

AND DECLASSIFIED ...
 Authority: 135017
 Date: 2-1-15

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 161ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
 US ARMY

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: 1 July 1945
CANCELLED
 BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE
 1 June 1945

SUBJECT: Reports of Operations.
 TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Through Channels)

The battalion moved from Ludinghausen going to Baumholder. Battalion arrived in Baumholder and relieved the 807th FA Bn of the 66th Infantry Division.

2 June 1945

At 0800 "A" Battery took over all outposts and "B" Battery took over all interior guard posts. "C" Battery established a riot squad quartered at the Police Station to be on 24 hour duty. Staff at DPAC Headquarters assumed duties at 1800. 871st FA Bn returned DPs that had been working for them. Their battalion is moving out of this area. 2000 Russians were shipped out this morning.

3 June 1945

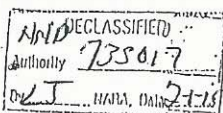
Major Rubalsky, Russian Camp Commander, came in for conference with Major Jones at 1100, 300 Russian women and children assembled in front of this headquarters at 1245. A rumor had circulated through the camp that we had some children's clothing here. We informed them that it was in error and the crowd dispersed. Cpl Stecker took two French trucks to Boppard, Germany to pick up clothing. Lt Shelnikov, Russian Chief of Supply accompanied them. Three UNRRA officials visited UNRRA Headquarters.

4 June 1945

2002 Russians shipped out this morning. Capt Williams came in to inspect quarters. Pvt Sedman, XXIII Corps, reported to this headquarters to work as interpreter. Pvt Hatalsky, 216th FA Bn, reported to work as interpreter. Lt Sotovieff and Lt Bruning, XXIII Corps, came in to talk with Major Jones. Tec 4 Fister, 28th Division Headquarters, requested information about three Poles needed as witnesses in rape case. 671st FA Bn returned DPs that had been working for them. Capt Sullivan, 35th Division Artillery, came in to see Major Jones. Lt Mandel, G-2 Section, XXIII Corps, on inspection. He requested information on buildings in camp. Major Blackford, Camp Medical Officer, reported death of Peter Kostiniuk. Cause of death suspected to be poisoning. Major Rubalsky, Major Blackford, Capt Hunt and Max Helvarg, Russian interpreter, held conference. Discussion was on death of Kostiniuk. Received message from XXIII Corps that we are to pick up Nikolai Wishnevsky. Sgt Jorg de Chochor, Radio Luxembourg, called for Wishnevsky at 2030. Wishnevsky is to be the official Russian announcer at radio station.

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Hq 161 FA Bn, Reports of Operations, 1-30 Jun 45 (cont'd)

5 June 1945

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

Major Rubalsky and staff held conference with Major Jones and Helvarg. Major Funk, Executive Officer, 161st FA Bn, visited this headquarters. Major Rubalsky came in with Russian woman. He requested that we send her to Andernach, Germany to visit her daughter who is in a mental hospital. Established guard on hospital. 20 cases of unknown fever reported in hospital, suspected to be typhus. Capt Sullivan called wanting information on trucking companies serving us. We are to keep one company and he wanted to find out which company had the most trucks easily accessible to us. Capt Gee, Assistant S-3, 161st FA Bn is looking after the transaction.

6 June 1945

1995 Russians shipped out this morning. Major Jones had meeting with Major Rubalsky at warehouse. Cpl Dixon took Russian woman to Andernach, Germany. Woman's daughter is in hospital there. John Dolbik, Russian DP, Barracks No. 41, 1st floor, room 28, reported that a German he had previously worked for had buried a pistol and rifle on his farm. The farm is located near Oberstein, Germany. Matter was referred to XXIII Corps. Cpl Campbell took Lt Shelnikov to Oberstein to see about supply of shoes. Lt Kornegaz, G-3 Section, XXIII Corps, here on inspection. Requested information on guard posts, number employed in administration, sanitation of camp, bathing facilities, and condition of buildings in camp. Lt Col Ribalchenko, Russian Chief of Oberstein, Capt Sidorenkov, Major Rubalsky, Lt Turchenko, Major Jones, Capt Hunt and Helvarg held conference. Discussed methods of cleaning camp. 5 Yugoslavians reported to this headquarters. We called XXIII Corps to find out where to send them. Quartered them for the night. Corps will instruct us as to their disposition tomorrow. Lt Col Carter Smith, Medical Consultant, XV Army, came to see Major Blackford.

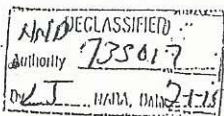
7 June 1945

Cpl Cristman, "C" Battery, left for St Wendel to get medicine for Major Blackford. Major Jones, Capt Hunt, Major Rubalsky, Major Blackford, Lt Turchenko and Helvarg held conference. Direct orders given to Russians to get hospital patients that had walked out of hospital back by tonight. Civilian Engineer went out to inspect sewer with Lt Boose. 2 Russian children disappeared from hospital between 1800 and 2100. The parents of both children were on shipping list for tomorrow. Called Russian Headquarters and also sent over a written order telling them to locate the children and get them back to the hospital immediately.

8 June 1945

1986 Russians were shipped out this morning. T/Sgt Brown, 546th FA Bn, brought in 7 Russians. Sent them over to Russian Headquarters to be registered. Sent guard with 5 Russians to Kusel, Germany to get Russian vehicle. Guard came back with them and said that all they wanted was to get some wine. Lt Kilney, 424th Inf to see Major Jones.

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"A" Battery guard, Horn, brought in 2 Russians caught stealing onions. They had a gun in their possession. One man is a patient in the hospital and the other was on guard at the hospital. The two men were placed in the jail. Lt Col Pate, Lt Col Elliott, Medical Officers, XXIII Corps, came in to inspect sanitation, contagious diseases, etc of camp. T/Sgt Pierce, 137th Inf, brought in 23 Russians. Sent them over to Russian Headquarters to be registered. Capt Strickland, 110th Med Bn, reported for duty as camp medical officer. Major Blackford left to join his unit.

9 June 1945

Sent 29 Poles to Polish camp at Landstuhl, Germany. Sent 1 Dutchman and 2 Frenchmen to Camp Kemmel, Trier, Germany. Major Rubalsky and Aide, Polish Liaison Officer to see Major Jones. Lt Col Pate XXIII Corps, Major Poutas, XV Army, Lt Drewid, XV Army, came for inspection. Looked over camp checking on sanitation, hospitals, etc. 127th FA Bn reported with loud speaker. Sent Dr Tauber with ambulance over to Russian Headquarters. Patient brought in from Coblenz, Germany, mental case, causing trouble. Capt Flannigan, XXIII Corps Artillery, called about quartering troops in barracks vacated by Russians.

10 June 1945

1833 Russians were shipped out this morning. Major Poutas, Lt Drewid XV Army, inspected reports, checked hospitals. Cpl Campbell took 2 Russian girls to Kirn, Germany. They went to see sister in hospital.

11 June 1945

Lt Cross, XXIII Corps, to see Capt Holden, S-4, 161st FA Bn, about supply. Major Poutas, XV Army, came in to talk with Major Jones. Lt Col Schuster, Commanding Officer, 161st FA Bn, visited camp. Major Rubalsky and Aide, Capt Holmes, Medical Officer, 161st FA Bn, held conference with Major Jones. Lt Col Schuster, Lt Col Reed, 216th FA Bn, Major Heerwagen, 216th FA Bn visited camp. Capt Strickland came in at midnight. He wanted to get medicine from town. Patient had attempted suicide.

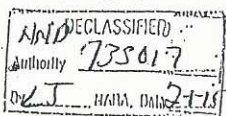
12 June 1945

896 Russians were shipped out this morning. Capt Gaiwood, Lt DeHaven 61st Signal Battalion, came in to pay 5 girls who had worked for them. The girls had left in shipment this morning. Referred them to their Finance Officer. Dr Tauber accompanied truck to take mental patient to hospital in Amernach. Armed guard went with the truck. Capt Greiner, "B" Battery, Capt Schaper, "A" Battery, came in to see Capt Hunt about forming of patrol in camp area.

13 June 1945

Bull-dozer came from XXIII Corps. It is to work on sanitation in camp. Lt DeBeyr, 28th Division, Belgian Officer, to see about Belgian woman working in town. M/Sgt Sturges, 216th FA Bn, reported to this

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headquarters to learn duties. 216th FA Bn will relieve us when we move from this position.

14 June 1945

43 patients brought in to hospital from other camps. Capt Caruther, 1155th Engineer Battalion to see about quartering troops in camp. Lt Lavender, 767th FA Bn, requesting information on lumber for loading tractors on flatcars. French truck driver brought in 16 DPs picked up at farms in this vicinity.

15 June 1945

Major Rubalsky, Major Jones, Capt Hunt, Capt Thompson, and Helvarg held conference at this headquarters. Lt Col Pate, XXIII Corps, to see Capt Strickland. Sent "C" Battery vehicle to Lebach, Germany with 3 Poles. Sent "A" Battery truck to Kaiserlautern, Germany. They are to pick up Russian doctor, 2 nurses, and 6 ward girls. Truck returned empty. Headquarters at Kaiserlautern knew nothing of the transaction, said it would have to be arranged through XXIII Corps.

16 June 1945

Sent "A" Battery truck to Kaiserlautern again. This time they were accompanied by Dr Licht, Russian doctor and they returned with 1 doctor, 2 nurses, and 5 ward girls. Mr Edwards, UNRRA Official, brought in 4 Russian DPs. 320th Inf brought in 50 DPs. Sent them on down to Homburg.

17 June 1945

Lt Redone, 1288th Eng asking information on showers in this area. Belgian officer brought in 12 DPs from Trier. Message from 35th Div Arty: Col Snyder, XXIII Corps called them and instructed them to pick up 1,000 cots from this camp to take to another DP camp.

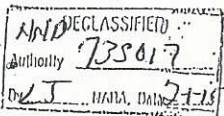
18 June 1945

Capt Eirele from DPAC No. 44, came to pick up beds from this camp for DPAC No. 44. Sent vehicle to take Capt Strickland down to aid station. Ammunition truck exploded and several men were injured. 35th Div Arty called and said that 100 Russians would come in tomorrow from 35th Inf Div.

19 June 1945

Capt Nickolson of Camp Augusta called and said he had 150 Russians he wanted to ship here. Told him to send them direct to Homburg DP camp. Capt Simmons, 767th FA Bn requesting information on laundry facilities here. Lt Manning, 320th Inf brought in 102 Russians. "B" Battery guards brought in a Russian who was picked up at a German home with another Russian while attempting to steal. The other man was shot in the leg. Wound was self inflicted. Evoneich turned over to Russian authorities

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who were told to guard him.

20 June 1945

Helvarg reported to XXIII Corps at Oberstein, Germany for new assignment. Capt Bagett, Third Army Group to see Lt Turchenko. Sent Headquarters Battery vehicle to Andernach. Took Iuheena Rajsa and son Poluchazem Jan, mental case, to camp there. 688th FA Bn brought in 14 Russians from Camp Campbell.

21 June 1945

Capt Hunt went with Russian lieutenant to visit site of Russian graves. Lt Karson, 1155th Eng brought in 6 Russians that had been working for him. 10 Russian DPs arrived here from Camp Kemmel, Trier.

22 June 1945

Sent "B" Battery vehicle to Bruchweiler, Germany. Took Paul Balek there to pick up his clothing. Major Rubalsky came in to talk with Capt Hunt. Capt Gauthier, 538th FA Bn brought in 8 Russian DPs that had been working for him. Lt Philpot, 1285th Eng picked up a Pole 4 miles outside of camp. The man had been missing from the hospital since last night. He is a mental case. Lt Col Pate, XXIII Corps here for the purpose of inspecting the camp. Capt Hunt, Lt DeVoe, Lt Carter and Capt Holmes accompanied him on tour of camp. Call from G-5, XXIII Corps, asked us how soon we could get Russians down to Homburg. Contacted Major Rubalsky and he said we could not get them out before morning. Corps said to get them there as soon as possible. Major Rubalsky came in and said he would have 484 Russians ready to leave at 0800 tomorrow. Phone call from Col Plitt, G-3, 28th Inf Div, asked why we hadn't sent the Russians out yet. Told him it was impossible to send them on such short notice. He said that we should clear through his office before we ship out today. Called XXIII Corps about shipment tomorrow. They told us to ship everyone except the hospital patients, hospital staff, bakery personnel and relatives of patients in hospital.

23 June 1945

492 Russians were shipped out this morning. "C" Battery vehicle took 6 Russians to Homburg. They had missed the shipment earlier this morning. XXIII Corps called in reference to keeping Russian staff at camp.

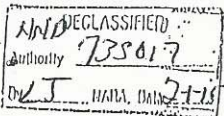
24 June 1945

"C" Battery vehicle took one Frenchman, Balek Pavel Stan, to Camp Kemmel, Trier. Dr Licht and wife left for Yugoslavian camp at Piransen. 364 Russians shipped out leaving 15 Russians in camp, 7 hospital patients and 8 relatives of patients.

25 June 1945

Lt Turchenko came in and asked for truck to pick up Russian DPs at Kirchenbalanden, Germany. "A" Battery took Lt Turchenko to Kirchenbalanden

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and picked up 20 Russian DPs and took them to Homburg. Lt Blanchard, 1285th Eng to see about showers.

26 June 1945

Sent 6 men over to dispensary to pack up medical supplies.

27 June 1945

Lt DeVoe and Capt Strickland to see Capt Hunt.

28 June 1945

2 Lithuanians were dropped off in camp by American troops whom they worked for. They are being put up for the night and will leave tomorrow morning on one of our supply trucks going to Camp Kemmel, Trier.

29 June 1945

Major Morrison, Medical Officer, XXIII Corps, visited this camp for the purpose of inspecting it. Capt Hunt and Lt Carter took him around on an inspection tour.

30 June 1945

The men with critical scores were transferred to the 448th AAA Bn per SO 143, Hq 35th Inf Div, 24 June 1945. The men from 448th AAA Bn assigned to this unit arrived at 1900.

Herman F Schuster
HERMAN F SCHUSTER
Lt Col, FA
Commanding

Incl:

1 - Unit Journal

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority 735617
DATE 2-1-18

JOURNAL

From:

(Date: hour)

161st FA Bn

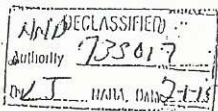
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To

(Date: hour)

Time	Serial	Time	Action
In	Out	Number	Dated
Incidents, messages, orders, etc.			
Taken			
1 June 1945			
	1	0545	The Battalion moved from Ludinghausen, going to Baumholder
	2	2130	Battalion arrived in Baumholder. The 807 FA, 66th Division was in the town
2 June 1945			
	3	0900	The battalion moved into buildings occupied by the unit already here. Our mission is to evacuate Russian DP's of which there are approximately 14,000. The security plan was obtained from 80th FA and followed by this battalion with a few minor changes. Battalion in XXIII Corps.
3 June 1945			
	4	1300	Major Funk and Major Jones left for meeting at Div Arty
	5	1325	Conference call to A, B, C, & Sv Mass at 1615.
	6	1700	Conference call to Hq, A, B, C, & Sv. BC meeting at 1900, Major Funk's quarters.
	7	1630	Major Funk and Major Jones arrived at Bn CP
4 June 1945			
	8	1415	Capt Bernsen and Capt Nicholson left for Kirn, Germany.
	9	1720	Cpts Bernsen and Capt Nicholson arrived at Bn CP.
5 June 1945			
	10	0900	Capt Bernsen and Capt Nicholson left for rear echelon.
	11	0900	Major Funk left for Div Arty.
	12	1330	Capt Gee left for Hq Btry, thence to O's qtrs.

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CANCELLED
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DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE



JOURNAL

Page

(Date)

(Place)

161st FA Bn

(organization)

To

(Date)

(Place)

Time In	Serial Out	Time Number	Time Dated	Incidents, Messages, Orders, etc.	Location
5 June 1945					
	<u>13</u>		1445	Conference call of BC's and Staff O's, meeting 1900 at Major Funk's quarters.	
6 June 1945					
	<u>14</u>		1530	Capt Bernsen and Capt Nicholson left for St Wendel.	
	<u>15</u>		1800	Capt Bernsen and Nicholson arrived at Bn CP.	
7 June 1945					
	<u>16</u>		0915	Capt Bernsen left for Kirn, back by noon.	
	<u>17</u>		0900	Lt Brayton to Verviers, back by noon.	
9 June 1945					
	<u>18</u>		0950	Capt Bernsen left for "C" Btry.	
	<u>19</u>		1015	Capt Nicholson left for Div Rear.	
	<u>20</u>		1235	Capt Bernsen on survey in area.	
11 June 1945					
	<u>21</u>		1300	Col Reed and Maj Heerwagen arrived at Bn CP.	
	<u>22</u>		1400	Major Funk left for Div Rear	
12 June 1945					
	<u>23</u>		0830	Col Schuster left for Div Arty.	
13 June 1945					
	<u>24</u>		0845	Capt Bernsen left on inspection of Btrys.	
	<u>25</u>		1600	Col Schuster left for "B" and other btrys.	
15 June 1945					
	<u>26</u>		1230	Capt Bernsent left for Air Port.	
	<u>27</u>		1235	Capt Nicholson to Thier, back at 1700.	
19 June 1945					
	<u>28</u>		1000	BC meeting at Maj Funks quarters.	
21 June 1945					
	<u>29</u>		0900	Col Schuster left for Frankfurt.	
	<u>30</u>		1427	Conference call, meeting at Major Funk's quarters.	