

HEADQUARTERS
227TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. 29, U.S. ARMY

Subject: After Action Report For Month of February 1945

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

THRU: Commanding General, 29th Infantry Division Artillery,
A.P.O. 29, U.S. Army

I. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

The 227th Field Artillery Battalion less Battery "C", on 1 February 1945 was in position at Obermerz , Germany (956540) Sheet 5103 Eschweiler, Germany, Scale 1/25000. Battery "C" was in position at Putzdorf, Germany (979555) Sheet 5103 Eschweiler, Germany Scale 1/25000. The mission of the Battalion was general support of the 29th Infantry Division.

On 4 February 1945 the Battalion displaced to Durboslar, Germany (959572) Sheet 5003 Linnich, Germany Scale 1/25000 in preparation for the crossing of the Roer River and the continuation of the Battle of Julich.

While in position at Durboslar, Germany, schools were held in "Care of Motors", "Instruction and Education" and "Care of Material and Equipment". Stress was put on 1st echelon maintenance of material, equipment and vehicles.

The 29th Infantry Division began crossing the Roer River on 23 February 1945. The 227th Field Artillery Battalion supported the Division from its position in Durboslar, Germany, participating in the heavy artillery preparation, firing 1,447 rounds in 5 hours and 30 minutes. Julich was taken and the "Battle of the Cologne Plains" began.

On 24 February 1945 the 227th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to positions at Bourheim, Germany (011568) Sheet 5003 Linnich, Germany, Scale 1/25000. While in this position one bomb was dropped in the area occupied by Battery "C" without causing any damage.

The Battalion again displaced forward on 25 February 1945 to Julich, Germany (029609) Sheet 5004 Julich, Germany, Scale 1/25,000 crossing the Roer River at 1830 hours and occupied positions during hours of darkness.

The "Battle of the Cologne Plains" began to develop very rapidly. It became necessary to move every day in order to be in position to give support to the Infantry.

Again on the 26th of February 1945 the 227th Field Artillery Battalion made a night displacement forward to position at Mersch, Germany (049636) Sheet 5004 Julich, Germany, Scale 1/25,000.

On 27th February 1945 the 227th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to positions at Gevelsdorf, Germany (056685) Sheet 5004 Titz, Germany, Scale 1/25,000.

The displacements were made by the 227th Field Artillery Battalion on 28 February 1945. The first move was made to Beverath, Germany (057762) Sheet 4904 Titz, Germany, Scale 1/25,000. This position was occupied only from 1115 hours until 2115 hours. The second displacement was made after dark to Wickrath, Germany, Sheet 4804 Munchen-Gladbach, Germany, Scale 1/25,000.

The 227th Field Artillery Battalion remained in this position at Wickrath, Germany at the end of February. The mission still, general support of the 29th Infantry Division.

II. FORCES ENGAGED

During the month of February 1945 the 227th Field Artillery Battalion came into contact with elements of the 363rd Volksgrenadier Division, 59th Infantry Division, 176th Infantry Division, 3rd Panzer Grenadier Division, 9th Panzer Division, 11th Panzer Division, and the 130th Panzer Lehr Division.

On the 24th of February 1945 Battery "A" while on a reconnaissance for position in Julich captured 11 Infantrymen of the 363rd Volksgrenadier Division. These prisoners were turned over to the Division POW Cage.

III. LOSSES IN ACTION

During the month of February 1945 the 227th Field Artillery Battalion suffered only one (1) casualty (SWA). A resume of the losses of the Battalion since entering combat until the end of February 1945 is as follows:

	KIA	DOW	SWA	LWA	LIA	MIA
Officers	4	0	2	2	0	0
Enlisted Men	2	1	11	4	1	0

IV. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

During the month of February 1945 the following awards were made to members of the 227th Field Artillery Battalion:

Bronze Star Medals	2
Purple Hearts	2
Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal	1
Certificates of Merit	1
Meritorious Service Unit Plaque	1

V. COMMANDING OFFICERS.

The Commanding Officers for the month of November 1944 were as follows:

Battalion Commander	Lt. Col. Neal W. Harper
Headquarters Battery	1 st Lt. Robert M. Godber
Battery "A"	Capt. George F. Weidl
Battery "B"	Capt. Walter J. Rakow
Battery "C"	1 st Lt. David D. Honick
Service Battery	Capt. Eugene D. Jones
Medical Detachment	Capt. Harold L. Bacon
The Battalion Commander's Staff consisted of:	
Executive Officer	Major Norman D. Aboosh
S-3	Major Frederick B. Johnson (TDY-USA)
Ass't S-3	Capt. John C. Vallor (Acting S-3)
S-2	Capt. Cecil L. Harvey (Acting Ass't S-3)
Ass't S-2	2 nd Lt. Herman G. DeMoss
Liason Officer	Capt. Bruce Bliven, Jr.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS.

The 227th Artillery Battalion completed a total of two hundred and forty-five (245) missions, and expended a total of five thousand six hundred and sixty-four (5,664) rounds of ammunition for the month of February 1945. A breakdown of these missions is as follows:

TYPES OF MISSIONS	NUMBER
Registration	27
Counter Battery	50
Personnel	14
Vehicles	9
Pill Boxes and Forts	18
C.P.'s and O.P.'s	2
Harassing and Interdiction	16
Other types	109
TOTAL	245

The Air Operations of the 227th Field Artillery Battalion flew a total of 82 missions during February 1945 . A breakdown of the flights made is as follows:

Number of hours flown	91 Hrs. 15 Min.
Fire Missions	36
Reconnaissance Missions	46

During the month of February 1945 the 227th Field Artillery Battalion saw several movies. The Red Cross Clubmobile visited the Battalion. This entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by personnel of the Battalion and did much to help keep up the morale.

Pfc. Laverne H. Barnett, (37110432) of Battery "B" and Pvt. William P. Pamplin, (34526261) of Headquarters Battery were placed on Temporary Duty in the United States of America on 21 February 1945. This brought the total to one (1) officer and seven (7) enlisted men to be sent back to the United States on Temporary Duty. Both men have been with the Battalion throughout all of its overseas service which began on 5 October 1942.

The combat efficiency of the 227th Field Artillery Battalion has been excellent throughout the month for February 1945.

Morale during this period has been excellent. 29 LET'S GO.

(signed-Neal W. Harper)
NEAL W. HARPER
Lt. Colonel, F.A.
Commanding

BATTLE LESSONS AND CONCLUSIONS

I Communications.

1. In a fast moving situation radio necessarily becomes the primary means of communications with the F.O.'s. By using an SCR 608 as relay and briefing the operator as to the axis of advance, communications will be maintained. The operator can then move forward when necessary and report his location by objectives. The relay station personnel should be changed at least every 48 hours.
2. When on reconnaissance the chief of the wire section of a firing battery should be shown the routes by which the howitzers will be brought into position so that he can avoid laying wire across the path of can have it dug in.
3. It is extremely useful to carry extra wire on each howitzer section and to have a man in each section who knows how to repair wire. Wire that may be damaged accidentally by the tractors pulling off or on to the road can then be repaired quickly.
4. The SCR 536 can be used to advantage by F.O. parties in rapid moving situations, when going forward on reconnaissance, by foot, for a new O.P. The party remaining behind can be called forward without having to return to the old position. This procedure will save time and labor.

II. The Firing Battery.

1. The placing of stakes at the howitzer positions with Phosphorescent reflectors by the reconnaissance party greatly aids in a night occupation of position. These reflectors can be picked up from the German aiming stakes.

III. Air O.P.

1. By calling F.O.'s for their locations by radio pilot can keep himself posted as to the approximate position of the front lines, in a rapidly moving situation.

IV. Miscellaneous.

1. We hit a static position and had every vehicle completely unloaded. Upon inspecting the equipment we were able to send back a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck loaded with excess equipment which the men picked up along the route. Periodic check of this matter will save a lot of space in the vehicles.

(signed - Neal W. Harper)
NEAL W. HARPER
Lt. Colonel, F.A.
Commanding