

SECRET

HISTORY OF 314TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

1. Original Unit: 314th Field Artillery Battalion.

- a. Designation: Field Artillery Battalion, Motorized, 105mm Howitzer, truck drawn. *William D. Tappan*
- b. Date of Organization: 15 July 1942.
- c. Place of Organization: Camp Forrest, Tennessee.
- d. Authority for Organization: General Order Number 1, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division Artillery, Camp Forrest, Tennessee, dated 15 July 1942.
- e. Personnel was obtained as follows:
 - A cadre of officers was furnished by Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
 - A cadre of sixty (60) enlisted men was furnished by 18th Field Artillery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
 - The remainder of the battalion was furnished from the Selective Service with most of the states being represented.

2. The battalion was organized under Tables of Organizations 6-25, 1 March 1942. Tables of Organizations 6-25 was changed 15 July 1943 and on this date the battalion began operation on new organization. The following changes have been made and operated: Change 1, dated 7 October 1943; Change 2, dated 4 February 1944. Cannon Company, 318th Infantry Regiment was attached for administration and operations per Par 1, SO #242, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division dated 8 December 1944.

3. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted.

- a. 1 January 1945: 31 officers, 2 warrant officers, 450 enlisted men.
- b. Net increase for month of January 1945: 6 officers, 15 enlisted men.
- c. Net decrease for month of January 1945: 2 officers, 18 enlisted men.
- d. 31 January 1945: 35 officers, 2 warrant officers, 450 enlisted men.

Strength, commissioned and enlisted, of Cannon Company, 318th Infantry Regiment.

- a. 1 January 1945: 5 officers, 110 enlisted men.
- b. Net increase for month of January 1945: 2 enlisted men.
- c. Net decrease for month of January 1945: 2 officers, 4 enlisted men.
- d. 31 January 1945: 3 officers, 108 enlisted men.

4. Stations of the Unit.

- 1 January-19 January 1945 - 2 miles Northwest of Berg, Luxembourg, vP 7937.
- 20 January-23 January 1945 - Neider Feulen, Luxembourg, vP 7841.
- 24 January-25 January 1945 - Erpeldange-Wiltz, Luxembourg, vP 7154.
- 26 January-27 January 1945 - Lellingen, Luxembourg, vP 7755.
- 28 January-31 January 1945 - 1/2 mile North of Haller, Luxembourg, vP 9536.

5. Marches.

20 January 1945 - Battalion left area 2 miles Northwest of Berg, Luxembourg, by motor convoy at 1630, arrived Neider Feulen, Luxembourg at 1655, distance travelled 3.4 miles. In direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment in attack on area North of Sure River, between Ringelerhof and Bourscheid, Luxembourg.

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Marches, (Cont'd)

24 January 1945 - Battalion left Neider Feulen, Luxembourg by motor convoy at 1215, arrived Erpeldange-Wiltz, Luxembourg at 1410, distance travelled 16 miles. Battalion reinforcing fires of 313th Field Artillery Battalion in attack on area Northeast of Erpeldange-Wiltz, Luxembourg.

26 January 1945 - Battalion left Erpeldange-Wiltz, Luxembourg by motor convoy at 1510, arrived Lellingen, Luxembourg at 1605, distance travelled 6 miles. In direct support of 317th Infantry Regiment reinforcing fires of 313th Field Artillery Battalion in attack Northeast of Lellingen, Luxembourg.

28 January 1945 - Battalion left Lellingen, Luxembourg by motor convoy at 0830, arrived 1/2 mile North of Haller, Luxembourg at 1300, distance travelled 36 miles. Battalion in direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment in defense of Luxembourg.

6. Campaigns.

1. Name - Battle of Germany.
2. Duration - 15 September 1944 to (date unknown).
3. Purpose - To conquer Germany.
4. Authority Ordering - Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.

HISTORY OF THE 314TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

JANUARY - 1945

- 1 January 1945. - The new year started with the 314th Field Artillery Battalion in defensive positions 2 miles NW of Berg, Luxembourg in direct support of the 318th Infantry. The mission of the infantry was to defend the town and highground in the vicinity of Ettelbruck.

There was little activity throughout the battalion during the day. The traditional turkey dinner was served the battalion.

2. January 1945. - The following officers and men of the battalion were formally presented the Bronze Star by the Commanding General of Division Artillery: Lt. Col. D. J. Minahan, Battalion Commander, Major J. F. Roark, Battalion Executive, Captain Frederick W. Maxted, Jr., Captain Nelson W. Curtiss, 1st Lt. John Ruyan, Liaison Officers, 1st Lt. John W. Simonson, "C" Battery, Aerial observer, 2nd Lt. William T. Martin Jr., "B" Battery, Forward Observer, S/Sgt. Altice Nicholson, Battalion Ammunition NCO and Tec-4th Edgar Kruegel, Battalion Motor Supply Mechanic, both of Service Battery, Pvt. J. W. Smith, Scout, Headquarters Battery, 1st Sgt. Frank C. Knott, Pfc William Kuykendall, radio operator, both of "B" Battery. Pfc William Anderton and Tec-5th John J. Kirk, "B" Battery were included in the list of men to attend the ceremony but were prevented from so doing by illness.

General Orders #117 were received awarding the 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1st Lt Arthur Lindberg and S/Sgt. Gerald Rebensdorf and the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1st Lt. Hubert Kenyon. General Orders #118 were also received awarding the 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1st Lt. Arthur Lindberg and S/Sgt. Gerald Rebensdorf and the 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1st Lt. Hubert Kenyon.

- 3 January 1945. - New Positions were selected for the battalion but were not occupied inasmuch as the enemy continued to occupy certain high ground giving them direct observation into the new positions.

General Orders #1 were received awarding the 4th Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1st Lt. Arthur Lindberg and S/Sgt. Gerald Rebensdorf and the 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1st Lt. Hubert Kenyon.

- 4 January 1945. - The battalion continued in defensive positions in direct support of the 318th Infantry. Most of the time was spent in the improvement of positions.

ary 1945 - General Orders #47, 106th Evacuation Hospital, were received awarding the Purple Heart to 2nd Lt. John C. Sweeny of "C" Battery. General Orders #6 from Division awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart to Cpl. Leland Treap, "C" Battery. Both men had been wounded previously while on forward observer duty with the infantry.

7 January 1945 - The 191st F. A. Bn. was given the mission of reinforcing our fires. This battalion was also supporting the 5th Infantry Division which was on our right flank.

The entire Division was alerted on this day to expect a big drive by the enemy in this area since all indications pointed to the sector held by the "80th" as the most likely spot for a counter-attack. The batteries were alerted and suitable precautions made but the expected drive failed to materialize.

The 752nd F. A. Bn. was released from reinforcing our fires with the exception of one battery.

The following men of the battalion were awarded the Purple Heart by Lt. Col. D. J. Minahan, Battalion Commander, at formal ceremonies: 1st Lt. Carl T. Moore, Pfc Alex H. Long, Pfc Thomas M. Nagle and Pfc Earnest R. Heath of "D" Battery, Tec-5th Gilbert T. Farnell and Pfc Sylvester P. Strzepek of "C" Battery and Pfc Merle V. Heyd of "B" Battery.

8 January 1945. - General Orders #7 were received awarding the Bronze Star to Pfc James D. Wright of Headquarters Battery for heroic achievement in France. Pfc Wright was serving as a radio operator with an Artillery Forward Observer team working with the forward elements of the Infantry. The advance of the infantry was temporarily delayed by artillery and small arms fire. With total disregard for his own personal safety and to get the proper use of his radio, Pfc Wright set up his radio under full observation of the enemy. Despite the enemy fire he continued to send fire missions until the enemy was repulsed.

9 January 1945 - Like all preceding days of this month the 9th began very quietly but before the day had ended Headquarters Battery had spent one of the most exciting days of its history. The battery was occupying a large farm house with two wings adjoining. At about 1930 fire broke out in the right wing above message center. It was immediately evident that the fire was of such intensity that too long a period of time would be required to extinguish it and it was deemed more prudent to march order the CP and Battery. In the short space of ten minutes the entire battery was ready to leave. However, since no artillery fire had been received by that time, it became apparent that the enemy either had no observation on that point or was not concerned with the fire, and it was decided to remain in position. The trucks were unloaded and the CP set up again. Efforts were made to extinguish the flames and by midnight they had been brought under control.

Special Orders #9 from Division were received transferring Captain Frederick W. Maxted Jr., to the 318th Infantry. Captain Maxted had so impressed the Commanding Officer of the 318th Infantry while serving

as Liaison Officer with the infantry that he had requested and received permission to effect Captain Maxted's transfer. Captain Maxted assumed the duties of regimental S-3.

- 10 January 1945. - Captain James Benford was relieved of duties as Battalion S-2 and assigned the duty of Liaison Officer the the 318th Infantry. Captain Michael F. Heneghan, "B" Battery Commander took over the position of Battalion S-2 and Captain Nelson W. Curtiss assumed the duties as "B" Battery Commander. Captain Clarence E. Boston, "C" Battery Commander assumed the additional duties of PRO.
- 11 January 1945. - During this period the battalion remained in position improving
12 January 1945. - gun positions. A daily schedule of motion pictures was enjoyed
13 January 1945. - by the members of the battalion.
14. January 1945. - A formal presentation was held at Division Artillery during which Lt. Col. D. J. Minahan, Battalion Commander and 1st Lt. John Simonson, "C" Battery, were awarded the Air Medal and 1st Lt. Hubert Kenyon and S/Sgt. Gerald Hebensdorf were awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal. At a presentation ceremony within the Battalion Pvt. Walter Mickiewicz of "A" Battery was presented the Purple Heart by the Battalion Commander.

A prize of a quart of Scotch Whiskey for the best gun section in the battalion was won by the 2nd section of "C" Battery. The prize was donated and awarded by the Battalion Commander.

General Orders #13 were received awarding the Silver Star to Cpl. William T. Adams, "C" Battery, for gallantry in action at Ettlebruck, Luxembourg. Cpl. Adams was serving as a radio operator in an Artillery Forward Observer team working with the leading elements of the infantry. During an attack on the enemy, the Forward Observer became a casualty. Cpl. Adams immediately took over his duties and despite the intense artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, directed several fire missions in support of the infantry, the result of which caused an enemy artillery battery to withdraw.

Late in the afternoon the 318th Combat Team Commander, Col. Lansing McVicker, when out on reconnaissance in company with another officer, was taken prisoner by the enemy.

- 15 January 1945. Another prize of a quart of cognac was awarded for the best kitchen within the battalion and again "C" Battery was the winner.

The battalion fired its 50,000th round against the enemy on this day with no fanfare or other flourishes to mark the occasion.

The Battalion Commander attended a dinner and reception at the 318th Infantry Regiment to welcome the new Combat Team Commander, Col. Jerry S. Lockett.

- 16 January 1945. - General Orders #15 were received awarding the Bronze Star posthumously to Tec-4th John Kroah, liaison Sgt, Headquarters Battery, for meritorious achievement.

Sgt. Montgomery Long, "C" Battery, was also awarded the Silver Star by the same order for heroic achievement. Sgt. Long was attached to a company of infantry in an attack on the enemy in the vicinity of Chemery, France. On the hill overlooking the town the company was temporarily pinned down by intense enemy artillery and small arms fire. Realizing the seriousness of the situation and demonstrating cool courage and total disregard for his own safety Sgt. Long moved forward to an open exposed position so as to get observation and proper reception from his radio. Although under constant enemy fire his planning and control of artillery fire repulsed the enemy and made possible the advance of the company. As the attack continued to advance he was wounded in the legs by shell fragments, but with utter disregard of his own condition he continued with the attack until the town was captured and refused to leave his post for medical aid until ordered by his superior officer.

17 January 1945. - The battalion remained in position and preparations were begun for a pending attack to take place in the very near future. Our attack was to be coordinated with an attack of the 5th Division.

18 January 1945. - General Orders #17 were received awarding the Bronze Star to Sgt. Carl Luckenbill, "D" Battery, for meritorious achievement and to Tec-5th Gilbert T. Farnell, "C" Battery, for heroic achievement. Tec-5th Farnell was serving as a radio operator with an Artillery Forward Observer Team, under constant heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire in the vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg. He continued to operate his radio to adjust artillery fire on a number of enemy troops and vehicles despite the fact that he was wounded by small arms fire.

19 January 1945. - The 1st Platoon, Company "B" of the 91st Chemical Battalion was attached to the battalion for the pending attack. The platoon was assigned the mission of smoking the highground in the vicinity of Burden and to form a smoke screen between the enemy in that vicinity and the 5th Division.

Plans were continued for the attack to take place on two hour call, the battalion remaining on the alert.

20 January 1945. - The infantry moved out at 1600 and quickly siezed the towns of Burden and Bourscheid. The battalion displaced at 1630 to Nederfeulen arriving at 1655, a distance of 3.4 miles.

21 January 1945. - The battalion received orders for a displacement to the vicinity of Wiltz, Luxembourg and preparations were made to move out at once. A change of plans prevented immediate displacement and the battalion remained on the alert for the next 48 hours.

General Orders #19 were received awarding the Bronze Star to

Pfc Sylvester P. Strzepek of "C" Battery for heroic achievement. Pfc Strzepek was a member of a two man crew accompanying the Artillery Forward Observer working with the leading elements of the infantry. During an attack on the enemy the Forward Observer became a casualty and Pfc Strzepek was wounded. Despite the intense artillery, mortar, and small arms fire and his own injuries, Pfc Strzepek and a companion directed several fire missions in support of the infantry, the result of which caused an enemy artillery battery to withdraw.

The 752nd F. A. Battalion was relieved of the mission of reinforcing our fires and the 215th F. A. Battalion was assigned that mission.

The 318th Infantry was placed in Division Reserve.

At a formal ceremony at Division Artillery, the following men were presented the Bronze Star by the Division Artillery Commanding General: Sgt. Carl J. Luckenbill, "B" Battery, Tec-5th Gilbert T. Farnell and Pfc Sylvester P. Strzepek of "C" Battery.

23 January 1945. - Orders were received to resume the direct support mission of the 318th Infantry in an attack on the area East of Wiltz. The 1st Platoon, Company B, 91st Chemical Battalion and the 215th F. A. Battalion were relieved of the mission of reinforcing our fires. Again, however, march order was delayed and the battalion remained on the alert during the day and night.

24 January 1945. - At 1215 the battalion displaced to Erpeldange-sur-Wiltz, passing through Wiltz enroute and closed into new positions at 1410. The displacement covered a distance of 16 miles. The 318th Infantry was again in reserve and the battalion assumed the role of general support reinforcing the fires of the 313th F. A. Battalion. A most unusual type of preparation was fired at midnight in support of an attack by the 317th Infantry, consisting of numerous TOT's on selected targets, covering a period of three to four hours.

General Orders #22 were received awarding the Bronze Star to 1st Lt. Paul Bassett, Survey Officer, for meritorious service and to Sgt. George Ayers of "A" Battery also for meritorious service.

S/Sgt. Gerald Rebensdorf, Battalion Liaison Pilot was commissioned a 2nd Lt., the oath of allegiance being sworn before the Battalion Commander.

26 January 1945. - The battalion took over direct support of the 317th Infantry during the displacement of the 313th F. A. Battalion. Upon completion of the 313th's movement, the 314th F. A. Battalion displaced at 1510 arriving in new positions in the vicinity of Lellingen, Luxembourg, a distance of 6 miles. The battalion reverted to reinforcing the fires of the 313th F. A. Battalion on closing into position.

January 1945. - The battalion continued to reinforce fires of the 313th F. A. Battalion. Orders were received for a march to another sector of the "Bulge".

2nd Lt. Eugene R. Keesy, Sgt. Claude Salmon and Pvt. Omar Matheney of "A" Battery were wounded while on forward observer duty with the Infantry. These men had been working with the 1st Battalion, 318th Infantry which had remained with the 317th Infantry to continue the attack East of Wiltz.

General Orders #25 were received awarding the Bronze Star to Mr. Sgt. Arthur Stewart, Service Battery for meritorious service.

28 January 1945. - The battalion march ordered at 0830, moving under battalion control to a position 1/2 mile North of Haller, Luxembourg over a route that led through Wiltz, Feulen, Ettelbruck, Diekirch and Medernach. The march covered a distance of 36 miles.

The battalion moved into positions vacated by the 44th F. A. Battalion of the 4th Infantry Division. These positions were already prepared and were complete with wire communications and OP's. The 276th F. A. Battalion was assigned the mission of reinforcing our fires.

29 January 1945. - The 276th F. A. Battalion was relieved of reinforcing our fires and the 974th F. A. Battalion and 512th F. A. Battalion took over the reinforcing mission.

General Orders #28 were received awarding the Bronze Star to Pvt. Walter Mickiewicz and Pvt. Louis Stallings of "A" Battery for heroic achievement. Both men were serving as members of an Artillery Forward Observer team working with the infantry in the vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg. The team was subjected to an intense enemy mortar and artillery barrage during which both men were wounded. The officer in command of the team was seriously wounded to such an extent that he could not walk. Pvts. Stallings and Mickiewicz realizing the seriousness of the officer's condition went in search of a litter. The route that had to be used was under observation and fire of the enemy. A litter was secured and the two men carried the officer to an aid station.

The 2nd Platoon, Company "C" of the 802nd T. D. Battalion was attached for tactical and operational purposes.

Passes to Luxembourg were authorized and at the same time a quota was received for four men to take a four day rest period in Nancy, France.

January 1945. - A formal presentation ceremony was held at Division Artillery at which the following men were presented the Bronze Star by the Commanding General of Division Artillery: 1st Lt. Paul Basset, Battalion Survey Officer, Mr. Sgt. Arthur Stewart of Service Battery and Sgt. George Ayers of "A" Battery.

31 January 1945. - General Orders #31 were received awarding the Silver Star to 1st Lt. Lloyd C. Bloomer of "A" Battery for heroic achievement. Lt. Bloomer, Executive Officer of "A" Battery had performed his duties in a superior manner. Shortly after arrival on the continent the battery was strafed by enemy planes. Lt. Bloomer calmly ordered all men into their foxholes and then directed the fire of the machine gunners and thus aided immeasurably in fighting off the enemy. In the vicinity of Belleau, France the battery was subjected to heavy enemy shelling and two men were seriously wounded. Lt. Bloomer left the security of his foxhole while the area was still under fire and administered first aid. At the same time he calmly directed the movement of the battery to an alternate position and thus kept down confusion and helped save the life of one man. In the vicinity of Guenviller, France after enemy artillery had shelled the area, and while shells were still landing, Lt. Bloomer took an instrument to one of the shell craters and obtained all the necessary data for a shell report.

The month of January was a comparatively quiet month for the battalion and most of the period was spent in improvement of the battery positions.

It was a month marked by extremely heavy snow and cold weather but the battalion continued to function in a most superior manner.

A total of 9,330 rounds were fired by the battalion bringing the grand total since entry into combat to 54,665.