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Authority NND735017

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

7 November 1944.

Subject: Transmittal.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(THRU CHANNELS)

Oct
44

1. Transmitted herewith is after battle report for October 1944 in accordance with Memorandum #64, Headquarters, 80th Infantry Division, dated 26 August 1944.

D. J. Minahan

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

1 Incl - After Battle Report Against
Enemy for October 1944.

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

1 November 1944.

Subject: Comments of Commanding Officer covering After Action Reports for period 1 October to 31 October 1944.

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

1. The observations and comments in the enclosed reports are concurred in with the following additional recommendations:

a. The T/O and T/E of the direct support Field Artillery Battalion should be modified to increase the number of organic liaison sections to five. This would provide for continued liaison with the three infantry battalions as we now have, and, in addition, would provide for liaison with supporting tanks, reinforced battalions, and the special liaison requirements which continually occur and must be handled by make-shift, insufficiently equipped groups, usually to the detriment of another section of the battalion.

b. Re Computers in the Fire Direction Center team, it is recommended that they all have the same rating. The T/O now calls for one being a staff sergeant, one a tec 5th gr, one a private. The private has just as much responsibility and is as much needed as the other two. All three should be tec 4th gr.

c. Officers still continue to come from replacement centers totally lacking in Field Artillery knowledge or battle experience after months of doing just nothing. As previously recommended, extra officers should be attached unassigned for battle experience and training as forward observers, then assigned to various battalions of the division or corps artillery as casualties occur.

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

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND735017HEADQUARTERS
314TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO # 80, U. S. ARMY

6 November 1944.

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy During Month of October 1944.

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

SECTION I1 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Millery, France. Headquarters Battery 82002540, Battery "A" 82502536, Battery "B" 82602563, Battery "C" 82512602, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 12, 197 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 7.
- D. Remarks:
 - a. Weather: Cloudy, poor visibility, cold.

2 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Millery, France. Headquarters Battery 82002540, Battery "A", 82502536, Battery "B" 82602563, Battery "C" 82512602, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 17, 323 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 4, Air OP's - 4.
- D. Remarks:
 - a. General Effectiveness of fire: 2 batteries neutralized.
 - b. Weather: Partly cloudy, visibility fair at times.

3 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Millery, France. Headquarters Battery 82002540, Battery "A" 82502536, Battery "B" 82602563, Battery "C" 82512602, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 18, 263 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 5, Air OP's - 3.
- D. Remarks:
 - a. General Effectiveness of fire: 1 battery neutralized.
 - b. Weather: Partly cloudy, visibility fair.

4 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Millery, France. Headquarters Battery 82002540, Battery "A" 82502536, Battery "B" 82602563, Battery "C" 82512602, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.

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Authority NND 7350174 October 1944, cont'd.

- C. Missions fired: 23, 407 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 10, Ground OP's - 1, Air OP's - 3.
- D. Remarks:
 - a. General Effectiveness of fire: 3 batteries neutralized.
 - b. Weather: Cloudy.

5 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Millery, France. Headquarters Battery 82002540, Battery "A" 82502536, Battery "B" 82602563, Battery "C" 82512602, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 13, 316 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 5, Air OP's - 2.
- D. Remarks:
 - a. General Effectiveness of fire: 2 batteries neutralized.
 - b. Weather: Partly cloudy, visibility poor.

6 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Millery, France. Headquarters Battery 82002540, Battery "A" 82502536, Battery "B" 82602563, Battery "C" 82512602, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 13, 183 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 3, Ground OP's - 1.
- D. Remarks:
 - a. General Effectiveness of fire: Mortars, OP, troops destroyed.
 - b. Weather: Cloudy to fair, visibility good at times.

7 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Millery, France. Headquarters Battery 82002540, Battery "A" 82502536, Battery "B" 82602563, Battery "C" 82512602, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 9, 125 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Air OP's - 5 (3 registrations).
- D. Remarks:
 - a. General Effectiveness of fire: Vehicles destroyed.
 - b. Weather: Partly cloudy.

8 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Vicinity of Landremont, France. Headquarters Battery 830288, Battery "A" 84832848, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 843283, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment. Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 30, 605 rounds.
- D. Remarks:
 - a. Weather: Partly cloudy.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 7350179 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Vicinity of Landremont, France. Headquarters Battery 830288, Battery "A" 84832848, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 843283, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment - Reinforced 313th and 905th Field Artillery Battalions.
- a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 39, 420 rounds.
- a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 6, Ground OP's - 4, Air OP's - 3.
- D. Remarks:
- a. General Effectiveness of fire: Destroyed OPs, troops, preparation very effective.
- b. Weather: Light rain.

10 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Vicinity of Landremont, France. Headquarters Battery 830288, Battery "A" 84832848, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 843283, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
- a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 16, 150 rounds.
- a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 4.
- D. Remarks:
- a. General Effectiveness of fire: Destroyed troops, Machine guns, vehicles.
- b. Weather: Light rain.

11 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 83002882, Battery "A" 84832848, Battery "B" 8379528855, Battery "C" 8430328390, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
- a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 10, 164 rounds.
- a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 1.
- D. Remarks:
- a. Weather: Rain.

12 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 83002882, Battery "A" 85522787, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 843028390, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
- a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 19, 185 rounds (3 registrations).
- a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 3, Air OP's - 2.
- D. Remarks:
- a. General Effectiveness of fire: 2 batteries neutralized.
- b. Weather: Fair.

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13 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 85522787, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 8430328390, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 14, 257 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 4, Ground OP's - 1, Air OP's - 2.
- D. Remarks:
 - a. General Effectiveness of fire: 2 batteries neutralized.
 - b. Weather: Light rain.

14 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 85522787, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 8430328390, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 8, 69 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 1 (mortars), Air OP's - 3 ck registrations.
- D. Remarks:
 - a. Weather: Cloudy.

15 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 85522787, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 8430328390, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 1, 7 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Ground OP's - 1 (night burst adjustment).
- D. Remarks:
 - a. Weather: Partly cloudy.

16 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 85522787, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 8430328390, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 1, 7 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Ground OP's - 1 (night burst adjustment).
- D. Remarks:
 - a. Weather: Partly cloudy.

17 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 85522787, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 8430328390, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 1, 8 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Air OP's - 1 (Ck Registration).

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- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 85522787, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 8430328390, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "C" 86 CMI Mtrs.
- C. Missions Fired: 1, 6 rounds.
a. Concentrations: 1 - Air OP's. (Ck Registrations)
- D. Remarks:
a. Weather: Cloudy, light rain.

19 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 85522787, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 8424028703, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "C" 86 CMI Mtrs (1 Platoon).
- C. Missions Fired: 1, 15 rounds.
a. Concentrations: Air OP's - 1 (Ck Registration).
- D. Remarks:
a. Weather: Partly cloudy.

20 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 85522787, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 8424028703, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "C" 86 CMI Mtrs (1 Platoon).
- C. Missions Fired: 3, 42 rounds.
a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 1, Ground OP's - 1, Air OP's - 1.
- D. Remarks:
a. General Effectiveness of fire: 2 c/B missions.
b. Weather: fair to partly cloudy.

21 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 8552327876, Battery "B" 8379528855, Battery "C" 8424028703, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry, Reinforcing unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "C" 86 CMI Mtrs (1 Platoon).
- C. Missions Fired: 5, 32 rounds.
a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 1, Ground OP's - 4 (1 Ck Registration).
- D. Remarks:
a. Weather: Partly cloudy.

22 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 8552327876, Battery "B" 8379528855, Battery "C" 8424028703, Service Battery 782275.

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22 October 1944, cont'd

- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: For fire control: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry. Reinforcing Unit 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 2, 7 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 1 (mortar in town of Rovves)
Air OP's - 1 (on BP - did not complete as visibility was poor).
- D. Remarks:
 - a. Weather: Cloudy.

23 October 1944.

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 8552327876, Battery "B" 83779528855, Battery "C" 8424028703, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: For fire control: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry. Reinforcing Unit 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 2, 23 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 1 (mortars), Sound - 1 (assault gun).
- D. Remarks:
 - a. Weather: Cloudy and misty.

24 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 8552327876, Battery "B" 8377928855, Battery "C" 8424028703, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: For fire control: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry. Reinforcing Unit 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 1, 15 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Propaganda mission - used both air and ground OP's.
- D. Remarks:
 - a. Weather: Cloudy with light rain.

25 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 8552327876, Battery "B" 8377928855, Battery "C" 8424028703, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry. Reinforcing Unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 2, 15 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 1 (mortars), Air OP's - 1 (mortars).
- D. Remarks:
 - a. Weather: Cloudy.

26 October 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 8552327876, Battery "B" 8377928855, Battery "C" 8424028703, Service Battery 782275.
- B. Mission: Direct Support of 318th Infantry Regiment.
 - a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry. Reinforcing Unit, 974th Field Artillery Battalion.
- C. Missions Fired: 5, 46 rounds.
 - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 2 (assault gun), Air OP's - 1 (recheck registration on BP for all batteries and Cannon Company).

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D. Remarks:

a. Weather: Cloudy.

27 October 1944

A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 8552327876, Battery "B" 8379528855, Battery "C" 8424028703, Service Battery 782275.

B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.

a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry. Reinforcing Unit 974th Field Artillery Battalion.

C. Missions Fired: 2, 30 rounds.

a. Concentrations: Air OP's - 1 (recheck on BP Registration).

D. Remarks:

a. Weather: Cloudy.

28 October 1944

A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 8552327876, Battery "B" 8379528855, Battery "C" 8524028703, Service Battery 782275.

B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.

a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry. Reinforcing Unit 974th Field Artillery Battalion.

C. Missions Fired: 4, 31 rounds.

a. Concentrations: Air OP's - 2.

D. Remarks:

a. Weather: Cloudy.

29 October 1944

A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 85522787, Battery "B" 83792885, Battery "C" 84242870, Service Battery 782275.

B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.

a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry. Reinforcing Unit 974th Field Artillery Battalion.

C. Missions Fired: 6, 58 rounds.

a. Concentrations: Air OP's - 3 registrations by roving gun at 8603129913.

D. Remarks:

a. Weather: Cloudy.

30 October 1944

A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 8552327876, Battery "B" 837928855, Battery "C" 842428703, Service Battery 782275.

B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.

a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry. Reinforcing Unit 974th Field Artillery Battalion.

C. Missions Fired: 4, 16 rounds.

a. Concentrations: Forward Observers -1 (mortars).

D. Remarks:

a. Weather: Fair turning to cloudy with misty rain.

31 October 1944

A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 8552327876, Battery "B" 837928855, Battery "C" 842428703, Service Battery 782275.

B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment.

a. Attached Units: Cannon Company, 318th Infantry. Reinforcing Unit 974th Field Artillery Battalion.

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- C. Missions Fired: 4, 20 rounds.
 a. Concentrations: Air OP's - 1 (Ck Pt Registration).
 D. Remarks:
 a. Weather: Clear, sunny, brisk.

REMARKS1 October 1944 - 7 October 1944

Battalion in position vicinity of Millery (vU82002540) in direct support of 318th Infantry in the defense of positions East of Moselle River vicinity of Bois de Algee, Bois de Manche, Seille, Belleau, and Sivey. During this time 105 missions were fired, 34 by forward observers, 2 by ground observation posts, and 14 by air observation posts. The general effectiveness of the fire was 8 artillery batteries neutralized; 2 AA guns, troops, machine guns and mortars. The weather was cloudy and visibility poor most of the time.

8 October 1944 - 31 October 1944

In order to render better support to the 318th Infantry the battalion displaced to positions West of Belleau (vU85802685). Distance traveled 4 miles. Battalion in support of 318th Infantry in holding high ground along the West bank of the Seille River between Clamey and Manoncourt. 181 missions were fired of which 20 were registrations and 2 high burst adjustments. On 24 October a propaganda mission was fired and a good distribution of leaflets was obtained from a height of burst of approximately 100 feet. On 12 October Battery "A" moved 900 yards to an alternate position because of artillery fire. On 19 October Battery "C" moved 500 yards to alternate position to get out of the mud. On 18 October a training program was started covering gunnery, mine detection, rocket launcher, military courtesy, saluting, military discipline, personal hygiene, and field sanitation. On 29 October one gun from Battery "A" moved to surveyed position for registration purposes in view of contemplated move. The weather for this period was mostly cloudy, with intermittent rains and poor visibility. Air observation posts were used 21 times and obtained favorable results.

Richard J. Schalliol
 RICHARD J. SCHALLIOL
 Major, 314th FA Bn,
 S-3.

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SECTION II1st October 1944 - 31st October 1944:

During the month of October this battalion was able to more effectively employ all of its intelligence agencies. This was due to the fact that we were in a static position most of the month and had sufficient time to properly organize and utilize these agencies.

The organization for intelligence purposes during this month was as follows:

A. One battalion and three battery Observation Posts located so as to secure observation across the entire combat team front. These Observation Posts were located both horizontally and vertically by survey and manned 24 hours per day with well trained personnel. A "BC" scope was set up at each Observation Post and zeroed on a common reference point after being calibrated for Si. Each Observation Post made a panoramic sketch of its zone of visibility and kept a log of all messages transmitted or received. By utilizing this system we were able to transmit to higher headquarters the exact locations of enemy troop movements, enemy installations, assembly areas, and an occasional enemy artillery battery caught firing at night.

B. Liaison was maintained with the Infantry Regiment and all infantry battalions at all times. A forward observer was kept with each company on the front line. This enables rapid transmittal of all enemy and friendly information obtained by the infantry. During this month we began the practice of having a good non-commissioned officer replace a forward observer with one of the front line companies. Thus far this practice has been very satisfactory.

C. The Air Observation Post in conjunction with the Air section of our reinforcing unit, set up a schedule whereby Air Observation would be maintained in our assigned sector throughout all daylight hours. Due to weather conditions, air observation was very poor throughout the month. The practice of coordinating the air Observation Posts of our own and reinforcing units makes it possible to maintain observation at all times without too much strain on either section. It also makes for speed in getting clearance on targets spotted by the reinforcing units air Observation Post.

Map supply is continuing to improve. During the early part of the month we operated with a limited supply of 1/20,000 maps. These were very satisfactory and were used as firing charts with good results. On October the 8th we were issued a good supply of 1/25,000 maps that have been found to be excellent for firing charts. A continued supply of this type map supplemented by overprints of the same scale showing enemy installations will be very helpful to artillery units.

Air coverage in securing mosaic photos was very poor this month due to poor distribution. This fact prevented our obtaining much benefit from the old mosaics on hand. However, mosaics should be supplied regardless of date taken if for no other reason than for terrain study for plotting defensive fires and locating probable enemy installations.

SURVEY

Survey control was carried to us by division artillery and all of our installations were tied into this control. All of our instruments were declinated and calibrated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The practice of having a good non-commissioned officer relieve a forward

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SECTION II CONT'D

observer with front line companies is highly recommended for the determining and training of possible future commissioned officers.

2. It is recommended that all Forward Observers be made a part of the battalion staff to better enable closer supervision of them.

3. It is recommended that a Liaison Pilot of the direct support unit be placed in charge of coordinating the observation of both the Air Observation Posts of direct support and reinforcing units. To add to this advantage it should be arranged that the reinforced battalion can communicate with the liaison plane of the reinforcing battalion.

4. It is recommended that Field Artillery Battalions be placed on an equal priority with Infantry Regiments in the issue of mosaic photos.

James A. Benford
JAMES A. BENFORD
Capt, 314th FA Bn,
S-2

DECLASSIFIED
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There was a continued improvement in the various Services of Supply during this month. A few initial items are still to be obtained such as organizational and spare parts for howitzers, radio accessories and accessories for Topographical Survey Sets. A report is rendered by respective classifications:

CLASS I (Rations)

Rations issued have been very satisfactory although the "10 in 1" issue has been substituted a number of times recently for "B" rations.

Recommendations:

That rations include fresh beef and pork as often as possible, and that more condiment issues be made, principally for baking purposes.

CLASS II (Clothing and Equipment)

Considerable improvement has been made in the issue of Clothing, although shirts and trousers, wool, OD are lacking. A partial issue of overshoes, arctics, have been made in limited sizes. A full unit issue is now required to maintain warmth and comfort for all men.

Recommendations:

That either the fourth blanket or sleeping bags be issued as soon as possible.

That Sibley tent stoves or any type available be issued for use by Battalion and Battery C.P's and Fire Direction Centers.

That a heavier type long length wool sock be issued.

That special consideration be given to satisfy requisitions for all types of winter clothing.

CLASS III (Fuel and Oil)

Although we have been handicapped most of the month due to limited releases our present supply is satisfactory.

CLASS V (Ammunition)

Our requirements were very small and satisfactory.

MOTOR NOTES

Requisitions for required Anti-Freeze solution have not been filled.

SPECIAL SERVICE

Pocket editions of more recent novels, etc., and larger issues of writing material are needed to satisfy the men during any moments of relaxation. The gratuitous issues of Post Exchange items do not fill the requirements and needs of all and if a greater variety of items and more quantity could be made available more often either gratuitously or for purchase it would be extremely helpful insofar as morale is concerned.

William H. Hassert

WILLIAM H. HASSERT,
1st Lt., 314th FA Bn,
Supply Section

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017SECTION IV1st October 1944 - 31st October 1944:

During the month of October 1944 all administrative matters in the battalion were handled without delay. Contact with the Rear Echelon, Division Artillery and the 318th Infantry was made daily thru message center, battalion agent and telephone. The battalion S-1 made daily contact with the Division Artillery and 318th Infantry and weekly contact with the Division and Battalion rear echelon. The battalion Personnel Officer made personal contact at least twice a week with the battalion CP and visited the batteries at least once a week taking care of any personnel items. Schedules on daily and weekly reports were maintained during the period.

Admission and disposition reports on all casualties of the battalion were received within one week after the casualties were reported. This is a marked improvement over the previous month.

Casualties for the period were:

- 6 Enlisted Men wounded in action.
- 1 Officer wounded in action.
- 1 Enlisted Man killed in action.
- 1 Officer non-battle casualty.
- 7 Enlisted Men non-battle casualty.

Casualties returned to duty:

- 1 Officer.
- 4 Enlisted Men.

Replacements received during the period:

- 3 Officers.
- 9 Enlisted Men.

Approximately 450 items of administrative nature were handled by message center during the month. The battalion was paid on the 31st of October by the battalion Personnel Officer.

The mail situation is very unsatisfactory in both incoming and outgoing, as the men go for as long as two weeks or more without receiving any mail. The men are informed from home that their letters are taking three weeks or longer to reach them which causes undue anxiety both here and at home. Since mail is our best morale builder I think steps should be taken to give them much better service than they have been receiving.

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

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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 1 September 1944 to 30 September 1944.

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

1. All recommendations of the staff section inclosed herein have been previously discussed with them before writing and are approved.

2. I would like to emphasize the especial need of one extra vehicle in Service Battery to haul gas and oil and the desirability of an extra truck in each of the other batteries for hauling supplies. All trucks are now overloaded with T/E equipment alone.

3. In regard to replacements we have found that most of them, especially officers, have spent a great deal of time in replacement depots where they received little or no training. As a result they came to us sadly lacking in knowledge. In addition, the receiving of these men in the middle of a battle when no one knew their capabilities or even their names was a problem. It is strongly recommended that each battery be allowed to carry five (5) EM over-strength as replacements and what is more important, that each battalion have attached un-assigned two (2) or three (3) extra second lieutenants who will be receiving practical experience in forward observation. They will be readily available as replacements. If their battalion suffers no losses, they can be immediately assigned to other artillery battalions in the division or even the Corps when losses occur, and they will be already "battle experienced".


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