

The 313th Field Artillery Battalion

"The 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 12-21 September 1944. The 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION supported the attack of the 317th Infantry Regiment in the crossing of the Moselle River the morning of 12 September 1944. At 1800 on that date, the 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION crossed the Moselle to positions in the vicinity of Bezaumont. That night and the following 4 days the forces that crossed the river were repeatedly attacked by tanks and infantry supported by artillery, mortars, and machine guns. These attacks were in all cases repulsed, on two occasions only after penetration of the firing positions of the 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION. On 14 September 1944 the situation became critical. An attack by enemy infantry and tanks, supported by heavy concentrations of mortar and artillery, was directed against our lines. This attack succeeded in penetrating deep into our positions. Without hesitation, and based upon a sound plan, all men of the 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, including Service Battery and Headquarters personnel, except the minimum necessary to serve the pieces, were deployed as infantry. Making use of bazookas, machine guns, carbines, and their primary weapons, the 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, from their defensive positions, repulsed the attack without the loss of materiel. Two enemy tanks were destroyed in this action. The 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY

BATTALION was the only artillery unit east of the Moselle River during the period 12-16 September 1944. During these 4 days the battery positions were repeatedly subjected to small-arms, machine-gun, mortar, and artillery fire. During the early morning hours of 16 September 1944 an attack by tanks and infantry, directed principally against the left (north) of the front lines, was repulsed by the infantry supported by 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION and other artillery with the division (from positions west of the Moselle), but only after the enemy had infiltrated to the rear of the 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION and some infantry elements had been forced back across the river. The 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION distinguished itself in battle by extraordinary heroism, exhibited such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps as to set it apart and above units participating in the same engagement. The magnificent courage and devotion to duty displayed by all members of the 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION are a credit and inspiration to the armed forces of the United States."

