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HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

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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 October 1944 for this battalion in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change #3 and Memorandum #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 and S-1

5-Incls:

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

Incl. - 1, 2, 3, 4, only rec'd June 45<sup>21</sup>  
by

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944  
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #80, C/O POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, N.Y.

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy.

Section I: Summary of Daily Operations and Action.

1 October - The 905th FA Bn continued to support the 319th Infantry in their defensive position. The position of the 905th FA Bn still remains in the vicinity of Atten. The Artillery Battalions fire was reinforced by the fires of the 315th FA Bn. During the night, the Infantry moved forward to their OPL position.

2 October - A Battalion of the 318th Infantry was ordered to secure Renaissance Farm during the night of the 1st; however this was not accomplished and the 3rd Bn, 319th Infantry (Co L) attacked and secured the farm before noon of the 2nd. This attack was supported by pre-arranged and massed fires of the artillery and also smoke fired by the artillery. Along with the prepared fires planned by the artillery, there were numerous concentrations prepared as "on call" missions. The OPL position was dug in and again supported by the defensive fires of the 905th FA Bn and the 315th FA Bn.

5 October - The 905th FA Bn reconnoitered position north of Bezanmont. These positions were occupied by the batteries during the afternoon and night. The 905th FA Bn was relieved of its defensive sector by the 255th FA Bn. All possible installations were left in the Atten area and turned over to the 255th FA Bn. This move was made in preparation for a combined arms attack on Mt. Toulon and St Jean.

6 - 7 October - The 905th FA Bn was given the mission of direct support of the 319th Infantry in the attack, and were reinforced by the 315th FA Bn. While the 319th moved from positions along the Seille River just south of Cheminet to attack positions in Bois de Brenze, the artillery plan was prepared for the coordinated attack. The 905th FA Bn coordinated through the 80th Div Artillery in the planning of massed fires, prepared concentrations and smoke concentrations on the objective and attack routes to the objective. The 905th FA Bn furnished a Liaison Officer with the Tank Company to coordinate its fires with their movements.

8 October - The attack started as planned with prepared fires on the IP and the lifting as the Infantry approached to prepared fires further up the slope. Reinforcing units through Division Artillery and Corps massed fires and smoke on the top of Mt. Toulon and St. Jean. The attack progressed very rapidly under the cover of artillery fires and was very successful. The 319th Infantry reached their objective in very quick time. On the evening of the 8th the Battalion moved east of Bellau with the CP in Merey.

9 October - The 905th FA Bn, having moved the night before to new position, prepared plans for an attack by the 319th to seize the high ground south and east of Nomeny. The attack progressed slowly and the objective was reached.

11 October - The Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders went out and reconnoitered for new positions in the vicinity of Jeandelincourt. The positions were surveyed in, were established, and one battery moved in at a time to the new position.

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

Section I: Summary of Daily Operations and Action (Continued)

12 October - The new positions were improved throughout the day and additional supporting units were attached to the 905th FA Bn. Throughout the remainder of the month positions were dug in, men dug in their sleeping quarters and a defensive position was set up for a stay of several weeks. Plans were made for extensive defensive fires, barrages (normal and emergency) and counter preparations were completed. During this period the 905th FA Bn has a reinforcing artillery, the 231st Armored FA, 128th FA from the 6th Armored. The 315th FA Bn, who were responsible for the fires of the 808 TD's ("A" Co.), Co "C" 702 Tank, Assault Platoon 702 Tanks, and for a period from the 12th to the 20th, we had one platoon of Co "C" 86th Chemical Mortars under the direct control of the 905th FA Bn - also Cannon Co. of the 319th Infantry.

29 October - Plans were being prepared for a raid north to Abancourt and east to Letricourt to kill and clean out enemy on the south side of the Seille River.

30 - 31 October - Plans for raid were altered slightly and mission remained the same. Planning continued for the preparation of the raid on the 1st November. Fires were prearranged for a 15 minute preparation and preparations extended beyond the objective to cover the advance of the troops. Because the objective was only a short distance from the front lines phone line were not used; however, gridded obliques were used by the FO's and 905th FA Bn CP to indicate the advance and positions of the front line elements.

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

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy

Section II: Intelligence Operations, Use of Sections, etc.

1 - 6 October: Reinforced by the 315th FA Bn in the vicinity of Atton, France, the 905th FA Bn continued supporting the 319th Infantry. On 2 October 1944, the 905th FA Bn, supported with defensive fires the OPL positions of the 319th Infantry and one battalion of the 318th Infantry. On 5 October, relieved by the 255th FA Bn, the 905th FA Bn, reconnoitered and occupied positions north of Bezanmont. Preparations were made for the attack on Mount Toulon and St. Jean. The area to be attacked was observed to be well dug in. A forward observer was attached to a tank company to observe methods and technique. Coordination of fires was secured by liaison.

8 October - The attack proceeded according to plan and all units successfully reached their objective.

9 October - The 905th FA Bn supported the 319th Infantry in its seizure of high ground south and east of Nomeny.

11 October - The 905th FA Bn CP was moved to the vicinity of Jeandelincourt. Preparations of defensive fires proceeded. Liaison and observation was improved as the stay in the position continued.

17 October - Civilian reports (through the battalion liaison officers) indicate withdrawal of supplies. Civilian sources have given information on bridges across the la Seille River.

21 October - Evidence of line tapping was reported by forward observer. In the vicinity (U932) a person identifying himself as a Staff Sergeant from the 35th Infantry tapped into our infantry line at 1900. He asked how many guns we had. When told he would have to go to the CP for that information, the person said he couldn't go because he didn't know the Password. The operator said no information could be revealed.

22 October - A gradual increase in enemy artillery fire has been noted. Civilians report enemy clearing civilians from area as far north as Mailly. Evidence of dogs (German Police) used as messengers was observed by battalion forward observers.

23 October - The 905th FA Bn CP was shelled. One casualty was suffered. Climatic conditions hinder observation from battalion OP's.

25 October - Charlie Battery, 905th FA Bn, fired fifteen rounds of propaganda leaflet-filled shells over enemy lines. Shells, times and areas were received from Psychological Warfare Branch.

26 October - La Seille River reported rising and in flood stage at certain points in the battalion sector. Patrols report ground near river too soft to support armor.

29 October - Gradual increase in vehicular traffic into towns on left position of battalion sector. Preparations made for attack to clear enemy from area south of river. Fifty-one missions were flown by the battalion air section during the month.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944  
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #80, C/O POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, N.Y.

(Continued)

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy.

Section III: Logistics, Supply procedure, Problems.

1. Class I Supplies

a. No problems.

b. Recommend that dehydrated yeast be included in issue of "B" rations. Lack of this item prevents baking, which otherwise could be accomplished in organization messes.

2. Class II Supplies

a. During the past month, we have been unable to obtain the following items authorized by Table of Equipment Number 21:

Mess gear, leggins, sizes end and two R; Field jackets, small sizes; raincoats, medium and large sizes; mufflers, poles, tent, shelter-half.

b. Replacement of pistols and binoculars is slow.

3. Class III Supplies

a. During the past month, one of rigid economy and close supervision over the consumption of gasoline, this organization has determined a minimum daily gasoline requirement of 350 gallons in a stable situation.

4. Class IV Supplies

a. None authorized.

5. Class V Supplies

a. Continued inadequacies in handling of ammunition at ammunition Supply Points necessitated the forwarding of a report, through channels, during the past month. A Copy of this report is contained below:

1. The 905th FA Bn entered the theater of operations with a basic load of 2892 rounds of 105mm ammunition. There were approximately seventy (70) lot numbers in this total. Ammunition has been drawn from ASP's 19, 21, 24, 29, and AAD 30 since arrival in the present theater. The drawing of ammunition has produced a steady deterioration of the lot number situation.

2. At all times, except a two weeks' period, at ASP #24, the supply of ammunition has been ample. All ammunition cases and boxes drawn by this battalion have been in good condition. No ASP or AAD from which this battalion has drawn ammunition has kept a record of lot numbers available to drawing units. ASP's have permitted drawing units to select lot numbers from stacked ammunition in the ASP.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944 (Continued)  
90TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #80, C/O POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Section III: Logistics, Supply Procedure, Problems (Continued)

3. Personnel at ASP's have been insufficient to load ammunition. The battalion train has had to furnish some or all personnel to load except on two occasions. Loading personnel at ASP's have shown ignorance of code numbers. M3 ammunition, HE and Anti Tank has been loaded on our trucks on at least three occasions. During night loading, M54 and M48 have been mixed in loading on at least four occasions. Battalion train personnel must inspect each box of ammunition to secure loading of the correct code.

4. The battalion ammunition train, at first, attempted to segregate the drawn ammunition into lot numbers which could be listed and distributed to the firing batteries. The drawing from the ASP's made this plan impracticable as such a variety of lot numbers was drawn that nothing was gained beyond listing of lot numbers in the segregation at the battalion dump. One truck load of 264 rounds, composed of thirty-nine (39) lot numbers, was distributed to a firing battery this week. This date (14 October) a truck load of 270 rounds M48A1, composed of twenty-five (25) lot numbers was distributed. These are not exceptions. It is obvious that such varieties of lot numbers impair adjustment and effectiveness of fire.

5. Today (14 October) the battalion ammunition train drew 682 rounds M48A1 ammunition, composed of eight (8) lot numbers. The ASP office furnished a list of piles of ammunition and three guides to locate the area. Battalion train personnel checked the ammunition stacks, selected and segregated lot numbers, and loaded three trucks. Five hours were spent in the ASP. This is the most satisfactory drawing this battalion has made thus far but is subject to the following limitations:

- A. Ammunition must be drawn during daylight hours.
- B. Ammunition cannot be drawn rapidly.
- C. Battalion personnel must be used in ASP loadings.
- D. Only a small number of trucks can be loaded simultaneously.
- E. Small odd lots remain after the larger lot numbers have been segregated. (The first unit drawing will have a distinct advantage.)

6. On this date (14 October) the battalion train has on hand 1,666 rounds of 105mm ammunition composed of seventy (70) lot numbers. (This includes the 682 rounds of eight (8) lot numbers described in the above paragraph.) The situation shows improvement over the past several weeks, but it is obvious that battalion and even battery concentrations will be erratic with this number of lots.

7. The battalion ammunition train has assisted in the moving of one ASP. Ammunition has been drawn at ASP's from incoming trucks. The mixup on lot and code numbers takes place before ammunition reaches the ASP. This battalion will continue to use the method outlined in paragraph 5, in drawing ammunition, until the segregation of lot numbers improves at ASP's.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944  
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO # 80, c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy

Section IV: Personnel and Allied Administration For Month of October, 1944

All administration and personnel work of the battalion was satisfactorily accomplished by the Personnel Section in the Division Rear Echelon. All enlisted men and Officers were paid for month of October on 31 October. All morning report summaries were submitted to Personnel Section on time and the regular morning reports were submitted through channels in the proper manner. A drive was conducted by the Personnel Section to have Enlisted Men and Officers increase their Class "E" allotments and this found very successful. This battalion is complying with War Department policy to have the Enlisted Men and Officers transmit as much of their pay as possible through Class "E" allotment, War Bonds and PTA. A vast reduction has been noted in the amount of actual cash paid out on pay day since the date of arrival in France. All reports on Battle Casualties are up to date. It is noted that the change of address cards should be submitted to this battalion on personnel evacuated to hospitals have not been received. This prevents the proper dispatch of personnel records and the mail of evacuated personnel cannot be forwarded. This battalion has complied with Circular 99, ETOUSA, dated 30 September 1944, as far as possible and all Service Records and Forms 20 and 66-1 are correct and up to date.

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