

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION *new*
APO #80, U. S. ARMY

5 December 1944

SUBJECT: Unit History for Month of November 1944.

TO : Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO #80, U. S. Army.

1. Transmitted herewith is the history for the month of November 1944, of this battalion in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1, Change 3, AR 345-105.

For the Commanding Officer:

William M. Gosman
WILLIAM M. GOSMAN
Maj 905th FA Bn
Ex and S-1

1 Incl:

Unit History for Month of November 1944.

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

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 Number 1, Headquarters, 80th Infantry Division, dated 15 July 1942.
 - e. Personnel obtained by draft.
2. Changes in organization:

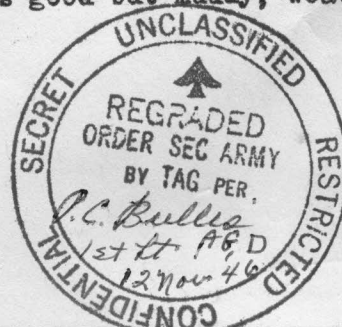
None.
3. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:
 - a. 1 November 1944 - 34 Officers and Warrant Officers 477 Enlisted Men
 - b. Net Increase - None None
 - c. Net Decrease - 3 Officers 12 Enlisted Men
 - d. 30 November 1944 - 31 Officers and Warrant Officers 465 Enlisted Men
4. Stations:
 - a. Arrived in France 6 August 1944.
 - b. In France entire month of November 1944.
5. Marches:
 - a. Purpose - All marches during November were for the purpose of changing positions to support the tactical situation.
 - 9 November - $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Jeandelincourt to Aulnois Sur-Seille, 6 miles, roads muddy, weather cold and raining.
 - 10 November - Aulnois Sur-Seille to Puzieux, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, roads muddy, weather raining.
 - 11 November - Puzieux to Tincry, 3 miles, roads muddy, raining.
 - 13 November - Tincry to Lucy, 6 miles, roads muddy and raining.
 - 15 November - Lucy to Lesse, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, roads muddy and still raining.
 - 16 November - Lesse to Landroff, 9 miles, roads still muddy, weather wet and cold.
 - 20 November - Landroff to Viller, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, roads muddy, weather foggy and wet.
 - 21 November - Viller to Hemering, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, roads good but muddy, weather rainy.
 - 22 November - Hemering to Faulquemont, 4 miles, roads muddy, weather cold and raining.
 - 26 November - Faulquemont to 2 miles northwest of Laudrefang, roads poor and weather wet.
 - 27 November - Northwest of Laudrefang to St. Avold, 9 miles, roads muddy and poor, weather very cold and wet.
 - 28 November - St. Avold to Seingbouse, 6 miles, roads good but muddy, weather extremely cold and damp.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1944 (Continued)
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

6. Campaigns:

- a. Battle of Germany.
- b. 15 September to present.
- c. Attack on Germany.
- d. Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces.

7. Battles:

1. The Enemy.

1 November - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion, in direct support of the 319th Infantry, remained in defensive positions in the vicinity of Jeandelincourt. Three Battery Observation Posts continued to operate and one forward observer was with each of the four front line companies. Liaison was maintained with the Infantry Battalions and at the regimental command post. The small scale attack to clear Abaucourt - Letricourt - Aulnois Sur Seille of the enemy started at 1300. By 1700 the Second and Third Battalions were on their objective and were outposting the towns. A withdrawal to original defensive positions followed. The S-2, 905th Field Artillery Battalion, interrogated a captured enemy forward observer of the 1151st Field Artillery Battalion located in vicinity of Foville. The PW report was distributed by 80th Division Artillery.

2 November - Our lines received increasing mortar and artillery shelling. Largest concentration reported was 17 rounds.

3 November - Mortar and artillery shelling greatly lessened, while use of colored flares increased. Low visibility reported by OP's.

4 November - Enemy artillery and mortars of larger caliber reported.

5 November - Propaganda mission fired into Mailly-sur-Seille, Craincourt and Thezey-St. Martin.

6 November - General increase in enemy artillery activity. Leaflet picked up in Letricourt read, "Men of the 80th, why have you been stopped in your drive for the past three weeks? Why is it that you can't go on to Berlin? Your wives are going to spend a lonesome Xmas!" Enemy observed digging in on Delme Ridge, vehicular and troop movements seen on route-de-Metz and vicinity of Liocourt. An increase in colored flares was noted. Ground OP's were able to intersect on several enemy batteries by flash means during this period.

8 November - The attack began at 0500. The battalion counter-battery fire, observed and adjusted by the liaison plane observer, was effective. Resistance grew increasingly stronger as the attack progressed.

10 November - Attack resumed. Air observation and adjustment on enemy batteries, mortars and anti-tank weapons was conducted with destructive effect. Liaison was established with the 775th Field Artillery Battalion. Delme Ridge was taken.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1944 (Continued)
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

7. Battles. (Continued)

11 November - The attack proceeded. Effective fire was placed upon pill-boxes. Enemy battery destroyed on outskirts of Baccourt.

12 November - Infantry moved forward with tank support. Time fire adjusted on enemy infantry in open with excellent effect. A total of five missions upon enemy infantry were fired during the day.

14 November - Forward movement again resumed. No resistance reported. Unit was alerted on possibility of a tank attack from northeast. Enemy tanks were contained before entering our sector.

15 November - Unit was again alerted by possibilities of tank attack. Enemy activity was contained by forward tank elements. Two civilians were turned over to Division CIC for screening. Missions were fired upon enemy batteries, vehicles and infantry. A P-47 was hit by anti-aircraft fire and crashed near the CP.

16 November - Preparation fire proved extremely effective. The regiment took 400-500 prisoners. Forward observers were able to adjust effective fire upon assembling enemy infantry.

17 November - Preparation fire again proved very effective. A propaganda mission was fired. Resistance was very slight. Some artillery fire received.

18 November - Effective fire placed on enemy guns. Time fire adjusted on enemy infantry in woods. 35th Division, on right, moved through areas battalion had fired upon previously with slight resistance. Enemy artillery (largest concentration eight rounds) reported.

19 November - Withdrawal of enemy from Metz could not be observed by air OP. Two artillery pieces were destroyed by air adjustment; one anti-tank gun destroyed by adjustment from a ground OP.

21 November - Weather hampered observation by air OP. Was able to adjust effectively on five artillery pieces.

22 November - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion supported the 314th Field Artillery Battalion in effectively placing fire upon enemy troops and installations, enabling the 318th Infantry Company to withdraw from a position where it had been surrounded.

23 November - In Faulquemont a wire truck of Headquarters Battery was booby-trapped by placing a grenade on one end of a wire attached to the drum on a power reel. This incident took place while wire personnel were at mess. The device was discovered before any damage was done. Two civilians were apprehended and placed with the CIC for questioning. Enemy artillery concentration of four rounds reported.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1944 (Continued)
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

7. Battles. (Continued)

24 November - Enemy artillery concentration of six rounds reported. Heavy mortar shelling reported in 2nd Battalion section. Enemy machine gun nests effectively fired upon.

25 November - Attack resumed. Infantry elements received considerable artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. Time fire adjusted upon enemy troops. Two enemy, four gun, batteries and one single gun adjusted upon. Direct hits and excellent coverage of area observed. The fight for Longeville Les St. Avold was difficult but at 1652 infantry elements entered the town. Three prisoners were captured by Headquarters Battery personnel. PW's were "equipped" with safe conduct passes.

26 November - Infantry attacking St. Avold met artillery and mortar fire. Ground adjustments on mortars and air adjustments on artillery proceeded satisfactorily. One gun was destroyed; two were neutralized. The high ground near St. Avold enabled the enemy to hold the 319th to positions west and south of the city. Much small arms fire was encountered from buildings in the outskirts of the city.

27 November - After an extensive artillery preparation, the 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry advanced through St. Avold, meeting no resistance and outposted the town.

28 November - The CIC was informed and investigated enemy maps and documents found in the 905th CP in St. Avold. Infantry elements continued to move to the east to occupy the high ground. Enemy artillery fire, in increasing quantity, reported in regimental sector. At 2003, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion placed harrassing fire on German soil (the town of St. Nikolaus).

30 November - Small arms and mortar fire increased in the Regimental Sector. A general increase in enemy artillery fire was noted. 905th Field Artillery Battalion in direct support of 319th Infantry Regiment in their defensive position at end of month.

2. Action:

1 and 2 November - Continued in defensive positions and prepared plans for the attack.

8 November - Attack started at 0500 hours with Division and Corps firing counter-battery missions. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion fired a 45-minute preparation prior to the attack in support of the 319th Infantry. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion was reinforced in the support of the attack by the 319th Cannon Company, and Two platoons of the 808 TD's Company "A". The attack progressed slowly.

9 November - The attack again jumped off at 1400 hours and proceeded with little opposition taking Delme Ridge by dark. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved - "B" Battery during daylight hours, "C" Battery during darkness and the CP during darkness to Aulnois Sur Seille. The 775th FA Bn was attached as a reinforcing battalion and when the 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved forward as a Bat- FA Bn took over as a direct support battalion. This was accomplished by 905th FA Bn Liaison Officer with radio going to the 775th FA Bn and contact with Forward Observers and Liaison Officers by radio.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1944 (Continued)
905th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

2. Action: (Continued)

10 November - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion supported the attack of the 319th Infantry as they advanced taking Tincry, then Bois de Bacourt, and Hill 328. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion CP moved to Puzieux. Gun batteries moved northeast of this town.

11 November - The 319th Infantry continued to punch forward with the direct support of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and the 775th Field Artillery Battalion reinforcing. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved forward during the afternoon and the 775th Field Artillery Battalion took over direct support through Liaison Officer of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion, who in turn has a 608 Radio in contact with Liaison Officers and Forward Observers and wire from the 905th Field Artillery Battalion old CP to the CP of the 775th Field Artillery Battalion.

12 November - The attack was held up because of bridges over the Niad Francaise River being blown. The Engineers constructed some; however, priority was given to the Armor and because of this priority, other units were held up to the extent that the attack was not resumed until 1400 hours.

13 November - Reconnaissance was started early in the morning with the idea of moving before noon. Due to the lack of bridges and priority given to other people, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion wasn't able to cross the Niad Francaise River until late in the afternoon. Closing in the new position at 1600 hours, the battalion in the vicinity of Lucy, CP in Lucy.

14 November - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion still in Lucy and the 319th Infantry moved slowly to the Rotte River encountering no enemy. Three companies proceeded over the Rotte River.

15 November - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to Lesse in support of the move across the Rotte River. The move was made before daylight with plans to continue to move to positions near Landroff.

16 November - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved to Suisse after firing a short preparation for the Corps. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion being en route at the time and the 775th Field Artillery Battalion, being in position at Destry, took over the direct support mission of the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and fired a preparation for the 2nd Battalion, 319th Infantry before they cleared the Bois de Zante. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion CP moved to Landroff after darkness and after wire communications had been established between forward and rear positions.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1944 (Continued)
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

2. Action: (Continued)

17 November - The firing batteries moved up in the vicinity of Landroff and immediately upon closing fired a preparation in the woods south of Engelberg and Le Haut Bois so that "I" Company could clean out the area and also the town of Harprich. Word was received from the Infantry that the preparation fired by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion and 775th Field Artillery Battalion was very satisfactory. "I" Company was able to accomplish its mission except for clearing out the town of Harprich although they met practically no resistance through this area. Darkness enveloped the movement and they returned to their original positions. The following day in a coordinated attack, the 35th Division moved through this area and countered no resistance whatsoever.

18 November - A one hour preparation for the Corps for an attack made by the 35th Division was fired. This preparation was fired by all artillery in the Corps. Also at noon a 30-minute preparation was fired to advance and take Guebering and Le Grand Bischwald. This preparation was fired by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion, by the 775th Field Artillery Battalion reinforcing the 319th Cannon Company, reinforcing and 315th Field Artillery Battalion, general support. The Infantry met no opposition except from artillery and mortar fire.

20 November - In the afternoon, the Battalion moved to Viller in expectation of a renewal of a general attack.

21 November - To continue with the aggressive move that the Division had taken the Battalion moved forward again to Guessling-Hemering early in the morning. Although the weather was raining, the Battalion Air Observer took off in search of enemy artillery, firing on the Battalion positions. While in the air he observed 2 batteries and a single gun. The weather closed to the extent that he was only able to destroy one battery and one gun, the other battery being at such a range that observation was impossible.

22 November - The Battalion moved to positions in the vicinity of Faulquemont, with the Battalion CP in the town. This move was brought about by the division going into a defensive situation. Prior to the Battalion moving they fired a 6-minute preparation at the request of the 314th Field Artillery Battalion, who were firing a preparation for the 313th Infantry in order that they could relieve a company surrounded in the town of Laudrefang.

23 November - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion remained in position while the Infantry moved several units about in preparation for an attack. The Battalion had a very delightful dinner served at noon time with plenty of food for all. It was even rumored that some of the men went back for thirds and received food.

24 November - Plans were worked on in preparation for an attack to take place on the 25th of November. Everyone was busy in making plans, and revising plans already made. This continued throughout the day.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1944 (Continued)
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

2. Action: (Continued)

25 November - The 905th Field Artillery Battalion reinforced by the 775th Field Artillery Battalion and a platoon of 808 TD's, fired a preparation in support of the Infantry. After firing the preparation the firing batteries displaced one at a time about 1500 meters north of Faulquemont to continue support of the attack. The attack moved along slowly as the Infantry met much fire on its way after much hard fighting, the Infantry reached Longeville les St. Avold and dug in for the night.

26 November - The 319th Infantry again jumped off on an attack to take St. Avold. This attack was preceded by a preparation fired by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion reinforced by the 775th Field Artillery Battalion, 512th Field Artillery Battalion, and one platoon 808 TD's. Again, like on the previous day, the Infantry received considerable fire. Much friendly artillery fire was placed on suspected and observed targets. Several enemy pill boxes were fired on by direct fire by the 808 TD's, however, these targets were picked up and called for by artillery forward observers. Several preparations were fired on wooded areas and hills, prior to the Infantry's attack of these positions. Many enemy casualties were observed as the objectives were taken. The Infantry proceeded as rapidly as could be expected and were often penned down because of flanking fire from the enemy as other units had not advanced quite as rapidly. The outskirts of St. Avold were entered, the Infantry being met by heavy direct fire. As the hour of the day was growing late some elements of the Infantry withdrew to high ground, reorganized for the next day's attack. The 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved forward as a Battalion to the high ground in the vicinity 2000 meters south of Longeville les St. Avold in the afternoon. A Liaison Officer was sent to the 775th Field Artillery Battalion, who took over the direct support missions while the 905th Field Artillery Battalion displaced forward.

27 November - Throughout the night numerous TOT concentrations were fired on the town of St. Avold and vicinity and numerous harrassing and interdiction missions were fired. These fires being planned by higher headquarters. A preparation was fired prior to the Infantry's jump off for the attack and this preparation was fired by the 905th Field Artillery Battalion, 775th Field Artillery Battalion, 512th Field Artillery Battalion, and a platoon of 808 TD's. The Infantry advanced meeting little or no resistance, took the town of St. Avold, out-posted it, and proceeded on their advance to seize the high ground on a line running north and south 1500 meters of Pit Ebersviller to Hill Moulin Neuf and high ground on the southern slope of wooded area Forêt de Steinberg. As little resistance was met throughout the day, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion moved forward and took positions in the southeast section of St. Avold on the road to Venheek. The reinforcing units also moved forward, however, at later times.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1944 (Continued)
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

2. Action: (Continued)

28 November - The Infantry meeting no resistance on the 27th moved forward on the 28th without any preparation. They proceeded rapidly without meeting any enemy contact. Around noon the mission of the Infantry was changed to that of defending the north flank of the XII Corps. The 905th FA Bn having made previous reconnaissance moved to positions southwest of Seingbouse with the CP in the town of Seingbouse. During the late afternoon and early night, numerous concentrations were fired both in the northern sector in front of the 319th Infantry and the eastern sector in front of the 317th Infantry in order to reple counter-attacks. The firing proved successful in that there were no break-throughs by these counter-attacks.

29 and 30 November - The CP and vicinity received considerable enemy artillery during the day and night. Observation was extremely bad, therefore it was impossible to fire many observed missions. There were numerous unobserved fires, TOT's and harassing fires fired throughout these two days. Several casualties were suffered and one man evacuated due to enemy artillery fire.

Four prisoners of war captured during November in St. Avold.

8. Commanding Officers in all engagements during November:

Battalion Commander:	Lt Col John W. Browning
Hq Battery	: Captain Charles W. Harrison
Battery "A"	: Captain Charles L. Kimzey
Battery "B"	: Captain Charles C. Miller, Jr.
Battery "C"	: Captain Joel B. Stephens
Serv Battery	: Captain Lester H. Salter
Med Det Nov 1st to 7	: Captain John S. Bogacz
" " " 11 to 30	: Captain John L. Jeannopoulos

9. Losses in Action:

a. Campaign of France.

b. Names, type of casualty and date:

Tec 5 Joseph Merichko, 33294436, Hq Btry, LIA 13 Nov 44
2d Lt John R. Porteous, 01184927, Btry "A", KIA 16 Nov 44
2d Lt Robert E. Butler, 01176907, Btry "A", LWA 17 Nov 44
Tec 5 Alex J. Dobrowski, 35313302, Hq Btry, LWA 17 Nov 44
Pvt James L. Griffin, 34893733, Btry "A", LWA 21 Nov 44
2d Lt John H. Boatright, 01178416, Btry "C", SWA 25 Nov 44
Pvt George J. Costello, 33799224, Btry "C", LWA 26 Nov 44
Sgt William B. Jack, 33071112, Btry "B", LWA 22 Nov 44
Capt Charles C. Miller, Jr., 0366813, Btry "B", LWA 27 Nov 44
Capt Dewey E. Garner, 0435656, Bn Hq, LWA 16 Nov 44
1st Lt Andrew E. Holmes, 01170421, Btry "A", LWA 22 Nov 44
Tec 5 Ernest A. Lutjelusche, 37450177, Hq Btry, LWA 30 Nov 44

and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:
Air Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster): Robert R. Anderson, 01182318, 1st Lt,
ited States. For meritorious achievement during the period 30 Sep-
October 1944, as an artillery liaison air observer in successfully

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1944 (Continued)
905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in
Action: (Continued)

completing the required number of sorties while participating in aerial flight in France, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Entered military service from Kansas.

Award of Bronze Star: Briggs Lathrop, 01167948, Captain, FA, Army of the United States. For meritorious service in France during the period 6 August 1944, to 2 November 1944, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Entered military service from Ohio.

Award of Air Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster): Robert R. Anderson, 01182318, 1st Lt, FA, Army of the United States. For meritorious achievement in France during the period 18 October 1944, to 18 November 1944, as an artillery observer in successfully completing an additional thirty-five (35) sorties while participating in aerial flight in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Entered military service from Kansas.

11. Photographs:
None.

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