

Unit Journal
Aug-Sept. 1944

IN AN - 550. 0.7 Unit Journal - 550th Organizing Signal Battalion 15 Aug - 30 Sept 1944

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JOURNAL

Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 15 August 1944 1530
(Date and hour)

To: 16 August 1944 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Le Muy, France

TIME		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
				Bn departed Follonica Airport 1530 15 Aug 44 One glider crashed landed 1650 Bn arrived LZ 1845 Bn assembled at initial assembly area at 1930 Bn departed initial assembly area 2100 Arrived forward assembly area 2145 Bn departed forward assembly area 0115, 16 Aug for attack on Le Muy, France Approach March, LD crossed 0230 Bn withdrew to forward assembly area 0600 Bn departed forward assembly area 1000 for attack on Le Muy, France Approach March, LD crossed 1140	
1147		1	1130	Having trouble crossing river Jump off on attack will be 1145	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-3
1211		2	1147	Attack launched 1140	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-1
1320		3	1239	Bn CP located 41.80-39.75	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-3
1318		4	1300	Leading elements of Bn in Town square	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-3
1315		5	1315	NR2 AD at HO JZ FL NA CI GV GP MS RZ	To C.G., 1st ABTF
1500		6	1428	Right flank Company has passed through the town Objective, Le Muy, France captured 1430	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-3
1502		7	1433	CP located at 41.9-39.4	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-3
1645		8	1445	The firing has ceased in town and C.O. going forward to the town Bn defensive position set up 1530 Mopping up operation continued until 1830 686 PW captured	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-3

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Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 17 August 1944 - 0900
(Date and hour)

To: 17 August 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Le Muy, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
0915		1	0900	On TF Order move to bivouac area SE Le Muy (42.4-38.8)	Staff
1008		2	1005	NRI we possess no information regarding the evacuation of wounded prisoners	Staff
1125		3	1115	NR7 Are casualties you requested evacuated from this unit 1105B Moved to assembly area 1730 Arrived at new assembly area SE LeMuy at 1800 and established CP Outguards posted 2000	Staff
1006		4	1006	All Civilian and German vehicles not covered by permit of Civil affairs Officer will be turned in under guard to Battalion CP Vehicles in convoy not included in above order	All Companies by S-1
1030		5	1030	All enemy equipment will be turned in to Battalion S-4 at Battalion CP without delay	All Companies by S-1

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Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 18 August 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)

To: 18 August 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Bivouac Area, SE Le Muy, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
		1	1030	Report to this Hq shortage of equipment your Org this date	Staff
		2	1140	Request name rank ASN orgn diagnosis and disposition of all casualties evacuated from your Bn Aid Sta other than those collected by the ix seven six Med Coll Co	Staff
		3	1345	Report to this Hq (Attn Ord Officer) by 1800 20 Aug overages or shortages of ammo on hand for desired basic load	Staff
		4		General Order #4 1st ABTF, 18 Aug 44	Staff
		5		Mail 1st ABTF	Staff ABTF file
		6		Daily S-1 Reports 1st ABTF	Staff ABTF file
		7		Casualty Reports 1st ABTF	Staff ABTF file
	1900	8	1900	Casualty Report submitted to 1st ABTF	
1930		9		100 (approx) enemy reported holding Chapel and Cypress Wood at 480573 map 1/100,00 sheet 15Q This is a point one kilometer from Seillans on the rd to Fayence Enemy force 200 (approx) strong reported holding high ground E of Fayence covering RJ at 512562 This party heavily armed including two tanks (unidentified) This info reported by partisans Information reliability unknown	Staff

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Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 19 August 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)

To: 20 August 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Bivouac Area SE Le Muy, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
0230		1		300 MT reported moving S and SW out of TURIN between 181550B-1750B. This movement not to be confused with 17 Aug report of 300 MT moving S and SW out of ALESANDRA. Photo rcn shows rd and rr bridges at ARLES completely out. Air recon shows two loaded inf trains moving S on line from BOUTG to LYON where an additional inf train is reported to have headed S. A loaded heavy tank train report. Air rcn at SORGUES (N of AVIGNON). This train was split up, possibly for unloading. CAP BENAT reported cleared 18 Aug. It is believed that 85 Corps and KNISS GRUPPE are one and the same	Staff
	0905	2	0900	10 in 1 Rations will be drawn and will be eaten starting with Dinner today. All K Rations will be saved	All Companies
		3		Present C.P. will close down- To all Com. Officers from radio officer FABTF at 21 Aug 1200 New CP will open at 20 Aug 1400 Send grid coordinates of your present CP when net opens at 20 1400 Left Bivouac Area at 1000, 20 Aug B, C, A, Hq, CP, Med by marching and transportation 486EM 230ff CP pers arrived new area 1130 Companies arrived at 1415	Staff
	1500	4	1454	CP now located at 57.15-35.85	TO C.G., 1st ABTF
	1545	5	1539	What is present position of your CP Outguards posted at 2000	To C.G., 1st ABTF

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Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne BattalionFrom: 21 August 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)To: 21 August 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)Place: Frejus, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
	0900	1	0855	Complete cooking breakfasts and have area policed by 0930. Inspection of area will be made	To All Co's by S-3
1400		2	1355	G-3, 1st ABTF directs that your Company be alerted and prepared to move by 1430. Probable route East along Coast road. Division will give the order to move Co A, 2nd Chem Bn reld fr atchd to this Bn	To C.O., Co A, 2nd Chem Bn fr 550th
1600		3		Fayence clear of enemy and held by 517th Inf - 32 prisoners from that area identified as members of 327th Recon (Rts) Regt and 1038 anti-tank Co (CK) Germans retreated North 1415B Lt O'sullivan atchd to Co "A"	Staff
		4		All Company Commanders were instructed to hold Companies in readiness to move on hour's notice Outguards posted at 2000	All Companies

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Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 22 August 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)To: 22 August 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Frejus, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
1000		1		Annex #2 to FO #3 Hqs 1st ABTF dtd 19 Aug 44	Staff S93
1050		2		General Order #5, copy #12 1st ABTF dtd 19 Aug 44	Staff ABTF file
1050		3		Ltr AG 371.2B Hqs 7th A, subject: "Censorship" dtd 17 Aug 44	Staff 7th A file
1050		4		Ltr AG 330.11-A Hqs 7th A, subject: Infantry Morale Officer, Natousa dtd 19 Aug 44	Staff 7th A file
1050		5		Ltr Hqs 1st ABTF subject: Location of G.R.S. Collecting Point. dtd 21 Aug 44	Staff ABTF file
1050		6		Ltr Hqs 1st ABTF subject: Escape Kits, dtd 21 Aug 44	Staff ABTF file
1050		7		Memo, Hqs 1st ABTF re: Mailing of Parcels dtd 21 Aug 44	Staff ABTF file
1055		8		Memo, Hqs 1st ABTF re: Parachutists dtd 21 Aug 44	ABTF file
1055		9	2130 20Aug	Send trucks plus 2 men per truck to report 1st ABTF G-4 Office by 1000 21 Aug to draw ammo from beach dump to fill your basic load	Staff
1055		10		Imperative that all captured enemy weapons and ammunition not actually in use be turned in to detachment third Ord M Co located uncle five seven eight three six eight in villa.	Staff
1055		11	2230 20Aug	Paroles and Countersigns eff on 6,7,8 D plus	Staff
1415		12		FW States: CP Inf How Co in house at 29656369 Protecting CP 1 50 AT 10 AT guns on road fr RD at 29906415 to hotel at 29606445 Several 37 AT on Rd fr 29406345 to Rd at 29906415 Map Ref: France 1/25000 Cannes NW Sheet XXXVI 44 1 plus 2	Staff
1720		13	22Aug	All escape kits will be turned in to S-1 not later than 0800, 23 Aug 44 Those kits not returned will be accounted for by certificate of Co Comdr	All Companies by S-1
1740		14	22Aug	Subject: Censorship. 1. Personnel may mention that they are "Somewhere in Southern France" 2. Personnel may state in private mail to U.S. or U.K. descriptions of purely personnel combat experiences providing no reference is made to military units or to specific geographical locations	All Companies and Med Det by S-1
		15		The jeep assigned to Hvy Wpns will revert to S-4 control and upon its return will report to the CP immediately	To Lt Griscti by Ex O.

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Unit Journal.

Organisation 550th Infantry Airborne BattalionFrom: 23 August 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)To: 23 August 1944 - 1350
(Date and hour)Place: Frejus, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
0005		1	0005 22Aug	Enemy destroyed-Bridge 297-697 at 1340 other bridges destroyed by enemy include RS-RPT-RR-Bridge 222737 Bridge 614574 Bridge 6255-5675 Enemy strength in Les Vayans	Staff
0455		2	1455 22Aug	Imperative that relief drivers be furnished for trucks attached from 3359 Tr Co if trucks are to be used continuously	Staff
0830		3		Gen Order #6 Hqs 1st ABTF dtd 21 Aug 44	Staff ABTF file
0830		4		Annex #2 to FO #4 " Hqs 1st ABTF 22 Aug	Staff S-3
0845		5		Request you submit to this Hq a consolidated requisition to equip your unit with one additional pair of fatigues underwear socks also shortages of individual equipment	S-4 from G-4 Bassett
0730		6	1200 22Aug	FFI Reports: Block Houses at 321651 and 302648 and 298639. 155mm gun at 302-648. 170 mm RR gun at tunnel S-325675 and 329667. Co CP at 305676 Germans occupy river bed. Ammo dump at 284638 and 299638 Gun UK cal at Manelieu bridge Bridge prepared for Demo Pole PW'S report Grasse being evacuated toward nice past two days At 282668 are 5 120mm CD Guns At 342704 are 3 165mm guns	Staff
		7	1930 22Aug	1st ABTF ammunition office closes at ABTF C.P. 0659B 23 Aug, opens on route 7 200 yards towards Frejus from ABTF Cl I & III DP at 0700 23 Aug	Staff
0845		8		"Order of the Day" Hqs 7th Army dtd 20 Aug 44	Staff
0845		9	2400 22Aug	Three German Navy men captured. Verify this period enemy states four guns on Isle St Marguret are seven point four emplaced to five zero comma five five zero from G-2 ABTF paraphrased in emplacement three meters thick	Staff
1055		10	1045	Be prepared to move forward to be attached to 1st Special Service Force. Their present C.P. location approx (61.3-57.3) order for movement will come from Task Force Hqs.	To Co A, 2nd Chem Bn fr CH, 1st ABTF
1320		11		Will try to get over tomorrow. Hope everything is O.K. Plan to be back by end of week Col Sachs	Staff
1350		12	1135	Critical Gas shortage - For next 72 hours all trips must be essential before vehicle is dispatched.	Staff

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Organization 550th Inf Airborne Battalion

From: 23 August 1944 - 1535
(Date and hour)

To: 23 August 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Frejus, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
1535		13		Navy reports that French flag was sighted at (391-658) 551 and 509 from FABTF East of Cannes at 1245 Outguards posted 2000 Messenger Delivery Route 2000	Staff
	0912	14		Chaplain Reiss ABTF Chaplain request that you visit the 509th, 551st and 643rd this afternoon	To Chaplain by S-1

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Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 24 August 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)

To: 24 August 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Frejus, France

TIME		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.	
In	Out					
		1		<p>Ltr AG 250.1</p> <p>Forward CP moved to Grasse 1045, with 1 Plat Co A & H.W. Plat Companies will shuttle as follows Co A,B,C, & Hq with rear C.P.</p> <p>Convoy enroute to Grasse, Ammo Truck exploded, information received at 1315. G-3 1st ABTF notified</p> <p>Forward CP arrived at Grasse at 1415, established CP at 1420 at (29.19-77.45)</p> <p>Med Det arrived at Grasse 1800</p>		7th A file
1830		2		Signal Dump opens at Grasse (29-76) 241800, 1st ABTF	Staff	
1830		3	24Aug	Ltr, subject: Men returned from Operations, 1st ABTF	Staff	ABTF file
1830		4	24 Aug	Memo Hqs 1st ABTF dtd 24 Aug 44 Parcels may be mailed	Staff	ABTF file
1830		5	24 Aug	S.O.I. 1st ABTF 24 Aug 44	Staff	Comm O
1830		6	23Aug	Annex #7 to FO #4, Hqs 1st ABTF dtd 23 Aug 44	Staff	S-3
1830		7	23&24 Aug	S-2 report 230001B Aug 44 241200B Aug 44	Staff	S-2
1830		8		Disposition of Hospitalized Personnel	Staff	
	1845	9	1845	<p>Have entire weapons section at Motor Pool ready to move at 2000, including all equipment, rations and ammo</p> <p>Remainder of Co A arrived Grasse at 2000</p> <p>Heavy Weapons section arrived Grasse at 2400</p>		To Lt Durham by S-3

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Unit Journal

Organisation 550th Infantry Airborne BattalionFrom: 25 August 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)To: 25 August 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)Place: Frejus, France and
Grasse, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.	
In	Out					
0800		1		Memo, 1st ABTF dtd 24 Aug 44, in re: Evacuation of Dead	Staff	ABTF file
0800		2		Memo, 1st ABTF dtd 24 Aug 44, in re: Payrolls	Staff	ABTF file
0800		3		QM Class II Dump now open (57.5 - 37.4)	Staff	S-4
				Co B arrived Grasse at 0825		
1000		4		Class I and III Dump opens 250900 Aug at S 28.8 - 74.8 1st ABTF	Staff	S-4
	1105	5	1105	Forward CP has been reported to 1st ABTF and is in operation. On next trip send all Staff personnel to this area. Ex O remain at rear camp until last trip		To Ex Off at Frejus
				Rear CP and Co C arrived Grasse at 1700		
				Co A and Heavy Weapons section moved out to positions (see overlays)		
				Outguards posted at 2000		

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Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 26 August 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)

To: 26 August 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Grasse, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.	
In	Out					
0900		1		S.O.I. (Conf.)	Comm O.	
0900		2		G-2 Report (Conf.)	Staff	S-2
0900		3		QM II and IV Dump closes open S-28.8 - 74.8, 252200 Aug	Staff	S-4
		4		Remainder of Hq Co personnel arrived Grasse at 1130		
1730		5	1640 26 Aug	G-2 Report signed by Lt Hollis Asst G-2, dtd 26 Aug 44 1640B	Staff	S-2
1730		6		Ltr, subject: Medical Reports, 1st ABTF, dtd 26 Aug 44	Med Off	
1730		7		Ltr, subject: Wearing of the Uniform 1st ABTF, dtd 26 Aug 44	Staff	ABTF file
1730		8		Ltr, subject: Daily G-1 Reports (Secret) 1st ABTF, dtd 26 Aug 44	Staff	ABTF file

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Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 27 August 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)

To: 27 August 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Grasse, France

TIME		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.	
In	Out					
		1		G-2 Report in at 0630	Staff	S-2
		2		Ltr AG 383,6B 1st ABTF, subject: Captured Mail	Staff	ABTF File
		3		Memo 7th A, AG 705DOP In re: Status of Personnel trans to Hosp Det Pat.	Staff	7th A file
		4		Paroles and Countersigns for 27,28, 29 Aug 44	Staff	S-2