

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES
Office of the Adjutant General
Army Postal Service
Washington 25, D.C.

Auth: TAG
Initials:
Date: 30 Aug 44

Written at APO 758
30 August 44

SUBJECT: Mail handling during the invasion of Southern France
for period 15-30 Aug 44. (D Day to D plus 15).

TO: Director, Army Postal Service, Washington 25, D.C.

1. Information contained in this report relating to that period prior to 25 Aug was obtained by interviews with various officers who took part in the postal operations incident to the Invasion of Southern France. Information from 25 Aug on was obtained by personal visits to postal units concerned. Maj. C. M. Hanahoe, AGD, Staff Postal Officer, 7th Army, through his cooperation facilitated this investigation.

2. a. The 11th Postal Regulating Section, APO 434, landed at St. Tropez, France, the morning of 16 Aug (D plus 1) and was set up in a building formerly used as a night-club. This building is located about 100 yards from 7th Army Hqs, (Rear) in St-Tropez. Floor space consists of about 5000 square feet. A large parking lot in front of the building is being used in which to handle bulk mail.

b. Capt. William E. Jameson, AGD., CO of the 11th PRS was wounded by an anti-personnel bomb during an air raid on 18 Aug (D plus 3). His right eye has been removed. Capt Jameson has been evacuated to a hospital in Naples, Italy. 1st Lt. S. J. Franco, AGD, has been placed in command, and is assisted by 1st Lt. E. R. Sweeten, AGD.

c. The 11th PRS delivered a small amount of mail on 16 Aug (D plus 1), which it had brought over on the boat. The first mail in any appreciable volume was received by surface vessel from Naples, 20 Aug (D plus 5), when 162 pouches of first class mail and 120 sacks of parcel post were unloaded at St. Tropez.

d. On 25 Aug (D plus 10) about 5300 sacks and pouches were received by surface vessel from Naples. There were approximately 400 pouches in this shipment.

3. a. Lt. Col. A. G. Lagace, AGD, Chief Postal Officer, NATOUSA, was in Southern France from 22-28 Aug. He advised that preparations to handle the mail situation for this Invasion had been made months in advance. Lt. Col Lagace further advised that the EAPO, NYNY, had been furnished with a list of units which were to participate in the invasion and directed to pouch mail for these units to "Toulon, France." In this manner, all mail for units in Southern France can be intercepted in Algiers, Algeria, and dispatched directly to France.

ANNEX 6

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b. On 28 Aug (D plus 13) daily plane service was inaugurated between Algiers and Le Luc Air Field, France. One (1) C-47 plane flies from Algiers to Bastia, Corsica, and carries mail only. At Bastia this mail plane connects daily with a special plane for Le Luc Air Field. Le Luc is approximately 25 miles from St-Tropez. On 28 Aug, 77 pouches were received on the Algiers plane and 57 pouches were received on 29 Aug. These pouches were dispatched by the EAPO, NYNY on 26 Aug. Postmarks on this mail matter were, in general, from 19-24 Aug. As a result, the Armed Forces in Southern France are receiving mail in five (5) and six (6) days from the U.S. Naturally there will be other mail which had been dispatched via Naples which will not be received in such good time.

4. a. The first outgoing mail was dispatched on 18 Aug (D plus 3). From 18-22 Aug, mail was dispatched by fast surface vessel to Naples. Beginning 23 Aug (D plus 8) outgoing mail was dispatched by courier and hospital evac planes to Naples. Beginning 28 Aug (D plus 13) mail was dispatched by the special mail plane to Algiers. Mail addressed to units in Italy will continue to be dispatched by courier and hospital evac planes. All parcel post is being and will be dispatched by surface vessel.

5. a. APU 768, assigned to Hqs (Rear) 7th Army and APU 778 assigned to Hqs (Forward) 7th Army landed on 16 Aug (D plus 1). Both APU's began operations on 17 Aug at St. Tropez. On 27 Aug (D plus 12) APU 778 moved to Brignoles, location of Hqs (Forward), 7th Army.

6. a. APU 523, assigned to the Air Forces, began operations at Le Luc Air Field on 24 Aug (D plus 9).

7. a. APU 768 landed on 25 Aug (D plus 10) at St. Tropez and its personnel assisted the 11th PRS from 26-29 Aug. On 30 Aug, APO 768 set up at Meyrargues, about 95 miles northwest of St. Tropez, to do postal regulating work for the Army units in the forward areas. Maj. Hanahoe advised that APU 768 will be moved further forward as soon as transportation to carry the mail is available. At present, the divisions will have to call at 768 for their mail. But within a few days APU 539 will be set up at a point about 75 miles beyond APU 768. APU's 768 and 539 will have two (2) $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks between them which will give them sufficient transportation facilities to at least move the first class mail into the forward areas.

8. a. APU 548, assigned to the 1st Air Borne Task Force, landed on 25 Aug (D plus 10) and began operations on the following day.

9. a. The advance unit of APO 3, assigned to the 3d Infantry Division, landed on D Day. It set up in the Division QM at Carpentras about 130 miles northwest of St. Tropez. This APO received its first mail, 32 pouches, on 21 Aug (D plus 6). It dispatched its first mail on 19 Aug (D plus 4). The rear unit of APO 3 landed at St. Tropez on 29 Aug (D plus 14). The rear unit of the APO, while in Italy, received the divisional mail from the 2d Base Post Office, broke the regimental mail down to companies, and dispatched it in company directs to the forward unit of APO 3 in France. During a visit to the forward unit of APO 3, 29 Aug (D plus 14), it was noted that the mail was being handled efficiently. Several pouches of letter mail were on hand which had been dispatched only four days

previously by the EAPO, NYNY. This mail had been flown from Algiers to Le Luc Air Field by the special mail plane, trucked to the 11th PRS, where it was picked up by trucks from the 3d Division QM. Postmarks on this mail, in general, covered the period from 18-23 Aug. Pouch label dated 26 Aug at EAPO, and letter facing slips dated 22 and 23 Aug at Postal Concentration Center, NYNY, were obtained from the aforementioned pouches, and are submitted with original copy of this report as inclsuro #1.

10. a. APO 36 assigned to the 36th Infantry Division, was visited 22 Aug (D plus 13). This APO landed on 20 Aug (D plus 5) and began operations on 23 Aug (D plus 8). APO 36 is located at Aspres about 150 miles northwest of St. Tropez. On 26 Aug (D plus 11), 45 pouches were picked up at APO 434, St. Tropez, by the 36th Division.

11. a. APO 45, assigned to the 45th Infantry Division, was visited on 28 Aug (D plus 13). This APO landed on 20 Aug (D plus 5). Equipment was unloaded on 22 Aug (D plus 7) and operations started on 24 Aug (D plus 9) at Aspres.

12. At present transportation presents the biggest postal problem. The divisions have moved forward much faster than was contemplated. There is a shortage of transportation even for rations and ammunition. First class mail has moved forward to the divisions without delay. The 3d Division has been able to move all its mail to the forward APO. The 36th Division has moved all but about 300 sacks of parcel post from St. Tropez to its APO at Aspres. The 45th Division still has about 800 sacks of parcel post at St. Tropez. It does not matter greatly if this parcel post at St. Tropez is left here until the 7th Army can move it forward to appoint nearer to the divisions. As long as fast first class mail service is rendered, the soldiers are very well satisfied.

13. Railroad facilities are being rapidly repaired and it is likely that within a short time mail will be moved to the forward areas by both trucks and rail.

14. 20th Base Post Office is due to land on 4 Sept (D plus 20). Present plans call for setting this unit up in Marseilles, and moving the 11th PRS inland about 150 miles. Several smaller postal units are scheduled to arrive shortly and it is believed that the postal situation will be adequately taken care of.

15. From observation, it is my opinion that the mail handling during the period 15-30 Aug (D Day to D plus 15) has been excellent. The results have shown study and forethought. A supplementary report will be submitted at a later date describing the mail handling from 31 Aug onward.

s/t/J. J. CLOUGHERTY,
Capt. A.G.D.
Army Postal Inspector.

Incl. Pouch label and facing slips.
cc-CO, NATOUSA, thru Chief Postal Officer, APO 512.
cc-CG, 7th Army, thru Staff Postal Officer, APO 758.

A TRUE COPY:

C. L. Bodine
C. L. BODINE,
Major, AGD.