

SECRET

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

1 June 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History For Month of May 1945.

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

Transmitted herewith is the history for the Month of May 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 May 1945

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 17 Nov 46

NOV 12 1946

25960

master

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

By ED NARA Date 9-23-60

SECRET

**UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF MAY 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 May 1945 - 41 Officers and Warrant Officers  | 469 Enlisted Men |
| b. Net Increase- None                             | 2 Enlisted Men   |
| c. Net Decrease- 3 Officers and Warrant Officers  | None             |
| d. 31 May 1945 - 38 Officers and Warrant Officers | 471 Enlisted Men |

**4. Stations: Month of May 1945:**

- a. Arrived in France 6 August 1945.
- b. 1 May 1945 - Command Post at Aichbachprau, Germany (37.5-11.5) 1/100,000 Central Europe
- 2 May 1945 - Aresing, Germany (61.0-76.0) 1/100,000 Central Europe
- 4 May 1945 - Mauerkirchen, Austria (00.8-68.8) 1/100,000 Central Europe
- 5 May 1945 - Sierning, Austria (89.1-59.8) 1/100,000 Central Europe
- 6 May 1945 - Wimsbach, Austria (58.6-59.1) 1/100,000 Central Europe

**5. Marches:**

All marches during May were to change positions in support of the tactical situation.

1 May - Mettenbach, Germany to Aichbachprau, Germany, 4 miles, weather cloudy, roads fair.

2 May - Aichbachprau, Germany to Aresing, Germany, 59 miles, weather cloudy, with fair roads.

4 May - Aresing, Germany to Mauerkirchen, Austria, 40 miles, weather cloudy, roads good.

5 May - Mauerkirchen, Austria to Sierning, Austria, weather cloudy, with some rain, roads good.

6 May - Sierning, Austria to Wimsbach, Austria, 27 miles, weather cloudy, with fair roads.

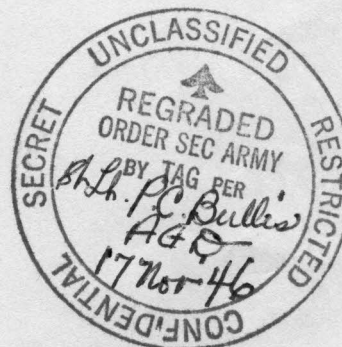
**6. Campaigns:**

- a. Battle of Germany.
- b. 15 September 1944 to present.
- c. To conquer Germany.
- d. Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

By ED NARA Date 9-23-60





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

**7. Battles:**

**1. The Enemy:**

1 May - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion reinforced by the fires of the 315th Field Artillery Battalion continued in direct support of the 319th Infantry Regiment. Rapid advances during the last days of April had taken the infantry elements to the banks of the Isar River southeast of Essenbach. Enemy units identified in the zone of the 80th Infantry Division were the 36th VG and the 416th Infantry Divisions. No enemy artillery was reported. The last artillery round fired in the European War by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion was in the preparation for the 2nd Battalion in their attack across the Isar River toward Niedaichbach, Germany. The town was taken with very slight resistance and at the same time the 1st Battalion took Niedviehbach, Germany. Infantry elements reported the capture of prisoners with back-dated discharge papers.

2 May - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion crossed the Isar River by bridge and supported the motorized infantry column moving to the southeast. A road block supported by an estimated 150 enemy infantry was reduced.

4 May - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion crossed the Inn River at Braunau, Austria.

5 May - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to the vicinity of Sierning, Austria and took over the military government of the town. Approximately two thousand prisoners of war were assembled and placed in the 905th Prisoner of War Enclosure. The effect of the disintegration of the German government was shown upon the number of enemy soldiers surrendering on the 80th Infantry Division front.

6-31 May (inclusive) - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to Wimsbach, Austria where it remained for the rest of the month. When V-E Day came on 9 May, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion was engaged in moving prisoners of war and displaced personnel to previously designated areas. At the end of the month a prisoner of war camp was established near Lambach, Austria.

**2. Action:**

1 May - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion was located in Mettenbach with the Command Post at (33251480), "A" Battery at (3342614671), "B" Battery at (3368415013), "C" Battery at (3309614900), and Cannon Company, 319th Infantry located in Meosburg, attached to the 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry. 905th Field Artillery Battalion fired a preparation for the 2nd Battalion, 319th Infantry in support of an attack on Nied Aichbach, Germany across the Isar River. The preparation was fired by "B" and "C" Batteries and this preparation was the last ammunition fired in the European War by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry also crossed the Isar River and took Nied Viehbach, Germany. 905th Field Artillery Battalion furnished the infantry with trucks for a shuttle movement. Upon the return of the trucks, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to Nied Aichbachau with the Command Post located at (378114), "A" Battery at (3741011717), "B" Battery at (3789811786), "C" Battery at

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

By ED NARA Date 9-23-00

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

7. Battles: (Continued)

(3807411934). The 94th Chemical Mortar Battalion minus Company "A" and "B" was attached to the 905th Field Artillery Battalion at this time. 315th Field Artillery Battalion reinforced the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Both radio and wire communications were used.

2 May - During the early morning hours, the Engineers completed a bridge across the Isar River. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion crossed and moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Loizenkirchen, Germany. The Battalion column consisting of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion plus 94th Chemical Mortar Battalion minus Company "A" and "B". The 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry was motorized. Company "C", 94th Chemical Mortar Battalion was attached to 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry. 905th Field Artillery Battalion followed the motorized column. While on the move the column ran into a road block estimated to consist of 150 men. Infantry and tanks were deployed to take care of the road block. Cannon Company, 319th Infantry and Battery "A", 905th Field Artillery Battalion were put into position in case the road block became a serious obstacle. The situation cleared in a short time and the column moved on. 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry went into an assembly area in vicinity of Illbach, Germany, 2nd Battalion took up positions about Winhöring, Germany. 905th Field Artillery Battalion took up positions in the vicinity of Aresing, Germany with Command Post located at (61107590), "A" Battery at (6133075300), "B" Battery at (6108975764), "C" Battery at (6208076000).

3 May - The 319th Infantry went into reserve. Mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained unchanged. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion furnished 6 prime movers to the Infantry for shuttling and 6 prime movers to 80th Infantry Division to transport Prisoners of War. The six prime movers to 319th Infantry returned to the 905th Field Artillery Battalion prior to darkness.

4 May - The 315th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of its reinforcing mission. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved as part of the 319th Combat Team to an assembly area in the vicinity of Simbach, a Inn, Germany. Upon arriving at the area the Battalion was ordered to proceed to Mauerkirch. The Battalion crossed the Inn River at Braunau, Austria and proceeded to Mauerkirch with the Command Post located at (006697), "A" Battery at (0070068260), "B" Battery at (0050068840), "C" Battery at (0060069636). The move was about 45 miles. Radio only to higher units. Wire was used to batteries and 319th Infantry.

5 May - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced as part of the 319th Combat Team to vicinity of Sierling, Austria near the Steyr River. Prior to the move Cannon Company, 319th Infantry was attached to the 3rd Battalion, 319th Infantry, motorized; Company "C", 31st Chemical Mortar Battalion was attached to 2nd Battalion, 319th Infantry. The move from Mauerkirch to Sierling was about 80 miles. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion Command Post was located at (893599), "A" Battery at (8913159138), "B" Battery at (8934559406), "C" Battery at (5908159225). As the 905th Field Artillery Battalion was the only American military unit in town it was necessary to take over the military government of the town. Instructions were issued to the Bergermeister and carried out. Up until midnight about 2000 prisoners were collected and placed in the 905th Field Artillery Battalion Prisoner of War inclosure.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

By ED NARA Date 9-23-00



~~SECRET~~  
UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF MAY 1945 (Continued)  
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

7. Battles: (Continued)

6 May - The mission of the 319th Infantry was again changed and they were relieved by elements of the 71st Infantry Division. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion plus Cannon Company, 319th Infantry moved as part of the 319th Combat Team to the vicinity of Wimsbach, Austria, retracing the route of the previous day by about 35 miles. The Battalion Command Post was located in Wimsbach at (585589), "A" Battery at Aichut (558577), "B" Battery at (566577), "C" Battery at Freham (568583) and Cannon Company, 319th Infantry at Berghan (565568). The 6 prime movers that were sent to the 80th Infantry Division on 3 May for the purpose of hauling Prisoners of War, returned. A detail of 30 men and officers were left in Sierling, Austria to maintain guard over 2500 Prisoners of War.

7-8 May (inclusive) - The guard detail left in Sierling, Austria was relieved and rejoined 905th Field Artillery Battalion. All hostilities have ceased.

9-31 May (inclusive) - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion performed normal occupation duties.

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

Cannon Company, 319th Infantry attached 1 May to 10 May, inclusive.  
315th FA Bn, reinforcing fires, 1 May to 6 May, inclusive.

4. Two thousand and sixty-eight (2068) prisoners of war captured during May.

8. Commanding Officers in all engagements during May:

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

Hq Battery :	Captain Charles W. Harrison
"A" Battery :	Captain Charles L. Kimzey
"B" Battery :	Captain Charles C. Miller, Jr.
"C" Battery :	Captain Joel B. Stephens
"D" Battery :	Captain Damon Holditch (Cannon Company, 319th Infantry attached)
Serv Battery :	Captain Lester H. Salter
Med Detachment :	Captain Charles F. Schneider

9. Losses in Action:

a. Battle of Germany.

b. Name, type of casualty and date:

None.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

By ED NARA Date 9-23-60

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

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

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

Lewis H. Cox, 01181212, 1st Lt, FA, Army of the United States, awarded an eighth bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, in addition to the Air Medal and seven bronze Oak Leaf Clusters previously awarded.

Jack J. Flynn, 01167838, 1st Lt, FA, Army of the United States, awarded a second bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, in addition to the Air Medal and one bronze Oak Leaf Cluster previously awarded.

**AWARD OF AIR MEDAL:** Briggs Lathrop, 01167948, Capt, FA, 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:

1st Lt Joseph M. Vale, 01180371, FA, Army of the United States  
Pfc Charles J. Pecoroni, 32638597, FA, Army of the United States

**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 is awarded the following named personnel:

2d Lt Frank M. Townsend, 01176826, FA, Army of the United States  
Tec 4 Atlee J. Reeb, 35291244, FA, Army of the United States  
Pfc George Newman, 32976632, FA, Army of the United States  
Pfc Morris B. Braswell, 33197629, FA, Army of the United States  
Cpl W. C. Womack, 38119157, FA, Army of the United States  
Pfc Paul F. Shannon, 31086928, FA, Army of the United States  
S Sgt Anthony M. Barrasse, 33185413, FA, Army of the United States  
Pfc Lawrence P. Medler, 6293946, FA, Army of the United States  
Sgt Jesse H. Hall, 7005996, FA, Army of the United States  
Pfc John Tarbay, 32075859, FA, Army of the United States  
S Sgt Earl J. Chapman, 18032704, FA, Army of the United States  
Tec 5 Eugene M. Strickland, 34669920, FA, Army of the United States

**11. Photographs:**  
**None.**

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

By ED NARA Date 9-23-60