

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 127TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #35 US ARMY

OPD
ETO
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1 September 1944

UNIT: Jumbo

Period from 0001 1 Aug 44
to 2359 31 Aug 44

SUBJECT: Action against Enemy, Reports after/ after Action Reports.

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

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 and c-3 thereto the following report is submitted:

1 Aug 44 - Battalion in position near Torigni Sur Vire, Normandy, France in support of 35th Division. From 0036 to 0530 69 rounds were fired at Enemy Tanks, CP's Strong Points and Mortar positions. Battalion moved at 1630 and established CP near town of La Vaulellerie. 348 rounds fired during remainder of day, mainly harassing and some counter Battery. Cpl Scarbrough shot thru finger by sniper while policing wire.

2 Aug 44 - 239 rounds harassing fire between 0011 and 0943. Reconnaissance by Battalion Commander Officer and party for new position at 1130. Battalion left position at 1926 and arrived new position at 2025. CP established near town of La Busselive in building on what appears to be once wealthy French estate. Estate contains two (2) cemeteries where both American and German dead are buried. Battalion fired two missions for Judge at Road Junctions.

3 Aug 44 - Division Artillery S-2 relayed message from British that 116th Panzer Division moving west towards our area. Since 9 and 11th Panzer Divisions are unaccounted for the enemy has capabilities of committing considerable armor against our forces. Request was made that observer observe to the south and east covering our avenues of approach commencing at dawn. This report later considered false in message from 654th TD Battalion. Total of 695 rounds fired during day missions being harassing, enemy strong points and enemy weapons.

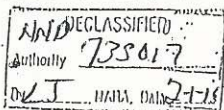
4 Aug 44 - Battalion moved at 1145 and went into position near town of La Bergerie. No firing done in this position as British forces on left and American on our right were cutting in front of our Division.

5 Aug 44 - 7 Aug 44 incl - Spent in move to vicinity of Mortain, Brittany, France. Some difficulty and delay encountered due to road congestion. CP and gun positions established near St Hilaire on 7 Aug 44 with mission to repulse expected armored counter attack aimed by the enemy at cutting through to Avranches.

8 Aug 44 - 13 Aug 44 incl - All action in vicinity of Mortain - Fighting heavy and many enemy tanks and troops observed. Enemy air action resulted in damage to some vehicles but no casualties. Missions consisted mainly of harassing fires with some interdiction. 35th Division replaced in this area at about 2200 13 Aug 44 by 2d Armored Division, 30th Infantry Division and 4th Infantry Division.

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Ltr Hq 127th FA Bn Subj: Action against Enemy dtd 1 Sept 44 contd.

8 Aug 44 - 13 Aug 44 incl contd - Preparations made late on 13th for move to vicinity of LeMans. Replacements during period - 1 Officer 2d Lt Earl C Frebe 0118252 asgd to Serv Btry. Casualties none.

14 Aug 44 - 15 Aug 44 incl - Battalion left Mortain area at 0300 14 Aug 44 for area near LeMans. Marched all night at average speed of 15 MPH. No unusual incidents and no enemy activity. Arrived at bivouac near LeMans at 1415 14 Aug 44. Task Force formed 15 Aug 44 consisting of 137th Infantry, 219th Field Artillery Bn and this Battalion with mission of capturing Orleans, France.

16 Aug 44 - Battalion made two moves during day, which brought it into sight of Orleans, and went into position. One EM Pvt Merle Taylor, Battery "C" accidentally shot self in foot with carbine. 6 prisoners taken during day. Colonel Ellsworth Division Artillery Executive Officer visited CP and spent the night. Battalion fired 20 rounds at enemy troop concentrations.

17 Aug 44 - 0200 - 0445 - Battalion fired 12 harassing missions (44 rds). From 1600 to 0900 Colonel Thompson and Major Moore made reconnaissance in Orleans for OPs. Lt Willer acting as Forward Observer located enemy targets at which the Battalion fired a total of 318 rounds during day in addition to several missions fired in enemy troops, vehicle concentrations and cross roads. Pvt Walter Schwartz Hq Btry wounded in hand and foot by flying debris - treated but not evacuated. Lt Thomas V Slater Hq Btry wounded in leg by machine gun bullet at OP in Orleans - evacuated thru Jury. At 1640 it was reported that a German Division had just moved up from the south across Vire River expecting to find Orleans in German hands, and that they are pretty well worn out.

18 Aug 44 to 19 Aug 44 incl - Battalion fired total of 225 rounds on these dates in harassing fires, enemy troops and bridge interdiction. At 2115 19 Aug 44 Lt Yates, Liaison Pilot reported being fired upon by enemy AA while flying up Vire river. He reported that in flying up and down the river 4 miles each way he saw no enemy troops and no indications of a river crossing and no enemy action except the AA gun.

20 Aug 44 - Battalion moved and established CP and gun position near Dambron. Distance traveled 26 miles. No firing.

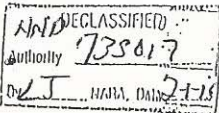
21 Aug 44 - Battalion advanced again and went into position near Orme. Distance traveled 26 miles. Battalion furnished 29 trucks to haul Infantry units of Division forward. No firing.

22 Aug 44 - 23 Aug 44 incl - Battalion moved into position SE of Moylon on 22 Aug 44. Distance traveled 31 miles. Battalion fired 4 missions at enemy Infantry in woods on 23 Aug 44.

24 Aug 44 - Battalion released from attachment to 216th FA Bn and attached 161st FA Bn in support of 134th Infantry CT. Colonel Thompson attended a Battalion Commanders meeting at 134th Infantry CP from 2125 - 1930.

25 Aug 44 - Battalion moved a distance of 37 miles in morning and moved again in afternoon a distance of 6 miles where CP was established in town of Chamvres. Mission of 134th Infantry CT remains same with this Battalion attached.

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Ltr Hq 127th FA Bn Subj. Action against Enemy dtd 1 Sept 44 contd.

25 Aug 44 contd - Mission - to hold and protect Division south flank St Florentine inclusive to St Romain - La Preaux inclusive.


26 Aug 44 - At 1745 Lt Barber Liaison Pilot reported that he had flown as far east as Ligny Le Chatel. Landed at Seignelay and the French Resistance Forces told him 2000 Germans left there last nite headed for Ligny Le Chatel with 150 horse drawn carts. He is unable to observe any Germans and it is surmised they were on the run and did not want to fight. This Battalion captured and turned in 26 PW today.

27 Aug 44 - Colonel Thompson awarded Silver Star for gallantry in action 17 Aug 44 in Orleans, France. True copy of Sec I, GO #26, Hq 35th Inf Div dated 27 Aug 44 containing citation for which award was made attached hereto. Jockey reported 1200 Germans moving along road to Auxerre but planes unable to observe movement. Battalion devoted time to maintenance, personnel adjustments and baths.

28 Aug 44 - 30 Aug 44 incl - Battalion furnished 15 trucks on 28th to haul Infantry forward. Battalion moved at 1215 29th and arrived in positions and established CP near Aix En Othe. Distance traveled 42.6 miles. Service Btry furnished 7 trucks to move Division Rear Echelon from near Courtenay to near Troyes. Weather during period 28th - 30th Aug cloudy, with spasmodic rain.

31 Aug 44 - Payment of Officers and men began. Commendation of 35th Division received from Commanding General, V Corps for period 28 July to 4 Aug 44 (copy attached hereto). Weather continues cloudy with intermittent rain.

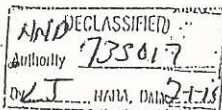
For the Commanding Officer:


PAUL V CAMPBELL
WOJG, U S A
Assistant Adjutant

Incls -. 3

- 1 - Unit Journal w/supporting papers
- 2 - Copy of GO #26 Hq 35th Inf Div
- 3 - Copy of Commendation fr CG V Corps - *not rec'd*

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HEADQUARTERS 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 35 US ARMY

27 August 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)
NO 26)

EXTRACT

	Section
SILVER STAR MEDAL -- Awards - - - - -	I
BRONZE STAR MEDAL -- Awards - - - - -	II

I -- SILVER STAR MEDAL. Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular 6, Headquarters Third United States Army, 26 April 1944, the Silver Star Medal is awarded to the following officer and enlisted men:

Lieutenant Colonel Robert L Thompson Jr, 0241746, Field Artillery, United States Army, for gallantry in action in the vicinity of * * * France on 17 August 1944. Colonel Thompson, Battalion Commander, * * * Field Artillery Battalion, organized and supervised observation posts atop buildings at points directly across the * * * River from enemy positions and observation. Disregarding his personal safety, Colonel Thompson remained at the positions during the day, although enemy fire was directed against them. Through his zealous attention to duty in directing artillery fire on key enemy positions, in informing the task force commander of the enemy situation and in assisting in coordinating fire plans, the enemy positions were effectively neutralized at a great saving of casualties among our forces. His courage, exemplary conduct and gallantry in action contributed materially to the successful operations against the enemy, and measurably assisted in forcing the withdrawal of the enemy from, and in relieving the enemy threat against the city of * * *. Entered military service from Kansas.

By command of Major General BAABE:

MADDREY A SOLOMON
Colonel, G S C
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Richard G. Chadwick
/t/ RICHARD G. CHADWICK
Lt Colonel, A G D
Adjutant General

A TRUE COPY:

Paul V Campbell
PAUL V CAMPBELL
WOJG, U S A
Assistant Adjutant