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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

APO #80, c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

2 October 1944

SUBJECT: Report after Action Against Enemy

Section I: Summary of Daily Operations and Actions

1 Sept - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion was in general support reinforcing the fires of the 314th FA Bn with a special mission of direct support following the 1st Bn of the 318th Inf. Around noontime the mission was changed to a direct support mission of the 319th Inf. Regt., advancing on its objective in the vicinity of JOUY-SOUS-LES-COTES. We formed a part of the 319th CT and this CT was held up by slight resistance and blown bridges across the MEUSE RIVER at CHAUVONCOURT.

2 Sept.- The 319th CT resumed their mission and took the objective in the vicinity of JOUY-SOUS-LES-COTES. Here the CT put out outposts and the 905th FA Bn assumed a defensive position to support the 319th Inf. with Artillery fire on on three sides of its outposts.

4 Sept - The 3rd Bn 319th Inf. moved and attacked TOUL with Charlie Btry, 905 FA Bn as the advance guard battery; the rest of the Bn having left its defensive position moved forward to take up positions in the vicinity of TOUL. TOUL was secured and outposted with the assistance of artillery fire from Charlie Btry, which fired on enemy installations on East side of the MOSELLE RIVER causing heavy casualties.

5 Sept.- The 3rd Bn continued to advance to a new objective at GONDREVILLE and FORT DE VILLEY LE SEC. The attack was supported by the 905th FA Bn concentrations on call by forward observers with each company. B Btry was displaced to the East side of the MOSELLE RIVER to give close support in advance of the infantry. This displacement took place by ferrying the battery across the MOSELLE RIVER moving only two guns at a time so that the maximum amount of artillery support could be given at any time. The attack was not successful because of well dug-in fortifications. The 3rd Bn fell back to its previously dug-in positions.

6 Sept - The 3rd Bn, 319th Inf. was again assigned the mission of taking the towns of GONDREVILLE and FORT VILLEY-LE-SEC. This attack was supported by a coordinated rolling barrage fired by the 905th FA Bn and planned concentrations on suspected locations of enemy troops. The attack was also supported by Btry A, 273rd FA (155 mm Guns) firing on the fort and at locations suspected of containing enemy artillery. The rolling barrage was controlled by the forward observers with the two leading companies. The fires were also controlled by air observation from our liaison plane (No 64-J). The attack was not completed by darkness and the Inf. again fell back to their previously occupied positions. The fort itself was very well constructed, of great thickness with many pillboxes.

7 Sept - No change in mission. Batteries moved to alternate positions because of enemy artillery shelling. B Btry was brought to the West side of the river. Additional artillery was received and added to the direct support artillery's plan (905 FA Bn). The additional battery was the 731st FA Bn (155 mm guns). The 905 FA Bn set up four long base observation posts for the specific purpose of intersecting on enemy artillery. Although the base itself worked very satisfactorily, observation and checked out on many targets, we were unable to see any artillery or pick up the flash of enemy artillery.

2.- After receiving little or no fire from enemy positions on the sent out patrols this morning and were able to get into the towns

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of GONDREVILLE and FORT VILLEY-LE-SEC. Btry B was moved to the East side of the river so that they could be in close support of the advancing Infantry. 11 Sept.- An excellent illustration of how infantry, tanks, and artillery can be welded into an effective fighting team occurred near GONDREVILLE on 11 September 1944. L Company 319th Infantry, then holding a line just East of GONDREVILLE, was ordered to send a platoon of infantry, reinforced by two medium tanks, to make a reconnaissance in force of the enemy line then on the East side of the FORET LE BOIS. An artillery forward observer accompanied the patrol while another remained at an OP in the vicinity of the company CP. The patrol moved forward with artillery and soon encountered machine gun fire which pinned the platoon down. Direct fire by the tanks and an adjustment relayed by 536 from the forward observer with the platoon, permitted the platoon to start withdrawing as planned. A few moments later the artillery observer at the OP noticed machine gun squads and rifles moving up on the flank and rear of the platoon. The platoon was notified, an adjustment was fired from the OP, and the enemy was liquidated. The platoon returned, having accomplished its mission without casualties.

12 Sept.- To obtain long range harassing fire when long range artillery was being used elsewhere, the 905th FA Bn adjusted on a distant base point, - a 90 mm AA Bn. This adjustment was done by a liaison plane, and numerous missions were given the AA Bn for firing during the night. These missions were harassing missions to be fired only when not firing anti aircraft.

14 Sept.- The 905th FA Bn moved East of the MOSELLE RIVER to be in close support of an attack which was to be launched at 0600 15 September. The BP and check point adjustments were completed before dark.

15 Sept.- The 3rd Bn 319th Inf. moved forward with the attack through the FORET DE HAYE on to Nancy without firing a shot. However, the 905th FA Bn was prepared for close support, having its forward observers with the leading elements of two companies in column and the Liaison Officer with the Inf Bn commander. Radio communication was used throughout; however, wire was laid and was never more than 150 yards behind the leading elements. Wire communication was not used because the attack progressed very rapidly. By noon the 3rd Bn 319th Inf had advanced through the FORET DE HAYE, where it was relieved by a Bn of the 35th Division. The 319th Inf was relieved in order that they could rejoin the 80th Inf Div. The 319th CT, minus 2nd Bn, moved to a bivouac position SE VILLERS-EN-HAYE, where the 905th FA Bn took up position to reinforce the fires of the 314th FA Bn. Liaison Officers and Forward Observers were detailed to the units on the line.

16 Sept.- In the early morning an attack was made by the Inf. at which time they repulsed several counter-attacks. The Inf. moved sufficiently far in their attack to permit the 905th FA Bn to cross to the East bank of the MOSELLE RIVER and be in direct support of the 1st Bn 319th and the 1st Bn 318th, who were pushing the attack to LES MINELLES and MORRILLE SUR SEILLE. The 905th FA Bn were also to reinforce the fires of the 314th FA Bn. The position taken to accomplish this mission by the 905th FA Bn was South of the town of LOISY.

17 Sept.- The 905th FA Bn, to better accomplish its mission, took up positions SE of the town of ATTON. The center azimuth of the Bn at that time being 300. We were now given the primary mission of direct support of a Bn of the 318th and 319th and we received reinforcing fires from the 176th (4.5 guns) and the 314th FA Bn (155 mm howitzers). The attack progressed very slowly, the Inf. gaining the high ground East of MORISSON HILL, ATTON, and the high ground at

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