

~~Secret~~

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

ANTITANK CO., 442nd INFANTRY REGT.
A.P.O. 758 U. S. Army

Handwritten signature/initials

16 July 1944.

Left bivouac area in vicinity of Collemazzano, Italy, under Secret Order at 0900. Company relieved from 442nd Infantry Regiment and assigned to AFHQ and attached to 7th Army for planning, training, and administration. Arrived by motor convoy at Galera Airport, Italy, at 2100.

17 July to 18 July 1944.

Bivouaced at Galera Airport. Usual bivouac duties. Training Schedule from 0800-1200 daily: Group Games, physical fitness exercises, and close order drills.

19 July 1944.

Company further attached to Seventh Army Airborne Division (Prov) for administration, planning, and training, effective this date, per Secret Letter, Headquarters 7th Army, dated 18 July 1944. Training schedule from 0800-1200: Physical fitness exercises, close order drills, and care and cleaning of guns and equipments.

20 July 1944 to 23 July 1944.

Training Schedule daily from 0800-1200; Group games, physical fitness exercises, and close order drills, and care and cleaning of guns and equipments. Bivouac at Galera Airport, Italy.

24 July 1944.

Ordnance Inspection of weapons and equipments.

25 July 1944.

Care and cleaning of new guns and equipments.

26 July 1944.

Ordnance inspection of trucks and 57-mm Antitank Guns

27 July 1944.

Training Schedule from 0800-1200; Care and Cleaning of guns and equipments, gun drills, group games, and physical fitness exercises.

28 July 1944.

Left old bivouac area, Galera Airport, at 0900 and moved to Marcigliana Airport, Route 4, by motor convoy. Arrived at new area 1100.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ANTI-SECRET
DECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE
Handwritten initials

IN 26 - 442 - IN 5 - 0.3

JUL 8 1946
23435
Master

~~Secret~~

Secret

29 July 1944.

Training schedule from 0800-1200; Care and cleaning of guns and equipments, group games, and gun drills.

30 July 1944.

Commenced glider-borne training at Marcigliana Airport. Courses in knot lashing, loading and unloading of guns, trailers, and jeeps, from gliders.

31 July 1944.

Continued Glider-borne training on loading and unloading of vehicles and equipments. Night training from 2100-2300 hours on loading and unloading jeeps, guns, and trailers.

1 August 1944.

Completed training on knot lashing and loading and unloading of vehicles and equipments on gliders.

2 August 1944.

7 Officers and 159 Enlisted Men participated in first simulated tactical glider flight. No accidents occurred.

3 August 1944.

Officers and Enlisted Men completed second simulated tactical glider flight by 1200. Company left bivouac area, Marcigliana Airport, Italy, and proceeded by motor convoy to new bivouac area in the vicinity of Frascati, Italy. Left old area at 1300 and arrived at new bivouac area 1430. Company attached to 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Team for administration per VCOG, 1st Airborne Task Force.

4 August 1944.

Training schedule: 0800-1200 Care and cleaning of guns and equipments.

5 August 1944.

Tactical problem with 517th Parachute Combat Team in vicinity of Frascati, Italy from 0700-1630.

6 August 1944.

Training schedule: 0800-1200; Care and cleaning of equipments.

7 August 1944.

Range firing of 57-mm Antitank Guns in vicinity of Maccarese, Italy, from 0800 to 1600 hours.

8 August 1944 to 9 August 1944.

Training schedule: 0800-1200; Care and cleaning of guns and equipments, physical training, gun drills, and course in BAR Cal.30.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING TO: COMBAT

was sent to [unclear] [unclear]

Secret

~~Secret~~

10 August 1944.

Preparation made for movement of Company from 1300-1600 hours. Usual training schedule from 0800-1200; care and cleaning of guns and equipments, gun drills, physical training, and course in BAR Cal.30.

11 August 1944.

3rd Platoon and 4th Platoon left for Ombrone Airport, Italy, at 1000 by motor convoy. Preparation of movement completed for the other Platoons.

12 August 1944.

Remainder of Company, 1st Platoon, 2nd Platoon, and Company Headquarters, left bivouac area in vicinity of Frascati at 0730 and arrived by motor convoy at Orbetella Airfield, Italy, at 1430.

13 August 1944 to 14 August 1944.

Preparation of tactical loading of gliders for the mission.

15 August 1944. to 17 August 1944 (D-Day, D plus 2, D plus 3)

Final preparation for mission completed at 1200. Company's allocation of 44 gliders were split between two dispersal fields, Ombrone, and Orbetella Airfields. At approximately 1630 first glider left field for destination. Company's mission was to land on a field east of Le Muy, France, and support the 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Team and hold areas Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and prohibit the enemy from reenforcing their troops in the coastal area. 1st Lt. Scotland was in command of the group at Ombrone Airfield, while Captain Ferris commanded the major portion of the unit at Orbetella Airfield.

The take-off was uneventful except for the inability of one glider. A quick unloading and reloading of a different glider remedied the situation. At approximately 1820 the two groups of 18 and 26 gliders crossed the coast of Southern France. Only 3 rounds of anti-aircraft were fired against the formations. A few moments after crossing the coast, the LZA became visible as the weather was fair and clear. The glider pilots released the gliders at about 3000 feet and headed for the selected strips. The landings were plenty rough and the gliders came in from all directions due to the area being smaller than expected.

Twenty minutes after landing, Captain Ferris reported to the Regimental CP and was given slight changes in selected disposition of guns. Company began to assemble and all Platoons were ready to commence operation 1 hour after landing. The 3rd Platoon lost one jeep and a trailer from the landing crash, but were later salvaged. 1st Platoon and 3rd Platoon left at once to support their Battalions. The 3rd Platoon guns were located just west of les Arcs, France, and remained there during the next 2 days regardless of the artillery fire and the chance of being over run by strong enemy forces. 1st Platoon went across the valley to No. 3 objective where they went into position, and they were subjected to small arms fire and mortar shelling. The aid-man of 1st Platoon was

~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017
By NARA Date 9/17/03

15 Aug 44 to 17 Aug 44 (Continued)

did exceptional work taking care of some of the 517th Parachute Infantry men while under rather heavy fire. By this time, casualties from the glider crash landings were ascertained, and of the 10 men injured 6 had to be evacuated.

The Mine Platoon and 2nd Platoon were held in mobile reserve at the Company CP about 600 yards west of Chalean Rosseline. On D plus 1 day when it was evident that the Regimental Rear was vulnerable to enemy infiltration while the 550th Parachute Battalion was attacking Le Muy, the Mine Platoon and 2nd Platoon were put into position about 400 yards east of that town and held there until it was definitely established that the town of Le Muy had been captured. They had slight skirmishes with snipers but no results can be reported. Upon relief they returned to the Company CP and the Mine Platoon was ordered to outpost the Regimental CP.

During the night of D plus 2 day, enemy was reported in the vicinity of Le Muy and 1st Lt. Schettler took a patrol to investigate. No action was encountered. Disposition during D plus 3 day remained as they were until the Combat Team moved to a position to protect the right flank of the 7th Army.

18 August 1944.

1st Lt. Schettler led a patrol to investigate a report of a Frenchman who informed him that there were 5 Germans in his house in the vicinity of Le Muy. A section of the patrol under S/Sgt. Yano located the house and captured the 5 Germans.

1st Platoon supported the right flank of 517th Prcht Inf, 2nd Platoon supported the 517th Prcht Infantry center, while the 3rd Platoon supported the left flank of the Regiment. 4th Platoon guarded 517th Regimental CP. Company CP located in the vicinity of Le Puget, France, MQ 5652.

19 August 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day.

20 August 1944.

Organic transportation used for 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment to forward areas to shuttle troop movement. Rotation of drivers used in three shifts. 1st Platoon kept in mobile reserve at Company CP. 2nd Platoon supported 2nd Bn 517th Prcht Inf, and 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Bn 517th Prcht Inf in vicinity of Payence. 4th Platoon kept as 517th Regimental guard at CP and vicinity.

21 August 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day.

22 August 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day. Company CP located at 1/2 mile North of Gallian, France, MQ 7456.

~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~

23 August 1944.

4th Platoon swept for mines and booby traps at St. Gezaire and uncovered numerous one of both types, and defused and rendered them unserviceable. Due to the blowing of bridges at Pondulupe, it became necessary for a reconnaissance patrol to discover a possible route to areas around Coursegoules and Bouyon for supply and troop movement. Captain Ferris led an armed reconnaissance patrol consisting of men from the 1st and 3rd Platoons, preceding the entire 517th Parachute Regiment to Coursegoules, Bouyon and Le Brac. No enemy was encountered but numerous valuable contacts were made with the French FFI troops in these areas.

1st Platoon supported 1st Bn 517th Pecht Infantry, 2nd Platoon supported 2nd Bn 517th Pecht Infantry, and the 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Bn, 517th Pecht Inf. Company CP located at St. Gezaire, France, M 7759.

24 August 1944.

Two Germans captured by 1st Lt. Schettler and Tec 4 Inaba in vicinity of St. Vallier while on a reconnaissance for possible route for supply.

Mission of Company same as the previous day. Company CP located at vicinity of St. Vallier, France, M 8127.

25 August 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous day. 1st Platoon in support of 1st Bn 517th Infantry, 2nd Platoon in support of 2nd Bn, and 3rd Platoon in support of the 3rd Battalion. 4th Platoon guarding Regimental CP and vicinity.

26 August 1944.

4th Platoon notified by the French of 6 Germans in a house in vicinity of St. Vallier. 2nd Lt. Rogers led a patrol to the house and captured the 6 Germans. The German prisoners were turned over the 1st Airborne Task Force about 1030.

1st Platoon in support of 1st Bn 517th Pecht Infantry, 2nd Platoon in support of 2nd Battalion, and the 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Battalion. 4th Platoon guarding 517th Regimental CP and vicinity. Company CP moved from vicinity of St. Vallier to Coursegoules.

27 August 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day.

28 August 1944.

Captain Ferris led a patrol from the 4th Platoon to contact 15 Paratroopers reported in Puget Sheniers since D-Day. The paratroopers were not in the town as reported. The patrol was under enemy small arms and mortar fire at a bridge near the town. All the men escaped unhurt and one vehicle was damaged but recovered and reconditioned. They withdrew under cover of darkness. Mission of Company same as the previous day.

~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735612
By P NARA Date 4/14/83

29 August 1944.

1st Platoon in support of 1st Bn 517th Pecht Infantry in vicinity of Bezairden, 2nd Platoon in support of 2nd Bn 517th Infantry, and 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Battalion in vicinity of Bensen. 4th Platoon held in reserve at Company CP. Company CP located 3 miles east of Bouyon, France, MQ 4994.

30 August 1944.

S/Sgt. Yano while on reconnaissance for advance supply line captured 2 Germans in Tourette Levens. Prisoners turned over to Canadian SS Troops.

1st Platoon near La Roquette in support of 1st Battalion, 2nd Platoon in vicinity of La Roquette Sur Var in support of 2nd Battalion, and 3rd Platoon in Levens in support of 3rd Battalion.

31 August 1944.

Patrol led by 2nd Lt. Mildner on Regimental S-2 order made reconnaissance to St. Martin Vesubie. No enemy was encountered.

Pfc. Nakahara, jeep driver, and 4 men from the 1st Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry, went on a reconnaissance patrol to Turrine near the Italian border. This patrol was under the direction of the 1st Battalion S-2. The patrol was under enemy fire and the jeep was hit by mortar shell, when they came to an enemy road block. Pfc. Nakahara was wounded at the opening of the engagement on the ankle but still proceeded three times to drive the jeep to a safe spot. During these attempts he was further wounded on the back. The jeep was hit by enemy mortar shell and abandoned. 1st Lt. Meier and a few men from the 1st Platoon went to the assistance and managed to have the wounded in the patrol taken to a French Hospital.

Moved Company CP from Bouyon to vicinity of Levens. Mission of Company same as the previous day.

1 September 1944.

18 Enlisted men arrived safely at Company CP at 1800 with trucks and equipment via seaborne from Italy. 1st Platoon supported 1st Bn 517th Pecht Inf near St. Jean, while 2nd Platoon maintained road blocks and supported 2nd Bn 517th Pecht Inf in vicinity of Les Traverses, and 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Bn 517th Pecht Inf in vicinity of Levens. Company CP located at Levens, Southern France, MQ 4698.

2 September 1944.

Company mission same as the previous day.

- 6 -

~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735012
By NARA Date 4/14/03

3 September 1944.

Two Platoons ordered on patrol in vicinity of Sospel and under enemy artillery and mortar fire, but no casualties. 1st Platoon maintained road blocks and supported 1st Bn 517th Precht Infantry in vicinity of St. Jeans, 2nd Platoon supported 2nd Battalion near Les Traverses, and 3rd Platoon maintained road blocks and supported 3rd Battalion. 4th Platoon guarded 517th Regimental CP and immediate vicinity.

4 September 1944.

1st Platoon supported 1st Battalion in vicinity of St. Jeans, 2nd Platoon supported 2nd Battalion in vicinity of Luceram, 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Battalion in vicinity of Levens, and 4th Platoon as guards for 517th Regimental CP. Company CP moved to vicinity of Contes, Southern France.

5 September 1944.

Mine Platoon established road blocks with AT And AP mines in vicinity of St. Michel. Mission of Antitank Platoons remained the same as the previous day.

6 September 1944.

1st Platoon maintained road blocks and supported 1st Battalion, 517th Infantry, in vicinity of St. Jeans. 2nd Platoon protected 2nd Bn, 517th Infantry, in vicinity of Luceram, while 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Battalion in vicinity of l'Escarene. 4th Platoon kept as Regimental CP guards.

7 September 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous day.

8 September 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day. Company CP moved to vicinity of l'Escarene, So. France, MQ 6694.

9 September 1944.

Two Germans captured by Pvt. Inori and S/Sgt. Sadaoka in vicinity of Mt. Meras on a reconnaissance patrol. Prisoners turned over to the Canadian SS Troops. Mission of Company remained the same as the previous days.

10 September 1944.

1st Platoon maintained road blocks and protected sector of 1st Bn 517th Precht Infantry in vicinity of Peira Cava, 2nd Platoon held in reserve with 2nd Bn 517th Precht Infantry, and 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Bn 517th Precht Infantry in vicinity of Mt. Meras. 4th Platoon kept as guards for 517th Regimental CP.

~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735612
By NARA Date 4/17/03

11 September 1944.

Mine Platoon placed mines and booby traps on entrance of tunnel leading to Sospel in vicinity of Touet de L'Escarene, and placed guards at tunnel entrance. 1st Platoon maintained road blocks in vicinity of Peira Cava in support of 1st Bn 517th Pcht Infantry, 2nd Platoon supported 2nd Battalion in vicinity of Luceram, and 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Battalion sector in vicinity of L'Escarene.

12 September 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous day.

13 September 1944.

One 1½-ton truck hit by shrapnel from own artillery fire shell falling short. No casualties resulted, and the truck taken to Ordnance for repair. 1st Platoon in vicinity of Peira Cava, 2nd Platoon in vicinity of Luceram, 3rd Platoon in vicinity of Col de Braus, maintaining road blocks and supporting 517th Pcht Infantry. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de L'Escarene.

14 September 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day.

15 September 1944.

Company CP in vicinity of L'Escarene under enemy artillery fire for about 1 hour. No casualties. One 57-mm AT gun of 3rd Platoon knocked out of action by enemy artillery, but no casualties resulted. Gun taken to Ordnance for repair. 4th Platoon supported 3rd Platoon with mine and booby traps on road blocks in vicinity of Col de Braus. Mission of Antitank Platoons remained the same, protecting sectors and maintaining road blocks for 517th Pcht Infantry.

16 September 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous day.

17 September 1944.

One Antitank gun of 2nd Platoon under heavy enemy mortar fire, no casualties. Antitank Platoons maintained road blocks and supported sectors of 517th Parachute Infantry. Mine Platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de L'Escarene.

18 September 1944.

Mission of Company remained same as the previous day. 3rd Platoon in vicinity of Col de Braus under intense enemy artillery and mortar fire.

Secret

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735012
By NARA Date 5/17/03

19 September 1944.

1st Platoon maintained road blocks in vicinity of Peira Cava in support of 1st Bn 517th Pcht Inf and under heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. 2nd Platoon protected sector of 2nd Bn 517th Pcht Inf in vicinity of Luceram. 2nd Squad of 2nd platoon sighted enemy patrol about 2300 and fired on them. 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Bn 517th Pcht Inf in vicinity of Col de Braus and under enemy mortar and artillery fire. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance in vicinity of Touet de l'Escarene, and also under heavy enemy artillery fire.

20 September 1944.

One prime mover of 3rd Platoon hit by enemy artillery fire, no casualties. One Antitank gun of 2nd Platoon in position on road between Luceram and Col de Braus. 1st Platoon moved in vicinity of Col de Braus, and 3rd Platoon moved to vicinity of Peira Cava in support of 517th Pcht Infantry battalions. Otherwise, mission of company remained the same.

21 September 1944.

Two tires of 1st Platoon truck hit by enemy artillery shrapnel, no casualties. Mission of Company remained the same.

22 September 1944 to 24 September 1944.

1st Platoon in support of 1st Bn 517th Pcht Inf in vicinity of Col de Braus, 2nd Platoon maintained road blocks in vicinity of Luceram in support of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Battalion in vicinity of Peira Cava. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene.

25 September 1944.

2nd Platoon under heavy enemy artillery fire in vicinity of Luceram, no casualties. Mission of Company same as the previous day.

26 September 1944.

3rd Platoon in vicinity of Peira Cava under enemy artillery fire. Mission of Company remained the same.

27 September 1944.

Antitank Platoons maintained road blocks and protected sectors for 517th Parachute Infantry, while Mine Platoon guarded tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene.

28 September 1944 to 30 September 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous days. Company CP located in vicinity of l'Escarene, Southern France.

~~Secret~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735012
By NARA Date 5/17/03

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

ANTITANK CO., 442nd INFANTRY REGT.
A.P.O. 758 U. S. Army

1 October 1944.

1st Platoon in support of 1st Bn 517th Precht Infantry in vicinity of Col de Braus, 2nd Platoon in support of 2nd Bn 517th Precht Inf in vicinity of Luceram, 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Bn 517th Precht Inf in vicinity of Peira Cava. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene. Company CP still located at vicinity of town of l'Escarene, Southern France.

2 October 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day.

3 October 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous day. Platoons maintained road blocks and guarded tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene.

4 October 1944.

Antitank Platoons maintained road blocks for 517th Precht Infantry Regiment at vicinities of Col de Braus, Luceram, and Peira Cava. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene.

5 October 1944.

2 Men patrol set off booby trap in area reported cleared by 3rd Bn 517th Precht Inf, no casualties. 2nd Sqd of 1st Plat in position at Col de Braus, while other two Sqds held in reserve at Company CP. 2nd Plat in support of 2nd Bn 517th Precht Infantry in vicinity of Luceram, 3rd Platoon maintained road blocks in support of 3rd Bn 517th Precht Inf in vicinity of Peira Cava. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene.

6 October 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous day. 3rd Platoon in vicinity of Peira Cava under light enemy artillery fire in the morning.

7 October 1944.

Antitank Platoons maintained road blocks for 517th Precht Infantry at Col de Braus, Luceram, and Peira Cava. 2nd Sqd of 3rd Platoon pulled out of position on order of CO 3rd Bn 517th Precht Inf and 6 men per night furnished for guard duty. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene.

~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735012
By NARA Date 4/7/03

8 October 1944.

1st Platoon supporting 1st Bn 517th Precht Infantry in vicinity of Col de Braus, 2nd Platoon supporting 2nd Bn 517th Precht Infantry in vicinity of Luceram, 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Bn 517th Precht Infantry of Peira Cava. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene.

9 October 1944.

Antitank Platoons maintained road blocks for 517th Precht Infantry as the previous days. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance. 2nd Platoon in vicinity of Luceram under enemy artillery fire, no casualties. 8 Men and one NCO acting as 517th Regimental CP guards.

10 October 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day.

11 October 1944.

2nd Squad of 2nd Platoon under heavy enemy artillery fire, and a few small arms weapons rendered unserviceable by enemy action. Mission of Company remained the same.

12 October 1944. to 20 October 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same. 1st Platoon in vicinity of Col de Braus in support of 1st Bn 517th Precht Infantry, 2nd platoon in support of 2nd Bn 517th Precht Inf in vicinity of Luceram, 3rd Platoon supporting 3rd Bn 517th Precht Inf in vicinity of Peira Cava, 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene, also furnished guards for 517th Precht Regimental CP. No casualties.

21 October 1944.

Company relieved by 552nd Antitank Company, and placed in reserve with 1st Airborne Task Force. 2nd, 3rd and 4th Platoons moved to new bivouac area 2 miles north of Nice at 1700. Company CP remained at vicinity of l'Escarene.

22 October 1944.

Company CP and 1st Platoon moved to new bivouac area 2 miles north of city of Nice at 0900. All Platoons--care and cleaning of guns and equipments.

23 October 1944.

Care and cleaning of guns and equipments. Bivouac at 2 miles north of city of Nice.

24 October 1944.

Relieved of attachment from 1st Airborne Task Force as of 2400 23 October 44 and asgd to 7th Army. Company left Nice, France, at 1500 and proceeded by motor convoy to Epinal to join parent unit, 442nd Infantry Regiment. Organic transportation used. Covered total distance of 70 miles for day, and bivouaced 3 miles west of town of Prejus at 1800.

~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017
By NARA Date 4/14/03

25 October 1944.

Motor convoy arrived at town of Valence, France, at 1830. Covered total distance of 180 miles. Weather; rainy and cloudy. Morale; Excellent.

26 October 1944.

Arrived at town of Poligny, France, at 1900. Covered total distance of 175 miles for the day. Weather; cloudy.

27 October 1944.

Company arrived at destination and joined 442nd Infantry Regiment in town of Bruyeres, France, at 1930, by motor convoy. No casualties and accidents throughout the travel from Nice to destination. Covered distance of 185 miles for the day.

~~Secret~~

Secret

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735612
By NARA Date 11/14/03

13
ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

ANTI-TANK CO., 442nd INFANTRY REGT.
A.P.O. 758 U. S. Army

with 1st ABTF

16 July 1944.

Left bivouac area in vicinity of Collemazzano, Italy, under Secret Order at 0900. Company relieved from 442nd Infantry Regiment and assigned to AFHQ and attached to 7th Army for planning, training, and administration. Arrived by motor convoy at Galera Airport, Italy, at 2100.

17 July to 18 July 1944.

Bivouaced at Galera Airport. Usual bivouac duties. Training Schedule from 0800-1200 daily: Group Games, physical fitness exercises, and close order drills.

19 July 1944.

Company further attached to Seventh Army Airborne Division (Prov) for administration, planning, and training, effective this date, per Secret Letter, Headquarters 7th Army, dated 18 July 1944. Training schedule from 0800-1200: Physical fitness exercises, close order drills, and care and cleaning of guns and equipments.

20 July 1944 to 23 July 1944.

Training Schedule daily from 0800-1200: Group games, physical fitness exercises, and close order drills, and care and cleaning of guns and equipments. Bivouac at Galera Airport, Italy.

24 July 1944.

Ordnance Inspection of weapons and equipments.

25 July 1944.

Care and cleaning of new guns and equipments.

26 July 1944.

Ordnance inspection of trucks and 57-mm Antitank Guns.

27 July 1944.

Training Schedule from 0800-1200: Care and Cleaning of guns and equipments, gun drills, group games, and physical fitness exercises.

28 July 1944.

Left old bivouac area, Galera Airport, at 0900 and moved to Marcigliana Airport, Route 4, by motor convoy. Arrived at new area 1100.

442 - INF(5) - 0.3

Secret

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735012
By NARA Date 5/17/03

29 July 1944.

Training schedule from 0800-1200: Care and cleaning of guns and equipments, group games, and gun drills.

30 July 1944.

Commenced glider-borne training at Marcigliana Airport. Courses in knot lashing, loading and unloading of guns, trailers, and jeeps, from gliders.

31 July 1944.

Continued Glider-borne training on loading and unloading of vehicles and equipments. Night training from 2100-2300 hours on loading and unloading jeeps, guns, and trailers.

1 August 1944.

Completed training on knot lashing and loading and unloading of vehicles and equipments on gliders.

2 August 1944.

7 Officers and 159 Enlisted Men participated in first simulated tactical glider flight. No accidents occurred.

3 August 1944.

Officers and Enlisted Men completed second simulated tactical glider flight by 1200. Company left bivouac area, Marcigliana Airport, Italy, and proceeded by motor convoy to new bivouac area in the vicinity of Frascati, Italy. Left old area at 1300 and arrived at new bivouac area 1430. Company attached to 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Team for administration per VCCG, 1st Airborne Task Force.

4 August 1944.

Training schedule: 0800-1200 Care and cleaning of guns and equipments.

5 August 1944.

Tactical problem with 517th Parachute Combat Team in vicinity of Frascati, Italy from 0700-1630.

6 August 1944.

Training schedule: 0800-1200: Care and cleaning of equipments.

7 August 1944.

Range firing of 57-mm Antitank Guns in vicinity of Maccarese, Italy, from 0800 to 1600 Hours.

8 August 1944 to 9 August 1944.

Training schedule: 0800-1200: Care and cleaning of guns and equipments, physical training, gun drills, and course in BAR Cal.30.

Secret

Secret

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735012
By NARA Date 4/17/83

10 August 1944.

Preparation made for movement of Company from 1300-1600 hours. Usual training schedule from 0800-1200; care and cleaning of guns and equipments, gun drills, physical training, and course in BAR Cal.30.

11 August 1944.

3rd Platoon and 4th Platoon left for Ombrone Airport, Italy, at 1000 by motor convoy. Preparation of movement completed for the other Platoons.

12 August 1944.

Remainder of Company, 1st Platoon, 2nd Platoon, and Company Headquarters, left bivouac area in vicinity of Frascati at 0730 and arrived by motor convoy at Orbetella Airfield, Italy, at 1430.

13 August 1944 to 14 August 1944.

Preparation of tactical loading of gliders for the mission.

15 August 1944. to 17 August 1944 (D-Day, D plus 2, D plus 3)

Final preparation for mission completed at 1200. Company's allocation of 44 gliders were split between two dispersal fields, Ombrone, and Orbetella Airfields. At approximately 1630 first glider left field for destination. Company's mission was to land on a field east of Le Muy, France, and support the 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Team and hold areas Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and prohibit the enemy from reenforcing their troops in the coastal area. 1st Lt. Scotland was in command of the group at Ombrone Airfield, while Captain Ferris commanded the major portion of the unit at Orbetella Airfield.

The take-off was uneventful except for the inability of one glider. A quick unloading and reloading of a different glider remedied the situation. At approximately 1820 the two groups of 18 and 26 gliders crossed the coast of Southern France. Only 3 rounds of anti-aircraft were fired against the formations. A few moments after crossing the coast, the LZA became visible as the weather was fair and clear. The glider pilots released the gliders at about 3000 feet and headed for the selected strips. The landings were plenty rough and the gliders came in from all directions due to the area being smaller than expected.

Twenty minutes after landing, Captain Ferris reported to the Regimental CP and was given slight changes in selected disposition of guns. Company began to assemble and all Platoons were ready to commence operation 1 hour after landing. The 3rd Platoon lost one jeep and a trailer from the landing crash, but were later salvaged. 1st Platoon and 3rd Platoon left at once to support their Battalions. The 3rd Platoon guns were located just west of les Arcs, France, and remained there during the next 2 days regardless of the artillery fire and the chance of being over run by strong enemy forces. 1st Platoon went across the valley to No. 3 objective where they went into position, and they were subjected to small arms fire and mortar shelling. The aid-man of 1st Platoon was

Secret

Secret

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735012
By NARA Date 4/17/03

15 Aug 44 to 17 Aug 44 (Continued)

did exceptional work taking care of some of the 517th Parachute Infantry men while under rather heavy fire. By this time, casualties from the glider crash landings were ascertained, and of the 10 men injured 6 had to be evacuated.

The Mine Platoon and 2nd Platoon were held in mobile reserve at the Company CP about 600 yards west of Chalean Rosseline. On D plus 1 day when it was evident that the Regimental Rear was vulnerable to enemy infiltration while the 550th Parachute Battalion was attacking Le Muy, the Mine Platoon and 2nd Platoon were put into position about 400 yards east of that town and held there until it was definitely established that the town of Le Muy had been captured. They had slight skirmishes with snipers but no results can be reported. Upon relief they returned to the Company CP and the Mine Platoon was ordered to outpost the Regimental CP.

During the night of D plus 2 day, enemy was reported in the vicinity of Le Muy and 1st Lt. Schettler took a patrol to investigate. No action was encountered. Disposition during D plus 3 day remained as they were until the Combat Team moved to a position to protect the right flank of the 7th Army.

18 August 1944.

1st Lt. Schettler led a patrol to investigate a report of a Frenchman who informed him that there were 5 Germans in his house in the vicinity of Le Muy. A section of the patrol under S/Sgt. Yano located the house and captured the 5 Germans.

1st Platoon supported the right flank of 517th Prcht Inf, 2nd Platoon supported the 517th Prcht Infantry center, while the 3rd Platoon supported the left flank of the Regiment. 4th Platoon guarded 517th Regimental CP. Company CP located in the vicinity of Le Puget, France, MQ 5652.

19 August 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day.

20 August 1944.

Organic transportation used for 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment to forward areas to shuttle troop movement. Rotation of drivers used in three shifts. 1st Platoon kept in mobile reserve at Company CP. 2nd Platoon supported 2nd Bn 517th Prcht Inf, and 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Bn 517th Prcht Inf in vicinity of Payence. 4th Platoon kept as 517th Regimental guard at CP and vicinity.

21 August 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day.

22 August 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day. Company CP located at 1/2 mile North of Gallian, France, MQ 7456.

- 4 -

Secret

Secret

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735012
By NARA Date 4/17/03

23 August 1944.

4th Platoon swept for mines and booby traps at St. Cezaire and uncovered numerous one of both types, and defused and rendered them unserviceable. Due to the blowing of bridges at Pondulupe, it became necessary for a reconnaissance patrol to discover a possible route to areas around Coursegoules and Bouyon for supply and troop movement. Captain Ferris led an armed reconnaissance patrol consisting of men from the 1st and 3rd Platoons, preceding the entire 517th Parachute Regiment to Coursegoules, Bouyon and Le Brac. No enemy was encountered but numerous valuable contacts were made with the French FFI troops in these areas.

1st Platoon supported 1st Bn 517th Precht Infantry, 2nd Platoon supported 2nd Bn 517th Precht Infantry, and the 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Bn, 517th Precht Inf. Company CP located at St. Cezaire, France, M 7759.

24 August 1944.

Two Germans captured by 1st Lt. Schettler and Tec 4 Inaba in vicinity of St. Vallier while on a reconnaissance for possible route for supply.

Mission of Company same as the previous day. Company CP located at vicinity of St. Vallier, France, M 8127.

25 August 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous day. 1st Platoon in support of 1st Bn 517th Infantry, 2nd Platoon in support of 2nd Bn, and 3rd Platoon in support of the 3rd Battalion. 4th Platoon guarding Regimental CP and vicinity.

26 August 1944.

4th Platoon notified by the French of 6 Germans in a house in vicinity of St. Vallier. 2nd Lt. Rogers led a patrol to the house and captured the 6 Germans. The German prisoners were turned over the 1st Airborne Task Force about 1030.

1st Platoon in support of 1st Bn 517th Precht Infantry, 2nd Platoon in support of 2nd Battalion, and the 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Battalion. 4th Platoon guarding 517th Regimental CP and vicinity. Company CP moved from vicinity of St. Vallier to Coursegoules.

27 August 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day.

28 August 1944.

Captain Ferris led a patrol from the 4th Platoon to contact 15 Paratroopers reported in Puget Sheniers since D-Day. The paratroopers were not in the town as reported. The patrol was under enemy small arms and mortar fire at a bridge near the town. All the men escaped unhurt and one vehicle was damaged but recovered and reconditioned. They withdrew under cover of darkness. Mission of Company same as the previous day.

Secret

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735012
By NARA Date 4/17/03

29 August 1944.

1st Platoon in support of 1st Bn 517th Pzcht Infantry in vicinity of Bezairden, 2nd Platoon in support of 2nd Bn 517th Infantry, and 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Battalion in vicinity of Bonson. 4th Platoon held in reserve at Company CP. Company CP located 3 miles east of Bouyon, France, MQ 4994.

30 August 1944.

S/Sgt. Yano while on reconnaissance for advance supply line captured 2 Germans in Tourette Levens. Prisoners turned over to Canadian SS Troops.

1st Platoon near La Roquette in support of 1st Battalion, 2nd Platoon in vicinity of La Roquette Sur Var in support of 2nd Battalion, and 3rd Platoon in Levens in support of 3rd Battalion.

31 August 1944.

Patrol led by 2nd Lt. Mildner on Regimental S-2 order made reconnaissance to St. Martin Vesubie. No enemy was encountered.

Pfc. Nakahara, jeep driver, and 4 men from the 1st Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry, went on a reconnaissance patrol to Turrine near the Italian border. This patrol was under the direction of the 1st Battalion S-2. The patrol was under enemy fire and the jeep was hit by mortar shell, when they came to an enemy road block. Pfc. Nakahara was wounded at the opening of the engagement on the ankle but still proceeded three times to drive the jeep to a safe spot. During these attempts he was further wounded on the back. The jeep was hit by enemy mortar shell and abandoned. 1st Lt. Meier and a few men from the 1st Platoon went to the assistance and managed to have the wounded in the patrol taken to a French Hospital.

Moved Company CP from Bouyon to vicinity of Levens. Mission of Company same as the previous day.

1 September 1944.

18 Enlisted men arrived safely at Company CP at 1800 with trucks and equipment via seaborne from Italy. 1st Platoon supported 1st Bn 517th Pzcht Inf near St. Jean, while 2nd Platoon maintained road blocks and supported 2nd Bn 517th Pzcht Inf in vicinity of Les Traverses, and 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Bn 517th Pzcht Inf in vicinity of Levens. Company CP located at Levens, Southern France, MQ 4698.

2 September 1944.

Company mission same as the previous day.

Secret

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735612
By NARA Date 4/17/03

3 September 1944.

Two Platoons ordered on patrol in vicinity of Sospel and under enemy artillery and mortar fire, but no casualties. 1st Platoon maintained road blocks and supported 1st Bn 517th Pzcht Infantry in vicinity of St. Jeans, 2nd Platoon supported 2nd Battalion near Les Traverses, and 3rd Platoon maintained road blocks and supported 3rd Battalion. 4th Platoon guarded 517th Regimental CP and immediate vicinity.

4 September 1944.

1st Platoon supported 1st Battalion in vicinity of St. Jeans, 2nd Platoon supported 2nd Battalion in vicinity of Luceram, 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Battalion in vicinity of Levens, and 4th Platoon as guards for 517th Regimental CP. Company CP moved to vicinity of Contes, Southern France.

5 September 1944.

Mine Platoon established road blocks with AT And AP mines in vicinity of St. Michel. Mission of Antitank Platoons remained the same as the previous day.

6 September 1944.

1st Platoon maintained road blocks and supported 1st Battalion, 517th Infantry, in vicinity of St. Jeans. 2nd Platoon protected 2nd Bn, 517th Infantry, in vicinity of Luceram, while 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Battalion in vicinity of l'Escarene. 4th Platoon kept as Regimental CP guards.

7 September 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous day.

8 September 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day. Company CP moved to vicinity of l'Escarene, So. France, MQ 6694.

9 September 1944.

Two Germans captured by Pvt. Daori and S/Sgt. Sadaoka in vicinity of Mt. Meras on a reconnaissance patrol. Prisoners turned over to the Canadian SS Troops. Mission of Company remained the same as the previous days.

10 September 1944.

1st Platoon maintained road blocks and protected sector of 1st Bn 517th Pzcht Infantry in vicinity of Peira Cava, 2nd Platoon held in reserve with 2nd Bn 517th Pzcht Infantry, and 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Bn 517th Pzcht Infantry in vicinity of Mt. Meras. 4th Platoon kept as guards for 517th Regimental CP.

- 7 -
Secret

Secret

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735612
By NARA Date 4/17/03

11 September 1944.

Mine Platoon placed mines and booby traps on entrance of tunnel leading to Sospel in vicinity of Touet de L'Escarene, and placed guards at tunnel entrance. 1st Platoon maintained road blocks in vicinity of Feira Cava in support of 1st Bn 517th Prcht Infantry, 2nd Platoon supported 2nd Battalion in vicinity of Luceram, and 3rd Platoon supported 3rd Battalion sector in vicinity of L'Escarene.

12 September 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous day.

13 September 1944.

One 1½-ton truck hit by shrapnel from own artillery fire shell falling short. No casualties resulted, and the truck taken to Ordnance for repair. 1st Platoon in vicinity of Peira Cava, 2nd Platoon in vicinity of Luceram, 3rd Platoon in vicinity of Col de Braus, maintaining road blocks and supporting 517th Prcht Infantry. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de L'Escarene.

14 September 1944.

Mission of Company same as the previous day.

15 September 1944.

Company CP in vicinity of L'Escarene under enemy artillery fire for about 1 hour. No casualties. One 57-mm AT gun of 3rd Platoon knocked out of action by enemy artillery, but no casualties resulted. Gun taken to Ordnance for repair. 4th Platoon supported 3rd Platoon with mine and booby traps on road blocks in vicinity of Col de Braus. Mission of Antitank Platoons remained the same, protecting sectors and maintaining road blocks for 517th Prcht Infantry.

16 September 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous day.

17 September 1944.

One Antitank gun of 2nd Platoon under heavy enemy mortar fire, no casualties. Antitank Platoons maintained road blocks and supported sectors of 517th Parachute Infantry. Mine platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de L'Escarene.

18 September 1944.

Mission of Company remained same as the previous day. 3rd Platoon in vicinity of Col de Braus under intense enemy artillery and mortar fire.

- 8 -

Secret

Secret

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735012
By NARA Date 4/17/03

19 September 1944.

1st Platoon maintained road blocks in vicinity of Peira Cava in support of 1st Bn 517th Precht Inf and under heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. 2nd Platoon protected sector of 2nd Bn 517th Precht Inf in vicinity of Luceram. 2nd Squad of 2nd platoon sighted enemy patrol about 2300 and fired on them. 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Bn 517th Precht Inf in vicinity of Col de Braus and under enemy mortar and artillery fire. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance in vicinity of Touet de l'Escarene, and also under heavy enemy artillery fire.

20 September 1944.

One prime mover of 3rd Platoon hit by enemy artillery fire, no casualties. One Antitank gun of 2nd Platoon in position on road between Luceram and Col de Braus. 1st Platoon moved in vicinity of Col de Braus, and 3rd Platoon moved to vicinity of Peira Cava in support of 517th Precht Infantry battalions. Otherwise, mission of company remained the same.

21 September 1944.

Two tires of 1st Platoon truck hit by enemy artillery shrapnel, no casualties. Mission of Company remained the same.

22 September 1944 to 24 September 1944.

1st Platoon in support of 1st Bn 517th Precht Inf in vicinity of Col de Braus, 2nd Platoon maintained road blocks in vicinity of Luceram in support of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Platoon in support of 3rd Battalion in vicinity of Peira Cava. 4th Platoon guarding tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene.

25 September 1944.

2nd Platoon under heavy enemy artillery fire in vicinity of Luceram, no casualties. Mission of Company same as the previous day.

26 September 1944.

3rd Platoon in vicinity of Peira Cava under enemy artillery fire. Mission of Company remained the same.

27 September 1944.

Antitank Platoons maintained road blocks and protected sectors for 517th Parachute Infantry, while Mine Platoon guarded tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene.

28 September 1944 to 30 September 1944.

Mission of Company remained the same as the previous days. Company CP located in vicinity of l'Escarene, Southern France.

Secret