

SUMMARY OF AFTER OPERATIONS REPORT
FOR PERIOD
1 OCTOBER TO 30 NOVEMBER 1945

1. Disposition of troops, location of CP's and Battalion boundaries are shown in Annex # 1 in rear of this folder. There were no changes in Attachments, Detachments, and Assignments. The assigned duties and mission of this Battalion remained the same throughout the period. The only change was the turning over of "G", "H", "K" and "M" perimeter control posts to the 660th Field Artillery Battalion on the 29th of November 1945. Nine Officers and one hundred ninety-nine enlisted men were transferred to other organizations. Three Officers and three hundred and four enlisted men were assigned to, and joined this organization during the period.

2. There were no alterations of Inter-Allied boundaries and zones or in statements of common policies and agreements as far as this battalion was concerned.

The outstanding example of Inter-Allied Cooperation was the incident in which "Baker" Battery, of the 227th, acting on a tip from the 3rd Canadian Division, raided a farmhouse in the vicinity of Moorsdorf. A movie projector, about a dozen propaganda films, various radio parts and a radio believed capable of transmitting were some of the items discovered. A total of ten German civilians were arrested and sent to the jail in Brake.

3. There were no relations with former German Forces.

4. The Youth Activity Program functioned throughout October and November. Selected Movie Shorts, Boatrides, Volleyball, and Physical Instruction were held for the children.

The 29th Infantry Division Recon troops made two spot checks in our area during the period. Neither search disclosed items of interest.

Perimeter Control Posts and Patrols maintained civil security and in addition there were two operations "DOUBLE CHECK" On the 18th of November the town of Elsleth was searched house by house in an attempt to discover any contraband or black market activities. On the 25th of November the second phase of "DOUBLE CHECK" was held. All civilians in the battalion area were checked for Kennkarts.

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

Subject: After Action Report for Period 1 October to 30 November 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 period:

(1) Officers	1
(2) Enlisted Men	2

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

(1) Officers	
0	United States
0	Switzerland
1	England
2	Riviera
1	Paris
1	Brussels
0	Delfzigt
9	Copenhagen

(2) Enlisted Men

0	United States
6	Switzerland
7	England
11	Riviera
7	Paris
4	Brussels
0	Delfzigt
104	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	199

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

- 1 Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
- 1 Bronze Star Ribbon

f. Roster of Commanders:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Battalion Commander
1 September to 30 September | Major Charles W. Kessler |
| (2) Headquarters Battery | 1 st Lt. Woodrow M. Rogers |
| (3) "A" Battery | Captain Samuel J. Foose Jr. |
| (4) "B" Battery | 1 st Lt. John H. Oesch |
| (5) "C" Battery
1 October to 21 November
22 November to 30 November | Captain John J. O'Connell
1 st Lt. John J. Rhoads |
| (6) Service Battery | Captain James L. Parker |
| (7) Battalion Surgeon | Captain Alphonse R. Cardi |
| (8) The Battalion Commander's Staff: | |
| Executive Officer | Captain James P. Harrington |
| S-3
Asst S-3
24 November to 30 November | Captain James R. Newcombe

Captain Louis B. Mills |
| S-2
1 October to 23 November | 1 st Lt. Wiley Blair III |
| Liaison Officer | None |
| Personnel Officer
1 October to 8 November
9 November to 30 November | None
2 nd Lt. John H. Tullis |

g. Personnel assigned to this Command during the period by redeployment:

Officers	3
Enlisted Men	304

II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES S-2

a. Civil Population

1. The Civilian Population seems to be growing more resentful of the occupational forces as time goes on. The approach of winter and their situation is probably one factor that causes this.
2. 102 Civilians were detained for lack of KennKartens. 40 arrested for curfew violation. 32 Displaced Persons were checked but none detained.
3. There has been no evidence of unauthorized organized political movements in this area.
4. No new rumors among the civilian population.

5. No evidence of subversive activity, propaganda or underground resistance turned up during this period.

6. 29th Inf Div Recon troops made two spot checks in our area during this period. Neither search disclosed any items of interest.

7. There were two Operations "DOUBLE CHECK" during this period. One on the 18th of November, during which all houses in a specified area were searched for contraband.

Results were as follows:

(1) Operational Data

a. Seven Officers and one hundred and forty-nine enlisted men were used in the search operation. All personnel were from the 227th FA Bn.

b. Section covered was the town of Elsfleth, Land Wesermarsh, Province Oldenburg. There were 483 houses in area.

c. Estimated Population of area searched is 2800.

(2) Results

a. Personnel Check

1. 2591 German Civilians were checked

2. No German civilians were arrested

3. No Displaced Persons were found

4. U S Military Personnel

a. 25 US Military Personnel checked at road blocks thrown around area.

b. 315 Men from the 227th FA Bn searched.

c. No US Military personnel were detained.

d. No loot or unauthorized items were found in the possession of US

troops.

b. Discovery of Contraband

1. The following items of contraband were uncovered and turned over to Burgemeisters Office in Elsfleth.

- 1 pr Shoes, service
- 1 ea Jacket, HBT
- 1 ea Trousers, HBT
- 1 ea Undershirt, OD
- 1 ea Box Nutmeg
- 1 ea Box Cloves
- 1 ea Box Mustard
- 1 ea Jacket, Field
- 1 ea Sweater, GI

2. No stores of resistance or sabotage supplies were found.

c. No evidence of Black Market Operations were uncovered.

(3). Reaction of Civilian Population

Majority of people appeared to take the search in a calm, reconciled manner and were co-operative to a certain degree. The greatest difficulty was found in keeping all the people in one room while the rest of the house was being searched. Approximately 15% had a strong desire to try to notify their neighbors of the search.

(4) Effectiveness of Operation

a. The operation was effective from a psychological view. It was me also effective in uncovering evidence of pilfering and petty black marketing of US goods. It was not effective in uncovering items for which care had been taken in concealment.

b. The behavior of troops was excellent, except for a tending to be easy going in the search and handling of the German civilians.

c. It is suggested that a search of this type would be more effective if the troops were given some training in proper search procedure and if no traffic for any reason were allowed to move through area being searched. It is also suggested that the telephone service be discontinued during operation.

d. It is suggested that the mission would be more effectively achieved if all search operations were turned over to highly trained teams that would make continuous spot check.

Results of Operation “ DOUBLE CHECK” on 25 November 1945 are as follows:

1. Operational Data

a. 12 Officers and 288 Enlisted men were used in the security control check. All personnel were from the 227th Field Artillery Battalion.

b. Section covered was the 227th FA Bn area,

c. Estimated population of area searched is 10,050.

2. Results

a. Personnel Check

(1) German civilian and German Military personnel

a. Approximate number of civilians checked: 6475

b. Number of civilians detained for interrogation: 252

(1) Released after interrogation: 205

(2) Arrested by CIC: 47

(a) Lack of Kennkarten and no effort on part of individual to obtain one: 42

(b) Disobedience to orders: 2

(c) PWs without proper papers: 3

c. Remarks – Approximately 3000 civilians under jurisdiction of Burgomeister at Neuenbrok (409-175) and living in villages of KUJIEN, OBERHORNE, NEUENBROK, NEIDERHORNE, NORDERMOOR, BARDENFIETH, ECKFIETH, DAISPER, UHIENBUSCH, BURWINKEL, KORTENDORF, NUNTORF, BUTTEIDOR, MOORS DORF, GELIEN, PARDIENS, MOORHSUSEN, were not inspected for proper Kennkart when it was learned that all old cards had been picked up by the Burgomeister preparatory to issuing new Kennkarten during the period 26 to 30 November 1945. (see “Instructions appearing on reverse side of ration card issued by Keris Wesermarsh”)

(2) Displaced Persons

(a) Approximate number of Displaced Persons checked: 32

(3) U.S. Military Personnel

(a) Approximate number of U.S. Military Personnel checked: 150 (exclusive of 419, 227th Personnel)

(b) No loot of unauthorized items were found in possession of U.S. troops.

3. Reaction of Civilian Population to the Operation

a. Majority of persons reacted calmly to the operation and cooperated with the instructions of the troops. Burgomeisters were most helpful where utilized and from their records considerable aid was obtained in determining authenticity of civilian’s claims as to why they did not have Kennkart in their possession. Some civilians resented being interrogated because they had applied for cards but the cards were unavailable.

4. Effectiveness of Operation

a. The operation was successful from a psychological viewpoint. A desperate individual could have avoided being screened because the number of troops employed did not permit simultaneous search of fields, drainage ditches, etc. in conjunction with search of buildings. Probably 4500 civilians in the area did not have Kennkarten because the cards were not available.

b. Behavior of Troops. Excellent

c. Suggestions for Improving Technique of Similar Operations”

(1) Coordinate future inspections of Kennkarten with Military Government agencies responsible with issuing the cards to insure that the maximum number of civilians have the Kennkarten in their possession before the search starts.

(2) More training should be given troops in KennKarten before employing them on inspection teams.

d. Suggestions for better accomplishment of mission by a different type of Operation.

(1) Mission would be more effectively achieved if all search and security control checks were turned over to highly trained teams that would make continuous spot checks.

7. Incidents during period are as follows:

(1) On a tip from Lt. Hodgkiss, 2/4 Provost Marshal Co., 3rd Canadian Div. to Lt John Oesch, Battery Commander, Baker Battery, 227th FA Bn, a farm house in this area was raided and thoroughly searched by troops of this organization on 20 November 1945. Location of farm is in Moorsdorf (413- 105). The following items were found on the farm:

- a. A still for making bootleg liquor
- b. A movie projector
- c. About one dozen propaganda films.
- d. A radio that appeared to be a transmitter.
- e. Various radio parts in a workshop.

The following arrests were made:

- a. Gustav Ammermann
- b. Gunther Ammermann
- c. Georg Schumacher
- d. Rochus Wotzka
- e. Gerhardt Heidemreich
- f. Josef Erkol
- g. Egon Mieffert

The incident was reported to Division Artillery Headquarters and to the CIC Detachment in this area. Arrested persons placed in the Brake Jail and contraband turned over to the 29th Division Artillery.

(2) An incident of liquor stealing by U.S. soldiers was reported by Alfred Koc, a German Civilian, residing in Lemwerder, Germany. Koc reports that six soldiers, armed and in a 2 ½ ton truck took eighty-five fifths of liquor when he, Koc, refused to give or sell them any. Koc has a permit from Military Government to purchase liquor for Military Government and other units. This incident has been reported to the proper authorities.

8. No incidents of sabotage were reported during the period.

9. No evidence of Black Market were uncovered.

(b) German Military Personnel:

1. An incident occurred with one of the German Minesweeper Personnel. On being halted and asked for his pass the man attempted to escape and was shot in the hand and leg.

(c) Civil Security was excellent during the period.

(d) No documents of CIC interest were uncovered.

(e) Arrest Statistics:

German Civilians	138
Displaced Persons	56
German PWs	12
Minesweeper Personnel	42

(f) Interrogations: None. CIC and Military Governments are no longer in our area.

III. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES S-3

a. The mission of the 227th Field Artillery Battalion during the period consisted of two phases:

(1) Continuation of Occupational Duties: 1 October to 26 November

- a. Security of assigned area.
- b. Training in duties of primary role and basic subjects.
- c. Provisions of recreation and athletic facilities for maximum personnel.

(2) Initial preparation for redeployment to ZI as a Category IV unit.

a. Processing of personnel and equipment in accordance with POM requirements was begun on 27 November and continues through the close of the period.

b. Attachments and Detachments:

(1) There were no attachments of detachments during the period.

- c. Operations during the Period:
- (1) Operations during the period consisted of routine duties of occupation.
 - (2) Completed Phase I and Phase II of Operation "DOUBLE CHECK" on 18 and 25 November 1945.
 - (3) 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 October to 29 November	"B" Battery
H	(435 – 072)	1 October to 29 November	"B" Battery
K	(485 – 019)	1 October to 29 November	"B" Battery
L	(536 – 034)	1 October to 8 October	"C" Battery
M	(610 – 019)	1 October to 29 November	"C" Battery

(b) Motor Patrols – 2 Men

<u>Patrol</u>	<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Area Covered</u>	<u>Battery Responsible</u>
#24	1 Oct. to 30 Nov.	Western half Bn. Area every 6 hrs. during hours of darkness	"B" Battery
#25	1 Oct. to 30 Nov.	Eastern half Bn area every 6 hours during hours of darkness.	"C" Battery

(c) Foot Patrols – 2 Men

<u>Patrol</u>	<u>Period Operated</u>	<u>Area Covered</u>	<u>Battery Responsible</u>
Lemwerder	1 Oct. to 30 Nov.	Lemwerder proper, from 2000 to 2400, nightly	Hq. Battery Service Battery
Lemwerder Addition	20 Nov. to 30 Nov.	Lemwerder Addition from 2000 to 2400 hours, nightly	"A" Battery "C" Battery

(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	1600 to 0800	(592 – 073)	Battalion Guard
Hq., C Btrys Area	1	1800 to 0800	(592 – 073)	Battalion Guard
A, Sv. Btrys Area	1	1600 to 0800 1 Nov. to 30 Nov.	(592 – 067)	Battalion Guard
Bn Motor Park	1	24 hours	(592 – 073)	Battalion Guard
B Btry Area	1	1600 to 0800	(497-103)	"B" Battery
B Btry Motor Park		24 hours 1 Oct. to 1 Nov. 1600 to 0800 1 Nov. to 30 Nov.	(497 – 108)	"B" Battery

(4) The Battalion continued to furnish equipment necessary to collect enemy war material at one point.

(d) Training

- (1) Drivers training and training in T/O jobs was continued during the period.

IV SUMMARY OF ACTIVITES S-4

- (1) Inventories and searches for war materials in this area was completed during the month of October. chlights, and smoke pots has been started and should be completed within a week.
- (2) New items of Equipment received during period. None
- (3) Reclamation and renovation of equipment and clothing. Nothing to report.
- (4) Inspections of kitchens for excess foods to eliminate "Black Market" temptations: Performed weekly.
- (5) Construction and maintenance of buildings, roads and bridges.
 - a. Furnished three trucks to Division Engineers and Division Headquarters the entire period for improvement and building of roads and buildings. for them.
- (6) Drivers instructions were given the entire period and only five motor accidents occurred during the period.
- (7) Agricultural activities – None
- (8) Fire Prevention:
 - a. Continued our record of having lost nothing by fire in the last six months period.
- (9) Usual task of feeding and supplying the battalion was accomplished. In addition, the howitzers and prime movers were turned in, and approximately 75% of the battalion's non minimum essential equipment was turned in.

V. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES SPECIAL SERVICE

- a. Athletic Section Activities.
 - (1) Five Battery and one Officer's Basketball Teams, each playing three games per week. Five Battery Volleyball Teams, each playing one game per week.
 - (2) Enlisted Men on Detached Service 1 October to 26 November
 - a. Division Football 7
 - b. Division Artillery Football 5
 - c. Golf 2All men were recalled from DS on 26 November 1945 due to redeployment.
 - (3) Athletic equipment turned in to Division Special Service, 26 November 1945.
- b. Recreation Section Activities.
 - (1) Red Cross girls with doughnuts and coffee visit each battery once a week.
 - (2) Two 16 mm projectors in battalion. In addition, two 35mm movies held twice in Vegesack and one 35mm movie held nightly Brake.
 - (3) Two USO Shows were available to the battalion during the period.
 - (4) Lilac Times discontinued 17 November 1945 due to redeployment program.
 - (5) No band concerts were held in battalion during the period.
 - (6) Three dances a week in battalion And three a week at GI Joes, Vegesack.
 - (7) No men on D S.
 - (8) Recreation Equipment turned in to Division Special Service, 26 November 1945.
- c. Each Battery maintains own PX
 - (1) Coco-cola delivered once a week.
 - (2) Beer delivered once a week.
- d. All Sail and Motor Boats were put in drydock by 21 November 1945. There was no horseback riding during the period.

VI. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OFFICER

1. General Information

a. Unit schools have been closed and all I & E equipment and supplies turned in, in accordance with instructions. Men attending Civilian Technical Schools are returning upon completion. Have filled no quotas for this period. USAFI courses are still in force.

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

I & E Officer	2 nd Lt. Thomas G. Youmans, Jr.
Educational Advisement	2 nd Lt. Thomas G. Youmans, Jr.
On the Job Training	1 st Lt. Woodrow Rogers
Literacy Training	2 nd Lt. Thomas C Youmans, Jr.
Instructor Training	1 st L. John Oesch
Liberian	T/Sgt. Joseph Rausen
Registrar	T/Sgt. Joseph Rausen

c. Schools and men attending: None

d. Universities and men attending:

Biarritz 2
Wharton 3
Scotland 1

e. There are 26 USAFI courses presently in progress.

2. Number and types of schools conducted

a. Battalion Unit School

1. Spoken German 1 October to 31 October.

b. On-The-Job Training.

1. Student Auto Mechanic: 5 EM in Battalion Motor Shop
2. Journalism. Closed

c. Projects completed, in progress, and projected. None

d. Summary: Due to processing and redeployment to the Interior, schools have been closed. However, Orientation and Information is carried on and is being projected up to departure from here. Discussions are held as per Battalion Schedule and current topics are introduced for discussion. All batteries have I & E Officer and NCO who conduct Orientation and Information Programs.

VIII. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES BATTALION SURGEON

a. Health of the command.

(1) Environmental Sanitation:

(a) Water Supply

(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 disposed 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 kitchen waste is disposed of by the local drainage system and by sullage pits, such as exist near the "C" Battery kitchen area.

(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 period 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. 234.2

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, Field Artillery
Commanding