

[AFTER ACTION REPORT-JULY 1944]

CONFIDENTIAL

1st. Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 29TH DIVISION ARTILLERY APO #29, U.S. ARMY, 4 August 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, 5, August 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 July 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 1 July 1944 the 227th F.A. Battalion was in position at (538-722) St. Lo, France, Sheet 6F/2. The mission, to give general support to the Division and to reinforce the fires of the 3rd Armored Division. From this position, the Battalion was able to reach all sectors of the Division front. The Battalion remained in this position until 14 July 1944.

At 2100 hours on 14 July 1944 the battalion closed into new positions at (555-688) St. Lo, France, Sheet 6f/2. From this position the Battalion materially aided in the capture of St. Lo, France by giving Artillery support to the attacking units.

Capt. Cecil L. Harvey, the Battalion S-2, was assigned to a task force under the command of Brigadier General Norman D. Cota. The mission of this task force was to enter St. lo and to hold it until other elements of the Division could be brought up to secure St. Lo. Capt. Harvey and his party acted as Liasion Officer for the Division Artillery to the task force. The mission was a complete success.

Capt. Doyle E. Conrad, on 18 July 1944, acted as a forward observer for the Battalion. He pushed forward with the Infantry in the attack on St. Lo. He was the first observer to enter the town and establish wire communications with the Artillery. The troops in St. Lo were subjected to heavy enemy artillery fire. Fire from our artillery, conducted by Capt. Conrad materially relieved the pressure on the troops in St. Lo. Capt. Conrad and his party in accomplishing their mission were under almost continuous artillery and mortar fire.

On 19 July 1944, the 29th Infantry Division was relieved by the 35th Infantry Division and the 227th F.A. Battalion was assigned the mission of general support of the 35th Infantry Division.

During the night of 27 July 1944 the Battalion was subjected to an air bombardment from 2300 to 2315 hours. One bomb estimated to be about 300 pounds landed 45 yards in front Battery "B"'s No. 3 howitzer. Several anti-personnel bombs were dropped throughout the Battalion area. No casualties or damage were sustained.

Again at 0215 until 0230 hours, 28 July 1944, this area was subjected to an aerial attack. No casualties or damage were sustained.

From 2245 hours until 2300 hours, 28 July 1944, the Battalion Area was again subjected to an aerial bombardment. Several bombs landed in the Battalion area. No casualties were sustained. Three vehicles of the Headquarters Battery were slightly damaged. Repairs were made during the night and all three were able to be used.

At 0230 hours 29 July 1944 the 227th F.A. Battalion closed their installations at (555-638) St. Lo., France, Sheet 6F/2 and made a night march to 457-555) Torigni-sur-Vire, France, Sheet 6f/4 closing at 0800 hours.

The Battalion was assigned the mission of general support of the Division.

During the night of 29 July 1944 from 2255 to 2310 hours the Battalion area was again subjected to an aerial bombardment. Several bombs landed within the area. One bomb estimated to be about 150 pounds landed within 30 yards of the No. 4 piece of "B" Btry, but failed to explode. No casualties or damage were sustained.

The security guard of Battery "C" captured two German Lieutenants who were crossing the field, heading south towards the German lines, about 0230 hours 30 July 1944. These two prisoners were immediately taken to the Division G-2

Again from 0040 to -0100 hours 31 July 1944 the Battalion area was subjected to an aerial attack. No casualties or damage were sustained..

The 227th F. A. Battalion remained in this position through 31 July 1944.

II. FORCES ENGAGED

During the month of July the 227th F. A. Battalion came in contact with elements of the 353 Division, 352 Division, 343 Division, 275 Division, 366 Division, 17 SS Panzer Division, 3 Paratroop Division, 2 SS Panzer Division, 30 Schnelle Brigade, and the Panzer Lehr Division and other forces of the enemy that were opposing the 29th and 35th Infantry Divisions.

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

III. LOSSES IN ACTION

During the month of July the 227th F. A. Battalion has suffered only one casualty, which was an officer missing in action.

A resume of the losses of the Battalion since entering combat to the end of July is as follows:

	KIA	DOW	SWA	LWA	LIA
Officers	0	0	1	0	1
Enlisted Men	1	1	2	1	0

IV. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

During the month of July the following awards were made to members of the 227th F.A. Battalion:

Soldier's Medal	2
Purple Hearts	4
Bronze Star Medals	11

V. COMMANDING OFFICERS

Commanding Officers for the month of July were as follows:

Battalion Commander	Lt. Col. Neal W. Harper
Headquarters Battery	Capt. Martin Kulesa
"A" Battery	Capt. Doyle B. Conrad
"B" Battery	1 st Lt. Walter J. Rakow
"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 D. Aboosh
S-3	Major Fredrick B. Johnson
Ass't S-3	Capt John C. Vallor
S-2	Capt. Cecil L. Harvey
Asst. S-2	1 st . Lt. David D. Henick
Liasion Officer	Capt. George F. Weidl

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

The 227th F.A. Battalion completed a total of 525 missions and expended a total of 10,964 rounds of ammunition for the month of July. A break down of these missions is as follows:

<u>Type of Missions</u>	<u>Number</u>
Registrations	24
Counter-battery	80
Personnel	46
Vehicles	17
Mortars	4
Preparations	42
Barrage and Interdiction	227
Other types	<u>82</u>
TOTAL	525

During the period 20 July 1944 to 25 July 1944, several movies, stage shows and concert were given for the members of the Battalion. This entertainment was a great help in relieving the tension of combat, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The combat efficiency of the 227th F.A. Battalion has been excellent during this period. Everyone within the Battalion was imbued with the desire and spirit to do everything within his power to defeat the enemy. The Battalion was ready to perform whatever tasks or missions that were given.

Morale has been excellent throughout.

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

NEAL W. HARPER
Lt. Col. F.A.
Commanding