SECRET
EIGHTY THIRD SIGNAL COMPANY
A. F. O. 83
United States Army

6 September 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

THRU : Command Channels.

1. In compliance with Ltr Hq FUSA, file 319.1/401 (c), dated 13 July 1944; and par. 10, G3, AR 345-105, 9 March 1943, the following report is submitted:

August was a very busy month for the Signal Company. The division was spread out over a very large area and communications had to be maintained regardless of distance; however, the company was able to cope with the situation very well. The Construction Platoon, during the first attack on Dol, was required to install communications to the attacking regiments within a very short notice. Three wire teams were put on the job and it was completed in time for the attack. Some of the lines in the next few engagements were 30 miles long. During the attack on St. Malo lines were laid under heavy enemy shell and small arms fire. It was during this attack that one of our wire teams captured 13 German soldiers. Trouble was caused by exploding shells breaking the wire but trouble shooting crews were always on the alert and repaired the breaks in short order. The Construction Platoon was required to make a river crossing during the attack on Dinard and made a successful crossing with spiral four cable. During the last part of the month, when the division was spread out over a large area, commercial open wire lines were utilized. This work was entirely new to most of the men but with the help of French civilian linemen a 150 mile wire set up was accomplished. Wire teams had to be dispersed all along the lines to shoot trouble. Each team was given a definite sector to shoot trouble on.

The Message Center Section was kept busy especially during the time when wire communication was not available. The first week in the month they had an average of 200 messages per day. The longest run was a run of 142 miles to VIII Corps Hqs. in the vicinity of Brest. This run required the messenger to stay overnight. During the latter part of the month when the division was spread out, advance Message Centers had to be set up in Angers and Dinard and on the 22nd day of the month airplane messenger service was established with the three infantry regiments. Three code clerks were kept busy decoding incoming and encoding outgoing radio messages.
SECRET

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The Telephone and Telegraph Section had large installations to maintain. Some of their local lines were as much as 7 miles long. Increased traffic was handled very well by the switchboard operators. Many times calls had to be relayed due to the length of lines and this was extra work for them. The section also operated switching centrals which somewhat eased the work of the Construction Platoon. The teletype section was kept busy due to increased radio traffic. Operators were sent to the radio station to operate from there to the C.P. Telegraph operators who worked over circuits up to 70 miles long during the first part of the month were given a respite during the latter part of the month. Each section of the Telephone and Telegraph Section performed their individual tasks very well.

The Radio Section had marked increase in traffic during the month due to the fact that at times wire communication was impossible. Radio sets operated 24 hours a day and at times messages of as high as 400 groups were received and sent. The Radio Section kept in touch with the CP by telephone and teletype. Radio teams were sent out with each unit and moved with that unit whenever they moved. During the latter part of the month when the division was spread out, it was necessary to set up relay stations to relay messages. This was due to the long distance between radio stations. All stations were coming in very good through and no trouble was encountered in that respect.

The so called service units of the company also played their part in the successful operations of the division. Both the radio and T & T repair sections had their share of repair work to do. The Motor Section kept all vehicles in good running condition at all times. Division Signal Supply maintained the flow of signal supplies for the division. Other sections such as Mess and Supply and Administration performed their normal tasks which are always necessary in the effective operation of a division signal company.