

JOURNAL

Unit Journal

Organisation 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 25 September 1944 - 1535
(Date and hour)

To: 25 September 1944 - 2400
(Date and hour)

Place: Barcelonnette, France

TIME		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
1535		17	1430	10 to 11 rds arty fire in rear of OP1 at 1230 OP #1	Staff
1535		18	1505	French arty reg on St Ours OP #1	Staff
1645		19		25-30 rds ey mortar fire hit Fourches between 1545 and 1645 Still shelling	Staff
	1730	20	1445	Maske, Osselaine Goerler qrs to dy 25 Sept 44	To F/Sgt Hester by Aid Sta
1730		21		Memo #8, this Hqs is amended by adding par 2e "Vehicles dispatched to Nice will be parked at the parking lot designated for PBS vehicles in the place Massena, where passangers will be discharged The vehciles will remain in this parking area until the entire group is assembled for departure from the city.	
	1735	22	1600	Request correct rank and ASN of following men KIA in glider crack up 15 Aug 44 near Le Muy, France, Builstrom, John E 2nd Lt Allen, Glenn W.O. 442nd PC Group 306 Squad? Information needed MD Report	To Graves Reg 7th Army by Aid Sta
	1735	23	1530	We need you duplicate EMP's on Jones, Elsea, Wuerth, Gerhardt-If you did not make out originals let us know who did Important that you forward us tags as you make them out	To Craft Whitaker Aid Men A Co by Aid Sta
2020		24		G-1 Report 463rd Procht FA Bn 2359 25 Sept 44	Staff
2030		25		The passwords from Army this date are supercede those from FABTF previously issued. 25 - 30 Sept	Staff

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Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion

From: 26 September 1944 - 0001
(Date and hour)To: 26 September 1944 - 1320
(Date and hour)

Place: Barcelonnette, France.

T I M E		Serial No.	Time dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc.,	Action taken.
In	Out				
0630		1	0630	The French have a patrol operating North of Condamine today. Do not expect to return until 262000A Sept 44 Paris 6	Staff
0648		2	0648	Weather-Fourches Clear and cool A few high scattered clouds, No wind No report on OP #1 Line out	Staff
0745		3	0645	No contact with enemy No enemy activity in our sector Position of Platoons; 1st Plt Marine Barracks, 2nd Plat near Chatelard, in position, 3rd Plat at Camp des Fourches Co G.P. at Jausiers French will have a patrol out near Condamine French artillery active Opr Sgt Co B	Staff
0945		4	2300 25Sept	Request immediate return of all 433VAA trucks now assigned to your unit on temporary basis-Replacements for these trucks will be dispatched immediately upon receipt of the 433 AA trucks at FABTF motor park	Staff
0955		5	0800	S-3 Periodic Report 550th CT Period: 250700 to 260700 Sept 44 No 27 w/ Operation Overlay, S-3 Chemical Report (Secret)	To G-3 1st ABTF by S-3 S-3
0955		6		No PW's 25 Sept Will try to contact DIM troops at Guillestre today to obtain PW Info	To G-2 Lt Bernheimer ABTF by Frankl
1030		7	1020	Arty firing on (53.0-55.5) Enemy personnel believed to be in area.	Staff
1033		8	1015	The following EM asgd this org per SO 159 Hq ABTC 13 Sept 44 not arrived Informationis requested as to their status Pvt Guagenti, Joseph J 42057555 Holliday, Clinton 7085443, Miller, Melvin F 36286939, Strand, Elton F 36838035	To CG ABTF by S-1
1035		9		7 rds mortar fire fr direction Meyronnes in B Co area at Condamine about 0950	Staff
1005		10	0800	S-2 Periodic Report 550th CT Period: 250700 to 260700 Sept 44 No 27 w/ situation overlay, French Shepards Report (Secret)	To G-2 ABTF by S-2 S-2
1155		11		OP #2 reports that ey patrol 8 men sighted on ridge Tete de Cigaret 53.8-47.0 Arty & 4.2 mortar fire placed on ey results later	Staff
1245		12	1235	Small arms fire to right front of OP 1 Cannot observe exact location	Staff
1320		13	1300	OP #2 reports patrol sent out from there returned safely Spotted 2 ey 42 MG positions, one light mortar position and positions with 18 ey dug in. Requests other 81mm mortar be sent up to take care of ey installation. Sgt Gentry also reports approx 400 ey in valley beyond Tete de Cigaret Gentry	Staff

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Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne BattalionFrom: 26 September 1944 - 1320
(Date and Hour)TO: 26 September 1944 -
(Date and Hour)Place: Barcelonnette, France

In	Out	No.	Time dtd	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action taken
	1349	14	1230	Situation and position same Did not firing last night and so far today Cpl Sylvain Roger hosp to duty this date	To C.O. Co B 645 TD Bn by C.O. 2nd Plat
1400		15	1400	OP 1 reports ey OP at (52.7-52.9) hill 2493	Staff
	1425	16	1415	3rd Bn of 5th MT Div identified sector Col de Larche 150-190 men per company info from DIII PW's Frankl	To G-2 FABTF
1430		17	1630 25Sept	Password for 25 to 30 Sept	Staff
1430		18		S-2 Reports 509th CT 241200 to 251200 Sept 44, No 42	Staff S-2
1430		19		S-3 Report 509th CT 241000 to 251000 Sept 44, Overlay No 46	Staff S-3
1430		20		G-2 Periodic Report 1st ABTF 241200 to 251200 Sept 44, w/IPW Report, FFI Report PI Report	Staff S-2
1430		21		G-2 ISUM No 81, ABTF 231200 to 232400 Sept 44	Staff S-2
1430		22	1345 25Sept	Effective immediately the G-1 report submitted to this Headquarters will list the casualties of Officer and enlisted men seperately as well as the strength	Staff S-1
1523		23	1445	40 rds mortar fire fell in area 200 yds East of Cp de Fourches. Fin from one shell obtained looks the size of our 4.2 mortar shells Stinner	Staff
1530		24		60mm mortar squad reported seeing 7 ey coming from Condamine they later lost sight of them	Staff
1550		25	1400	Eleven man patrol (including BAR team and chemical mortar observer with 300 SCR) from Co C will depart le Pra at 0500 27 Sept 44 and proceed to vicinity of Pas de la Baisse via bridge at (34.5-50.35) mission of observing ey activity reported by FFI at (37.5-51.5) C.O. Co C	Staff
1650		26	0840	Ey patrol of 3 men observed on south side of Pas de la Cavale (33.35-54.7) at 1700 25 Sept 44 81 mortar and LMG fire placed on area results unknown although only 1 ey was seen to withdraw C.O. Co C	Staff
1600		27	1545	Ey arty has been falling at 32.4-49.8 FFI reports two MT guns at 37.8-51.4 Fourches	Staff
2030		28		Effective this date Combat Teams will render to this Hq att Cln Able Charlie NF Sugar G-2 Intelligence Summaries of 1000A and 2200 daily will be in form of a general statement of enemy activity to include negative reports	Staff

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Unit Journal

Organization 550th Infantry Airborne BattalionFrom: 27 September 1944 - 0001
(Date & Hour)To: 27 September 1944 - 1622
(Date & Hour)Place: Barcelonnette, France

In	Out	No	Time dated	Messages, incidents, orders, etc.	Action taken
0630		1		Weather report - clear-cool-slight ground haze OP #1	Staff
	0920	2	0800	S-2 Periodic Report, 550th CT Period: 0700 26 Sept to 0700 27 Sept <u>ll</u> w/ <u>l</u> incl Situation overlay #28, PW report from DIM, Service Order Traffic in the Ubaye Valley	To G-2 ABTF by S-2 S-2
0945		3	0923	Your information XX Secret XX on Col Christmas is correct He has no standing with this Headquarters ABTF	Staff
	1040	4	1028	Attached overlay shows proposed actions by Sengalese which you will probably be able to observe from Grand Communes. Attack on Cugaret as of 0500 failed Enemy seems to be up there in force Are using 4.2 mortars on rear of this peak today Keep as much patrol action going out there as you can We need prisoners badly Will keep you advised of future actions here.	To C.O. Co C by S-3
	1045	5	1630 26Sept	Henline qtrs to dy 26 Sept <u>ll</u> LOD Also dy to qtrs 26 Sept <u>ll</u> LOD Foley dy to qtrs 25 Sept <u>ll</u> LOD	To F/Sgt Mosley Co C fr Aid Sta
	1100	6	0930	S-3 Periodic Report 550th CT 260700 to 270700 Sept <u>ll</u> (Secret) No 28 w/Operation overlay	To G-3 ABTF by S-3 S-3
	1115	7		Request information as to when we can expect our mail to arrive here Check with ABTF and try to get 600 blank Pass Forms see memo 8 20 Sept <u>ll</u> FABTF and send them to us.	To Lt Rowland by Sgt Major
1145		8	1140	3 rds mortar from direction Meyronnes fell in Co B area S Condamine at 1130 AZ 40 deg from 50.3-47.4 Six more rds just landed in this area. Lt Ward	Staff
1300		9	1900 25Sept	S-3 Report A Btry 463rd Prcht FA Bn Period: 1800 24 Sept to 1800 25 Sept <u>ll</u>	Staff S-3
1300		10	0700 26Sept	S-3 Report 463rd Prcht FA Bn Period: 1800 25 Sept to 0600 26 Sept <u>ll</u>	Staff S-3
1345		11	1300	Ey mortar fire on positions of B Co ceased at 1200 when our arty fired in vic of ey mortars About 20 rds fell between 1100 and 1200	Staff
1400		12	1400 26Sept	OP #1 reports ey OP at (52.7-52.9) hill 2493	Staff
1500		13	1445	8 rds enemy artillery at (50.5-44.8) 1435A Caliber of shell unknown B Co CP Paris 6 1/25000	Staff
1622		14	1622	Observed large demolition at 54.6-50.9 in wooded area - possible teller mine at 1610	Staff

From: 27 September 1944 - 1630
(Date & Hour)

To: 27 September 1944 -

In	Out	No	Time dated	Messages, incidents, orders, etc.	Action taken
	1635	15	1635	Urgent need 50 sleeping bags, 50 Toques (Hood), 50 Parkas, 50 Jackets, combat, 50 Trousers, combat	To G-1 AMMF by Ex 0
1710		16	1705	Patrol from C Co to Col de Fer ran into company of Germans of about 50 men Four of our men were ambushed Stinner wounded 3 others still there Believed to be wounded, 1 probably dea M.G.'s and mortars in this position Stinner being evacuated.	Staff
1715		17	1710	OP #1 reports 2 Germans 100 yds from 51.6-50.9 Coord given in previous message	Staff
2030		18	1500 26Sept	Effective this date Combat Teams will render to this Hqs Att CLN Able Chief of Sugar G-2 Intelligence Summaries of 1000A and 2200 daily will be in a form of a general statement of enemy activity to include negative reports	Staff
2100		19		G-1 Report 463rd Archt FA Bn dtd 25 Sept 44	Staff
2100		20		S-3 Report 463rd Archt FA Bn 261800 to 270600 Sept 44 No 150A, Data Sheet	Staff S-3
2100		21		S-3 Report 463rd Archt FA Bn 260600 to 261200 Sept 44 No 149B Data Sheet	Staff S-3
2203		22	2200	Patrol contacted ey at Col du Fer (37.8-51.2) Light shelling over entire area today No other ey activity	To G-2 AMMF by S-2
2310		23	2305	Two of three men missing while on patrol returned One wounded leg wound being evacuated	Staff
2359		24	2353	OP No 1 reports hearing big explosion in valley believed to be near Meyromes A few minutes later heard mtdl believed to be leaving Meyromes headed in direction of St Ours	Staff

JOURNALUnit JournalOrganization: 550th Infantry Airborne BattalionFrom: 28 September 1944 - 0001To: 28 September 1944 - 1351Place: Barcelonnette, France

In	Out	Time	Message, incident, orders etc.	Action taken
0715	1	0715	Clear and cool Camp des Fourches	Staff
0730	2	0720	B Co patrol didn't get started last nite Mules, ammo, and bedding rolls never arrived Patrol still in mbs.	Staff
0830	3	0800	No PW's 27 Sept IPW Report	Enclosed translation of D.I.M. To G-2 FABTF by Frankl
0902	4	0700	S-2 Periodic Report 550th CT 270700 to 280700 No 29, w/ PW Report from DIM, Artillery Report Situation Overlay No 29.	To G-2 1st ABTF by S-2 S-2
0930	5	1700 24Sept	S-2 Report 463rd Procht FA Bn 1800 26 Sept to 1700 24Sept 1800 27 Sept 44 dtd 1700 27 Sept 44 No 150 Overlay	Staff S-2
1000	6	1000	No ey activity	To AC of S G-2
1100	7	1200 26Sept	Approx amount enemy able able able material destroyed or captured since dog day to be reported to this Hq prior to 2400 two nine September attn Ordnance Officer	Staff
1100	8		G-2 ISUM No 84 24 2400 to 25 1200 Sept 44	Staff S-2
1100	9		G-2 ISUM No 85 25 1200 to 25 2400 Sept 44	Staff S-2
1100	10		G-2 Periodic Report 1st ABTF 251200 to 26 1200 Sept 44 No. 32 (Conf) w/IPW Report, Overlay	Staff S-2
1100	11		G-2 Periodic Report 1st ABTF 261200 to 27 1200 Sept 44 No 33 (Conf) w/Border Defenses Overlay	Staff S-2
1130	12		S-2 Periodic Report 509th CT 251200 Sept to 261200 Sept 44 No 43 (Conf)	Staff S-2
1130	13		Atchd herewith report of patrol action vicinity of Col de fer 27 Sept 44. Atchd also overlay showing ey position observed	Staff S-3
1125	14	1020	Ellis and McChesney will arrive your Hq approx one five three zero (1530)	Staff
1145	15	1015	Supply of 81mm light shell becoming more limited. Whenever possible use heavy shell instead of light	Staff
1250	16		Report of C Co patrol to Col de Fur 27 Sept	Staff S-3
1320	17		1 man seen walking down main St in St Ours Snow falling on OP #1	Staff
1330	18		Goum patrol (1 0 3 EM) will pass through Cond. mine wihtin 1/2 hr will return between 1800 and 1900 OP #1	Staff
1330	19		S-3 Periodic Report 550th CT 270700 to 28 1000 Sept 44 dtd 281200 Sept 44 No 29 (Secret)	To G-3 ABTF by S-3 S-3
1350	20	1350	ABTF advises supply of 81 mm light shells is very limited. Use heavy when possible	To 81mm Sect Ldrs by Exec O
1351	21	1351	Very good report received of patrol 27-28 Sept. Try and keep us advised of all activities from your area. Both US and FFI Artillery reports Col de Ffer out of range	To C.O. Co C by -3

From: 28 September 1944 - 1400To: 28 September 1944 - 2400

In	Out	No	Time dated	Message, incidents, orders etc	Action taken
	1400	22		Do you have any artillery weapons in your area that could put fire on Col de Fer (37.8-51.2) France 1/50000 sheet XXXVI - 39? Enemy in strength in this pass	CO 551 Prcht Inf Bn by S-3
	1503	23	1415	Request daily Bn strength figures (Off & EM combined pulling full duty) for period 26 Aug to 12 Sept - Information necessary for VD Report	To T/Sgt Kell- sher Pers by Med Det
	1530	24	1410	Casualty Report (weekly) ending 2359A 28 Sept 44 X-10, Y-9, Z-1, POW-706	To G-1 ABTF by S-1
	1353	25		Y'Barbo, Berlin duty to abs sick hosp He is in town hosp Barcelonnate	To Co. C by Aid Sta
	1540	26		Situation same Have shifted guns to fire at different azimuth 4m firing interdiction and barrages covering attacks	To C.O. Co B 645 TD Bn by 2 Plat Ldr
			27	Lt Col Ellissand Capt McChesney arrived 1555A	
1635		28		S-2 Periodic Report 509th CT 261200 to 271200 Sept 44 No 44 (Conf)	Staff S-2
	2220	29	2200	No ey activity in our area 1000 to 2200	To AC os S G-2 ABTF by S-2

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Unit Journal

Organization: 550th Infantry Airborne BattalionFrom: 29 September 1944 - 0001To: 29 September 1944 - 1500Place: Barcelonnette, France

In	Out	No	Time dated	Message, incident, officer etc	Action taken
0730		1	0700	OP 2 reports patrol pinned down- ey small arms fire front and rear 0655	Staff
	0800	2	0800	Nothing to report for 28 Sept Hope to be at Hq tomorrow	G-2 ABTF by Frankl
0900		3	0850	OP 1 reports seeing much activity atop Cuguret hearing a lot of small arms fire and what sounds like a IMG	Staff
1002		4	0953	Cellar forward reports seeing patrol of 12 to 14 men on ridge Tete de Cuguret withdrawing towards Jausiers also reported hearing small arms fire from Cuguret	Staff
1000		5	1000 28Sept	Request that on Daily G-1 Reports the code LA be broken down to show killed and missing separately daily. When this information is submitted daily it will not be necessary to submit weekly cumulative reports	Staff
1000		6		Payment for Whiskey ration for Officers and WO of your Organization must be in this Office by 1200 1 October 1944 QM ABTF	Staff
1000		7		S-2 Periodic Report 509th CT 271200 to 281100 Sept 44, No 45 (Conf)	Staff S-2
1000		8		G-2 ISUM No 86 252400 to 261200 Sept 44 (Conf)	Staff S-2
1000		9		Military activity at 635 285 two small forts on French side of mountain at 695 248 and 696 246 One small fort at 695 251 Small forts and barracks at 695 254 Small barracks at 696 248 at the MONT DES ARCIAS 586 271 three small forts In the barracks 543 332 concentration of troops about 300 men seen on 22 Sept Source FFI report not considered reliable	Staff S-2
1000		10		G-2 Periodic Report 1st ABTF 271200 to 281200 Sept 44 No 34 (Conf) w/Weather conditions Alpes Maritime District, Swiss Airplane markings	Staff S-2
	1025	11	1020	Patrol contacted ey at (53.1-48.0) and (54.2-48.2) No other ey activity	G-2 ABTF by S-2
	1100	12	1000	S-3 Periodic Report 550th Ct 1000 28 Sept to 1000 29 Sept 44 w/Operations Overlay No 30	To G-3 ABTF by S-3
	1100	13	1045	S-2 Periodic Report 550th CT 0700 28 Sept to 1000 29 Sept 44 w/Situation overlay No 30, Patrol Overlay (Report)	To G-2 ABTF by S-2
	1130	14	28Sep	Report of 63rd Sengalese Company 27 to 28 Sept	Staff S-3
	1130	15		S-2 report 463rd Prcht FA Bn 1800 27 Sept to 1800 28 Sept 44	Staff S-2
	1305	16	1305	Please return first available transportation all maps of this area also SCR 300	TO C.O. Co B by S-3
	1335	17		Send ambulance to Camp des Fourches to evacuate 2 sick men, also send 1st class mail	Staff
	1500	18	0900	Paroles and Countersigns 30 Sept to 2 Oct	Staff

From: 29 September 1944 - 1500

To: 29 September 1944 - 2400

In	Out	No	Time dated	Messages, incidents, orders, etc.	Action taken
1500		19		S-3 Report 509th CT 271000 to 281000 Sept 44 No 49 Overlay	Staff S-3
	1607	20	1500	Request Paroles and Countersigns from 1159A Oct 2 on	To G-2 ABTF by S-2
1620		21	1614	MTN for T-D's coming tomorrow or next day	Staff
1653		22	1400 28Sept	Maj Gunn already has another officer taking care of shipment MARIETTAMADRE which is due here in a few days He has ordered me to proceed to Abignon w/ two radio sets marked LITTLEFORT and one marked HEDGE have been hidden at Seyne by POIREAU of FTP You will find them care of Commandant NOEL of FFI at Digne Proceeding to AVIGNON where I shall contact SEARLE Landon will return with car to GUILLESTRE MICHEL ANGE	
1855		23		Atched herewith overlay showing route of patrol 28 Sept 44 Possible site for 81mm Mortar is indicated Nothing was seen of man missing from patrol of prceeding day (27 Sept 44) GO Co C	Staff

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Unit Journal

Organization: 550th Infantry Airborne BattalionFrom: 30 September 1944 - 0001To: 30 September 1944 - 1400Place: Barcelonnette, France

In	Out	No	Time dated	Message, incident, order, etc	Action taken
0750		1	0710	Weather clear and cool OP #1	Staff
0750		2	0720	Situation quiet last night No activity noted	Staff
0750		3	0730	Weather clear - cool Des Fourches	Staff
	0740	4	0740	Weather report: Cool and clear. Visibility good No wind Ceiling unlimited	To G-2 ABTF by S-2
	0945	5	0945	Notify Capt Paxton that men on pass to Nice will arrive Monday When is pay day?	To Lt Rowland by Exec O
	1000	6	1000	No change.	To G-2 ABTF by S-2
1000		7		S-3 Report 509th CT 1000 28 to 1000 29 Sept, Overlay	Staff S-3
1000		8		G-2 Periodic Report 1st ABTF 1200 28 to 1200 29 Sept 44, w/SSS Report	Staff S-2
1000		9		G-2 ISUM No 25, 1200 29 to 2400 29 Sept 44	Staff S-2
1000		10		S-2 Periodic Report 1100 28 to 1100 29 Sept 44, FFI Report 27 and 28 Sept 44	Staff S-2
1000		11		Paroles and countersigns for 2 - 16 Oct 44	Staff
	1005	12	2200 29Sep	Camp des Fourches received light shelling 1500A Enemy patrols sighted in Camp des Fourches area Counterbattery fire received atobans 1000A	To G-2 ABTF by S-2
1100		13	2400 29Sep	Report 1st ABTF covering period 291200 to 292400 Sept 44	Staff S-2
1100		14		S-3 Report 463rd Prcht FA Bn 1800 29 Sept to 0600 30 Sept 44	Staff S-3
1100		15		S-3 Report 463rd Prcht FA Bn 0600 29 Sept to 1800 29 Sept 44	Staff S-3
	1155	16		S-3 Periodic Report 550th CT 291000 to 1000 Sept 44 Operations overlay	To G-3 ABTF by S-3 S-3
	1320	17	1310	Any pay and mail on way One M-10 immovable until repaired Maintenance promised today or tomorrow Everything else the same	To C.O. Co B 645 TD by CO 2nd Plat
1325		18	2150 29Sep	Paroles and countersigns 2 to 16 Oct	Staff
1350		19	1300	Ey JU-88 observed flying around Camp des Fourches also observed by returning OP 1 party near Chatelard	Staff
1400		20	1245	Message re: attack by 200 Germans at Abries (Secret) fr 5B 463rd	Staff S-3
	1400	21		Request fighter plane to attack JU-88 that has been observing our position throught the day	To G-3 ABTF by Exec O