

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND735017

HEADQUARTERS  
314TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #80, c/o Postmaster  
New York, N. Y.

10 December 1944.

Subject: Comments of Commanding Officer covering After Action Reports for  
Period 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944.

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

1. Recommendations and comments approved. No additional comments.

*[Signature]*

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

OCT 15 1946

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

6 December 1944.

Subject: Report After Action Against Enemy During Month of November 1944.

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

SECTION I1 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters Battery 85802685, Battery "A" 85523278, Battery "B" 83795288, Battery "C" 84240278, Service Battery 782255.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry, reinforce 905th FA Bn.
  - a. Attached Units: Cannon Co. 318th Infantry, reinforcing unit 974th & 775th FA Bns.
- C. Missions Fired: 22 - 224 rounds.
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy with fog.

2 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters 85802685, "A" 85523278, "B" 83795288, "C" 84240287, Service 782255.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Cannon Co. 318th Infantry, reinforcing unit 974th & 775th FA Bns.
- C. Missions Fired: 5 - 40 rounds
  - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 1 (mortars)
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy with light precipitation.

3 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters 85802685, "A" 85523278, "B" 83795288, "C" 84240287, Service 782255.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Cannon Co. 318th Infantry, reinforcing unit 974th & 775th FA Bns.
- C. Missions Fired: 4 - 15 rounds
  - a. Concentrations: Air OPs: 1
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy - heavy mist.

4 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters 85802685, "A" 85523278, "B" 83795288, "C" 84240287, Service 782255.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Cannon Co. 318th Infantry, reinforcing unit 315th, 974th & 775th FA Bns.
- C. Missions Fired: 6 - 41 rounds.
  - a. Concentrations: Forward Observers: 2
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Rain & cloudy.

June 18, 1945  
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Feb 5 1945  
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DECLASSIFIED  
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- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters 85802685, Battery "A" 85523278, Battery "B" 83795288, Battery "C" 84240278, Service Battery 782255.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
- a. Attached Units: Cannon Co. 318th Infantry, reinforcing 974th, 775th & 315th FA Bns.
- C. Missions Fired: 5 - 33 rounds
- a. Concentrations: Forward observer: 1 (Propaganda)  
Ground OPs :  
Air OPs : 4 (registrations)
- D. Remarks:
- a. Weather: Fair.

6 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau France. Headquarters 85802685, "A" 85523278, "B" 83795288, "C" 84240278, Service 782255.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
- a. Attached Units: Cannon Co. 318th Infantry, reinforcing 974th, 315th, & 775th FA Bns.
- C. Missions Fired: 2 - 14 rounds
- D. Remarks:
- a. Weather: Cloudy with rain.

7 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Belleau, France. Headquarters 85802685, "A" 85523278, "B" 83795288, "C" 84240278, Service 782255.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
- a. Attached Units: Cannon Co. 318th Infantry, reinforcing 775th, 315th, 974th; FA Bns.
- C. Missions Fired: 18 - 707 rounds
- D. Remarks:
- a. Weather: Poor visibility.

8 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Lixieres, France. Headquarters 87326295, "A" 86343296, "B" 86163305, "C" 86335302, Service 782255.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
- a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 775th, 315th FA Bns.
- C. Missions Fired: 71 - 1570 rounds
- a. Concentrations: Forward Observer: 21  
Air OPs: 8
- D. Remarks:
- a. Weather: Cloudy with rain.

9 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Lixieres, France. Headquarters 89603290, "A" 90119335, "B" 89846333, "C" 89701329, Service 85802685.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
- a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th, 775th.
- C. Missions Fired: 23 - 269 rounds
- a. Concentrations: Forward Observers: 8  
Air OPs : 5 (4 registrations & 1 CB)
- D. Remarks:
- a. General Effectiveness of Fire: 2 Arty Btrys neutralized.
- b. Weather: Cloudy with rain.



DECLASSIFIED  
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- A. Location of Unit: Phlin, France. Headquarters 96543601, "A" 9671136014, "B" 9664736295, "C" 96470363, Service 85802685.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 14 - 238 rounds.
  - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer: 3  
Air OPs: 5
- D. Missions Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy with a little rain.

11 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Phlin, France. Headquarters 00604098, "A" 0090241091, "B" 0065741058, "C" 0083940508, Service 97243729.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 14 - 413 rounds.
  - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer- 5  
Air OPs - 6
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy with rain in the evening.

12 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Tragny, France. Headquarters 00604098, "A" 0090241091, "B" 0093741058, "C" 0083940508, Service 96543601.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 3 - 329 rounds.
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy with rain changing to sleet.

13 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Morville Sur Nied, France. Headquarters 0743543230, "A" 0775942838, "B" 0738842632, "C" 0449539718, Service 00544100.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 6 - 160 rounds.
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy with rain.

14 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Vatimont, France. Headquarters 0743543230, "A" 0775942838, "B" 0738842632, "C" Btry 07155425569, Service 00544100.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 4 - 44 rounds.
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Rain.

15 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Vatimont, France. Headquarters 0743543230, "A" 0775942838, "B" 0738842632, "C" 0715542569, Service 00544100.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 9 - 375 rounds.
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy with rain.



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- A. Location of Unit: Vatimont, France. Headquarters 13764382, "A" 1282843952, "B" 1333844054, "C" 1155043476, Service 97243729.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
- a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 32 - 592 rounds.
- a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 3  
Air OPs - 6
- D. Missions Fire Remarks:
- a. Weather: Cloudy.

17 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Thicourt, France. Headquarters 13764382, "A" 1282843852, "B" 133844054, "C" 1155043476, Service 13764392.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
- a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 8 - 526 rounds.
- a. Concentrations: Forward Observer: 2  
Air OPs : 8
- D. Remarks:
- a. Weather: Cloudy.

18 November 1944

- A. Locations of Unit: Thicourt, France. Headquarters 13764382, "A" 1282843852, "B" 133844054, "C" 1155043476, Service 13764392.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
- a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th, 128th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 17 - 580 rounds.
- a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 2  
Air OPs - 5
- D. Remarks:
- a. General effectiveness of fire: 2 enemy batteries neutralized.
- b. Weather: Clear.

19 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Thicourt, France. Headquarters 13764382, "A" 1282843852, "B" 133844054, "C" 1155043476, Service 13764392.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
- a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th, 228th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 21 - 618 rounds.
- a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 2  
Ground OPs : 3  
Air OPs : 1
- D. Remarks: Weather: Fair.

20 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Thicourt, France. Headquarters 13764382, "A" 1282843852, "B" 133844054, "C" 1155043476, Service 13764392.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
- a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 9 - 164 rounds.
- D. Remarks:
- Weather: Rain.



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- A. Location of Unit: Thicourt, France. Headquarters 13764382, "A" 1282843852, "B" 133844054, "C" 1155043476.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 8- 166 rounds.
  - a. Concentrations: Air OPs: 4
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy.

22 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Chemery, France. Headquarters 14795028, "A" 1499051960, "B" 1526651646, "C" 1531415, Service 13764382.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 12 - 199 rounds.
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy with rain.

23 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Crehange, France. Headquarters 14795028, "A" 1499051960, "B" 1526651646, "C" 1531451914, Service 13763282.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 8 - 453 rounds.
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy with rain.

24 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Crehange, France. Headquarters 15125067, "A" 1499051960, "B" 1526651646, "C" 1531451914, Service 13763282.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th, attached Co B, 808 TD Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 8 - 79 rounds.
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy with rain.

25 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Crehange, France. Headquarters 15125067, "A" 1499051960, "B" 1526651646, "C" 1531451914, Service 13763282.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 33- 821 rounds.
  - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer: 13  
Air OPs: 4
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Fair & clear

26 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Bambiderstroff, France. Headquarters 16525653, "A" 1643356739, "B" 1583856206, "C" 160525646, Service.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Reinforcing 315th FA Bn, attached 808 TD Bn Co. B.
- C. Missions Fired: 46 - 917 rounds.
  - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 29  
Ground OPs - 2  
Air OPs - 4



27 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Bambiderstroff, France. Headquarters 16525653, "A" 1643366739, "B" 1583856206, "C" 1605256146, Service
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Co B, 808th TD Bn, reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 7 - 54 rounds
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Fair.

28th November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Bambiderstroff, France. Headquarters 31575685, "A" 3139957027, "B" 3095657229, "C" 3036457716, Service.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Co B, 808th TD Bn, reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 3 - 54 rounds.
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy with heavy fog.

29 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Guenviller, France. Headquarters 31575685, "A" 3139957027, "B" 309567229, "C" 3036457716, Service.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Co B, 808th TD Bn, reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 12 - 276 rounds
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Rain, heavy fog.

30 November 1944

- A. Location of Unit: Guenviller, France. Headquarters 31575685, "A" 3139957027, "B" 309567229, "C" 3036457716, Service.
- B. Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry.
  - a. Attached Units: Co B, 808th TD Bn, reinforcing 315th FA Bn.
- C. Missions Fired: 15 - 528 rounds.
  - a. Concentrations: Forward Observer - 7.
- D. Remarks:
  - a. Weather: Cloudy, visibility 2000 yards.



DECLASSIFIED  
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This month's action brought the battalion sixty-five miles closer to Germany and ended a period of inactivity in our previous defensive positions. The battalion continued in its role of direct support artillery for the 318th Infantry Regiment. The advance was possible against odds of bad weather, poor visibility and mud, by the excellent cooperation of the Combat Team.

Preparations of varying length were fired each morning as the Infantry pushed off in its renewed attack. Continuous support was given the Infantry during our displacement by the 315th Field Artillery Battalion which has been reinforcing our fires since the beginning of the operation. By leap frogging the battalions the displacements were quickly made despite mud and roads clogged with traffic. This method of continuous support during displacement has proved very satisfactory.

This battalion fired 14 preparations of which 12 were to support the movement of the regiment, one supported the attack of the 319th Infantry in a local attack and one other as scheduled by XII Corps.

The policy of shooting a short preparation with a period of accompanying fires although a morale builder for the Infantry is usually ineffective due to lack of knowledge of enemy positions and strong points. This information, vital for intelligent planning of a preparation, is unavailable in a fast moving situation, due to inadequate time for patrolling. This condition could be remedied to a certain extent if recent air photos were available.

The battalion developed a plan of assigning concentration numbers to terrain features in the zone of advance of the Combat Team and issued these numbers in overlay form to the Liaison Officers and Forward Observers for the purpose of rapid transmission of location of forward elements and also as check points for requesting artillery fire. This plan was liked so well that it was soon adopted by the Infantry and is now being used throughout the division. In order to eliminate duplication of numbers and make possible maximum use of these numbers in massing of fires and transmitting intelligence information, Division Artillery now prepares and distributes a general overlay covering the division zone of action. From this we in turn make up an overlay covering the regimental zone and reproduce it in sufficient quantity to issue down to platoon leaders of the Infantry of the Combat Team.

During the last month the ammunition lot numbers have decreased to the extent that this problem is no longer a serious one. We now requisition ammunition by lot number as it is usually so available.

Much eye strain could be avoided if the issue overlay paper were made more transparent. Transparent acetate should be issued in greater quantity also.



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



SECTION II

1st November 1944 - 30 November 1944:

This month gave us the first real opportunity to test our intelligence agencies in sustained combat.

Our organization for intelligence purposes at the beginning of the month was as follows:

A. One battalion and three battery OP's located so as to secure observation across the entire combat team front. These OP's 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 OP and zeroed on a common reference point after being calibrated for Si.

B. Liaison was maintained with the Inf. Regt. and all Inf. Bns. at all times. In addition to maintaining liaison with the Inf., we maintained liaison with the tank co. supporting the combat team. A forward observer was kept with each front line co. enabling rapid transmittal of all enemy and friendly information obtained.

C. Air observation was maintained when weather permitted, but due to bad weather most of the month, air observation could not be as effectively maintained as during previous months.

D. After the 8th of November, we were seldom able to maintain surveyed OP's and therefore depended almost entirely on forward observers and liaison officers for information. We were able to effectively support every attack made by this combat team.

E. We continued to receive a sufficient supply of excellent 1/25,000 scale maps. These maps supplimented by overprints of the same scale showing enemy defensive installations are excellent for Field Artillery purposes. Supply of Verticle Contact prints continues to be poor. Contact prints of recent date would greatly facilitate plotting of preparation and defensive fires.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That all forward observers and liaison officers be thoroughly acquainted with all methods of communications prior to an operation.

2. That the air strip be displaced often enough to permit its being as near its parent unit as possible and still have defiladed position.

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



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The functions of supply within this organization continued to improve during the month. A report is rendered by respective classifications.

CLASS I

The ration issue, with the exception of condiments, has been very satisfactory.

Recommendation: That larger condiment issues be made to facilitate baking and seasoning of meals.

CLASS II

The issue of individual clothing has been very satisfactory. The Battalion is still short a few pair of overshoes, mainly large sizes.

Recommendation: That pyramidal tents be authorized on the basis of two per firing battery and one each per Headquarters and Service Battery. One tent per battery to be used as the battery headquarters and Fire Direction Center and the second tent per firing battery to be used for shelter and warmth for the men off duty. It is suggested that tent stoves be issued with the tents.

CLASS III

Our requirements have been met in a very satisfactory manner and our present supply is sufficient.

CLASS V

During the first part of the month we had difficulty in obtaining ammunition of one lot number. On several occasions resupply consisted of many lot numbers of small amounts, however a system has now been adopted whereby ammunition of one lot number may be secured. Ammunition Supply Points are too far back.

MOTOR NOTES

The shortage of tires and tubes for 1/4 ton vehicles and trailers is acute.

*William H. Hassert*  
WILLIAM H. HASSERT,  
1st Lt., 314th F. A. Bn.,  
Supply Officer.



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All administration matters of the battalion were cleared thru message center which handled approximately 600 items for the period in addition to a heavy volume of mail.

Copies of Signal Operations Instructions for the month were run off and distributed to all Forward Observers, Liaison and Communication sections twice weekly by message center.

Replacements received during the period:

5 Officers.  
0 Enlisted Men.

Battle casualties for the period were:

9 Enlisted Men wounded in action.  
2 Officers wounded in action.  
1 Enlisted Man killed in action.  
1 Officer killed in action.

Non-Battle casualties for the period were:

21 Enlisted Men.  
0 Officers

Casualties returned to duty:

Non-Battle casualties - 6 Enlisted Men.  
Battle Casualties - 7 Enlisted Men.

Awards received during period:

Enlisted Men - 19 Bronze Stars (1 Posthumously)  
Enlisted Men - 2 Oak Leaf Clusters to Bronze Star  
Officer - 1 Bronze Star  
Officers - 3 Silver Stars (1 Posthumously)

Remarks:

1. Replacements have been very slow this month and at present the Battalion effective strength is below T/O.

It is suggested that a surplus of 5 enlisted men per battery be authorized so as to provide trained replacements readily available in the event of casualties.

2. Replacement radio operators lack training in voice procedure and because of length of stay in replacement pools are not proficient with code.



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It is suggested that radio operators be given a course in the voice procedure used in this theater while awaiting assignment in the replacement pools.

*J. F. Roark*

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

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