

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 161ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 35 US Army

1 December 1944

Unit: Jockey  
Period from 2359, 31 October 44  
to 0001, 1 December 44.

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

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

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

On November 1st this battalion still in defensive position in Bey-Sur-Seille. All men under adequate cover from weather and morale very high. 80th Division on our left attacked Craincourt. Objective taken by this division relieved pressure on our left. Enemy still continues movement ~~attacked~~ along front during hours of darkness. This doesn't seem to indicate offensive action.

On November 2nd enemy fired harrassing rounds of 23mm and 88mm artillery in our forward areas. No damage due to well dug-in defensive positions.

During night of November 2nd and 3rd enemy sent five (5) men patrol well behind our front lines. Attempt by enemy to steal  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton vehicle stopped by guard on road block, two of the enemy escaped. This battalion is especially on the alert for this type of enemy action and plans have been formulated to counteract any action of the enemy.

By exchanging some officer personnel with 216th Field Artillery Battalion it is found that we can still support 134th Infantry by using the batteries of the 216th Field Artillery Battalion to fire in the sector defended by 134th Infantry. The batteries of 161st Field Artillery Battalion are being used to support 137th Infantry. This arrangement suggested by Division Artillery has eliminated the necessity of changing the two field Artillery Battalions in their position areas.

Comments from Corps Counter-Battery officer has shown that shell-reps sent in by 161st Field Artillery Battalion and 134th Infantry have been such that effective fire was brought to bear on enemy artillery positions. Liaison Officers with infantry front line battalions have brought to the infantry. They work with the necessity of these reports in such a manner that schools are being conducted throughout the infantry when conditions permit.

On November 4th this battalion still in position Bey-Sur-Seille. Clean and care of material in progress throughout battalion. First echelon maintenance in progress. Ordnance inspector found 161st Field Artillery vehicles in very good condition. Sound battery was ordered to adjust our fire

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
Paul J. Zerkle Maj AGC  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 25 FEB 46

SECRET

335-FH(161)-0.3

6141

master

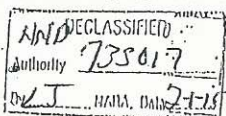
Incl #12

Nov 44

OPS CTO

10 Nov



SECRET

On plotted position of enemy battery. ME 109s on reconnaissance over our area were driven away by AA fire. Enemy used excessive number of flares over our entire front. The first use of searchlight by the enemy on the night November 5th.

On November 7th our Liaison Officer reported heavy artillery fire on our front lines. Propaganda leaflets fired during night are bringing in desired results. 161st Field Artillery Battalion fired on enemy OP setup in concrete pillbox.

On November 8th at 0800 this battalion fired preparation for attack. This date Battalion Commander and party left on reconnaissance for new position area. Battalion was closed into new position area near Gremercy, France. This is first day that battalion as a unit has crossed the Seille River into territory claimed by the Germans to be part of the Fatherland. Allied maps show the Seille River as the French Alsace-Lorraine border. Battalion traveled seven miles today. Rain, snow and mud have slowed down attack.

On November 9th at 1320 Captain Anders, Liaison Officer, 26th Division Artillery arrived at this CP to clear all fires near Division boundry. At 1730 our troops are near objective. This attack is coordinated with regiment of 26th Division on our right to the extent that they will attack from the right-flank as we attack the front. This attack is supported by 161st Field Artillery Battalion and should drive the enemy out or trap him between two regiments.

At 0900 on November 10th Battalion Commander and Reconnaissance party moved out to find new position areas. Positions selected near Coutures, France. Battalion closed into position at Coutures at 1145. Mission fired from this position on call.

On November 11th this battalion fired preparation fire at 0745 for our infantry attack at 0800. Throughout the night interdiction and harrassing fire.

At 0845 on November 12th this battalion fired a five (5) minute preparation fire for the jump off to take Vaxy. At 1000 Battalion Commander and party left on reconnaissance for new positions in the vicinity of Vaxy. At 1340 Battalion had closed into position at Vaxy. Missions fired on call.

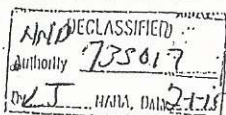
On November 13th at 0900 Battalion Commander and party left on reconnaissance for new positions in the vicinity of Dalheim. At 1400 battalion closed into position at Dalheim. During the day the enemy was using our call signs and radio channels attempting to confuse and collect information from us.

On November 14th and 15th was spent in normal support of the 134th Infantry Regiment, and firing interdiction and harrassing fires.

On November 16th Battalion Commander and party left on reconnaissance for new positions in the vicinity of Morchange. At 1100 battalion closed into position. At 1100 802 Field Artillery and 738 Field Artillery Battalions reinforcing the fires of this battalion.

SECRET



SECRET

On November 17th unit continued normal support 134th Infantry. At 1300 large caliber mortar fire was received in C Battery position disabling one truck belonging to C Battery. At 1400 802 Field Artillery Battalion and 738 Field Artillery Battalions were relieved from reinforcing fires of this battalion. 320th Infantry relieved 134th Infantry. This battalion received the mission of reinforcing the fires of 216th Field Artillery Battalion.

On November 18th at 0150 "C" Battery reported enemy artillery falling in area, no casualties to personnel or damage to vehicles.

On November 19th reconnaissance party left to reconnoiter for new position at 0945. Battalion moved closing in new position in vicinity of Vallerange at 1335.

On 20th November and 21st November, at 1300 Battalion commander and party left on reconnaissance for new position in vicinity of Lindstroff. Positions were selected and battalion closed into position at Lindstroff at 1440. Battalion remained in this position and continued to support the fires of 216th Field Artillery Battalion.

On 22nd November at 1250 battalion arrived in new position at Hellimer. This time we were relieved from supporting fires of the 216th Field Artillery Battalion and ~~attached to~~ the 6th Armored Division in general support. At 1500 the enemy counter-attacked the town of Hellimer with tanks but by prompt use of artillery fire we were able to repulse the attack.

23 November to 25 November no change in situation. Continued in general support of 6th Armored Division.

On November 25th at 1305 battalion closed into new positions at Hilsprich.

From 26th November to 30th November this battalion has remained in general support of the 6th Armored Division. Missions have been harrassing and interdiction fires.

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

This battalion has suffered the following casualties: six (6) enlisted men slight wounded in action and one officer slightly wounded in action.

This battalion has awarded the following number of citations: Ten (10) Bronze Star Medals, two (2) Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal and one (1) Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal. All decorations for bravery and valliant service during combat.

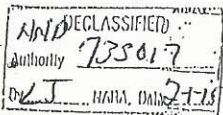
No decisive exploits were made by this battalion during the month.

*Herman F Schuster*  
HERMAN F SCHUSTER  
Major, FA  
Commanding

3 Incls.

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

SECRET

DAILY AMMUNITION REPORT

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

Date	Balance Last Report	Received	Expended	Total Expended To Date	Balance on Hand
Nov 010600 - 020600	3339	0	40		3299
020600 - 030600	3299	0	39		3260
030600 - 040600	3260	0	41		3219
040600 - 050600	3219	400	39		3580
050600 - 060600	3580	0	66		3514
060600 - 070600	3514	400	13		3901
070600 - 080600	3901	0	150		3751
080600 - 090600	3751	0	517		3234
090600 - 100600	3234	600	933		2901
100600 - 110600	2901	600	454		3046
110600 - 120600	3046	1000	613		3433
120600 - 130600	3433	400	428		3405
130600 - 140600	3405	600	916		3089
140600 - 150600	3089	1000	1639		2438
150600 - 160600	2438	1760	723		3475
160600 - 170600	3475	600	648		3421
170600 - 180600	3421	600	489		3532
180600 - 190600	3532	800	905		3427
190600 - 200600	3427	1000	299		3728
200600 - 210600	3728	600	319		4009
210600 - 220600	4009	400	844		3563
220600 - 230600	3563	600	419		3744
230600 - 240600	3744	400	379		3765
240600 - 250600	3765	0	238		3527
250600 - 260600	3527	600	482		3645
260600 - 270600	3645	0	645		3000
270600 - 280600	3000	412	442		2970
280600 - 290600	2970	300	287		2669
290600 - 300600	2669	400	464		2605
300600 - 01 Dec	2605	600	385		2820

Ind #1