

Monthly Report of Unit History for August 1944  
905th FA Bn

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:

During the month of August light field artillery battalions were authorized three additional Forward Observer teams consisting of one lieutenant and three enlisted men together with  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton car with trailer. This was in accordance with change to T/O 6-25. Up to the end of August 3 officers and enlisted men and 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ -tons have been received.

3. Strength, Commissioned and enlisted:

- a. 1st August 1944 30 Officers and 467 enlisted men
- b. Net Increase 2 Officers
- c. Net Decrease 1 enlisted man
- d. 31st August 1944, 32 Officers and 466 enlisted men

4. Stations:

- a. Arrived in France 6th of August 1944 (Combat Zone)
- b. Departed Sennybridge, Wales 2 August 1944

5. Marches:

a. Purpose: All marches during August were for the purpose of changing positions to support tactical situation.

- 2 August - Sennybridge, Wales to Camp D9, Weymouth, England - 180 miles - Roads good, weather excellent.
- 6 August - Utah Beach to N.W. St. Jose, France - 2 Miles - Roads dusty, weather clear and hot.
- 8 August - St. Jose to Brecey - 162 miles - Roads good, weather clear.
- 9 August - Brecey to Soule-Le-Bruant - 75 miles - Roads good, weather clear.
- 10 August - Soule-Le-Bruant to Suzanne - 29 miles - Roads good, weather clear.
- 11 August - Suzanne to LeMans - 22 miles - Roads good, weather clear.
- 14 August - LeMans to Angers - 22 miles - Roads excellent, weather good.
- 20 August - Angers to N.E. Angers - 2 miles.
- 22 August - N.E. Angers to Busloup - 106 miles - Roads good, weather clear.
- 23 August - Busloup to Orleans - 51 miles - Roads good, weather clear.
- 25 August - Orleans to Fay-aux-Lodge - 24 miles - Roads good, weather clear.
- 27 August - Fay-aux-Lodge to St. Flavy - 113 miles - Roads good, weather clear.
- 28 August - St. Flavy to Champigneulle - 64 miles - Roads good, weather clear.
- 30 August - Champigneulle to Chalons - 15 miles - Roads good, weather clear.

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- 9 -  
Monthly Report of Unit History for August 1944 (Cont'd)  
905th FA Bn

6. Campaigns:

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 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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Authority NND 735017

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Monthly Report of Unit History for August 1944 (Cont'd)  
905th FA Bn

7. Battles:

(1) The enemy:

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 radion 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 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 of the 318th Infantry.

b. Total of Four (4) prisoners of War captured during August.

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Monthly Report of Unit History for August 1944 (Cont'd)  
905th FA Bn

7. Battles.. (continued)  
(2) Action:

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" and "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 obtain- 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.

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Monthly Report of Unit History for August 1944 (Cont'd)  
905th FA Bn

8. Commanding Officers in important engagements. (Month of August)

Battalion Commander: Lt Col John W. Browning  
Hq Battery : 1st Lt Charles W. Harrison  
Battery "A" : Captain Charles L. Kimzey  
Battery "B" : Captain Charles C. Miller, Jr.  
Battery "C" : Captain Joel B. Stephens  
Service Btry: Captain Lester H. Salter

9. Losses in action (officer and Enlisted men)  
None.

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action.  
None.

11. Photographs of personnel, important scene or events.  
None.

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