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 AUTH: CG, 83d Inf Di
 INITIALS: 809
 DATE: 7 September 44

HEADQUARTERS
 453d AAA Auto Wpns Bn.
 APO #403, U. S. Army.

File 319.1/401

7 September 1944.

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

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

1. In compliance with par 10 (C3) AR 345-105 and letter, Headquarters, 83d Infantry Division, Subject: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports, file 319.1/401, dated 20 July 1944, the following report is submitted, supported by a copy of the Unit Journal and Monthly Action Report for the month of August.

2. On 1 August 1944, this Organization was relieved from attachment to the First United States Army, and continued its operations under the Third United States Army, to which Army it had been assigned since 10 May 1944. However, this change did not effect the mission of this Battalion, as it remained attached to the 83d Infantry Division, and our mission of furnishing antiaircraft artillery protection to the Division Artillery remained the same.

3. On 3 August 1944, the Battalion moved with the entire Division from the vicinity of Feugerues to the vicinity of Pontorson, a march of approximately fifty-five miles, and the following day moved to the vicinity of Fougeres, a distance of some twenty-five miles. About twenty hours later the Battalion Command Post again moved, this time to the vicinity of Miniac, and on the 7th moved from Miniac to La Gousiniere. At this location the Battalion Command Post was heavily shelled by enemy artillery fire; however, it is thought that the enemy's target was Division's artillery positions in fields surrounding the Command Post.

4. All batteries of this Organization were subjected to heavy shelling and small arms fire as they gradually worked with their respective Field Artillery Battalions towards St. Malo, their objective at this time. Battery "D", of this Organization, had the only fatal casualty for the month on the 5th of August; one enlisted man was killed by a severe blow on the head by a German sniper. On the same day, Battery B's Gun Sections Number 5 and 7 reported one FW-210 flying a reconnaissance mission of fifteen seconds over their positions. They expended eleven rounds 40mm and 120 rounds .50 caliber ammunition; however, no hits were reported. Battery "A" moved in ahead of the Infantry on 6 August, taking twenty-two prisoners, which were evacuated through normal channels.

5. On 7 August, a composite battery of four 40mm guns and six half-tracks was formed for a bridge defense at Dinan, until relief of this mission was received at 1735 on the following day. For this period, the battery had no action to report.

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6. The next day, the Intelligence Section learned of enemy fortifications, underground installations and ammunition dumps in St. Malo, which information was immediately forwarded to the Division 3-2 for handling. On this same day, information concerning a Mr. Dausset, alleged doctor and German agent was also turned over to the CIC and Division 3-2. In the late evening of this date and early morning of the following day, all batteries and battalion installations were subjected to heavy mortar fire; however, more than fifty percent of the shells did not explode; Battery "A" reporting only four explosions out of forty-five shells in their area.

7. On the 10th of August, Battery "B" remained in position near St. Malo in support of the 322d Field Artillery Battalion, while the remainder of the Battalion moved with its supported units and the Division to start the conquest of Dinard. Battalion Command Post was located in the vicinity of Taden, and was free from enemy artillery fire; however, the three lettered batteries moved into areas constantly under enemy fire. Batteries "A" and "C" were forced to change their positions upon first moving into their locations due to the shelling.

8. On the 10th, the 301st Infantry Regiment captured some German Flak Guns on pedestals. Battery "D" was sent to check these guns, and discovering their uselessness in this operation, the guns were dismounted.

9. During their operations of the 14th, Battery "A" took two prisoners, one a Serb, the other an Austrian. Prisoners were dressed in civilian clothes to avoid being shot by their own troops. Information learned from these captives was approximately forty-eight hours old and of no use to either this Organization or the Division. Prisoners were then processed through the normal channels.

10. With the fall of Dinard, Batteries "A", "C" and "D" moved into the 83d Division concentration area on the 17th, and Battery "B" moved into the area on the following day after the surrender of "The Citadel". In the concentration area, regrouping was accomplished by the Division to form combat teams to carry out its several missions assigned to it. Under this plan, Battery "B", still supporting the 322d Field Artillery Battalion, was attached to the 329th Combat Team and proceeded to an area in the vicinity of Angers. Battery "C", supporting the 323d Field Artillery Battalion, was attached to the 330th Combat Team, and returned to their former positions near Dinard to guard the St. Malo - Dinard Sector. The remaining batteries moved with the Battalion on a Division road march to the vicinity of Rennes.

11. Battery "A", supporting the 908th Field Artillery Battalion, was attached to the 331st Combat Team, and moved from the vicinity of Rennes on the 21st to the vicinity of Nantes. At this location, Battery "A" reported one JU 52 flying low east of Nantes, at which two rounds of 40mm ammunition was fired. Due to low ceiling caused by heavy fog, action was limited at this time. About ten minutes later, the first Platoon of Battery "A", reported another JU 52 flying low south of Nantes, for which plane they claimed destruction, expending fifty-six rounds of .50 caliber ammunition. The plane

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crashed six kilometers southwest of Blain. The Borors 40mm gun was not used during this action because the plane flew at extremely low altitude, approximately forty feet above the ground.

12. On the 24th, Battery "D" moved with the 324th Field Artillery Battalion to the vicinity of Angers to support the 329th Combat Team. On this same date, a single engine plane, determined to be enemy, flew reconnaissance mission over Battalion Command Post Area at about 0045, and again between 0330 and 0440, approximately 12 single engine planes passed over the area.

13. A provisional battery of sixteen half-tracks was formed on the 25th of August and sent to the 330th Combat Team, to act as a patrol along the Loire River. The provisional Battery was named Battery "X", with the Command Post located in the vicinity of Chateau La Valliere.

14. The Battalion Command Post moved to the vicinity of Chateaubriant this same day and Battery "C", their mission at Dinard accomplished, moved into the vicinity of Chateau La Valliere with the 330th Combat Team.

15. On the 28th Battery "C" and Battery "D" moved with their respective Field Artillery Battalions to the vicinity of Dinard for operations in the capturing of the Island of Cezembre.

16. On the 29th, Battery "B" moved its Command Post to the vicinity of Chateau La Valliere, but its 1st Platoon moved to the vicinity of Tours.

17. Due to the distance between the batteries and Battalion, the only communication available at the close of this period is by special air courier service established between the 83d Division Artillery and its Field Artillery Battalions, which is maintained daily.

18. Of the three destructions of Enemy Aircraft claimed last month, final approval has been received for two, and one of two hits claimed have been officially recognized as shown in the attached certified copies of letters received from the 113th AAA Group, each letter dated 25 August 1944.

George W. Trousdale
GEORGE W. TROUSDALE
Lt. Col., CAC
Commanding.

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5 Incls

- Incl #1 - Unit Journal
- Incl #2 - Monthly Action & Raid Report
- Incl #3 - Ltr, 113th AAA Group, dtd 25 Aug 44.
- Incl #4 - Ltr, 113th AAA Group, ata 25 Aug 44.
- Incl #5 - Ltr, 113th AAA Group, dtd 25 Aug 44.

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