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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80, c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

4 September 1944

SUBJECT: Reports After Action Against Enemy.

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

1. Transmitted herewith is the Report After Action Against the Enemy, in four sections, for the month of August 1944 for this Battalion in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105 as amended by change 3 and memo #64 Headquarters 80th Infantry Division dated 24 August 1944.

2. Unit and staff journals, together with their supporting documents, are attached.

For the Commanding Officer:

William M. Gosman

WILLIAM M. GOSMAN
Maj 905th FA Bn
Ex O

5 Incls:

- #1 - Section I ✓
- #2 - Section II ✓
- #3 - Section III ✓
- #4 - Section IV ✓
- #5 - Unit and Staff Journals

*Incl. 1, 2, 3, 4, only rec'd 21 June 45
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Section I: Summary of Daily Operations and Action.

This unit arrived in France 6 August 1944 and went to an assembly area near the landing beach.

9 August the Battalion arrived in an assembly area near Soulee. While in the assembly area we received a mission of reinforcing the fires of the 314th Field Artillery Battalion who was in direct support of the 318th Infantry Regiment. The mission was accomplished on 10 August with no opposition and this unit went to a rendezvous at Rurelle-en-Champ.

11 August this unit proceeded to LeMans with the 319th Infantry Regiment and took up a defensive position to defend the supply lines for the 2nd French Armored Division, 5th Armored Division, 79th and 90th Infantry Divisions on their drive to the North. This position was maintained until 14 August when a move was made to Angers.

15 August arrived at Angers and took over defense of south flank of 3rd Army, relieving the 50th Field Artillery Battalion of the 5th Division. The 319th Combat Team mission was to set up a 360 degree defense of Angers and especially the Loire River, south of Angers. Several enemy installations were seen and destroyed by our Artillery fire. This mission was continued until the 319th Combat Team was relieved by the 329th Combat Team of the 83rd Infantry Division on 19 August.

20 August this unit moved to a bivouac North East of Angers.

21 August the 319th Combat Team was ordered to move to the vicinity of Orleans and upon arrival, 22 August, was assigned the mission of defending a 45 mile river front (Loire River), extending from Orleans to the South East. Batteries were decentralized for this mission and attached to Infantry Battalions. Artillery Battalion Headquarters consisted of a CP at Infantry Regimental Headquarters.

25 August this unit was directed to move to position in vicinity of Mayaux-Lodges and assigned mission of reinforcing fires of the 314th Field Artillery Battalion. Crossed the Seine and Aube rivers.

28 August CP in vicinity of Chalons.

30 August relieved of above mission and proceeded to bivouac area North of Chalons.

31 August attached to 318th Combat Team for motorized advance to the East. Bivouac for the night at Bar-le-Duc.

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Section II: Intelligence Operations, use of sections, etc.

After arrival in France, 6 August 1944, the first employment of intelligence sections in a combat situation occurred on 10 August when this unit received the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 314th Field Artillery Battalion which was assigned the mission of direct support of the 318th Infantry in an attack on the Suzanne. A liaison section was sent to the 314th Field Artillery Battalion CP and according to Division SOP one forward observer accompanied them to function as an integral part of the forward observation system of the 314th. In as much as the town was taken without opposition, there was little opportunity to test the efficiency of the forward observation party's operation; communication with the observer was through our liaison radio at the 314th Field Artillery Battalion CP.

On 11 August the 319th Combat Team, of which this unit is a part, established a defensive position on the North, East and South boundaries of LeMans. The terrain did not provide satisfactory observation so reliance was placed on forward observers, one observer being assigned to each rifle company maintaining road blocks. The observers took positions at the road block supports prepared to move out to reconnoitered positions in whatever area was threatened. No enemy was encountered.

On 15 August the 319th Combat Team arrived at Angers to relieve a Combat Team of the 5th Division engaged in a perimeter defense of the city. The main defensive emphasis was upon the river line to the south. Forward observers were assigned to the three companies defending to the south. These had excellent observation positions which were surveyed in providing a flank base which made possible the neutralization of self propelled artillery firing from across the river. OP's installed by batteries provided observation on the remainder of the perimeter, supplemented by forward observers held in readiness under our liaison officer at the CP of the Infantry Battalion responsible for the remainder of the front. The 319th Combat Team was relieved by the 329th Combat Team of the 83rd Division on 19 August.

On 21 August the 319th Combat Team established a 45 mile defensive line on the North bank of the Loire River, extending from Orleans to the south east. Control was decentralized, each battery being assigned the mission of direct support of a particular infantry battalion and under the direction of our liaison officers with the infantry battalions established OP's in their sectors. No firing was done during this mission.

On 26 August this unit was assigned the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 314th Field Artillery Battalion then in direct support of the 318th Infantry Regiment which was assigned the mission of crossing the Seine, Aube and Marne Rivers. No opposition was encountered until the Marne was reached at which time, in addition to a liaison officer with the 314th Field Artillery Battalion, a liaison officer was sent to the 3rd Battalion 318th Infantry with 3 forward observers under him assigned to the rifle companies. The observers worked directly with the 905th Field Artillery Battalion. This arrangement proved quite satisfactory in enabling the 314th Field Artillery Battalion to provide adequate artillery support across the attenuated front of the 318th Infantry.

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Section III: Logistics, Supply Procedure, Problems.

1. This organization had few problems during the period of operations covered by this report, 6 August to 31 August 1944.
 - a. Class I supplies were abundant, though at times when the organization was not with the Division, long distances had to be travelled to obtain them. Of course, the "C", "K" and "U" rations issued made the job of preparing hot meals by the battery kitchens difficult and, when several different "U" ration menus were issued as one ration, well nigh impossible.
 - b. Class II supplies did cause some difficulty. In the first place this organization entered combat short several items of TE equipment and these were not obtainable at any time since. These items include such important items as lights, aiming post; set, field artillery mechanics; maintenance equipment, ME 13; batteries, BA 203 or 205 for AP mine detectors. Some little clothing was replaceable but in general replacements were not obtainable for worn or destroyed equipment. For example, this organization was forced to evacuate a trailer, ammunition M 10 and although placed on requisition immediately, has still not been received - 10 days later - though contact has been maintained with the ordnance from whom replacement was requisitioned.
 - c. Class III supplies presented no problems. On 29 August, issue was suspended and there would have been a serious problem except that just at that time a German store of almost 2000 gallons was discovered and made use of.
 - d. Class IV: None.
 - e. Class V: No problems.
 - f. Water: most of the time, Engineer water points were not available except at long distances. The small number of water cans authorized and on hand precluded the use of these points. Therefore, it was found necessary to maintain a supply of calcium hypochloride and/or Halazon tablets. This was done. Orthotoludine, however, was not available.

2. Recommendations:

Efforts to obtain unauthorized equipment has been unsuccessful and it is felt that there should be some short range method of correcting deficiencies in the Table of Equipment discovered in combat. For instance, an effort was made to obtain carbines and pack carriers for forward observers working with infantry - to no avail. Maintenance equipment for radio sets SCR 536 was likewise requisitioned with no success. The sets are excess authorization but maintenance equipment for them are not authorized.

It is felt that more water cans should be authorized and issued or better still, one 500 gallon water trailer issued to a Field Artillery Battalion.

The extreme to which transportation has been cut is also felt. It is now necessary to unload ammunition train vehicles to haul water, gasoline and rations.

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Section IV: Personnel and Allied Administration for month of August 1944.

1. The Personnel Section arrived in France 7 August 1944. The section is attached to the Adjutant General in the rear Echelon. All personnel work and Battalion administrative work is being accomplished in the rear echelon. The Battalion pay rolls and officer vouchers were prepared, sent forward for signature and handed in to the Finance Officer for computation, all in three days. The Battalion was paid completely for the month of August on 31 August. A very large percentage of the officers and enlisted men are either using P.T.A. directly on the pay roll or are sending cash home by this method. All Special Orders are cut and Courts-Martial work is done in the rear area. All necessary reports have been submitted on time. Replacements are being requisitioned and assigned by the rear. Morning Reports and Battle Casualty Reports are being prepared by Personnel Section from Summary Morning Reports sent back from the batteries. There has been some delay from the time the Summaries are given to the Message Center until they finally reach the rear area. The Battalion has 99% of the officers and enlisted men covered by \$10,000 insurance, the balance not desiring the full coverage. All Class "B" and Class "E" allotments are in order. There are very few pending investigations of Class "F" allotments. Service Records are being kept up to date and classification work on forms 20 and 66-1 is current.

2. Recommendations:

Recommend that daily location of Rear Echelon be sent to all units through Message Center, either by over-lay or by coordinates. Also that units be given replacements corresponding to MOS numbers requested. This is particularly applicable in the case of Field Artillery units.

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