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S E C R E T
HISTORICAL REPORT (REPORT AFTER ACTION)
OF
725TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
FOR
1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945

At the opening of the period the Battalion disposed as shown on overlay #1. The mission assigned was the maintenance of law and order, patrolling, and the guarding of vital installations in the area. The policy in carrying out this mission was as follows:

Our area of responsibility was divided into five smaller areas, each with one town in it. A battery was bivouaced in each town, and the battery Commanders became Town Commanders with the responsibility of mission mentioned above in his area. Battery Commanders dealt with civilians only through the Burgermeister of his town. Very close liaison maintained within Military Government officials, and they were consulted on all problems. Civilians who were suspected of being German soldiers Nazi officials or Gestapo agents were screened and turned over to Military Police, Military Government or CIC depending on the status of the suspect.

On 11 April, the Battalion moved to a new location in the vicinity of Flonheim, Germany (Overlay #2). Here, instead of only one town in each battery's area of responsibility, there were approximately six, and each Battery Copimander dealt with six Burgermeisters. Our mission remained unchanged. It was in this new locale the Battalion got a close-up view of the "unbeatable supermen" of the German army. Now, however, they were referred to merely as PW's. The Battalion was called on to furnish 100 men to assist in guarding a PWI enclosure near Eckelsheim where 50,000 were confined. Our men emplaced and manned machine guns around the outside of the enclosure, and had the mission of discouraging any prospective escapes. This mission was effectively accomplished. It was necessary to shoot two men attempting to escape. They had refused to halt after being challenged. Every type of man was represented in the camp. They ranged in age from 14 to 65 years. They were a dirty, beaten, wornout mass of humanity, and anything but the highly touted Hitler-Goebels master race.

When the Battalion moved again on 19 April it again took over a still larger area of responsibility. (Overlay #3) where each battery had six towns in the last position, here they had 20. All told there were 84 towns in the area. This was the first time too when large stores of enemy equipment were located and guarded. This equipment ranged from airplane motors and and partially destroyed gliders to thermometers.

Because of the size of this area good use was of our liaison planes in patrolling and in seeking hidden stores of equipment. This patrol was inaugurated in conjunction with an air observers school which was being conducted at that by the Battalion.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery broke a long standing precedent when the battery established itself in the massive house of countess in Assenheim, Germany. As the countess moved out, she remarked that this was the first night in over 400 years that a member of the family had not occupied the house.

Particular emphasis was placed on the rounding up of prisoners in this area. From 21 April until the end of the month 592 Prisoners of war were apprehended and delivered to the Division cage.

Throughout the period the Battalion conducted training and maintained it's equipment, hoping, that the opportunity to perform in combat would come again.

There were no battle casualties, awards or decorations or promotions of officers.

TRANSFERS

Major James W. Walters - from Hq 725th FA Bn to Hq Div Arty - 13 Apr 45

Major John F. Larrick - from Hq Div Arty to Hq 725th FA Bn - 13 Apr 45

Capt. William R. Hughes - from 882 FA Bn to Hq 725th FA Bn - 23 Apr 45

1st Lt. Walter W. Geister - from "C" Btry to Hq Btry - 3 Apr 45

1st Lt. George R. McConnell - from Hq. Btry to Hq Div Arty - 1 Apr 45

1st Lt. Stanley T Hoversten - from "A" Btry to Hq. Btry - 3 Apr 45