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S E C R E T  
HISTORICAL REPORT ( REPORT AFTER ACTION )  
OF  
725TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
FOR  
1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945

Although the end of May saw the end of the war in Europe, it brought little change in the mission of the 725th Field Artillery Battalion. The mission, which has been the same since 20 March 1945 when we fired our last round, was the guarding, policies and patrolling of an assigned area. Besides this security assignment, the Battalion followed the training schedule which emphasized gunners examinations and physical conditioning. Battery firing tests in connection with service practice have been conducted at least once each week. The sports program inaugurated in the Battalion has been enthusiastically received by all personnel. As this is written, "A" Battery and "B" Battery are running one-two for the Division Artillery softball championship. Interest in the athletic program has from time to time been stimulated by the awarding of choice bottles of "stimulants" to the winners of the various contests.

During the week of 7 May, a ballot was taken in each battery to determine the best all-around soldier in each battery. Only enlisted members of the units were entitled to vote. Winners of these elections were:

Hq. Btry - Pvt. John Despot  
"A" Btry - S/Sgt Frank Sanchez  
"B" Btry - Cpl. Earl E. Collins  
"C" Btry - Pfc. Harold Potter  
SV Btry - S/Sgt Wayne F. Jackson

and these outstanding individuals were recipients of Zippo lighters presented by the Battalion Commander.

On the first of May, the Battalion was disposed as shown on overlay No. 1. A few days later, the Battalion moved to positions in the vicinity of Munnerstadt, Germany (overlay No. 2). While in this area, the Battalion assumed responsibility for the guarding and administration of a large displaced persons camp at Bad Kissingen, Germany. There, large numbers of Poles, Russians, French and Belgians were housed and fed, and arrangements made for their transportation to other displaced persons-centers nearer their homes.

On 9 May 1945, the Battalion moved to positions shown on overlay no. 3 where the Battalion CP was established at Schluchtern, Germany. Two nights were spent in these positions, then another short move was made on 11 May 1945 to positions shown on overlay No. 4. The Battalion CP this time being located at Bad Soden, Germany. Approximately three weeks later, on 30 May, due to a number of troops moving into our area, it was necessary to the Battalion CP to Bad Orb, Germany. The area of responsibility for the Battalion until the end of the period remained substantially the same. The exception is shown on overlay No. 4a.

On 15 May 1945, the Battalion was assigned the mission of readying the famous German prison camp, Stalag 9B at Bad Orb, Germany for the reception of German Prisoners of War. The filth of this former Allied PW enclosure was detestable. German civilians, under the supervision of our own officers, were put to work cleaning the camp. At the end of the period, no prisoners had been received although the stockade was ready for business.

Billets for the Battalion throughout the period were very adequate and comfortable. Wherever possible, public buildings such as vacated hotels and school buildings were used for the housing of our personnel.

The two most fortunate individuals in the Battalion were S/Sgt Sam L. Collins, Sv battery and Sgt. Lewis J. DiPlacido, "A" Battery who were given furloughs back to the United States. Lady luck smiled on twenty-one other individuals who were selected to fill quotas for rest camps at such places as United Kingdom, Riviera and Paris.

A colorful retreat parade was held 28 May 1945 at Bad Soden, Germany, at which ceremony 1st Lt. Nelson F. Hermance, Jr. and 1st Lt. Gerald L. Hover, Battalion Liaison Pilots, were each awarded the Air Medal.

There were no battle casualties or promotions of officers.

#### TRANSFERS

Capt. William R. Hughes from Hq 725th FA Bn to 274th Inf. 26 May 45  
1st Lt. Chester G. Wilkerson from Hq. Btry to "C" Btry 1 May 45  
1st Lt. Marlow P. Burgy from Sv Btry to Hq Btry 10 May 45  
1st Lt. Marlow P. Burgy from Hq Btry to "B" Btry 22 May 45  
1st Lt. Victor H. Marchi from Hq 725th FA Bn to Div Arty