

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

Subject: After Action Report for Month of March 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.

The 227th Field Artillery Battalion, on 1 March 1945, was in position at Wickerath, Germany (078817) Sheet 4804 Munchen-Gladbach, Germany, Scale 1/25,000. The mission, general support of the 29th Infantry Division.

Munchen-Gladbach had been mopped up and the Division was given a rest. The 227th Field Artillery Battalion, on 8 March 1945 went out of an operational role and occupied a rest position at Biesel, Rheydt, Germany (124843) Sheet 4804 Munchen-Gladbach, Germany, Scale 1/25,000.

The Battalion remained in this position of Biesel, Rheydt, Germany until 31 March 1945. While in this position every howitzer was inspected by ordnance and necessary adjustments made. All vehicles were thoroughly checked and any necessary repairs and adjustments made. Most of the vehicles were repainted during this period. All Carbines of the Battalion were modified with the new peep sight. Qualification courses were run for the Carbine and pistol. Schools were held in gunnery, motor movements, survey and discussions were held in Information and Educational classes in current affairs and problems of the soldier in the post war world. Stress was placed on physical fitness and a vigorous competitive athletic schedule was followed.

On the 12th of March 1945 all the howitzers were calibrated on a range in the vicinity of Wickrath, Germany. The Calibration showed that there was a little variance in the howitzers of the Battalion. The ??? varied from +27 yards per 1000 to +45 yards per 1000.

One howitzer and section were loaned to the 9th Army Ordnance on 22 March 1945 for experimental firing of various types and charges of powder. Lt Colonel M.C. Conner of the technical section of the 9th Army Ordnance conducted the experimental firing.

The first formal retreat parade of the 227th Field Artillery Battalion to be held on the Continent was held in this position on 27 March 1945.

The rest period was over and on 31 March 1945 the 227th Field Artillery Battalion crossed the Rhine River and occupied firing positions at Schmechtendorf, Germany (363268) Sheet 4406 Dinslacken, Germany Scale 1/25,000. The mission, general support and reinforcing fires of the 79th Infantry Division.

II. FORCES ENGAGED.

During the month of March 1945 the 227th Field Artillery Battalion came into contact with elements of the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division, 130th Panzer Lehr Division, 59th Infantry Division, 176th Volksgrenadier Division and the 183rd Volksgrenadier Division.

III. LOSSES IN ACTION.

During the month of March 1945 the 227th Field Artillery Battalion did not suffer a single casualty. A resume of the losses of the Battalion since entering combat until the end of March 1945 is as follows:

	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 March 1945 the following awards were made to members of the 227th Field Artillery Battalion:

Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star	6
Purple Hearts	2
Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal	4
Croix De Guerre with Palm	1
Certificates of Merit	16

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. Eugene D. Jones
Medical Detachment	Capt. Harold L. Bacon
The Battalion Commander's Staff consisted of:	
Executive Officer	Major Norman D. Aboosh
S-3	Major Frederick B. Johnson (TDY-USA)
Ass't S-3	Capt. John C. Vallor (Acting S-3)
S-2	Capt. Cecil L. Harvey (Acting Ass't S-3)
Ass't S-2	2 nd Lt. Herman G. DeMoss
Liason Officer	Capt. Bruce Bliven, Jr.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS.

The 227th Artillery Battalion completed a total of ten (10) missions, and expended a total of two hundred and six (206) rounds of ammunition for the month of March 1945. A breakdown of these is as follows:

TYPES OF MISSIONS	NUMBER
Registration	3
Vehicles	1
Harassing and Interdiction	4
Calibration	1
Miscellaneous	1
TOTAL	10

The Air OP section of the 227th Field Artillery Battalion flew a total of 30 missions during March 1945. A breakdown of the flights made is as follows:

Number of hours flown	50 Hrs. 10 Min.
Fire Missions	4
Training and Administrative Missions	26

During the month of March 1945 quite a few movies were shown to the Battalion, averaging two movies a week. The Red Cross Clubmobile visited the Battalion twice during the month. A Recreation Hall was opened for the Battalion and entertainment was provided by the 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry, the 29th Division Band and from talent within the Battalion. This entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by all members of the Battalion.

During the month of March 1945 five (5) enlisted men were placed on Temporary Duty in the United States of America. The men placed on Temporary Duty are as follows:

T/4 Lee J. Connaly	32072640	Battery "C"
T/5 Leonard J. Zielewaki	33632085	Service Battery
Pfc. Frank T. Fritz	33023488	Battery "C"
Pfc. Blaine F. Erb	20327037	Battery "B"
Pvt. Truman Cordray	33091739	Hq Battery

This brought the total to one (1) officer and twelve (12) enlisted men that were sent to the United States on Temporary Duty.

The Combat efficiency of the 227th Field Artillery Battalion has been excellent throughout the month of March 1945.

Morale during this period has been excellent. 29 LET'S GO.

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

BATTLE LESSONS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. The Firing Battery

1. When howitzers are not being fired over a period of time the covers should be taken off and the breech opened, when the weather permits, to allow the circulation of air through the tube. Thus will prevent moisture from forming which in time induces rust.

II. Motors

1. When traveling, the prime mover (Tractor M-5) has a tendency to throw mud on the Howitzer. This can be prevented in part if mud flaps are made and attached to the prime mover behind the tracks.
2. When the tractor M-5 has not been operated for a couple of days the b??? and pivot shaft should be exercised by running over a log. The pivot shaft should be lubricated with penetrating oil to prevent sticking.

(signed-Neal W. Harper)

NEAL W. HARPER

Lt. Colonel, F.A.

Commanding