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HEADQUARTERS 329th INFANTRY  
APO 83

BPD  
ETO  
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4 September 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, 83rd Inf Div, APO 83, U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with letter, Headquarters 83rd Inf Div, file and subject as above, dated 20 July 1944, and letter, same Hq, same file and subject, dated 26 August 1944, the following After/After Action Report is submitted:

(a) During the early part of the month the Regiment resumed the offensive in the Chateauf-St. Malo area and encountered many strongly fortified defensive positions protected by mine fields. The offensive was sustained until St. Servan and the Citadel capitulated. The Regiment then moved by motor to the vicinity of Angers with the mission of preventing crossings of the Loire River to the north by the enemy.

(b) During the period covered by this report, the unit suffered approximately 850 casualties of all types including personnel hospitalized from illness and non-battle injuries. The effective strength on the first of the month was 3233 officers, warrant officers, and enlisted men. At 2359 on the 31st day of the month the effective strength was 3235. Enemy casualties are unknown and impossible to estimate due to their well known practice of rapidly evacuating all types of casualties.

2. A day by day account of the activities of the organization during the month is attached hereto.

For the Regimental Commander:

*Doyle R. Bunch*  
DOYLE R. BUNCH  
Capt., Infantry  
Adjutant

Incl: 1  
Journal, 329th Infantry, 1 August 1944 to 31 August 1944.

319.1/401  
(4 Sep 44)

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U.S. Army, 9 Sep 44.

TO: Commanding General, VIII Corps, APO 308, U.S. Army.

Forwarded.

For the Commanding General:

*Nolke*  
*may apd*  
*8 Sep 44*

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*N. P. Cowden*  
N. P. COWDEN  
Major, AGD,  
Asst Adj General.

DEC 1 1944

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*Incl 2*



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HEADQUARTERS 329TH INFANTRY  
APO 83

1 September 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, 83d Infantry Division, APO 83, U.S. Army.

In compliance with Ltr, Headquarters 83d Infantry Division, dtd 26 August 1944, File No. 319.1/401, Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports is submitted.

AFTER ACTION REPORTS FOR AUGUST

AUGUST 1 & 2 - Regiment was in Division Reserve in vicinity of Feugeres. At this time the Division was in a defensive position, and there was no contact with the enemy. Training, particularly firing of A-T grenades, bazookas and mortars, was conducted.

AUGUST 3 - Regiment moved approximately 75 miles to the vicinity of Pontorson. Move started at about 1400 and the last elements closed into new area at about 2330. The move was made with trucks from another unit in addition to our own organic transportation.

AUGUST 4 - 83d Division was given the mission of clearing enemy from the St Malo peninsula. At 0800, the regiment started moving by motor and foot west to the town of Epiniac. The movement was continued by shuttling north-west to the vicinity of Miniac. 2nd Bn continued toward Chateauf, finally meeting resistance about 1 mile south of that town. 2nd Bn got as far as the town of Dolet. 1st Bn was brought up on the left of 2nd Bn. 3rd Bn still in reserve in the vicinity of Miniac. Regtl CP moved again about 1 mile north of Miniac.

AUGUST 5 - At 0830, 1st and 2nd Bns attacked. It was the middle of the afternoon before the 2nd Bn was able to take the town of Chateauf. 1st Bn was moving up on the left. After passing through Chateauf, 2nd Bn ran into a strong point just north of town and was held up. 3rd Bn was sent through Chateauf, passed through on the right of 2nd Bn and continued on, reaching a place about 3 miles SE of St Servan, which was the objective of the regiment. 1st Bn also continued on, reaching a point about 2½ miles north of Chateauf. Little resistance was met by either Bn after breaking through the defenses in the vicinity of Chateauf. 2nd Bn finally reduced strong point just north of Chateauf, took a number of prisoners from it, reorganized and remained there for the night.

AUGUST 6 - At 0900, 1st and 3rd Bns moved a little closer to St Servan without opposition, to areas designated by Division. 2nd Bn also moved up behind 1st and 3rd Bns and were to be held in reserve when the attack was renewed. Regtl CP moved to St. Pere. At 1530, 1st and 3rd Bns attacked towards St Servan. There was some progress made until 1st Bn was held up by fire from the town of La Bouralais. 3rd Bn was attacking in direction of St Joseph Hill, which was strongly fortified. 3rd Bn was making some progress against this hill when Division changed the Regtl boundaries. This change in boundaries meant that 3rd Bn, which was on the right, had to pass to the south of St Joseph Hill instead of taking it. This move put them under heavy fire from the hill and they were pinned down. In the afternoon, the Regtl CP was moved to the town of Chateau Malo. These positions were held during the night.

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After Action Reports for August, continued.

AUGUST 7

- 3rd Bn remained pinned down all day by the fire from St Joseph Hill. 1st Bn moved forward  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and took the town of La Bourelais. 2nd Bn, still in reserve, moved up to left rear of 1st Bn.

AUGUST 8

- The attack was resumed at 0800. 1st Bn changed direction of attack and went SW  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and took the town of La Balue. It took the remainder of the day for the 1st Bn to clear out the town of La Balue with the exception of one pillbox which continued to hold out. In order to get away from the fire from St Joseph Hill, 3rd Bn worked its way south a few hundred yards to the town of La Bourelais. They then proceeded  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west and attacked the town of La Motte to the NW. By the end of the day they had cleaned out the town of La Motte and were at the edge of the city of St Servan. 2nd Bn still in reserve, moved up to the town of La Bourelais.

AUGUST 9

- The attack was resumed at 0830. 3rd Bn advanced through the city of St Servan. Resistance was light and by noon they had taken the city. 1st Bn left Co "B" in La Balue to reduce one remaining pillbox there. Remainder of the 1st Bn advanced NW towards St Servan and made contact with the left flank of 3rd Bn in the southern part of the city. The pillbox at La Balue was shelled for hours with several hundred rounds from A-T guns. Finally at 1345, the pillbox surrendered. In the morning the Regtl CP moved from Chateau Malo to La Bourelais. 2nd Bn, still in reserve, sent out patrols and cleaned up small pockets of resistance that had been by-passed by the other two Bns. 2nd Bn was put in Division Reserve and moved during the night by trucks to the vicinity of St Coutombe.

AUGUST 10

- In the morning the Regtl CP was moved to La Balue. The only opposition remaining in the Regtl sector, was the Citadel, a strongly fortified position, situated on a peninsula  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of St Servan. An effort was made to get the Citadel to surrender but the enemy refused to do so.

AUGUST 11

- An attack on the Citadel was planned, to be preceded first by a bombing mission at 1000 and then by an artillery preparation following the bombing. However, the bombing mission was late and it was not until 2020 that the bombers arrived. Elements of the 1st and 3rd Bns, 3rd Bn on the right, assisted by Engrs, started the attack at 2040, the same time that the artillery preparation started. Elements of the 3rd Bn reached the fort but were unable to get into it, even though pole charges, bangalore torpedoes, and flame throwers were used. The attacking forces received heavy fire from the island of Cezebre, an enemy island, 3 miles to the NW and from an automatic mortar located within the walls of the fort. Our forces being unable to penetrate the fort, were ordered at 2220 to withdraw to their former positions in St Servan.

AUGUST 12

- At an officers' meeting, the results of the attack on the Citadel were discussed. Much information on the Citadel was secured from many civilian sources and from some German prisoners. With this information Col. Crabill started making plans for a second attack on the Citadel if such an attack were ordered by Division. The general plan was to make up two assault teams of 96 men each. Each assault team being composed of two demolition groups, two security groups and a special heavy demolition group. These plans and drawings of the Citadel were disseminated to the 1st and 3rd Bns for study and preparation. 3 inch towed TD's were placed in position for direct fire upon the Citadel, their mission being to demolish any gun emplacements which they could see on top of the fort. 2nd

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After Action Reports for August, continued.

AUGUST 12 Contd

- attached to 330th Inf to aid in mopping up some isolated enemy positions in the northern part of the St Malo peninsula. These points had been by-passed by the 330th during the drive towards St Malo.

AUGUST 13

- There was continued firing on the Citadel by artillery and 3 inch towed TD's. The Citadel was bombed again from the air but this time the bombing was not followed by an attack. The 2nd Bn was assigned the task of attacking Fort La Varde, a strongly fortified peninsula 3 miles NE of St Malo. The attack on Fort La Varde was brilliantly executed by the Bn Comdr, Capt Sharpe, and at 2115 the fort capitulated. 197 prisoners and a lot of equipment were taken.

AUGUST 14

- In the morning a fortified chateau in the NE part of the city of St Malo surrendered. This point had been holding up elements of the 330th and 331st from taking the city of St Malo. After this point had been taken, the remainder of the city was quickly occupied. Late in the afternoon, elements of the 330th and 331st, who had taken this sector, were withdrawn and the entire St Malo area turned over to the 329th. 1st Bn occupied positions in St Servan formerly held by 3rd Bn and occupied the whole city of St Servan. 3rd Bn moved over to occupy St Malo. 2nd Bn occupied a number of small towns directly east of, and about 2 to 4 miles from St Malo.

AUGUST 15

- In the afternoon there was another bombing mission over the Citadel, the first group of bombers coming over at 1346. The bombing continued for 33 minutes and 1425 an artillery preparation started. At 1440 assault teams from the 1st and 3rd Bns again attack the Citadel. The troops were met by machine gun fire from the Citadel and it was necessary for them to withdraw. The withdrawal started about 1530. It was felt that the bombing was not effective enough. Too few bombs landed on the Citadel itself.

AUGUST 16

- Corps Artillery 8 inch guns were brought up for direct fire on the Citadel. There was continued firing by 3 inch TD's. 2 companies of 86th Cml Bn were attached to the Regiment and they fired HE and WP on the Citadel. Attached artillery from Division continued firing missions on the Citadel and Cezembre. An enemy point off the northern shore of St Malo, La Grande Bey was still holding out. The 2nd Bn was given the mission of taking this point. La Grande Bey is an island which, during low tide, is connected to the main land by a narrow causeway. 2nd Bn made the attack at about 1500 and La Grande Bey was taken without a shot being fired. 158 prisoners and some equipment were captured. In the evening a meeting of officers was held to discuss plans for another attack on the Citadel, to be made the following day.

AUGUST 17

- Corps 8 inch guns, TD's, attached artillery, and chemical mortars continued their missions against the Citadel. A bombing mission of P-38's, with 'jelled gasoline' bombs, was scheduled for 1500. Another attack by assault teams of the regiment was to be coordinated with this bombing attack. At 1420 it was reported that a white flag was over the Citadel and that a few of the enemy had started to come out of the fort. Capt Boyd, 3rd Bn S-1, went to the Citadel and learned that the Citadel was ready to surrender. The bombing mission was called off. The bombs were dropped on the island of Cezembre and 597 prisoners were brought out of the Citadel.

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After Action Reports for August, continued.

AUGUST 18

- An order was received from Division that the regiment would move on 19 August to the vicinity of Angers. The advance quartering party left at 1455 for new location to select assembly areas for various units of the regiment.

AUGUST 19

- Regiment moved by motor from St Malo peninsula to Angers and vicinity, leaving at 0900 and closing into new location late in the evening, having moved a distance of 120 miles SE.

AUGUST 20

- The new mission of CT 329 was to police and defend Angers and vicinity and to prevent infiltration of the enemy N of the Loire River generally from Champtoce Saumur on the W to an undetermined point to the E, or as far as patrolling would permit, there being no friendly forces on our E flank. Also the CT had the mission to locate, inventory and protect all captured equipment. 1st Bn was given an area SW of Angers; 2nd Bn an area SE of Angers, while 3rd Bn, in reserve, occupied and policed Angers. During the night a strong enemy patrol had occupied the Angers water works, located at Pont De Ce, which is 3 miles S of Angers and on the Loire River. Co "E" was given the mission of driving the enemy from the water works.

AUGUST 21

- Co "E" drove the enemy from the Angers water works at Pont De Ce. The CT continued its mission of defending the Angers area and preventing the enemy from infiltrating N of the Loire River in the assigned sector. Message was received from Division that Corps reported a large enemy force crossing to the N of the Loire River at Varades. I & R patrols were sent out and also investigation made through the FFI.

AUGUST 22

- I & R platoon reported that there was no enemy in Varades or vicinity.

AUGUST 23

- The CT continued on its mission. Enemy patrols were the only activity. These patrols usually crossed to the N of the river and returned to the S of the river during the night.

AUGUST 24

- Division ordered that on 25 August, we would move one Bn to the vicinity of Bauge. This Bn would be in CT reserve but was not to be used by the CT without permission of Division. It was decided to move to the 1st Bn to Bauge, and that Bn made a reconnaissance of their new area. 2nd and 3rd Bns made reconnaissances in preparation for the changes in their areas which would be caused by the withdrawal of the 1st Bn.

AUGUST 25

- 1st Bn moved to assembly area 2 miles NE of Bauge, in CT reserve. The new boundary between 2nd and 3rd Bns was a straight North - South line running through the middle of Angers and extending S to the Loire River; 2nd Bn on E, 3rd Bn on W. CT continued defense of the Angers area.

AUGUST 26

- Continued mission of defending Angers area.

AUGUST 27

- 1st Bn, 330th Inf, which several days previously had been given the mission of defending the Saumur-Tours area N of the Loire River, was attached to the CT 329. CT was given the new mission of defending the area N of the Loire River all of the way from Champtoce Saumur to Orleans. Plans were made for taking over the additional territory and an order issued.

AUGUST 28

- At the time CT 329 left the St Malo peninsula for Angers, it had only two additions not ordinarily in the CT. These were: Co "A", 802nd TD Bn and 1st platoon, Co "D", 308th Med Bn. By this time the attachments had become numerous. In addition to the above, the following were attached to the CT: Btry D, 453rd AAA Bn; Provisional Btry, 473rd AAAAW Bn; 1st Bn, 330th Inf; 308th Engr Bn minus one Company. Under the provisions of the field order of the previous night, the following thing

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After Action Reports for August, continued.

AUG 28 contd

- were done: 1. 2nd Bn, 329th Inf, with one platoon of Btry D, 473rd AAAAW, one platoon of Co A, 802nd TD Bn, and Cn Co, 329th Inf attached, remained in the Angers area for the defense of the Champtoce Saumur area. Most of the Bn was placed in a semi-circular position S of Angers with a motorized platoon of Co G patrolling E and W and with a platoon of Co F being held in mobile reserve. 2. 1st Bn, 330th Inf, continued the defense of the sector they had been holding; that is the Saumur-Tours; with one platoon of the Provisional Btry, 453rd AAA atchd. 3. 3rd Bn, 329th Inf, moved by motor a distance of 81 miles to an assembly area 5 miles SE of Chateau Renault. Attached to the 3rd Bn were: 1 platoon Co "A", 802nd TD Bn and 1 platoon Provisional Btry 453rd AAA. The mission of the 3rd Bn was to defend the Tours-Blois sector. 4. The I & R platoon with one platoon Btry D, 473 AAAAW Bn attached, moved to the Blois-Orleans sector for the purpose of patrolling that sector. 5. 1st Bn, 329th Inf, without any attachments, remained in their assembly area near Bouge, in CT reserve. 6. Forward Regtl CP moved to the vicinity of Chateau La Valliere. Co A (-), 802nd TD Bn, also moved to this area which was centrally located in the long sector being defended by the CT. 308th Engr Bn, minus 1 Co in Div reserve, was located in this area. 322nd FA Bn, minus a btry which was sent to St Malo, moved its CP, Hqs and Service Btrys to the vicinity of the 1st Bn, 330th Inf, from which position that btry would support the 1st Bn, 330th Inf, 329th Inf, in support of that Bn. At 224 a message was received that Co A, 774th Tk Bn, was also attached to the CT.

AUGUST 29

- 3rd Bn made a reconnaissance of its area to find advantageous positions from which to defend its sector. The CT continued organization and defense of its sector. Reports began to come in that the enemy was withdrawing from its positions S of the Loire River. 1st Bn, still in CT reserve, moved to an assembly area 2 miles E of Angers.

AUGUST 30

- CT continued its mission of organizing and defending sector from Champtoce to Orleans. Further reports from FFI and prisoners indicate that most of the Germans have withdrawn from their positions S of the Loire River from Nantes to Saumur.

AUGUST 31

- CT continued its mission of organizing and defending its sector. Contact had been maintained with 331st to the W for the previous week and now contact was made to the E by the I & R platoon with Co L of 137th Inf, at Orleans. The French sent large patrols across the river at La Fontenelle, finding no enemy in the immediate area. They advanced about 3 km S and set up road blocks. Artillery fires had been planned for their protection but they were not needed. Upon Division order, 1st Bn, 329th Inf, moved to a new assembly area in the vicinity of Chateau La Valliere.

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