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NADA Date

**RESTRICTED****SECRET**

Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

Initials *Rye*Date *18 Mar 1945*  
1 March 1945HEADQUARTERS 35TH DIVISION ARTILLERY  
APO 35, US Army

SUBJECT: Action against Enemy, Report after Action No. 8.

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

1. Reference to Par 10, c 3, AR 345-105; the following after battle report covering Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 35th Division Artillery, APO 35, 7 PM, New York, N.Y. is submitted for period 0001, 1 Feb 45 to 2400, 28 Feb 45.

*T. L. Futch*  
T. L. FUTCH  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

Incls - 8

1. S-3 Reports
2. G-3 Reports
3. TD Report
4. S-3 Journal
5. S-2 Messages
6. Air Liaison Report
7. Misc: Defensive Fire Plan #4 and Overlay, 7 Feb 45; Annex #2 to FO 34, 13 Feb 45; Opns Memo #18; Notes Div Arty conference, 20 Feb 45; FO 35, 25 Feb 45.
8. Awards and Decorations.

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Incl 9

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HEADQUARTERS 35TH DIVISION ARTILLERY  
APO 35, US ARMY

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T. L. FUTCH  
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8. Awards and Decorations.

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**CANCELLED**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

*Resubmitted Jan 46*  
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 3 June 46

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# HEADQUARTERS 35TH DIVISION ARTILLERY APO 35, US Army

1 March 1945

Feb 45

**INTRODUCTORY:** This report covers the factual accounts of the operations of this headquarters in combat from February 1, 1945 to February 28, 1945 and is based on a day by day account of the operations of the S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, Anti-Tank Section, and Air Liaison Section. Operations of attached organic and separate battalions will be covered in reports from their respective headquarters.

## FACTUAL DATA:

- Organic Battalions of 35th Division Artillery:  
127th FA Bn, 155mm How. M1 Medium Battalion.  
CT 320th Inf with 216th FA Bn, 105mm How.  
CT 137th Inf with 219th FA Bn, 105mm How.  
CT 134th Inf with 161st FA Bn, 105mm How.
- Strength: Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 35th Div. Arty.  
T/O, Officers 20, WO 1, EM 108.  
Actual, Officers 20, WO 1, EM 107.
- Casualties:  
Killed 0.  
Sick, gassed, or wounded 0.  
Evacuated 0.
- Awards: Air Medal (Oak-Leaf Cluster) 1.
- No prisoners were captured.
- Officers and assignments, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

## 35th Division Artillery:

Division Artillery	Commander
"	"
	Executive
"	"
"	S-3
"	S-1 & S-4
"	S-2

Brig Gen T. L. Futch
Col Douglas G Dwyre
Lt Col Hugh Belden
Maj Forrest H Hagenbuch
Maj Thomas W Ross

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After Action Report, Hq 35th Div Arty, 1 Mar 45 (Contd)

## Division Artillery, A-T

" "

Air Liaison

Maj Richard R Coffin

" "

Asst S-3

Maj James N Davidson

Capt Franklin J Downing

" "

Asst S-2

1st Lt Carl F Maples

" "

Asst S-1

1st Lt James E Judson

" "

Aide-de-Camp

1st Lt Myron Linz

" "

Aide-de-Camp

1st Lt James H Waters

" "

Pilot

Capt William F Hesselbach

" "

Pilot

1st Lt Henry A Roseberry

" "

Surgeon

Capt Gerrit J Bloemendaal

" "

Dental O

Capt Morris Himmelstein

" "

Chaplain

Capt Gerhard L Belgium

" "

Chaplain

Capt Laforest E Hodgkins

" "

Com O

Capt Morris H Laatsch Jr

" "

Asst Com O

1st Lt Lynd E Cohick

" "

Motor Officer

CWO Clifford D Mullis

Note: Ammunition reported expended is for period 0600 to 0600 each day.

0001 1 Feb 45

The 35th Division and 35th Division Artillery, assigned to 9th Army XVI Corps, at the beginning of February were in an assembly area East of Maastricht, Holland, and located as follows: Division Artillery Headquarters located at Ekkelrade; 448th AAA Bn at Ekkelrade; 654th TD Bn at Dalhem; 219th FA Bn at Michelen; 161st FA Bn at Neaufchateau; 127th FA Bn at Margreten; 216th FA Bn at Sint Martens-Voeren, and the 692nd FA Bn, (105mm How. and in addition Br 25 pdrs), attached to Division Artillery, was located at Eygelshoven. There was no contact with the enemy at this time and units, under centralized control of division artillery, were engaged in maintenance and reorganization. The track vehicles of the 127th FA Bn and the 654th TD Bn were still enroute by rail from the Seventh Army Sector and were scheduled to arrive at



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After Action Report, of 35th Div Arty, 1 Mar 45 (Com  
Bise at 010200. Liaison planes of division artillery had not yet arrived in  
the sector. Plans for the advance of the 35th Division to the front, relieving  
the British in the sector North of Geilenkirchen along the Roer River, were  
begun, and Artillery CO's were alerted to be ready to make reconnaissance  
for positions on order from CG 35th Div Arty.

2 Feb 45

There was no change in the organization of the troops continuing in the  
assembly area. Bn CO's were alerted to meet CG 35th Div Arty at 1030, 3 Feb 45  
to receive orders and make reconnaissance for positions. The 692nd FA Bn was  
ordered to make reconnaissance for bivouac position at Koningsbosch, moving  
from present position so as to clear before 1200, 3 Feb. Units continued main-  
tenance and reorganization.

3 Feb 45

As per orders received, Bn CO's made reconnaissance for positions North  
of Geilenkirchen as follows: 216th FA Bn vic of Tripsrath, 161st FA Bn vic  
of Waldenrath, 692nd FA Bn vic of Laffeld; 219th FA Bn vic of Braunsrath;  
127th FA Bn vic Breberen. During the day survey control was brought forward  
to all positions. Motor movement to the new areas where relief of the 52nd  
Div (Br) was to be made, was to begin 4 Feb 45 with 216th FA Bn moving at  
0720, 161st FA Bn at 0810, 127th FA Bn at 1550, and 219th FA Bn 5 Feb at 0830.  
The 654th TD Bn Headquarters moved from Dalhem to Gangelt.

4 Feb 45

The 35th Inf Div moved into the new positions along the Roer River during  
the latter part of the period, relieving the Br 52nd Div from Hilfarth, along  
the road through Heinsberg to the North. Initially the 137th Inf occupied  
the left or North part of the sector with the 320th on the right or South of  
the sector, with the 134th Inf in reserve. Div Arty Headquarters moved to  
Gangelt closing in the new area at 1600. The 127th FA Bn temporarily was  
held in an assembly area vic of Brunsum, Holland to be moved in position on  
division order. See inclosed S-3 Journal this date for time of closing and



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After Action Report, HQ 35th Div Arty, 1 Mar 45 (Com)

locations of artillery units. The 216th FA Bn and 161st FA Bn arriving into position registered by high burst during the last part of the period. Additional artillery support was offered by the 182nd FA Regt (Br) which established liaison with this headquarters. The 219th FA Bn was CT'd with the 137th Inf as of 041800 for movement the 5th to their tactical position. Relief of the left sector was to be accomplished during the night 5-6 Feb. The Companies of the 654th TD moved into position with A Co at Schierwaldenrath, B Co in Gyllrath, and C Co in Geilenkirchen.

5 Feb 45

The organization for combat during this phase of operations with the division in the defensive along the Roer, flanked by the British on the North and the 84th Division on the South or right, was as follows: 161st FA Bn reinforcing the 216th FA Bn in direct support 320th Inf; 692nd FA Bn reinforcing the 219th FA Bn direct support of the 137th Inf; 127th FA Bn in general support. Corps artillery reinforcing the Div Arty included the 407th FA Group. During the day the 127th FA Bn made reconnaissance for positions vic of Birgden and the 692nd and 219th FA Bns closed into their new areas at 1500. Each direct support battalion registered within respective areas during the period, and all liaison planes were ordered to remain on the ground at the Div Arty Air Strip. Units were ordered to prepare defensive fire plans in conjunction with their regiments. See inclosed S-3 Report number 208 covering the ration of artillery ammunition. Following the British plan of harassing fire during the night, our H and I program closely followed that of the British with the 25 pounders (Br) of the 692nd FA Bn taking the majority of the missions during the night. In this conjunction each direct support Bn was allotted 240 rounds of Br 25 pounder ammunition. The British program of Harassing Fire had been 20 rounds per gun per day beginning at 1800 to 2300 and from 0600 to 1200. No pozit fuzes were to be fired unless ordered by CG 35th Div Arty. Ammunition expenditure at 0600 was 45 rounds.

6 Feb 45

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After Action Report, Hq 35th Div Arty, 1 Mar 45 (Contd)

There was no change in the organization for combat with the exception of one battery (75mm SF guns) of the 17th Cav Sq, operating on the left of the division sector, which would answer calls for fire from 35th Div Arty. One TOT was fired during the day on Forst, on information received from Corps Artillery. There were no operations by the AOP which was grounded until further orders. Vehicular identification and shoulder patches were removed as per order CG 35th Inf Div. Ammunition expenditure 0600 was 18 rounds.

7 Feb 45

There was little enemy activity during the period and the division remained in the defensive. The 127th FA Bn moved into positions, which had previously been cleared of mines by the Engineers, at Birdgen, closing into new area at 0930. Effective at midnight 7-8 Feb the organization for combat was as follows; 127th FA Bn reinforcing fires of the 161st FA Bn in direct support of 134th Inf, which now took up a sector vic of Hilfarth on the right of the 320th Inf; 692nd FA Bn reinforcing fires of the 216th FA Bn direct support of 320th Inf, and 219th FA Bn in direct support of 137th Inf. The 211th FA (4.5 guns) and the 758th FA (155 How) answered calls for fire from Div Arty. During the period there were no missions fired other than registrations and 12 H and I missions by 692nd FA Bn. The 219th FA Bn made preliminary reconnaissance for positions vic of Erpen, to occupy position at that point after proposed relief of 137th Inf by elements of the 8th Armored Div. Ammunition expenditure for period was 84 rounds.

8 Feb 45

Defensive fire plan and overlay to accompany (Defensive Fire plan No 4, dated this headquarters 7 Feb) were completed and are inclosed. Operations during the day were limited to two Bn TOT's on flak batteries and one TOT on an enemy battery. Twelve H and I Fires were continued during the period by the 692nd FA Bn. Air Liaison pilots and observers, flying with 407 FA Group planes, took reconnaissance flights over the area for orientation.



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After Action Report; 1-35th Div Arty, 1-Mar 45 (Cont.)

Ammunition expenditure for the period ending at 0600 was 22 rounds.

9 Feb 45

Temporary plans, having been drawn up for "Operations Grenade" (the crossing of the Roer), were suspended until further notice pending the receding of the Roer River. There was no change in the organization for combat and missions during the period were limited to two counter-flak missions and registrations. During a registration of the 161st FA Bn, the net was blown off an enemy tank. This tank was immediately taken under fire by the 127th FA Bn and a direct hit was scored. There were no other operations and ammunition expenditure 0600 was 85 rounds.

10 Feb 45

Operations during the period were limited to harassing missions during the night and one mission on an enemy OP. This latter OP offered practically the only observation of our area, and was located on the top of a slag pile. Ammunition expenditure was 158 rounds.

11 Feb 45

There was no change in the organization for combat. The 161st FA Bn and the 219th FA Bn completed plans for moving to new locations during the daylight hours of the 12th Feb, the 161st FA Bn moving to vic of Nurm and 219th FA Bn moving to vic of Dorath. Fire missions on vehicular traffic and harassing missions during the night were the only operations during the period. Permission was obtained to allow the planes of the 692nd FA Bn to fly reconnaissance missions. See inclosed S-3 Report 214 Par 5 b, covering notes pertaining to a Hi-Angle K obtained by the 216th FA Bn. Ammunition expenditure was 17 rounds.

12 Feb 45

The organization for combat at this time included 161st FA Bn, reinforced by the 127th FA Bn, direct support 134th Inf, 216th FA Bn direct support 320th Inf, and 692nd FA Bn reinforcing the 219th FA Bn direct support 137th Inf. Relief of the 137th Inf by the 8th Armored Div up to this point had not been

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accomplished. Normal H and I missions were performed during the period by the 692nd FA Bn and in addition four enemy batteries were fired upon. The 127th FA Bn made reconnaissance for position vic of Ueeterath, movement to take place 13 Feb at 0830. The 692nd FA Bn made reconnaissance for movement to vic of Waldenrath beginning at 0900 13 Feb. M3 Howitzers (105) of the 692nd were stored with their basic loads at their service battery, subject to use on 12 hour notice. Ammunition expenditure 50 rounds.

13 Feb 45

There was no change in organization for combat and missions during the day included, in addition to regular H and I fires, enemy batteries, vehicular activity, enemy personnel, and enemy OP's. During the period liaison planes of the 692nd FA Bn flew continuous patrol of the sector. Supplemental fire plans were submitted as inclosed in Annex No 2 to accompany FO 34, dated 13 Feb 45. Ammunition expenditure during the period was 58 rounds.

14 Feb 45

In addition to the normal H and I program, the 692nd FA Bn fired numerous missions on flak batteries, enemy infantry, and enemy vehicular traffic on roads in the division sector. Ten direct hits were scored on the enemy OP previously mentioned. Attached Opns Memo 18 covers mission and operations of the division during this period. Ammunition expenditure for the period was 66 rounds.

15 Feb 45

Permission was granted for the operation of the 35th Div Arty Liaison planes. Missions included 50 rounds of propaganda and H and I fires on suspected enemy OP's. German 105 Hows operated by the 407th FA Group were active in the division sector during the day. There were no other operations and ammunition expenditure at 0600 was 67 rounds.

16 Feb 45

All organic battalions completed registrations and completed fire plans against counterattack in compliance with Operations Memo No 18, inclosed. No-

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After Action Report, Hq 356th Div Arty, 1 Mar 45 (Cont.)

Fire-Line plans for the forthcoming operation to cross the Roer were discussed and conclusions reached at a meeting at the 84th Div, the initial assault troops for the crossing. There were no other operations except missions on one MG position and one enemy battery. Ammunition expenditure for period ending at 0600 was 4 rounds.

17 Feb 45

There was no change in the organization for combat and AOP's were inactive during the period. H and I fires were intensified during the period, using the 25 pounders of the 692nd FA Bn and the captured German 105's of the 407th Gp. This fire was also placed on seven enemy battery locations after our own lines had received a heavy volume of fire. There was no more enemy shelling after our fire was completed. All the FA Bns made plans for training with the infantry in the technique of assaulting a fortified position. Ammunition expenditure was 110 rounds.

18 Feb 45

Three enemy battery positions were fired on by the 161st FA Bn during the period, in addition to propaganda ammunition fired in the 134th Inf sector and 320th Inf sector. There was no activity of the AOP, and H and I program continued in the division front. Ammunition expenditure for period was 59 rounds.

19 Feb 45

All organic and attached artillery battalions completed registrations with the AOP during the period. The 219th FA Bn fired on enemy personnel in the open, which area was reported neutralized. Direct support battalions were ordered to revise fire plans for forthcoming operation to cross the Roer River. The 275th FA Bn (105 SP) was attached to the Div Arty and ordered to make reconnaissance for positions in support of the division attack. This battalion was to arrive in division sector 20 1200 Feb and take positions vic of Aphoven. Ammunition expenditure for period was 12 rounds.

20 Feb 45

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After Action Report, Hq 35th Div Arty, 1 Mar 45 (Cont.)

The 275th FA Bn closed in area at 1400 and was ordered not to register until D-1 at which time it would reinforce the fires of the 216th FA Bn. The only firing other than normal H and I fires was on enemy personnel on a foot bridge. The AOP was inactive during the period because of weather conditions. Ammunition expenditure was 71 rounds.

21 Feb 45

Missions were completed on enemy OP's, strong points, a foot bridge, one mortar position, and a working party in three boats. The 275th FA Bn registered during the period, and H and I missions continued using the 692nd FA Bn and the captured German 105 Howitzers. Ammunition expended was 60 rounds.

22 Feb 45

AOP's directed fire on a factory and a footbridge with direct hits scored on each. Thirteen registrations were completed during the period and normal H and I missions continued. Operation Grenade (crossing of the Roer) long delayed by the flood waters of the Roer, was scheduled for the following day beginning with a preparation at 0245. Ammunition expenditure for the period was 234 rounds.

23 Feb 45

The organization for combat effective at 0001 23 Feb was as follows: the 161st FA Bn, reinforced by 219th FA Bn; 692nd FA Bn, and Batteries A and B of the 127th FA Bn, in direct support of 134th Inf; 216th FA Bn, reinforced by 275th FA Bn and Btry C 127th FA Bn direct support of 320th Inf. The 137th Inf had by this time been replaced by the infantry of the 79th Div and the 137th Inf was now in reserve. There was no attack by the 35th during the day other than consolidation of positions up to the Roer River with the 320th Inf on the left and the 134th Inf on the right. With the main effort of the crossing being in the sector of the 84th Div, the 35th Div Arty participated in the preparation. The preparation consisted of a 45 minute series of concentrations on known locations and enemy batteries throughout the area, beginning at 0245. Smoke missions were fired on foot bridgehead areas and



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After Action Report, 35th Div Arty, 1 Mar 45 (Com)

likely enemy OP's beginning at first light and continued intermittently until dark. AOP continued to fire on targets of opportunity during the day including 8 enemy batteries, 3 MG locations, mortars, vehicular activity and strong points. Beginning at 0245 the concrete bridge, still intact, at Hilfarth was placed under continuous H and I fire to be continued until daylight and during any time when observation could not be maintained on the bridge. During the day there was one plane and observer assigned the sole mission of watching this site and bringing fire on it when activity was observed. It was hoped that this harassing fire would not only prevent the use of the bridge but also prevent the Germans from destroying it. For a complete picture of this mission, see inclosed article. Ammunition expenditure was 1284 rounds.

24 Feb 45

The 35th Div Arty supported the attack of the 84th Div with a 20 minute preparation beginning at 0855 on the towns of Doveren, Huckelhoven, Gladbach, and with smoke missions on suspected enemy OP's and targets of opportunity. Seventeen enemy batteries were fired on by the AOP with all areas thoroughly neutralized, and fires started in two areas. The 754th FA Bn (155 How) was attached to the Division and occupied positions in the vic of Hoven at 2100 with the mission of reinforcing 161st FA Bn. Ammunition expended included 1877 rounds.

25 Feb 45

The organization for combat was as follows: 692nd FA Bn reinforcing 219th FA Bn direct support 137th Inf; 275th FA Bn reinforcing 216th FA Bn direct support 320th Inf; 754th FA Bn general support and reinforcing the fires of the 219th FA Bn. The 127th FA Bn general support and reinforcing fires of 161st FA Bn. This organization became effective at 1700. The contemplated plan included the crossing of the Roer by the 137th Inf, using the available crossings in the sector of the 84th with subsequent crossings by the 134th Inf at Hilfarth, with the 320th Inf holding their present river line.



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After Action Report, Hq 35th Div Arty, 1 Mar 45 (Contd)

This plan was to be effective at 0600 26 Feb 45. This period was marked by a great reduction in enemy artillery activity. The AOP's neutralized 3 enemy battery positions, 3 enemy personnel areas, 4 enemy mortar positions, a MG position, and 1 flak position. The 216th FA Bn obtained a penetration on a pill box at 5000 yards using concrete piercing fuze. Ammunition expenditure for the period was 2042 rounds.

26 Feb 45

The 134th Inf closed in on the bridge at Hilfarth, ordered the lifting of the harassing fire continued since the 23 February, seized the bridge intact, and forced a crossing of the river at Hilfarth, establishing a bridgehead there. The 137th Inf jumped off and proceeded to attack to the North. Beginning at 0555 a 20 minute preparation was fired in support of the attack. Normal support missions were fired throughout the period on enemy battery, mortar, SP gun positions, MG nests, pillboxes, OP's and wooded areas. During the night 26-27 H and I fires were increased with particular attention to routes leading from the battle area. Ammunition expenditure was 1718 rounds.

27 Feb 45

The organization for combat was as follows: 692nd FA Bn reinforcing 219th FA Bn direct support of 137th Inf; 275th FA Bn reinforcing 161st FA Bn in direct support 134th Inf, 127th FA General support reinforcing 161st FA Bn, and the 216th FA Bn in direct support 320th Inf. Normal missions were fired in support of the attack with fire on enemy batteries, pillboxes, mortars, machineguns, and vehicular traffic. The 127th FA Bn, 219th FA Bn, and 161st FA Bn all were ordered to cross the Roer by darkness. Div Arty Headquarters and Hq Btry moved by motor from Gangelt to Oberbruck, Germany, closing into new position at 1500. The 754th FA Bn was detached from the 35th Div Arty and ordered to return to its group effective at 1700. Missions of the AOP included 4 counterbattery missions and 12 registrations. Accurate operations of the TD's during this period are covered in the attached Anti-Tank Report. Ammunition Expended was 5461.



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After Action Report, HQ 35th Div Arty, 1 Mar 45 (Contd)

28 Feb 45

With enemy resistance crumbling, a Task Force was organized with orders to proceed to the north to Venlo. This force consisted of the 320th Inf with the 275th FA Bn and the 216th FA Bn, the artillery being attached to the task force. The 692nd FA Bn and 219th FA Bn were attached to CT 137th Inf, and the 127th FA Bn and 161st FA Bn were attached to CT 134th Inf. During the period artillery supported the attack of the infantry who took limited objectives. CT 137th Inf was alerted to follow CT 320th Inf. Div Arty Headquarters closed at Oberbruck and moved across the Roer to Wassenberg, closing in at 1600. Ammunition expenditure as of 0600 28 Feb was 3930 rounds. The total for the month was 18436, while the grand total since combat operations began totaled 343,266 rounds.

As ammunition expenditures show, the month was marked by a period of inactivity in artillery firing before the division attack. Morale and efficiency throughout division artillery continued at a high peak.

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AIR LIAISON SECTION

DIVISION ARTILLERY

<u>Date</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>CR</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>Time</u>
1 Feb 45						
2 Feb 45						
3 Feb 45						
4 Feb 45	1	:15				
5 Feb 45						
6 Feb 45						
7 Feb 45						
8 Feb 45						
9 Feb 45						
10 Feb 45						
11 Feb 45						
12 Feb 45						
13 Feb 45						
14 Feb 45						
15 Feb 45						
16 Feb 45	2	1:00	3	2:00		
17 Feb 45						
18 Feb 45						
19 Feb 45					1	1:15
20 Feb 45						
21 Feb 45			5	3:15		
22 Feb 45			6	2:45		
23 Feb 45	1	:30	2	1:35	1	1:20
24 Feb 45			1	:40	2	3:15
25 Feb 45	1	:30	7	5:40		
26 Feb 45	1	:15				
27 Feb 45						
28 Feb 45	2	1:00				
TOTALS	8	3:30	24	15:55	4	5:50

127TH FA BN

<u>Date</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>CR</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>Time</u>
1 Feb 45	2	4:30				
2 Feb 45						
3 Feb 45						
4 Feb 45						
5 Feb 45	2	2:00				
6 Feb 45						
7 Feb 45						
8 Feb 45						
9 Feb 45						
10 Feb 45						
11 Feb 45						
12 Feb 45						
13 Feb 45						
14 Feb 45						
15 Feb 45						
16 Feb 45	2	3:20	1	2:15		

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# AIR LIAISON SECTION (Contd)

Date	CA	Time	CR	Time	CF	Time
17 Feb 45						
18 Feb 45						
19 Feb 45					1	1:30
20 Feb 45			1	1:05		
21 Feb 45			3	2:30		
22 Feb 45			2	2:10	1	1:15
23 Feb 45			3	3:40	2	3:20
24 Feb 45			4	5:00	2	4:00
25 Feb 45	1	:30	3	3:35	2	2:45
26 Feb 45						
27 Feb 45	1	:30	1	1:15	3	4:15
28 Feb 45			4	4:15	1	2:05
TOTALS	8	101:50	22	25:45	12	19:10

## 161ST FA BN

Date	CA	Time	CR	Time	CF	Time
1 Feb 45	2	3:00				
2 Feb 45						
3 Feb 45						
4 Feb 45						
5 Feb 45						
6 Feb 45						
7 Feb 45						
8 Feb 45						
9 Feb 45						
10 Feb 45						
11 Feb 45						
12 Feb 45						
13 Feb 45						
14 Feb 45						
15 Feb 45						
16 Feb 45	2	2:30				
17 Feb 45					1	1:35
18 Feb 45						
19 Feb 45						
20 Feb 45			2	1:15		
21 Feb 45	1	:20	1	1:00	1	2:30
22 Feb 45	2	1:30			2	3:15
23 Feb 45					5	7:45
24 Feb 45					3	5:20
25 Feb 45					3	5:35
26 Feb 45						
27 Feb 45					3	4:40
28 Feb 45					2	3:15
TOTALS	7	7:20	3	2:15	20	32:55

## 216TH FA BN

Date	CA	Time	CR	Time	CF	Time
1 Feb 45						
2 Feb 45	1	2:00				



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Date	CA	Time	CR	Time	CF	Time
3 Feb 45	3	4:15				
4 Feb 45	1	:30				
5 Feb 45						
6 Feb 45						
7 Feb 45						
8 Feb 45						
9 Feb 45						
10 Feb 45						
11 Feb 45						
12 Feb 45						
13 Feb 45						
14 Feb 45						
15 Feb 45						
16 Feb 45			2	1:40	1	1:30
17 Feb 45						
18 Feb 45						
19 Feb 45	2	3:35			1	1:10
20 Feb 45						
22 Feb 45	2	4:05	1	2:00		
22 Feb 45					4	4:15
23 Feb 45			2	2:30	4	5:55
24 Feb 45			1	:30	4	5:05
25 Feb 45			1	1:00	3	4:25
26 Feb 45	1	:25				
27 Feb 45					3	4:10
28 Feb 45			3	3:35	1	1:15
TOTALS	10	14:50	10	11:15	21	27:45

219TH FA BN

Date	CA	Time	CR	Time	CF	Time
1 Feb 45						
2 Feb 45	3	4:00				
3 Feb 45						
4 Feb 45	1	:30				
5 Feb 45	1	1:15				
6 Feb 45						
7 Feb 45						
8 Feb 45						
9 Feb 45						
10 Feb 45						
11 Feb 45						
12 Feb 45						
13 Feb 45						
14 Feb 45						
15 Feb 45	1	:45				
16 Feb 45					1	1:00
17 Feb 45			1	:40		
18 Feb 45						
19 Feb 45			2	1:30		
20 Feb 45			1	:35		
21 Feb 45			4	3:55	1	1:15

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NANA Date

**RESTRICTED**AIR LIAISON SECTION (Contd)

<u>Date</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>CR</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>Time</u>
22 Feb 45			2	2:55	2	2:35
23 Feb 45					5	7:15
24 Feb 45	1	:20			4	5:15
25 Feb 45	1	:15				
26 Feb 45			2	1:50	3	4:15
27 Feb 45			3	4:00	1	1:00
28 Feb 45	1	:20				
TOTALS	9	7:25	15	15:25	17	22:35

Fields used during February 1945:

1 - 2 Luxembourg  
 2 - 4 Maastricht  
 4 - 28 Gangelt  
 28 - 28 Dremmen  
 28 - 28 Wassenberg

Flights during February 1945:

Administration	40
Reconnaissance	76
Fire Missions	74
Photo	0
Training	0
Night Missions	0
Total Missions	190

Awards during month:

Air Medal (Oak-Leaf Cluster)

Capt William F Hesselbach 01177836, Hq Btry 35th Div Arty  
 Capt Robert E Philbeck 0293430, 216th FA Bn  
 1st Lt Donald W Foe 01172004, 161st FA Bn  
 1st Lt Raymond P Johnson 0551952, 161st FA Bn  
 1st Lt John L Cecil 01169052, 216th FA Bn

Damage to Aircraft: None.

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~~RESTRICTED~~AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Sec IX, GO 12, Hq 35th Inf Div, 15 Feb 45.

IX -- AIR MEDAL (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER). 1. Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, and Memorandum 34; Headquarters Ninth United States Army, 8 September 1944, as amended, in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded, a fourth bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to the following officers of this command:

Captain William F Hesselbach, O1177836, Field Artillery, United States Army for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight over France, Luxembourg and Belgium during the period 21 October 1944 to 14 January 1945. Entered military service from New York.

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NADA Date

ARTILLERY FIRE DENIES USE, PREVENTS DESTRUCTION  
OF A GERMAN BRIDGE

L-507

In the sector of the 35th Infantry Division only one bridge remained intact across the narrow swift Roer River. This bridge, located at Hilfarth, Germany, and in the hands of the Germans, was of reinforced concrete construction, being the last route of escape for Germans in Hilfarth and vicinity West of the Roer River.

The possibility of capturing this bridge before the Germans could destroy it was foremost in the thoughts of the Division Commander, and for several weeks prior to the attack across the Roer daily observation flights of the artillery cub planes kept an accurate check on the condition of the bridge and the extent of its use by the Germans.

With the beginning of the 9th Army attacks across the Roer River on Friday 23 Feb 1945, the following plan was devised by 35th Division Artillery, under the command of Brig Gen T. L. Futch, in order to deny the enemy use of the bridge, to prevent his demolishing it, and therefore to enable our forces to capture it undamaged. Beginning at 0245, 23 Feb 1945, a harassing program of artillery fire was established. This plan called for harassing fire by one (1) gun (British 25 pounder) of the 692nd FA Bn, atchd 35th Div Artillery, firing at the rate of one (1) round per minute during the hours of darkness, and one (1) round each two minutes during daylight hours when observation by liaison plane was impossible. During the day one plane and observer was assigned the singular mission of observing the bridge with instructions to direct fire on the bridge even if one man was observed in its vicinity.

Sunday night, 25 Feb 1945 marked the critical time when an attempt would be made to capture the bridge. While the harassing fire on the bridge fell at the rate of 60 rounds per hour, elements of the 1st Bn, 134 Inf attacked the town of Hilfarth at 2000, and during the night pushed toward the bridge. At the same time elements of the 3d Bn, 134th Inf maneuvered to outflank the bridge site.



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Upon approaching the bridge site, the infantry, through the direct support battalion, ordered the fire on the bridge to be lifted at 0600, 26 February. The bridge, upon which approximately 1200 rounds of Br 25 pounder ammunition had been fired, was captured along with 20 Germans who comprised the holding force and demolition party. The bridge was found to be wired for demolition, however the wires had been destroyed by artillery fire and the Germans were unable to repair the damage under the constant shelling. There was no major damage to the bridge, and after the rubble had been cleared, troops and vehicles made immediate crossing. The bridge, classified as Class 40 and vital to movement across the Roer, had been saved, and reports by Prisoners of War verified that the artillery fire had not only denied the Germans the use of the bridge, but also prevented its destruction.