

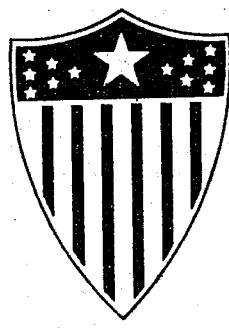
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON

History - 980th Field Arty Bn



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HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION

ROOM MB-920 PENTAGON

18 Feb 43 - Sep 45

Headquarters, 980th Field Artillery Battalion
A.P.O. 758 U.S. Army

15 Feb 43 - Sep 45

CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Wade Phillips, Maj, Adj 26 Aug 46

4 October 1945

Subject: History of 980th Field Artillery Battalion

TO : Adjutant General Washington (25), D.C. (thru Channels)

1. Original Unit

- a. Designated 980th Field Artillery Battalion
- b. Date of organization - 18 February 1943
- c. Place of organization - Fort Lewis, Washington
- d. Authority for organization:
 - Special Orders No. 30, Headquarters 144th Field Artillery dated 18 February 1945.
 - General Orders No. 2, Headquarters 76th Field Artillery Brigade dated 17 February 1945.
 - War Department Letter, AG 320.2 (2-5-43) Subject: "Redesignation of Field Artillery Regiments".
- e. Personnel of original unit were all members of 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment which was redesignated as 980th Field Artillery Battalion, a separate battalion.

2. Changes in Organization:

Original unit equipped with 155mm Gun M-1, tractor drawn and attached to 144th Field Artillery Group, IX Corps. Battalion motorized prior to departure for Desert Training Center from Fort Lewis in April 1943. Battalion detached from IX Corps and attached to IV Armored Corps (later IV Armored Corps was redesignated as the XX Corps) along with 144th Field Artillery Group on 18 August 1943. Battalion reorganized on T/O 6-55 dated 31 July 1943 by General Order No. 1, this Headquarters, dated 29 September 1943. Battalion assigned to the First United States Army and attached to VII Corps as a battalion of the 142nd Field Artillery Group on 9th February 1944. Battery "B" attached for duty with 4th Infantry Division on 21 April 1944. Battalion less Battery "B" detached from 142nd Field Artillery Group and placed in direct support of the VII Corps on 12 June 1944. Detachment of 603 Engineer Camouflage Company attached to Battalion on 14 June 1944. Battery "B" detached from 4th Infantry Division and returned to Battalion on 16 June 1944.

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History, 980th Field Artillery Battalion, Page-2 Continued

Battery "A" attached to VIII Corps on 19 June 1944.
Battery "A", 453 Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion attached to Battalion 20 June 1944.
Detachment of 603 Engineer Camouflage Company relieved from attachment on 23 June 1944.
Battalion less Battery "A" relieved from VII Corps and attached to 142nd Field Artillery Group on 26 June 1944.
Battery "A" relieved from attachment to VIII Corps and reverted to Battalion 27 June 1944.
Battery "A", 453 Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion relieved from attachment on 2 July 1944.
Battery "A", 456 Anti-aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion attached to Battalion 3 July 1944.
Battery "A", 456 Anti-aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion relieved 1 August 1944.
Battery "D", 438 Anti-aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion attached to Battalion 1 August 1944.
Battery "A" attached to 1st Infantry Division Artillery 2 August 1944.
Battalion less Battery "A" detached from VII Corps and attached to 1st Infantry Division Artillery for tactical control on 14 August 1944.
Battery "A" relieved from attachment to 1st Infantry Division Artillery and reverted to Battalion control 15 August 1944.
Battalion less Battery "A" detached from 1st Infantry Division Artillery and attached to VII Corps Artillery on 22 August 1944.
Battalion less Battery "A" detached from VII Corps Artillery and attached to 1st Infantry Division Artillery on 31 August 1944.
Battery "A" rejoined Battalion 31 August 1944.
Second Platoon, Battery "C", 103 Coast Artillery (AA) Battalion attached to Battalion 31 August 1944 and joined 2 September 1944.
Second Platoon, Battery "C", 103 Coast Artillery (AA) Battalion detached 11 September 1944.
Battery "A", 557 Coast Artillery (AA) Battalion attached to Battalion 11 September 1944.
Battalion detached from 1st Division Artillery and attached directly to VII Corps Artillery 17 September 1944.
Battalion reverted to control of 142nd Field Artillery Group 18 September 1944.
Battery "A", 557 Coast Artillery (AA) Battalion detached 8 October 1944.
Battery "A", 440 Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion attached to Battalion 8 October 1944.
Battalion released from control of 142nd Field Artillery Group and placed under direct control of VII Corps Artillery on 24 November 1944.

History, 980th Field Artillery Battalion, Page 3 Continued

Battalion reverted to control of 142nd Field Artillery Group on 26 November 1944.
Battery "A", 440 Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion detached 30 November 1944.
Battery "A", 438 Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion attached to Battalion 30 November 1944.
Battalion detached from 142nd Field Artillery Group and attached to 188th Field Artillery Group on 4 December 1944.
Battalion detached from 188th Field Artillery Group and attached directly to VII Corps Artillery, also attached to the 142nd Field Artillery Group for Administration only, excepting Class V supply on 19 January 1945.
Battalion placed under control of the 18th Field Artillery Group on 8 February 1945.
Battalion released from control of the 18th Field Artillery Group and attached to the 188th Field Artillery Group on 9 February 1945.
Battalion detached from 188th Field Artillery Group and attached to the 142nd Field Artillery Group on 10 February 1945.
Battery "A", 438 Anti-aircraft Artillery left the Battalion 11 February 1945.
Battery "A", 438th Anti-aircraft Artillery rejoined the Battalion 28 February 1945.
Battalion detached from 142nd Field Artillery Group and attached to 179th Field Artillery Group at 7 March 1945.
Battalion detached from 179th Field Artillery Group and attached to 1st Infantry Division Artillery on 11 March 1945.
Battery "B", 153rd Field Artillery Battalion attached (tactically only) to Battalion on 12 March 1945.
Battalion received one 155mm T-83 self-propelled gun M-1 for experimental purposes on 13 March 1945.
Battalion detached from 1st Infantry Division and attached to 188th Field Artillery Group on 14 March 1945.
Battery "B", 153rd Field Artillery Battalion detached (tactically only) from Battalion on 15 March 1945.
Battalion detached from 188th Field Artillery Group and attached to 142nd Field Artillery Group on 15 March 1945.
Battalion attached to VII Corps Artillery (Fire Missions only) on 29 March 1945 at 0815A.
Battalion detached from VII Corps Artillery (Fire Missions only) and 142nd Field Artillery Group and attached to 1st Infantry Division Artillery on 29 March 1945 at 1200A.
Battery "A", 438th Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion detached and Battery "A", 474 Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion (SP) attached on 30 March 1945.
Battery "A", 474 Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion (SP) detached on 7 April 1945.
Battalion detached from 1st Infantry Division Artillery and attached to VII Corps Artillery on 7 April 1945.

History, 980th Field Artillery Battalion, Pa. 4 Continued

Battalion detached from VII Corps Artillery and attached to 1st Infantry Division Artillery on 10 April 1945.
 Second Platoon, Battery "B", 103 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion attached on 10 April 1945.
 Battalion detached from 1st Infantry Division Artillery and attached to VII Corps Artillery Fire Direction Center on 20 April 1945.
 Battalion detached from VII Corps Artillery Fire Direction Center and attached to 142nd Field Artillery Group on 28 April 1945.
 Battalion relieved from assignment to First United States Army and assigned to Ninth United States Army effective 11 May 1945 per Par 4, Troop Assignment, Letter No. 47, Headquarters, First United States Army dated 9 May 1945.
 Battalion relieved from assignment to Ninth United States Army and attachment to VII Corps and attached to Seventh United States Army and XXI Corps on 15 June 1945.
 Battalion released from control of 142nd Field Artillery Group and placed under control of 422 Field Artillery Group about 1 July 1945.
 Battalion relieved from attachment to XXI Corps and attached to VI Corps on 4 July 1945 at 2400 hours by order of Headquarters, Seventh United States Army dated 8 July 1945.
 Battalion relieved from attachment to VI Corps and attached to XXI Corps about 15 July 1945.
 Battalion relieved from attachment to XXI Corps and attached to XXIII Corps on 15 August 1945.
 Battalion turned in the 155mm Gun, M1A1 to the Ordnance Collecting Point on 3 September 1945.
 Battalion turned in to an aircraft collecting unit one observation plane L-4 on 4 September 1945 and one on 5 September 1945.
 Battalion relieved from attachment to the 422nd Field Artillery Group, XXIII Corps and Seventh United States Army and passed to the control of the Assembly Area Command on 15 September 1945 by authority of Par 3 Ltr 37015-C-478, Headquarters Seventh United States Army, Subject "Movement orders - Redeployment" dated 8 September 1945.

3. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
1 July 1944	21	2	548
Net Increase	0	0	0
Net Decrease	1	0	7
31 July 1944	20	2	541
1 August 1944	20	2	540
Net Increase	7	0	0
Net Decrease	0	0	10
31 August 1944	27	2	530

History, 980th Field Artillery Battalion, Page Continued

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>Enlisted men</u>
1 September 1944	27	2	530
Net Increase	2	0	0
Net Decrease	0	0	2
30 September 1944	29	2	528
1 October 1944	29	2	528
Net Increase	0	0	0
Net Decrease	0	0	0
31 October 1944	29	2	528
1 November 1944	29	2	528
Net Increase	0	0	0
Net Decrease	1	0	14
30 November 1944	28	2	514
1 December 1944	28	2	514
Net Increase	0	0	0
Net Decrease	0	0	7
31 December 1944	28	2	507
1 January 1945	28	2	507
Net Increase	0	0	0
Net Decrease	1	0	4
31 January 1945	27	2	503
1 February 1945	27	2	497
Net Increase	0	0	4
Net Decrease	0	0	0
28 February 1945	27	2	501
1 March 1945	27	2	501
Net Increase	0	0	0
Net Decrease	0	0	9
31 March 1945	27	2	492
1 April 1945	27	2	492
Net Increase	0	0	0
Net Decrease	1	0	4
30 April 1945	26	2	488
1 May 1945	26	2	491
Net Increase	1	0	3
Net Decrease	0	0	0
31 May 1945	27	2	494
1 June 1945	27	2	494
Net Increase	0	0	0
Net Decrease	1	0	0
30 June 1945	26	2	494
1 July 1945	26	2	493
Net Increase	1	0	0
Net Decrease	0	0	46
31 July 1945	27	2	447

History, 980th Field Artillery Battalion, Page 5 Continued

	Officers	WO	Enlisted Men
1 August 1945	27	2	447
Net Increase	0	0	0
Net Decrease	10	0	53
31 August 1945	17	2	394
1 September 1945	17	2	394
Net Increase	0	0	117
Net Decrease	6	0	0
30 September 1945	11	2	511

4. Stations (Permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:
 (see Narrative)

5. Marches: (see Narrative)

6. Campaigns: (see Narrative)

7. Battles: (see Narrative)

8. Commanding Officers in important engagements:
 Commanding Officer of the 980th Field Artillery Battalion during combat in Europe except for the period 3 March to 9 March 1945 was Lt. Col. Harold O. Welch 0302124 FA. During the excepted period Major Robert W. Clirehugh 0414897 FA was in command.

9. Losses in action; officers and men:
 (Due to the unavailability of records during the writing of the history this paragraph may be inaccurate.)

Major	Henry Morrow	0364338	Killed in action
Pvt	Albert G. Castillo	38001832	Wounded in action
Tec 5	Robert E. Zanto	39601639	Wounded in action
Pfc	John P. Styers	35042402	Killed in action
Cpl	Carzen J. Tufo	39010302	Killed in action
Pfc	Desire C. Goubert	39163612	Wounded in action
Pfc	Christian P. Van Lunen	32602091	Wounded in action
Pvt	Cecil B. Haggard	39677187	Wounded in action
Pvt	Francis C. Lonebaugh	33476872	Wounded in action
Pfc	Marvin A. Rinner	37116000	Wounded in action
Pvt	Victor Clementoni	33549008	Killed in action
Pfc	Einer Lovvold	39302244	Wounded in action
Tec 5	Richard W. Dirks	37074854	Wounded in action
Pfc	Harvey J. Clefisch	17043833	Killed in action
Pfc	Daniel G. Falcon	39231915	Wounded in action
Cpl	Carl E. Johnson	17049788	Wounded in action
Pfc	James J. Martin	33419226	Wounded in action
Pfc	Armand J.B. Lessard	31320724	Wounded in action
Tec 5	James E. Peterson	20918716	Killed in action
Pfc	Nick Radulovich	33414492	Wounded in action
Tec 5	Clarence L. Musick	20918710	Wounded in action
Cpl	Edward W. Davis	37082972	Wounded in action

History, 980th Field Artillery Battalion, Page 7 Continued

Pfc	Wallace D. Manual	32484642	Wounded in action
Capt	Byron W. Todd	01168948	Wounded in action
T/Sgt	LaVerne M. Triggs	20918573	Wounded in action
Cpl	Ernest R. Faust	39302251	Wounded in action
Pfc	Robert A. Ricciardi	32602616	Wounded in action
Pfc	Louis Manzi	32602566	Died of wounds
Pfc	Jack Whitten	39677197	Killed in action
Pfc	Preston A. Boggs	35558372	Killed in action
Cpl	Henry A. Rensink	37115863	Killed in action
Pfc	Ruel L. Gardner	38093764	Killed in action
S/Sgt	Robert C. Peterson	39156691	Died of wounds
Sgt	Corliss P. Hargraves	20918703	Wounded in action
Cpl	Richard C. Williamson	20918728	Wounded in action
Cpl	Ruben H. Hutchins	17043828	Killed in action

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: (Inaccuracies probably exist in this section)

a. Silver Star

1st Lt	Max E. Young	0887816	9 June 1945
1st Sgt	Richard L.G. Davies	39231841	9 June 1945
S/Sgt	Edward W. Gorzell	20917968	9 June 1945

b. Bronze Star

Capt	Kenneth F. Ames	0416957	15 August 1944
Cpl	Carmen J. Tufo	39010302	26 August 1944 (Posthumously)
Tec 5	Marvin J. Snyder	37116058	26 August 1944
Pvt	Leonard A. Smith	34267218	26 August 1944
Pvt	Lafayette Burlingame	32485181	28 November 1944
Tec 4	John W. Chec	33408323	2 December 1944
Tec 5	Howard R. McGuire	37046925	2 December 1944
Tec 5	Lloyd O. Meyers	39156612	2 December 1944
Major	Robert W. Clirehugh	0414897	28 April 1945
Major	Richard R. Watson	0414992	28 April 1945
	1st Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		9 June 1945
Capt	Arthur J. Read	0411883	28 April 1945
Capt	John F. McGinty	0391205	28 April 1945
Capt	Elmer A. McGraw	01693760	28 April 1945
1st Lt	Norman J. Furth	01169969	28 April 1945
1st Lt	George A. Long, Jr.	0887363	28 April 1945
WCJG	Elwin M. Jackson	W2122931	28 April 1945
M/Sgt	Edwin C. Heintz	20918330	28 April 1945
M/Sgt	LaVerne M. Triggs	20918573	28 April 1945
T/Sgt	Bert E. Ferguson	20917966	28 April 1945
T/Sgt	Albert Heath, Jr.	6968849	28 April 1945
S/Sgt	Ennio L. Ciolli	20918304	28 April 1945
S/Sgt	Richard Hiserman	20900681	28 April 1945
S/Sgt	Edward W. Gorzell	20917968	28 April 1945
S/Sgt	Thomas R. Hidalgo	20918551	28 April 1945
S/Sgt	Raymond S. Hutton	39377833	28 April 1945
S/Sgt	Henrz A. Welz	20917927	28 April 1945

History, 980th Field Artillery Battalion, Page 8 Continued

Sgt	Louis Banducci	20918334	28 April 1945
Sgt	Eloyd L. Derr	39450942	28 April 1945
Sgt	Henry L. McCombs	37067819	28 April 1945
Sgt	Elwin I. Rude	20918333	28 April 1945
Sgt	Edward Workman	20918650	28 April 1945
Tec 4	Fred L. Banfield	20917938	28 April 1945
Tec 4	Edward I. Dowling	20918029	28 April 1945
Tec 4	Wilbur C. Peaslee	36023341	28 April 1945
Tec 4	Albert D. Salgado	20917985	28 April 1945
Cpl	Mervin A. Cook	39677261	28 April 1945
Cpl	LaMont H. Derricott	39678912	28 April 1945
Cpl	Raymond L. Hall	37116105	28 April 1945
Cpl	Robert S. Hansel	37116027	28 April 1945
Cpl	Charles B. Knudtson	37115871	28 April 1945
Cpl	Ernest Long	39163457	28 April 1945
Cpl	Francis J. McQuade	32691350	28 April 1945
Cpl	Selmer H. Sponheim	37165315	28 April 1945
Tec 5	William R. Bickley	38056333	28 April 1945
Tec 5	Americo Bonnaci	39677512	28 April 1945
Tec 5	Leslie W. Brandon	33629481	28 April 1945
Tec 5	William E. Kress	33419312	28 April 1945
Tec 5	Lee Ritchie	20918392	28 April 1945
Tec 5	Raymond B. E. Ross	33419335	28 April 1945
Tec 5	Ralph W. Whelchel	39156726	28 April 1945
Tec 5	Clifford Winn	39163623	28 April 1945
Pfc	Paul J. Brown	37165226	28 April 1945
Pfc	James T. Daley	33476835	28 April 1945
Pfc	Wenston R. Dell	37498967	28 April 1945
Pfc	Alfred A. Keefer	33485646	28 April 1945
Pfc	Philip Schlesinger	37165149	28 April 1945
Pfc	Marvin K. Siler	39156728	28 April 1945
Cpl	Leo M. Carter	20954495	9 June 1945

c. Air Medal

1st Lt.	Max E. Young	0887816	31 July 1945
	1st Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		28 August 1944
	2nd Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		6 November 1944
	3rd Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		2 December 1944
	4th Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		3 April 1945
	5th Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		11 April 1945
	6th Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		27 May 1945
1st Lt	Norman J. Furth	01169969	31 July 1944
1st Lt	George D. Deppen	01166041	22 August 1944
1st Lt	Thomas H. Evans, Jr.	0442002	22 August 1944
	1st Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		27 May 1945
S/Sgt	Richard Hiserman	20900681	10 January 1945
	1st Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		10 January 1945
	2nd Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		11 April 1945
S/Sgt	Roy E. Kirchner	20918354	6 November 1944
1st Lt	Eloyd O. Pruett	01180668	6 November 1944
	1st Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		30 December 1944
	2nd Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		4 April 1945
	3rd Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster		7 May 1945

History, 980th Field Artillery Battalion Page 9 Continued

1st Lt	George M. Carlson	0887373	10 January 1945
1st Lt	Charles B. Aekard II	01170617	7 May 1945

d. Purple Heart

1st Lt	Monroe J. Ellingson	01175423	10 June 1944
S/Sgt	Roy E. Kirchner	20918354	10 June 1944
Cpl	Carmen J. Tufo	39010302	17 July 1944 (posthumously)
Pfc	Frank A. Hill	37014570	28 July 1944
Pfc	Robert Botensten	36725452	28 July 1944
Pfc	Wilbur A. Moffat	33629105	28 July 1944
Pfc	James Seelandt	32689851	28 July 1944
1st Lt	George Deppen	01166041	3 August 1944
S/Sgt	Max E. Young	18131722	3 August 1944
Pvt	Victor Clementoni	33549008	12 August 1944 (posthumously)
Pfc	Harold A. Smith	37356594	12 August 1944
Tec 5	Richard W. Dirks	37074854	3 November 1944
Pvt	Richard R. Ford	33438707	3 November 1944
Pfc	Glenn R. Baker	35873503	12 November 1944
Pfc	Harvey J. Clefisch	17043833	2 December 1944 (posthumously)
Pfc	Daniel G. Falcon	39231915	2 December 1944
Pfc	Wilfred Snow	33629451	2 December 1944
Pfc	Robert A. Ricciardi	32602616	2 December 1944
Pvt	Frank DeGiambattista	33476655	2 December 1944
Pvt	Henry Buso	37513144	2 December 1944
Cpl	Carl E. Johnson	17049788	17 December 1944
Pfc	Armand J. B. Lessard	31320724	17 December 1944
Pfc	James J. Martin	33419226	17 December 1944
Pvt	Walter Bassuk	36613694	17 December 1944
Cpl	Edward W. Davis	37082972	31 December 1944
Capt	Byron W. Todd	01168948	8 January 1945
Tec 4	Knial R. Bateman	39156714	8 January 1945
T/Sgt	LaVerne M. Triggs	20918573	9 January 1945
Tec 4	Earl Winegar		9 January 1945
Cpl	Gilbert J. Penn	20917979	14 January 1945
Pfc	Royce R. Wallace	38353072	14 January 1945
Pfc	Louis Manzi	32602566	22 February 1945
Capt	John F. McGinty	0391205	24 February 1945
Pfc	Preston A. Boggs	35558372	5 March 1945 (posthumously)
Pfc	Jack Whitten	39677197	5 March 1945 (posthumously)
Cpl	Henry A. Rensink	37115863	5 March 1945 (posthumously)
Pfc	Ruel L. Gardner	38093764	5 March 1945 (posthumously)
Pfc	Einar Lovvold	39302241	5 March 1945
S/Sgt	Robert C. Peterson	39156691	24 February 1945
Sgt	Corliss P. Hargraves	20918703	24 February 1945
Cpl	Richard C. Williamson	20918728	24 February 1945

History, 980th Field Artillery Battalion, Page 10 Continued

1st Lt	Marvin K. Sherron	01175858	24 February 1945
Tec 5	John R. Schumacher	37341035	24 February 1945
Pfc	Fred Guyer	33629332	12 April 1945
Cpl	Reuben H. Hutchins	17043828	12 April 1945 (posthumously)
e. Croix de Guerre with Palm			
Lt. Col	Harold O. Welch	0302124	29 January 1945
f. Croix de Guerre with Etoile Vermeil			
Major	Richard R. Watson	0414992	29 January 1945
g. Croix de Guerre with Etoile de Bronze			
Cpl	Leo M. Carter	20954495	25 January 1945

William L. Boosa
WILLIAM L. BOOSA
Capt., 980th FA Bn.
Commanding