

Organisation 550TH Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 3 September 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)

To: 3 September 1944 - 2015
(Date and hour)

Place: Barcelonnette, France.

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
	0800	1	0800	Overlay showing location of friendly troops in this area as of 1200 2 Sept.	To Co's B,C,Hq,40th Engr. by S-3.
0955		2	0730	Combat patrol reported no enemy activity last night. Did not contact enemy. No change in situation. Will send in overlay today. - Operations Sgt,Co.B.	Staff.
0955		3	0730	B Co patrol reported back to CP at 0615 3 Sept 44. No enemy encountered. Were up to Ft Tournoux. No enemy actions observed.-Rec 0700 Capt Paxton.	Staff.
1200		4	0600	S-3 Report, Hqs 463rd Precht FA Bn, for period: 1800 2 Sept to 0600 3 Sept 44.	Staff. S-3.
1200		5	1200 9/2	G-2 Periodic Report, Hq 1st ABTF for period: 1200 1 Sept to 1200 2 Sept 44.	Staff. S-2.
1200		6	1425 9/2	Authority granted to submit S-2 and S-3 Periodic Reports with closing time of 0700B daily.	Staff.
1325		7	1325	Intelligence Summary overlay.	To Co's C,B,Hq,Eng. by S-3.
1345		8	1345	Use new squad sent up this morning in moving out with Art OP party. I will contact Capt Sumpter on the matter of relief and supply.	To Lt. Mellist by S-3.
1600		9	1600	Request all OB information available on 5th MT Division.	To IPW Section-G-2, 1st ABTF by T/4 G Frankl.
1635		10	1635	In order to obtain and hold observation posts for Arty fire it is necessary we have more infantry. Request one platoon of A Co, 550th be released for duty in this area.	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-3.
1750		11	1220	Funds requested available. Necessary for Morton or other officer to personally pick up.	Staff.
1910		12	1910	Request replacement of two ambulance drivers whose performance of duty has been unsatisfactory. Replacements may be sent on supply trucks.	To Surgeon, 1st ABTF by EX O.
1917		13	1917	Receiving enemy artillery fire in B Co position and around Jausiers. Our ground observation insufficient to observe counter-battery fire. Cub plane cannot gain sufficient altitude to cross mountain. Request L-5 plane to be used in observing artillery fire. Plane urgently needed.	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-3.
2015		14	2015	It is impractical to use the cub planes for observation in this sector due to mountainous terrain and atmospheric conditions. Request permission for them to return to Group where they may be of more use. If permission is granted request coordinates of Group Strip.	To C.O., Div. Arty. by C.O., 463rd FA Bn.

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 4 September 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)

To: 4 September 1944 - 1539
(Date and hour)

Place: Barcelonnette, France.

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
	0837	1	0837	S-1 Report.	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-1
	0900	2	0900	Request following areas be bombed as soon as possible: 1. Road & road by pass at (439-534) & (435-533). 2. Supply dump at Bersezio (406-568) Ref: Italy 1:100,000 Sheet 79.	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-3
	0915	3	0915	S-3 Periodic Report.	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-3.
	0916	4	0916	S-2 Periodic Report.	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-2.
	1000	5	1000	Med data tactical report monthly essential report.	To C.G., 1st ABTF by Surgeon.
	1030	6	1630 9/3	No supplies of any kind will be issued to French or British Military or Civilian personnel without authorization from this Headquarters. Asst G-4, ABTF	Staff.
1030		7	0045	QJM UR MSG 031635B, GP 48, beginning EEJKM OSBEE. Cite our service #27.	Staff.
1030		8	9/4	Daily Report of Engr Plat Operation, 3rd Plat, Co.A, 40th Engr 'C' Regt.	Staff. S-3
1030		9	2045 9/3	G-2 Periodic Report, Hq 1st ABTF for period: 1200 2 Sept to 1200 3 Sept 44. (Confidential).	Staff. S-2
1030		10	9/3	Ltr Hq 1st ABTF subj: "Entry into Principality of Monaco Forbidden". (Conf.)	Staff.
1030		11	2000 9/3	Overlay to F.O.#8, So. France 1:100,000 Hq 1st ABTF w/message (Please sign and return for field order No.8).	Staff. S-3
1030		12	1500 9/3	Overlay for Adm O #6, France 1:100,000 Sheet 16A, Hq 1st ABTF. (Top Secret).	Staff. S-3
	1045	13	1045	Overlay positions 550th C.T.	To Co's B,C,Hq, 463 FA, 40 Eng. by S-3
	1156	14	1156	In reply to request for information concerning bombing done by P-47's 31 Aug 44: Reports here state that road was put out of use by this action. Germans now repairing road and using by-pass. (438-536) Italy 1:100,000.	To C.G., 1st ABTF By S-3
	1230	15	1230	Have not had contact with 509th to date.	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-2.
	1354	16	1354	Daily Stastical Report.	To C.G., 1st ABTF by Surg.
1500		17	0700	S-3 Report, Hq 463rd Prcht FA Bn for period: 1800 3 Sept to 0600 4 Sept. 44	Staff. S-3.
	1500	18	1500	Field Order # 8.	To C.O., Co.A by 1st ABTF.
	1530	19	1530	The GRS is located at 62.4-83.3	To S-4 & Med Det. by Ex O.

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 4 September 1944 - 1540
(Date and hour)

To: 4 September 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Barcelomette, France.

TIME		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
	1540	20	1540	Overlay of O.P. # 2.	To 463rd Prcht FA Bn. by S-3
1600		21	0045 9/1	Enemy troops are concentrated in force in Cuneo Larche Rd HDDW Vinadhco. Hq Corps unco at Valdieri. Tanks and guns have been reported in France main line of resistance on line Fort Nan of Tolini, Turini, Pierra, Cava, Luceram. Approx one MTM Regt area Turini and the Fort, consists of three Alpine Bns recently arrived from San Remo approx 5 to 6 msgs rpt msgs per 80 men. Source of info FFI. - ABTF	Staff.
	1725	22	1725	Personnel Section consisting of one officer and five EM. will close into Nice between 1200B and 1800B 5 Sept 44. No cooks available due to dispersion of units of this Bn.	To C.G., 1st ABTF by Ex O.
1745		23	0840	Paroles and Countersigns for 4,5,6,7,8 Sept 44. - G-2, ABTF.	Staff. S-2.
	1830	24	1910	L-5 plane reports 200 unidentified trucks along road between Grangia and Argentera. If you have no knowledge friendly troops here request immediate air bombardment.	To C.O., 1st ABTF Arty. by C.O., 463rd FA.
	0828	25	*	Buisson 1176RJ has been atchd to this unit since our departure fr your area to our present position. He has acted in capacity of French interpreter. We have found him useful and have used him in our contacts with DIM and Local FFI. He has requested permission to be absent for tow (2) days to visit ABTF Grasse. His work has been satisfactory.	To G-2, 1st ABTF, by C.O.
1745		26	1700 * 3 Sept	Submit report to this Hqs by 0800 4 Sept 44 total ND of Off and WO and EM To be in Rr Ech Personnel Section Also no cooks that can be furnished Personnel sections will close into rear echelon at Nice between 1200 and 1800 5 Sept 44	
1745		27	1415 *	Relative to Personnel for Rear Echelon be expedited Request report called for by this headquarters 3 Sept 44	

* Received after Journal completed.

UNIT JOURNAL

Unit 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

5 September 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)

5 September 1944 - 1145
(Date and hour)

Barcelonnette, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time	Action taken.
In	Out			
0800		1	5 Sept G-1 Report as of 2359B 4 Sept 44, Hq 403rd Front FA Bn.	S-1
0900		2	5 Sept "Daily Report of Engr. Plat. Operations". 3rd Plat, Co A, 40th Engr 'C' Regt	Staff S-2
	0910	3	0910 Capt Hamilton (Br) was hospitalized. Can not go to Italy. Reported by Captain Halsey Br. This Office was asked to advise CG.	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-2
	0940	4	0940 Message from Division with date and time 010045B received by 550th Radio on 041210. Message concerned enemy troops in Larche Pass, Valdieri, Turini, and San Demo. Delay of three days in transmission by radio.	To Signal Officer, 1st ABTF by Comm O.
	1024	5	Overlay showing location of Units of 550th CT as of 0700B 5 Sept 44	To CO, Hq Co 40th Eng, CO, Co C, CO Co B by S-3
1115		6	1815 4 Sept Five times as many spies and subversive agents have been captured in the invasion of Southern France than were captured in the Normandy invasion. All personnel must fully realize that Northern Italy and Southern France is a hotbed for the clandestine workings of enemy agents. CO's are advised all personnel of their command are acquainted with the situation as outlined above and will stress the importance of maintaining vigilance against movement and infiltration of enemy agents within their sector.	Staff
1115		7	1600 4 Sept Submit periodic "Status of material in the hands of troops" Report as of 5 Sept 44 to reach this Hq, not later than 2400 8 Sept 44.	Staff
1115		8	1200 4 Sept G-2 Periodic Report, Hq 1st ABTF, copy no. 9, no. 11, Maps: GSGS France 1:50,000 for period 1200 3 Sept 44 to 1200 4 Sept 44, (Conf.) w/IPW Report incl.	Staff S-2
1115		9	1115 Two enemy aircraft over Paris-4 (small).	Staff
1130		10	1025 One time burst over OP #1 1024	Staff
1145		11	1500 4 Sept Overlay, Sheet 16, APM 07, Map France 1/100,000. Grid ref 70 - 00.	Staff S-3

DECLASSIFIED
 AUTHORITY: ND 235017
 DATE: 1-4-03

JOURNAL

Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 5 September 1944 - 1550
(Date and hour)

To: 5 September 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Barcelonnette, France.

TIME		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
1600		21	1110 5 Sept	Annex #7 to FO #8, Signal Communications dtd 4 Sept 44. (Top Secret)	Staff
	1610	22	1605	Enemy in Larch Pass shelling our O.P. #1 at (58.5-47.5) 1:100,000 - 150 with 155mm	To G-2, 1st ABTF by S-2
1714		23		One En shell landed 100 yds in front of C.P. 1713 - Paris	Staff
1715		24		One man hit in leg by shrapnel from Arty fire - Paris C.P.	Staff
1900		25	1700	Still in same position. Have fired 21 smoke and 286 HE total. Everything as usual. Still no maintenance on Tanks. Very cold. - WE WITALIS, 2nd Lt.	CO Co B 645th T.D. Bn.

DECLASSIFIED
 AUTHORITY: NND 735017
 DATE: 1-4-03

Organisation 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 6 September 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)

To: 6 September 1944 - 1145
(Date and hour)

Place: Barcelomette, France

TIME		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
0250		1	0250	Paris 1 reports a patrol of 5 Germans to their front. - Sgt Johnson (phone)	Staff
0745		2		Have run into what seems to be an enemy outpost line. Are observing same before advancing MT4 (phone)	Staff
	0800	3	0800	M/R for 2359 5 Sept 44	To Lt Rowland ABTF Hq
	0800	4	0800	S-1 Report 2359 4 Sept to 2359 5 Sept	To C.G., 1st ABTF
	0910	5	0910	Request resupply of overlay paper 18" x 24" and color pencils to carry on S-2, S-3 work till we are re-supplied by 550 S-4	To G-4, ABTF by S-2
0915		6	0900	Approx location is 5550 We are moving in a SW direction moving up the Mt to try and get around the enemy outpost lines MT #1	Staff S-2
0915		7	6 Sept	Daily report of Engr Plat operations	Staff S-3
	0915	8	0800	S-2 Periodic Report 550th CF for period 0700 5 Sept to 0700 6 Sept w/Intelligence overlay, PW Report, 2 Info reports	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-2 S-2
1030		9	1030	PW report 90th Panzer Grenadier Division in area Larche-Uniadio (31.8-65.8) M.R. 1:100,00 Sheet 15-0 Italy sheets 67-79-90	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-2
1045		10	1045	Ran into enemy. Had little skirmish Have withdrawn and reorg. Waiting until dark to return	To Paxton by MT 1
1050		11	0810	Enemy artillery active last night. Relieved the 1st Platoon with the 2nd Platoon. OP reports footbridge at Condamine damaged. Situation-position unchanged. No reports from C Co patrol Opt Sgt Co B	Staff
	1050	12	1050	Request the following Maps 1:50,000 XXXV-39 -50 copies - XXXVI - 39 (50) XXXVI - 40 (50) XXXVI - 41 (25)	To G-2, 1st ABTF by S-2
1110		13	1050	Tried to get around enemy OPL. We ran into 6 enemy. Tried to capture same - but failed Were almost in position to observe St Ours.	To Parachute 2 and 3 by MT 1
	1140	14	1140	If desired submit recommendation for promotion of 2nd Lts in your Co giving qualifications and statement performance of duty which makes promotion justified	To G.O. Co A 550th Inf by Exec O.
1145		15	1135	Bridge blown out near Condamine (49.4-51.1) Mortar OP	Staff

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 6 September 1944 - 1305
(Date and hour)

To: 6 September 1944 - 2032
(Date and hour)

Place: Barcelonnette, France

TIME		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
	1305	16	1305	Have Flat Ldr 83rd Chem Plat move his plat (less 1 sect of inactive mortars) to Camp de Fourches report to Lt Crisetti Section of inactive mortars move to Barracks at Barcelonnette and attach to Co C for quarters and rations. The reserve section may be used to replace personnel at Camp de Fourches at discretion of Plat Ldr. When new mortars arrive reserve section will go in position at original position	To CO 463rd FA (para) by C.O.
1325		17	0700	S-3 Report, Hqs 463rd Frcht FA Bn for period: 1800 5 Sept to 0600 6 Sept 44 (No 139A)	Staff S-3
	1405	18	1405	Prior to 200 each day all units will submit a report of any enemy action to this office. Negative reports are required	To All Units 550 CT by S-2
1535		19	1525	Lt Mellist's Patrol returning. 3 men injured. Medics taking care of injured 1 man has leg blown off. Request ambulance	To S-2 by MT 1
1600		20	1250	Pass to 463 FA Bn from FABTF Submit report immediately on Signal equipment shortages	Staff
1938		21	1845	Rolling barrach on our position falling short and into the draw on our right. Enemy fire in line with our position	To S-2 by Paris 4
1938		22	1930	Approx 15 enemy Arty shells hit on what seems to be area target (51-49 to 51-50) on E side of river. Location of guns uncertain	To S-2 by Cellar Mortar OP
1945		23	1941	Enemy Artillery active Shells landed on OP. No contact with enemy Reserve Platoon at C Co position North East of Co C.P.	Staff S-2
1940		24	1940	Situation and position unchanged. Colds and sore throats starting due to cold and damp weather. T/L Tompkins, James duty to hospital this date. Suspected Malaria If Hagerman has returned please send him up	TO CO Co B 645TD Bn by CO 2nd Plat Co B
	1955	25	1955	German Patrols wearing Civilian clothes and armbands of French and Italian Partisans are reported to be operating to the South East A close check will be made of all Civilians operating within our positions.	To All Units 550 CT by S-2
2032		26		S-2 report 463rd FA Bn From 2000 5 Sept to 2000 6 Sept No 139 dtd 6 Sept From 2000 4 Sept to 2000 5 Sept No 138 dtd 5 Sept Corrected copies. Overlays	Staff S-2

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 6 September 1944 2032
(Date and hour)

To: 6 September 1944 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Barcelonnette, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
2032		27		G-1 Report 463rd Frcht FA Bn dtd 7 Sept 1944	Staff S-1
2032		28		S-3 Report 463rd Frcht FA Bn From 60600 Sept 44 to 61800 Sept 44 dtd 61900 Sept 44 No 139B Data Sheet	Staff S-3
2115		29	2100	FFI reports an enemy patrol wearing civilian clothes left St Paul PM are believed to be headed towards Condamine	Staff
2115		30	2100	Report mtcl going back and forth on road in valley away from Condamine	Staff
2115		31	2110	Mtcl comes out of valley to Condamine stays five min and returns	Staff
	2100	32	2100	Repeat Message- Be on the alert for enemy patrol in your position. Wearing civilian clothes and partisan armbands This patrol left St Paul headed South along road to Condamine Time unkown	All Units 550 CT by S-2
2130		33	1340	FFI reports BS of three Sept 44 German occupation of the passes NE Bravcma Lable and Lorie with approximately two zero zero men with light machine guns and mortars. St Grall Bridge one zero zero meters Luceram can easily be repaired.	
2					
2355		34	2355	The light that was seen earlier in the evening was seen again. That is, in the vicinity of the mortar positions.	To S-2 by Hvy Wpns OP.

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 7 September 1944 - 0801
(Date and hour)

To: 7 September 1944 - 1140
(Date and hour)

Place: Barcelonnette, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
0655		1	0655	Huge fire in St Ours. Time started 0615	Staff To S-2 by OP #1
	0800	2	0800	S-3 Periodic Report, 550th CT, for period: 0700 6 Sept to 0700 7 Sept 44 w/operations overlay and operations on the "Col de Larch"	To G-3, 1st ABTF S-3 by S-3
	0930	3	0930	Casualty report from D Day to 2359 6 Sept 1944 X - 9 Y - 34 Z - 0 POW - 694	To C.G., 1st ABTF by S-1
0930		4	2122 6Sept	Enemy OP sighted at (58-62) Mobile Gun Pos at (33.2-62.0) Hard tires Sighted at 1830 hrs Art taking action OP (30.6-61.0) Gun (32.2-63-2)	To S-2 by Patrol #1 Sgt Orr. Check w/S-2 for correct locations. Underscored on message
	0800	5	0800	S-2 Periodic Report, 550th CT, for period: 0700 6 Sept to 0700 7 Sept 44 w/Intelligence Summary Overlay, Information Report	To C.G., 1st ABTF S-2 by S-2
0820		6	0810	Correction of Msg #3: Artillery shells landed between OP ADVANCE and CHATALAR Light reported on hill near PARIS 3 position at 0115 No contact with enemy	To S-2 by Comm Sgt Co B, Sgt Canas
1015		7	1015	En blown bridge (54.3-51.6) This bridge was blown up sometime during the night	To C.O. by OP #1
	0945	8	0945	Enemy operating throughout area in civilian clothes posing as French and Italian Partisans They are receiving much info from farmers who are not aware of their identity All Units including Civilians in this area have been warned.	To G-2, 1st ABTF by S-2
	1000	9	1000	The C.O. desires that a report of CHEM. EQUIP. SHORTAGES be submitted to this office with the least practicable delay. All Gas masks will be inspected carefully.	To All Units, 550th CT by Chem Off
	1015	10	1015	Suggest freq not be changed at 2100 hr if QJS both ways. Am maintaining twenty four hr watch. Can not hear you from 2300 to 0400. Can you hear us. Using flattop. Everything O.K.	To DSO, 1st ABTF OP 071130 by Lt Ingui
1105		11	0700	S-3 Report, Hq 463rd Precht FA Bn, for period: 1800 6 Sept to 0600 7 Sept 44	Staff S-3
	1125	12	1125	Request OB info on 90th Pz Gren Div and 5th MT Div as soon as possible Also send latest info on remnants of 148th Div - Strength, Employment etc.	To IPW Section G-2 1st ABTF by T/4 Frankl Interrogator S-2
1140		13	5Sept	Report of activity Hvy Wpns Plat Hq, Camp de Fourches, dtd 5 Sept 44	To CO 550CT by Lt Grisetti

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 7 September 1944 - 1245
(Date and hour)To: 7 September 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Barcelonnette, France

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.	
In	Out					
	1245	14	1245	Sent all supplies available - typing paper, color pencils - tracing paper etc Urgently needed	To Lt Rowland by Lt L.R. Robinson	
	1345	15		Have sent all messages by truck convoy at 1444	To C.G. 1st ABTF by Comm O	
1552		16		Paris 4 reports airplane flying over position at 1550 Elevation and type unknown because of fog	To S-2 by Paris 4 (Phone)	S-2
1735		17	1700	Unidentified planes heard at 1400 Coming from North. Situation and position unchanged. One three man patrol out. No contact with enemy. No enemy shelling of position today	Staff To S-2 by phone fr Operations Sgt Co B Sgt Hoke	
1740		18	1735	OP #1 reports cloud smoke raising from clump of bushes (53.5-50.8)	To S-2 and S-3 fr OP #1	
	2000	19		Am forwarding Pvt Warren Thoms under guard via 550th Inf Bn to Provost Marshal FABTF. Letter of preference of Charges accompanying soldier. Request charge sheet be made out upon arrival of letter and forwarded to me for signature. No replacement needed	To CO 512 Sig Co FABTF by Lt Ingui	
1825		20	1818	Road blown at (51.9-51.5) blown in two places 100 yds apart steel pill box just below apparently abandoned No enemy activity noted in this territory recently. Personnel were seen entering building (49.1-52.9)	To S-2 and S-3 fr OP #1	
	1950	21	1950	Load 110 rations on truck leaving for Griscti's position to-morrow morning at 0700. Charge rations to Hq Co	To Capt Morton by S-3	
2130		22	2358	G-1 Report, Hq 463rd Frcht FA Bn for dated 2358B 7 Sept 44 (Secret)	S-1	
2130		23	1900	S-3 Report Hq 463rd Frcht FA Bn for period: 0700 7 Sept to 1800 7 Sept 44	Staff	S-3
2130		24	1700	S-2 Report Hq 463rd Frcht FA Bn for period 2000 6 Sept 44 to 1800 7 Sept 44	Staff	S-2
2205		25	1850	Night freq two eight zero five (2805) till further notice ABTF	Staff	Comm Off
2330		26	2300	Need two reels of wire send out in morning if possible. Griscti	Staff	Comm Off