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The Eighty Second AIRBORNE DIVISION

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Operation "Deptune"



ARMED FORCES STAFF COLLEGE

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6 JUNE - 8 JULY 1944

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Report Documentation Page

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82D AIRBORNE DIVISION
ACTION IN NORMANDY, FRANCE

IN FOUR SECTIONS

- I -- PREFACE
- II -- NARRATIVE
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- IV -- ANNEXES

* * * * *

. . . 33 Days of action without relief, without replacements.
Every mission accomplished. No ground gained ever relinquished.
(Report of Major General RIDGWAY.)

* * * * *

COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Excellent, short 60% Infantry, 90% Artillery.
(From G-3 report as of 062400 June 1944.)

* * * * *

MAPS: GSGS 4347, FRANCE, 1/25,000, sheets 31/20 SE, 31/18 NE, SE,
SW, NW

GSGS 4249, FRANCE, 1/100,000, Sheets 5E, 6E, 5F, 6F.

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82D AIRBORNE DIVISION

ACTION IN NORMANDY, FRANCE

JUNE - JULY 1944

SECTION I - PREFACE



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SECTION I -- PREFACE

The 82d Airborne Division arrived in the European Theater of Operations on 9 December, 1943, bronzed by the summer suns of NORTH AFRICA and SICILY and bled and battle-tested in campaigns in SICILY and the ITALIAN mainland. One Regimental Combat Team, the 504th, had been left behind when the Division sailed from NAPLES, ITALY, on 19 November, 1943.

The 504th Regimental Combat Team, (consisting of the 504th Parachute Infantry, the 376th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, and Company C, 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion) was detached from the Division and was fighting in the mountains north of the VOLTURNO River when the 82d sailed from NAPLES. Later it was to spend more than 60 days of grueling warfare on the famous ANZIO Beachhead before rejoining the Division in May in ENGLAND.

The Division disembarked at BELFAST, NORTH IRELAND, and occupied an area northwest of that city. Division Headquarters was established at CASTLE DAWSON, which was approximately thirty miles from BELFAST. The Division was attached to XV Corps.

A shortage of adequate training facilities, the short days and long nights, and no facilities at all for airborne maneuvers, handicapped training. The need for such facilities and training became increasingly important with the attachment to the Division on 14 January, 1944, of the 2d Airborne Brigade, which included the Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company and the 507th and 508th Parachute Infantry Regiments, and preparations were made for the 82d to move to the NOTTINGHAM - LEICESTER - MARKET HARBOUR area in the English Midlands. Brig. Gen. MAXWELL B. TAYLOR, Division Artillery Commander, rejoined the Division after duty with the North African Theater of Operations.

The move to the midlands was made in mid-February, 1944, and an intensive program of airborne and other types of training was begun. A parachute school was opened to train reinforcements, and a series of parachute problems was mapped out to begin with battalion drops and to culminate with a drop of three regiments. Glider personnel trained with the British Horsa gliders as well as with the CG-4A (Waco) gliders, took training rides of more than two hours duration.

Division Headquarters was established in a hatted camp in Braunstone Park, LEICESTER. The telephone code names of "Leader" and "Keystone", employed by the Division in NORTH AFRICA, SICILY, and ITALY, were dropped and the Division became known as "Champion". The 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, which had seen much of its personnel detached and left in ITALY, was reorganized. The 2d Battalion, 401st Glider Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, was attached to the 325th Glider Infantry. This move gave the 325th a total of three battalions. Brigadier General TAYLOR left the Division to become Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division. The Division was attached to VIII Corps.

Meanwhile, preparations were being made for the Division's participation in the invasion of the NORMANDY, FRANCE, Peninsula by Allied forces in "Operation NEPTUNE". Brigadier General JAMES M. GAVIN, the assistant Division Commander, had preceded the Division on its move from ITALY and had been a member of the airborne planning staff established by the Allies in LONDON. The Division Staff began preliminary planning work in January and started intensive planning in February when the Division Situation Room was opened at Camp Braunstone. The Division Commander, Major General MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY, was the senior American Airborne representative on an inter-Allied airborne planning committee.

"Y-Day", the day by which all plans were to be completed, had been set by Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, as 1 June. Regimental staffs were "briefed" on y-60 and battalion staffs on y-30 in accordance with instructions received from the First United States Army and VII Corps to which the Division would be attached upon landing.

82D AIRBORNE DIVISION

ACTION IN NORMANDY, FRANCE

JUNE - JULY 1944

SECTION II -- NARRATIVE

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SECTION II - NARRATIVE

By 26 May 1944 all plans and preparations were completed for the Division to carry out the mission assigned it by First United States Army. Field and administrative orders had been published and distributed. In a series of map maneuvers on a special 1/5,000 map Regimental and battalion commanders had outlined their plans in order that all commanders might be briefed thoroughly on the prospective Division operations. Divisional seaborne echelons already had departed for the marshalling yards and were assembled in camps scattered along the Welsh and southern English coasts. The Division mission was to be as follows:

"Land by parachute and glider before and after dawn of D-Day west of ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE: seize, clear and secure the general area ST. JACQUES DE NEHOU (136985) - DESNEVILLE (137928) (both inclusive) - ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE (exclusive) - BLANDAMOUR (167982) (Inclusive), and reorganize; seize and destroy the crossings of the PRAIRIES MARECAGEUSES north of LA SANGSURIERE (188898), at ST. SAUVEUR DE PIERRE PONT (145890); destroy the crossings of the OLLONONDE River in the vicinity of ST. LO D'OURVILLE (090894) and block crossroads vicinity LE CHEMIN (102902); prevent enemy forces moving north between ST. LO D'OURVILLE and junction of DOUVE River with PRAIRIE MARECAGEUSES (228921); and protect the south flank of VII Corps north of the same line."

The mission, however, was changed by the First Army Commander on 26 May due to confirmed intelligence reports the enemy had strengthened his forces on the COTENIN, (CHERBOURG) Peninsula with the addition of the 91st Infantry Division in the general area of ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE. The revised mission of the 82d Airborne Division was to be:

"Land by parachute and glider before and after dawn of D-Day astride the MERDERET River, seize, clear and secure the general area: CR (261938) - CR (265958) - CR (269975) - RJ (274982) - RJ (283992) - Bridge (308987) - NEUVILLE AU PLAIN (340985) - BANTIENVILLE (360987) within its zone; capture ST. MERE EGLIST (349965); seize and secure the crossings of the MERDERET River at (315957) and (321930), and a bridgehead covering them, with MLR along the general line; CR (261938) - CR (265958) - CR (269975) - RJ (274982) - RJ (283992); seize and destroy the crossings of the DOUVE River at BEUZEVILLE LA BASTILLE (309911) and ETIENVILLE (also known as PONT L'ABBE) (269927); protect the northwest flank of VII Corps within the Division Zone; and be prepared to advance west on Corps order to the line of the DOUVE north of its junction with the PRAIRIES MARECAGEUSES."

New orders and other administrative details made necessary by the new mission were worked out quickly and disseminated within four days. The change did not effect the basic plan for movement in three echelons which had been worked out as follows:

Force "A" - commanded by Brigadier General JAMES M. GAVIN, assistant Division Commander, to be committed by parachute before dawn of D-Day and to include

Det Hq & Hq Co, 82d Abn Div

Planes

Pathfinders	9
Det Hq 82d Div Arty	2
Det 82d Abn Sig Co	3
Det 456 Prcht FA Bn (atchd 505 Prcht Inf)	
Air Support Party (atchd Hq 82d Abn Div)	
505 Prcht Inf	117
507 Prcht Inf	117
508 Prcht Inf	117
Co B, 307 Abn Engr Bn	9
Naval Shore Fire Control Party (atchd 505 Prcht Inf)	

TOTAL 378

Force "B" -- Commanded by Major General MATTHEW R. RIDGWAY, Division Commander, to be committed by glider before and after dawn of D-Day and to include,

	<u>Glanders</u>
Hq & Hq Co 82 Abn Div (-)	22
Hq & Hq Btry, 82d Abn Div Arty (-)	11
82d Abn Sig Co (-)	13
325 GLi Inf	172
319 GLi FA Bn	40
320 GLi FA Bn	54
Btrys A, B & C, 80 Abn AA Bn (AT)	57
Co A, 307 Abn Engr Bn	10
307 Abn Med Co (-)	20
82d Abn Rec Plat (-)	13
Air Support Party	4
Command vehicles - Prcht Regts	12

TOTAL 428

Force "C" -- Commanded by Brigadier General GEORGE P. HOWELL, Commanding General of 2d Airborne Infantry Brigade, to be committed by sea, to land between D plus 2 and D plus 7 and to include,

456 FA Bn (-)	87 Armd FA Bn, atchd
80 Abn AA Bn (-)	899 TD Bn, atchd
307 Abn Engr Bn (-)	Tr B, 4 Cav Sqdn, atchd
782 Abn Ord Maint Co	Co C, 746 Tk Bn (M), atchd
407 Abn QM Co	3309 QM Trk Co, atchd
82 Abn M ² Plat	3310 QM Trk Co, atchd
Corps Med Dets	1st Plat, 603 QM (GR) Co, atchd

Seaborne elements of units in Forces

"A" and "B"

Under the plan Force "A" in its entirety was to approach the CHERBOURG (COTENTIN) Peninsula from the west and to drop between 0100 and 0315 hours on the night of D-1/D-Day on three drop zones. The 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment and its attachments were to land east of the MERDERET River about 1,000 yards northwest of STE. MERE EGLISE (3397). The 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment was to land west of the MERDERET River about 1,000 yards north of AMFREVILLE (3098). The 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment and Force "A" Headquarters were to land west of the MERDERET River about 1,000 yards north of PICAUVILLE (2995).

Fifty-two gliders of Force "B" were to approach the CHERBOURG Peninsula from the west prior to H-Hour and land on the 505th drop zone. The remainder of Force "B" was to approach the peninsula from the east and was to land late

[REDACTED]

on D-Day and early on D plus one on landing zones at the STE. MERE EGLISE - BLOSVILLE Road (3694). In a last-minute change of plan General RIDGEWAY parachuted with Force "A".

Aerial resupply missions were scheduled automatically for the morning of D plus one and on call thereafter if needed. The automatic mission was the only parachute mission ultimately flown but a small amount of equipment and supplies were received later by glider.

All airborne elements of the Division had closed and were sealed in special camps at the take-off fields by 24 hours before the scheduled take-off time. Parachute elements were located at seven airfields in the GRANTHAM - COTTESMORE - LANGAR area of the British Midlands, and glider elements were at seven airfields in the ALDERMASTON - RAMSBURY - MERRYFIELD area. (See Annex No. 3 A)

All men were briefed thoroughly on their missions, a recheck was made of all equipment and personnel, and planes and gliders were loaded with equipment. The Allied D-Day was postponed 24 hours because of weather conditions, and the first planes of Force "A" took off at 052315 June 1944.

The main flight was preceded by the three regimental pathfinder teams which dropped one-half hour prior to the first group. The pathfinders sustained many casualties and had difficulty in using lights, but they accomplished their mission and set up beacons to guide the incoming planes to the three designated drop zones.

The flight over the English Channel was in good formation and without incident, but between the west coast and the drop zones a heavy fog bank tended to break up the formation of the planes. Flak and some enemy night fighters activity caused some of the troop carrier planes to take up evasive action, and by the time the drop zones were reached many planes were scattered, and were flying at excessive speeds and at altitudes higher than those ideal for jumping.

The 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment landed generally in the vicinity of its drop zone. The 507th Parachute Infantry was scattered, one element dropping in the vicinity of MONTEBOURG, another south of CARENTAN and the remainder astride the MERDERET River east of the drop zone. The 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment was likewise scattered widely, the bulk of its parachutists dropping east of the Drop Zone and some personnel landing as far away as nine kilometers south of CHEBOURG.

The 52 gliders containing batteries of the 80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion and detachments and forward parties of artillery, signal and Division Headquarters groups followed the main body of paratroopers and began landing at 0404 hours. The gliders also encountered fog and flak. They too were scattered, and many of them were damaged upon crashing into the small fields and high hedgerows.

Enemy reaction to the landing of the 82d Airborne Division in the NORMANDY area was prompt and severe, but from the time the first man landed until 33 days later, when the Division was finally relieved, every mission was accomplished and no ground gained was ever relinquished.

A day-by-day account of the Division's activities follows:

D-DAY, 6 JUNE 1944 (See Annexes 5 and 6)

The first element of the main body of the Division jumped at 0151 hours, having been preceded 30 minutes by the Pathfinder teams. By 0312 hours all paratroopers had landed, and at 0404 hours the first of 52 gliders in the initial glider serial crash landed. Both parachutists and gliders were scattered.

Small groups and some units attacked to secure the Division zone. Groups

of men and individuals who had been scattered in the landings rejoined their units throughout the day, and by nightfall approximately 30 per cent of the Division's forces were under control.

At 2100 hours 100 gliders landed with artillery, engineers, and special troops. Seaborne elements set sail at 0645 from BRISTOL except for a task force consisting of Company C, 746th Tank Battalion; the 1st Platoon, Troop B, 4th Cavalry Squadron; and elements of Company F, 3d Battalion (originally 2d Battalion, 401st Glider Infantry), 325th Glider Infantry. This task force landed on Utah Red Beach at 1400 hours and proceeded inland with the mission of contacting the Division near STE. MERE EGLISE.

At the close of the day, the Division was in the midst of severe fighting. It had captured STE. MERE EGLISE and held a general line along the MERDERET River from LA FIERE (319963) south to include the eastern end of the causeway over the MERDERET River at 321930.

Headquarters & headquarters Company, 82d Airborne Division

Parachute elements, part of Force "A", dropped at 0214 hours near the west bank of the MERDERET River, and glider elements, leading echelon of Force "B", landed at 0204 hours. The Force "A" Command Post was set up initially at 305965, west of the MERDERET River, but at 0730 the group waded across the River to the east bank and assembled at LA FIERE (319963). A new Force "A" Command Post was established at a railroad crossing at 326944.

The Division Commander, who jumped with the 505th Parachute Infantry, established his Command Post in a hedgerow west of STE. MERE EGLISE at 332965. Elements of Headquarters and of the Defense Platoon moved south to secure the bridge west of CHEF DU PONT (321930) where it encountered severe enemy fire. This group returned to the Command Post at 1700, but part of the Defense Platoon moved to a new Force "A" Command Post at a railroad pass at 323960.

The Division Headquarters initial glider serial, which landed in the dark at approximately 0415 hours, was scattered, and the G-2 and G-3 did not reach the command post until late afternoon. The Chief of Staff was injured in a glider crash and later evacuated. The G-1 did not reach the command post for two days.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The first element, the 2d Battalion, dropped at 0151 hours and the entire regiment landed by 0202 hours. Most of the troops landed on or near the drop zone, but a few were widely dispersed over the countryside. The 3d Battalion entered STE. MERE EGLISE at 0400 hours, and the town was securely held and outposted within an hour. The American Flag was raised over STE. MERE EGLISE, the first French town to be liberated by the Allies. After assembling the 3d Battalion started to move out to take NEUVILLE AU PLAIN, but orders were received from the regiment to stand by. At 0600 hours the 2d Battalion moved into position north of STE. MERE EGLISE and assisted the 3d Battalion in holding the town. The 1st Battalion moved toward its objective, the bridge over the MERDERET River (314956) at LA FIERE at 0630 hours and by 0830 held the eastern end of this bridge against heavy enemy fire from the western approaches.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The first element, the 1st Battalion, jumped at 0232 hours, and by 0312 hours the entire regiment was on the ground generally east of the MERDERET River and was fairly dispersed. Small groups assembled to form small task forces until such time as the regiment could assemble completely. One such force on the west bank of the MERDERET River attacked AMERVILLE but was forced back by overwhelming superiority in enemy strength to FLAUX (303955). A patrol was sent to the western

[REDACTED]

end of LA FIERRE Bridge and contact was made with elements of the 505th Parachute Infantry on the eastern end at 1430 hours. The enemy recaptured FLAUX and drove this patrol from the western end of the LA FIERRE Bridge. Another force of the regiment joined with Force "A" Headquarters and at 1130 attacked to secure the CHEF DU PONT Bridge (321930), meeting extremely severe resistance. The eastern end of the bridge was finally secured by nightfall. Leaving one company to hold the bridge, the remainder of this second force moved to an assembly area at 1715 hours in the vicinity of the railroad overpass at 323960. Still another group, led by the regimental commander, landed on or near the scheduled drop zone but had no contact with other elements of the Division during the day.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 3d Battalion jumped at 0208 hours and the entire regiment was on the ground by 0220 hours. Four separate groups were assembled. One group was in the vicinity of LA FIERRE, fought along the railway and attacked the LA FIERRE Bridge. This group was later relieved by the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of the railroad overpass (323960) to organize a defensive position. Two other groups joined forces west of the MERDERET River in the vicinity of PICAUVILLE after taking part in heavy fighting around GUETTEVILLE (300948) and north of PICAUVILLE. An officer of this group shot and killed the commanding general of the German 91st Division. The combined group then seized the high ground west of the MERDERET River south of GUETTEVILLE at 310940 during the night of June 6-7. A fourth group dropped in the vicinity of STE. MERE EGLISE, fought with the 507th Parachute Infantry to take the CHEF DU PONT Bridge (321930) and later organized a defensive position covering this bridge.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

Company F, 3d Battalion, supporting Company C, 746th Tank Battalion, landed on Utah Red Beach at 1400, de-waterproofed vehicles and moved inland at 1600 to make contact with the Division. Heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire held up this task force at crossroads 363933. Two tanks were knocked out. The remainder of the regiment prepared to take off from airports in England.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

Parachute elements jumped at 0210 hours, joined a group from the 508th Parachute Infantry and assisted in the attack on the LA FIERRE Bridge. At 1330 hours this element joined the glider element at the Division CP at 332965. Glider elements landed at 0500 hours and moved directly to the Division CP. At 2305 hours Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of Division Artillery, the 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion and the 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion glided into NORMANDY and encountered severe enemy small arms and mortar fire. Reorganization commenced immediately but was handicapped by intense enemy fire. The section of the 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion attached to 505th Parachute Infantry jumped with the 3d Battalion, but was able to assemble only one of the two 75mm pack howitzers which had been dropped.

80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion (AT)

Batteries A and B landed by glider at 0405 hours. Six 57mm antitank guns had been recovered and were in position by 1730 hours. Battery C glided into the area at 2100 hours and began assembly and reorganization. The remainder of the Battalion sailed from BRISTOL, ENGLAND, at 0645 hours.

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

Company B (loss one platoon attached to the 505th Parachute Infantry)

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jumped with the 508th Parachute Infantry at 0210 hours. Some Engineer personnel took up defensive positions at LA FIERE in support of one group of the 508th, and other personnel joined the 508th group west of the MERDERET River. One "stick", which included the Battalion Commander, was dropped over ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMITE, and only a few escaped. Part of Headquarters and Company A landed by glider at 2300 hours and started to assemble under heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire. The remainder of the battalion prepared to take off from airports in ENGLAND.

307th Airborne Medical Company

Elements of the company landed by glider about 2100 and immediately began assembly, recovering by use of life rafts much equipment from gliders that had landed in shallow water near the banks of the MERDERET River. A clearing station was set up at a crossroad north of BLOSVILLE.

82d Airborne Signal Company

Parachute and glider elements of the company which landed prior to H-Hour were scattered and assembled with difficulty. Much equipment was lost. Only one of the three SCR 193 radios landed during D-Day was operative, and it was not until the night of June 6-7 that radio contact was established with the 4th Infantry Division and with the Division base in ENGLAND.

D PLUS 1, 7 JUNE 1944

The Division continued to assemble, reorganize, and secure its area against extremely severe enemy resistance which included armor. Enemy troops, identified as the 91st Infantry Division, were held along the MERDERET River to the west and were driven back to the north and northwest. Contact was established with the 4th Infantry Division during the day, and the VII Corps Commander visited the Division Command Post late in the day. The 325th Glider Infantry arrived by glider during the morning. Additional personnel which had been scattered in the original landings continued to report back to their units.

During the afternoon garbled radio messages signed "CO 507" were received at the Division Command Post, and it was finally determined that they originated with the Regimental Commander who was isolated with a group of about 300 men west of AMREVILLE.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The first glider elements began landing at 0700 hours about 2,500 yards southeast of STE. MERE EGLISE. There were many crash landings, and casualties totalled approximately 7.5 per cent. Assembly was rapid, however, and by 1015 hours all battalions were reported. The 3d Battalion moved out toward CARQUEDUT at 1415 hours and reached LE PORT (328918) without encountering opposition. The remainder of the regiment proceeded to move into an assembly area northeast of CHEF DU PONT. At 1600 hours the 2d Battalion was ordered to move into an assembly area east of LA FIERE in the vicinity of 325962 and later was attached to the 505th Parachute Infantry at 2100 hours. The 1st and 3d Battalions were ordered to move into and to outpost the regimental assembly area. Company F, 3d Battalion in support of Company G, 746th Tank Battalion, and the 1st Platoon, attack towards STE. MERE EGLISE from the west at 0630 hours and made contact with glider-borne elements of the 325th by 0900. The 325th's regimental strength at the close of the day was approximately 85 per cent.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 2d and 3d Battalions continued to hold STE. MERE EGLISE against severe

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attacks from the north and south. The 2d Battalion patrols contacted elements of the 8th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division at STE. MARTINE (384973) at 1300 hours and attacked north to clear the outskirts of STE. MERE EGLISE. The 1st Battalion withstood several counterattacks and pushed the enemy back to the eastern bank of the MERDERET River in the vicinity of the LA FIERRE Bridge. They were supported late in the day by one platoon of tanks from Company C, 746th Tank Battalion. At the close of the period of 2d and 3d Battalions prepared to attack north toward NEUVILLE AU PLAIN in conjunction with the 4th Infantry Division's drive on the right. The 2d Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry, was attached at 2100 to assist in this attack.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment moved into an area west of STE. MERE EGLISE in the vicinity of 335960, rested and reorganized. At 1600 hours the regiment moved into positions south of the LA FIERRE - STE. MERE EGLISE Road west of the railroad to assist the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry, against a threatened counterattack at the LA FIERRE Bridge. At 1900 hours the 507th, at approximately 25 per cent strength, successfully pushed the enemy back to the west bank of the MERDERET River in its sector.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

One group near the railroad overpass (333960) moved into positions in the vicinity of the road junction 334972 to protect the Division's north flank against enemy penetration. This group was in position by 0630 hours, but it later moved to join another group of the regiment in position defending the CHEF DU PONT Bridge. It wiped up numerous enemy strong points surrounding CHEF DU PONT and established patrol contact with elements of the regiment west of the MERDERET River on the high ground in the vicinity of 310940. The group on the high ground, now recognized as the 2d Battalion, had completed organization of its position by 1300 hours, wiping out a number of enemy mortar and artillery positions. A road block was set up on the western approaches to the CHEF DU PONT Bridge and contact was established with forces in CHEF DU PONT. Regimental strength at the close of the day was approximately 25 per cent.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

Various groups of the artillery were involved in individual skirmishes with the enemy as they found their way back to their parent units. The 31st Glider Field Artillery Battalion assembled east of STE. MERE EGLISE in the vicinity of 371974 with six 75mm pack howitzers. The 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion was placed in direct support of the 505th Parachute Infantry. After salvaging two 105mm M3 howitzers and taking over the 75mm pack howitzer of the 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion detachment with the 505th, the 320th went into position 400 yards west of STE. MERE EGLISE. The first round was fired at 0911 hours. The airborne echelon of the 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion arrived off Utah Beach but did not land.

80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion

Batteries A, B, and C continued to reorganize and by 1800 hours six 57mm antitank guns of Battery C and three guns each from Batteries A and B were in position covering the two bridges over the MERDERET River. The remainder of the Battalion remained on board ships preparing to disembark on Utah Beach.

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

The remainder of Company A landed by glider at 0700 hours and moved to join the 325th Infantry in the vicinity of CHEF DU PONT at 0930 hours. Bridges and culverts south of LE PORT (328918) and near LIESVILLE (331935) were blown.

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Aerial Resupply

An aerial resupply mission, including 148 of the 248 C-47 planes which had taken off, arrived over the area at 0620. They dropped 155.5 tons of ordnance, quartermaster and medical supplies, 74% of the originally scheduled load. The drop pattern was poor and bundles were scattered, many of them falling into enemy hands or being covered by enemy fire. Limited recovery was affected initially.

D PLUS 2, 8 JUNE 1944

The Division continued to attack along its north flank, maintained its positions along the MERDERET River, and cleared the southern flank area to establish contact with the 101st Airborne Division.

During the night of 7-8 June a messenger from the isolated group east of AMFREVILLE crossed the MERDERET River on a sunken bridge north west of LA FIERE and reported to the Division Command Post. It was now evident that there were three isolated groups west of the MERDERET River, as follows:

a. A strong force of 2d Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry, on high ground in the vicinity of 310940 south of CEUTTEVILLE (300948).

b. The 2d Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry, located north of FLAUX in the vicinity of 305968.

c. A force of approximately 425 men, most of them from the 507th Parachute Infantry, located west of AMFREVILLE.

As the above situation became clear, the Division Commander developed a plan to relieve the isolated groups west of the MERDERET and also establish a clear-cut bridgehead over the River. The 1st Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry, was to cross the MERDERET River on the sunken bridge north west of LA FIERE, establish contact with the 2d Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry, and swing south to capture the western approaches to the LA FIERE Bridge. The 507th force west of AMFREVILLE was to attack to the east to contact the 1st Battalion 325th, and 2d Battalion, 507th. The 2d Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry, was to remain in place.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

At 2330 the 1st Battalion crossed the MERDERET River northwest of LA FIERE by means of a sunken road and a railroad embankment against little enemy opposition to establish a bridgehead and contact the isolated forces of the 507th Parachute Infantry. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion had crossed the river successfully and was marching towards the western approaches to the LA FIERE Bridge.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 1st Battalion initially remained in position north of LA FIERE assisting the 507th Parachute Infantry in guarding the MERDERET River crossing at that point. The 2d and 3d Battalions attacked abreast to the north and seized NEUVILLE AU PLAIN by 0430 hours against slight opposition. Supported by the 2d Platoon, Company C, 746th Tank Battalion, these two battalions continued their attack to the north and seized GRAINVILLE by 2300 hours. The 1st Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion, the 3d then taking up a reserve position southwest of GRAINVILLE in the vicinity of 308993. Attached to the 505th, the 2d Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry, assumed defensive positions west of the town and prepared to attack to the north toward FRESVILLE on the Division's north flank at the close of the period.

[REDACTED]

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

One force of 175 men isolated since D-Day on the west bank of the MERDERET River north of FLAUX in the vicinity of 305968 was still intact but suffered from heavy enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. It attempted unsuccessfully to cross the River to the east to rejoin the regiment. Part of the 507th force west of AMFREVILLE succeeded in joining the group east of the town, but another portion of the group, including the regimental commander, was ambushed and taken prisoner. The portion of the 507th east of the MERDERET continued to hold a line between 321945 and 313978, maintaining contact with adjacent regiments.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Attacking with two reinforced companies, the regiment cleared the area on the Division's south flank to include the towns of LE FORT, CARQUEBUT, and ETREVILLE by 1920 hours and established contact with the 101st Airborne Division at Road Junction 363930 north of BLOSVILLE. Resistance was severe, but 160 prisoners were taken. The 2d Battalion on the west bank of the MERDERET River repulsed several sharp enemy tank counterattacks directed at the western causeway to the CHEF DU PONT Bridge. Contact with the regiment on the east bank could not be maintained because of excessive enemy activity and observation.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

The 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion moved seven 75mm pack howitzers into position east of CHEF DU PONT in support of the 507th and 508th Parachute Infantry Regiments. The 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion moved eight 105mm M3 howitzers into position west of STE. MERE EGLISE in direct support of the 505th Parachute and 325th Glider Infantry Regiments. The 87th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of attachment to the Division before it was in position to fire a shot in support of our operations.

Seaborn Echelon

The seaborne echelon, Force "C", began landing at 1500 hours and moved into a bivouac area preparatory to joining the rest of the Division. Troops included the 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, Batteries D, E and F of the 80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion, Headquarters Company of the 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion, some attached troops and seaborne elements of units that had arrived by parachute and glider.

D PLUS 3 - 9 JUNE 1944

The Division gained a clear-cut bridgehead over the MERDERET River, relieved two of the three isolated groups and some members of the third, and continued its attack to the northwest in the LE HAM sector.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The 1st Battalion continued to press forward to reach the western approaches of the LA FIERE Bridge but at 0400 hours was pinned down by heavy fire of all types in the vicinity of CAN UIGNY (309959). Following a 15 minute artillery preparation, the 3d Battalion attacked across the LA FIERE Bridge at 1030 hours with two companies of the 507th Parachute Infantry and supported by Company C, 746th Tank Battalion. A bridgehead was established despite heavy losses. CAN UIGNY was secured by 1530 hours and the 3d Battalion was linked up with the 1st Battalion, 325th, on the left and with the 2d Battalion, 507th on the right. Only a smaller portion of the group west of AMFREVILLE succeeded in reaching our lines. An enemy counterattack lasting from 1900 to 2100 was repulsed successively by the 3d Battalion and the 507th Parachute Infantry.

[REDACTED]

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

GRAINVILLE and the bridge over the MERDERET River at the town were seized by 0100. The regiment attacked again at 0530 with 2d Battalion on the left, 2d Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry, attached, on the right, and 1st Battalion following. The regiment reached a line 300 yards south of the canal, 300008 to 302007, by 1200. The 2d Battalion then moved through positions of 2d Battalion, 325th and continued the attack with the 1st Battalion.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Two companies attacked across the LA FIERE Bridge with the 325th Glider Infantry at 1030 to establish a firm bridgehead in a fierce and savage attack. These two companies captured LE MOTTEY (299962) despite heavy fire of all types. Contact was made with the 2d Battalion, 507, and the two companies moved into a reserve position 500 yards east of LE MOTTEY. The regiment again assisted the 325th, at 2000 hours, in repelling a strong enemy counterattack, the repulse of which assured a firm hold on the MERDERET Bridgehead.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 3d Battalion crossed over LA FIERE Bridgehead at 1200 hours and attacked south to clear the area between GRETTEVILLE (310948) and the high ground at 310940. Contact was established with the 2d Battalion, and the MERDERET Bridgehead was thus extended to include both the causeways at LA FIERE and southwest of CHEF DU PONT. A sharp enemy counterattack from the direction of MAMFREVILLE was repulsed successfully between 1930 and 2100 hours. The remainder of the regiment maintained position holding the CHEF DU PONT Bridge. It received spasmodic artillery fire during the evening.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

The 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion and seaborne elements of the remainder of Division Artillery units arrived. Groupment was made of the 456th Parachute and 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalions in direct support of the 325th Glider and 505th Parachute Infantry Regiments. The 456th went into positions west of NEUVILLE-AU PLAIN with seven 75mm pack howitzers and fired its first rounds at 2130 hours. The 90th Division Artillery and one battalion of the 4th Division Artillery were in general support.

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

The 1st Platoon, Company A, crossed the MERDERET River with 1st Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry north of LA FIERE. The remainder of Company A supported the attack across LA FIERE Bridge. The remainder of the Battalion salvaged equipment and resupply bundles, set up water points and assembled one mile west of ST. MERE EGLISE.

Seaborne Echelon

Force "C", under command of Brigadier General GEORGE P. HOWELL, closed into the ST. MERE EGLISE area at 1330.

Resupply

Two CG-4A gliders landed near ST. MERE EGLISE carrying greatly needed signal equipment. This constituted the second air resupply mission flown.

D PLUS 4 -- 10 JUNE 1944

The Division was relieved within the bridgehead across the MERDERET River by

- 11 -
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

the 90th Infantry Division, which passed through the 82d and continued the attack to the west. Despite the scattered parachute drops and isolation of some Battalions, the Division within four days secured the MURDERET area and established a firm bridgehead across the MURDERET River from its junction with the SAIVE River to and including the railway bridge 1,500 yards north of LA FIERE. Resistance had been stubborn and severe. Although it suffered heavy losses in the battle of the MURDERET, the Division virtually destroyed the German 91st Infantry Division and prevented it from contacting the beach assault forces of the First U. S. Army.

Although relieved in the MURDERET Bridgehead, Division troops continued the attack in the north.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment,

The 357th Infantry, 90th Division, passed through the 325th front line at 0540 hours. The 1st and 3d Battalions remained in position throughout the day and night as a reserve.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Supported by artillery, the 1st and 2d Battalions jumped off across the canal at 1400 hours to seize LE HAM (289013) and MONTEBURG STATION (289024). The 1st Battalion by-passed LE HAM and seized the station by 1800 hours in the face of stiff resistance throughout the advance. Elements of the 2d Battalion were forced to withdraw from the outskirts of LE HAM at 2310 hours. Attempts to retake the town during the night were contested savagely. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve, and the 2d Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry, attached, protected the regiment's southwestern flank.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 357th Infantry, 90th Division, passed through the 507th lines at 0540 hours. The regiment assembled east of the MURDERET River in the vicinity of LA FIERE and reorganized and rested.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

The 358th Infantry, 90th Division, passed through the 508th lines at 0510 hours. The regiment, less one company still at LE PORT, assembled on high ground west of the MURDERET River in the vicinity of 310940 and reorganized.

82d Airborne Division Artillery.

The 320th Glider and 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalions, reinforced by the 915th Field Artillery Battalion, 90th Division, continued to fire harassing and interdiction missions in support of the 505th Parachute Infantry.

Resupply

Two CG-4A gliders landed at STE. MERE EGLISE carrying signal equipment.

D PLUS 5 AND D PLUS 6 -11 - 12 JUNE 1944

The Division secured the area north of STE. MERE EGLISE after fierce fighting on the part of the 505th Parachute Infantry, with 2d Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry attached, seized LE HAM and drove the enemy north and northwest. By this action the 82d Airborne Division delayed considerably the German 243 Infantry Division from contacting the beach assault forces of the First U. S. Army.

[REDACTED]

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

After being passed through by the 359th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division, the regiment closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of GUBTEVILLE (303948), and rested and reorganized. The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 505th Parachute Infantry.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 2d Battalion with the 2d Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry, attached, on the left, attacked at 111130 hours to capture LE HAM. Overcoming severe opposition in wet and difficult terrain, the 2d Battalion, 325th, seized LE HAM at 2025 hours. By 2300 hours positions were consolidated along the entire MERDERET River up to and including the MONTEBURG railroad station at 289024. Contact with the 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, was made by the 1st Battalion at MONTEBURG station. The bridge over the MERDERET River at 277015 was blown by our troops at 2145. The regiment remained in position, patrolling west across the river until relieved by the 357th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division, during the night of 12-13 June.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment continued to rest and reorganize in the vicinity of LA FIERE.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment continued to rest and reorganize in the vicinity of the high ground west of the MERDERET River at 310940. Contact was maintained with the 101st Airborne Division on the left. Preparations were completed on 12 June for an attack to establish a bridgehead over the DOUVE River at BEUZEVILLE LA BASTILLE on the night of 12-13 June.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

The 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion remained in direct support of the 505th Parachute Infantry. The 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion prepared to reinforce fires of the 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion and moved south of PICAUVILLE. The 319th, in direct support of the 508th Parachute Infantry, moved west across the DOUVE River into positions north of BEUZEVILLE LA BASTILLE. The 915th Field Artillery Battalion, attached from 90th Infantry Division, was relieved at 110600. The 188th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm howitzer) was attached at 121300 and moved into positions to reinforce the fires of the 319th.

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

The Battalion continued to salvage resupply bundles and operate water points in the area. Extensive surveys of the DOUVE River were conducted during this period, and bridging material, assault boats and other river crossing equipment were obtained.

Attached Units

Company C, 746th Tank Battalion, was relieved from attachment to the Division at 110800 June.

D PLUS 7 -- 13 JUNE 1944

The Division, using the 508th Parachute Infantry, extended its right flank by establishing a bridgehead across the DOUVE River at BEUZEVILLE LA BASTILLE and contacted the 101st Airborne Division again at DAUPTÉ. Other elements of the

[REDACTED]

Division continued to reorganize and regroup preparatory to passing through the 90th Infantry Division and attacking to the west in conjunction with the 9th Infantry Division. The Division Command Post moved to a point near PICAUVILLE at coordinates 294928.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The 2d Battalion rejoined the regiment at 1000 hours. The regiment closed in a new assembly area south of PICAUVILLE at 1630 hours. Preparations were made to attack to the west the following day.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 2d Battalion, 325th Infantry, was relieved from attachment. The regiment moved from the LE HAM area to an assembly area east of PICAUVILLE, rested and reorganized.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment moved from the LA FIERE area to an assembly area north of PICAUVILLE. Preparations were made to attack to the west the following day.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

A combat team composed of the regiment, the 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion, Battery A, 80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion, a detachment from the 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion and one platoon of Troop B, 4th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, attacked south across the DOUVE River. Company F crossed the DOUVE by assault boats at 0001 hours and seized BEUZEVILLE LA BASTILLE. The remainder of the troops crossed the river on a footbridge, constructed by engineers beginning at 0400 hours. The 1st Battalion cleared CRETTEVILLE by 0745 hours, destroyed considerable enemy equipment, including 12 light tanks, and occupied defensive positions at COIGNY. The 2d Battalion met determined resistance outside of DAUPTÉ but occupied the town by 1800 and established contact with the 101st Airborne Division to the south. The 3d Battalion secured the area between PONT AUNY and HOTOT. During the entire action 14 light tanks were knocked out and sizeable quantities of enemy equipment captured or destroyed.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

The 319th and 320th Glider and 188th Field Artillery Battalions fired in support of the 508th Parachute Infantry's crossing of the DOUVE River at BEUZEVILLE LA BASTILLE. These three battalions expended 1,880 rounds in 50 minutes, and their fires were reinforced as well by the 90th Division Artillery. The 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion displaced south of the DOUVE River at 1800 hours. The 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion moved from the LE HAM sector into positions north of PICAUVILLE at 1800 hours.

80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion

Battery A knocked out five enemy light tanks in conjunction with the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry's attack south of the DOUVE River.

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

Company A operated assault boats across the DOUVE River at BEUZEVILLE LA BASTILLE beginning at 0001 hours in support of the 508th Parachute Infantry. A footbridge was constructed first, and, with the assistance of VII Corps Engineers a Bailey bridge was completed by 0830 hours. The 3d Platoon of Company B was attached to the 508th Parachute Infantry and prepared the bridge south of DAUPTÉ for demolition.

[REDACTED]

Attached Troops

Company A, 746th Tank Battalion, was attached to the Division at 1700 hours.

Resupply

Eleven gliders carrying ordnance and signal equipment landed at STE. MERE EGLISE.

D PLUS 8 -- 14 JUNE 1944

The Division continued to mop up in the BAUPTE area and also passed through the 90th Division to attack west toward ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE.

The attack, with the 82d Airborne Division on the left and the 9th Infantry Division on the right, originally was scheduled to begin shortly after dawn but was delayed until 1000 to permit units being relieved additional opportunity to seize the contemplated line of departure. The attack began at 1000 even though the line of departure had not been seized. The fighting was bitter hedgerow-to-hedgerow onslaught, but considerable progress was made.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The regiment attacked at 1000 in column of battalions with the 3d Battalion leading. The 507th Parachute Infantry was to the regiment's right. As the scheduled line of departure had not been seized, the 325th attacked to the right of the 358th Infantry, 90th Division, instead of through it, but later swung in front of that regiment. The main highway due west of ETIENVILLE was strongly defended by the enemy, but he was driven off the road by 1830 hours after exceptionally hard fighting and repeated thrusts by both the 3d and 1st Battalions supported by one platoon of Company A, 746th Tank Battalion. The 1st Battalion continued to attack and advanced west 400 yards. The regiment consolidated its positions at 2100 hours, established firm contact with the 507th Infantry on the right and prepared to continue the attack to the west.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment remained in Division reserve. Company I moved to secure the bridge south of ETIENVILLE (PONT L'ABBE), holding positions at the north end of the bridge. Company H was attached to the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment at 1400 hours to act as Infantry escort for a platoon of Company A, 746th Tank Battalion through and beyond ETIENVILLE, but the company reverted to regimental control at 1940 hours. The regiment was ordered at 2100 hours to move into position 1,000 yards north of ETIENVILLE. Company I remained at the ETIENVILLE Bridge and established patrol contact with the 508th Parachute Infantry in the DEUZEVILLE LA BASTILLE Bridgehead.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Attacking in column of battalions with the 3d Battalion leading, the regiment crossed the creek between REMOUF and ETIENVILLE at 1000 hours, passing through the 90th Division. The 325th Glider Infantry was on the left and the 60th Infantry, 9th Division, was on the right. Encountering heavy pounding of enemy artillery, the 3d Battalion turned north to block REMOUF and protect the north flank of the Division while the 9th Division spent the better part of the day seizing the town. Enemy resistance was severe. Counter-attacks in the evening were repulsed with the assistance of one platoon of tanks from Company A, 746th Tank Battalion. The 3d and 1st Battalions in that order, followed the 3d Battalion and continued the attack to the west, reaching the outskirts of LA BONNEVILLE by 2200 hours. After consolidating positions and reorganizing, all Battalions prepared to continue the attack the next day.

[REDACTED]

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 1st Battalion moved from the vicinity of COIGNY to assist the 2 Battalion clear BAUPTE at 0130 hours. The 3d Battalion repelled a sharp counterattack at 0700 hours in the vicinity of HOTOT. The enemy attempted to break through the 3d Battalion positions again at 1005 hours, but the attack failed after the enemy sustained heavy casualties. The highway and railroad bridges southwest of HOTOT were blown by attached elements of the 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion moved from BAUPTE to the northwest at 1030 and attacked PONT AUNY to dislodge an enemy concentration building up in that area. After a sharp fire fight the 1st Battalion broke contact at 1600 hours and withdrew toward BAUPTE, assembling in a reserve position in the vicinity of FRACQUETOT. The 2d Battalion left Company D at BAUPTE and moved at 2300 hours to a position in the vicinity of COIGNY.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

The 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion remained in direct support of the 508th Parachute Infantry and fire 600 rounds against enemy buildups in the HOTOT area. The 320th Glider and 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalions were placed in direct support of the attacking 325th Glider and 507th Parachute Infantry Regiments, respectively. The 188th Field Artillery Battalion was in direct support. More than 2,200 rounds were fired in support of the attack toward the west. The 87th Armored Field Artillery Battalion was attached to the Division at 0900 hours and moved into position north of ETIENVILLE.

80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion

Batteries A and B remained attached to the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Battery C was attached to the 507th Parachute Infantry. The remainder of the Battalion remained in reserve.

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

One platoon of Company B, was attached to the 508th Parachute Infantry and blew the culvert and the railroad bridge southwest of HOTOT at 1300 hours. The bridge at CRETEVILLE was blown by 508th Parachute Infantry. The Platoon reverted to Company control at 2300 hours. Company A continued to provide security for bridges at BEUZEVILLE LA BASTILLE and performed reconnaissance work along the 508th Parachute and 325th Glider Infantry fronts.

Attached Troops

Company A, 746th Tank Battalion, supported the Division's attack to the west, with one platoon each attached to the 325th Glider and 507th Parachute Infantry Regiments. Tanks were withdrawn at nightfall into an assembly area north of PICAUVILLE.

Resupply

Four 75mm pack howitzers were flown by C-46 to ST. MERE EGLISE.

D PLUS 9 -- 15 JUNE 1944

The Division continued the hodgepodge-to-hodgepodge attack, but shortly after nightfall it became apparent that the crust of the enemy resistance west of the DOUVE River had been broken. The 508th Parachute Infantry relieved the 507th Parachute Infantry after a strong enemy counterattack in the flank, supported by tanks, halted the 507th advance. The Division Command Post moved to coordinates 255934 west of ETIENVILLE.

[REDACTED]

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

In the order 1st, 2d and 3d Battalions, the regiment attacked at 0500 hours and reached the creek southwest of LA BONNEVILLE by 0810 hours, meeting only moderate resistance. Tanks from Company A, 746th Tank Battalion, supported the attack.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment attacked to the west, passing through the 507th Parachute Infantry in the latter's zone at 1500. Battery C, 80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion and one Platoon of Company A, 746th Tank Battalion, were attached. Moderately strong enemy opposition was encountered and by nightfall the regiment had advanced to the creek line north of CROSVILLE (228948). Company I, guarding the bridge at ETIENVILLE, was relieved by the 507th Parachute Infantry and reverted to regimental control.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment attacked at 0500 hours and advanced 600 yards, meeting little opposition up to 0630 hours. One Platoon of Company A, 746th Tank Battalion, moved up to forward positions at 0615 to support the regiment. A heavy counter-attack supported by tanks, launched by the enemy at 0930 hours from the right flank, halted the advance of the regiment. However, the 507th, recovering from the heavy artillery and mortar fire, ejected the enemy force which had penetrated its lines and reestablished its front by 1500 hours, at which time the 505th Parachute Infantry passed through the 507th. The regiment then assembled, moved to ETIENVILLE, and later crossed the DOUVE River into the CRETTEVILLE - BAUPTE area preparatory to relieving the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Company B relieved Company I, 505th Parachute Infantry, at the bridge at ETIENVILLE.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment continued active defense of the CRETTEVILLE - BAUPTE sector, repulsing enemy attempts to break through in vicinity of HOTOT and BAUPTE. The 2d Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion near PONT AUNY. The 3d Battalion assembled and moved north of the DOUVE River into Division reserve one-half mile west of LA BONNEVILLE. The remainder of the regiment prepared to join the 3d Battalion upon completion of relief by the 507th Parachute Infantry during the night of 15-16 June.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

The 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion remained in position and prepared to support the 507th Parachute Infantry moving into the BEUZEVILLE LA BASTILLE Bridgehead. The 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion changed to support the 505th Parachute Infantry when the latter relieved the 507th, and with the 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion displaced to positions north and west of ETIENVILLE. Division artillery, with the 87th Armored Field Artillery Battalion (105mm howitzers) and the 188th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm howitzers), in general support of the Division's attack to the west, fired more than 4,800 rounds in all types of missions. Company B, 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion (4.2 inch mortars) was attached in the vicinity of ETIENVILLE at 1130 hours.

80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion

Battery A was relieved from attachment to the 508th Parachute Infantry. Batteries B and C were attached to the 507th and 508th Parachute Infantry Regiments, respectively.

[REDACTED]

Attached Troops

In the attack to the west the following troops were attached to the Division and assisted materially in the accomplishment of the mission:

Company A, 746th Tank Battalion. (One platoon was attached to the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment and one was attached first to the 507th and later to the 505th Parachute Infantry.

Troop B, 4th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron

87th Armored Field Artillery Battalion

188th Field Artillery Battalion

Company C, 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion (In Division reserve).

Company B, 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion (Attached to Division Artillery)

D PLUS 10 -- 16 JUNE 1944

The Division, attacking to the west and protecting the southern flank of VII Corps during the Corp's operations to seize CHERBOURG, forged ahead against the German 77th Infantry Division. The Division routed the enemy in its sector drove across the DOUVE River and established a firm bridgehead around ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE.

The orders from Corps were to "seize the line of the DOUVE and prepare to continue the attack to the west", however, upon arriving on the east bank of the DOUVE it was quite obvious that the German forces were in a state of complete confusion. The Division Commander immediately requested Corps for authority to cross, but because of difficulties in communication, an immediate answer was not obtained. Seizing the initiative, after personal reconnaissance, General RIDGWAY ordered the 2d Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry to cross without delay. By the time clearance had been obtained from Corps two Battalions had crossed the river and had established a secure bridgehead for further operations.

In three days of fierce hedgerow-to-hedgerow fighting the Division pushed the enemy steadily westwards and made it possible for the 9th Infantry Division to drive to the sea and cut the CHERBOURG Peninsula in two. A forward Division Command Post was established in a chateau just east of ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE and the DOUVE River. A new Force "A" was formed to include the 505th and 508th Parachute Infantry Regiments and established its headquarters in ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The 325th continued the attack and reached its assigned objectives on the east bank of the DOUVE River overlooking ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE at 0950 hours. The regiment consolidated positions and patrolled aggressively across the DOUVE River.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment continued to attack to the west and reached its objectives on high ground east of the DOUVE River, overlooking ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE, by 1130 hours. Finding the enemy in a high state of confusion, the 2d Battalion crossed the river and seized ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE. The 1st Battalion followed and pressed on to secure an area 2,000 yards in depth. The 3d Battalion was relieved by the 3d Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry at 1540 of its mission to protect the right flank of the Division. This Battalion then crossed the river and attacked to the north at ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE to seize and hold the crossroads at 189958. By 2230 the bridgehead was secure and approximately 2,000 to 3,000 yards in depth.

[REDACTED]

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment completed relief of the 508th Parachute Infantry at 0415 in the CRETTEVILLE - BAUPTTE area. The 2d Battalion took up positions between BAUPTTE and COIGNY, and the 3d Battalion defended a line from COIGNY to FRANCEQUETOT. The 1st Battalion was in reserve in FRANCEQUETOT. The entire area was subjected to heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

After relief by the 507th Parachute Infantry, the regiment closed into reserve positions northwest of ETIENVILLE at 0900 hours. The 3d Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry, in the vicinity of CROSVILLE with the mission of protecting the Division's north flank. The 1st and 2d Battalions moved into position north of RAUVILLE and at 2200 hours moved into the ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE Bridgehead and took up positions south of the town and along the ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE -- LA HAYE DU PUITES Highway.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

Until troops crossed the DOUVE River fires were massed on routed enemy columns and convoys in and around ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE. All battalions except the 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion in the CRETTEVILLE - BAUPTTE sector displaced forward. At 1830 hours the 172d Field Artillery Battalion (4.5 inch guns) was attached and went into position immediately to the east of ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE. Artillery liaison planes arrived from base in ENGLAND.

80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion

Battery A remained in reserve. Battery B was attached to the 507th Parachute Infantry, and Battery C supported the attack of the 505th Parachute Infantry. The remainder of the Battalion was in reserve.

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

The Battalion continued extensive reconnaissance of the DOUVE River and supported the attack against ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE.

Attached Troops

Company A, 746th Tank Battalion, supported the attack of the Division, attaching one platoon to each of the two assault regiments. Tanks crossed the DOUVE River into the ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE Bridgehead. One platoon from Company C, 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was attached to the 3d Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry and another to the 505th Parachute Infantry. Company B, 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion, was relieved from support of the 325th Glider Infantry and was placed in support of the 505th Parachute Infantry. It remained, however, attached to Division Artillery.

D PLUS 11 AND 12 -- 17-18 JUNE 1944

During this period the Division secured the bridgehead at ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE, reorganized and prepared to attack south of ETIENVILLE to extend its southern boundary. The 9th Infantry Division passed through the bridgehead and attacked to the west coast of the peninsula.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The regiment moved to an assembly area southeast of ETIENVILLE on 17 June and made plans to cross the DOUVE River south of ETIENVILLE.

[REDACTED]

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 505th cleared the ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE Bridgehead to a depth of 3,000 yards of all enemy pockets of resistance, consolidated defensive positions north and west of ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE, and effected passage of the 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, through its lines to continue the attack to the west. The regiment patrolled extensively, rested and reorganized.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment continued to hold defensive positions in the CRETTEVILLE-BAUPTÉ area and patrolled extensively concentrating its efforts along the western front. Contact was maintained with adjacent units.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 1st and 2d Battalions cleared the bridgehead of all enemy resistance south and west of ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE. Company C established a road block and blew the bridge on the ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE - LA HAYE DU PUIITS Highway across the PRAIRIES MAREC AGEUSES. Company A reinforced Company C on 18 June. The 3d Battalion remained in position protecting the north flank of the Division until 18 June when it moved to the bank of the DOUVE River west of ETIENVILLE.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

The 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, reinforced by the 172d Field Artillery Battalion, continued to support the 505th and 508th Parachute Infantry Regiments in the ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE Bridgehead. The remainder of Division Artillery, less the 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion which supported the 507th Parachute Infantry in the CRETTEVILLE - BAUPTÉ area, moved back into position north of ETIENVILLE and made preparations to support the attack south of ETIENVILLE across the DOUVE River.

80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion

Battery A was attached to the 3d Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry, and Battery D (.50 caliber MG) moved into position protecting the bridge at ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE. Battery E made preparations to support the attack of the Division south of ETIENVILLE across the DOUVE River.

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

Company A procured river crossing material and prepared to assist the crossing of the DOUVE River south of ETIENVILLE. The Battalion continued to reconnoiter the DOUVE River.

Attached Troops

Tanks of Company A, 746th Tank Battalion, and armored cars of Company C, 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion, moved into reserve positions and prepared to revert to parent units. Troop B, 4th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, patrolled extensively to the west and north and south, reporting valuable information on enemy movements and dispositions.

Resupply

The last air resupply mission was flown on 18 June when 5,000 Cannon Grenades were landed by C-47 at STE. MENE EGLISE.

[REDACTED]

D PLUS 15 JUNE 1944

The Division crossed the DOUVE River south of ETIENVILLE and established a firm bridgehead extending south to PRETOT. Contact was made with the troops in the CRETEVILLE - BAUPTE area and the entire Division area south of the DOUVE was cleared of enemy. The 90th Infantry Division relieved the 82d of the responsibility of guarding ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE. The Division was attached to VIII Corps which had the mission of protecting the south flank of VII Corps in the VII Corps assault to the north on CHEREBOURG.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The 2d Battalion crossed the DOUVE River south of ETIENVILLE and west of MONTESSY by assault boats at 2350 hours the night of 18-19 June. The crossing was accomplished without incident. A feint by one squad distracted the enemy's attention to the area west of ETIENVILLE. Supported by an artillery barrage, the 1st Battalion, followed by the 3d Battalion, crossed over an engineer foot-bridge beginning at 0215 hours and attacked against slight opposition to the south to join forces with the 2d Battalion which was attacking from the rear the enemy force defending the bridgehead area. By 0730 hours the 2d Battalion had been passed through by the 1st and 3d Battalions and the regiment held an area extending from LE HAU DE HAUT (242920) along the edge of the BOIS DE LIMORS, thence north of LA DANGUERIE TO VINDEFONTAINE. The 3d Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry, was attached to the 325th and crossed at the same point as the 2d Battalion. It attacked on the regiment's left flank to pass through the 1st Battalion 507th Parachute Infantry, in VINDEFONTAINE and to seize PRETOT. Enemy resistance increased but the regiment finally broke through and extended its lines securely to a depth of 3,000 yards south of the DOUVE River by 2000 hours. The engineers completed a bridge south of ETIENVILLE by 1730, permitting supporting artillery and vehicles to join the regiment.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Late in the evening the regiment moved by truck from the ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE area to an assembly area south of LES MOITIERS EN BAUPTOIS (269920) in the bridgehead established during the day by the 325th Glider Infantry.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 1st Battalion attacked across the bridge west of CRETEVILLE at 0015 hours to seize VINDEFONTAINE in conjunction with the attack by the 325th Glider Infantry to establish a bridgehead south of ETIENVILLE. After bitter fighting and considerable sniping the Battalion reached its objective by 0740 hours and spent the remainder of the day clearing the town of snipers and pockets of enemy resistance. At 1405 hours the 3d Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry, passed through the 3d Battalion lines. The remainder of the 507th stayed in position in the CRETEVILLE - BAUPTÉ sector.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment was relieved of responsibility of guarding the ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE area at 1440 and assembled prior to moving to join the remainder of the DOUVE River in assault boats southeast of ETIENVILLE and west of MONTESSY at 280915 at 0700 hours. The crossing was made without incident and the battalion proceeded south, meeting increasing resistance. At 1405 hours this battalion passed through the 507th Parachute Infantry positions at VINDEFONTAINE and pushed on to the outskirts of PRETOT. Here an enemy strong point held up the advance temporarily.

[REDACTED]

82d Airborne Division Artillery

The 320th Glider, 87th Armored and 188th Field Artillery Battalions, supported the attack of the 325th Glider Infantry and crossed the river into the bridgehead area during the late afternoon and night. The 172d Field Artillery Battalion was relieved from attachment to the Division. The 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion moved into the bridgehead area and was placed in direct support of the 325th Glider Infantry. The 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion was placed in direct support of the 505th Parachute Infantry.

80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion

Battery B supported the attack of the 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry. Two 57mm guns were ferried across the river with the 2d Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry. At least three enemy light tanks were knocked out in the action in the bridgehead. Battery C crossed into the bridgehead late in the afternoon. Batteries D and E went into position to provide antiaircraft protection to the ETIENVILLE Bridge.

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

Company A used 25 assault boats to ferry attacking troops across the DOUV River southeast of ETIENVILLE and west of MONTESSY at 260915. Company B erected footbridges at ETIENVILLE and VINDEFONTAINE for the infantry and later, under enemy shellfire, erected a vehicular bridge at VINDEFONTAINE by 0400 hours and a class 40 bridge by 2210 hours. Assistance was given to Corps engineers in repairing the bridge and causeway south of ETIENVILLE.

Attached Troops

Company C, 399th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was relieved from attachment to the Division at 1400 hours, and Company A, 607 Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached at 1800 hours. Company B, 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion, supported the 325th Glider Infantry from positions in the vicinity of the 2d Battalion crossing. Company A, 746th Tank Battalion, was attached to the 325th Glider Infantry. Troop B, 4th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, continued patrolling activities. The 87th Armored and 188th Field Artillery Battalions remained attached to the Division, but the 172d Field Artillery Battalion was relieved at 1100 hours.

D PLUS 14 - 20 JUNE 1944

The Division Command Post moved south of ETIENVILLE and south of the DOUVE River and was established at coordinates 286912.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The regiment consolidated positions, strengthened the defenses of the bridgehead and patrolled into enemy lines.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 3d Battalion moved into the BOIS DE LIMORS and occupied positions along the western edge after encountering only slight enemy opposition initially. Later it came under intense mortar and artillery fire. The rest of the regiment remained in an assembly area south of LES MOITIERS EN BAUPTOI having closed into the area at 0150 hours.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 1st Battalion remained in position around VINDEFONTAINE until 2330 hours, when it relieved the 3d Battalion. Other elements of the regiment re-

remained in the CRETTEVILLE - BAUPTE sector, preparing to be relieved by the 90th Infantry Division.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The Regiment was passed through by 90th Infantry Division troops west of ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE and moved south of the DOUVE River, closing into an assembly area southwest of LES MOITIERS ENBAUPTOIS by 1330 hours. The 3d Battalion launched a determined attack against PRETOT at 0600 hours and seized the town and took up defensive positions after a sharp, short battle. The Battalion was subjected to heavy artillery and mortar shelling throughout the day. At 1600 hours the Battalion moved to positions west of PRETOT and was relieved in place at 2330 hours by the 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry.

D PLUS 15 TO D PLUS 24 - 21-30 JUNE 1944

During this period, which was marked by sharp local actions, the Division secured and held its area with a front generally that of D plus 14. An VIII Corps attack had been planned for late on 22 June in which the Division was to seize the high ground overlooking LA HAYE DU PUIETS while the 90th Infantry Division, thrusting from both flanks, would pinch the Division out and seize the town. This attack was postponed until 3 July because of a very severe storm in the English Channel which interrupted lines of communication and supply and necessitated restriction of ammunition and ordnance lines. The First U. S. Army placed priority on its attack to seize the vital port of CHERBOURG, which fell to VII Corps on 26 June. Meanwhile, the Division reorganized, regrouped and patrolled aggressively and extensively. On 26 June the Division participated in a simulated Corps attack, firing all possible weapons between 0730 and 0800.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The 2d Battalion was relieved on 24 June by 3d Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry, and the regiment then held a line between the 508th Parachute Infantry on the right and the 507th Parachute Infantry on the left. The 1st Battalion was on the right of the regimental sector, 2d Battalion on the left and 3d Battalion in reserve. During the entire period the regiment remained in position, patrolled extensively and made preparations for attack to the west.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 3d Battalion remained in position in the western sector of the BOIS DE LIMORS until relieved by 1st Battalion on 22 June. The 2d Battalion took over defense of the eastern sector at the same time. On 26 June the 3d Battalion relieved 2d Battalion, and, in turn, the 3d Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battalion 508th Parachute Infantry, attached, on 29 June. During the entire period it occupied the BOIS DE LIMORS the regiment suffered losses from heavy enemy mortar and artillery concentrations. Extensive patrolling was carried out, contact with adjacent units was established firmly, and firing was held to a minimum in order that friendly positions would not be disclosed.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 1st Battalion remained in position on the high ground west of PRETOT. The 2d and 3d Battalions in the CRETTEVILLE - BAUPTE sector were relieved by the 359th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division, at 240130 June and moved into reserve positions backing up the 1st Battalion to the north of PRETOT. The 2d Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry, in the latter's sector on 30 June and became attached to the 508th Parachute Infantry. During the entire period the regiment patrolled aggressively into enemy lines.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 1st Battalion occupied defensive positions northeast of VINDEFONTAINE on 22 June and remained there until relieved by the 507th Parachute Infantry on 24 June. On the same day the 3d Battalion relieved the 2d Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry southeast of the BOIS DE LIMORS and established contact with the 505th Parachute Infantry on the right and 325th Glider Infantry on the left. The 2d Battalion moved into reserve positions behind the 3d Battalion, and the 1st Battalion took up positions behind the 3d Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry. The 1st Battalion took up positions in the rear of the 2d. On 29 June the 1st Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry and became attached to the 505th. The 3d Battalion was relieved by the 2d Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry, attached, and moved into the 1st Battalion's former position on 30 July. The regiment patrolled actively along the front during the entire period.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

The 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion was in direct support of the 507th Parachute Infantry, 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion in direct support of the 325th Glider Infantry, 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion in direct support of the 505th and 508th Parachute Infantry Regiments. The 37th Armored and 188th Field Artillery Battalions, attached, were in general support. The 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion was placed in direct support of the 508th Parachute Infantry on 24 June and the 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion was placed in direct support of the 505th Parachute Infantry. During the remainder of the period support missions of the battalions were not changed and Division Artillery continued to harass and interdict enemy troops and lines of communication.

80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion

Battery A was placed in support of the 505th Parachute Infantry. Battery B supported the 507th Parachute Infantry and Battery C supported the 508th Parachute Infantry. The machine gun batteries, D, E, and F, provided antiaircraft protection for the ETIENVILLE and VINDEFONTAINE Bridges.

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

The Battalion during this period built roads through the BOIS DE LIMORS, checked the Division area for mines and booby traps, operated water points, made ground engineer reconnaissance, and screened the ETIENVILLE - ST. JORES Road to guard against observation from Hill 131 (195875). The bridges at ETIENVILLE and VINDEFONTAINE were guarded by squads from Company A.

Attached Troops

The 37th Armored and 188th Field Artillery Battalions remained attached to Division Artillery. Troop B, 4th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, was relieved from attached to the Division at 231435 June. Company A, 746th Tank Battalion, was relieved from attachment on 21 June. The 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached on 30 June, and Company A, 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion, remained attached during the period. Company B, 37th Chemical Mortar Battalion, was relieved in the early part of the period.

D PLUS 25 TO D PLUS 30 -- 1-2 JULY 1944

The Division continued to maintain positions in the ETIENVILLE Bridgehead with a front generally along the line as of D plus 14. Preparations were completed, reorganization affected, and new troops attached for the attack to the west on 3 July. The Division was firmly in contact with the 79th Infantry Division on the right and the 90th Infantry Division on the left. An advance Division Command

Post was opened at 260895 at 023330 hours.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The regiment continued to hold positions southwest of LA DRANGUERIE (257875), maintaining contact with the 508th Parachute Infantry on the right and 507th Parachute Infantry on the left. The 1st Battalion remained on the right, 2nd Battalion on the left and 3d Battalion in reserve.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment continued to hold positions in the BOIS DE LIMORS, with the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry, attached, on the left, the 1st Battalion on the right. Patrolling continued. Contact was maintained with the 79th Infantry Division on the right and the 508th Parachute Infantry on the left.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment continued to hold positions in the vicinity of PRETOT, maintaining contact with the 90th Infantry Division on the left and the 325th Glider Infantry on the right. The 1st Battalion held front line positions with the 3d Battalion in reserve. The 2nd Battalion remained attached to the 508th Parachute Infantry.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

Preparations were made to displace and support the attack of the Division on 3 July. The 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion remained in direct support of the 508th Parachute Infantry, the 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion in direct support of the 325th Glider and 507th Parachute Infantry Regiments, the 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion in direct support of the 505th Parachute Infantry. The 87th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, less Battery B, were in general support. Company B, 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion (4.2 inch mortars), was placed under Division Artillery control and attached to the 505th Parachute Infantry at 011600 July.

80th Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion

Batteries A and E were attached to the 505th Parachute Infantry, Battery B to the 507th Parachute Infantry and Battery C to the 508th Parachute Infantry for the 3 July attack.

307th Airborne Engineer Battalion

Two platoons of Company A were attached to the 325th Glider Infantry. One squad of Company B was attached to the 507th Parachute Infantry, and two squads from Company B were attached to each of the 505 and 508 Parachute Infantry Regiments. Squads of Company A guarding the bridges at ETIENVILLE and VINDEFONTAINE were relieved by Corps engineers on 2 July.

Attached Troops

Company A, 712th Tank Battalion, attached to the Division 011150 July, moved into the bridgehead area late on 2 July. The 1st Platoon was attached to the 507th Parachute Infantry and the 2d Platoon to the 325th Glider Infantry. The 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved from attachment on 1 July, and the 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached on 010100 July. Company A, 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion, remained attached. Company D, 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion was attached at 011600 July, placed under control of 82nd Division Artillery and later attached to the 505th Parachute Infantry.

[REDACTED]

D PLUS 27 -- 3 JULY 1944

The Division attacked despite heavy rain fall at 0630 hours after days of waiting, reorganization and preparation. The Division's mission was to attack, seize and secure Hill 131 (195875) and 95 (188855) and the high ground northeast of LA HAYE DU PUIITS known as the LA POTERIE RIDGE. Flanked by the 79th Infantry Division on the right and the 90th Infantry Division on the left, the 82d was to be pinched out of the VIII Corps attack and was to assemble and await further orders. The Division attacked according to plan, with the 505th Parachute Infantry on the right, 508th Parachute Infantry, in the center and 325th Glider Infantry on the left. The 2d Battalion 507th Parachute Infantry, initially covered a small draw between the 325th and 508th. Stubborn resistance was offered initially by the 265th and 353d German Infantry Divisions reinforced by OST Battalions. The enemy had made good use of the 11 day delay to organize an elaborate defense. However, by aggressive action the Division moved ahead to seize Hill 131 by noon and to secure the eastern edge of the LA POTERIE Ridge, exclusive of the town of LA POTERIE (221857) by dark. Fighting was sharp and severe and enemy defensive positions were heavily mined and booby trapped. Many casualties were inflicted on the enemy. The forward Division Command Post moved to AUVRAIRIE (209887).

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

With the 1st Battalion on the left and the 2d Battalion on the right, the regiment jumped off at 0630 hours, meeting considerable small arms and mortar fire. In the vicinity of LA DRANGUERIE the 3d Battalion was committed temporarily to close a gap that had developed between the 2d and 1st Battalions at 1000 hours. The 90th Infantry Division on the left flank was held up, leaving the flank exposed and under pressure. By 1600 hours the 325th had reached the town of FAUDEMER (240868). At 1550 hours the regimental objective was changed from Hill 95 to the eastern edge of the LA POTERIE Ridge to include the town of LA POTERIE. The 2d and 1st Battalions continued to attack towards the town, but increasing enemy opposition prevented the capture of the town by nightfall. The 3d Battalion was again placed in the line, and the regiment dug in preparatory to attacking and seizing LA POTERIE the following day.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment attacked at 0630 hours initially with the 1st and 2d Battalions in column, the 2d Battalion leading. Passing the creek line at VARENGUEBEC, the 2d Battalion seized DUPINERIE Ridge (north of Hill 131) by 0830 hours and resumed the attack at 1015 hours with the 1st Battalion abreast and on the right. These two battalions, by bold advances, secured the north slope of Hill 131 and the ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE -- LA HAYE DU PUIITS Highway by 1225 hours despite heavy enemy artillery fire, mines, and booby traps. The 3d Battalion followed the assault battalions to mop up by-passed pockets of resistance. The regimental zone was enlarged at 1550 hours to include all of Hill 131. The 3d Battalion moved into position through the 2d and into the 508th Parachute Infantry's area on the southern slope of Hill 131. The regiment dug in by the end of the day along a line from LA SANGSURIERE south to LES POULAND and then to a junction with the 508th Parachute Infantry at BLANCHELANDE. Preparations were made to continue the attack on 4 July.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 2d Battalion, under regimental control, attacked at 0630 hours, flanked on the left and right by the 325th Glider and 508th Parachute Infantry Regiments, respectively. The Battalion cleared all enemy from its area and reached its objective, LA FAUVERIE (223869), by 1700. Preparations were then made to attack to the south the next day. Other units of the regiment remained in Division reserve south of VINDEFONTAINE and prepared to follow the advance of the 325th Glider Infantry on Division order. The regiment moved to the vicinity of LA DRANGUERIE at

1650. The 1st Battalion followed and maintained contact with the 325th Glider Infantry, and the 3d Battalion protected the Division left flank to the left rear of the 1st Battalion.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

With the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left, the regiment attacked at 0630 hours, passing through the 1st Battalion's positions. The high ground between VARENGUEBEC and LA DAUDERIE was secured by 0900 hours, and the 1st Battalion moved into reserve in the vicinity of LA COTELLERIE. The 2d Battalion reached the southern slope of Hill 131 by 1145 hours and was joined by the 3d Battalion by 1600 hours. The regiment moved south at 2000 hours to occupy a zone in the vicinity of BLANCHELANDE, dug in and prepared to attack south towards the LA POTERIE Ridge. Enemy opposition was moderate heavy during the action. Extensive minefields were encountered.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

All battalions fired a preparation to precede the Division's attack, and during the entire action the battalions fired harassing, interdiction and counter-battery fires with telling effect despite inclement weather which precluded accurate observation. Reconnaissance was made to displace battalions into more favorable positions closer to the advancing infantry. A total 7,727 rounds were fired during the period.

Attached Troops

One Platoon of Company A, 712th Tank Battalion, supported the 325th Glider Infantry during its attack near LA DRANGUERIE and another Platoon supported the 2d Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry in clearing its zone and then went into positions near LA FAUVRIERIE commanding observation of the LA POTERIE - PRETOT Highway. At 1315 one Platoon of Company A, 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion, moved to support the 2d Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry. Company D, 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion, was relieved from attachment to the 505th Parachute Infantry at 1920 hours and was attached to the 325th Glider Infantry.

D PLUS 28 -- 4 JULY 1944

The Division resumed its attack at 0800 and by the end of the day had secured Hill 95 and the LA POTERIE Ridge against a determined enemy. Many severe counter-attacks were driven back and any ground lost as a result of the counter thrusts was retaken. More than 500 enemy killed and more than 700 taken prisoner in the bitter fighting.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The 1st and 3d Battalions resumed the attack against the town of LA POTERIE at 0800 hours and secured it by 1250 hours. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve. After passing through LA POTERIE the regiment occupied defensive positions within its sector and established contact with the 90th Infantry Division on the 82d Airborne Division's left flank.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 1st and 3d Battalions attacked at 0800 to seize the northern slope of Hill 95 and secured this objective by 1150 hours. Firm contact was made with adjacent units. Contact with the 3d Battalion, 314th Infantry, 79th Infantry Division, on the right, was made at 2100 hours.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 2d Battalion reverted to regimental control and moved at noon to the

[REDACTED]

breakthrough position in the vicinity of BLANCHÉLAND. The 3d Battalion moved into an assembly area north of LA POTERIE and attacked at 2015 hours through the 508th Parachute Infantry to seize the western hill mass at 210850 on LA POTERIE Ridge. The 3d Battalion reached the hill and was consolidating positions and establishing contact with adjacent units by 2400 hours. The 2d Battalion attacked at 2200 hours between the 2d and 3d Battalions, 508th Parachute Infantry, and pushed up to the center hill mass of LA POTERIE Ridge directly east of Hill 95. This Battalion circled the hill in the darkness against considerable small arms and artillery fire and prepared to seize it completely before daylight. The 1st Battalion, meanwhile, remained in position to the rear of the 325th Glider Infantry along the Division's right flank.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

At 0800 the Regiment attacked south against Hill 95 and the LA POTERIE Ridge. The 2d Battalion, passing through elements of the 505th Parachute Infantry, seized Hill 95 at 1220. Enemy resistance was particularly strong and losses were heavy on both sides. An enemy counterattack at 1400 hours forced the 2d Battalion back but it retook the position by 2400 hours despite considerable artillery and small arms fire. The 3d and 1st Battalions attacked at 0800 on the left of the regimental zone. Heavy concentrations of mortar, artillery and small arms fire pinned the units down along the general line running due west from the town of LA POTERIE and all attempts to reach the objective were repulsed during the day. The 2d Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry, moved into position between the 2d and 3d Battalions and launched an attack against the 3d Battalion's objective at 2200. The 3d Battalion, 507th, passed through elements of the 1st and 3d Battalions in its attack at 2015 hours on the eastern edge and northern slopes of LA POTERIE Ridge.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

Reinforced by eight battalions of VIII Corps artillery, the battalions of Division Artillery fired numerous concentrations in support of the infantry advance and succeeded in breaking up enemy counterattacks in the vicinity of Hill 95 and along the LA POTERIE Ridge.

Attached Troops

Company D, 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion, was relieved from attachment to the Division at 2300 hours. Company A, 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was relieved at 1115 hours. One platoon of tanks from Company A, 712th Tank Battalion, was relieved from the 325th Glider Infantry and supported the 508th Parachute Infantry in repulsing counterattacks in that sector. Guns from the 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion were placed on the south slope of Hill 131 to maintain fire on the woods south and west of the 508th Parachute Infantry front.

B PLUS 29 -- 5 JULY 1944

The Division secured all of the area within its zone of action, mopping up all remaining pockets of enemy resistance, consolidating defensive positions and maintaining contact with the adjacent units in their advance to pinch off the Division. Corps orders restrained the Division from further advances. Defensive positions were established along the general line from Hill 131 south along the ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE - LA HAYE DU PUIITS Highway to the southern slopes of Hill 95 and thence along the southern slope of the LA POTERIE Ridge.

325th Glider Infantry Regiment

The regiment established a defensive line on the forward slopes of the LA POTERIE Ridge with the 3d Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry, attached, on the regiment's right flank. Contact was maintained with the advancing 90th Infantry

Division on the left.

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The regiment maintained defensive positions on the reverse slope of Hill 95 and from that point north to the base of Hill 131. Contact was maintained with the 79th Infantry Division on the right and the 508th Parachute Infantry.

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 2d Battalion continued fighting to secure the westernmost hill of the LA POTERIE Ridge due east from Hill 95. This ridge was under control at 0700 hours. During the remainder of the day this battalion killed or destroyed all enemy within its area, established contact with adjacent units and strengthened positions. The 3d Battalion secured the easternmost hill of the LA POTERIE Ridge and was attached to the 325th Glider Infantry after having established contact. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve.

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 1st Battalion moved into reserve positions in the vicinity of BLANCHE-LANDE. The 2d Battalion cleared enemy from the forward slopes of Hill 131 and maintained contact with the 505th Parachute Infantry. The 3d Battalion, in the center of LA POTERIE Ridge, established defensive positions between the 2d Battalion, 507th, and the 3d Battalion on Hill 131. The regiment suffered from enemy concentrations of artillery fire. All enemy were cleared from the regimental sector.

82d Airborne Division Artillery

All battalions assisted in breaking up enemy counterattacks, particularly in the 507th Parachute Infantry area. The 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion was ordered to reinforce fires of the 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion which was still in direct support of the 508th Parachute Infantry. Ammunition expended during the day totalled 2,733 rounds.

D PLUS 30 TO D PLUS 31 - 6-7 JULY 1944

The Division maintained and strengthened defensive positions, drove out all attempts by the enemy to infiltrate patrols through the sector, and maintained contact with the 79th Infantry Division on the right and the 90th Infantry Division on the left. The 2d Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry, moved into position between the 2d and 3d Battalions, 507th Parachute Infantry. The 505th Parachute Infantry sector was enlarged to include the eastern slopes of Hill 95, and, with 2d Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry, attached, cleared the area of infiltrating enemy patrols. At 070000 July the Division regrouped its forces, placing 325th Glider and 508th Parachute Infantry Regiments in reserve and making 505th and 507th Parachute Infantry Regiments responsible for the right and left portions respectively, of the Division's front lines.

E PLUS 32 TO D PLUS 35 -- 8-11 JULY 1944

The Division reverted to Corps reserve and was relieved of all attachments. The 8th Infantry Division passed through the Division's positions to continue the attack to the south on 8 July, D plus 32. The Division assembled and on 11 July withdrew into First Army reserve. It then moved to Utah Beach preparatory to its return to base camps in ENGLAND.

Upon returning to base camps the division immediately began an intensive training program. The division had not received reinforcements in France and the Infantry losses were particularly heavy, one company coming out of the lines with a strength of only sixteen officers and enlisted men.

[REDACTED]

Refitting also occupied much of the time; however, by mid-August this phase had been accomplished and training dominated the activities. One phase of the training included tests to determine the possibilities of employing heavy bombers in air landing operations. Both the B-17 and B-24 were used in these tests.

Major General MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY left the Division to become Commanding General of XVIII Corps (Airborne), and Brigadier General JAMES M. GAVIN assumed command of the 82d Airborne Division.

As the month of August ended the Division was moving to takeoff airfields in the British Midlands in preparation for a mission in BELGIUM that was cancelled less than 24 hours prior to scheduled takeoff time. The Division's next mission began 17 September when it jumped and glided into the NIJMEGEN-GRAVE-GROESBEEK area of the NETHERLANDS.

[REDACTED]

82D AIRBORNE DIVISION

ACTION IN NORMANDY, FRANCE

SECTION III

DISTRIBUTION

Airborne Headquarters

FAA	2
11th Abn Div	1
13th Abn Div	1
101 Abn Div	1
17th Abn Div (?)	1
Precht School	2
Abn Board	2

Higher Headquarters

AG of S G-2, AFD,	
WD GS	1
FUSA	1
VII Corps	1
VIII Corps	1

Lower Headquarters

325th G1 Inf	50
504th Precht Inf	50
505th Precht Inf	50
508th Precht Inf	50
Hq & Hq Btry, Div	
Anty	10
319th G1 FA Bn	10
320th G1 FA Bn 1	10
376th Precht FA Bn	10
453rd Precht FA Bn	10
80th Att AA Bn	10
307th Abn Engr Bn	10
407th Abn QM Co	5
307th Abn Med Co	5
782d Abn Ord Maint	
Co	5
82d Abn Sig Co	5
Div Hq Co	2
Sp Trs	2
82d Precht Maint	
Co	2
82d Abn Ren Plat	2
82d Abn MP Plat	2

Offices Within Division

CG	1
Asst CG	1
C/S	1
G-1	1
G-2	1
G-3	1
G-4	1
G-5 il	1
AG File	1
Sp Trs O's Club	1
IG	1
Sig O	1
Chem O	1
Fin O	1
JA	1
Div Surg	1
Ord O	1
QM	1
SSO	1
Engr	1
PEO	1
Div Assn	2
Div Historian	2
Hq Cmdt	1

Courtesy Copies

Gen. Eisenhower	1
Gen. Bradley	1
Infantry School	2
C & GS School	2
Supt. USMA	1
Gen. Ridgway	1
Gen. Gavin	5
Gen. March	1
Gen. Eaton	1
Col. Tucker	1
Col. Ekman	1
Col. Wienecke	1
Col. Billingslea	1
Col. Griffith	1

Field O's with Div at
time, one each 60 (est)

[REDACTED]

82D AIRBORNE DIVISION

ACTION IN NORMANDY, FRANCE

JUNE - JULY 1944

SECTION IV -- ANNEXES

1. Personnel
 - a. Command and Staff
 - b. Troop List
 - (1) Organic
 - (2) Attached
 - c. Consolidated list of Aircraft, Personnel and Vehicles of Forces "A", "B" and "C".
 - d. Casualties
 - (1) Casualties resulting from Parachute drops and Glider landings.
 - (2) Consolidated casualty reports by units.
 - (3) Analysis of officer casualties.
 - (4) Analysis of casualties by branch.
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 - a. Chart: Departure Airfields
4. Drop and Landing Patterns
 - a. Parachute Drops
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5. Statistical Study of Glider Landings
6. Chart: D-Day to D/2
7. Chart: D/3 to D/ (MERDEMET River Crossing)
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9. Chart: D/8 to D/12 (ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE)
10. Chart: D/13 to D/18 (ETIENVILLE BRIDGEHEAD)
11. Chart: D/25 to D/33 (Hills 131 and 95 - LA POTERIE RIDGE)

ANNEX NO. 1 A TO
ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL
NARRATIVE FOR NORMANDY

COMMAND AND STAFF DURING THE 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION'S
PARTICIPATION IN THE NORMANDY CAMPAIGN

Commanding General	Major General MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY
Assistant Commanding General	Brigadier General JAMES M. GAVIN
Assistant Commanding General	Brigadier General GEORGE P. HOWELL
325 Glider Infantry Regiment	Colonel HARRY L. LEWIS
504 Parachute Infantry Regiment	Colonel REUBEN H. TUCKER
505 Parachute Infantry Regiment	Colonel WILLIAM E. EMMAN
507 Parachute Infantry Regiment	(Colonel GEORGE V. MILLET (Captured by enemy c or about 8 June 1944 (Lieutenant Colonel ARTHUR A. MALONEY (From o/ 8 June (Colonel EDSON D RAFF (From 15 June 1944) Colonel ROY E LINDQUIST Colonel FRANCIS A. MARCH Lieutenant Colonel JAMES S. TODD Lieutenant Colonel PLUL E WRIGHT
508 Parachute Infantry Regiment	
82nd Airborne Division Artillery	
319 Glider Field Artillery Battalion	
320 Glider Field Artillery Battalion	
376 Parachute Field Artillery Battalion	Lieutenant Colonel WILBUR M. GRIFFITH
456 Parachute Field Artillery Battalion	Lieutenant Colonel WAGNER J. D'ALESSIO
80 Airborne Antiaircraft Battalion	Lieutenant Colonel RAYMOND E. SINGLETON
307 Airborne Engineer Battalion (Less C Company)*	(Lieutenant Colonel ROBERT S. PALMER (Captured by enemy on or about 6 June 1944) (Major EDWIN A. BEDELL (From 8 June 1944) (Major WILLIAM H. HOUSTON (Killed 6 June 1944) (Major JERRY J. BELDEN (From 6 June 1944) Captain SAMUEL H. MAYS
307 Airborne Medical Company	
407 Airborne Quartermaster Company	
782 Airborne Ordnance Maintenance Company	Captain JEFF DAVIS, JR.
82nd Airborne Division Headquarters Company	Captain GEORGE J. CLAUSSEN
82d Airborne Signal Company	First Lieutenant ROBERT B. NERI
82d Airborne Reconnaissance Platoon	First Lieutenant JOSEPH V. DEMASI
82d Airborne Military Police Platoon	Major FREDERICK G. MC CORMUM
82d Parachute Maintenance Company (Provisional)	Captain JAMES E. GRIFFIN
	<u>STAFF</u>
Chief of Staff	(Colonel RALPH P. EATON (Injured in glider c 6 June 1944) (Colonel EDSON D. RAFF (Acting 8-15 June) (Lieutenant Colonel ROBERT H. WIENECKE (Acting 15 June --11 July) (Lieutenant Colonel FREDERICK M. SCHELLHAM
AC of S, G-1	(Lieutenant Colonel WHITEFIELD JACK (Lieutenant Colonel ROBERT H. WIENECKE (Lieutenant Colonel WALTER F. WINTON (Acting 15-19 June, 5-11 July) (Lieutenant Colonel HENRY E. ADAMS (Acting 1 June - 5 July) (Lieutenant Colonel BENNIE A. ZIEM (Wounded 7 June 1944) (Lieutenant Colonel FRANK W. MOORMAN (From 7 June 1944)
AC of S, G-2	
AC of S, G-3	
AC of S, G-4	

Inspector General
Signal Officer

Lieutenant Colonel CHARLES M. BARRETT
(Lieutenant Colonel FRANK W. MOORMAN
(Captain ROBERT E. FURMAN (Acting from
7 June)

Adjutant General
Judge Advocate
Surgeon

Lieutenant Colonel RAYMOND M. BRITTON
Lieutenant Colonel CASIMIR D. MOSS
(Lieutenant Colonel WOLCOTT L. ETIENNE
(Wounded 6 June 1944)
(Major WILLIAM G. LINDSTROM (Acting from
7 June 1944)

Finance Officer
Chaplain
Ordnance Officer

Lieutenant Colonel WILLIAM E. JOHNSON
Lieutenant Colonel GEORGE L. RIDDLE
(Lieutenant Colonel JOSHUA A. FINKLE
(Wounded 7 June 1944)
(Captain WILLIAM B. MC GUIRE (Acting from
7 June 1944)

Quartermaster Officer
Headquarters Commandant
Provost Marshall
Special Service Officer
Military Government Officer

Lieutenant Colonel JOHN M. MOHRMAN
Major DON C. FAITH
Major FREDERICK G. MC COLLUM
Captain RODRICK R. OTTO
Captain PETER SHOVALOFF

NOTES: *During NORMANDY Operation remained in base camps in the United Kingdom.

ANNEX NO. 1 B TO
ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL
NARRATIVE FOR NORMANDY

TROOP LIST

ORGANIC*

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82d Airborne Division
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Airborne Brigade
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 82d Airborne Division Artillery
325th Glider Infantry Regiment
504 Parachute Infantry Regiment*
505 Parachute Infantry Regiment
507 Parachute Infantry Regiment
508 Parachute Infantry Regiment
319 Glider Field Artillery Battalion
320 Glider Field Artillery Battalion
376 Parachute Field Artillery Battalion*
456 Parachute Field Artillery Battalion
80 Airborne Anti-Aircraft Battalion
307 Airborne Engineer Battalion
307 Airborne Medical Company
407 Airborne Quartermaster Company
782 Airborne Ordnance Maintenance Company
82 Airborne Signal Company
82 Airborne Military Police Platoon
82 Airborne Reconnaissance Platoon (Provisional)
82 Airborne Parachute Maintenance Company (Provisional)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ATTACHED</u>	<u>DATES</u>
C Company, 746 Tank Battalion		1 June --11 June
A Company, 746 Tank Battalion		13 June --21 June
A Company, 712 Tank Battalion		1 July -- 8 July
C Company, 889 Tank Destroyer Battalion		1 June --19 June
A Company, 607 Tank Destroyer Battalion		19 June -- 4 July
801 Tank Destroyer Battalion		30 June -- 1 July
803 Tank Destroyer Battalion		1 July -- 8 July
B Troop, 4 Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron		1 June --23 June
87 Armored Field Artillery Battalion		1 June -- 8 June, 14 June -
188 Field Artillery Battalion		12 June -- 8 July 8 July
172 Field Artillery Battalion		16 June --19 June
D Company, 86 Chemical Mortar Battalion		1 July -- 4 July
B Company, 87 Chemical Mortar Battalion		15 June --21 June
3809 Quartermaster Truck Company		
3810 Quartermaster Truck Company		
1 Platoon, 464 Ambulance Company, 31 Medical Group		
493 Collecting Company, 179 Medical Battalion		
374 Collecting Company, 50 Medical Battalion		
429 Litter Bearer Platoon		
591 Collecting Company		
1st Platoon, 603 Quartermaster Graves Registration Company		

NOTE: *504 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 376 Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, and C Company, 307 Airborne Engineer Battalion remained in base camps, United Kingdom after returning from ANZIO, ITALY.

ANNEX 1 C TO
 ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL
 NARRATIVE FOR NORMANDY

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF AIRCRAFT, PERSONNEL AND MAJOR
 EQUIPMENT OF FORCES "A", "B" AND "C"

FORCE "A" (PARACHUTE)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>A/C</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>	<u>GUNS</u>
Div Hq, 82d Abn	9	105	
508th Prcht Inf	117	1994	
507th Prcht Inf	117	2004	
505th Prcht Inf	117	2095	2 75mm Pack How
307th Abn Engr Bn	9	144	
82d Abn P/F Grps	9	54	
TOTAL	378	6396	

FORCE "B" (GLIDER)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>A/C</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>	<u>GUNS</u>	<u>TRKS 1/4T</u>	<u>TLRS</u>	<u>M/C</u>
Div Hq, 82d Abn Div	19	185		12	9	4
82d Abn Ren Plat	13	49		9		4
82d Abn Div Arty	11	50		4	3	
82d Abn Sig Co	13	82		7	4	5
80th Abn AA Bn	57	228	24 57mm AT	27	15	
307th Abn Med Co	20	144		18	14	
307th Abn Engr Bn	10	99		5	3	
319th Gl FA Bn	40	362	12 75mm How	32	17	
320th Gl FA Bn	54	343	12 105mm How	30	20	
325th Gl Inf	129	1841	9 57mm AT	28	15	
2d Bn, 401st Gl Inf	43	459		6	5	
Comd Vehs, 505, 507, 508 Prcht Infs	15	24		13		
ASP	4	5		2		
TOTAL	428	3871		193	105	13



FORCE "C" (SEABORNE)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERS- ONNEL</u>	<u>2 1/2 T TRK</u>	<u>1 T TLR</u>	<u>1 1/2 T TRK</u>	<u>3/4 T W/C</u>	<u>2 1/2 T DUMP</u>	<u>75mm HOW</u>	<u>3/4 T AMB</u>	<u>1/4 T TRK</u>	<u>1/4 T TRL</u>
82d Abn Div Hq	70	1	6	7	1					
505th Prcht Inf	83									
507th Prcht Inf	78									
508th Prcht Inf	64									
325th Gl Inf	77			9					2	
Hq & Hq Btry, 82d Abn Div Arty	19	3	3		1					
319th Gl FA Bn	47	6	3		13					
320th Gl FA Bn	50	3	3	12	1					
456th Prcht FA Bn	471	15	15		18		10		27	18
80th Abn AA Bn, Bn Hq & Med Det	258			24	(36 50-cal. AA mg)				12	6
307th Abn Engr Bn	65	2	2			4				
82d Abn Sig Co	17	1	1	1						
307th Abn Med Co	26		1(H2O)	5				8		
82d Abn Ord Maint Co	68	6	3						3	3
407th Abn QM Co	59			1					3	3
82d Abn MP Plat	30			1					3	3
3809 QM Trk Co	115	53							3	
3810 QM Trk Co	115	53							3	
TOTALS	1712	140	37	60	34	4	10	8	56	33

FORCE "B" 3871

FORCE "A" 6396

TOTAL 11,979

*Remained attached during operation.



ANNEX 1 D TO
ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL
NARRATIVE FOR NORMANDY

CASUALTIES

1. 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION CASUALTIES:

a. Recapitulation --

	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PER CENT</u>
* Committed Strength	11,770	100.00
Total Casualties	5,436	46.18
Killed in action or died of wounds	1,142	9.70
Wounded	2,373	20.16
Missing or known captured	840	7.13
Evacuated Sick	377	3.20
Evacuated Injured	704	5.98
*Organic Troops Only		

b. Casualties from parachute drops and glider landings: See Annex 1 D (1).

c. Consolidated casualty reports by units: See Annex No. 1 D (2).

d. Analysis of Officer Casualties: See Annex No. 1 D (3).

NOTE: The tabulation shown in this annex was prepared on information available as of 26 July 1944 and therefore is somewhat incomplete in respect to final adjusted figures. It does, however, give a reliable indication of casualties among officers of the Division.

e. Analysis of casualties by branch: See Annex No. 1 D (4).

NOTE: The tabulation shown in this annex was prepared on information available as of 26 July 1944 and therefore is somewhat incomplete in respect to final adjusted figures. It does, however, give a reliable indication of casualties by branch of service.


2. ENEMY CASUALTIES:

a. Personnel --

- (1) Estimated killed in major battles only -- 1,500
- (2) Captured -- 2,156
- (3) During its campaign in NORMANDY the 82d Airborne Division was engaged with all or major portions of five different enemy divisions, including the 91st, 243d, 77th, 265th and 353d. It is estimated that the 91st and 265th Divisions were virtually destroyed as effective fighting units.

b. Materiel: The return of the Division to the United Kingdom prevented a thorough search of territory gained during the period 3-8 July 1944. However, a summary of enemy materiel known captured or destroyed by the 82d Airborne Division in NORMANDY is as follows:

Tanks, all types	62
Light Reconnaissance Vehicles	2



Anti-tank guns (all calibers)	24
Anti-aircraft guns (all calibers)	14
Self-propelled guns (all calibers)	3
Artillery field pieces (all types)	3



ANNEX NO. 1 D (1) TO
 ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL
 NARRATIVE FOR NORMANDY

CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM PARACHUTE DROPS
 AND GLIDER LANDINGS

Following is a report of an official investigation conducted by the Division Inspector General and submitted to the Division Commander 25 July 1944:

In compliance with your directive dated 13 July 1944 the following data is submitted for your information:

- a. Dispersion: See annexes 4 and 5
- b. Landings: 6296 paratroopers dropped.

(1) Casualties:

	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Known drowned as a result of the drop	36	.56
Paratroopers abandoned to the enemy as a result of jump injuries	63	.98
Injured in jumping and evacuated by friendly forces	173	2.7

- (2) One complete stick from the 507th is still missing.
- (3) No sticks were destroyed completely by loss of aircraft before jumping.
- (4) Out of 237 CG-4A's and 187 Horsas used, five (5) CG-4A's are still unaccounted for. These five (5) CG-4A's were cut loose shortly after making a landfall on the west coast of the peninsula and are all from the 80th AA Battalion. Two are reported to have been the result of tow ropes severed by AA fire.

(5) Casualties in glider serials:

Total carried	<u>DAYLIGHT</u>		<u>DARKNESS</u>	
	<u>NO.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>%</u>
KIA	38	1.35	23	2.4
KIA	204	7.29	118	12.2
KIA	0	0.	14	1.46

(6) The percentage chance of becoming a casualty:

	<u>DAYLIGHT</u>	<u>DARKNESS</u>
Horsas	10.5%	16.2%
CG-4A	5.8%	10.7%

(7) The following equipment was unserviceable due to landings:

	<u>JEEPS</u>		<u>TRAILERS</u>		<u>GUNS</u>	
	<u>NO.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>NO. CARRIED</u>	<u>NO. %</u>	<u>NO. CARRIED</u>	<u>NO. CARRIED</u>
Daylight						
Horsas	5	12.1	41	3	9.3	32
CG-4A	14	20.	70	5	20.	25
						2 25 8
						2 22.2 9



	JEEPS		TRAILERS		GUNS	
	NO.	NO. CARRIED	NO.	NO. CARRIED	NO.	NO. CARRIED
Darkness						
Horsas	19	31.6	11	28.	7	58.
CG-4A	11	47.8	1	20.	5	25.

- (8) There was one known case occurred of tow rope breaking during flight. This was a CG-4A.
- (9) There are no known cases of gliders-pulling loose in flight during or after take-off.

/s/t/ C.F. BARRETT, JR.,
 Lt. Col., IGD,
 Inspector General.

NOTE: There are minor discrepancies between this report and Annexes 1 C and 3 in respect to number of gliders and number of vehicles.

ANNEX NO. 1 (D) (3) TO
 HISTORICAL NARRATIVE FOR
 NORMANDY

OPERATION NEPTUNE
 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION
 ANALYSIS OF OFFICER CASUALTIES
 (Adjusted July 26, 1944)

	COMMITTED		TOTAL		TOTAL %		KIA		WOUNDED		SICK IN		PTA		CAPT		RETURNED						
	INF	OTH	INF	OTH	INF	OTH	INF	OTH	INF	OTH	INF	OTH	INF	OTH	INF	OTH	INF	OTH					
GENERAL OFFICERS	3	1	3	1	33.3	33.3	1	1	7	4	1	1	1	1	3	6	1	4	56	13			
COLONELS	3	1	3	1	33.3	33.3				1				1							1		
LT COLONELS	15	20	9	5	60.0	25.0	1	1	7	4			1	1							3	3	
MAJORS	24	16	10	1	41.6	6.3	4	1	5				1									1	
CAPTAINS	123	78	41	22	33.3	28.4	14	1	22	14	1	1	3	6	1						4	7	
1ST LTS	238	89	168	18	70.5	20.2	39	6	98	9	2	1	26	2	3						36	1	
2D LTS	178	77	115	16	64.6	20.7	34	8	56	4	3		22	4							12	1	
WARRANT OFFICERS	10	8		4		50.0						1											
OTAL	593	294	344	67	58.2	22.8	92	16	188	35	6	3	54	13	4						56	13	
GREGADE	885		411		46.4		108		223		9		67		4						69		

ANNEX NO. 1 D (4) TO
 ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL
 NARRATIVE FOR NO. 101

ANALYSIS OF CASUALTIES BY BRANCH
 OPERATION NEPTUNE
 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION
 (ADJUSTED as of 26 July 1944)

	COMMITTED STRENGTH		TOTAL CASUALTIES		TOTAL % CASUALTIES		KILLED	MISSING	CAPTURED	- F V A C U A T I D -						
	EM		EM		EM					Sick	Injured	Wounded				
DIV TROOPS	144	1282	33	239	22.9	18.7	5	37	8	61	3	23	7	37	10	81
GLIDER INF	104	2177	68	1263	65.3	58.0	21	185	1	70	4	149	13	176	29	683
PROCT INF	452	5622	268	3166	59.5	56.3	70	534	54	738	4	164	21	338	114	1392
DIV ARTY	121	1256	23	194	19.0	15.4	11	40		2	1	6	4	71	7	75
MEDICAL	64	528	10	156	20.6	28.4	1	17	4	32	2	20		3	12	84
TOTAL:	885	10885	411	5018	46.4	46.1	108	813	67	903	4	362	45	625	172	2315
AGGREGATE	11770		5429		46.1		921		970		4	377		670		2487

AIR RESUPPLY

Following is a report submitted by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4 on 25 July 1944.

1. Resupply during Operation NEPTUNE breaks down into two phases.

Phase I. Automatic resupply dropped by parachute the morning of D plus 1.

Phase II. Resupply on call delivered by glider at various times after break through occurred and beachhead was sufficiently organized to permit gliders to land on the beach or large fields without opposition.

2. Phase I. This was a pre-arranged delivery of about 250 tons of all types of expendable supplies -- mainly ammunition. Of the 250 tons, only about 200 tons left the UK due to non-availability of equipment in UK. This was dropped in and around the Division area. About 50% was picked up at once -- some items reaching small groups who were still isolated west of the MERDERET River. Some undoubtedly fell in German hands. A continuing search was made for these bundles and it is believed that we eventually found about 70% or 140 tons of this equipment.

3. Phase II. Deliveries during this period were in response to our requests for signal equipment, crew-served weapons, including artillery pieces, and GAMMON grenades. All of this equipment arrived safely and reached this Division except for 6000 GAMMON grenades lost due to our not sending a representative to follow this property through to this Division. A list of major items of these shipments follows:

4 - 57mm, AF guns	3 - 105mm, M3 Hows
19 - 81mm	11,000 - GAMMON grenades
20 - 60mm	4 - SCR-193
10 - LMG	4 - SCR-284
20 - HMG	3 - SCR-300
50 - ATRL	45 miles wire, W-130
4 - 75mm, Pack Hows	1 ton batteries

ANNEX NO. 3 TO
ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL
NARRATIVE FOR NORMANDY

AIR MOVEMENT TABLES

Extracted from official air movement tables published in Field Orders of the 82d Airborne Division and the 52d and 53d Troop Carrier Wings. Code names were those assigned by Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force.

AIR MOVEMENT TABLE - PARACHUTE

Serial	Airborne Unit	USTOC Unit	No. A/C	Takeoff Airfield	DZ	DZ Time
4	82d Pathfinders	1st P/F	3	N. Witham	O	0121
5	82d Pathfinders	1st P/F	3	N. Witham	N	0138
6	82d Pathfinders	1st P/F	3	N. Witham	T	0202

MISSION "BOSTON"
(D-DAY)

17	2 Bn 505 Prcht Inf	316 Gp	36	Cottesmore	O	0151
18	3 Bn 505 Prcht Inf	316 Gp	36	Cottesmore	O	0157
19	1 Bn 505 Prcht Inf Hq & Hq Co 505 Plat 307 Abn Engr Bn Det. Eq 82 Abn Div	315 Gp	36) 9) 48 3)	Spanhoe	O	0203
20	2 Bn 508 Prcht Inf	314 Gp	36	Saltby	N	0208
21	Hq & Hq Co 508 Co B (-) 307 Engr Force "A" Hq	314 Gp	9) 6) 24 9)	Saltby	N	0214
22	1 Bn 508 Prcht Inf	313 Gp	36	Folkingham	N	0220
23	3 Bn 508 Prcht Inf	313 Gp	36	Folkingham	F	0226
24	2 Bn 507 Prcht Inf	61 Gp	36	Barkston Heath	T	0232
25	3 Bn 507 Prcht Inf	61 Gp	36	Barkston Heath	T	0238
26	1 Bn 507 Prcht Inf	442 Gp	36) 45 9)	Fulbock	T	0244

MISSION "FREEPORT"
(D PLUS ONE)
(RESUPPLY)

38	Resupply	61 Gp	47	Barkston Heath	O	0611
----	----------	-------	----	-------------------	---	------

Serial	Airborne Unit	USTCC Unit	No. A/C	Takeoff Airfield	DZ	DZ Time
39	Resupply	313 Gp	46	Folkingham	0	0617
40	Resupply	314 Gp	46	Saltby	0	0623
41	Resupply	316 Gp	46	Cottesmore	0	0629

TOTAL AIRCRAFT --378

AIR MOVEMENT TABLE - GLIDER

Serial	Airborne Unit	USTCC Unit	No. A/C	Gliders CG Hor-4A sq	Takeoff Airfield	LZ	LZ Time
--------	---------------	------------	---------	----------------------	------------------	----	---------

MISSION "DETROIT"
(D-DAY)

28	Btrys A & B 80 Abn AA Bn Hq 82 Abn Div (-) ASP (Glider) 82 Abn Div Arty 82 Abn Sig Co	437 Gp	52	42 6 1 1 2	Ramsbury	0	0400
----	--	--------	----	------------------------	----------	---	------

MISSION "ELMIRA"
(D-DAY)

30	Btry C 80 Abn AA Bn Hq 82 Abn Div Cmd Veh, Div Hq 82 Abn Sig Co ASP (Glider) 82 Abn Div Arty Hq 80 Abn AA Bn	437 Gp	26	13 4 3 1 1 1 2	Ramsbury	W	2110
----	---	--------	----	----------------------------------	----------	---	------

31	307 Abn Med Co 82 Rcn Plat 82 Abn Sig Co Hq 82 Abn Div ASP Vehicles (Prcht)	438 Gp	50	18 11 1 9 9 2	Greenham Commons	W	2120
----	---	--------	----	------------------------------	------------------	---	------

32	319 Gli FA Bn 320 Gli FA Bn 82 Abn Div Arty 307 Abn Med Co Co A 307 Abn Engr Bn (-)	436 Gp	50	40 4 1 1 1	Membury	W	2300
----	--	--------	----	------------------------	---------	---	------

33	320 Gli FA Bn	435 Gp	50	12 38	Welford	W	2310
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MISSION "GALVESTON"
(D PLUS ONE)

34	1 Bn 325 Gli Inf Co A 307 Abn Engr Bn	437 Gp	50	28 15 4 3	Ramsbury	W	0700
----	---	--------	----	--------------	----------	---	------



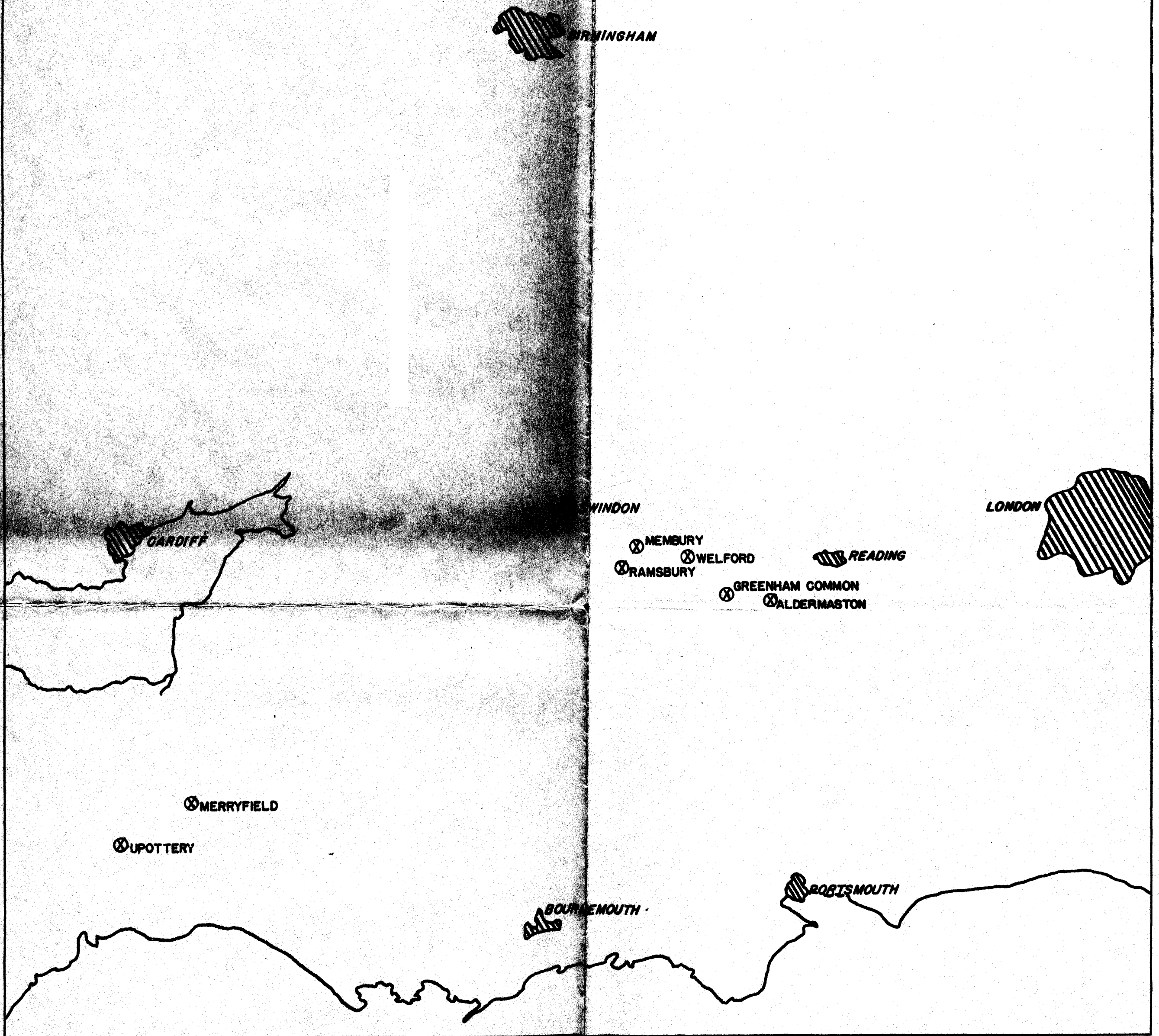
Serial	Airborne Unit	USTCC Unit	No. A/C	Gliders		Takeoff Airfield	LZ	LZ Time
				CG 4A	Hor-sa			
35	Hq & Hq Co 325 Gli Inf 82 Abn Div Arty Co A 307 Abn Engr Bn 82 Abn Ren Plat Cmd Veh 508 Precht Inf	434 Gp	50	40	5 2 2 1	Aldermaston	W	0710
<u>MISSION "HACKEN SACK"</u> (D PLUS ONE)								
36	2 Bn 325 Gli Inf 2 Bn 401 Gli Inf	439 Gp	50	10	15 15	Uppotery	W	0900
37	2 Bn 325 Gli Inf Sply 2 Bn 401 Gli Inf Sply Serv Co 325 Gli Inf Cmd Veh 505, 507, 508 Precht Infs	441 Gp	50	18	18 3 11			0910
TOTALS			428	240	188			

NOTE: Figures for Hq., 82 Abn Div Hq include Div Hq Co and 82 Abn MP Plat.

**HQ 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION
ANNEX NO. 3a TO
ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
FOR
NORMANDY**

- PRCHT TAKE-OFF FIELDS.
- ⊗ GLIDER TAKE-OFF FIELDS.

Scale: Ten Miles to One Inch
10 0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles



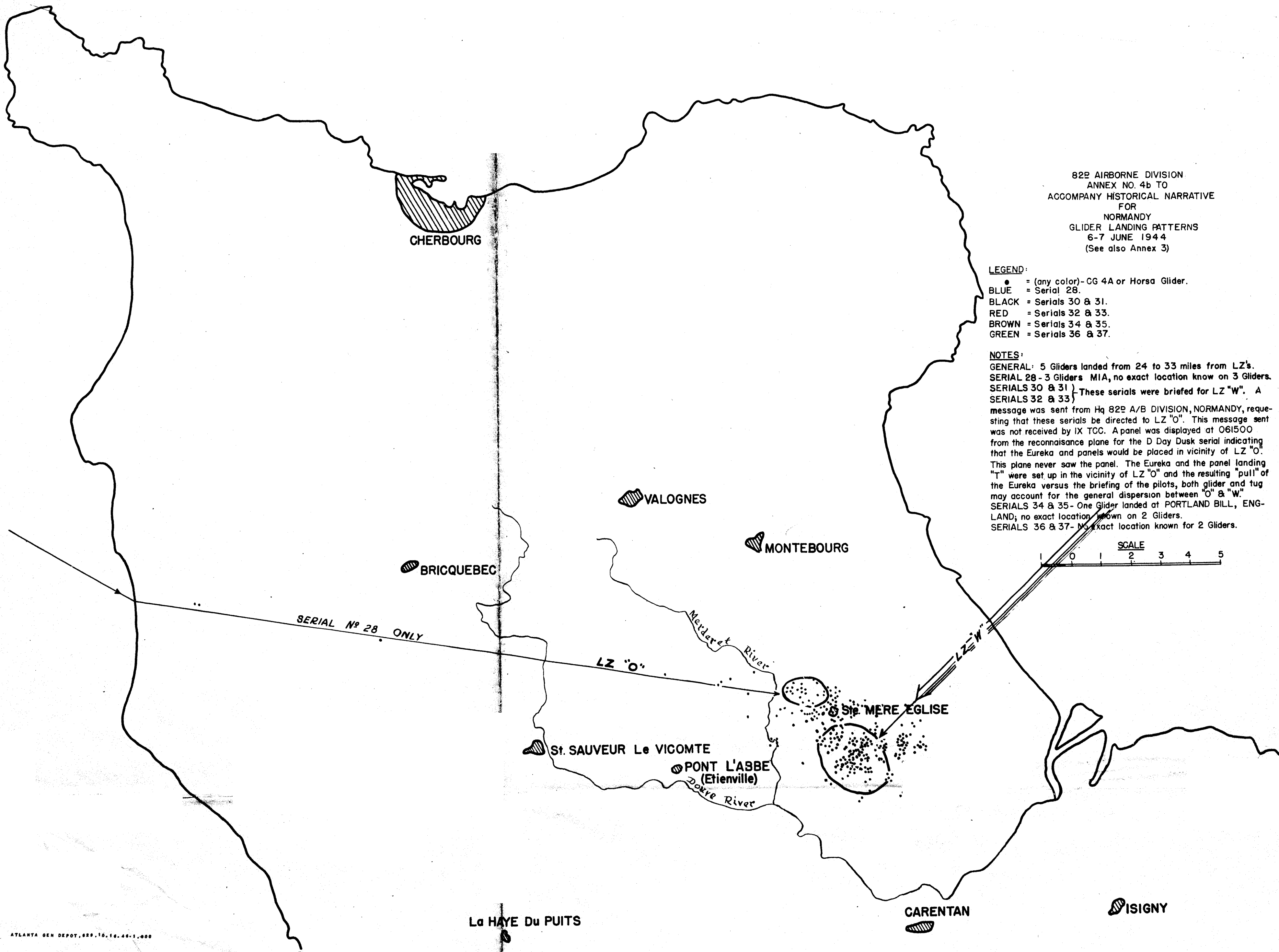
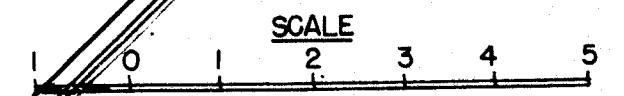
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION
 ANNEX NO. 4b TO
 ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
 FOR
 NORMANDY
 GLIDER LANDING PATTERNS
 6-7 JUNE 1944
 (See also Annex 3)

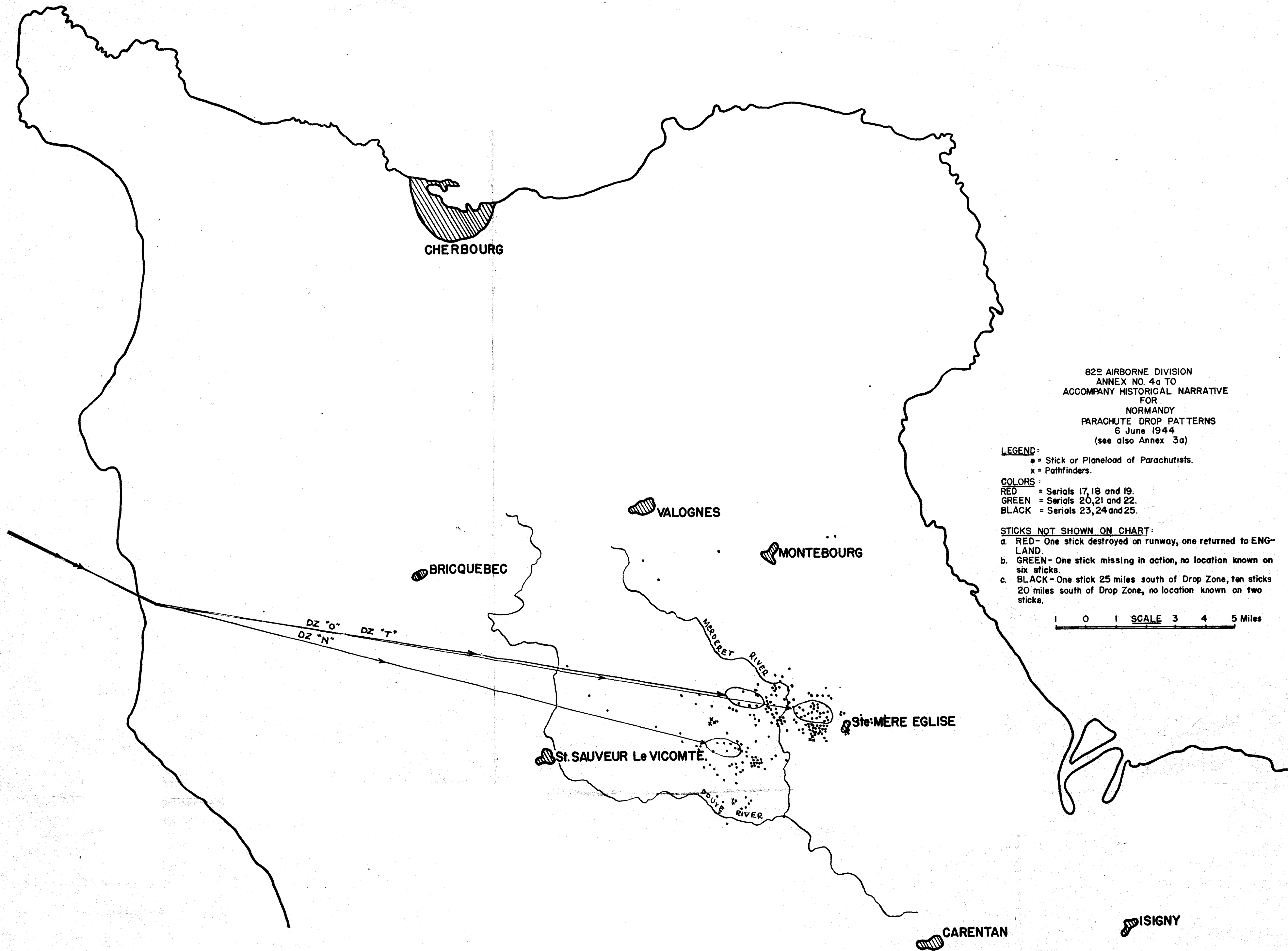
LEGEND:

- = (any color)-CG 4A or Horsa Glider.
- BLUE = Serial 28.
- BLACK = Serials 30 & 31.
- RED = Serials 32 & 33.
- BROWN = Serials 34 & 35.
- GREEN = Serials 36 & 37.

NOTES:

GENERAL: 5 Gliders landed from 24 to 33 miles from LZ's.
 SERIAL 28 - 3 Gliders MIA, no exact location known on 3 Gliders.
 SERIALS 30 & 31 - These serials were briefed for LZ "W". A message was sent from Hq 82ND A/B DIVISION, NORMANDY, requesting that these serials be directed to LZ "O". This message was not received by IX TCC. A panel was displayed at 061500 from the reconnaissance plane for the D Day Dusk serial indicating that the Eureka and panels would be placed in vicinity of LZ "O". This plane never saw the panel. The Eureka and the panel landing "T" were set up in the vicinity of LZ "O" and the resulting "pull" of the Eureka versus the briefing of the pilots, both glider and tug may account for the general dispersion between "O" & "W".
 SERIALS 34 & 35 - One Glider landed at PORTLAND BILL, ENGLAND; no exact location known on 2 Gliders.
 SERIALS 36 & 37 - No exact location known for 2 Gliders.



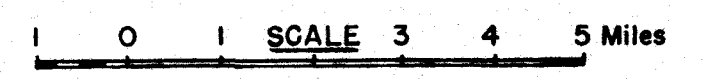


82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION
 ANNEX NO. 4a TO
 ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
 FOR
 NORMANDY
 PARACHUTE DROP PATTERNS
 6 June 1944
 (see also Annex 3a)

LEGEND:
 ● = Stick or Planeload of Parachutists.
 x = Pathfinders.

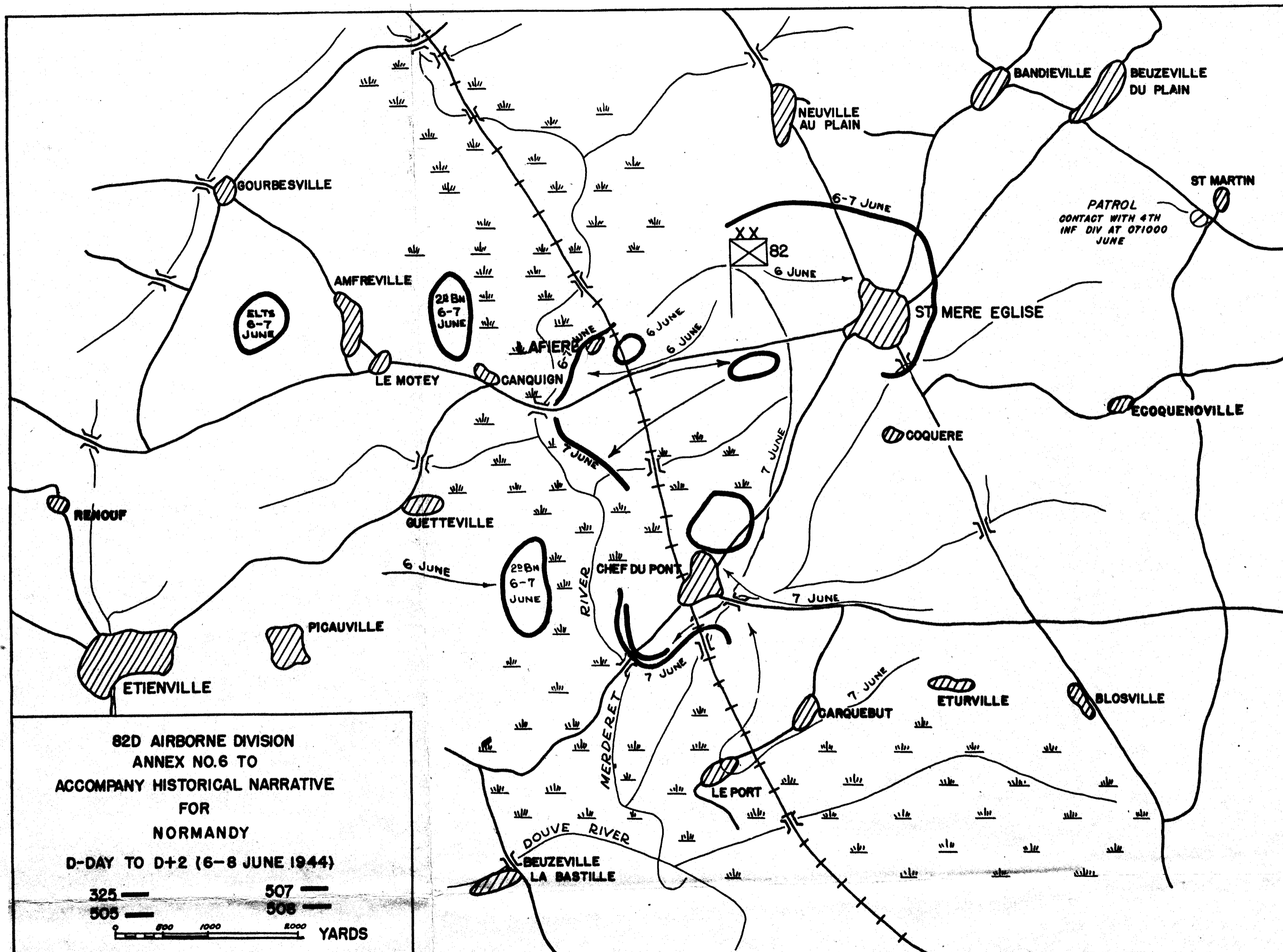
COLORS:
 RED = Serials 17, 18 and 19.
 GREEN = Serials 20, 21 and 22.
 BLACK = Serials 23, 24 and 25.

STICKS NOT SHOWN ON CHART:
 a. RED - One stick destroyed on runway, one returned to ENGLAND.
 b. GREEN - One stick missing in action, no location known on six sticks.
 c. BLACK - One stick 25 miles south of Drop Zone, ten sticks 20 miles south of Drop Zone, no location known on two sticks.

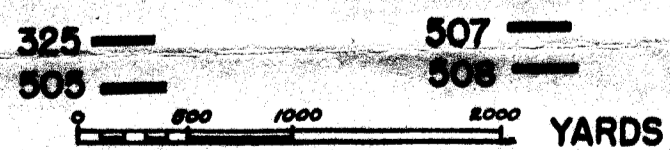


CG4A

SERIAL NO 28	ORGANIZATION	TIME OF DROP	GLIDER				PERSONNEL				JEEP				TRAILER				GUN				DISTANCE FROM LZ
			INTACT	DAM	DEG	MISS	NO	KIA	EVAC	MISS	SER	UNSER	SER	UNSER	SER	UNSER	SER	UNSER	SER	UNSER			
42-4631	HQ. 82 ND AVN DIV.	0407	X																		8 MILES		
42-4632	"	"	X																		500 YDS		
42-4633	"	"	X																		9 MILES		
42-4634	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4635	HQ. 82 ND AVN SIG CO.	"	X																		1 "		
42-4636	"	"	X																		1 "		
42-4637	HQ. 82 ND AVN DIV.	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4638	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4639	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4640	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4641	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4642	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4643	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4644	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4645	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4646	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4647	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4648	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4649	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4650	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4651	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
42-4652	"	"	X																		3-4 "		
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42-4721	"	"	X																				



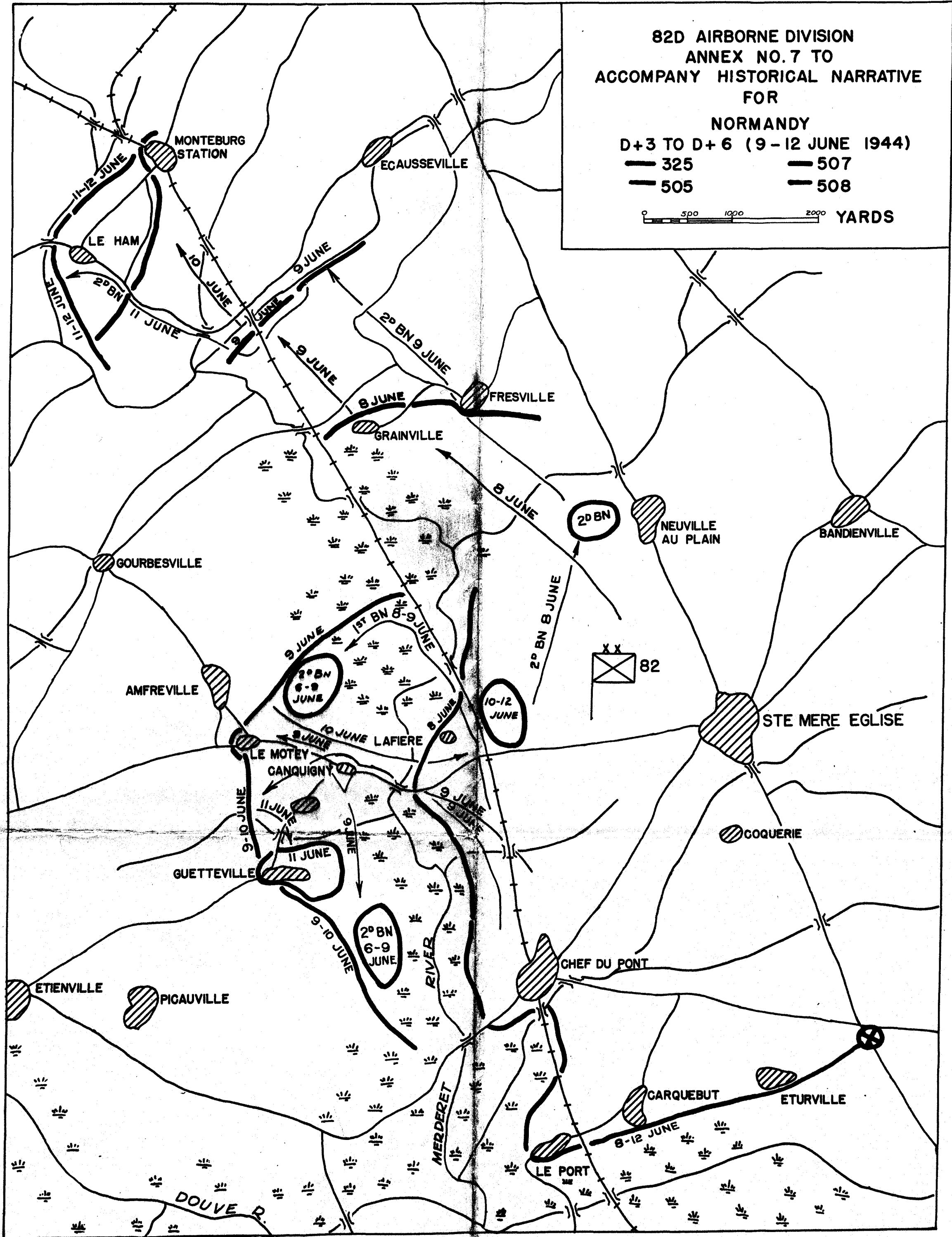
82D AIRBORNE DIVISION
 ANNEX NO.6 TO
 ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
 FOR
 NORMANDY
 D-DAY TO D+2 (6-8 JUNE 1944)

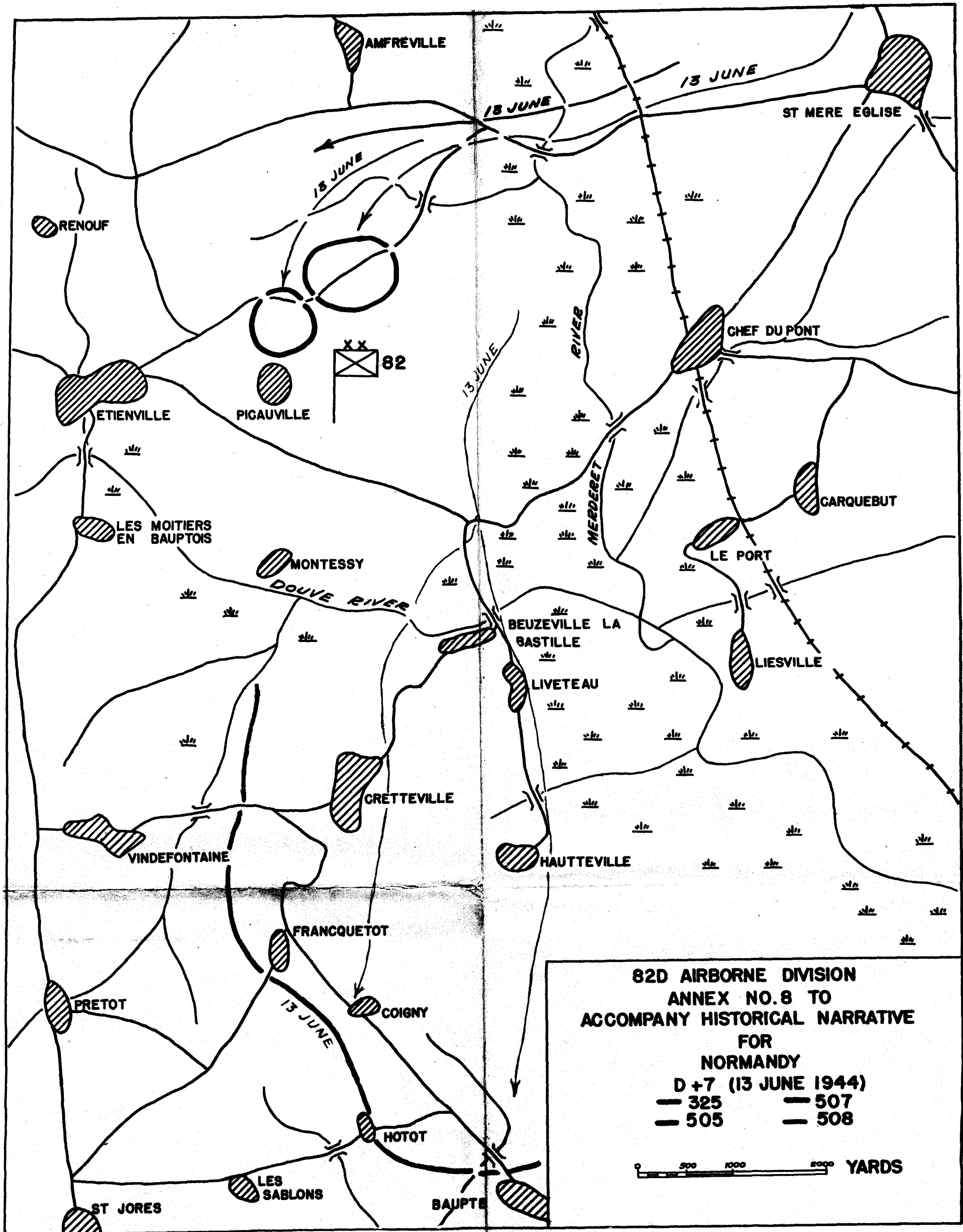


82D AIRBORNE DIVISION
 ANNEX NO. 7 TO
 ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
 FOR
 NORMANDY
 D+3 TO D+6 (9-12 JUNE 1944)

— 325 — 507
 — 505 — 508

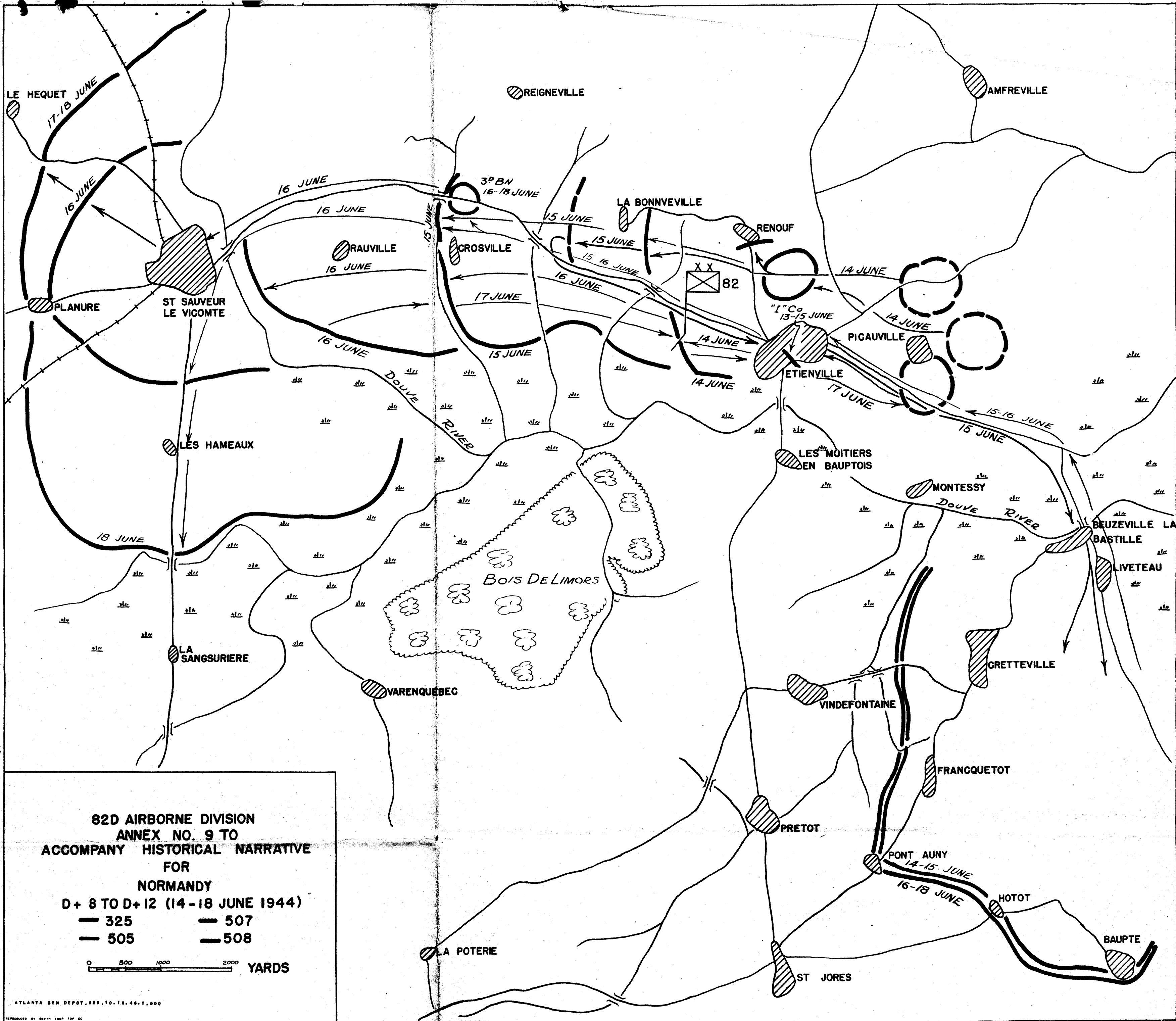
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REPRODUCED BY GPO: 1944 O-374-100

ATLANTA GEN DEPOT, 829.10-16-46.1.000

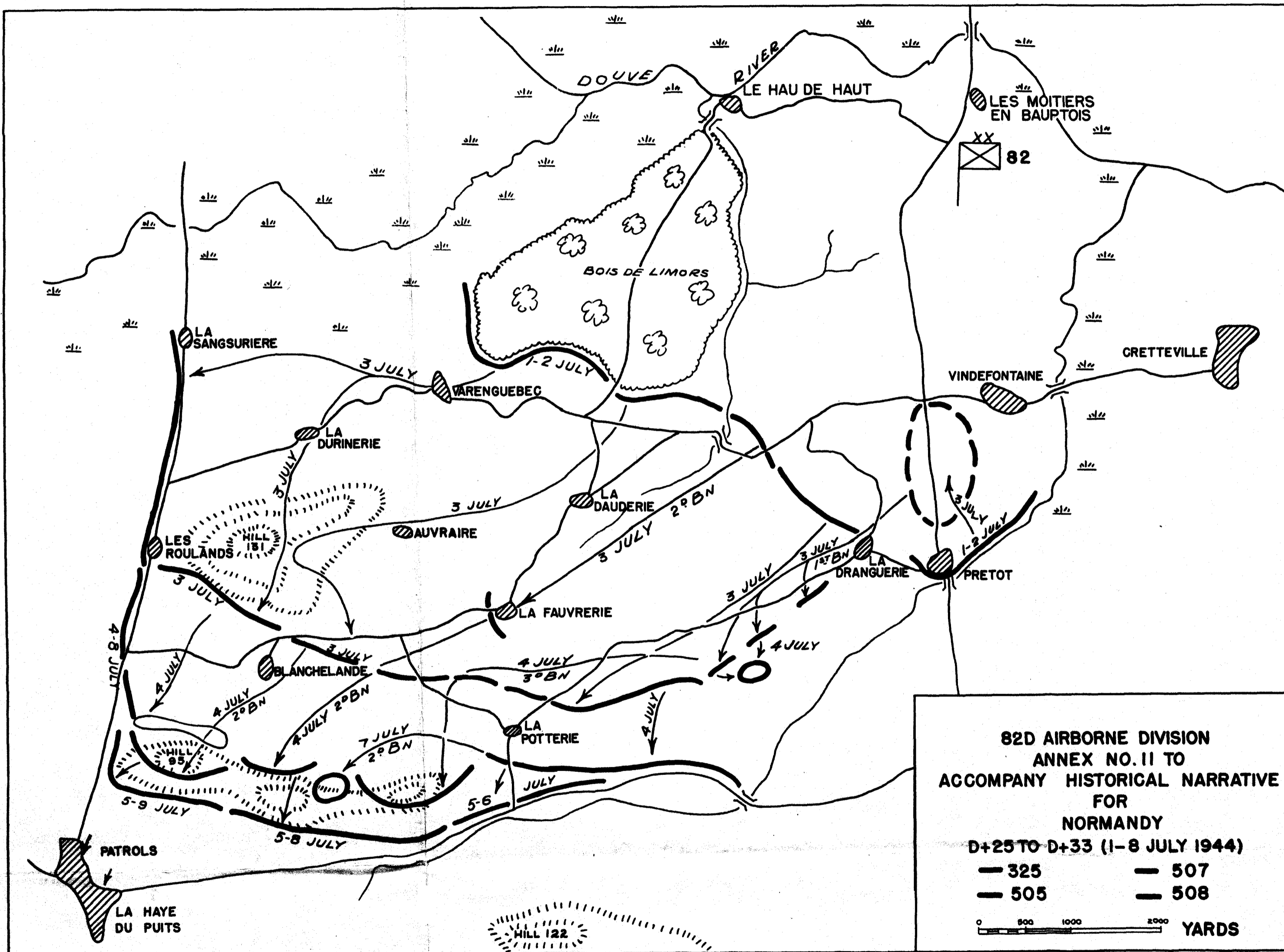


82D AIRBORNE DIVISION
ANNEX NO. 9 TO
ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
FOR
NORMANDY

D+ 8 TO D+ 12 (14-18 JUNE 1944)

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| — 325 | — 507 |
| — 505 | — 508 |

0 500 1000 2000 YARDS



82D AIRBORNE DIVISION
ANNEX NO. 11 TO
ACCOMPANY HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
FOR
NORMANDY
D+25 TO D+33 (1-8 JULY 1944)
 — 325 — 507
 — 505 — 508
 0 500 1000 2000 YARDS