

HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts

January 13, 1943

GENERAL ORDERS:

NO. 1:

155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION ALERT PLAN

References: TM 86, 36 Inf. Div., November 4, 1942; Loading Plan 155th F. A. Battalion; TM 2, 36 Inf Div., January 4, 1943.

1. Objective: This Battalion will be prepared at all times to take the field in an emergency.

2. Alert Signals:

a. The Division Artillery Commander will notify the 155th F. A. Battalion that an alert has been sounded.

b. Batteries will be notified by telephone and messenger.

3. The alert contemplates an eventual return to the same camp area.

4. Action on Signal: When a general alert has been sounded the following immediate action will be taken:

a. Battalion Commander will report to Division Artillery Headquarters for further instructions.

b. Battery Commanders will report to Battalion Headquarters for further instructions.

c. First Sergeants will assemble batteries in battery areas and stand by for alert orders.

d. All absent personnel will be notified by Personnel Officer to rejoin units at once.

5. Equipment and Clothing: Full T/BA Field Equipment and clothing will be taken. All section T/BA.

6. Uniform: Field Service, W/full field, W/gas mask.

7. Rations: One (1) days rations beginning with breakfast the day following the alert will be carried. Mess Sergeants will have boxes for the packing of rations.

8. Rear Detachment and Guard: The following will remain at Camp Edwards, as a rear detachment and guard:

a. One (1) Officer for the Battalion, who will be designated at the time of the alert.

b. One (1) non-commissioned officer from Headquarters Battery familiar with records.

c. One (1) non-commissioned officer from each battery familiar with supply.

d. One (1) non-commissioned officer from Service Battery in charge of Battalion Warehouse.

e. One (1) man for each barracks building, from organization occupying building to form battalion guard.

f. One cook from Headquarters Battery to operate rear detachment mess in Headquarters Battery Mess hall.

g. One 3/4 ton truck will be left by Service Battery.

h. One days ration per individual assigned to Rear Detachment.

9. Property:

a. In general, all property which is not taken will be left in its normal place of use or storage with due regard to its safety.

b. Personal belongings of enlisted men and clothing in excess of T/BA will be placed in barracks bags and tagged with individual's name, rank and serial number. Barracks bags will be stacked on floor near front door of barracks to which men are now assigned.

c. Individual property, personal and government of men sick in hospital, men on furlough, prisoners awaiting trial by General Courts Martial and others who may be expected to rejoin their organizations in the field, will be left in charge of battery supply guard. This equipment will be delivered to the individual upon his return.

d. Buildings will be scrupulously policed, furnaces cleaned, water cut off and pipes and boilers drained, and buildings locked. The senior non-commissioned officer occupying each barracks is responsible that these orders are carried out and will secure and tag keys with building number and deliver them to Officer in charge of rear detachment.

e. Officers equipment and lockers will be stored in Building 1445.

f. Property list for each building will be prepared in six copies for each building. One copy will be posted in the building and the others delivered to the Officer in Charge of rear detachment for delivery to Custodial Officer.

g. Mess Sergeants will be responsible for policing, checking, preparing property lists and turning in keys for mess halls.

10. Records:

a. Strength return will be made by Personnel Officer to the Division Adjutant General, as soon as possible after the alert signal has been given. The report will include the number of Officers, Warrant Officers and enlisted men and number and types of vehicles to depart with battalion.

b. Service Records and allied papers of enlisted personnel left behind, will be indorsed by Personnel Officer to Commanding Officer, Rear Detachment, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, and delivered to Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division. Receipts in triplicate will be taken for these records.

The men left behind are not the same for all types of alerts, nor under all possible modifications, but in order to facilitate prompt turning over, records listed below will be completed correctly for all men who may be left behind. These include all men who are sick in hospital, in confinement, on special duty, on furlough, or selected to remain with Rear Detachment. The records will be completed on mimeograph forms and on the Original FD AGO Form 33, together with Service Records of men in question. These records will then be filed in a separate file. When the status of an individual changes to where he is no longer liable to remain behind, these temporary mimeograph records may be destroyed and the Service Record returned to the usual file.

(1) Service Record Indorsement. This will be addressed to Commanding Officer, Rear Detachment, altered to indicate the soldier's status, and completed to show character and efficiency rating.

(2) Extract from Service Record WD AGO Form 25 will be completed.

(3) True copies of Forms 32 and 33 for men left behind will be prepared and certified by the Supply Officer of each battery. True copies will be filed in the unit files. The original of forms 32 and 33 will be delivered to the Personnel Officer.

# 11. Priority of Action:

a. Notification of individuals in public places in vicinity of Camp Edwards by Military Police. Individuals living off the post will be notified by their units by telephone or telegraph. Official messages when necessary.

b. Preparation of personal property and equipment. All individuals will prepare their equipment and property and report back to their sections as soon as possible with full field equipment not later than Alert plus thirty (30) minutes.

c. Organizational Property will be loaded as soon as trucks report by sections - personnel will report to truck and section chief will report to Battery Commander when section is "Completely Alerted". Vehicles will assume positions in column as shown in current 155th P. A. Battalion Motor Vehicle Movement Assignment Table.

d. Battalion Staff Officers will report to Battalion Headquarters to receive additional instructions at Alert plus thirty (30) minutes.

e. Batteries will report number of Officers, Warrant Officers, and men leaving with organization and names and serial numbers of individuals remaining behind to Battalion Headquarters.

f. Battalion Adjutant will send guard to 1400-1500 Block Guard House to obtain prisoners to be returned to units.

g. Personnel Officer will prepare telegrams to personnel on leave ordering them to report for duty at once. Obtain strength reports and prepare special roster and returns.

h. Battalion Ammunition Officer will draw from Ammunition Dump ammunition load authorized by Division Ammunition Officer for specific alert. He will call on battery ammunition trains for additional vehicles, if required to have authorized load. Small arms ammunition on hand will be distributed to batteries and carried by units.

i. Battalion Supply Officer will have an inventory made of surplus food above one days ration for the purpose of turning in to Division Quartermaster.

j. Battalion Commander will notify Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery as soon as Battalion is "Completely Alerted".

## 12. Miscellaneous:

a. Prisoners at work will be returned to Block Guard House. Prisoners and non-sentenced prisoners awaiting trial for minor offenses will be released to units.

b. Military vehicles will be released to organizations at once.

c. Camp, post and station property will be handled as follows:

(1) Cots, mattresses, pillows, sheets, pillow cases, bed sacks, comforters, chairs, tables, and other property in barracks will be stacked and stored in barracks to which they are charged. Small equipment, such as light bulbs will be boxed. Equipment issued Officers will be stored in day room on first floor of Building 1411 and room will be locked. Headquarters Battery will furnish a non-commissioned officer and each battery will furnish one man to report to Capt. William D. Waldrop at Bldg. 1411 at Alert plus thirty (30) minutes to accomplish this.

(2) Other organizational equipment will be stored in supply rooms and Battalion Headquarters Building - list of materials left in these buildings will be prepared and submitted as in 9, f. above.

d. Motor Vehicle Movement Loading Plans will be kept up to date at all times and reassignment of individuals and equipment effected in compliance with any subsequent changes in T/BA or TO's for this Battalion.

e. Battery Commanders will prepare and keep up to date detailed Alert Plans for their respective batteries. All Officers and "Key" enlisted men will be assigned functions and will be thoroughly familiarized with their duties under the Unit Plan. Check lists will be prepared for each Battery Officer and enlisted man charged with a Particular Alert Duty - Copies of Battery Alert Plan, truck loading schedule, and check lists will be submitted to this Headquarters--

By Order of Lieutenant Colonel McMURRAY:

JAMES E. TAYLOR  
Major, F. A.  
S-3

OFFICIAL:





BATTERY "B" 155 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
CAMP EDWARDS, MASS.

A LERT SOUNDED

1. Battery CO reports to Bn Hq for information
2. First sergeant forms Battery in Btry area and stands by for orders
3. All absent personnel will rejoin units at once
4. After receiving alert orders :
  - a. Uniforms-Field service w. Full field, w/Gas mask
  - b. Equipment-Full T/BA clothes and equipment will be taken, nothing
  - c. Sectional T/BA equipment
  - d. Rations : One full day's rations beginning with breakfast the following will be carried.
5. First Sgt will be responsible for Rear Det and Guard to be left at Camp Edwards
  - a. 1 non commissioned officer for supply
  - b. 1 man for each Barracks building for Guard
  - c. 1 day's rations per individual assigned to RD
  - d. Names and serial no's of men remaining behind
6. Supply Sgt Schultz will be responsible for property to be left behind
  - a. General property will be left in normal place of use or storage, safety and storage being considered
  - b. Camp, post and Station property to be stored and stacked in bldg to which they are charged. Small articles boxed.
  - c. Lists of materials left in each place. 3 copies of each bldg 1 reported on bldg and 5 delivered to Officer in charge of RD
  - d. Temporary records of Forms 32 and 33 for men absent or left behind to be made and left with RD
7. Mess Sgt Oates will be responsible for :
  - a. Policing mess hall, check in property, preparing property lists & turning in keys to mess hall.
  - b. Getting equipment and rations loaded into his truck

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8. Chief of Detail Dameron responsible for :

a. All men in Barracks 1505 that they have their personal equipment alerted and ready to be loaded,

b. Storing of personal equipment to be left behind in bldg 1508  
Each mans property will be placed in a barracks bag, tagged and carried to 1508

c. Policing of Btrys part of that bldg, stacking of post property,  
etc

d. Clearing bldg of personnel and equipment

9. Chief of Section S/Sgt Hollub responsible for :

a. All men in bldg 1508 same as 8a above

b. Same as 8b above

c. Same as 8c above

d. That all furnaces are cleaned out, water cut off and boilers drained in 1508

e. Clearing bldg of personnel and equipment

10. Motor Sgt Rethrook responsible for :

a. Sections equipment and property being alerted

b. Having drivers to dispatch vehicles promptly after receiving  
order

c. Necessary fuel and supplies for motors.

11. All Section chiefs responsible for :

a. Respective sectional personnel and property That the correct T/BA property and equipment is packed, the right uniform worn, etc

b. Personnel ready to clear bldg in a minimum of time, ready to load Sectional equipment

c. Loading Sectional equipment

d. Reporting to Chief of Sections when ready to move

12. A ll corporals responsible for their respective squads or platoons as authorized above

13. All others, for individual equipment and clothing. General policing of area

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14. After all personal equipment and clothing, etc are properly taken care of all personnel not designated to do something else will report to Section chief for purpose of loading Sect. equipment
15. When a Section has been completely alerted the Section chief will report to Btry Exec or 1st Sgt and the vehicle will take designated place in column
16. Not over 30 minutes should be taken in getting personal clothing and equipment alerted, packed and stored
17. The Battery clerk will be responsible for all records kept at Personnel Office and extracts to be made therefrom and left behind
18. Chief of 5th Section will be charged with all ammunition issued to Btry at alert
19. Btry Supply Officer will inventory all surplus food above 1 days ration for the purpose of turning in to the Div QM
20. Battery CO will notify Bn CO as soon as Btry is completely alerted
21. All Officers in General Suspension SUPERVISION.

BA TTRY "B" 155 FIELD ARTILLERY BN.  
CA MP EDWARDS, MA SS.

Jan. 19, 1943.

Subject : Men to be Left Behind on Alert  
To : Personnel Section, 155 F.A. Bn.

The following named men are to be left behind in Btry.  
"B" Area when the Battalion is alerted :

1. Supply-Cpl. Deaton, B.B., ASN 20816432

2. Guards of Barracks Bldg.

a. Pvt. Boyd, Fred W., ASN 35130405 Bldg 1508.

b. ~~Pvt. Keegan, John B., ASN 32238525~~

*Robert E. Cusmer*

Robert E. Cusmer  
1st Lt. 155 F.A. Bn.  
Comdg. Btry. "B"

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HEADQUARTERS, 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION

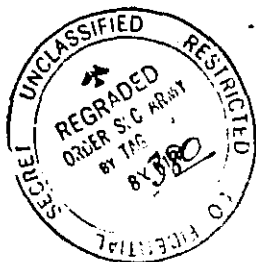
APO 36, U. S. ARMY

OPERATION "AVALANCHE"

9 - 21 SEPTEMBER 1943

ANNEX #13

155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION




*Regina Coldif 25 July*

*17775  
Master*

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NNO 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-92

  
SECRET:  
AUTH: CG 36 Div Arty  
INITIALS:  
DATE: 27 September 1943

OPERATION - "AVALANCHE"

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THE INVASION OF ITALY

A history of the actions of the 155th Field  
Artillery Battalion during the landing of the  
36th Infantry Division on the shores of Italy,  
and the subsequent establishment of a beach-  
head in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy.

OPERATION - "AVALANCHE"

While an endless rain of bombs, falling in almost saturation point intensity was devastating communications and military installations from Sapri to Milan and from Taranto to Rome, the Fifth Army in Africa was dressing down the last rough spots in its highly trained invasion forces. In the forefront of these forces was the T-for-Texas Thirty-Sixth Division. Long in preparation for just such an operation, General Walker's 36th Infantry Division had spent the last few months in Invasion and Battle Training in various sectors of the huge Fifth Army Training areas in North Africa. One Unit of that Division, the 155th Field Artillery Battalion, presently under the command of Major Thomas T. Atkins of Hampton, Virginia, had conducted service practice and maneuvers from Bedeau in Algeria to Port Lyautey in French Morocco, and back to Mostaganema, Algeria. Our history is concerned with the experiences of this unit.

On August 27, the first units of the Division began loading its large numbers of waterproofed vehicles and radios, guns and crates on the vast flotilla which was waiting for the time to sail. The masses of plans and loading charts involved in such an undertaking kept staff and battery officers busy right up to the moment of embarkation, and it was not until the evening of 3 September that the entire 155th Field Artillery Battalion was loaded and battened down, ready for the hop to Salerno.

On the morning of 3 September, the men of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion, after their overland trip from Port Aux Poulas, Algeria to Oran and Mers El-Kebir, were put aboard the following ships:

U.S.S. Andromeda-One Officer and nineteen enlisted men.

U.S.A.T. Funston-Three Officers and ninety-two enlisted men.

U.S.A.T. Stanton-Twenty Officers and one hundred and twenty-seven enlisted men.

U.S.S. Procyon -Ten enlisted men.

U.S.S. Barnett -Two enlisted men.

3 British LST's -Seven Officers and two hundred and eight enlisted men.

The balance of two officers and one hundred and seventeen enlisted men were left at Oran and Algiers to arrive in Italy on D plus 7 and D plus 12. The entire loading plan for the Battalion Staff and Headquarters Battery had to be revised at the last minute because of limited capacities of certain boats, and it was not until the morning of 3 September that the above loading plan was completed.

The Battalion loaded under a limited vehicle and installation plan, allowing only for the absolute minimum of equipment consistent with operations for a short period. The firing batteries were equipped with 2 1/4-T C&R, 4 4-T Prime Movers, 4 2-1/2-T Cargos and 4 155mm Howitzers each. Their communications equipment included 5 miles of W-130 wire, 3 miles of W-110 wire, 10 KE-8-A telephones and 3 SCR-610 Radios each. Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Battery travelled in 2 3/4-T C&R, 3 1/4-T C&R, and 2 3/4-T Weapons Carriers. This transportation carried one Sirdrop BD-71, 20 miles of wire, 10 KE-8-A telephones, the Battalion Radio Section with 4 radios and 5 men, the Battalion Instrument and Survey Section with Transit and 2 men, Fire Direction Center with their Fire Control Tables and 7 men, and 12 officers and 104 enlisted men. Service Battery travelled with 1 4-T Wrecker. This equip-

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ment, representing only a fraction of the normal organizational transportation and equipment, was destined to carry the battalion through the critical landing phase, and the subsequent securing of the Salerno beach-head.

Life on the boats, although crowded somewhat beyond the intimacy stage, was quiet and uneventful. This quiet, however, was made electric by an undercurrent of anticipation, by an increasing sense of the approach of the landing day. The daily routine of police and general quarters, fire alarms and boat stations practice was always alive with the feeling that perhaps this time, the alarm was the real thing. The slightly helpless feeling that always comes to a soldier on a boat, where he is merely a passenger, not knowing where he is going nor by what route, nor when he will arrive - whether the enemy is close by or a thousand miles away - came also to the men of the 155th; but an imbred sense of faith in the Navy saved the sensation from being one of apprehension, and made it instead a vitalizing sense of excitement. The great, horizon-to-horizon convoy was almost as intimate a group of units as an ordinary bivouac area.

The days slipped by, sometimes unknown crags of islands standing off to the port, sometimes the mainland of all too familiar Africa on the starboard. Bizerte, with its ruined port and its thousand ships slipped by late one afternoon. A day later the north coast of Sicily, with Palermo in its protective ring of hills, silently watched the progress of the fateful convoy.

As the day drew nearer, the tension mounted - becoming a thing that could almost be felt between the men. Conversation was studiously casual; the routine went on as if it were an end in itself.

Suddenly, without warning, on the evening of 8 September, the loud speaker announced the surrender of Italy and the capitulation of Badoglio's Government. First there was a moment of silence, then great cheers and whistles broke out. The tension was gone. In its place, some had a feeling of let-down and anti-climax, but a few moments of sober reflection made it perfectly clear that although the Italians had given up, there were still great German forces in Italy, and that the fighting would be, if anything, stiffer than ever.

The celebrating quieted down. Routine took over. The ship was darkened, and the boat team commanders began their final preparation to unload the troops. With silent, deadly efficiency, the last rehearsals were run through - the last inspections were made. Instructions were issued in subdued voices. Orders were carried out by the precision-trained teams, and when, finally the time came for lowering over the sides, everything was in readiness. Out of the oppressive silence of whispers and running feet and creaking winches, the first boat's motor roared to life and a phosphorescent wake glittered as the tiny craft reared away to its rendezvous area. From then on, the night was alive with the sputtering of new motors, with orders shouted in hoarse voices, with the constant moving of troops up the hatchways and down over the landing nets.

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Shortly after 0200 hours, 9 September 1943, the cruisers and destroyers opened fire on the beaches. The night sky which had been so dark was now aflame. German planes came over immediately; the sky was laced with the startling red pattern of anti-aircraft fire. Huge flares, dropped by the enemy planes, seemed to stand in the air and shine with constantly increasing brilliance, lighting up the entire beach and the ships out in the bay. A few minutes later, the first wave of landing craft swept up to the beaches and the long-promised invasion began.

The various batteries of the 155th began unloading from their different ships. Since the original personnel loading plan had been changed subsequent to the loading of the vehicles, the Battalion Staff and Operations Section and "C" Battery Command Group had to be transferred at midnight from the U.S.A.T. Stanton to the U.S.S. Andromeda where their vehicles and equipment were. "A" Battery Command Group were transferred to the Barnett. At the same time our Infantry were advancing on Altavilla from the West. While in liaison with this force, Lt. Koscielski was wounded by shell fragments and evacuated to a rear area. The first group arrived on Red Beach (see map) at 1145, under heavy enemy fire. The assembling of the Battalion was not completed until 2000 hours. The first battery to get assembled after reaching the beach was "B" Battery, commanded by Captain August C. Moser Jr., which went into position in the vicinity of Paestum at 1400 hours. "A" Battery, commanded by Captain Lawrence D. Gilmer, was in position at 2000. The Battalion CP's were in position and reporting at 1415 and the Battalion CP was placed in position (85,300-03,400 Rocca Daspadie, 1/50,000) at 1815 hours. This area, occupied on the first day, was near the ancient walled city of Paestum. All communication were immediately installed; fire direction center was put into operation; observers went forward; survey was initiated; and the Battalion, less "C" Battery was ready to deliver its decisive and destructive fire by 0430 hours, 10 September.

On 10 September, shortly after daylight, "A" and "B" Batteries, having registered on a common base point, fired a concentration of 38 rounds on a Cross Roads near Albanella, using map data. The effects of this concentration on enemy vehicles and troops could not be observed. At 0910 hours, "C" Battery commanded by Captain William D. Waldrop, pulled in, immediately dropped trails and entered the firing.

During the morning, Colonel Thomas J. Shryock, Executive Officer, 36th Division Artillery, arrived at the Battalion CP and directed that a Battalion concentration be placed on the mountain city of Albanella. Observers reported that the 83 round concentration was very effective on enemy emplacements. No other concentrations fired on this date.

Early on the morning of 11 September, the Battalion Commander was ordered to prepare for a forward displacement to the area of Matinella, near the junction of the La Cosa and Calore Rivers (90.00 - 13.010, Campagna Sheet, 1/50,000). at 1000 hours, the Forward Observers were in position and observing. "A", "B", and "C" Batteries were in positions selected by a reconnaissance party consisting of the Battalion S-2, Ass't S-2, Ass't S-3, Communications

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officer and the Battery Commanders.

In the afternoon of this date, Captain Raymond (nmi) Keller, Battalion Ass't S-3 and M/Sgt Walter C. Tucker, Battalion Sergeant-Major, were on a reconnaissance. Having located the position of a large number of enemy troops, scout cars and enemy tanks, and having radioed the information to the Battalion CP, they were returning. On their return trip, following the same road as previously used, their 1/4 ton Jeep struck a land-mine near a blown-out bridge. Sergeant Tucker was killed instantly and Captain Keller was seriously injured. Captain Keller was taken to an aid station and later transferred to a ship for return to a hospital in North Africa. Sgt Tucker was buried in the American Cemetery, Vannella, Italy on 12 September by Chaplain Goldman S. Drury. The writer and thirteen enlisted men served as guard of honor and pall bearers.

At 1400 hours a Battalion Concentration was fired on a group of enemy tanks crossing the Sele River. The forward observer reported that 5 tanks were disabled and the tank column dispersed. On this concentration, 128 rounds were fired.

On the following morning, 12 September, Tank concentrations near two crossings of the Calore River, both above and below Persano were destroyed and dispersed. Troop concentrations between the Sele and Calore Rivers, and in the neighborhood of Alta Villa were fired on, and successful effect was noted on all firing. Four tanks were reported destroyed and the balance dispersed. During the bombing of the beach on this day, machine gunners of the Battalion Motor Shop, situated in Paestum, brought down one confirmed enemy craft, and one unconfirmed. During the bombing, Lt. Kieffer was wounded slightly by shell fragments. After having the wound dressed, he immediately returned to duty. At the same time, T/4 Elton E. Roberts of Service Battery received a shell fragment, but ignored it, carrying on with his duties. It was not until seven days later that, under orders from his Battalion Commander, Sgt. Roberts reported to the hospital for x-ray and treatment.

About 1200 hours, this date, the battalion was ordered to cease firing on Altavilla. Our infantry troops had occupied the city and the situation was well in hand. Later in the afternoon, our forward observers in Altavilla called for fire on that town, saying that our infantry was being forced to withdraw, having fallen under heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. However, it was deemed to hazardous to fire in the area, since it was still occupied by our own troops. Our infantry was forced to withdraw from Altavilla as best they could without the cover of Artillery fire which they so badly needed. Late in the evening, at 1800 hours, after the withdrawal had been completed, Colonel Shryock visited the Battalion CP, and again personally directed our fire. He requested a heavy concentration on Altavilla, Hill 424 to the northeast, and the town of Silentina. The Battalion fired with such effect that great numbers of German dead were found in the streets by our reoccupying troops the following morning.

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At daybreak, 0635 hours, 13 September, firing began with a great number of concentrations on vehicular and track movements between the Sele and Calore Rivers, troop concentrations north of Hill 424, and increased in intensity throughout the day. This Battalion was in direct support of the 2nd Battalion, 143rd Infantry in the Altavilla area. Again, however, the Battalion was ordered to cease fire on Altavilla, and when our infantry was again blasted out of the town by mortar, machine-gun and artillery fire, higher headquarters delayed permission to fire over the heads of our troops until it was too late to help their withdrawal.

At about 1300 hours, Pvt Joe Garcia, "C" Battery, captured a German sniper in his battery area.

Early in the afternoon, 1405 hours, units of the 45th Division Artillery to our left rear became increasingly engaged in countering a large enemy tank attack which was attempting a break through southeast of Persano, where the Calore and Sele Rivers join. Our observers reported large tank concentrations in and around Persano, and far up the Calore River. Heavy fire was delivered by our observers, and the battle developed south of Persano. The Battalion supported the firing of the 158th Field Artillery Battalion by means of the direct wire communications which had been initiated by that unit and our own Battalion. During the afternoon, a platoon of M-10 Tank Destroyers was attached to the Battalion, and was tied in by Survey; but before they could deliver fire in our support, they were withdrawn for another mission. Meanwhile the tank battle was being fought with tremendous concentration of fire from our Battalion and the 45th Division Artillery. The Battalion fired on 2 enemy tank attack missions for the 2nd Battalion, 143rd Infantry and one concentration of enemy armored vehicles. Definite effects were unobtainable, but all attacks were repulsed. The progress of the tank battle presenting a threat to our rear, local anti-tank security in the form of bazookas were disposed along the only possible avenues of tank approach. One battery shifted its position to enable it to fire directly to our rear, should the occasion arise. Large numbers of infantry passing through our position in their retreat from Altavilla were fed and given medical treatment, and then forwarded to their assembly areas for reorganization. By 2000 hours, seventy or eighty infantrymen and our own local security constituted the only line between our forces and the enemy. Precarious as our position appeared, it actually had more advantages than disadvantages. Its location in the river junctions to our left, and the fine hill positions to our front and right made it a highly desirable defensive position which could have been held with a minimum of troops inflicting a maximum of loss on any attacking enemy. Although tanks appeared to be at our rear, they could not possibly have directly attacked our position by reason of the natural barriers imposed by the various river lines to the left, and an impassable gulch along our front. Our rear and left was made secure by the fact that the 45th Division Artillery continued to hold their positions, and eventually repelled the tank attack with large losses to the enemy. Due, however, to the disorganized state of the infantry, higher headquarters decided not to risk loss of their medium artillery, and ordered its withdrawal to positions on the Agnelli farm, a mile and a half northeast of Paestum. While preparing for this withdrawal, an enemy fighter plane, hotly

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chased by one of our pursuit planes passed over the Battalion position, dropped it's bomb, and in the strafing that eventually caused the enemy plane's destruction, Pvt 1cl William A. Barnett, "B" Battery, one infantryman and one man from a Tank Destroyer unit on patrol above our positions were instantly killed. T/4 Norman D. Tucker, "B" Battery and several infantrymen were seriously wounded. The smoke from the bomb, drifting over the CP installations, excited one of the men to the point where he thought he smelled gas; the resulting alarm came near to creating a panic in the midst of the preparations for withdrawal.

The order for withdrawal was received by this Battalion after dark, and the necessary reconnaissance to the new positions was begun immediately. The Batteries were alerted to be ready to march at 2200, head of the column to form at the cross roads in Matinella, with Major Atkins leading. They were ordered to march in the order "A", "B", "C", and Hq. Service Battery, being in a less exposed position, was to move later. After the Battalion had moved to it's new position, two trips were made back to the Matinella area to haul the ammunition and equipment which it had been impossible to carry at first.

The Battalion withdrew from it's Matinella position at 22 hours and was in position on the Agnelli farm, (88-07 Roccaspadre, 1/50,000) at 0300 hours 14 September.

On the morning of 14 September, all batteries were in position and observers were in position or reporting to the new area. Fire immediately was delivered on the highway leading into Persano, interdicting enemy tank movements in that area. During the day of the 14th, fire was delivered on areas ranging from Persano to Altavilla, and during the night, prepared fires from map data were placed on cross roads, bridges, etc., in a wide sector north of the Sele and across into the Altavilla area. During the late afternoon a Battalion concentration was fired on enemy tanks for the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. In all cases tanks or troops dispersed or were driven back. Five concentrations were also fired for the 36th Division Artillery.

During the night, certain units of the 82nd Airborne Division moved into Albanella, accompanied by a liaison officer, Lt. Raymond F. Kent, from this Battalion. These units prepared to move under cover of darkness up the valley to the east of Altavilla, take Hill 424, and eventually the town. Hill 424 was taken according to schedule, but heavy resistance was met in the Altavilla and Silentina area. German agents brought Artillery fire down on various parts of the town by means of prearranged signals from church bells within the town itself. Heavy mortar fire from the ravine North of Altavilla made the situation precarious, and more fire was called for. The observed results from this fire were excellent, several enemy installations being destroyed, including a large ammunition or gasoline dump which was set aflame.

On 15 September, one battalion concentration was fired on tanks in the vicinity south of Altavilla. Seven concentrations were fired for the 36th Division Artillery. Results of these concentrations were not observed. Late in the night, our troops withdrew from Hill 424 and Altavilla and called for heavy fire on Altavilla, Silentina and the ravine north of Altavilla. Our

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Battalion delivered a 90 minute concentration in conjunction with naval units and light battalions on the area, making one of the heaviest artillery concentrations seen thus far in Italy. The fire enabled our troops to re-enter Altavilla the following morning and hold it from further attack.

On 16 September, the forward observer of "C" Battery fired a battalion concentration on enemy gun positions and reported that the battery was neutralized. Seven missions were fired for the 36th Division Artillery on enemy tanks and troops at 1100 hours, with the reported results that the enemy had dispersed and retreated. In the afternoon, 1430 hours, the battalion fired a mission for the 36th Division Artillery on 40 enemy tanks in the area north of Altagilla; reports from this mission state that the area of the tanks was well covered by our fire, but definite results are unknown. Later in the afternoon, 1800 hours, 2 missions were fired by "B" Battery forward observer on enemy batteries, covering the entire area with shell fire. Results unobserved.

The Battalion, remaining in the position at the Agnelli farm on 17 September, fired nine missions for the 36th Division Artillery on enemy troops and positions in the area of Altavilla and along the Calore River. It was while the Battalion was firing on enemy troops for the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion that General Eisenhower and General Clark observed "C" Battery fire. The observed results from this fire were excellent, several enemy installations being destroyed, including a large ammunition or gasoline dump which was set aflame. The rest of the day was spent in sporadic defensive firing, some observed and some from map data.

The Battalion moved to a new position (Roccadaspide, 90.825-08.675, 1/50,000) due east of the Agnelli farm and north of Mount Soprano at 1140 hours, 18 September, after having fired seven harassing missions for 36th Division Artillery.

On 19 September, 0330 hours, Battery "A" was placed on detached service and sent on a secret mission by verbal orders, Commanding General, Fifth Army. The Battalion did not fire on this date, all the time being taken up in cleaning of equipment.

Battery "C" was alerted and left the area at 1520 hours, 20 September by verbal orders, Commanding General, Fifth Army, on a secret mission.

On the morning of 21 September, the Battalion was ordered to move to a Division assembly and training area north east of the junction of the Ia Cosa and Calore Rivers. The Battalion left the old area at 1200 hours and arrived at the new bivouac area by 1500 hours. Here each man is re-equipped and given rest, exercise and training for future operations.

During the entire period from 9 September to this date, every man of the Battalion has put his best into every duty. The morale of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion is as a result of this action, of a very high order; every

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man feels that he and his unit have done a good job, and the organization is in fair fettle to continue the battle whenever and wherever ordered.

*Stanley W. Huth*  
STANLEY W. HUTH  
W.O. (Jg) AUS  
Ass't Adjutant

5 Exhibits.

- Exhibit "A", Casualty List.
- Exhibit "B", Unit Journal.
- Exhibit "C", Report of Firing.
- Exhibit "D", Situation Map & Overlays each Situation.
- Exhibit "E", Firing Chart

LIST OF CASUALTIES DURING THE PERIOD  
9 September to 21 September 1943

1. Captain RAYMOND (NIT) KELLER JR., - Ass't S-3 was seriously wounded on the afternoon of 11 September when the 1/4 ton (Jeep) struck a land mine near a blown out bridge on the Calore River. Captain Keller was returning after having located and radioed information concerning the location of large numbers of enemy troops and tanks.
2. M/Sgt WALTER C. TUCKER, - Battalion Sergeant Major, from Fort Worth, Texas, was instantly killed while driving the 1/4 ton (Jeep), returning with Captain Keller from their dangerous mission.
3. 1st Lt. WALTON M. VINES, - Reconnaissance Officer, "A" Battery, was riding in another vehicle directly behind the one driven by M/Sgt Tucker. Lt. Vines was injured by fragments from the explosion to the extent that first aid was necessary.
4. Cpl. STANLEY R. CASTELLI, - "A" Battery, was riding in the back seat of the vehicle carrying Lt. Vines. Cpl. Castelli received several wounds from the explosion.
5. T/5 WILLIAM A. GIESENBERG, - "A" Battery, driver of Lt. Vines' vehicle received injuries from the same explosion.
6. 1st Lt. CHARLES F. KEIFFER, - Service Battery, was slightly injured by shrapnel during an enemy air raid Paestum, Italy, on 12 September.
7. Pvt 1cl WILLIAM A. BARNETT, - "B" Battery, was killed by enemy strafing near Altavilla 13 September. Pvt 1cl Barnett was on patrol duty on a hill above his Battalion position.
8. T/4 NORMAN D. TUCKER, - "B" Battery, was seriously wounded near Altavilla during an enemy air raid.
9. Pvt 1cl JOHN M. DICKSON, - "C" Battery, was wounded about the chest by shrapnel from an 88mm shell, 13 September.
10. 1st Lt ALBERT (NIT) KOSCIUSKIE, - Battalion Liaison Officer, received wounds in the upper part of right leg from shrapnel on 14 September 1943.

Exhibit "A"

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OPERATIONS IN ITALY, NOVEMBER 1943

On the morning of 21 September 1943 the battalion was ordered to move to a Division Assembly and Training Area north east of the junction of the La Clossa and Clore rivers. The battalion, less "A" and "C" Batterys who were attached to the 1st Ranger Force, left the old area at 1200 hours and arrived at the new area at 1510 hours. In this area, the battalion was re-equipped, given rest, exercise and training for future operations.

While in this area, Batterys "A" and "C" rejoined the battalion from their mission with the 1st Ranger Force and their engagement at Chiunzi Pass, Italy, on 6 October 1943.

On 12 October at 0400 hours, the battalion left the area in the vicinity of Persano, Italy, for the new bivouac area two miles north of Pozzuoli, Italy, arriving at 1430 hours. (See map Italy 1:100,000 - Napoli, Sheet 184) The battalion moved from the Pozzuoli area 7 November 1943 at 1630 hours, arriving in an assembly area one mile west of Villa-Volturno, Italy, at 2030 hours. (See Caserta, Sheet 172 II, Italy 1/50,000)

Major Thomas T. Atkins, the Battalion Commander, left on 14 November at 0730 hours with Captain William D. Caldwell, Assistant S-3, and Battery Commanders, making a reconnaissance of the area occupied by the 9th Field Artillery Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, whose positions were to be taken over and occupied by this battalion. (See overlay No. 1, attached)

16 November: Batterys "B" and "C", under command of Battery Executives, marched from Villa-Volturno at 1900 hours.

17 November: Batterys "B" and "C" arrived at new positions at 0100 hours (see attached overlay No. 2). Both Batterys registered on base point at 0630 hours; missions fired for 9th Field Artillery Battalion. Headquarters Battery, Battery "A" and Service Battery, under command of Major Frank J. Hobbs, Battalion Executive, marched from Villa-Volturno area at 1665 hours, closing on new positions at 2000 hours.

18 November: Battery "A" in position and ready to fire at 0400 hours. Personnel Section joined 36th Infantry Division Rear Echelon one (1) mile North of Marzanello, Italy, at 1630 hours.

19 November: Battalion ordered indirect support of 143rd Infantry at 1445 hours. Fired nine (9) missions and harassing fire, a total of three hundred and sixty-eight (368) rounds. Battery "C" ordered to displace forward to new position after dark (see attached overlay No. 3).

Battery "C" registered at 0900. Battalion fired nineteen (19) missions and harassing fires, a total of five hundred and ninety-four (594) rounds. Headquarters Battery area shelled by artillery; Pvt William G. Miller killed.





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- 21 November: Battalion fired eight (8) missions, a total of two hundred and forty (240) rounds. Battery "C" position shelled by enemy artillery. Pvt 1st Robert E. Ford killed and six (6) men injured by shell fragments. Battery "C" moved from this position to former battery position by order of the Division Commander, due to the close proximity of the battery position to the C.P.s of the 141st and 143rd Infantry Regiments.
- 22 November: Fired seven (7) missions and harassing fires, total of four hundred and thirty-seven (437) rounds. Battery "A" position shelled; direct hit made on 4 ton prime mover loaded with ammunition. No personnel injured.
- 23 November: Fired eleven (11) missions, total of three hundred and twenty-nine rounds; one mission fired by Air OP.
- 24 November: Fired sixteen (16) missions, total of two hundred and seventy-eight (278) rounds. Battery "A" position shelled by enemy artillery fire. Kitchen truck destroyed and powder at one gun position burned. No casualties.
- 25 November: Fired eight (8) missions, total of four hundred and twenty-seven (427) rounds. All Batterys and Battalion C.P. shelled by enemy artillery fire throughout the day. No casualties.
- 26 November: Fired six (6) missions and harassing fires, a total of forty-one (41) rounds. Service Battery area shelled and 1st Lt. (Chaplain) Harley R. McDaniel killed and one (1) enlisted man injured.
- 27 November: Fired three (3) missions and harassing fires, a total of thirty-seven (37) rounds. S/Sgt James R. Stegall, flying a cub of this battalion, adjusted fire on enemy guns for 1st Battalion, 71st Field Artillery Regiment, also for 2nd Battalion of the same regiment, using our radio and wire communications. Battery "A" area shelled, no casualties.
- 28 November: Fired three (3) missions and harassing fires, a total of two hundred and forty-four rounds. Lt. Martin W. Williamson, FO of Battery "C", adjusted fire using II Corps Artillery, results - fires burning one (1) hour later. Lt. William J. Jessup adjusted 131st Field Artillery Battalion on point A-1 from vicinity of Battalion F D C. Lt. Williamson adjusted on enemy artillery for 1st Battalion, 71st Field Artillery Regiment.
- 29 November: Fired thirteen (13) missions and harassing fires, a total of twelve hundred and fifteen (1215) rounds. Lt. Jessup adjusted 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and 68th CAAA on point A-1. Battery "A" and Battalion CP shelled for twenty (20) minutes, necessitating movement of CP by Battalion Executive. One (1)

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enlisted man at CP injured. Direct hit made on wreckage of Battery "A" kitchen truck (truck burned 24 November).

30 November: Eleven (11) missions and harassing fires fired, a total of three hundred and fifty-eight (358) rounds. CP area shelled for twenty (20) minutes, no personnel injured. For situation on this date, see overlay No. 5.

*Stanley W. Huth*  
STANLEY W. HUTH  
W.O. (jg) AUS  
Ass't Adj

5 Exhibits:

Exhibit "A" Casualty List  
Exhibit "B" Officers Roster  
Exhibit "C" Unit Journal  
Exhibit "D" Report of Firing  
Exhibit "E" Maps and Situation overlays

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LIST OF CASUALTIES IN NOVEMBER 1943

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. 1st Lt Harry P. Frantz       | - Battery "C", Executive Officer, was lightly injured as a tow chain broke while winching a gun into position.   |
| 2. T/4 Clarence E. Burkholder   | - Headquarters Battery, fire direction center, was seriously wounded by an enemy shell burst about two (2) miles south of Mignano, Italy.  |
| 3. T/5 Allen G. Nicholes        | - Battery "C", was lightly injured by falling rock.  |
| 4. Pvt George A. Sargent        | - Battery "A", was lightly injured by falling rock.  |
| 5. Pvt Daniel A. Senese         | - Battery "A", was lightly wounded by shell fragments on 20 November 43.   |
| 6. Pvt William G. Miller        | - Headquarters Battery, was instantly killed by enemy artillery shell which burst his side as he was being relieved from guard duty, about one mile south of Mignano, Italy on 20 November 1943. |
| 7. Pvt 1cl Archie W. St. Clair  | - Battery "B", was lightly injured about his head when he fell off a truck while repairing wire communication on 20 November 43.   |
| 8. Pvt 1cl Robert E. Ford       | - Battery "C", was instantly killed as an enemy artillery shell fell upon him as he lay in his foxhole.  |
| 9. Pvt 1cl Roe E. Holliday      | - Battery "C", was lightly wounded by enemy shell fragments while on duty as telephone operator on 21 November 43.   |
| 10. Pvt 1cl John M. Dickson     | - Battery "C", was lightly wounded as an enemy artillery shell burst in the gun position on 21 November 1943.  |
| 11. Pvt Kenneth L. Wright       | - Battery "C", was lightly injured by recoil of howitzer on 21 November 43.  |
| 12. Pvt Clarence (nmi) Jordheim | - Battery "C", was lightly wounded by enemy artillery shell fragments on 21 November 43.   |
| 13. T/5 Leonard W. Charlton     | - Battery "C", was lightly injured by falling rock on 21 November 43.  |
| 14. Pvt Wayne L. Rader          | - Battery "A", was lightly wounded in the legs by shell fragments on 21 November 43.   |
| 15. 1st Lt Ross (nmi) Khan      | - Battery "B", was lightly injured by falling while 1/4 ton truck on 21 Nov 43.  |
| 16. Pvt Jim R. Ard              | - Battery "B", was lightly injured by falling while unloading ammunition.  |
| 17. Cpl Murphy J. LaFargue      | - Battery "B", was lightly wounded by enemy artillery shell fragments on 23 November 43.   |
| 18. Cpl Weldon (nmi) Michay     | - Battery "B", fell down an embankment while leading ammunition truck during the middle of night receiving light injuries on 24 November 43.   |
| 19. Pvt Fred W. Boyd            | - Battery "B", broke his arm while unloading ammunition on 24 November 43.   |
| 20. T/4 Finley L. Saxon         | - Headquarters Battery, lightly wounded by enemy artillery shell fragment in battery area 30 November 43.  |

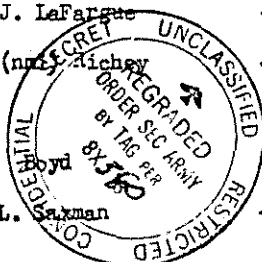


Exhibit "A"

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- 21. Pvt Edward C. Behrens      - Headquarters Battery lightly wounded  
by enemy artillery shell fragment  
while in battery area on 30 November 43.
- 22. Sgt John E. Arrington      - Battery "C", received light wounds  
about his face from shell fragments.

-2-

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NNO 735017

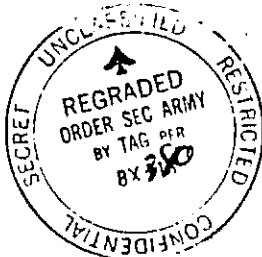
By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-6-92

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, DECEMBER 1943

The Battalion remained in action from 17 November 1943 to 30 December 1943. Operations of the Battalion for the month of November 1943 have been covered in a previous report.

- 01 December 1943: Battalion remained in position (See Map ITALY, 160, II and 161, III and attached overlay # 4) Battalion fired 10 missions, a total of 313 rounds. Batterys "A" and "B" and Battalion CP areas shelled by enemy artillery; no personnel injured or materiel damaged.
- 02 December 1943: Fired 15 missions, a total of 596 rounds.
- 03 December 1943: Fired 26 missions, a total of 1133 rounds. Battery "C" ordered to displace forward (See attached overlay # 4)
- 04 December 1943: Fired 22 missions, a total of 246 rounds (See attached overlay # 5) Battery "C" registered on check-point at 1437 hours.
- 05 December 1943: Fired 25 missions, a total of 786 rounds. Enemy aircraft flew low over Headquarters and Headquarters battery areas, strafing; no casualties. Battalion Air OP attacked by enemy aircraft and forced down; no personnel injured but plane damaged; later, attacked again without damage to plane or personnel injuries.
- 06 December 1943: Fired 33 missions, a total of 720 rounds.
- 07 December 1943: Fired 10 missions, a total of 261 rounds. battery "B" ordered to displace forward (See attached overlay # 6)
- 08 December 1943: Fired 45 missions, a total of 1137 rounds. Battery "A" position shelled by artillery; Pvt 1cl Kenneth J. Schultz, 36174196, wounded. Battalion relieved from direct support 141st Infantry and ordered to direct support of 67 Infantry Motorized Regiment. (Italian)
- 09 December 1943: Fired 9 missions, a total of 971 rounds. (For situation see attached overlay # 7)
- 10 December 1943: Fired 12 missions, a total of 405 rounds. 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson made precision adjustment of one gun on enemy pillbox for 194th Field Artillery Battalion from Battery "C" OP, pillbox destroyed. (For situation, see overlay # 8.)



-1-

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- 11 December 1943: Fired 23 missions, a total of 521 rounds. Battalion position strafed by enemy aircraft; no casualties. 1st Lt. Williamson made precision adjustment on an enemy pillbox for the 77th Field Artillery, 1st Battalion from Battery "C" OP, mission accomplished. (For situation, see overlay # 9)
- 12 December 1943: Fired 12 missions, a total of 945 rounds. Battalion position shelled by artillery; no casualties. (For situation, see overlay # 10)
- 13 December 1943: Fired 11 missions, a total of 298 rounds. Battery "B" position fired upon by artillery, no casualties.
- 14 December 1943: Fired 3 missions, a total of 108 rounds. Enemy aircraft bombed Battalion CP, Headquarters Battery, and Battery "A" areas; 2 enlisted men injured. Battalion relieved of direct support of 67th Infantry of Motorized regiment (Italian) and ordered to reinforce fires of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. (For situation see overlay # 11)
- 15 December 1943: Fired 4 missions, a total of 820 rounds. S/Sgt James R. Stegall (Air OP) observed counter battery mission for 937th Field Artillery Battalion. Battery neutralized, 3 direct hits. Battalion area shelled by artillery; no casualties or damages to materiel.
- 16 December 1943: Fired 7 missions, a total of 266 rounds. S/Sgt Stegall (Air OP) observed counter battery missions for 985th Field Artillery Battalion.
- 17 December 1943: Fired 3 missions, a total of 219 rounds. Observer of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion fired Battalion on counter battery mission; battery neutralized. (For situation see attached overlay # 12.)
- 18 December 1943: Fired 8 missions, a total of 497 rounds. Observer 132nd Field Artillery Battalion fired Battalion on 4 counter battery missions. Fire effective. 1st Lt. Riva S. Fingerhut observed for counter battery mission for 194th Field Artillery Battalion from Battery "A" OP, battery neutralized.
- 19 December 1943: Fired 3 missions, a total of 260 rounds. S/Sgt Stegall (Air OP) observed counter battery mission for 194th Field Artillery Battalion. Fire effective.
- 20 December 1943: Fired 6 missions, a total of 275 rounds. (For situation see attached overlays # 13 and # 14.)
- 21 December 1943: Fired 2 missions, a total of 335 rounds. Battalion ordered to displace to new position.

**RESTRICTED**

-2-

(See overlay # 15) Closed on new position at 1730 hours. Battalion ordered in direct support of the 504th Parachute Regiment.

- 22 December 1943: No firing on this date. Battery "A" ordered to displace forward (See overlay # 15.)
- 23 December 1943: Fired 5 missions, a total of 287 rounds.
- 24 December 1943: Fired 2 missions, a total of 50 rounds.
- 25 December 1943: Fired 6 missions, a total of 258 rounds. S/Sgt Stegall (A's OP) observed counter battery mission for 936th Field Artillery Battalion. Mission Accomplished.
- 26 December 1943: Fired 5 missions, a total of 315 rounds. (For situation see attached overlay # 16.)
- 27 December 1943: No firing on this date.
- 28 December 1943: Fired 17 missions, a total of 476 rounds. Lt Samuel Airov fired counter battery mission for 995th Field Artillery Battalion from Battery "B" OP. Battery neutralized.
- 29 December 1943: Fired 18 missions, a total of 795 rounds.
- 30 December 1943: No firing this date. Battalion ordered to displace to new area. (See attached overlay # 17) Battalion closed in new area at 1810.
- 31 December 1943: Personnel Section left Marzanello, Italy area at 1400 hours and arrived at Battalion new area 2 miles Northwest Alife, Italy at 1645.

**Conclusion:**

- Ammunition** - The quality of the ammunition is very good. As yet powder charges and projectiles are not segregated by lot numbers and weights at dumps.
- Communications** - Telephone and radio equipment proved to be of good quality. Replacements were easily gotten. All faulty communication was due to destruction of wire line enemy shelling or by being run over by heavy vehicles.
- Rations** - Food in the front lines was found to be as good if not better than in rear areas. The supply of cigarettes adequate and it was noted that the popular brands are more prevalent in the front lines than at the rear. The candy rations are appreciated. A liquor ration under the supervision of the Battalion Surgeon should be provided.
- Tables of organization** - Provision should be made for battery computers for each firing battery with at least a rating of Technician grade IV for each computer.

**RESTRICTED**

HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.O. No 36, U. S. ARMY

31 December 1943

OFFICER'S ROSTER  
BATTALION STAFF

|                      |          |          |                        |
|----------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|
| MC MURRAY, ROY S.    | Lt. Col. | O-333367 | Unassgd.               |
| ATKINS, THOMAS T.    | Lt. Col. | O-246315 | Bn. Comdr.             |
| HOBBS, FRANK J.      | Major    | O-200955 | Bn. Exec.              |
| FULGHAM, JACK E.     | Capt.    | O-283165 | S - 3                  |
| WALDROP, WILLIAM D.  | Capt.    | O-348140 | Ass't S - 3            |
| DAVIS, FRANK M.      | Capt.    | O-405152 | S - 2                  |
| MOSER, AUGUST C. JR. | Capt.    | O-295013 | Btry C. Prov Pack Btry |
| GILMER, LAWRENCE D.  | Capt.    | O-255409 | Ln. Off.               |
| JESSUP, WILLIAM J.   | 1st Lt.  | O-415050 | Ass't S - 2 (Surv O.)  |

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

|                      |         |           |                |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|----------------|
| EVANS, GERALD E.     | 1st Lt. | O-1165012 | Btry CO        |
| NEWSOM, CLARENCE C.  | 1st Lt. | O-1167141 | Comm. Off.     |
| CHOCKLEY, PHILLIP A. | 2nd Lt. | O-1177238 | Anti-Tank Off. |
| SAM, BEAMAN W.       | 2nd Lt. | O-1171224 | Mtr. Off.      |

"A" BATTERY

|                    |         |           |              |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| BUSH, WILLIAM L.   | Capt.   | O-407530  | Btry CO      |
| VINES, WALTON M.   | 1st Lt. | O-1167256 | Exec. Off.   |
| FINGERHUT, KIVA S. | 1st Lt. | O-1776015 | Reconn. Off. |
| BENT, CHARLES A.   | 1st Lt. | O-1175945 | Mtr. Off.    |

"B" BATTERY

|                     |         |           |                  |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|------------------|
| HAWK, RICHARD B.    | Capt.   | O-415562  | Btry. CO         |
| NOLEN, DONALD E.    | 2nd Lt. | O-1172199 | Exec. Off.       |
| BELL, LEROY L.      | 1st Lt. | O-418651  | Ass't Exec. Off. |
| AIROV, SAMUEL (NMI) | 2nd Lt. | O-1170618 | Mtr. Off.        |

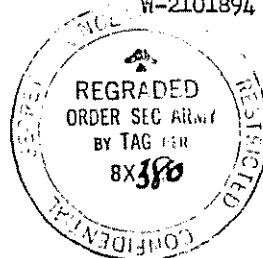
"C" BATTERY

|                       |         |           |                  |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|------------------|
| FRANTZ, HARRY O. JR.  | 1st Lt. | O-404452  | Btry. CO         |
| REYNOLDS, ROBERT E.   | 1st Lt. | O-1167174 | Exec. Off.       |
| KIEFFER, CHARLES F.   | 1st Lt. | O-1171224 | Ass't Exec. Off. |
| KENT, RAYMOND F.      | 1st Lt. | O-1176094 | Reconn. Off.     |
| WILLIAMSON, MARTIN W. | 1st Lt. | O-1166867 | Mtr. Off.        |

SERV. BATTERY

|                       |         |           |                 |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|
| STOBAUGH, WILLARD L.  | Capt.   | O-357196  | Btry. CO        |
| MARTIN, KARL F.       | 2nd Lt. | O-1180599 | Train Comdr.    |
| VINES, RUFUS P.       | 1st Lt. | O-1167257 | Bn. Mtr. Off.   |
| MC CREADY, RICHARD J. | 2nd Lt. | O-1170486 | Btry. Mtr. Off. |

|                    |          |           |             |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| TOOL, CHARLES D.   | Capt.    | O-475899  | Med. Off.   |
| HUTH, STANLEY W.   | W.O.(jg) | W-2108253 | Pers. Off.  |
| JOHNSON, HAROLD E. | C.W.O.   | W-2101894 | Ass't S - 4 |



6 "B"



MOLEN, DONALD E. Asgn to Bn. on 13 December 43 and Asgn to "B" Btry on 1 January 44.

MARTIN, EARL F. Asgn to Bn. on 13 December 43 and Asgn to Serv Btry on 1 January 44.

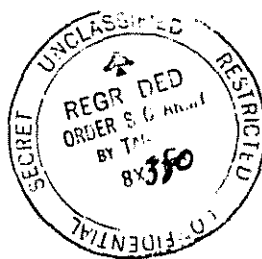
MC CREADY, RICHARD J. Asgn to Bn on 13 December 43 and Asgn to Serv Btry on 1 January 44.

ATKINS, THOMAS T. Promoted to Lt. Col. on 21 December 43.

HAWK, RICHARD B. Promoted to Capt. on 28 December 43.

BELL, LEROY L. from Train Commander to Ass't Exec "B" Btry.

KENT, RAYMOND F. from Bn. Motor Officer to Recon. Officer "C" Btry.



DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-92

Tables of Equipment - Generally the equipment is adequate and of excellent quality. It is felt that all command cars in the Battalion should be replaced by 1/2 ton jeeps. It is also suggested that all 608 radios except two for Battalion Headquarters should be replaced by 610 radios. The two for Battalion Headquarters could be mounted in weapons carriers.

Lights - Some form of lighting equipment should be provided for night operation in the Fire Direction Center and Personnel Section.

Maps - Maps in this sector are accurate (taking in consideration corrections obtained by the engineers) and have proven suitable for firing charts. There has not been a sufficient supply of maps in this organization and at times the supply was almost critical.

Tractor - A caterpillar tractor should be provided in each medium battery to facilitate movement of prime movers and pieces in and out of positions.

Howitzer - The 1918 Schneider Howitzer should be replaced by the M-1 for reasons of the additional range attained thereby.

Training - Training methods and Doctrines as laid down in War Department manuals have proven to be sound.

*Stanley W. Huth*  
STANLEY W. HUTH  
W.O.(J.G.) F.A.  
Ass't. Adj.

6 Exhibits:

- Exhibit "A" Casualty List
- Exhibit "B" Officers Roster
- Exhibit "C" Unit Journal
- Exhibit "D" Air Section Missions
- Exhibit "E" Report of Firing
- Exhibit "F" Maps and Situation Overlays

**RESTRICTED**

LIST OF CASUALTIES IN DECEMBER 1943

1. Pvt Elwood L. Godwin - Battery "B", Cannoneer, was lightly injured when recoil knocked cradle traveling log from its proper position and was struck in the leg.
2. Pvt 1cl Roger A. Gonzales - instantly killed when an enemy 88mm shell landed within 25 yards of his piece while he was on duty. (Phone guard). Battery "B", cannoneer.
3. Sgt. Fred J. Hubbs. - Was lightly injured while moving his gun into position in the dark early morning hours falling into trail ditch injuring his spine. Battery "B", Section Chief.
4. Pvt 1cl John J. Maher - Battery "B", Recorder, was lightly wounded when an enemy shell landed near the exec's post. Wounded in calf of leg which later caused amputation of same.
5. Pvt Gareth L. Huntoon - Battery "B", Cannoneer, was lightly injured while acting as guide for an engineer caterpillar clearing road into position of mud. It was dark and he was caught in between the caterpillar and an oncoming truck.
6. T/5 George S. Yates - Service Battery, had been transferred to his Battalion but due to his duty at an 133rd F.A O.P. had not reported when an enemy artillery shell landed causing his instant death.
7. Cpl Kenneth L. Schultz - Battery "A", Ammunition Cpl, was delivering message to Btry gun position when he was lightly wounded by enemy shell which landed 50 yards from him causing a wound near his right kidney.

ENL "A"

**RESTRICTED**

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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

8 February 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative History of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for  
January 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General  
Washington 25, D. C.  
(Thru Channels)

Submitted herewith History and Records of the Battalion for the month  
of January 1944. The History is written in a narrative form with attached  
copies of Situation Map, Overlays and Firing Charts.

*Thomas T. Atkins*  
THOMAS T. ATKINS  
Lieutenant Colonel, F. A.  
Commanding

1 Incl. - Narrative "January". (Sextuple)

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CANCELED

BY AUTHORITY SECRETARY WAR

CITE DATE 11 May 46

BY *[Signature]* INITIALS *[Signature]*

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155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, JANUARY 1944

The battalion remained in a rest area, near Alife, Italy, from 31 December 1943 to 06 January 1944 inclusive, having been relieved by the 185th Field Artillery Battalion of the 34th Infantry Division on 30 December 1943 ( see Map #1, ITALY, 1/50,000 Sheet 161 II ). During this period a 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery was organized in this battalion, using the anti-tank platoon as a basis. Nine men were drawn from each of the light battalions, each of these battalions turning over two weapon carriers and the two 75 mm pack howitzers previously issued to them. During the rest period this battery was trained in the nomenclature of the weapon, standing gun drill, RSOP and other artillery subjects. An effort was made to secure a range to conduct service practice, but as the battalion was ordered back into action, the battery did not have an opportunity to fire before going into combat.

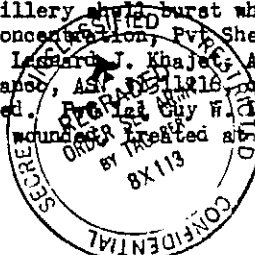
During the early morning hours of 01 January, and continuing throughout most of the day, a severe wind and sleet storm raged over the area, destroying two liaison planes, leveling a number of pyramidal tents and causing slight damages to other organizational property. Beginning late in the day the weather cleared and remained calm throughout the remaining time the battalion spent in this rest area.

On 06 January the Commanding General of Division Artillery directed that the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Thomas T. Atkins and a reconnaissance party, report to the 6th Armored Group at Ceppagna for the purpose of making a reconnaissance for battery positions in the San Pietro area. After returning to the battalion area with his party, Captain Waldrop, Assistant S-3; Captain Gilmer, Liaison Officer; and Lt. Evans, Communications Officer, the Battalion Commander issued orders for movement of the battalion and occupation of positions.

The battalion, less the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery and rear echelon personnel, began movement at 1100 hours on 07 January to positions near San Pietro, closing in this area at 2040 hours this date. (See Map #2, ITALY, 1/50,000 Sheet 161, I, II, III and IV and overlay #1). After positions were occupied, there was intermittent harassing fire on the road near the battalion area. During this shelling 1st Lt. Walton M. Vines, Executive Officer Battery "A" was wounded by a shell fragment in the left wrist and Sergeant Arthur A. Young, ASN 38051398, Battery "C" of Palestine, Texas was killed by enemy artillery shell burst while helping put gun into position. During the same enemy concentration, Pvt. Shelby R. Powell, ASN 35789767 of West Bend, Kentucky, Pvt. 1st Lt. Edward J. Khajet, ASN 38068804, of El Paso, Texas and Private Louis J. Panabianco, ASN 38051316, of Lawrence, Massachusetts, all of Battery "C", were wounded. Private Guy W. Dewey, ASN 36183910, of Kalamazoo, Michigan of Battery "C" was wounded, treated at aid station and then returned to duty.

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- 08 Jan Batteries "A", "B" and "C" completed registration on the base-point at 1046 hours by the Air OP. Pvt 1st Louis J. Deatch, ASN 20816025, Medical Detachment this battalion of San Antonio, Texas, was wounded about his legs from enemy shell fragments when the road near Battery "B" area was fired upon. The Commanding General of Division Artillery ordered the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery attached to the 456 Field Artillery Battalion and the battery moved from the Alife area to a new position near Vanafro, Italy. Seven (7) missions, a total of four hundred and forty-one (441) rounds were fired by the battalion on this day.
- 09 Jan The enemy shelled the road running through the battalion area, during which time Private Douglas (nm) Clinton, ASN 33320602, Medical Detachment this battalion of Jamison, Pennsylvania, was killed by enemy artillery shell explosion. There were twenty-four (24) missions, a total of one thousand and eighty (1080) rounds, fired by the battalion.
- 10 Jan Visibility was poor and only harassing missions were fired. The battalion fired twenty-three (23) missions in all, a total of two hundred and seventy-six rounds.
- 11 Jan Until 1400 hours visibility was zero but cleared and remained good for the remainder of the day. The battalion fired one harassing mission on and in the vicinity of Mount Trocchio and two guns of an enemy battery were neutralized at 1440 hours, fire being directed by the Air OP. The battalion fired two (2) missions, a total of seventy-two (72) rounds.
- 12 Jan Visibility was very limited during the day and only harassing missions were fired, a total of thirty-four missions, four hundred and four (404) rounds.
- 13 Jan As there was very limited visibility from the OP's, the Air OP registered the battalion on the check-point and base-point. The 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery returned to the battalion control and was ordered to a new position area ( see overlay #2 ). Harassing missions were fired by the battalion in the vicinity of Mount Trocchio and twenty-six missions in all, a total of three hundred and twenty-one (321) rounds were fired this day.
- 14 Jan Visibility was poor and only harassing missions were fired. Although the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery had not conducted service practice prior to being brought into combat, it was ready to fire on this day under the control of the Battalion Fire Direction Center. This battery fired three (3) missions, a total of two hundred and eighty rounds, with excellent results; the 155 howitzer batteries fired nineteen (19) missions, a total of one thousand and fifteen (1015) rounds.

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- 15 Jan The battalion fired preparation and accompanying fires for the division attack on Mount Trocchio. The 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery fired four (4) missions, four hundred and seventy-seven (477) rounds and the battalion fired two (2) concentrations, a total of eight hundred and seventeen rounds. On this date the Battalion Executive moved the rear echelon from Alife area to an area near Venafro, leaving Personnel Section near Alife with Division Rear Echelon.
- 16 Jan The Battalion Commander; Lt. Jessup, Survey Officer; and Lt. Evans, Communications Officer; made a reconnaissance for new positions in the Mount Trocchio area. Although visibility was unlimited, no observed targets were picked up. The battalion fired harassing missions on San Angelo. For the day the 75 mm Pack Battery fired three (3) missions, a total of four hundred and twenty-eight (428) rounds and the 155 howitzer had one (1) concentration, six hundred and forty-five rounds expended.
- 17 Jan The battalion began movement to new position area in the vicinity of Mount Trocchio at 1800 hours and closed on new positions at 2330 hours. ( See Overlay #2 ) Prior to the move the battalion fired harassing concentrations on San Angelo. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired three (3) missions, a total of one hundred and twenty (120) rounds and batteries "A", "B" and "C" fired one (1) mission, a total of one hundred and eighty (180) rounds for the day. Our Air OP observed and fired a counterbattery mission for the 985 Field Artillery Battalion with excellent results.
- 18 Jan The battalion Air OP registered "A", "B" and "C" Batteries on the basepoint at 0900 hours and these batteries fired a counterbattery mission for Division Artillery. An enemy battery was neutralized. Lt. Samuel Airov, of Battery "B", from Atlanta, Georgia, was injured on the OP by a personnel mine. The battalion fired harassing missions on San Angelo, Pignataro and San Giorgio. For the day the 75 mm Pack Battery fired five (5) concentrations, a total of four hundred and forty-six rounds and the battalion fired eighteen missions and expended one thousand and eighty-one (1081) rounds.
- 19 Jan Visibility was poor due to haze. Harassing missions were fired on San Giorgio and Pignataro and a serenade was fired on an enemy assembly area and suspected enemy CP. The battalion was ordered to reinforce fires of the 131 Field Artillery Battalion during preparation for the division attack on the Rapido River. Enemy artillery fire near "B" Battery position resulted in no injuries or damages. Pack Battery fired five (5) missions, a total of four hundred and fifty (450) rounds and the three 155 howitzer batteries fired six (6) concentrations, expending three hundred and forty-two (342) rounds.

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- 20 Jan The Commanding General of Division Artillery visited the battalion and looked over the battery positions. The weather for the day was cold but visibility very poor. The battalion fired on nebelwerfer and mortar positions for the British, results of which are unknown. Eight (8) missions were fired by the Pack Battery, a total of four hundred and eighty-six (486) rounds; the battalion fired four (4) concentrations, totaling one thousand three hundred and twenty-five (1325) rounds.
- 21 Jan The battalion fired preparation and accompanying fires for the division attack on the Rapido River. The mission of this battalion was reinforcing the fires of the 131 Field Artillery Battalion. Smoke missions were fired and visibility from our OP's was limited. Unobserved fires were placed on suspected nebelwerfer positions. The Pack Battery fired six (6) concentrations, totaling six hundred and twelve (612) rounds and the battalion fired twenty (20) missions, a total of five hundred (500) rounds.
- 22 Jan The battalion was relieved of reinforcing fires for the 131 Field Artillery Battalion and ordered in general support of the division. Battalion fired preparation and supporting fires for the 141 Infantry Regiment and a smoke-screening mission for bridging the Rapido River. The battalion was restricted, until further notice, to an allowance of twenty-five (25) rounds per gun per day, except in extreme emergency. Pack Battery fired four (4) concentrations, totaling five hundred (500) rounds and the three 155 batteries fired six (6) missions, a total of two hundred and twenty-four (224) rounds.
- 23 Jan The battalion fired a serenade on the San Angelo area. Visibility for the day was poor. The 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery fired counterbattery on a nebelwerfer position, which was neutralized. Two (2) concentrations were fired by the Pack Battery, totaling sixty-three (63) rounds and the battalion fired four (4) missions, expending sixty-six (66) rounds.
- 24 Jan The three 155 batteries fired five counterbattery missions during which an enemy ammunition dump was destroyed. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired a concentration on a nebelwerfer position for the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion. For the day the pack battery fired seven (7) missions, a total of one hundred and fifty-eight (158) rounds, and the battalion fired ten (10) concentrations, totaling one hundred and eighty-seven (187) rounds.
- 25 Jan The Commanding General of Division Artillery visited the installations of the battalion and found them in good order. The Commanding General directed that the Abbey Monte Cassino not be fired upon unless by permission from his headquarters. Objection was raised by the Battalion

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Commander to the Division Artillery Commander concerning limited ammunition and the forestalling of the Battalion Commanders capacity to estimate ammunition expenditures. Also, the Division Ammunition Officer was trying to match projectiles for powder bags, irrespective of charges and that due to the rigidly controlled supply of ammunition it is next to impossible to maintain an adequate supply, without handling during daylight. Enemy anti-aircraft fired on our Air OP without injury to pilot or damage to the plane. Late in the afternoon, the author made a reconnaissance to new Division Rear location in the City of Vairano, Italy. A suitable room was found for the office and all desks moved in. Early the next morning office personnel, under Personnel Sergeant Major Camisa, arrived. During the day the Pack Battery fired eight (8) missions, a total of eight hundred and forty-two (842) rounds and the battalion fired eleven (11) concentrations, totaling one thousand two hundred and fourteen (1214) rounds.

- 26 Jan The Division organized a defensive position along the east bank of the Rapido River with the OPL along the east bank and MTR within its boundaries ( see situation overlay ). This battalion remained in general support of the division and was authorized fifty (50) rounds per gun per day for both the 155 mm howitzers and 75 mm pack howitzers. Excellent visibility on this day made it possible to fire a number of counterbattery missions and interdiction fire on enemy materiel on highway 6. During the night the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery fired harassing concentrations. Earlier, the Air OP observed counterbattery missions on four (4) enemy guns for the 456 Field Artillery Battalion. Pack Battery fired three (3) missions, a total of one hundred and sixty-one (161) rounds and the battalion fired fourteen (14) missions, totaling three hundred and ninety-two (392) rounds.
- 27 Jan The battalion fired on a motor park, setting vehicles afire. Also, the battalion fired two counterbattery missions and fired "A" Battery on enemy vehicles. One truck was destroyed and others damaged. This was all in addition to ordered harassing fires. S/Sgt Stegall, Air OP, observed counterbattery mission for the 194 Field Artillery Battalion. Areas near batteries "B" and "C" were shelled by enemy artillery without any casualties or damages. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired fifteen (15) missions, totaling three hundred and six (306) rounds and the three 155 batteries fired twenty-five (25) concentrations, a total of six hundred and fifty-eight (658) rounds.
- 28 Jan Several targets were interpreted from photographs and coordinates furnished by Division Artillery; all were taken under fire. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired seventeen (17) missions, totaling two hundred and eighty-four (284) rounds and the battalion fired twenty-nine (29) missions, a total of six hundred and five (605) rounds.

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- 29 Jan Due to limited visibility there were only harassing fires on this date. The photo-interpreted targets received from Division Artillery were fired on with zone fire and a reconnaissance flight made this date showed excellent results; two nebelwerfers were knocked out and the remainder made to change positions; a fire started in the bivouac area that lasted all night; in the medium battery, two guns received direct hits and there were two hits in the other two emplacements. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired on enemy mortars with satisfactory results. For the day, the Pack Battery fired twenty-three (23) concentrations, totaling five hundred and forty-two (542) rounds and the battalion fired twenty-eight (28) missions, a total of five hundred and seventy-nine (579) rounds.
- 30 Jan Weather this date was cloudy with very poor visibility. There were scheduled harassing fires only in this period of operations. The battalion ammunition officer was unable to draw ammunition for the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery until they were below basic load of eight hundred (800) rounds. As the requirements for firing this battery this date were six hundred and fifty-six (656) rounds, there was only two hundred and twenty-seven (227) rounds left for emergency fire. This battery fired nine (9) concentrations, totaling three hundred and twenty-two (322) rounds and the battalion fired fourteen (14) missions, a total of three hundred and fifty-four (354) rounds.
- 31 Jan Poor visibility limited ground observation all day. As directed by the Commanding General of Division Artillery, liaison was established with the 2nd Battalion of the 6th Armored Infantry and Captain Waldrop, Assistant S-3 was dispatched as Liaison Officer. This battalion remained in general support of the division attack on the Rapido River and the Battalion Commander issued FO #2 ( attached ). The battalion fired harassing fires during the day and the Pack Howitzer Battery fired on mortars for Division Artillery. The Pack Battery fired nine (9) concentrations, totaling nine hundred and seventy-four (974) rounds for the day and the battalion fired ten (10) missions, a total of two hundred and eighty-two (282) rounds.

*Stanley W. Huth*  
STANLEY W. HUTH  
WOJG, AUS  
Unit Historian

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Exhibit A Casualty List  | Exhibit H Field Orders No. 1 & 2. |
| " B Officers Roster      | " I Firing Charts January         |
| " C Unit Journal         | " J Maps & Situation Overlays     |
| " D Air Section Missions |                                   |
| " E S - 2 Reports        |                                   |
| " F S - 3 Reports        |                                   |
| " G Firing Reports       |                                   |

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~~SECRET~~CONCLUSIONS BY BATTALION COMMANDERTACTICS AND TECHNIQUES

During the period covered by this report, the principles of field artillery, as laid down by current field manuals, were found to be sound. It is believed that more emphasis should be placed on adjustment of artillery fire by precision methods. It is also believed that more training should be given the junior officers in the organization, occupation and operations of artillery OP's. It is further recommended that officer replacements for medium battalions be given training in the nomenclature, care and maintenance of the weapon which is the basic arm of that unit. It has been the experience of this command that officer replacements have no knowledge of the weapon with which they are to work.

PERSONNEL

The replacement of personnel during the period covered by this report was not satisfactory. The efficiency of the battalion was handicapped by lack of officer and enlisted replacements. Specifically, from the personnel standpoint, there follows several recommendations which it is believed would improve the efficiency of this battalion:

- a. FDC - An overstrength should be allowed in the T/O, or an increase provided, in order to allow two shifts to operate in the FDC. At present, FDC personnel are on call twenty-four hours a day. Also, ratings commensurate with the duties should be provided; computers should have at least a rating of Tec. 4.
- b. OP DETAILS - In order to man the OP's properly on a twenty-four hour basis, additional personnel should be authorized.
- c. S-2 SECTION - An S-2 clerk, to assist the S-2, should be authorized with at least a Tec. 4 rating.
- d. AID MEN - Battery aid men, under combat conditions, have far more responsibility and perform a far greater service than is expected of privates. Therefore, in my opinion, at least one of the battery aid men should have a Tec. 4 or Tec. 5 rating.

MATERIEL

All the materiel of this battalion was satisfactory, with the exception of the 155 mm "Schneider" howitzer. It is self-evident that these howitzers

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are wearing out and that a suitable supply of replacement parts is not available. It is apparent that this situation will be improved upon the issue of the 155 M-1 Howitzer, which appears to be imminent. It is believed that the issue of a bulldozer to the battalion would greatly facilitate occupations of position.

SUPPLY

The supply of all classes was adequate and highly satisfactory, with the exception of ammunition. There has been an apparent shortage of powder charges throughout the period covered by this report. First, there was a shortage of white bag powder; lately, we have been unable to secure sufficient green bag powder. This situation seriously restricted the use of this battalion throughout the operation.

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LIST OF CASUALTIES IN JANUARY 1944

1. Sgt Arthur A. Young, ASN 38051398, Battery "C", was fatally wounded on 7 January 1944 at 2300 hours, when an enemy artillery shell burst nearby where Sgt. Young was putting a gun into position about 300 yards south of San Pietro, Italy. Sgt. Young died a few minutes before arriving at a Hospital. Buried in American Cemetery, Marzanello Nuovo, Italy, in Grave 110, Row 10 and Plot H. Entered service from Palestine, Texas.
2. Pvt 1cl Leonard J. Khajet, ASN 38068804, Battery "C", was lightly wounded when he received shell fragments in his left arm and both legs, from an enemy artillery shell burst nearby at 2300 hours 7 January 1944 about 400 yards west of San Pietro, Italy. Entered service from El Paso, Texas.
3. Pvt Louis J. Panebianco, ASN 31311216, Battery "C", was lightly wounded 2300 hours 7 January 1944 about 300 yards west of San Pietro, Italy, when an enemy shell exploded nearby. He was hit by shell fragments in right thigh and both legs. Entered service from Lawrence, Mass.
4. Pvt Shelby R. Powell, ASN 35789767, Battery "C", was lightly wounded in the right hip when he was hit by shell fragments from an enemy artillery shell which exploded nearby at 2300 hours on 7 January 1944 about 300 yards west of San Pietro, Italy. West Bend, Kentucky home address.
5. 1st Lt. Walton M. Vines, O-1167257, Battery "A", was lightly wounded in left wrist by fragment from exploding enemy artillery shell about 2200 hours 7 January 1944, in battery position south west of San Pietro. Entered service from Pinson, Alabama.
6. Cpl James C. Smith, ASN 20816418, Battery "B", was lightly wounded in left leg about 4 inches above ankle. Occured when enemy shell exploded in Battery area about 2350 hour on 7 January 1944 about 500 yards west of San Pietro, Italy. Entered service from Fort Worth, Texas.
7. Pvt Douglas (NMI) Clinton, ASN, 33320602, Medical Detachment, this Battalion was killed in action. Death was caused by enemy shell blast which caved an embankment in on him. Pvt Clinton had been working constantly with the wounded and went to this shelter only after assisting in evacuating wounded, when the blast caused the shelter to cave in. This happened at 2330 hours 9 January 1944 south west of San Pietro, Italy. Pvt Douglas (NMI) Clinton was buried at the American Cemetery, Marzanello Nuova, Grave 6, Plot J on 10 January 1944. Entered service from Jamison, Penna.
8. 2nd Lt. Samuel (NMI) Airov, O-1170618, Battery "B", was lightly wounded on 18 January 1944. Lt. Airov was wounded when he stepped on a personnel mine in going to the observation post early in the morning. His loss was great, due to his capabilities and efficiency as a Battery officer. Entered the service from Atlanta, Georgia.
9. Pvt 1cl Louis J. Deatch, ASN 20816025, Medical Detachment was wounded on 8 January 1944. Pvt 1cl Deatch was with Battery "B" as Battery aidman, when the area was subjected to enemy artillery shell fire, one shell exploding nearby wounding Pvt 1cl Deatch about the legs. He entered the service from San Antonio, Texas.
10. Pvt 1cl Guy W. Dewey, ASN 36183910, Battery "C", was lightly wounded in left wrist by shrapnel about 1500 9 January 1944 when shell exploded in Battery area south west of San Pietro, Italy. Entered service from Kalamazoo, Michigan.

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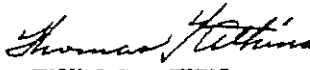
  
HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

10 March 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative History of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for  
February 1944.

TO : Commanding General  
36th Infantry Division  
APO No. 36, U. S. Army

Submitted herewith History and Records of the Battalion for the month of  
February 1944. The History is written in a narrative form with attached copies  
of Situation Map, Overlays and Firing Charts.

  
THOMAS T. ATKINS  
Lieutenant Colonel, F. A.  
Commanding

1 Incl - Narrative "February." (Sextuple)

  
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155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, MARCH 1944

- 01 Feb - Battalion continued operations in the vicinity of Mt. Trocchio as shown on Overlay No. 8, Map - Italy 1/50,000, sheets 160, I, II. Observation Posts unable to observe because of haze and smoke. The 141st Infantry reported the location of an enemy installation and fire was directed with excellent results. The Infantry observer also adjusted fire on enemy dugouts, destroying two. This battalion received targets from photo-interpretations and fired on them with unobserved fire, results undetermined. Other missions fired by this battalion were on suspected enemy batteries, and harassing fires. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C - 568 of HE; Pac Battery - 99 HE.
- 02 Feb - Visibility, good. The Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery visited "C" Battery position. Our Observation Posts were active - firing on enemy tanks, vehicles, nebelwerfer positions and personnel. The Air OP checked the base point registered by each battery. 141st Infantry Observation Post located a nebelwerfer position and adjusted fire on it. No further firing was observed from this target. Our Battalion Liaison Section at 6th Armoured Observation Post adjusted fire on Nebelwerfer position, area neutralized. Scheduled Division Artillery harassing fires were undertaken by this Battalion. The Battalion Command Post observed a second enemy adjustment on the Bailey Bridge Northeast of the Command Post. No damage was observed. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C - 494 HE; 8 Smoke; Pac Battery 310 HE; 1 Smoke.
- 03 Feb - Captain William D. Waldrop relieved as Liaison Officer with 2nd Battalion of the 6th Armoured Infantry. Eleven (11) PW 109's fired on by our Anti-Aircraft Unit. The enemy adjusted fire on several targets in the vicinity of the Battalion area; during the course of this adjustment, rounds fell in the Battalion Command Post, Headquarters Battery and "A" Battery areas. By VOGG Division Artillery, Battalion in direct support of 91 Reconnaissance Squad with 131st Field Artillery Battalion and 132nd Field Artillery Battalion reinforcing our fires. Lt. Lockland reported to this Battalion as Liaison Officer from the 91 Reconnaissance Squad. Our Observation Post adjusted fire on enemy tank, nebelwerfer positions and personnel, with good results. 1st Lt. Raymond F. Kent, this Battalion dispatched as Liaison Officer with 59th Field Artillery Battalion. The Air OP silenced an enemy gun battery and was unable to complete adjustment on another battery because of lack of fuel. A number of photo interpretation targets from 36th Division Artillery, fired on by this Battalion; results unknown. Scheduled harassing fires were fired during hours of darkness. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C - 363 HE, 12 Smoke; Pac Battery 539 HE, 1 Smoke.

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- 04 Feb - Major Frank J. Hobbs, Battalion Executive, dispatched as Liaison Officer to British 23rd Field Regiment. Our Observation Posts adjusted fire on enemy guns, vehicles and nebelwerfer positions, several enemy batteries; no further activity noted from these positions. Schedule harassing fires fired during the afternoon. Several enemy gun positions were fired upon with unobserved fire, results unknown. VOGG 36th Division Artillery, restricted Battalion to twenty (20) rounds per gun per day on 155mm's until 11 February. During the day and night, harassing fires. Ammunition expenditure: A, B, and C - 463 HE, 7 Smoke; Pac Battery - 201 HE, no Smoke.
- 05 Feb - Visibility excellent. 141st Infantry Observer adjusted fire on Nebelwerfer position, which was neutralized. There was considerable movement in the Battalion area due to heavy traffic of adjacent units moving in. During the course of the afternoon approximately forty (40) rounds fell in the battalion area, causing injuries and one (1) death in Pac Battery; Pvt Dominik J. Cerreto, 20248062, on SD duty from 131st Field Artillery died of wounds; Pvs Antonio (nm) Del Vecchio, 31246985, Tony (nm) Canino, 37329451, both of 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, on SD with Pac Battery, were wounded; Pvt 1cl Troupe F. Griffin, 34242911, SD with Pac Battery from 131st Field Artillery Battalion wounded; Pvt 1cl Rudolph F. Hansut, 36174179 and Pvt Eugene J. O'Brien, 32761373, of Headquarters Battery this Battalion were wounded and Corporal George G. Lehman, 12132991 of Battery "C" was wounded by the heavy enemy concentration on the Battalion. One 75mm Howitzer of Pac Battery was damaged beyond repair and twenty-five (25) rounds of ammunition rendered unserviceable due to burning camouflage net. Six (6) ME 109's drew our AA fire. Harassing missions fired during darkness. 141st Infantry Observation Post adjusted fire on enemy Nebelwerfer position, neutralizing same. 91 Reconnaissance Observation Post adjusted fire on enemy Observation Post in a house, four (4) hits were observed. Our 91 Reconnaissance Liaison Officer reports location of enemy installations, but due to the limited supply of ammunition these targets could not be fired upon with unobserved fire. Our observation Posts adjusted fire on two (2) Nebelwerfer positions, one enemy tank, machine gun emplacement and enemy Command Post with good results. Harassing fires fired during hours of daylight and darkness. Due to shortage of ammunition, Pac Battery fired all harassing fires for this battalion. Ammunition expenditure: A, B, and C - 193 HE, 13 Smoke; Pac Battery - 326 HE, 2 Smoke. Air OP located three (3) enemy gun positions and Nebelwerfer positions. Fire was adjusted on them. No further firing was observed from these positions. "C" Battery Observation Post located enemy gun battery beyond our maximum range and adjusted fire on them with the 995th Field Artillery. Series of explosions were seen in this area.

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06 Feb - Visibility excellent. Twenty (20) M8 109's drew AA fire. Captain William D. Waldrop relieved as Liaison Officer with 91 Reconnaissance Squad and returned to this battalion. Captain Jack E. Fulgham, S - 3, relieved from duty with this battalion and assigned to 36th Division Artillery as S - 3. 23rd Field Regiment relieved by 57th Field Regiment and Major Hobbs continued as Liaison Officer to the 57th. Our Observation Posts fired on enemy vehicles, personnel, and Nebelwerfer positions with satisfactory results. During the entire afternoon the battalion area was shelled; while the shelling was going on, certain factors underlying the use of terrain became more apparent as the shelling progressed. First, areas in sight defilade were shelled, apparently by erratic rounds only, apparently observation in areas seemingly defiladed from enemy observation being obtained thru a draw, which to the casual observer would have appeared an impossible situation if his reconnaissance was made during hazy weather. However during cold weather, preceded by thunder showers, atmosphere obscurity was minimized and a comparatively safe valley rendered susceptible to hostile penetration. Secondly, works of man, particularly stone, should not be utilized as parking areas for vehicles or even temporary halting areas for foot troops; more precisely, three (3) individuals enjoying sight defilade and flat trajectory weapons defilade from the enemy, yet in the immediate vicinity of a stone house, were killed by one (1) round which struck the house some fifteen (15) or twenty (20) feet above the ground. This projectile in its interrupted flight had rendered useless an otherwise excellent position utilized presumably by men on foot to escape the consequences of enemy shell fire. Had the stone house been someplace else it is likely that the shell on ground impact would not have been of any serious consequence. Thirdly, houses built of stone in this country, as far as we have been able to determine, consist essentially of two (2) parts: a first floor, of what might be termed limestone mortar work and a second story, if any, of pumice stone mortar work. This pumice is more easily destroyed than the limestone by fire for destruction; consequently, it is observed that important installations might profitably utilize the ground floor of stone buildings. "B" Battery Observation Post picked up a gun, firing, during the course of the Battalion shelling, and adjusted fire and it is believed that this gun was silenced. About 90% of the battalion communications was knocked-out by the shelling and radio communications was successfully used in carrying on the mission of the battalion. There were no harassing firing on this date. Ammunition expended: A, B, and C - 223 HE, 14 Smoke; Pac Battery - 338 HE, 20 Smoke.

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07 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility, hazy to good. Major Frank J. Hobbs relieved of duties as Battalion Executive and assigned to 6750th Hq. Company City Administration ( Prov. Hq 5th Army ), departing at 1315 ( Having returned from duty with 57th Field Regiment (British at 0900). Visit from 36th Infantry Division, Inspector General, Lieutenant Colonel Reese at 1225 to 1350. VOOG 36th Division Artillery 1800 Battalion in direct support TFA, to maintain Liaison with 2nd Battalion, 143rd Infantry. 1st Lieutenant Raymond F. Kent relieved of Liaison assignment with 59th Field Artillery Battalion, returning to battalion at 1830. Five heavy enemy artillery bursts in battalion area about 1710; no damage or casualties; projectile fragments later delivered to G - 2, estimated to be 210 Nebelwerfer. No harassing fire missions; counterbattery missions adjusted by ground and air Observation Posts, with reported effective area neutralized, destruction of one (1) Nebelwerfer, an ammunition dump explosion and start of a fire in enemy gun position. Ammunition expenditure ( 6 missions on 5 targets ) A,B, and C - 234 HE, 15 Smoke; Pac Battery - 54 HE, and 2 Smoke.

08 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility hazy to good. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas T. Atkins attends CCB conference at 1400 hours. 1st Lieutenant Kent, 1st Lieutenant Charles A. Bent and 2nd Lieutenant Beaman W. Sam departed at 1700 for 2nd Battalion, 143rd Infantry as liaison and forward observer assignment. No enemy counterbattery received. Three (3) day harassing missions (45 rds) and three (3) night harassing (126 rds) assigned by 36th Division Artillery, were fired by Pac Battery. Besides check point registration of all batteries, A, B, and C were adjusted on targets (total of 4) by air and ground observers; reported effects: area neutralized and fires started. Ammunition expenditures: A,B, and C - 125 HE, 9 Smoke; Pac Battery - 183 HE and 13 Smoke.

09 Feb - Weather rainy to damp to fair and cold; visibility fair. Reconnaissance Officer, Survey Officer and Commanding Officer, with details, on position reconnaissance 1000 hours. VOOG 36th Division Artillery at 1330 hours - battalion to move to new area at dark. Command Post closed and HC's moved forward, with parties, at 1500 hours. Head of battalion motor column on road at 1715. Battalion in new area at 2230, Command Post opened at 2300, coordination 877228. No enemy counterbattery received. No harassing missions. One time registration, four (4) observed fire missions ( all before 1500 hours ), two (2) air adjusted, two (2) ground; reported effective, nebelwerfer areas well covered, three (3) hits on house fired upon. Ammunition expenditures: A,B, and C - 83 HE, 69 Smoke; Pac Battery - 14 HE, 1 Smoke.

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10 Feb - Weather cloudy and cold to rainy; visibility fair to very poor. VOGG 36th Division Artillery at 0830 hours Battalion now in general support of the 36th Infantry Division. Battery Observations Posts established base point and check point registration from the positions occupied last night. No enemy counterbattery received. No targets of opportunity. Pac Battery fired one hundred and sixty (160) rounds on night harassing missions. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C - 437 HE, 2 Smoke; Pac Battery 661 HE, 2 Smoke.

11 Feb - Weather intermittently rainy; visibility variable, chiefly poor. Received written confirmation ( Artillery Annex to FO 47 ) of previous oral advice from Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery of battalion mission. One (1) round of enemy smoke in Battalion area at 1643 hours -- ineffective. Base Point registration checked by ground Observation Posts. Preparatory, accompanying, and defensive ( counter-attack-repelling ) fires accomplished by all batteries, per FO 47, 36th Division Artillery Annex as called for. The following replacements were received and assigned to the various Batteries as indicated:

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Pvt Richard C. Abbasia, 32917983  
Pvt Layman (nmi) Burns, Jr., 35682212  
Pvt Thomas P. Butler, 32977698  
Pvt Bruno (nmi) Elkan, 32896978  
Pvt Floyd J. Hudson, 38471530  
Pvt Alfred J. DeMart, 32931486  
Pvt Earl E. Eichelberger, 33723930  
Cpl Herbert J. Marks, 31293040

Pvt Elmer A. Arose, 32917632  
Pvt Jesse G. Brewer, 34636969  
Pvt Michael M. DeCesare, 33685478  
Pvt Charles L. Fowlkes, 34593924  
Pvt Lloyd C. Hudson, 38471545  
Pvt Lawrence E. Lett, 34731928  
Pvt Augustin R. Resendes, 18048081  
Pvt Ernest W. Wright, 33642929

BATTERY "A"

Pvt John A. Hyman, 12140737  
Pvt Richard A. Crosby, 32977960  
Pvt Charles J. Ballard, 35770538

Pvt Leonard (nmi) Brotzky, 42001250  
Pvt Robert (nmi) Withers, 33504591  
Pvt William H. Bowman, 35871109

BATTERY "B"

Pvt Charles E. Allen, 33762849  
Pvt Nicholas (nmi) Cosentino, 42002121

Pvt Louis F. Consalvo, 32977960

BATTERY "C"

Pvt George O. Charberlain, 31237573  
Pvt 1cl Charles H. Tobey, 35270707  
Pvt John (nmi) Ostash, 33778527  
Pvt Richard E. Niehle, 37565723

Pvt Howard T. Martin, 32730545  
Pvt 1cl Richard L. Conaway, 35385480  
Pvt Raymond J. Varni, 39047796

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Three (3) night harassing missions participated in by all batteries ( 100 rounds before 2400; 80 rounds Pac Battery, 20 rounds A, B, and C). Fire adjusted by ground observation on Nebelwerfers: One (1) target hit, with resulting sheet of flame. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C - 437 HE, 2 Smoke; Pac Battery 661 HE, 2 Smoke.

12 Feb - Weather cloudy and cold; visibility poor. Previous night harassing missions (3) continued to 0600 ( A, B, and C - 40 rounds; Pac Battery - 140 rounds ). Base point registration checked by air and ground observation. Defensive fires by Pac Battery ( 100 rounds ) in repulsion of enemy counterattack. Observed missions (8) on enemy battery and sundry Nebelwerfers, using both air and ground Observations Posts, with effective area neutralization. No enemy counterbattery received. Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 40 rounds; Pac Battery - 80 rounds ). Total ammunition expenditure for the periods: A, B, and C - 221 HE, 52 Smoke; Pac Battery - 326 HE, 38 Smoke.

13 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good, except for slight haze. Check of Base Point registration. Previous night's harassing missions (6) continued to 0700 (A, B, and C - 80 rounds; Pac Battery - 156 rounds). Observed missions, adjusted from air and ground, on Nebelwerfers and guns, with report area neutralized and one (1) fire. Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 16 rounds; Pac Battery - 71 rounds). Lieutenant Kent went to 36th Division Artillery at 1100 hours for maintenance of command liaison with British units, per VCCG 36th Division Artillery received at 0945. No enemy counterbattery received. Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 193 HE, 21 Smoke; Pac Battery - 231 HE, 3 Smoke.

14 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued until 0700 (A, B, and C - 100 rounds; Pac Battery - 140 rounds). Fire suspended 0800 to 1430 between 220-238, respecting truce for removal of dead. One observed mission on enemy motor column, interdicting highway at road junction and hitting one (1) truck (Pac - 31 rounds). Arrival of Lieutenant Colonel Avery and Captain Frazier (1330), 339th Field Artillery Battalion, Commanding Officer and S - 2, for overnight visit. Six (6) rounds of enemy counterbattery in general vicinity of Battalion Command Post, four (4) rounds near, but over "A" Battery gun positions, in late afternoon. During the evening, just after sundown, Pvt Ollie J. Bailey, 38065436, Battery "A", was in a room washing his mess kit, when a shot was heard. Upon hearing the shot, Pvt Toy E. Compton rushed into the room and after getting his eyes accustomed to the darkness, found Pvt Bailey in a falling position; took him by the arm and led him outside where first aid could be given. A fallen rifle, knocked down by a nearby explosion accidentally went off, from which Pvt Bailey died later this date.

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Night harassing missions: A, B, and C (3) - 36 rounds; Pac Battery (4) - 48 rounds. Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 136 HE; Pac Battery - 209 HE, 10 Smoke.

15 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's seven (7) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 36 rounds; Pac Battery - 48 rounds). Departure of Lieutenant Colonel Avery and Captain Frazier at 1000 hours. Aerial bombing of Abbey di Montecassino Witnessed from Command Post at 0900 and periodically thereafter during the day. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas T. Atkins, Battalion Commander, left for conference at 36th Division Artillery at 1300. Observed missions (5) on enemy guns and infantry and in interdiction of road junction and registration on bridge at check point (A, B, and C - 73 rounds; Pac Battery - 96 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 213 HE, 4 Smoke; Pac Battery - 181 HE, 15 Smoke.

16 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's five (5) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 108 rounds; Pac Battery, 96 rounds). Corporal Ernest W. Dohm, Message Center Clerk of Headquarters Battery, was killed at Headquarters 36th Division Artillery at 00015 hours as a result of enemy shells falling in and around Cervaro. 935th Field Artillery Battalion successfully adjusted from "B" Battery Observation Post on distant enemy installation. Occasional aerial bombing of Abbey di Montecassino observed from Command Post. BP registered from air OP. Observed missions (4) on enemy guns, road junction and bridge (A, B, and C - 70 rounds; Pac Battery - 10 rounds); reported neutralization, with fire started. Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 248 HE, 11 Smoke; Pac Battery - 180 HE, 5 Smoke.

17 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0430 (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Ground Observation Post adjusted five (5) missions on enemy probable Command Post, motor park, road junction, bridge and tanks, with reported neutralization effect plus a sizeable fire at the motor park (A, B, and C - 186 rounds; Pac Battery - 60 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 273 HE, 9 Smoke; Pac Battery - 198 HE, 6 Smoke.

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- 18 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's harassing missions continued to 0430 (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Commanding General 36th Division and Commanding General 36th Division Artillery visited the Command Post and the Battalion Area. Observed eight (8) missions adjusted by air OP and 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and our Observation Posts on Nebelwerfers, enemy guns, a self-propelled, vehicles and probably camouflaged installation, with report effective neutralization, including target hit on the self-propelled, (A, B, and C - 138 rounds; Pac Battery - 40 rounds). Seven night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 144 rounds; Pac Battery - 89 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for periods A, B, and C - 319 HE, 11 Smoke; Pac Battery - 196 HE, 5 Smoke.
- 19 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous nights seven (7) harassing missions continued to 2330 (A, B, and C - 144 rounds; Pac Battery - 88 rounds). Commanding General 36th Division Artillery and the Commanding General, Division Artillery, 88th Division, visit battalion and inspect battery positions. Lt. Kent relieved by Division Artillery of Liaison with the British, and returned to the battalion at 1815. The 935th Field Artillery Battalion adjusted on enemy truck park by "B" Battery Observation Post. Observed mission adjusted by ground Observation Post on Nebelwerfer, another by air Observation on enemy guns, both with reported neutralizing effect (A, B, and C - 41 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 120 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the periods A, B, and C - 230 HE, 3 Smoke; Pac Battery - 208 HE.
- 20 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good to hazy. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 180 rounds). Base and check point registration and calibration (A, B, and C - seventeen (17) rounds; Pac Battery - 38 rounds). Ground Observation Post adjustment of observed missions two (2) on bridge work party, with reported neutralizing effect, plus one (1) fire (Pac Battery - 13 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 36 rounds; Pac Battery - 60 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the day's periods: A, B, and C - 101 HE; Pac Battery - 278 HE, 13 Smoke.
- 21 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 54 rounds; Pac Battery - 90 rounds). Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery visited Battalion 1030 to 1200 hours and inspected battery positions. Air and ground observation posts adjusted missions on Nebelwerfers and enemy installations, with reported neutralization of area (A, B, and C

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-158 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 258 rounds HE, 2 Smoke; Pac Battery -162 HE.

22 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous nights six (6) missions continued to 0600 hours (A, B, and C - 72 rounds; Pac Battery - 108 rounds). Sector unusually quiet. One observed mission, adjusted by ground observation, on Nebelwerfer; target area well covered. Seven night missions (A, B, and C - 96 rounds; Pac Battery - 36 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 184 HE; Pac Battery - 144 HE.

23 Feb - Weather rainy; visibility poor. Previous night's seven (7) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 144 rounds; Pac Battery - 54 rounds). Six (6) day harassing missions (A, B, and C - 294 rounds; Pac Battery - 168 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 54 rounds; Pac Battery 144 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the period: A, B, and C - 491 HE, 1 Smoke; Pac Battery - 366 HE.

24 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility fair. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0500 hours (A, B, and C - 54 rounds; Pac Battery - 144 rounds). Battalion Commander left at 0935 for conference at 36th Division Artillery and returned at 1205. At 1230 Battalion Field Order No. 4 was issued, regarding reinforcement of the 4th Battalion, 67th Field Artillery (French). Captain Lawrence D. Gilmer, Battalion Executive Officer reported to the 67th Field Artillery as Liaison Officer at 1245. Ten (10) rounds enemy counterbattery in vicinity of "C" Battery area at 1710, knocking out one (1) truck. (A, B, and C fired 29 rounds and Pac Battery fired 11 rounds). Ground Observation Posts adjustment on Nebelwerfer ("B" Battery fired 25 rounds). Five (5) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds and Pac Battery fired 48 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C fired 153 rounds HE and 3 Smoke; Pac Battery fired 202 rounds HE and 1 Smoke.

25 Feb - Weather cloudy, occasional rain, visibility poor to fair. Previous night's five (5) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery 48 rounds). Ground Observation Post adjustment on Nebelwerfer resulting in a large explosion (Battery "A" fired 15 rounds). 194th Field Artillery Battalion adjusted by "B" Battery Observation Post on enemy guns, starting two (2) fires. Three (3) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 65 rounds; Pac Battery 96 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 127 HE, 1 Smoke; Pac Battery - 144 HE.

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- 26 Feb - Weather rainy; visibility poor. Previous night's three (3) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 35 rounds; Pac Battery - 144 rounds). Relief of 36th Infantry Division elements in progress but incomplete. One observed mission on enemy battery, Batteries A, B, and C fired 69 rounds, neutralizing area, including an explosion. Five (5) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 50 rounds; Pac Battery - 120 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 153 HE, 1 Smoke; Pac Battery - 264 HE.
- 27 Feb - Weather rainy to clear; visibility poor to good. Previous night's five (5) harassing missions continued to 0700 (A, B, and C - 70 rounds; Pac Battery 168 rounds). March order for evacuation to rest camp received from 36th Division Artillery at 1815. Base Point registrations checked by air OP adjustment. Fire delivered on enemy mortars as called for and observed by French (67th Field Artillery) Observation Post, (A, B, and C fired 72 rounds). One night observed mission on Nebelwerfer, Battery "C" fired twenty (20) rounds with reported neutralizing results. Seven (7) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 100 rounds; Pac Battery - 180 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 273 HE, 5 Smoke; Pac Battery 349 HE and 9 Smoke.
- 28 Feb - Weather cloudy; visibility fair. Previous night's seven harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C fired 99 rounds and Pac Battery fired 180 rounds). Further relief of 36th Infantry Division elements cancelled; 36th Division Artillery March Order rescinded. Observed two (2) missions on enemy installations, observation post and SP (Battery "B" and "C" fired 127 rounds). Six night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 90 rounds; Pac Battery - 150 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 314 HE and 2 Smoke; Pac Battery fired 330 rounds HE.
- 29 Feb - Weather cloudy to clear, visibility good. Previous night's six harassing missions continued to 0700 hours (A, B, and C fired 126 rounds; Pac Battery fired 210 rounds). Lt. Colonel Lawson, Battalion Commander of the 443rd AAA, visited Command Post at 1045, advised relief of 443rd by the 630th AAA tonight. Eight day harassing missions (Battery "B" and "C" fired 48 rounds. Nine missions were observed; 3 from French, 1 from 36th Division Artillery Air OP, 1 from 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 2 from Battery Observation Posts, 2 from Battery Command Posts on enemy installations, Observation Posts, enemy battery, Nebelwerfer, and SP's, adjusted with reported neutralizing effect. Six night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 45 rounds; Pac Battery - 150 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 445 HE, 19 Smoke; Pac Battery - 360 HE.

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The Battalion History and all inclosures are typed by the Personnel Section of this Battalion, namely: Tech Sergeant John J. Camisa, Personnel Sergeant Major, Chicago, Illinois; Corporal Herbert C. Poau, Headquarters Battery Clerk of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Corporal Herman J. Braun, Battery "A" Clerk, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Corporal James L. Pricemore, Battery "B" Clerk of Fort Worth, Texas; Corporal William Schracng, Battery "C" Clerk, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Corporal Bert A. Spencer, Service Battery Clerk of Morgantown, W. Virginia; Corporal Lurward McDonald, Headquarters Clerk of Fort Worth, Texas; and Tech Grade 5, Henry W. Pfriender of New York. Each month the Battalion History is typed by the above men in addition to their regular duties, which are plentiful while in combat.

*Stanley W. Huth*  
 STANLEY W. HUTH  
 WOJG, A.U.S.  
 Unit Historian

11 Incls.

- Exhibts A - Casualty List
- " B - Officers Roster
- " C - Unit Journal
- " D - Air Section Missions
- " E - S - 2 Reports
- " F - S - 3 Reports
- " G - Firing Reports
- " H - Field Order # 4
- " I - Situation Overlay for February
- " J - Maps
- " K - Firing Charts for February

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CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER

BATTALION CONTINUED IN COMBAT

The Battalion continued in combat from 17 November 1943 with the exception of eight days in January 1944, which were spent in rest area near Alife, Italy. From the positions occupied just southeast of Mt. Trocchio at the month's beginning, displacement forward was made on the 9 February to the area some 3500 yards northeast of the town of Cassino, where the Battalion at the month's end was still to be found.

REPLACEMENTS

On the 11 February 1944 the Battalion received thirty-two enlisted replacements, which were needed to replace those sick in hospital and wounded. These replacements were duly assigned to the several Batteries immediately.

OFFICER TRANSFERS

During the month of February Major Frank J. Hobbs, Captain Willard L. Stobaugh were transferred to Provisional City Government of Rome, Captain Jack E. Fulgham transferred to 36th Division Artillery and 2nd Lt. Donald E. Nolan transferred to 138th Truck Quartermaster Company.

AMMUNITION

For virtually the entire period under review the Battalion's operations were subject to restricted daily ammunition allotments: 20 rounds per piece. The effect was but partially ameliorate by the availability to the Battalion of the Provisional Mountain Battery (Pack 75mm howitzer) which was particular value in execution of assigned harrassing missions.

MORALE

Despite an increasing proportion of fair days, the seasonal inclemency of the weather, added to the extended stay in the line and increased duties of remaining key personnel, commenced to exact gradual toll in individual physical well-being and the functional efficiency of equipment. The effect was sufficiently manifested, it was felt, to preclude appraisal of Battalion combat efficiency as high as "Excellent" after 11 February; accordingly, it has since been consistently reported as only "Satisfactory".

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# OBSERVATION POSTS

Battery Observation Post details are subject to peculiar strain under existing conditions. The employment of alternating teams in the battery, each team under the direction of an officer and neither to remain more than several successive days on Observation Post duty, has been deemed expedient. This practice operates to withdraw the Battery Motor Officer - assistant Executive temporarily from his normal assignment. Any officer incapacitation immediately transfers responsibilities to already well-burdened non-commissioned personnel.

# ASSISTANCE OF OTHER UNITS

The assistance of Engineer units in road and area maintenance and improvement and of the Division Military Police in traffic control has been observed to be timely, prompt and excellent.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

No change is offered in previous monthly recommendations. In point of tactical doctrine official texts continue to afford sound and reliable guidance. Without deviation therefrom, and in keeping therewith, current combat experience suggests both the wisdom of maintenance of a normal officer over-strength, to meet many unforeseen and varying conditions, and a more frequent relief of units in the line to the extent that operational requirements permit, no less for the periodic repair and maintenance of vital organizational equipment than for the restoration of personnel dulled by fatigue.

# CONSOLIDATED CASUALTIES

The following is a Consolidated List of Casualties of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for the month of February 1944:

|  | <u>Officers</u> | <u>Enlisted Men</u> |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| Killed in Action -   |                 | 1                   |
| Wounded in Action -  |                 | 2                   |
| Died of Wounds -   |                 |                     |
| Missing in Action -  |                 |                     |
| Missing -  |                 |                     |
| Injured in Action -  |                 |                     |
| Wounded and Remained on Duty -   |                 | 5                   |
| Total -  |                 | 8                   |
| Accidental Death -   |                 | 1                   |
| None of the enlisted men reported on Battle Casualty Reports returned to duty during February. |                 |                     |

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Provisional Mountain Battery ("Pac")

During the latter part of December, 1943, decision was made by the Division Artillery, duly confirmed by the Division Commanding General, to experiment with organization and tactical employment of a "Provisional Mountain Battery" (PMB) of 75mm. packhowitzers. Organization was perfected by the process of adding to the 40-man Anti-Tank Platoon of the 155th F. A. Bn. Headquarters Battery (including S/Sgt James N. McGinnis as acting first sergeant) 9 men from each of the three light artillery battalions of the Division; supplementing with a few selected specialists from other batteries of the 155th; assigning as officer personnel Captain August C. Moser, Jr. (Battery Commander) and 2nd Lt. Phillip A. Chockley of 155th F.A. Bn. and 2nd Lt. Stanley Chapman of the 132nd F. A. Bn.; allotting the organic vehicular transportation of the Anti-Tank Platoon aforesaid, as well as two 3/4 ton weapons carriers from each of the three light battalions; supplying nine 75mm. pack howitzers and making available an unlimited supply of ammunition; and integrating the whole, as a distinct organization, into the framework of the 155th F. A. Bn. Under Capt. Moser's command PMB moved "into the line" with its parent unit on 7 January 1944 and prepared for action.

Action was not long delayed, nor did it ever slacken appreciably during the two months that ensued. From three successive positions, operating as an 8-gun battery, "Pac"--as it came to be referred to conveniently and affectionately--fired well in excess 300 missions of every sort, for a recorded total of 15,939 rounds. First under Capt. Moser and thereafter under 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson, who succeeded Capt. Moser upon his January 20th transfer from the Division, "Pac" shortly became and continued a hard hitting and ever reliable member of the Battalion team, particularly adapted to the terrain requirements of the operative front.

The March 1st reorganization of the Battalion under the newly applicable T/O called an end to the successful experiment and terminated the brief but useful existence of "Pac". It moved on March 1st from its position in the line to a rear area; on March 4th it was formally disbanded, component personnel returning to former battery affiliations. The solid achievements of the organization and the marked esprit de corps it had attained bespeak volumes to the credit of the men, officer and enlisted, who molded, inspired, and fought it.

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Digest of composite oral account of Capt. Richard B. Hawk, 1st Lt. Leroy L. Bell, 1st Sgt James G. Williams and S/Sgt Remson R. Cover.

It was 1250 when the first round came in. We Baker CP made a party line with the Exec Post, an CP and we were sensing where they came in. They finally getting a bracket around No. 2 and 3 guns, then shifted to just over of No. 1. We kept on reporting and finally wire was out to Bn CP, but 1st Lt. Leroy L. Bell had phone connections to all guns and radioed Bn for Medicos. Pvt 1cl George C. Smith and Pvt Herbert R. Mahle were hurt. 1st Sgt James G. Williams ordered stretcher from CP. Capt. Richard B. Hawk got to the Exec Post and asked about extent of damages. Bell and Pvt 1cl Cleburne H. Schmidt (Med) were at Exec Post taking care of wounded. Telephone message to 1st Lt. Bell said man on #1 gun was losing blood. Capt. Hawk and Sgt Williams went to No. 1 gun where all fire was being directed (fire for effect). Bulk of men had gone under culvert between No. 1 and 2 guns (about 6 feet wide, 8 feet tall and 1 yd longer than a CP tent.) Sgt Williams worked on Sgt Milton A. Herbert Pvt Julius Shocko (Med) worked on Pvt 1cl Homer H. Reynolds...hurt by two shells. Capt Hawk worked on Jack P. Feichtner. Pvt. Sgt Herbert was against bank of creek at entrance to culvert. Pvt Shocko bandaged Pvt Oscar M. Armstrong. Pvt Shocko pulled out morphine syrette and said that man had not been given morphine (Pvt Jack P. Feichtner). Said Pvt Stanley V. Kasprzak had been shot in the stomach, gave him shot of morphin. Capt. Hawk got his shirt off, had to unbutton his clothes and Pvt 1cl Lester M. Banse (Med) came down culvert with stretcher. Then Medical Capt. Charles O. Tool came in and Capt. Hawk said to him, "Here's a case hard to handle." "You take it". Sgt Herbert told Capt Hawk two men in dugout were badly hurt (found Pvt Walter J. Wagner with left leg barely hanging on to body)...also hit in upper cheek. Cpl Melvin B. Haley was there with him. Capt Hawk looked at Pvt Wagner and noticed Cpl James E. Bills - badly hurt, put hand on Cpl Bills and realized that he was dead...in a crouching position. Asked Capt. Tool to come up, and Capt. Tool pronounced Cpl Bills dead. Sgt Williams went to Pvt Feichtner and turned him over to aid man. Capt. Tool started to work on Pvt Wagner. Sgt Williams and Pvt John Genna took Pvt Feichtner out of culvert and placed him in deep ditch which was parallel to road...(being pinned down by heavy and continuous fire). Tec 5 James W. McNeill (Med) and Pvt John Genna came in with stretchers and asked for additional blankets. Sgt Williams showed them a tent and they were obtained from there. Capt Hawk came back and everybody was being taken care of. Four Medicos and Sgt Williams were in end of culvert. At that time shell hit directly under Pvt 1cl Reynolds (who was having his back bandaged by Pvt 1cl Banse); blew Capt. Hawk, Pvt 1cl Schmidt, Pvt 1cl Banse and Sgt Remson R. Cover (Med) into culvert and Sgt Williams stunned and thrown against wall of culvert. When Capt. Hawk came to he called the roll and everyone answered except Pvt 1cl Reynolds. His body was torn apart - had been tossed across culvert and ambulance which was on top of culvert; his legs were in a tree. This was about 1315. Pvt 1cl Banse had been hurt and there were more holes in Sgt Herbert(left hip).

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Shell fire continued. Another round hit over the wall and Pvt Charles R. Allen in the leg; he crawled to edge of creek assisted by Sgt Williams. Sgt Williams turned him over to Sgt Cover. Lt. Bell came, under fire and had taken Sgt Herbert towards Exec Post - carrying him; had to detour as powder in No. 2 reserve ammunition pit was on fire. Pvt Allen and Pvt 1cl Banse sent down creek to cut across because firing was covering road. Capt. Hawk found Pvt Kasprzak, turned him over to Sgt. Cover. Capt. Hawk started to look for Capt. Tool. Somebody hollowed, "Medico is hurt". Capt. Hawk believed Capt. Tool would take care of whoever it was and did not start immediately to investigate. Then somebody said Capt. Tool was hurt (while working on Pvt Wagner). Sgt Cover was bandaging Pvt Kasprzak's leg and Pvt 1cl Schmidt was helping. Gave him morphine. Pvt Shocko walked with Pvt Oscar M. Armstrong to Exec Post at the same time Lt. Bell was carrying Sgt Herbert. Cpl Bernard L. Fiecke and Pvt 1cl Leland E. Grove were using sandbags and bidons to put out fire and Capt. Hawk told them to get out of the field. Pvt Shocko was then returning from Exec Post. Sgt. Williams sent Pvt Kasprzak, and Pvt 1cl Schmidt down the creek; saw they were not going to make it because of shelling so had Pvt 1cl Schmidt force Pvt Kasprzak on Sgt Williams back. Shell Fire concussion knocked them down twice; on the third try succeeded in putting Pvt Kasprzak in No. 3 Gun dugout. Sgt. Williams went back to culvert and Pvt 1cl Schmidt continued working on Kasprzak. At the same time this was all happening Capt. Hawk had gone to Capt. Tool and said, "Dr, are you hurt?". He said, "yes" "want to look at my back." Capt. Hawk asked could he help him. Capt. Tool asked if all the boys were being taken care of. Capt. Hawk told him, "Yes"... cut his pants off and saw hole in center of his back. Told him how and where he was hurt and asked him to try to move his legs and Capt. Tool said, "Don't worry I already have...they are all right." Bandaged Capt. Tool and gave him morphine and all this time he was working on Pvt Wagner. Pvt Wagner asked to have his tourniquet tightened but Capt. Hawk knew it was already too tight so just pretended to tighten it. Capt. Hawk went back and sent all the men into the culvert, then remembered Pvt Feichtner and went into ditch to keep him company (offered him cigarette, talked to him and assured him he was going to be taken care of all right and would soon be on the way to the hospital.) Pvt Wagner and Capt. Tool were inside dugout. Capt. Hawk went with Sgt Cover to ambulance about 1345, turned ambulance around but a shell knocked him across the front seat...at the second shell having turned ambulance around he rushed to seek cover by the wall that had been blown in. Sgt Cover took cover too... in creek with Pvt Feichtner. Sgt Cover waited for stopping of fire and then went up and got the ambulance. Pvt Genna, Pvt Shocko and Pvt Walter H. LaFlamme (Med) Pvt Haley and Pvt Genna packed up Pvt Feichtner and put him in ambulance. Pvt Haley and Pvt LaFlamme tried moving Pvt Wagner, could not make it on account of lost footing. Sgt Cover, Capt. Hawk and Pvt Shocko lifted Pvt Wagner and put him in ambulance. All went to litter for Capt. Tool and put him in ambulance as No. 4. Put Pvt Armstrong on weapons carrier and Pvt 1cl Smith, Pvt Haley and Pvt 1cl Lawrence P. Spitzer on weapons carrier as walking wounded. Ambulance and weapons carrier out about 1410. Pvt 1cl William A. Womack drove ambulance and Pvt 1cl James L. McNeill (Med) drove weapons carrier. Sgt Williams tried to get another ambulance for remaining wounded. Lt. Bell radioed for ambulance and doctor; was criticised by radio operator for using radio for such message, then went down to No. 4 gun. At this time Pvt Kasprzak was at No. 3, Pvt Allen at No. 4 and Pvt 1cl Banse had walked to aid station.


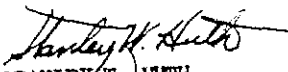
[REDACTED]

Capt. Hawk and Sgt Cover took weapons carrier and went back for bodies. Pvt Haley and Pvt. Genna went with Sgt Cover to wrap bodies in blankets. Sgt Cover took weapons carrier to Baker CP. Capt. Hawk went back to creek and everybody was gone. Found out that Lt. Bell had previously gone back and ordered all out of gun positions and to take cover in creek 200 yds away. Sgt Floyd M. Haynes was in charge. Firing stopped temporarily. Capt. Hawk came up road and met Sgt. Williams and altho' told that he had checked to see if all had been cleared Capt Hawk went back again to check gun position. Shelling started again. Sgt. Williams went back to Exec Post and Pvt 1cl Thomas B. Kaminsky came back with litter. Put Pvt Kasprzak on litter (Pvt 1cl Schmidt was taking care of him). Capt. Hawk, Sgt Cover and Pvt 1cl Schmidt went back to CP and Pvt Kasprzak was sent to hospital in a jeep. Dr. Phelan and men from 131st aid station had meanwhile arrived and were waiting at CP but there was nothing they could do. Sgt Cover and Capt. Hawk went back to No. 4 gun to check again; found nothing. Pvt Allen had walked from creek to CP with Pvt Fiecke and Pvt Elwood L. Godwin; Pvt Thomas J. Tomaso (Med) was marking tags. No transportation was available to evacuate until ambulance returned.

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STANLEY W. HUTH  
W.O. (Jg) F. A.  
UNIT HISTORIAN.

11 Incls:

- Exhibits A - Casualty List.
- " B - Consolidated Casualties.
- " C - Officers Roster.
- " D - Unit Journal.
- " E - Air Section Missions
- " F - S - 2 Reports.
- " G - S - 3 Reports.
- " H - Daily Firing Reports.
- " I - Situation overlay's # 18, 19, 20 and 21 for March 1944.
- " J - Maps.
- " K - Firing Charts.

  
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CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER

In supplement of previous months' conclusions, from which the intervening combat experience of the Battalion has not indicated material change, the following observations and suggestions are submitted.

Metro messages received by the Battalion have been of extremely varying reliability. Inquiry has disclosed that the metro station is often located at a considerable distance to the rear of the howitzer positions, which more often than not are well in advance of the Division light battalions. In terrain of the sort confronting us, characterized by irregularly criss-crossed mountain ranges separated by deep valleys, divergent air currents and widely fluctuating atmospheric conditions between two points a few miles apart are the rule. It is felt that proximity of the place of taking meteorological readings to that of their known intended use would contribute appreciably to operating efficiency.

Receipt of recently exposed and developed air photos of the current target area, despite a relatively stabilized situation, has been infrequent at best. Regular automatic supply of these in adequate quantity would be more than helpful in the accomplishment of assigned missions.

The Battalion was "in the line" from 16 November to 18 March, with the exception of 8 days (30 Dec.- 7 Jan.), a goodly part of which week was consumed by moving out and then moving back. During the last few weeks not only was action relatively quiet on our front for intermittent days, punctuated by occasional enemy harassing mortar fire, but daily ammunition expenditure was severely restricted regardless. The conditions mentioned - protracted sojourn opposite the enemy, in a constant state of readiness, coupled with diminishing activity and curtailed ammunition allotment - provoke an "attrition" of morale and combat efficiency that, for future purposes, should be taken into critical account.

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LIST OF CASUALTIES IN MARCH 1944

1. Pvt 1cl Karol S. Polacek, 36174174, Battery "A", was seriously wounded on 4 March 44 by enemy shell fragments which hit him in the back. Entered the service from Owosso, Michigan.
2. Pvt Joseph J. McGough, 33580823, Battery "A", seriously wounded by shell fragments in left knee, back and head on 4 March 44. Entered Service from Philadelphia, Pa.
3. Pvt Julius (HAI) Hankin, 32918969, Battery "A", lightly wounded in right arm by enemy shell burst on 4 Mar 44. Entered the service from Trenton, N. J.
4. Pvt David (HAI) Simon, 32333638, Battery "A", slight cheek wound by enemy shellfire on 4 March 44. Entered service from Bronx, N. Y.
5. Pvt 1cl John W. Deeds, 33126317, Battery "A", slight neck wound by enemy shrapnel on 4 March 44. Entered service from Palmyra, Va.
6. Pvt James E. Lenahan, 32724698, Battery "B", was lightly wounded on 6 March 44 by enemy shell fragments near Cassino, Italy. Entered service from Rockland, N. Y.
7. Cpl James E. Bills, 20816497, Battery "B", was instantly killed when enemy shells landed near his gun position on 18 March 44. Entered service from Fort Worth, Texas.
8. Pvt 1cl Homer H. Reynolds, 38039007, was killed on 18 March 44 when three enemy shells landed in area. Entered service from Abeline, Texas.
9. Pvt Charles R. Allen, 33762849, Battery "B", was lightly wounded in left leg by enemy shell fragment on 18 March 44. Entered service from Johnstown, Pa.
10. Pvt Stanley V. Kasprzak, 32730961, Battery "B", was seriously wounded by enemy shell fragments in the stomach on 18 March 44. Entered service from Buffalo, N. Y.
11. Pvt Walter J. Wagner, 36174338, Battery "B", was seriously wounded by enemy shell fire which resulted in the loss of his left leg on 18 March 44. Entered service from Detroit, Michigan.
12. Sgt Milton A. Herbolt, 38025442, Battery "B", seriously wounded by enemy shell fragments which struck him in neck, shoulders, left side and back on 18 March 44. Entered service from Fredericksburg, Tex.

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24. Pvt Oscar M. Armstrong, 35213541, Battery "B", was seriously wounded on head, neck, and chest 18 March 44 during enemy shelling of battery gun positions. Entered service from New Cumberland, W. Va.
25. Pvt Elwood L. Godwin, 34170325, Battery "B", was lightly wounded on right knee 18 March 44 during enemy shelling of battery gun positions. He was not hospitalized. Entered service from Wade, North Carolina.

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13. Pvt Jack P. Feichtner, 15317262, Battery "B", seriously wounded on 18 March 44 when enemy shell fragment struck him in stomach. Entered service from Cincinnati, Ohio.
  14. Pvt 1cl George C. Smith, 36173721, Battery "B", lightly wounded in legs by shell fragments on 18 March 44. Entered service from Rochester, Michigan.
  15. Pvt 1cl Lawrence R. Spittler, 36174183, Battery "B", lightly wounded in arm during enemy shelling of gun position on 18 March 44. Entered service from Owosso, Michigan.
  16. Pvt Herbert R. Mahle, 33583271, Battery "B", slight scalp wound received during enemy shelling on 18 March 44. Entered service from Philadelphia, Pa.
  17. Captain Richard B. Hawk, O-415562, Battery "B", lightly wounded on 18 March 44 during enemy shelling. Treated by battery aid man and remained on duty. Entered service from Dallas, Texas.
  18. 1st Sgt James G. Williams, 20816403, Battery "B", lightly wounded on 18 March 44 in head and left side by shell fragments. Treated by battery aid man and remained on duty. Entered service from Fort Worth, Texas.
  19. Pvt 1cl Bernard L. Fiecke, 37285121, Battery "B", lightly wounded 18 March 44 and remained on duty. Entered service from Winstead, Minn.
  20. Pvt Harry J. Nelsen, 32746114, Battery "B", lightly wounded 18 March 44 by enemy shell fragments. Treated by battery aid man and remained on duty. Entered service from Altamont, N. Y.
  21. Captain Charles D. Tool, O-475899, Battery "B", Medical Corps, seriously wounded by enemy shell fragments which struck him in pelvis and on back. Officer was giving aid to wounded men when hit. Entered service from Edmund, Okla.
  22. Pvt 1cl John V. Banse, 20816022, Medical Detachment, lightly wounded in left upper arm and in the right leg. Entered service from San Antonio, Texas.
  23. Pvt 1cl Lawrence W. Kellerman, Battery "C", was lightly wounded by enemy shell fragments 18 March 44 on right hand. He was not hospitalized. Entered Service from Sheldon, North Dakota.

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CONSOLIDATED CASUALTIES

The following is a consolidated list of casualties of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for the month of March 1944.

|                                     | <u>Officers</u> | <u>Enlisted Men</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Killed in Action-----               | 0               | 2                   |
| Wounded in Action Hospitalized----- | 1               | 14                  |
| Died of Wounds-----                 | 0               | 0                   |
| Missing in Action-----              | 0               | 0                   |
| Injured in Action-----              | 0               | 0                   |
| Wounded and remained on Duty-----   | 1               | 7                   |
| TOTAL-----                          | 2               | 23                  |

Of the Enlisted Personnel reported on Battle Casualty Reports 12 have returned to duty with this Battalion.

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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

31 March 1944

BATTALION STAFF

|                     |          |           |              |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| ATKINS, THOMAS T.   | Lt. Col. | 0-246315  | Bn Omdr.     |
| GILMER, LAWRENCE D. | Capt.    | 0-225409  | Bn Exec.     |
| WALDROP, WILLIAM D. | Capt.    | 0-348140  | S-3          |
| EVANS, GERALD W.    | Capt.    | 0-1165012 | Ass't S-3    |
| JESSUP, WILLIAM J.  | Capt.    | 0-415050  | S-2          |
| VINES, RUFUS P. JR. | 1st Lt.  | 0-1167256 | Bn Sur. Off. |
| KENT, RAYMOND F.    | 1st Lt.  | 0-1176092 | Ass't S-3    |

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

|                       |         |           |               |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|---------------|
| WILLIAMSON, MARTIN W. | 1st Lt. | 0-1166867 | Btry CO       |
| OHOCKLEY, PHILLIP A.  | 1st Lt. | 0-1177328 | Ass't Com O   |
| STEWART, JACK R.      | 1st Lt. | 0-403496  | Mtr Off.      |
| JUDSON, PAUL F.       | 2nd Lt. | 0-1181319 | Mtr Off. (TD) |
| KROGG, VERNON C.      | 1st Lt. | 0-469918  | Air Off.      |
| SVOBODA, ARTIE F.     | 2nd Lt. | 0-1180360 | Air Off.      |

"A" BATTERY

|                  |         |           |          |
|------------------|---------|-----------|----------|
| BUSH, WILLIAM L. | Capt.   | 0-407530  | Btry CO  |
| BENT, CHARLES A. | 1st Lt. | 0-1175945 | Exec.    |
| SAM, BEAMAN W.   | 1st Lt. | 0-1172638 | R. O.    |
| MARTIN, KARL F.  | 2nd Lt. | 0-1180599 | Mtr Off. |

"B" BATTERY

|                      |         |           |           |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| HAWK, RICHARD B.     | Capt.   | 0-415562  | Btry CO   |
| BELL, LEROY L.       | 1st Lt. | 0-418651  | Exec.     |
| FINGERHUT, KIVA S.   | 1st Lt. | 0-1176013 | R. O.     |
| McOREADY, RICHARD J. | 2nd Lt. | 0-1170486 | Mtr. Off. |

"C" BATTERY

|                     |         |           |           |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| FRANTZ, HARRY P.    | Capt.   | 0-404452  | Btry CO   |
| NEWSOM, CLARENCE C. | 1st Lt. | 0-1167141 | Exec.     |
| REYNOLDS, ROBERT E. | 1st Lt. | 0-1167174 | R. O.     |
| BURPO, FRANK M.     | 2nd Lt. | 0-1703017 | Mtr. Off. |

SERVICE BATTERY

|                         |         |           |                |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|----------------|
| VINES, WALTON M.        | 1st Lt. | 0-1167257 | Btry CO, S-4   |
| DAVIS, FRANK H.         | Capt.   | 0-405152  | Bn Mtr Off.    |
| MOORE, MERLE G.         | 2nd Lt. | 0-1177102 | Train Comdr.   |
| COCK, HARLAN (NMI) JR.  | 2nd Lt. | 0-1167785 | Mtr. Off. (TD) |
| DOLLINGER, JOSEPH (NMI) | Capt.   | 0-1689338 | Med. Off.      |
| HUTH, STANLEY W.        | WOJG    | W-2108253 | Pers. Off.     |
| JOHNSON, HAROLD E.      | CWO     | W-2101894 | Ass't S-4      |

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ASSIGNMENTS, LOSSES AND CHANGES OF DUTY OF BATTALION OFFICERS

1. Captain Frank M. Davis, Battalion Liaison Officer to Staff unassigned 4 March 1944.
2. 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson, Motor Officer, Battery "C" to Battalion Liaison Officer 4 March 1944.
3. 2nd Lt. Phillip A. Chockley from Battalion Anti Tank Officer to Assistant Communication Officer 4 March 1944.
4. 1st Lt. Gerald W. Evans, promoted to Captain and reassigned as Assistant S - 3 from Headquarters Battery Commander.
5. 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson reassigned from Battalion Liaison Officer to Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battery, 18 March 1944.
6. 2nd Lt. Karl F. Martin, reassigned from Train Commander to Motor Officer, Battery "A", 18 March 1944.
7. 2nd Lt. Lerle G. Moore, reassigned from Motor Officer Headquarters Battery to Train Commander, 18 March 1944.
8. 1st Lt. Clarence C. Newsom, reassigned from Assistant S-2 to Executive Officer, Battery "C", 18 March 1944.
9. 1st Lt. Robert E. Reynolds, reassigned to Reconnaissance Officer Battery "C" from Executive Officer, Battery "C", 18 March 1944.
10. Captain Frank M. Davis, from Staff unassigned to Battalion Motor Officer, 21 March 1944.
11. 1st Lt. Rufus P. Vines, Jr., from Battalion Motor Officer to Battalion Survey Officer.
12. 2nd Lt. Frank W. Burpo received Battle Field Appointment from 1st Sergeant on 19 March and assigned as Motor Officer, Battery "C" on 21 March 1944.
13. 1st Lt. Vernon C. Krogg, returned to duty with Air Section after being absent sick for three months.
14. 1st Lt. Charles F. Kieffer, left for America on Rotation.
15. Captain Charles D. Tool, Battalion Medical Officer transferred to Detachment of Patients, 36th General Hospital, due to wounds received in action on 18 March 1944.

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16. Captain Joseph Dollinger, assigned to Battalion vice Captain Tool transferred.
  17. 2nd Lts. Harlan Cook and Paul F. Judson assigned to Battalion on Temporary Duty and assigned as Motor Officers of Service Battery and Headquarters Battery respectively.
  18. 1st Lt. Gerald W. Evans and 1st Lt. William J. Jessup promoted to captain and 2nd Lt. Phillip A. Chockley promoted to 1st Lt., effective 22 February 1944.
  19. 1st Lt. Harry P. Frantz promoted to Captain and 2nd Lt. Beaman W. Sam promoted to 1st Lt., effective 21 March 1944.

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155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, MAY 1944

In the interim between withdrawal of the Battalion from the line in the Cassino sector on 18 March and its preparation to re-enter combat in May, bivouacs were successively occupied near Capitone and later near Forino; complete reorganization under the 3 July 1943 T/C & E 6-335 was effected; a training program and various recreational activities were simultaneously carried on; and one 3-day field exercise, with service practice, was held.

During the period 1 to 6 May 1944, inclusive, advance detachments from the Battalion left the Forino area to prepare camouflaged gun positions and other necessary installations, under cover of darkness, in the area extending parallel to the beach 2 to 4 kilometers southeast of the mouth of Garigliano River. Extensive digging and liberal use of sandbags and heavy timbers were entailed.

Meanwhile, the Battalion TQM, Captain Gerald W. Evans, was shaping up plans for possible undisclosed water movement.

On 6 May the Battalion moved from the Forino environs to the new, previously reconnoitred bivouac area in the vicinity of Qualiano and established a formalized base camp. Leaving this occupied by about 200 men as a "rear rear" echelon, with complete installations and parked simulated howitzers, the bulk of the Battalion moved forward the night of 8 - 9 May into the prepared positions southeast of the mouth of Garigliano River. With some 300 personnel the prepared positions were occupied; and additional 100 or so, including service elements, were set up in a "forward rear" approximately 3 miles east of Mondragone, wither were dispatch all vehicles, except messenger "jeeps" and 2-3/4 ton C & R's. Daily trips between "forward", "forward rear", and "rear rear" were inaugurated, and all the other vehicular traffic in and out of the position area was restricted to hours of darkness, during which complete blackout was imposed.

09 May Weather clear and hot; visibility clear. Enemy observation impaired by use of smoke between Battalion position and the Garigliano River. Battalion was assigned mission of general support of the 85th Infantry Division. Two ground Observation Posts set, wire circuits completed, and batteries reported ready to fire in early morning hours. No ammunition expenditure yet.

10 May No change in weather or visibility. Advantageous smoke mask continues. Visit in forenoon from Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery. Brief ineffective counterbattery received in early afternoon, probably 170mm gun. Registration of 1 howitzer from "G" Battery on Base Point and Check Point #1 by a 910th Field Artillery Battalion Observation Post (23ras). Total ammunition expenditure for this date - 23 rounds HE.

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- 11 May No change in weather or visibility. Same protective smoke in use. Forenoon visit from Executive and Surgeon, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, with printed messages from General Alexander and General Clark. Battalion TQM called for to report to 36th Infantry Division Rear on the morrow. Repetition of enemy afternoon harassment. Operation "Lucky" launched throughout theatre at 2300 hours, Battalion firing in support, in its allotted zone on 8 previously assigned target areas before midnight. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 394 rounds HE.
- 12 May Five previously assigned missions were carried out during early morning hours (264 rounds). Continued good weather and clear visibility. Check Point #1 registration checked (36 rounds). Observed mission on enemy dugouts, adjusted by Battery "C" Observation Post; destruction reported (39 rounds). Repetition of 2 of previous night's 13 unobserved missions fired (176 rounds). Reconnaissance of new position area by Battery Commanders and S-2 in preparation for expected forward displacement. Various defensive and counter-attack repelling fires before midnight (475 rounds). Three night harassing fires initiated at 2300 hours (72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 1062 rounds HE.
- 13 May Previous night's 3 harassing missions continued to 0500 hours (360 rounds). No weather nor visibility changes. Area targets during day (467 rounds), plus neutralization of one machine gun emplacement (29 rounds). Night displacement forward to positions just north of Kinturno. Total ammunition expenditure this date - 856 rounds HE.
- 14 May Weather somewhat cooler to hot. Visibility, otherwise clear, intermittently impaired by ground fog and smoke. Base Point and Check Point registrations (71 rounds). Fires in support of local attacks, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (296 rounds). Afternoon visit from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery. Nine night harassing missions (83 rounds - fired by midnight). Total ammunition expenditure for this date - 447 rounds HE and 3 smoke.
- 15 May Previous night's 9 harassing missions continued to 0530 hours (306 rounds). Weather hot, visibility good. Check of registrations (94 rounds). Brief morning TOT (30 rounds). Afternoon fires in support of attacks (437 rounds); uniformly favorable results reported. Brief mission on enemy trucks (5 rounds). Scattered enemy counterbattery in late evening of 14th May till past midnight; several duds, including one almost intact 170 mm gun projectile, subsequently examined by Ordnance Lieutenant Wade, to whom it was reported. Eight night harassing missions (186 rounds fired by midnight). Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 1053 rounds HE and 5 rounds smoke.

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- 16 May Previous night's 8 harassing missions continued to 0500 hours (267 rounds). Weather warm, visibility clear. Alert from 36th Division Artillery for march order (0445 hours) followed at 0930 hours by message from same source scheduling 1230 hours as the tentative hour of departure. This advice countermanded at 1045 hours, and the Battalion remained in position, ready to fire, pending further orders. Unobserved fires in evening or reported enemy tanks and infantry assembly areas, per 36th Division Artillery request (384 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 651 rounds HE.
- 17 May No weather nor visibility change. Rolling barrages from 0450 to 0650 hours (461 rounds). Four morning harassing missions (67 rounds). Infiltration march from positions to "rear rear" in Qualiano vicinity, per 36th Division Artillery order, 2030 to 0130 hours of 18th May. Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 528 rounds HE.
- 18 May Advance party, consisting of Major Lawrence D. Gilmer, Battalion Executive, Captain William L. Bush, Commanding Battery "A", Captain Richard B. Hawk, Commanding Battery "B" and Captain Harry P. Frantz Jr, Commanding Battery "C", reported to the "Texas" Staging area near Pozzuoli at 1600 hours 18 May and travelled by LST overnight to Nettuno with other 36th Division Artillery representatives to prepare for arrival of the 36th Division Artillery Battalions. Battalion "Beachhead Contingent" arrived "Texas" Staging Area about 1800 hours 18th May, bivouacked nearby, loaded aboard LST and departed about 1615 hours 19th May, and unloaded at Anzio about 0700 hours on 20th May, proceeding thence several miles inland to a thicketed assembly area. Battalion Executive, Battalion Survey Officer, Battalion Communications Officer, Battalion Communications Officer, Battalion Ammunition Sergeant, and three firing Battery Commanders reconnoitred prepared gun positions and possible Battalion installations, with able assistance from the 185th Field Artillery Battalion. Communications wire net installed. Battalion Executive set up permanently in selected Command Post. Bulk of Battalion bivouacked 20th to 22nd May in assembly area, to be used hereafter as rear echelon installation. Improvement of howitzers night of 21st - 22nd, with registration of 1 piece per Battery about 1300 hours on 22nd May (10 rounds). Fire Direction Center having meanwhile started business on the 22nd. Forward elements moved into position night of 22nd - 23rd in vicinity north of Conca, Battalion "Beachhead Contingent", forward plus rear comprises 331 men and 24 officers. Mission: Support of 1st Special Service Force. Liaison established with 463rd Field Artillery Battalion by Lieutenant Bell. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 11 rounds HE.

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- 23 May H - hour 0600. Preparatory fires begun 0545. Weather cloudy to clear, visibility good except as impaired by smoke. Check of registration (21 rounds). Nine supporting fires, including preparation (748 rounds). Six morning counterbattery missions, with reported neutralizing effect (319 rounds); three in afternoon (248 rounds). Five missions on enemy tanks, with reported destruction of 5 and damage to a sixth (196 rounds). Counter-attack repelled (428 rounds). Five defensive fire missions (158 rounds). One night mission on enemy guns (24 rounds). Total expenditure of ammunition for period - 2102 rounds HE and 40 rounds smoke.
- 24 May Four early morning harassing missions (28 rounds) followed by 685 rounds of supporting fire in reinforcement of 151st Field Artillery Battalion fires. Enemy batteries and tanks taken under fire in series of forenoon missions (288 rounds), Air Observation Post reporting neutralization. Battalion Commander, S-2 and Communications Officer on morning reconnaissance of possible forward position areas. Early cloudiness clears up as visibility continues hazy. Afternoon missions on enemy tanks and guns (72 rounds) adjusted by Air Observation Post. Night unobserved fire (273 rounds) delivered on enemy bridges. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1337 rounds HE and 9 rounds smoke.
- 25 May Early morning unobserved missions on SP's (310 rounds). Weather warm and clear, visibility good. Forward reconnaissance by S-2 and Communications Officer. "CSMO" at 1315 hours. Movement of B attalion to new positions some 8.5 miles northeast. Registration of one howitzer in late afternoon (7 rounds). Rear echelon simultaneously displaced forward to occupy location just vacated by Battalion Command Post. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 314 rounds HE and 3 rounds smoke.
- 26 May Reconnaissance of new positions, some 5 miles to northwest, undertaken by Major William D. Waldrop, Battalion S-3, Captain William J. Jessup, Battalion S-2, and Battery Commander at 0400 hours. Forward displacement of Battalion occupy same begun at 0545. Lieutenant Bell recalled from liaison with 463rd Field Artillery Battalion and dispatched to 68th Field Artillery Battalion, in accordance with new Battalion mission of general support and fire-reinforcement of same. Simultaneous forward displacement of rear echelon to occupy newly vacated Battalion position area. Registration of all Batteries at 0840 - 0940 hours (37 rounds). No weather nor visibility changes. Twenty supporting fire missions accomplished in forenoon (931 rounds). Continuous afternoon observed missions on enemy roadnet, vehicles, tanks, and artillery (433 rounds), with reported neutralization, destruction of 1 tank, and commencement of several large fires.
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Ammunition train engaged in steady, unrelieved shuttle, cannoners on 24 hour duty. All available personnel (e.g., cooks, mechanics, etc.) used to supplement train and howitzer sections. Steps taken to prod Division into getting up our 200 - odd personnel from the rear near San Prisco. Lieutenant Bell recalled from liaison assignment, Battalion reverting to Division control. Five early night harassing missions (204 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1547 rounds HE and 58 rounds smoke.

- 27 May Six later night harassing missions (1132 rounds). Continued good weather and visibility. Couple of morning observed missions (44 rounds). Registration Check from Air Observation Post (28 rounds). Observed missions on enemy vehicles, armor, and artillery (129 rounds); neutralization plus 2 direct hits on tanks reported. Four early night harassing missions (502 rounds). Unobserved night fire in repulsion of enemy counter-attack (240 rounds). Enemy aerial harassment of this general vicinity twice during night. Ammunition expenditure for day - 2127 rounds HE and 21 rounds smoke.
- 28 May Weather and visibility still all to the good. Four morning harassing missions, assigned by 36th Division Artillery (80 rounds). Registration checks from Air Observation Post (21 rounds). Observed mission on ammunition dump and enemy trucks (52 rounds); reported destruction of 2 trucks. Afternoon harassing fire (72 rounds). Eight unobserved missions, assigned by 36th Division Artillery, on reported enemy tank positions (383 rounds). Enemy Observation Post destroyed (24 rounds); adjustment from Air Observation Post. Four observed missions on enemy tanks and guns (207 rounds), with reported neutralizing effect. Five night harassing missions (114 rounds) and 2 Binges (120 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1061 rounds HE and 12 rounds smoke. Forward reconnaissance by S-2 and Battery Commanders. Personnel from rear (San Prisco) having started filtering up with empty vehicles past two days and 1st Lieutenant Newson, first person from this Battalion to make a trip overland from the Beachhead over the newly captured Highway 7, having returned to San Prisco to expedite the movement. Whole sale arrivals by LSTs this morning bring total personnel on hand to 27 Officers and 525 enlisted men, plus most of equipment and all vehicles except five.
- 29 May Enemy counterattacks dealt with for couple hours from shortly after midnight (1043 rounds). Three early morning supporting fire missions (320 rounds). Perfect weather and visibility conditions.

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Time adjustment from Air Observation Post (35 rounds). Tanks, Machine Guns, and Artillery taken under fire in forenoon (93 rounds); neutralization, including 1 direct on gun. One bridge destroyed (16 rounds). Neutralization of enemy guns in 4 Air adjusted missions (126 rounds). Several target hits in two observed mission on strong point and machine gun positions (63 rounds). Trucks effectively harassed (16 rounds). Demonstration, preparation fires, and a Bingo (416 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 2103 rounds HE and 23 rounds smoke. "A" Battery displaced forward by infiltration during afternoon, "B" Battery likewise in evening after dark. Personnel Section, having received orders from the Division Rear Commandant, moved overland in British Lorries from San Prisco, along Highway 7, to the area about 2 miles north west of Nettuno.

30 May Early morning preparation fires (180 rounds). Later demonstration (80 rounds). Observed missions on enemy trucks and infantry (91 rounds). Check point registration of Battery "A" and "B" in new positions, Air Observation Post adjusting (66 rounds). Same perfect weather and visibility conditions prevailing. Three mile forward displacement of "C" Battery and Battalion installations by infiltration completed during afternoon, Battalion rear meanwhile occupying location just vacated by Command Post. Mission of direct support of 36th Combat Engineers assigned; liaison established by Lieutenant Bell. Possible new positions, further forward, reconnoitred by Battalion Command and S-2. Afternoon demonstration fires (250 rounds). Successive Base Point and Check Point registrations (134 rounds). Observed adjustment on an enemy installation (43 rounds). Afternoon and night Binges (70 rounds). Six night harassing missions (96 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 915 rounds HE and 95 rounds of smoke. Technician grade 5 Romeo J. Marzi, Headquarters Battery, wounded in left upper arm by mysterious small arm slug in early morning. Private Edward A. Tannins, Headquarters Battery, attached to Battalion from Personnel Center No. 9, sprained or broke foot while fire laying. Both men evacuated to hospital.

31 May Private James P. Doyle, Battery "A", seriously injured about midnight May 30-31 when excessively recoiling howitzer cleared trail trench and pinned him beneath wheel. Early morning enemy aerial harassment of vicinity. No weather nor visibility change. Forenoon visit from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery and Commanding General VI Corps Artillery. Fire started in enemy battery position - observed adjustment (69 rounds). Registration checks from Air Observation Post (52 rounds).

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Seven harassing missions (1416 rounds). Observed missions from noon to midnight on enemy vehicles, armor, heavy weapons, and artillery, with reported effect of area neutralization, 1 explosion among trucks and 4 direct hits on machine gun emplacement (207 rounds). Afternoon Bingo (99 rounds). Repulsion of early night counter-attack (109 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1935 rounds HE and 17 rounds smoke.

The following type of casualties occurred during this period:

| <u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u> | <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>ENLISTED MEN</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| KIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| DCW                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| SIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| DIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LEA                     | 0               | 1                   | 1            |
| SFA                     | 0               | 1                   | 1            |
| MIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| POW                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |

No replacements have been received during the month.

"SILVER STAR CITATIONS RECEIVED  
DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN."

1. NAME  
1st Lt. Phillip A. Chockley, Headquarters Battery, home, Shelbyville, Tenn.  
DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED  
20 December 1944, Migano, Italy.  
CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES  
Saved lives of his men during a terrific enemy artillery bombardment, carrying to shelter those wounded and administering first aid under shell fire.
2. NAME  
1st Lt. Leroy L. Bell, Battery "B", home, San Antonio, Texas.  
First Sergeant James G. Williams, Battery "B", home, Fort Worth, Texas.  
Staff Sergeant Remson R. Cover, Medical Detachment, home, San Antonio, Texas.  
Corporal Melvin B. Haley, Battery "B", Fort Worth, Texas.  
Private First Class John L. McNeill Jr., Medical Detachment, home San Antonio, Texas.  
Private First Class Cleburne H. Schmidt, Medical Detachment, home San Houston, Texas.

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Private First Class John V. Banse, Medical Detachment, home  
San Antonio, Texas.  
Private Julius (NMI) Shocko, Medical Detachment, home, Eckerman,  
Michigan.  
Private John (NMI) Genna, Battery "B", home, Jamaica, New York.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

18 March 1944, near Cassino, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

The above Officer and Enlisted Men were cited as follows:  
Battery position having been located by the enemy; a terrific  
concentration of enemy artillery was received in this area,  
wounding a number of men. While the position was being shelled  
the above cited worked continuously evacuating the wounded, even  
though wounded themselves.

3. NAME

Sergeant Arthur A. Young, Battery "C", home, Palestine, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

7 January 1944, San Pietro, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Saved the lives of his section during an intense enemy artillery  
shelling, taking them to cover over an open field and administering  
first aid. Sergeant having been wounded, disregarded his wounds  
and continued with his evacuation until another burst fatally  
wounded him.

"BRONZE STAR MEDAL CITATIONS  
RECEIVED DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. NAME

Lt. Col. Thomas T. Atkins, Battalion Commander, home, Hampton,  
Virginia.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

13 September 1943, Altavilla, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

For gallantry in action near Altavilla, Italy in placing the  
Battalion in position and conducting the firing on enemy  
counterattack, which was repulsed at this critical time.

2. NAME

1st Lt. Clarence C. Newson, Battalion Train Commander, home,  
Coffee Springs, Alabama.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

13 September 1943, Altavilla, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Under shell fire, returned to the position previously occupied  
by Battalion from which he retrieved valuable, essential radio  
equipment and other property.

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3. NAME

Staff Sergeant Gilbert F. Schaeffer, Battery "C", home, Cleburne, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

27 September 1943, Maiori Beach, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

After the amphibious landing at Maiori Beach all Battery Officers present became casualties. Staff Sergeant Schaeffer assumed command and directed the Battery firing, under enemy artillery fire.

4. NAME

Sergeant Russel T. Flahie, Battery "C", home, Houston, Texas.

Corporal Palmer D. Taylor, Battery "C", home, Houston, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

26 - 28 September 1943, Chiunzi Pass, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

The above men, under intense enemy shell fire, kept essential wire communications between the 3rd Ranger Battalion and this Battalion, working many hours without rest or relief.

5. NAME

Corporal Edward (RMI) Keeton, Battery "B", home, Houston, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

11 - 14 September 1943, near Altavilla, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Operated radio on Observation Post, under intense enemy shell fire and without relief or rest for period of 24 hours or more. His loyalty to duty by keeping the only communications intact assisted in repulsing an enemy tank attack.

6. NAME

Private First Class Grant L. Sauer, Service Batter, home, Pittsburgh, Penna.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

13 September 1943, near Altavilla, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Under enemy artillery shelling and enemy strafing, Private First Class Sauer left his place of safety to evacuate some of his wounded comrades and administer first aid.

7. NAME

Private First Class Welton R. Brasuell, Service Batter, home, New Braunfels, Texas.

Private First Class James W. Hawkins, Service Battery, home, Miami, Fla

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

11 September 1943, Pastum, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

The above two men were working in the Battalion Shop, when German planes began strafing the area. Immediately manning the 50 caliber machine gun mounted on 4-ton wrecker, one firing and one feeding the machine gun, as one of the German planes came overhead a burst from the machine gun sent it down in flames.

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*Stanley W. Ruth*  
 STANLEY W. RUTH  
 W.O. (J.G.) F.A.  
 Unit Historian

17 Incls.

- Exhibits:
- A - Conclusions by Battalion Commander.
  - B - List of Casualties
  - C - Officers Roster
  - D - Officer Duty Changes
  - E - Field Order #1
  - F - Field Order #2
  - G - Unit Journal
  - H - Missions Flow by Air Section
  - I - S-1 Reports
  - J - S-2 Reports
  - K - S-3 Reports
  - L - Summary of Firing
  - M - Daily Report of Firing
  - N - Situation overlays #1,2,3,4,5
  - O - Operation overlays #1 and 2
  - P - Maps: Pontecorvo, Gaeta, Sessa Aurunca, Cassino
  - Q - Firing Charts (6)

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, *NNW 235017*

By *RB/KSW*

NARA, Date *8-8-92*

CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER

Experience continues to demonstrate the basic soundness of tactical doctrines expounded by the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, when applied with intelligence and discrimination to the eternally varying conditions of combat.

On more than one occasion recently, this Battalion has been assigned to a direct support mission and called on to provide two complete liaison teams and two or more officer forward observers, in addition to maintaining regular ground CP's. Under the now applicable T/O, it is well to remember, the Battalion is authorized, and has, only four (4) officers per battery (including the battery commander), no forward observers as such, one (1) liaison officer, and no liaison section, transportation, nor equipment.

The need for radio personnel additional to the limited number authorized by the T/O has been acutely felt.

The superiority of the "jeep" 1/4 ton over the 3/4 ton C & R vehicle for all combat purposes is increasingly apparent. Use of the 610-radio with the "jeep" as transport represents the most satisfactory available combination of ready communication and fast mobility.

Better provision for night lighting in the Battalion Fire Direction Center would diminish its difficulties and enhance its efficiency. Temporary accessibility to a generator of our accompanying anti-aircraft platoon of the 534th F & Bn (AA) has proved of substantial aid. The platoon in question has, in other respects as well, collaborated with the Battalion to perfection.

The appropriateness of some rating for the firing battery recorder, as well as higher rating for the firing battery wire chief and prime mover drivers than presently authorized (corporal and Tec 5 respectively), deserves consideration. Expert and specialized ability is required in each connection, particularly under the 24-hour, night-blackout, frequently fast-moving conditions that characterize combat. If a man measures up to the responsibility, he is definitely of higher than fifth grade caliber; he is either held in an undeservedly lower grade than his capacity warrants or he is promoted to a different assignment, and the necessity of patient development of new talent for the vacated assignment, so essential to a medium artillery battalion, crops up anew.

Wanton and unnecessary damage to wire lines by cavorting armored elements in the vicinity of battery positions continues to multiply the man-hours required for maintenance of vital communications.

Hoped for and expected supply of target area air photos has failed to materialize in any appreciable quantity during current operations.

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It is gratifying to remark that zealous protective measures on the malaria front are yielding dividends: not a single case has yet developed in the Battalion this season.

The first effects of rotation replacement vary widely. To date only one officer and three men have arrived, another officer and five more men are awaited. The officer and one man received, Sergeant John W. Webb, ASN 6389377, fulfill requirements to satisfaction; another man, Corporal Silas M. Buchanan, ASN 35903290, had had no artillery training whatsoever but, by dint of patient and determined effort, is expected to "make the grade" in time as a gunner corporal; the third man, a private, gives evidence of neither artillery training, hopeful prospects, nor desirability.

In the light of the foregoing, it is RECOMMENDED THAT

- (1) The Battalion, when appropriate, be authorized and provided adequate liaison and observation personnel for direct support missions, in excess of T/C.
- (2) Additional radio operators be authorized and provided.
- (3) The 1/4 ton "Jeep" be substituted throughout for the 3/4 ton C & R car.
- (4) A portable generator be made available to the Fire Direction Center.
- (5) Firing battery wire chief and prime mover drivers be accorded the rating of sergeant and Tec 4 respectively, and a rating of at least fifth grade be created for the firing battery recorder.
- (6) Rudimentary and repeated communications instruction be given all tank and tank destroyer drivers, with the provision that they are to repair immediately any wire lines that they cut, tactical conditions permitting.
- (7) Arrangements be perfected for prompt and continuous supply of target area map photos during combat operations.
- (8) The rotation system be amended to authorize that position vacancies created by rotation be filled by promotion within the Battalion, when possible, and upon approval of higher headquarters.

*Thomas T. Atkins*

THOMAS T. ATKINS  
Lieutenant Colonel, F.A.  
Commanding

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LIST OF CASUALTIES IN MAY 1944

1. Tec Gr 5 Romeo J. Marzi, ASN 32326319, Headquarters Battery, wounded in left arm by bullet. Entered service from New York City, New York.
2. Pvt James P. Doyle, ASN 32784403, Battery "A", seriously injured when Howitzer wheel ran over his chest. Trail broke when gun was fired and soldier was pinned underneath wheel. Entered service from Bronx, New York.



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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.F.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

31 May 1944.

BATTALION STAFF

|                         |          |           |             |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| ATKINS, THOMAS T.       | Lt. Col. | 0-246315  | Bn Cmdr.    |
| GILMER, LAWRENCE D.     | Major    | 0-255409  | Bn Exec.    |
| WALDROP, WILLIAM D.     | Major    | 0-348140  | S - 3       |
| EVANS, GERALD W.        | Capt.    | 0-1165012 | Ass't S - 3 |
| JESSUP, WILLIAM J.      | Capt.    | 0-415050  | S - 2       |
| KENT, RAYMOND F.        | 1st Lt.  | 0-1176092 | Bn Sur Off  |
| BELL, LEROY L.          | 1st Lt.  | 0-418651  | Bn Ln Off   |
| DOLLINGER, JOSEPH (WMI) | Capt.    | 0-1689333 | Med Off     |
| HUTH, STANLEY W.        | WOJG     | W-2108253 | Pers Off    |

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

|                       |         |           |             |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| WILLIAMSON, MARTIN W. | Capt.   | 0-1166867 | Btry C O    |
| CHOCKLEY, PHILLIP A.  | 1st Lt. | 0-1177328 | Ass't Com O |
| STEWART, JACK R.      | 1st Lt. | 0-403496  | Mtr Off     |
| SVOBODA, ARTIE F.     | 2nd Lt. | 0-1180360 | Air Off     |

"A" BATTERY

|                  |         |           |          |
|------------------|---------|-----------|----------|
| BUSH, WILLIAM L. | Capt.   | 0-407530  | Btry C O |
| BENT, CHARLES A. | 1st Lt. | 0-1175945 | Exec     |
| SAM, BEAMAN W.   | 1st Lt. | 0-1172638 | R. O.    |
| MARTIN, KARL P.  | 2nd Lt. | 0-1180599 | Mtr. Off |

"B" BATTERY

|                      |         |           |          |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|----------|
| HATK, RICHARD B.     | Capt.   | 0-415562  | Btry C O |
| BURPO, FRANK W.      | 2nd Lt. | 0-1703017 | Exec     |
| FINGERHUT, KIVA S.   | 1st Lt. | 0-1176013 | R. O.    |
| McCREADY, RICHARD J. | 2nd Lt. | 0-1170486 | Mtr Off. |

"C" BATTERY

|                      |         |           |              |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| FRANTZ, HARRY P. JR. | Capt.   | 0-404452  | Btry C O     |
| REYNOLDS, ROBERT E.  | 1st Lt. | 0-1167174 | Exec.        |
| JUDSON, PAUL F.      | 2nd Lt. | 0-1181319 | Mtr Off (TD) |
| COOK, HARLAN (WMI)   | 2nd Lt. | 0-1167785 | R. O. (TD)   |

SERVICE BATTERY

|                     |         |           |               |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|---------------|
| VINES, WALTON M.    | Capt.   | 0-1167257 | Btry C O, S-4 |
| NEWSOM, CLARENCE C. | 1st Lt. | 0-1167141 | Bn Mtr Off    |
| MOORE, MERLE G.     | 2nd Lt. | 0-1177102 | Train Comdg.  |
| BAILEY, HAROLD W.   | 1st Lt. | 0-1168943 | Mtr Off.      |

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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.C. No. 36, U. S. Army

30 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Assignments, Losses and Changes of Duty of Battalion Officers  
from 31 March thru 31 May 1944.

1. Captain Lawrence D. Gilmer, Battalion Executive promoted to Major 23 March 1944.
2. Captain William D. Kalarop, Battalion S-3, promoted to Major 23 March 1944.
3. 1st Lt. Leroy L. Bell, reassigned from Executive officer Btry "B" to Battalion Liaison officer 11 April 1944.
4. 2nd Lt. Frank M. Burpo, reassigned from Motor officer Btry "C" to Executive officer, Btry "B", 11 April 1944.
5. 2nd Lt. Paul F. Judson, from Motor officer, Headquarters Battery to Motor officer Btry "C", on 11 April 1944.
6. 1st Lt. Raymond F. Kent, reassigned from Ass't S-3 to Battalion Survey Officer effective 11 April 1944.
7. 1st Lt. Vernon C. Krogg, Air Pilot transferred to 178th Field Artillery Group on 15 April 1944.
8. 1st Lt. Walton M. Vines, promoted to Captain on 17 April 1944.
9. 1st Lt. Clarence C. Newsom, reassigned from Executive officer Btry "C" to Battalion Motor Officer 24 April 1944.
10. 1st Lt. Robert E. Reynolds, Recon, officer to Btry Executive Btry "C" on 24 April 1944.
11. 2nd Lt. Harlan (NLI) Cook Jr., reassigned from Motor officer Service Btry to Recon officer Btry "C" on 24 April 1944.
12. 1st Lt. Harold W. Bailey, assigned to the Battalion on 24 April 1944. Rotation replacement for 1st Lt. Charles F. Keiffer.
13. Capt. Frank M. Davis, from Battalion Motor officer to absent sick and transferred to 45th General Hospital on 1 May 1944.

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14. CWO Harold E. Johnson, transferred to the 45th General Hospital on 8 May 1944.
15. 1st Lt. Rufus P. Vines, left Battalion on 8 April 1944 on rotation for the United States.

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155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, JUNE 1944

01 June The Battalion continues in 36th Infantry Division general support, (See previous calendar month's history) with the advantage of typically warm summer weather and clear observation. Night harassing fires, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (110 rds). Enemy planes harass area about 1900, dropping antipersonnel bombs, disrupting wire communications, and inflicting foot wounds on two Headquarters Battery men. 2nd Lieutenant Paul P. Jenson sustains slight shoulder wound later in the day from mortar fragment.

Morning Bingo (60 rds). Intermittent harassing fires during the day (230 rds). Observed missions on trucks, tanks, artillery, mortars, automatic weapons, and strong points (640 rds), with reported effect of neutralization, destruction of one mortar, and repeated hits on emplacements. Night bingo (50 rds). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 1069 HE and 21 Smoke.

02 June Night harassing fires (350 rds). Morning bingo and TCT (227 rds). Continued favorable weather and observation. Prolonged dry spell, however, provokes heavy clouds of dust over roads.

Battalion is assigned by 36th Division Artillery the mission of direct support of 157th Infantry (45th Division). This is shortly amended to provide for reinforcement of fires of 131st Field Artillery Battalion, in direct support of 157th Infantry, and 1st Lieutenant Bell and Officer observers proceed thither. Initial new position area reconnaissance is superseded by 36th Division Artillery instruction to reconnoitre in specific map "goose egg"; so ordered, the Battalion Commander, S-2, Survey Officer, Communications Officer, and Battery Commanders and parties go forward and engage in skirmish a German Detachment which proves reluctant to vacate the area for the purpose. Our forces retire in good order, after capturing several prisoners, losing one wire vehicle, and incurring no casualties. Thereafter a forward displacement of the Battalion and occupation of the originally reconnoitred positions, a short distance north of Velletri, is accomplished.

Thirty-Sixth Division Artillery imposes limit of 100 rounds per gun per day till further notice.

Late evening registration of one battery by Air Observation Post (11 rds). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 606 HE and 182 Smoke.

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03 June Completion of registration of Battalion (64 rus).

Towards noon 36th Division Artillery changes current Battalion Mission to direct support of 157th Infantry, but in less than an hour countermands such instruction.

Series of neutralizing observed fires delivered on enemy troops and weapons (423 rus). Air Observation Post check of registration (34 rus). One unobserved harassment mission on enemy personnel (198 rus).

04 June Rear elements of Battalion, including the Personnel Section, meanwhile moved forward to occupy position vacated by Battalion on evening of 2 June. Further morning forward reconnaissance is undertaken at 36th Division Artillery direction and the Battalion shortly follows, to rendezvous after several miles in area just north of Rocca di Papa. Battalion meanwhile reassigned mission of general support of the 36th Infantry Division right column; Lieutenant Bell is therefore relieved of liaison with 141st Infantry and rejoins the Battalion. Move forward is resumed and Battalion occupies position for a couple of hours in area to the west of Grottoferata, whence displacement ensues to new position about 5 miles southeast of Rome. By 2100 hours, Battalion rear and Personnel Section, moving by successive bounds, have closed in the same general area. No ammunition expenditure this date.

05 June Early morning Close Station March Order, directed by 36th Division Artillery, puts the Battalion on road towards Rome at 0330 hours, rear elements remaining in bivouac. March proceeds at creeping pace through Rome, after loading one Battalion of 143rd Infantry aboard trucks, crosses Tiber, and continues to position area several miles to west, in vicinity of which Infantry are detrucked. Batteries prepare to register, but fire withheld at instance of supported troops pending further call.

Hot, dry weather, with gusty road conditions, continues. No ammunition expenditure this date.

06 June News of the Invasion of France received by radio. Battalion makes afternoon forward displacement to rendezvous area several miles northwest of Rome, rear elements, including Personnel Section, simultaneously occupying positions just vacated. Northerly route resumed after evening meal, and batteries go into position in vicinity of Quarto della Cascina. Radio Order at 2130 hours from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery, again closes station and puts Battalion on the road to northeast, in coordination with 133rd Field Artillery, Battalion and 976th Field Artillery Battalion. Congested traffic condition on narrow, rocky, circuitous route cause Battalion to creep all night behind Infantry and widely diverse other elements, to rendezvous and seize a little rest beside highway shortly after dawn. No ammunition expenditure this date.

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07 June March to north preceded by brief reconnaissance by Battalion Commander, and S-2, is resumed at 0930 hours. Batteries disperse in "readiness" about 1030 hours near Stazione della Crocicche on Highway 1. Battalion rear elements rejoin Batteries in this area during the day. Lieutenant Bell established liaison with 36th Division Artillery. S-3, on 36th Division Artillery order and in consummation of announced relief of 143rd Infantry, arranges details to transport two 143rd Infantry Battalions to bivouac; Battalion trucks depart for the purpose in late evening and early night. No ammunition expenditure this date.

08 June No change in weather.

Forward displacement of all Battalion elements to area west of Tolfa, short of Allumiere, closing in early afternoon. Rendezvous terminated by 36th Division Artillery directed reconnaissance for positions forward, followed by night blackout march of battalion (less Service echelon) to vicinity south of Farquima. Mission assigned: Support of 361st Infantry Combat Team (includes 916th Field Artillery Battalion 91st Division). Occupation of positions and preparations to fire completed about midnight. No ammunition expenditure this date.

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*After 23 July '45*

Early morning binges, unobserved (134 rds).

Lieutenant Bell established liaison with 36th Division Artillery per order Commanding General.

Forward displacement of battalion in early afternoon to a barracks area southwest of Farquima, followed shortly to that point by service echelon and Personnel Section. Quick occupation of position by Batteries.

Oral advice of Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery, that Battalion will remain overnight as presently situated is countermanded in favor of further forward displacement. Accordingly, night move initiated over field just off highway to south of Lontalto. Total ammunition expenditure this date: 132 Hb and 2 Smoke.

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10 June Forward displacement is resumed in late morning and continued to point off Highway 1, several miles northwest of Montalito and about 3 miles south of Capalzo. Positions are occupied and missions undertaken in late afternoon, Lieutenant Bell advising from 36th Division Artillery of current assigned mission: fires to west, north and north-northeast in defense of 36th Infantry Division lines. Unobserved fires on enemy guns (136 rds). Registration from Air Observation Post (33 rds). Explosions and fires started and personnel casualties inflicted on enemy by well adjusted "B" Battery Observation Post missions (67 rds), Captain Richard B. Hawk and 1st Lieutenant Kiva S. Fingerhut conducting.

Total ammunition expenditure this date: 230 HE and 6 Smoke.

Alert at 2300 hours from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery, move as far west as tactical situation permits.

11 June Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders and their parties go forward on reconnaissance at 0500. Battalion is prepared to roll out at 0600 hours when radio message from Battalion Commander halts march and returns howitzers to positions and resumption of fire. Support of otherwise unsupported 141st Infantry undertaken on initiative of Battalion Commander after conference with 141st Infantry Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Bell established necessary liaison and is soon wounded severely in left upper arm by shell fragment and evacuated to hospital.

2nd Lieutenant Cook established liaison with 142nd Infantry.

Sixteen unobserved missions on enemy personnel and in repulsion of counterattacks are accomplished at instance of 141st Infantry (625 rds)

Area Neutralization and 1 direct hit in air-adjusted mission on a gun position (137 rds) "B" Observation Post adjusts series of fires on enemy troops, inflicting heavy casualties (286 rds) Air Observation Post adjusts late afternoon fires on additional gun positions, with reported neutralizing effect (231 rds).

Total ammunition expenditure this date: 1274 HE and 5 Smoke.

12 June Four night and early morning harassing fires, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (144 rds). Air Observation Post Check of registration (15 rds).

No weather nor visibility changes.

Current mission assigned: reinforcement of fires of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, in direct support of 142nd Infantry.

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Preceded by position area reconnaissance, Battalion displaces forward in late afternoon to some 3 miles northwest of Capalbio. Base point registration is conducted by Air Observation Post (45 rds). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 195 HE and 9 Smoke.

- 13 June No further fire from present position. Battalion again makes afternoon forward displacement, preceded by reconnaissance, this time to cross Highway 74 and occupy positions along Albegna River, several miles southwest of Lagliano.

Upon 36th Division Artillery instructions, Battalion prepares to extend move behind 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, but continues in position when advised of 132nd's remaining as located to support infantry in encounter with unexpected opposition. Lieutenant Newsom established liaison with 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

Base point registration from Air Observation Post (41 rds). Evening bingo (20 rds). Fire in repulsion of counter-attack, adjusted by 132nd Field Artillery Battalion Observation Post (27 rds). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 82 HE and 6 Smoke.

- 14 June Enemy battery and SP guns are reported neutralized by midnight fires, adjusted from 132nd Field Artillery Observation Post (52 rds). Night and early morning harassing fires, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (363 rds).

Enemy planes bomb and strafe Battalion area about 0330; no casualties.

Pursuant to 36th Division Artillery Order, "A" Battery is detached from the Battalion and attached to 117th Reconnaissance Squadron, proceeding thither about 0430 hours. 1st Lieutenant Newsom is recalled from 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and dispatched to 117th Reconnaissance Squadron to maintain liaison.

2nd Lieutenant Cook returns from 142nd Infantry.

Preparatory fires are delivered at call of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion in early afternoon (41 rds).

Observed missions are adjusted by Air Observation Post on enemy artillery, troops, vehicles, and marching columns, with report of devastating results (105 rds). Afternoon bingo, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (46 rds).

- 15 June No let-up in summer heat, dryness and dust.

Captain Walton L. Vines, Battalion S-4 advises of displacement forward of Battalion service elements and Personnel Section along the line of Highway #1.

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16 morning fires. En displaces beyond Magliano to rendezvous area south of Montiano, then resumes march in afternoon to rendezvous approximately one mile north of Montiano. Preceded by reconnaissance, En continues forward in early evening to occupy positions some 5 miles southeast of Grosseto. Air CP adjusted registration on base point (44 rds) is completed at twilight. CG, Div Arty, directs reconnaissance of, and displacement to, new positions 2000 yds closer to Grosseto. Same is forthwith accomplished by blackout. Total ammo expenditure this date: 41 HE, 3 smoke.

- 16 June Weather warm, visibility clear. Morning registration is accomplished through Air CP (62 rds). Missions is adjusted on tanks by Air CP, effecting explosion and neutralization (42 rds). Enemy guns are taken under fire through ground CP's; results: area neutralization and three large explosions (96) rds. Early afternoon Bingo, as called for by Div Arty (30 rds). Observed missions are carried out on enemy personnel and suspected installations (35 rds), effectively covering target areas. Current mission assigned by Div Arty; support of 143 CF. Twilight forward displacement, preceded by usual reconnaissance, to occupation of positions in flats of Ombrone River, about 2000 yds SE of Grosseto. Battalion service elements are now situated 5 miles to rear toward Montiano, except Personnel Section, 6 miles further back, in Montiano. Total ammo expenditure this date: 273 HE, 14 smoke.
- 17 June Weather cooler, cloudy to clear. Afternoon threat of rain fails to materialize. Morning registration from Air CP (48 rds). Missions on enemy vehicles and artillery adjusted by Air CP, with reported neutralization effect (49 rds). Hit in afternoon on horse-drawn artillery and on tanks, scoring 1 direct hit on latter (152 rds). "A" Btry returns to En control 1800, but En Officer (Lt. Benson) and an officer observer (Lt. Sam) are to remain with 117 Aen Sqdn until further orders. Reconnaissance of forward position areas is accomplished in evening; move, however, is postponed on Div Arty order till the morrow. Total ammo expenditure this date: 237 HE, 12 smoke.

- 18 June Rain 0430-0600 plays havoc with everyone's comfort. Weather gradually improves, sun shines from noon on, with high atmospheric clarity. Harassing fires from midnight to 0500 (150 rds). Preparation fires preceding early morning attack (110 rds). Afternoon harassing fires (39 rds). Destruction of 1 enemy gun in ground-CP-adjusted mission (27 rds). Morning visit from CG, Div Arty. Div Arty assigns current mission to En of 36th Div general support. Forward displacement in mid-afternoon to positions NE of Grosseto. Prompt registration (46 rds) is followed by 2 Binges (100 rds), successful observed mission on enemy troops (36 rds), and night harassing fires (90 rds). Total ammo expenditure this date: 662 HE, 16 smoke.

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- 19 June [REDACTED]  
 Immediately being received.  
 Early morning harassing fires and three binges are delivered per Div Arty assignment (262 rus).  
 Battalion mission of 36th Division general support continues, per oral confirmation of Div Arty CG at afternoon Battalion Commanders' conference.  
 Noon bingo, as called for by Div Arty (60 rus).  
 Battalion service elements have consolidated in vicinity of Grosseto.  
 Midnight position area reconnaissance, directed by Div Arty, is undertaken by Bn Exec and S-2.  
 Total ammo expenditure this date: 322 HE.
- 20 June reconnaissance is discontinued at 0130 on telephoned instructions from Div Arty, received at 133 FA Bn CP. to continue occupation of present position. Bn Exec assumed command upon departure of Bn CG. Morning resumption of reconnaissance is followed by Battalion displacement to and occupation of positions about 3000 yds SE of Montepescali. Registration on BP is promptly effected through Air CP (47 rus).  
 Perfect summer weather and clarity prevails.  
 Total ammo expenditure this date: 40 HE, 7 smoke.
- 21 June Following in Bn CG's early morning conference with CG, Div Arty, and reconnaissance of road net, and in the wake of position area reconnaissance by S-2, Survey Officer, and Battery Commanders (occasioning skirmish with a remaining pocket of Tedeschi), Battalion infiltrates, upon completion of two essential bridges, to a "reunions rendezvous" off Hwy 1, immediately south of Giuncarico. Reconnaissance is resumed and further forward displacement is accomplished at dusk. Positions are occupied about 1000 yds northeast of Ravi and 2000 yds SE of Gavarrano. BP registration is effected through Air CP (13 rus). Battalion service echelon displaces forward to location on Hwy 1, west of Montepescali. Threat of showers fails to develop. Total ammo expenditure this date: 11 HE, 2 smoke.
- 22 June Continued good weather and visibility. Battalion mission (36th Div general support) continues per oral confirmation of CG, Div Arty, at morning conference with Bn CG's. Per Div Arty authorization, Lts Martin and Benson return from 117 Ken South. Capt. Evans is dispatched as Bn T-4, pursuant to Division order, to join and remain with Div G-4. Four observed missions are adjusted by Air OP in morning on

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and tanks, trucks, vehicles, and personnel, with reported  
 aircraft neutralization (117 ras). Success of registration  
 (16 ras). Afternoon witnesses further series of observed  
 fires (128 ras) on enemy material, principally armor; in  
 addition to area neutralization, direct hits are scored on  
 tanks and two are positively crippled. 36ras interdiction  
 fire are delivered in evening.  
 Div Arty directs at 1800 that in general support mission be  
 supplemented by reinforcement of fires of 460th FA Bn (support-  
 ing 517th Par Reg). Lt. Newcom forthwith establishes necessary  
 liaison. Total ammo expenditure this date: 365 HE, 40 smoke.

23 June Continued fair weather and clear visibility.  
 Morning observed mission ("C" CP) on enemy personnel (15 ras),  
 covering indicated area.  
 At Div Arty order, displacement is made to Bn reconnoitred  
 positions about 5000 yds NW of Gavorrano in late afternoon.  
 Registration is completed through Air CP (38 ras). Two ob-  
 served missions are accomplished on enemy vehicles (47 ras).  
 One Bingo (120 ras). Lt. Newcom rejoins 460th FA Bn CP to  
 continue liaison in missions remains unchanged.  
 Bn service echelon has displaced forward to this immediate  
 neighborhood. Total ammo expenditure this date: 209 HE, 11 smoke.

24 June No weather nor visibility change.  
 Five enemy tanks are disabled in 3 morning missions adjusted  
 by Air CP's (150 ras). Pursuant to WCGG at 1330 conference,  
 Bn reconnoitred and displaces to position area in vicinity of  
 36-80, in high ground several thousand yards north of Follonica  
 and keeps howitzers coupled. Authority is obtained to register,  
 but planes, temporarily tied up on other missions, finally find  
 themselves out of gas and call it a day. At 2200 order is re-  
 ceived from Div Arty to hit the road at dawn and proceed to a  
 "position of readiness" in immediate rear of 131st FA Bn, where-  
 ever it then may be. Total ammo expenditure this date: 147 HE,  
 3 smoke.

25 June Continued good weather and visibility conditions.  
 Reconnaissance is inaugurated at 0500 and Bn accomplishes dis-  
 placement within next hour and quarter to position 3000 yds  
 due north, remaining temporarily coupled. Despite communication  
 to Div Arty of results of further reconnaissance, which logically  
 precludes further movement pending advance of infantry front  
 lines, Div Arty compels displacement far forward to a densely  
 thicketed area, difficult of access, from which fire cannot be  
 effectively delivered (335-895).

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No batteries are placed with the artillery for a hour. Decision is made to replace an in positions of its own selection nearby (vicinity 565-575), which are at least adequate. Same is accomplished, registration is completed (22 rds), preparatory fires delivered (51 rds), and one enemy battery neutralized (300 rds). An service section has moved up to point in vicinity of Dn's morning rendezvous. Total ammo expenditure this date: 350 HE, 23 smoke.

26 June Closing station at 0630, pursuant to relief of 36th Division, Dn begins march at 0730 to bivouac area about 5 miles west of Rome, halts 12 hours in rendezvous on southerly outskirts of Grosseto, and closes in a destination 0200 on morning of 27th. Capt. Newson is injured in highway accident en route.

The following types of casualties occurred during this period:

| <u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u> | <u>Casualties</u> | <u>REPLACED MEN</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| KIA                     | 0                 | 1                   | 1            |
| LCM                     | 0                 | 0                   | 0            |
| LIA                     | 1                 | 1                   | 2            |
| SIA                     | 0                 | 1                   | 1            |
| DIA                     | 0                 | 0                   | 0            |
| LMA                     | 0                 | 2                   | 2            |
| SMA                     | 0                 | 0                   | 0            |
| MIA                     | 0                 | 0                   | 0            |
| ACM                     | 0                 | 0                   | 0            |

Two enlisted men received as replacements during this period. These men replaced personnel rotated during this period.

"DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS CITATIONS  
RECEIVED DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN."

1. NAME  
Captain Richard B. Hawk, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery  
Battalion, Home, Dallas, Texas.  
DATE & PLACE OF ACTION CITED  
18 March 1944, Cassino, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS ACTIONS

Saved lives of his men during terrific enemy bombardment, directing and helping to carry wounded to shelter and administering first aid under shell fire.

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2. NAME

Captain Charles W. Tool, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Edmond, Oklahoma.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

18 March 1944, Cassino, Italy.

CLASSIFICUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Treated wounded men under shell fire, continuing to render first aid to men even after being seriously wounded by shell fragment, thereby saving the lives of eleven men.

"HONORABLE SPAN MEDAL CITATIONS RECEIVED  
DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. NAME

Pvt 1cl (then Pvt) Rudolf A. Gebula, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Weirton, W. Va.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

4 March 1944, Cassino, Italy.

CLASSIFICUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Carried wounded men to shelter during heavy bombardment. When exposed to enemy shell fire Pvt Gebula guided an ambulance to the wounded soldiers and helped load them for evacuation.

2. NAME

T/Sgt Herbert A. Patrick, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

8 December 1943, Lignano, Italy.

CLASSIFICUS CIRCUMSTANCES

T/Sgt Patrick skillfully organized two crews and laid communication lines through a heavily mined open field which was under intense shell fire and then advanced over unfamiliar terrain to a command post to complete the important and necessary communications.

"COMMENDATIONS FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS  
CONDUCT RECEIVED DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. NAME

Pvt 1cl Harland G. Paylor, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Raywood, West Virginia.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

7 December 43, Lignano, Italy.

CLASSIFICUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Established an observation post on a prominent ridge and directed fire accurately on enemy positions.

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2. FILE  
 Pvt 1st Clarence N. Schmidt, Medical Detachment, 155th  
 Field Artillery Battalion, home Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.  
DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION  
 10 December 43, Mignano, Italy.  
CONSPICUOUS COURAGE  
 Took an ambulance under heavy enemy shell fire to two  
 wounded men in an exposed position and rendered first aid  
 and then evacuated them from the hazardous area.
3. FILE  
 Pvt Walter G. La Flamme, Medical Detachment, 155th Field  
 Artillery Battalion, home, Superior, Wisconsin.  
DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION  
 10 December 43, Mignano, Italy.  
CONSPICUOUS COURAGE  
 Took an ambulance under heavy enemy shell fire to two  
 wounded men in an exposed position and rendered first aid  
 and then evacuated them from the hazardous area.

THOMAS F. ATLAS  
 Lieutenant Colonel, P.A.  
 Commanding.

15 Incls.

- Exhibits: A - Conclusions by Battalion Commander.  
 B - List of Casualties.  
 C - Officers Roster.  
 D - Officer Duty Changes.  
 E - Unit Journal.  
 F - Missions Flown by Air Section.  
 G - S - 1 Reports.  
 H - S - 2 Reports.  
 I - S - 3 Reports.  
 J - Summary of Firing.  
 K - Daily Report of Firing.  
 L - Operation Overlays 1 thru 3.  
 M - Situation Overlays 1 thru 9.  
 N - Maps.  
 O - Firing Charts.

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CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER

I. Results of the past month operations detract in no way from previously expressed conclusions and recommendations. They prove moreover the compelling need of a range in Divisional Medium Artillery greater than that of the light battalions. During the rapid pursuit tactic that characterized the latter phase of the June campaign, this Battalion time and again could have fired on many targets, otherwise denied it, if it had had the additional range afforded by the 155 Howitzer ML. Experience under recent conditions has demonstrated anew the soundness of the artillery doctrine that the Medium covers the forward displacement of the direct support battalions.

II. The rapidity of pace during the June operations severely tested the reliability and flexibility of communication procedure. It measured up to satisfaction, vindicating again the teachings of the Field Artillery School when applied with judicious and selective adaptation to the ever varying, seldom foreseen contingencies of actual combat. The excellent functioning of this suggests the propriety of presentation of the following scheme of organization and operation which has been developed.

1. Unexpected situations, e.g., landing on an hostile shore, conversion of the defensive to an offensive, rapid pursuit of the enemy, required that the Headquarters Battery Communications platoon be organized in the most flexible manner. Such flexibility naturally will include rapid mobility and centralized control of small groups capable of working independently.

2. Through experience gained in the field under the above mentioned situations, the Headquarters Battery Communications platoon had developed an organization capable of meeting the demands arising from the most adverse situations. This organization is a "revised" form of the current T/O (6-36).

3. The following general SOP and description in comparison with T/O 6-36 is submitted for consideration:

COMMUNICATIONS PLATOON HEADQUARTERS

The communications platoon headquarters is usually organized as an overhead with which no one could plan a specific function but now is so organized as to furnish not only a centralized control for the communications platoon of Headquarters Battery, but also for all communications within the Battalion. The communications platoon headquarters makes inspections, and services and supplies the Battalion communications installations, as well as preparing extracts from the S.O.I. and making codes and telephone directories.

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OPERATIONS IN FRANCE, AUGUST 1944

L1009

PERIOD 4 to 21 JULY 1944: The battalion engaged in training with emphasis placed upon waterborne operations and familiarization with the battalion's new weapon, the 155mm Howitzer, M-1. The old 155mm Howitzer M-1917, were replaced with the new M-1's early in this period.

22 JULY 1944: The Battalion marched to a "staging area" about five miles north of Quindici, Italy. Closed into new area shortly after midnight.

On 30 July Lieutenant Colonel Thomas T. Atkins, at his own request, was relieved of command of this battalion.

PERIOD 7 TO 10 AUGUST 1944: The Battalion embarked for Operation "Anvil". First waterproofed vehicles with their drivers and assistant drivers were loaded. On the 10th the personnel embarked. The main body of the battalion, under Major Snow, embarked on L.S.T. ASN 602. A smaller group, consisting of three officers and seventy four enlisted men, under Major Clarke, embarked upon L.S.T. AS 603. A forward reconnaissance group consisting of Captain Richard J. ... embarked on L.S.T. AS 610. Their mission was to ... the Battalion in, find a suitable position area, and the Battalion Company when it came ashore and advise the battalion to the selected ...

BY 100-10101 OF THE ASSISTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 15 Mar 46

The rear echelon, under command of Captain Harry P. Frantz, consisting of two other officers, 1st Lieutenants Robert E. Reynolds and Jack R. Stewart, Warrant Officer (JG) Stanley W. Ruth and eighty-six enlisted men remained in Italy. It was scheduled to follow the battalion on D plus 5 convoy.

The embarkation was completed and the L.S.T.'s proceeded to their rendezvous at 1700 hours on 11 August 1944.

11 AUGUST 1944: No incident. The convoy remained in the rendezvous area.

12 AUGUST 1944: The convoy sailed at 1530. Destination: the southern coast of France. Mission: the establishment of a beach-head in the vicinity of Saint Raphael and Frejus, France.

13 AUGUST 1944: The voyage continued under ideal conditions: a calm sea, light breeze and clear warm weather. Maps and secret orders (FO 53, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division) were distributed to the officers, who studied them preparatory to briefing the troops. These orders gave this battalion the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, which was in direct support of the 143rd Infantry.

14 AUGUST 1944: Weather continued ideal. The convoy passed thru the Straights of Corsica at about daylight and turned northward along the west coast of Corsica. At 1700 hours the convoy turned westward again towards its destination, the Gulf of Frejus. During the day the troops were briefed. It was announced that 15 August was D-Day and that 0800 was H-Hour.

15 AUGUST 1944: At daylight a terrific bombardment of the beach-head area and the beaches by the Navy and the Air Corps prepared the beaches for the H-Hour landing. By mid-morning unofficial reports from returning landing craft informed the waiting troops that the assault was proceeding well, resistance was weak, and casualties were unexpectedly light. LST 602 beached on "Green Beach" on the south shores of Cap de Dramont at 1645; followed by LST 603 at 1930. Just as LST 602 beached a number of light calibre, high velocity shells landed on Green Beach. Three of them struck LST 602. Light shrapnel wounds were suffered by Major Snow, the Battalion Commander, 1st Lt. Phillip A. Chockley, Assistant Communications Officer, Private Earl W. Pace of Battery "C"; and Private Cyril W. Sias Jr., Medical Detachment. The Officers were given first aid and returned to duty. The enlisted men are hospitalized. LST 602 was unloaded by 1830 and LST 603 by 2000. As the vehicles unloaded they were guided to the de-water-proofing area. As Major Snow landed he was met by Captain Hawk, and they went on a hasty reconnaissance of the route and the selected position.

firing. The SP has not since been seen.

18 AUGUST 1944: At 1740 1st Lt. Raymond F. Kent, Battery Commander of Battery "B", reported that Battery "B" had been bothered the previous evening by snipers firing into the battery from an isolated pocket just in rear of this position. The para-troopers who had been engaging them had been moved. A request for help was made of the 142nd Infantry. The Infantry Regiment sent a reinforced platoon to mop-up, but upon arrival found that the enemy had evacuated. Two trucks were sent to join a tactical force for an indefinite period. They reported to Captain Mattax at the 36th Infantry Division Class I Quartermaster dump in Draguignan. No firing this date. This Battalion's mission has remained unchanged since landing: ie, reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, which, in turn, is in direct support of the 143rd Infantry.

19 AUGUST 1944: At 0230 Major Luther E. Orrick, 36th Division Artillery, called this battalion to furnish three more 2½ ton trucks for the same force which had received the two trucks on the 18th. They were dispatched and reported to Class I camp in Draguignan at 0600. Orders were received from 36th Division Artillery headquarters at 2250 for this battalion to be prepared to move by 0400 20 August. Battery Commanders were alerted. No firing this date.

20 AUGUST 1944: Colonel Adams, Commanding 143rd Regimental Combat Team, called at 0115 and made arrangements for the 155th Field Artillery Battalion to carry a battalion of his Infantry (less one company) on our vehicles during the march this date. The battalion marched at 0615 in the order "A", "B", "C", and headquarters batteries. A representative, Captain Walton M. Vines, from Service Battery accompanied the battalion. The Infantry entrucked on our vehicles about three miles northwest of Draguignan. The column marched northward on highway No. 555 to Castellane, turned north on highway No. 85, passed thru Darrune and on to Digne, southwest of Malijar. There it was found that demolitions prevented crossing the Durance River and it was necessary to proceed southward along highway No. 100 to La Brilleane before a crossing could be effected. We turned northeast again on highway No. 56, passed thru Peyruis, to highway No. 85 just south of Vellone, passed thru Vellone and finally went into position, about a thousand yards south of Peipin. There was no contact with the enemy; so the batteries were laid to fire as follows: Battery "A" on a compass of 4000, Battery "B" on compass 300, and Battery "C" on compass 6000. No firing from this position. The battalion marched about 120 road miles this day to a point nearly 50 miles deeper in France.

SECRET

4.



21 AUGUST 1944: Initially it was contemplated that no movement would be made this date; but at 1300 a message was received summoning the Battalion Commander to Division Artillery Headquarters. At 1410 the Battalion Commander radioed for a conference of Battery Commanders and he prepared to leave at 1435 to go on a reconnaissance. Orders were given at 1435 hours for the battalion to be prepared to move toward Gap by 1545. The battalion moved at 1745. The column was met by Captain Hawk just south of Sisteron and was led to its new position area, just south of Gap. For dispositions see Map: France 1/100,000, Sheet 15 - O, Briancon-Gap. The battalion closed into its new area at 2045, going into position as follows: Battery "A" on a compass of 800, Battery "B" on 6400 and Battery "C" on 5200. No firing from this position.

22 AUGUST 1944: No contact with the enemy. Information received indicated that the 143rd Infantry was operating to the east and north east of Gap and the 142nd Infantry was operating eastward of Gap. At 1330 a message from 36th Division Artillery, alerted the battalion for a possible move to the west or northwest to be made later in the afternoon or on the night of 22-23 August. Captain August C. Loser was sent to 36th Division Artillery to obtain further information and to reconnoiter roads as far as Lie. Captain Loser called by telephone at 2220 stating that the battalion would move, the battalion would carry a battalion of the 142nd Infantry on our vehicles and that he was bringing a copy of the order. At 2300 hours Captain Stallings, G-3 Section, 36th Infantry Division telephoned that the order had been changed slightly - that we would proceed to Lyons instead of Crest and that our route would be via Gap, Veynes, Serres, Rosans and Lyons and that low-beam headlights would be used as far as Rosans. The Battery Commanders, including the Commanding Officer, Battery "B", 443rd AAA and Battalion Surgeon, were advised to have their units prepared to march at 0030 on the morning of 23rd August and that the units commanders would report to the Battalion Executive when ready to march and to receive final orders at 0015 23 August. An acute map shortage prevented a distribution of maps covering the march route, so overlays were prepared. Captain William J. Jessup, with quartermaster party, was sent ahead to find positions and to expedite detrucking of the Infantry and occupation of positions. Captain Hawk went forward to locate the entrucking point.

23 AUGUST 1944: The Battalion Commander returned to the CP at 0015 and issued the march order, ie: that the move would be administrative, to the vicinity of Lyons via Veynes, Serres, Rosans, Lyons; our vehicles would carry a battalion of the 142nd Infantry to be entrucked at 0100; order of march "A", "B", "C", Headquarters Battery and Service Battery; lights to Rosans, blackout thereafter. This battalion to be in direct support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment. The battalion left position for the entrucking area at 0030 and arrived at the area at 0150.

| Year | Publications |
|------|--------------|
| 1970 | 10           |
| 1975 | 20           |
| 1980 | 30           |
| 1985 | 40           |
| 1990 | 50           |
| 1995 | 60           |
| 2000 | 90           |



6.

The Battalion Commander ordered the 1st and 2nd Batteries to move to the Service Battery position at 1015 hours. The 1st Battery, Battery "B", arrived at the new position and the 2nd Battery of the Battalion proceeded immediately. The 1st and 2nd Batteries were taken up until 1115 hours. The 1st Battery, Battery "B", and the 2nd Battery, Battery "C", were taken up with the 1st and 2nd Batteries, 3-4, 1st Infantry, for vehicles of the 1st Infantry to carry the 1st Battery to the new area. This arrangement released the 1st Battery and the march was resumed. The Infantry attacked at 1200 hours, in the vicinity of Ulysses. The Battalion occupied positions and prepared for action. For dispositions see Map: France, 1/100000, Sheet 13-0, Privas. Summary of firing: Nine missions were fired. 64 rounds of 12 and 82 rounds of 81 were expended. No positive reports of destruction of enemy material or casualties to enemy personnel were received.

The Battalion's mission at this time was direct support of the 1st Infantry.

25 AUGUST 1944: Operations instructions from Headquarters 36th Infantry Division were received, dated 24 August 1944, changing this Battalion from direct support of the 1st Infantry to direct support of the 157th Infantry. Incidents occurred this date. Summary of firing: 3 missions of 12 rounds of 81 and 10 missions of 10 rounds of 81. The 1st and 2nd Batteries destroyed the enemy vehicles, a tank formation, and the 1st Battery started.

26 AUGUST 1944: The Battalion remained in same position with mission unchanged. Incidents. Summary of firing: 67 rounds of 12 and 11 rounds of 81 fired on 13 missions; 6 of these missions were defensive firing. 12 missions were registrations and the balance were direct hits on tanks, guns, and vehicles.

27 AUGUST 1944: At 0600 the Battalion Commander returned to the CP. From 0600 to 1000 hours the Battalion visited the Division Artillery Headquarters. He and received orders to move one Battery to the vicinity of Crest to reinforce the fires of the 157th Field Artillery Battalion, who were supporting the 157th Infantry in its effort to capture Livron - Gel - Drome and vicinity. The Battalion Commander ordered Battery "C" on this mission, and sent Captain [redacted] with him as liaison officer to maintain contact with the 157th Infantry and the 157th Field Artillery.

At 1015 Major Shaw, Captain Newcom of Battery "C" and Captain [redacted] went on reconnaissance for a position for Battery "C" in the vicinity of Crest.

At 11:00, the 36th Division Artillery orders for Battery "C" to "March (track) on the return". We returned at 11:35 and immediately changed Battery "C" to its old position. See map: France 1/100,000, Sheet 13 - 0, Frivas.

At 11:00, the 36th Division Artillery ordered the Battalion Commander to place a liaison officer with the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion in the vicinity of Crest for the purpose of firing Battery "C" in support of the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion if needed. Lt. Martin was sent on this mission.

At 12:00, the 36th Division Artillery ordered us to move Battery "C" to the vicinity of Crest to be in support of the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Battery "C" was given this mission and Captain Jensen was sent to Headquarters 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion as liaison officer. Lt. Martin was sent to the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion as a forward observer.

At 12:00, the Battalion Commander took Captain Evans and Captain Jensen on reconnaissance for a position for Battery "A". Battery "A" was ordered to prepare to move promptly upon the return of the Battalion Commander.

At 13:00, Captain Evans returned to the battalion area and ordered Battery "A" to move. They occupied a position at coordinates 089-714 (see France, 1/100,000 Sheet 13 - 0, Frivas).

Summary of firing: 157 rps of 155 and 6 rps of Smoke fired on 9 missions: 14, 2 re distributions and 7 missions on miscellaneous enemy targets.

25 August 1944: At 00:30 the Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery, called Major Jensen and informed him that the 142nd Infantry would relieve the 137th Infantry in the vicinity of Crest during daylight hours this date. The 142nd Infantry attacked to the west to cut Highway 7. This battalion to move to the vicinity of Crest - Batteries "A" and "C" were already there - the enemy's battalion of the 142nd Infantry on our vehicles when we moved forward. Battery "A", which was supporting the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved to us. This battalion to continue to fire direct and indirect fire on the 137th Infantry Battalion until the liaison and supply companies are moved; at which time we were to go into direct support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment.

Reconnaissance was made around 0800 and by 1000 the battalion was ordered to the area of the 142nd Infantry and attacked. The march was ordered by the 142nd Infantry, which had been given priority by the 36th Division, Seventh Army.

At 0815 on 12 May 1964 the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion took over direct support of the 132nd Infantry and this battalions mission reverted to reinforcement of the fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

19 AUGUST 1944: A little after midnight, 18-19 August, the Battalion Commander and Lt. Eugene F. Post, Commanding Officer Battery "B", left on a reconnaissance for a new position for his Battery in the vicinity of Allix (1477). In order that fire could be put across Highway 7 and the new Command Battery "B" occupied its position at 0115 hours at Allix (1477). See map below, 1/100,000, Sheet 13 - 6 Privas. At about 0330 a firelight in the vicinity of our Allix position first showed its abandonment for the purpose of the night. The fire was observed of a day during the night and the Command Post was reestablished the next morning. The Battalion Executive visited the 36th Division Artillery Command Post at 0600 and received orders for the Battalion to continue on its mission of reduction of the fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion; and that Batteries "A" and "C" of the Battalion would move westward so as to be able to fire to the Rhone River for the purpose of delivering fire upon enemy columns retreating northward along the Rhone Valley. Battery "A" moved to its new position in the vicinity of Allix at 1600. See map below, 1/100,000, Sheet 13 - 6 Privas, Battery "C" to its new position at 1815 followed immediately by Headquarters Battery. The Battalion moved into its new area and the new Command Post was opened at 2000. At 1930 Captain Jessup and Lt. Martin returned to the Battalion from their duties with the 36th Tank Destroyer Battalion as liaison Officer and forward observer, respectively. After the Battalion Commanders return at 2015 from the 142nd Infantry, information was given that our mission was unchanged and that it was contemplated that 142nd Infantry would attack northward along Highway 7 tomorrow. Summary of firing: 113 ras of — and 7 ras of Smoke fired on 16 missions. Shot results: 27 vehicles destroyed.

9.



On 14 October 1943: The 1st, having received 14,700 lbs. of ammunition, at 1145 the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Infantry entered on our vehicles and at 1300 this battalion, plus one pro 155 mm. howitzer, moved northward by a route parallel to Highway 7. The route was generally along secondary roads and passed through several small villages. The battalion was marching northward at the close of the day.

The following types of casualties occurred during this period:

| <u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u> | <u>CASUALTY</u> | <u>REMARKS</u> | <u>ALIAS</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Inf                     | 0               | 0              | 0            |
| A                       | 1               | 0              | 1            |
| Inf                     | 0               | 1              | 1            |
| Inf                     | 0               | 0              | 0            |
| Inf                     | 0               | 0              | 0            |
| Inf                     | 2               | 4              | 6            |
| Inf                     | 1               | 0              | 1            |
| Inf                     | 0               | 1              | 1            |
| Inf                     | 0               | 0              | 0            |

For the purpose of this report personnel received as replacements during this period.

"REMARKS"

"LIST OF IDENTIFIED CASUALTY RECORDS  
DURING PERIOD OF THIS REPORT."

1. Notes  
Staff Sergeant Edward M. Doss, non quarters battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

Notes on place of action:  
From 1 September 1943 to 10 March 1944, Italy.

Notes on the Doss and his  
Staff Sergeant Doss, throughout the period 1 September 1943 to 10 March 1944, acted as a liaison communications of his battalion through the Italian campaign. His voluntary taking of communications lines to the intense enemy shellfire, particularly during the night of 10-11 March 1944, was a heroic deed.

~~SECRET~~

"I am proud to have been a member of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion."

1. Name

Pvt Johnnie Lee Sullivan, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Date and Place of Action Cited

10 November 1943, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

Pvt Sullivan was wounded in the head by a shell fragment, but continued to work on a communication line which was cut and under fire. He remained in the line until he was ordered to retreat.

2. Name

Pvt Johnnie Lee Sullivan, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Date and Place of Action Cited

10 November 1943, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

Pvt Sullivan was wounded in the head by a shell fragment, but continued to work on a communication line which was cut and under fire. He remained in the line until he was ordered to retreat.

3. Name

Pvt Gr 4 Burwood W. Welch, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Date and Place of Action Cited

7 December 1943, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

Pvt Welch served as radio operator in a party of artillery observers in an OP set up in the face of severe enemy fire. His action and disregard for personal safety in maintaining wire and radio communications with his battery were of inestimable value in accurately placing fire on enemy positions.

4. Name

Cpl. Harold W. Martin, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Date and Place of Action Cited

7 December 1943, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

Cpl. Martin's action in supplying an artillery CP in the face of severe enemy fire in adverse weather conditions and in maintaining communication with his battery were of inestimable value in accurately placing fire on enemy positions.

~~SECRET~~



[illegible]

7 December 1962, 11:00 a.m., 46° 30' N.

Col Sullivan's actions in leading his artillery CP in the face of enemy fire. He was the first to be killed, especially since this rolling artillery is used to fire on enemy installations and in retelling enemy positions.

Pvt 1st Desmond D. Leary, Battery "D", 15th Field Artillery  
Battalion, Ft. Belvoir, Illinois.

23 November 1942, 10.00 AM, 12.00, Italy.

Pvt 1st Infantry, with complete silence for personal safety, unaccounted for last night and missing. Bled from his battery 5.4 to capture the first. Low level. At night. Despite heavy enemy shell fire, he continued. But this did.

U.S. AIR FORCE, 1950-1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 26

*[Illegible handwritten notes]*

1. Sgt. James H. Smith, a former personnel officer, was shot in the chest by a Communist fire from his battery S.F. to a trench in the slope of Mt. Motoko. Despite heavy casualties, he accomplished his mission.

1st Lt William S. Andrews, 1st Lt, 1st Field Artillery  
Battalion, 1st Division, 1st Army.

23 November 1943, St. Albano, Lignano, Italy.

Pvt Irl Winger, with complete disregard for personal safety, undertook the job of a communication line from his battery C.P. to get that line and escape of Lt. Motano. Despite heavy enemy small fire, he soon finished the mission.

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10. Name  
 Pvt. 1st Lt. [Name], 1st Lt. 1st Lt. Artillery  
 [Name], [Address], [City]  
Date and Place of Birth  
 [Date], [Place], [State]  
Service Record  
 10. [Name] was assigned as a [position] for a  
 [unit], [location]. He [action] [result]. All  
 of his [action] [result] of [action]  
 artillery [unit].

10. Name  
 1st Lt. [Name], 1st Lt. "B", 1st Field Artillery  
 [Address], [City]  
Date and Place of Birth  
 [Date], [Place], [State]  
Service Record  
 1st Lt. [Name], [position] for battery  
 [unit], [location]. In his quick action, he  
 succeeded in [action] [result], effecting the capture  
 of [unit] [result].

11. Name  
 1st Lt. [Name], 1st Lt. "B", 1st Field Artillery  
 [Address], [City]  
Date and Place of Birth  
 [Date], [Place], [State]  
Service Record  
 1st Lt. [Name], [position] for battery  
 [unit], [location]. In his quick action, he  
 succeeded in [action] [result], effecting the capture  
 of [unit] [result].

12. Name  
 Pvt. 1st Lt. [Name], 1st Lt. 1st Lt. Artillery  
 [Address], [City]  
Date and Place of Birth  
 [Date], [Place], [State]  
Service Record  
 Pvt. [Name], [position] for battery  
 [unit], [location]. He [action] [result] of his  
 [action] [result] of the area to go to the  
 aid of the [unit], rendering invaluable first aid.

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"JAMES EARL RAY FOR INFORMATION OF THE PRESIDENT  
AND THE VICE PRESIDENT"

1. Name

Sgt Carl M. Peters, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery  
Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Date and Place of Action

6 December 1945, Foggia, Italy

Circumstances

Sgt M. Peters, during a patrol attack against bitterly  
defended enemy positions along mountainous terrain,  
while on duty at the Battalion command post, heard that the  
litter team had become physically exhausted and unable to  
handle three severe cases still remaining on the mountain.  
He volunteered to go with a team and get the wounded men.  
Moving over precipitous trails under enemy artillery and  
mortar fire he succeeded in evacuating the injured soldiers  
in time to save their lives.

2. Name

Sgt. Louis Peters, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery  
Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Date and Place of Action

6 December 1945, Foggia, Italy.

Circumstances

Sgt. Peters, during a patrol attack against bitterly  
defended enemy positions along mountainous terrain,  
while on duty at the Battalion command post, heard that the  
litter team had become physically exhausted and unable to  
handle three severe cases still remaining on the mountain.  
He volunteered to go with a team and get the wounded men.  
Moving over precipitous trails under enemy artillery and  
mortar fire he succeeded in evacuating the injured soldiers  
in time to save their lives.

3. Name

Fvt 1st Douglas B. Peters, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery  
Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Date and Place of Action

6 December 1945, Foggia, Italy.

Circumstances

Fvt 1st Peters, during a patrol attack against bitterly  
defended enemy positions along mountainous terrain,  
while on duty at the Battalion command post, heard that the  
litter team had become physically exhausted and unable to  
handle three severe cases still remaining on the mountain.  
He volunteered to go with a team and get the wounded men.  
Moving over precipitous trails under enemy artillery and  
mortar fire he succeeded in evacuating the injured soldiers  
in time to save their lives.

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14.



[illegible]

James M. Smith  
Director, AUS  
Unit Historian

- 1 - Air Section of Distribution Commander.
- 2 - List of casualties
- 3 - Officers roster
- 4 - Officer duty changes
- 5 - Unit Journal
- 6 - Missions filed by Air Section
- 7 - 3 - 3 reports
- 8 - Summary of firing
- 9 - Daily report of firing
- 10 - Situation & delays #1 thru #6
- 11 - Type #1 thru #6
- 12 - Firing charts #1 thru #13

~~SECRET~~CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER *L-1009*

The operations of this battalion from the time of landing on the beach of southern France, from 15 to 31 August, inclusive, is to a great extent parallel to the rapid movements and changes of situation as encountered during the push north of Rome, in Italy, during the period May - June, 1944. The rapid changes in situations and long marches with light resistance has prevented the actual employment of medium artillery on missions for which it was primarily designed.

Our transportation facilities have been made available for the transportation of the infantry on long movements, along with our own personnel, equipment and ammunition. On these types of operations it has been found that this can be done without undue hardship to personnel or damage to artillery equipment. Fortunately, the situation has not demanded any hurried occupation of positions and in most cases we were preceded by direct support 105 mm artillery who took over any immediate emergency or request for artillery fire.

The plan of moving the battalion as a unit for an amphibious operation was found to be very satisfactory as it enabled close control upon arrival on the beach and provided an opportunity for briefing all personnel prior to debarkation.

To maintain close contact with the assault regiments of the division, and to organize and direct observation, a plan of liaison has been adopted which provides for a liaison officer maintaining close contact with each direct support battalion and assault regiment for the purpose of keeping in close touch with the situation in the sector of each and direct the battalion observers in each sector to the best observation available and keep them directly informed of the situation and position of our friendly troops. This liaison also provides a direct means of communication through which the direct support artillery or the infantry regiment could call for medium artillery fire when and where needed. These officers have acted in a dual capacity of a liaison officer and observer when the occasion demanded. A minimum of two additional observers has been employed in each regimental sector where the situation demanded. This plan of liaison and control of observation has proven very desirable as it has provided direct contact for reinforcing missions and has enabled the battalion commander to keep in direct touch with the situation along the division front at all times and has expedited plans and movements for executing assigned missions.

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17.

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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

9 October 1944.  
CMS/hcp

L-1010

SUBJECT: Narrative History and Conclusions by the Battalion Commander  
of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for September 1944.

TO : Commanding General,  
36th Infantry Division,  
APO No. 36, U. S. Army.

1. Submitted herewith History, Conclusions by the Battalion Commander and supporting records of the Battalion for the month of September 1944. The History is written in a narrative form with attached copies of Journal, Situation Overlays, Maps and Firing Charts.

2. The combat operations for this battalion for the period 1 September - 30 September 1944 was similar to the previous operations during the month of August, 1944. During the first half of the period the action was fast-moving, requiring long moves in most instances and hasty occupations of positions. The tactical plan of assigning a medium battalion as reinforcing the light artillery of a combat team has proven very satisfactory and has enabled displacement of the light and medium battalions as a unit with one battalion in position at all times to cover the displacement of the other.

On two or three occasions one battery of the medium battalion was displaced to the vicinity of the light battalion and tied in with their survey and FOC for control to deepen the fires of the 105mm battalion. This situation was essential due to the wide front covered by the combat team and exposed flanks for which artillery fire was needed and required the disposing of artillery in depth. This proved very satisfactory due to the fast movement and rapid advance of the infantry troops.

HC smoke shell has proven a satisfactory screening agent, but due to the lack of the proper fuze adaptable to this projectile we have encountered a high percentage of duds. It has not been satisfactory for identification of initial rounds which facilitate rapid adjustment on observed targets. It is recommended that WP smoke shell be made available for this purpose.

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In the more static situation which has developed during the last part of this period it has been found that close liaison between the general support artillery and the assault infantry regiments has proven very satisfactory and has provided a quicker and more direct means of delivery of medium artillery support when and where needed.

*Clifford M. Snow*  
CLIFFORD M. SNOW  
Major, F. A.  
Commanding

1 Incl - Narrative "September" (Sextuple)

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- 2 -



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155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE, SEPTEMBER 1944

L-1010

1 SEPTEMBER 1944: At 0100 the battalion occupied positions in the vicinity of Chateaufort de Galante. The battalion Command Post was established at coords. 057-287 (See Map France, 1/100,000 Sheet 13 N St. Etienne).

The Infantry entrucked again at 0945 and the march was resumed at 0945.

The Battalion occupied positions about 1 kilometer north-west of Septeme, France. The Command Post located at coords. (070-660). The batteries organized their positions for action, but no fire was delivered from these positions. (For disposition of battalion see Map France, 1/100,000 Sheet 13 N, Lyon).

The Battalion Commander and battery commanders left at 1915 on a reconnaissance for positions in the vicinity of Luzinay.

Between 2045 and 2100 the various batteries marched, by battery, to the new positions. For location see Map France 1/100,000, Sheet 13 N, Lyon. The Battalion closed into the new positions at 2140 and the Command Post was established at coords. (030-685) near the village of Illins. Again the battalion organized its position for action, but no fire was called for. The mission of the Battalion this date remained unchanged: ie, reinforcing the fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion which was in direct support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment.

No fire delivered this date.

2 SEPTEMBER 1944: Today 1st Lieutenant Raymond F. Kent, Battery Commander, Battery "B", received a letter from 2nd Lieutenant Richard J. McCready, who was missing in action 23 August 1944, near Valreas, France. The letter informed us that the Observation Party had run into an enemy road block. 1st Lieutenant Kiva S. Fingerhut, of New York City was seriously wounded and died later of these wounds; 2nd Lieutenant Richard J. McCready of Indianapolis, Indiana, lost his left arm; Tec Grade 4 S. L. Nichols, Fort Worth, Texas was captured and Private Desmond D. Lowery of Mt. Vermont, Illinois was wounded and captured. Lieutenant McCready had been cared for by the French Red Cross and finally when recaptured was evacuated to the 11th Evacuation Hospital (American).

Colonel J. B. Matlack, Executive Officer, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, notified the Battalion Commander that the battalion was "attached" to the 142nd Infantry Regiment.

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At 1830 the Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders left on a reconnaissance for the assembly area in the vicinity of Feyzin, later at 1845 the Battalion Executive Officer marched the battalion on Feyzin. The battalion closed into the Feyzin assembly area at 1940 and spent the night there. With the cooperation of the local authorities, shelter was obtained in public buildings for the personnel.

No firing this date. The battalion mission continued to be to reinforce the fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, but since we were transporting part of the 142nd Infantry Regiment, we also received orders from the Commanding Officer, 142nd Infantry Regiment.

3 SEPTEMBER 1944: The battalion was required to furnish five 2½ ton trucks to a provisional trucking company. This, with the four trucks already out, created an acute shortage of transportation. In order to continue the march it was necessary to establish a battalion dump at Feyzin and leave 350 rounds of ammunition behind.

About noon the Battalion Commander told his assembled staff and Battery Commanders that the battalion would resume the march and that the 1st battalion of the 142nd Infantry Regiment would be carried on our vehicles.

The Infantry entrucked in the battery areas, and the column formed and marched at 1345. The march was via: St. Symphorian, d'Ozon, Heyrieux, Chamagnieu, Cremieu, Vertrieu, Sault-Brenaz, Lagnieu, Amber-en-Bugey, St. Maurice-de-Remens, to an assembly area in a larve ammunition depot about one mile southwest of St. Maurice-de-Remens. For the route and disposition of the battalion see Map: France 1/100,000 Sheet 14 K Chambéry. Since there was no contact with the enemy, positions were not organized for action.

At 2245 information was received that the 3rd Infantry Division had made contact with the enemy to the north of our bivouac area; that it would be necessary for this battalion to move at 0400 4 September and close into positions in the vicinity of Bourg-en-Brasse by daylight. Our vehicles were to transport the 2nd Battalion of the 142nd Infantry Regiment.

During the early evening hours, D plus 15 Convoy arrived at the Service Battery position. The convoy consisted of the Personnel Section and a number of much needed vehicles. The trip from Cavalaire to this station was accomplished without mishap, although Mr. Huth had no maps.

No firing this day. Mission unchanged.

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4 SEPTEMBER 1944: At 0300 guides from the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment reported to the Command Post to guide our vehicles to the remote elements of their battalion. Some of these elements were so distant that the vehicles did not return until after 0400. As a result the march was not begun until 0615; even then a few trucks had not returned and had to proceed to the new position individually.

The battalion closed into a rendezvous area at coords. (290-270) Map: France 1/100,000 Sheet 14 L Nautua. Since a resumption of the march seemed imminent no installations were made.

At 1300 the march was resumed. The route was north thru Bourg-en-Brasse, Marboz and Cormos to a bivouac area in the vicinity of Varenne-St. Sauveur. See Map: France 1/100,000 Sheet 13 L, Macon. Coords. (238-683). The battalion closed into this area at 1720.

After arriving in this area the Battalion Personnel Section and Service Battery rejoined the Battalion. Suitable accommodations for the Personnel Section were obtained in Varenne and there they remained when the battalion marched.

This was a non-tactical bivouac. Positions were not organized for action and no firing was done this date. Mission: reinforcing fires of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, remained unchanged.

5 SEPTEMBER 1944: The Infantry entrucked in the battery areas this morning and the march was resumed at 0830. The march this day was along secondary roads, generally to the northwest. The route was Varenne St. Sauveur, Domartin-les-Cuisseaux, Sagy, Rette, Saillenard, Blatterans to a bivouac in the vicinity of Ruffey. (See Map: France, 1/100,000 Sheet 14 K Lons-lex-Saunier).

This evening we received information that Staff Sergeant Julius E. Hollub, from Hallettsville, Texas, a gun section chief, Battery "B" and Staff Sergeant Gilbert P. Schaeffer, from San Antonio, Texas, a Chief of Section, Battery "C", had been promoted, by Battle Field Appointment, to the temporary grade of 2nd. Lieutenants in the Army of the United States.

No firing this date. Mission continues unchanged.

6 SEPTEMBER 1944: Infantry entrucked and the march was resumed at 0800. This day's march was again generally northwestward. However, it followed primary roads. The route was from Ruffey, thru St. Germaine-les-Arlay, Poligny and Arbois to a bivouac area just north west of Mouchard. Coords. (645-265). Map: France 1/100,000 Sheet 14 K Lons-Le-Saunier.

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No firing this date. Mission remained reinforcement of fires of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, which was still in direct support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment.

7 SEPTEMBER 1944: At 1540 the Battalion Commander radioed from the 142nd Infantry Command Post in Mouchard ordering that the battalion be prepared to entruck the 2nd Battalion of the 142nd Infantry in Mouchard and march at 1630.

The Infantry was entrucked, but the march was delayed fifteen minutes by a column which had not cleared Mouchard at the scheduled time. At this time the Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders went ahead of the column to reconnoiter for positions.

The battalion marched at 1645. Route of march was northward out of Mouchard to Quingey, westward to Byans and into positions about two kilometers southwest of Byans. (See Map: France, 1/100,000 Sheet 14 K, Lons-Le-Saunier). Closed into new position at 1845 and detrucked the Infantry and organized for action.

Summary of firing: 42 rounds of HE are fired on a registration and two missions against enemy vehicles. No positive report of damage inflicted. The Battalion's mission continues to be to reinforce the fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

8 SEPTEMBER 1944: The battalion remained in firing position overnight. Twice during the day the battalion was alerted for an imminent move to new positions but due to change of plans both displacements were cancelled and the battalion remained in position overnight, continuing to reinforce the fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

The Battalion Commander attended a meeting at 36th Division Artillery late in the evening and received verbal orders that this Battalion was relieved of reinforcing fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and our mission would be general support of the 36th Infantry Division.

Summary of firing: Two missions, a total of 18 rounds of HE fired on enemy vehicles and personnel.

9 SEPTEMBER 1944: The battalion displaced forward to the vicinity of Champvans, closing into the new area at 1255. For disposition, (Map: France, 1/100,000 Sheet 14 J, Besancon.

Summary of firing: 103 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of Smoke fired on three missions; no positive reports of damages or casualties inflicted.

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10 SEPTEMBER 1944: The Battalion Commander took the Battery Commanders forward to the vicinity of Bonnevent to look for forward positions. Battery "B" was prepared for an early displacement; the balance of the battalion to move after Battery "B" occupied its new position. Battery "B" moved out at 1030 and closed into its forward position at 1300. The balance of the battalion marched at about 1400 and closed into the forward positions at 1545. The Command Post was established in a building in Velloreille. For route of march and dispositions in the Bonnevent area see Map: France 1/100,000 Sheet 14 J, Besancon.

The battalion rear echelon, D plus 20 Convoy, under Captain Harry P. Frantz Jr, O-404452, Enid, Oklahoma, which had been left in Italy, rejoined the battalion before today's move. This group remained with Service Battery and came forward when Service Battery moved. After displacement the newly arrived personnel, vehicles and equipment were returned to their batteries. This brought relief to many of the men who were in need of additional blankets and a change of clothing. The additional vehicles helped alleviate the critical shortage of transportation.

Shortly after occupying the new positions, Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, gave this battalion a secondary mission: ie, to reinforce the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, which was in direct support of the 143rd Infantry Regiment.

Summary of firing: 29 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of smoke fired on registrations. No missions fired on enemy targets.

11 SEPTEMBER 1944: The battalion was moved to the vicinity of Raze, closing into the Raze area at 1030. The battalion Command Post was established in a school building in the center of town. For dispositions of the firing batteries; Map: France 1/100,000 Sheet 14 J, Besancon. The battalion's mission of reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, remained unchanged.

Due to an attack on Vesoul by the 143rd Infantry Regiment, fire on that town was restricted, effective at 2000.

The Battalion S-4, Captain Walton M. Vines, O-1167257 from Pinson, Alabama, Tec 5 Joseph S. Hamilton, 33317348, Service Mail Clerk, from Philadelphia, Pa., Tec 5 Roy M. Hartman, 20815974, driver, from New Braunfels, Texas, Tec 5 Arno J. M. Feltner, 20815965 radio operator, from Houston, Texas, went to the edge of the VI Corps boundary to the little town of Voucy in the early afternoon. Arriving there,

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they found that no American troops had previously entered the town. A French guide directed them to a house in which were hiding 3 American officers who had escaped from the Germans on or about 4 September. Later, another French civilian guided them to another house in which 3 American soldiers were hiding. As they were leaving the town they captured four German soldiers whom they took to a PW inclosure.

Summary of firing: 117 rounds of HE fired on 5 missions. No positive reports of destruction or casualties was received.

12 SEPTEMBER 1944: The town of Vesoul, having been occupied by American forces the night of 11-12 September, it was desired to place medium artillery fire beyond Vesoul as early as possible. To accomplish this Battery "C" was moved to a position at coords. (807-980) Map: France, 1/100,000 Sheet 14 J Besancon. They closed into this position at 1130. Wire communications was extended to their position.

Early in the afternoon the Battalion Commander went on a reconnaissance for positions for the balance of the battalion in the vicinity of Battery "C"'s new position. The battery commanders, guided by the Battalion Communications Officer met at Battery "C"'s position, by direction of the Battalion Commander. While there orders were given for them to displace their batteries as soon as possible, march by battery, Battery "A" marched at 1453, Battery "B" at 1502 and Headquarters Battery at 1510. The battalion closed into the new area at 1530. For route and disposition see Map: France, 1/100,000 Sheet 14 J Besancon.

Summary of firing: 150 rounds of HE fired on 6 missions on enemy vehicles and artillery. Results: several vehicles destroyed and three enemy guns neutralized. It is thought that these three guns were destroyed but this could not be confirmed. Mission of the battalion unchanged.

13 SEPTEMBER 1944: Remained in position this day. No noteworthy incidents.

Summary of firing: 101 rounds of HE fired on 4 missions. No positive reports of destruction or casualties received.

14 SEPTEMBER 1944: Having reconnoitered battery positions in the vicinity of Bognon the night before, the battalion displaced at 0830 via Pontcey la Garene, Chemilly, Fort-sur-Saone to Bognon and closed in on the new area at 0935 (Map: France 1/100,000 Sheet 14 H, Bourmont-Fays-Billot).

At noon the Battalion Commander and Liaison Officer went to the Division Artillery Command Post and at 1620 the Battalion Commander radioed order from there for Battery "A" to displace to the vicinity of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion near Breurey-les-Faverney

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to more closely reinforce their fires. By 1830 Battery "A" had closed on their new position (Map: France 1/100,000 Sheet 14 H Bourmont-Fays-Billot).

Summary of firing: 240 rounds of HE and 1 round of smoke were fired in 10 missions on enemy troops, guns and on counter-attack.

15 SEPTEMBER 1944: After reconnaissance during the morning, the battalion moved to the vicinity of Neurey-en-Vaux early in the afternoon, closing into this area at 1245 (Route of march and disposition Map: France 1/100,000, Sheet 14 H, Bourmont-Fays-Billot). Due to its separation from the battalion the previous evening Battery "A" marched independently.

This battalion's mission, to reinforce the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, had remained unchanged. Our specific task was to be able to fire in support of the road blocks established by the 143rd Infantry Regiment to the north and northwest. This prevented a further displacement by this battalion this day. However, in response to a request by the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, Battery "A" was again sent forward to the 133rd's position at 705 and operated with them as they had the night of 14-15 September. In order that our fire power would not be too drastically reduced by losing Battery "A", Battery "A" of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion was left in our area and fired under the control of this battalion.

Summary of firing: 175 rounds of HE fired on 10 missions. No positive reports of destruction or casualties inflicted on the enemy. The battalion remains to reinforce the fires of 133rd Field Artillery Battalion.

16 SEPTEMBER 1944: At about noon information to the effect that a battalion of the 141st Infantry Regiment would relieve the 143rd Infantry of the task of manning the road blocks to the north and northwest, that the Cannon Company, 141st Infantry Regiment would give artillery support, and that this battalion was relieved of support of the road blocks.

Since action had moved out of range to the northwest, the battalion less Battery "A", which was already in position in the vicinity of Villers-les-Luxeuil, displaced to positions adjacent to Battery "A": Closed into this area at 1430 (For route of march and dispositions see Map: France, 1/100,000, Sheet 15 H, Gerardmer-Lure).

No firing from this position during the 3½ hour stay.

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At 1800 the battalion moved northeastward again to positions just north of Luxeuil-les-Bains. The Command Post was established in the town (For route and dispositions see Map: France, 1/100,000 Sheet 15 II, Gerardmer-Lure).

Summary of firing: 4 rounds of HE fired on an area target. Mission unchanged; ie, General Support of and reinforce fires of 133rd Field Artillery Battalion.

17 SEPTEMBER 1944: The Battalion remained in the Luxeuil-les-Bains area with the new mission of reinforcing fires of the 131st Field Artillery Battalion, who were in direct support of the 141st Infantry Regiment. Liaison was established with both units.

Summary of firing: 173 rounds of HE, fired on 8 missions, enemy guns and strong points.

18 SEPTEMBER 1944: There was no change in position or mission this date and no firing. No noteworthy incidents occurred, except that it has continued to rain and is getting colder every day.

19 SEPTEMBER 1944: The battalion spent its third day in the Luxeuil-les-Bains area, with the battalion mission unchanged.

At 2000 hours the Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, advised that the 141st Infantry Regiment was to attack the high ground north of Remiremont the next morning and that this battalion should be prepared to displace to the vicinity of Plombieres-les-bains after 0630 hours 20 September, at which time the infantry was to attack. However, the Battalion Commander visited the 141st Infantry Command Post at 2300 and telephoned the Battalion Executive that our plans had been changed, ie, we would move at 0330 to Fougères, be in position and ready to fire at daylight to cover the 141st Infantry Regiment until it closed into its assembly area Northeast of Plombieres-les-Bains.

The Battalion Commander had the Battery Commanders and parties to meet him at the Command Post at midnight, prepared to go on reconnaissance for new positions in the vicinity of Fougères.

There was no firing this date. Mission continued to be to reinforce the fires of the 131st Field Artillery Battalion.

20 SEPTEMBER 1944: As each battery commander returned from the reconnaissance his battery was released to him and he marched his battery northward to the new positions in the vicinity of Fougères. The Battalion closed into the Fougères area at 0540.

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(For route of march and disposition see Map: France 1/100,000 Sheet 15 H, Gerardmer-Lure.

At 0615 twelve prime-movers, the only transportation available, were dispatched to carry part of the 2nd Battalion of the 141st Infantry Regiment.

At 1120 the battery commanders were ordered to prepare to march immediately upon the return of the trucks from the Infantry haul. At 1215 the Battalion and Battery Commanders went on reconnaissance for positions in the vicinity of Raon-aux-Bois.

The trucks having returned the battalion marched northward at 1310, closing in the Raon-aux-Bois area at 1608. (Route and dispositions Map: France, 1/100,000, Sheet 15 H, Gerardmer-Lure).

The Battalion Personnel Section and Service Battery remained in the old school house in Luxeuil-les-Bains when the rest of the battalion left.

Firing from this position prior to the morning of the 21st was forbidden in order to obtain surprise.

No firing this date. Mission unchanged.

21 SEPTEMBER 1944: Upon verbal orders Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, 1st Lieutenant Raymond F. Kent, O-1176092, Battalion Assistant S-2, from Boston, Mass., was sent to the 45th Infantry Division Artillery as Liaison Officer from the 36th Infantry Division Artillery. Lieutenant Kent left the Battalion at 1025 to go on his mission.

Information was received at 0940 that the 141st Infantry Regiment had elements across the Moselle River. Later at 2030 hours this battalion was placed in general support of the 36th Infantry Division by verbal orders Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery.

Service Battery and the Personnel Section moved into the vicinity of La Racine.

Summary of firing: 492 rounds of HE fired on 14 missions. No positive reports of casualties or destruction.

22 SEPTEMBER 1944: Information received at 1705 hours was that Eloyes, on the Moselle River, had been taken from the enemy after a few road blocks had been cleared. Continued rain and colder

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throughout the day.

Summary of firing: 310 rounds of HE fired on 19 missions. No positive reports of casualties or destruction. Mission - general support of the 36th Infantry Division.

23 SEPTEMBER 1944: At 0840 this battalion was given the mission of general support, with special attention to the zone of action of the 143rd Infantry, which was operating in the left of the Division zone of action. Liaison was established with the 143rd Infantry Regiment.

During the morning this battalion was warned that it would probably displace during the day, meanwhile the Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders went on a reconnaissance for positions in the vicinity of Eloyes. By noon orders were received from the Battalion Commander to close station and march order, but not to move until he returned from reconnaissance. Upon his return the battalion marched by battery, closing in at the new area at 1410. (Route and disposition see Map: France, 1/100,000, Sheet 15 H, Gerardmer-Lure).

After the battalion had moved, the Personnel Section and Service Battery moved to within 2 kilometers of Remiremont. Personnel setting up the Section in a former filling station which was ideal due to abundance of light.

Summary of firing: 115 rounds of HE fired on 6 missions, none of which were observed missions. Mission of the battalion unchanged.

24 SEPTEMBER 1944: The battalion began a march to new positions north of the Moselle River, but were halted on the road and re-routed to positions in the vicinity of Pouxoux. It had been found that the initial position area chosen was too congested with other units. Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery had ordered the change. (Route and disposition see Map: France 1/100,000, Sheet 15 H, Gerardmer-Lure).

In this position the battalion's mission was general support of the division which was advancing against increasingly strong resistance toward Bruyeres, France. Liaison was established with both assault regiments; Captain Richard B. Hawk, O-415562, Battalion Liaison Officer, from Dallas, Texas, to the 143rd Infantry Regiment on the left and Captain August C. Moser, O-295013, Liaison officer to the 142nd Infantry Regiment on the right. Captain Moser entered the service from Dallas, Texas.

Service Battery and the Battalion Personnel Section moved into a textile mill in Eloyes at 1745 hours.

Summary of firing: 151 rounds of HE on 10 missions. No positive reports of destruction or casualties.

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25 SEPTEMBER 1944: Mission unchanged. Remained in position. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery were in large buildings. The troops had an opportunity to dry their clothes and bedding which had gotten wet during rains of the past few days. No noteworthy incidents occurred.

Summary of firing: 744 rounds of HE on 30 missions. The greater part of this firing was on harassing missions and unobserved Division Artillery concentrations. Received no positive reports of destruction or casualties inflicted on the enemy.

26 SEPTEMBER 1944: A few rounds of enemy artillery fire fell in Battery "C" area. No damage suffered. One man, Private First Class Donald F. Wiseman, 32305980, Battery "C", from North Arlington, New Jersey, was slightly injured by a shell fragment in his foot. Duty of Private First Class Wiseman is a cannoneer on number 2 gun. He was given first aid and then returned to duty.

The battalion's mission and position remained unchanged.

Summary of firing: 290 rounds of HE fired on 17 missions. The majority of this fire was on Division Artillery concentrations and harassing fires. No positive reports of destruction or casualties received.

27 SEPTEMBER 1944: No change in mission or position. No noteworthy incidents.

Summary of firing: 385 rounds of HE fired on 18 missions, one round of Smoke used, most of which were on Division Artillery concentrations and harassing fire. No positive reports of destruction or casualties.

28 SEPTEMBER 1944: The enemy having been driven from the high ground north of the Docelles-Tholy road this battalion was ordered to move to positions in the vicinity of Docelles. The move was made by battery and the battalion closed into the new area at 1820. For route of march and dispositions see Map: France, 1/100,000, Sheet 15 H, Gerardmer-Lure. Due to soft ground Battery "A" could not get into the position first chosen and had to select a new position after arriving in the Docelles area. Heavy clouds restricted observation from the liaison planes and brought early darkness. Result - registration was impossible.

Service Battery and Personnel Section remained in the textile mill.

Summary of firing: 86 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of Smoke fired on 6 missions. No positive reports of destruction or casualties.

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29 SEPTEMBER 1944: Received a few scattered rounds of light and medium enemy artillery in the battalion area at about daylight. No casualties or damages suffered. There was a small fire fight just north of Docelles at about 0900, however, it did not endanger this battalion's position; and by noon the area was quiet. The battalion remained in the same position and remained in support of the Division.

Summary of firing: 249 rounds of HE are fired on 13 missions. No positive reports of destruction or casualties.

30 SEPTEMBER 1944: The battalion remained in the same position, with mission unchanged. Damp and colder. Visibility poor.

Summary of firing: 354 rounds of HE on harrassing fires and Bongoes. Battalion fired 16 missions.

The following types of casualties occurred during this period:

| <u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u> | <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>ENLISTED MEN</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| KIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| DOW                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LIA                     | 0               | 2                   | 2            |
| SIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| DIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LWA                     | 0               | 2                   | 2            |
| SWA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| MIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| POW                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |

Five enlisted personnel and no officers received as replacements during this period.

"AWARDS"

"BRONZE STAR MEDAL CITATIONS RECEIVED  
DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

- Name  
Tec Grade 5 (then Pvt 1cl) Cleburne H. Schmidt, 20816040,  
Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, San  
Antonio, Texas.

Origin of Award

Sec I, GO #323, Headquarters, 36th Inf Div., dated 4 September 1944.

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**S E C R E T**

Date and Place of Action Cited

27 November 1944, Mignano, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

Tec Grade 5 Schmidt hearing cries for medico from a neighboring unit, ran through some two hundred yards of heavily falling fire to administer urgently needed medical relief to the wounded.

2. Name

Staff Sergeant (then Pvt) Joe H. Williams, 20816504, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

Origin of Award

Sec I, GO #323, Headquarters, 36th Inf Div., dated 4 September 1944.

Date and Place of Action Cited

27 November 1944, Mignano, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

Pvt Joe H. Williams hearing cries for medico from a neighboring unit, ran through some two hundred yards of heavily falling fire to administer urgently needed medical relief to the wounded.

"OAK LEAF CLUSTER IN LIEU OF A  
SECOND BRONZE STAR MEDAL RECEIVED DURING  
PERIOD COVERED HEREIN".

1. Name

Staff Sergeant (then Pvt) Joe H. Williams, 20816504, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

Origin of Award

Sec II, GO #323, Headquarters, 36th Inf Div., dated 4 September 1944.

Date and Place of Action Cited

25 June 1944, Fallonica, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

Staff Sgt. Williams, while lying in a culvert during an artillery barrage, heard a call for help from a wounded soldier. Despite the bursting shells, Sgt. Williams left his place of safety and made his way to the wounded soldier, carrying him back to the culvert, summoning medical aid and then supervising his evacuation.

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2. Name

Private Walter H. La Flamme, 36220022, Medical Detachment,  
155th Field Artillery Battalion, Superior, Wisconsin.

Origin of Award

Sec IV, GO #323, Headquarters, 36th Inf Div., dated 4 September 1944.

Date and Place of Action Cited

18 March 1944, Cassino, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

Private La Flamme, voluntarily went to the assistance of an  
adjoining battery that was being shelled and had suffered  
heavy casualties, rendering first aid despite the intensity  
of the bursting shells until all the wounded and dead had been  
evacuated.

"AIR MEDALS RECEIVED DURING  
PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. Name

1st Lt. (then 2nd Lt) Artie F. Svoboda, O-1180260, Headquarters  
Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Elsworth, Kansas.

Origin of Award

Sec II, GO #67, Headquarters, Fifth Army, dated 28 April 1944.

Date and Place of Action Cited

11 January 1944 to 5 February 1944, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

1st Lt. Svoboda performed thirty-five Field Artillery Observation  
sorties against the enemy, during the period 11 January 1944 to  
5 February 1944.

2. Name

2nd Lt. (then Staff Sergeant) Jack Martin, O-1691871, Headquarters  
Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Jackson, Mississippi.

Origin of Award

Sec II, GO 67, Headquarters, Fifth Army, dated 28 April 1944.

Date and Place of Action Cited

24 November 1943 to 9 February 1944, Italy

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Conspicuous Circumstances

2nd Lt. Martin performed thirty-six Field Artillery Observation sorties against the enemy, during the period 24 November 1943 to 9 February 1944.

3. Name

2nd Lt. Richard J. McGready, O-1170486, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Origin of Award

GO #123, Headquarters, Fifth Army, dated 20 July 1944.

Date and Place of Action Cited

11 January 1944 to 5 February 1944, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

2nd Lt. McGready performed twenty-five Field Artillery Observation sorties against the enemy, during the period 11 January 1944 to 5 February 1944.

"FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER AWARD  
RECEIVED DURING PERIOD  
COVERED HEREIN"

1. Name

2nd Lt. Richard J. McGready, O-1170486, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Date and Place of Action Cited

3 June 1944 to 18 June 1944, Italy.

Origin of Award

Sec V, GO #71, Headquarters, Seventh Army, dated 3 September 1944.

Conspicuous Circumstances

2nd Lt. McGready performed sixteen Field Artillery Observation sorties against the enemy, during the period 3 June 1944 to 18 June 1944.

2. Name

2nd Lt. (then Staff Sgt) Jack Martin, O-1691871, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Jackson, Mississippi.

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Origin of Award

Sec I, GO #123, Headquarters, Fifth Army, dated 20 July 1944.

Date and Place of Action Cited

8 January 1944 to 10 March 1944, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

2nd Lt. Martin performed sixty-two Field Artillery Observation sorties against the enemy, during the period 8 January 1944 to 10 March 1944.

3. Name

1st Lt. (then 2nd Lt) Artie F. Svoboda, O-1180360, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Memphis, Tennessee.

Origin of Award

Sec I, GO #123, Headquarters, Fifth Army, dated 20 July 1944.

Date and Place of Action Cited

22 January 1944 to 2 March 1944, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

1st Lt. Svoboda performed thirty-nine Field Artillery Observation sorties against the enemy, during the period 22 January 1944 to 2 March 1944.

EXHIBITS:

- A - List of Casualties.
- B - Officers Roster.
- C - Officers Duty Changes.
- D - Unit Journal.
- E - Missions Flown by Air Section.
- F - S - J Reports.
- G - Summary of Firing.
- H - Daily Report of Firing.
- I - Situation Overlays #1 thru #6.
- J - Maps France #1 thru #11.
- K - Firing Charts #1 thru #12.

*Stanley W. Huth*  
STANLEY W. HUTH  
WOJG, U.S.A.  
Unit Historian

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-6-82



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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.C. No. 36, U. S. Army

9 November 1944.  
CMS/hcp

SUBJECT: Narrative History and Conclusions by the Battalion Commander of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for October 1944.

TO : Commanding General,  
36th Infantry Division,  
APO No. 36, U. S. Army.

1. The period 1 October to 31 October 1944 has been very static and quiet as far as the tactical operations of this battalion was concerned. The limitations on resupply of ammunition has restricted the expenditure to appropriate observed targets, counter-battery missions and a few harrassing missions on well located enemy activity reported thru intelligence sources.

2. The various types of projectiles and propelling charges, manufactured primarily for the 1917-18, 155mm howitzers together with the various types manufactured for the 155mm howitzers M-1, now being issued has complicated the accounting, storing and handling of ammunition to the extent that it would decrease the efficiency and speed of the battalion in an active offensive mission. This condition adds to the possibility of errors in selection of proper projectile and powder charge on the part of the cannoneers, particularly at night. It is recommended that the standard projectile M-107 HE and M-110 Smoke only be issued together with propelling charge applicable thereto especially in very active offensive operations.

3. Advantage has been taken of the slack time during this period for gunnery schools for junior officers in the conduct of all types of fire. Time fire has been stressed and a great improvement has been made in the ability of the junior officers in the adjustment of fire when and where needed.

*Clifford M. Snow*  
CLIFFORD M. SNOW  
Lieutenant Colonel, F. A.  
Commanding

1 Incl - Narrative "October" (Sextuple)

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155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE, OCTOBER 1944

1 OCTOBER 1944: The battalion remained in the DOCELLES area which was occupied on 28 September 1944 (Map: France XV-18, 1/50, 000 BRUYERES) with practically all installations under cover. The Division bathing facilities were available and there was an opportunity for general cleaning of all personnel, and of their clothing, and equipment and materiel.

36th Infantry Division operations instructions received early in the morning placed the battalion in general support of the division. However, a secondary mission was given to the Battalion Commander by Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery at 1025 hours, ie - reinforcing the fires of the 131st Field Artillery Battalion, which was in direct support of the 141st Infantry Regiment. The Division's plan was to attack at 0630 the morning of 2 October; the 141st Infantry Regiment to seize the high ground west of Herpelmont and the 143rd Infantry Regiment to take the high ground south of Herpelmont, both regiments to hold their objectives and assist the 45th Infantry Division in its attack on BRUYERES.

Captain August C. Moser Jr., O-295013, of Dallas, Texas, Battalion Liaison Officer, was dispatched on a liaison mission to the 141st Infantry Regiment, relieving Captain William J. Jessup, the Battalion S-2., O-415562, of Houston, Texas.

Summary of firing: 212 rounds of HE, fired on 12 missions on enemy personnel and guns; reported 3 mortars destroyed.

2 OCTOBER 1944: Our firing in support of the divisions's attack this morning was stopped at 1030 due to restricted ammunition. Allotment by Division Artillery. 1st Lieutenant Jack R. Stewart, O-403496, of San Antonio, Texas., advised at 1620 that all ammunition had been frozen by Seventh Army, this was confirmed at 1635 by 36th Division Artillery, when they limited the Battalion to 12 rounds per gun per day until noon 4 October 1944. Some progress was reported made by the 141st and 143rd Infantry Regiments.

Summary of firing: 782 rounds of HE and 8 rounds of Smoke, fired on 12 missions, nine of which were preparatory fires and 36th Division Artillery concentrations; the balance were on enemy batteries and self-propelled guns; no reported destruction received.

3 OCTOBER 1944: The battalion's mission remained unchanged. 2nd Lieutenant Paul F. Judson, returned to the battalion from temporary duty with 36th Division Artillery.

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No noteworthy incidents this date.

Summary of firing: 163 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of smoke, a total of 8 missions (2 on harrassing fires) the balance on enemy guns and personnel; no reported destruction received.

4 OCTOBER 1944: No noteworthy incidents.

Summary of firing: 141 rounds of HE fired on 7 missions, including 3 missions of harrassing fires and one on 36th Division Artillery concentration.

5 OCTOBER 1944: 1st Lieutenant Raymond F. Kent was relieved from duty as Liaison Officer from 36th Infantry Division Artillery to the 45th Division Artillery and reported for duty at 1140. 2nd Lieutenant Paul F. Judson was sent to take over liaison duties with 45th Division Artillery. 1st Lieutenant Raymond F. Kent, upon being assigned to the air observation duty for this battalion, moved to the Air Observation Post flying field.

115 rounds of HE and 7 rounds of smoke fired on 12 missions. No positive reports of destruction or casualties to the enemy casued. Mission: General support of the 36th Infantry Division.

6 OCTOBER 1944: No noteworthy incidents.

Summary of firing: 304 rounds of HE and 36 rounds smoke fired on 20 missions. Started a fire in an enemy battery position. Mission unchanged.

7 OCTOBER 1944: No noteworthy incidents.

Summary of firing: 617 rounds HE and 12 rounds Smoke fired on 21 missions. At about 0800 this battalion fired on a moving train just south of LAELINE. The fire was conducted by an observer from the 131st Field Artillery Battalion, observing from an air-observation post. Fired 76 rounds on this mission, hitting the train several times. The train was immobilized. 36th Division requested an air bombing mission against it. This was approved and the air-corps dive-bombed the train during the morning.

Destroyed a house in which enemy troops were observed and started a fire in any enemy machine gun nest.

General support mission remained unchanged.

8 OCTOBER 1944: Received confirmation of the promotion of 2nd Lieutenant Paul F. Judson to the grade of 1st Lieutenant at 0905.

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At 1345 Captain August C. Moser Jr, Liaison Officer with the 141st Infantry Regiment, informed us that the 141st Infantry Regiment had liberated the town of HERFELMONT.

At 2300 hours this battalion was ordered to send 6 trucks and a kitchen on a motor convoy to "Red Beach" to haul ammunition to this area; trucks reported to Stanley P. Mattox, 36th Infantry Division Quartermaster Company at Arches, France at 0900 hours 9 October 1944.

Summary of firing: 75 rounds of HE fired on 5 missions. One of these missions was against enemy guns and vehicles; two were reported hit.

Battalion mission unchanged.

9 OCTOBER 1944: No noteworthy incidents this date.

Due to ammunition shortage no unobserved or harrassing missions were fired this day. Poor visibility prevented the firing of observed missions; results - no firing.

Mission remaining in general support of 36th Infantry Division.

10 OCTOBER 1944: Battalion moved to vicinity of FAUCOMPIERRE. Battery "A" moved at 1100 and occupied positions at V-203495. Battery "B" moved at 1300 and occupied positions at V-207495. Battery "C" moved at 1500 and occupied positions at V-213493. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery infiltrated a few vehicles at a time. The new command post was established in a house at V-211488. For route of march and disposition see Map: France, 1/50,000 Sheet XXIV-18, BRUYERES.

Summary of firing: 12 rounds of HE and 1 round of smoke fired on a registration. Poor visibility hampered observation today. Mission unchanged.

11 OCTOBER 1944: Captain Martin W. Williamson left the battalion today to take over duties as Communications Officer, 36th Infantry Division Artillery.

Summary of firing: 50 rounds of HE and 7 rounds of Smoke, fired on 3 registrations.

12 OCTOBER 1944: Established liaison with the 141st and 143rd Infantry Regiments. Official note of the arrival of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team had not been received this date, but numerous officers reported they had seen elements of them locally. It is interesting to note that this Regimental Combat Team (442nd) is composed of Japanese of American

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ancestry. One battalion of the 442nd Infantry Regiment is the famous 100th Infantry Battalion which distinguished itself in the Italian campaign.

No other incidents. General Support mission unchanged.

Summary of firing: 116 rounds of HE and 9 rounds of smoke fired on 10 missions. Three hits on enemy vehicles were reported, one of these vehicles was destroyed by fire, and another fire was started near a self-propelled gun that was fired upon.

13 OCTOBER 1944: Received orders for support of an attack to be launched by the 442nd RCT - which has been attached to the 36th Infantry Division and the 143rd RCT. Attack to be made upon BRUYERES and CHAMP le DUC. Our mission - general support of the division with first priority to calls for fire in the zone of action of the attacking elements.

By this date observation posts have been organized on high ground as follows: Battery "A" Observation Post on Hill 809 at 258489; Battery "B" Observation Post north of LEPANGES at 204545 and Battery "C" Observation Post on STEAUNGAT at 229535.

Summary of firing: 90 rounds of HE and 1 round of smoke fired on 8 missions.

14 OCTOBER 1944: No noteworthy incidents.

Summary of firing: 73 rounds of HE and 1 round of smoke fired on 10 missions. No positive reports of casualties or destruction caused received.

15 OCTOBER 1944: The attack by the 442nd and 143rd Regimental Combat Teams was launched at 0800. By evening reports were received to the effect that our troops had progressed as far eastward as the 23rd Easting. LAVAL had not fallen but was seriously threatened.

At about 1900 the battalion area received a severe shelling. Approximately 130 rounds of high explosive shells of 105 and 155 calibre fell in the area - most of them were in Battery "B"'s area. Damage suffered was very light considering the amount of fire received. Two howitzers and one truck, all battery "B"'s equipment, was damaged.

16 OCTOBER 1944: By 0930 the 736th Ordnance had replaced one of Battery "B"'s damaged howitzers. By 1000 Battery "B" had moved to an alternate position near IANON TARUPT, coords 199486, Map: France, 1/50, 000 Sheet XXXIV 18 BRUYERES. Alternate positions for batteries "A" and "C" were checked. However neither of them moved.

Summary of firing: 153 rounds of HE were fired on 7 missions. Mission of battalion unchanged.

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PERIOD 17 to 19 OCTOBER 1944: No change in dispositions and no noteworthy incidents.

On the 18th October 1944 it was learned that BRUYERES was occupied and secure, and that the enemy had been driven from Hill 595 (about 1 Km northeast of BRUYERES). On the 19th October the S-2, Captain William J. Jessup, reconnoitered Hill 595 for an Observation Post and reported that a suitable place was available at the summit of the hill.

20 OCTOBER 1944: Establishment of an Observation Post on Hill 595 was delayed pending mopping up of small groups of enemy who had infiltrated into that feature during the night. At 1400 hours the Battalion Commander led a party consisting of Captain Richard B. Hawk, 2nd Lieutenant Hugh W. Shaw, Staff Sergeant Eugene R. Dameron, Tec Gr 5 Leslie H. Willis, Private First Class James A. Buckley, Private Casimir P. Kalafarski and Private Harvey J. Hanson to the Observation Post. At 1600 while they were on the summit of the hill they were fired upon by small calibre, high velocity enemy weapons. Captain Richard B. Hawk, O-415562, Dallas, Texas was wounded in the left shoulder and arm by shell fragments. Private Casimir P. Kalafarski, 31326144 of New London, Conn., received face wounds; Private Harvey J. Hanson, 20816438, Fort Worth, Texas, received a slight wound on the forehead and 2nd Lieutenant Hugh W. Shaw, O-1179705, Claremont, California received a slight wound in the thigh. Captain Hawk and Private Kalafarski had to be evacuated to the 111th Clearing Station and thence to a Station hospital. The other wounded received medical attention but were returned to duty. This incident forced abandonment of Hill 595 as an Observation Post.

Summary of firing: 424 rounds of HE and 20 missions were fired. Battalion mission continues to be general support of the division with first priority to fires in zone of action of the 143rd Infantry Regiment.

21 OCTOBER 1944: No noteworthy incidents.

Summary of firing: 224 rounds of HE fired on 14 missions. No positive reports of destruction or casualties caused received. Mission unchanged.

22 OCTOBER 1944: Mission of battalion changed to general support of the division with first priority to the attack of the 141st Infantry Regiment (See Operations Instructions, 36th Infantry Division, 221400 October 1944).

Service Battery, less Battalion Motor Maintenance Section, and the Personnel Section moved to DOCELLES. Personnel Section moved into a vacant building and after a few repairs were able to continue their work.

Summary of firing: 77 rounds of HE fired on 6 missions.

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PERIOD 23 to 26 OCTOBER 1944: The battalion remained in position in general support of the division. On the 24th a position area in the vicinity of HELLMONT was reconnoitered against a possible move to that area. On the 25th information was received that the 1st Battalion of the 141st Infantry Regiment had been cut off on the high ground north of La HOUSIERE. On the 26th plans were formulated for the relief of the 1st Battalion of the 141st Infantry Regiment. This was to take the form of an attack by elements of the 442nd Infantry Regiment for the purpose of re-establishing physical contact with the isolated unit. Upon orders from higher headquarters the battalion transferred all enlisted personnel over T/O strength to the 2nd Replacement Depot on the 23 October 1944.

Summary of firing: 23 October: 78 rounds of HE fired in 5 missions. 24 October: 192 rounds of HE fired on 13 missions. Started fire in an enemy gun battery. 25 October: 163 rounds of HE fired on 13 missions. 26 October: 129 rounds of HE fired on 12 missions.

27 OCTOBER 1944: Received notice that recommendation for combat appointment of Staff Sergeant Floyd C. Ford, of Houston, Texas, to temporary grade of 2nd Lieutenant had been approved. Sergeant Ford was in the 9th Evacuation Hospital. WOJG Stanley W. Huth, San Antonio, Texas, Assistant Adjutant, was sent to the hospital to administer the oath of office. By accomplishing this the appointment of Staff Sergeant Ford to 2nd Lieutenant became effective this date.

H-hour for the attack by the 442nd Infantry Regiment was postponed from 0900 to 1000. The attack was launched but contact was not gained. The only communication with the isolated unit at the close of the day was by radio. The 12th Tactical Air Command made attempts to drop supplies to the isolated unit but heavy fog prevented this.

Major Clifford M. Snow, Battalion Commander, left the Command Post at 0910 to report to Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division Artillery. Lieutenant Colonel Snow returned to his command post at 1100 hours. He had been called to 36th Infantry Division Artillery to be told of his promotion.

Summary of firing: 180 rounds of HE fired on 8 missions. Battalion mission remained in general support of the division.

PERIOD 28 to 30 OCTOBER 1944: The Battalion remained in position and continued to fire in general support of the 36th Infantry Division.

Summary of firing: 28 October: 256 rounds of HE and 5 rounds of smoke were fired on 20 missions. 29 October: 228 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of Smoke were fired on 13 missions.

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PERIOD 30 to 31 OCTOBER 1944: At the end of the month the battalion was in the position occupied since 10 October. Mission continued to be general support of the 36th Infantry Division with the Battalion ground Observation Post's located at: Battery "A" 258489; Battery "B" 238464; Battery "C" 252526.

Information was received that the 442nd Regimental Combat Team had contacted the isolated 1st Battalion of the 141st Infantry in the vicinity of coorcs 345563 during the afternoon of 30 October; the isolated battalion was relieved by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team on 31 October.

Summary of firing: 30 October: 312 rounds of HE and fired on 25 missions. 31 October: 203 rounds of HE and 11 rounds of Smoke were fired on 15 missions.

The following types of casualties occurred during this period:

| TYPE OF CASUALTY | OFFICERS | ENLISTED MEN | TOTAL |
|------------------|----------|--------------|-------|
| KIA              | 0        | 0            | 0     |
| DOW              | 0        | 0            | 0     |
| LIA              | 0        | 6            | 6     |
| SIA              | 0        | 0            | 0     |
| DIA              | 0        | 0            | 0     |
| LWA              | 3        | 4            | 7     |
| SWA              | 0        | 1            | 1     |
| MIA              | 0        | 0            | 0     |
| POW              | 0        | 0            | 0     |
|                  | 3        | 11           | 14    |

## "AWARDS"

"BRONZE STAR MEDAL CITATIONS RECEIVED DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN".

1. Name  
Captain Harry P. Frantz Jr., O-404452, Battery "C", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Enid, Oklahoma.

### Origin of Award

Sec II, GO #418, Headquarters, 36th Inf Div., dated 26 October 1944.

### Date & Place of Action Cited

24 February 1944, Cassino, Italy.



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Conspicuous Circumstances

For gallantry and meritorious service during the battle for Cassino, Italy.

"COMMENDATIONS FOR EXCEPTIONALLY  
MERITORIOUS CONDUCT RECEIVED DURING PERIOD"

1. Name

Captain (then 1st Lt) Gerald W. Evans, O-1165012, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Wyola, Montana.

Origin of Award

Sec II, GO #416, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Div., dated, 25 October 44.

Date & Place of Action Cited.

18 November 1943 to 27 March 1944, Mignano, Cassino, Italy.

Conspicuous Circumstances

For exceptionally meritorious conduct in assuming command of Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, and maintaining a high degree of efficiency in communications within the Battalion and with other Headquarters.

*Stanley W. Huth*  
STANLEY W. HUTH  
WOJG, U.S.A.  
Unit Historian

EXHIBITS:

- A - List of Casualties.
- B - Officers Roster.
- C - Officers Duty Changes.
- D - Unit Journal .
- E - Missions Flown by Air Section.
- F - S-3 Reports.
- G - Summary of Firing.
- H - Daily Report of Firing.
- I - Situation Overlays #1 thru #3
- J - Maps of France #1 thru #2
- K - Firing Charts #1 thru #3.

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Headquarters 155th Field Artillery Battalion  
A.P.O. No. 30, U. S. Army

9 December 1944.  
GMS/hcp

SUBJECT: Narrative History and Conclusions by the Battalion Commander of  
the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for November 1944.

TO : Commanding General,  
36th Infantry Division,  
APO No. 5, U. S. Army.

This battalion has completed its first full month of service with the M-5 tractor prime mover. The tractor has proven its worth. It is flexible, powerful and has good flotation. As a prime mover, it is preferred to the 4 ton Diamond - T trucks previously used. However, the exchange of truck for tractor has curtailed the batteries cargo carrying space to such an extent, that it has been found necessary to furnish each firing battery with a 2 1/2 ton G.M.C. These G.M.C.'s have been taken from headquarters and Service batteries. This has in turn worked a hardship on these batteries so that movement without shuttling is so difficult for these batteries.

An additional 2 1/2 ton G.M.C. should be furnished to each firing battery equipped with the M-5 tractor prime movers.

*Clifford M. Snow*  
CLIFFORD M. SNOW  
Lieutenant Colonel, F. A.  
Commanding

1 Incl - Narrative "November" (containing)

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155th FARM ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE, NOVEMBER 1944

1 NOVEMBER 1944: The battalion completed its 22nd day in the position near Fauconpiere (at la FOLLE) occupied 11 October and continued to maintain ground Observation Posts at: Battery "A" - 258489; Battery "B" - 389464; Battery "C" - 252526 (See Map France 1/50,000 Sheet KXXV-18 BRUIERES).

Our mission continued to be general support of the 36th Infantry Division.

Summary of firing: 306 rounds of HE and 13 rounds of smoke fired on 15 missions.

PERIOD 2-11 NOVEMBER 1944: Captain August C. Moser was recalled on 2nd November from liaison with the 143rd Infantry Regiment, a contemplated attack by the 142nd Infantry Regiment and 143rd Regimental Combat Teams having been postponed. The Battalion S-4 and Personnel Section is still in Bodelles, but are to be moved as soon as a suitable place can be located.

On the 4th November, 1st Lt. Harold W. Bailey, moved the Battalion Motor Shop from BODELLES to la FOLLE.

On the 6th November Captain Martin W. Williamson was released by 36th Division Artillery and returned to the battalion.

Summary of firing:

2 November: 118 rounds HE and 4 rounds smoke fired on 10 missions.  
3 November: 294 rounds HE and 12 rounds smoke fired on 18 missions. Several hits were reported on a supposed enemy Command Post and one direct hit was made on a self-propelled gun.  
4 November: 20 rounds of HE were fired on one mission.  
5 November: 225 rounds of HE and 37 rounds of smoke fired on 10 missions.  
6 November: 25 rounds of HE and 22 rounds of smoke were fired on 2 missions.  
7 November: 31 rounds of HE and 4 rounds of smoke fired on 2 missions.  
8 November: 71 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of smoke fired on 6 missions. Reported enemy Command Post in a house hit.  
9 November: 8 rounds of HE fired on 1 mission.  
10 November: 62 rounds of HE fired on 7 missions.  
11 November: 200 rounds of HE were fired on 12 missions; all harassing fire and Division Artillery Concentrations.

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12 NOVEMBER 1944: The 36th Infantry Division's plan for attack on 15 November, to seize and hold the high ground east and southeast of la MOUSSELE, was postponed. Information was received late in the afternoon that the 1st Battalion of the 143rd Infantry Regiment had taken AUCKLEY.

Summary of firing: 72 rounds of HE were fired on 12 missions.

13 NOVEMBER 1944: The 36th Infantry Division Artillery advised the Battalion Commander that one section of the 995th Field Artillery (8" howitzer) would be attached to this battalion during the Division attack. Lieutenant Bowman, of Battery "E", 995th Field Artillery Battalion visited the Command Post during the afternoon and arranged with the Battalion Commander for the position of his howitzer section near our Battery "C" position. Although the 8" howitzer section was moved into position during the afternoon, inclement weather for two successive days prevented registration prior to their being recalled on 15 November.

Our mission continued to be: general support of the division for the coming attack and to reinforce the fires of the 151st Field Artillery Battalion.

Summary of firing: 36 rounds of HE fired on 3 missions, one of which was fired for the French on enemy mortars.

14 NOVEMBER 1944: Captain August C. Moser and Captain Martin W. Williamson were dispatched on liaison to the 143rd Infantry Regiment and the 141st Infantry Regiment, respectively.

Late in the day Captain Moser advised that the Infantry had met little enemy resistance in their patrolling of areas for attack.

The Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Clifford E. Snow, and S-2 Captain William M. Jessup, went forward in the early afternoon to again check on possible positions for the battalion in the JUSARUPT area. Upon their return the Battalion Commander met with his Staff and Battery Commanders to advise that we would move to JUSARUPT the following morning after reconnaissance and mine sweeping had been completed.

The Battalion Commander also advised that the 141st Infantry had patrols as far as LIEBEN and had made no contact with the enemy; 143rd Infantry had reached their objective, la GRANGE, and had established a Command Post there and had a platoon as far as the hill south of La HULLE with no enemy contact.

The original plans for the Division's attack had been abandoned and the gun section from the 995th Field Artillery Battalion returned to its parent unit.

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Summary of firing: 49 rounds of HE fired on 1 mission (harassing fire).

15 NOVEMBER 1944: As the mine sweeping detail, under 1st Lieutenant Paul F. Jussen, found few obstructions in the JUSSANUPT area during the early morning reconnaissance by the Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders, the battalion moved by battery, beginning at 1120 and closed on the JUSSANUPT area at 1530 (Route: MOTA, LARFEMONT, JUSSANUPT). The location of units: Command Post and Headquarters Battery - 2696-5168; Battery "A" - 27546-51590; Battery "B" - 27021-51492; Battery "C" - 26627-51166 (See Map France 1/50,000 Sheet XXXV-15 BRUYERES.)

Battery "A" reported one tractor had struck a mine in a field adjacent to their battery position; the track was blown off but there were no casualties. Later in the day a Battery "B" truck hit a mine in the vicinity of Battery "A"; truck was damaged considerably.

There was no firing this date.

16 NOVEMBER 1944: Service Battery and the Battalion Personnel Section moved into AUMONT. The Motor Maintenance section remained in la POIRIE. While servicing wire, Private William Selski and Corporal Richard A. Racanello were slightly wounded by shell fragment when a light calibre shell burst nearby.

Summary of firing: 97 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of Smoke fired on 6 missions.

17 NOVEMBER 1944: The battalion moved to positions in the vicinity of IVOUX. This was a hurried move. In order to register all batteries before darkness one howitzer section from each battery was moved ahead of their batteries. This expedient was successful and by the time the batteries occupied their position the advance section had completed registration. For route and disposition see Map France 1/50,000, Sheet XXXV-15 BRUYERES. The battalion's mission continued to be general support.

Summary of firing: 81 rounds of HE and 8 rounds of Smoke fired on 5 missions.

PERIOD 18-20 NOVEMBER 1944: Remained in position in general support of the 36th Infantry Division. No noteworthy incidents.

Summary of Firing:

18 November: 38 rounds HE and 3 rounds of Smoke fired on 6 missions.

19 November: 139 rounds HE and 8 rounds of Smoke fired on 19 missions. 4 of them were missions for the purpose of marking targets for aerial bombardment.

20 November: 139 rounds HE and 1 round Smoke fired on 11 missions.

21 NOVEMBER 1944: Moved battalion to positions in the vicinity of les O.UsS, closing into the new position at 1.30. For route and dispositions see Map France 1/50,000, Sheet XXXVI-13 GERARDVILLE. The battalion continued in general support of the 36th Infantry Division. Observation posts were established at V-402542 by Battery "A"; V-406581 (hill 516) by Battery "B" and V-403570 by Battery "C".

Service Battery and the Personnel Section moved to IVOUX and occupied installations just abandoned by other elements of the battalion.

Summary of firing: 663 rounds of HE and 7 rounds of Smoke fired on 27 missions.

22 NOVEMBER 1944: Battalion Motor Maintenance Section moved from AULANTZEEY to IVOUX.

Captain Richard S. Hawk returned to the battalion from the 70th General Hospital, Larcillies, France. Captain Hawk had been hospitalized for wounds received near Bruyeres, France.

Summary of firing: 832 rounds HE and 9 rounds of Smoke fired on 54 missions. Battalion continued to be in General Support of the 36th Infantry Division.

23 NOVEMBER 1944: No noteworthy incidents.

Summary of firing: 188 rounds of HE and 18 rounds of Smoke fired on 10 missions.

24 NOVEMBER 1944: Orders to move the battalion to the vicinity of SAMS-de-LAVALLIE were received at 1925. The Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders and their parties went on reconnaissance at 2045. The Battalion was prepared to march, by battery, and held pending the return of battery commanders from their reconnaissance.

Summary of firing: No firing this date.

25 NOVEMBER 1944: 1st Lieutenant Walter F. Nelson returned from reconnaissance and marched Headquarters Battery at 0105, marking the route for the balance of the battalion as he went. Battery "C" was released at 0140. At 0145 Captain Gerald W. Evans, Battery Commander of Battery "A" reported to the Command Post, accompanied by 1st Lieutenant Nelson, who had left Headquarters Battery parked along the road east of CLASSEUX. Captain Evans reported that a bridge on the route had collapsed, an alternate one-way by-pass had washed out and that the road from St. LEONARD to St. DIE was heavily mined and had not been cleared. A runner stopped Battery "C" on the road just north of les O.UsS. An alternate route via MATHIEUX- ST DIE and ST. LANGUEMITE was requested of 36th Infantry Division artillery headquarters.

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road clearance was obtained at 0215. Lieutenant Nelson returned to Headquarters Battery, turned it around and march back to the Command Post and while road clearance was being obtained, Captain William J. Jessup who was the only person present who had previously been over the route, was sent ahead with the route markers to mark the route. Headquarters Battery marched on the new route at 0245. Battery "C" turned around and marched at 0255. Battery "A" was released at 0300 and Battery "B" at 0310. The battalion, less its service elements, closed into the new position area at 0515. For route and disposition see Maps France 1/50,000, Sheet XXVI-18 CHATELAIN and Sheet XXVI-17 ST. LIE.

Summary of firing - no firing this date.

26 NOVEMBER 1944: Battery "C" was detached from the battalion and attached (tactically) to the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. They moved into position in the vicinity of ST. MARIE aux MINES, coor.s. V-600614. This step was taken in order to give medium artillery support to the 142nd Regimental Combat Team, which was operating east of ST. MARIE aux MINES, and at the same time continue to fire in support of the 141st and 143rd Regimental Combat Teams, which were operating to the south and southeast of this battalion's position.

The 143rd Regimental Combat Team, less the 3rd battalion, was sent eastward to follow the 142nd and to establish road blocks to protect the right flank of the division. The 3rd battalion was left in a defensive position without artillery support. This battalion, less Battery "C", was placed in direct support of the 3rd battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment, in addition to its normal divisional general support mission. Captain Richard B. Hawk was sent to the 3rd Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment as Liaison Officer.

Summary of firing: 137 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of Smoke were fired on 8 missions. 2 vehicles destroyed and 7 enemy personnel killed and 24 wounded.

27 NOVEMBER 1944: The Battalion Executive returned from a meeting at 36th Division Artillery Command Post and reported to the Battalion Commander that the Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery directed a reconnaissance be made for positions in the vicinity of ST. MARIE aux MINES and preparations be made to move this Battalion today or tomorrow. Following receipt of this information the Battalion Commander made the reconnaissance but no displacement was made this date.

Summary of firing: 243 rounds of HE and 11 rounds of smoke fired on 10 missions.

28 NOVEMBER 1944: Captain Richard B. Hawk returned from liaison with the 3rd Battalion, 143rd Infantry and reported that they were to maintain a road block with the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion covering them. Captain Hawk was sent on liaison to the 143rd Infantry Regiment.

The Battalion Commander ordered Service Battery and the Personnel Section to displace to the vicinity of ECHERY (coords. V-575-593); this was accomplished in the early afternoon.

Summary of firing: 116 rounds of HE and 4 rounds of Smoke fired on 11 missions. 3 hits were made on a house in which enemy personnel was billeted.

29 NOVEMBER 1944: Early in the afternoon the Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery directed that Battery "C" be moved to vicinity of MUSLOCH (from ST. MARIE aux MINES) to continue to work direct with the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion; one other battery to move to ST. MARIE aux MINES to work direct with the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion and Battery "A" to remain in position and tie in with the 131st Field Artillery Battalion. Battery "B" was ordered to displace as soon as reconnaissance had been completed and the battery moved to vicinity of ST. MARIE aux MINES prior to darkness and occupied the position vacated by Battery "C". The Battalion Commander ordered that Headquarters and Headquarters Battery prepare to move the following morning to previously reconnoitered positions in ST. MARIE aux MINES.

Summary of firing: 5 rounds of HE and 1 round of Smoke fired on 1 mission.

30 NOVEMBER 1944: At 0900 Headquarters and Headquarters Battery displaced to ST. MARIE aux MINES and closed into the new area at 1030. (For route and disposition see Maps FRANCE 1/50,000, Sheets XXXVI-17 ST. DIE and XXXVII-17 SELESTAT.

A battalion and Battery "C" Observation Post was established at coords. V-710-613 for observation for the 36th Division Artillery.

Late in the evening Battery "C" again displaced with the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion to the vicinity of la VANCELLE and the Battalion Commander went forward prior to midnight to check with Captain Harry P. Frantz Jr., Battery Commander, Battery "C" on this displacement. See Map France 1/50,000, Sheet XXXVII-17 SELESTAT.

No firing this date.

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The following type of casualties occurred during this period:

| <u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u> | <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>ENLISTED MEN</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| KIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LOC                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LIA                     | 0               | 4                   | 4            |
| SIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| DIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LWA                     | 0               | 2                   | 2            |
| SWA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| MIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| POW                     | <u>0</u>        | <u>0</u>            | <u>0</u>     |
|                         | 0               | 6                   | 6            |

"AWARDS"

"SILVER STAR MEDAL CITATIONS RECEIVED  
DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. Name

1st Lt., (then 2nd Lt) EARL F. MARTELL JR., OI 180 599, Battery "A",  
155th Field Artillery Battalion, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Origin of Award

Section II, General Orders No. 456, Headquarters, 36th Infantry  
Division, dated 23 November 1944.

Date & Place of Action Cited

24 September 1944, Eloyes, France.

Conspicuous Circumstances

For gallantry in action, in evading an ambush set out by the enemy  
and forcing the surrender of the entire ambush party consisting of  
twenty enlisted men and one officer.

"BRONZE STAR MEDAL CITATIONS RECEIVED  
DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. Name

Captain, RICHARD E. HAWK, O 415 562, Headquarters, 155th Field  
Artillery Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Origin of Award

Section III, General Orders No. 453, Headquarters, 36th Infantry  
Division, dated 21 November 1944.

Date & Place of Action Cited

14 September to 20 October 1944, France.

Conspicuous Circumstances

For aggressiveness in action in maintaining liaison between 143rd  
Infantry and battalion during advance up Rhone valley.

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*Stanley W. Huth*  
STANLEY W. HUTH  
WOJG, U.S.A.  
Unit Historian.

EXHIBITS:

- A - List of Casualties.
- B - Officers Roster.
- C - Officers Duty Changes.
- D - Unit Journal .
- E - Missions Flown by Air Section.
- F - S - 3 Reports.
- G - Summary of Firing.
- H - Daily Report of Firing.
- I - Situation Overlays #1 thru #5.
- J - Maps of France #1 thru #4.
- K - Firing Charts #1 thru #5.

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The following is a list of casualties that occurred during this period:

| NAME                    | RANK    | ASN      | TYPE<br>CAS. | ORGAN.   | DATE CAS.<br>OCCURRED | HOME<br>ADDRESS                            |
|-------------------------|---------|----------|--------------|----------|-----------------------|--|
| WEBB, JOHN W.           | Sgt.    | 6389377  | LIA          | "A" Btry | 12 Nov 44             | R.R. #1<br>Perry, Ga.                      |
| BONHELAN, ELMORE H. JR. | Pvt.    | 32898962 | LIA          | "A" Btry | 13 Nov 44             | 1806 George<br>St., Ridgewo<br>New York.   |
| RACANELLO, RICHARD A.   | Cpl.    | 39005105 | LWA          | Hq Btry  | 16 Nov 44             | 242 Wood St.<br>New West-<br>minister, B.  |
| STELSAI, WILLIAM        | Pvt 1c1 | 32301828 | LWA          | Hq Btry  | 16 Nov 44             | 573 Grove St<br>Jersey City<br>New Jersey. |
| MEGUM, JOHN E. JR.      | Cpl.    | 34170143 | LIA          | "A" Btry | 21 Nov 44             | R.R. #3<br>Winston-<br>Salem, N. C.        |
| ABRAMSON, WILLIE        | Sgt.    | 20816296 | LIA          | "A" Btry | 26 Nov 44             | 2725 Peabody<br>Ave, Dallas,<br>Texas      |



**HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**  
A.P.C. Co. 36, U. S. Army

30 November 1944  
SWH/hcp

| <u>HEADQUARTERS</u>             |           |           |                      |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| SNOW, CLIFFORD E.               | Lt. Col.  | 0-333741  | Bn Comdr.            |
| CLARKE, JAMES T.                | Major     | 0-199453  | Bn Exec; S - 1       |
| GILMER, LAWRENCE D.             | Major     | 0-255409  | S - 3.               |
| MOSEB, AUGUST C. JR.            | Captain   | 0-407530  | Ass't S - 3.         |
| JESSUP, WILLIAM J.              | Captain   | 0-415050  | S - 2                |
| KENT, RAYMOND F.                | 1st Lt.   | 0-1176092 | Ass't S - 2          |
| BUSH, WILLIAM L.                | Captain   | 0-407530  | Ln Off & Bn F. O.    |
| HAYK, RICHARD B.                | Captain   | 0-415562  | Ln Off & Bn F. O.    |
| WILLIAMSON, MARTIN W.           | Captain   | 0-1166867 | Unasgd.              |
| REYNOLDS, ROBERT E.             | 1st Lt.   | 0-1167174 | Unasgd.              |
| SHAW, HUGH W.                   | 1st Lt.   | 0-1179705 | Unasgd.              |
| DOLLINGER, JOSEPH               | Captain   | 0-1689338 | Bn Surgeon.          |
| HUTH, STANLEY W.                | WOJG      | W-2108253 | Pers. Off.           |
| <br><u>HEADQUARTERS BATTERY</u> |           |           |                      |
| NEWSOM, CLARENCE C.             | Captain   | 0-1167141 | Btry CO & Commo Off. |
| NELSON, WALTER L.               | 1st Lt.   | 0-1170886 | Ass't Commo Off.     |
| SVOCEDA, ARTIE F.               | 1st Lt.   | 0-1180360 | Air Off.             |
| MARTIN, JACK                    | 2nd Lt.   | 0-1691871 | Air Off.             |
| FORD, FLOYD C.                  | 2nd Lt.   | 0-1692580 | Mtr Off.             |
| <br><u>BATTERY "A"</u>          |           |           |                      |
| EVANS, GERALD W.                | Captain   | 0-1165012 | Btry CO              |
| BENT, CHARLES W.                | 1st Lt.   | 0-1175945 | Btry Exec Off.       |
| SAX, BEAMAN W.                  | 1st Lt.   | 0-1172638 | R. O.                |
| MARTH, KARL P.                  | 1st Lt.   | 0-1180599 | Mtr Off.             |
| <br><u>BATTERY "B"</u>          |           |           |                      |
| BELL, LEROY L.                  | Captain   | 0-418651  | Btry CO              |
| JUDSON, PAUL F.                 | 1st Lt.   | 0-1181319 | Btry Exec Off.       |
| BURPC, FRANK W.                 | 1st Lt.   | 0-1703017 | R. O.                |
| HOLLUB, JULIUS E.               | 2nd Lt.   | 0-2055216 | Mtr Off.             |
| <br><u>BATTERY "C"</u>          |           |           |                      |
| FRANZ, HARRY P.                 | Captain   | 0-404452  | Btry CO              |
| CHOCKLEY, PHILLIP A.            | 1st Lt.   | 0-1177328 | Btry Exec Off.       |
| MCCRE, MERLE G.                 | 0-1177102 | 1st Lt.   | R. O.                |
| SCHAEFER, GILBERT P.            | 2nd Lt.   | 0-2055088 | Mtr Off.             |
| <br><u>SERVICE BATTERY</u>      |           |           |                      |
| VINES, WALTON M.                | Captain   | 0-1167257 | Btry CO & S - 4      |
| BAILEY, HAROLD W.               | 1st Lt.   | 0-1168543 | Bn Mtr Off.          |
| STEWART, JACK R.                | 1st Lt.   | 0-403496  | Ammo Train Comdr.    |
| SCHAEFFER, CARLO E.             | WOJG      | W-2130731 | Ass't S - 4          |

S E C R E T

30 November 1944.

SUBJECT: Assignments, Losses, and Changes of Duty of Battalion Officers for the month of November 1944.

1. Captain CLARENCE C. NELSON, from Commanding Officer, "C" Battery to Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battery.
2. Captain HARRY P. FRANTZ, from Battalion Motor Officer to Commanding Officer, Battery "C".
3. 1st Lt. HAROLD W. BAILEY, from Executive Officer, Battery "C" to Battalion Motor Officer.
4. 1st Lt. PHILLIP A. GLOCKLEY, from Ass't Commo Officer to Executive Officer, Battery "C".
5. 1st Lt. DONALD M. NELSON, from Motor Officer, Headquarters Battery to Ass't Commo Officer.
6. 2nd Lt. FLOYD C. FORD, returned to unit from Det. of Pats, 40th General Hospital and assigned duty as Motor Officer, Headquarters Battery.
7. Captain RICHARD B. HANK, returned to unit from Det of Pats, 70th Station Hospital and assigned duty as Battalion Combat Ln Off & F. O.
8. 1st Lt. HUGH W. SHAW, from Motor Officer, Service Battery to Battalion Staff unassigned.
9. 1st Lt. PAUL F. JEDSCH, from Battalion Staff unassigned to Executive Officer, Battery "B".
10. Captain WILLIAM L. BUSH, from Ass't S - 3 to Battalion Combat Ln. Off. & F. O.
11. Captain AUGUST C. ROGER JR., from Battalion Combat Liaison Off & F. O. to Ass't S - 3.
12. 2nd Lt. JULIUS E. HOLLUB, from Reconnaissance Officer, Battery "B" to Motor Officer, Battery "B".
13. 1st Lt. FRANK W. BURPO, from Executive Officer, Battery "B" to Reconnaissance Officer, Battery "B".

S E C R E T

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155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE, DECEMBER 1944 L 1041

1 DECEMBER 1944: Headquarters Battery, the Battalion Command Post and Fire Direction Center were established in Ste. Marie Aux Mines for administrative purposes; the three firing batteries had been attached to work direct with the light field artillery battalions of the 36th Division Artillery (29 - 30 Nov) - Battery "A" with the 131st Field Artillery Battalion; Battery "B" with the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion and Battery "C" with the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. Personnel Section and Service Battery were located in Echery. Having moved there through Ste Marie aux Mines on the 28 November. (For disposition see Map France 1/50,000 Sheets XXXCI-18 Gerardmer, XXXVI-17 St. Die and XXXCII-17 Selestat.

In the early afternoon the Battalion Commander returned from the 36th Division Artillery Command Post and ordered that Battery "A" move from Bonnipaire and occupy positions in the vicinity of Ste. Marie; Battery "C" was then moving with the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion to vicinity of Boix l'Abbesse and that upon the completion of displacement by Battery "A", Batteries "A" and "B" would revert to Battalion control. The 36th Infantry Division had occupied Chatenois and Kintzheim and the axis of Division's advance was turning generally south to take and occupy Ribeauville and Kayersberg.

By 1630 Battery "A" had occupied their new position. In the meantime the Battalion Commander reconnoitered for new battalion positions in the vicinity of Thannenkirch (suggested by the Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery) but sent a message back by 1st Lieutenant Frank W. Burpo, RO of Battery "B", from Dallas, Texas, that the battalion could not move tonight as that area was not yet in Allied hands.

Battery "C" operated an OP in conjunction with the Battalion Observation post at coords. 710-613. Our mission continued to be : General support of the 36th Infantry Division.

There was no firing this date.

2 DECEMBER 1944: At 0840 the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Clifford M. Snow of Amarillo, Texas, with Battery Commanders, less Commanding Officer Battery "C", reconnoitered in the vicinity of Thannenkirch, but no move was initiated this date in compliance with directive by Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery.

Summary of Firing: 82 rounds of HE and 6 rounds of Smoke fired on 5 missions.

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3 DECEMBER 1944: The Battalion S-2, Captain William J. Jessup, of Houston, Texas and 1st Lieutenant Karl F. Martin of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Battery "A" went forward at noon to establish an Observation Post for Battery "A", which was later put in operation at coorcs. 713-609, Sheet XXXVII-17 Selestat.

The Battalion Commander obtained permission from the Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery to move one gun section to the vicinity of Thannenkirch to register prior to our possible displacement to that area.

This was accomplished before darkness and at 1500 hours the Battalion Commander called from Division Artillery Command Post and ordered Headquarters Battery and Battery "A" to displace tonight..... Battery "B" and Battery "C" would join the battalion the following morning, Battery "C" thereby reverting to battalion control. Displacement in black-out was begun by Headquarters Battery and Battery "A" at 1845 and 1700, respectively, and these batteries closed on new positions in the vicinity of Thannenkirch before 2200. For disposition see Map France 1/50,000 Sheet XXXVII-18 Colmar.

Summary of firing: 152 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of Smoke fired on 12 missions.

4 DECEMBER 1944: By 1330 both Batteries "B" and "C" had occupied positions in Thannenkirch area. During the morning two groups of 5 each (enemy) voluntarily surrendered at the Battalion Command Post. These men were taken to the 36th Division Prisoner of War cage. Service Battery and Personnel Section were moved to Chatenois; the Battalion Motor Shop remained in Zehery.

Summary of firing: 418 rounds of HE and 9 rounds of smoke fired on 23 missions.

5 DECEMBER 1944: A reconnaissance for new battery positions in the vicinity of Bergheim was made by the Battalion Commander and S-3 Major Lawrence D. Gilmer of Houston, Texas, early in the morning. During this period the Battalion S-2 established an Observation Post for Battery "B" at coorcs. 683-550, Sheet XXXVII-18 Colmar.

In the afternoon the Battalion Commander took the three firing battery commanders to the probable positions in the vicinity of Bergheim. The selected areas were not too well suited for gun positions, due to soft ground, limited defilade and natural camouflage, and each Battery Commander had an opportunity to make necessary and possible preparations in the position areas prior to displacement of his battery, which would take place the following day.

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Summary of firing: 343 rounds of HE and 16 rounds of Smoke fired on 20 missions.

6 DECEMBER 1944: At 0940 the Battalion Commander ordered Battery "C" to displace by infiltration to selected position in the vicinity of Bergheim. Battery "B" was ordered to displace shortly after dusk (for security). Batteries "A" and Headquarters were ordered to prepare to displace tonight or in the morning. Captain Martin W. Williamson, Communications Officer from Berlin, Alabama and wire crews went forward to install communications in the Bergheim area.

Captain Walton E. Vines, S-4 from Pinson, Alabama, advised that he planned to move Service Battery and Personnel Section to Roschwihr and the battalion shop from Echery to Ste Hippolyte. Shortly after Captain Vines visit to the Command Post word was received from the 141st Infantry that quarters selected for Service Battery had been given to the Infantry with priority. The Battalion Executive, Major James T. Clarke, of San Antonio, Texas, contacted the Executive of 141st Infantry to ascertain if this was imperative. Results: 141st Infantry was given the area and Service Battery, already moved to Roschwihr, had to reconnoiter for new positions.

Battery "C" displaced as ordered and closed into new position at 1500. Battery "B" only displaced two guns (one platoon) this evening.

Captain Vines advised late in the evening that he would move all service elements from Roschwihr and Ste Hippolyte to area vacated by Headquarters Battery in Thannenkirch.

The Battalion Commander, on his own initiative, left the Command Post shortly before midnight to adjust fire from Battery "B's" Observation Post on vehicular traffic east of Colmar. He returned to the Command Post at 0300. Prior to his departure he ordered Battery "A" not to displace the following morning as originally planned.

Summary of firing: 327 rounds of HE and 21 rounds of Smoke fired on 19 missions. Two direct hits were made on an enemy pill-box and a fire was started in a 4 gun battery.

7 DECEMBER 1944: The Battalion Commander left for the new position area at 0800 and Battery "B" displaced its other two guns before noon. Headquarters Battery moved to Bergheim and closed in at 1100 hours. For route and disposition of all installations see Map France 1/50,000 Sheet XXXVII-18 Colmar.

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Commanding Officer of Battery "A" was ordered by the Battalion Commander to reconnoiter for possible position, other than one previously selected. Captain Gerald W. Evans, from Wyola, Montana, later reported he had found a possible position area but it would be so only by placing each platoon separately, but that defilade was limited.

Captain Walton M. Vines of Pensacola, Alabama and WOJG Stanley W. Ruth of San Antonio, Texas advised that Service Battery and Personnel Section had completed their move to Thannenkirch at 1600 hours and were occupying the area previously used by Headquarters Battery.

Summary of firing: 320 rounds of HE and 15 rounds of Smoke were fired on 23 missions.

8 DECEMBER 1944: The Battalion Commander went forward at 0900 with Commanding Officer Battery "A" to check on position area tentatively selected the day before. Not meeting with the Battalion Commanders approval a further reconnaissance was made but Battery "A" was later advised they would not move today.

Battery "C" Observation Post was moved from its position and placed with Battery "A's" Observation Post at coords. 713-609.

Twice during the afternoon, at 1500 and 1800 hours the battalion area was harrassed by enemy artillery, a total of about 80 rounds being received. There were no casualties or damages, but several rounds landed in the gun positions of Batteries "B" and "C", of which one round hit the Battery "B" Executive Post quarters.

The Battalion Commander ordered that Battery "A" displace the following morning, by infiltration, to the reconnoitered position southwest of Ribeauville (coords 682-546). This was the last of three areas reconnoitered for this battery.

Summary of firing: 565 rounds of HE and 13 rounds of Smoke were fired on 33 missions.

9 DECEMBER 1944: Battery "A" was given "close Station" at 0845 and closed into new position at 1240. Captain Richard B. Hawk, Combat Liaison Officer of Dallas, Texas, was relieved of liaison duties with the 143rd Infantry Regiment and returned to the battalion.

Summary of firing: 565 rounds of HE and 13 rounds of Smoke were fired on 40 missions.

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10 DECEMBER 1944: No noteworthy incidents this date.

Summary of firing: 636 rounds of HE and 10 rounds of Smoke were fired on 49 missions; one mission fired on an enemy train, started a fire.

11 DECEMBER 1944: Captain Richard B. Hawk was sent to maintain liaison with the 141st Infantry Regiment.

About 12 rounds of enemy artillery landed in Battery "A" and "B" positions; no casualties or damages.

In response to request for a liaison from our battalion, Captain William L. Bush of Cane Hill, Arkansas, Combat Liaison Officer was relieved of duties at Battery "A" Observation Post and sent to the 143rd Infantry Regimental Command Post. 2nd Lieutenant Floyd C. Ford, Motor Officer and Survey Officer from Houston, Texas took over the Observation Post.

Summary of firing: 905 rounds of HE and 19 rounds of smoke were fired on 50 missions; observed one hit on an enemy tank and several hits on enemy installations in a house.

12 DECEMBER 1944: Between 0900 and 1030 hours several harrassing rounds hit in the Battalion area. One of Headquarters Battery's truck, hauling ammunition to Battery "A", received a direct hit on the motor. Corporal John E. Lecum, performing duties as Ammunition Corporal from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Battery "A" was slightly wounded on the head by shell fragments. Enemy infiltration on Hill coords. 655-563, Map France 1/50,000 Sheet XXXVII-18 Colmar, forced abandonment of Battery "C" Observation Post today.

Summary of firing: 575 rounds of HE and 15 rounds of Smoke were fired on 37 missions. One mission was successful towards aiding the repulsion of an early morning counter-attack.

13 DECEMBER 1944: Captain William J. Jessup went forward to find a new observation post for Battery "C" in the vicinity of Sellenberg. Although a location was found the town itself was under mortar and shell fire, therefore the Observation Post was not established this date.

The 11th Engineer Battalion (c) sent two companies to the area SW of Riquewihr to relieve the 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry and we were called upon to furnish a Forward Observers party to each company. The Battalion Commander ordered Batteries "A" and "C" to furnish these details and 1st Lieutenant Earl F. Martin Jr., of Tulsa, Oklahoma was recalled from Battery "A" Observation Post to form one of these parties. 2nd

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-82

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Lieutenant Gilbert P. Schaefer, of Houston, Texas formed a party from Battery "C". The two groups left the Command Post about 2000 hours and reported to Captain Richard B. Hawk at the 141st Infantry Regiment Command Post, who gave them further instructions. 1st Lieutenant Hugh W. Shaw of Hollywood, California was ordered to substitute for Lieutenant Martin at the Battery "A" Observation Post, which he took over early in the morning of the 14th.

Summary of firing: 910 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of Smoke fired on 18 missions.

14 DECEMBER 1944: The Battalion Commander visited the 36th Division Artillery Command Post and was advised of an extra allotment of 1000 rounds of ammunition for impending fires. It was learned that our Forward Observer parties were in the vicinity of Hill 593, coords. 67-19- Colmar Lap, Sheet XXXVII-18, 1/50,000. This hill was to be attacked and taken by the 11th Engineer (C) Battalion, supported by two companies of Infantry from the 141st Infantry Regiment.

2nd Lieutenant Schaefer returned from the Forward Observer party and Captain Harry F. Frantz Jr, Commanding Officer Battery "C", from Enid, Oklahoma, detailed 1st Lieutenant Kerle G. Moore, RO of Battery "C", from Iola, Kansas, to substitute for Lieutenant Schaefer.

Battery "A" was alerted for possible displacement from the vicinity of Ribeaupville to Bergheim, but no move was initiated this date.

Summary of firing: 899 rounds of HE and 7 rounds of Smoke fired on 43 missions; one direct hit was observed on an enemy tank.

15 DECEMBER 1944: 1st Lieutenant Beaman W. Sam, RO Battery "A", from St. Louis, Missouri, was sent to report to the Commanding Officer, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion to work with the Division Reserve, composed of tank destroyer and Engineer Battalions.

Summary of firing: 948 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of Smoke fired on 39 missions; one mission supported an aerial bombing.

16 DECEMBER 1944: Major O'Connor, Commanding Officer and Captain Boyce, S-3, of the 9th Field Artillery Battalion, 3rd Division, visited the Battalion Command Post with reference to coordinating the mutual relief of this Battalion and the 9th Field Artillery Battalion.

Captain Richard B. Hawk and 1st Lieutenant Beaman W. Sam were relieved of liaison duty with the 141st Infantry and Division Reserves, respectively, and returned to the battalion.

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The first serious enemy shelling received by the battalion in France occurred during evening mess at about 1700-1715 hours. Eight rounds landed in Battery "B's" area near the kitchen and one gun position, causing the instantaneous deaths of Private Melvin B. Haley, 20816410, Cannoneer, entered the service from Fort Worth, Texas; Corporal Nelson Michey, 38035032, ammunition Corporal, entered the service from Mineola, Texas; Corporal Charles E. Stuart Jr., 36174337, Ammunition Corporal, entered the service from Fort Huron, Michigan and Tec Grade 5 M. B. Bryant, 20816424, Truck Driver, entered the service from Fort Worth, Texas died a short time later from wounds received. Tec Grade 4 Willie C. Watson, 38025535, Cook, entered the service from Buchanan Dam, Texas, was wounded and evacuated. Three other men sustained slight injuries while seeking cover from the shelling. One weapons carrier was badly damaged. The battery firing a mission during the first few incoming rounds, therefore these were not heard in time for all men to take cover.

Summary of firing: 1253 rounds of HE and 6 rounds of Smoke were fired on 44 missions. Three hits were reported on enemy vehicles.

17 DECEMBER 1944: No important incidents this date.

Summary of firing: 986 rounds of HE and 12 rounds of Smoke were fired on 34 missions. 12 hits were observed on suspected enemy Command Post located in a tower.

18 DECEMBER 1944: Early in the morning, one ME 109 flew low over the battalion area, obviously on a photo-reconnaissance flight. The 443rd AAA protecting the battalion area shot down the plane, which crashed along the battalion south boundary.

The Battalion Commander left at 1300 to check on our mutual relief with the 9th Field Artillery Battalion in the Strasbourg area and upon his return met with the Battery Commanders and advised that we would move on the 20th of December to the vicinity of Ostwald. Reconnaissance parties were ordered to prepare to go out at 0900 19 December.

Summary of firing: 726 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of Smoke were fired on 29 missions.

19 DECEMBER 1944: At 0900 the Battalion Commander met with the Battery Commanders and advised them that they would move at 0800 tomorrow rather than at 1300, enabling the 9th Field Artillery Battalion to displace the same day from the area we planned to utilize. The Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders then departed with parties on the reconnaissance.

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Later in the day Commanding Officer and Executive Officer of the 9th Field Artillery Battalion visited the Battalion Command Post and discussed further the mutual relief. The battery of the 9th Field Artillery Battalion would move into our area tonight and work under our Fire Direction Center until we displaced the next day. This Battery, "C", closed on our position at dusk.

1st Lieutenant Merle G. Moore returned from the FO detail and Battery "A" Observation Post was closed at 1630. Battery "B's" Observation Post continued operating throughout the night.

Summary of firing: 715 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of Smoke were fired on 30 missions.

20 DECEMBER 1944: At 0815 the Battalion Executive Officer led the battalion to the new position area. Order of march Headquarters Battery "B", "A", "C", Service Battery and Personnel Section followed from the Thannenkirch area. All elements had closed into the Ostwald area by 1300. For route and dispositions see Maps, 1/50,000 Sheets: XXXVII-17 Selestat; XXXVII-18 Colmar; XXXVII-16 Molsheim and XXXVIII-16 Strasbourg.

There was no firing this date.

21 DECEMBER 1944: The Battalion Commander left early in the morning to inspect proposed Battalion Observation Posts and during his absence the Executive Officer, 36th Division Artillery visited the Battalion Command Post to advise the Battalion Executive that this battalion would be attached to Task Force Harris, which would take up a defensive position on the Rhine. Upon the return of the Battalion Commander, receiving this information, the Battalion Commander left immediately for 36th Infantry Division Artillery to get further information and instructions and was advised that we would occupy a defensive sector with Task Force Harris north of the 16th Easting and South of Munchhard, attachment to Task Force Harris to be effected at 0001 23 December. After returning to the Battalion Command Post the Battalion Commander with Captain William J. Jessup, S-3 and Captain William L. Bush, Battalion Liaison Officer, left immediately to contact the Commanding General of Task Force Harris.

The party returned to the Command Post at 1830 and a meeting with all Battery Commanders was held. The battalion to displace at 1330 the next day to the vicinity of Forstfeld. Reconnaissance by the Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders would be initiated the following morning at 0745, leaving the Battalion Executive to march the battalion at 1330.

Summary of firing: 15 rounds of HE fired on 3 missions.

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22 DECEMBER 1944: Although the schedule for displacement was at 1330 this date, the Battalion Commander send word by Captain Leroy L. Bell, Commanding Battery "B", from San Antonio, Texas, to the Battalion Executive at 1200 that the batteries would be released separately as respective Battery Commanders returned from their reconnaissance. This was necessitated by the fact that the 69th Field Artillery Battalion were not moving out of the Forstfeld area to enable us to take up their positions, and new battery positions had to be found. However, by 1345 all elements had cleared Ostwald and vicinity, excepting, Service Battery and Personnel Section, and closed on their new positions by 1600. (See Map for Route)

Captain William L. Bush and Captain Richard B. Hawk were sent to go on liaison duty to the 253rd Infantry and 255th Infantry respectively. Both regiments form part of the 63rd Infantry Division. The battalion mission is in direct support of the 255th Infantry Regiment. Communication could not be completed within the battalion before the next morning due to shortage of telephone wire.

Summary of firing: 31 rounds of HE and 1 round of Smoke fired on 1 mission. Several hits were observed on a bridge.

23 DECEMBER 1944: Service Battery moved this morning from Ostwald to Obberhoffen but as no suitable positions were found for the Personnel Section and Battalion Motor Shop they did not move from Ostwald this date.

Captain Bush returned from liaison duty with the 253rd Infantry Regiment.

The Battalion Air OP was moved to vicinity of Camp Obberhoffen this date.

Summary of firing: 10 rounds of HE were fired on 3 missions.

24 DECEMBER 1944: General Harris and Major Hunt of Task Force Harris visited the Battalion Command Post during the morning and Captain Channing of Battery "C", 431 AAA advised that a platoon of Battery "C" would be attached to the battalion, relieving Battery "B" of the 443rd AAA that had been with us since August.

Lieutenant Colonel Anderson, 63rd Infantry Division Artillery, visited the Battalion Command Post during the afternoon and advised that our mission was changed to direct support of the 253rd Infantry Regiment upon the displacement of the 131st Field Artillery Battalion, who were attached with us to Task Force Harris.

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The Personnel Section completed movement to the Service Battery area near Oberhoffen and the Battalion Motor Shop was moved to vicinity of Souffleheim. Captain Hawk returned from liaison with the 255th Infantry Regiment, the battalion having been released from direct support.

Summary of firing: 16 rounds of HE were fired on 2 missions.

25 DECEMBER 1944: Operations Instructions, 36th Infantry Division, directed movement of the division, less this battalion and the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, to the vicinity of Sarrebourg.

In compliance with request from the 63rd Infantry Division Artillery, Captain William L. Bush was sent on liaison to the 253rd Infantry Regiment.

The weather has continued to get colder and Christmas was celebrated as best as could be by all. Plenty of good food.

Summary of firing: There was no firing this date.

26 DECEMBER 1944: Major Patton, Executive Officer and Captain Davis, Communications Officer of the 194th Field Artillery Battalion, visited the Command Post to check with regard to possibilities of positions for two batteries in our vicinity.

Service Battery and Personnel Section moved again today to the little town of Leutenheim, near the Rhine river.

Summary of firing: 227 rounds of HE and 5 rounds of smoke were fired on 13 missions. Direct hits were observed on machine gun nests.

27 DECEMBER 1944: 1st Lieutenant Karl F. Martin was dispatched on liaison to the 2nd Battalion, 253rd Infantry Regiment and 1st Lieutenant Merle G. Moore was dispatched on liaison to the 3rd Battalion, 253rd Infantry Regiment.

Summary of firing: 106 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of Smoke were fired on 7 missions.

28 DECEMBER 1944: There were no important incidents this date.

Summary of firing: 136 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of Smoke fired on 9 missions. One direct hit was made on a tower (suspected enemy Observation Post).

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29 DECEMBER 1944: Field Order Number 3, Task Force Harris, received this morning, relieves this battalion from attachment and attaches this battalion to VI Corps Artillery (and to be prepared to rejoin 36th Infantry Division within 6 hours notice). This was later confirmed by Letter dated 27 December from VII Army. The Battalion Commander visited VI Corps Artillery Headquarters to obtain further information and instructions. At 2000 hours message was received from 33rd Field Artillery Brigade advising we would be in general support of the brigade and would move two batteries to designated areas and leave one battery in present position. The Battalion Commander ordered Batteries "A" and "B" prepare for displacement the following morning.

Summary of firing: 54 rounds of HE were fired on 3 missions.

30 DECEMBER 1944: At 0730 Captain William L. Bush and 1st Lieutenant Karl F. Martin returned from liaison duties with the 253rd Infantry Regiment, and the Battalion Commander and Battalion S-3 departed at 0800 to confer with Commanding Officer, 33rd Field Artillery Brigade, followed by Captain Richard B. Hawk, Liaison Officer, Captain William L. Bush, Liaison Officer and Captain Gerald W. Evans, who were to meet the Battalion Commander at the 33rd Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters - prepared to go on reconnaissance. At 1100 hours Captain Hawk returned from 33rd Field Artillery Brigade to advise the Battalion Executive that the Battalion Commander had ordered Battery "A" to vicinity of Hoerd. Batteries "A" and "B" were to be released after 1200 hours and their Battery Commanders were now on reconnaissance. Battalion Command Post would be moved to a more centralized location within the next day or two. 1st Lieutenant Lerle G. Locke returned from liaison at the 253rd Infantry Regiment. Two firing batteries displaced at 1300 hours to designated positions.

Summary of firing: 38 rounds of HE and 1 round of Smoke were fired on 3 missions. Hits were observed on a bridge and on a house in which enemy personnel were billeted.

31 DECEMBER 1944: At 1000 hours Headquarters Battery displaced to Geudertheim. The Battalion Command Post would act only administratively in this position as all firing batteries were detached (Battery "A" to reinforce fires of the 59th Field Artillery Battalion; Battery "B" to reinforce fires of the 935th Field Artillery Battalion and Battery "C" to reinforce fires of the 69th Field Artillery Battalion.

Personnel Section and Service Battery moved into a school house in Geudertheim early this morning.

Summary of firing: There was no firing this date

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The following type of casualties occurred during this period:

| <u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u> | <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>ENLISTED MEN</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| KIA                     | 0               | 4                   | 4            |
| LOCF                    | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LIA                     | 0               | 5                   | 5            |
| SIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| DIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LWA                     | 0               | 3                   | 3            |
| SWA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| MIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| POW                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
|                         | <u>0</u>        | <u>12</u>           | <u>12</u>    |

## "AWARDS"

### "BRONZE STAR MEDAL CITATIONS RECEIVED DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. Name  
Major James T. Clarke, O 199 453, Headquarters, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, San Antonio, Texas.

Origin of Award  
Section IV, General Orders No. 431, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 6 November 1944.

Date of Deed  
12 February 1944 to 29 June 1944.

2. Name  
1st Lieutenant Merle G. Moore, O1 177 102, Battery "C", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Iola, Kansas.

Origin of Award  
Section I, General Orders No. 476, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 19 December 1944.

Date of Deed  
4 October 1944 to 10 October 1944

3. Name  
Staff Sergeant Stewart T. Stanuall, 20816 773, Battery "C", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Houston, Texas.

Origin of Award  
Section I, General Orders No. 476, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 19 December 1944.

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Date of Deed

4 October 1944 to 10 October 1944.

4. Name

Cpl. Robert Fitzgerald, 32 237 091, Battery "C", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Belleville, New Jersey.

Origin of Award

Section I, General Orders No. 476, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 19 December 1944.

Date of Deed

4 October 1944 to 10 October 1944.

5. Name

Pvt 1cl Joseph H. Durand, 11 052 810, Battery "C", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Uxbridge, Mass.

Origin of Award

Section I, General Orders No. 476, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 19 December 1944.

Date of Deed

4 October 1944 to 10 October 1944.

6. Name

Pvt 1cl Robert P. McKee, 36 270 856, Battery "C", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Origin of Award

Section I, General Orders No. 476, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 19 December 1944.

Date of Deed

4 October 1944 to 10 October 1944.

"FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER IN LIEU OF  
SECOND BRONZE STAR MEDAL RECEIVED DURING THIS PERIOD"

1. Name

Cpl. Harold G. Morning, 20 816 323, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Origin of Award

Section I, General Orders No. 465, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 12 December 1944.

Date of Deed

24 September 1944.

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NNO 735017

By RB/VSw

NARA, Date 8-8-92

S E C R E T

"AIR MEDAL CITATIONS RECEIVED DURING  
PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. Name  
1st Lieutenant Beaman W. Sam, OI 172 638, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, St. Louis, Missouri.

Origin of Award  
Section II, General Orders No. 474, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 19 December 1944.

Date of Deed  
18 August 1944 to 20 October 1944.

2. Name  
Cpl. Eugene H. Mulligan, 35 208 120, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Ridgely, West Va.

Origin of Award  
Section II, General Orders No. 474, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 19 December 1944.

Date of Deed  
18 August 1944 to 20 October 1944.

"FOURTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER IN LIEU OF FIFTH  
AIR MEDAL RECEIVED DURING THIS PERIOD"

1. Name  
1st Lieutenant Artie F. Svoboda, OI 180 360, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Ellsworth, Kansas.

Origin of Award  
Section IV, General Orders No. 477, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 19 December 1944.

Date of Deed  
19 June 1944 to 30 August 1944.

2. Name  
2nd Lieutenant Jack Martin, OI 180 360, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Memphis, Tenn.

Origin of Award  
Section IV, General Orders No. 477, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 19 December 1944.

Date of Deed  
19 June 1944 to 30 August 1944.

HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.O. 36 U.S. ARMY

10 February 1945

SUBJECT : Narrative History for January 1945

TO : Commanding General,  
36th Infantry Division,  
A.P.O. 36, U.S. Army

L-1042

1. Transmitted herewith Narrative History, in sextuplicate, for the month of January 1945.

2. Conclusions: The month of January witnessed some of the most trying conditions for tactical operations both from weather and enemy activity. At the beginning of the period this battalion was given a direct support mission, a task normally assigned to lighter artillery but with which we were not altogether unfamiliar. The problem of furnishing Liaison Officers and Forward Observer parties with adequate communication facilities was serious, but this was solved by combining the facilities of the light (105 mm) battalion assigned to the mission of reinforcing our fires, and supplementing the light battalion FDC personnel and communications with personnel from our own FDC.

The extreme cold weather, with continuous snow and ice, presented a most difficult problem of maneuvering with steel tread tractors. Tractors with steel treads without grousers are not satisfactory over ice or snow and present a danger on the highways due to slipping and sliding on the ice. This situation was solved through the cooperation of our ordnance company by welding improvised grousers onto the links of the steel tracks, of eight to each track.

The cold weather with continued frozen ground allowed freedom of maneuvering over any type of terrain and permitted the occupation of positions which could not have been occupied in warmer weather due to mud and soft ground from rain and moisture.

The period also proved that tactical operations can be carried on with artillery efficiently without undue loss or hardship on personnel due to extreme cold and living conditions. During the period of most of the extreme cold weather conditions, however, the tactical situation was generally stable which permitted the construction and improvement of dugouts and living quarters for the personnel.

*Clifford M. Snow*  
CLIFFORD M. SNOW  
Lieutenant Colonel, F.A.  
Commanding

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155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE, JANUARY 1945.

1 JANUARY 1945: The Battalion Command Post, located in Geudertheim this date, was acting only administratively; all the firing batteries were working direct with other units: Battery "A" reinforcing fires of the 59th Field Artillery Battalion; Battery "B" reinforcing fires of the 935th Field Artillery Battalion and Battery "C" reinforcing fires of the 69th Field Artillery Battalion, all of the 33rd Field Artillery Group. Service Battery and the Battalion Personnel Section were quartered in Geudertheim.

At 1000 hours 33rd Field Artillery Group advised that our attachment to them was terminated and we would revert to VI Corps control. Upon receipt of this information the Battalion Commander went to VI Corps Headquarters to obtain further instructions and to reconnoiter for new battalion positions. Before departing the Battalion Commander ordered Close Station March Order, displacements to be deferred until definite information was obtained at Corps Headquarters.

At noon the Battalion Commander issued oral orders by telephone to the Battalion Executive Officer, Major James T. Clarke, of San Antonio, Texas to prepare the battalion to move by batteries at 1330 - to the vicinity of Zinswiller. Battery Commanders, less Service Battery would depart immediately to meet the Battalion Commander in that vicinity and guide their respective batteries into position upon arrival.

The Battalion closed on the Zinswiller area about 1600 hours. (For disposition and route see Maps France, 1/50,000 Sheets XXXVII - 15 BRUMATH; Sheet XXXVIII - 14 HAGUENAU; Sheet XXXVII - 14 BOUXWILLER).

Late during the night Lieutenant Colonel Mentzer, Command Officer, 405th Field Artillery Group advised by telephone that the battalion was in direct support of the 313th Infantry Regiment, the 500th Field Artillery Battalion to reinforce our fires. We were to send a Liaison Officer to the 313th Infantry Regiment and establish a forward Fire Direction Center with the 500th Field Artillery Battalion at Ingwiller; 155th Field Artillery Battalion to control operations.

There was no firing this date.

2 JANUARY 1945: At 0400 hours the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Clifford E. Snow of Amarillo, Texas made a command Liaison visit to the 313th Infantry Regiment and sent Captain Richard B. Hawk, of

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Dallas, Texas, as Liaison Officer to them. Field Order, 45th Infantry Division, dated 2 January 1945 was received: "45th Division, reinforced, attacks to restore front line position; 405th Field Artillery Group in general support; 17th Field Artillery Battalion reinforces fires of the 499th Field Artillery Battalion and the 155th Field Artillery Battalion in direct support of 313th Infantry Regiment." 1st Lieutenant Karl F. Martin Jr. of Tulsa, Oklahoma and 2nd Lieutenant Julius E. Hollub of Houston, Texas were sent to the 313th Infantry Regiment as Forward Observers and in line with request from 405th Field Artillery Group, Captain August C. Moser of Dallas, Texas and four Fire Direction Center personnel established a forward FDC with the 500th Field Artillery Battalion.

A platoon of Battery "C", 431st AAA was attached to the battalion.

General Behr, Commanding General VI Corps, visited the Battalion Command Post and advised that one battery of the 995th Field Artillery Battalion would be attached to us and under our Fire Direction Center until their Headquarters arrived in the Zinswiler position. During the day the Command Post was visited by Commanding Officers of the 93rd Field Artillery Battalion, 995th Field Artillery Battalion and the 17th Field Artillery Battalion and also the S-3 of 45th Division Artillery. The three Field Artillery Battalions were all reinforcing our fires for the remainder of the time spent in this area.

Captain William L. Bush, Combat Liaison Officer of Cane Hill, Arkansas, and 1st Lieutenant Merle G. Moore, Forward Observer of Jenna, Louisiana were sent to the 1st Battalion of the 314th Infantry Regiment who were to be in an operation the following day.

The Battalion Motor Shop and Service Battery were moved from Geudertheim to Ringendorf this date; the Personnel Section remained in Geudertheim until suitable quarters could be found.

Summary of firing: 894 rounds of HE and 11 rounds of Smoke were fired on 55 missions.

3 JANUARY 1945: Contemplating a further displacement the Battalion Commander sent the Battalion Executive on a position and road reconnaissance in the vicinity of Ingwiller. Upon his return Headquarters Battery and Battery "C" were given "close station" with orders to move to reconnoitered positions. Battery "A" and "B" were to continue firing until "C" Battery was ready to fire from the new Ingwiller position. Battery "C" displaced at noon and the Battalion Executive led elements of Headquarters to Ingwiller immediately thereafter; however upon arriving at the new Command Post he received word from the Battalion

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Commander that positions were not to be occupied in Ingwiller and to return, with Battery "C" to the Zinswiller area. Returning to the Command Post at Zinswiller the Battalion Executive learned that orders had been received for the Battalion to rejoin the 36th Infantry Division this date and for the Battalion Commander or Battalion Executive to report to Major Luther E. Orrick, Commanding 131st Field Artillery Battalion as soon as possible for further orders. The Battalion Commander sent the Battalion Executive on this mission which was accomplished by using the Air Observation plane of Lieutenant Fauxta, 133rd Field Artillery Battalion who brought the Division Order to the Battalion Commander. Upon meeting with Major Luther E. Orrick, the Battalion Executive was given all necessary information and reconnoitered for positions in the vicinity of Butten.

At 1530 Close Station March Order was given to all batteries and the march by battery was begun at 1630 to a rendezvous area 5 miles east of the town of Saverne. March was made by blackout and the battalion rendezvoused from 2030 hours until midnight awaiting the return of the Battalion Executive from reconnaissance. At 2400 hours the Battalion Executive reported to the Battalion Commander with all information needed for the completion of the march and selections of positions. At 0115 the march was resumed until 0700 hours when the batteries closed on the Butten area. Service Battery moved the same time and continued to a position near Butten. The Battalion Personnel section made a hurried movement during the night, with one weapons carrier, making two trips to Geudertheim and setting up the office in Saverne. (For dispositions see Maps France: 1/50,000 Sheet XXXVII - 13 BITCHE.

Summary of firings: 170 rounds of HE fired on 9 missions.

4 JANUARY 1945: The mission of the battalion was general support of the 36th Infantry Division. During the morning the Battalion Commander made a personal reconnaissance for better firing battery positions and at 1100 hours directed that the firing batteries make reconnaissance in the vicinity of Montbronn. Later in the day displacements were effected (for disposition of batteries see Map France, 1/50,000 Sheet XXXVII-13 BITCHE). There was no firing from the Butten area. The Battalion Command Post, Fire Direction Center and Headquarters Battery remained in the Butten area this date. Service Battery and the Battalion Motor Shop found more suitable quarters in Sarre Union. Capt. Friedman, Battery "B", 443rd AAA advised that one platoon would be attached to the battalion for air defense. During the afternoon the Liaison Officers and Forward Observers, dispatched from Zinswiller, returned to the Battalion. The Battalion Air Observation Post moved to the vicinity of Rahling.

Summary of firing: 479 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of Smoke fired on 22 missions.

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5 JANUARY 1945: Early in the morning Captain William L. Bush was sent on liaison to 143rd Infantry Command Post. A forward fire Direction Center was established in the vicinity of Battery "C"'s new position but no operation was conducted from there. Captain Richard B. Hawk, who has just returned from liaison duties the day before, received orders for his "temporary duty in the United States" and left for the rear to begin his trip. Captain Bush was relieved of his liaison duties for the 143rd Infantry Regiment and returned to the battalion. Our mission continued to be general support of the 36th Infantry Division.

Summary of firings: 36 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of Smoke were fired on 4 missions.

6 JANUARY 1945: In order to get the battalion closer together the Battalion Command Post and Headquarters Battery was moved to the vicinity of Monthronn; also the balance of the Fire Direction Center joined the forward FDC and operations were effected at once. 1st Lieutenant Hugh W. Shaw of Hollywood, California was sent on liaison to the 100th Infantry Command Post. Captain Leroy L. Bell, Commanding Officer, Battery "B", of San Antonio, Texas departed for the hospital for treatment to relieve an ailment from wounds received in the latter part of the Italian Campaign.

Summary of firings: 95 rounds of HE and 6 rounds of Smoke were fired on 12 missions.

7 JANUARY 1945: No important incidents on the 7th. In the afternoon of 8 JANUARY 1945: the 8th January 1945, Service Battery sent a truck and trailer to Saverne to haul the Personnel Section to Cirey. This was accomplished during the evening hours amidst a heavy snow. Section occupied an old French Chateau near the 36th Division Rear.

Summary of firings: 07 January: 97 rounds of HE fired on 11 missions. 08 January: 400 rounds of HE fired on 17 missions.

9 JANUARY 1945: Captain William L. Bush was directed by the Battalion Commander to go to the 143rd Infantry Regiment and 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, who were placed in direct support of the 36th Infantry Division, to coordinate defensive fires of this battalion with theirs and to arrange for observation, and observers to actually adjust it in.

Summary of firings: 354 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of Smoke were fired on 18 missions.

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10 JANUARY 1945: Captain William J. Jessup, Battalion S-2, from Houston, Texas, was sent by the Battalion Commander to meet Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery at his Command Post to go on reconnaissance for a "switch" position for batteries, to be used in the event of necessary withdrawal. After meeting the Commanding General, Captain Jessup returned to advise that plans are being made against possible withdrawal and for organization of defensive position along high ground between 38 and 39th Northing grids. This battalion is ordered to select and organize positions in the vicinity of Waldhambach. Captain Jessup then left to attend a conference at Ratzwiller, being conducted by the Infantry Commander. He then planned to proceed from there to reconnaissance for positions (battery commanders to meet him at Command Post at noon). The Battalion Commander, who had not been present during the receipt of the above information from Captain Jessup, went to 36th Division Artillery Command Post and from there advised the Battalion Executive Officer that the reconnaissance for "switch" positions and their being set up for occupancy, was more in the nature of training and that no move would be made by the batteries. The reconnaissance parties went forward as per schedule. Captain William L. Bush was dispatched on liaison to 143rd Infantry Command Post.

Summary of firing: 135 rounds of HE and 1 round of Smoke were fired on 9 missions.

11 JANUARY 1945: A further reconnaissance was made by the Battalion Commander, S-2 and Battery Commanders for switch positions in the vicinity of Adamswiller. 1st Lieutenant Robert E. Reynolds, Battalion Assistant S-2 of Philadelphia, Penn., returned for duty from temporary duty in the United States. Prior to midnight one of two artillery shells landing in Battery "B"'s position destroyed a tractor by a direct hit on the motor.

Summary of firing: 99 rounds of HE were fired on 3 missions.

12 JANUARY 1945: There were no important incidents this date with the exception of a reconnaissance made by the Battalion Commander and S-2 for forward positions in the vicinity of St. Louis. Our mission continued to be "general support of the 36th Infantry Division".

Summary of firing: 49 rounds of HE fired on 6 missions;

13 JANUARY 1945: The Battalion Commander took the Battery Commanders on reconnaissance in the previously reconnoitered vicinity of St. Louis for forward positions preparatory to the Division's attack on the high ground around Bitche. These positions were prepared for possible use.

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Summary of firings: 47 rounds of HE and 14 rounds of Smoke were fired on 5 missions.

14 JANUARY 1945: Service Battery and the Battalion Motor Shop moved from Sarre Union to the Headquarters Battery area in Monthronn. Captain William L. Bush was relieved of liaison duties at the 143rd Infantry Regiment.

Summary of firings: 110 rounds of HE and 11 rounds of Smoke fired on 20 missions.

15 JANUARY 1945: The Battalion Commander left for the Bains les Bains rest camp.

Summary of firings: 133 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of Smoke fired on 9 missions.

16 JANUARY 1945: The Battalion Executive visited the 36th Division, Artillery Command Post and advised by phone for the firing batteries to select alternate firing positions for emergency in case of serious counterbattery fire. Upon the completion of selection of alternate firing position, batteries now had (1) Switch positions (2) forward positions and (3) alternate positions.

Summary of firings: 243 rounds of HE and 11 rounds of Smoke fired on 15 missions.

17 JANUARY 1945: The Battalion Motor Shop and Service Battery moved their installations to Waldenbach.

Summary of firings: 177 rounds of HE fired on 5 missions.

18 JANUARY 1945: At 0715 Operations Instructions from 36th Infantry Division were received, ordering movement today of the division, less 141st Regimental Combat Team and 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troops; the battalion's orders were to displace to the vicinity of HARTHAUSEN where they would join other division elements.

Prior to 0900 the Battalion S-2 went with the battery commanders on a reconnaissance to the designated area and shortly after their departure the Battalion Executive met with officer representatives of each battery, except Service Battery, and instructed that the battalion would march in two units, first - Batteries "A", "B" and "C"; second - Headquarters Battery and Service Battery; the column to be led by the Battalion S-3, Major Lawrence D. Gilmer of Houston, Texas, as the Battalion Executive had been designated commander of the Division's 5th march serial.

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-92

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Our first vehicle was to pass the IP at Diemerlingen at 1435, and the batteries would be met at Schweghausen by guides from reconnaissance parties. All batteries were given close station and Service Battery was notified of all particulars by messenger.

The batteries prepared for displacement but at 1130, 36th Division Artillery advised by phone that although plans had not been abandoned, the time for moving had been changed and we would be advised later. As no further information had been obtained by 1330 the Battalion Executive went to Division Artillery Command Post. An hour later advised our Command Post by phone that we were to "remain prepared to move on order".

Shortly before 1500 the Commanding Officer, Battery "B", 373rd Field Artillery Battalion told our Battery "B" Commanding Officer that he had orders to move into our Battery "B" position and to register before dark. Although we had not yet received a definite time for displacement, and the possibility for going back into position remained, the Battalion Executive, upon his return from 36th Division Artillery, gave the Commanding Officer, Battery "B", 373rd Field Artillery Battalion permission to go ahead and they initiated occupation of our Battery "B"'s vacated position. About two hours later Captain Alpern of the 373rd Field Artillery Battalion advised that his battalion had orders to move into our positions but he would not do so until we displaced. At this time the battalion had no further moving orders.

At 1700 the Commanding Officers and reconnaissance parties of Batteries "A", "B", "C" returned to the Command Post and Captain Clarence C. Newson of Coffee Springs, Alabama, reported to the Battalion Executive that while he was reconnoitering in the HARTHAUSEN area he picked up the information from reliable sources that we would not move today. Other indirect information, obtained during the afternoon, supported his report - and it was not until 1530 that we received orders from 36th Division Artillery that the battalion would move, as planned, and to cross the IP at Diemerlingen at 2330. Throughout the entire afternoon and early evening the weather was very unfavorable for a night march. The roads were icy and there was a high wind mixed with sleet and snow. As a safety measure the Battalion Executive, at 1830, requested of 36th Division Artillery permission to postpone the march until the next morning. At 2100 hours his permission was granted - displacement to take place with the first vehicle passing the IP at 0700. As all batteries had been continually prepared for movement at any time it was necessary to find shelter for all personnel.

Summary of firing: 24 rounds of HE were fired on 2 missions.

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19 JANUARY 1945: The Battalion's plan for march was changed to three units: Batteries "C" and "A", Batteries "B" and Headquarters and Service Battery - the Battalion Executive Officer led the march with the Battalion S-3 following in the rear vehicle.

Our orders had not been changed otherwise and the Battalion was to join other division elements at Harthausen but when the Battalion Executive reached the Transportation Control Point at Schweghausen, he was given a note by one of our non-commissioned officers from the Communications Officer, advising that our position area had been changed by 36th Division Artillery and that we were to go into firing position in the vicinity of Camp Oberkoffen and were to reinforce defensive fires of the 33rd Field Artillery Brigade in the Haguenau-Rhine sector.

Captain Martin W. Williamson, Battalion Communications Officer from Berlin, Alabama, had not returned with the other reconnaissance parties the previous evening. Even they had been advised during the afternoon of January 19th by our S-2 (a written note left with a soldier) that the battalion was not moving as originally scheduled, Captain Williamson contacted the 36th Division Artillery Command Post and 36th Infantry Division G-1 in Haguenau and learned of the several changes, but fortunately received the latest change before returning with his party to the battalion...ie, that we would move at 0700 the following morning. He also obtained a new march graph from Major Puck, 36th Infantry Division Provost Marshall, showing our newly designated mission and area. Thus, he was able to make a reconnaissance in advance for Headquarters prior to the arrival of the march units and he posted guides at necessary intervals to avoid possible delays. By 1030 the battalion had closed on their new position. For route and disposition of batteries see Maps: France, 1/50,000 Sheets XXXVII-13 BITCHE and XXXVIII-14 HAGUENAU.

At 1700 the Battalion Executive returned from a conference at 36th Division Artillery Command Post and reported that the enemy were trying to push towards Weyersheim and that the Division's plans may be again changed. In this case the 143rd Regimental Combat Team would set up as a defensive line along the Rhine Canal; the 142nd Regimental Combat Team would set up a defensive line in four designate towns of Rischwiller, Gries, Kurtzenhausen, and Weyersheim - and this battalion would make reconnaissance and be prepared to move into positions west of Weyersheim. The Battalion Executive left to make a personal reconnaissance in that area and the battery commanders followed shortly thereafter. The 143rd Regimental Combat Team had already been committed to this defensive position and information was received that they had met opposition and were halted on the outskirts of Weyersheim. However, later, Captain Bush who was sent previously on liaison to the 143rd, reported the condition there not to be serious.

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Summary of firing: 24 rounds of HE were fired on 2 missions.

20 JANUARY 1945: At 0500 receipt of 36th Infantry Division Operations Instructions placed us in general support of the Division and reinforcing fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, and the 495th Armoured Field Artillery Battalion. The Division less 141st Regimental Combat Team, occupies and defends the front line now held by the 12th Armored Division, maintains contact with the II French Corps on the right and 79th Infantry Division on the left; protects Corps right south flank.

At 0640 the Commanding General 36th Division Artillery directed the Battalion be moved to reconnoitered areas; move to be made by batteries - one battery to be moved forward first with part of the Fire Direction Center Personnel to accompany it for registration, and upon completion of registration the balance of the battalion would displace. The Battalion Communications Officer went forward on a reconnaissance in the vicinity of NIEDERSCHAEFFESHEIM and the Battalion S-3 made a road reconnaissance north of that town for a route to be used if necessary for emergency withdrawal after displacement.

Service Battery was directed to reconnoiter for position in vicinity of NIEDERSCHAEFFESHEIM.

At 0910 Battery "A" was given close station and ordered to prepare to move to selected position in vicinity of Birchwald and at 1100 hours the Battery displaced.

Our S-2 was called by 36th Infantry Division for temporary duties as Trial Judge Advocate and he departed at noon.

The other two firing batteries and Headquarters Battery displaced prior to 1500 and by 1700 the battalion had closed into the new positions. For route and disposition see Maps: France 1/50,000 Sheets XXXVIII-14 HAGUENAU and XXXVIII-15 BRUMATH.

1st Lieutenant Shaw was sent on liaison to the 142nd Infantry Command Post.

Service Battery did not displace this date but planned to move the following morning. Captain Vines visited the Command Post at 1950 and then after advising that he would move his battery tomorrow he departed for 36th Infantry Division G-4. Shortly afterwards the Battalion Executive learned through 36th Infantry Division G-1 that HAGUENAU would probably not be secure after daylight the next day.

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Because reorganization of our forces placed Main Line of Resistance through HAGUENAU. In that Service Battery was still in that vicinity and as the Battery Commander had gone to Division, the Battalion Executive elected to make a trip to Service Battery's position near Haguenau and lead them out to a rendezvous area in our vicinity. He departed at 2115 on this mission - after leaving word at 36th Division G-4 for Captain Vines to call the Command Post. An hour later Captain Vines with 1st Lieutenant Bailey returned to the Command Post and upon hearing of the Battalion Executive's departure - he sent Lieutenant Bailey to meet the column. By 2300 hours the Battery had been placed in a rendezvous area in the NIEDERSCHAEFFELSHHEIM vicinity and was met by its commander. The Battalion Executive returned to the Command Post at 2315.

Summary of firings: 129 rounds of HE were fired on 4 missions.

21 JANUARY 1945: At 0845 the Battalion Executive departed for 36th Division Artillery Command Post to obtain information on the tactical situation during the past twelve hours and also to ascertain if it was necessary for the battalion to move this date. During his absence Captain Vines visited the Command Post and advised that he was not able to find a position for Service Battery during the night and they were in rendezvous off the road in the vicinity of coords. 07-14 square.

At 0900 Captain Bush called from the 143rd Infantry and suggested that we place an Observation Post in the Bischwiller area.

The Battalion Executive returned from 36th Division Artillery with the information that the battalion would not move today and that our mission was "general support of the division". The Battalion Executive then departed to discuss observation with Captain Bush. At 1340 1st Lieutenant Moore was sent to establish an OP in Bischwiller and at 1430 Battery "A"'s Observation teams, under 1st Lieutenant Martin, left to establish an OP in Kaltenhausen.

A reconnaissance for "switch" positions was directed by Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery - in the vicinity of Gougenheim and the Battalion Executive ordered this reconnaissance for tomorrow morning. This evening the Battalion Commander returned from Bains les Bains rest camp.

Summary of firings: 453 rounds of HE and 12 rounds of Smoke were fired on 28 missions. One tank and enemy vehicle was destroyed causing many personnel casualties.

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22 JANUARY 1945: The Battalion S-3 and all Battery Commanders, except Service Battery Commander, made the directed reconnaissance in the Gougenheim area, for "switch" positions. As the 143rd Infantry was relieved by the 142nd Infantry, Captain Bush returned from liaison.

The Battalion Executive left for Bains les Bains Rest Camp today. Warrant Officer Junior Grade Carlo H. Schaefer visited the Command Post and advised that Service Battery was still in a rendezvous area. Captain Vines was now on a reconnaissance for a position area. The Air Observation Post moved today, first to the outskirts of BRUMATH and later to the vicinity of DURINGEN (873-095). Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery directed we send a liaison officer to the 79th Division Artillery to conduct liaison between them and 36th Division Artillery. The Battalion Commander sent 1st Lieutenant Shaw on this mission and Captain Bush replaced Lieutenant Shaw on liaison with the 142nd Infantry.

Summary of firing: 573 rounds of HE and 28 rounds of Smoke were fired on 24 missions. Reported destruction of one enemy tank and vehicles with many enemy personnel casualties.

23 JANUARY 1945: During the afternoon Service Battery advised they had finally found a position on the western outskirts of Brumath. Up to that time they had been living in tents since their move from Haguenau area.

Our mission continued to be general support of the Division.

The 143rd Infantry were recommitted during the afternoon and 1st Lieutenant Reynolds was sent on liaison to them.

Summary of firing: 435 rounds of HE and 4 rounds of Smoke were fired on 22 missions.

24 JANUARY 1945: 1st Lieutenant Reynolds was dispatched this date on liaison to the 143rd Infantry Command Post. By order of the 79th Infantry Division Lieutenant Colonel Snow, being senior officer in NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM, was appointed Town Commander to coordinate local security of the town during the period of our occupancy. Necessary arrangements were made.

Summary of firing: 464 rounds of HE and 24 rounds of Smoke were fired on 22 missions. A direct hit was observed on one enemy gun and one tank was set afire.

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25 JANUARY 1945: We were advised by 36th Division Artillery that if the enemy was successful in his penetration efforts in the vicinity of SCHWEIGHAUSEN we are directed to displace to the area now occupied by the 499th Field Artillery Battalion in the 98-12 and 98-13 coords. square. The Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders made a reconnaissance in this area during the morning - vicinity of STEPHANSFELD.

Summary of firing: 142 rounds of HE and 9 rounds of Smoke were fired on 10 missions.

26 JANUARY 1945: The Battalion Commander attended a conference of the Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery at the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion Command Post, after which he reported that he had made a personal reconnaissance in the vicinity of GRIES, where we were scheduled to displace to if plans for the proposed division attack materialized. This proposed attack is to clear the sector from Bischwiller to the Rhine. Further reconnaissance and movements to be upon order of Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery.

Summary of firing: 183 rounds of HE and 5 rounds of Smoke were fired on 10 missions.

27 JANUARY 1945: There were no important incidents this date.

Summary of firing: 150 rounds of HE were fired on 9 missions.

28 JANUARY 1945: The Battalion Commander was called to 36th Division Artillery Command Post during the morning and upon his return he sent 1st Lieutenant Beaman W. Sam from St. Louis, Missouri, to the Observation Post in KILSTETT (French Sector) to observe and conduct the 33rd Field Artillery Group fire on "bunkers" on the East bank of the Rhine. The Battalion Commander advised that the Division plan for attack east of BISCHWILLER was now a Corps plan - to clear the enemy from area West of Rhine, South of OBERHOFFEN-DRUSENHEIM line. The Battalion Commander then took the Battery Commanders on a reconnaissance in the vicinity of GRIES. The Battalion Executive returned from Bains les Bains today.

Summary of firing: 174 rounds of HE were fired on 12 missions.

29 JANUARY 1945: The 36th Infantry Division Artillery Operations Instructions received today placed the battalion in general support of the division - for the coming attack - and to reinforce fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and 133rd Field Artillery Battalion on call. We are to prepare initial positions in vicinity -

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coorps 063-177 - and to occupy this position with one registering piece on night of D-3; occupies position with remainder of Battalion on night of D-2; liaison to be furnished to 142nd and 143rd Regimental Combat Teams. The Battalion Commander went to the new position area and ordered Battery "B" to displace one gun section there during the afternoon for registering. At 1815 the Battalion Commander advised Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery that he would move one battery to the new position tomorrow morning and the balance of the battalion after 1200 hours - unless ordered otherwise. Battery "B" was then ordered to prepare to displace in the morning.

Summary of firing: 121 rounds of HE and one round of Smoke were fired on 9 missions.

30 JANUARY 1945: Battery "B" displaced, as ordered, at 0900 to coorps 061-175, but at 1045, Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery ordered that the battalion would not move until further orders were given; Battery "B" to remain in their new position.

Summary of firing: 137 rounds of HE and 6 rounds of Smoke were fired on 8 missions.

31 JANUARY 1945: At 0800 we were ordered by 36th Division Artillery, to return Battery "B" to the battalion area and wait further orders pertaining to displacement of the battalion. The Battalion Commander visited 36th Division Artillery Command Post in order to request permission to leave Battery "B" in their new position temporarily at least and at 1145 we were ordered by Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery to let Battery "B" remain in their new position and that the rest of the battalion would move after 1200 hours this date. Battery "A" and "C" displaced afternoon and beforenoon, respectively, but Headquarters Battery did not move until later in the afternoon. By 1630 the battalion had closed on the new area - vicinity GRIES. For route and disposition see Map France 1/50,000 Sheet XXXVIII-15 BRUMATH.

The Battalion Air Observation Post moved today to the vicinity of SCHWINDRATZHEIM. Warrant Officer Stanley W. Huth, Battalion Personnel Officer, arrived this evening with the Battalion Payrolls.

Summary of firing: 102 rounds of HE and 9 rounds of Smoke were fired on 4 missions.

During the month only one replacement was received: Private First Class Emanuel C. Kautz, 36 229 008 and assigned to Battery "C" as machine gunner.

For the period 1 January to 31 January 1945 this battalion suffered no Battle Casualties.

**S E C R E T**

HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.O. 36 U.S. ARMY

09 March 1945

L-1043

SUBJECT : Transmittal of Narrative History and Battalion Commander's Conclusion.

TO : Commanding General,  
36th Infantry Division,  
A.P.O. 36, U.S. Army.

1. Transmitted herewith Battalion History for the month of February 1945 in sextuplicate.

2. The month of February was generally very quiet in the sector in which this battalion was operating. Our mission for most of the period was General Support.

Warm weather caused early thawing of the ground and melting of snow which caused the roads to become practicably impassable in places and extremely difficult to supply ammunition to the howitzers, lay and service wire nets over cross-country routes. Four weasels, borrowed from the Infantry, proved their value for this service during the period. One each was assigned to each firing battery for distributing ammunition from the battery dumps, located accessably to the main road, to the howitzer positions and one to Headquarters Battery for laying and serviceing wire. It is recommended that four weasels be added to each Artillery battalion in excess of T/O and T/E during the rainy seasons to be used for this purpose through the heavy mud and terrain over which other vehicles can not operate.

During the month the battalion was pulled out of the line for one week's training. After a period of more than six months continuous service in combat, this short period of training proved valuable in many respects. It afforded an opportunity to improve our technique which had become lax due to the long period of active service. It permitted an opportunity to improve our military discipline, military courtesy and improvement of accuracy throughout the battalion by close supervision and check of all operations.

*Clifford M. Snow*  
CLIFFORD M. SNOW  
Lieutenant Colonel, F.A.  
Commanding

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155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE, FEBRUARY 1945

L-1643

During the night of 30 January and the following day the battalion moved to GRIES preparatory to the VI Corps offensive to clear the enemy from the BISCHWILLER sector east to the RHINE River. The service elements of the battalion were in the southern outskirts of BRUMATH, Personnel Section with the 36th Infantry Division Rear in ARZVILLER and the battalion had two ground Observation Posts: Battery "A" at KAULTEHAUSEN and Battery "C" at BISCHWILLER. The battalion Air OP was in the vicinity of SCHWINDRATZHEIM.

1 FEBRUARY 1945: 1st Lieutenant ROBERT E. REYNOLDS, Philadelphia, Pa, on Liaison with the 143rd Infantry Regiment, visited the Battalion Command Post and advised at 0900 that the first preparatory phase of the attack had been successful. The Battalion Commander directed that Captain WILLIAM L. BUSH, Cane Hill, Arkansas, replace 1st Lieutenant Robert E. Reynolds on this Liaison mission and then Lieutenant Reynolds took over the duties as Assistant S-2.

Summary of firing: 283 rounds of HE and 19 Smoke were fired on 15 missions.

2 FEBRUARY 1945: Other than the report that the French had liberated Colmar, there were no important incidents this date.

Summary of firings: 404 rounds of HE and 11 rounds of smoke were fired on 20 missions. Reported destruction of two enemy tanks.

3 FEBRUARY 1945: The 143rd Regimental Combat Team took and occupied ROKWILLER during the morning and the 141st Regimental Combat Team were fighting on the southern outskirts of HERRLISHEIM.

Summary of firing: 734 rounds of HE and 4 rounds of Smoke were fired on 24 missions.

4 FEBRUARY 1945: The Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel CLIFFORD M. SNOW, Amarillo, Texas, was called to the 36th Division Artillery Command Post at 1530 hours and at 1615 notified the Battalion Executive by telephone to have all battery commanders meet him in the center of WEITRUCH immediately, prepared to make reconnaissance for new positions; battalion to probably move the following morning.

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At 1715 the Battalion Commander returned to the Command Post and ordered that Battery "A" displace tomorrow morning to position reconnoitered in WEITERUCH; Batteries "B" and "C" to displace in the afternoon with Headquarters Battery. This move was necessitated by the 36th Infantry Division having their sector enlarged due to the relief of the 79th Infantry Division from their sector.

Summary of firing: 151 rounds of HE and 4 rounds of Smoke were fired on 14 missions.

5 FEBRUARY 1945: The Battalion Commander went to the WEITERUCH area at 0900 and Battery "A" displaced, shortly thereafter. Headquarters Battery moved by sections during the late morning and early afternoon. By VOCC, 36th Division Artillery, Battery "C" was directed to remain in their present position in order that 36th Division Artillery would have one battery to fire across the Rhine. Battery "B" moved to the WEITERUCH area after noon and Battery "A"'s OP was moved from KAULEN-HAUSEN to the southern outskirts of HAGUENAU. Battery "C" joined with Battery "B" to operate the OP at BISCHWILLER.

There was no firing this date. (For route and disposition see Map France 1/50,000 Sheet XXXVIII - 15 BRUMATH).

6 FEBRUARY 1945: The 141st Regimental Combat Team took and occupied HERRLISHEIM early this morning and the 142nd Regimental Combat Team was fighting to take the remainder of OBERHOFEN.

The Battalion Commander met with all Battery Commanders during the morning and discussed the policing of areas in the division sector. The Battalion Executive was put in charge of the detail to go forward today to police an area in the vicinity of WASSELONNE. The party went forward during the afternoon and plans were made for policing tomorrow morning. Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery and the 36th Division Artillery Executive Officer visited the Command Post during the morning.

Summary of firing: 177 rounds of HE and 9 rounds of Smoke were fired on 7 missions.

7 FEBRUARY 1945: There were no important incidents on this date, except that Battery "A"'s Observation Post at HAGUENAU was dismanned.

Summary of firing: 87 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of Smoke were fired on 5 missions. Observed four direct hits on an enemy held railroad station.

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8 - 9 FEBRUARY 1945: There were no important incidents on these dates.

Summary of firing: 8 February - 68 rounds of HE and 2 rounds of Smoke were fired on 6 missions. 9 February - 406 rounds of HE and 6 rounds of Smoke were fired on 13 missions. Observed 2 hits on a house, in which enemy personnel were billeted.

10 FEBRUARY 1945: The Observation Post at BISCHWILLER is now being operated alternately by the three firing batteries.

Summary of firing: 560 rounds of HE and 56 rounds of Smoke were fired on 23 missions. 1 direct hit was observed on enemy Observation Post.

11 FEBRUARY 1945: Captain WILLIAM L. BUSH returned from Liaison with the 143rd Infantry Regiment. 143rd Infantry Regiment relieved today by the 141st Infantry Regiment.

Summary of firing: 188 rounds of HE and 9 rounds of Smoke were fired on 10 missions. Observed 3 direct hits on an enemy Observation Post.

12 FEBRUARY 1945: Oberhoffen is now reported in our hands.

Summary of firing: 85 rounds of HE and 6 rounds of Smoke were fired on 7 missions. 15 direct hits were observed on two enemy strong points and enemy armor.

13 FEBRUARY 1945: No important incidents this date.

Summary of firing: 203 rounds of HE and 7 rounds of Smoke were fired on 11 missions. Observed direct hits on enemy installations.

PERIOD 14 to 17 FEBRUARY INCLUSIVE: There were no important incidents these dates. On February 16th the Battalion Commander, as Town Commander organized "local security" for the town of WEITERUCH.

Summary of firing: 14th - 150 rounds of HE and 8 rounds of Smoke were fired on 8 missions. 15th - 74 rounds of HE and 4 rounds of Smoke were fired on 5 missions; reported 3 hits on enemy tanks and SPs. 16th - 76 rounds of HE and 6 rounds of Smoke were fired on 6 missions. 17th - No firing this date.

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18 FEBRUARY 1945: Following a conference at the 36th Division Artillery Command Post, the Battalion Commander advised that his battalion would probably be relieved from combat during the middle of the week and displace to the vicinity of HOCHFELDEN for training and rehabilitation (to include calibration of the howitzers).

Summary of firing: 9 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of Smoke were fired on 2 missions.

19 FEBRUARY 1945: The Battalion Commander and acting S-2 made a reconnaissance in MUTZENHAUSEN and SCHAFTHAUSEN for possible battery areas.

Summary of firing: 85 rounds of HE and 5 rounds of Smoke were fired on 8 missions.

20 FEBRUARY 1945: Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery directed the battalion prepare to move to the reconnoitered areas tomorrow; further reconnaissances were to be made this morning; the training schedule will begin 22 February for five days ( $\frac{1}{2}$  day for calibration of the howitzers) and then the battalion will be prepared to come back into the line.

The Battalion Commander called a meeting of all Battery Commanders for 1000 hours. At the meeting he directed that Batteries "B" and "C" reconnoiter in MUTZENHAUSEN and Headquarters Battery and Battery "A" in SCHAFTHAUSEN. Service Battery will remain in BRUMATH and the 938th Field Artillery Battalion will take over our wire communication in WEITERBUCH.

After the reconnaissance the Battalion Commander again met with the Battery Commanders and his staff and ordered displacement by battery tomorrow morning - Headquarters Battery at 0900; Battery "C" at 1000; Battery "B" at 1030 and Battery "A" at 1230 - route GRIES, KURTZENHAUSEN, WEYERSHEIM, GUDERTHEIM, BRUMATH, MONNENHEIM and HOCHFELDEN. (This route was necessary due to the condition of the road between WEITERBUCH and BRUMATH, recent thawing having rendered it very poor). At the meeting the scheduled training program was discussed and it was noted that Captain Farber and Richards of the 36th Division Artillery Staff would be with us during the trainign period.

Summary of firing: 149 rounds of HE and 9 rounds of Smokes were fired on 7 missions.

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21 FEBRUARY 1945: The Battalion Commander departed early for the new battery areas and the battalion moved as ordered. By 1400 all batteries had closed on their designated positions. (For route and disposition see Map France, 1/50,000 Sheet XXXVIII - 15 BRUMATH).

36th Infantry Division Operations Instructions received this date, directed that the 36th Infantry Division, upon relief by the 3 DIA (French) relieves the 101st Air Borne Division in Zone (to be completed by 260600 February 1945).

The Battalion Commander, by orders of 36th Division Security Officer, was made Town Commander and organized local security for the town of SCHAFTHAUSEN.

Captain Richards and Farber arrived at the Command Post to join the battalion for the training period.

This Battalion completed this date 191 continuous days of combat, beginning with D-Day, 15 August 1944.

No firing this date.

22 to 25 FEBRUARY INCLUSIVE: Training and rehabilitation program, as per attached 36th Infantry Division Artillery schedule was in effect.

No firing during this period.

26 FEBRUARY 1945: After the calibration of howitzers the Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders went on a reconnaissance in the vicinity of WINTERHAUSEN, for battery positions to be occupied on or about 28 February. Positions were found for Headquarters Battery, Battery "A" and Battery "B" in the vicinity of WINTERHAUSEN, and for Battery "C" in the vicinity of EERSTHEIM.

27 FEBRUARY 1945: Captain LEROY L. BELL, O-418651, of San Antonio, Texas returned from hospital today and was assigned as 36th Infantry Division Liaison Officer to VI Corps per VCGG. 1st Lieutenant Shaw returned from 36th Division Artillery Liaison duties.

At the Battalion Commanders meeting this evening, the Battalion Commander directed that beginning at 0900 tomorrow batteries would displace in the order of Headquarters, "B", "A", and "C".

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26 FEBRUARY 1945: Displacing as per schedule, the battalion closed in new positions prior to 1400 this date - (for route and disposition see Map France, 1/50,000 Sheets XXXVIII - 15 BRUMATH and XXXVIII - 14 HAGUENAU). Battery "A" found a better position in the vicinity of NIEDERSCHAEFFELSHOF. Other batteries went into position as originally reconnoitered.

Captain WILLIAM L. BUSA was dispatched on liaison duties to the 143rd Infantry Command Post.

Observation Posts were established at UHRWILLER and operated by "B" and "C" batteries. Observation Posts at HAGUENAU were operated by "A" and "B" batteries.

Summary of firings: 149 rounds of HE and 9 rounds of Smoke were fired on 7 missions.

The following four enlisted men were received on 21 February as replacements:

Pvt 1cl RICHARD C. HALES, 36 992 664  
Pvt ROBERT A. KRESGE, 33 623 679  
Pvt HENRY E. JOHNSON, 6 144 767  
Pvt RALPH E. MERKLEY, 35 814 841

EXHIBITS:

- A - Commendation.
- B - Casualty List.
- C - Officers Roster.
- D - Officer Duty Charges.
- E - Unit Journal.
- F - Missions Flown by Air Section.
- G - S - 3 Reports.
- H - Daily Reports of Firing.
- I - Training Schedule.
- J - Summary of Firing.
- K - Overlays, Maps and Firing Chart.

*Stanley W. Huth*  
STANLEY W. HUTH  
WOJG, U.S.A.  
Unit Historian

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The following type of casualties occurred during this period:

| <u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u> | <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>ENLISTED MEN</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| KIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LC                      | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LIA                     | 0               | 1                   | 1            |
| SIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| DIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LWA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| SWA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| MIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| ICW                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
|                         | 0               | 1                   | 0            |

"AWARDS"  
 "PERSONS WHO RECEIVED MEDAL CITIATIONS RECEIVED  
 DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. Name

2nd Lieutenant Julius E. Kollub, O2 055 216, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Houston, Texas.

Origin of Award

Section I, General Orders No. 41, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 February 1945.

Date of Deed

2nd and 3rd of January 1945.

2. Name

2nd Lieutenant Karl F. Martin Jr., O1 180 599, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Origin of Award

Section III, General Orders No. 40, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 20 February 1945.

Date of Deed

2nd and 3rd of January 1945.

3. Name

Pvt 1st Saverino G. Glisci, 32 636 626, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Bronx, New York.

Origin of Award

Section III, General Orders No. 45, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 23 February 1945.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-92

~~SECRET~~

Date of Deed

2nd and 3rd of January 1945.

L-1043

4. Name

Private Damon L. Payne, 38 039 058, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Gilmer, Texas.

Origin of Award

Section II, General Orders, No. 32, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 17 February 1945.

"FIRST CAK LEAF CLUSTER IN LIEU OF  
SECOND BRONZE STAR MEDAL RECEIVED DURING THIS PERIOD"

1. Name

Corporal William B. Weeks, 20 816 473, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

Origin of Award

Section III, General Orders No. 44, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 22 February 1945.

Date of Deed

2nd and 3rd of January 1945.

The following is a list of casualties that occurred during this period:

| NAME           | RANK    | ASN      | TYPE CAS. | ORGAN    | DATE CAS. OCCURRED | HOME ADDRESS               |
|----------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| TRILMAN, L. B. | Pvt 1cl | 34445956 | LIA       | "C" Btry | 9 Feb 45           | Route # 2<br>Moultrie, Ga. |

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NNO 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-82

HEADQUARTERS  
405TH FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP  
APO 758

4 February 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery.

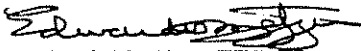
THRU : Commanding General, VI Corps Artillery.

1. I desire to commend the 155th Field Artillery Battalion of the 36th Infantry Division Artillery, Lieutenant Colonel Clifford M. Snow commanding, for the manner in which the battalion performed its mission during a temporary attachment to this Group for the period January 1st to 3rd, 1945, inclusive.

2. This battalion moved into the sector of Task Force Huddleston and was placed in direct support of the 313th Infantry, during a critical period when this portion of the Corps sector was under heavy attack by enemy forces. The expeditious and aggressive manner in which their mission was performed in a difficult situation was, in a great measure, responsible for containing the enemy attack and helped prevent a serious breakthrough on this front.

3. The organization of the battalion for reconnaissance, the movement of the firing batteries into position, the organization and establishment of communications was prompt and decisive. The dispatch of liaison officers and forward observers to supported units was quickly done and the battalion was prepared to deliver effective support within a short time after arrival.

4. The cooperation and handling of fire missions by Major Gilmer, the Battalion S-3, was superior.

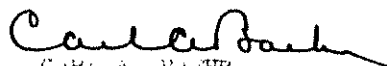
  
EDWARD H. METZGER  
Colonel, FA  
Commanding

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS ARTILLERY, APO 46, US Army, 6 February 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery.  
(Thru: Commanding General, VI Corps, APO 46, US Army.)

I desire to add my commendation to the remarks in basic letter.



CARL A. DASHR  
Brigadier General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

AG 201.2

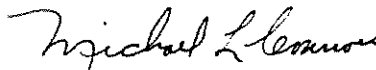
2d Ind.

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS, APO #46, U. S. Army, 13 February 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division, APO #36, U. S. Army.

The Corps Commander is pleased to note and forward this commendation.

By command of Major General BROOKS:



MICHAEL L. CONNORS  
Colonel, A. G. D.  
Adjutant General

AG 201.2

3d Ind

HBK/vc

(4 February 1945)

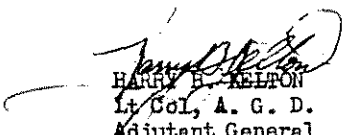
Hq 36th Inf Div, APO #36, U. S. Army, 17 February 1945.

To: Commanding Officer, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, APO #36, U. S. Army.

Thru: Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery, APO #36, U. S. Army.

The Commanding General is pleased to note and forward this commendation. The efficient operation of the Battalion and the fine spirit of cooperation displayed is worthy of the best traditions of the 36th Infantry Division.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

  
HARRY E. KELTON  
Lt Col, A. G. D.  
Adjutant General.

AG 201.2 (4 Feb 45)

4th Ind.

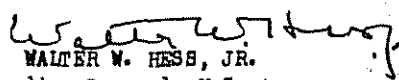
NWH/hag

Hqs. 36th Inf Div Arty., APO 36, U.S. Army, 21 February 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, APO 36, U.S. Army.

To the commendation mentioned in the basic communication, I desire to add my personal pleasure in forwarding this commendation. All members of such an efficient battalion, which has always been very cooperative, can well have the utmost pride in being a part thereof. It is particularly pleasing to note the continued prompt, efficient manner in which your battalion functions with units other than this division. This is especially commendable and reflects great credit on the leadership displayed.

This commendation should be brought to the attention of all, and a copy put in each 201 file, especially those of yourself and Major Gilmer who are to be particularly complimented.

  
WALTER W. HESS, JR.  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
Commanding

13  
- 4 -

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-92

HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

28 February 1945.

| NAME                        | GRADE    | ASN       | DUTY                | ENTERED SERVICE FROM |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <u>HEADQUARTERS</u>         |          |           |                     |                      |
| SNOW, CLIFFORD M.           | Lt. Col. | O-333741  | Bn Comdr.           | Amarillo, Texas      |
| CLARKE, JAMES T.            | Major    | O-199453  | Bn Exec.            | San Antonio, Texas   |
| GILMER, LAWRENCE D.         | Major    | O-255409  | Bn S - 3            | Houston, Texas       |
| MOSER, AUGUST C. JR.        | Captain  | O-295013  | Ass't S - 3         | Dallas, Texas.       |
| BUSH, WILLIAM L.            | Captain  | O-407530  | Bn Ln Off & F.O.    | Cane Hill, Ark.      |
| HAWK, RICHARD B.            | Captain  | O-415562  | Bn Ln Off & F.O.    | Dallas, Texas        |
| GARFUNKEL, SYLVAN A.        | Captain  | O-1166993 | No duty asgnd.      | Savannah, Ga.        |
| BELL, LEROY L.              | Captain  | O-418651  | No duty asgnd.      | San Antonio, Texas   |
| REYNOLDS, ROBERT E.         | 1st Lt.  | O-1167174 | Bn S - 2            | Philadelphia, Pa.    |
| KENT, RAYMOND F.            | 1st Lt.  | O-1176092 | Ass't S - 2         | Lawrence, Mass.      |
| JUDSON, PAUL F.             | 1st Lt.  | O-1181319 | Bn Aerial Obs.      | Columbia, S. C.      |
| DOLLINGER, JOSEPH           | Captain  | O-1689338 | Bn Medical Off.     | New York, N.Y.       |
| HUTH, STANLEY W.            | WOJG     | W-2103253 | Pers. Off.          | San Antonio, Texas.  |
| <u>HEADQUARTERS BATTERY</u> |          |           |                     |                      |
| WILLIAMSON, MARTIN W.       | Captain  | O-1167257 | Btry CO.            | Berlin, Ala.         |
| NELSON, WALTER M.           | 1st Lt.  | O-1170836 | Communications Off. | Pittsburgh, Pa.      |
| SVOBCDA, ARTIE F.           | 1st Lt.  | O-1180360 | Air Obs. Pilot      | Ellsworth, Kansas    |
| MARTIN, JACK                | 2nd Lt.  | O-1691871 | Air Obs. Pilot      | Tulsa, Okla.         |
| <u>"A" BATTERY</u>          |          |           |                     |                      |
| EVANS, GERALD W.            | Captain  | O-1165012 | Btry CO             | Wyola, Montana       |
| BENT, CHARLES A.            | 1st Lt.  | O-1175945 | Exec Off.           | Milton, Mass.        |
| SAM, BEAMAN W.              | 1st Lt.  | O-1172638 | Reconn Off.         | St. Louis, Mo.       |
| MARTIN, KARL F.             | 1st Lt.  | O-1180599 | Mtr. Off.           | Tulsa, Okla.         |
| <u>"B" BATTERY</u>          |          |           |                     |                      |
| NEWSOM, CLARENCE C.         | Captain  | O-1167141 | Btry CO             | Coffee Springs, Ala. |
| BURPO, FRANK W.             | 1st Lt.  | O-1703017 | Exec Off.           | Dallas, Texas.       |
| HOLLUD, JULIUS E.           | 2nd Lt.  | O-2055216 | Reconn Off.         | Houston, Texas.      |
| FORD, FLOYD C.              | 2nd Lt.  | O-1692680 | Mtr. Off.           | Houston, Texas.      |
| <u>"C" BATTERY</u>          |          |           |                     |                      |
| FRANTZ, HARRY P.            | Captain  | O-404452  | Btry CO             | Enid, Okla.          |
| CHOCKLEY, PHILLIP A.        | 1st Lt.  | O-1177328 | Btry Exec.          | Shelbyville, Tenn.   |
| MOORE, MERLE G.             | 1st Lt.  | O-1177102 | Reconn Off.         | Iola, Kansas         |
| SCHAEFFER, GILBERT P.       | 2nd Lt.  | O-2055088 | Mtr. Off.           | Houston, Texas.      |
| <u>SERVICE BATTERY</u>      |          |           |                     |                      |
| VINES, WALTON M.            | Captain  | O-1167257 | Btry CO & S-4       | Pinson, Ala.         |
| STEWART, JACK R.            | 1st Lt.  | O-403496  | Ammo Off.           | San Antonio, Texas.  |
| BAILLEY, HAROLD W.          | 1st Lt.  | O-1168543 | Bn Mtr. Off.        | Endicott, N. Y.      |
| SHAW, HUGH W.               | 1st Lt.  | O-1179705 | Btry Mtr. Off.      | Hollywood, Cal.      |
| SCHAEFFER, CARLO H.         | WOJG     | W-2130731 | Ass't S - 4         | Boerne, Texas        |



**SECRET**

28 February 1945.

**SUBJECT:** Assignments, Losses, and Changes of Duty of Battalion Officers for the month of February 1945.

1. Captain LEON L. BELL, O-418651, assigned and joined battalion per Special Orders, 103rd Station Hospital. No duty assigned.
2. Captain SILVIA A. GARNER, O-166993, assigned and joined battalion from 131st Field Artillery Battalion. No duty assigned.
3. Captain WILLIAM J. JESSUP, O-415050, S - 2, transferred to 131st Field Artillery Battalion.
4. 1st Lieutenant ROBERT E. REMOLDS, O-1137174, Assistant S - 2 to S - 2 vice Captain WILLIAM J. JESSUP, O-415050, transferred.
5. 1st Lieutenant RALPH D. KEAT, O-1174098, from Aerial Observer, Non-Pilot, to Assistant S - 2, vice 1st Lieutenant ROBERT E. REMOLDS, O-1137174, reassigned.
6. 1st Lieutenant PAUL F. JUSSE, O-1181319, from Executive Officer, Battery "B" to Aerial Observer, Non-Pilot, vice 1st Lieutenant RALPH D. KEAT, O-1174098, reassigned.
7. 1st Lieutenant FRANK W. BURPO, O-1703017, from R. C. Battery "B" to Executive Officer, Battery "B", vice 1st Lieutenant PAUL F. JUSSE, O-1181319, reassigned.
8. 2nd Lieutenant JULIUS E. HOLMES, O-2055216, from Motor Officer, Battery "B" to R. C. Battery "B", vice 1st Lieutenant FRANK W. BURPO, O-1703017, reassigned.
9. 1st Lieutenant ROGER W. SHAW, O-1179705, from Battalion Staff, Unassigned to Motor Officer, Service Battery.
10. 2nd Lieutenant PAUL J. FORD, O-1692680, from Motor Officer, Headquarters Battery, to Motor Officer, Battery "B" vice 2nd Lieutenant JULIUS E. HOLMES, O-2055216, reassigned.

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NNW 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-6-82

155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE AND GERMANY, MARCH 1945

*C-1044*

On 28 February the battalion moved to the vicinity of WINTERHOUSEN. (See Maps France, 1/50,000 Sheets XXXVIII-14 HAGUENAU and XXXVIII-15 BRUMATH for disposition of batteries. The Battalion Personnel Section with the 36th Infantry Division Rear was in Brumath and the Battalion Service Battery and Motor Shop were also in BRUMATH. Two ground Observation Posts were in operation, one at HAGUENAU and one at UHLWILLER. Our mission was general support of the 36th Infantry Division.

1 - 11 MARCH 1945: There were no important incidents during the period.

On 2 March Major LAWRENCE D. GILLER, Battalion S-3 from Houston, Texas, was placed on special duty at the 36th Division Artillery as S-2 pending the return of the Division Artillery S-2.

On 5 March between 0130 and 0600 twenty rounds of harassing enemy artillery fell in the battalion area; no casualties or damages were received.

On 10 March Captain Frazier, Communications Officer, 14th Armored Division, visited the battalion Command Post on reconnaissance for positions. The 14th Armored Division are to relieve the 36th Infantry Division or elements of it in this sector. Lieutenant Colonel VANCE, Commanding Officer, 499th Field Artillery Battalion (14th Armored Division) later visits the Command Post with the information that they will move into this area tomorrow.

In order to make room for the incoming troops, the Battalion Executive requested through 36th Division Transportation for the evacuation of refugees from the town of WINTERHAUSEN. The following day Captain HICKLEY, CIC, requested a detail of 15 men from this battalion to help in the evacuation, which was accomplished during the afternoon.

11 MARCH 1945: Captain LEROY L. BELL of San Antonio, Texas, departed today for the hospital and reclassification.

**CLASSIFICATION**  
**CANCELLED**  
**BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
**DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE**

**SPECIALTY OF FIRE:**  
1 March - 130 rounds HE and 6 rounds of Smoke fired on positions.  
2 March - 79 rounds HE and 6 rounds of Smoke fired on positions reported on enemy Command Post.  
3 March - 168 rounds HE and 11 rounds of Smoke fired on positions reported on enemy Command Post.  
4 March - 11 rounds HE and 1 round of Smoke fired on 1 mission.

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5 March - 117 rounds HE and 7 rounds of Smoke fired on 13 missions. 5 hits reported on enemy barracks and fire started in enemy gun pits.  
6 March - 38 rounds HE and 3 rounds of Smoke fired on 4 missions.  
7 March - 16 rounds of HE and 1 round of Smoke fired on 1 mission.  
8 March - 4 rounds of HE fired on 1 mission.  
9 March - 85 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of Smoke fired on 5 missions. 5 hits reported on house in which enemy personnel were quartered.  
10 March - 35 rounds of HE fired on 2 missions.  
11 March - 6 rounds of HE fired on 3 missions.

12 MARCH 1945: The Battalion Commander attended a meeting at 36th Infantry Division Artillery during the morning and afterwards went on a reconnaissance with the Battalion S-2 for positions in the vicinity of HUTTENDORF. Later in the day the Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, directed that one battery be infiltrated into position (vicinity HUTTENDORF) during the following morning, and one battery later under cover of darkness; the third battery the following day. The Battalion Commander met with his Staff and Battery Commanders and ordered reconnaissance for 0800 tomorrow morning and to prepare positions for occupancy during the day.

Summary of firing: 37 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of Smoke fired on 4 missions. Several hits reported on enemy Observation Post and two hits observed on self-propelled gun.

13 MARCH 1945: At 0800 the Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders departed with their parties on reconnaissance to the vicinity of MORSCHWILLER and HUTTENDORF. At 0930 the reconnaissance party returned and Batteries "A" and "C" were given "close station". At 1200 Battery "A" displaced by infiltration and closed on new position in the vicinity of MORSCHWILLER at 1345. Batteries "B" and "C" followed after dusk and by 1845 these two batteries were in position. For route and disposition see Map France 1/50,000 Sheet XXXVIII-14 HAGUEBAU.

Summary of firing: 87 rounds of HE fired on 5 missions.

14 MARCH 1945: Headquarters Battery moved early in the morning to HUTTENDORF. Our mission was general support of the 36th Infantry Division and to reinforce the fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion. The occupation of these positions was made prior to and in accordance with Operations "Undertone"; the 36th Infantry Division's objective was to capture WISSEMBOURG and the high ground north of WISSEMBOURG, uncovering Siegfried Line in zone. (D-Day 15 March).

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**S E C R E T**

1st Lieutenant RAYMOND M. KEAT was dispatched on liaison to 103rd Infantry Division for 36th Infantry Division Artillery. Major LAWRENCE D. GILLER returned from Special Duty at the 36th Infantry Division Artillery and Captain WILLIAM L. BUSH was sent on liaison to the 143rd Infantry Command Post.

Summary of firing: 20 rounds of HE fired on 2 missions.

15 MARCH 1945: (D-Day for "Operations Overland; 1300 H-Hour"). Lieutenant BRYANT, Commanding Officer, Company "C", 630 Tank Destroyer Battalion visited the Command Post to arrange for the attachment of his company to the battalion for the coming operations. At 1040 Captain WILLIAM L. BUSH, of Cane Hill, Arkansas, sent the following information from the 143rd Infantry Command Post: 42nd Infantry Division on the left flank of the 103rd Infantry Division are walking thru without opposition. 103rd Infantry Division are in GEMERSHOFFEN. Elements of the 142nd Infantry in the south end of MERTZWILLER and the 143rd had cleared BITSCHOFFEN and edge of the woods south of METESHEIM. During the morning the Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery visited the Battalion Command Post and firing batteries.

Summary of firing: 991 rounds of HE and 13 rounds of Smoke fired on 35 missions.

16 MARCH 1945: At 1150 Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery directed that the battalion move this afternoon to vicinity north of UEBERACH. At 1300 the Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders went on a reconnaissance for battery positions. Upon their return batteries "C" and "B" displaced, with Headquarters Battery, to the vicinity of UEBERACH. A portion of the Fire Direction Center personnel with Battalion S-3 remained in the old position, firing Battery "A" until after 1700. By 1820 the last Battery (A) had closed on its new position (including Company "C" of the 630 Tank Destroyer Battalion). For route and disposition see Map France, 1/50,000 Sheet XXXIII-14 HAGUEBAU. When the Battalion Commander arrived at the Command Post he brought the information that the 143rd Infantry had occupied GRIESBACH and a battalion of the 143rd Infantry with tanks, were pushing forward to take GUMSTETT. Captain WALTER M. VINES, of Pinson, Alabama, visited the Command Post with the advice he would move Service Battery and Battalion Motor Shop to MORSCHWILLER tomorrow. Today the 7th Army captured BITCHE and HAGUEBAU fell to the 36th Infantry Division.

Summary of firing: 333 rounds of HE and 7 rounds of Smoke fired on 17 missions.

17 MARCH 1945: Major LUTHER E. CRICK, Commanding Officer, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, of Italy Texas and Captain KANE, visited the Command Post to arrange for our direct support of a battalion of the 141st

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NRD 735017

By RB/VS

NARA, Date 8-8-82

Regimental Combat Team until the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion is ready to take over general support of the 141st Infantry. At 0900 Captain WILLIAM L. BUSH brought in the information that the 143rd Regimental Combat Team was fighting in GUNSTETT. At 0925 the Battalion Commander returned from a meeting at 36th Infantry Division Artillery and directed that Battery Commanders meet him at 0930 for reconnaissance in the vicinity of GRIESBACH. Captain WALTON M. VINES, upon hearing of our pending displacement, decided to move his Service Battery and Battalion Motor Shop to this town rather than KIRSCHWILLER.

The Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel CLIFFORD M. SNOW, of Amarillo, Texas, upon returning from reconnaissance, went to 36th Infantry Division Artillery and at 1300 telephoned the Battalion Executive to march the battalion at 1400 in the order of "B", "C", and "A" (Headquarters Battery to infiltrate); Batteries to occupy reconnoitered positions. At 1530 the battalion, including Company "C", 630 Tank Destroyer Battalion had closed on their new positions in the vicinity of GRIESBACH. (For route and disposition see Map France, 1/50,000, Sheet XIXVIII-14 HAGUENAU). Staff Sergeant STEWART T. STABELL, Chief of Section from Houston, Texas, received his Battle Field Promotion as 2nd Lieutenant today.

1st Battalion of the 143rd Regimental Combat Team is fighting in GUNSTETT and the 3rd Battalion in EIBLISHEIM.

Summary of firing: 460 rounds of IE and 6 rounds of Smoke fired on 10 missions. 2 hits reported on enemy guns.

18 MARCH 1945: A message from Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery at 0745 directed reconnaissance be made in the DIERENBACH-les WOERTH area. Battery Commanders were notified to meet the Battalion Commander at the Command Post for this reconnaissance - with displacement tentatively scheduled for the afternoon. At 0830 message was received from 36th Division Artillery that we were to follow the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion after it had cleared GUNSTETT. The Battalion Commander directed thru Captain AUGUST C. MOSER, Assistant Battalion S-3 of Dallas, Texas, that Captain WILLIAM L. BUSH go to the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion Command Post and notify us when they were moving. Shortly afterwards Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery directed that we stay in our present position until further orders were received. At 1115 information was received that the 142nd Regimental Combat Team had taken MERKWILLER. At 1135 the Battalion Commander returned from reconnaissance in the vicinity of OBERDOFF-SPACHEBACH and ordered batteries to close station and stand by for further orders from Division Artillery. The progress of the Regimental Combat Teams had continued to be good and it was possible we might move further than reconnoitered. At 1340 Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery directed the Battalion move at 1530 to the vicinity of

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OBERLOFF-SPACHBACH, to bivouac there and be prepared to pick up a battalion of 143rd Infantry tomorrow morning. The Battalion Commander directed Battery Commanders met him at the Command Post at 1500. The Battalion Commander then went to the 133rd Field Artillery Command Post and upon his return - at the meeting with battery commanders - ordered the batteries to move at 1500 in the order Headquarters Battery, "A", "B", "C" and Company "C", 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion - to the reconnoitered areas.

By 1630 the Battalion had closed in their bivouac area in the vicinity of OBERLOFF-SPACHBACH. (For route and disposition see Map France, 1/50,000 Sheet XXVIII-14 HAGUE AU).

At 2200 Captain ROSE, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry visited the Battalion Commander and arranged for our transporting the 1st Battalion of the 143rd Infantry on our vehicles tomorrow morning. A half an hour later we received Operations Instructions from the 143rd Regimental Combat Team which placed them on a one hour alert beginning at 0700 tomorrow morning.

19 MARCH 1945: At 0745 the Battalion Commander went to the 143rd Infantry 1st Battalion Command Post to coordinate plans for our hauling the battalion of Infantry. Upon his return at 0850 Captain AUGUST C. MOSER came in from liaison visit to 36th Division Artillery and advised that we have been relieved of hauling the battalion of Infantry - we are to select and take up positions in the vicinity of CLEEBROURG 9 Mission - general support of the 36th Infantry Division. The Battalion Commander met with the battery commanders and then departed with them on reconnaissance in the vicinity of CLEEBROURG. Major JAMES T. CLARKE, Battalion Executive of San Antonio, Texas, was directed to march the battalion at noon at which time the battery commanders would be back from reconnaissance.

1st Lieutenant JACK R. STEWART, Battalion Ammunitions Officer of San Antonio, Texas, came into the Command Post at 0930 to bring the information that Service Battery had been moved to GUNSTETT.

At 1000 the Battalion Executive visited the 1st Battalion 143rd Infantry and upon his return at 1045 brought information that we are to carry the battalion of Infantry as originally scheduled - to detruck them at DRACHENBERG and then occupy positions for firing in CLEEBROURG. The Battalion Executive then ordered the battalion to be prepared to move at 1100 and by 1200 the Infantry had entrucked on our vehicles (in the vicinity of GUNSTETT). At this time the Battalion Commander joined the march column and directed the Battalion Executive bring up the rear. In GUNSTETT Captain WALTER L. VILES advised the Battalion Executive that he was moving Service Battery to MEDELSONFELT today. The march column proceeded slowly to its destination - due to congestion and cross traffic. The

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The rendezvous area was fixed when the battalion commander received word from Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery that our troops had pushed on past WISSENBURG: we were to carry the infantry to the south of WISSENBURG and then select and occupy positions on the far side of the town. The Battalion Commander accordingly placed Major GILLER in charge of the rendezvous battalion, less Company "C" 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion (who had been separated from the battalion due to the 752nd Field Artillery Battalion breaking in between them and the last of the firing batteries). The Battalion Commander then went forward on reconnaissance for positions in the vicinity of WISSENBURG - and returned for the battalion and closed on the WISSENBURG area. (For route and disposition see Map France 1/50,000 Sheets XXXVIII-14 HAGUENAU and XXXVIII-13 LEMBACH). At 2200 36th Infantry Division Operation Instructions were received "36th Division... continues to attack on axis WISSENBURG - BERGZABERN: to penetrate Siegfried Line and capture BERGZABERN.

1st Lieutenant JACK R. STEWART arrived at the Command Post late in the evening to advise that Service Battery and Battalion Motor Shop were being brought to WISSENBURG tomorrow. Company "C" 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion, being the last element to arrive in the WISSENBURG area was put in rendezvous position for the night.

No firing this date.

20 MARCH 1945: Incoming artillery rounds landed in Battery "C" area several times during the previous night and early morning and at 0830 1st Lieutenant PHILLIP A. CROCKLEY, Executive Officer, Battery "C" of Shelbyville, Tenn, called the Command Post and reported that Corporal GEORGE W. SCHLEGEL, 13081172 of Germantown, Pa., performing the duty of Cannoneer had been seriously wounded a few minutes before and had been evacuated by the 111th Medical Battalion. (Corporal SCHLEGEL died of these wounds on the 21st March).

Company "C" 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion selected positions this morning and two minor injuries were sustained by men thereof from incoming rounds at 0900. 1st Lieutenant HUGH W. SHAW of Hollywood, California was dispatched to 36th Division Artillery on liaison with 103rd Infantry Division, relieving 1st Lieutenant RAYMOND F. KENT of Lawrence, Massachusetts who returned to the Command Post. Through Captain MARTIN W. WILLIAMSON it was learned that Service Battery and the Battalion Motor Shop moved to GERMANTOWN-les-WISSENBURG this morning. The Battalion Personnel Section, with the 36th Division Rear, moved to our area in WISSENBURG. Lieutenant GUILLOT, 36th Field Artillery Battalion, brought one self-propelled 155-ML2 to the battalion which will work with us in the demolition of designated pill boxes.

Summary of firing: 719 rounds of HE and 58 rounds of Smoke were fired on 25 missions.

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21 MARCH 1945: During the night's enemy harassing fire - one 210 mm shell hit the corner of the Command Post building; no casualties to personnel or damage to military property.

Summary of firing: 689 rounds of HE and 30 rounds of Smoke were fired on 26 missions. 2 hits were observed on nebelweffer positions.

22 MARCH 1945: The 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion Company "C" was detached from the battalion late today - and displaced shortly after midnight to their battalion headquarters.

Summary of firing: 496 rounds of HE and 10 rounds of Smoke were fired on 24 missions.

23 MARCH 1945: The Battalion Commander left at 0830 for a road reconnaissance in the vicinity of OBERHAUSEN but at 0900 called from 36th Division Artillery Command Post to advise that we will remain in our present area and reinforce the fires of the 131st Field Artillery Battalion, who had moved to this vicinity on the 21st. However at 1115 Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery directed by telephone that the battalion will move this afternoon after the 131st Field Artillery Battalion had displaced, to the vicinity of WINDEN. Battery Commanders were notified to be ready for reconnaissance at 1215. At the meeting prior to going on reconnaissance the Battalion Commander directed the Battery Commanders be prepared to move their batteries to vicinity of WINDEN after the 131st Field Artillery Battalion had displaced. The Battalion Commander then left for 36th Division Artillery Command Post with instructions for the Battery Commanders to meet him in the vicinity of WINDEN and then return to meet their batteries, which would be marched by the Battalion Executive at about 1400.

At 1355 the 131st Field Artillery Battalion cleared the crossroad in WISSEMBOURG and the Battalion Executive marched the battalion in the order of Headquarters Battery, "C", "A", and "B". At 1405 the first vehicle of the march column crossed over the German border. The column marched slowly out of WISSEMBOURG due to the heavy road traffic and at 1500 the Battalion Executive left the halted column under supervision of the Battalion S-3, went forward to BERGZABERN where he met the Battalion Commander. Our march schedule had been changed after the battalion was on the road and we were to follow the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion rather than the 131st Field Artillery Battalion. It was therefore necessary to place the battalion in a rendezvous on the outskirts of BERGZABERN and wait until the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion passed us. (See Map of France 1/50,000 Sheet XXXIV-13 WISSEMBOURG).

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F.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, *NND 735017*

By *RB/VSM*

NARA, Date *8-8-92*

The Battalion Commander went on a personal reconnaissance for positions at 1710 and sent a radio message back at 1800 hours for battery commanders to meet him in the vicinity of INGENHEIM. At 1900 hours guides began to return for their respective batteries and by 2000 hours the last battery had cleared the rendezvous area - and by 2030 had closed on the new position area in the vicinity of INGENHEIM. (For route and disposition see Map France 1/50,000 Sheet XXXIX-13 WISSEMBOURG). The Battalion Commander directed that batteries be layed for emergency firing only and that preparation should be made for early displacement the following morning to the vicinity of RULZHEIM, to reinforce the fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion (the 143rd Regimental Combat Team had pushed on the Rhine, the 142nd towards RHEINZABERN). Captain WILLIAM L. BUSH had been dispatched to the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and was to let us know when they were moving. Battery "B" brought in four prisoners captured in their battery area. These were sent to the Prisoner of War cage in BERGZABERN.

Summary of firings: 68 rounds of HE fired on 4 missions.

24 MARCH 1945: At 0300 hours Captain WILLIAM L. BUSH came into the Command Post from the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion to advise the Battalion Commander we could not move in the morning to vicinity of RULZHEIM as the 142nd Regimental Combat Team is still fighting there. 132nd Field Artillery Battalion will move to RHEINZABERN and then to RULZHEIM when cleared. The Battalion Commander therefore went on a reconnaissance to the RULZHEIM area at 0400. He returned at 0630 and directed the battalion march at 0700 to vicinity of HERXHEIM rather than to RULZHEIM as previously instructed. Warrant Officer CARLO H. SCHAEFER of New Braunfels, Texas, arrived at the Command Post and advised that 1st Lieutenant JACK R. STEWART had been mortally wounded by sniper bullets at 2030 hours last night on the outskirts of BERGZABERN near NIEDER-HORBACK. Party was on a reconnaissance for new position for Service Battery and while passing a sign which resembled the battalion sign, Lieutenant Stewart dismounted and walked towards the sign when the sniper opened fire. Lieutenant STEWART had faithfully performed his duties as Ammunition Officer for a number of months in both Italy and France. Lieutenant STEWART comes from San Antonio, Texas. Service Battery and Battalion Motor Shop were to be brought to the HERXHEIM position by direction of the Battalion Commander. The Battalion marched under the supervision of the Battalion Executive at 0700 and closed on the HERXHEIM position by 0800 (For route and disposition see Maps GERMANY 1/25,000 Sheets 6814-LANDBAU and 6815-HERXHEIM). The Battalion registered but did not fire from this position. A total of 60 prisoners were rounded up by the batteries and turned over to the PW cage in BERGZABERN. Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery visited the Command Post at 1015 and directed the battalion prepare to move to the vicinity of RULZHEIM today with the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. The

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Battalion Commander left on a reconnaissance of this area at 1130, with the Battery Commanders, and ordered that the battalion march by batteries when ready. The last battery cleared the HERXHEIM area at 1300 and it was necessary to take the firing batteries over the third of three reconnoitered roads because muddy roads of the first two would not take the heavy traffic. By 1500 the batteries closed on the RUTZHEIM area (For route and disposition see Map GERMANY 1/25,000 Sheet 6815-HAUTEIN). Our mission here - was general support of the 36th Infantry Division.

Summary of firing: 151 rounds of HE and 27 rounds of Smoke were fired on 10 missions.

25 MARCH 1945: This morning we received information on division sector from Major GILES, 36th Division Artillery S-3, that the division sector had been enlarged to include part of the sector of the 71st Infantry Division. We are to continue in general support of the division with priority to the 143rd Infantry sector. Lieutenant GUILLOT advised this morning that the SP E-12 155mm gun would be detached from the battalion today. A total of 10 prisoners were brought in by Headquarters Battery and Battery "A", which were sent to the PW cage.

Summary of firing: 254 rounds of HE and 6 rounds of Smoke were fired on 12 missions.

26-28 MARCH 45: No important incidents these dates.

On March 28th - 1st Lieutenant STEPHANIE, from 36th Division Artillery, telephoned that the Commanding General directed we send quartering party to their headquarters at 1600. The town of MORZHEIM has been allotted to this battalion for assembly area. 1st Lieutenant ROBERT E. REYNOLDS, Battalion S-2 from Philadelphia, Pa., was detailed by the Battalion Commander to take the survey section on this detail. Battery Commanders were notified we would probably move tomorrow.

Summary of firing:

26 March - 223 rounds of HE and 6 rounds of Smoke fired on 8 missions.  
27 March - 67 rounds of HE and 5 rounds of Smoke fired on 5 missions.  
28 March - No firing this date.

29 MARCH 1945: Captain WALTON M. VINES, Battalion S-4, visited the Command Post and arranged with the Battalion Commander to meet him for reconnaissance in the MORZHEIM area. At 0640 Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery directed that the battalion clear the IP in MORZHEIM at 1300 (after the 736 Reconnaissance) and move via HERXHEIM, D-SHEIN, IMPLINGEN to MORZHEIM. The Battalion Commander and Battery

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**S E C R E T**

Communications were on record as at 0800 and reported to march with the battalion at 1215. This march time was later changed by 36th Division Artillery, 36th Infantry General to 1200 - to proceed at IP at 1215. The battalion marches as column. 36th Battery joined the march column in BERKHED. By 1500 the battalion closed on the new area (See Maps Germany, 1/45, 500 Sheets 6815-HELMER and 6814-LA.DAU). This is an assembly area.

No firing this date.

30 MARCH 1945: Local security was established within the battalion by the Battalion Commander. Meeting was held with the Staff and Battery Commanders to discuss local security, civilians and arrangements for training program. Major H. H. H. of 1st Battalion visited the Battalion to check on security and Captain MCADHEAD (ALG 36th Infantry Division) made investigations within the battalion and set up rules and regulations for civilians.

No firing this date.

31 MARCH 1945: While at a meeting at 36th Infantry Division Artillery the Battalion Commander called the Battalion Executive at 0900 directing that Battery Commanders meet him at the Battalion Command Post at 1130 for a reconnaissance which would take most of the day. This will not be a tactical area reconnaissance and there will be no move by the battalion today. A half of an hour later 36th Infantry Division Operation Instructions dated 302300 March was received: 36th Infantry Division moves on Army order from present positions to vicinity of KAISERLAUTERN, prepare to garrison, police and support military government in areas west of the Rhine and prepare to assume control of responsibility for additional territory in area. Prepare to move on 24 hour notice to an area outside the Seventh Army sector. 36th Infantry Division to move on Division order from present position to vicinity of HOMBERG over designated route.

The Battalion Commander called again at 0940 and directed the reconnaissance parties be ready to go out at 1030. Upon his return to the Battalion Command Post at 1000, he met with the Battery Commanders and gave them orders issued on Operational Instructions from 36th Infantry Division.

Battalion will have several towns in vicinity of HOMBOURG. Reconnaissance today will be for battery commanders to select areas. Will meet 36th Division Artillery Executive at HOMBOURG at 1300 and coordinate with him. Move will be made by the Battalion at 1510 on D-Day (to be announced by 36th Infantry Division later).

Upon the Battalion Commanders return from reconnaissance at 1300, corrected March Table was received from 36th Infantry Division. 155th Field Artillery Battalion, less Battalion Personnel Section now at BERGZABER, to cross IP at 2062 at 1220 on 1 April, route to be as designated on overlay (IP - ANWEILLER, MUNCHWILLER, BURGATERN, LANDSTUHL and HOMBOURG).

Today marked the end of the SECOND YEAR, minus a few hours, for this battalion overseas duty.

**S E C R E T**

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SECRET

"AWARDS"  
"SILVER STAR MEDAL CITATIONS RECEIVED  
DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN."

C-1044

1. Name  
Tec 5 R. B. Bryant, 20 816 424, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

Origin of Award  
Section I, General Orders No. 65, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 6 March 1945.

Date of Deed  
16 December 1944.

2. Name  
Tec 4 Willie C. Watson, 33 025 535, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Bertram, Texas.

Origin of Award  
Section III, General Orders No. 63, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 5 March 1945.

Date of Deed  
16 December 1944.

3. Name  
Pvt 1st Raymond M. Maurigal, 39 562 553, Battery "C", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Wilmington, California.

Origin of Award  
General Orders No. 63, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 3 March 1945.

Date of Deed  
2 January 1945.

"BRONZE STAR MEDAL CITATIONS RECEIVED  
DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. Name  
Tec 5 L. Ward Cable, 20 816 745, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

Origin of Award  
Section I, General Orders No. 101, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 27 March 1945.

Date of Deed  
3 January 1945.

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2. Name  
Pvt 1st Lt. D. Chapman, Battery "E", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

Origin of Award  
General Orders No. 83, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 14 March 1945.

Date of Deed  
16 December 1944.

3. Name  
Cpl. Robert H. Stahr, Battery "G", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Detroit, Michigan.

Origin of Award  
Section II, General Orders No. 77, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 9 March 1945.

Date of Deed  
15 October 1944 and 14 December 1944.

"AIR MEDAL AWARDS RECEIVED  
DURING THIS PERIOD"

1. Name  
1st Lieutenant Phillip A. Chockley, O1 177 325, Battery "G", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Origin of Award  
Section II, General Orders No. 90, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 17 March 1945.

Date of Deed  
4 October 1944 to 16 February 1945.

2. Name  
Captain Clarence C. Nensom, O1 167 141, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Coffee Springs, Alabama.

Origin of Award  
Section I, General Orders No. 72, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 7 March 1945.

Date of Deed  
30 November 1944 to 16 January 1945.

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13.

**S E C R E T**

**"FIFTH CAK LEAF CLUSTER IN LIEU OF  
SIXTH AIR MEDAL RECEIVED  
DURING THIS PERIOD"**

**1. Name**

1st Lieutenant Raymond E. Smith, OI 170 092, Headquarters, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Shelbyville, Tennessee.

**Origin of Award**

Section III, General Orders No. 90, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 17 March 1945.

**Date of Deed**

1 December 1944 to 8 February 1945.

**"FIFTH CAK LEAF CLUSTER IN LIEU OF  
SIXTH AIR MEDAL RECEIVED  
DURING THIS PERIOD"**

**1. Name**

2nd Lieutenant Jack Martin, OI 691 871, Headquarters, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Memphis, Tenn.

**Origin of Award**

Section III, General Orders No. 72, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 7 March 1945.

**Date of Deed**

3 September to 12 October 1944.

**"SIXTH CAK LEAF CLUSTER IN LIEU OF  
SEVENTH AIR MEDAL RECEIVED  
DURING THIS PERIOD"**

**1. Name**

2nd Lieutenant Jack Martin, OI 691 871, Headquarters, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Memphis, Tenn.

**Origin of Award**

Section IV, General Orders No. 72, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 7 March 1945.

**Date of Deed**

14 October to 10 December 1944.

**S E C R E T**

14.

SECRET

2. Name

1st Lieutenant Artie F. Svoboda, OI 180 360, Headquarters, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Ellsworth, Kansas.

Origin of Award

Section IV, General Orders No. 72, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 7 March 1945.

Date of Deed

21 October to 17 December 1944.

"SEVEN OAK LEAF CLUSTER IN  
LIEU OF EIGHT AIR MEDAL  
RECEIVED DURING THIS PERIOD"

1. Name

1st Lieutenant Artie F. Svoboda, OI 180 360, Headquarters, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Ellsworth, Kansas.

Origin of Award

Section V, General Orders No. 90, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 17 March 1945.

Date of Deed

18 December 1944 to 9 February 1945.

SECRET

15.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-92



SECRET

31 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Assignments, Losses, and Changes of Duty of Battalion Officers for the month of March 1945.

1. Captain LEROY L. BELL, O-418651, transferred to the Detachment of Patients, Seventh Army on 12 March 1945.
2. Staff Sergeant STEWART T. STAMUELL received Battle Field Promotion to 2nd Lieutenant on 17 March 1945. Assigned duty as Motor Officer Battery "C" this battalion.

The following type of casualties occurred during this period:

| <u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u> | <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>ENLISTED MEN</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| KIA                     | 1               | 0                   | 1            |
| DCW                     | 0               | 1                   | 1            |
| LIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| SIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| DIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| LWA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| SWA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| MIA                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
| PCW                     | 0               | 0                   | 0            |
|                         | <u>1</u>        | <u>1</u>            | <u>2</u>     |

| <u>NAME</u>          | <u>RANK</u> | <u>ASN</u> | <u>TYPE CAS.</u> | <u>ORGAN</u> | <u>DATE CAS OCCURRED</u> | <u>HOME ADDRESS</u>               |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| STEWART, JACK R.     | 1st Lt.     | O-403496   | KIA              | Serv Btry    | 23 Mar 45                | 1701 Dallas Ave, Brownwood, Texas |
| SCHLEIBEL, GEORGE W. | Cpl.        | 13031172   | DOW              | Btry "C"     | 21 Mar 45                | 822 Locust Avenue, Phila, Pa.     |

SECRET

16.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 235017

By RB/VSWNARA, Date 8-6-82

~~SECRET~~

155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY FOR APRIL 1945

Having been assembled in MORZHEIM (See Map Germany, 1/50,000 Sheet 135 LANDAU (R)), the battalion was alerted 01 April for displacement to the vicinity of HOMBURG on a non-tactical mission: policing and assisting AMG and controlling civilian population. The move was completed prior to 1300 on 1 April (for disposition of units see Map Central Europe, 1/100,000 Sheet U2, KAISERLAUTERN (K)).

Until 1300 hours 9 April the battalion functioned exclusively as an AMG agent and Captain Moser acted in the capacity of Provost Marshal with offices at 36th Infantry Division Artillery. During this period the following important incidents occurred:

- 3 - 5 APRIL 1945: Relieved French unit of guard on the Displaced Persons' camp until relieved by the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion (Battery A).
- 6 APRIL 1945: Screened the town of SANDDOFF.
- 8 APRIL 1945: Aided 36th Infantry Division Artillery in the screening of HOMBURG.

Throughout the period many civilians, and soldiers of various nationalities were brought up for investigation; those not released were turned over to the AMG.

Local security was maintained by each battery, plus a roving patrol for the highways and adjoining areas.

9 APRIL 1945: This battalion was relieved of the mission at HOMBURG by elements of the 143rd Infantry and the battalion displaced to the vicinity of NEUSTADT, closing in this new area at 1600. Our mission in this area was the policing of the city, plus local security and manning of outposts. (For disposition of units see Map Germany 1/50,000 Sheet 134, NEUSTADT (R)). The 65th Infantry was relieved of guard in the vicinity of RR yards and at bridges and tunnels along the NEIDER-THAL-NEUSTADT RR line. (See attached copy of location of guard posts).

During the period this battalion was in NEUSTADT, these foremost incidents occurred:

- 10 APRIL 1945: Discovered one store of concealed weapons and uniforms.
- 11 APRIL 1945: Discovery made of concealed weapons and explosives.

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- 12 APRIL 1945: Quelled threatened disturbance at Displaced Persons Camp No. 1. Large fire in unoccupied house in the vicinity of Battalion Motor Pool discovered at 0100 and brought under control by daylight.
- 14 APRIL 1945: Battery "C" relieved of guard at Displaced Persons Camp No. 1, one food warehouse and two RR towers by Battery "D", 443 FA (AA). Battery "C" begins one weeks training and becomes mobile reserve.
- 15 APRIL 1945: Detection of children's depredation of food and PA rations. Offenders rounded up disclosing possible organized "gang". Investigated by AMG.
- 19 APRIL 1945: Raiding party sent to PSALZ-GRATINSTRASSE #13, the home of a reported Nazi official, HANS DLETRICK. Home searched and some documents found. Official not at home during the raid.
- 20 APRIL 1945: Forest fire quelled at coords. R206890.
- 21 APRIL 1945: Battery "C" relieves Battery "B" of guard details and Battery "B" begins one week's training and becomes mobile reserve.
- 22 APRIL 1945: In addition to guard detail, batteries began preparation for Division Field Inspection on the 26th and Division Artillery Inspection on the 24th.

On this date we were alerted for relief of present mission by the 38th Infantry Division, relief to begin the following day at 0800 24 April. The Battalion Commander directed Captain Bush (Ass't S-3) lead a recon party comprised of members of each battery to the newly designated position in the vicinity of JUNGHOLHAUSEN. 36th Infantry Division Operation Instructions directed we will prepare for immediate offensive operations. One platoon of Battery "B", 443 AA was attached to the battalion.

The Battalion Commander ordered that the battalion displace on the 24th in the order, Headquarters, "A", "B", "C" and Service. Track vehicles would follow the column. It is noteworthy that this procedure aided considerably in keeping the march column moving continuously and rapidly.

- 24 APRIL 1945: At 0900 the Battalion Commander and Major Gilmer (S-3) departed for General Court duties at 36th Infantry Division. The battery commanders went forward of their batteries and the column marched at 1215.. and closed in the new area

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

less track vehicles, at 2200. Trach vehicles were brought in by Lieutenant Burpo, of Battery "B" shortly after midnight. (For disposition of batteries see Map Germany, 1/100,000 Sheet V-4 ELLWANGEN (S). Fifteen of the battalion's trucks were alerted to move at dawn to haul infantry of the division.

25 APRIL 1945: The Battalion Commander and S-3 returned from court duties at Division Headquarters. Battalion began limited training program. Two PSs captured in the vicinity of MEZSTACH at 1930 hours. Two PWs attempted escape in the vicinity of BRAUNSBACH; one was killed and the other wounded.

26 APRIL 1945: Captain Skinner of 36th Division Artillery alerted the battalion for a possible displacement tomorrow. The Battalion Commander left shortly afterwards for Division Artillery and road reconnaissance. In his absence the Battalion S-4 advised that with the fifteen trucks absent on the Division haul and ten more scheduled to go out on the 27th - the battalion would be immobile. At 1630 the Battalion Commander returned with the information that the battalion's move was temporarily postponed.

27 APRIL 1945: The battalion Commander and S-3 left for Division Artillery CP at 0630 and an hour afterwards the S-3 returned with orders from the Battalion Commander for B/C's to prepare for road reconnaissance at 1030..battalion tentatively scheduled to move on the 28th. Reconnaissance was completed during the late morning and early afternoon. At 2000 hours the Battalion Commander met with the Staff and B.C's and directed that the battalion displace tomorrow morning to the vicinity of GUNSBURG-SCHWABMUNCHEN with available transportation. Surplus property will be left with Service Battery and brought forward to the new area by Lieutenant Judson... when trucks return from haul.

28 APRIL 1945: Battalion Commander departed at 0830 to new battalion area and the battalion marched in the order, Headquarters, "B", "C", "A", Service and then track vehicles. The column was headed by Major Gilmer, acting Battalion Executive in Major Clarke's absence in England. From 1445 until 1830 the column rendezvoused in the vicinity of BUNGAU 9See Map BAVARIA, 1/50,000 Sheet 68W "X". The Battalion Commander continued forward on a reconnaissance in the SCHWABMUNCHEN area and the column closed in this vicinity at 2230 hours, after travelling about 120 miles during the day. For disposition of batteries see Map GERMANY, 1/100,000 Shee X-5 WILHELM. Our mission was to reinforce the fires of the 131 Field Artillery Battalion, who were in direct support of the 141 Infantry. This battalion was to relieve the 718 FA Battalion of the 63rd Division.

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29 APRIL 1945: Lieutenant Kent was dispatched on liaison to the 131 Field Artillery Battalion and Lieutenant Reynolds maintained liaison with 36th Infantry Division Artillery and the 36 Field Artillery Group to keep this battalion advised of any contemplated changes. Our further displacement was being held up pending the completion of a bridge over the Lech River. At 0935 the Battalion Commander advised that we would move about noon when the bridge would be completed. Our move would follow the order of: 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry, 131 Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 141 Infantry. During the march this battalion was to be prepared to drop trail or continue march, as the situation warranted. The displacement was postponed because of slow movement of vehicles over the narrow bridge and it was not until 0245 the following morning that the battalion left the assembly area. During the hours 1800 to 0100 the Battalion Commander and S-2 made several road reconnaissances.

In this area the personnel of the batteries were given an opportunity to witness the remains of one of the well known enemy concentration camps.

30 APRIL 1945: Having departed from the former area shortly before 0300 rest and breakfast was given to the column in the vicinity of BEHREID. Twelve prisoners were captured during this respite. The Battalion Commander went forward to contact the 1st Battalion, 141 Infantry and returned to meet the marching column on the outskirts of SEESHAUPT on the WURL SEE. Battery "A" was directed to leave the column and prepare for firing on a road block protected by enemy artillery on the other side of the WURL SEE. Other batteries were directed to remain in readiness in the vicinity of SEESHAUPT (See Map BAVARIA 1/100,00 Sheet X-5 WEIMER). There was no firing on this obstacle by Battery "A", but the battalion was ordered to remain in this area overnight, prepared to displace early on the morning of 1 May and to march behind the 131 Field Artillery Battalion and continue to reinforce the fires of this unit.

In this area notice was received of the combat appointment of Sergeant Griffin of Battery "B" to 2nd Lieutenant.

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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

30 April 1945

OFFICER'S ROSTER

1-1045

BATTALION STAFF

|                       |          |            |                       |
|-----------------------|----------|------------|-----------------------|
| SNOW, CLIFFORD M.     | Lt. Col. | 0 333 741  | Bn Comdr.             |
| CLARKE, JAMES T.      | Major    | 0 199 453  | Bn Exec Off.          |
| GILMER, LAWRENCE D.   | Major    | 0 255 409  | Bn S - 3.             |
| MOSER, AUGUST C. JR.  | Captain  | 0 295 013  | Ass't S - 3.          |
| BUSH, WILLIAM L.      | Captain  | 0 407 530  | Bn Ln Off & F. O.     |
| HANK, RICHARD B.      | Captain  | 0 415 562  | Bn Ln Off & F. O.     |
| CARFUNKEL, SYLVAN A.  | Captain  | 01 166 993 | Unasgd.               |
| REYNOLDS, ROBERT E.   | 1st Lt.  | 01 167 174 | Bn S - 2.             |
| KENT, RAYMOND F.      | 1st Lt.  | 01 176 092 | Ass't S - 2.          |
| CHRISTOPH, CHARLES J. | 1st Lt.  | 01 175 075 | Unasgd.               |
| JUDSON, PAUL F.       | 1st Lt.  | 01 181 319 | Aerial Obs Non-Pilot. |
| DOLLINGER, JOSEPH     | Captain  | 01 689 338 | Bn Med Off.           |
| HUTH, STANLEY W.      | WOJG     | W2 108 253 | Bn Pers Off.          |

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

|                       |         |            |                         |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|-------------------------|
| WILLIAMSON, MARTIN W. | Captain | 01 166 867 | Btry Comdr & Commo Off. |
| NELSON, WALTER M.     | 1st Lt. | 01 170 886 | Ass't Commo Off.        |
| SVOBODA, ARTIE F.     | 1st Lt. | 01 180 360 | Aerial Obs Pilot.       |
| MARTIN, JACK          | 1st Lt. | 01 691 871 | Aerial Obs Pilot.       |

BATTERY "A"

|                      |         |            |                 |
|----------------------|---------|------------|-----------------|
| EVANS, GERALD W.     | Captain | 01 165 012 | Btry Comdr.     |
| BENT, CHARLES A.     | 1st Lt. | 01 175 945 | Btry Exec Off.  |
| SAM, BEAMAN W.       | 1st Lt. | 01 172 638 | Btry Recon Off. |
| MARTIN, KARL F., JR. | 1st Lt. | 01 180 599 | Btry Mtr Off.   |

BATTERY "B"

|                     |         |            |                 |
|---------------------|---------|------------|-----------------|
| NEWSOM, CLARENCE C. | Captain | 01 167 141 | Btry Comdr.     |
| BURPO, FRANK W.     | 1st Lt. | 01 703 017 | Btry Exec Off.  |
| HOLLUB, JULIUS E.   | 2nd Lt. | 02 055 216 | Btry Recon Off. |
| FORD, FLOYD C.      | 2nd Lt. | 01 692 580 | Btry Mtr Off.   |

BATTERY "C"

|                       |         |            |                 |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|-----------------|
| FRANTZ, HARRY P., JR. | Captain | 0 404 452  | Btry Comdr.     |
| CHOCKLEY, PHILLIP A.  | 1st Lt. | 01 177 328 | Btry Exec Off.  |
| MOORE, MERLE G.       | 1st Lt. | 01 177 102 | Btry Recon Off. |
| STANUELL, STEWART T.  | 2nd Lt. | 02 011 659 | Btry Mtr Off.   |

SERVICE BATTERY

|                    |         |            |                     |
|--------------------|---------|------------|---------------------|
| VINES, WALTON M.   | Captain | 01 167 257 | Btry Comdr & S - 4. |
| BAILEY, HAROLD W.  | 1st Lt. | 01 168 543 | Bn Mtr Off.         |
| SHAW, HUGH W.      | 1st Lt. | 01 179 705 | Btry Mtr Off.       |
| SCHAEFER, CARLO H. | WOJG    | W2 130 731 | Ass't S - 4.        |

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There were no casualties occurred during this period.

**"AWARDS"**  
**"BRONZE STAR MEDAL CITATIONS RECEIVED**  
**DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"**

1. Name  
 S/Sgt Eugene R. Damron, 38 060 464, Battery "B", 155th Field  
 Artillery Battalion, Paducah, Texas.  
Origin of Award  
 General Orders No. 136, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division,  
 dated 26 April 1945.  
Date of Deed  
 16 December 1944.
2. Name  
 Captain William J. Jessup, O 415 050, Headquarters, 155th Field  
 Artillery Battalion, Houston, Texas.  
Origin of Award  
 General Orders No. 114, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division,  
 dated 2 April 1945.  
Date of Deed  
 19 October 1944.
3. Name  
 Private First Class Raymond M. Madrigal, Battery "C", 155th Field  
 Artillery Battalion, Wilmington, California.  
Origin of Award  
 General Orders No. 114, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division,  
 dated 2 April 1945.  
Date of Deed  
 From 15 August to 20 October 1944.

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7.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/Vsu

NARA, Date 5-6-82

155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA FROM 1 MAY TO 10 MAY 1945

1 MAY 1945: During the afternoon of 30 April, Battery "A" went into firing position at coords. Y653-218, and Batteries "B" and "C" into positions of readiness, all in the vicinity of Seeshaupt on the Murnsee; (See Map Bavaria, 1/50,000 Sheet Wilhelm). An artillery covered road block had confronted the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry whom we were following. During the night this road block was cleared by other elements and Battery "A" fired one round (preparation) in the vicinity Bad Heilbrunn (coords Y84-13). The battalions mission was reinforcing the fires of the 131st Field Artillery Battalion, who were in direct support of 141st Infantry.

Early in the morning of 1 May the Battalion Commander visited the 131st Field Artillery Battalion and 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry CP's and at 0845 directed by telephone for batteries to close station and prepare to displace. Upon his return to the CP he met with the Battery Commanders and advised we would displace to the vicinity of Pennburg; and 1 battery to go into firing position and the other two into positions of readiness as the infantry we were supporting was meeting some resistance.

The battalion displaced shortly before noon and closed in Heinz at 1240, for route and disposition see Map Bavaria, 1/50,000 Sheet 91W Tolz). No rounds were fired from these positions and following the progress of the infantry the battalion was again on the road at 1545; the Battalion Commander and B'C's had gone forward to reconnoiter positions in the vicinity of Bad Heilbrunn. The battalion Executive led the column to this new area and closed in at 1630 (For route and disposition see Map Bavaria 1/50,000 Sheet 91W Tolz).

Summary of firing - 10 rounds of HE and 9 rounds of smoke fired on 2 missions.

2 - 3 May 1945: Nine prisoners were brought in by Battery "A" during the morning of 2 May, and late in the afternoon radio broadcasts announced the surrender of German troops in Italy and Western Austria.

Lieutenant Kent was dispatched on liaison to the 131st Field Artillery Battalion. In the morning of 3 May he advised us that the 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry was moving south through the 1st and battalions and it was possible we might move today with the 131st Field

~~S. H. H. H. H.~~



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Artillery Battalion. The Battalion Commander returned at 1400 from the 131st Field Artillery CP. At a meeting with the B.C.'s he advised that the 141st Infantry was moving two batteries eastward; as soon as 2nd Battalion clears we would move and remain in "positions of readiness" until 131st Field Artillery Battalion passes us; then we would continue move eastward.

The battalion prepared to displace at 1530 but a message from the Battalion Commander, who had gone forward, changed the original plans. We would go into position at Badtolz and cover the 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry working to the south.

At 1545 the battalion closed on Badtolz and the three firing batteries immediately went into position (For disposition see Map Bavaria 1/50,000 Sheet 91W Tolz).

Summary of firing: May 2 - 162 rounds of HE and 9 rounds of smoke were fired on 3 missions.

May 3 - 45 rounds of HE and 15 rounds of smoke were fired on 6 missions.

4 MAY 1945: Lt. Colonel McGrath, Executive, 141st Infantry, advised us that the unit we are supporting has been directed to proceed south. He will be relieved by the 937th Field Artillery Battalion in our support mission.

At 0830 the Battalion Commander visited Division Artillery CP and directed upon his return at 0845 for Battery "B" to close station and prepare to go eastward with the 131st Field Artillery Battalion on moments notice. Also Battery "C" was directed to move south. Headquarters and Battery "A" would move eastward, after "A" ceased firing, to the new vicinity of Battery "B". Battery "C" would remain in new position until relieved by elements of 937th Field Artillery Battalion.

By 0945 Batteries "B" and "C" had displaced - but Battery "C" did not close on new position as the 937th was already on the road - moving toward the area in which they were to relieve Battery "C". Therefore Battery "C" was put in rendezvous and at 1145 was directed by the Battalion Commander to displace to coords. Y015-095 (vicinity Tergeusee) and there to wait for Headquarters Battery. Battery "A" would remain in present position, covering 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry until 937 Field Artillery is ready to fire.

At 1300 Headquarters Battery displaced to the vicinity Tergeusee and by 1700 Batteries "A" and "C" were in this area (For disposition see Map Germany, 1/100,00 Schliersee Y-6)

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3

**SECRET**

The Battalion Commander visited Division Artillery CP during the evening and upon his return at 2300 called the battery commanders to be ready to displace at 0800 tomorrow morning. We will move towards Kufstein and pick up some infantry personnel (1st Bn 141) in the vicinity Neuhaus.

Summary of firing - 48 rounds of HE and 1 round of smoke fired on 4 missions.

5 MAY 1945: The Battalion Commander went forward at 0700 to the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry in Neuhaus and at 0800 the Battalion Executive led the battalion. Enroute a message was received from Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery to the Battalion Commander to report to Division Artillery CP before marching the battalion. This message was relayed to the Battalion Commander and the Battalion Executive, after putting Captain Bush in charge of the marching column, stopped at the Division Artillery Headquarters CP. From there he went with the Commanding General to 36th Infantry Division CP and was ordered to bring one battery back into position near Tegernsee to support "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry. The Battalion Executive then followed the column to Neuhaus where the batteries were assembled and delivered the message to the Battalion Commander, who directed "C" Battery to return to their former position until 141st was relieved by 143 Infantry or other elements.

At 1430, Headquarters Battery and Batteries "A" and "B" began march into Austria and closed on Sparchen at 1530. (See Map Germany 1/100,000 Schliersee for disposition of batteries). Battery "C" in direct support of Company "C", 1st Battalion 141st Infantry was in the vicinity of Hagrain, Germany.

At 1900 the Battalion Commander brought a message from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery relating the surrender of Germany Army Group "G" effective at 1200 B 06 May. "All units halt in place. Do not fire unless fired upon. Forward units of 7th Army are directed to remain in place and cease all combat at once". (All instructions from S.I.A.M.) Later we learned that Battery "C" had fired 7 rounds into a Gestapo Headquarters causing large fire when the above was announced over the radio.

Service Battery moved to Sparchen later in the evening but Battery "C" remained in the Tegernsee area until 09 May.

Period 6 - 10 May 1945: Our mission was supporting the enforcements of terms of surrender. 06 May - Major Gilmer was placed on SD at 36th Division Artillery and Captain Moser became Acting Executive. Major Clarke still was absent on England pass.

**SECRET**

7 May - Battalion Commander returns from Division Artillery Cp at 1820 and brings message that all land, sea and air forces in European Theater will cease hostilities at 0900 09 May. The battalion reverts to Division Artillery control.

The Battalion Personnel Section moved to Kufstein with 36th Division Rear today.

9 MAY 1945: Lieutenant Blair reports to the battalion for duty and is assigned to Battery "C". Lieutenant Stanuall is transferred to 131st Field Artillery Battalion.

Our mission was changed this date to responsibility of guard circulation control in the vicinity of Kufstein including guard of Displaced Persons Camp, PW Camp, outposts and roving patrol.

We were to release elements of 141st RCT of this mission. By morning of May 10, all batteries had moved to the vicinity of Kufstein and the battalion had assumed the responsibility assigned.

There were no casualties during the period covered herein.

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EXHIBITS:

- A - Officers Roster.
- B - Officers Duty Changes.
- C - S - 3 Reports (Attached to Original).
- D - Laps (Attached Original).
- E - Daily Reports of Airign ( Attached to Original).

*Stanley W. Huth*  
STANLEY W. HUTH  
MCJG, U.S.A.  
Unit Historian

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS, 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.F.C. No. 36, U.S. Army

10 May 1945

COMPANIES ROSTER

BATTALION STAFF

|                      |          |            |                    |
|----------------------|----------|------------|--------------------|
| SNOW, CLIFFORD M.    | Lt. Col. | 0 333 741  | Bn Comdr.          |
| CLARKE, JAMES T.     | Major    | 0 199 453  | Bn Exec Off.       |
| GILMER, LAWRENCE D.  | Major    | 0 255 409  | Bn S - 3.          |
| MOSEY, AUGUST C. JR. | Captain  | 0 295 013  | Ass't S - 3.       |
| BUSH, WILLIAM L.     | Captain  | 0 407 530  | Bn In Off & F.O.   |
| GARTUNDEL, SYLVAN A. | Captain  | 01 166 993 | Bn In Off & F.O.   |
| HARK, RICHARD B.     | Captain  | 0 415 562  | Unasgd.            |
| EVALS, GERALD W.     | Captain  | 01 165 012 | Bn I & E Officer   |
| REYNOLDS, ROBERT E.  | 1st Lt.  | 01 167 174 | Bn S - 2.          |
| KENT, RAYMOND F.     | 1st Lt.  | 01 176 092 | Ass't S - 2.       |
| MARTIN, EARL F. JR.  | 1st Lt.  | 01 180 599 | Bn Special S. Off. |
| DOLLINGER, JOSEPH    | Captain  | 01 689 338 | Bn Med. Off.       |
| HUTH, STANLEY W.     | MSG      | W2 108 253 | Bn Pers. Off.      |

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

|                       |         |            |                         |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|-------------------------|
| WILLIAMSON, MARTIN W. | Captain | 01 166 867 | Btry Comdr & Commo Off. |
| NELSON, WALTER M.     | 1st Lt. | 01 170 886 | Ass't Commo Off.        |
| SVOBODA, ARTIE F.     | 1st Lt. | 01 180 360 | Aerial Obs Pilot.       |
| MARTIN, JACK          | 1st Lt. | 01 691 871 | Aerial Obs Pilot.       |

BATTERY "A"

|                       |         |            |                |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|----------------|
| BENT, CHARLES A.      | 1st Lt. | 01 175 945 | Btry Comdr.    |
| SAN, BEALAN W.        | 1st Lt. | 01 172 638 | Btry Exec Off. |
| CHRISTOPH, CHARLES J. | 1st Lt. | 01 175 075 | Btry R. O.     |
| GRIFFIN, LORAYNE L.   | 2nd Lt. | 02 014 920 | Btry Mtr Off.  |

BATTERY "B"

|                     |         |            |                |
|---------------------|---------|------------|----------------|
| NEWSON, CLARENCE C. | Captain | 01 167 141 | Btry Comdr.    |
| BURPO, FRANK W.     | 1st Lt. | 01 703 017 | Btry Exec Off. |
| HOLLUB, JULIUS E.   | 2nd Lt. | 02 055 216 | Btry R. O.     |
| FORD, FLOYD C.      | 2nd Lt. | 01 692 580 | Btry Mtr Off.  |

BATTERY "C"

|                       |         |            |                |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|----------------|
| FRANKE, HARVEY P. JR. | Captain | 0 404 452  | Btry Comdr.    |
| CHOCKLEY, PHILLIP A.  | 1st Lt. | 01 177 328 | Btry Exec Off. |
| MOORE, MERLE G.       | 1st Lt. | 01 177 102 | Btry R. O.     |
| BLAIR, BOB E.         | 2nd Lt. | 02 011 659 | Btry Mtr Off.  |

SERVICE BATTERY

|                    |         |            |                    |
|--------------------|---------|------------|--------------------|
| VINES, WALTON L.   | Captain | 01 167 257 | Btry Comdr & S - 4 |
| BAILEY, HAROLD W.  | 1st Lt. | 01 168 543 | En Mtr Off.        |
| JUDSON, PAUL F.    | 1st Lt. | 01 181 319 | Ammo Train Comdr.  |
| SHAW, HUGH W.      | 1st Lt. | 01 179 705 | Btry Mtr Off.      |
| SCHAEFER, CARLO H. | MSG     | W2 130 731 | Ass't S O 4.       |

HEADQUARTERS, 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.F.C. No. 36, U. S. Army

10 May 1945

SUBJECT: The following are the list of Assignments and Re-Assignments made in this battalion during the period covered herein:

1. Having been transferred to this Battalion per Par 3, Special Orders No. 95, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 7 May 1945, 2nd Lt. BOB E. BLAIR, O2 011 746, is hereby assigned to Battery "C" this battalion as Motor Officer, vice 2nd Lt. STEWART T. STANUILL, O2 011 659, transferred.
2. Captain RICHARD L. HAWK, O 415 562, is relieved of duties as Battalion Liaison Officer and Forward Observer and is re-assigned no duties assigned.
3. Captain SYLVAN A. GARDINER, O1 166 993, Battalion Staff Unassigned, is reassigned as Battalion Liaison Officer and Forward Observer, vice Captain RICHARD L. HAWK, reassigned.
4. Captain GERALD W. EVANS, O1 165 012, is relieved of duties as Battery Commander, Battery "A", and is reassigned as Battalion I & E Officer.
5. 1st Lt. CHARLES A. BENT, O1 175 945, is relieved of duties as Executive Officer, Battery "A", and is reassigned as Battery Commander, Battery "A", vice Captain GERALD W. EVANS, reassigned.
6. 1st Lt. BEAMAN W. SAM, O1 172 638, is relieved of duties as Reconnaissance Officer, Battery "A", and is reassigned as Executive Officer, Battery "A", vice 1st Lt. CHARLES A. BENT, reassigned.
7. 1st Lt. CHARLES J. CHRISTOPH, O1 175 075, Battalion Staff Unassigned, is reassigned to Battery "A", as Reconnaissance Officer, vice 1st Lt. BEAMAN W. SAM, reassigned.
8. 1st Lt. KARL F. MARTIN, JR., O1 180 599, is relieved of duties as Motor Officer, Battery "A", and is reassigned as Battalion Special Service Officer.
9. 2nd Lt. LORRAINE M. GRIFFIN, O2 014 920, Battalion Staff Unassigned, is reassigned to Battery "A" as Motor Officer, vice 1st Lt. KARL F. MARTIN, JR., reassigned.
10. 1st Lt. PAUL F. JELSON, O1 181 319, is relieved of duties as Aerial Observer, Non-pilot Status and assigned to Service Battery as Battalion Ammunition Officer.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NNO 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 5-6-92

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155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HISTORY FROM 10 May to 31 May 45

From 5 May to 10 May the Battalion was in the vicinity of SPARCHEN, Austria, located about one mile outside of KUFSTEIN, Austria. On 10 May the Batteries were moved to the immediate vicinity of KUFSTEIN and organized guard and security details in support of the Military Government. These details included guard of one displaced persons camp, a prisoner of war inclosure, used car lot (captured enemy vehicles), and two roving patrols. The Battalion's Personnel Section was with the 36th Infantry Division Rear Echelon in the city of KUFSTEIN. (See map Austria, 1/50,000, Sheet Y-6/4 KUFSTEIN). For off duty hours recreational facilities were made available at a nearby lake on the outskirts of the town.

The battalion was alerted on 11 May for displacement to an area near SCHNABMUECHEN, move to be made on 14 May. This however was changed the following day and reconnaissance was directed by the Battalion Commander to be made by 1st Lieutenant Raymond F. Kent, Lawrence, Mass., Battalion Assistant S-2, to the vicinity of MUELLINGEN, BAVARIA; displacement of the battalion would not take place until 15 May; the battalion was requested by 36th Infantry Division Artillery to furnish 23 trucks to haul personnel of the 141st Infantry Regiment.

On 13 May the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Clifford M. Snow, of Amarillo, Texas and Captain August C. Loser Jr., the battalion S-3, of Dallas, Texas and eighteen enlisted men of the battalion left for the United States. This was the first quota of World War II Veterans of this battalion to return to the United States. In the absence of the Battalion Executive, on leave in the United Kingdom, and Major Lawrence D. Gilmer having been transferred a few days earlier to the 36th Infantry Division Artillery, the departing Battalion Commander directed that Captain William L. Bush, of Kane Hill, Arkansas, Assistant Battalion S-3, assume command of the Battalion pending the return of Major James A. Clarke, of San Antonio, Texas, from England. The same day Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery orally directed Major Gilmer to rejoin the battalion until the Battalion Executive returned to the unit.

On 15 May the battalion, headed by Captain Sylvan A. Garfunkel of Savannah, Georgia, marched the battalion to the new area in the vicinity of MUELLINGEN via KUFSTEIN, DEGENSDORF, LIESBACH, BAD TOLZ, PENZBERG, SCHONGAU, KAUFBEUREN, BUCHLOE, and MINDELHEIM and closed in at 2230 hours. (See Map BAVARIA 1/50,000 Sheet 80 MUELLINGEN).

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The following day, 16 May, by WCCG, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, Major Lawrence D. Gilmer, Houston, Texas was placed on Special Duty with the battalion as Battalion Commander and Major Burl G. Lassetter, Abilene, Texas was assigned to this battalion, but placed on Special Duty with 36th Infantry Division Artillery. The battalion's mission in this area was guard and policing in the sectors formerly occupied by the 698th Field Artillery Battalion and 451st AAA Battalion, who were relieved by this unit. Guard posts included a displaced persons camp, one monastery, one prisoner of war camp, one red cross supply warehouse, one used car lot and roving patrols, plus local security - all in the vicinity of WELMIGEN. The Battalion Command Post, Headquarters Battery and Battery "A" were actually located in a suburb of WELMIGEN (WELMINGERBERG). The other batteries were in the city of WELMIGEN.

On 17 May the Battalion Personnel Section moved with the 36th Infantry Division Rear to KAUFBEUREN, and the next day Major James T. Clarke returned to the battalion and assumed command, with Major Gilmer as Acting Executive in the absence of Major Lassetter. Battery "C" and Service Battery were moved to the area near Headquarters Battery and a barracks arrangement for all personnel was set up in the group of houses formerly occupied by families of German Air Forces.

Within a day or two, baseball diamonds were made in some of the batteries; these, with boating and swimming at a nearby lake, provided recreational facilities for personnel in off duty hours. Baseball and soft ball games were scheduled and played within the battalion and with other units of Division Artillery.

On 31 May Battery "A" was relieved of guard duties and began a week of training in accordance with training schedule set up by the Battalion S-3. Battery "B" was moved to the far outskirts of WELMIGEN in order to be near the displaced persons camp which they were to guard.

Eighteen more enlisted men departed on 22 May for the United States, and Major Lawrence D. Gilmer was transferred back to the battalion from 36th Division Artillery. With Major Gilmer as Executive Officer, the Battalion Commander directed that Captain Walton M. Vines, Pinson, Alabama, Commander of Service Battery and Battalion S-4, be brought to the Battalion Staff and take over the duties of Adjutant, thereby centralizing all administrative matters. This change took place on 27 May. Captain Richard D. Hawk, of Dallas, Texas, returned to the battalion from Temporary Duty in the United States on the 28th and was placed in Service Battery as Commander and S-4. This same day Headquarters and Service Battery relieved of guard duties and began a week's training. Battery "A" returned to guard duties the night before.



At the end of each week's training the respective batteries were inspected by the Battalion Commander and Staff. Inspection was made of quarters, motors, material, and kitchens.

Passes for personnel to Paris and furloughs to England were issued through higher echelons, but these were on a smaller scale than when the unit was in combat.

At the end of the month the Battalion was manning a total of 15 guard posts and security details, which included two displaced persons camps, one prisoner of war stockade, a captured enemy vehicle lot, 5 banks in the city of LEMMIGHEM, AMG Headquarters, security check point (coorus X785-248), a shoe warehouse, water works and three roving patrols - plus local security within the various organizations. Court duties necessitated the release of Captain Garfunkel from the Provost Marshal assignment, which was taken over by 1st Lieutenant Raymond F. Kent, Battalion Assistant S-2.

EXHIBITS:

- A - Officers Roster.
- B - Officer Duty Changes.
- C - Unit Journal.
- D - Missions Flown by Air Section.
- E - S - 3 Reports.
- F - Maps.

*Stanley V. Huth*  
 STANLEY V. HUTH  
 WOJG, U.S.A.  
 Unit Historian

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4.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/WS

NARA, Date 8-8-92

"AWARD OF MILITARY SERVICE UNIT PLATE"

1. Name  
Service battery, 155th Field Artillery battalion.

Origin of Award  
Section I, General Orders No. 187, 36th Infantry Division,  
dated 21 May 1945.

Date of Deed  
1 November 1944 to 31 January 1945.

"AIR MEDALS CITATIONS RECEIVED  
DURING THIS PERIOD"

1. Name  
Griffin, Lorayne M. 2nd Lt. O-2014920 (then S/Sgt, Btry "B", ) 155th  
Field Artillery battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

Origin of Award  
Section III, General Orders No. 178, 36th Infantry Division,  
dated 16 May 1945.

Date of Deed  
2 March to 24 March 1945.

2. Name  
Blair, Bob E. 2nd Lt. O-2011746, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field  
Artillery battalion (then a member of 131st Field Artillery Battalion),  
Plainview, Texas.

Origin of Award  
Section III, General Orders No. 178, 36th Infantry Division,  
dated 16 May 1945.

Date of Deed  
10 March to 25 March 1945.

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31 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Assignments, Losses, and Changes of Duty of Battalion Officers for the period from 10 May to 31 May 1945.

1. 1st Lieutenant WILLIAM P. MITT, OI 176 092, in addition to his other duties is designated as Provost Marshal, vice Captain SILVIA A. GARFINKEL, relieved.
2. 1st Lieutenant CHARLES J. CHRISTOPHER, OI 175 075, in addition to his other duties, is designated as Assistant Provost Marshal.
3. Captain WALTER M. VANCE, O-1167257, in addition to his other duties is designated as Battalion Adjutant and Battalion Real Estate Officer.
4. Having been transferred to this Battalion per Par. 4. Special Orders No. 105, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 20 May 1945, Major EUGENE G. LASSITER, O-291598, is assigned to Headquarters, 155th Field Artillery Battalion. No duty assigned.

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7.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NNN 235017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-6-82

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100TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY FROM 1 JUNE TO 30 JUNE 45

1 JUNE 1945: From 1 June to 14 June, the Battalion was in the vicinity of Loeckingen, continuing its mission in support of the Military Government, and guarding two Displaced Persons' Camps, one Prisoner of War Camp, one Captured Vehicle lot, five trucks, Military Government Headquarters, one shoe warehouse, and a waterworks, in addition to maintaining a security check point at coordinates (X785-248). (See Map Ravensberg X-4 1/100,000). During this two weeks, guard was handled by rotation among the batteries, keeping one battery free at all times for one week training periods. The time was also marked by continuous calls upon the battalion for large trucking details to haul displaced persons, prisoners of war and troops. On 3 June ten men with over 101 points departed from the battalion enroute to the United States.

On 8 June began a period of continuous reconnaissance for suitable billets in a new area, to which the Battalion was alerted to move on or about 14 June. The general area of the new location was designated as "vicinity Laupheim," in relief of certain elements of the 100th Infantry Division. On 9 June, a copy of the overlay showing the new Division Artillery area was received, and on 10 June, Operations Instructions No. 24, 36th Infantry Division indicated that this division was to be relieved in sector by XX Corps Artillery and 80th Infantry Division.

On 10 June, orders were received transferring 1st Lt Raymond F. Kent to Hq 36th Infantry Division Artillery, and transferring Major Lassiter to the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. Lt Kent's orders were revoked on 12 June.

The move to the new area was begun on 13 June when Able Battery, led by Captain Robert E. Reynolds, moved to Untersulmeitingen, near Laupheim to relieve 1st Battalion 397th Infantry in that area of five guard posts and a check point on the French area boundary. The remainder of the battalion moved the following day, 14 June, occupying billets discovered only after the most prolonged and persistent reconnaissance in the following towns: Headquarters Battery, Orsenhausen (CP vicinity Rot); Baker Battery, Buhl; Charlie Battery, Rot; and Service Battery in Laupheim. (See map Germany 1/100,000 Sheet X-4 Ravensberg).

Shortly after arrival in the new area, orders were received to form an Alert Battery, complete with one howitzer and 20 rounds of ammunition, ready to move on 30 minutes notice to suppress riots and disturbances within Division Sector. Baker Battery was designated as the first Battery for this duty.

As usual upon arrival in a new area, work was immediately begun on athletic and recreation fields, and the batteries were soon competing in a comprehensive program of athletics. Guard duties being less onerous than in the last position, more men were free to take part in this activities, and considerable spirit was built into the program.

The month was marked by sporadic and increasing departures of

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men and officers with high point totals, and by the end of the period, such a complete turn-over of personnel had been effected as to reduce actual efficiency of the battalion below minimum operational requirements. This was partially due to understrength of the battalion, and partially the inevitable result of throwing together new personnel and officers into the mould of a unit which operated with an entirely different pulsebeat than that from which they came. From a loosely knit organization which functioned smoothly and with a minimum of supervision - the natural result of long continued operations in close cooperation - the unit degenerated into one where it was not enough to depend upon the action patterns of habit, and where orientation and acquaintance of personnel had to be accomplished before the unit spirit and operational efficiency could be regained. On 3 June ten men, as noted above, departed for the US. On 8 June, four more men with scores of over 100 points were alerted for departure. On 26 June all men with 80 or more points were alerted for departure the next day. At the same time, Major James T. Clarke, Battalion Commander, Major Lawrence D. Gilmer, Battalion Executive, Captain Clarence C. Newsome, Captain Harry C. Frantz, 1st Lt. Floyd C. Ford, 1st Lt. Charles A. Bent, 1st Lt. Philip A. Chockley and 1st Lt. Beaman W. Sams were alerted to leave. Captain Newsome, Captain Frantz and Lieutenant Bent were granted 36 hour delay to turn over property to their relieving Battery Commanders. On 29 June the 80 men alerted the day before went to the 63rd Division and 44 more enlisted men and 6 officers were alerted to depart on 30 June.

In contrast, reinforcements were received from various units, largely the 63rd Infantry Division, the 100th Infantry Division and the 12th Armored Division - in the following groups: twelve enlisted men on 21 June; fourteen enlisted men on 23 June; eight enlisted men on 24 June; twenty-eight enlisted men and one officer on 25th June; ten enlisted men on 27 June; twenty enlisted men on 28 June; thirty-four enlisted men on 29 June; Lt Col. Donald C. Beere, the new battalion commander and three other officers on 29 June; ten enlisted men and four officers of 30 June. The totals reflect the condition of the battalion at the end of the month; 16 officers and 214 enlisted men lost - 9 officers and 140 enlisted men received.

Easily the most important happenings of the month involved the departure from the unit of these two-hundred and thirty-two veterans of fighting in four countries, and the attendant emotional upheavals, in which it is feared, not too much attention was paid to the prosaic every-day military matters of occupation and operations. The receipt of new personnel and the inevitable sizing-up of group with group, and the subsequent efforts of new men and officers and old men and officers to salvage some military cohesion took precedence. The fact that such cohesion was salvaged and the unit continued to perform its mission, in spite of the upheaval, is a tribute to both the old and the new.

Otherwise, the month was marked by few unusual occurrences; news was received on 20 June of the promotion of 1st Lt. Harold W. Bailey to the grade of Captain; on 22 June Private Everett Harrison of Charlie Battery was accidentally killed in a motor accident; the special court for trial of an enlisted man of the battalion was dissolved when the defendant became absent without leave; the usual quotas of trucks were sent off on hauling details

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ranging from one to seven days; a Division Artillery parade was scheduled for 25 June and subsequently cancelled indefinitely; on 23 June Baker Battery was relieved on alert status and replaced by Charlie Battery; Captain Robert E. Reynolds departed for hospitalization on 16 June and returned on 26 June; passes to Paris, Nancy and the United Kingdom, although nearly at the vanishing point, continued; and increasingly unfavorable comment on the unworkable non-fraternization policy went on and on.

During this month, the policy of a centralized Division Artillery Post Exchange was continued, and although considerable improvement was shown over the first distribution, it still left much to be desired. The addition of another line for the men to "swear", coupled with an apparent reduction in PX rations could not but have a deleterious effect on morale. One very bad example of distribution was evident when beer was available for purchase by only part of the personnel of the Division Artillery.

At the end of the month, the battalion was manning the usual total of guard posts and security details.

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By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 5-6-92

HEADQUARTERS, 155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.C. Co. 36, U. S. Army

~~RESTRICTED~~

30 June 1945

L-1080

OFFICER'S ROSTER

BATTALION STAFF

|                     |          |          |                      |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| BEERE, D. C.        | Lt. Col. | 021893   | Bn Comdr.            |
| CLARK, JAMES T.     | Major    | 0199453  | No Duty Asgd.        |
| GILMER, LAMARCE D.  | Major    | 0255409  | No Duty Asgd.        |
| BUSH, WILLIAM L.    | Captain  | 0407530  | No Duty Asgd.        |
| EVANS, GERALD W.    | Captain  | 01165012 | Bn Asst S-3          |
| GATUNKEL, SYLVIA A. | Captain  | 01166993 | No Duty Asgd.        |
| LEET, GERALD D.     | Captain  | 0418860  | Bn S-3.              |
| NEWMILLS, ROBERT E. | Captain  | 01167174 | Bn S-2               |
| VINES, WALTON M.    | Captain  | 01167257 | Bn Executive         |
| KENT, RAYMOND F.    | 1st Lt.  | 01176092 | Bn Asst S-2          |
| MARTIN, KARL F. JR. | 1st Lt.  | 01180599 | Aerial Obs Non-Pilot |
| HUTH, STANLEY W.    | WOJG     | W2108253 | Asst Adjutant        |

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

|                       |         |          |                       |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|-----------------------|
| WILLIAMSON, MARTIN W. | Captain | 01166867 | Btry Comdr & Commo O. |
| WELSON, WALTER M.     | 1st Lt. | 01170886 | Asst Commo O.         |
| SVOBODA, ARTIE F.     | 1st Lt. | 01180360 | Aerial Obs Pilot      |
| BLAIR, BOB E.         | 2nd Lt. | 02011746 | Btry Motor O.         |

BATTERY "A"

|                       |         |          |               |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|---------------|
| BEAT, CHARLES A.      | 1st Lt. | 01175945 | Btry Comdr    |
| CHRISTOPH, CHARLES J. | 1st Lt. | 01175075 | Btry Rcn O.   |
| SAL, BEAMAN W.        | 1st Lt. | 01172638 | Btry Exec O.  |
| GRIFFIN, LORAYNE L.   | 2nd Lt. | 02014920 | Btry Motor O. |

BATTERY "B"

|                     |         |          |               |
|---------------------|---------|----------|---------------|
| NEWSON, CLARENCE C. | Captain | 01167141 | Btry Comdr    |
| BURFO, FRANK W.     | 1st Lt. | 01703017 | Btry Exec O.  |
| FORD, FLOYD C.      | 1st Lt. | 01692580 | Btry Motor O. |
| MOLLUB, JULIUS E.   | 1st Lt. | 02055216 | Btry Rcn O.   |

BATTERY "C"

|                      |         |          |               |
|----------------------|---------|----------|---------------|
| FRANTZ, HARRY P. JR. | Captain | 0404452  | Btry Comdr    |
| ONCONLEY, PHILLIP A. | 1st Lt. | 01177328 | Btry Exec O.  |
| MOORE, LESLIE C.     | 1st Lt. | 01177102 | Btry Rcn O.   |
| SCHAEFER, GILBERT P. | 2nd Lt. | 02055088 | No Duty Asgd. |

SERVICE BATTERY

|                    |         |          |                     |
|--------------------|---------|----------|---------------------|
| BAILEY, HAROLD W.  | Captain | 01168543 | Bn Motor O.         |
| HANK, RICHARD B.   | Captain | 0415562  | Btry Comdr & Bn S-4 |
| JULSON, PAUL F.    | 1st Lt. | 01181319 | Train Comdr         |
| SCHAEFER, CARLO H. | WOJG    | W2130731 | Asst S-4            |

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

|                   |         |          |            |
|-------------------|---------|----------|------------|
| DOLLINGER, JOSEPH | Captain | 01689338 | Medical O. |
|-------------------|---------|----------|------------|

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HEADQUARTERS, 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.F.C. No. 30, U. S. Army

SUBJECT: The following are the list of assignments and re-assignments made in this battalion during June 1945:

1. 1st Lt. RAYMOND P. LEET, 01176092, in addition to his other duties is designated as Provost Marshal, vice Capt. SYLVAN A. GARFUNKEL, 01166998, relieved.
2. 1st Lt. CHARLES J. CHRISTOPHER, 01175075, in addition to his other duties is designated as Assistant Provost Marshal.
3. Captain RICHARD B. HAWK, 0415562, Battalion Staff Unassigned, is reassigned as Battery Commander and S-4 Service Battery, vice Captain WALTER M. VINES, relieved.
4. Captain WALTER M. VINES, 01167257, is relieved of duties as Battery Commander and S-4, Service Battery, and is reassigned to Battalion Staff, no duty assigned.
5. 2nd Lt. BOB E. BLAIR, 02011746, is relieved of duties as Motor Officer, Battery C, and is reassigned as Motor Officer, Hq Btry.
6. Captain SYLVAN A. GARFUNKEL, 01166993, is relieved of duties as Battalion Liaison Officer and Forward Observer, no duty assigned.
7. Captain WALTER M. VINES, 01167257, Battalion Staff Unassigned, is reassigned as Battalion Liaison Officer and Forward Observer, vice Captain SYLVAN A. GARFUNKEL, reassigned.
8. 1st Lt. HARRY A. LARUE JR., 01180599, Battalion Staff Unassigned, is reassigned as Battalion Forward Observer.
9. Having been assigned to this battalion per par 5 SC 139 Hq 36th Infantry Division, 30 June 1945, Captain GERALD L. LEET, 0418860, is asgt to Headquarters and assigned duty as Battalion S-3.
10. Having been assigned to this battalion per VOGG 36th Inf Div, 30 June 1945, Lt Col DONALD C. BEERE, 021893, assumes command of 155th Field Artillery Battalion.

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-92



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MISSIONS FLOWN BY AIR SECTION  
155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
JUNE 1945

| <u>NO. OF<br/>MISSIONS</u> | <u>TIME<br/>DURATION</u> | <u>PILOT</u> | <u>NATURE OF<br/>MISSIONS</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 7                          | 12 hrs 30 Mins           | Lt. Svoboda  | Administrative                |

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By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-82

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155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY FROM 1 JULY TO 31 JULY 45

The first of July found the battalion still in a state of suspended animation, -breath, although discernible, was faint, and pulse was feeble and erratic. The usual guard duties were carried on, although, it is felt that they were done with something less than the customary elan. A move projected for the end of the first week of the month served further to augment the general tone of flatulence and indifference of the entire situation. During that week, nine new officers were received into the battalion and six old ones left.

The move, effected in order to permit realignment of various national occupational boundaries, was preceded by a reconnaissance under Captain Gerald D. Leet, S-3, whose familiarity with the area made him the most suitable officer for the job. The area in the vicinity of Lorch, nine kilometres west of Schwabische Gmund, contained some forty hamlets, only three of which were deemed suitable for occupation by a victorious and dignified army. Locations were accordingly selected in Plüderhausen, (36.3 - 23.6), for Headquarters and Able Batteries; in Alfdorf, (45.5 - 29.1), for Baker and Charlie Batteries; and in Lorch, (44.4 - 24.0) for Service Battery. The billets were, in general, above average, those of four batteries lending themselves quite satisfactorily to a barracks-like arrangement, in conformity with current directives. At 1500 hours on the 7th of the month, the 68 mile march began, and the battalion closed in its new area at 2030 hours. Since the new officers of the battalion were not familiar with certain unwritten SOP of the Division, an unfortunate contretemps arose when Division Artillery was not informed of the time of clearing old area and closing in new area. A satisfactory solution was achieved without bloodshed.

Immediately began the job of accomplishing the battalion mission - security and control of sector. Five normal targets and a roving checkpoint comprised the battalion's responsibilities for guard.

Although the move occasioned the usual amount of confusion in an outfit, which, albeit, designed for mobility, can quickly become accustomed to the comfort of a settled life in desirable billets, it was a most fortunate circumstance for the discipline of the entire battalion in that it gave the Battalion Commander an opportunity to begin, as it were, anew in a new area with a new battalion. All that went before was allowed to become part of a not greatly regretted past. Rather than continue in a location filled with old associations, where new control must inevitably be faced with latent, perhaps unconscious hostility, he was afforded the opportunity of severing the past from

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the future and making a complete new start. An immediate improvement was noticeable, both in discipline and in operation. The unreconstructed minority of old-timers, while not relinquishing one iota of their accumulated superiority, graciously fit themselves into the new picture. This is not to say that all the difficulties bound to face an understrength battalion were immediately sliced away in one full stroke, for, indeed, they are still being rooted out. But the groundwork was laid for the building of a new unit spirit.

During the second week of the month, considerable shifting of officer strength continued. The Battalion Commander called a meeting of Battery Commanders on 9 July, and oriented them in his policy concerning uniforms, discipline, care of equipment, drill schedules and operations; on the following day he addressed the entire battalion at a formation in the Service Battery Area in Lorch. This was Lt. Col. Beere's first opportunity to meet all the men of his battalion, and he took advantage of it to welcome newcomers, and to reassure old-timers. On the 10th of the month, Major Ross Ayers was assigned to the battalion, and assumed duties as Executive Officer. On the 13th Major Ayers was transferred from the battalion to the 1st Armored Division.

On Friday the 13th of July at 1300 hours, the two liaison pilots 1st Lt. George L. Hall and 1st Lt. Harry G. Green crashed to their death in a Fiesler trainer aircraft, whose model number 256 has the digital total of 13, while the parachute Lt. Hall was wearing bore the number 13. The crash followed the disintegration of the left wing of the plane just after the latter completed a snap roll and as it began what apparently was to have been an inside loop. Upon receipt of the news at the Battalion Command Post, 1st Lt. Clyde W. Clark was assigned Investigating Officer to determine the cause of death of the two officers. The Battalion Commander visited the scene of the crash and later visited the Graves Registration Office to identify the bodies. The funeral took place on 17 July, and the Battalion Commander attended with members of the unit, paying their last respects.

Beginning 21 July 1945, the battalion participated in the Operation Tallyho, in which a projected check of each individual and building in the entire zone was carried out. The operation began at 0500 hours with the posting of road guards at strategic points throughout the area. These guards were furnished by other units occupying billets in the battalion area. The personnel and building check was accomplished by a group of eight teams, each under officer supervision. According to instructions, the Burgomeisters of the various towns were alerted about thirty minutes before their towns were to be checked, and instructed to have all inhabitants remain inside their homes until the inspection was completed. Teams worked simultaneously in various parts of the towns, first checking each individual for identification papers, and then

thoroughly checking the building for contraband and evidence of Black Market operations. By means of a carefully devised schedule, every hamlet in the entire area was checked in a relatively thorough manner, and the operation was completed 48 hours later with a check of all military personnel. The results indicated the value of the entire project, in that a large number of individuals were detected travelling without permits, a few Schutz Staffel members were uncovered, and the inhabitants of the entire area were snapped back to a realization that military control was present, alert and effective. No large amounts of contraband were found, nor were any definite indications of subversive activities.

The faults of the operation were largely inherent in the plan employed. First, it was too ambitious and comprehensive to be accomplished by the personnel available in the time permitted. A thoroughly satisfactory check of even one of the three larger towns contained in the area, properly executed, would require the entire strength of the battalion and all the 48 hours allowed. This overextension may have partially derived from the apparently widespread misapprehension that a Division Artillery is equal in strength to an Infantry Regiment, and that an Artillery Battalion is equal in strength to an Infantry Battalion. Second, to achieve complete surprise and consequently complete effectiveness, all towns - if possible, all homes - in the entire area must be hit simultaneously, without warning. By spreading the operation over 48 hours, all towns not reached in the first day had ample opportunity to conceal or disassemble any form of contraband, subversion or other illegality. To check completely any community, its utter isolation from the rest of the world must be assured. This cannot be done by three guard posts placed on roads. If hot characters are present in a town thus guarded, there is little likelihood of catching them, particularly in heavily wooded country such as this. It is suggested that with the strength allowed for these operations, a series of irregularly scheduled spot-checks, in which a community is properly isolated and the various sections of it inspected simultaneously by a large number of teams would both accomplish the desired objective of keeping the populace on the alert, and would be proof against the loopholes present in the more ambitious operation as it was undertaken.

The remainder of the month was spent in normal operations. Guard was continued. A system of inspections was initiated by the Battalion Commander as a part of his program of revitalizing the unit. Strict observance of uniform regulations was enforced. A program of repair and intensified maintenance of the battalion's equipment was vigorously prosecuted. An increased interest in athletics was manifested in the formation of an Officers' team which got off to an auspicious start by briskly shellacking a team of Officers from the 131st FA Bn. Quotas of passes increased infinitesimally. Morale inched upwards.

At the conclusion of the month, the battalion was not an effective

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~~SECRET~~

Field Artillery Battalion. It is still grievously understrength. But the improvements noted in all phases of its endeavor are so great as to inspire only confidence in its future.

The Battalion is guarding five targets plus a guard house in Schwabische Gmund; is operating a moving check point, and performing the usual interior guard duties.

EXHIBITS:

- A- Officers Roster
- B- Officers Duty Changes
- C- Missions Flown By Air Section
- D- Map (Attached Original)

*Gerald W. Evans*  
GERALD W. EVANS  
Captain, FA  
Unit Historian

HEADQUARTERS, 188TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

31 July 1945

~~RESTRICTED~~

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

BATTALION STAFF

|                      |          |          |               |
|----------------------|----------|----------|---------------|
| BEERE, D. O.         | Lt. Col. | 021893   | Bn Comdr.     |
| ELLEGOOD, RICHARD L. | Major    | 0395716  | Bn Exec.      |
| LEET, GERALD D.      | Captain  | 0418860  | Bn S-3        |
| EVANS, GERALD W.     | Captain  | 01165012 | Bn S-2        |
| SPEIR, ROBERT W.     | Captain  | 0339154  | Liaison O.    |
| LUNPHIN, WILLIAM C.  | 1st Lt.  | 0394145  | Asst S-3      |
| FINDLAY, MARION B.   | 1st Lt.  | 01182570 | Forward Obs.  |
| KEEFE, JOHN E., Jr   | W OJG    | W2134529 | Asst Adjutant |

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

|                     |         |          |               |
|---------------------|---------|----------|---------------|
| THEE, MELVIN E.     | Captain | 01177210 | Comm. O.      |
| ARMITAGE, SAMUEL P. | 1st Lt. | 01173924 | Asst Comm. O. |
| BLAIR, BOB E.       | 2d Lt.  | 02011746 | Motor O.      |

BATTERY "A"

|                   |         |          |             |
|-------------------|---------|----------|-------------|
| CULVER, EDWARD E. | Captain | 0458330  | Btry Comdr. |
| REIDT, WALLACE A. | 1st Lt. | 01190307 | Exec. O.    |
| COLLIER, J. B.    | 1st Lt. | 01173193 | Rcn O.      |

BATTERY "B"

|                    |         |          |             |
|--------------------|---------|----------|-------------|
| TRAUT, FRED G.     | 1st Lt. | 01170227 | Btry Comdr. |
| MAC IVOR, JAMES R. | 1st Lt. | 01176713 | Exec. O.    |
| GRESSER, KEITH W.  | 1st Lt. | 01825613 | Motor O.    |

BATTERY "C"

|                   |         |          |             |
|-------------------|---------|----------|-------------|
| RIEL, DAVID H.    | 1st Lt. | 0304451  | Btry Comdr. |
| MC CORD, ELDON R. | 1st Lt. | 01179145 | Exec. O.    |
| BURNS, CHARLES J. | 2d Lt.  | 02011517 | Motor O.    |

SERVICE BATTERY

|                       |         |          |                |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|----------------|
| ALLEN, ROBERT C.      | Captain | 01167299 | S-4            |
| BAILEY, HAROLD W.     | Captain | 01168543 | TDY Seventh A. |
| CLARK, CLYDE W.       | 1st Lt. | 01167361 | Bn Motor O.    |
| DOUGHERTY, RICHARD E. | 2d Lt.  | 01165383 | Btry Motor O.  |
| PARKS, DAVID L.       | WOJG    | W2135370 | Asst S-4       |

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

|                    |         |         |            |
|--------------------|---------|---------|------------|
| BLANCHARD, NEAL D. | Captain | 0446205 | Medical O. |
|--------------------|---------|---------|------------|

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~~RESTRICTED~~

HEADQUARTERS, 155th FIELD ARTILLERY  
A.P.O. 36, U. S. Army

~~RESTRICTED~~

31 July 1945

SUBJECT: The following are the lists of assignments and re-assignments made in this battalion during July 1945.

1. Capt GEORGE J. DEJURE, 0453390, assigned to this battalion 1 Jul 45 by Special Order 145, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Asst S-3, Staff, vice Capt GERALD W. EVANS, 01165012, relieved.
2. Capt GERALD W. EVANS, 01165012, relieved of duties of Asst S-3 effective 1 Jul 45 and assigned the duty of S-2, Staff, vice Capt ROBERT E. REYNOLDS, 01167174, transferred.
3. Capt MELVIN E. THEE, 01177210, assigned to this battalion 1 Jul 45 by Special Order 145, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Communications Officer, Hq Btry, vice Capt MARTIN W. WILLIAMSON, 01166867, transferred.
4. Capt FULLER A. HUGHES, 0412802, assigned to this battalion, 1 Jul 45 by Special Order 145, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Bn S-4, Sv Btry, vice Capt RICHARD E. HAWK, 0415562, transferred.
5. 1st Lt WALLACE A. REIDT, 01172638, assigned to this battalion 1 Jul 45 by Special Order 145, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Executive Officer, Btry "A", vice 1st Lt BEAMAN W. SAM, 0172638, transferred.
6. 1st Lt EIDON R. MCCORD, 01179145, assigned to this battalion 1 Jul 45 by Special Order 145, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Executive Officer, Btry "B", vice 1st Lt PHILLIP A. CROCKLEY, 01177328, transferred.
7. 1st Lt FRED G. TRAUT, 01170227, assigned to this battalion 1 Jul 45 by Special Order 145, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Battery Commander, Btry "B", vice Capt CLARENCE C. NEWSOM, 01167141, transferred.
8. WOJG WILBER J. STREHLE, W2121381, assigned to this battalion 1 Jul 45 by Special Order 145, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Assistant Adjutant, Staff, vice WOJG STANLEY W. HUTH, W2108253, transferred.
9. 1st Lt DAVID H. RIEL, 0304451, assigned to this battalion 1 Jul 45 by Special Order 148, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Battery Commander, Btry "C", vice Capt HARRY F. FRANTZ, 0404562, transferred.

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By *RB/VSW*

NARA, Date *8-8-82*

~~RESTRICTED~~

10. Capt EDWARD H. CULVER, 0455330, assigned to this battalion 1 Jul 45 by Special Order 151, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Battery Commander, Btry "A", vice 1st Lt CHARLES A. BENT, 01175945, transferred.
11. Capt ROBERT E. SPEIR, 0388154, assigned to this battalion 1 Jul 45 by Special Order 151, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Battalion Adjutant, Staff.
12. Capt NEAL D. BLANCHARD, 0446205, assigned to this battalion 3 Jul 45 by Special Order 151, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Medical Officer, Med Det., vice Capt JOSEPH DOLLINGER, 01689338, transferred.
13. Maj ROSS AYERS, 0378526, assigned to this battalion 5 Jul 45 by Special Order 148, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Battalion Executive, vice Capt WALTON M. VINES, 01167257, transferred.
14. Capt ROBERT C. ALLEN, 01167299, assigned to this battalion 5 Jul 45 by Special Order 148, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Battalion S-4, Sv Btry, vice Capt FULLER A. HUGHES, 0412802, transferred.
15. 1st Lt FRANK E. MASLAND, III, 0528811, assigned to this battalion 5 Jul 45 by Special Order 151, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Asst S-2, Staff and Bn. Special Service Officer, vice 1st Lt RAYMOND F. KENT, 01176092, transferred.
16. 1st Lt KEITH W. GRESSER, 01825613, assigned to this battalion 5 Jul 45 by Special Order 151, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Motor Officer, Btry "B", vice 1st Lt FLOYD C. FORD, 01692580, transferred.
17. WOJG DAVID L. PARKS, W2135370, assigned to this battalion 5 Jul 45 by Special Order 151, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Asst S-4, Sv Btry, vice WOJG CARLO H. SCHAEFER, W2130731, transferred.
18. Capt ROBERT E. SPEIR, 0388154, is assigned the duty of Battalion Executive, Staff, vice Maj ROSS AYERS, 0378526, transferred.
19. 1st Lt MARION B. FINDLAY, 01182570, assigned to this battalion 12 Jul 45 by Special Order 155, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Forward Observer, Staff and Bn Provost Marshall.

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~~RESTRICTED~~



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20. 1st Lt CLYDE W. CLARK, 01167361, assigned to this battalion by Special Order 155, Hq 36th Inf. Div., 12 Jul 45, and assigned the duty of Bn Motor Officer, Sv Btry, vice Capt HAROLD W. BAILEY, relieved and placed on Temporary Duty with Seventh Army.
21. 2d Lt CHARLES J BURNS, 02011517, assigned to this battalion 12 Jul 45 by Special Order 155, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Motor Officer, Btry "C", vice 2d Lt. GILBERT P. SCHAFER, 02055088, transferred.
22. 1st Lt JAMES R. MAC IVOR, 01176713, assigned to this battalion 12 Jul 45 by Special Order 155, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Executive Officer, Btry "B", vice 1st Lt FRANK W. BURPO, 011703017, transferred.
23. 1st Lt SAMUEL P. ARMITAGE, 01175924, assigned to this battalion 12 Jul 45 by Special Order 155, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Asst Communications Officer, Hq Btry, vice 1st Lt WALTER H. NELSON, 01170886, transferred.
24. WOJG JOHN E. KEEFE, JR., W2134529, assigned to this battalion 15 Jul 45 by Special Order 160, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Asst Adjutant, Staff, vice WOJG WILBER J. STREHLE, W2121381, transferred.
25. 1st Lt WILLIAM C. LUMPKIN, JR., 0394145, assigned to this battalion by Special Order 161, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Asst S-3, Staff, vice Capt GEORGE J. DEJURE, 0453390, effective 17 Jul 45.
26. Maj RICHARD L. ELIEGOOD, 0306716, assigned to this battalion 26 Jul 45 by Special Order 171, Hq 36th Inf. Div., and assigned the duty of Battalion Executive, Staff, vice Capt ROBERT E. SPEIR, 0388154, relieved.
27. Capt ROBERT E. SPEIR, 0388154, assigned the duty of Liaison Officer, Staff, effective 26 Jul 45, and appointed Battalion Summary Court Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS 155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 36 U S ARMY

~~RESTRICTED~~

3 November 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History for the Month of October, 1945.

TO : Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division  
(THRU CHANNELS)

1. During the month of October, this Battalion performed garrison duty and maintained two security patrols.
2. Each battery within the unit has been seriously handicapped in training by the rapid turnover of enlisted men and officers, who are being transferred on the basis of their point scores.
3. During the week 7-15 of October, this Battalion maintained an Alert Battery, whose principal duty was the quelling of any large disorder or breach of military security. During the period no such incidents occurred.
4. Two security patrols were maintained throughout the month for the purpose of visiting the outlying villages of our area each day. No disorders of any kind have been encountered by this patrol.
5. In cooperation with VI Corps and Division directives, this Battalion has conducted a drive against speeding and reckless driving. All men have constantly had their attention brought to the number of soldiers killed and injured through automobile accidents. One motor patrol has been maintained on Highway 29, the principal road through our area, to curb all infractions of traffic regulations.
6. Morale is Excellent.

PERSONNEL

- 1 Oct 45 - The strength of the battalion as of 2400, 30 Sep 45, was 21 officers (1 Lt Col, 8 Capt, 9 1st Lt, 2 2nd Lt and 1 WO) and 137 enlisted men.
- 2 Oct 45 - 3 1st Lt and 1 2nd Lt trfd fr the Bn.
- 4 Oct 45 - 19 EM trfd fr the Bn.
- 5 Oct 45 - 1 Lt Col and 2 EM trfd fr the Bn; 1 WO asgd.
- 6 Oct 45 - 2 1st Lt trfd; 136 EM asgd.
- 7 Oct 45 - 1 Capt, 1 1st Lt and 2 EM trfd; 196 EM asgd.
- 8 Oct 45 - 1 Capt and 13 EM trfd; 1 EM asgd.
- 9 Oct 45 - 4 EM trfd.

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10 Oct 45 - 2 EM trfd; 76 EM asgd.  
 11 Oct 45 - 11 EM trfd; 2 Maj, 6 Capt, 2 1st Lt and 7 EM asgd.  
 12 Oct 45 - 2 EM trfd; 1 WO and 5 EM asgd.  
 15 Oct 45 - 1 1st Lt, 1 WO and 5 EM asgd.  
 16 Oct 45 - 1 Capt trfd; 1 1st Lt asgd.  
 18 Oct 45 - 2 EM trfd; 1 Lt Col, 2 Maj, 2 Capt, 4 1st Lt, 1 WO and 1 EM asgd.  
 19 Oct 45 - 1 EM trfd; 1 EM asgd.  
 22 Oct 45 - 1 2nd Lt and 1 EM trfd; 1 1st Lt and 2 EM asgd.  
 28 Oct 45 - 1 EM trfd.  
 29 Oct 45 - 2 EM trfd.  
 30 Oct 45 - 17 EM trfd.  
 31 Oct 45 - 61 EM trfd. The strength of the battalion as of 2400, 31 Oct was 35 officers (1 Lt Col, 4 Maj, 13 Capt, 12 1st Lt and 5 WO) and 196 EM.

GENERAL:- During the first part of October officers with points below the critical score were transferred out of the battalion and officers above the critical score were transferred into the battalion. Enlisted men with scores below sixty and under thirty-five years of age were transferred from the battalion, and personnel with scores of sixty and above were assigned to the battalion. On October 30th enlisted men having scores of eighty and above not desiring to remain with the battalion were transferred to the 572nd AAA Bn. On October 31st enlisted men having scores between sixty and sixty-four and less than thirty-five years of age were transferred to the 375th FA Bn.

Lt Col DONALD C. HERRER was transferred to the 7th Army Artillery 5 October 1945 and Lt Col JOHN A. McEWAN was assigned from the 630th FA Bn the same day, and assumed command of the 155th Field Artillery Bn.

*John A. McEwan*  
 JOHN A. McEWAN,  
 Lt Col, 155th FA Bn,  
 Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS 155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 36 U.S. ARMY

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS REPORT - OCTOBER 1945

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Service Battery, 155 FA Bn, presented Meritorious Service Unit Plaque 26 October 1945 (Authority: General Order 187, Hq 36th Inf Div, dtd 21 May 1945.)

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-82

HEADQUARTERS 155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 36 U.S. ARMY

~~RESTRICTED~~

31 Oct 45.

ROSTER OF OFFICERS
BATTALION STAFF

|                      |          |          |             |
|----------------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| McEWAN, JOHN A.      | Lt. Col. | 0280352  | Bn Comdr    |
| ADAMS, CLAUDE M.     | Major    | 0342708  | Exec        |
| NIEHAUS, JOHN C.     | Major    | 0333318  | S-3         |
| SAMPLER, JOHN W.     | Major    | 0250045  | S-2         |
| POKIGO, BOLESIAW H.  | Major    | 0365481  | Asst S-3    |
| LEET, GERIAD D.      | Captain  | 0418860  | Asst S-3    |
| BENDER, ROBERT M.    | 1st Lt.  | 01169861 | Asst S-2    |
| BARNWELL, WILLIAM H. | Captain  | 0436746  | In Officer  |
| SCHMIDT, WILLIAM F.  | Captain  | 01001046 | Adj.        |
| PATTON, HALFORD E.   | Captain  | 0497092  | Med Officer |
| CARY, HOWARD V.      | WOJG     | W2119880 | Pers O      |
| KALLMAN, IRVING E.   | WOJG     | W2130915 | " "         |

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

|                      |         |          |              |
|----------------------|---------|----------|--------------|
| GAINES, STANLEY H.   | Captain | 01165117 | Btry Comdr   |
| CROOK, GEORGE M.     | 1st Lt. | 01175499 | Asst Btry C. |
| NIX, WILLIAM H.      | 1st Lt. | 01823757 | Motor O      |
| ANDERSON, CHARLES A. | 1st Lt. | 02168140 | Asst Mtr O   |

BATTERY "A"

|                     |         |          |            |
|---------------------|---------|----------|------------|
| CULVER, EDWARD H.   | Captain | 0455330  | Btry Comdr |
| BECKER, JOHN W.     | 1st Lt. | 01178070 | Exec.      |
| HARRISON, HENRY A.  | 1st Lt. | 01185224 | R. O.      |
| GARDNER, CLINTON C. | 1st Lt. | 01048369 | Mtr O      |

BATTERY "B"

|                    |         |          |            |
|--------------------|---------|----------|------------|
| CRAIG, JAMES R.    | Captain | 01172820 | Btry Comdr |
| WATKINS, ROBERT R. | Captain | 01180759 | Exec       |
| RHYS, LLOYD D.     | Captain | 01173398 | R. O.      |
| VOGEL, GEORGE A.   | 1st Lt. | 01823757 | Mtr O      |

BATTERY "C"

|                    |         |          |            |
|--------------------|---------|----------|------------|
| RIEL, DAVID H.     | Captain | 0304451  | Btry Comdr |
| CANNON, JAY L.     | Captain | 0329671  | Exec       |
| MCGREGOR, JAMES R. | 1st Lt. | 01170082 | R.O.       |
| RAISTAD, ERLING L. | 1st Lt. | 01174217 | Mtr O      |
| WOLF, HERMAN J.    | 1st Lt. | 01167287 | Asst Mtr O |

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-92

HEADQUARTERS 155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 36 U.S. ARMY

SERVICE BATTERY

ALIEN, ROBERT C.  
FAILEY, HAROLD W.  
THIMES, HENRY A.  
PARKS, DAVID L.  
EDWARDS, ELMER O.  
MITCHELL, THOMAS J.

Captain  
Captain  
1st Lt.  
WOJG  
WOJG  
CWO

O1167299  
O1168543  
O1080156  
W2135370  
W2102874  
W2109864

~~RESTRICTED~~

Btry Comdr S-4  
Bn Motor Officer  
Munitions O  
Asst S-4  
" "  
" "

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By RB/Vsw

NARA, Date 5-8-92

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HEADQUARTERS, 155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 36 U.S. Army

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MISSIONS DOWN BY AIR SECTION - OCTOBER 1945

Negative Report.

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSU

NARA, Date

8-8-92

