

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 735617
Date 2-11-8

SECRET

Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

Initials *R. G. C.*

Date *22 May 1945*

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 216TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 35 % PM N Y N Y

4 May 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Report After.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Thru: Channels).

In compliance with Par 10 C3, AR 345-105 submitted below is report after Action against the enemy for the 216th Field Artillery Battalion covering the period 1-30 April 1945.

1 April 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion was in position at Bottrop, Germany North of Essen, Germany in direct support of the 320th Infantry Regiment which was employed in action to reduce the Ruhr Pocket. The battalion was responsible for a wide sector in support of the advancing infantry and participated in a considerable number of observed and harrassing missions. Advances of the infantry made it necessary for the battalion to displace further to the east and at 1442 B the battalion was in position vicinity of Buer, Germany. Observation during daylight hours indicated considerable enemy movement south of the Rhein-Herne Canal and the battalion fired 3000 rounds of harrassing and interdiction fires during the night of 1-2 April 1945.

2-5 April 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion remained in position vicinity Buer, Germany in direct support of the 320th Infantry Regiment which was deployed in a temporary defensive position North of the Rhein-Herne Canal. Excellent ground and air observation resulted in a number of observed fire missions primarily of machine gun and mortar positions and small groups of enemy personnel.

On 4 April the 161st Field Artillery Battalion was assigned the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 216th Field Artillery Battalion and relieved of this mission 042400 B.

6-7 April 1945

Battalion displaced forward to vicinity of Horst, Germany at 061150 B. The 320th Infantry Regiment was relieved in its sector by elements of the 79th Infantry Division and the 216th Field Artillery Battalion was given the mission of general support of the 35th Division Artillery and answered request for fire from 79th Division Artillery.

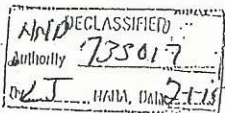
CLASSIFICATION
-1- **CANCELLED**
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
William D. Tapp 1st Lt. MC
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 15 FEB 46
AUG 13 1945

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8-9 April 1945

At 081800 B the 216th Field Artillery Battalion was given the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 161st Field Artillery Battalion from present positions and delivered supporting fires in connection with the attack of the 134th Infantry Regiment across the Rhein-Herne Canal.

10 April 1945

The Battalion displaced to Bismark, Germany south of the Rhein-Herne Canal at 100925 and continued its mission of reinforcing the fires of the 161st Field Artillery Battalion.

11 April 1945

Advances of the 134th Infantry Regiment made it necessary for the 216th Field Artillery Battalion to displace forward to positions approximately 4000 yards south of Bochum, Germany. The 134th Infantry Regiment advanced south to the Ruhr River and the battalion fired numerous missions at enemy personnel south of the river.

12 April 1945

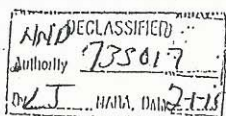
The 216th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of its mission of reinforcing the fires of the 161st Field Artillery Battalion and displaced to an assembly area vicinity of Waltrop, Germany arriving at 121709 B and there joining RCT 320.

13-15 April 1945

The battalion marched eastward as a part of RCT 320 leaving its assembly area at 131250 B and arriving in a new assembly area at Sisterdt, Germany at 140830 B after traveling 232 miles across the north central Germany plain. At 142037 B the battalion continued its march as part of RCT 320 and arrived at an assembly area at Eichendorf, Germany east of Magdeburg, Germany at 150605 B. At 151328 B the battalion displaced to a position area 4000 yards Northeast of Calbe, Germany and was in position at 151429 B in direct support of RCT 320 which was attached to the 83rd Infantry Division, XIX Corps and assigned the mission of crossing the Saale River and securing the right flank of the 83rd Infantry Division which had established a bridgehead across the Elbe River, east of Barby, Germany. RCT 320 successfully crossed the Saale River and continued its advance to the south and east. The 216th Field Artillery Battalion fired numerous close in support missions in support of this action.

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17 April 1945

The Battalion displaced forward to a new position at Tornitz, Germany in continuation of its mission of direct support of RCT 320, arriving at 171155.

18 April 1945

Continued advances of RCT 320 resulted in a forward displacement of the 216th Field Artillery Battalion to a position at Todderitz, Germany south of the Saale River, arriving at 181554 B.

19-20 April 1945

RCT 320 was relieved in its sector by cavalry units and occupied and defended a sector of 83rd Infantry Division bridgehead across the Elbe River in the vicinity of Barby, Germany. The 216th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to Barby, Germany at 191400 B in support of this action. The 696th Field Artillery Battalion (SP) was assigned the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 216th Field Artillery Battalion.

21-26 April 1945

RCT 320 was relieved in its sector by elements of 83rd Infantry Division and reverted to 35th Infantry Division, XIII Corps. The 216th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to Loitsche, Germany at 211402 B and was assigned the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 161st Field Artillery Battalion in the sector of the 134th Infantry Regiment.

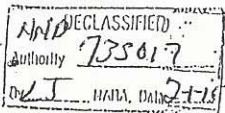
27-30 April 1945

The 216th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of its mission of reinforcing the fires of the 161st Field Artillery Battalion on 27 April and with the remaining battalions of 35th Division Artillery was assigned the mission of general support XIII Corps reinforcing fires of the 102nd Infantry Division Artillery. The 102nd Infantry Division has relieved 35th Infantry Division in its sector.

The battle casualties for the month of April 1945 are as follows:

	OFF	EM
KIA.....	0	0
DOW.....	0	0
SWA.....	0	0
SIA.....	0	0
LWA.....	3	1
LIA.....	0	0
MIA.....	0	1
TOTAL	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

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S E C R E T



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Ltr: Action Against Enemy, Report After, Hq 216 FA Bn, 4 May 45 Contd - - -

Awards received by members of 216 FA Bn are as follows:

	DSC		Silver Stars		Soldier's Medal		Bronze Star		Air Medal	
	Reg	Olc	Reg	Olc	Reg	Olc	Reg	Olc	Reg	Olc
Officers	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5
Enlisted Men	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

The number of Purple Heart Awards are: three.

Kenneth H Reed.
KENNETH H REED
Lt Col, FA
Commanding