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HEADQUARTERS
231ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

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APO 256, U S Army
1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-28 February 1945.

TO : Commanding General, 6th Armored Division, APO 256, U S Army.

1. The following report is submitted of the action of the 231st Armored Field Artillery Battalion against the enemy for the period 1-28 February 1945 as required by Army Regulations 345-105, C-3.

FEBRUARY 1945:

1. On the first day of February the battalion was occupying positions one -half (1/2) mile east of CLERVAUX, LUXEMBOURG, with the Battalion Command Post in the town of CLERVAUX. There are no changes in mission of positions. Very little firing was done. Dental survey of all personnel of the Battalion was completed. The American Red Cross Clubmobile came to the battalion to serve coffee and dauthnuts to the men. LIEUTENANT GEORGE C HAAS JR reported to MAJOR GENERAL GROW, Commanding General of the 6th Armored Division today to tell him about his experiences since he had been away from the battalion. LIEUTENANT HAAS was awarded the Silver Star Medal by the General. The weather is warmer, and the snow is melting rapidly.
2. No change in mission or positions today. LIEUTENANT GRISWORD fired several rounds on enemy personnel and inflicted many casualties. "Baker" Battery fired seventeen (17) rounds of propaganda shells into the town of DAHEN, GERMANY and vicinity. Weather continued mild with some rain. LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRAWFORD left today on leave to NANCY, FRANCE and CAPTAIN HANKE went on leave to PARIS, FRANCE.
3. No change in mission or positions today. "Able" Battery fired twenty-five (25) rounds of propaganda shells into the towns of DAHNEN, DALEIDEN, and REIPELDINGER, GERMANY. Rain and fog made visibility very poor. Very little firing was done today.
4. No change in mission or positions today. Visibility was poor, and very little firing was done. Second group of men went to the Battalion Rest Center today to spend three (3) days. Weather is warmer, with intermittent rain.
5. No change in mission or postions today. Intermittent showers during the day made visibility very poor so very little firing was done. Sergeant Hoadley Smith of Headquarters Battery was awarded the Bronze Star Medal today, and then departed for a thirty-day furlough in the

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Action A gainst The Enemy For The Period 1-28 Feb 45 - 231st Armd FA Bn (contd)

United States. LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRAWFORD returned from leave today. LIEUTENANT LYCKMAN left on leave to PARIS, FRANCE.

6. No change in mission or positions today. The battalion supported Task Force BRITTON in a night crossing of the OUR RIVER, starting at 1830A hours tonight. The Infantry crossed in assault boats. The Task Force met very little resistance during the night. The weather continued warm and the snow is nearly all melted.
7. No change in mission or Positions today. Task Force BRITTON continued crossing of the OUR RIVER, and met some small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire. LIEUTENANT BEMIS, forward observer from "Able" Battery was wounded in action today and evacuated. The weather continued warm with intermittent rain.
8. No change in mission or positions today. Task Force BRITTON continued crossing of the OUR RIVER, and Engineers constructed a foot bridge at the crossing site. Third group of men left from the battalion for the Battalion Rest Center. The weather continued warm.
9. No change in mission or positions today. Task Force BRITTON continued to consolidate positions east of the OUR RIVER and Engineers constructed a Bailey bridge. LIEUTENANT McCesney was wounded slightly by mortar fire but was not evacuated. Movie for tonight was "Hi, Beautiful". Weather continued warm with sporadic rains.
10. Change in battalion mission today. The battalion will be in direct support of the 284th Infantry Battalion when the 9th Armored Infantry Battalion is relieved in its sector. Routine duties of maintenance and rehabilitation were pursued.
11. Battalion mission changed today to general support of Combat Command "B", and reinforcing the fires of the 212th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. The Division assumed control of the 17th Airborne Division Zone 110350A. The Division passed to control of VIII Corps (102400). No change in battalion locations. Weather variable, ranging from fair to fog.
12. No change in mission or positions today. MAJOR SILAS R LANGLOIS assumed the duties of Battalion Executive Officer. Weather continued variable, ranging from fair to fog. Temperature moderate.
13. No change in mission or positions today. Routine duties. Weather continued variable, ranging from fair to fog.
14. No change in mission. Service Battery was moved from FOXHORN to DIEFELT, LUXEMBOURG. Routine duties of maintenance and rehabilitation were pursued. CAPTAIN JONES left for PARIS, FRANCE on a threeday leave with two men from "Able" Battery.

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Division elements continued to established bridgeheads across the OUR RIVER. Movie for the day was "Maisie Goes To Reno". Weather continued variable.

15. No change in mission or positions today. Division elements continued to reconnaissance by patrol across the OUR RIVER. Routine duties were followed within the battalion. Movie for the day was "National Barn Dance". Weather was foggy.
16. No change in mission or location of installations. Routine maintenance and rehabilitation was followed. Division elements pushed further across into enemy zone east of Division Sector. Movie for the day "Syncope". Weather was variable, ranging from clear to foggy.
17. No change in mission or positions today. Through inspection of the battalion was conducted by Staff Officers. Results were very satisfactory. CAPTAIN TABLEMAN left for a three-day leave in PARIS, FRANCE, with two enlisted men from "Charlie" Battery. The Battalion Staff held an impromptu "social" evening for members of the 101st Evacuation Hospital, with music by a Sextet from the Division Band. (No deficit incurred) Private Peters, of "Able" Battery's 6th Section, was injured in a vehicular accident. A captured German Staff Car skidded and overturned on the CLERVAUX-URSPLET ROAD. Private Peters was evacuated. Movie today was "Step Lively" featuring Frank Sinatra.
18. Battalion mission was changed to operate under group "BRUCE" Battalion mission is direct support of 9th and 44th Armored Infantry Battalions in new offensive to clear sector to the east of the Division Zone. Firing batteries displaced this afternoon to new positions in the vicinity of FISHBACH-LES-CLERVAUX and east of that town. The batteries closed in positions prior to nightfall under the cover of fog. Weather was changeable from clear, to fog, to light rain. New Quartermaster Shower Unit is in operation in CLERVAUX, at the Railroad Station. Movie for the day was "Canterville Ghost" with Charles Laughton and Margaret O'Brien.
19. No change in mission or positions today. The battalion continued preparation for the offensive. A Battery Commanders meeting was held at the Command Post at 1915A hours. MAJOR LANGLOIS, the Battalion Executive, inspected the battery positions. Weather was clear most of the day. Movie for the day was "One Body Too Many", starring Jinx Falkenburg. The Battalion Rest Center at DIFERT, BELGIUM, closed.
20. The battalion delivered preparation fires in support of Combat Command "A" making principal effort. This attack marked the resumption of major offensive to the east. The effort was very successful, and objectives attained ahead of schedule. All elements pushed steadily

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Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-28 Feb 45 - 231st Armd FA Bn (Contd)

forward. The Battalion Fire Direction Forward displaced to FISHBACH*LES-CLERVAUX under the command of MAJOR BILLS and CAPTAIN HANKE. The Battalion is operating in Group "BRUCE" and delegated direct support of the 9th and 44th Armored Infantry Battalions. The weather is variable, ranging from clear skies to fog and rain. Movie for the day was "Take It Or Leave It", featuring Phil Baker.

21. The Battalion continued its mission of direct support of the 9th and 44th Armored Infantry Battalions. Objectives were attained ahead of schedule. The 50th Armored Infantry Battalion was on its objective at approximately 0730A hours, after pushing off at 0400A hours. CAPTAIN MOLLER left for PARIS, FRANCE on a three-day leave with two enlisted men from HEADQUARTERS Battery. Movie for the day was "Kansas City Kitty".

22. No change in mission. "Able" Battery displaced to new positions in the vicinity of DAHNEN, GERMANY. Battalion Fire Direction Center remained at FISHBACH*LES-CLERVAUX, LUXEMBOURG. Rear Command Post is still located at CLERVAUX, LUXEMBOURG. Weather clear with moderate temperatures.

23. "Baker" and "Charlie" Batteries displaced to new positions in the vicinity of DAHNEN, GERMANY. Fire Direction Center displaced to German Pillbox #256 in the vicinity of DALEIDEN, GERMANY. (883 641 Houffalize Sheet 107, 1/50,000). Weather continued clear with moderate temperatures.

24. Rear installations were moved forward to join the battalion. The Battalion moved to new positions in the vicinity of DIESTERWALD, GERMANY (955 718, "Bitburg" Sheet 22 1/50,000). Battalion mission is direct support of Combat Command "B" (50th Armored Infantry Battalion, 86th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized, and the 69th Tank Battalion). The Combat Command had the mission of defense of north sector of the Division Zone extending to the PRUM RIVER with the 4th Infantry Division on our north (left) flank. Battalion began to relieve elements of the 915th Field Artillery Battalion (90th Infantry Division). All elements of the battalion are now east of the OUR RIVER (except personnel at the Administrative Center). Weather is clear with moderate temperatures.

25. Battalion completed relief of elements of the 915th Field Artillery Battalion. Continued the mission of direct support of Combat Command "B". Weather cloudy with light intermittent rains. Movie for the day was "Nine Girls".

26. No change in mission or positions today. Enemy resistance at LUNEBACH impeded major crossing—sniper activity, mines, and booby traps. Weather is cold, with poor visibility. Movie for the day was "Babes On Swing Street".

27. No change in mission or positions today. Patrols penetrated LUNEBACH and met resistance of snipers, mines, and booby traps. LIEUTENANT

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Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-28 Feb 45 - 231st Armd2FA Bn (Contd)

BRUNACCI was wounded in action and evacuated. The weather continued cold with poor visibility. The movie for the day is "So'd Your Uncle".

28. No change in mission. Penetration of LUNEBACH, PRONSFELD, and east bank of the PRUME River continued. Crossings prepared. No crossing in strength accomplished. Weather continued cold with poor visibility. Movie for the day is "This Is The Life" featuring Sasanna Foster.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE BATTALION FOR THE MONTH

<u>Numbered of Missions Fired</u>		<u>Number of Rounds Expended</u>
Observed	Unobserved	
235	155	8,985

MISSIONS FIRED BY OBSERVERS FOR THE PERIOD

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Observer</u>	<u>Number of Missions</u>
Headquarters Battery	Lieutenant Schaafani	9
Headquarters Battery	Lieutenant Hoffman	10
Headquarters Battery	Lieutenant Laubacher	11
Headquarters Battery	Lieutenant Billings	11
"Able" Battery	Lieutenant Griswold	17
"Able" Battery	Lieutenant Dall	15
"Able" Battery	Lieutenant Ryder	9
"Baker" Battery	Lieutenant Van Zandt	9
"Baker" Battery	Lieutenant Palmer	11
"Baker" Battery	Lieutenant Weed	7
"Charlie" Battery	Lieutenant Brunacci	16
"Charlie" Battery	Lieutenant Graham	6
"Charlie" Battery	Lieutenant McCesney	22
Air Observation Post	Lieutenant Lyckman	48
Air Observation Post	Lieutenant Seibel	9
Air Observation Post	Lt Colonel Crawford	4
Air Observation Post	Division Artillery	2

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Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-28 February 45 - 231st Armd FA Bn (Contd)

Our casualties for this period were:

<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>	<u>Officers</u>
Killed	1	0
Missing	1	0
Wounded	1	3
Battle Exhaustion Cases	0	0

Vehicular

None

Enemy casualties were:

Personnel

Prisoners	:	Unknown
Killed	:	Unknown
Killed and Wounded (Estimated)	:	Unknown

Numerous enemy patrols and personnel in dug-in positions were fired upon and dispersed, but it is impossible to determine the exact number of casualties inflicted.

Materiel Destroyed

It has been definitely established that artillery fire, directed by our forward observers, and placed by this battalion upon enemy targets, destroyed the following enemy materiel:

- One (1) Tank
- One (1) Gun Battery (4 Guns)
- Two (2) 20-mm Anti-Aircraft Guns
- Three (3) Machine Gun Positions
- One (1) Scout Car
- Four (4) Vehicles (Motor)
- Two (2) Vehicles (Horse-drawn)
- One (1) Vehicles (Ox-drawn)

For the Commanding Officer:

Silas R. Langlois
SILAS R. LANGLOIS,
Major, FA,
Exec O.

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HEADQUARTERS
231ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

APO 256 U S Army
1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-31 January 1945.

TO : Commanding General, 6th Armored Division, APO 256, U S Army.

1. The following report is submitted of the action of the 231st Armored Field Artillery Battalion against the enemy for the period 1-31 January 1945, as required by Army Regulations 345-105, C-3.

JANUARY 1945:

1. The battalion occupied positions one-half (1/2) mile east of ASSENOIS, BELGIUM, with the Command Post in the town of ASSENOIS. Maintained direct support of Task Force DAVALL and supported an attack at 0800 hours. During the attack, the bulk of our fires were directed into the town of MAGERET by FIRST LIEUTENANT LYCKMAN from an Air Observation Post, and LIEUTENANTS GRAHAM, BROWN, and FRONCZYK, from Ground Observation Posts.

The battalion started displacement to positions in the vicinity of NEFFE late in the afternoon. This move took the battalion through the town of BASTOGNE, which the Germans were still trying to cut off and encircle.

At 2345 hours the Germans made a determined counterattack in the vicinity of the towns of WARDIN and BENONCHAMPS, BELGIUM. The attack was a heavy one and was repulsed mainly by artillery fire which was adjusted by LIEUTENANTS GRAHAM and FRONCZYK. The battalion fired one thousand (1,000) rounds between the hours of 2345 and 0600 in repulsing this counterattack.

2. No change in mission. The battalion supported an attack at 0900 today and enemy resistance was very heavy. One of our forward observer tanks was knocked out and LIEUTENANT BROWN was seriously wounded. His tank crew escaped without a scratch. LIEUTENANT GRAHAM's Reconnaissance Officer Crew was hit fairly hard also, with two of his crew being wounded and missing. LIEUTENANTS GRAHAM and BROWN both did a remarkable job today, and aided greatly in the advance and protection of the task force.
3. No change in mission. The battalion fired approximately two thousand (2,000) rounds today on enemy vehicles and personnel in our zone of action. This action aided in breaking up a counterattack which started forming about 1400. Weather continued cold.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By *[Signature]*

NAHS Date 12-14-73

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Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-31 Jan 45 - 231st Armd FA Bn (Contd)

4. No change in mission. The battalion fired twenty-seven (27) observed missions during the day, expending one thousand eight hundred ninety-two (1,892) rounds of ammunition. Observers HOFFMAN and FRONCZYK adjusted fires which greatly aided in breaking up a counterattack in the vicinity of ARLONCOURT, BELGIUM. During this counterattack, LIEUTENANT HOFFMAN adjusted fire which knocked out three (3) German tanks. Weather continued cold and snow started falling again late in the afternoon.

Task Force DAVALL was forced to pull back some of the units of the force in order to shorten their lines, making it necessary for some elements of the battalion to displace to the rear. At 1715 today, the battalion, less Battery "A", displaced to positions about one (1) mile northwest of BASTOGNE, BELGIUM. Battery "A" was left in position about one-half (1/2) mile east of BASTOGNE. The Command Post is in a very fine chateau, which we call the "Bastion of Bastogne".

5. No change in mission. The battalion continued to expend large quantities of ammunition on concentrations of personnel and vehicles. Observers FRONCZYK, CLEMENT, CANON, and WEED adjusted most of the fire today. Private Fassauer of Battery "A", and Private Thompson of Service Battery, left for thirty-day furloughs in the United States. LIEUTENANT McCHESNEY reported to the battalion today and was assigned to Battery "C".
6. No change in mission. LIEUTENANTS CLEMENT, CANON, WEED, and FRONCZYK, continued heavy firing on enemy personnel and vehicles. The weather cleared for a short time today, and LIEUTENANT LYCKMAN was able to adjust on a concentration from an Air Observation Post. LIEUTENANT RYDER reported to the battalion today and was assigned to Battery "A". The weather continued cold.
7. No change in mission. Continued to fire on enemy vehicles and personnel in our zone of action. Since the Division has a defensive mission at this particular time, emphasis was placed on camouflage of positions and areas, and the construction of shelters for personnel. Bulldozers were used to prepare positions for M-7's and all other vehicles. Weather continued cold and snow started falling about dark. Visibility was very poor all day.
8. LIEUTENANT CLEMENT and his crew had their tank knocked out this morning, but all members of the crew escaped without injury. Enemy activity decreased considerably in our zone of action today. Weather continued cold with heavy snowfall. Visibility was very poor all day. At 1700 hours the battalion changed from control of Division Artillery, 6th Armored Division, to control of the 193d Field Artillery Group, and was assigned the mission of direct support of 2d Battalion, 320th

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Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-31 Jan 45 - 231st Armd FA Bn (Contd)

Infantry.

9. The battalion supported Task Force HANNUM (2d Battalion, 320th Infantry) in an attack at 1000 hours today from present positions. The attack was successful and objective taken. Observers WEED and CLEMENT worked from Ground Observation Posts, and LIEUTENANT LYCKMAN from an Air Observation Post. LIEUTENANT ROUNDS and LIEUTENANT LYCKMAN had a crack-up while taking off today, but both escaped uninjured. LIEUTENANT LYCKMAN adjusted on two (2) enemy tanks and brought in a medium battalion for effect, destroying both tanks. MAJOR JACK SALMON, B-26 Pilot from the 9th Air Force came to visit us today. Weather continued cold.
10. At 1100 the battalion was assigned the additional mission of reinforcing the fires of the 35th Division Artillery. LIEUTENANT COLONEL JESSE, Executive Officer, Division Artillery, 6th Armored Division, visited the Command Post today. Batteries continued to improve positions since there was not much firing today.
11. At 0600 today, the mission of the battalion changed to general support of the 6th Armored Division from present positions. The battalion continued to reinforce the fires of the 35th Division Artillery. Very little firing was done today, so the batteries started work on maintenance of vehicles and equipment. LIEUTENANT COLONEL POPE, Commanding Officer of the 212th Armored Field Artillery Battalion visited us today. Weather continued cold.
12. The battalion continued general support of the 6th Armored Division. At 0600 the battalion was released from answering calls for fire from the 35th Division Artillery. Observation was good today and LIEUTENANT LYCKMAN adjusted on an enemy column in the vicinity of BRAS, BELGIUM, from an Air Observation Post. The fires of the battalion definitely destroyed two (2) horse-drawn vehicles and dispersed the rest of the personnel of the column. Firing for the day was light, however. Only two hundred thirty-nine (239) rounds were expended. At 2000 hours today, our mission was changed to direct support of Task Force WALL. Weather was cold and clear.
13. The battalion continued the direct support of Task Force WALL in an attack at 1430 today from present positions. LIEUTENANT FRONCZYK was killed today while trying to aid a wounded infantryman. The battalion fired eight hundred ninety-four (894) rounds in the preparation and supporting the attack.
14. The battalion continued direct support of Task Force WALL. At 0930 today the battalion supported an attack. Observers GRAHAM, HOFFMAN, and RYDER, did all the firing from Ground Observation

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Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-31 Jan 45 - 231st Armd FA Bn (Contd)

Posts, and LIEUTENANT LYCKMAN from an Air Observation Post. Five hundred sixty-three (563) rounds were expended in the preparation and support of the attack. The weather was cold and clear.

15. Continued direct support of Task Force WALL. Supported an attack at ~~0900~~ today. Observers GRAHAM, RYDER, and HOFFMAN continued to man Ground Observation Posts, and LIEUTENANT LYCKMAN, Air Observation Post. Batteries "B" and "C" displaced to new positions this afternoon about four hundred (400) yards southwest of the town of BIZORY, BELGIUM. Headquarters and Battery "A" remained in positions previously occupied. Seven hundred fifty (750) rounds of ammunition were expended today. The weather continued clear and cold.
16. Continued direct support of Task Force WALL. Supported an attack at ~~0930~~ today from present positions. No change in observers. Expended five hundred sixty-five (565) rounds of ammunition today. Five (5) new officers reported to the battalion today, and were assigned as follows:

FIRST LIEUTENANT DAY - Assistant Executive, Battery "B"
SECOND LIEUTENANT BILLINGS - Forward Observer Number One,
Headquarters Battery.
SECOND LIEUTENANT GRISWOLD - Reconnaissance Officer,
Battery "A"
SECOND LIEUTENANT BEMIS - Assistant Reconnaissance Officer,
Battery "A"
SECOND LIEUTENANT VAN ZANDT - Assistant Reconnaissance
Officer, Battery "C".

Service Battery received the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque today.

17. Continued direct support of Task Force WALL. Supported an attack at ~~0830~~ today, with LIEUTENANTS McCHESNEY and RYDER doing most of the firing. Expended three hundred eighty-eight (388) rounds of ammunition during the day. LIEUTENANT PALMER joined the battalion today and was assigned as Assistant Reconnaissance Officer of Battery "B". Weather continued cold with very poor visibility.
18. At ~~1100~~ hours today our mission was changed to general support of the 6th Armored Division, and reinforcing the fires of the 161st Field Artillery Battalion. There was very little firing done during the day. Weather continued cold.
19. No change in mission. The Command Post was moved to a new position in the vicinity of NEFFE, BELGIUM. The firing batteries remained in position. LIEUTENANT BRUNACCI joined the battalion today and was assigned Assistant Executive of Battery "C". Very little firing was done today. The weather continued cold.

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Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-31 Jan 45 - 231st Armd FA Bn (Contd)

20. The weather continued cold with some snow falling during the day. LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRAWFORD started a school today for indoctrination of the new officers of the battalion. At 2000 today our mission was changed to direct support of Task Force ROOT. The battalion prepared to support an attack to the northeast tomorrow. Battery "C" moved to new positions in the vicinity of MICHAMPS, BELGIUM. Very little firing was done today.
21. No change in mission. The remainder of the battalion moved to new positions one-half (1/2) mile east of MICHAMPS, BELGIUM early this morning. Supported an attack at 0900 today and met very little resistance. Moved the battalion to new positions this afternoon, with the firing batteries one and one-half (1 1/2) miles northeast of TROINE, LUXEMBOURG, and Headquarters Battery in TROINE. Very little firing was done today.
22. No change in mission. The Battalion Command Post moved to new location in HOFFELT, LUXEMBOURG, but firing batteries remained in present positions. No attack today, but continued to fire on enemy activity in our zone of operation. SECOND LIEUTENANT DALL reported to the battalion today and was assigned to Battery "A".
23. At 1215 hours today the battalion was assigned the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 161st Field Artillery Battalion, in addition to direct support of Task Force ROOT. The battalion displaced to new positions one-half (1/2) mile south of WEILER, LUXEMBOURG.
24. There is no change in mission or positions. Most of the firing done today was on request of the 161st Field Artillery Battalion. Three hundred thirty-nine (399) rounds were fired today. The weather continued cold.
25. The battalion supported an attack at 0900 today. We were relieved of the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 161st Field Artillery Battalion. The battalion displaced to new positions one-half (1/2) mile southwest of DRINKLANGE, LUXEMBOURG, with Headquarters Battery in DRINKLANGE. The weather continued cold.
26. There is no change in mission or positions. There was very little firing done today. The weather is colder.
27. The Division was assigned new zone of action today, and took up defensive positions to the east of CLERVAUX, LUXEMBOURG. The battalion moved to new positions today in order to support the Division in its new zone; the firing batteries occupying positions one-half (1/2) mile east of CLERVAUX, LUXEMBOURG, and then Headquarters Battery moved into the town of CLERVAUX. The battalion

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Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-31 Jan 45 - 231st Armd FA Bn (Contd)

continued direct support of Task Force ROOT. SECOND LIEUTENANT HALL reported to the battalion today and was assigned to Battery "B". The weather continued cold.

28. There is no change in mission or positions today. LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRAWFORD is sick and has been placed under the care of the Battalion Surgeon. There was very little firing done today. All batteries are stressing the maintenance of vehicles. At 1200 the 253d Armored Field Artillery Battalion was assigned the mission of reinforcing our fires. This is the coldest day we've had.

29. There is no change in mission or positions today. MAJOR GENERAL GROW, Commanding General, 6th Armored Division, came to the Command Post today to present awards to several members of the battalion. LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRAWFORD was awarded the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to his Bronze Star Medal. Since LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRAWFORD is still ill, the General presented the award to him while he was in bed. Bronze Star Medals were then presented to:

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
CAPTAIN DONNELL
CAPTAIN TABLEMAN
Staff Sergeant West
Sergeant Higginbotham
Technician Fourth Grade Marriott
Technician Fifth Grade Sandal

Held a picture show for the battalion today. MAJOR LANGLOIS joined the battalion today. The weather continued cold.

30. There is no change in mission or positions. LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRAWFORD is back on duty today, and feeling much better. FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGE C HAAS, who had formerly been carried as missing in action, returned to the battalion for a visit today. He was serving as Air Observer for the battalion during the Brest Campaign, and was shot down and taken prisoner by the Germans on 2 August 1944. LIEUTENANT HAAS and a companion escaped from a German prison camp on the Isle of Jersey on 8 January 1945, and arrived on the Continent on 20 January 1945. He had many thrilling experiences and some very narrow escapes.
31. At 1650 today, the Infantry battalions were changed on the line, and this battalion was assigned the mission of direct support of Task Force BRITTON from present positions. The 253d Armored Field Artillery Battalion continued to reinforce our fires.

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Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-31 Jan 45 - 231st Armd FA Bn (Contd)

Held picture show, read Articles of War, and gave sex morality and sex hygiene lecture for all men of the battalion today. There was very little firing done. Since we are on the defensive in a very quiet sector, approximately one-third of the men in Headquarters and firing batteries were sent to the battalion rest home at DIFFERT, BELGIUM, for a three-day rest. LIEUTENANT HAAS talked to the battalion today about some of his experiences while a prisoner of the Germans, and about his escape. The weather is somewhat warmer, with rain. The snow is beginning to melt.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE BATTALION FOR THE MONTH

<u>Number of Missions Fired</u>		<u>Number of Rounds Expended</u>
Observed	Unobserved	
255	362	18872

MISSIONS FIRED BY OBSERVERS FOR THE PERIOD

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Observer</u>	<u>Number of Missions</u>
Headquarters Battery	Lieutenant Sclafani	18
Headquarters Battery	Lieutenant Lyckman	65
Headquarters Battery	Lieutenant Hoffman	20
Headquarters Battery	Lieutenant Canon	32
Headquarters Battery	Lieutenant Fronczyk	23
Headquarters Battery	Lieutenant Brown	2
Battery "A"	Lieutenant Ryder	39
Battery "A"	Lieutenant Griswold	3
Battery "A"	Lieutenant Clement	14
Battery "B"	Lieutenant Weed	14
Battery "C"	Lieutenant Graham	16
Battery "C"	Lieutenant McChesney	20
Battery "C"	Lieutenant Brunacci	5

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Action Against The Enemy For The Period 1-31 Jan 45 - 231st Armd FA Bn (Contd)

Our casualties for this period were:

<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>	<u>Officers</u>
Killed	1	1
Missing	1	0
Wounded	3	2
Battle Exhaustion Cases	0	0

Vehicular

2 Medium Tanks, M-4

Enemy casualties were:

Personnel

Prisoners	: 7
Killed	: Unknown
Killed and Wounded (Estimated)	: Unknown

Materiel Destroyed

Guns	: 11
Tanks	: 7
Vehicles	: 9
Mortars	: 2

Large numbers of enemy personnel were fired upon and undoubtedly many casualties were inflicted. However, inasmuch as our troops did not occupy the ground immediately in many cases, it is impossible to determine the number of casualties.

For the Battalion Commander:

William R. Bills

WILLIAM R BILLS,
Major, FA,
Exec O.

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