

HEADQUARTERS  
227<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.O. 29, U.S. ARMY

Subject: After Action Report for Month of August 1945

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

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

I. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES S-1

a. Personnel promoted within the command during the month:

(1) Officers	0
(2) Enlisted Men	8

b. Personnel granted leaves, passes, and furloughs during the month:

(1) Officers	
0	United States
1	Switzerland
0	England
1	Riviera
2	Paris
8	Brussels
2	Delfzijl
1	Copenhagen

(2) Enlisted Men	
1	United States
6	Switzerland
10	England
6	Riviera
14	Paris
14	Brussels
61	Delfzijl
9	Copenhagen

c. Personnel returned direct to the United States

(1) Officers	0
(2) Enlisted Men	0

d. Number of personnel transferred under the redeployment program to units of another category:

(1) Officers	9
(2) Enlisted Men	36

e. Number of Decorations awarded to personnel of the command by types:

No decorations were awarded during the month of August.

f. Roster of Commanders:

(1) Battalion Commander 1 August to 4 August 4 August to 31 August	Major Eugene R. Johnson Major Charles W. Kessler
(2) Headquarters Battery	Captain Richard M. Davis
(3) "A" Battery 1 August to 4 August 4 August to 31 August	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard F. Cline Captain Samuel J. Foose Jr.
(4) "B" Battery	Captain Kermit P. Weiss
(5) "C" Battery	Captain John O'Connell
(6) Service Battery	Captain James L. Parker
(7) Medical Detachment 1 August to 10 August	Captain Harold L. Bacon
(8) The Battalion Commander's Staff:	
Executive Officer 1 August to 4 August 4 August to 31 August	Captain Cecil L. Harvey Major Fred S. Durham Jr.
S-3	Captain James R. Newcombe
Ass't S-3 1 August to 4 August 4 August to 31 August	Captain Kenneth M. Wightmen 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Wiley Blair III
S-2 1 August to 2 August 4 August to 31 August	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. John A. McAllister Captain James P. Harrington
Ass't S-2 1 August to 21 August	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Herman G. DeMoss
Liaison Officer 1 August to 2 August 7 August to 21 August 21 August to 31 August	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Maurice J. Nolan Captain Cecil L. Harvey 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. John H. Oesch
Personnel Officer 1 August to 21 August	C.W.O. Leslie C. Isse

## II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES S-2

### a. Civil Population

- (1) A daily spot check of five civilians revealed that the orders of the Military Government are being carried out in all phases.
- (2) There was no evidence of organized political movements in this area.
- (3) Rumors have died away. Subversive propaganda has been nil.
- (4) There has been no indication of underground resistance movements during this period.
- (5) No evidence of sabotage in this area during the past month.

(6) One pistol of .38 Cal. Was found in the possession of a civilian. He was tried by MG court. One box of detonators in a waterproof container was found in a canal in vicinity of Brake. CIC has the case under investigation.

(7) No cases of forging and falsifying documents uncovered.

b. Civil Security excellent. Under control of the next higher headquarters. The arming of German Police was completed.

c. Port Control: This unit supplies guards for Liberty Ships docking t j. Muller's warehouse in Brake.

(1) Number of Liberty ships which docked at Brake this month. (3)

(2) No suspect Merchant Seamen were uncovered during the period.

(3) No passengers embarked from ports in this area.

(4) The German mine ship, ME12, arrived from Norway on 2 August and docked at Brake. A guard was placed on the boat. The boat left Brake docks on 28 August. On 12 August (9) nine fishing boats manned by German seamen docked at Elsfleth. A guard was placed on the boats. On 13 August the U.S. Navy removed all the seamen from the boats. On their order the guard was removed from the boats.

d. No documents of CI interest uncovered.

e. Arrest Statistics:	6	NSDAP
	6	NSDAP Ortaguppe
	1	SD
	3	SS
	2	BIM
	1	Gestapo
	1	Ahwehr
	4	Security
	1	Hohere Dienst
	2	Others

f. Interrogations: 75 by C I C

g. Intelligence targets under guard. None.

### III. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES S-3

a. The mission of the 227<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion during the period consisted of Army of Occupation duties, i.e.:

(1) Security of the assigned area.

(2) Training in duties of primary role.

b. Attachments and Detachments:

(1) Nine Enlisted Men were assigned as an MP Detachment to provide security in Elsfleth during the period.

c. Operations During the Period:

(1) During the period the 227<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion occupied and provided security for the assigned area. At 311800 August the 110<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion relieved this Battalion of responsibility in the northern portion of the sector to include Brake and took over responsibility for guard installations in Brake and also Control Post Fox at coordinates (363 160). Guard and Security installations separated by this unit during the period are listed below.

<u>Control Posts</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Period Operated</u>
Post Fox	(363 - 160)	1 August -31 August
Post George	(375 - 084)	1 August -31 August
Post How	(435 - 072)	1 August -31 August
Post King	(485 - 064)	1 August -31 August
Post Love	(536 - 034)	1 August -31 August
Post Mike	(610 - 019)	1 August -31 August

<u>Motor Patrols</u>	<u>Period Operated</u>
No. 11, 2 men Motorized – Cover area every 4 hours	1 August -31 August
No. 13, 2 men Motorized – Cover area every 4 hours	1 August -31 August
No. 15, 2 men Motorized – Cover area every 4 hours	1 August -31 August
No. 22, 2 men Motorized – Cover area every 4 hours	1 August -31 August
No. 23, 2 men Motorized – Cover area every 4 hours	1 August -31 August
No. 24, 2 men Motorized – Cover area every 4 hours	1 August -31 August
No. 25, 2 men Motorized – Cover area every 4 hours	1 August -31 August

<u>Installations Guarded</u>	<u>Installation of</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Period Operated</u>
Ordnance Dump	German Military	(504 – 276)	1 August -25 August
Vehicle Dump	German Military	(496 – 269)	1 August -31 August
Brake Jail	German Civilian	(500 – 261)	1 August -31 August
Water Point	TF Bremen	(499 – 263)	1 August -25 August
Grain Elevator	TF Bremen	(501 – 266)	1 August -31 August
Liberty Ship	TF Bremen	(501 – 266)	1 August -31 August
Aircraft Factory	German Military	(592 – 073)	1 August -31 August
Power Relay Station	German Civilian	(514 – 114)	1 August -31 August

#### IV SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES S-4

- a. The area has been inventoried for serviceable enemy war supplies and equipment. These items have been put under shelter in large quantities, so they can be more easily accounted for guarded and protected from the weather.
- b. New items of equipment received during period. None.
- c. Reclamation and renovation of equipment and clothing:
  - (1) Shoe repair and canvas repair service is available and is being used.
- d. Weekly inspections of kitchens to eliminate excess foods as a prevention of black market temptations have been made.
- e. Construction and maintenance of buildings, roads and bridges: None.
- f. Agricultural activities: None. Farm labor has been hauled from Bremen to farms around Brake, under supervision of Military Government.
- h. Fire Prevention: All buildings have been equipped with a fire fighting unit, consisting of sand and water, and proper instructions for fire prevention have been posted.

#### V. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES SPECIAL SERVICE

- a. Athletic Section Activities.
  - (1) Each Battery has scheduled games twice weekly: 1 Softball, 1 Volley Ball
  - (2) Enlisted Men on Detached Services
 

Division Football Team	3
Division Artillery Football Team	2
Division Artillery Golf Team	1
Division Boxing Team	2
  - (3) Softball team eliminated in quarter-finals of Division Softball Tournament.
- b. Recreation Section Activities.
  - (1) Clubmobiles: Hq. and "A" Btry's go to Take-A-Brake Club. Other Batteries each once a week.
  - (2) Movies are shown twice nightly, and Matinees are Saturday and Sunday in the theatres of both Brake and Vegesack.
  - (3) This unit attended (2) two U.S.O. shows and (1) one play during the period.
  - (4) "Lilac Times" published weekly
  - (5) No Band Concerts
  - (6) Parties held by each Battery each week.

- c. Each Battery maintains own P.E.
  - (1) Coco-cola delivered once a week.
  - (2) Beer delivered once a week.
- d. Sail and motor boats available to all personnel. Horseback riding for club members.

VI. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OFFICER

1. Emphasis on Phase II activity.

a. A composite battery was formed from personnel from all five batteries to receive military training. This battery was set up in the Service Battery area. It was intended that this Training Battery evolve into the Battalion unit school in the course of the month. It was expected that this method would eliminate many organizational difficulties in getting up the school, as they could be met and eliminated in organizing Training Battery.

b. The first cycle for training arrived 5 August and were released 11 August. The second cycle began 12 August and were released 18 August. The above two cycles engaged in military training exclusively. Beginning 20 August the cycle was extended to two weeks and the unit school was inaugurated. Trainees undertook military training in the morning and attended the unit school in the afternoon. Personnel was selected to attend Training Battery for this cycle on the basis of choice of subject listed in AEP Questionnaires', to assure that personnel attending would be interested in the three week courses offered.

c. Effective 1 Sept. Training Battery was dissolved and the unit school conducted as a separate function at a new school at coordinates (08.5 - 58.9) in the town of Lemwerder. Registration was conducted for the five courses to be offered starting 3 September during the latter part of the week beginning 20 August.

d. During the month, compilations of subjects requested in AEP Questionnaires were adjusted to reflect the change in personnel effected by redeployment. Progress was made toward completion of interest survey. At present, seventy questionnaires of men presently in the battalion have not reached this headquarters through channels. These men are being resurveyed.

e. AEP Questionnaires indicate ten men with five years or less of grade school education.

f. The present I & E staff and their job assignments area:

I & E Officer	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. John Oesch
Educational Advisement	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Dale A. Ezinger
On the Job Training	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Woodrow Rogers
Literacy Training	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas C Youman
Instructor Training	1 <sup>st</sup> L. John Oesch
Liberian	T/5 Zigmund B.Mendelak
Registrar	T/5 Joseph Glider

g. Three EM attended Literacy Training School at Division Level:

William Purcel T/5  
 William Turnage T/4  
 Charles Thompson Pfc

h. One officer and two EM attended Educational Advisement School at Division levels:

Dale A. Ezinger 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
 Paul Zoeninger Cpl.  
 Wendell L. Clark T/5

i. Two men are now attending the AEISS in Oberzmmergau, Germany:

John Oesch 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
 Charles S. Thompson Pfc

j. Three men were selected to fill the quota for Army University Center No. 11 at Biarritz and are presently attending there.

k. Quotas were received for Civilian Universities and Colleges but no men with prerequisites were available.

1. There are twenty-two USAFI courses presently in progress
2. Number and Type of School Conducted
  - a. Battalion Unit School opened 20 August 1945 with an enrolment of 28.

Class I – Livestock Production	8 EM
Class II – Fundamental of Selling	9 EM
Class III – Radio for Beginners	11 EM

Selected Instructors were drawn from unit.
  - b. On-The-Job Training.

4 EM in Auto Mechanics in battalion Shop
2 EM on Unit Paper in typesetting & Journalism
1 EM assistant to Chaplain
1 EM in clerical work with I & E Officer
  - c. Projects Completed, in Progress, and Projected.
    1. No projects were completed in the month of August.
    2. The Unit School and the above listed On-the-Job Training Projects are in progress.
    3. It is projected that the Unit School will be expended.
  - d. Summary.
    1. With the consolidation of the Batteries in the Lemwerder area and the resultant increase in the number of men available for AEP activity, the outlook for the Battalion Unit School is good. Enrollment from the battalion will be supplemented by personnel; now in Lemwerder from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Port Intransit Depot of the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force. Facilities for teaching both educational and vocational subjects in the new school are excellent. If enrollment warrants, it is planned to increase the number of courses offered, and either run two shifts of classes or expanding into an adjoining building.

#### VIII. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES BATTALION SURGEON

- a. Health of the command.
  - (1) Environmental Sanitation:
    - (a) Water Supply and Drainage: Very Satisfactory.

The type of water is adequate in quantity and quality. All water installations are operated and maintained by engineer personnel according to U.S. Army standards. All individuals are carrying a bottle of Halazone tablets with their equipment. Water is tested daily for residual chlorine content at the points of consumption. The average daily readings ranged between 0.5 ppm and 1 ppm. Drainage has not been a problem.
    - (b) Waste Disposal:
      - (1) Human Waste – city Sewage System and Straddle Trench are in general use.
      - (2) Kitchen Waste – There is a very little edible waste.

All solid waste is disposed of by having it collected daily by a civilian. Liquid waste is disposed of in the city sewage system.
  - (c) Insect Control: Insecticide powder has been issued to all troops and the personnel are instructed to powder their clothing, bedding, and body each week. Insecticide Spray, D.D.T. has been used in Kitchens, Toilets, and Garbage areas as directed with good results.
  - (d) Housing: During the month of Aug. the entire command has been billeted in houses. Battery Commanders and the Medical Officer have checked on the adequacy of proper square footage of sleeping space and conditions are ideal.
- b. V.D. control. Rate per 1000 per Annum – 70.01
  - (1) Troops are equipped with individual chemical and mechanical prophylaxis, when ever desired.
  - (2) All Batteries have Pro- stations are equipped to Administer prophylaxis, in conjunction with the Battalion Aid Station.
  - (3) Educational talks were given by the Medical Officer to the entire command.
  - (4) Posters urging care, continence, and sobriety were prominently displayed.
  - (5) A venereal control officer has been appointed in each Battery.

VIII. BATTLE LESSONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- a. No new battle lessons learned during the month.
- b. No new lessons were learned during the occupation phase of operations of the battalion.

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