

SECRET

Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

Initials *RRL*

Date *8/14/44*

JUL 44

35TH DIV ARTY

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 216TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #35
% Postmaster New York, N Y

L-48

4 August 1944

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

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D C.

THRU : The Commanding General, 35th Infantry Division, APO #35, % Postmaster, New York, N Y.

In compliance with 1st Indorsement, Letter, Headquarters First United States Army, File Reference: 319.1/401 (C) dated 13 July 1944, forwarded herewith Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

KENNETH H REED
Lt Col, FA
Commanding

1 Incls
1 - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

319.1 1st Ind RGC/mla
(4 Aug 44)
HQ 35TH INF DIV, APO 35, U S Army, 14 Aug 44

TO: Commanding General, XIX Corps, APO 270, U S Army

Forwarded in compliance with provisions of paragraph 1, letter Headquarters FUSA, 13 July 1944, 319.1/401 (C), subject: "Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

For the Commanding General:

RICHARD G. CHADWICK
Lt Col, A. G. D.
Adjutant General

1 Incl
n/c

-1-
SECRET



SECRET

PERIODIC INFORMATION SHEET

SECRET

Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

OPD
ETO

Initials

Date

8/18/44

1. This report hereinafter set forth, covers the period from 5 July 44 until 25 July 44. These dates inclusive contain Historical information of the activities, movements, and combat action of this Battalion from the time it left its concentration area in Okehampton, England to and including the successful completion of the occupation of St Lo, France. The 216th FA Bn received warning orders on 3 July 1944 to be prepared for movement to Marshalling Areas for short sea voyages, all phases of water proofing of motors and materiel were to be immediately completed. Movement orders were received from Commanding General 35th Division Artillery to the effect that such movement would begin at 0445 5 July 1944 to close in to the Marshalling Areas D-4, D-7, D-9 by 1030 same day. The movement was made as scheduled and without incident. The Battalion was divided in the Marshalling Area for movement to France, comprising the Battalion Staff, Headquarters Battery and A & B Battery in Areas D-7 & D-9. C Battery and Service Battery in Area D-4. After approximately 24 hours the entire Battalion embarked upon two landing Ships Tank (LST's) for voyage to Omaha Beach in Normandy; arriving there at 1345 and began disembarking at 1645. Movement was made to a concentration area about two miles inland. On 8 July 1944 Battalion made a tactical motor march from its position to coordination 1/25000. Immediately liaison was effected with the 320th Infantry. Lt Col KENNETH REED Battalion Commander together with Major McElroy S-3 320th Infantry, made a complete inspection of our front line positions. 216th was in position, survey completed and ready to fire at 1600 9 July 1944; However no firing was done during the day. Normal and emergency barrages were prepared to cover the relief of the 175th Infantry during the hours of darkness 9, 10 July 1944. This relief was made without a shot being fired. The first registration of the Battalion was completed at 2050, 10 July 1944. As soon as this registration was finished, the Battalion fired the first artillery mission of the 35th Infantry Division in World War II.

u
w
5-6/12

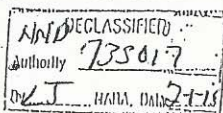
2. MISSION. The Regimental order was issued at 1700, 10 July 1944 by Col Byrne its commander. This order stated the Regiment would attack at 0600 Tuesday 11 July 1944. The 216th FA Bn in direct support, 161st to reinforce the fires of the 216th, 127th FA Bn (Med) in General Support., 320th on the left, 137th Infantry on the right and the 134th Infantry in division reserve. The XIX Corps fired a 1 hour preparation H-60 to H. The 35th Division Artillery participated in that preparation from H-20 to H. (Note)-It has been since reported and learned from Captured documents the Germans were set to attack at 0500, 11 July 1944, with the objective of driving us back to the beaches, thus running directly into our preparation causing them a great many casualties and completely disorganized their attack.

3. SUCCESS OF ATTACK. The 320th Infantry moved on the attack as scheduled opposition was determined and progress was slow.

4. INFORMATION OF ENEMY PRIOR TO ATTACK. The Division G-2 report stated, enemy were dug in along hedge-rows and in good defensive positions. Morale of enemy was considered very low and many would surrender at the first opportunity which was later verified by the capture of 134 prisoners by the 320th Infantry during the period covered by the report.

SECRET

16 SEP 1944
6138



SECRET

5. During the St. Lo action the entire Battalion was used, no part in reserve, except the Personnel Section located at the Division Rear Echelon. The list of Key personnel were as follows:

Battalion Commander	Lt Col KENNETH H. REED
Executive Officer	Major MAURICE R. HUBBARD
S-3	Major RICHARD R. COFFIN
Asst S-3	Capt WALTER S. GUNNARSON
S-2	Capt JOHN W. THOMPSON
Survey Officer	1st Lt CALVIN E. JONES
Pilot	1st Lt JOHN L. CECIL
Pilot	S/Sgt BILLY J. PEMBERTON
HQ Btry Commander	Capt GEORGE W. CUMMING
A Btry Commander	Capt CHARLES A. SHUBERT
B Btry Commander	Capt JESSIE G. BEATTIE
C Btry Commander	Capt EDWARD G. RAFF
Service Btry Commander	Capt GENE L. MITCHAM
Liaison Officer #1	Capt JAMES B. SCHERER
Liaison Officer #2	1 Lt THOMAS M. MILLER JR.
Liaison Officer #3	Capt ROBERT E. PHILBECK

6. WEAPONS USED. During the St. Lo phase this Battalion expended 12,746 rounds of all types of ammunition. The 161st Field Artillery Battalion reinforced the fires of this Battalion and fired twenty-seven Artillery missions through our Fire Direction Centers. On the 15 July 1944 the 654th Tank Destroyers, Company C, was placed in position for unobserved fires and was tied in to our survey. Company C of the 92nd Chemical Battalion was attached to the 320th Infantry and reattached to this Battalion. The Chemical Company was also tied in to the 216th FA Bn firing chart and fired two missions before they were detached. The Cannon Company 320th Infantry was attached to the 216th FA Bn, by order of the Regimental Commander, and also tied into our firing chart. The Cannon Company fired many missions, and covered its assigned sector on normal barrages. All other weapons were employed for Anti-Aircraft and Anti-Tank defenses.

7. During the St. Lo phase no Air support was requested, except missions of this Battalion's Liaison planes. No tanks were attached.

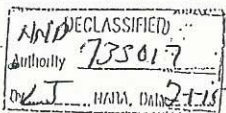
8. During the St. Lo phase weather conditions were fair, but for two or three days air observation was limited.

9. Supply shortages:

1. Electric light plant for F.D.C.
2. TNT for blasting gun positions and F.D.C. pits.
3. 110 Wire.
4. 130 Wire.

10. COMMUNICATIONS. No radio was permitted during the St Lo phase, due to the belief by the Infantry that such use would draw upon them enemy fire. Wire communications were difficult to maintain due to enemy Mortar and Artillery Fire.

SECRET



SECRET

11. Troop Morale unusually high. Troop efficiency improved immeasurably throughout the action as it progressed.

12. Casualties: 1 Officer wounded, 2 EM Wounded.

13. Not at this time are facts sufficiently clear, except for two EM for Silver Star Award.

14. None.

15. None.

Kenneth H. Reed
KENNETH H. REED
Lt Col, FA
Commanding

SECRET