

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND735017~~SECRET~~OPD
etcway
46

B

HEADQUARTERS
314TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO # 80, c/o Postmaster
U. S. Army

1 October 1944.

Subject: Comments of Commanding Officer covering After Action reports for
period 6 August 1944 to 31 August 1944.

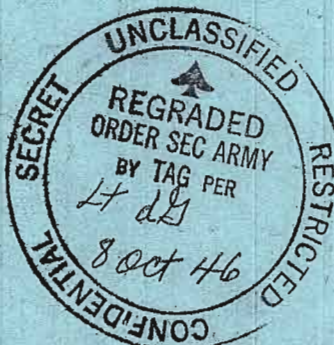
To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

1. The period covered by the enclosed staff reports marked this
battalion's initial entry into combat. Because of the newness of all personnel
to the problems involved and because it is believed most of these problems
have heretofore been met and solved by other units it is deemed wise to
forego comments and recommendations until we have another month of battle
experience.



D. J. MINAHAN,
Lt. Col., F. A.,
Commanding.

380-177 (314) - 0.3



OCT 15 1946

13220
MASTER
FEB 1 1945~~SECRET~~

Incl 12

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND735017

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS
314TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO # 80, U. S. Army

1 October 1944.

Subject: Report After Action Against Enemy for month of August 1944.

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

SECTION I *Aug*5th August 1944:

Left Portland Harbor, Dorset County VZ 1297, on board LST at 0600 enroute.

6th August 1944:

Arrived Utah beach, France, VT 4598, at 0200, debarked at 0600, distance traveled by water 82 miles. Proceeded by motor convoy to Transit Area "B" arriving at 0700. Left Area "B" 0730, arrived bivouac area South of St Jores VT 28108585, at 0930. Distance traveled 19 miles.

7th August 1944:

No change. Received warning order 0900 for administrative march to vicinity of Brecey.

8th & 9th August 1944:

Left Bivouac Area by motor convoy 0945, arrived rendezvous area vicinity of Le Que Botnek, 20 miles South of Brecey at 1545. Distance traveled 57 miles. Received order for motor march at 2030 to vicinity of Le Mans. Left 2200. Arrived 3 miles West of Vaiges at 1130, 9th August 1944. Distance traveled 70 miles. Received order for attack on St Suzanne by Combat Team 318th, 0800, August 10, 1944.

10th August 1944:

Battalion occupied positions 6/10 miles South West of Chamnes, V 986449, at 0700. Distance traveled 7 miles. 905th Field Artillery Battalion attached. Troops entered St Suzanne 1100. No opposition was met, no missions were fired. 905th Field Artillery Battalion released 1400, 315th Field Artillery Battalion attached. Battalion displaced 4 miles at 1915 and occupied position vicinity of Ambriers Z 022496, no missions fired. At 2100 318th combat team received orders to make night march on Sille-le-Guillaume. Battalion remained in its present position over night.

11th August 1944:

Displaced 0600, 8½ miles, to vicinity of Rouesse-Vasse Z 121548, to support attack on Sille-le-Guillaume at 0800. Troops entered town at 1200 meeting no opposition. No missions were fired.

12th August 1944:

Battalion displaced to vicinity of Sille-le-Guillaume. Distance traveled 2.4 miles.

~~SECRET~~

574

~~SECRET~~13th August 1944:

Left Sille-le-Guillaume by motor convoy 0900, arrived bivouac area 10 mile West of Alencon VZ 32059221, at 0200, 14th August 1944. Distance traveled 43 miles.

14th August 1944:

Left area West of Alencon by motor convoy 1700, arrived bivouac area $\frac{1}{4}$ mile North of Evron VZ 96405500, at 1930. Distance traveled 42 miles.

15th August 1944:

No change.

16th August 1944:

No change. Received orders to move by motor convoy to vicinity of Montmerrei VU 31003050.

17th August 1944:

Left area North of Evron 0500, Battery "C" attached to the 3rd Battalion 318th Infantry Regiment as advanced guard battery for the march. Arrived area 1 mile South of Montmerrei, 9 mile South of Argentan, VU 31003050, at 1115. Distance traveled 51 miles. Occupied positions vicinity of Malandrevie and registered using Air Observation Post at 1730. Distance traveled 8 mile. No missions fired. 318th Combat Team received mission of capturing Argentan and high ground North of Argentan, prepared to continue the attack in the direction of town. This battalion is in direct support with the 313 Field Artillery Battalion and 315 Field Artillery Battalion reinforcing our fires.

18th August 1944:

Battalion reregistered 0730 and fired approximately 45 missions prior to displacing at 1300 to vicinity of Jivigny-Sur-Orne, VU 298169, distance traveled 6 miles. Registered 1430.

19th August 1944:

No change. Battle for Argentan continues. German tiger tanks and 88mm guns holding up advance. This Battalion took part in concentration of 7 Battalions 5 volleys on town of Argentan, one of this Battalion's Forward Observers adjusting one of our battery's to obtain adjusted coordinates, the large concentration following 45 minutes later. This concentration set the town on fire and was later proved to have been very effective.

20th August 1944:

No change. 2nd and 3rd Battalions 318th Infantry Regiment captured Argentan at 1000. First Battalion, 318th Infantry Regiment captured Grennes 1430. 317th Combat Team captured the high ground North of Argentan at 1600. This Battalion fired 2227 rounds during period 17th - 20th August. Air Observation was used very effectively during this operation.

21st August 1944:

Division moved into assembly area South East of Argentan. This Battalion given missions of general support. No change in position.

22nd August 1944:

No change.

23rd August 1944:

No change.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND735017~~SECRET~~24th August 1944:

No change. 317th Combat Team and 318th Combat team reenact attacks on Argentan. Received warning order of move to vicinity of Ardenay on the 25 August 1944.

25th August 1944:

No change. Move and destination in warning order of the 24th changed, at 2150 received orders to move by motor convoy to vicinity of Sens, 50 miles South East of Paris at 0500 26 August 1944.

26th August 1944:

Left Argentan at 0500 by motor convoy, arrived rendezvous near Collensuns, 5 miles South West of Sens, 0630, 27 August 1944. Distance traveled 293 miles.

27th August 1944:

Received order at 1100 to move by motor convoy to vicinity of Orvilliers. Left rendezvous 1140, arrived Orvilliers 1630. Distance traveled 54 miles. Occupied positions and registered. No missions fired. At 1800 received order to march on Chalons, high ground North of Jivigny and to establish bridge head over Marne River. Normal Combat Team attachments.

28th August 1944:

Left Orvilliers 0900 and occupied positions 2 mile South of Aulnay, 402469, distance traveled 61 miles. Battalion forded Seine and Aube Rivers as the bridges were blown. Slight opposition met at Aulnay, over came with no need for artillery. Battalion occupied position 2030 and registered from Air Observation Post. No missions fired.

29th August 1944:

No change. Battalion displaced across Marne by fording at 1100. Distance traveled 6 miles. Battalion in position and registered, T 439526, at 1100. 318th on only high ground around Les Grandes Lodges 1730. Battalion could not displace because of blown bridges over canal and Gravelable River. Battalion fired on two enemy planes, hits were obtained, but no verification of any being shot down.

30th August 1944:

Battalion displaced 0830 to 488581, just North of Les Grandes Lodges. Distance traveled 7 miles. Battalion directed over route from Liaison plane with very good results. Battalion was strafed by 3 enemy planes, no casualties. Received warning order at 2030 for move to the East at 0700, 31 August 1944.

31st August 1944:

Received order for attack Bar Le Duc, Commercy, high ground North East of Commercy and to secure bridge head over Meuse River at Commercy. Left Grandes Lodges 0700 arrived position, U 083250, at 2100. Distance traveled 55 miles. No missions fired.

James F. Roark
JAMES F. ROARK
Major, 314th FA Bn,
S-3

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~SECTION II6th August 1944 to 31st August 1944:

During this period this battalion was in almost constant movement either as long motor marches or in rapid displacement. S-2 activity was confined to radio reports of forward observers during movement concerning location of various units of the combat team. Ground Observation Posts were impossible to maintain and unnecessary. Our Air Observation Posts was in constant operation weather permitting, keeping the command informed on location of elements of the columns. Enemy activity was light and consisted of rear guard action when ever contact was made. The action never delayed the division to any extent.

Ground observation played its first role in the action at Argentan on August 1944 when each Battery established such observation. Forward observers and air observation posts still played the most important part in the operation due to unfavorable terrain conditions for ground observation posts. The Argentan operation set into motion the S-2 activities of the Division Artillery, and after the first days the flow of information smoothed out both up and down. During this period Company Commanders had to be cautioned about sending forward observers out with their front line troops under artillery and mortar fire where observation was impossible and their presence proved ineffective.

The S-2 activities during this period were improved during actual combat and the changes have proven most effective since that time. The better communication facilities of the artillery accounted for the rapid transmission of S-2 information to Division Artillery and Division. Corps played little part in our operation and information recieved from them usually come to late to be of any use. An adequate supply of maps was provided, although of a scale that was of little use to artillery except for reconnaissance purposes.

Richard J. Schalliol

RICHARD J. SCHALLIOL
Captain, 314th FA Bn,
S-2

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND735017

~~SECRET~~

SECTION III

6th August 1944 to 31st August 1944:

Upon arrival of this organization in France on 6th August 1944 we were still short some critical items in engineer and ordnance material. This shortage could not be filled before going into battle because this organization was not under the control of the units occupying the zone in which we were assembled. It is recommended that supply procedure be simplified in higher echelons to such an extent that any unit needing critical items for battle may obtain them from any supply base that has them without regards to channels.

The basic supply procedure used in supplying smaller units is sound. This procedure operated very efficiently throughout the month except under rapid moving situations. It became impossible at times for supply installations to keep up with forward units. At no time did this unit suffer from lack of rations, but many times we ran low on fuel supply. It is recommended that one additional truck 2½ ton be authorized for Field Artillery Battalions for the purpose of hauling fuel. This would relieve some of the strain caused by having only one vehicle for use in hauling class I, class II, and class III supplies.

Class I supplies

Class one supplies for this organization were handled in an excellent manner throughout the month. At no time did men have to go without a single meal because of shortages. Under a fast moving situation "C" or "K" rations of the latest type are preferable. In a stabilized situation the 10 in 1 or "B" ration is preferable.

Class II supplies

Class two supplies were not replaced as rapidly as were needed. This was caused by many rapid moves of great distance and a number of changes from one corps to another. Replacement of critical items destroyed in action was efficient, however replacement of salvage clothing was too slow throughout the month.

Class III supplies

Class three supply points were too few and too far from front lines throughout the month. It is recommended that class III supply points be more numerous and located closer to units using them.

Ammunition supply

Ammunition supply was handled in a superior manner in this unit even though we had to travel as much as 80 miles one way at times for resupply. At no time were we ever short of our basic load.

General Recommendations:

1. That class III supply points be placed closer to front line units.
2. That ammunition supply points be placed closer to front line units.

James A. Benford
JAMES A. BENFORD
Capt, 314th FA Bn,
S-4

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND735017

~~SECRET~~

SECTION IV

6th August 1944 to 31st August 1944:

During the period 6 August 1944 to 31 August 1944, despite frequent moves, all administrative matters in this Battalion were handled with a minimum of delay by contact with the rear echelon. This contact was maintained through the message centers of this battalion and those of Division Artillery and the 318th Infantry Regiment.

Summaries of morning reports are sent to the Division Forward Echelon daily at 1600. All reports reached their destination.

The daily G-1 periodic report was sent to 318th Infantry Regiment each day at 1600.

Casualties for the period were:

- 3 Officers killed in action.
- 1 Officer wounded in action.
- 3 Enlisted Men wounded in action.

Their effects were inventoried and sent to the rear echelon immediately.

Replacements received during the period were:

- 5 Officers.
- 6 Enlisted Men.

The Battalion was paid on the 3rd of September 1944.

James F. Roark
JAMES F. ROARK
Major, 314th FA Bn,
S-1

~~SECRET~~