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HEADQUARTERS 16TH INFANTRY
Office of the Regimental Commander

troops

AFPO #1, U. S. Army,
9 July, 1944.

*OPD
ETD*

SUBJECT : Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, 1st U. S. Infantry Division.

In compliance with letter, Allied Force Headquarters, subject as above,
the following report is submitted;

1 - 4 June 1944

CT 16 and attachments moved from D area camps in the vicinity of Dorchester, Dorset,
England, to load aboard ships at Weymouth and Portland, England, with various small
detachments loading at other points.

5 June 1944

Final preparations for sailing completed. The convoy sailed the evening of 5 June
for the invasion of France.

6 June 1944

At approximately 0345 hours, the 2nd Bn and 3rd Bn debarked from the USS Henrico and
the HMS Empire Anvil, respectively, to assault Beach OMAHA, north of Colleville sur
Mer, Normandie, France, at 0630 hours. Heavy seas, numerous underwater obstacles,
and intense enemy fire destroyed many craft and caused high casualties before the
assault battalions reached shore. Most supporting weapons, including DD tanks, were
swamped. The 2nd Bn., landing from one hundred to one thousand yards from its sche-
duled points, was pinned down on the beach by extremely heavy fire from concrete forti-
fications, machine gun emplacements, and sniper nests, which remained intact through
severe naval and air bombardment. Casualties were extremely high.

The 3rd Bn. landed on the left of Beach OMAHA in the vicinity of Beach Exit E2 and,
despite heavy fire, fought inland up the E3 draw and destroyed many enemy beach
fortifications in its sector.

The 1st Bn. landed on the same beach on which troops of the 2nd Bn. and supporting
organizations were pinned down, as the reserve battalion, at approximately 0730
hours. This caused severe intermingling and confusion on the already crowded beach.
Reorganization was accomplished under continued heavy fire. Much equipment was lost
and casualties mounted. One group had blown a gap in the wire and started moving
inland through the minefields to take the ridge line overlooking the beach.

The 1st and 2nd Bns. cleared Colleville sur Mer, and by 1100 hours, a general movement
inland was underway, meeting stubborn resistance.

By night, the 1st and 2nd Bns. had reached positions about 1500 yards to the west
and north of Colleville sur Mer, where they dug in and repulsed enemy counter attacks
during the evening and night.

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*W. Curleton
CPL 7A*

(6 June-continued)

The 3rd Bn. seized le Grand Hamel and moved eastward along the ridges toward port en Bessin, digging in during the night and consolidating their positions.

7 June 1944

The advance continued, with other elements of the Division passing through CT 16, leaving the Regiment to mop up isolated enemy strong points and snipers. Patrols encountered many of these strong points and snipers. Contact was maintained with the British on the left and other elements of the Division to the south and on the right.

8 June 1944

The advance continued with CT 16 in Division reserve. Continuous combat patrolling throughout the day and night cleared out strong points and snipers left or by-passed by the forward units, casualties were light, and some prisoners were taken. Contact was gained and kept with units on both flanks.

9 June 1944

Regiment in support still following other units of the division, cleaning out strong points and snipers by-passed. Patrols cleared the town of Mosles and other patrols cleared Vancelles and maintained contact with the British on our left.

10 June 1944

The regiment, in Division reserve, moved to an assembly point as shown on S-3 Periodic Report #4. An all around defense was established, and contact by patrol was maintained with forward elements of the Division and with British units on our left.

11 June 1944

Regiment still in a defensive position in Division reserve contact by patrol maintained.

12 June 1944

The regiment moved to a forward position, (see S-3 Periodic Report #6) and prepared, as Division reserve, to support or take over the mission of either of the other combat teams of the Division.

13 June 1944

The regiment was placed in a secondary defensive position to repel counter attacks from either flank or the front, or to take over either of the missions of the other combat teams of the Division. The I and R platoon patrolled extensively during the period to the flanks.

14 June 1944

Regiment, still in Division reserve, occupied a defensive position of secondary defense. Co. A, 16th Infantry, was placed under Division control and took a defensive position in the vicinity of the Division CP to prevent possible infiltration from the left flank of the Division.

15 June 1944

Co. A, 16th Infantry, reverted to Regimental control and returned to its position with the 1st Battalion. The 741st Tank Battalion was relieved from attached to the CT. All battalions and the I and R Platoon patrolled actively to the flanks.

16 June 1944

The regiment was still in a defensive position in Division reserve. Due to a change in the Division boundary; the 1st Battalion, 16th, took over the sector of the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry, 2nd Division, at approximately 2100 hours.

17 June 1944

The regiment was still in Division reserve. All battalions patrolled actively. Co. A, 635th TD Battalion, was placed in direct support of the regiment in the defensive position.

18 June 1944

No change in the situation of the regiment. All battalions and the I and R platoon patrolled actively. Enemy artillery fire light.

19 June 1944

All battalions changed positions during the period, the 2nd Battalion replacing the 1st Battalion. Active patrolling to the flanks encountered an enemy strong point, which was removed.

20 June 1944

No change in Regimental situation, active patrolling continued, enemy artillery fire light.

21 June 1944

AT Co., Cannon Co. and the 3rd Battalion moved to positions as shown on the g-3 periodic Report overlay No. 15. The regiment was concentrated on the Division right flank and all battalions and the I and R platoon patrolled actively. Enemy action for the period was light.

22 June 1944

No change in the regimental situation. Patrolling continued and light enemy action encountered.

23 June 1944

No change in the regimental situation. Light enemy action during the period. Artillery fire was light.

24 June 1944

Battalions and AT Co. moved to new defensive positions as shown on g-3 periodic

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Report # 18. Enemy activity encountered only by patrols. Enemy artillery fire is light.

25 June 1944

No change in the Regimental situation. The Regiment was still in Division reserve and continued patrolling to the right flank.

26 - 30 June 1944

No change in the Regimental situation. Regiment still in Division reserve, with patrolling by all battalions and the I and R platoon. Enemy activity was light during the period.


G. A. TAYLOR
Colonel, 16th Infantry
Commanding.

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