

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

6 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945 inclusive. (Section I - Summary of daily operations and action).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Through Channels).

1. NARRATIVE OF EVENTS:

a. At the beginning of the period, the 80th Infantry Division occupied defensive positions along the PRUM RIVER north of BILBEY, Germany, 313th Field Artillery Battalion in position vicinity of WIERSDORF, Germany, with mission of direct support of 317th Inf., reinforced by the 314th FA Bn. 011200 A March 1945 314th FA Bn was relieved of reinforcing mission, and 2d Platoon, Company "A" 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion attached for fire control. During period 1 - 7 March, action was limited to extensive patrolling by infantry and firing H & I missions. Battalion received one British 25 pounder which was used to fire harassing and interdiction missions. Battalion displaced to position vicinity of EHLENZ, Germany 050800 A March 1945, and prepared defensive positions in support of 317th Infantry which had advanced to East across PRUM RIVER, and taken up defensive positions on high ground East of river.

b. 8 March 1945, firing batteries moved into billets in EHLENZ, and during the period 8 - 10 March, battalion participated in rehabilitation of personnel, care and cleaning of materiel, schools, and small arms firing.

c. 110230 A March 1945, battalion moved from EHLENZ, Germany, to an assembly area in BURMERANGE, Luxembourg, closing 111200 A March 1945. 111900 A March 1945, battalion displaced to firing positions vicinity of IRSCH, Germany, closing at 112400 A. 905 FA Bn, 204 FA Bn, and Company "A", 81st Chemical Mortar Bn, attached and reinforcing our fire. Early morning 13 March 1945, Division attacked to East, 80th Div Arty reinforced, fired two hour preparation and accompanying fire. At 1800 hours, 905 FA Bn released from reinforcing mission. 14 March 1945, CT 317th Inf continued attack to East. Battalion displaced to new position vicinity of OBERZERF, Germany. 204 FA Bn released from reinforcing mission at 1000 hours. 689 FA Bn, and 423 FA Bn (self propelled) given mission to reinforce our fires. First three days of attack CT 317 met heavy resistance from Infantry, small arms, automatic weapons, tanks, self-propelled guns, and artillery. Resistance was broken, and during the period 15 - 21 March, CT 317 advanced rapidly to the East. The following positions were occupied during this advance: SCHEIDEN, WALDHOLZBACH, THAILEN, LOCKWEILER, PRIMSTAL, GRONIG, FOURSCHWEILER, SCHWARZERDEN, DIEDELKIPF, FOCKELBERG, WEIRWEILLER, NEUKIRCHEN, WACHENHEIM. On 15 March, 689 FA Bn and 423 FA Bn (self propelled) released from reinforcing mission, and 282 FA Bn, given mission to reinforce our fire. 18 March, 282 FA Bn released from reinforcing mission, and 284 FA Bn assigned reinforcing mission. 21 March, 284 FA Bn released from reinforcing our fire.

d. Battalion displaced and closed in concentration area vicinity of GUNDHEIM at 1900 hours. 23-25 March 1945, CT 317 went into rest area, Battalion closed in rest area vicinity of ST ALBEN at 1930 hours. Company "A" 81 Chemical Mortar Battalion was relieved from attachment for fire control. During this

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period, Battalion shuttled infantry, and worked on equipment and materiel.

e. 262335 A March 1945, battalion moved to assembly area vicinity of NIEDERSAULHEIM closing at 0230 hours, 27 March 1945. 26 March, 314 FA Bn, 284 FA Bn given mission to reinforce our fire and Company "A", 81 Chemical Mortar Bn attached for fire control. Battalion displaced to firing position, vicinity of BRETZENHEIM, to support assault crossing of RHINE RIVER, at 1030 hours. Division attacked at 270100 A March 1945, and crossed RHINE RIVER in LCMs and LCNPs at MAINZ without a preparation from artillery. Battalion displaced at 1400 hours to position vicinity of GUNSENHEIM. After first phase of attack, enemy resistance was light; battalion carried on normal support mission. 281700 A March 1945, battalion displaced and crossed the RHINE RIVER on floating treadway bridge, 1896 feet long at MAINZ, and went into position vicinity of ERBENHEIM. 314 FA Bn, released from reinforcing our fire.

f. From 29 - 30 March 1945, CT 317 was out of contact with the enemy. Battalion trucks were used to shuttle infantry. 30 March 1945, Battalion made a long move to the north and occupied position vicinity of GENS-UNGEN. 31 March 1945, Battalion displaced to position vicinity of ZIEGENHAIN.

g. Period ended with Battalion under alert orders to move further to the North and East with the mission of reinforcing the fire of the 905 FA Bn.

2. SUMMARY

a. Missions Fired:

TOT	64
Counter-battery	14
Infantry	54
Machine Guns	3
Mortar	1
Tanks	6
Vehicles	5
Interdiction	46
Harrassing	9
Smoke	11
Propaganda	4
Registrations	12
Preparation	23
TOTAL MISSIONS	252

Average number of rounds per mission 32.3 rds.

Percent of total missions fired in which fire for effect was fired by the battalions: 28.6 %

Percent of total missions fired in which Pozit fuze was used: 3.2 %

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Percent of total missions fired in which delay fuze was used: 6.3 %

Percent of total missions fired in which time fuze was used: 4.4 %

Percent of total missions fired which were observed missions: 11.5 %

b. SURVEY - Continued to use the 1/25,000 scale map to get survey control. Results have been excellent.

c. COMMUNICATIONS - During this period, wire has been the primary means of communication between battalion and batteries, while radio has served primarily with liaison and forward observers. During the rapid advance phases of the past period, there was generally little opportunity to lay any wire lines other than to the batteries. During the period the battalion laid approximately 250 miles of wire.

d. AIR OP - A total of 16 missions were fired by the Air OP during the period. Missions were as follows:

Registration	9
Tanks	1
Troops and vehicles	2
Neblewefer	3
Direct Fire Gun	1
Total	16

e. AMMUNITION - Ammunition supply was adequate, and was expended as follows during the period:

	<u>M-2</u>	<u>M-3</u>
Shell HE Fuze M48	4893	1621
Shell HE Fuze M54	2243	
Shell HE Fuze Pozit	165	
Shell Propaganda	14	
Shell Smoke W. P.	386	37
Shell Smoke H. C.	129	
Shell Smoke Red	20	
Totals	7850	1658

GRAND TOTAL (M-2 and M-3) 9508

f. MISCELLANEOUS:

Improved weather conditions permitted the more extensive use of Air OP. It proved invaluable for reconnaissance and identification of

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(After Action Report, continued)

f. MISCELLANEOUS:

scattered units during the breakthrough and drive across the SAAR-MOSELLE TRIANGLE and on into the interior of Germany. Consideration should be given to increasing T/O and T/E to include a qualified observer for each of the pilots.

John W. Bowden
JOHN W. BOWDEN,
Major, FA,
S-3

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

6 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945 inclusive. (Section II - Intelligence Operations).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Through Channels).

1. At the beginning of the period covered by this report the division was in contact with the enemy along a line generally north and south along the PRUM RIVER in Germany. The enemy resisted our advance with small arms, machine guns and tanks. Extensive use was made during this period of the new HETZER self-propelled gun. We were in contact with the German 79th VGD and the 9th VGD in addition to a number of small CT's and separate units. The enemy made extensive use of artillery and Nebelwerfer fire.

2. Crossing was made of the PRUM RIVER and we advanced to the NIMS RIVER where the enemy had set up a new delaying position. On 6 March 1945 the division closed up on the KYLL RIVER. The only new identifications during this period were the 4th Werfer Brigade and the 276th AT Battalion.

3. The division was relieved and placed in reserve, and this Battalion occupied positions in the vicinity of EHLENZ, Germany for rest and rehabilitation, and was out of contact with the enemy.

4. On 11 March 1945 the Battalion moved from EHLENZ to the vicinity of BURMERANGE, Luxembourg. Division was released from XII Corps and attached to XX Corps. Division moved to vicinity of IRSCH, Germany on 12 March 1945 and prepared to attack east. Contact was made with elements of the German 2d Mountain Division and the 6th SS Mountain Division. In the drive from the SAAR RIVER to the RHINE RIVER the principle identifications were the 2d Mountain Division, the 6th SS Mountain Division, and the 416th Infantry Division. Numerous small CT units were contacted, but the enemy's resistance was so disorganized, and our advance was so rapid, that we met very little resistance until we reached the RHINE RIVER on 23 March 1945. On 27 March 1945 the division forced a crossing of the RHINE RIVER at MAINZ, Germany against heavy resistance from small arms and flak, and secured a bridgehead on the east bank of the river.

5. From the RHINE RIVER to KASSEL the enemy was in complete rout and our march was practically unopposed. During this period we took prisoners from numerous units, but there was no organized resistance until we reached KASSEL at the end of the period.

6. The most significant facts noted during this period were the complete rout of the German forces, the large number of prisoners taken, and the absence of enemy artillery. Enemy artillery activity has been almost nil during the last drive.

7. During this period this Battalion captured 64 prisoners of war.

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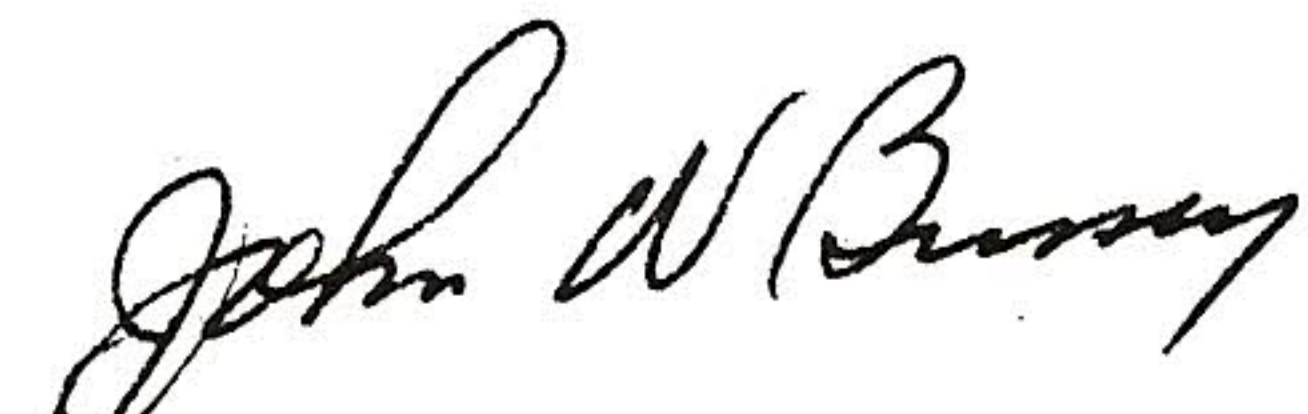
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After Action Report, (continued)

The division captured 17,665 prisoners of war, bringing the total captured to 34,381. Enemy dead buried--204. Total to date--1964. Enemy tanks destroyed--11. Total to date--188.



JOHN W. BUSSEY,
Captain, FA
S-2

HEADQUARTERS 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
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SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945 inclusive. (Section III - Logistics, supply procedure, problems).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Through Channels).

1. Class I Supply: Class B rations were issued throughout the month of March with a very satisfactory menu. Information on new locations of Class I breakdown has been unsatisfactory.

2. Class II Supply: Class II needs are few. Repair and replacement depots are too far back for the fast moving situation. Overlays and Administration messages giving the location of supply branches are being delivered too late.

3. Class III Supply: Class III was very satisfactory. An extra 2-1/2 ton 6x6 Cargo truck is still needed for gas by a Light Field Artillery Battalion to carry gasoline. The fast moving situation during this month taxed efficient delivery more than ever.

4. Battalion Motors: Supporting supply units too far in the rear echelon.

Certain replacement parts of General Mechanic tool sets are critical. (i.e.) 9/16 and 7/16" box end wrenches, etc.

Truck tools for vehicles are critical. (i.e.) Jacks, tire pumps, grease guns, etc.

Critical items:

- a. Brake fluid
- b. Shock absorbers for 1/4 ton.
- c. Spring shackles, bolts and bushings for front left spring on 1/4 ton.
- d. Drums for GMC, split type
- e. Wheel cylinders for 1/4 ton & GMC 2-1/2 ton.
- f. Hot patches.
- g. 900 x 16 tires and tubes
- h. Zerk fittings 45° for GMC center bearing.
- i. Valve cover gaskets.

A. L. Servilio
A. L. SERVILIO
Captain, FA,
S-4

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HEADQUARTERS 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
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SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945 inclusive. (Section IV - Personnel and Allied Administration).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Through Channels).

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY

(Figures taken from Morning Report up to
 (Source of Information)
 and including 31 March 1945 for the period
1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945 inclusive.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD's</u>
2 Mar							4
4 Mar							1
5 Mar							1
13 Mar			1	1		2	
14 Mar							1
16 Mar							1
17 Mar							1
20 Mar							2
22 Mar							1
28 Mar			1			1	
TOTAL			2	1		3	12

CANNON COMPANY, 317TH INFANTRY (at chd)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD's</u>
16 Mar				1		1	
19 Mar							1
23 Mar							1
27 Mar	1					1	
28 Mar			1	1		2	
TOTAL	1		1	2		4	2

TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

DATE PW's
 None

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TABLE NUMBER 3.

REINFORCEMENTS RECEIVED
 (Including Hospital Returnees)
 317th Cannon Company included in figures

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
2 Mar	1
3 Mar	4
6 Mar	1
7 Mar	2
8 Mar	3
9 Mar	1
10 Mar	5
15 Mar	4
17 Mar	1
19 Mar	3
20 Mar	1
22 Mar	1
23 Mar	3
26 Mar	1
28 Mar	1
TOTAL	
	32


TABLE NUMBER 4.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945 inclusive. (317th Cannon Company included in figures)

<u>No.</u>	
1	Silver Star Medal
5	Bronze Star Medal
1	Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously)
6	Purple Heart Award
5	Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

2. Payment of Battalion: Due to tactical situation the battalion was not paid on last day of month and has not been paid this date.


 M. R. CALLAWAY
 WOJG USA
 Personnel Officer