S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 161ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 35 US ARMY

1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy.

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

1. In compliance with the provisions of Par 10 C3, AR 345-105, submitted below is report after action against the enemy for the 161st Field Artillery Battalion covering the period 1-31 January 1945.

1 January 1945

The 161st Field Artillery Battalion maintained its position at Honville, Belgium, in direct support of the 134th Infantry. Our infantry prepared to jump off at 1330. This battalion with the 127th Field Artillery Battalion (155 Howitzer) and Division Artillery 6th Armored fired preparation fires from 1300 to 1330 for the infantry jump off. At 1800 the infantry advance was halted for the night with instructions to dig in and send out patrols. H & I fires were continued throughout the night. This battalion fired 73 H & I missions with a total of 804 rounds expended. The enemy is using Liaison planes over our area tonight. It is believed that they are trying to adjust artillery fire. Ammunition expended: 2692 rounds.

2 January 1945

At 0800 our infantry jumped off with short preparation fires. Information was received from Division Artillery to step up our H & I fires. A total of 113 H & I fires for this night expending 1490 rounds. Prisoner of War states our H & I fires are worse than anything they have ever encountered and is causing a lot of casualties. Forward Observer Party reported KIA (Lt Henderson, Cpl Buchanan, Pvt Johnson). Ammunition expended: 2344 rounds.

3 January 1945

At 0800 our infantry jumped off without any preparation fires. Due to dense forest the attack gained very little ground. This battalion continued to fire H & I fires. 28 TOTs were fired during this period. Ammunition expended: 2445 rounds.

4 January 1945

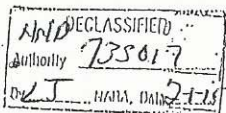
At 0800 1st Battalion, 134th Infantry jumped off, but little progress was made on account of snow and cold weather. Prisoners of war continued to state that all air bursts were proper height with no duds and that the effects were devastating. TOTs were fired on all targets pointed out by Prisoner of War report. This battalion furnished trucks to move the 320th Infantry. Prisoner of War reports enemy pulling in close to our lines to avoid our artillery fire. An "A" Battery Forward

- 1 -
S E C R E T

6141 master

335-FF(161)-0.3

Jan 45

S E C R E T

Hq 161 FA Bn, Report After Action Against Enemy 1-31 Jan 45 (cont'd)

Observer Party with "C" Company, 134th Infantry, overran their objective, were cut off, and reported MIA (Cpl Hall, Cpl Elder, Tec 5 Gardiner) Propaganda leaflets were fired at 1040. Ammunition expended: 2480 rounds.

5 January 1945

At 0845 Prisoner of War reports 1st and 2nd platoons of heavy mortars (120 mm) at 58.7-55.1. They have not fired at 1045. Prisoner of War reports additional mortars in position at 60.5-55.1 and elements of 387th Regt. at 61.5-55.7 in lone house with gasoline depot in vicinity. At 1100 Capt Morris, 161 FA Bn Ln O with 1st Bn 134th Infantry reports location of Companys "A" 56.9-57.9; "B" 56.7-53.7 and 36 men from "C" missing, including the C.O. and Field Artillery forward observer. 1st Bn of 320th Infantry is attached to 134th Infantry; Capt Gains will be the Ln O and Lt Delarenzo, forward observer. At 1650 Capt Morris reports front lines as follows: 59.0-56.5 to 57.6-55.2. At 2000 the 6th Armored Division reports enemy troops moving south at 59.0-55.2 and armored column moving north at 61.0-57.2. Ammunition expended: 2317 rounds.

6 January 1945

Very little change in situation. Report was received from Prisoner of War that four (4) Tiger Royal tanks and three (3) light tanks are to attack between 0400 and 0500 in the morning. TOTs and H & I fires were directed in the area thought to be the assembly area for the attack. This fire must have been very effective as no counter-attack occurred. Ammunition expended: 2876 rounds. Grand Total: 94,047 rounds.

7 January 1945

127th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved from reinforcing our fires. The 179th Field Artillery Battalion (155 Howitzer) was attached for reinforcing our fires. 176th Field Artillery Battalion (4.5 Gun) is in direct support of Corps but will reinforce any fires upon call from us. Ammunition expended: 1480 rounds.

8 January 1945

Three Chemical Battalions were relieved at 1400 from reinforcing our fires. 176th Field Artillery Battalion (4.5 Gun) is in direct support of Corps but will reinforce any fires for us. 216th Field Artillery Battalion (105 Howitzer) is attached for direct support. Ammunition Expended: 1220

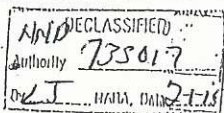
9 January 1945

No change in situation. Weather continued to be bad with snow and poor visibility. Infantry is holding and sending out patrols. Ammunition expended: 402 rounds.

10 January 1945

177th Field Artillery Battalion (155 Howitzer) and 231 Field

- 2 -
S E C R E T



S E C R E T

Hq 161 FA Bn, Report After Action Against Enemy 1-31 Jan 45 (cont'd)

Artillery Battalion (105 Howitzer) are attached for reinforcing fires. 179th Field Artillery Battalion is relieved from reinforcing fires. Pvts Bonacquisti and Williams trfd from Infantry as reinforcements; Pvt Mashore, reinforcement, reported 1800. Ammunition expended: 250 rounds.

11 January 1945

At 0900 Battalion Commander and party left on reconnaissance. Battalion maintained a rear Fire Direction Center and moved into position at Remoitiesse, Belgium--distance traveled five (5) miles. The following Field Artillery Battalions continued to reinforce the fires of this battalion: 231st Field Artillery Battalion (105 Howitzer), 177th Field Artillery Battalion (155 Howitzer), 176th Field Artillery Battalion (4.5 Gun), 216th Field Artillery Battalion (105 Howitzer). Ammunition expended: 158 rounds.

12 January 1945

The battalion remained in position at Remoitiesse, Belgium. Information was received from Division Artillery that we were to go into Corps reserve. 231st Field Artillery Battalion, 177th Field Artillery Battalion, 176th Field Artillery Battalion, and 216th Field Artillery Battalion are all relieved from reinforcing our fires. Ammunition expended: 24 rounds.

13 January 1945

The Battalion Commander and party left at 1300 to reconnoiter for new positions. New positions were selected and the battalion moved to A'l'estrage, Belgium--distance traveled five (5) miles. Company "A" 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion (3 Tank Destroyers) is attached for reinforcing fires. The 134th Infantry was relieved and our artillery was attached to Corps as general support artillery. Ammunition expended: 132 rounds. Grand Total: 97,713.

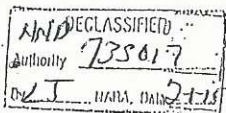
14 January 1945

Col. Schuster left Bn C.P. at 0955 to go to Div Arty and returned to Bn at 1250. Our Battalion fired on call missions through Div Arty. Ammunition expended: 304 rounds.

15 January 1945

At 0830 Col. Schuster left C.P. to Reconnoiter for new positions in vicinity of Marvie. Bn. March Order was given and Battalion closed station at 1140. Arrived in new position at Marvie 1230. Col. Schuster left C.P. to visit 219th and 216th Field Artillery Battalions. 216th Field Artillery Battalion reported 132 Prisoners of War, including 5 officers, taken by 320th Infantry. Battalion in Corps Artillery general support. Sgt. Ballis, reinforcement, reported 1800. Ammunition expended: 280 rounds.

- 3 -
S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Hq 161 FA Bn, Report After Action Against Enemy 1-31 Jan 45 (cont'd)

16 January 1945

At 1315 Lt. Col. Belden, Div Arty S-3, visited C.P. Most missions assigned the Battalion were out of our range. Attached Tank Destroyers fired H & I missions assigned by Division Arty. Ammunition Expended: 233 rounds.

17 January 1945

At 1230 Div Arty S-2 reported counter-attack in our sector but that it was under control. At 1540 attached Tank Destroyers were relieved. Ammunition Expended: 000.

18 January 1945

At 0815 Col. Schuster left C.P. to go on Reconnaissance. At 1055 Battalion left Marvie to move into new positions at Bizory, Belgium (58.9-59.7). 212th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved; 231st Field Artillery Battalion remained attached. Our Battalion moved into same C.P. with 216th Field Artillery Battalion and took over calls for fire at 1530 in direct support of 134th Infantry (2nd and 3rd Battalions on line). 216th Field Artillery Battalion guns remained in position and were available for fires until they closed station early 19 January 1945. Lt Kiley and Pvt DeBord, reinforcements, reported 1830. Ammunition expended: 265 rounds.

19 January 1945

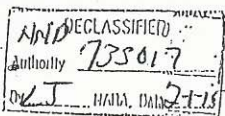
134th Infantry in defensive position. Forward Observers adjusted fire on concentrations arranged for defensive fire and normal barrages. Very little activity in our sector. At 1535 Capt. Hawks, Ln O from 212th Field Artillery Battalion, reported to C.P. S-2 of 134th Infantry asked for arrangements to be made for one of his Battalion S-2s to make a reconnaissance by liaison plane. Capt. Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Battalion 134th Infantry, reports Moinet, Belgium still occupied by the enemy. At 2210 2nd Battalion, 134th Infantry, reported 18 rounds 150 mm in the front lines. Ammunition expended: 296 rounds.

20 January 1945

At 1250 a buzz bomb passed over our area (Bizory, Belgium), route of flight, West. At 1400 Capt. Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Battalion, 134th Infantry, reported patrols going into enemy territory--time of departure: 1500. At 1420 Capt. Nicholson, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 2nd Battalion 134th Infantry, reported friendly patrols out at this time and will notify Battalion S-2 when they return. At 1545 231st Field Artillery Battalion was relieved. At 1620 Ln O, 177th Field Artillery Battalion, reported to this C.P. At 1630 an overlay was received from 134th Infantry Regiment on friendly situation; plan is to attack at 210745 Jan 45. At 1540 Capt Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Battalion, 134th Infantry, reported

- 4 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Hq 161 FA Bn, Report After Action Against Enemy 1-31 Jan 45 (cont'd)

friendly patrols going to 63.0-63.5, 63.5-64.3. These patrols reached 66.1-65.5 and were recalled. At 1930 Capt. Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Battalion 134th Infantry, reported Moinet, Belgium clear of enemy troops. Combat Command "A", 6th Armored Division, took 4 or 5 Prisoners of War. Ammunition Expended: 525 Rounds. Grand Total: 99,616.

21 January 1945

At 0835 Col. Schuster left for 2nd Battalion C.P. of 134th Infantry at 0855. Capt. Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Battalion, 134th Infantry, reports leading elements at 63.7-63.7 at 1000. Capt. Nicholson, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 2nd Battalion, 134th Infantry, reports leading elements at 63.0-64.0. At 1100 Capt. Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Battalion, 134th Infantry, reports leading elements 64.3-64.3, sending patrols to 65.0-64.0 at 1215. Btry "B", 161st Field Artillery Battalion displaced one gun to forward position (61.9-61.9) and began registration by high burst at 1200. At 1430 S-3, 6th Armored Division Artillery, reports leading elements 3000 yards beyond objective. At 1745 the "C" Btry Forward Observer with 3rd Battalion, 134th Infantry, reports that the enemy pulled out 19 Jan 45 on account of lack of ammunition (civilian report). Ammunition expended: 51 rounds.

22 January 1945

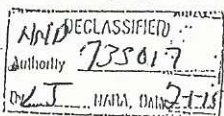
At 0715 Col. Schuster and Battery Commanders left on Reconnaissance. At 0845 Battalion left Bizory, Belgium and arrived at new position at Hoffelt, Luxembourg (70.2-68.4) at 1140. At 1345 Col. Schuster left Battalion C.P. to go to 134th Infantry C.P. At 1400 weather was clear. At 1515 a buzz bomb went over this area, going southwest. At 1545 Col. Schuster returned to Battalion C.P. from 134th Infantry C.P. At 2045 6th Armored Division Artillery cleared coordinates 75.1-74.1 for high burst adjustment. Ammunition expended: 38 rounds.

23 January 1945

At 0915 Col. Schuster left Battalion C.P. for 6th Armored Division Artillery C.P. to meet 6th Armored Division Artillery Commanding General. At 0940 Major Funk, Executive Officer 161st Field Artillery Battalion, left Battalion C.P. to go to 134th Infantry C.P. and returned at 1030. At 1044 Col. Schuster returned to this Battalion C.P. At 1145 Lt. Wiley, 253rd Field Artillery Battalion, reported as Liaison Officer. At 1200 253rd Field Artillery Battalion and 231st Field Artillery Battalion reinforced the fires of 161st Field Artillery Battalion. At 1200 Capt. Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Battalion 134th Infantry, reported the first elements of 3rd Battalion have reached the assembly area. At 1245 Lt. Grohm of the 231st Field Artillery Battalion reported as liaison officer. At 1255 the town of Hautbellain, Luxembourg is cleared of the enemy; our troops have moved into the town. Weather is clear to partly cloudy. Ammunition expended: 255 rounds

- 5 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Hq 161 FA Bn, Report After Action Against Enemy 1-31 Jan 45 (cont'd)

24 January 1945

At 0430 the 3rd Battalion of 134th Infantry reported 75 rounds fell in the vicinity of their lines. At 0800 Col. Schuster left C.P. for 134th Infantry C.P. At 1015 today "A" Btry base piece fired the 100,000th round since 161st Field Artillery Battalion arrived in France; Col. Schuster pulled the lanyard. At 1300 Capt Morris, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 1st Bn 134th Infantry, reported the leading elements at 77.8-71.3. Col. Schuster left on reconnaissance at 1300. At 1625 6th Armored Division Artillery reported the towns of Holler and Wilwerdange, Luxembourg clear of enemy troops. Weather cloudy in forenoon to clear afternoon. Ammunition expended: 296 rounds.

25 January 1945

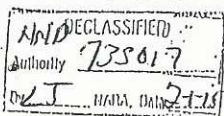
At 0945 Col. Schuster left C.P. to go to 6th Armored Division Artillery C.P. At 1050 Capt. Morris, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 1st Battalion 134th Infantry reports leading elements at 79.1-71.5. At 1330 Col. Schuster returned from 134th Infantry C.P. At 1345 the leading elements of 1st Battalion of 134th Infantry were reported at 79.5-71.8. At 1510 Task Force "R" was reported at 79.9-73.0, Task Force "C" at 79.9-71.8, and Task Force "H" at 81.3-70.8. At 1815 Col. Schuster left for 134th Infantry and returned at 1915. At 1930 a Buzz bomb went over this area going west. At 1930 Col. Schuster left for 6th Armored Division Artillery C.P. and returned at 2000. At 2120 buzz bomb passed over our area going west. At 2210 the 6th Armored Division Artillery reported the capture of 49 Prisoners of War from the 3rd and 9th Companies of 104th Regt, 15 Panzer Division. Ammunition expended: 107 rounds.

26 January 1945

At 0830 Col. Schuster left C.P. to go to 6th Armored C.P. Reconnaissance parties left for new positions in vicinity of Boxhorn, Luxembourg. At 1030 the Battalion closed station and at 1300 arrived at new position at Boxhorn, Luxembourg. At 1500 Capt. Nicholson, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 2nd Battalion 134th Infantry reported 3 105 Howitzers--1 in good condition, 2 destroyed at 80.0-66.3. These Howitzers were the infantry type cannons that had been captured by the Germans and were abandoned. The 128th Field Artillery Battalion Ln Os reported in to our C.P. at 1910. Capt. Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Bn, 134th Infantry, reports friendly patrols going to the town of Kalborn, Luxembourg--patrols leaving at 1945. Capt. Preston, 696th Field Artillery Battalion, reported as Ln O at 2230. Forward Observers from 128th Field Artillery Battalion and 696th Field Artillery Battalion were sent to 2nd and 3rd Battalions of 134th Infantry. Col. Bartlett of 183rd Group visited this C.P. at 1555. Major Cooper, S-3 of 183rd Group, visited this C.P. at 1530. Lt. Col. Bruse of the 128th Field Artillery Battalion visited this C.P. at 1600. Weather cloudy and very cold with snow. Ammunition expended: 107 rounds.

- 6 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Hq 161 FA Bn, Report After Action Against Enemy 1-31 Jan 45 (cont'd)

27 January 1945

At 0035 Capt. Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Battalion 134th Infantry, reported patrols returned with negative report. Col. Schuster left the C.P. going to 134th Infantry C.P. at 0925. Col. Bartlett, 183rd Group, visited this C.P. at 1040; when Col. Bartlett left our C.P. he was going to 6th Armored Division Artillery at 1110. At 1130 Col. Schuster returned to C.P. At 1300 Col. Schuster left C.P. going to 183rd Group C.P. Capt. Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Battalion 134th Infantry, reported sending patrols to 84.8-67.4 at 1500. Ln O from 177th Field Artillery Battalion reported to this C.P. At 1830 2nd Battalion patrol of 134th Infantry reports enemy outpost at 82.8-66.8. Weather: cloudy and very cold with snow. Ammunition Expended: 144 rounds. Grand Total: 100,614

28 January 1945

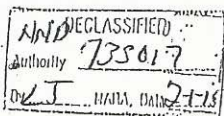
At 1000 Col. Schuster left C.P. going to 3rd Battalion 134th Infantry C.P. At 1000 Capt Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Bn 134th Infantry, reports that patrols met a 5 man enemy patrol in Kalborn, Luxembourg. The patrol observed activity in the vicinity of the town, and the infantry plans to establish an outpost near the town. At 1000 verbal orders were received from 183rd Group. All orders and reports are to be sent direct to 6th Armored Division Artillery. At 1200 Col. Schuster returned to C.P. Location of 183rd Group O.P.s were reported at 82.0-67.4, 80.9-65.3 (occupied by 177th Field Artillery Battalion), 62.2-67.7 (manned by 134th Infantry. Col. Schuster left for 134th Infantry C.P. at 1250. At 1355 enemy infantry was reported at 85.1-66.0 and enemy personnel were reported around house at 85.9-66.2. Capt Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Bn 134th Infantry, reports sending patrols from 82.2-67.4 to 84.1-66.1 to 84.4-67.3 to 85.0-67.3 to 82.2-67.8. These patrols leave at 1900 and return 290200 Jan 45. 2nd Battalion 134th Infantry is sending a patrol to 84.1-65.3. Weather cloudy and very cold with snow. Ammunition expended: 606 rounds.

29 January 1945

At 0325 a Buzz bomb passed over. A prisoner of War reports all soldiers behind West Wall. Col. Schuster left for 134th C.P. at 0900. Capt. Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Battalion, 134th Infantry, reports Kalborn, Luxembourg secured at 1030. Col. Schuster left for 6th Armored Division Artillery At 1030--returned at 1200. At 1530 elements of 90th Division were reported across river at 86.8-75.9 to 86.8-74.2 to 86.0-74.0 Capt Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Ln O with 3rd Battalion 134th Infantry reports 1 tank, horses, and men at 87.0-66.5 moving east on road out of the town of Dahlen, Luxembourg (87.0-66.5). At 1815 patrols are going from Kalborn to 85.2-68.2 then to 86.3-67.8 on an intelligence mission. At 2000 68th Cavalry is leaving from 82.2-67.5 going to 85.0-67.2 then to 86.5-67.0. At 1900 6th Armored Division Artillery sent the No Fire Line. Col. Schuster

- 7 -

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

Hq 161 FA Bn, Report After Action Against Enemy 1-31 Jan 45 (cont'd)

left C.P. for 134th Infantry and 183rd Group C.P.--returned at 2050. Weather was cloudy during forenoon, clear during afternoon, and very cold. Ammunition expended: 133 rounds.

30 January 1945

Capt Hunt, 161st Field Artillery Battalion Lh O with 3rd Bn 134th Infantry reports a patrol met a 5-man enemy patrol, killed 4 of them and 1 escaped. At 1005 enemy activity was observed at 86.8-69.8. General movement of personnel and trucks. At 1835 4 enemy tanks were reported at 85.00-67.24. At 1930 leading elements of 90th Div were reported at 88.2-76.8, 87.5-76.0, 88.0-74.7, 87.4-74.0, 86.3-73.5, 85.5-71.0 and 85.0-69.0. Friendly patrols report enemy outpost at 84.1-66.4. Weather cloudy and very cold. Ammunition expended: 158 rounds.

31 January 1945

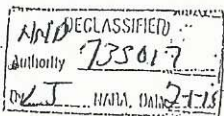
At 1800 161st Field Artillery Battalion was relieved as direct support of 134th Infantry. 134th Infantry was withdrawn from the line at 1800. 161st Field Artillery Battalion is reinforcing fires of 6th Armored Division Artillery. No missions were fired for 6th Armored Division Artillery. Weather is overcast and rainy. Ammunition expended: 000 rounds. Grand total: 101,511

During the period covered by this report the following casualties were sustained:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>
Killed in Action	1	2
Missing in Action	0	3
Wounded in Action	0	0

- 8 -

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

Hq 161 FA Bn, Report After Action Against Enemy 1-31 Jan 45 (cont'd)

Awards and decorations for period are recorded as follows:

<u>RANK</u> <u>OR</u> <u>GRADE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AWARD</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>PRESENTATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Lt Col	Schuster, Herman F.	0-366569	BSM	GO 8 35th Inf Div	Not yet presented		
1st Lt	Geoffrion, Raymond J.	01171157	PH 1	GO 12 6th OLC Conv Hosp	Metz, France		13 Jan 45
1st Lt	Foe, Donald W.	01172004	AM 4	GO 3 35th OLC Inf Div	Vicinity Marvie, Belgium		18 Jan 45
1st Lt	Johnson, Raymond P.	0-551952	AM 6	GO 3 35th OLC Inf Div	Vicinity Marvie, Belgium		18 Jan 45
2nd Lt	Bendl, Jacob R.	01178708	PH	GO 2 5th Gen Hosp	Vicinity Toul, France		2 Jan 45
2nd Lt	Henderson, Harvey J.	01185049	AM 1	GO 3 35th OLC Inf Div	Posthumous Award		
2nd Lt	Svendby, Harold O.	01182973	AM 1	GO 3 35th OLC Inf Div	Vicinity Marvie, Belgium		18 Jan 45
T/Sgt	Barker, Fred B.	39014713	BSM	GO 6 35th Inf Div	Bizory, Belgium		21 Jan 45
S/Sgt	Janesovsky, Jake	37034536	BSM	GO 6 35th Inf Div	Bizory, Belgium		21 Jan 45
S/Sgt	Rosenlof, Olof L.	39826992	SS	GO 3 35th Inf Div	Posthumous Award		
S/Sgt	Shields, William J.	20734349	BSM	GO 7 35th Inf Div	Neufchateau, Belgium		2 Feb 45
Tec 4	Johnson, Floyd O.	20734695	BSM	GO 7 35th Inf Div	Neufchateau, Belgium		2 Feb 45
Cpl	Dunn, Samuel P.	37221710	BSM	GO 8 35th Inf Div	Posthumous Award		
Tec 5	Hall, Philip V.	38240396	PH	GO 5 35th Inf Div	Honville, Belgium		1 Jan 45
Tec 5	Netherton, Joseph B.	19004932	BSM	GO 7 35th Inf Div	Not yet presented		
Tec 5	Stapleton, George W.	20734723	BSM	GO 7 35th Inf Div	Neufchateau, Belgium		2 Feb 45
Pfc	Bruin, Louie T.	35679772	SS	GO 8 35th Inf Div	Posthumous Award		
Pvt	Castillo, Joe P.	38093219	PH	GO 5 35th Inf Div	Honville, Belgium		3 Jan 45

No prisoners of war were captured by this organization during period covered by this report.

1 Incl:
Unit Journal

Herman F. Schuster
HERMAN F SCHUSTER
Lt Col, FA
Commanding

-9-
S E C R E T