

ACTION Summary, First Battalion, 119th INF Regt., 30th Div.
July 1944

Wednesday	July	4	Letter of reduction on T/Sgt Lauderdale submitted. Colonel Cantey holds meeting of Company Commanders at Crop CP. Still have enemy arty and mortar falling in area
Thursday	July	5	Pvt Pernice Co A accidentally burned from bazooka shell. Not evacuated. Lt Taylor reports to Battalion as new S-3. Lt Walter takes back his S-2 job.
Friday	July	6	Lt Chase of Company A trfd to 2nd Bn as s-4. Lt Kessess assigned to Battalion as Asst S-3. Co C reports that Pvt Placek killed instantly from long range machine gun fire from across the Vire river.
Saturday	July	7	Sgt Howard of Co B SWA from arty shell losing a leg.
Sunday	July	8	No new activity in Battalion area.
Monday	July	9	Lt Ward Company B, first Battalion officer to be killed in this theater. Was killed from a mortar shell by his foxhole.
Tuesday	July	10	Battalion moved from old assembly area crossed Vire River. We closed in new area at 0830. Sgt Weatherly of Co A wounded from a mine. Only casualty we had crossing the first river in Normandy. It was the beginning of a powerful campaign in which we were to engage the powerful German armies. Again we moved and closed in ass area by 1530. Late that evening Able Co went along the river front to protect the Regt's left flank. Co A had 1 EM Dike injured. At 2100 Co C sent out a five man patrol under Pfc Witherspoon former Bn Supply Sergeant working with Lt Bradley. Another member of the patrol included Sgt Brought.

Tuesday

July

11

Sgt brought.

At 0630 Colonel Cantey held CO meeting. At 0640 we had report that enemy tanks in our rear probably in 2nd Bn area. At 0730 the companies moved forward. They in fire fight. Of the five man patrol fr Co C, only 2 returned. At 1130 we had a casualty report from Co C: Raulerson KIA, Patrick KIA, Brought WIA: Deracleo WIA: Whitlock WIA: Prisco WIA: Ternachi NBI: At 1530 the Battalion jumped off in the attack. We were located one half mile northeast of Le Lande, France. Using St map. Col Cantey called from the OP asking for more litter bearers. Lt Kirkland CO of Co B was wounded: Lt Lehnerd and 3 EM wounded: We were fighting the 902nd outfit: Counterattack on Co C: 1st Sgt Day is now Commanding the CO. At 1840 Co C had 26 casualties. Baker co's also 8 casualties. At 1900 Capt Bannerman 1st Bn medics reported that Sgt Smiley was KIA from direct tank fire. Also wounded were Decker, Hindt, Fowler.

Tuesday July 11

Lt Collins, Company B was wounded. Lt Pearson takes over the Company. Lt Stroup takes over Company B. Lt Babcock of Co D wounded from shrapnel. At 11 o'clock Colonel Cantey had orders to proceed and encircle the town. At 1130 at night we got regimental order to continue the attack at 0900 the following morning.

Wednesday July 12

At 0630 Jerry was strafing our troops. We put panels out on our front lines. Company C was having casualties. Sgt Fordham, platoon Sgt was KIA from enemy MG fire. He had done a splendid job and had absolutely no fear for the enemy. Cpl Pheifer also killed. At 0900 Co B was calling for litter bearers. We were being taxed to the maximum and the Medics first time under fire were doing a wonderful job. Captain Milligan, Battalion Liaison Army Officer was killed by sniper. S/Sgt Davidson selected for Battalion KIA man. He was picked for the job and began picking up men who were all well known to the members of the command and naturally was having a demoralizing effect on their fighting and morale.

Thursday July 13

1st Battalion gets new CO, Major Robert H Herlong from the 2nd Battalion where he had been Battalion Executive Officer. Col Cantey goes to 30th Division. Also other changes are Major or rather Captain Clayborn P Wayne assigned as Battalion Executive and Captain Laney goes to the 2nd Battalion. Captain Kerwin takes over Hq Co 1st Battalion. Battalion will attack at 1505 in the afternoon.

NOT listed
No Pheifer
No Sgt Fordham
No Cpl Pheifer

Friday July 14 Battalion continues attack. Arty is fall in Battalion area. Lt Lavery Arty Liaison SWA and Sgt Oliver the Sgt is KIA. This occurs in memorable Death Valley. Sgt Collins, Co D supply sgt is KIA. A radio operator Zuckerman is KIA also in Death Valley. Colonel Sutherland is the new Regimental Commander relieving Col Ednie who went to the 115th Inf of the 29th D.

Saturday July 15 Very little activity. Co's were still holding the same line. At 1700 the Bn S gets orders to move the Battalion CP. This was at Pont Hebert. At 2000 the Lia officer for Bn, Lt McDonald brought down new order- the 119th Inf was in Div reserve and we were to make preparations to move to new Battalion assembly area.

Sunday July 16 At 0800 Col Sutherland and party visited the CP. At 0900 hours Capt Kerwin and his party go to new ass area.

Monday	July	17	At 0900 the Battalion Commander held conference with Co Commanders.
Tuesday	July	18	Letter submitted on Lt Garian by Doc Bannerman. Letter sent in on promotion of Capt Wayne for majority. Lt Lullen assigned to Co B. 1st Lt Peterson also assigned to 1st Bn Hq as Asst Motor O. Lt. Lutler assigned to Co D. Late that evening we got some replacements. Bn strength was 791 and 34 officers.
Wednesday	July	19	Regimental CO visited Cp at 0830. Co's were to jump off in the attack at 1100. Forward Cp established. We took over defensive positions of 117th Inf defending the west bank of the Vire River. Co A sent out patrols. CP moved about 2 miles from Mesny-Durant.
Thursday	July	20	At 0730 Col Herlong ordered to meeting at Division. Capt Wayne went to Co C to investigate KIA of Pvt Howrie. In the afternoon we got 41 replacements. At 1420 X Bn Co held CO meeting. Major Herlong at 1520 had to go to Regt to receive Div Plan. At 2030 Lt Tazlor went to regt to receive order. The 119th Infantry will attack on H hour of D day with 1st Bn following second. Corps will have 56 guns supporting attack.

Friday	July	21	Regiment notifies us to hold off all plans of attack. Submitted unit report Bn strength 828 and 34 officers. A 181 B 178 C 187 D 152 and Hq 127. Nothing much occurred all day. Major Herlong held a C O meeting discussing the coming attack. D day was postponed another 24 hours.
Saturday	July	22	At 1100 we received 8 replacements. Late that night we were notified of another postponement of the attack.
Sunday	July	23	At 0900 Col Sutherland visited CP. At 1040 General Hobbs spoke to the troops. Stayed 10 minutes. Arty kept falling in area. Sgt White Co D KIA and Sgt Gregg SWA. Lt Col Cox reports to 1st Bn with no principal duty. Captain Kahle returned to 1st Bn.
Monday	July	24	At 0730 the Battalion was notified as to time essential to jump off. Co's notified to pull back and mark their front lines with panels. At 1100 aerial bombing starts with numerous fighter planes. At 1210 regiment notified us to move Co's back into original lines. Co C and A exchanged positions. Again the jump off was postponed 24 hours. We had many casualties from the bombing in our motor pool. Sgt Bland the Co A supply Sgt was KIA. There were 2 KIA and 7 WIA from our air bombardment.

Monday	July	24	Also wounded were Sgt Lewis from Co B and Pvt Crocker of Hq Co 1st Bn.
Tuesday	July	25	Bn notified that H hour of D day was 1100. Panels were clearly displayed. We suffered again casualties from our own air bombers. Chaplain Ressetki, Protestant Chaplain was instantly KIA from a direct hit. Our immediate area was all under bombing. Hq Co had several casualties right near Bn Cp. Cpl Englisher SWA and Clayton SWA. Sgt Floyd LWA. Also Sgt Meurer of Co D S&A. 3rd Bn 119th Inf hit stiff resistance at line of departure. Regt'l directed 1st Bn to attack due south and take the high ground east of Hebercraven in an attempt to flank the strongpoint. The Bn attacked in a column of companies with B leading followed C. Co A mounted on tanks of 743rd Tank Bn was to follow behind 120th Infantry and enter Hebercraven from the NW. Co B hit strong resistance east and NE of the town. Major Herlong ordered B Co to bypass resistance by going to the left then committed Co C on the right. Bn had captured approx 60 PW's and 1 officer, the remnants of one Co, and were able to take the high ground east of Hebercraven about 2100 that evening. Our casualties were extremely heavy. Captain Kores of the Medical was SWA. Sgt Nichols was KIA. The wounded were evacuated by hand over a long rough terrain. Regt'l CO ordered 1st Bn to enter and take the town from the east that night about 2350. Because of resistance on our left front, the Bn was unable to pivot and leave an exposed flank. The 2nd Bn 117th Infantry was brought up on our left flank. Major Herlong ordered Captain Simmons of Co A to enter Hebercraven from the NW being supported by the attached tanks of 743rd. Co A notified Bn at 0200 on morning of the 26th that they were in the town. Co C sent patrols and contacted Co A.
Wednesday	July	26	Regiment ordered Bn to continue the attack south of Hebercraven, with mission of seizing main road running west from Saint Lo. The Bn attacked with Co A leading followed by C and B in reserve. Approximately one quarter of mile S of St Lo, heavy resistance was encountered. Hebercraven and vicinity was constantly under heavy arty fire. Co A was unable to advance having considerable casualties. Captain Simmons Commanding was LWA. Lt. Knorr assumed command. Co C was committed on Co A's exposed right flank. 3rd Bn Co K 119th Inf was committed on A CO's exposed left flank. making slow progress we broke thru at about 1400

Wednesday	July	26	The Bn advanced rapidly, meeting no resistance cut the highway leading W from St Lo, and went into defensive position on its objective. The CG of the 30th Inf Division complimented the Bn for its splendid work.
Thursday	July	27	We jumped off at 0800 again as the leading Bn, with mission of cutting the main road running S. from St Lo and defending the west side of the Vire River. We advanced rapidly with no resistance until almost on objective where we came under heavy mortar fire and small arms. Co B was leading Co C was committed on B's right. Co B was able to advance, out-flanking the resistance in front of Co C. 1st Lt Pearson of Charlie was SWA and because of his inability at this time during this engagement, Captain Poinsett was relieved of his command of Co C. The Battalion took many prisoners, advanced, cut the road running SW from St Lo and was in defensive position along the Vire R. by 2000 that evening. The enemy could be seen east of the Vire withdrawing in disorder from pressure to their north.
Friday	July	28	We moved into rear assembly area, alerted for movement on 15 minute call. We reverted back to original corps at 1200. Co A received 5 replacements. Lt. Stahley reported to Co D. Medic got some men.
Saturday	July	29	At 0430 we received new attack order. The 119th Inf was to attack at 0800. At 0520 the Co's started to move to fwd assy area. At 0630 the CP was set up. Attack was met with stubborn resistance. We were suffering heavy casualties. Had Bn rear and Medical station in same building. Prisoners came in slowly. Cpl Chambers of 1st Bn Hq Anti-tank SWA from 88 fire near CP. At 1825 we moved CP. We had about 55 wounded that day and several KI
Sunday	July	30	At 0930 the forward CP group moved up with front line elements. 1st Bn would attack S and SE on TROISGOTS and seize objective Q, outpost bridge No 3. We were delayed by direct fire. Lt Jollz Co C was WIA. Able C had 10 KIA and Lt McCormick KIA from Co B
Monday	July	31	At 0715 the command group moved out. 1st Bn had the mission of supporting the 3rd Bn by fire until they reached their objective. At 0900 we received 36 replacements. Co C got 14 Co A 11 Co B 7 and Hq 4. At 1330 four prisoners were taken. Col Sutherland kept pushing wanting troops to get across Etourni road.