

HEADQUARTERS 329TH INFANTRY  
APO 83

L-551

2 April 1945

319.1/401

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

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

1. In compliance with letter Hq 83d Inf Div, same file and subject as above, dated 25 March 1945, Action Against Enemy Reports After/After Action Reports for the month of March 1945 is submitted:

a. Original Unit: 329th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division.

b. Changes in organization:

UNIT	DATE ATTACHED	DATE RELIEVED
Co "A", 308th Med Bn	1 March 1945	
Co "D" (-), 736th Tank Bn	1 March 1945	5 March 1945
Co "B" (-), 736th Tank Bn	1 March 1945	3 March 1945
Co "A", 643rd TD Bn (T)	1 March 1945	3 March 1945
83rd Div Rec Troop	3 March 1945	5 March 1945
1 Plat, Co "D", 736th Tk Bn	10 March 1945	20 March 1945
1 Plat, Co "A", 736th Tk Bn	11 March 1945	15 March 1945
1 Plat, Co "B", 736th Tk Bn	17 March 1945	20 March 1945

c. Effective strength was as follows:

DATE	OFFICERS	WARRANT OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEN
1 March 1945	168		
31 March 1945	172		
Net Increase	4		

d. Stations:

NAME OF LOCALITY	ARRIVAL	DATE OF DEPARTURE
Rockrath, Germany	1 March 1945	2 March 1945
Loveling, Germany	2 March 1945	3 March 1945
Neuss, Germany	3 March 1945	21 March 1945
Nieuwstadt, Holland	28 March 1945	28 March 1945
Horst, Germany	28 March 1945	29 March 1945
Bruckhausen, Germany	29 March 1945	30 March 1945
Eppendorf, Germany	30 March 1945	31 March 1945
Seppensrade, Germany	31 March 1945	

e. Narrative Report: (See Appendix No. 1)

f. Campaigns:

- (1) Name of campaign: Germany.
- (2) Duration: Entire period.
- (3) Purpose: Occupation of Germany.
- (4) Authority ordering: Commanding General, 83d Inf Div.

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CLASSIFICATION  
**CANCELLED**  
 BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
 PROMOTION GRADING COMMITTEE  
 16 MAR 1945

Mar 45



S E C R E T

APPENDIX NUMBER 1 TO

AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1945

L-551

1 MARCH 1945

In the crossing of the Roer River and the push to the north towards the Rhine River by the XIX Corps, the 83rd Div had been in reserve. The 329th Inf had been in reserve in the 83rd Div. The 330th Inf had been committed first, then the 331st Inf, and during the night of Feb 28 - March 1, orders were received which would commit the 329th Inf on the 1st of March. At that time the regiment was in the vicinity of Gusten, WF 0863. Rapid progress had been made by the Corps and the order called for a move of 15 miles by motor to the NE. The move was to be made in the order: 1st Bn, 2nd Bn, 3rd Bn. Due to the rapidly moving situation the troops of the 1st Bn were to detruck in the vicinity of Bedburdyck, WF 1880, and from there take off in the direction of Neuss on foot.

The regiment was given the following attachments: Co A, 308th Med Bn; Co D (-1 plat) plus 1 plat Co B, 1 plat AGs, and mortar plat, 736th Tk Bn; Co A, 643rd TD Bn (T). Troops in support were 322nd FA Bn and Co A, 308th Engr Bn. The movement from Gusten started at 0840. 1st Bn moved first with all of the attachments and supporting troops. 2nd and 3rd Bns followed at 1130.

The regiment was given a zone between the 330th Inf on the left and 331st Inf on the right. The direction of attack was to the NE towards Neuss, the LD being about 3 miles SW of the outskirts of Neuss. 1st Bn detrucked in the vicinity of Bedburdyck as planned, marched forward to the LD and jumped off at 1300. With the 1st Bn were the following attachments: 1 plat, Cn Co; 1 plat, A-T Co; 1 plat light tanks; 1 plat TDs and 2 squads from the mines platoon. The battalion at first met fire in the vicinity of Loveling, WF 2486, and were stopped momentarily while the situation was appraised. In the meantime the attachments just listed joined the battalion. The advance was resumed, enemy strong points eliminated, and by 2100 the leading elements of the 1st Bn had reached the outskirts of the city of Neuss.

The 2nd Bn closed into Holzheim, WF 2485, at 1630 and the 3rd Bn closed into Loveling at 1930.

The attack was continued throughout the night and by 0630 the 1st Bn had captured the major part of the city of Neuss.

2 MARCH 1945

During the attack of the 1st Bn the previous night, the 3rd Bn had followed the 1st Bn through most of the city and then swung off to the right and attacked straight east in the direction of the highway bridge to Dusseldorf. All morning the 3rd Bn worked forward towards the bridge against small arms, automatic weapons, 20mm and SP or tank fire. At 1200 I Co on the right and K Co on the left were 1000 yards from the bridge and meeting heavy fire. At 1320 L Co went around the left flank of I Co, took up marching fire, and advanced to the approaches of the bridge, cleaning out enemy resistance. The 329th Inf had reached the RHINE RIVER.

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Appendix No. 1 to After/After Action Report for March 1945 (Cont'd):

2 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

At 1330 the span on the east side of the bridge was blown by the enemy, ruining our chances of capturing a bridge intact. Later on in the night the enemy completed the job by blowing the span on the west side at 030155 and the middle span at 030345.

While this attack by the 3rd Bn had been going on towards the bridge, the 1st Bn continued mopping up in Neuss and organizing positions for defense.

2nd Bn still remained in Holzheim organizing that sector for defense, protecting the right flank and the rear of the regiment. The Erft Canal was the right boundary of the division and the division was the right unit of the XIX Corps. The VII Corps, on the south side of the Erft Canal, had not advanced as far as our troops and the exposed flank constituted a threat.

3 MARCH 1945

The regimental sector was widened to include: to the north the remainder of Neuss and the dock and warehouse district between Neuss and the Rhine; to the south to the Erft Canal. To the north 1st Bn relieved elements of the 330th Inf by 1715, to the south 3rd Bn relieved elements of the 331st Inf by 1630. The 2nd Bn relieved other elements of the 331st Inf by 2115, occupying a position to the right rear of the 3rd Bn and still fulfilling the mission of protecting the right flank and rear of the regiment from enemy to the south on the other side of the Erft Canal. 83rd Rcn Trp was attached to the regiment and given to the 2nd Bn to aid in patrolling the canal sector. G Co and the tank attachments were left in a settlement just north of Holzheim to be used in case of a counter-attack from the enemy across the canal. The tank attachment now consisted of only one platoon of lights from D Co and one assault gun platoon, both of the 736th Tk Bn. The other platoon of lights, the platoon of mediums from B Co and the mortar platoon all were released from attachment. The status of Co A, 643rd TD Bn, was changed from attachment to support.

The 329th Inf was now the right regiment of the division. All three regiments were in line. The 331st Inf, the middle regiment, was on our left, and the 330th Inf was on the left of the division sector.

4 MARCH 1945

The regiment continued to mop up the area and organize it for defense. Road blocks were set up to prohibit the movement of civilians into and within the zone. During this operation in the drive to and capture of Neuss from the 1st to the 4th of March inclusive, 497 PWS were taken.

5 MARCH 1945

The 99th Inf Div came up on the right on the south side of the Erft Canal and by noon reached the Rhine River. This relieved the threat from our flank and rear so the 2nd Bn started to withdraw troops late in the afternoon to a reserve position located near the Regimental CP in Neuss. The light tank platoon and assault gun platoon of the 736th Tk Bn were detached. The rcn trp also was taken away from us leaving us with only our normal medical attachment.

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Appendix No. 1 to After/After Action Report for March 1945 (Cont'd):

6 MARCH 1945

2nd Bn completed closing into their reserve area at 0730. Training in the use of assault boats was started on a small lagoon in the central part of Neuss.

At about 2200 the I & R platoon sent a patrol of 6 men with 2 engineers across the Rhine in an assault boat. This crossing was made SE of Neuss, about 1400 yards south of the highway bridge. The patrol returned safely with the following information: It took 8 minutes to cross the river; there was little drift; the bank on the other side was firm; and there was entrenched enemy 150 yards from the far side of the river.

7 MARCH 1945

Training was continued with the assault boats. A platoon of "dukws" arrived and were attached for training in loading.

8 MARCH 1945

Training with assault boats and "dukws" was continued and small unit training in village fighting and assault of fortified positions was started.

9 MARCH 1945

Training was continued on the same subjects as the 8th of March. 4th Cav Group relieved the 99th Div on our right.

10 MARCH 1945

Training continued. 3rd plat of D Co, 736th Tk Bn, was attached to the regiment for training purposes and given to the 2nd Bn. 113th Cav Group relieved 4th Cav Group on the right.

11 MARCH 1945

No training. 3rd plat of Co A, 736th Tk Bn, was attached to the regiment for training purposes and given to the 3rd Bn. Training was planned for the coming week with emphasis upon company problems.

12 MARCH 1945

Cos E & I were tested on a day problem "company in attack". Cos F & K were tested on a night problem "company in attack".

13 MARCH 1945

Co B was tested on a day problem "company in attack" and Co A was tested in a night problem "company in attack". While company problems and tests were being run by some units, other units were conducting miscellaneous training, physical conditioning, firing of small arms, firing of mortars, and firing of the Panzerfaust.

14 MARCH 1945

3rd Bn took over the entire regimental sector and completed relief of 1st Bn by 1730. This move was made in order that 2 battalions would be available at one time for battalion problems planned for the next week's training.

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S E C R E T

Appendix No. 1 to After/After Action Report for March 1945 (Cont'd):

15 MARCH 1945

The 3rd plat of Co A, 736th Tk Bn, which had been training with 3rd Bn, was detached and returned to the tank battalion. The platoon of lights which had been training with 2nd Bn, was given to the 1st Bn for training. The 3rd platoon of Co A, 643rd TD Bn, was attached to the regiment and given to the 1st Bn. The "dukws" pulled out and went to some other unit.

16 MARCH 1945

Training was continued. 2nd Bn practiced crossing a foot bridge which was constructed by the engineers. After dark the 1st Bn practiced the use of assault boats. Upon Corps order smoke was laid with smoke pots across the river to check the enemy reaction. There was no result except for a very few rounds of artillery fire.

17 MARCH 1945

Continued training with assault boats and foot bridge. 1st plat, Co B, 736th Tk Bn, was attached to the regiment and was given to the 3rd Bn.

18 MARCH 1945

This was Sunday and time was taken up with church services, movies, showers, etc. 1st plat of Co A replaced 3rd plat of Co A, 643rd TD Bn.

19 MARCH 1945

A battalion problem was held for 1st Bn in attack with 2nd Bn and A-T Co in the defense. This was an all-day problem covering a large area west of Neuss. At this time the 3rd Bn was still holding defensive positions in the regimental sector with K and L Cos, while I Co continued miscellaneous training.

20 MARCH 1945

Preparations were made by the regiment for a move back to Holland. Billets, clothing and equipment were inspected. By 1800 our 3rd Bn had been relieved by the 1st Bn, 379th Inf Regt, 95th Inf Div. One man per outpost stayed with the relieving troops until 210600. Tank and TD attachments were released.

21 MARCH 1945

This movement to the rear was to be made with the 322nd FA Bn and Co A, 308th Med Bn attached. The first march unit crossed the IP at Loveling at 0805 and the regiment closed into the vicinity of Nieuwstadt, Holland, VK 6872, at 1230 after a move of 50 miles straight west from Neuss. The stay at this new location was not to be a long one and as far as could be ascertained at this headquarters the move had 2 purposes: to train the troops on river crossings on the Maas River and to place the division into a position from which it would start its next operation. Division lost no time in giving us the subjects on which they wanted the regiment to train and this information was passed on to the Bn S-3's in the afternoon.

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Appendix No. 1 to After/After Action Report for March 1945 (Cont'd):

22 thru 24 MARCH 1945

Training was conducted on the following subjects: battalion attack of a town; small unit training in river crossing; battalion in river crossing. Assault boats and foot bridges were used in the river crossing training. Tanks and TD's were used with the infantry in the battalion problems. At 1630 on the 24th, the Battalion Commanders were called together by Colonel Grabill for an orientation on the coming big picture and the part that the 329th Inf was to play in it.

25 thru 27 MARCH 1945

This new operation started off with the same set-up, as far as the 329th Inf was concerned, as the Roer River crossing. XIX Corps was in 9th Army reserve, 83rd Div was in XIX Corps reserve, and 329th Inf was in 83rd Div reserve. On the 25th of March the quartering party, headed by Captain Bunch, took off for a new assembly area given us south of Krefeld, Germany, but on the night of the 26th of March we received change number one and the quartering party was called back. Rapid advances had been made east of the Rhine and it was thought that we might go directly to an assembly area east of the Rhine without any stop-over. On the 27th of March Captain Bunch took off again and made a personal reconnaissance of a tentative assembly area east of the Rhine. However, this move was cancelled also and we awaited change number two.

28 MARCH 1945

Change number two called for practically the same plan as the original, that is a move to an assembly area west of the Rhine before crossing the Rhine.

At 1728 the first march unit crossed the regimental IP. 322nd FA Bn and Co A, 308th Med Bn, were attached and made the move with us. The regiment closed in vicinity Horst, Germany, WF 151864, at 2135 after a move of 55 miles to the NE. This assembly area was about 4 miles SE of Munchen-Gladbach.

29 MARCH 1945

The 83rd continued to follow in the wake of the 9th Army. With the 322nd FA Bn and Co A, 308th Med Bn, still attached, the regiment crossed the IP at 1722 and at 2250 closed into a new assembly area vicinity WA 269359, approximately 4 miles west of Bruckhausen, Germany, a move a 41 miles to the NE.

30 MARCH 1945

This operation began to resemble Tennessee manuevers. The regiment crossed the IP at 1729, traveled 30 miles to the NE and at 2115 closed into vicinity of Eppendorf, WA 565485. The status of the 322nd FA Bn was changed from attachment to general support and they did not make the move with us.

31 MARCH 1945

As the 2nd Armd Div continued to spearhead the XIX Corps with rapid advances to the E, the 329th Inf continued to make motor marches. At 1715 329th Inf crossed the IP and moved 20 miles to the E to the vicinity of Seppenrade, WA 765517, closing in at 1930. Task Force George, which was composed of I Co, reinforced, 3rd Bn Hq Co and A-T Co, was sent to the town of Olfen, 4 miles to the S, to protect against any possible enemy thrust from S of the Lippe River.

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S E C R E T

Appendix No. 1 to After/After Action Report for March 1945 (Cont'd):

31 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

The 75th Inf Div, coming up on our right on the other side of the Lippe River, was at that time 15 miles to our rear.

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