

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY "D"
NINETY EIGHTH CHEMICAL BATTALION, MOTORIZED

AP0 920
3 July 1944

Subject: Fire Missions of Co "D", 98th Chem Bn, Mtzd (Rcn Co, 641st TD Bn) in the Hurricane Operation.

To: Chemical Warfare Officer, Hurricane Task Force, AP0 920.

1. The following is a summary, by day, of the fire missions of the 1st Platoon:

May 28/44 On eight points Northwest of Mokmer Village, 57 WP, 120 M3, and 54 E53 rounds were fired. One machine gun was silenced and three dumps were on fire.

May 29/44 During the morning 12 WP and 100 E53 were fired in the same area. One dump was set on fire and the Japs ceased firing their mortars shortly after our firing was commenced. In the evening, 7 WP were expended registering in the guns.

May 31/44 The platoon fired 6 E53 at 1800 hours and one round landed in the 162nd Infantry defensive area and wounded one man. Data for this was sent down from the F.A. plotting room. An immediate check of the laying revealed that it was correct.

June 1/44 22 WP were expended adjusting fire during the afternoon. At 1915 hours the platoon fired 36 M3 and 90 E53 in the vicinity of a Jap artillery piece which was firing into the area. Adjustment could not be made because the telephone wires had been broken and our radios were out of order. At 2350 hours, 90 M3 were fired in the vicinity of the Jap piece, adjustment was done by using an infantry radio, telephone, and messenger to obtain the sensings. This time the Japs ceased firing for good.

June 3/44 6 WP were fired in registering for defensive fire for the night. 117 M3 used in fire for effect.

June 4/44 8 WP were fired in registering in a Jap area. During the night 44 M3 were fired in that area and after each firing Japs were heard moaning.

June 6/44 9 WP and 11 M3 were fired which stopped some Jap activity.

June 7/44 5 WP and 182 M3 were fired in support of the 162nd Infantry. Results were undetermined. 12 rounds delay fuze were fired, of which 10 were duds.

June 8/44 10 WP, 152 E53, and 25 M3 were fired to stop sniper fire on the 180th Infantry and 162nd Infantry. Mission accomplished.

June 9/44 153 M3 were fired which stopped sniper fire on the 180th and 162nd Infantry. During the night 36 M3 were fired in support of 180th Infantry.

June 10/44 3 WP and 92 M3 were fired registering and firing in a pocket of Japs. Later 18 M3 were fired in the same area.

June 11/44 96 M3 were fired in the same pocket of Japs. During the night 50 M3 were fired to harass these Japs. No more activity was ever reported from this area. At 1740 hours, 72 M3 were fired in the vicinity of a Jap mortar. Later, 10 M3 were fired on the mortar and it ceased firing for that night.

June 12/44 9 WP were fired in registering in support of the 163rd Infantry.
60 M3 were fired for effect.

June 13/44 2 M3 were fired for registration purposes.

June 15/44 12 M3 were fired on 15 Japs carrying supplies. They dropped their boxes, but a Jap mortar began firing on the 116th Engineers, killing 1 man and wounding 6. Adjustment on this mortar could not be made because no trained observer was at the O.P.

June 17/44 During the night, 102 M3 were fired and a Jap mortar stopped firing.

June 18/44 28 M3 were fired to stop Jap mortar fire on Co "C", 163rd Infantry.

June 19/44 At 0530 hours, 3 rounds of Jap mortar shells fell in a nearby area.
18 M3 were fired to quiet it.

June 20/44 51 WP and 218 M3 were fired on a Jap dump and a pillbox. Hits were scored on each but little damage was done to the dump and damage done to the pillbox was undetermined although parts of it were blown up.

June 21/44 72 WP and 245 M3 were fired raking ridge area for 2nd Bn, 163rd Infantry.

June 22/44 Same mission. 2 WP and 219 M3, harrassing fire - 5 WP and 121 M3.

June 23/44 108 WP and 197 M3 were fired in same area for harrassing effect.

June 24/44 8 WP and 82 M3 were fired in same area for harrassing effect.

June 25/44 10 WP and 127 M3 were fired for registration and harrassing effect.

June 26/44 2 WP were fired to check wind drift.

2. The following is a summary, by day, of the fire missions of the 2nd Platoon:

May 29/44 Arrived Parai and went into position to support 162nd Infantry at 1200 hours. Fired 180 rounds of mixed ammunition (no count by type available) to delay enemy advance. This mission was accomplished and mortars were destroyed by best means available and personnel withdrew to Bosnak by amphibious craft. Lesson learned: Always have thermite grenades M-14 on hand to destroy materiel.

June 2/44 Received 6 new mortars. Went into position vicinity Ibdj and registered for night defensive fire. 9 rounds WP expended.

June 7/44 Moved from vicinity Ibdj to Parai Jetty at 1340 hours. Fired 3 rounds WP, 1 M3. Communications went out. Pvt Kelly reported in on foot that Lt Russell was dead and several men wounded. Under new observer, 60 M3 and 9 WP were expended firing at enemy mortar area. Effect silencing of enemy fire for short period by each burst of our fire. 1 rd observed to land in enemy machine gun nest.

June 9/44 1400 hours. 2 rds WP and 22 rds M3 expended on enemy mortar position. Effect - silencing of enemy firing until 1700 hours. 1730 hours: Fired 16 M3 to silence mortars again. Enemy still fired intermittently.

June 10/44 Increased range interdiction on enemy mortar positions from 0730 to 1513 hours. Expended 890 rounds M3. At approximately 1000 hours it was necessary to pause and shift base plates. During this period the enemy mortars fired 6 rds, killing 1 and wounding 6 in the 162nd Infantry. This continual fire allowed the 162nd Infantry, 7 tanks, and 50 trucks loaded with supplies to pass through the Mokmer Village defile without receiving enemy fire. Enemy mortars apparently silenced.

June 11/44 Fired on same area from 0645 to 0900 hours. Expended 145 rds M3. Effect apparently good as vehicles passed through the defile freely until 1600 hours. 1900-1930 hours: 112 M3 expended same target. Enemy mortar opened up immediately after fire finished 1945. 60 rds M3 expended same target. Enemy stopped firing.

June 12/44 Same target area, fired 38 rds WP and 77 rds M3 at 0700 hours. Free passage of troop through defile all day.

- June 13/44 Made closer registration on same enemy strong point from LCT out in the water. S/Sgt White as observer. LCT was fired on by machine guns, mortars, and heavy automatic weapons. Muzzle blasts of enemy guns could be seen. Also, several cave mouths visible that could not be seen from the ground. Our fire was definitely falling into the enemy strong-point. Expended 15 rds WP and 290 rds M3. Indication of effect by fact that there was free movement of troops and vehicles through the defile.
- June 15/44 Went into new position at Mokmer Drome 1200 hours. At 1645 hours registered in to support 3rd Bn, 162nd Infantry. Expended 8 rounds WP and 38 rounds M3. Effect: rounds fell into enemy cave entrance, further effect unknown. At 1900 hours registered in on area to support attack on following morning by 2nd Bn, 180th Infantry. Expended 10 rds WP.
- June 16/44 0800 to 0850 hours. Preparation fire for the attack on area around 4 naval guns. Expended 379 rds M3. Effect: Infantry passed through area with minor resistance compared to the day before. Numerous enemy dead in area, estimate 50-50.
- June 17/44 0925 hours - Placed interdiction fire on enemy road to prevent his evacuation or reinforcement. Fired on 300 yd section of road by sweeping and traversing. Expended 9 rds WP and 115 rds M3. Mission accomplished. 1310 hours - Fired on enemy dual purpose gun position in conjunction with 81 MM Mortars and Division Artillery. Expended 1 rd WP and 40 rds M3. Effect dual purpose guns (2) out of action. During this fire No. 3 Mortar proved very erratic. Exchange of sights and standards proved of no effect, so defect must be in tube. Later, exchange for new mortar corrected this.
- June 23/44 Arrived position 300 yds east of Mokmer Drome at 1100 hours. Mission to deliver fire on east caves on ridge above Mokmer Village. There has been intermittent enemy machine gun and mortar fire on main road between Mokmer Drome and Parai. Platoon was adjusted into area by ground observation, then on caves by precision adjustment from the air. Lt Col Cochran observer. Fired to concentrations on caves during day. Expended 90 rds WP and 202 rds M3. An estimated 1/3 of these rounds landed directly in the cave.
- June 24/44 0700 hrs - Fired concentration of 49 rds WP and 120 rds M3 on same caves. Same percentage into cave. 1:30 hrs moved to position 600 yds East of Mokmer Drome to support 180th Infantry. 1900 hours registered in on enemy strong point, estimated strength about 1 company. Expended 8 rds WP Plan to fire heavy concentration tomorrow as soon as North flank of position is found.
- June 25/44 Did no fire concentration as planned, as the 2nd Bn, 180th Infantry moved in on strong point without resistance. Dug in positions found for approximately 100 men. Abandoned 20 MM AT gun and several machine guns were found. Evidence of occupation on previous day was found. Our adjustment fire had fallen directly on area as evidenced by WP residue all through area.
- June 26/44 Arrived positions area 1500 yds N of Mokmer Drome at 1000 hours. Dug in, no registration.
- June 27/44 1145 hrs: Adjusted and fired on ridge on which the enemy was dug in. Supporting 3rd Bn, 180th Infantry who had been stopped at this point. Expended 120 rds W- and 85 rds M3. Effect: The Infantry attacked, met minor resistance. 32 enemy dead found in concentration area. 1630 hrs - Adjusted 3 guns in for defensive fires for 1st Bn, 3rd Infantry. Expended 3 rds W- and 9 rds M3.
- June 28/44 0700 hours: Took 1 section to former position, 300 yds of Mokmer Drome to mark east cave for air strike. Adjustment made by air observation. Mission accomplished 0900 hours. Expended 12 rds WP and 1 rd M3.
- June 29/44 1430 hrs - Arrived at old position 300 yds East of Mokmer Drome to fire on east caves. Road is still being interdicted after the caves have been worked over by mortars, direct fire from tanks, artillery, and destroyers, and 2 air attacks with 250 and 1000 lb bombs. Expended 123 rds M3 and 113

June 30/44 0415 hrs: fire started in cave area lasting for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. 1300 hrs: Tried out delay fuze 3 rds fired 3 duds. 1 bunker or pill box either destroyed or badly damaged by our fire during day. 1700 hrs: Steady stream of gray smoke observed coming out of cave mouth continued until dark. Expended 0700 to 1930 hrs, 159 rds M3. 1930 hrs to 0700 hrs, July 1/44 99 rds WP and 50 rds M3.
 Note: WP only used at night because of hindrance to aircraft during daylight hours.

July 1/44 0700 to 1730 hrs 124 rds M3 expended. 1730 to 0700 hrs July 2-44 91 rds WP and 52 rds M3.

July 2/44 Used sweeping fire to cover entire cave area. Expended 0700 hrs to 1730 hrs 90 rds M3. 1445 hrs to 1730 hrs 111 rds E53, 8 rds M3. 1730 hrs to 1930 hrs 20 rds E53, 1930 hrs to 0700 hrs July 3/44 45 rds WP, 45 rds E53, 50 rds M3.

July 3/44 Continued interdiction fire until 1025 hrs. Cease fire given. Platoon to remain in position to see if enemy will interdict road again. Expended 41 rds M3.

Through this long period of fire the guns were very well set into coral rock, range dispersion was very small. My estimate is about 50 yds. An estimate of 2/3 of the rounds falling into the caves for the entire time.

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 Commanding