

OPORD Operations

Operation Neptune Paragraph Three OPORD

Glossary:

- Parachute Echelon - Paratroopers who jumped into France
- Glider Echelon - Troops brought into France via gliders
- Seaborne Echelon - Not all the 101st parachuted into France. Many of the support troops came in over the beaches from ships.
- Enemy Battery - German artillery pieces (like the *Band of Brothers* episode concerning the landing and early fight in Normandy).
- Inundated - Flooded areas
- 6 digit #s - 365872 are grid coordinates of a specific place within 100 meters. This system was used before GPS.
- S-3 or G-3 - The Operations Staff Section of an army unit
- 81st AB AA - Airborne Anti-Aircraft Battalion of anti-aircraft guns
- AAA - Anti-Aircraft Artillery - anti-aircraft guns
- 65th Armd FA Bn SP - 65th Armored Field Artillery Battalion (Self Propelled). These are artillery (cannons) that are mounted on tracked vehicles.
- Leggings impregnated - Leggings are laced up boot gaiters between your boots and pants. The leggings were impregnated with an anti-chemical compound in case the Germans used poison gas against the invasion forces.

Operation Neptune Paragraft Three OPOD

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SECRET
Auth: CG 101 AB Div
Init: 2.4.H.
Date: 18 May 1944



No. 101st AB Division
472, U. S. Army
May 1944

FIED ORDER)
NUMBER 1)

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

*Intell
#1
- sep.
Annex*

*Mission
#2*

*#3
Operations
(subordinate)
unit
missions*

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).
3. a. PARACHUTE ECHELON: (See Annex No. 2, Air Movement Table).
 - (1) 502nd Pchnt Inf, with 377th Pchnt 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 Pchnt 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 POUPPEVILLE (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 Pchnt 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 MERDEMET 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.

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(4) The 3rd Bn, 501st Pchnt 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 Pchnt 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----- LOI (L) No. 419
- VII Corps Ashore----- LOUVRES (3896) after 1800 D plus 1
- 4th Inf Div----- ST. MARTIN DE VARREVILLE (4098)
- 82nd AB Div----- Vicinity LA FORET (14795)
- 101st AB Div----- HIESVILLE (387922)(tentative)
- 501st Pchnt Inf----- CAQUERIE (349952)(tentative)
- 502nd Pchnt Inf----- REUVILLE (406740)(tentative) 380989
- 506th Pchnt Inf----- ST. MARTIN (387922)(tentative) 396933
- 327th Gli Inf----- STE 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: LOUVRES - STE-MERE-EGLISE - MONTEBOURG - VALOGNES.

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

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

PT 3 cont.

PT 4
Admin. +
Logistics
(See Annex)

PT 5
Communication
+
Command
(also has sep
annex)

-2-

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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 "C", 326th AB Engr Bn	1	Copy No. 105
81st AB AA En	1	Copy No. 106
Hq Co, 101st AB Div	1	Copy No. 107
101st AB Sig Co	1	Copy No. 108
Hq 401st Gli Inf (Rcn Plat)	1	Copy No. 109
426th AB Qm Co	1	Copy No. 110
326th AB Med Co	1	Copy No. 111
801st AB Ord Maint Co	1	Copy No. 112
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 Rcn Sq	1	Copy No. 116
65th Armd FA Bn (SP)	1	Copy No. 117
Pathfinders	1	Copy No. 118
603rd QM Gr Co	1	Copy No. 119

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Hq 1st AB Div
APC 12, U. S. Army
18 May 1944

ANNEX NO. 7

To FIELD ORDER NO. 1

EMPLOYMENT OF GLIDER PILOTS DURING OPERATION

Change to #3

1. Briefing:
Prior to takeoff, glider crews will be briefed by the senior airborne officer or noncommissioned officer in each glider as to the assembly area in the vicinity of the landing zone for the personnel of their glider.
2. Attachment:
Effective upon landing in the combat zone glider crews are to be attached to this Division, and will remain attached until they can be safely evacuated over the beaches.
3. Duties Following Landing:
 - a. Glider crew members will assist airborne personnel in unloading the gliders and will then proceed to the designated assembly area with the airborne personnel flown in their glider. Following arrival at unit assembly areas, glider crews will assemble under senior glider pilot present, and await orders from the Division representative on the field. Assignment will normally be to Division or regimental CP's for duties of close defense, escort and PW guard.
 - b. Glider crews after being reported to the designated CP's will be reorganized under the senior glider pilot present, and disposed as directed by the Headquarters Commandant concerned.
4. Administrative Details:
 - a. Uniform: Herringbone twill, impregnated, over woolen OD leggings impregnated, steel helmets.
 - b. Equipment: Light packs, gas mask, web equipment and arms.
 - c. Rations: One "K" ration, one "D" ration on person. Three "K" rations in glider.
 - d. Evacuation: Glider crews will be relieved upon Division orders and evacuated when the situation permits their safe movement to the beaches. Subordinate units to which pilots are attached will assure that the crews can be readily assembled. Routes to the beach will be prescribed at time of relief.
5.
 - a. CP's: See Annex No. 3.
 - b. SCR 536's will be used for control of glider personnel.

leggings impregnated

TAYLOR

OFFICIAL: *Millener*
MILLNER
G-3

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HEADQUARTERS 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
Office of the Division Commander

APO 472, U. S. Army
27 May 1944

AMENDMENT NO. 1)
TO FIELD ORDER 1)

1. Field Order No. 1, this Headquarters, dated 18 May 1944, is amended as follows:

a. Paragraph No. 1b: Add: Subparagraph (2). The 82nd Airborne Division landing in the area STE HEERE EGLISE, - PONT L'ABBE (280934)-GOURBESVILLE (282982), will destroy the crossings of the DOUVE RIVER at BEUZEVILLE-LA-BASTILLE (309910) and at PONT L'ABBE (269928). It will then push westward and seize road center of ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE.

b. Paragraph 3a (1). Change second sentence to read: "It will protect the north flank of Division within the regimental sector in close coordination with the 82nd Airborne Division."

Paragraph 3a (2). Change to read: The 506th Parachute Infantry with 1st Plat., Co "C" 326th AB Engr Bn attached; landing on Drop Zones "C" and "D" will execute the following missions.

(a) No change.

(b) Change to read: Defend the line of the DOUVE RIVER and estuary within the regimental sector. Secure the bridges at 419873 and 427876 and establish bridgehead south of the DOUVE RIVER for subsequent use of the Division. These bridges will be prepared for demolition. See Annex No. 3.

(3) Change to read: The 501st Parachute Infantry (less 3d Bn) with Co "C" 326th AB Engr Bn (less 1st Plat) attached, landing on Drop Zone "D" will defend the line of the DOUVE and MERDERET RIVERS within the regimental sector. The bridges north of CARENVEAN at 365872, 382865 and 383862 will be destroyed; the locks at 397868 will be seized and defended.

(4) Change to read: The 3rd Bn, 501st Parachute Infantry landing on Drop Zone "C" will assemble in Division Reserve prepared to protect glider landing zone "E".

c. Change paragraph 5b to read:

82nd Airborne Division --- To be announced.

501st Parachute Infantry --- Annex No. 3. (Amend.1)

d. Change Annex No. 2 as follows: Drop zones for Serials 8 and 9 from "B" to "D".

e. Annex No. 3 is rescinded and will be replaced by Amendment No. 1 to Annex No. 3, attached.

f. Amendment to Annex No. 1 attached.

g. Amendment to Annex No. 5 attached.

TAYLOR

OFFICIAL:

Miller
MILLER
G-3

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Office of the Division Commander

APO 472, U. S. Army
27 May 1944

AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO ANNEX NO. 5)
TO FIELD ORDER NO. 1, 18 MAY 44)

1. Amend Paragraph 2a (1). Delete "ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE exclusive". Substitute "CARQUEBUT inclusive".
2. Delete Paragraph 2a (2).
3. Amend Paragraph 2b (1). Delete "and 3rd".
4. Amend Paragraph 2b (3). Delete "and 3rd".
5. Amend Paragraph 3a as follows:
 - a. Delete (1), (3), (4), and (8).
 - b. Amend (2) to read "Prepare to destroy" instead of "Destroy". Add: "Decision to blow these bridges is delegated to Commanding Officer, 506th Parachute Infantry."
 - c. Amend (5) by deleting "and 408871 (Serial D)" and adding "and 443872 (Serial E)."
6. Amend Paragraph 3b as follows:
 - a. Delete (1), (2), (3), and (4).
 - b. Add: (1). Destroy the crossing of the River DOUVE at 383863; priority Serials 32, 33, 34 in that order.
 - c. Add: (2). Destroy railroad bridges at 365872 (Serial 30) and 379853 (Serial 119) in the order of priority given.
 - d. Add: (3). Operate and control the locks at LA BARQUETTE after seizure (Serial 35), and mine the approaches to the dam from the south between the River GROULT and the River DOUVE. A high proportion of AP mines should be used.
 - e. Add: (4). Prepare to destroy communications at CARENTAN.
 - f. Add: (5). Disrupt enemy underground wire communications system in the vicinity of 408871 (Serial D).
7. For new regimental boundaries, See Annex No. 3, Operation overlay.

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Hq 101st A/B Div.
20 May 1944

Annex No. 2b to
F. O. No. 1.

Reg. No. 1 - 19 - 5



BEACH CONTROL - SEABORNE ECHELON

*Add to
change*

1. Force "U" - Immediately upon landing all elements of Force "U" will move to 101st A/B Division Beach Assembly Areas. (O and R).
 - a. The Senior 101st A/B Division Officer with each ship load will dispatch a Liaison Officer to 101st Division Beach Control Post to report to the Division Beach Control Officer at Beach Control Post.
 - (1) Report Unit, Strength (Officers, E.M. and Vehicles) and Radio Call Signs.
 - (2) Receive situation, orders, and guides to conduct unit to Beach Assembly Area.
 - b. Intermediates Check Point. Each ship load will check for further instructions at this point. (See Overlay).
 - c. Troops of each ship load of 1st Bn. 401st Glider Infantry will be prepared to furnish 2 four man patrols to the Officer in Charge at Beach Assembly Area for the purpose of checking routes to the Division Inland Assembly Area.
 - d. Units will leave Beach Assembly Area only on orders from 101st A/B Division Beach Control Officer.
 - e. Vehicles will be assembled in Beach Assembly Area "R".
 - f. Foot elements will be assembled in Beach Assembly Area "O".
2. Bristol Channel Build-Up and S.B.S. Shuttle - Immediately upon landing all elements will move to 101st A/B Division Service Area. See 1 a, 1 a(1) and 1 a(2) above.
 - a. Route of Movement to Service Area will be given to Liaison Officer at Division Beach Control Post.
3. Guides - All 101st A/B Division Beach Control Personnel can be identified by an Orange Arm Band marked with White Kangaroo.
4. Direction Signs for 101st A/B Division will be Orange marked with a White Kangaroo and directional arrow.
5. Radio Frequencies and Call Signs - See 101st A/B Division SOL.
6. Preparation of Inland Assembly Area - Elements of the Beach Control Group landing by glider will have the mission of preparing the Inland Assembly Area prior to the arrival of the waterborne elements.
 - a. Preparation will consist of:
 - (1) Mine removal;
 - (2) Posting of guides to receive units from the Beach Assembly Area.
 - (3) Providing protection for the Inland Assembly Area.
 - (4) Providing guides for any incoming unit receiving an immediate combat mission on its arrival at the Inland Assembly Area.
 - (5) Providing Combat Patrols to reconnoiter routes to the Beach Assembly Area.
 - b. The Commanding Officer, 1st Bn 401st Glider Infantry will be prepared to perform the functions indicated in 6. a (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) above should glider elements be unable to do so.
7. Collects - Clearing Stations to be operated on the beach by the 261st Medical Battalion, 1st Special Engineer Brigade will be available to 101st A/B Division personnel.
8. Preparation of Service Area - Elements of Beach Control Group will have the mission of preparing the Service Area prior to the arrival of waterborne elements moving to that area.

TAYLOR

OFFICIAL: *Milleaner*

MILLENER
G-3.

Encl. No. 1 to Annex 2b to F.O. No. 1.

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OPORD Operations

Operation Market Garden Paragraph Three OPORD

Glossary:

- 6 digit #s - 482375 are grid coordinates of a specific place within 100 meters. This system was used before GPS.
- Mines - land mines
- LINNET - is an operation that was cancelled in August when Allied forces moved so quickly across France that the Linnet was overcome by events.
- S-3 or G-3 is the Operations Staff Section of an army unit.

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14 September 1944
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
4.0. McPartland H/W
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 8 May 46

P 1
Sep. Annex

FIELD ORDER)
NUMBER 1)

1. a. Intelligence; see Annex No. 4

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

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

P 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/G 70 CG4A Gliders
D + 1 Day	450 CG4A Gliders
D + 2 Day	382 CG4A Gliders

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

3. a. D Day lift:

P 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 OEDENRODE (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 (380244) (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 (March)

23149-
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FO #1, Hq 101 AB Div, dated 14 September 1944, cont'd

(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 VEGHEL (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	(443281)
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. Millemer

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

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*FF3
Cont.*

*FF5
Sep Annex
w/ some
notes
here*

*FF4 -
Admin +
Logistics -
Copied for
operation
"Linnet"*

Operation Market Garden Paragraph Three OPOD

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FO #1, Hq 101 AB Div, dated 14 September 1944, contains

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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