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HEADQUARTERS
813TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION (SP)
A.P.O. # 403 U.S. ARMY

From: 0001 hrs 1 June 1944
To : 2400 hrs 30 June 1944.

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

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

1. Record of Events:

- 1 June/44 On 1 June 1944, 813th T.D. Bn. (SP) was bivouaced at
to Packington Park, vic. of Meridan (between Coventry and Birmingham,
13 June/44, Warwickshire, England).
inc.
- 14 June/44 On 14 June 1944, at 0200 hrs, the Bn. was ordered to
proceed by motor convoy to area in vic. of Codford, order from ET-
CUSA. Battalion was packed, loaded and prepared to move by 0600 hrs.
At 0930 hrs there was a final policing of the area, and at 0942 the
lead vehicle left Packington Park. The order of march was: Bn. CP
leading, followed by Ron. Co., and Companies "C", "B", and "A" in
that order. Route of march was as follows: from Packington Park to
Kenilworth, Warwick, Longbridge, Eatington, Moreton-on-the-Marsh,
Stow-on-Wold. SW to Cirencester - Chippenham - Melksam, Westbury,
Warminster - Haytesbury - Knook - and to destination (Camp Upton
Lovell). The lead vehicle arrived at Camp Upton Lovell at 1630 hrs;
distance covered: 113 miles. The entire battalion closed in Camp
Upton Lovell at 1900 hrs, 14 June 1944. Camp Upton Lovell is ap-
proximately 1 mile W of Codford.
- 15 June/44
- to
- 20 June/44 The period between 15th and 20th (inc.) of June was
devoted to waterproofing of all vehicles insofar as time permitted.
- 21 June/44 On 21 June 1944 there was a combat loading check and
inspection preparatory to moving to the marshalling area.
- 22 June/44 At 0830 hrs, 22 June 1944, the battalion was loaded and
ready to roll. A police of the area was made and at 0930 hrs the Bn.
S-1 led out the route markers. At 1030 hrs, the Bn. moved out. The
order of march and the route of march was as follows:
Order of march: Ron., Hq. & Hq. Co., Med., "A", "B", "C".
Route of march: Winterbourne Stoke, Amesbury, Weyhill, Andover
By Pass, Bullington Cross Roads, to RCRP 4, to Winchester, to mar-
shalling area - Area C, Camp C-12 (Hursley Park - about 3 miles
from Winchester and 12 miles from POE Southampton). The batta-
lion closed in this area at 1530 hrs - distance traveled 40 miles.
At 1930 hrs the final waterproofing phases were begun by the bat-
talion on all vehicles.
- 23 June/44 On June 23rd the Bn. made a partial payment of two
hundred Francs to each officer and enlisted man. That same day,
a free PX ration was issued to the Bn. At 1930 hrs, there was an
officers' and NCOs' meeting and plans were formulated for the es-
tablishment of an advance message center at coord. 350960 (Map of
France). This point or location is about 1/3 mile S of St Mere

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Action Against Enemy report (cont'd).

Eglise at the junction of the stream and the road. The reason for the formulation of said plan was that since the Bn. personnel and vehicles would be loaded on more than one ship, there was the likelihood that some elements might disembark on different beaches some distance from the rest of the Bn. Thus this plan of establishing an advance message center in the vic. of St Mere Eglise was to insure speedy orientation and reassembly of the Bn. by having an agent from each unit report to this center. It so happened, however, that the Bn. (less one Co., "C", and Bn. S-3 and Staff) disembarked at points very close to each other.

- 24 June/44 At 1845 hrs, one liason officer, Lt. Peck, left the Bn. CP as advance party to combat zone for purpose of establishing liason with VIII Corps - Auth.: VOCCO per SO # 49, 813th TD Bn. (SP).
- 25 June/44 At 1845 hrs, the Bn. was alerted to move to POE Southampton, and at 2010 hrs, the Bn. (less one Co., "C", and Bn. S-3 and 5 KM) left Area C, C-12, and moved by motor convoy to Southampton docks, arriving there at 2100 hrs waiting to load on LSTs.
- 26 June/44 At 0630 hrs, 26 June/44, the Bn. (less Ron. Co. and Co. "C") began loading on two LSTs, numbers 214 and 373; loading was completed at 0955 hrs, same date.
- 27 June/44 At 1400 hrs, 27 June 1944, the Bn. was aboard LSTs 214 and 373 - at anchor on Utah Beach awaiting tide to move out for unloading. At 1500 hrs, the Bn. CO (LST 373), Major Jeffries, visited LST 214, was joined by the Bn. Executive. At 2055 hrs, the first vehicle disembarked from LST 214 and at 2230 hrs the column closed in transit area "B" (vic. of St Germaine du Varreville) and primary de-waterproofing was begun. Following is a detailed record of events of each Company's activities from 27 June to 30 June inc. Bn. liason officer, Lt. Peck, rejoins Bn.
- 27 June/44 Co. "A" arrived at bivouac area vic. of St Germaine at
to 0130 hrs, 28 June/44. Co. "B" arrived at bivouac area near St Mere
28 June/44 Eglise. Co. "C" still in England. Ron. Co. left Southampton Harbor at 0115 hrs, 27 June/44, disembarking at Utah Beach at 1900 hrs and went to bivouac area. Main body of Bn., incl. Bn. CP, in bivouac area coord.: 395989, Map of France, at 0300 hrs, 28 June/44. The following message was sent by the Bn. CO to all Bn. units:
- "813th T.D. Bn. (SP) moves from vic. of St Germaine de Varreville to vic. La Vallee (105972) over following route: GC 14 to Ravenoville, GC 15 to St mere Eglise, GC 15 to Pont L'Abbe, GC 24 to Orglandes, GC 126 to Hauteville de Bocage, GC 42 to intersection GC 50. GC 50 to destination (vic. La Vallee). Movement starts 280915 - reach St Mere Eglise 0945, clear St Mere Eglise 1015. Close destination by 1200. Convoy number is E5. Front and rear vehicle will be so marked. Time of reaching and clearing St Mere Eglise must be exact." Signed JEFFRIES.
- Co. "A" departed from vic. of St Germaine at 0915 hrs by motor convoy to cover positions 4 miles W of St Saviour arriving there at 1200 hrs. It made reconn. in vic. of Port Bail and began infiltration to covered position at La Gide, 2 miles SE of Le Mesnil at 1800 hrs, and completed movement at 2030 hrs. It established outposts and local security and bivouaced for the night.

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Action Against Enemy report (cont'd).

Co. "B" Commander left his bivouac area at 0800 hrs on recon. for new area near Barneville. Co. "B" followed one hour later, the first platoon arriving at 1300 hrs - last platoon at 1400 hrs. First enemy shells heard in vic. about 1600 hrs. Co. "C" still in England. Ron. Co. departed from bivouac area at 0900 hrs and traveled in convoy to assembly area near La Blauders. Company was there committed to active combat and first platoon was sent on a mission of reconnoitering area S of La Blauders. No enemy engagement. At 1430 hrs, a Company Commander's meeting at the Bn. CP. "A" and "B" Companies were scheduled to support 79th Div. (Inf. Regts) in proposed attack on German positions. Ron. Co. was assigned mission to reconnoiter for possible routes through flooded areas. The commander of Hq. Co. was ordered to find building for Rear Echelon storage purposes and a building was obtained. At 1925, Bn. CP moved and closed in new area (106931) at 1945 hrs.

29 Jun/44 On June 29th, Co. "A" was still in covered positions at La Gide, outposts at Port Bail from 2130 hrs, 29 June to 0630 hrs, 30 June: No enemy activity reported, although enemy shells fell near its area and Bn CP area (292330). There was no change in the situation as to Co. "B" and Ron. Co. Co. "C" still in England awaiting orders to move.

30 Jun/44 Co. "A" continued to make recon. of Port Bail area. One German prisoner was taken at Port Bail at 1800 hrs and disposed of through proper channels. There was no change in position of Co. "B" and Ron. Co. was in bivouac one mile N of Benseville, France.

Following is a record of Co. "C" from 29 June to 3 July incl.: On the 30th of June, Co. "C" left the marshalling area (Hursley Park, Area C, Camp C-12) at 2345 hrs by motor convoy. The Bn. S-3 and 5 EM accompanied Co. "C" and the convoy traveled 12 miles to POE Southampton, England, arriving there at 0230 hrs, 1 July/44. At 0800 hrs, Co. "C" loaded on LST 494, remainder of Co. on LST 351, and sailed at 2355 hrs, beaching at 1400 hrs, 2 July 1944 on Utah Beach and proceeding to de-waterproofing area in vic. of St Germaine de Varreville, arriving there at 0200 hrs, 3 July 1944. The Bn. S-1 visited Co. "C" and at 1500 hrs led the Company in convoy to Bn. CP, a distance of 28 miles, arriving there () at 1800 hrs, 3 July 1944.

At 0900 hrs, 30 June 1944, a Company Commanders' meeting was held at the Bn. CP. Several German documents found in vic. of rear echelon were brought to the Bn. CP by Co. Cmdr of Hq. Co. and then sent to Div. G-2.

At 1115 hrs, 30 June 1944, the S-2 and S-3 of the 3rd Bn. of the 313th Inf. Regt visited the CP to coordinate defensive counter-attack plan. 1/25000 maps were drawn from 79th Div. by Bn. S-1 together with 1/50000 maps. At 1615 hrs, Col. Charles, Div. Surgeon (79th), visited the Bn. CP.

The 813th T.D. Bn. (SP) was assigned telephone code name "Mutilate" 29-30 June 1944.

The following is an extract from unit journal report concerning further activities of Co. "A" and PWs taken by same between 28-30 June/44:

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Action Against Enemy report (cont'd).

"Co. "A" has had a total of 16 enemy prisoners turned over to their patrols by members of the French Underground. Four prisoners were turned over to Co. "A" patrol on 28th June at approximately 1600 hrs. Eleven more turned over to Co. "A" patrol at 1300 hrs on 29 June and all these prisoners were turned over to 90th Div. patrols who took them to the Div. IAW. One prisoner was taken on the 30th of June and interrogated in Russian by Cpl Pasewitz of the Bn. CP Staff, who discovered that the prisoner was a forced Russian fighter who in turn stated that the composition of most of the enemy battalions is Russian (Ost-Georgian) and compelled to fight. Furthermore, that these Russians are under command of young German NCOs and officers and that they rebel frequently under such command. This prisoner, taken by Lt. DeLoreto (who was later killed in action in July) was put under guard of Lt. DeLoreto and sent to Division. Co. "A" patrols continued to work in conjunction with 90th Div. patrols.

SUMMARY: Out of all these preparations, moves, and plans - shortly after 30 June 1944:-

- Co. "A" was in support of 315th Inf. Regt.
- Co. "B" " " " " " 314th Inf. Regt.
- Co. "C" " " " " " 313th Inf. Regt.

but for the purpose of this report, these Companies were not in direct support of the above stated regiments until after 30 June 1944.

As of 272230, by VCG, VIII CORPS, THIS battalion was attached to the 79th Inf. Div. Bn. C.O. Major JEFFRIES, reported the battalion, less Company "C", at 281800, June, 1944, to Cmdg. General of the 79th Div. had closed in the area per verbal orders VCG, VIII CORPS, and was awaiting further orders.

Attached to this report are:

- Overlay I
- " II
- " III
- " IV

Clymer D. Jeffries Jr.

CLYMER D. JEFFRIES, JR.
Major, (Cav.) 813th T.D. Bn. (SP)
Commanding.

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