

[AFTER ACTION REPORT-JUNE 1944]

C O N F I D E N T I A L

1st. Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 29TH DIVISION ARTILLERY APO #29, U.S. ARMY, 21 July 1944

To: The Commanding General, 29th Infantry Division, A.P.O. #29, U.S. Army.

Forwarded.

WILLIAM H. SANDS,
Brigadier General, U.S. Army,
Commanding.

319.1

2nd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 29TH INFANTRY DIVISION, A.P.O. #29, U.S. Army, 25 July 1944

To: The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D.C.

Thru: Commanding General, XIX Corps, A.P.O. 270, U.S. Army.

Forwarded in compliance with letter, Headquarters, First United States Army, file 319.1, and subject: "Action Against Enemy, Reports After/ After Action Reports, dated 13 July 1944, and letter, Headquarters XIX Corps. Same subject and file, dated 19 July 1944.

For the Commanding General:

ROBERT H. ARCHER, JR.,
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS
227TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. 29, U.S.ARMY

SUBJECT: After Action Report For Month of June 1944

TO: The Adjutant General, Washington D.C.

THRU: Commanding General, 29th Infantry Division Artillery,
A.P.O. 29, U.S.ARMY

I. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

On 2 June 1944 the 227th F.A. Battalion was loaded on two LST's at Falmouth, England, following a night march from the Marshalling Areas. The assault group of the Battalion was divided into two parts. The first group, which was under the command of Lt. Col. Neal W. Harper, the Battalion Commander, was composed of one-half of Headquarters Battery, Battery "A" and one-fourth of Service Battery. This group was loaded on to LST #497. The second group, which was under the command of Major Norman D. Aboosh, the Battalion Executive, was composed of the other half of Headquarters Battery, batteries "B" and "C" and one-fourth of Service Battery. This group was loaded on LST #292. The Battalion formed a part of Task Force "B".

As a part of Task Force "B", the 227th F.A. Battalion sighted the coast of France on 6 June 1944. About 1800 hours of 6 June the two LST's which were carrying the Battalion, were anchored off the coast of France. During the night of 6 June the two LST's were attacked by an enemy plane. Fortunately, no one was hurt nor was any damaged sustained.

At 1100 hours on 7 June 1944 Major Aboosh and Major Johnson boarded a Rhino Ferry. With them were nine (9) Howitzers, two (2) Spare Tractors, two (2) Command and Recon Cars, and four (4) Jeeps which were parts of Batteries "B" and "C" and Headquarters Battery. They were landed on the beach exit to St. Larent at 1200 hours. This group moved along the beach to the Vierville-sur-Mere beach exit and assembled in Transit Area Number One by 1330 hours. While moving along the beach three men of Battery "C" were wounded when a mine exploded. These men were left on the beach to be evacuated. By 1530 hours this group had a position from which it could fire and accomplish its mission of giving support to the Infantry. At 2300 hours the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Neal W. Harper joined this group. The remainder of the Battalion remained aboard their respective LST's unable to get unloaded until 8 June. They were unloaded by Rhino Ferry and LCT's.

By 1130 hours on 8 June this group occupied a position at (60-90) Isigny, France, Sheet 6E/6. From this position this group gave the 175th Combat Team fire support, materially aiding in the capture of Isigny. At 1455 hours Hq. Btry and Btry "A" debarked from LST #497 and joined Batteries "B" and "C" at 1935 hours.

On 9 June the Battalion displaced to position at (544-880) Isigny, France, sheet 6E/6 closing there at 2100 hours. Before this position could be occupied contact was made with a pocket of Germans. Prompt action was taken and after engaging the enemy with small arms captured sixty-three (63) Germans. During the night more prisoners were taken. Before leaving that position a total of seventy-two (72) prisoners were taken.

At 1630 hours on the 10th of June the Battalion closed into a new position at (538-817) Isigny, France Sheet 6E/6.

Major General Corlett and his party visited the Battalion C.P. and F.D.C. on 11 June 1944. Lt. Col. Scott of 1st Army while at the F.D.C. became interested in a chart that Major Johnson, the Battalion s-3, had devised to quickly compute the angles of site. He asked that a copy of the chart and an explanation be forwarded to him, in order that it might be published in the

1st Army Artillery Information Service booklet, so that it might be available to all artillery units. A chart and an explanation were forwarded to Lt. Col. Scott.

Battery D of the 459th AAA AW Bn was attached to the Battalion to give the Battalion anti-aircraft protection.

On 14 June the Battalion was attached to the 30th Infantry Division with the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 30th Infantry Division Artillery. The Battalion remained attached to the 30th Infantry Division until the evening of 13 June. Upon rejoining the 29th Infantry Division the Battalion displaced to new positions at (577-757) St. Lo, France, Sheet 6F/2 closing there at 1900 hours. While in this position, the last elements of the Battalion landed in France and reported.

The Battalion remained in this position with the mission of general support for the Division until 19 June. While at this position a total of twenty-nine (29) replacement were received.

On 19 June the Battalion displaced to new positions at (538-722) St. Lo, France, Sheet 6F/2 closing there at 1100 hours. The Battalion remained in this position through 30 June. While in this position the mission of the Battalion was to give general support to the Division.

II. FORCES ENGAGED

During the month of June the 227th F.A. Battalion came in contact with elements of the 352 Division, 343 Division, 17 SS Panzer Division, 30 Soehelle Brigade, the 8th and 9th Paratroop Regiments and other forces of the enemy, that were opposing the 29th and 30th Divisions.

On 9 June the Battalion came in contact with a pocket of Germans, after taking them under small arms fire killed two and took seventy-two (72) prisoners, who were a part of the 352 Division. Two of the above prisoners were officers, the balance were enlisted men.

Forward observers of this Battalion and of other Battalions have reported that the enemy have sustained heavy casualties from our fires.

II. LOSSES IN ACTION

During the month of June one man was killed in action while serving as a cannoneer. One man died of wounds, which he received while a member of a forward observer party. One officer was seriously wounded in action. Three enlisted men were slightly wounded in action and two men seriously wounded in action. One man was slightly injured in action.

A resume is as follows:

KIA	DOW	SWA	LWA	LIA
1 EM	1 EM	1 OFF. 2 EM	3EM	1 EM

III. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

During the month of June the following awards were made to members of this Battalion:

Soldier's Medal	1
Purple Hearts	2
Bronze Star Medals	5

Pvt. William J.O'Connell, 32304220, was awarded the Soldiers Medal for saving the life of one of the Officers of this Battalion who was in danger of drowning or being carried out to sea when he was knocked off a vehicle as it was coming on the beach. The Soldiers Medal was awarded to Pvt. O'Connell in accordance with Par. 4, General Order #7, headquarters, 29th Inf. Div., dated 30 June 1944.

IV. COMMANDING OFFICERS

Commanding Officers for the month of June were as follows:

Battalion Commander	Lt. Col. Neal W. Harper
Headquarters Battery	Capt. Martin Kulesa
"A" Battery	Capt. Doyle B. Conrad
"B" Battery	Capt. George F. Weidl
"C" Battery	Capt. Charles G. Ward
Service Battery	Capt. Eugene D. Jones
Medical Detachment	Capt. Harold L. Bacon

The Battalion Commanders Staff consisted of :

Executive Officer	Major Norman . Abooh
S-3	Major Fredrick B. Johnson
Ass't S-3	Capt Ervin E. Stone
S-2	Capt. John C. Valler
Asst. S-2	1 st . Lt. David D. Henick
Liasion Officer	Capt. Cecil L Harvey

V. MISCELLANEOUS

The 227th F.A. Battalion completed a total of 307 missions and expended 4219 rounds of ammunition for the month of June. A break down of these is as follows

<u>Type of Missions</u>	<u>Number</u>
Registrations	14
Counter-battery	31
Personnel	75
Vehicles	6
Mortars	4
Preparations	9
Other types	<u>169</u>
TOTAL	307

The Combat Efficiency of the 227th F.A. Battalion was excellent during this period. Everyone within the Battalion was inoculated with the desire and spirit to do everything within their power to defeat the enemy. The Battalion was always ready to perform whatever task or mission that was given.

Morale has been excellent throughout.

The 227th F.A. Battalion is ready to carry on whatever new tasks and missions may be assigned to it. 29 LET'S GO.

(signed Neal W. Harper)
NEAL W. HARPER
Lt. Col. , F.A.
Commanding