

*Jan 45*

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HEADQUARTERS 216TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 35 U S 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 216th Field Artillery Battalion covering the period 1-31 January 1945.

January 1, 1945

The 35th Infantry Division was continuing its mission of attacking in its sector against the southern flank of Von Rundstedt's offensive salient into Luxembourg and Belgium. The 320th Infantry Regiment with the 216th Field Artillery Battalion in direct support were on the right of the Division Sector. Both the Command Posts were located in Boulaide, Luxembourg.

January 2, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in its present position supporting the attack with approximately 2000 rounds per day. Much of this was fired on observed targets by front line forward observers and air observers.

January 3, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in its present position. The supported infantry reported considerable enemy activity along our front, including enemy armor. The artillery concentrations were stepped up using the two reinforcing battalions.

January 4, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in its present position. Thirteen rounds of counter battery fire were received in our position from 1600 to 1800. All rounds landed behind the batteries with no damage or injuries resulting. Infantry reported advances on our front.

January 5, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in its present position. Visibility and observation were excellent, resulting in increase of observed fires. The Infantry advanced 1500 yards against determined opposition.

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January 6, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion was ordered to be ready for a move to a new sector. One Battalion of the Infantry was relieved by a Battalion of the 101st Infantry of the 26th Infantry Division. The remaining Battalion was to be relieved by a task force composed of cavalry. This Battalion initiated its use of the new Pozit Fuze. Results are unknown.

January 7, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in the same position and continued to support infantry on our front. The 320th Infantry had been relieved.

January 8, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion received a new mission which was to reinforce the fires of the 161st Field Artillery Battalion. The Battalion made reconnaissance survey and occupied positions in the vicinity of Salvacourt, Belgium. The weather continued to be very clear and cold. Extra guards and security were organized to guard against infiltration of enemy patrols.

January 9, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in its present position and continued its reinforcing mission.

January 10, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in its present position. A fire broke out in the Battery "A" Kitchen Truck from an exploding kitchen unit. Two men were injured and evacuated. One vehicle, a  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton, was hit by enemy shell-fire in Bastogne, Belgium.

January 11, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in its present position. The 320th Infantry was not committed except two of its Battalions were attached to other units. Ammunition was being rationed and only priority targets and observed missions were attacked.

January 12, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in its present position. The 320th Infantry were attached to the 6th Armored Division. This Battalion was informed at 2200 it would move to support its attack at 0800 on January 13, 1945. The 212th Field Artillery Battalion would be direct support until this organization was in position to take over such mission.

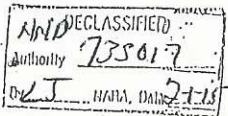
January 13, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to the vicinity of Marvie,

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Belgium to support the 320th Infantry reinforcing the fires of the 212th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and relieving them at 1700. While they remained to reinforce our fires, our Infantry (the 320th) jumped off to the attack at 0830 advancing six hundred yards against determined resistance. "C" Battery this Battalion received a heavy enemy shelling while going into position. Three were killed. six were injured.

January 14, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained at Marvie, Belgium to support the continued attack of the 320th Infantry. An intermediate objective was taken during the day after heavy coordinated attack including fighter bombers and artillery. The 776th Field Artillery Battalion (medium) was also reinforcing our fires.

January 15, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in position to support the continuing attack. Reconnaissance with wire and survey was made in the vicinity of Bizeory, Belgium.

January 16, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to Bizeory to continue the direct support of 320th Infantry which was still advancing upon its objective.

January 17, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in position at Bizeory, Belgium. Orders were received rationing ammunition to 30 rounds per weapon per day. The 320th Infantry was on their objective. The plan of defensive fires was completed.

January 18, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in position to support the 320th Infantry who was being relieved by the 134th Infantry Regiment during darkness 17, 18 January. Quartering parties were sent out on secret orders. The Battalion was to remain in direct support until relieved by the 161st Field Artillery Battalion which was completed by 1530. However, we remained to support until 19 January 1945.

January 19, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion was to move out from the areas of Bizeory - Bastogne to arrive at an I P at Martelange at 1105. Due to heavy snowdrifts, fog and a blinding snow storm arrived at I P 1130, and encountered better weather for remainder of march to barracks area in Metz, France.

January 20, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained at Metz for refitting, maintenance and some rest.

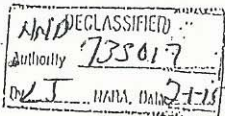
January 21, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained at Metz Barracks Area refitting,

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performing maintenance, attending Special Service Shows, and Quartermaster showers.

January 22, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained at Metz Barracks Area

January 23, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion and 320th Infantry moved by motor to an area near Dieuzze, France where emergency positions were occupied. Orders were received to be prepared to move and relieve elements of the 45th and 100th Divisions by 24 January 1945.

January 24, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion arrived in the vicinity of Wingen, France and were in position to support the 320th Infantry in their relief of elements of the 45th Division. The mission was one of defense.

January 25, 1945

The 216th <sup>with</sup> Field Artillery Battalion remained in position supporting the 320th Infantry ~~of~~ Defensive fires. Ammunition was rationed. The Division was attached to 7th Army and XV Corps.

January 26, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in position at Wingen, France.

January 27, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in position at Wingen, France.

January 28, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in position at Wingen, France. Mission of Defense continued. Reconnaissance and Survey were made for positions in the rear in event of an enemy attack or offensive in our area.

January 29, 1945

<sup>160</sup> The 216th Field Artillery Battalion received orders to be relieved by the 150th Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Division and to be prepared to make motor move to vicinity of Verdun, France.

January 30, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion moved by motor to the village of Ambly, France 12 kilometers from Verdun, France.

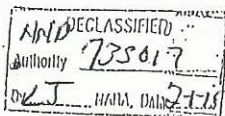
January 31, 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion continued march over icy roads to

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the vicinity of St Martin Vernon, Belgium  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilometer from Moerbeek, Belgium where the Battalion found very satisfactory quarters in the village. The mission of the Battalion was to relieve a British unit north east of Gilen-kitchen, Germany.

CASUALTIES:

Enlisted Men

LWA - 5  
LIA - 1  
DOW - 2  
MIA - None  
8

Officers

LWA - 1  
DOW - 1  
KIA - 1  
MIA - None  
3

Prisoners of War Captured: None

Awards and Decorations:

Bronze Star Medals 3  
Bronze Star (OLC) 1  
Air Medal (OLC) 2  
Purple Hearts 6  
Certificate of Merit 1

Authority was received authorizing personnel of 216th Field Artillery Battalion to wear two more battle stars, to wit: Northern France Campaign No 1 Auth: Ltr ETOUSA AG 200.6 1 Dec 44 and Germany Campaign No 1 Auth: Ltr: ETOUSA AG 200.6 24 Dec 44

*Kenneth H Reed*  
KENNETH H REED  
Lt Col FA  
Commanding

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