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Operation-Neptune Airborne Troops

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Date *18 Oct*

Airbase Direct:

JUN 21 1965

Locum

Nahas 14 Nov '46

JS Russell 27 April

HP Page 30 April

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E. S. JOHNSON
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Page No. 1 of 4 Pages.

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Hq 82d A/B Div,
APO 469, U. S. Army,
28 May 1944.

FO No. 6 (Revised Copy).

(FO No. 6 dated 14 May 1944, without annexes, will be destroyed.

MAPS: FRANCE, 1:25,000 GSGS 4347
1:50,000 GSGS 4250
1:100,000 GSGS 4249
1:250,000 GSGS 2738

Classification changed to

AUG 22 1945

by authority of AC of S, G-2, WDGS

E. S. JOHNSTON
Colonel, Infantry

1. a. Annex No. 1 INTELLIGENCE.

by

b. The VII Corps, with Divs in column, landing at "U" beach at H Hour with the 82d A/B Div and 101st A/B Div covering the landing of the seaborne assault, captures CHERBOURG with the least practicable delay. The 101st A/B Div landing by parachute and glider between STE. MERRE - EGLISE (349965) and GARENTAN will assault the Western exits of the causeways to assist the landing of the seaborne troops and will cover the crossings of the DOUVE from the junction of the MERDERET to the sea. The 4th Div leading the seaborne troops attacks to the Northwest passing through the Airborne Divisions.

2. a. This Div (less dets) lands by prcht and glider before and after dawn of D-Day astride the MERDERET RIVER, seizes, clears and secures the general area: CR (261938) - CR (265958) - CR (269975) - RJ (274982) RJ (283992) - Bridge (308987) - NEUVILLE - LA - PLAIN (340985) - BANDIENVILLE (360987) within its zone.

Missions

- (1) Capture STE. MERRE - EGLISE (349965).
- (2) 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.
- (3) Seize and destroy the crossings of the DOUVE RIVER at BEUZEVILLE LA - BASTILLE (309911) and ETIENVILLE (269927).
- (4) Protect the Northwest flank of the VII Corps within the Div zone.
- (5) Be prepared to advance West on Corps order to the line of the DOUVE North of its junction with the PRAIRIES MARECAUSES.

b. TROOPS:

Force "A" (Prcht):

Comdr: Brig Gen J. M. Gavin

Det 82d A/B Div Hq & Hq Co
Det 82d A/B Sig Co

Classification changed to

10 OCT 1944

Det Hq 82d A/B Div Arty

Det 456th Prcht FA Bn

Air Support Party

✓ 505th Prcht Inf

✓ 507th Prcht Inf

✓ 508th Prcht Inf

Co "B" 307th A/B Engr Bn

Naval Gun Fire Party

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Force "B" (Glider):

Comdr: Maj Gen M. B. Ridgway

325th Glider Inf
319th Glider FA Bn
320th Glider FA Bn
Btrys A, B & C 80th A/B AA Bn (AT)
Co A 307th A/B Engr Bn
307th A/B Med Co (-)
82d A/B Div Hq & Hq Co (-)
Hq & Hq Btry 82d A/B Div Arty (-)
82d A/B Sig Co (-)
82d A/B Div Rcn Plat (-)
Comd Vehicles - Prcht Regts

Force "C" (Seaborne):

Comdr: Brig Gen G. P. Howell

456th Prcht FA Bn (-)
80th A/B AA Bn (- Btrys A, B & C)
307th A/B Engr Bn (- Cos A, B & C)
782d A/B Ord Maint Co
407th A/B QM Co
82d A/B MP Plat
Seaborne elements of units in Forces A & B above
87th Armd FA Bn
899th TD Bn
Tr B, 4th Cav Sqdn
Co C 746th Tk Bn (M)
3809th QM Trk Co
3810th QM Trk Co
Flat QM GR Co
Corps Med Dots

3. a. Force "A" will drop between 0100 and 0315 on the night of D-1/D Day in accordance with Annex No. 2 (Revised) Air Movement Table, seize, clear, and secure the Div area, establish a bridgehead west of the MERDERET, (Para 2. a. above) and protect the Northwest flank of VII Corps. (See Overlay)

(1) The 505th Prcht Inf with Det 456th Prcht FA Bn, one Plat Co 'B' 307th A/B Engr Bn and Naval Gun Fire Party atchd, landing in DZ O, will:

- (a) Capture and hold STE. MERLE - EGLISE and secure the general line: Bridge at (308987) - NEAUVILLE AU - PLAIN - BANDIENVILLE, Incl.
- (b) Seize and secure the crossings of the MERDERET RIVER at (315957) and (321930).
In River Aug de fort
- (c) Clear the Div area within its sector.
- (d) Establish and maintain contact with the 101st A/B Div at (374980) and (330928).
- (e) Patrol aggressively to the line indicated.
- (f) Mark LZ W. for glider landings.

(2) The 507th Prcht Inf, landing in DZ T, will:

- (a) Seize, organize, and defend the area along the general line CR 265958 - CR 269975 - RJ 283992.
work
- (b) Clear the Div area within its sector.
- (c) Assist the 505th Prcht Inf in securing the crossing of the MERDERET at (315957).

- (d) Establish and maintain contact with the 508th Pcht Inf at RENOUF (264950).
- (e) Patrol aggressively to the line indicated.
- (f) Be prepared on Div order to advance to the West to the line of the DOUVE RIVER.

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- (3) The 508th Pcht Inf, with Co 'B' (-1 Plat) 307th A/B Engr Bn atchd, landing in DZ N, will:

- (a) Seize and destroy the crossings of the DOUVE at BEUZEVILLE LA - BASTILLE and ETIENVILLE.
- (b) Seize, organize, and defend the area along the general line CR (261938) - RENOUF (incl.).
- (c) Clear and secure the Div area within its sector.
- (d) Assemble one Bn without delay in area indicated as Force Res.
- (e) Patrol aggressively to the line indicated.
- (f) Be prepared on Div order to advance to the West to the line of the DOUVE RIVER.

- b. Force "B" will land over a period of 36 hours, beginning on D Day in LZ W, in accordance with Annex No. 3, Air Movement Table, (Changed only to indicate all LZ's as "W"), and reorganize without delay. (See Overlay).

- (1) The 325th Glider Inf will:

- (a) Land in LZ W.
- (b) Assemble in Div Res in the area indicated.
- (c) Be prepared to assist in clearing the Div area of hostile resistance, to counterattack within the Div area and to advance West to the DOUVE on Div order.

- (2) The 82d A/B Div Arty (less 376th and 456th Pcht FA Bn & Dets), will land in LZ and support the Div. It will be prepared to mass its fires on bridge at ETIENVILLE, CR 267935, CR 259952, RJ 259963, RJ 260981.

- (a) 319th Glider FA Bn.
Direct support of 508th Pcht Inf.
Position Area - See Overlay No. 5.
- (b) 320th Glider FA Bn.
Direct support of 507th Pcht Inf.
Position Area - See Overlay No. 5.
- (c) Alternate positions in assigned position area will be selected by each Bn Comdr permitting support of the 505th Pcht Inf.
- (d) See Arty Annex No. 6. (Revised) and overlay No. 5 (Revised)

- (3) Btry's A, B & C 80th A/B M. Bn, See Annex No. 4 (Revised)

- (4) Co A 307th A/B Engr Bn as indicated.

- (5) 82d A/B Div Rcn Plat, see Rcn Plan, Annex No. 1.d.e

- c. Force "C", with atchmts, will assemble in the area NW of (960938) (See Overlay) and from there, proceed to join the Div as directed by CG Force "C".

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- x. (1) All hostile communication lines will be cut, except underground cables on which terminals will be opened.
(2) For AT plan see Annex No. 4 (Revised) and Annex No. 5 (Revised).
(3) Co 'B' (less 1 Plat) 307th A/B Engr Bn reverts to Force "A" control via Force "A" CP upon completion of demolition missions.
(4) Contact from Right to Left.
(5) Units will submit G-3 Periodic Reports daily as of 1800 hrs to reach this Hq at 2000 hrs.
4. See Adm O No. 1.
5. a. Current SOI Index No. 1-101.
b. (1) See Overlay.
(2) CP's 325th Glider Inf, Co 'A' 307th A/B Engr Bn to be reported.

Ridgway
RIDGWAY
COMDG

INCLOSURES:

- Annex No. 1 - Intelligence
2 - Air Movement Table, Prcht (Revised).
~~2~~ Annex No. 2 dated 22 May 44 to be destroyed
~~3~~ 3 - Air Movement Table, Glider.
Only Changes - Serials: To be numbered 28 - 35.
All LZ's are designated as "W"
4 - AT Plan (Revised)
Annex No. 4 dated 18 May 44 to be destroyed.
5 - Overlay (Revised).
Annex No. 5 dated 14 May 44 to be destroyed.
6 - Artillery (Revised)
Annex No. 6 dated 3 May 44 to be destroyed.

DISTRIBUTION:

1	CG	1	44	82d A/B Sig Co	1
2	Asst CG	1	45	Tr B, 4th Cav Sq	1
3	C/S	1	46	87th Armd FA Bn	1
4	G-1	1	47	899th TD Bn	1
5-6	G-2	2	48	Co C, 746th Tk Bn	1
7-8	G-3	2			
9-10	G-4	2			
11	AG	1	49	(Other Headquarters)	
12	Chem O	1	50	SHAEF	1
13	Hq Comdt	1	51-54	21 Army Group	1
14	PM	1	55-58	First US Army	4
15-16	CG, Div Arty	2	59	VII Corps	4
17-18	CG, 2d Brig	2	60	V Corps	1
19-20	325 Gl Inf	2	61	XIX Corps	1
21-22	505th Prcht Inf	2	62	101st A/B Div	1
23-24	507th Prcht Inf	2	63	4th Inf Div	1
25-26	508th Prcht Inf	2	64	9th Inf Div	1
27-28	504th Prcht Inf	2	65	4th Cav Group	1
29-32	Div TSC File	4	66	4th Cav Sq	1
33	319 Gl FA Bn	1	67	6th Armd Group	1
34	320 Gl FA Bn	1	68	1st TD Group	1
35	376 Prcht FA Bn	1	69-70	IX Air Force	1
36	456 Prcht FA Bn	1	71	IX TCC	2
37	307 A/B Engr Bn	1	72	50th TC Wing	1
38	80th A/B Inf Bn	1	73	52d TC Wing	1
39	Hq Co, 82d A/B Div	1	74-75	53d TC Wing	1
40	Hq Btry, Div Arty	1		Army Ground Forces	2
41	407 A/B QM Co	1	76-77	C&GS School	2
42	307 A/B Med Co	1	78-79	Inf School	2
43	782d A/B Ord M Co	1	80-100	Div TSC Reserve	21
				Total	100