

**Action seen by Edward Haringa
of 75th Division, 289th Infantry
from January – April 1945**

January 1945:

On January 1, 1945, the 12th SS Panzer Division had filtered in between units of the 289th and penetrated to Sadzot before being stopped by strong counterattacks.

289th Cannon Company fired about 300 rounds to help break up the attack. At daybreak the Germans began shelling with mortars, 88mm artillery fire, etc.

The shelling continued for a couple day, fairly heavy at times. Weather was as much a factor as the Germans. Blinding snowstorms and heavy drifting snow added to the terrain difficulties. Mine fields were hard to detect in the snow.

The 75th reached the Aisne River by January 5, 1945 and by Jan 8, 1945 relieved the 82nd Airborne Division at the Salm River.

In the bitter cold, the 75th strengthened its defensive positions until Jan 15, 1945 when it again went on the offensive. The first day of this attack, the 15th, was an extremely bloody day. It was the 75th most costly day in war combat.

The 75th cleared Salm-Chateau and Beck, and helped take Vielsalm in bitter fighting.

By Jan 22, 1945 the 75th had cleared the Grand Bois (woods), and captured Aldringen on the 24th. After reaching St. Vith, the 75th was pulled out of the line for a short rest.

February 1945:

The 75th joined back in the battle on Feb 1, 1945 by taking Horbourg and Andolsheim.

On Feb 5, 1945 they took Wolfgantzen and Appenwhir.

On Feb 8, 1945 they were severely shelled by direct fire and strafed by a German MB-262jet aircraft. This was the first jet-propelled aircraft they had seen. Then they advanced through Hettenschlag and Hettertn. The Germans lost their last stronghold west of the Rhine in Alsace. 75th then made the long trip to Laefelt, Belgium, near Tongres, with a short rest at Domptail, France.

They then went to Severnum, Holland.

The 75th relieved the British 6th Airborne Division on a 24-mile front along the Maas River, near Roermond, in southeast Holland beginning Feb 21, 1945. Reconnaissance and numerous patrols were conducted. Then the 75th patrolled a sector along the west bank from Wesel to Homburg and relieved the 35th Division.

On Mar 5, 1945 they crossed the Maas and spent a few days at Breyell, then on to Baerf, Germany on the Rhine. The 289th Cannon Company fired 750 rounds prior to crossing the Rhine.

During the drive across the Ruhr Valley the 75th maintained steady support with their guns. Along the way were Kirechellen, Polsum, Huls, and Erkenschwick. At this time, the 75h was under the 9th Army.

April 1945:

The 289th and 290th combat regiments attacked through the pinned 8th Armored Division and reached the Dortmund-Ems Canal near Datteln on April 1, 1945. The 75th cleared the Haard Forest, crossed the Dortmund-Ems Canal on April 4, 1945, and reinforced the 320th Regiment, 35th Division.

In this area, two slave labor camps were liberated containing some 3000 inmates.

The 75th ran into prolonged and furious fighting in the northern portion of the Ruhr Pocket. Battling over difficult terrain in the vicinity of Dortmund, it was some of the heaviest resistance encountered by any U.S. outfit during this battle.

On April 9, 1945, Edward H. Haringa was killed in action.

On April 12, 1945, at Langendreer, the 75th completed its last day of combat.

