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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80, C/O POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

1. Transmitted herewith is completed After Action Report, in four sections, for the month of February 1945, for this Battalion, in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3, and Memorandum Number 64, Headquarters, 80th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1944.

2. Unit and Staff Journals, together with their supporting documents, are attached.

For the Commanding Officer:



William M. Gosman
WILLIAM M. GOSMAN
Major, 905th FA Bn
Exec and S-1

Done 44. Jan 45

5 Incls:

- #1 - Section I
- #2 - Section II
- #3 - Section III
- #4 - Section IV
- #5 - Unit & Staff Journals & Supporting Documents

380-FA(905)-013

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED

W. M. Gosman *Let to G. H. H.*
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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80, U. S. ARMY

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy. (For the Month of February 1945)
Section I - Summary of Daily Operations and Action.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.



1 to 4 February (inclusive) - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued in its mission of direct support of CCB, 4th Armored Division, in their defense of the south bank of the Our River. The Command Post of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion was located in Gilsdorf, Luxembourg (884418). "A" & "B" Batteries and Cannon Company, 319th Infantry, were located in the vicinity of Bettendorf, Luxembourg (90674280), (903154288)(91324321) with "C" Battery in the vicinity of Diekirch, Luxembourg (88864297). The 313th Field Artillery Battalion and the 315th Field Artillery Battalion reinforced the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Sixteen registrations were made, also 2 observed missions on mortars, 2 on infantry and 2 on vehicles. Eight H & I missions were fired and also 9 propaganda missions. Wire and radio communications were used to higher and lower echelons.

Company "B" of the 10th Battalion, 4th Armored Division advanced under cover of darkness during early morning hours of 4 February and took Hesdorf, Luxembourg. Company "A", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion less one platoon were attached to the 905th Field Artillery Battalion.

5 to 6 February (inclusive) - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion received the mission of direct support of the 319th Infantry. The units reinforcing the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion were 313th Field Artillery Battalion, 315th Field Artillery Battalion. Battery "A", 558th Field Artillery Battalion, less 1 platoon (155 self-propelled) was attached. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion Command Post displaced to Bettendorf, Luxembourg (908429). Nine registrations, 1 counter-battery, 2 infantry, 1 Machine gun, 6 propaganda, and 4 H & I missions were fired. There were other missions fired by a ground Observation Post using the platoon of Battery "A", 558th Field Artillery Battalion. Their missions was the destruction of pillboxes by fire using direct laying methods.

7 February - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued in its mission of direct support of the 319th Infantry who attacked the high ground north of the Our River in the vicinity of Hesdorf, Luxembourg. The attack was made by the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 319th Infantry. There was a 40 minute preparation fired prior to the attack and then 90 minutes of accompanying fires. These fires were supplemented by 60 minutes of additional accompanying fires. The fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion were reinforced by the 313th Field Artillery Battalion, 315th Field Artillery Battalion and one platoon of 105mm assault guns. There were 51 missions fired in the preparation and accompanying fires. Also, there were 14 observed missions on infantry, machine guns, and vehicles; 14 TOT's; 2 counter battery; and 6 H & I missions were fired. Communication was by wire and radio.

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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
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Section I - Summary of Daily Operations and Actions. (Continued)

8 to 11 February (inclusive) - The mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained the same with the 319th Infantry cleaning out pillbox after pillbox to secure their objective. Approximately 900 rounds of smoke were fired on the 8th of February while the Engineers attempted to build a bridge across the Our River. Smoke concentrations were also used to conceal the aidmen while removing casualties. WP was used by the artillery to mark pillboxes for the direct fire weapons such as the Tank Destroyer and self propelled 155mm guns. On 9 February the 905th Field Artillery Battalion received fire control of the following: Company "C", 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company "C", 702nd Tank Battalion (1 platoon of each in direct fire position, remainder in indirect positions), 20 TOT's, 8 counter-battery, 14 infantry, 2 machine guns, 17 H & I, and 8 smoke missions were fired; plus 25 missions in a preparation and 9 registrations.

12 February - The mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained the same. The 3rd Battalion, 319th Infantry crossed the Our River and passed through the 2nd Battalion and proceeded to the regimental objective, reaching it about 2000 hours. A preparation was fired for them by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and reinforcing units. The 313th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of its reinforcing mission with the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. The following missions were fired: 2 TOT's, 3 counter-battery, 5 infantry, 1 machine gun, 2 mortars, 6 H & I's, 1 smoke and 1 preparation consisting of 7 missions.

13 to 18 February (inclusive) - The 319th Infantry continued in its mission of enlarging the bridgehead over the Our River by cleaning out the pillboxes they encountered. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued in its direct support mission of the 319th Infantry. On the 16th of February, Cannon Company, 319th Infantry moved to a forward position on the north side of the Our River in the vicinity of Wallendorf, Germany (9500 4365). On the 17th of February, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion Command Post moved to Reisdorf, Luxembourg (946 417). On the 18th of February, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and reinforcing units fired two 30 minute preparations to support attacks made by the 319th Infantry. During this period numerous missions were fired on pillboxes by the platoon of Battery "A", 558th Field Artillery Battalion using direct fire methods. The 60 rockets (4.2) mounted on each of 4 tanks of Company "C", 702nd Tank Battalion also fired at pillboxes. Missions fired were: 20 counter-battery, 70 infantry, 4 machine guns, 8 mortars, 3 OP's, 5 registrations, 2 smoke, 2 preparations consisting of 7 missions, 43 H & I, 3 vehicles, 3 OP's, 36 TOT's, and 3 tanks. The batteries moved to positions northeast of Wallendorf, Germany: Battery "A" (9502843405); Battery "B" (9534643352); Battery "C" (95534335).



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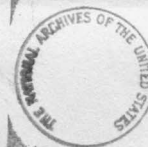
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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
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Section I - Summary of Daily Operations and Actions. (Continued)

19 February - The 2nd Battalion, 319th Infantry attacked at 0830 and took the high ground east and north of Niedersgegen, Germany; also cleaned out the town of Niedersgegen, Germany by mid afternoon. The 1st Battalion then passed through the 2nd Battalion and advanced to the northeast. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion and reinforcing units fired a preparation and also accompanying fires in support of the attack. The units reinforcing the 905th Field Artillery Battalion were: 315th Field Artillery Battalion, and fire control over 4.2 rockets from Company "C", 702nd Tank Battalion, 50 Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun quads from the 633rd AAA Battalion. Company "A", 91st Chemical Mortar was relieved by Company "D", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion. There were 7 TOT's, 1 counter-battery, 4 infantry, 1 machine gun, 1 smoke, 11 H & I's, 1 preparation of 25 concentrations, and four registrations fired.

20 February - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued in its direct support mission of the 319th Infantry who continued with their advance. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion and reinforcing unit, 315th Field Artillery Battalion, fired a preparation on the towns of Seimerich, Kerperich, and Obersgegen in support of the 319th Infantry. Cannon Company, 319th Infantry moved to a forward position in the vicinity of Kewenig, Germany (9669146560). Missions fired were: 4 infantry, 1 tank, 8 H & I's, 1 preparation, 4 TOT's, 4 mortars. Communication was by wire and radio.

21 to 26 February (inclusive) - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued with its direct support mission of the 319th Infantry. The Battalion moved to forward positions in the vicinity of Kewenig, Germany: Command Post (964467), Battery "A" (9737946560), Battery "B" (9677646797), and Battery "C" (962844675). In support of the continued attack of the 319th Infantry, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and supporting units fired two preparations. Company "D", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion designation was changed to Company "A", 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion on 22 February 1945. Missions fired were: 20 infantry, 6 tanks, 11 H & I's, 3 smoke, 2 preparations, 5 registrations, 7 TOT's, 1 AA Gun, 2 machine guns, 3 counter-battery, and 2 vehicles. On 22 February, Cannon Company, 319th Infantry moved to the vicinity of Lahr, Germany (9618249925). On 23 February Battery "A" moved to the vicinity of Lahr, Germany (9601350688). On 24 February the Battalion Command Post, Battery "B", and Battery "C" moved to the vicinity of Lahr, Germany: Command Post (902504), Battery "B" (9590751019), and Battery "C" (9619350989). On 25 February, Cannon Company, 319th Infantry, moved to the vicinity of Niederrader, Germany (99025445). The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to the vicinity of Niederrader, Germany: Command Post (99155445), Battery "A" (9890153969), Battery "B" (9896554310), and Battery "C" (9877553913). The 315th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of reinforcing the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Cannon Company, 319th Infantry moved to the vicinity of Otscheid, Germany (01245605). On 26 February the entire battalion moved to the vicinity of Altscheid, Germany. Command Post (035581), Battery "A" (0375458475), Battery "B" (0422258732), Battery "C" (0402058385), and Cannon Company, 319th Infantry (0403538816). In support of the continued attack of the 319th Infantry, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion fired 16 TOT's, 4 counter-battery, 19 infantry, 2 machine guns, 1 mortars, 18 H & I's, 4 preparations, 12 registrations, 4 tanks, and 3 smoke missions.

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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

APO #80, U. S. Army

Section I - Summary of Daily Operations and Actions. (Continued)

27 to 28 February (inclusive) - Situation changed from that of an attack to that of a defensive one. The mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained that of direct support of the 319th Infantry. The 315th Field Artillery Battalion was given the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion on 28 February. The British 25 pound gun recently issued to the Battalion was registered and later fired on H & I missions. There were 17 TOT's, 3 mortars, 6 H & I's and 3 registration missions fired.

Comments, Observations and Recommendations:

At the present time we are not able to fire the Cannon Company 105mm M3 Howitzer with a charge greater than charge 4, limiting maximum range to 5800 yards. With modifications to the sight mount, trail spade and a few other parts, it would be possible to fire with charge 5 to 7600 yards, which would make it a much more satisfactory weapon. As it is now, the Cannon Company often is out of range, due to the impracticability of firing on charge 4. Although the 105mm M3 Howitzer weighs approximately 1750 pounds less than the 105mm M2 Howitzer, and also has a much lower silhouette, it requires just as many men to man handle the howitzer and also service the howitzer, and by operation comparison, the 105mm M2 Howitzer is far superior to that of the 105mm M3.



Oswald H. Linck
OSWALD H. LINCK
Major, 905th FA Bn
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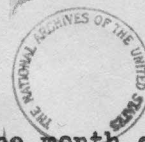
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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80, U.S. ARMY



1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy. (For the month of February 1945)
Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc.
TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.

1 February - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion continued in direct support of the 319th Infantry Regiment. The 10th and 51st Armored Infantry Battalions occupied the line while the 319th Infantry Regiment was in a rest area near Mersch. Enemy artillery was light throughout the period. The heaviest concentration reported was ten rounds in the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion area during the morning. Mortar rounds harassed the same area. The firing batteries of the 313th and 315th Field Artillery Battalions were shelled during the afternoon. Small groups of enemy infantry were observed in the vicinity of the enemy's main line of resistance. One mortar position was observed and adjusted upon by a forward observer. Patrols found an alert enemy using flare and whistle signals along the Our River and determined that numerous pillboxes were not manned. An observation post reported enemy horsedrawn vehicles and troops moving from the southwest into Obersiegen.

2 February - Patrols indicated slight activity in the vicinity of Bettel. Approximately thirty rounds of mortar fire fell in the infantry sector between 2200 and 2300. Three prisoners of war were taken by "C" Company, 10th Armored Infantry Battalion. Infantry outposts attested to the effectiveness of harassing fire in Hoesdorf. A few enemy troops were observed in the vicinity of pillboxes across the Our River. The only indication of enemy troops moving into our sector was a report that forty men were moving by truck across the Our River at Vianden early in the evening. Infantry elements indicated pillboxes were lightly held with only three-quarters of them occupied. A considerable increase in flare activity was noted. Several rounds of estimated 150mm artillery fell in the infantry lines in early evening. At 2000, "B" Company, 10th Armored Infantry Battalion advanced to take Hoesdorf. One artillery forward observer was with the company.

3 February - Hoesdorf was taken at 0520; nineteen prisoners were taken; and the enemy lost twelve dead in the operation which took place as the 2nd Company, 915th Regiment was relieving the 5th Company. Prisoners of war indicated that frantic efforts were made through the use of flares to get artillery fire on our troops but to no avail. Light mortar fire fell in Hoesdorf during the operation and continued throughout the day. Patrols operating in the vicinity of Bettel reported an alert enemy with flares and whistle signals in evidence along the entire front. Vehicular traffic was observed south of Obersiegen. Eight propaganda missions were fired. One prisoner reported hearing propaganda broadcasts on the previous day. Mine fields have caused casualties to friendly personnel. Several rounds of smoke fell in Fuhren in the late afternoon.

4 February - Enemy artillery was generally inactive throughout the period. Harassing fire was received in the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion sector in the afternoon. Some activity was observed around pillboxes. The 3rd Battalion, 319th Infantry Regiment took over from the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion in the evening.

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(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc. continued)

5 February - Enemy artillery fire increased but the heaviest concentration reported was twelve rounds. Six propaganda missions were fired, being directed at the 915 VG Regiment, 352 VG Division. Prisoners indicated the location of infantry howitzers near Semerich and seven men with one non-commissioned officer in each of seven bunkers between Gentingen and Ammeldingen. Patrols inspected the area adjacent to the Our River for approaches to tank and personnel crossings.

6 February - Enemy artillery fire increased throughout the period. Enemy tanks and infantry were observed in Ammeldingen. Adjustment was made on the tanks with good effect. The heaviest concentrations of artillery fire were received in Hoesdorf and southeast along the Our River. A shell report team was established in a forward position to operate during future operations. Observers were equipped with over-printed maps and oblique aerial photos of the areas to be covered. One forward observer was with each rifle company. Final preparations were made for the assault of the Siegfried Line near Wallendorf. Five propaganda missions were fired on towns across the Our River and along the river banks.

7 February - Prior to the attack, which moved off at 0300, the artillery fired a preparation and counter-battery. Accompanying fires were started at 0430 and continued until 0530 at the request of the liaison officers. The Our River was crossed at two points by boat after attempts to build a bridge failed. The 2nd Battalion crossed in the vicinity of Hoesdorf; the 1st Battalion crossed about one thousand yards above the junction of the Our and Sauer Rivers. By 0420, "F" Company was nearly across and shortly thereafter, "C" Company was reported across. The swiftness of the current hampered further operations. Boats were swept away and the crossing was delayed. Light and moderate artillery fire increased to extremely heavy concentrations of enemy artillery fire. The 1st Battalion was able to move to a position on the high ground west of Wallendorf. Small arms and artillery fire were received from the north and northeast. A counter-attack was reported in midmorning but interrogation could not confirm it. The 2nd Battalion met with large concentrations of artillery and automatic weapons fire. Nebelwerfer fire was received in Kleinreisdorf and Hoesdorf. Twenty-three prisoners were taken from the 915th VG Regiment and 1352 Artillery Regiment. The prisoners reported that they had turned in their excess ammunition on instructions that they were to be relieved. The relief never arrived.

8 February - Enemy artillery and mortar fire was heavy throughout the period. "E" Company attempted to move personnel across the Our River in boats but the operation was hampered by heavy enemy artillery fire. The 3rd Battalion remained in the vicinity of Kleinreisdorf as no bridge was constructed. A one hundred round concentration of Nebelwerfer fire was received on the high ridge to the front of the 1st Battalion. The air observation post reported an enemy column of fifty men moving southeast of Niedersiegen. An attempt in the afternoon to cross by the 3rd Battalion met with heavy machine gun and artillery fire. Our units which had infiltrated to the crossing site withdrew. Pillboxes on high ground above "A" Company were occupied and possibly used for artillery observation posts by the enemy.

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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
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(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc., continued)

8 February (Continued) - Enemy infantry of company strength were reported dug in on the high ground above "A" Company. Eleven prisoners were reported from the 5th and 6th Companies, 915th VG Regiment and 2nd Company 36th VG Regiment which was to relieve the 915th Regiment. One prisoner from the 36th VG Regiment reported heavy casualties in his unit while moving into position.

9 February - Enemy artillery was active throughout the sector. After an unsuccessful attempt to cross the Our River the 3rd Battalion returned again to Kleinreisderf. Prisoners from the 36th VG Regiment indicated that as the tactical situation changed their unit merely reinforced the 915th VG Regiment. Prisoners reported that casualties from our artillery fire was heavy. "F" and "G" Companies moved without opposition to reinforce the 1st Battalion. Supplies were flown to the 1st Battalion by liaison planes of the 80th Infantry Division Artillery. Prisoners reported locations of Nebelwerfer, mortar and artillery continued. Seven pillboxes were captured by "E" Company and four more were destroyed. Prisoners showed little interest in carrying on the fight. The largest concentration of artillery was two hundred rounds in the town of Hesdorf.

10 February - Prisoners taken during the night of 9-10 February indicated decimated units; identified elements of the 5th Parachute Division in reserve; and gave artillery and Nebelwerfer locations. Enemy harassing fire was heavy throughout the sector. Self-propelled 155mm guns fired directly on pillboxes with excellent effect; thirty prisoners were obtained by such means. Heavy traffic was reported moving south between Lahr and Huttingen. A counter-attack of platoon strength was reported by "G" Company. Artillery fired in support. At the end of the period the 319th Infantry Regiment had one hundred prisoners across the river and were awaiting transport facilities to move them to the rear.

11 February - Enemy artillery and Nebelwerfer fire continued to harass our infantry elements in the vicinity of Hesdorf and Wallendorf. The largest concentration reported was forty rounds. A reported counter-attack in mid-morning could not be confirmed. Groups of thirty to fifty enemy infantry were reported moving south from Lahr, Hemmerdingen, and Cruchten. Direct fire weapons operated against forward elements of the 1st Battalion. Observation indicated that the enemy was shifting small groups from one pillbox to another. Prisoners taken were from the 352nd, 212th, and 9th VG Divisions and they stated that units were receiving reinforcements from rear areas.

12 February - The 3rd Battalion crossed the Our River at midnight. A few rounds of light artillery fire harassed Wallendorf and the vicinity of Hesdorf during the morning. "L" Company advanced through heavy small arms and artillery fire and captured several pillboxes. "E" Company moved to assault pillboxes northeast of Ammeldingen. At approximately 1200 Hesdorf received a heavy concentration of estimated 150mm artillery fire. One hundred and thirty nine prisoners were taken by infantry elements. Units identified were the 57th, 116th, and 915th VG Regiments.

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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80, U. S. ARMY

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc. continued)

13 February - "K" Company moved to its objective northeast of Ammeldingen but met light small arms fire and heavy artillery fire. "I" Company moved out later to the same vicinity and met with little resistance. Considerable horse-drawn and motorized traffic was observed in the vicinity of Freilingen. One hundred and eight prisoners were taken in the day's operations. Locations of artillery units were secured from the interrogation of the Battery Commander, 5th Battery and the Forward Observer, 4th Battery, 1352nd Artillery Regiment. Concentrations of troops and armored vehicles were reported approximately fifteen thousand meters north of our present front lines. Enemy artillery fire was heavy and consistent throughout the period. "K" Company was counterattacked in the evening by a force estimated at company strength. The enemy was repulsed.

14 February - Enemy artillery and mortar fire continued heavy throughout the day. Nebelwerfer fire was received in the early morning by elements of the 3rd Battalion. Activity in the vicinity of the 3rd Battalion was reported as a counterattack and was accompanied by artillery and small arms fire. Several missions adjusted by forward observers stabilized the situation. Another attempt by the enemy to advance from pillboxes to "K" Company position southwest of Niedersgegen was beaten back by small arms and artillery fire. There were some reports of infiltration in the forward areas. Twelve enemy guns and batteries were fired upon by the battalion. A one hundred round concentration was reported on leading elements of the 3rd Battalion. Movement of groups of enemy infantry was observed from ground observation posts. The largest group was one hundred men moving to the east. Pillboxes were taken under fire by the 155mm self-propelled gun attached to the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Some pillboxes required forty rounds before crumpling and yielding prisoners. "K" Company attempted to clean out pillboxes north of its sector but were forced back by fierce resistance after taking one pillbox. Enemy officers in some of the pillboxes fanatically urged their men to resist. In other pillboxes the enemy showed a definite tendency to give up the fight. Fourteen prisoners were taken.

15 February - Enemy artillery continued to harass our forward positions. The harassing fire was constant on Wallendorf during the evening. Our air observation post adjusted upon seven guns and one Nebelwerfer position with good effect. Horse-drawn wagons were reported passing through Niedersgegen during the early evening. A prisoner from the 1352nd Replacement Battalion reported that one of our artillery concentrations on Huttingen on the evening of 11-12 February reduced the number of replacements he was taking from the rear to forward positions from sixty-three to thirty-five. Intermittent shelling from estimated 150mm artillery was reported on the bridge site near Wallendorf.

16 February - Enemy harassing fire continued. A number of deserters walked into infantry positions with information that enable air observation posts to adjust fire effectively on three enemy guns. Prisoners reported artillery installations in the vicinity of Niedersgegen. There was evidence the enemy was using self-propelled guns. The heaviest concentration reported was thirty rounds in Ammeldingen. Prisoners stated that approximately fifty enemy occupied Niedersgegen armed with machine guns and anti-tank rocket launchers. A medical prisoner of war reported that our artillery and rocket fire

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(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc. continued)

was causing an average of eight casualties per day in Niedersgegen. Predominant directions of enemy artillery fire were from the north and northeast. There was a decrease in artillery fire from the previous period.

17 February - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion led the XII Corps in obtaining general and team shelling reports. Prisoners reported an increased number of minefields with booby traps attached to the mines. Infantry patrols reported direct hits on enemy command posts in Niedersgegen. Enemy artillery was generally inactive.

18 February - Enemy artillery concentrations up to thirty rounds were reported on our forward infantry elements. Our troops reported receiving direct fire from enemy tanks. Eighty-two prisoners were taken. Prisoners stated that our concentrations of artillery were heavy and accurate but that our Pezit-fuzed ammunition burst too high in the air. He believed that the "night air bursts" resulted from a double-fusing and termed it an artillery "secret weapon". "Hetzer" self-propelled anti-tank guns were employed by the enemy. Our infantry elements were in contact with the 116th and 915th VG Regiments whose combined strength was estimated at seven hundred men.

19 February - Some artillery and mortar fire was received during the day. Upon the approach of our infantry and tank elements a general exodus from Niedersgegen was noted. XII Corps counterbattery fired upon three locations from shelling reports turned in by personnel of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Considerable resistance was encountered from pillboxes southeast of Niedersgegen. Prisoners were taken from the 208th VG Regiment.

20 February - Concentrations were fired on enemy tanks with good effect. As the 319th Infantry Regiment moved forward in the attack, direct fire was received from the north and northeast. Prisoners taken stated that Huttingen was held by sixty enemy troops and five tanks. More mortar than artillery fire was received during the attack. A Psychological Warfare broadcast secured a number of prisoners in the vicinity of Niedersgegen. Infantry elements took three hundred and one prisoners during the period. Materiel captured in Obersgegen included four 120mm mortars, four 75mm infantry howitzers, one 150mm howitzer, two 88mm guns, two high velocity 75mm anti-tank guns. Prisoners included personnel from the 2nd Panzer Grenadier Regiment. A prisoner from the 1095th Artillery Regiment reported the use of Russian 128mm guns in his unit.

21 February - Enemy artillery was relatively inactive throughout the period. The movement of elements of the 3rd Battalion into Lahr was hampered by enemy tanks. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion air observation post secured direct hits on two Mark IV tanks. Approximately one hundred and seventy-five prisoners were taken by the 319th Infantry Regiment; twenty-five prisoners were taken by the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion which discovered three booby-trapped pillboxes. Civilians in the town of Lahr stated that retreating enemy troops advised them to remain in cellars as the town would be heavily shelled by artillery in the vicinity of Sinspelt during the night.

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THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc. continued)

22 February - Enemy artillery fire was moderate though our forward elements were harassed throughout the day. A seventy-five round concentration and later a fifteen round concentration were reported in Geichlingen. Interdiction fire fell upon cross-roads in the infantry area. Activity centered about the movement of the 2nd Battalion to Obergeckler where "E" and "F" Companies were isolated for several hours. Our liaison plane successfully dropped bazooka ammunition to the isolated elements but received machine gun fire south and east of the town. The enemy fiercely resisted our advance toward Niedergeckler and fighting took place around a road block west of the town. Tanks, direct fire weapons and infantry were involved. Prisoners indicated that despite heavy losses and disorganization, some withdrawal was being accomplished. CCB of the 4th Armored Division moved to assembly points in the sector. Several mine fields were reported by personnel of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion.

23 February - Enemy artillery and mortar fire continued to harass our forward positions. Mortar fire was received in Geichlingen throughout the night of 22-23 February. Eight enemy tanks were reported in the vicinity of Niedersgeckler. The air observation post obtained adjustment with good effect on two enemy tanks. Our forward elements in Sinspelt received mortar, small arms, and light artillery fire. A Technical Sergeant prisoner of war from the 10th Battery, 179th Field Artillery Regiment, seven years a forward observer, reported a shortage of artillery ammunition to the extent that only observed missions could be fired. The mobility of enemy artillery was hampered by the loss of horses and the deterioration of the remaining horses. The enemy employed anti-tank weapons as artillery throughout the present operation. The enemy forward observer stated that our concentrations were demoralizing and that our rockets had a terrifying effect on German infantrymen. He gave the air observation posts total credit for knocking out German artillery batteries. The 179th Artillery Regiment was employed against elements of the 80th Infantry Division since the battles for Ringel and Geesdorf in Northern Luxembourg. Fifty prisoners of war were taken during the day.

24 February - Personnel of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion captured two enemy soldiers. Sixteen enemy from the 1070 Security Battalion surrendered to the 1st Battalion. Vehicular movement to the east was observed during the period. Enemy artillery was generally inactive throughout the period except for a seventy-five round concentration which fell in Obersgeckler.

25 February - Some harassing fire fell in the vicinity of Niederrader during the day. The use of enemy self-propelled guns to the north was indicated. Considerable progress was made in the forward movement of armored elements.

26 February - Enemy artillery was generally inactive during the period. Several concentrations of light artillery fell between Echterhausen and Hamm and a few scattered rounds fell in the vicinity of the bridge site at Hamm. Elements of the 1st Battalion received small arms fire from across the Prum River. Twenty-five prisoners were taken during the period including four Russians impressed into the German Army. The prisoners reported the location of a howitzer battery. An infiltration of enemy troops into the Battalion area was reported.

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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80, U. S. ARMY



(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc. continued)

27 February - Enemy artillery activity was slight during the day. A few rounds fell upon the forward elements of the 1st Battalion and fifteen rounds estimated 75mm artillery fell in the vicinity of Phillipsweiler. Prisoners indicated that our infantry faced elements of the 695th VG Regiment which company strengths varied from thirty to eighty men. Morale was reported as fair; supply normal. Supply data gave 60 rounds per rifle and 1200 rounds per light machine gun. Seven enemy deserted from the 15th Fortress Anti-Tank Battalion. A retreat was indicated and prisoners were told to destroy howitzers in their possession. Six prisoners were taken by Headquarters Battery 905th Field Artillery Battalion.

28 February - An infantry patrol which attempted to cross the Prum River to destroy enemy materiel, failed in its mission. Elements of the 1st Battalion received small arms and mortar fire during the day. Enemy artillery fire again fell during the vicinity of Phillipsweiler. Advances were reported by the 317th and 318th Infantry Regiments and the 4th Armored Division. Numerous enemy booklets, letters, and documents were turned over to the 80th Infantry Division CIC for investigation and analysis.

The end of the period found the 319th Combat Team faced with disorganized enemy units among which had been identified the 695th, 915th and 212th VG Regiments. Enemy artillery materiel had been captured in considerable quantity; artillery activity was negligible during the occupation of positions near Altscheid. Prisoners reported a complete deterioration of morale and orders to withdraw to the east destroying the materiel that could not be withdrawn. Enemy capabilities were estimated to be small counterattacks with a limited number of tanks.

Comments and Observations:

Considerable information was secured on the initial operations against the Siegfried Line northwest of Wallendorf by special reports of forward observers of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. Diagrams of captured pillboxes and adjacent areas were forwarded to higher headquarters. Maps taken in pillboxes were passed on through regular channels. When the observers arrived at the pillboxes the communication systems in many were intact. Information was secured by listening to the enemy conversation. From installations within the pillboxes it appeared that the communications systems were elaborate and well protected. No radios nor radio equipment were found in or near the pillboxes.

The construction of the pillboxes differed considerably. The thickness of the concrete varied from four to six feet with roofs up to eight feet in thickness. Rooms were equipped with triple-decked bunks. Camouflage nets were stretched over a number of the pillboxes. Machine gun emplacements were situated on commanding ground near the pillboxes.

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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80, U. S. ARMY

(Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc., continued)

Comments and Observations: (Continued)

1. During the period the map situation improved. Maps were generally available in all scales needed for tactical and reconnaissance units. Maps with over-printed concentration numbers were especially useful during operations.
2. Map templates were difficult to obtain. Requisitions were not filled within a reasonable time. As the map template code enables accurate designation of friendly units, reporting of such information is hampered where map templates are not available.
3. The supply of aerial photos improved and each forward observer was supplied with several photos during the initial operations against the Siegfried Line.
4. A flexible map cover should be an item of issue. Our battalion has supplied forward observers and liaison officers with powder bags for use as map covers. As the powder bags have to be obtained from medium field artillery battalions, the demand often exceeds the supply.
5. Radio messages must be more effectively monitored and the use of radio codes stressed. Records of monitoring should be kept and training schedules should incorporate instruction in the use of all types of applicable radio codes.
6. Orientation of all personnel should include the previous history of the German nation and discussions of problems arising from military occupation.



Eldred M. Swingen
ELDRED M. SWINGEN
Captain, 905th FA Bn
S-2

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SUPPLY OFFICE
5th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 80, United States Army

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy
Section III Logistics, Supply Procedure, Problems

TO : The Adjutant General
Washington, D.C.



1. In accordance with Paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3, the following report is submitted for the calender month of February 1945:

a. Class I Supplies: No problems.

b. Class II Supplies:

(1) Clothing and Equipment:

(a) Jacket, field OD, M1943 - size 34R not available.

(b) Shoe, service or boot, service, combat - EE widths not available.

(c) Tire, size 600 x 16 - replacement very slow.

(2) Expendable Supplies:

(a) Brush, bowl sanitary, 15-inch - not available.

(b) Battery, BA-40 - only 30 ea. ^{PER WEEK} of this battery has been available to this organization. This is an insufficient number to meet operating needs for radio set SCR-609.

(c) Stem, flame valve and other parts for converted type range, field M1937 - parts extremely difficult to obtain. It is often necessary to exchange entire fire unit when only one part is in need of replacement.

(d) Patch, tube, self vulcanizing - all sizes not available in sufficient quantities.

c. Class III Supplies: No problems.

c. Class IV Supplies: None authorized.

e. Class V Supplies:

Distance to nearest ASP as this organization moved forward this month became up to 65 miles, necessitating a round trip of 130 miles. This extreme distance over some very poor roads with heavy traffic has slowed ammunition resupply to a point where it could become dangerously slow.

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(1)

This has been alleviated to a large extent at the end of the month by moving a limited ASP up considerably closer. This action should have been taken at an earlier date.

2. Medical Supply and Evacuation.

The evacuation of casualties and the procurement of Medical supplies by the Medical Detachment, 905th FA. Bn., were accomplished without difficulty. Casualties were evacuated within a half hour, or less after their arrival at the Aid Station; and Medical supplies were received less than twenty-four (24) hours after the submission of the requisition.

Considerable difficulties were encountered in transporting the equipment and supplies from one bivouac area to another due to the limited space in the vehicles.

3. Comments, Observations, Recommendations:

Recommend that limited ASP's be moved to within range of 25 miles (one way) of light artillery battalions, in every case when and as soon as the tactical situation permits.



Lester H. Salter
LESTER H. SALTER
CAPT., FA
S-4

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By ED NARA Date 9-23-60

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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80, U. S. ARMY

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy
Section IV, Personnel and Allied Administration for Month of
February 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

1. In accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105 as amended by Change 3, the
following report is submitted for calendar month of February 1945:

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY
(Figures taken from Battle Casualty Reports up to and
(Source of Information)
including 28 Feb 45 for period 1 Feb 45 to 28 Feb 45.
(Date) (Dates)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD's</u>
4 Feb							1
6 Feb			1			1	
7 Feb			1			1	
10 Feb			1			1	
19 Feb			1			1	
22 Feb			2			2	
23 Feb				1		1	
25 Feb							1
TOTAL	0	0	6	1	0	7	2

TABLE NUMBER 2.



PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PW's</u>
24 Feb	2
27 Feb	6
TOTAL	8

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TABLE NUMBER 3.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
4 Feb	3
11 Feb	5
13 Feb	2
14 Feb	1
21 Feb	6
23 Feb	3
25 Feb	1
28 Feb	2
TOTAL	<u>23</u>

TABLE NUMBER 4.



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Feb 45 to 28 Feb 45, inclusive.
(Date) (Date)

NO.

28 Bronze Star Medal
3 Oak-Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
2 Air Medal
11 Purple Heart.

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2. Graves Registrations - None.

3. Battlefield Appointments - None.

a. Direct appointment under the provisions of Circular 10, ETOUSA, 1945:

Staff Sergeant Edward S. Lann, promoted to Second Lieutenant on 27 February 1945.

Staff Sergeant Charles E. Chresniak, promoted to Second Lieutenant on 24 February 1945.

4. Special Service - At every opportunity the Special Service Officer arranged movies for the men.

5. Comments, observations and recommendations:

All administrative and personnel work of the Battalion was satisfactorily accomplished by the Personnel Section in the Division Rear Echelon. All enlisted men and officers were paid for the month of February 1945 on 28 February 1945.



William M. Gosman
WILLIAM M. GOSMAN
Major, 905th FA Bn.
Exec and S-1

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By ED NARA Date 9-23-60