

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: 135017
DATE: 2-1-85

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Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

Initials: *RGC*

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
OWN SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Report After.

HEADQUARTERS 161ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 35
US ARMY

12 June 1945

1 June 1945

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Thru Channels)

1. In compliance with the provisions of Par 10 C3, AR 345-105, submitted below is report after action against the enemy for the 161st Field Artillery Battalion covering the period 1-31 May 1945.

May 45

MISSION: Occupation, Security and Government of area assigned by higher echelons.

The battalion was in contact with the enemy along the Elbe River on the 1st and 2nd of May, awaiting contact with the Russians. At 1500 hours, 2nd of May 1945, the battalion was given close station, assemble in battery areas until the order to move.

At 0745, 3d of May, the battalion moved from Angern, Germany to Beedenbostel, Germany, traveled ninety-six (96) miles.

The battalion was assigned an area to occupy, secure and govern in the vicinity of Beedenbostel, Germany. The battalion area was divided and an area assigned to each battery. Each battery established road patrols, road blocks, and guarded critical installations within their areas. The batteries coordinated their responsibilities through the Military Government Office at Battalion Headquarters. Each battery made reports daily to battalion headquarters on the number of guards, installations guarded, and routes of patrols or any changes of same. These reports were consolidated and sent to the Military Government Office, 35th Division Artillery daily.

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The battalion was relieved in the Beedenbostel area near Hannover by a field artillery group of the XIII Corps at 1300 hours 7th of May 1945.

After being relieved, the battalion took over an area southeast of Hannover, near Bodenwerder, Germany. The battalion area was divided into battery areas for occupation, security, and government. The battalion area had displaced persons and PW camps, road patrols, and critical installations. A saw mill in Battery "A" area was under guard as a critical installation. A hospital with an SS trooper as a patient, and a safe with Nazi party records were also under guard. All Western Europeans were evacuated.

The athletic program was started in the Hannover, Germany area with soft ball games in the battery areas which later developed into competitive games between battery and also between officers and enlisted men.

The battalion was relieved in the Bodenwerder, Germany sector at 0900, 17th of May 1945. The battalion moved from Bodenwerder, Germany to Ludinghausen, Germany.

The battalion area, assigned by higher echelons was again divided into battery areas. Each battery commander was responsible for his assigned area. The battalion area had five (5) PW and DP Camps within its boundary. The PW's were fed Army "B" rations and the DP's were fed locally by the German civilians. The batteries reported any changes in

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the number of PW's to the battalion, which in turn reported the consolidated change to the Military Government Office, 35th Division Artillery. Changes were also reported to Battalion Supply, the source from which the rations for the PW's are drawn.

Bands of displaced persons were in the area, causing some difficulties among the German civilians and installations guarded by this unit. Increased patrols and guards overcame these obstacles.

The athletic program has spread to include scheduled games of soft ball between batteries as well as games with elements of the 95th Infantry Division.

The I and E officer of the battalion is vigorously preparing for the I and E program. All preparations are up to date according to schedule. The I and E officer has a battalion file on every officer and enlisted man in the unit. The classes they have attended and the future classes to be attended. Two (2) instructor courses have been completed. Three (3) reinforcements.

Myron A Funk
MYRON A FUNK
Major, FA
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DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE
15 APR 76
16 July 76