

HEADQUARTERS 319TH INFANTRY  
Office of the Regimental Commander  
APO #80, U. S. Army

6 September 1944

SUBJECT: Letter of transmittal.

TO : Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO #80, U. S. Army  
(Attention Division Historian)

In compliance with AR 345-105 and Memo #64, Hq 80th Inf Div, dated 24 Aug 44, the Unit History of the 319th Infantry Regiment for the month of August 1944 is hereby submitted.

For the Regimental Commander:

*Roy E. Thacker*  
ROY E. THACKER  
Capt, Infantry  
Adjutant

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HEADQUARTERS 319TH INFANTRY  
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UNIT HISTORY

(From 6 August 1944 to 31 August 1944)

1. Original Unit:

- a. 319th Infantry Regiment
- b. 15 July 1942
- c. Camp Forrest, Tennessee.
- e. Selective Service.

2. Changes in organization: None.

3. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

Totals of 31 Jul 44:- 168 Officers and 3149 Enlisted Men  
Totals of 31 Aug 44:- 165 Officers and 3159 Enlisted Men  
Loss of 3 Off Gain of 10 Enlisted Men

4. Stations:

St Jores: Arrived at 2000 on August 6.  
Departed at 1030 on August 9.

Soulge: Arrived at 1600 on August 9.  
Departed at 2100 on August 10.

Chassille: Arrived at 2200 on August 10.  
Departed at 1225 on August 11.

Le Mans: Arrived at 1345 on August 11.  
Departed at 1700 on August 14.

Angers: Arrived at 2300 on August 14.  
Departed at 1350 on August 19.

Naunet: Arrived at 1430 on August 19.  
Departed at 1745 on August 21.

Busloup: Arrived at 0800 on 22 August.  
Departed at 1030 on 23 August.

Orleans: Arrived at 1400 on 23 August.  
Departed at 1700 on 24 August.

## Unit History of 319th Infantry Regiment.

### 4. Stations: (contd)

Fay aux Loges: Arrived at 1830 on 24 August.  
Departed at 1330 on 27 August.

St Flavy: Arrived at 2030 on 27 August.  
Departed at 1500 on 30 August.

Chalons: Arrived at 1700 on 30 August.  
Departed at 1030 on 31 August.

### 5. Marches:

On August 6, 319th Inf moved from the debarkation point to "Area B" six miles inland. Moved by foot on dusty roads during a very warm afternoon. Arrived at the assembly area at 1700 and departed by motor vehicle at 1900 for St. Jores. Distance traveled by motor approximately 20 miles.

On August 9, moved by motor vehicle from St Jores, traveled approximately 60 miles to vicinity of Soulge, over hard surface roads in favorable weather.

On August 10, moved from Soulge to Chassille, a distance of 22 miles. Purpose of the move was to set up security positions in the town of Chassille. Route of March: Soulge-Vaiges-St Jean sur Erve-St Denis D'Ourques-Blanchoin Charnee-Chassille. The roads were in excellent condition and the weather was very warm.

On August 11, moved from Chassille to Le Mans, a distance of approximately 19 miles. Purpose of the move was to protect all bridges within Le Mans against sabotage. Route of March: Chassille-Lounges-Braunes-Coulans-Chaufor-Les Mon Nauges-Le Mans. Moved by motor vehicle over hard surface roads.

On August 14, received orders from XX Corps to move to Angers. Departed from Le Mans at 1700 and moved by motor approximately 58 miles to Angers. Route of March: Le Mans-Arnage-Guecelard-Fouilletourt-Clermont Orens-La Fleche-Bazouges-Durtal-Seiches-Angers. Traveled over excellent roads during a cool evening. The mission of the 319 CI in Angers consisted primarily of inspecting roads and bridges for enemy mines, preparation of road blocks, the improvement of existing road blocks and the inspection of all buildings formerly occupied by the Germans in the city of Angers.

On August 19, received orders from VIII Corps to move to an assembly area in the vicinity of Naunet. Traveled three miles by foot from Angers to Naunet. Weather was very warm.

## Unit history of 15th Infantry Regiment.

5. Marches (contd): On August 21, received orders from VIII Corps to move from Naunet to vicinity of Busloup. Left Naunet at 1745 on 21 Aug and arrived at Busloup at 0800 on August 22. Traveled by motor over excellent roads for approximately 115 miles. Weather throughout the movement consisted of a heavy downpour of rain. Route of march: Naunet-Seiches-Durtal-La Fleche-Cerans-Fouilletourte-Arnage-Le Mans-St Calais-Busloup. Purpose of the move was to join the rest of the Division but upon our arrival at Busloup the Division had received orders to move elsewhere.

On August 23, received orders from XII Corps to move the 319th CT to the vicinity of Orleans. Distance traveled between Busloup and Orleans was approximately 48 miles. The roads were in excellent condition but the weather was unfavorable, being cool and rainy. The route of March: Busloup-Freteval-Moree'-Binas-D'Ozoure Le Marche-Charsonville-Ormes-Angre'-St Jean de la Roulle- to an area four (4) miles Northeast of Orleans. The purpose of the move was to occupy a defensive line between Orleans and Gien.

On August 26, on orders from XII Corps, moved from the vicinity of Fay aux Loges to St Flavy, a distance of approximately 110 miles. The weather was very favorable for movement over roads which were in excellent condition. Route of march: Fay aux Loges-Chatteane se de Loire-Ladon-Montargis-La Chappelle-Courtenay-Subligny-Sens-Malay le Petit-Pont sur Vanne-Valaines-Planty-Marcille-Avod le Peze-Rigny-Le Nonneouse-St Martin de Bossenay-St Flavy.

On August 29, immediately after the town of Chalons had been taken, orders were received to move our CT to an assembly area four (4) miles Northwest of Chalons. On August 30, moved to new area, travelling a distance of approximately 14 miles. The roads were in excellent shape except for two (2) blown bridges, which had been re-constructed hastily. Purpose of the move was to reorganize the organization on the other side of the Marne River.

On August 31, foot troops left the assembly area at Chalons for a new location near Fresne. CP left by motor vehicle and followed foot troops to Fresne. From Fresne the 2d and 3d Bn were shuttled to vicinity of Nettencourt. Route by motor march: Chalons-sur-Marne-Longevas-Marsons-St Jean sur Moivre-Coupeville-Fresne-Chaumout-Nettencourt. Distance travelled by motor vehicle was approximately 35 miles. The weather was very warm throughout the day.

6. Campaigns: None.

7. Battles: The primary mission of the 319 CT in Angers on August 15 was to defend the inner defenses of the town and prevent any enemy forces from crossing the Loire River in that vicinity. The day was spent installing defensive measures.

History of the 16th Infantry Regiment.

7. Battles (contd): The 16th day of August consisted of inspecting roads and bridges for enemy mines, preparation of road blocks, the improvement of existing tank traps, and the inspection of all buildings formerly occupied by the Germans in the city of Angers. The enemy situation this date: Small pockets of Germans on the South bank of the Loire River holding the bank with automatic weapons and a few AT Guns. The enemy was reported mining the road from Saumur to Angers at St Lambert Des Lenees. Light artillery fire fell intermittently during the night of August 15 with the main objective of harassing our troops.

On August 17 and 18 the defenses of the city of Angers continued to be strengthened by our units. The 2d Bn fired 31 rounds of 81 mm mortar on an island South of Gemmes on August 18 but the results were not determined. Reports from the FFI stated that the city of Erigne was defended with road blocks, barbed wire and block-houses. Prisoners captured in the vicinity of Angers were from #582 AA Regt 2d Btry and 571st Veterinary Co. It was believed that two (2) railroad guns of heavy caliber were located in the railroad station at Cholet about 35 miles Southwest of Angers and at night were moved forward to fire into Angers' vicinity since there was no definite location of the artillery which had been harassing our troops. The city of Cholet was reported to be used as a supply and evacuation center for enemy troops moving East toward Saumur. From reports gathered from prisoner interrogation it was believed that the force along the bank of the Loire River was used primarily as a screening and observation force for the main groups moving East on roads through Cholet. Towns of Denee, Rochefort and Challannes-sur-Loire were evacuated by civilians on enemy order.

On August 24, after moving to the vicinity of Orleans, the CT took up hasty defensive positions for the night. The main objective of the 319 CT was to occupy a defensive position along the river line between the towns of Orleans and Gien. At the break of dawn on August 25, the hastily implaced gun positions were improved. The enemy situation along this front as reported by the FFI: Small pockets of Germans were reported at Marcilly-en-Villette where 4 machine guns, 3 75 mm AT guns, 1 tank and 2 half-tracks were said to be.

8. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None.

9. Loss in action; Officers and men:

Killed: Pvt Arthur M. Rohrer, 35 598 308, Company G. (18 Aug 44)

Wounded: 2d Lt Charles A. Book, 01 325 469, Co H. (17 Aug 44)  
 Pvt Russell Marsh, 35 461 286, Co Co. (16 Aug 44)  
 Sgt Duwayne E. Burton, 37 265 331, Co L (17 Aug 44)  
 Pvt Russell E. Rhodes, 33 225 871, Co G (12 Aug 44)