

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

Subject: After Action Report for Month of September 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 ACTIVITIES S-1

a. Personnel promoted within the command during the month:

(1) Officers	0
(2) Enlisted Men	90

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

(1) Officers	
2	England
0	Paris
0	Riviera
0	Switzerland
0	Brussels
5	Denmark

(2) Enlisted Men	
11	England
18	Paris
6	Riviera
4	Switzerland
8	Brussels
55	Denmark

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	0
(2) Enlisted Men	171

e. Number of Decorations awarded to personnel of the command by types:
No decorations were awarded during the month of September.

f. Roster of Commanders:

(1) Battalion Commander	
1 September to 30 September	

Major Charles W. Kessler

(2) Headquarters Battery	
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1 September to 21 September 22 September to 30 September	Captain Richard M. Davis 1 st Lt. Woodrow M. Rogers
(3) "A" Battery	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) Battalion Surgeon	Captain Alphonse R. Cardi
(8) The Battalion Commander's Staff:	
Executive Officer 1 September to 30 September	Captain James P. Harrington
S-3	Captain James R. Newcombe
Liaison Officer	1 st Lt. John H. Oesch
S-2 10 September to 30 September	1 st Lt. Wiley Blair III
Ass't S-3 1 September to 9 September	1 st Lt. Wiley Blair III

II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES S-2

a. Civil Population

- (1) A special Check was made on the night of 25 September for curfew violators. The check revealed that the civilian population was obeying the curfew regulations to the letter.
- (2) One civilian was arrested during the period for failing to carry his identification papers. Other than the one incident there was no evidence that the Military Government laws and regulations are not being carried out in all phases.
- (3) There has been no evidence of organized political movements in this area.
- (4) The only rumor prevalent during the period was that the British were to take over control of this area. It was impossible to trace the source of the rumor.
- (5) No evidence of subversive activity, propaganda or underground resistance movements turned up during the month.
- (6) Two incidents of wire cutting occurred during the period. The first incident took place on the night of 5 September in Lemwerder – the line to the 3rd Port Intransit Squadron. The following night a suspect was picked up and turned over to the CIC. The second incident occurred on the night of 14 September on the line to "H" outpost. All evidence was turned over to CIC.

b. Civil Security excellent.

- (1) Two German civilians were beaten and robbed of money, papers and bicycles on the night of 23 Sept by persons in either British or French Naval uniforms. All evidence was turned over to the Military Government.
- (2) Other than the above incident Civil Security was excellent during the period.

c. Port Control:

- (1) All port control functions were turned over to the 110th Field Artillery Battalion prior to 1 September.

d. No documents of CIC interest uncovered.

e. One German PW in U.S. Army uniform was picked up on 17 September and turned over to CIC for investigation.

f. Arrest Statistics: 2 German PW's
 1 German Civilian

g. Interrogations: None. CIC and Military Governments are no longer in our area.

h. No intelligence targets were under guard in our area during this period.

III. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES S-3

a. The mission of the 227th 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.
- (3) Recreation and Athletics for the maximum personnel.
- (4) I & E program for maximum personnel.

b. Attachments and Detachments:

(1) The Nine Enlisted Men assigned as an MP Detachment to provide security in Elsfleth were relieved on 12 September and patrol of Elsfleth was taken over by Motorized patrol #24.

c. Operations during the Period:

(1) On 1 September Headquarters and "A" Batteries completed a move to new areas. Headquarters Battery and Battalion Command Post are now located at (592 -073) and "A" Battery at (591-076).

(2) Guard and Security installations operated by this unit during the period are listed below:

(a) Control Posts

<u>Post</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Period Operated</u>	<u>Battery Responsible</u>
G	(375 – 084)	1 September to 31 September	"B" Battery
H	(435 – 072)	1 September to 31 September	"B" Battery
K	(485 – 064)	1 September to 31 September	"B" Battery
L	(536 – 034)	1 September to 10 September 11 September to 30 September	"B" Battery "C" Battery
M	(610 – 019)	1 September to 10 September 11 September to 30 September	"B" Battery "C" Battery

(b) Motor Patrols – 2 Men

<u>Patrol</u>	<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Area Covered</u>	<u>Battery Responsible</u>
#24	1 Sept. to 11 Sept. 12 Sept. to 30 Sept.	Every 6 hours Every 6 hours during the hours of darkness. Elsfleth add to patrol route.	"B" Battery "B" Battery
#25	1 Sept. to 11 Sept. 12 Sept. to 30 Sept.	Every 6 hours Every 6 hours during the hours of darkness.	"B" Battery "C" Battery

(c) Foot Patrols – 2 Men

<u>Patrol</u>	<u>Period Operated</u>	<u>Area Covered</u>	<u>Battery Responsible</u>

Lemwerder	1 Sept. to 30 Sept.	From 2130 to 2400 Nightly	Service Battery
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(d) Installations Guarded

<u>Installation</u>	<u>No. of Men</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Battery Responsible</u>
Bn. C. P.	1	24 Hours	(592 – 073)	“C” Battery
Hq., C Battery areas	1	24 Hours	(592 – 073)	“C” Battery
A, Sv. Btry Areas	1	Daylight	(591 – 076)	Service Battery
	2	Night		
“B” Btry Mtr. Park	1	24 Hours	(497 – 103)	“B” Battery

(3) On 13 September this Battalion transported 171 Enlisted Men who had been transferred under the redeployment plan to southern Germany.

(4) As a result the loss of men it was necessary to consolidate the men and duties in the battalion. This was affected on the 13th by placing all but skeleton crews from Hq. and “A” Batteries on Special Duty with the other three batteries.

(5) A survey of all enemy explosives, bombs and ammunition in the area was made and their location reported to Division Artillery. This Battalion has disposed of or is in the process of disposing of all explosives, bombs and ammunition it is equipped to handle.

(6) This Battalion is in the process of gathering all enemy war materiel into one dump. This is being handled through the local civilian authorities and this battalion is supervising their work and furnishing such equipment as is needed to load and transport the material.

(e) Training

(1) Two Service practices were held by this Battalion during the month of September and 175 rounds of shell HE were expended.

(2) Prior to 13 September a full training program was being scheduled. After the transfer of men it was found that only maintenance and on the job training in T/O jobs could be carried out. Our daily strength reports disclose practically no men available for training.

IV SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES S-4

(1) Inventories and searches made of area for war materials:

a. Collection of war materials such as searchlights, and smoke pots has been started and should be completed within a week.

(2) New items of Equipment received during period. None

(3) Equipment in excess of T/E was turned in on the 26th of September. This consisted mostly of radios and other signal equipment. All Chemical warfare equipment, less 25 gas masks, was turned in on 27 September.

(4) Weekly inspections of kitchens were made to prevent food waste and Black Market [???]. Food is now received only three times weekly, rather than [?]. All kitchen personnel were given a lecture on food conservation. A new head count report was instigated for the purpose of simplifying the ration figures in the various messes. The 10% reduction in food which had been in effect for some three months was discontinued as of 13 September. Rations are now issued for 100% of the daily head count.

(5) During the month of September, there was much work done on Hq., A, and Service Battery Billets. This consisted mainly of cleaning, repairing and painting, and was done by civilian labor. A hangar in the aircraft factory was made into a battalion motor pool, providing better control of vehicles, and providing shelter for them.

(6) The battalion motor officer has prepared an elaborate physical and mental test for drivers, and these tests have been given, or will be given, to all the drivers in the battalion.

(7) A new ammunition basic load was authorized in September, reducing the former amount by about 75% of the former basic load. As yet the turn in of the excess has not been authorized. This battalions ammunition was stored in bomb-proof-concrete shelters in September.

(8) Agricultural activities – None

(9) Fire Prevention: The outstanding thing done to prevent fires during the month of September was the storage of ammunition as described above. Weekly inspections have been made to insure that previous preventative measures were being complied with. Stirrup pumps have been located and have thus enhanced preventative measures.

V. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES SPECIAL SERVICE

a. Athletic Section Activities.

(1) Prior to 16 September each battery had scheduled 3 softball and 3 volleyball games each week. As a result of the transfer of men it was necessary to cut this down and from the 17th to the end of the month each battery had one volleyball and one touch football game each week. The 3rd Port Intransit Depot Squadron, stationed in our area was also included in on the weekly schedule.

- (2) Enlisted Men on Detached Services
7 Division Football Team

(3) One singles player and one doubles team are participating in the Division Ping Pong tournament. The tournament had not been completed at the end of the period.

(4) An aircraft hangar in our area was converted into a gymnasium at the end of the month. It contains one basketball court, one volleyball court and one Badminton court. In addition there are one baseball field, one basketball court, one football field, one softball field and three volleyball courts in the area.

b. Recreation Section Activities.

- (1) Clubmobiles visit each batter at least once a week.
- (2) There is one 16 mm projector in operation for the battalion and one show is presented each night. In addition the men attend movies shown twice nightly at Vegesack and Brake.
- (3) This unit had the opportunity to attend one circus, one play and one USO show during the month.
- (4) The Battalion newspaper, "Lilac Times" is published weekly
- (5) There were no band concerts during the month.
- (6) There are three parties held each week in the Battalion for the various batteries. On three nights a week the men can attend dances held at "GI Joes" in Vegesack.
- (7) Men on Detached Service
2 DivArty Band
1 DivArty Movies

c. Each Battery maintains own PX

- (1) Coco-cola delivered once a week.
- (2) Beer delivered once a week

d. The Lilac Yacht and Berne Yacht Clubs have been organized and membership is open to all troops in the area. Sailing and motor boating are available to members. There is horseback riding for the men.

VI. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OFFICER

1. General Information

a. The second two-week cycle of the Battalion Unit School was begun on September third in a new location – "The Beruf Schule" in Lemwerder. The following five courses were offered: Livestock Production, Fundamental of Selling, Radio for [??]

b. On September 13 the Educational Program was seriously impaired by the transfer from the Battalion of approximately one hundred and eighty men. Because of the shortage of men it was necessary to suspend the activities of the school. On Saturday, 8 September the school was closed after ten hours of each of the five courses has been completed.

c. Army Educational Program Certificates were issued to those men who were being transferred and who had either completed a twenty-hour block as a student or had served as an instructor. Data from

the "Individual Record Cards" of each student or instructor departing the Battalion was entered on the Soldiers Qualification Card (WD AGO Form 20).

d. The ground work was laid for the expansion of the school beginning October 1. Plans were made to offer five new courses: Spoken German, Photograph, Auto Mechanics, Mechanical Drawing, and Small Business. Whether these plans can be carried out depends on the availability of men.

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

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

f. The following men attended the AEISS in Oberzmmergau, Germany:

Tec 5 Joseph Glider	General I and E Course
Tec 4 William Turnage	Educational Advisement

g. Quotas were received for applicants for Civilian Universities and Colleges as follows:

French Civilization	one	Sorbonne, Paris
Electrical Engineering	one	London
Handicraft Teachers Course	one	Wales
Mechanical Engineering	one	Manchester, England
Police Training	one	Glasgow

[??] the courses offered in English, Scottish and Irish Universities.

h. Quotas were received for applicants for the Army University at Schriivenham as follows:

Agriculture	one	engineering	one
Commerce	two	Journalism	one
Education	one	Liberal Arts	two
Fine Arts	one	Science	two

Four men passed the Division Artillery Screening Board but were eliminated at the Division Screening Board.

i. There are 35 USAFI courses presently in progress.

j. A Basic I & E Board was erected at a strategic corner in the Battalion area where it can be seen by the maximum number of troops daily, the display is changed every two days. On the other corner a similar Bulletin Board was erected for posting information concerning the Educational Progress and choosing a career.

2. Number and types of schools conducted

(1) Battalion Unit School

a. The second two week cycle of the unit school opened 3 September 1945 with the enrollement of 44.

Blueprint reading	16
Advertising	7
Livestock production	7
Radio for Beginners	8
Salesmanship	6

b. On 8 September 1945 the school was suspended.

2. On-The-Job Training.

- 4 EM in Auto Mechanics in battalion Shop
- 2 EM on Unit Paper in typesetting & Journalism
- 1 EM in Clerical Work with I & E Officer

3. Projects completed, in progress, and projected.

- 1. On the job training in auto mechanics was completed by four men transferred from the battalion who were enrolled in Unit school completed a 20 hour block of one course.
- 2. The Unit School and the above listed On-the-Job Training Projects are in progress.
- 3. It is projected that the Unit School expand in October providing the personnel can attend.
- 4. New discussion group leaders will be trained to replace those that leave because of transfer.

4. Summary:

In the beginning of the month the Unit School got off to a good start. The enrollment was almost double that of the previous month, and two new courses had been added. The program was disrupted in the middle of the month by the transfer of the large group of men from the Battalion. The resumption of the school was necessarily on a small scale, and continued attendance on the earnest desire of the students for training. Operation of the school on a full scale will hardly be possible unless replacements are soon forthcoming or the battalion is relieved of some of its occupation duties.

VIII. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES BATTALION SURGEON

a. Health of the command.

(1) Environmental Sanitation:

(a) Water Supply and Drainage:

(1) Practically all sources of water in Germany are considered contaminated. Thus all water for drinking and kitchen use is properly treated before use. The Corps of Engineering is responsible for the treatment of such water.

(2) Drainage: Water drainage is through to drainage system established for the area and eventually draining into tributaries of the Weser.

(b) Waste Disposal: The disposal of waste materials is such that they are eliminated as factors in the spreading of diseases.

(1) Human Waste: Latrines have been constructed by the Germans and enough space is provided to accommodate eight percent of the Command. Most of the latrines are of the pressure-flush type and all latrines fulfill the primary objective of preventing access of flies to human excreta. Urine troughs are also in use in most of the barracks. These are of the flush type and are being maintained by daily cleaning.

(2) Kitchen Waste: The garbage is disposed of by local civilians daily. Liquid waste is disposed of in the city sewage system.

(c) Insect Control: This essentially is accomplished by the measures taken which render the breeding places unfavorable for breeding, i.e. by using insecticides and proper disposal of the human excreta in such a manner that it is inaccessible to flies. Destruction of adult flies is accomplished mainly by the new D.D.T. liquid spray, with excellent results.

(d) Housing: During the month of September the entire command has been billeted in houses or barracks. 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

(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) In this Battalion the Commanding Officer and Unit Commanders are doing their part in conjunction with the Medical Officer in applying educational measures for V.D. Control. Repeated efforts along this should eventually bring about realization of the desired results.

(4) The civilian contacts, which are traced and apprehended in practically every case, are being turned over to German Civil authorities under U.S. Army Control for treatment for V.D., by this procedure the Medical Department is striving with slow but continued progress to eliminating the "Reservoir of the Disease".

(5) The V.D. Control Rate per 1000 annum. 273.3

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-Charles W. Kessler)
Charles W. Kessler
Major, 227th FA Bn.
Commanding