

HEADQUARTERS  
113TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

APO #30  
U. S. Army  
5 August 1944

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

TO : THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, Washington, D. C. (Thru Channels)

In compliance with letter, file 319.1/401 (c) Headquarters, First United States Army, APO #230, dated 13 July 1944 and 1st Indorsement, Headquarters, 30th Infantry Division, APO #30, dated 19 July 1944, the following report is submitted by this Headquarters.

On 7 July 1944, this Battalion participated in its first attack. This being the force crossing of the Vire River by the 30th Infantry Division, to storm the enemy strong hold around the town, St. Jean de Daye, and to seize the high ground situated in that area. The Artillery preparation which commenced at 0330 was the heaviest that had been laid down in the history of the American Army. Due to the ferocity of the preparation our Infantry crossed the river in Assault Boats with very few casualties; to later in the day seize the objectives.

Our Battalion was visited by Colonel Anderson from the War Department, Washington, D.C., who visited all installations and who declared at the end of his visit that he thought Ours to be one of the best Battalions he had ever seen and he liked everything about it; stating to the Battalion Commanding Officer that his report to higher Headquarters would contain the highly superior condition which he found the Battalion after a careful inspection.

At 1230, 9 July 1944, the Battalion moved forward to new positions in the vicinity of St. Jean de Daye. Shortly after arriving at this position, the Battalion was called on for Artillery support of the Infantry who were at that time having enemy armored counterattacks, which lasted for about two hours. At about 4 O'clock Battery "C", while firing against the enemy counterattack experienced a premature burst on its Number One Piece, injuring five men and causing severe shock to four other men serving the Piece. At approximately 1830 Brigadier General Raymond S. McLeon visited the Battalion, and informed us that we were at that time, fighting against some of the best troops in the German Army. That night the Germans continuously shelled our area, but no shells fell in our immediate vicinity. The period 10 July 1944 through 16 July 1944, was rather quiet, the Battalion being mainly used for harassing fires.

On 17 July 1944, the Battalion occupied positions in the vicinity of Hts. Vents at which time we were informed that we had been attached to VII Corps for the main effort in the capture of St. Lo.

On 19 July 1944, our Battalion received a considerable amount of counter battery fire, being also bombed and strafed by the enemy.

19 SEP 1944

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S E C R E T

## Action Against Enemy, (Cont'd)

On 19 July 1944 our Battalion was commended by the Commanding General IX Corps, for the part we played in the crossing of the Vire River.

On 23 July 1944 the entire Battalion witnessed a rather spectacular Air show in that enemy planes, would fly over our position in an attempt to strafe and bomb our positions. Our AA Units, putting up heavy resistance prevented our positions from being hit by the enemy. It was very similar to one of our Ball Games at home as advice was offered from all sides to the gunners, when they failed to make a good show but encouragement was freely given when a hit was made and one of the planes would come down in flames.

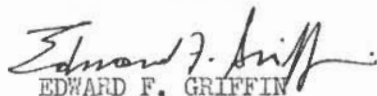
On Monday 24 July 1944, being selected as D-Day for the attack on St. Gilles the personnel of the Battalion were extremely anxious to witness the aerial assault on the enemy which was to precede the Artillery Preparation and Infantry advance. Approximately an hour after the first flight of planes had passed the unit was notified that the attack had been cancelled due to poor visibility.

On 25 July 1944 the attack was started in earnest. Our Battalion fired in support of the 230th F.A. Battalion. We witnessed the return of many prisoners which were brought in by the Infantry. And a number of casualties were observed passing through the rear. It was necessary for our Battalion to move forward on 27 July 1944 to continue the support of the Infantry, which was doing a marvelous job. Soon after the position was occupied Headquarters Battery and Battery "B", were subjected to enemy Air Attacks causing a loss of five enlisted men in Battery "B", also one enlisted man in Headquarters Battery. This same Air Attack cost Division Artillery the loss of Major Joseph Funk (Division Artillery Surgeon) who disregarding enemy fire, started to administer his services where needed.

On 28 July 1944 our Battalion moved to the vicinity of two miles due east of St. Lo, the situation was extremely fluid.. We were only firing by orders from the Division Artillery Commander. On this date we received our new Division Artillery Commanding General, Brigadier General James M. Lewis.

On 29 July 1944 we occupied new positions. At night our positions were continuously bombed and strafed by enemy planes causing nine casualties on this date within the Battalion.

On 30 July 1944 and 31 July 1944 the Battalion still fired supporting fire for the light Battalions of Artillery. During the month of July 1944 the Battalion has fired 484 Missions requiring the expenditure of 17097 rounds of Ammunition.

  
EDWARD F. GRIFFIN

Lt. Col., 113th F. A. Bn.,  
Commanding

1 Incl:  
One copy Unit Journal

S E C R E T  
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113th F A Bn  
ORGANIZATION

FROM \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE AND HOUR \_\_\_\_\_  
TO \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE AND HOUR \_\_\_\_\_

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SERIAL NUMBER	TIME		TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS ETC.	ACTION TAKEN
	IN	OUT			
				SUNDAY July 2 1944	
1		<del>1250</del>		Bn Comdr left CP for Unit Comdr Meeting at Div Arty	
2	1600	1600		Bn Returns to CP	
				MONDAY July 3 1944	
1	1500			BC meeting in CP area	
				TUESDAY July 4 1944	
1	1930			Meeting of officers in Area	
				WEDNESDAY July 5 1944	
1	<del>2030</del>	2030		Bn Comdr left for Div Arty. Ret 2130	
				THURSDAY July 6 1944	
1		1030		Bn Comdr left CP to inspect all batteries. Ret 1230	
				FRIDAY July 7 1944	
1				D-DAY H HOUR 0430	
2	1100			Col Anderson-War Dept. arr CP - <del>left</del>	
3	1110			S - 4 Arr CP - Left 1205	
4		1345		Bn Comdr & Col Anderson left CP to inspect B Btry pos.	
5	1445			Bn Ret to CP	
6	1500			Col Anderson Ret to CP	
7		1505		Col Anderson Left CP. (Says he likes the whole outfit)	
<del>8</del>	<del>1510</del>	<del>1520</del>		<del>Sgt Hernandez arrives CP (says he)</del>	
8	1840			S - 4 arr CP	
9		1655		Bn Comdr and S-2, S-3, S-4, left CP on Recon - Ret 2215	

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TO \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE AND HOUR

SERIAL NUMBER	TIME		TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS ETC.	ACTION TAKEN
	IN	OUT			
				SUNDAY JULY 9 1944	
1		0915		S-5 left CP for Div Ret 1230	
2	1015			Lno arr CP 1015 Left 1145	
3		1230		Bn left position to go forward	
4	1430	<del>1430</del>		Bn arr new position (4888 - 7590)	
5	1600			No. 1 piece Charley Battery had premature burst. <del>2 men killed</del> , 5 men injured.	
6	From one	1500 digging like	and most all afternoon.	Terrific counter counter attack, every	
7	1830			Gen McLain arr CP - Left 1845	
				MONDAY July 10 1944	
1		1115		Bn Comdr left CP to visit all Batteries-Ret 1140	
2	1145			Ln O arr CP - Left 1200 (Capt Krall)	
3	1230		1045	Sign - Water-Bucket Alternate - Threat-Pistol Eff 101200 to 13200	
4	<del>1600</del>	1600		Bn Comdr and BC's leave CP on Recon. Ret 1925	
5	1705			S - 4 arr CP - Left 1900	
				TUESDAY July 11 1944	
1	1000			LNO arr CP left-1040	
2	1115			Bn S - 4 arr CP - Left 1135	
				wEDNESDAY July 12 1944	
1	1115			Ln O arr CP ( Capt Krall) Left 1130	
2	<del>1115</del>	1115		S-1, S-2 left Cp on Recon. Ret 1500	
3	1140			Adm O #13 Rec'd CP	
4		1545		Bn left Position area	
5	1645	<del>1645</del>		Bn arr new Position area (4860-7260)	
6	1900			Ln O (Capt Krall) arr CP - Left 1910	

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	IN	OUT			
1	0845			THURSDAY JULY 13 1944 Password - Theme. Repl - Story. Alternate-	Threat-Pistol
<del>2</del>	<del>1315</del>			<del>Gen McLain arr CP -- Left</del>	
2	1320			Capt Krall (LN 0) Arr CP * Left 1520	
3	1355			Gen McLain arr CP - Left 1406	
4		1450		S - 5, left CP to visit Curtis Rear Det.-Ret	1710
5	1905			Capt Krall arr CP - Left 1922	
6	1905		1845	Effective 141200 to 171200 Password-WIRELESS Reply-RECEIVER Alternate	Threat-Pistol
7					
				FRIDAY JULY 14 1944	
1	0910		0600	Fr Div Arty S-2 to CO Attn S-2. Some French Resistors may soon try to come through our lines with information of the enemy. They have instruction to ask for G-2 Branch. These people will be treated with every consideration but will be moved to this Hq under guard with all possible speed. Notify troops. (All troops notified)	
2	1055			Capt Krall, LNO arr CP-left 1125	
3	1845			Capt Krall arr CP left 1915	
				SATURDAY JULY 15 1944	
1	1605			Capt Krall arr CP left 1640	
				SUNDAY JULY 16 1944	
1	1250			S - 4 arr CP Left 1315	
2	1255			Capt Krall arr CP Left 1330	
3		1900		Bn Comdr left CP for Div Arty	
4		2000		S-3 and BC's to meet Bn Comdr and go on Recon	
5	2130			Capt Krall arr CP Left 2135	
6	2145			S - 3 Ret. CP	
7	2215			Recon party Ret CP	

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	IN	OUT			
1		0840		MONDAY JULY 17 1944 Bn Comdr and S-2, Asst S-2, BC's left on Recon Ret 1035	
2	0925			Capt Krall arr CP Left 1000	
3	1050			Bn Comdr Ret to CP	
4	1050			Countersign AMATEUR Reply-THEATRE Alternate VIPER-VULTURE Eff 171200-181200 July	
5	1430			Capt Krall arr CP - Left 1450	
6		2000		Bn left position area	
7	2045			Bn arr new Position area (456700)	
				TUESDAY JULY 18 1944	
1	1005			Capt Krall arr CP Left 1035	
2		1300		Bn Comdr Left CP for Div Arty Ret 1530	
3		1815		Bn Comdr left CP for Div Arty Ret 1930	
				WEDNESDAY JULY 19 1944	
1	0930			Capt Krall arr CP Left 0950	
2	0930			Password TRUTH - Reply MYSTIC Alternate VIPER-VULTURE Eff 191200-201200	
3	2300			2 or more enemy planes bomb and strafe vicinity	
				THURSDAY JULY 20 1944	
1	0930			Password ZERO Reply SCOUNDREL Alternate VIPER-VULTURE Effective 201200 to 211200 July 44	
2	0945	0945		Bn Comdr left CP for Div Ret 1135	
3	0945			S - 4 arr CP Left 0955	
4	0955			Capt Krall arr CP Left 1035	
5	1330			Meeting of all available Officers	
6	1455			Capt Krall arr CP Left 1515	

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SERIAL NUMBER	TIME		TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS ETC.	ACTION TAKEN
	IN	OUT			
FRIDAY 21 JULY 1944					
1	1000			Sign WONDER Counter sign-BENTHOUS E Alternate VIPER-VULTURE Eff 211200 to 221200 1944	
SATURDAY JULY 22 1944					
1	1100			Sign & Countersign PENDING - SHRUBBERY Alternate VIPER-VULTURE Eff 221200 to 231200 July 44	
2		1330		Bn Comdr leaves to visit Batteries Ret 1615	
3	1910			Capt Krall arr CP Left 1925	
4	2345			Continuous Gas Alarm for about 1 hour. Alarm proofed false.	
SUNDAY JULY 23 1944					
1	1050			Col Ellis and Maj. Parrish visit CP-Left 1110	
2	1050			Password WATCHWORD Reply VITAMIN Alternate VIPER-VULTURE Eff fr 1200 23 July to 1200 24 July 44	
MONDAY JULY 24 1944					
1	0900			Password PURITAN Reply MUSTER Alternate SURPLUS-ENERGY Eff 1200 24 July to 1200 25 July 44	
2	1900			Password OMELET Reply THOUGHTFUL Alternate SURPLUS-ENERGY Eff 1200 25 July to 1200 26 July 44	
TUESDAY JULY 25 1944					
1	1127			S-4 arr CP - Left 1200	
2	132	1320		Bn Comdr and S-2 left Bor Div. Ret 1400	
3	1400			Meeting of BC's in area.	
WEDNESDAY JULY 26 1944					
1	0930			Password KNOWLEDGE - MORON Alternate SURPLUS - ENERGY Eff 1200 26 July to 1200 27 July 44	
2		1330		Bn Comdr left CP for Div Arty Ret 1445	
THURSDAY JULY 27 1944					
1	0900			Password HOARSE Reply GUILTY Alternate SURPLUS-ENERGY Eff 1200 27 to 12 28 July 44	
2		0905		Bn Comdr S-2, S-4, S-5 & BC's leave for Recon	
3	1130			Bn Comdr S-2, S-4, S-5 & BC's ret fr Recon	

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SERIAL NUMBER	TIME		TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS ETC.	ACTION TAKEN
	IN	OUT			
				SUNDAY JULY 30 1944	
				(no casualties)	
1	0520	0540		Enemy aerial activity in the nature of bombing & Strafing	
2	1010	1020		Gen Lewis visits CP Left 1020 to visit B Battery	
3		1020		Bn Comdr left CP to visit B Battery with General Lewis	
4	1250			Gen Lewis & Bn Comdr ret CP Gen left 1330	
5	1250			Password WARDEN Reply WAMPUM Alternate SURPLUS ENERGY Eff 1200 30 July to 1200 31 July 44	
				MONDAY JULY 31 1944	
1	0030	0115		Bombing and strafing by enemy aircraft-No casualties	
2	0930			Password WELSH - Rely THANKS Alternate JUMPING - JIVE Eff 1200 31 July to 1200 1 Aug 1944	
3	1150	1155		S-4 arr CP Left 1155	