

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

Sept
44

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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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 $1\frac{1}{2}$ 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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Belleville - 20 miles - roads good - weather clear.
 - 16 September - Belleville to $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Loisy or $\frac{1}{4}$ 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.

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

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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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944
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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