

[ AFTER ACTION REPORT-AUGUST 1944]

CONFIDENTIAL

1<sup>st</sup>. Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 29<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION ARTILLERY APO #29, U.S. ARMY, 4 August 1944

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

Forwarded.

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

319.1

2<sup>nd</sup> Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 29<sup>TH</sup> 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  
227<sup>TH</sup> 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, 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Artillery,  
A.P.O. 29, U.S.ARMY

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HEADQUARTERS  
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SUBJECT: After Action Report for Month of August 1944

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A.P.O. 29, U.S. Army

I. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A. EXPLOITATION OF THE BREAK-THROUGH

On 1 August 1944, the 227<sup>th</sup> F.A. Battalion was in position at (457 555) Torigni-sur-Vire, France, scale 1/50,000, Sheet 6F/4. The mission was general support of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. At 1745 hours, C.S.N.O. was given and the battalion displaced to new position at (463 503) Torigni-sur-Vire, France, Sheet 6F/4, scale 1/50,000, closing in this position at 2045 hours.

The Battalion remained in this position until 3 August 1944. At 1145 hours 3 August 1944 C.S.N.O. was given, and the battalion displaced to new position at (493 430) Torigni-sur-Vire, France, Sheet 6F/4, scale 1/50,000, closing in this position at 1400 hours. The mission still in general support of the Division.

From 4 August 1944 until 7 August 1944, the Battalion remained in this position supporting the Division.

On 7 August 1944, the Battalion displaced to new position at (593 337) Vire, France, Sheet 6F/6, scale 1/50,000, closing in this position at 0715 hours.

The 227<sup>th</sup> F.A. Battalion remained in this position until 12 August 1944. It then displaced to new position at (632 291) Vire, France, Sheet 6F/6, scale 1/50,000, closing in this position at 1245 hours.

At 1800 hours, 12 August, the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was transferred from the XIX Corps to the V Corps.

From this position the Battalion remained in general support of the Division until 14 August 1944. At 0905 hours the Battalion closed in new position at (649 244) Vire, France, Sheet 6F/6, scale 1/50,000.

Again, on 15 August 1944, the Battalion displaced to new positions at (684 184) Mortain, France, Sheet 6G/2, scale 1/50,000, closing in this position at 1535 hours.

AT 2115 HOURS, 16 August 1944, the Battalion went on a non-operational basis. This was the first time since landing in France that the Battalion was put on a non-operational status.

At 1100 hours, 18 August to the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1944, the 227<sup>th</sup> F.A. Battalion spent cleaning all its equipment. The tubes on all howitzers were retracted and thoroughly cleaned. All vehicles were given a thorough overhauling and repairs made where needed. All instruments and small arms were thoroughly checked and repairs and adjustments made where needed.

On 22 August 1944, the Battalion began a road march from its position in Normandy to Brittany. The Battalion passed the I.P. at 1720 hours 22 August and closed in an assembly area at (850 156) St. Renan, France, Sheet 2F/5 and 2G/1, scale 1/50,000, at 1700 hours 23 August 1944. The march was made in accordance with the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division March S.O.P. The total distances travelled was two hundred and thirty miles(230 miles).

B. THE SIEGE OF THE FORTRESS BREST.

Upon arrival at the assembly area, the Division was attached to the VIII Corps and Third Army. The 227<sup>th</sup> F.A. Battalion moved from the assembly area to positions at (932 093) Landerneau, France, Sheet 2G.2, scale 1/50,000, closing in their position at 1000 hours, 24 August 1944. From this position the Battalion was able to support the Division on the siege of Brest.

The Battalion remained in this position until 28 August 1944 when it displaced to positions at (839 042) St. Renan, France, Sheet 2F/5 and 2G/1, scale 1/50,000, closing in this position at 2030 hours.

On 31 August 1944, Battery "C" was assigned the mission of supporting Task Force Sugar. Task Force Sugar was assigned the mission of protecting the right flank of the Division and of cleaning up the Lo Conquet peninsula of enemy troops. Lt. Col. Harper, the Battalion commander, was assigned the mission of Artillery Officer to the Task Force. Task Force Sugar, under the command of Col. Edward H. McDaniel, was composed of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion; troops "A" and "E", 86<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron; 29<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron; 1 Platoon, Company "A" 121<sup>st</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion; Company "A", 709<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion (less 1 platoon). Battery "C" closed into its position(823 016) St. Renan, France, Sheet 2F/5 and 2G/1 scale 1/50,000 at 1130 hours.

Batteries "A" and "B" remained in position supporting the Division.

## II. FORCES ENGAGED.

During the month of August, the 227<sup>th</sup> F.A. Battalion came in contact with elements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Paratroop Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Paratroop Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Panzer Division, 116<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division, 130<sup>th</sup> Panzer Lehr Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> SS Division, 84<sup>th</sup>, 275<sup>th</sup>, 331<sup>st</sup>, 343<sup>rd</sup>, and 353<sup>rd</sup> and 363<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Divisions, 1<sup>st</sup> Submarine Flotilla, and the IIParatroop Corp and the 84<sup>th</sup> Corps.

## III. LOSSES IN ACTION.

During the month of August, the 227<sup>th</sup> F.A. Battalion has not suffered a single casualty. However it was definitely established that an officer missing in action in July was killed in action.

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

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

## IV. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

During the month of August, the following awards were made to members of the 227<sup>th</sup> F.A. Battalion:

Purple Hearts	2
Silver Star	1
Oakleaf Cluster to Air Medal	5
Bronze Star Medals	18

Captain Doyle E. Conrad was awarded the Silver Star in accordance with Par. 1, G.O. #75, Hq. 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, dated \* August 1944. He acted in the capacity of forward observer for this Battalion. On 18 July 1944, Captain Conrad was the first observer to enter St. Lo, France, and establish wire communication with the artillery. The troops in St. Lo were subjected to heavy artillery and mortar fire by the enemy. Fire from our artillery, conducted by Captain Conrad, materially relieved the pressure on our troops. Captain Conrad, occupied a church steeple as an O.P., knowing that the enemy was shelling such points to deny their use as O.P.'s. In accomplishing his mission, Captain Conrad was under almost continuous artillery and mortar fire.

## V. COMMANDING OFFICERS

Commanding Officers for the month of August were as follows:

Battalion Commander	Lt. Col. Neal W. Harper
Headquarters Battery	Capt. Martin Kulesa
"A" Battery	Capt. Doyle B. Conrad
"B" Battery	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> . Lt. David D. Henick
Liasion Officer	Capt. George F. Weidl

#### VI. MISCELLANEOUS

The 227<sup>th</sup> F.A. Battalion completed a total of 400 missions and expended a total of 7,546 rounds of ammuniton for the month of August. A break down of these missions is as follows:

<u>Type of Missions</u>	<u>Number</u>
Registrations	19
Counter-battery	88
Personnel	45
Vehicles	6
Mortars	5
Preparations	23
Barrage and Interdiction	191
Other types	<u>26</u>
TOTAL	400

During the month of August, several movies, stage shows were given for the members of the Battalion. Edward G. Robinson visited the C.P. on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August. He also visited Battery "B" and pulled the lanyard sending several shells in to German territory. This entertainment helped relieve the tension of combat, and was thoroughly enjoyed by every member of the Battalion.

The combat efficiency of the 227<sup>th</sup> 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 month of August.

29 LET'S GO.

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

