

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

Subject: After Action Report for Month of September 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

A. CONINUATION OF THE SIEGE OF FORTRESS BREST.

On 1 September 1944 the 227th F.A. Battalion less "C" Battery was in position at (839042) St. Renan, France, Sheet 2F/5 and 2G/1, Scale 1/50,000 with the mission of general support for the 29th Infantry Division.

Battery "C" was in position at (823016) St, Renan, France, Sheet 2F/5 and 2G/1 Scale 1/50,000 with the mission of general support of Task Force Sugar. On 7 September 1944, Battery "C" was attached top Task orce Sugar and remained in general support of the Task Force. Task Force Sugar was composed of elements of the 29th Infantry Division and attached units and had the mission of destroying all enemy forces in the Le Conquet Peninsula.

Battery "C" remained in this position supporting Task Force Sugar until 10 September 1944, when the mission of the Task Force had been accomplished. Battery "C" then rejoined the Battalion and occupied positions at (842044) St. Renan, France, Sheet 2F/5 and 2G/1, Scale 50,000.

The Battalion remained in these positions until 18 September 1944 at which time the Seige of Fortress Brest ended.

B. REHABILITATION.

At 1600 hours 18 September 1944 the Battalion received C.S.M.O. and ordered to a rehabilitation area. The Battalion closed in at 1700 hours 18 September 1944 in position at (773988) Le Conquet, France, Sheet 2G/3, Scale 1/50,000.

The Battalion remained in this position until 25 September 1944. During this period all vehicles and howitzers were given complete inspections and necessary adjustments were completed. Preparations were made while in this area for a long road march.

C. THE MARCH TO MAASTRICHT, HOLLAND.

On 25 September 1944 at 1030 hours the Battalion, in five march units, left the rehabilitation area and began the march to Maastricht, Holland.

The Battalion closed in Staging Area #1 at 2345 hours 25 September 1944. Staging area #1 was located in the vicinity of Rennes, France. The Battalion travelled a distance of 158 miles.

During the march to Staging Area #1 structural defects were showing up in the M-5 tractors. It was decided to reorganize the Battalion into four march units for the remainder of the trip to Maastricht, Holland. The march units consisted of March Unit #15 Headquarters Battery, March Unit #16 Service Battery, and Batteries "A", "B" and "C" less the heavy vehicles, tractors and howitzers made up March Unit # 17. March Unit # 18 was composed of all the howitzers and heavy vehicles of the Battalion and heavy vehicles from the 121st Engineer Combat Battalion. March Units #15, 16, and 17 were to keep the speed of 17 miles in the hour and March Unit # 18 was to travel at 8 miles in the hour.

Under this set up the Battalion left Staging Area #1 at 1030 hours 26 September 1944, and travelled a distance of 197 miles to Staging Area #2 which was in the vicinity of Chartres, France. The Battalion less March Unit # 18 closed in Chartres at 2345 26 September 1944. March Unit #18 closed in Chartres, France at 0400 hours 27 September 1944.

At 1025 hours on 27 September 1944 the Battalion left Staging Area #2 and after travelling a distance of 145 miles, the Battalion less March Unit #18 closed in Staging Area #3 at 2200 hours. Staging Area #3 was located in the vicinity of St. Quentin, France. March Unit # 18 was unable to make Staging Area # 3 and bivouacked about 6 miles east of Paris, France, closing in that position at 2400 hours 27 September 1944.

On 28 September 1944 at 1030 hours, the Battalion, less March Unit #18, left Staging Area #3 and arrived in the Assembly Area at (638497) Isige, Belgium, Sheet #9, Scale 1/100,000 which was in the vicinity of Maastricht, Holland. The Battalion less March Unit #18 traveled a distance of 190 miles and closed in this position at 0415 hours 29 September 1944.

March Unit # 18 left their bivouac area at 0630 hours 28 September 1944 and closed in Staging Area #3 (vicinity of St. Quentin, France) at 1600 hours 28 September 1944.

On 29 September 1944 the Battalion was ordered into position at (773621) Leige, Belgium, Sheet #9, Scale 1/100,00. The Battalion less March Unit # 18, closed in this position at 1640 hours. The Battalion had the mission of general support of the 29th Infantry Division.

It was decided to divide March Unit # 18 into two parts on 29 September 1944. The first part was composed of 6 of the howitzers of the Battalion, towed by the 4 ton Diamond T's and the second part was composed of the M-5 tractors, 6 howitzers and the heavy vehicles of the 121st Engineer Combat Battalion. The first part of March Unit # 18 closed into the Battalion positions at 0415 hours, 30 September 1944. The second part of March Unit # 18 bivouacked in the vicinity of Chatelet, Belgium, closing there at 1200 hours, 29 September 1944.

At 0600 hours 30 September 1944 the second part of March Unit # 18 left their bivouac area and closed in the Battalion position at 2000 hours 30 September 1944.

II. FORCES ENGAGED.

During the month of September 1944 the 227th F.A. Battalion came in contact with elements of the 2nd Parachute Division, 266 Infantry Division, 343 Infantry Division, 207 Barrage Balloon Battalion, 1161 G.H.Q. Artillery Battalion, 6th Minesweeper Flotilla, 40th Minesweeper Flotilla, 1st U-Boat Flotilla, 7th U-Boat Flotilla, 9th U-Boat Flotilla, 3rd Naval AA Brigade and XXV Fortress Base Battalion.

III. LOSSES IN ACTION.

During the month of September 1944 the 227th F.A. Battalion had two officers killed in action. One man was missing in action and was found to be a prisoner of war and was returned to the Battalion when the siege of Fortress Brest ended.

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

	KIA	DOW	SWA	LWA	LIA	MIA
Officers	3	0	1	0	0	0
Enlisted Men	1	1	2	3	1	0

IV. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

During the month of September 1944 the following awards were made to members of the 227th Field Artillery Battalion:

Bronze Star Medals	6
Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal	1
Purple Hearts	5
Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal	98734

V. COMMANDING OFFICERS.

The Commanding Officers for the month of November 1944 were as follows:

Battalion Commander	Lt. Col. Neal W. Harper
Headquarters Battery	1 st Lt. Robert M. Godber
Battery "A"	?Capt. George F. Weidl
Battery "B"	1 st Lt. Walter J. Rakow
Battery "C"	Capt. Charles G. Ward
Service Battery	Capt. Eugene D. Jones
Medical Detachment	Capt. Harold L. Bacon
The Battalion Commander's Staff consisted of:	
Executive Officer	Major Norman D. Aboosh
S-3	Major Frederick B. Johnson
Ass't S-3	Capt. John C. Vallor
S-2	Capt. Cecil L. Harvey
Ass't S-2	1 st Lt. David D. Honick
Liason Officer	Capt. Bruce Bliven, Jr.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

The 227th Artillery Battalion completed a total of (681) missions and expended a total of rounds of ammunition for the month of September 1944. A breakdown of these is as follows:

TYPES OF MISSIONS	NUMBER
Registration	10
Counter Battery	111
Personnel	21
Vehicles	2
Mortars	1
Preparations	64
Barrage and Interdiction	415
Pill Boxes and Forts	32
Other Types	25
TOTAL MISSIONS	681

During the march from Brest, France to Maastricht, Holland it was learned that due to the structure of the M-5 tractor it is not advisable to move them under their own power for a distance of more than 125 miles. It was found advisable to have both the tractor M-5 and the 155mm Howitzer zm-1 transported by M-25 tank retrievers. It is also very interesting to note that on this march, a distance of 690 miles, that not a single vehicle of the Battalion fell out because of lack of maintenance.

During the month of September 1944 several movies were shown to the members of the Battalion and the Red Cross Clubmobile made a visit to the Battalion. This entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by all members of the Battalion.

The combat efficiency of the 227th F.A. Battalion has been excellent during this period. Moral has been excellent throughout the month of September 1944. 29 LET'S GO.

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