery at (3482498895), "B" Battery at (3353898928), "C" Battery at (3396899806), and Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (3466597770). Communication by wire to Batteries and radio communication elsewhere. The Battalion fired 2 TOT's, 2 Counter Battery, 3 H & I's, and 3 Registrations.

18 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued with its direct support mission of the 319th Infantry. The Infantry movement was very rapid and the 905th Field Artillery Battalion made two displacements. The first was to vicinity of Nieder- hafen with the Command Post located at (429002), "A" Battery at (42560049), "B" Battery at (42760027), "C" Battery at (42900065). The second displacement was to vicinity of Theley with the Command Post at (491001), "A" Battery at (4905900093), "B" Battery at (4907300152), "C" Battery at (4858199726), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry was in direct support of 2d Battalion and the Cannon Company only occupied one position which was at (5218097240). Communications primarily by radio - much valuable information regarding locations of friendly front lines was received from the Air Observation Post. Missions fired by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion were 2 TOT's, 1 Counter Battery, 4 Infantry, and 1 H & I mission.

19 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued with its direct support mission of the 319th Infantry. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced and took up positions in vicinity of Winterbach with the Command Post at (544974), "A" Battery at (5378497312), "B" Battery at (5430298151), "C" Battery at (54425997836). Moved again to vicinity of St. Wendel with Command Post at (597961), "A" Battery at (5985195896), "B" Battery at (599669256), "C" Battery at (602029606). Displaced again to vicinity of Bubach with Command Post at (663965), "A" Battery at (6663996307), "B" Battery at (6650096582), "C" Battery at (743952). There was only one H & I mission fired. Communication was by radio because of the fast moving situation.

20 March - The progress of the attack progressed very rapidly. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion merely stopped in vicinity of Quirnbach as a rendezvous and then proceeded to Kaiserlautern and the Battalion took up positions in the town itself. Command Post at (028938), "A" Battery at (0391193906), "B" Battery at (0448794175), "C" Battery at (0427294286). Cannon Company, 319th Infantry merely in rendezvous. Through the day Cannon Company, 319th Infantry was in direct support of 3rd Battalion on its move to Kaiserlautern. "C" Battery was attached to 3rd Battalion for a portion of the day to be in direct support of the 3rd Battalion.

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

7. Battles:(Continued)

21 March - The 319th Infantry was motorized and proceeded towards Ludwigshafen. The 2d Battalion was in the lead followed by Cannon Company, 319th Infantry followed by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion went into position in the vicinity of Maxdorf with the Command Post located at (405984). "A" Battery at (3886698492), "B" Battery at (3881998156), "C" Battery at (3908698332), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (3936198274). The 315th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of its mission of reinforcing the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. The mission of the 319th Infantry was changed instead of taking the town of Ludwigshafen they were to take Mutterstadt. Before actually proceeding on this mission it was changed again. Two preparations were fired for the 11th Armored on the town of Mutterstadt. No other missions were fired.

22 March - Mission of the 319th Infantry was changed and they proceeded to vicinity of Worms. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion in its direct support mission of the 319th Infantry displaced to vicinity of Pfeddersheim. The Command Post located at (391155), "A" Battery at (3832415677), "B" Battery at (3826515247), "C" Battery at (3905114961), and Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (3920914603). The position occupied was set up for a defensive situation. No missions fired.

23 to 26 March (inclusive) - On the 23rd, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to vicinity of Dielkirchen with the Battalion Command Post in the City Hall of Dielkirchen. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion furnished numerous vehicles during the 4 day period for shuttling infantry to and from billeting areas. Prior to moving to Dielkirchen, Battery "A" started a registration. The registration was called off by Division Artillery. However, "A" Battery was the first Battery to fire over the Rhine River. On the 26th the Battalion was attached to the 319th Infantry in preparation for a movement.

27 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to vicinity of Bauschheim as part of the 319th Combat Team. The Battalion Command Post was located in Bauschheim at (46005136), "A" Battery at (4580751688), "B" Battery at (4586751930), "C" Battery at (4558151922), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (4488652106). Before arriving at these positions the 905th Field Artillery Battalion crossed the Rhine River on a pontoon bridge. The mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion was changed to direct support of the 319th Infantry. The 315th Field Artillery Battalion was given the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. There was one registration made and 4 missions fired on enemy AA Guns being used as direct fire weapons.

28 March - The 319th Infantry crossed the Main River during the early morning hours. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to Bischofsheim with the Command Post located at (446548), "A" Battery at (4457655409), "B" Battery at (4447255065), "C" Battery at (4398454983), and Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (4500955073). At dusk the pontoon bridge across the Main River was completed and the 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to Heckheim with the Command Post located at (443576), "A" Battery at (4435657763), "B" Battery at (442555775), "C" Battery at (4394657687), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry in rendezvous. Communications both by wire and radio. "B" Company, 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion still remained in attachment and 315th Field

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

7. Battles: (Continued)

Artillery Battalion continued with its mission of reinforcing the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion.

29 March - The mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained the same. The Cannon Company, 319th Infantry accompanied the 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry motorized. One platoon of Company "B", 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion was attached to the 2d Battalion and one with the 3rd Battalion, 319th Infantry. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to vicinity of Hefheim with the Command Post located at (503652), "A" Battery at (5021364947), "B" Battery at (5054765012), "C" Battery at (5011764749). The 905th Field Artillery Battalion again displaced to vicinity of Munster with the Command Post located at (519700), "A" Battery at (5176270280), "B" Battery at (5200570433), "C" Battery at (5148070578). Attachments and reinforcements remained the same. Communication during the day was by radio because of the fast moving situation; however at night wire communications were installed. No missions fired.

30 March - The mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained the same. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion made a displacement to vicinity of Gressen Buseck with the Command Post located at (74237), "A" Battery at (7399523491), "B" Battery at (7428523432), "C" Battery at (7373823837), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (740622-4297). Attached and reinforcing units remained the same. No missions fired.

31 March - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion furnished vehicles to shuttle infantry to forward location and upon the return of the vehicles the 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to the vicinity of Rabeldshausen with the Command Post at (260585), "A" Battery at (26045902), "B" Battery at (25705874), "C" Battery at (26105850), Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at (25755822). The march was approximately 54 miles. Radio communication was used, no wire to higher echelons. No missions fired.

3. Attached and/or supporting organizations for month of March:

91st Chemical Mortar Battalion, attached 1 March to 8 March, inclusive
315th FA Bn reinforcing fires 1 March to 3 March, inclusive
315th FA Bn reinforcing fires 27 March to 31 March, inclusive
81st Chemical Mortar Battalion, attached 27 March to 31 March, inclusive
Cannon Company, 319th Infantry, attached 1 March to 31 March, inclusive.

4. Two hundred and twenty-three (223) prisoners of war captured during March.

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

8. Commanding Officers in all engagements during March:

Battalion Commander: Lt Col John W. Browning
Executive and S-1 : Major William M. Gesman
S-3 : Major Oswald H. Linck
S-2 : Captain Eldred M. Swingen
S-4 : Captain Lester H. Salter

Hq Battery : Captain Charles W. Harrison
Battery "A" : Captain Charles L. Kinzey
Battery "B" : Captain Charles C. Miller, Jr.
Battery "C" : Captain Jeel B. Stephens
Battery "D" : Captain Damen Helditch (Cannon Company, attached
from 319th Infantry)
Serv Battery : Captain Lester H. Salter
Medical Det : 1st Lt Charles F. Schneider

9. Losses in Action:

a. Battle of Germany.

b. Name, type of casualty and date:

Cpl Robert M. Watson, 35745999, Btry "C", LWA 13 Mar 45
Tec 5 Abraham Schwartz, 38195062, Btry "A", LWA 15 Mar 45

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

AWARD OF SILVER STAR: By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star Medal is awarded the following named personnel:

Andrew E. Helmes, 01170421, 1st Lt, FA, Army of the United States.

AWARD OF AIR MEDAL (OAK LEAF CLUSTER): Lewis H. Cox, 01181212, 1st Lt, FA, Army of the United States, awarded a fifth bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, in addition to the Air Medal and four bronze Oak Leaf Clusters previously awarded.

AWARD OF AIR MEDAL (OAK LEAF CLUSTER): Robert R. Andersen, 01182318, 1st Lt, FA, Army of the United States, awarded a fourth bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, in addition to the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters previously awarded.

AWARD OF AIR MEDAL (OAK LEAF CLUSTER): Charles E. Chresniak, 02008102, 2d Lt, FA, Army of the United States, awarded a fourth bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, in addition to the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters previously awarded.

AWARD OF AIR MEDAL (OAK LEAF CLUSTER): Jack J. Flynn, 01167838, 1st Lt, FA, Army of the United States, awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster, in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded.

FRENCH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AWARD (CROIX DE GUERRE): John W. Browning, 020767, Lt Col, FA, United States Army. For operations in the liberation of France.

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

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in actions:
(Continued)

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR: By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal was awarded the following named personnel:

Pfc Melvin L. Thompson, 35749915, Army of the United States.
Sgt Clarence Johns, 33294509, Army of the United States.
Tec 5 Stanley L. King, 33304852, Army of the United States.
T Sgt Richard G. Crawford, 33376830, Army of the United States.
S Sgt John W. Schunk, 36252737, Army of the United States.
Pfc Cecil H. Owensby, 18032611, Army of the United States.
1st Lt Edgar C. Wilson, 01165466, Army of the United States.
Tec 3 Robert M. Fraza, 16067471, Army of the United States.
1st Lt John R. DeBelt, 01172431, Army of the United States.
WOJG Melvin Caplan, W2132011, Army of the United States.

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR (OAK LEAF CLUSTER): By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, in addition to the Bronze Star Medal previously awarded, a bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded the following named personnel:

Cpl Earl I. Lafnear, 36185298, Army of the United States.
Tec 5 Homer I. Peninger, 34435135, Army of the United States.
Sgt Lerance L. Meffatt, 36186566

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART: By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Purple Heart was awarded the following named personnel for wounds received as a result of enemy action.

Tec 5 Abraham Schwartz, 38195062
Tec 5 Wayne T. Brown, 35408759
Pvt Sylvester Wadford, 34635747
Pfc Jacob J. Schwartz, 39608692
Cpl Robert M. Watson, 35745999

11. Photographs:
None.

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