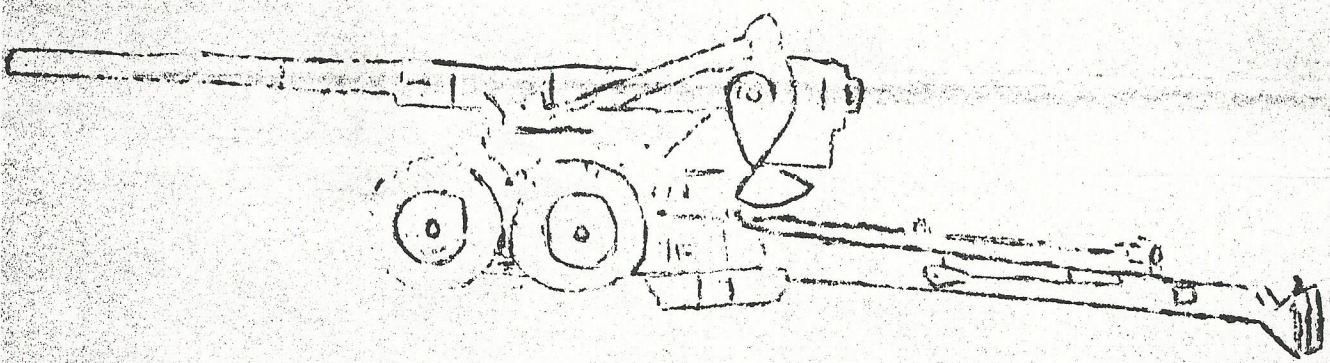


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981

FA BN



UTAH BEACH CHERBOURG MORTAIN
DINANT ROTGEN ARDENNES
HARZ MTNS MULDE RIVER

13 JUNE '44

25 APRIL '45

On the night of 13-14 June 1944, the leading elements of the 981st F.A. Bn landed its "Long Toms" on "Utah Beach" in Normandy, France. The Bn was rushed into position to support the VII Corps in its first mission, the capture of the port of Cherbourg. From that date until the city fell the Bn gave general support to the 4th Inf Div as it advanced up the east side of the peninsula. As the Corps made its general advance, Btry "B" was moved to the western sector to give the 9th Inf Div the support of their hard hitting "Toms". On June 29th Btry "A" fired the last rounds of artillery in the attack on the port when it moved to the harbor's edge to fire point blank range at the forts that were still holding out, piercing the thick concrete walls and causing them to surrender in fifteen minutes. The Bn then turned its attention to the south and actively supported the VII Corps when it broke through the German lines in the St Lo sector.

After the mighty breakthrough, the Germans attempted to cut our supply lines near Mortain. During the heavy battle fought there, the Bn teamed up with other units of the VII Corps and successfully stopped the Germans, turning them back in wild disorder. The pursuit across France brought the Bn to the Falaise pocket, where it was engaged with the VII Corps and the British who were coming down from the North.

On Sept 4th the Bn entered Belgium where it went with the 9th Inf Div. Btry's "A" and "C" were employed on special missions with the Divisions combat teams until the Meuse River was reached. There, at Dinant, the entire Bn supported the Divisions crossing after forcing the fortress there to surrender.

As the 9th Inf Div fanned out toward the German border, Battery "B" supported the 3rd Armd Div in its drive to the Siegfried Line. It passed through the outer defenses of the line at Rotgen, Germany on 14 Sept thereby being the first "Long Tom's" to enter Germany. In the meantime the remainder of the Bn was engaged in a mission unique in military tactics, that of being direct support heavy artillery for the 9th Inf Div Recon Troops thrust south of Verviers, Belgium. On 15 Sept the entire Bn was in position near Rotgen, and the mighty battle for the Hurtgen Forest began. During the latter part of October and half of November, the Bn was attached to the V Corps, and for its outstanding work their received a commendation from the Commanding General of the Corps Artillery. On 23 December the Bn was rushed with other units of VII Corps to the Ardennes Sector where it fought throughout the entire winter campaign. The Bn was attached to the XVIII Corps (Airborne) for a short period before moving back to the Hurtgen Forest to rejoin VII Corps. Prior to the huge attack along the Roer River, the Bn supported the V Corps in its drive on the upper Roer River Dams. The Dams taken, the Bn turned its attention to the river crossing at Duren where it provided direct support for the Corps Engineers who built bridges there.

As the VII Corps moved across the Cologne Plain, the Bn fought on the right side of the Corps supporting the 8th and 104th Inf Divisions. During the night 4-5 March 1945, the Bn fired over 500 rounds into Cologne which helped force the city to surrender the next day.

After crossing the Rhine River on 21 March the Bn supported the 1st Inf Div and later the 8th Inf Div as they held the southern flank of the Rose Pocket. The pocket closed, the Bn made a forced march of 120 miles to join the 104th Inf Div moving east with it holding the southern flank of the Harz Mountains Pocket. The next move brought the Bn to the Saale River where it played an active role in the capture of Halle. As the war in Europe drew to a close the Bn was at the Mulde River with the 104th Inf Div and on 25 April 1945 the Battalion's last rounds were fired, thereby ending ten months of continuous combat through five campaigns during which time 31,863 rounds were fired. 11 Officers, 88 Enlisted Men were decorated and 3 commendations were received from supporting units; The major rivers crossed in France, Belgium and Germany were; the Seine, Marne, Aisne, Meuse, Ourthe, Roer, Erft, Rhine, Wesser and Sallo.

The Bn was attached to the 179th, 211th, 18th 183th and the parent 142nd FA Groups thru various phases of the European Campaign and actively supported the 3rd Armd, 1st, 4th, 9th, 104th, 23th and 8th Infantry Divisions. while working under the V, XVII Abn and parent VII Corps.

COMMAND POST LOCATIONS OF THE 931ST FA BN DURING CAMPAIGNS

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>DATE OF ARRIVAL</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>DATE OF ARRIVAL</u>
Utah Beach	France	14 June 1944	Efferen	Germany	8 March 45
St Marie Du Mont	France	15 June 1944	Lannersdorf	Germany	16 March 45
Azeville	France	16 June 1944	Ittenbach	Germany	21 March 45
Ravenoville	France	18 June 1944	Budenbach	Germany	25 March 45
Monteburg	France	21 June 1944	Schurdt	Germany	26 March 45
Carentan	France	28 June 1944	Morlen	Germany	29 March 45
Houesville	France	29 June 1944	Wilmsdorf	Germany	30 March 45
Le Hauderie	France	9 July 1944	Erlinghausen	Germany	4 April 45
Le Mesnil Angot	France	20 July 1944	Lutgeneder	Germany	6 April 45
Ste Gilles	France	23 July 1944	Borgholz	Germany	7 April 45
Montpinchon	France	30 July 1944	Cottsburen	Germany	8 April 45
Rouge Palu	France	2 August 1944	Harste	Germany	10 April 45
St Martin Le Bouillant	France	4 August 1944	Oberfeld	Germany	11 April 45
Montigny	France	8 August 1944	Liebenrode	Germany	12 April 45
La Sagerie	France	14 August 1944	Bennstedt	Germany	15 April 45
Carrauges	France	15 August 1944	Quetzdolsdorf	Germany	21 April 45
St Luperce	France	25 August 1944	Delitzsch	Germany	22 April 45
Boisse St Ma	France	26 August 1944	Hohenroda	Germany	27 April 45
Neufmoutiers	France	29 August 1944			
Hartennes	France	30 August 1944			
Corbeny	France	1 September 44			
Vervins	France	2 September 44			
La Capelle	Belgium	3 September 44			
Serville	Belgium	4 September 44			
Dinant	Belgium	8 September 44			
Fontin	Belgium	9 September 44			
Banneux	Belgium	10 September 44			
Verviers	Belgium	12 September 44			
Charnux	Belgium	13 September 44			
Eupen	Belgium	14 September 44			
Rotgen	Germany	15 September 44			
Venwegen	Germany	10 November 44			
Mausbach	Germany	29 November 44			
Gressnich	Germany	13 December 44			
Baryaux Condroz	Belgium	23 December 44			
Petit Han	Belgium	24 December 44			
Chene Al Pierre	Belgium	2 January 45			
Malempre	Belgium	8 January 45			
Bihain	Belgium	14 January 45			
Neider-Emmels	Belgium	26 January 45			
Heppenbach	Belgium	30 January 45			
Grosshau	Germany	5 February 45			
Birgel	Germany	25 February 45			
Rommelsheim	Germany	27 February 45			
Manheim	Germany	28 February 45			
Horrem	Germany	4 March 45			

HEADQUARTERS NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION
A. P. O. # 9

5 July 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : Commanding Officer 981st F.A. Bn. (thru channels)

The superior manner in which your organization supported this division tactically during the drive for Cherbourg, as well as the splendid spirit of cooperation shown by members of your command, has been noticed so widely by my commanders and my staff that I want to express my sincere appreciation, and extend my congratulations upon a job splendidly done.

M. S. EDDY,
Major General, U.S.A.
Commanding

201.22-

(5 July 44)

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS, A.P.O #307, United States Army, 13 July 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 981st F.A. Battalion, United States Army.
(THRU: Commanding Officer, 179th F.A. Group, United States Army.)

It is a pleasure to transmit this tribute to the fine performance of the officers and men of the 981st Field Artillery Battalion. I wish to add my congratulations to those expressed by General Eddy.

J. LAWTON COLLINS,
Major General, U.S. Army,
Commanding

2nd Ind.

Headquarters, 179th F.A. Group, APO 230, U.S. Army, 13 July 1944.

TO: C.O., 981st F.A. Bn

Forwarded.

For the Commanding Officer:

HAROLD W. SCHMID
LT COL., 179TH FA GP., Executive

AG 200.6 - Commendation, 981st FA Bn 1st Ind.

TA/BRD/clw

Headquarters, 104th Infantry Division, APO #104, U. S. Army, 30 April 1945.

To: Commanding Officer, 981st FA Bn, APO #307, U.S. Army.

Through: Commanding General, VII Corps, APO #307, U. S. Army.

This battalion has been outstanding in its combat functioning with this Division during the periods 7 to 28 February 1945 and 31 March to 27 April 1945.

/s/ Terry Allen

/t/ TERRY ALLEN

Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

201.22 -

2nd Ind.

(27 Apr 45)

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS, APO 307, U. S. Army, 9 May 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 981 Field Artillery Battalion, APO 230, U. S. Army.

THRU: Commanding General, VII Corps Artillery, APO 307, U.S. Army.

It is with pleasure that I note and forward this commendation to you, your officers and enlisted personnel based upon their splendid performance of duty from 3 April to 27 April 1945 while your command was attached to the 104th Infantry Division.

/s/ J. Lawton Collins

/t/ J. LAWTON COLLINS

Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding

3rd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS ARTILLERY, APO 307, U S Army, 10 May 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 981st Field Artillery Battalion, APO 230, U S Army.

(THRU: Commanding Officer, 142nd Field Artillery Group, APO 230, U S Army).

Forwarded with pleasure.

/s/ W B Palmer

/t/ W B PALMER

Brigadier General, U S Army
Commanding

AG 200.6-Commendation, 981st FA Bn 4th Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 142D FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 230, U. S. Army, 13 May 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 981st FA Battalion, APO 230, U. S. Army.

It is with distinct pleasure and congratulations that I forward this commendation.

/s/ Jerome F. Thompson

/t/ JEROME F. THOMPSON

Colonel, FA
Commanding

AG 200.6- Commendation, 981st FA Bn. 5th Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 981ST FA BN, APO #230, U. S. Army, 14 May 1945.

TO: Unit Commanders, 981st FA Bn.

1. The record established by this unit when attached to the 104th Infantry Division was only possible through the 24 hour alertness of each individual. I wish to express to each officer and enlisted man my appreciation for the superior manner each performed his battle duty.

/s/ Martin L. Green

/t/ MARTIN L. GREEN

1st Col, FA

HEADQUARTERS
V CORPS ARTILLERY
APO 305, U. S. Army

13 November 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, V Corps, APO 305, U.S. Army.

1. During the period 28 October 1944 to 10 November 1944, the 188th FA Group, under command of Colonel H. Burr Parker, with 981st and 172nd FA Battalions attached, were attached operationally to V Corps Artillery by VCCG, VII Corps. They were employed in general support of the operations of the 28th Infantry Division during the entire period. The promptness and excellence of their fires as well as the outstanding excellence of their spirit of cooperation is worthy of commendation.

2. It is an additional pleasure to be able to commend this Group for its fine performance since both the Group and the 981st FA Battalion were assigned to the 76th FA Brigade throughout their training period. The Hq 76th FA Brigade was redesignated Hq V Corps Artillery early this year.

/s/ C. G. Helmick
/t/ C. G. HELMICK
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

201.22 1st Ind.
(13 November 1944)- Commendation.
HEADQUARTERS V CORPS, APO 305, 19 November 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 188th Field Artillery Group. (Thru: CG First U.S. Army)

It gives me great pleasure to note and transmit this commendation for a task well performed.

/s/ L. T. Gerow
/t/ L. T. GEROW
Major General, U.S. Army,
Commanding

201.22 2nd Ind.
HEADQUARTERS FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY, APO 230, 27 November 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 188th Field Artillery Group.

THRU: Commanding General, VII Corps.

I am pleased to note and forward this commendation for the outstanding performance of duty of your unit.

/s/ Courtney H. Hodges,
/t/ COURTNEY H. HODGES
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding

201.22
(13 Nov 44)

3rd Ind.

As

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS, APO 307, U. S. Army, 4 Dec 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 188th Field Artillery Group, APO 230, U. S. Army.

THRU: Commanding General, VII Corps Artillery, APO 307, U. S. Army.

It is with pleasure that I transmit this commendation.

/s/ J. Lawton Collins
/t/ J. LAWTON COLLINS
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding

201.22

(13 Nov 44)

4th Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 188TH F.A. GROUP, APO 230, U.S. Army, 6 December 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 981st F.A. Bn, APO 230, U.S. Army.

1. The Group Commander notes with pleasure this commendation.
2. It is fully realized and gratefully acknowledged that without your splendid cooperation these results could not have been achieved.

HENRY BURR PARKER
Colonel, F.A.
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 104TH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY
APO 104, U. S. ARMY

27 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO: Commanding Officer, 981 Field Artillery Battalion.

The 981 Field Artillery Battalion was attached to the 104th Infantry Division Artillery during the period 3 - 27 April 1945, inclusive. During the period of attachment it participated in the Timberwolf Division's uninterrupted drive of 175 miles in 15 days from the PADERBORN area to the East. It included the crossing of the WESER and SAAR Rivers, the outflanking of the HARZ Mountains, the capture of HALLE, BITTERFELD and DELITZCH, and culminated in the seizure of the Divisions assigned objectives on the MULDE River.

During this rapid advance the 981 Field Artillery Battalion made efficient and timely displacements. General support missions were continually accomplished with adequate communications and supply. Great versatility and aggressiveness was shown by your battalion, as evidenced by the manner in which it once handled the mission of being a direct infantry support battalion. Outstanding target mission was the destruction of the concrete bridge spanning the MULDE River at BITTERFELD, thereby cutting off one of the German escape routes.

It is with great pleasure that I commend and thank you and your unit for your excellent support during the period of your attachment to us. It is my desire that you convey my thanks to all officers and men of the 981 Field Artillery Battalion for their efforts in contributing to the Battalion's fine showing.

/s/ Wm. R. Woodward
/t/ WM. R. WOODWARD
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding

Joe Rossi, Santa Barbara (3018 Paseo Sanjuntito, Calif.)
 George G. Plythe Mt Pleasant Iowa R 4
AUTOGRAPHS
 Wm. L. Green
 17 C. P. J. A.

- Robert W. Henderson Robert W. Henderson Longview Washington
- Jerry Jupin Jerry Jupin Lansing Mich
- Darold E. Elaser Darold E. Elaser Santa Monica Calif.
- Elwyn D. Smith Ed Smith Los Angeles California
- Robert A. Bartlett Robert A. Bartlett Bethany Mo.
- Henry W. Durre Henry Durre Mill W. Mass.
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- Thomas Scanlon Tom Scanlon Portland Oregon
- Rouan B. Adams Rouan B. Adams L.A. Calif.
- Eugene G. Blackwood Eugene G. Blackwood Venice Calif.
- Leonard S. Czarnecki Leonard S. Czarnecki Carnegie, Pa.
- William G. Dolfi William G. Dolfi Connetquot Pa.
- Philip L. Dolle Philip L. Dolle Carnegie Pa.
- William L. Hansen William L. Hansen Hastings Nebraska
- Paul B. Hogan Paul B. Hogan Duluth, Minnesota
- Seymour Katz Seymour Katz Newark, N.J.
- Carl A. Kutter Carl A. Kutter Norman Oklahoma
- Leonard V. Moore Leonard V. Moore - New Castle, Delaware
- Emil Veltri Emil Veltri, Priest River, Idaho
- Nickolas Wultich Nick Wultich - Clairton, Pa.
- Amos W. Anderson Amos W. Anderson Gresham, Ore
- Harold E. Cole Harold E. Cole Lansing Iowa
- Eugene A. Copenhafer Gene Copenhafer Phoenix Ariz.
- William H. Couch Bill Couch Crafton, Va.
- William Vanderwall Bill Vanderwall Los Angeles Cal.
- Clark Wilkinson Clark Wilkinson Santa Barbara, Calif.
- Willie C. Burton Willie C. Burton Route #2. Amelia, Va.
- Bueford R. Cartright Bueford R. Cartright Ellettsville, Indiana
- Orlando T. Cooper Orlando T. Cooper Ocean View Delaware
- Charles J. Davis Charles J. Davis - Baltimore, Maryland
- Michael L. Dickinson Michael L. Dickinson Bronx, N.Y.
- Joseph J. Dzuricko Joseph J. Dzuricko Clairton, Pa.
- Forest M. Gillett Forest M. Gillett Burns 2420
- Don McGeough Don McGeough Frankton Iowa
- Robert C. Emmens Robert C. Emmens 2043 Gillespie Santa Barbara
- James C. Kennedy James C. Kennedy Bedford Village N.Y.

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Harold T. McDermott	Harold T. McDermott	Waco, Tex.
Michael F. McGonegal	Michael F. McGonegal	Wilmington Delaware
George L. Meyer	George L. Meyer	Haddon Heights N.J.
Alfred L. Moore	Alfred L. Moore	St. Louis, Mo.
James R. Spencer	James R. Spencer	Venice, Calif.
Hugh O. Stockard	Hugh O. Stockard	Delas
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Kenneth S. Truax	Kenneth S. Truax	Montana
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Rudolph H. Acter	Rudolph H. Acter	Barnhart, Mo.
Harold T. Clark	Harold T. Clark	Paterson, N.J.
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Adolph H. Heinske	Adolph H. Heinske	Texas
Raymond J. Hoguet	Raymond J. Hoguet	Haddon Heights N.J.
Raymond Jacquez	Raymond Jacquez	E. Paso, Texas
William C. Landis	William C. Landis	Haddon Heights, N. Jersey.
Dollard J. Laverdure	Dollard J. Laverdure	Graysville N.H.
Vernon L. Lowe	Vernon L. Lowe	Grand Forks N. Dak.
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Theodore M. Zaidel	Theodore M. Zaidel	Newark, N.J.
Samuel M. Byers	Sam Byers	
James Conti	James Conti	Paterson New Jersey
Joseph G. DeStefano	Joseph DeStefano	Scranton, Pa.
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