

OPORD Mission

Operation Neptune Paragraph Two OPORD

Glossary:

- J-Hour - When the paratroopers began jumping into France
- Attachments - Other units that are temporarily assigned to the 101st in order to help the 101st accomplish its mission.
- Drop and Landing Zones - Annexes are not available because of size and brittle nature of original documents
- 65th Armd FA Bn - 65th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. These are artillery (cannons) that are mounted on tracked vehicles
- QM Trk Co - Quartermaster Truck Company. This is a unit of cargo trucks that are used to transport men and cargo.
- A Brty 474th AA AW Bn - This is an anti-aircraft gun battery (about six anti-aircraft guns to protect against air attack.

Operation Neptune Paragraft Two OPOD

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BIGOT - NEPTUNE

SECRET
Auth: CG 101 AB Div
Init: E.A.H.
Date: 18 May 1944



101st AB Division
PO 472, U. S. Army
May 1944

FIELD ORDER)
NUMBER 1)

MAPS: FRANCE 1/50,000, GSGS No. 4250, Sheets LA HAYE DU PUIT (5E/5),
PERIERE (5E/2 & 6F/1), VALOGNES (6E/3 & 4), ISIGNY (6E/6).

Intell
#1
- sep.
Annex

1. a. Intelligence: See Annex No. 1.
- b. The 4th Div of the VII Corps assaults UTAH BEACH on D-day at H-hour and captures CHERBOURG with minimum delay.
2. The 101st AB Div, reinforced, will land by air and water on the COTENTIN PENINSULA beginning at J-hour on the night of D minus one--D-day, with the principal mission of assisting the landing of the 4th Inf Div and its passage inland from UTAH BEACH. It will subsequently protect the south flank of the VII Corps along the DOUVE RIVER within its sector.
 - a. Attachments:
 - Co "D", 70th Tank Bn
 - 65th Armd FA Bn (upon release by 4th Inf Div)
 - Tr "C", 4th Cav Sq
 - 3807th QM Trk Co
 - 3808th QM Trk Co
 - 1st Platoon, "A" Btry 474th AA AW Bn
 - b. J-hour is the time of dropping of the first parachute serial (See Annex No. 2, Air Movement Table).
 - c. J-hour, H-hour, and D-day will be announced to units by officer courier.
 - d. Boundaries: See Annex No. 3.
 - e. For drop and landing zones: see Annexes No. 3b (1) and (2).

Mission
#2

3. a. PARACHUTE ECHELON: (See Annex No. 2, Air Movement Table).
 - (1) 502nd Prcht Inf, with 377th Prcht FA Bn, attached, landing on Drop Zone "A", will destroy the enemy battery located west of ST. MARTIN-DE-VARREVILLE (405980) and will seize the western edge of the inundated area back of UTAH BEACH between ST. MARTIN-DE-VARREVILLE (4098) and AUDOUVILLE-LA-HUBERT (4096), both inclusive, prior to H-hour. It will protect the north flank of the Division within the Regimental sector. (See Annex No. 3. Upon being relieved by 4th Inf Div it will assemble in place prepared for movement to the southwest. See Annex No. 3a.
 - (2) The 506th Prcht Inf, (with 1st and 3rd platoons, Co "C", 326th AB Engr Bn, attached), landing on Drop Zones "C" and "D" will execute the following missions:
 - (a) Seize the western edge of the inundated area back of UTAH BEACH between AUDOUVILLE-LA-HUBERT (4096) exclusive, and POUPEVILLE (4493), prior to H-hour.
 - (b) Protect the south flank of the 101st AB Div and 4th Inf Div within the Regimental sector. The bridges north of CARENTAN at 365872, 382865, 383862, 419873, and 427876, will be destroyed; the dam at 397868 will be seized and defended.
 - (3) The 501st Prcht Inf, (less 3rd Bn) with Co "C" (less two platoons), 326th AB Engr Bn, attached, landing on Drop Zone "B", will protect the rear (west flank) of the Division within the Regimental sector. It will seize STR. MERE-EGLISE and the crossings of the MERDET RIVER at 315957 and 321930. Upon being relieved by the 4th Inf Div it will assemble southeast of CHEF DU PONT and push a strong detachment to the west for the purpose of destroying the crossings of the DOUVE RIVER at 309910 and 269928 and contacting the 82nd AB Div at St. SAUVEUR-LE-VICOMTE.

#3
Operations
(subordinate)
unit
missions

- 1 -

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(4) The 3rd Bn, 501st Prcht Inf, landing on Drop Zone "G" will assemble in Division reserve prepared to mark and protect glider landing Zone "EM".

b. GLIDER ECHELON: (See Annex No. 2, Air Movement Table).

(1) The glider troops, following landing, will assemble in vicinity of Landing Zones indicated in Annex No. 3b (2) and await orders. Battery "A", 81st AB AA Bn, will be prepared for attachment to the 506th Prcht Inf. The Commanding General, Division Artillery, is charged with arrangements for receiving the glider echelon. For duties of glider pilots see Annex No. 7.

c. SEABORNE ECHELON: (See Annex No. 2a, Landing Table),

(1) Seaborne elements, upon landing, will assemble as indicated in Annex No. 2b. All combat elements will be prepared for immediate employment in the CARENTAN area. The assistant Division Commander is charged with arrangements for receiving and directing the seaborne elements of the Division.

(2) Batteries "D", "E" and "F", 81st AB AA Bn are initially attached to the 11th AAA Group for the antiaircraft defense of UTAH BEACH. These batteries will revert to Division control upon arrival of their transportation on D plus 1.

(3) The 65th Armd FA Bn (SP), initially attached to the 4th Inf Div, will pass to the control of the 101st AB Div on D-day by mutual arrangement with the 4th Inf Div. It will be prepared to furnish general artillery support from beach positions.

x. (1) S-3 reports will be submitted to reach this Headquarters at 2200 daily by Inf Regiments, Div Arty, 81st AB AA Bn, 326th AB Engr Bn, and separate companies.

(2) For interruption of enemy communication installations see Annex No. 5b.

4. See Administrative Order No. 1.

5. a. (1) See Annex No. 6a and 6b Signal.

(2) Signal Operations Instructions (Assault) Index 1 - 1 will become effective at J-hour.

(3) Signal Operations Instructions (Reference) Index 1 - 1 will be effective at 0001B, D plus 4.

b. CP's:

VII Corps Afloat	USS BAYFIELD
Alternate Hq	LCI (L) No. 419
VII Corps Ashore	LOURES (3896) after 1800 D plus 1
4th Inf Div	ST. MARTIN DE VARREVILLE (4098)
82nd AB Div	Vicinity LA FORET (14795)
101st AB Div	HESVILLE (387922)(tentative)
501st Prcht Inf	CAQUERIE (349952)(tentative)
502nd Prcht Inf	REUVILLE (409740)(tentative) 380969
506th Prcht Inf	ST. MARTIN (387975)(tentative) 396933
327th Cli Inf	SIE MARIE-DU-MONT (4192)(tentative)
Div Serv Area	SEBEVILLE (3794)(tentative)

c. Radio Silence.

(1) Airborne elements will break Radio Silence upon landing.

(2) At H minus 40 or after, Radio Silence may be relaxed by Unit Commanders of Seaborne Elements within approximately twelve (12) miles to Seaward of beaches, unless otherwise prohibited.

d. Axis of Signal Communication:

VII Corps: LOURES - STE-MERE-EGLISE - MONTEBOURG - VALOGNES.

4th Inf Div: ST. MARTIN DE VARREVILLE - BANDIENVILLE - MONTEBOURG - VALOGNES.

e. FMG Group APF will be sent immediately upon capture of strongpoint and battery at ST. MARTIN DE VARREVILLE.

pt 3 cont.

pt 4 Admin. + Logistics (sep Annex)

pt 5 Communications + Command (also has sep annex)

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TAYLOR

OFFICIAL:

M. Miller

MILLENER
G-3

ANNEXES:

- Annex No. 1 - Intelligence
- Annex No. 2 - Air Movement Table
- Annex No. 2a - Landing Table (Seaborne)
- Annex No. 2b - Beach Control - Seaborne Echelon
- Annex No. 3 - Operations
- Annex No. 3a - Operations
- Annex No. 3b - Landing and Drop Zones
- Annex No. 4 - Plan of Coordination - Artillery, Air, Naval, Gunfire
- Annex No. 5 - Engineer
- Annex No. 6 - Signal
- Annex No. 7 - Employment of Glider Pilots

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Co "G", 326th AB Engr Bn	1	Copy No. 105
81st AB AA Bn	1	Copy No. 106
Hq Co, 101st AB Div	1	Copy No. 107
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3807th QM Trk Co	1	Copy No. 113
3808th QM Trk Co	1	Copy No. 114
Co "D", 70th Tank Bn	1	Copy No. 115
Trp "C", 4th Ren Sq	1	Copy No. 116
65th Armd FA Bn (SF)	1	Copy No. 117
Pathfinders	1	Copy No. 118
603rd QM Gr Co	1	Copy No. 119

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OPORD Mission

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Glossary:

- D-Day is the day the operation starts.
- D+1 is one day after D-Day (looks like D / with a - thru it, typewriters did not have a plus sign on them).
- A/C is aircraft
- CG4A is a Waco Glider that could carry up to 13 troops or a jeep or small cannon.

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Init: RD 77
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HEADQUARTERS, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
Office of the Division Commander

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: AFO 4/2, S. Army
14-September 1944
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
4.0. McPartland ABW
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 8 May 46

*FF 1
Sep. Annex*

FIELD ORDER)
NUMBER - 1)

1. a. Intelligence; see Annex No. 2

b. (1) First Airborne Division (British) will seize and control bridges across NEDER RIJN at ARNHEM.

(2) 82nd Airborne Division will seize and control bridges across MAAS and De WAAL Rivers near NIJMEGEN.

*FF 2
Mission*

2. a. 101st Airborne Division will land by parachute and glider in daylight on D, D+1 and D+2 Days, in the ZON (444254) - VECHTEL (482375) area with the mission of seizing and holding the principal stream and canal crossings at EINDHOVEN (430180), ZON (444254) and VECHTEL (482375) in order to assist the advance of the British 2nd Army northward along the EINDHOVEN - GRAVE (620530) highway. (See Annex No. 3).

b. Composition of Airborne Lifts:

D Day	432 Parachute A/C 70 CG4A Gliders	<i>} master } plan</i>
D+1 Day	450 CG4A Gliders	
D+2 Day	382 CG4A Gliders	

g. For Drop Zones and Landing Zone, see Annex No. 2. For air movement plan, see Annex No. 5.

3. a. D Day lift:

*FF 3
Operations -
Mission of
Subordinate
units by
Day*

(1) 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment with two platoons Company "C", 326th Airborne Engineer Battalion attached, will land on DZ "A" and secure the canal and stream crossings in the VECHTEL (482375) area. (See Annex No. 3)

(2) 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment with one platoon Company "C", 326th Airborne Engineer Battalion and detachment Division Reconnaissance Platoon attached will land on DZ "B". It will secure the three crossings of the WILHELMINA CANAL at ZON (443253) immediately upon landing. It will be prepared to move on EINDHOVEN (430180) within two hours after landing, for the purpose of securing the stream and canal crossings at that point. (See Annex No. 3)

(3) 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment with Company "C", 326th Airborne Engineer Battalion (less three platoons) attached, will land on DZ "C" and assemble in Division reserve. It will block the ZON (443253) - ST ORDENRODE (412318) road in vicinity of VILLEN BRAKEN (442295) and maintain contact with the 501st and 506th Parachute Infantry Regiments. It will send a detachment to secure the crossings (389244) (390250) of the WILHELMINA CANAL south and southeast of BEST (374266). It will be prepared to take over the bridgehead at ZON (443253) established by 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment and support the latter in its movement on EINDHOVEN (430180)

*D-Day
D+1
D+2*

3101-39

Report 1944 (month)

*23149-
master*

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(4) The glider element of D - Day lift will land on LZ "W" and move to areas as shown in Annex No. 2a (Glider Assembly Plan). The Division Reconnaissance Platoon, less detachment, will be prepared to push reconnaissance toward SCHLIMMEL (406382) - BEST (374266) and LIESHOUT (514270).

b. D / 1 and D / 2 day lifts: Units of these lifts will land on glider landing zone "W" as shown in Annex No. 2. They will assemble as shown on Annex No. 2a and await orders.

x. (1) The bridges in the VECHSEL (481376) and ZON (443253) areas will be seized with maximum speed immediately upon landing by the responsible parachute regiment. The most conveniently placed small group will rush these bridges without waiting for the assembly of large elements.

(2) All bridges and signal communications in the area will be preserved for the use of our own troops.

(3) The Division Artillery Commander is responsible for calls for support from British artillery and combat aviation.

(4) The 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment is charged with securing LZ "W" for the D - Day glider lift.

(5) Colonel Thomas Sherburne, Division Artillery, is charged with the reception of glider elements upon landing zone "W".

(6) All locks and water ways in the area will be maintained in working order.

(7) All ferries, barges, etc., not actually in use by the Division will be brought to the south bank of streams to make them available for XXX Corps if required.

(8) Roads will be kept free of troops and vehicles of the Division after ground contact is made to permit the rapid transit of XXX Corps.

(9) Employment of glider pilots will be the same as for operation "LINNET".

(10) Mines will be laid only under Engineer supervision and will be carefully recorded. Our own and enemy mine fields will be reported at once to Division.

4. a. Administrative order same as for "LINNET".

b. Gas masks will be carried.

5. a. Signal Annex (Annex No. 4)

b. Tentative Command Posts

Unit	Coordinates
Corps	
82nd Airborne Division	
Division and Division Artillery	(442269)
501st Parachute Infantry Regiment	(477375)
502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment	(470281)
506th Parachute Infantry Regiment	(443257)
327th Glider Infantry Regiment	(435269)

c. Orange or yellow flags, panels, or smokes will be used to identify friendly troops.

For the Commanding General:

R. D. M. Milener

R. D. MILLENER,
Lieutenant Colonel, GSC,
Staff

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FF3
Cont.

FF5
Sep Annex
w/ some
notes
here

FF4 -
Admin +
Logistics -
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operation
"Linnet"

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5 Annexes:

- Annex No. 1 - Intelligence
- Annex No. 2 - Drop Zones and Landing Zone
- Annex No. 2a - Glider Assembly Areas
- Annex No. 3 - Operations
- Annex No. 4 - Signal Annex
- Annex No. 5 - Air Movement Table

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