

HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO # 80, U. S. ARMY

3 October 1944

SUBJECT: Unit History for Month of September 1944.

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

1. Transmitted herewith is History of 905th Field Artillery Battalion for month of September 1944, in compliance with paragraph 1, Change 3, AR 345-105 and Memorandum #64, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

*William M. Gosman*

WILLIAM M. GOSMAN

Maj 905th FA Bn

Ex and S-1

1 Incl:

Unit History for September 1944

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Authority NND 735017

By ED NARA Date 9-23-10

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944  
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #80, c/o POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

1. Original Unit:
  - a. 905th Field Artillery Battalion.
  - b. Organized 15 July 1942.
  - c. Organized at Camp Forrest, Tennessee.
  - d. Authority for organization - General Order No. 1, Headquarters, 80th Infantry Division, dated 15 July 1942.
  - e. Personnel obtained by draft.
2. Changes in organization:

T/O & E 6-26, dated 16 June 1944  
Lose ground crew helper - 521 Basic  
Gain Mechanic - 747
3. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:
  - a. 1 September 1944 - 34 Officers & Warrant Officers- 466 Enlisted Men
  - b. Net Increase - 3 Officers - 14 Enlisted Men
  - c. Net Decrease None
  - d. 30 September 1944- 37 Officers & Warrant Officers- 480 Enlisted Men
4. Stations:
  - a. Arrived in France 6 August 1944.
  - b. In France during entire month of September, 1944.
5. Marches:
  - a. Purpose: All marches during August were for the purpose of changing positions to support the tactical situation.
  - 1 September - Lauppy-Sur-Chu to 1 mile east of Frense-Au-Mont - 33 miles roads good - weather clear.
  - 2 September - Frense-Au-Mont to 1½ miles east of Aulnals-Lous-Veritzey - 32 miles - roads excellent - weather clear.
  - 4 September - Aulnals-Sous-Veritzey to 2 miles N.W. Toul - 15 miles - roads poor - weather, rainy.
  - 5 September - Moved into Toul - 2 miles - roads good - weather clear.
  - 14 September - Toul to 2½ miles west of Belleville - 20 miles - roads good - weather clear.
  - 16 September - Belleville to 2½ miles north of Loisy or ¼ mile south of Atton - 9 miles - weather rainy - roads poor.
6. Campaigns:
  - a. Moselle River.
  - b. 14 September to present.
  - c. Establishment of bridgehead on Moselle River.
  - d. Commanding General, 3rd Army.



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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1944 (Continued)  
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
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7. Battles:

1. The Enemy:

1 September - A mission of reinforcing the fires of the 314th Field Artillery Battalion was accomplished by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion, by undertaking the direct support of the First Battalion, 318th Infantry which was marching in advance guard formation on its objective, vicinity Jeisy-Sous-Les-Cotes. Two forward observers were disposed by our liaison officer with the First Battalion, 318th Infantry, one with the leading company and the other with command group, ready for employment as the situation demanded. The plan supplied continuous observation by continuous air reconnaissance for landing strips close to the advance guard battery. Only light resistance was met.

2 September - Having had their mission changed to direct support of the 319th Infantry, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion went into a position of readiness vicinity of Jeisy-Sous-Les Cotes.

4 September - Charlie Battery of the 905th FA Bn, moved out with the mission of direct support of the 3rd Battalion, 319th Infantry, which had the mission of attacking Toul. The battery supplied two forward observers operating under the control of the battery commander who kept command liaison with Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 319th Infantry. The plane also furnished observation by air reconnaissance for forward strips close to positions selected by the battery. While the 3rd Battalion took Toul, and crossed the Moselle the remainder of the 905th FA Bn moved up to occupy positions within supporting distance.

5 September - The 905th FA Bn supported an attack on Fort Gondreville and Fort Villey Le Sec. Observation was furnished by forward observers with each company and the liaison plane operating under battalion control. The enemy estimated as a battalion, holding the forts as an outpost line in front of the Fort de Hays frustrated the attack.

6 September - The attack was resumed with the same type observation for the artillery, but despite a rolling barrage furnished the southern company attacking Fort Villey Le Sec assisted by a platoon of tanks, the attack again failed. During the attack a battery of 155 mm guns pounded the fort with little effort.

7 September - The presence of considerable enemy artillery caused the installation of a flash base by the 905th FA Bn to supplement the forward observer facilities. This picked up several enemy installations but did not succeed in getting a definite enemy battery location.

10 September - The enemy having abandoned Gondreville and Fort Villey Le Sec, the 3rd Battalion, 319th Infantry advanced to those points.

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905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
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7. Battles:

1. The Enemy (Continued)

11 September - The operation of artillery forward observers in support of a reconnaissance in force to the east of Gondreville is described in the report of the S-3.

14 September - The 319th Combat Team having been made part of a task force to clear the Fort de Hays, the 905th FA Bn crossed the Moselle to furnish close support.

15 September - The 3rd Battalion, 319th Infantry moved forward as first battalion in a column of battalions, one observer with each of two companies in the line under control of the liaison officer with the battalion. No enemy was encountered and in the middle of the forest the 319th was ordered to rejoin the 80th Division south-east of Villess en Hays. Having been assigned the mission of reinforcing the 314th FA Bn, the 905th FA Bn, furnished a liaison officer and three forward observers to the 1st Bn, 319th Infantry to work with the 314th FA Bn, then in direct support of that Battalion.

16 September - Early in the morning, the 1st Bn, 319th Infantry sustained an attack vicinity Loisy on the east side of the Moselle which was frustrated by artillery fire. The 1st Bn, 319th Infantry then attacked toward Les Menelles and the 1st Bn 318th Infantry attacked toward Morville, permitting the 905th FA Bn to take positions vicinity Loisy.

17 September - During the course of the attack the 905th FA Bn, had its mission changed to direct support of the 1st Bn, 319th Infantry and the 1st Bn, 318th Infantry reinforced by the 315th FA Bn and 176th FA Bn. The 905th FA Bn then provided liaison and forward observers to both battalions.

18 September - The 319th Infantry received the mission of attacking St. Jure Raircourt and Norminy and the 905th FA Bn to provide direct support. This attack did not succeed and the 319th dug in on the west of the Sulle River. During this time liaison officers and forward observers were wired in, a flash base was established, and a rigid surveillance schedule provided for air OP's. The OP's engaged themselves in observed counter battery and interdiction while the forward observers harassed forward enemy infantry elements that exposed themselves. This situation obtained for the remainder of the month.

2. Action:

1 September - The 905th FA Bn 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 Infantry. Around noontime the mission was changed to a direct support mission of the 319th Infantry, 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 and Chauvencourt.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944 (Continued)

905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

APO #80, c/o POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

2. Action: (Continued)

2 September - 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 Infantry with artillery fire on three sides of its outposts.

4 September - The 3rd Bn, 319th Infantry moved and attacked Toul with Charlie Battery, 905th 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 ouposted 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 September - 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 September - The 3rd Bn, 319th Infantry, 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 plan (No 64-J). The attack was not completed by darkness and the Infantry again fell back to their previously occupied positions. The fort itself was very well constructed, of great thickness with many pillboxes.

7 September - 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 for observation and checked out on many targets, we were unable to discern any enemy artillery or pick up the flash of enemy artillery.

10 September - After receiving little or no fire from enemy positions on the 9th, the 3rd Bn sent out patrols this morning and were able to get into the towns 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.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944 (Continued)  
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2. Action: (Continued)

11 September - 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 Forêt Le Bois. An artillery forward observer accompanied the patrol while another remained at an OP in the vicinity of the company OP. 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 September - 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 September - 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 September - The 3rd Bn, 319th Infantry moved forward with the attack through the Forêt 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 Infantry 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 Infantry had advanced through the Forêt De Haye, where it was relieved by a Bn of the 35th Division. The 319th Infantry was relieved, in order that they could rejoin the 80th Infantry Division. The 319th CT, minus 2nd Bn, moved to a bivouac position Se Villers-En-Hays, 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 September - In the early morning an attack was made by the Infantry at which time they repulsed several counter-attacks. The Infantry 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 Morville 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 September - 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 on the primary mission of direct support of a Bn of the 318th and received reinforcing fires from the 176th (4.5) guns) and the 314th (2.1) guns. The attack progressed very slowly, the Inf. gaining the high ground at St. Genievieve, Atton, and the High ground at St. Genievieve.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944 (Continued)

905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

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2. Action: (Continued)

18 September - The mission of the Infantry changed to that of seizing St. Jure, Rancourt, and Nomeny, thereby changing center azimuth of the 905th FA Bn to 800.

19 September - The sector of the 319th Inf now extends some 10000 meters. The azimuth of the 905th FA Bn changed to approximately 1200. The reinforcing Bn of the 176th was relieved and in their place we received the support of the 775th (4.5 guns).

21 September - To better accomplish our mission, 2 firing batteries were moved to positions north of Atten, and the CP just SW of Atten.

23 September - At this point, the Infantry having made several attempts to seize their objective and being met by very stiff resistance, the Regt was instructed to dig in until the division made further advances in the South. Receiving these instructions, the gun batteries dug in completely all of their howitzers. All men dug fox holes and covered the fox holes in numerous ingenious methods. The Bn Cp and FDC were both dug in and camouflaged, as were the instructions. The situation remained unchanged throughout the remainder of the month.

Total of 4 prisoners of war captured during August.

8. Commanding Officers in all engagements during September:

Battalion Commander : Lt Col John W. Browning.  
Headquarters Battery: Captain Charles W. Harrison  
Battery "A" : Captain Charles L. Kimzey  
Battery "B" : Captain Charles C. Miller, Jr.  
Battery "C" : Captain Joel B. Stephens  
Service Battery: Captain Lester H. Salter  
Medical Detachment : Captain John S. Bogacz

9. Losses in Action:

a. Battle of France.

b. Names, type of casualty and date:

Pvt Joe C. Morgan, 35437854 Btry "A" KIA 1 Sept 44  
Pfc Corneillious Wiley, 35434659, Btry "A" KIA 1 Sept 44  
Pfc John E. Russell, 37666831, Btry "A" ~~DOM~~ 1 Sept 44  
Sgt William Murphy, 35386428, Btry "A" SWA 1 Sept 44  
Pvt Frank W. Floyd, 33332193, Btry "A" LWA 1 Sept 44  
Pvt Victor C. Gregg, 35459617, Btry "A" LIA 1 Sept 44  
Tec 4 Fao Toninato, 37026401, Btry "B" SWA 6 Sept 44  
Pfc Virgil Clark, 34342965, Hq Btry, KIA 10 Sept 44  
Pvt Albert Janov, 13177525, Hq Btry, KIA 10 Sept 44  
S Sgt Hugh R. Martin, 34125578, Btry "C", LIA 12 Sept 44  
S Sgt Lucas S. Brass, 33236360, Hq Btry, MIA 10 Sept 44  
Cpl Kenneth A. Pearson, 37211631, Btry "C", KIA 18 Sept 44  
Pvt Maurice G. Lodge, 33219844, Btry "C", DCW 18 Sept 44  
Tec 5 John F. Murphy, 33294627, Hq Btry, LWA 19 Sept 44  
D. HIXON, 01184667, Btry "C", LWA 20 Sept 44  
Rich, 32076072, Btry "B", LIA 27 Sept 44  
. Snodgrass, 35770535, Hq Btry, SWA 29 Sept 44

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~~UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944 (Continued)~~

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10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves  
None.

11. Photographs of personnel, Important scenes or events:  
None.

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