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* S E C R E T *
* AUTH: CG, 87th Inf Div. *
* INIT: CB *
* DATE: 2 April 1945 *
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S E C R E T

1-582

HEADQUARTERS 912TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 448 U S ARMY

H I S T O R I C A L R E C O R D

(After Action Against the Enemy Report)

1 March 1945 - 31 March 1945 Incl.

ANNEXES

A. S-2, S-3 Journal.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

387-FA(912)-0.3

S E C R E T

Incl #4 MAR. '45

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Authority NND 73501

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HEADQUARTERS 912TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 448 U S ARMY

2 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for Month of March 1945.

TO : AG, U S Army, Washington, D. C.
(Through Channels)

1. Personnel:
a. Total effective strength:
(1) At beginning of period 1 March 1945:
Officers..... 38
Warrant Officers..... 0
Enlisted Men..... 4
(2) At end of period 31 March 1945:
Officers..... 38
Warrant Officers..... 0
Enlisted Men..... 46
b. Killed in Action:
Officers..... 0
Warrant Officers..... 0
Enlisted Men..... 1
Wounded in Action.....
Officers..... 0
Warrant Officers..... 0
Enlisted Men..... 3
Missing in Action
Officers..... 0
Warrant Officers..... 0
Enlisted Men..... 0
c. Reinforcements:
Officers..... 1
Warrant Officers..... 0
Enlisted Men..... 10
d. Other changes: 1 Officer ES; 22 EM ES; 15 EM RTD

2. Enemy Artillery Action:
a. 1 - 9 Mar 1945: None
b. 10-20 Mar 1945: Forward Observer Party received shellfire from enemy 18 Mar 1945; Cpl Clarence A. Relic, Btry B, KIA.
c. 20-31 Mar 1945: Bn fwd party receive enemy shellfire 25 & 26 Mar 1945 in vicinity Rhens, Germany: Pfc George F. Yez, Btry B, WIA

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

DECLASSIFIED Authority NND 73501

3. Own Operations:

1 March 1945 - Bn in position in vicinity Manderfeld, Belgium. Coords: P9659, Map Germany, 1:25,000. Bn in D/S of CT 347th Inf Regt. 335th FA Bn reinforcing Bn. Team from 787th Ord orients personnel on Posit Fuze.

2 March 1945 - Infantry occupying ground and taking many prisoners. Attack progressing rapidly. Bn supporting Inf with Observed fire and H&Is. Missions being observed by plane.

3 March 1945 - Battalion firing on retreating enemy. Bn firing scheduled fires and observed fires.

4 March 1945 - Infantry moving forward rapidly. Bn supporting Infantry.

5 March 1945 - Bn firing scheduled missions, preparation and observed fires. Bn displace to new positions in vicinity of [redacted] Belgium; Coord: L0895 Map #5604, Germany, 1/25,000. Lt Francis F. Holloway and Lt Gerald F. Fritz presented Air Medals by Bn Comdr

6 March 1945 - Bn firing scheduled fires and supporting Infantry. Half of FDC and "A" Btry displace to new positions in vicinity Schonfield, Germany. Coord: L1491, Map #5605, Germany, 1/25,000.

7 March 1945 - No firing throughout night. Rmdr of Bn arrive in CP area. Not in firing position. Bn under CT control. Bn displace to new position in vicinity Lissendorf, Coord: L1971, Germany, 1/25,000.

8 March 1945 - Bn displace to new position in vicinity Feusdorf, Germany, Coor: L2095, Map #5065, Germany, 1/25,000. Bn under Div Arty control. Rec orders to do no firing.

9 - 14 March 1945 - No firing during this period. Bn awaiting orders to move to new zone. Bn doing maintenance and cleaning of material. 11 March 1945 Bn had access to Church Services, showers and movie. 13 March 1945 Bn Comdr & party dept for fwd position in new zone. 14 March 1945 Bn loaded & ready to dept. At 1500 Bn depts on motor march and at 2000 Bn displaces in position in vicinity [redacted] Germany. Coor: L8193, Map #5610, Germany 1/25,000.

15 March 1945 - Bn in D/S of CT 347th Inf Regt. 687th & 177th FA Bns now reinforcing Bn. Infantry to jump off at 0300, 16 March 1945. Defensive fire plans made.

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16 March 1945:- Bn firing H&Is and supporting Infantry. Infantry taking objectives. Bn joined in in Corp TOT on Coblenz, Germany.

17 March 1945 - Bn firing H&Is and supporting Infantry. Bn cross the Moselle River and displace to new positions in vicinity Luhbuschof, Germany, Coor: L8289, Map #5611 Germany, 1/25,000.

18 March 1945 - Bn firing scheduled fires and supporting Infantry. Infantry taking objectives. Meeting little resistance. Bn displace to new positions in vicinity Mariroth, Germany. Rec report that Cpl Clarence A Relic, Btry B, KIA while fwd with FO party.

19 March 1945 - 24 March 1945 - During this period Bn continued to fire scheduled fires and targets of opportunities. Many missions were observed by plane. 21 March 1945 the 687th FA Bn was releived of reinforcing Bn. Infantry to cross Rhine River at 2400, 24 March 1945. Fire plans made.

25 March 1945 - Bn firing scheduled fires and supporting Infantry. Pfc Salvatore Giarrizo, Hq Btry, WIA while fwd with Ln section. 1st & 3rd Bns across Rhine River. New positions located. Pfc George F. Yez, Btry B, WIA while fwd at new positions. 336th FA Bn reinforcing Bn. Bn maintaining present positions. Bn firing on Counter Attack on 1st Bn.

26 March 1945 - Bn supporting Infantry across Rhine River.

27 March 1945 - Bn displace to new positions in vicinity Rhens, Germany. Bn Comdr on Rcn across river. CP established in Braubeck, Germany after crossing Rhine by ferry. Coor: WL 9386, Map #5711, Germany, 1/25,000.

28 March 1945 - "A""B""C" & Sv btries now in CP area. Bn awaiting march order. Bn displace to area in vicinity Schweighause, Germany, WM0187, Map #5712, Germany, 1/25,000. Not in firing position.

29 March 1945 - No firing. Bn displace to new area in vicinity Birlenback, Germany. Coor: WM1995, Map #131, 1/50,000. Not in firing position.

30 March 1945 - No firing. Bn displace to assembly area in vicinity Villmar, Germany. Coor: WM3299, Map #131, Germany, 1/50,000. Bn to maintain present position until further orders.

31 March 1945 - Bn in assembly area awaiting orders to move. Bn doing maintenance and cleaning of material.

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NOTES: During the month the Battalion passed through the Siegfried Line, crossed the Moselle River by pontoon bridge and crossed the Rhine River by ferry and pontoon bridge. Morale has been extremely high throughout the month due to the successes on all Allied fronts. During month of March Battalion fired 443 missions for a total of 8640 rounds expended.

4. Supply:

a. Class I - Availability of Class I supplies was excellent.

b. Class II - Issues of clothing and equipment were the largest since this organization has been overseas. Warm weather has necessitated the turning in of Shoe Pacs and other previously issued Artic clothing.

c. Class III - Supplies of gasoline, oils and lubricants were excellent.

d. Class IV - No activity.

e. Class V - Ammunition supplies were excellent, though high explosive shell with fuze M48A1 was not always available.

f. General - Supply for the month of March was greatly improved by the excellent road network encountered in Germany.

5. Lessons Learned:

a. Radio - Enough has been said concerning the value of this means of communication, but not enough has been said or done about the maintaining of radio communication over great distances and wide fronts in a moving situation. The T/O provides for no relay station or set whatsoever, yet we find it necessary to have one out at all times and sometimes two. The work of this station in the crossing of the Rhine and Moselle rivers speaks for itself. Without it the infantry would have been without support.

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HEADQUARTERS 912TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 448
U S ARMY

L 385

2 April 1945

Extract of Unit Journal

Location: Manderfeld, Belgium.

1 Mar 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty-296 rds ex, 1 reg, 4 H&Is, 4 T.Ops.
0900 Bn firing mission fired by plane.
0930 Bn Comdr dept CP for Regt.
1130 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1600 Team fr Ord arrive CP to orient on Posit Fuze.
1700 Attack progressing. Inf occupying ground and taking prisoners.

2 Mar 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty-593 rds ex, 2 reg, 1 prep, 16 H&Is, 10 T.Ops.
0900 Bn Comdr depts for High Night and Firing Btries.
1130 Bn Comdr rts to CP.
1400 Bn Comdr depts for CP of Regt.
1530 Bn Comdr rts to CP.
1700 Attack progressing. Gains made daily.
1700 Bn Ex rt to CP fr dy with Regt as Ln O.

3 Mar 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty-518 rds ex, 2 reg, 23 H&Is, 6 T.Ops.
0900 Bn Comde depts CP for "B" and "A" Batteries.
0930 Mission being adjusted by plane.
1100 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1200 Bn firing on retreating enemy.
1400 Bn Comdr depts CP for Regt.
1600 Bn Comdr rt to CP
1800 Inf met resistance in morning - Enemy refusing capture and are being killed.

4 Mar 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty-828 rds ex, 1 reg, 3 prep, 38 H&Is, 1 T.Ops.
0930 Bn Comdr dept for Regt.
1000 Bn firing observed fires.
1000 Bn rec rpt that 345th Inf moving fwd rapidly.
1000 Rec notice that CT Obj changed to town of Schied, Germany.
1330 Bn Comdr dept for Regt & on Rcn.
1630 Bn Comdr rt to CP.

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5 Mar 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty- 436 rds ex, 1 prep, 16 H&Is, 1 T.Op.
1100 Bn Cp displaced to Heulschied, Belgium, Map #5604, Germany, 1/25,000.
1530 Lt Fritz presented Air Medal by Bn Comdr. Lt Holloway rec one during morning.

6 Mar 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty- 92 rds ex, 1 reg, 1 H&I, 2 T.Ops.
1300 Bn Comdr & party dept on Rcn.
1330 Rec orders fr HalfPike 6 to displace 1 btry fwd. Rmdr of Bn to displace as soon as released fr reinforcing Calvary.
1500 "A" Btry with half of FDC displace to positions in vic Schonfield, Germany.
1800 Rmdr of Hq Btry dept for fwd positions. Close in 2010. "B" & "C" to remain in position until morning of 7th. Coordinates of CP L1491, Map #5605, Germany 1/25,000.

7 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty- 33 rds ex, 4 H&I.
0600 No firing throughout night.
0930 "C" Btry with two guns arrive in CP area.
1020 "B" Btry arrives in CP area.
0900 Bn Comdr and party dept on rcn.
0900 Bn now under Combat Team control.
1215 Rec msg by rad fr Bn Comdr to p repare "B" & "C" & alf of FDC to move fwd.
1630 "B" & "C" with half of FDC displace in new positions in vic Lissendorf, L1971, Germany 1/25,000.
1830 "A" Btry rmdr of Hq Btry displace to new positions.

8 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty-33 rds ex, 1 prep.
0700 Bn Comdr & party dept on rcn.
0830 "A" Btry & half of Hq Btry dept to new positions.
1130 CP established. "A" Btry in position in vic Feusdorf, Germany, Coord: L2095; Map #5605, Germany, 1/25,000.
1300 Bn Comdr dept for "A" Btry and Regt CP.
1400 "B" Btry displaced in position.
1500 "C" Btry and rmdr of Hq Btry displace in new positions.
1600 Bn now under Div Arty Control.
1700 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1800 Bn rec orders to do no firing during night.

9 March 1945

0600 No firing.
1100 Bn Comdr dept for Div Arty.
1400 Bn Comdr rts to CP - reports that Bn is to do no firing. Bn to

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9 March 1945 (Con'td)

stress maintenance. To expect motor march in near future.
1500 Bn Comdr dept for Regt CP.
1630 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1800 Bn to maintain present positions and await MO.

10 March 1945

0600 No firing throughout night.
0800 Bn awaiting orders to move. Doing maintenance and cleaning of material.
1430 Bn Comdr depts for Div Arty.
1630 Bn Comdr rts to CP - has BC call. Inspection for Civilian property. BC makes certificates of none on hand and these are turned over to CO 346th Inf.

11 March 1945

0600 No firing throughout night.
1300 Bn S-1 depts for Regt CP.
1700 Bn rts to CP.
1800 During day Bn had opportunity for Church, Showers and picture show. Day spent in cleaning of material and maintenance.

12 March 1945

0600 No firing during night.
1500 Bn Comdr depts for Div Arty.
1700 Bn Comdr rt to CP- Has BC Call. Orients them on Div Objective in new zone.

13 March 1945

0600 No firing during night.
0930 Bn Comdr depts on rcn to Wiesbaum, Germany.
1015 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1400 Bn Comdr depts for Regt CP, with pa rty to go forward as billeting party.
1500 Bn Comdr rts to CP.
1600 Bn Comdr depts with rcn party to new zone. Bn to be in general support.

14 March 1945

0600 No firing during night.
1800 Bn loaded and prepared to move to new zone.
1500 Bn dept on motor march in order of "A""B""C""HQ" & Sv.
2000 Column met by Bn S-1 and led to positions.
2030 Bn displaced to positions in vicinity Kunsterdorf, Germany. Coord: CP L8193, A B & C L8293 Map 5610 Germany 1/25,000. Sv Btry in vic of Ochtendung, Germany.

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15 March 1945

0600 No firing during night.
0900 Bn rec orders to be in D/S of 347th Inf.
0900 Bn Comdr dept for Div Arty & Regt CP.
1130 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1200 687th & 107th FA Bns now reinforcing this Bn.
1300 Bn Comdr dept for Btry positions.
1430 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1500 Gen Ford arrives CP.
1700 Bn Comdr dept for Regt CP.
1900 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
2000 Ln O's rpt that Inf is to jump off at 0300, 16 Mar 1945. Defensive fire plans made.

16 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty-140 rds ex, 2 reg, 3 H&Is.
0800 Infantry reeport taking objectives.
0930 Bn Comdr depts for Div Arty and Regt CP.
1100 Bn Comdr rts to CP.
1600 Bn Comdr depts for "A" Btry position.
1645 Bn Comdr rts to CP.
1700 Gen Ford arrives CP.
1730 Bn firing in Corp TOT on Coblenz, Germany.

17 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty- 622 rds ex, 1 reg, 12 H&Is, 6 T.Ops.
1000 Bn Comdr and party dept on rcn.
1300 Bn awaiting completion of bridge over Moselle River before displacing.
1730 Bn displace to new positions in vicinity of Luhbuschof, Germany, Coor: CP L8289, Btries "A""B" & "C" L8388, Map #5611, 1/25,000.

18 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty-435 rds ex, 10 H&Is, 5 T.Ops.
0900 Rec receipt for Bronze Star Medal (ribbon) fr S/Sgt Greenberg.
0900 Bn Comdr & party dept on rcn. Bn to displace in afternoon.
1000 Infantry taking objectives. Little resistance. Bn doing little firing.
1300 Bn displacing to new positions in vicinity of Mariroth, Germany.
1800 Rec report that Cpl Clarence A. Relic, "B" Btry KIA while fwd with FO party 0430A.

19 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty- 377 rds expended, 3 reg, 18 H&Is, 5 T.Ops.
0900 Bn Comdr dept for Btries and Div Arty.
1130 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1400 Bn Comdr dept for Regt.
1530 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1600 Gen Ford arrives CP.

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20 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty-438 rds ex, 7 H&Is, 12 T.Ops.
0900 Bn Comdr for Inf CP and FO posts.
1130 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1630 Bn Comdr dept CP for Div Arty.
2000 Bn Comdr rt to CP.

21 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty-377 rds ex, 1 reg, 4 H&Is, 19 T.Ops.
1000 Bn Comdr dept for Div Arty & Regt.
1200 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1200 687th FA Bn reld of reinforcing our fires. 177th FA Bn continues to reinforce Bn.
1300 Rcn and Billeting party dept for new positions.
1600 Billeting and rcn party rt. Bn not to displace.

22 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty- 437 rds ex, 1 Reg, 10 H&Is, 17 T.Ops.
0900 Bn Comdr depts for Regt CP.
1115 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1300 Bn Rcn and Billeting party depart to new positions.
1315 Bn rec order to maintain present positions. Rcn party called off.

23 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty- 377 rds ex, 1 reg, 8 H&Is, 12 T.Ops.
0930 Bn Comde dept fwd on rcn. visited 177th FA Bn CP.
1130 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1345 Gen Ford arrives CP.
1400 Bn Comdr dept for Regt.
1630 Bn Comdr rt to CP.

24 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty- 294 rds ex, 1 reg, 6 H&Is, 7 T.Ops.
0930 Bn Comdr dept for Regt CP.
1145 Bn Comdr rt to CP.
1345 Bn Comdr & party dept on Rcn.
1830 Bn Comdr & party rt to CP.
1900 Infantry to cross Rhine River during night.

25 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty-469 rds ex, 1 reg, 12 H&Is, 19 T.Ops.
0630 Rec report that Pfc Salvatore Giarrizo, Hq Btry WIA while Fwd.
0800 Bn S-1 and party dept fwd.
0800 1st Bn and 3rd Bn are cross Rhine River. Bn firing T.ops with air observation.
1000 Gen Ford arrives CP.
1200 Rpt rec that Pvt Yez, B Btry, wounded while fwd.

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25 March 1945 (Con'td)

1200 Bn awaiting orders to move fwd.
1300 Bn Comdr dept for fwd CP.
1400 336th FA Bn reinforcing Bn.
1800 Bn rec orders to maintain present position.
2000 Bn firing on Counter Attack.
2100 Bn S-1 rt to CP. Bn Comdr & party remain fwd in Rhens, Germany.

26 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty- 1232 rds ex, 1 reg, 18 H&Is, 30 T.Ops.
0800 Bn supporting Infantry across river. Bn awaiting orders to move.
1200 Infantry meeting heavy resistance.
1700 Bn to remain in present position - Bn Comdr & party remain at fwd positions in Rhens, Germany.

27 March 1945

0600 Am rpt to Div Arty- 628 rds ex, 2 reg,12 H&Is, 18 T.Ops.
1140 Bn displace to new positions in vicinity of Rhens, Germany,
1500 Bn Comdr & party dept on rcn for positions across Rhine River.
1800 CP displaced to new position in Braubeck, Germany. Bn to do no firing during night. Coor: WL9386, Map #5711, Germany, 1/25,000.

28 March 1945

0600 No firing during night.
0700 Btries "A""B""C" & Sv arrive to positions in vicinity Braubeck, Germany. Not in firing position. Bn awaiting march order.
1300 Bn displace to positions in vicinity of Schweighausen, Germany: Coor: WM0187, Map #5712, Germany, 1/25,000.
1400 Bn S-2 and party dept on rcn.
1600 Bn S-2 and party rt to CP.
1700 Bn rec orders to furnish trucks to haul Infantry. Bn to maintain present position.

29 March 1945

0600 No firing during night.
0940 Bn dept for new positions in order "A""B""C" HQ & SV.
1100 Bn arrive new position in vicinity of Birlenback, Germany. Coor: WM1995, Map #131, 1/50,000.
1300 Bn made contact with regiment by radio.
1600 Bn rec orders to maintain present position until morning.
1800 Bn rec orders to furnish trucks to haul personnel of 1st Bn.

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S E C R E T

30 March 1945

0600 No firing during night.
0800 Bn awaiting orders to move.
0800 Bn Comdr & party dept for Regt CP.
0945 Bn dept for new positions in order "A""B""C"Sv & HQ Btry.
1145 Bn arrive assembly area in vicinity Villmar, Germany. Coord: WM3299, Map #131, Germany, 1/50,000.
1400 Bn to stay in present position until further orders.
1500 Bn Comdr depts for Regt CP.
1630 Bn Comdr rts to CP- Bn to expect motor march in near future.

31 March 1945

0600 No firing during night.
0800 Bn awaiting orders to move.
0930 Bn Comdr depts for Regt CP.
1100 Bn Comdr rts to CP. Bn to maintain present position.
1300 Bn doing maintenance and cleaning of material.
1800 Bn awaiting orders.

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