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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 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:

Nene.
3. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:
 - a. 1 October 1944 - 37 Officers and Warrant Officers 479 Enlisted Men.
 - b. Net Increase - Nene
 - c. Net Decrease - 3 Officers 2 Enlisted Men.
 - d. 31 October 1944 - 34 Officers and Warrant Officers 477 Enlisted Men.
4. Stations:
 - a. Arrived in France 6 August 1944
 - b. In France entire month of October 1944.
5. Marches:
 - a. Purpose - All marches during October were for the purpose of changing positions to support the tactical situation.
5 October - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Atten to Bezaumont, 3 miles - muddy road, weather clear.
8 October - Bezaumont to Morey, 6 miles - roads muddy, weather raining.
12 October - Morey to $\frac{1}{4}$ mile Southwest of Jeandelincourt, 11 miles - roads muddy, weather clear.
6. Campaigns:
 - a. Battle of Northern France.
 - b. 6 August to present.
 - c. Attack on Germany.
 - d. Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces.

7. Battles:

1. The Enemy.

1 - 6 October: Reinforced by the 315th Field Artillery Battalion in the vicinity of Atten, France, the 905th FA Bn continued supporting the 319th Infantry. On 2 October 1944, the 905th FA Bn supported with defensive fires the OPL position 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 Bezaumont. Preparations were made for the attack on Mount Teulen 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.

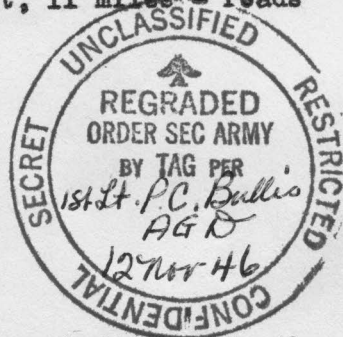
- The attack proceeded according to plan and all units successful in their objectives.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944 (Continued)
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7. Battles. (Continued)

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 preceded. Liaison and observation were 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 Seille River.

21 October - Evidence of line tapping was reported by forward observer. In the vicinity (U9232) a person identifying himself as a Staff Sergeant from the 35th Infantry Division 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 artiller 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 - 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.

2. 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 Battalion's fire was reinforced by the fires of the 315th FA Bn. During the night, the Infantry moved forward to their OPL position.

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7. Battles.

2. Action: (Continued)

2 October - A Battalion of the 318th Infantry was ordered to secure La 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 Bezaumont. 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 Cheminot to attack positions in Bois de Bronze, 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 then 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 Belleau with the CP in Morey.

9 October - The 905th FA Bn, having moved the night before to new positions, prepared plans for an attack by the 319th to seize the high ground south and east of Nemeny. 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 at a time to the new positions.

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 had 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 TPL () Co "C" 702 Tank, Assault Platoon 702 Tanks, and for a period 20th, we had one platoon of Co "C" 86th Chemical Mortars under the 905th FA Bn - also Cannon Co. of the 319th Infantry.

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(Continued)

7. Battles.

2. Action (Continued)

29 October - Plans were being prepared for a raid north to Abaucourt 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 lines 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.

No prisoners of war captured during October.

8. Commanding Officers in all engagements during October:

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
Medical Det	: Captain John S. Bogacz

9. Losses in Action:

a. Campaign of Northern France.

b. Names, type of casualty and date:

Pvt Lester L. Hatfield,	37724164,	Hq Btry, SWA	9 Oct 44
Pfc Clark M. Reynolds,	38134449,	Hq Btry, KIA	9 Oct 44
2d Lt William A. Reade,	0448311,	Btry "C" KIA	9 Oct 44
Tec 5 Arthur L. Culver,	33273073,	Btry "C" LWA	14 Oct 44
Cpl Nick Tedesco,	33279213,	Hq Btry, SWA	23 Oct 44

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

Award of Silver Star: Edgar C. Wilson, 01165466, 1st Lt, FA, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in France on 16 September 1944, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Entered military service from Tennessee.

Award of Bronze Star: Buford D. Hixen, 01184667, 2d Lt, FA, Army of the United States. For heroic achievement in France on 18 September 1944, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Entered military service from Kansas.

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UNIT HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944
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(Continued)

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: (Cont'd)

Award of Air Medal: Charles E. Chresniak, 14092832, S Sgt, FA, Army of the United States. For meritorious achievement as an artillery liaison pilot in successfully completing thirty-five (35) sorties while participating in aerial flight in France in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Entered military service from Tennessee.

Award of Air Medal: Lewis H. Cox, 01181212, 1st Lt, FA, Army of the United States. For meritorious achievement as an artillery liaison pilot in successfully completing thirty-five (35) sorties while participating in aerial flight in France in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Entered military service from Kentucky.

Award of Air Medal (Oak Leaf-Cluster): Lewis H. Cox, 01181212, 1st Lt, FA, Army of the United States. For meritorious achievement in 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 Kentucky.

Award of Bronze Star: Charles W. Kurz, 32075367, Tec 5, FA, Army of the United States. For heroic service in France on 26 September 1944 in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Entered military service from New Jersey.

11. Photographs:

Attached herewith are group photographs of each battery taken before the Battalion went into action against the enemy.

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