

Authority 735017
by [Signature] NANA, Date

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HEADQUARTERS 219TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 35 US ARMY

Auth: CG 35th In. Div

Initials *Rgc*
1 March 1945

Date *18 Mar 1945*

Subject: Report After Action Against Enemy

To : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

See Op. Feb

Feb 45

1. In compliance with the provisions of par 10, C 3, AR 345-105, submitted below is report after action against the enemy for the 219th Field Artillery Battalion covering the period 1-28 February 1945.

1 February 1945

The Bn remained in Mechelen, Netherlands, cleaning and servicing indiv and organizational equipment. Since the Bn was not in a firing position, there was no am expended.

2 February 1945

The entire day was spent in care of equipment.

3 February 1945

Care of equip and materiel contd. Occasional V-1 bombs passed overhead, moving northwest.

4 February 1945

No activity other than care of equipment.

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5 February 1945

The Bn left Mechelen, Netherlands at 0730 as the Div moved to the northeast to combat positions. The first crossing of the Bn onto German soil occurred at 1250 at Tuderndern, Germany; it arrived at Braunsrath, Germany at 1405 after traveling 32 miles. The Bn took over the CP and mission of the 1st Mt Arty Regt (British), which moved out during the fol two days.

Most of the houses in this area were destroyed. No civilians were present. Registration was attempted, but poor visibility prevented completion. The Div is now a part of the XVI Corps, Ninth Army. Rain during the day increased the very muddy condition of roads and fields.

6 February 1945

At 0600 the am report showed an expenditure of 13 rds for the previous 24-hr period. Registration was again attempted but not completed due to fog.

At 1850 comm within and outside the Bn were disrupted by a brick wall falling across many of the telephone lines.

The 692d FA Bn is reinforcing our fires. It is equipped, in addition to its normal number of 105mm how, with 13 British 25-pounders. Am alws for the 25 pounders are much more liberal.

7 February 1945

Forty-nine rds of am were expended by the Bn during the 24-hr period ending at 0600. Unidentified planes were over the area at 2230. No hostile action was observed. Intermittent rains increased mud, making travel very difficult except on hard-surfaced roads.

8 February 1945

No am was fired by Bn during 24-hr period ending at 0600.

Bn CO, with Btry Comdrs and rcn parties, went to the vicinity of Erpin, Germany for final rcn prior to moving Bn.

The 692d FA Bn was reld from reinforcing our fires at 0800.

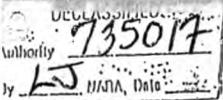
Propaganda shells were fired at 1305; propaganda consisted mainly of recent news of progress on eastern and western fronts.

Considerable air activity during the night, but no hostile action reported.

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(Report After Action Against Enemy contd - -)

9 February 1945

Much arty fire and bombing was heard north of Bn position during the night.

At 0600 the Bn had fired 48 rds of am during the preceding 24 hrs.

At 0930 part of the Bn displaced to Erpin, Germany. One gun from Btry B, Fwd Fire Direction, Radio, Survey, and many indiv vehicles displaced, arriving at Erpin at 1015 after traveling 3 miles.

The fwd gun from Btry B was registered by 1535. At 1730 word was recd from Div Arty that remainder of Bn should not displace. After some delay the fwd part of the Bn returned to Braunsrath. The change in plans was caused by the cond of the Roer River which was in flood stage due to recent rains and the blowing of the locks on two large dams farther up the river by retreating Germans.

10 February 1945

At 0600 the am expenditure by the Bn was 84 rds for the previous 24-hr period.

Since the attack which was to have taken place this morning was delayed 24 hrs, there was very little activity in Bn position. However, there was some activity to the north of the Bn position, and at night many flares and much bombing was observed.

Wea contd rainy.

11 February 1945

No am was expended by Bn during 24-hr period ending at 0600.

Word of another 24-hr delay in the time of the attack was recd.

Wea contd rainy.

12 February 1945

Bn fired 15 rds of am during 24-hr period ending at 0600. Bn left Braunsrath at 1300 and after traveling 3 miles arrived at Erpin, Germany. Pers and installations were set up in houses obtained on orig rcn and held by a few men from each btry during the succeeding delays in time of displacement. Batteries were laid and ready to fire by 1400.

Harassing and interdiction fires started for the night at 2000.

V-1 bombs were heard passing over bn area or vicinity about 3 or 4 times daily.

13 February 1945

V-1 bombs contd passing over area at infrequent intervals.

At 1545 an outpost of the 137th Inf was surrounded by a strong enemy patrol which was scattered by arty fire.

By 0600 the Bn had fired 19 rds of am for the preceding 24-hr period.

The contd delay of date and time of large scale attack for which the entire front had been poised for several days gave all units an opportunity for add readying of men and materiel.

Wea mild and cloudy.

14 February 1945

Ninety-three rds of am were expended by the Bn during the 24-hrs ending at 0600.

Considerable friendly air activity was evident at various times throughout the day.

Infrequent V-1 bombs were heard passing over the area and moving northwest.

Wea clear and contd and mild.

15 February 1945

Bn fired only 7 rds of am during 24 hrs ending at 0600. Am ration is very low, amounting to only about 15 rds per Bn per day.

16 February 1945

Between 0300 and 0400 four V-1 bombs were heard passing northwest over the Bn area at very low altitude.

No am was expended by Bn during 24-hr period ending at 0600.

After dark numerous flares were observed along the front east of the Bn position.

S E C R E T

(Report After Action Against Enemy contd - -)

17 February 1945

Twenty rds of am were fired by Bn during 24 hrs ending at 0600.
The temperature remained mild. Rain was intermittent.

18 February 1945

Sixteen rds of am were fired by Bn during 24-hr period ending at 0600.
Wea remained mild. Morning clear but ground fog developed later.

19 February 1945

No am fired by Bn during 24-hr period ending at 0600.
One fire mission on enemy inf and a registration by all batteries constituted the firing of the Bn.

Wea contd mild with some ground haze.

20 February 1945

Bn expended 35 rds of am for 24-hr period ending at 0600.
Wea mild; some rain during day.

21 February 1945

No am expended for 24-hr period ending at 0600.
Harassing and interdiction fires were conducted by Bn during night.
Wea contd mild with some rain during the day.

22 February 1945

During the 24-hr period ending at 0600 the Bn fired 55 rds of am.
Plans were recd during the day for the jump-off scheduled early tomorrow.
Fifty-nine preparation and on-call fires were prepared by the Bn to support the attack of the infantry. The preparation will start at 0245 tomorrow. H-hour is scheduled for 0330.

23 February 1945

Preparation fires were conducted as scheduled, starting at 0245. Some enemy arty shells were reported falling in the vicinity of our troops shortly after the preparation was started.

During the 24-hr period to 0600 384 rds were fired by the Bn.

The Bn fired harassing and interdicting fires during the night.

Some enemy air activity was reported to the north of the Bn position, but no reports of damage or casualties were recd.

24 February 1945

At 0600 the am report showed an expenditure of 371 rds during the preceding 24-hr period.

At 0830 the Bn started to move by infiltration to the towns of Porselen and Horst, Germany. Enemy arty shells were landing on and near the crossroads just east of Erpen at regular intervals during the late morning and early afternoon. The movement of the Bn was delayed to some extent by this activity. Sufficient vehicles and how had arrived in new position, however, to permit registration of one gun per btry by 1100.

The shelling of the crossroads stopped at 1315. At 1515 enemy arty shells began falling in the vicinity of Erpin in which the remainder of Bn was still located.

At 1710 remainder of Bn arrived at new position. Hq and Btry B were in Porselen and Batteries A and C were in Horst.

Some enemy mortar shells landed in Porselen earlier in the day but no damage was done.

25 February 1945

Bn fired 210 rds of am during 24-hr period ending at 0600.

Enemy air activity over area at 1045, but no hostile action noted.

At 1730 the 692d and 754th FA Bns were atchd to reinforce Bn fires.

Light rain fell during most of the day.

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S E C R E T

(Report After Action Against Enemy contd - -)

26 February 1945

At 0550 Bn began firing a short preparation for inf attack at 0600.
 At 0600 the Bn had fired 392 rds of am during the preceding 24 hrs.
 The Bn fired various missions during the day in support of the attack.
 Harassing and interdiction fires were commenced at 2200.

27 February 1945

Another short preparation was fired to support the inf attack. The attack commenced at 0600. The am report showed 1305 rds fired by Bn for preceding 24-hr period.
 At 1500 Bn started moving for displacement across Roer River. Crossing was made at Hilfarth, Germany.
 Bn arrived at Eschenbroich, Germany at 1640 after traveling 8.7 miles. Registration was complete at 1805.
 Harassing and interdiction fires were started at 2330.

28 February 1945

After another preparation fired from 0530 to 0600, the Bn am report showed an expenditure of 1072 rds for the preceding 24 hrs.
 Bn displaced at 1510, arriving at Wildenrath, Germany at 1700 after moving 6 miles.
 Registration was complete at 1800, and harassing and interdiction fires were begun at 2230.

S U M M A R Y

For the second time in three months we entered Germany during this period. We have now served in eight different Corps and in four American Armies since D-plus 30 days. With the First Army at St Lo and Mortain; with the Third Army across France into Alsace-Lorraine and at the Belgium Bulge of Bastogne; to the South with the Seventh Army in the Strassbourg-Bitche area; then to the far north to join the Ninth Army and begin the battle for the Rhine.

It is anticipated that the last round may be a vigorous one, and the morale is high as the men go in for what we think is the knockout punch to the Axis.

The battle casualties for the month of February are as follows:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
KIA	1	4
DOW	0	0
SWA	0	2
SIA	0	0
LWA	1	4
LIA	*1	0
MIA	0	0
TOTAL	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>

Claude N. Shaver
 CLAUDE N SHAVER
 Lt Col, FA
 Commanding