

HEADQUARTERS
227TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. 29, U.S. ARMY

Subject: After Action Report for Month of May 1945

TO: The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.

THRU: Commanding General, 29th Infantry Division Artillery,
A.P.O. 29, U.S. Army

I. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.

On the morning of 1 May 1945, the 227th Field Artillery Battalion moved from firing positions in the vicinity of Riskau, Germany, (209065) Sheet M 5, Salswedel, Germany, Scale 1/100,000 to Neindorf, Germany, (512965) Sheet M6, Wittenburg, Germany, Scale 1/100,000/ Here firing positions were occupied, the mission being general support of the 29th Infantry Division and reinforcing the fires of the 224th Field Artillery Battalion.

This proved to be the last firing position occupied by the Battalion in the war in Germany. At 1943 hours, 2 May 1945 Lieutenant Colonel Harmer, Commanding officer of the Battalion, flying as an observer in a Piper Cub observed and reported the approach of Russian troops to the Elbe River and their junction with our troops. The battalion was placed on non-operational status at 2105 hours 3 May 1945.

On 4 May 1945 the battalion moved to Neubeckum, Germany, (198554) Sheet P2, Munster, Germany, Scale 1/100,00. The heavy column consisted of tractors and howitzers hauled by tank retrievers did not close in this area until late the following day. While in this area recreation and rehabilitation of personnel and equipment were stressed. V-E Day was celebrated on 9 May 1945 by a battalion retreat parade including a brief ceremony in memory of those members of the battalion who lost their lives in combat.

The battalion left Neubeckum on 13 May 1945, moving to Brake, Germany (499238) Sheet L3, Bremen, Germany, Scale 1/100,000 to assume guard and security duties as occupational troops in a section of the U.S. Enclave Military District. The heavy column, again transported by tank retrievers, joined the battalion late 15 May 1945.

Occupational duties were assumed by the battalion relieving Canadian forces who originally occupied the area. This was initiated by "C" Battery on 19 May, complete responsibility for the area being assumed by the battalion at 1800 hours, 24 May. A formal ceremony turning the area over to American control was participated in at 1400 hours, 23 May, the battalion representing the 29th Division Artillery in the ceremony. The Canadian unit participating was composite battalion of the 5th Canadian Brigade.

Occupational duties remained the primary duty of the battalion at the end of the month. This was supplemented by a program of physical conditioning, care of equipment, orientation and recreation. All personnel saw training film "Two Down and One To Go" and were instructed on workings of Redeployment and Redistribution system.

II. FORCES ENGAGED.

During the month of May 1945, German forces engaged by the Battalion consisted mostly of a hodge-podge of miscellaneous units and individuals. The only identifiable unit was the 402 Division Z. B.V., a V-2 bomb division which crossed the Elbe River to surrender to division troops the first few days of the month.

III. No casualties in combat were suffered by the battalion during the month. The following is a tabulation of total casualties suffered since entering combat:

	KIA	DOW	SWA	LWA	LIA	MIA
Officers	4	0	2	2	0	0
Enlisted Men	2	1	11	4	1	0

IV. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

During the month of May 1945 the following awards were made

Bronze Star Medals	14
Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star	1
Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal	1
Certificates of Merit	35
Meritorious Service Unit Plaque	1

V. COMMANDING OFFICERS.

The Commanding Officers for the month of November 1944 were as follows:

Battalion Commander	Lt. Col. Neal W. Harper
Headquarters Battery	1 st Lt. Robert M. Godber
Battery "A"	Capt. George F. Weidl
Battery "B"	Capt. Walter J. Rakow
Battery "C"	1 st Lt. David D. Honick
Service Battery	Capt. Anthony M. Kamp Jr.
Medical Detachment	Capt. Harold L. Bacon

The Battalion Commander's Staff consisted of:

Executive Officer

1 May to 14 May

Major Norman D. Aboosh
Major Frederick B. Johnson

15 May to 31 May

S-3

1 May to 14 May

Major Frederick B. Johnson (TDY-USA 1
May to 6 May)

15 May to 31 May

Capt. Cecil L. Harvey

Ass't S-3

1 May to 14 May

Capt. Cecil L. Harvey (Act'g S-3 1 May to 6
May)

24 May to 31 May

Capt. James L. Parker

S-2

1 May to 11 May

1st Lt. John A. McAllister

Ass't S-2

8 May to 31 May

1st Lt. Herman G. DeMoss (Act'g Asst S-3,
1 May to 7 May)

Liason Officer

1 May 20 May

Capt. Bruce Bliven, Jr.

28 May to 31 May

1st Lt. Richard F. Cline

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Only two (2) missions expending a total of twenty (20) rounds were fired during the month. Both missions were registrations.

The Air OP Section flew 113 missions with a total of 127 hours 55 minutes flying time. Following is a breakdown of these missions:

TYPES OF MISSIONS	NUMBER
Fire Missions	2
Reconnaissance	8
Administrative	99
Training	4

The enclave area occupied and policed by the battalion is approximately 170 square kilometers. One German Naval Hospital with 1764 patients is in the area. Guards are placed on two intelligence targets and at strategic points in the road network. Roving patrols cover the area. Since taking over the area 18 German Prisoners of War and 26 Displaced Persons of various nationalities have been evacuated.

The following tabulation shows the activity of the battalion in the Redeployment and Redistribution Program, Leaves, Passes, Furloughs, etc.:

	Officers	E M
Personnel Sent to U.S. on RR Program	0	34
Personnel Sent to U.S. on TDY (This man was dropped from rolls of the Organization after V-E Day)	0	1
Personnel to England 7 day leave or furlough	0	2
Personnel to Riviera -7 day leave or furlough	0	2
Personnel to Paris - 3 day pass	1	3

Movies are shown nightly. An average of 300 men and officers attend. On 1 May 20 men attended a concert given by Jascha Heifets at Salswedel, Germany.

The combat efficiency of the battalion during the month was excellent.

Morale during the period was excellent. 29 LET'S GO!

(signed-Neal W. Harper)
NEAL W. HARPER
Lt. Colonel, F.A.
Commanding