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HEADQUARTERS 161ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 35 US ARMY

Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

Initials: *REK*Date: *11 Nov 44*

1 November 1944

Unit: Jockey  
 Period from 2359, 30 September 44  
 to 0001, 1 November 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Thru Channels)

1. In accordance with ltr, Hq US Army, 13 July 1944, file 319.1/401  
 (C), above subj. The following report is submitted.

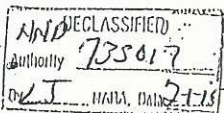
As the period opens the battalion is in position in the vicinity of BEY, having occupied those positions on 26 September 1944. Due to a number of attacks by the enemy on our front in the last days of September our forward elements lost some of the high ground that was being used by our forward observers for OP's. It was decided to launch a limited-objective attack with armor and drive the enemy back beyond the towns of JALLAUCOURT and MALAUCOURT to allow our forward infantry elements to prepare the high ground just short of those towns for defense. This battalion was in direct support of the 134th Infantry during their part of the action and we were reinforcing the fires of the 231st F. A. Bn., of the 6th Armored Division in support of the armored thrust. We sent a liaison officer, Lt Henderson, to the CP of the 231st Bn., to relay calls for fire to us. Through Lt Henderson we were able to keep our situation map up to date as to the location of our armor. This operation was a very difficult one as far as the supporting artillery was concerned. Our own armor was maneuvering in front of our own infantry and was not always in close liaison with our infantry elements, consequently, we were asked to fire on so called "enemy tanks" several times by infantry observers when further check on our part indicated that the tanks were a part of our own armored attack. Fortunately, through excellent liaison between our fire direction center and that of the artillery in direct support of the tanks, and from the information we obtained from our air observers we were able to distinguish between our own tanks and those of the enemy, even though our own ground observers were sometimes confused.--The attack was successful and a number of German prisoners were taken. Our forward observers were able to establish good OP's from which they could observe movements of the enemy that would threaten our defensive position.

At 0700 on 2nd October 1944, the air observers of several different artillery battalions, including the 127th, the 802d, and our own, reported an assembly area containing at least eleven "enemy" tanks just north of the town of JALLAUCOURT. Inasmuch as that was just about the location of our own armor on the evening before and we had not received definite word that our own armor had all pulled out yet we hesitated to open fire on the tanks until positive identification could be made. (The air observers were unable to identify any markings on the tanks but felt certain that they were enemy--however, there was somewhat of a ground haze yet.) While our FDC was checking with division and with Lt Henderson at the Armored Artillery CP, on the location of our own tanks, one of them opened fire on the 127th plane. Permission was then given to fire on the tanks which were then positively identified as being enemy. The tanks were dispersed and three were apparently disabled at least temporarily.

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Lt Walker, the former observer from O Battery reported that an unmistakable German voice broke in on his radio channel and asked for artillery fire on a point within our own lines. The German expressed extreme disgust when he was not able to get his fire mission relayed to our fire direction center.

3d October 1944, to 7th October 1944--Nothing unusual to report. This battalion in direct support of the 134th Infantry who is defending a line.

8th October 1944, the third battalion of the 137th Infantry was attached to the 134th Infantry and the 134th Infantry reinforced with both tanks, TD's and the extra infantry battalion was to advance and seize the town of FOSSIEUX and the high ground just beyond it. The attack started at daylight on the 8th and proceeded without interruption until the objective was seized shortly after noon. This battalion tried something new in the way of air observation for this operation. One liaison plane with our most experienced observer was given the mission of close observation of our advancing elements and were to pick up and adjust fire on all machine gun nests and mortar positions that were firing on our infantry. General surveillance was given to the plane of the reinforcing battalion, the 802d F.A.Bn., Company B, of the 86 Chemical Mortar Battalion was attached to the combat team to reinforce our fires for this attack. Lt Williams of that unit remained at our fire direction center throughout the operation. The air observer who was assigned the mission of close support of the infantry adjusted artillery fire on several mortar and machine gun positions and after the artillery had neutralized the positions, 4.2 mortars were used to keep the areas under sporadic fire to keep them neutralized. Originally the mission of the mortars was to screen a portion of the attack by smoking the high ground east of FOSSIEUX. However, due to the poor visibility that morning it was not necessary for them to smoke the hill. -- Col Williams, of the 12th Army Group Headquarters visited the battalion area this date. He personally inspected all of the gun positions.

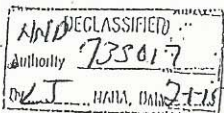
On 9th October 1944, the enemy counter-attacked the town of FOSSIEUX but by prompt use of the artillery defensive fires that had been prepared we were able to repulse the attack. However, some tanks did succeed in entering the town and were very active in the same block in which our "A" Battery had its forward OP. Lt Lierly and his enlisted crew of this forward observer party were in danger of being captured by the tanks several times during the night. However, they kept their radio working and were able to inform this headquarters as to the exact location of the tanks so that TD's could be placed to intercept them, the air observer also assisted in this mission. This close support on the part of the air observer and the ground forward observer with the tank destroyers of the 654th TD Battalion enabled the TD's to ambush the tanks and to knock several of them out, dispersing the rest.

10th October 1944, to 13th October 1944 --No change in situation-- Infantry defending line. This battalion in direct support of 134th Infantry.

On 14th October 1944, the 134th Infantry being relieved by the 137th Infantry. The 134th is going into Division reserve and we are to be in direct support of the 137th Infantry. In order to facilitate liaison between the infantry regiment and the artillery battalion the normal direct support battalion for the 137th, the 219th F.A.Bn., sent a liaison officer to our fire direction center.

15th October 1944, to 22nd October 1944. No change in situation.

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On 23rd October, 1944, the 134th Infantry relieved the 320 Infantry in the line and this battalion, although it remained in direct support of the 137th Infantry, sent a liaison officer to the fire direction center of the 216th Field Artillery Battalion to facilitate liaison with the commanders and observers with the 134th Infantry--the 216th is now in direct support of the 134th.

24 October, 1944, to 31 October, 1944. No change in situation.

The morale of the troops is excellent and fighting efficiency continues to improve with combat experience.

This battalion has suffered the following casualties; four (4) enlisted men slight wounded in action and one (1) officer non-battle injury.

This battalion has awarded the following number of citations; two (2) Silver Stars, six (6) Bronze Stars, and five (5) Oak Leaf Clusters. All decorations for bravery and valliant service during combat.

No decisive exploits were made by this battalion during the month.

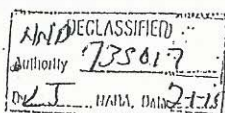
DOUGLAS G DWYRE  
Lieutenant Colonel, FA  
Commanding

3 Incls.

- 1 - Ammunition Report
- 2 - Unit Journal
- 3 - S-2 Work Sheet

- 3 -

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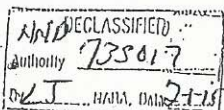
DAILY AMMUNITION REPORT

Unit: Jockey  
 From: Oct. 010600  
 To : Nov. 010600

Date	Balance Last Report	Received	Expended	Total Expended To Date	Balance on Hand
Oct 010600 - 020600	4170	0	353		3817
020600 - 030600	3817	524	732		3609
030600 - 040600	3604	0	490	(Damaged 18)	3101
040600 - 050600	3101	1034	617		3518
050600 - 060600	3518	0	243		3275
060600 - 070600	3275	0	256		3019
070600 - 080600	3019	800	149		3670
080600 - 090600	3670	0	608		3062
090600 - 100600	3062	800	417		3445
100600 - 110600	3445	0	623		2822
110600 - 120600	2822	1000	340	(Damaged 5)	3477
120600 - 130600	3477	400	222		3654
130600 - 140600	3654	0	233		3421
140600 - 150600	3421	0	130		3291
150600 - 160600	2891	0	4		2887
160600 - 170600	2887	800	28		3659
170600 - 180600	3659	0	18		3641
180600 - 190600	3641	0	0		3641
190600 - 200600	3641	0	0		3641
200600 - 210600	3641	0	30		3611
210600 - 220600	3611	0	30		3581
220600 - 230600	3581	0	27		3554
230600 - 240600	3554	0	33		3521
240600 - 250600	3521	0	28		3493
250600 - 260600	3493	0	19		3474
260600 - 270600	3474	0	30		3444
270600 - 280600	3444	0	12		3432
280600 - 290600	3432	0	38		3394
290600 - 300600	3394	0	12		3382
300600 - 310600	3382	0	12		3370
310600 - 01 Nov	3370	0	31		3339
			5765		

July 10, 0600  
 to Nov 1, 0600

42,741



HEADQUARTERS 161ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 35 US Army

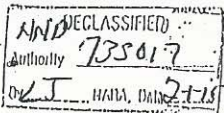
3 October 1944

SUBJECT: Report After Enemy Action.

TO : Commanding General, 35th Division Artillery, APO 35,  
US Army. (Attention: 3-3)

1. The commanding officer, 134th Infantry combat team states that the supporting artillery has been of great assistance in the present situation. Due to extremely large front that we now hold, it has been necessary for artillery to plug the gaps. Planned fires and rapidly adjusted observed missions have stopped several enemy attacks that might in many instances have proven very serious.
2. This Battalion with attached battalions has fired seven TOT missions that we coordinated through FDC of 35th Division Artillery. These missions were all observed by our observers and reported as being very effective.
3. Lt Walker, "C" forward observer states that enemy tried to request fire by use of captured radio. Enemy was very unhappy when his requests went unanswered.
4. If ammunition allotment does not receive a drastic cut in the near future, the artillery will be able to very easily do their part in holding the enemy in his present position.
5. One concentration of fifteen (15) rounds fired by the enemy in our forward elements resulted in twelve (12) duds.

ROY CURRIFF  
Capt, FA  
3-2



HEADQUARTERS 161ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 35 US Army

20 September 1944

SUBJECT: Report After Enemy Action.

TO : Commanding General, 35th Division Artillery, APO 35,  
US Army. (Attention: S-3)

1. Time spent by artillery on the instruction of conduct of fire to infantry front line officers and men begins to bear fruit. One precision adjustment in our right sector by an officer, 3rd Bn 134th Infantry resulted in destruction of enemy field piece in seven rounds.

2. Small attack launched by enemy in vicinity of OL9267 282125 broken up by delivery of effective artillery fire by this battalion. Kind words of praise from infantry on speed and precision of this fire.

3. While the technique of American field artillery in massing fires is the best in the world. Technique alone will not kill the enemy. It still takes US to kill and help defeat the enemy. It is felt by many concerned while we travel on our stomachs, we would be glad to accept less food for more ammunition.

4. Capt Schaper found another enemy OP today (29 Sept). Time fire adjustment did not seem to work so he switched to fuse delay charge V against forward slope. Effect: excellent. OP "Kapot"

5. Suggest more extensive use of fuse delay.

6. Enemy prisoners of war state in many cases the most feared weapon used against them is the "bait fed" artillery. Due to meager allotments of ammunition we are at present not putting much fear into the heart of the enemy.

ROY CUNDIFF  
Capt, FA  
S-2



HEADQUARTERS 161ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 35 US Army

29 September 1944

L-220

SUBJECT: Report After Enemy Action.

TO : Commanding General, 35th Division Artillery, APO 35,  
US Army. (Attention: S-3)

1. 270920, Ltn Officer 1st Lt Morris reported enemy mortar action on Red CP. About 100 rounds of 80mm and 120mm mortar shells fell in area. This harrassing fire has continued throughout the day. Ltn O says that watches can be set when first round falls as it is always on the hour. Shell reps were not available due to high trajectory of shell and that shells seemed to come from all directions.
2. Most unusual thing noted for past two days was enemy operating train between Orlocourt and Donjeux. This operation has ceased.
3. Capt Schaper had a field day from his observation post. Throughout day enemy troops have been under his observation north of Manhoue. This observation helped break up a counter attack at 1025 this morning. Major Schuster, Bn Ex adjusted on enemy troops from this CP.
4. This battalion with reenforcing battalions have knocked out 11 tanks and SP, 1 half track, 2 field guns and fired on enemy infantry.
5. From 0600 until 0930 as many as eight observed fire missions were handled by this Headquarters at one time. Reenforcing battalions: 216th F 752nd F, 253rd F. Tank attack by enemy broken up by fire conducted by Sgt Carter, "C" Btry Observer when tanks were within 500 yards of his CP.
6. Lack of ammunition has given the enemy a few more hours grace.

ROY GURDIFF  
Capt, 161st FA Bn  
S-2

