98\(/
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 901st FA Bn landed its "Long Tom" 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 then until the city fell the Bn gave general support to the 4th Inf Div as it advanced up the west side of the peninsula. As the corps made its general advance, Battery "F" was moved to the western sector to give the 9th Inf Div the support of their hard hitting "Toms.". On June 29th Battery "F" 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. Battery "A" and "B" 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 Arm Div in its drive to the Siegfried Line. It passed through the outer defenses of the line at Aachen, Germany on 24 Sept thereby being the first "Long Toms" to enter Germany. In the mountains 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 there 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 Dam. The Dam taken, the Bn turned its attention to the Rhin 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 30th Inf Div as they held the southern flank of the Roer 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 Roer Mountains Pocket. The next move brought the Bn to the Salm River where it played an active role in the capture of Hallo. As the war in Europe drew to a close the Bn was at the middle river with the 104th Inf Div and on 25 April 1945 the Battalion's last rounds were fired, thereby capping ten months of continuous combat through five campaigns during which time 31,665 rounds were fired. 11 officers, 65 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, Meuse, Maas, Ourthe, Roer, Ruhr, Rhine, Mosel and Salslo.

The Bn was attached to the 179th, 211th, 18th 133rd and the parent 142nd FA Groups turn various phases of the European Campaign and actively supported the 3rd, 4th, 1st, 9th, 104th, 28th and 8th Infantry Divisions while working under the V, XVII, XXI and parent VII Corps.
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<tr>
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HEADQUARTERS NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION
A. P. O. 69

5 July 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: Commanding Officer 931st 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.

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

1st Ind.

201.22-
(5 July 44)
HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS, A.P.O. #307, United States Army, 13 July 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 931st 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 931st Field Artillery Battalion. I wish to add my congratulations to those expressed by General Eddy.

J. L. WOOD FOLEY
Major General, U.S. Army,
Commanding

2nd Ind.

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

TO: G-0, 931st F. A. Bn

Forwarded.

For the Commanding Officer:

HAROLD R. SCHMIDT
LT COL., 179TH FA G. P., Executive
200.6 - Commendation, 931st FA BN 1st Inf.

Headquarters, 104th Infantry Division, APO #112, U. S. Army, 30 April 1945.

To: Commanding Officer, 931st FA BN, APO #307, U.S. Army.


This battalion has been outstanding in its combat functioning with this Division during the periods 7 to 23 February 1945 and 31 March to 27 April 1945.

/s/ Terry Allen
/t/ TERRY ALLEN
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

201.22 - 2nd Inf.

(27 Apr 45)


To: Commanding Officer, 941 Field Artillery Battalion, APO 230, 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 Inf.


To: Commanding Officer, 931st 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

400.6 - Commendation, 931st FA BN 4th Inf.

Headquarters 142d Field Artillery Group, APO 230, U. S. Army, 13 May 1945.

To: Commanding Officer, 931st 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

400.6 - Commendation, 931st FA BN 5th Inf.


To: Unit Commanders, 931st FA BN.

I. 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 my appreciation for the superior manner each performed his battle duty.

/s/ Martin L. Green
/t/ MARTIN L. GREEN
Lt 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 138th FA Group, under command of Colonel H. Burr Parker, with 981st and 1742nd FA Battalions attached, were attached operationally to V Corps Artillery by VGOI, 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.

/a/ G. G. Hélikick
/a/ G. G. HÉLICK
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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

TO: Commanding Officer, 138th 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.

/a/ L. S. Georow
/a/ L. T. GEOROW
Major General, U.S. Army,
Commanding

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

TO: Commanding Officer, 138th 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.

/a/ Courtney H. Hodges,
/a/ COURTNEY H. HODGES
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding
TO: Commanding Officer, 188th Field Artillery Group, APO 230, U.S. Army.


It is with pleasure that I transmit this commendation.

/s/ J. L. Kerton Collins
Major General, U.S. Army, Commanding

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

TO: Commanding Officer, 931st Field Artillery Battalion, APO 230, U.S. Army

SUBJECT: Commendation.

The 931 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 Timmernrod Division's unimpeded drive of 175 miles in 15 days from the RABECKEN area to the East. It included the crossing of the WRESSER and R. I. R. Hiver, the outwelling of the HARE Mountains; the capture of Ham, SUEVER and SEINE, and culminated in the seizure of the Headquarters and 104th Infantry Battalion, 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 931 Field Artillery Battalion for their efforts in contributing to the Battalion’s fine showing.

/s/ M. R. Woodward
Brigadier General, U.S. Army, Commanding