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

File 319.1/401

6 August 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, Monthly Action and Raid Report and two Narrative Reports as well as two Action Reports for the Month of July 1944.

2. On 2 July 1944, the 453d AAA Auto Wpns Battalion was further attached to the 83d Infantry Division, and, on the following day, the Battalion was relieved of its assignment of giving antiaircraft protection to the VII CORPS ARTILLERY. The Battalion's mission from this date was to provide antiaircraft protection to the 83d DIVISION ARTILLERY, consisting of the 908th, 322nd, 323d and 324th Field Artillery Battalions.

3. A considerable increase of ground action was noticed during this month, with the first enemy heavy artillery fire taking place on 4 July. One enlisted man was slightly injured during the shelling, and one 50 caliber machine gun was damaged. On 7 July 1944, an Infantry-Antiaircraft combined operations was conducted, involving one platoon from each Batteries "A" and "D", with Battery "A" suffering four casualties and the loss of two M2 Half-Tracks, later recovered; and accomplished the destruction of three enemy snipers. Battery "D" was stopped by road blocks, and had no engagements. On the same day Batteries "B", "C" and "D" were subjected to enemy artillery firing, during which, Battery "B" lost one enlisted man, and Battery "D" had one enlisted man slightly injured.

4. Enemy artillery fire continued daily; however, no casualties were sustained until the 16th of July, when a direct hit on a foxhole fatally injured two enlisted men of Battery "D". On the 18th of July, orders were again received for an Infantry-Antiaircraft combined operations; the antiaircraft's mission was to take under fire enemy strong points in the vicinity of the attack to be made by the 331st Infantry. The first platoon, Battery "D", was selected for this mission, which platoon successfully completed the operation with no casualties. A fire was started in the enemy positions, which is thought to have been an ammunition dump, judging from the pyrotechnic effects.

5. Due to poor weather conditions the early part of the month, no enemy aircraft were engaged until 12 July, at which time one JU88 dropped flares near Battery "A"'s Gun Position No. 2; and, on 13 July, both Batteries "A" and "B" were strafed by an unidentified enemy plane. Unsuccessful firing was conducted on targets for both days. On the 15th, all batteries of this Organization fired upon two FW 190's.

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6 August 1944 (Cont'd)

and two ME 109's, with three batteries claiming hits on the FW 190's and, two batteries claiming hits on the ME 109's. On the 20th of July, Battery A and Battery "B" fired unsuccessfully upon a ME 109 and Battery "D" fired upon a ME 109F and four ME 109E's; the Battery claimed destruction of the ME 109F, which crashed in flames south of TRIBENHOU. Batteries A and B fired upon a FW 190 on 23 July; no claims were made. Firing was slight on this raid, as interception by two P-47's was made during this flight. On the same day, Battery D fired upon a ME 109F, which flew over its area; and Battery C engaged three FW 190's, which flew over their area at a medium altitude. Battery "A" fired upon an unidentified plane, which was bombing, on the 27th; however, no hits were seen. On the 28th of July, Battery "A" claimed destruction of one of three JU88's, which was bombing, and later that day, claimed destruction of an unidentified fighter which was bombing and strafing. On the 29th all batteries fired upon a FW 190, and Batteries A, B and C claimed destruction of the plane, which crashed in the field at Battery "C"'s Gun Section No. 2. On the same day, at approximately 2250, Battery "A" fired upon one FW 190; Battery "B" fired upon a JU88, and Battery D fired upon a ME 109, all three planes making reconnaissance. At 0110 and again at 2300 on 30 July 1944, Battery "B" engaged an unidentified fighter, and at 2250 Battery "A" fired upon an unidentified fighter. Battery "C" fired upon the same plane. No hits were claimed by any of the gun sections.

6. During this month the residue troops of this Battalion were rejoined with the assault troops, Headquarters, "A", "B", "C" Batteries being rejoined on the 5th day of July and Battery "D", the following day.

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

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- #1 - Unit Journal
- #2 - Monthly Action and Raid Report.
- #3 - Narrative Report, 7 July 44.
- #4 - Narrative Report, 18 July 44.
- #5 - Daily Action Report, 7 July 44.
- #6 - Daily Action Report, 19 July 44.