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HEADQUARTERS 329TH INFANTRY
A.P.O. 83, U.S. Army

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1 December 1944

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, Headquarters 83rd Inf Div, file and subject as above, dated 19 July 1944, the following After/After Action Report is submitted:

a. The regiment continued its mission of the patrolling of the Moselle-Sauer River line.

b. The regiment continued the policy of rotating the units in positions in order that all units could participate in the training program.

c. Casualties during the period of the report were very slight.

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

For the Regimental Commander:

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

Incls: 2

1. Day by day summary.
2. Journal, 1 Nov 1944 to 30 Nov 1944.

319.1/401 1st Ind.
HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U.S. Army, 21 December 1944.

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

Forwarded.

For the Commanding General:

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

2 Incls. n/c

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HEADQUARTERS 329TH INFANTRY
APO 83

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1 December 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1944

1 NOVEMBER 1944

The first of the month started with CT 329 still holding a stretch of the Sauer-Moselle River line from Berdorf, inclusive on the left, to the railroad, inclusive, which crosses the Moselle River several km north of Grevenmacher. The 3rd Bn occupied the right half of this sector and the 1st Bn occupied the left half. The I & R Platoon patrolled the left flank and kept contact with the 121st Inf Regt of the 8th Div, which was still on our left. 2nd Bn was training on the Maginot Line in the vicinity of Hettange Grande. Co D, of 774th Tk Bn, was attached and Co A of the same battalion was relieved from attachment as of 1200.

2 NOVEMBER 1944

The 9th Armd Div, under control of the VIII Corps, had 2 tank battalions and a battalion of artillery in the 329th sector. A platoon of medium tanks fired a direct fire mission on some houses and pillboxes across the river from Echternach. Direct hits were made but actual damage could not be determined. Details for a new defensive plan "X" were submitted to Division.

3 NOVEMBER 1944

A new unit, the 60th Armd Inf Bn, part of the 9th Armd Div, was placed on our left. This unit was attached to the 121st Inf and replaced one of the battalions of the 121st. A 5 man enemy patrol was encountered in Co K's area, 2 were killed and 3 captured.

4 NOVEMBER 1944

As of 0800 Co D, 774th Tk Bn and Rcn Platoon of 802nd TD Bn were relieved from attachment. Also Co A, 308th Engr Bn, in support, was given another mission by Div outside of our sector. This left us with no attachments. In direct support we still had the 322nd FA Bn and Co A of the 802nd TD Bn, under control of the 322nd FA Bn. In general support we also had 2 other FA Bns, the 174th and the 324th, both located in our sector.

2nd Bn was moved back into regimental sector from Hettange Grande and closed into their reserve area at 1645. 2nd Bn CP and Co H were at Beidweiler, E and F Cos at Biwer and G Co at Bech.

A 4 man enemy patrol was encountered at 0800 in C Co area. One was taken prisoner and 3 escaped.

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After Action Report for November 1944 (Cont'd):

5 NOVEMBER 1944

In order to enable 2nd Bn to operate more quickly and more effectively as a reserve, each company was given a definite mission. E Co was reinforced with 1 section of 81mm mortars and remained in Biber. E Co was at the disposal of 3rd Bn in case of emergency should a counter-attack come from the right flank or along the railroad bordering the right flank. F Co was moved to Berbourg and was reinforced with a section of 81mm mortars and a platoon of HMG's. It was to be used in case of counter-attack in any other part of the 3rd Bn sector or from the direction of Dickweiler or Osweiler in 1st Bn sector. Co G remained in Bech and was reinforced with a section of 81mm mortars and a platoon of HMG's. It was to be used in case of counter-attack on the left flank, I & R Platoon sector, or Echternach. It was planned that these units, in case of emergency, could be called upon directly by the I & R Platoon, 1st Bn or 3rd Bn without approval of Regt'l Hqs in order to save time. A platoon of Co G was placed at the radio station at Junglinster to relieve the Mines Platoon.

Training schedules for those units available for training were called for and the following subjects were the principle ones covered: Rifle platoon in attack, deficiencies in MG tests, SOP for MG and mortars, chemical warfare, discussions of "Battle Experiences" and "Army Talks".

The 324th and 174th FA Bns both moved out of our sector. This left us with only 322nd FA Bn and our own Cannon Company in direct support. Two FA Bns of the 9th Armd Div were still in a position from which they could reinforce our artillery fires. These 2 battalions were the 3rd, located in our sector on the left flank, and the 73rd, located in the right flank sector of the 121st Inf Regt.

6, 7, & 8 NOVEMBER 1944

During this period there was very little activity and even patrolling by the enemy was cut down to almost nothing. A small amount of enemy harassing artillery and mortar fire was received occasionally. We continued to hold positions already occupied in our sector and continued to patrol our sector. During these 3 days our own artillery was a little more active due to better observation and increased ammunition allowances. 322nd FA Bn fired about 20 missions a day, Cn Co, 6 or 8, and several each by the 3rd and 73rd. On the 8th, Cn Co caused some confusion among 100 enemy along a road on the other side of the Sauer River by placing 4 direct hits on that road.

9 NOVEMBER 1944

On our left the 1st Bn of 121st Inf Regt replaced the 60th Armd Inf Bn.

2nd Bn relieved the 1st Bn on the left flank and occupied the following positions: E Co SW of Echternach; F Co at Echternach; G Co at Osweiler and Dickweiler; H Co and Bn CP at Bech. 1st Bn, going into reserve, occupied the following positions: Bn CP, C Co and D Co at Berbourg; A Co at Biber; B Co at Scheidchen. The platoon of G Co, which was guarding the radio station at Junglinster, was replaced by a platoon from B Co.

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After Action Report for November 1944 (Cont'd):

An I Co chow detail was ambushed and suffered 1 missing and 2 wounded. During the night the enemy sent out a patrol in Echternach. This patrol ran into a booby trap and suffered 3 or 4 casualties. The 3rd Cav Group, consisting of the 3rd and 43rd Cav Squadrons, relieved the 330th Inf on the right. To assist this new unit, a reinforced platoon of Co B occupied Grevenmacher.

Co A, 308th Med Bn, moved to Sennigen.

10 NOVEMBER 1944

Co A, 802nd TD Bn, was relieved from attachment to the 322nd FA Bn and moved out of the sector. At 2000 and 2245 enemy patrols attempted to get around the right flank of F Co in Echternach but were driven back both times.

11 NOVEMBER 1944

Lt Col French and the CO of the 3rd Cav Group made plans for the defense of our right flank in case of counter-attack in that sector.

1st Bn, most of which was in reserve with the exception of thereinfenced platoon of B Co in Grevenmacher and the platoon of C Co at the radio station in Junglinster, continued training. The reserves of the 2nd and 3rd Bns, which consisted of about 2 platoons to each battalion, were occupied in rehabilitating buildings in their areas, in effecting relief and in carrying out special combat activities such as ambushes.

12 NOVEMBER 1944

The 330th Inf returned to replace the unit on the right and in this new change we were given a new right boundary running from Machtum to Flaxweiler both exclusive. This new sector with a front of about 5 km, was given to 1st Bn for they had once before occupied this same area. B Co, who already had a reinforced platoon in Grevenmacher, moved its CP to a position 2 km west of Grevenmacher and placed another platoon on the high ground about 1 km SW of Grevenmacher. A Co moved from Biver to Manternach, placing one platoon in Munschecker and one platoon on the high ground NE of Munschecker. These moves were completed after darkness.

13 NOVEMBER 1944

At 1130 a 12 to 15 man enemy patrol was encountered by an I & R Platoon patrol and driven off. At 1800 a 6 man enemy patrol walked into Munschecker. One was captured and the remainder driven off.

14 NOVEMBER 1944

The 331st Inf moved back into the line between the 329th and the 330th, reducing the size of our sector to what it had been before the 1st Bn moved out on the right flank on the 12th. The railroad on our right flank which had been inclusive to us, was now exclusive. This relief by the 331st was completed at 1900 and 1st Bn occupied the same positions that they had held on the 9th.

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After Action Report for November 1944 (Cont'd):

Along with this change some new units came into our territory. Two platoons of the 83rd Rcn Trp were attached and moved to Consdorf to patrol the left flank with the I & R Platoon and the Marauder Platoon. Co A and 2nd Plat of Co D, both of 77th Tk Bn, in direct support, moved to Herborn in 3rd Bn area. The 422nd FA Group, composed of the 17th and 81st FA Bns, moved into our area in general support of the 329th. The 81st was a battalion of 155mm Howitzers and the 17th a battalion of self-propelled 155mm guns.

15 NOVEMBER 1944

A camouflage team from First Army arrived and started instructing our units.

16 NOVEMBER 1944

A demolition squad from the engineers blew a couple of houses in Echternach in order to provide better fields of fire and better observation of the enemy bridgehead in Echternach. Co I relieved Co L.

17 NOVEMBER 1944

At 0800 an I Co patrol of 6 men were fired on by an estimated 10 man enemy patrol with machine pistols, suffering 1 killed and 3 wounded. The enemy was driven off and it was estimated that they suffered 2 casualties.

18 NOVEMBER 1944

A plan "X" (revised) to be carried out in case of serious enemy counter-attack in the Div sector, was submitted to Div. F Co patrols in Echternach have failed to find any enemy in the bridgehead which the Germans had occupied in this city, although a complete search of all buildings has not yet been made.

Four Russian workers surrendered to an artillery OP west of Wasserbillig. At 1100, for all available officers, there was a demonstration of the WP hand grenade adapted for use as a rifle grenade.

19 NOVEMBER 1944

There were 3 enemy patrol actions in the morning. At 0700 a 6 man enemy patrol approached an I Co OP. The patrol was driven off but our troops had 1 casualty. At 0900 a 15 man enemy patrol approached a G Co OP, manned by only 4 men. Our OP opened fire, withdrew for reinforcements and upon returning found that the enemy had withdrawn. At 1100, 2 officers and 1 enlisted man sighted an 8 man enemy patrol at L077355. The enemy patrol ran when fired upon and suffered 3 casualties. Upon returning later it was found that the 3 casualties had been carried back by the enemy.

2nd Bn reported Echternach to be clear of enemy. It was believed that the enemy started the withdrawal from their bridgehead when swollen waters of the Sauer River swept away a foot bridge about a week previously.

Cn Co fired 5 rounds of arty on a 15 man enemy patrol observed at L091356. The effect was not observed but nothing more was seen of the patrol.

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After Action Report for November 1944 (Cont'd):

Two light tanks from the 2nd platoon, Co D, 774th Tk Bn, located at Herborn, were used this day as a roving patrol in the 3rd Bn sector. With 4 Infantrymen riding each tank, the 2 tanks visited the 3rd Bn outposts.

20 NOVEMBER 1944

Artillery fire was put on the little village of Born which is on the west side of the Sauer River and occupied by the enemy. As a result the village burned. While this demonstration was taking place a platoon of medium tanks from Co A, 774th Tk Bn, went east on the road from Lellig towards Wasserbillig in order to confuse the enemy and make them think that there was more coming than just the arty. This same route had been followed by the light tanks the previous day and upon reaching the point where the light tanks on patrol had turned around, one of the medium tanks hit several mines and was knocked out, the tank crew suffering 3 casualties. Apparently the enemy had observed the light tanks on patrol the day before and had planted the mines during the night.

Officers from the 89th Cav Rcn Squadron reported to the CP at 0900 for purposes of reconnaissance and planning of details for taking over the left flank reconnaissance sector.

21 NOVEMBER 1944

Officers from Co B, 52nd Armd Inf Bn, reported to the CP to plan details and reconnaissance for taking over Co G's sector.

Two prisoners walked in and gave themselves up during the day.

Mines demonstrations were given throughout the regiment by a team from the engineers.

Principle training carried on during recent weeks has been a platoon problem for rifle platoons. When this is completed for all rifle platoons, company problems will start. This day the first company problem was held for Co C.

22 NOVEMBER 1944

The 3rd platoon of Co B and 1st section of 3rd platoon of Co D were tested by Div. Trps A and B of 89th Cav Rcn Squadron were attached as of 0600 and closed into a bivouac area vicinity of Berdorf at 1030. Co B, 52nd Armd Inf Bn, was attached as of 0700 and closed into a bivouac area, vicinity of Osweiler, at 0745.

The platoon of Cn Co which has been located in the vicinity of Berdorf for some weeks rejoined the company vicinity of Osweiler.

Another company problem was held, this time for Co A. The assault gun platoon of 774th Tk Bn was attached to the 322nd FA Bn and moved into a position north of Herborn.

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23 NOVEMBER 1944

Officers' school has been started and will be held by battalions on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

At 0800 Trps A and B of 89th Cav Rcn Squadron took over the left flank reconnaissance sector. The I&R Platoon drew back to Consdorf, and the Marauder Platoon moved to Lellig, on the right flank of the Regtl sector. The 2 platoons of the 83rd Rcn Trp were relieved from attachment at 0900, cleared at 1000 and returned to their unit.

There was an exchange of fire between an OP of B Trp, 89th Cav Ren Sqdrn, and a 3 man enemy patrol at 020371 and the enemy withdrew. Shortly before daylight the 3rd Bn sent out a patrol to sweep the woods in the vicinity of 090245. This woods is located about 1 mile to the west of enemy occupied Waas-erbilling. A 4 man enemy OP was encountered in this woods. Our patrol wounded 1, took him prisoner and drove off the other 3.

1st Bn made preparations to go to the Maginot Line training area. At 1300 the A-T Co mines platoon relieved the platoon of Co C at the radio station at Junglinster.

1st Bn moved to the Maginot line training area vicinity Hettange Grande, closing in at 1105.

During the absence of the 1st Bn at the Maginot line training area, the 1st Bn, 330th Inf, located at Itzig, has been made available to the 32yth as a motorized reserve in case of enemy counter-attack in the 32yth Inf sector.

1st Bn, 330th Inf, made plans and reconnaissance for possible use as a reserve in our sector. The attached light tank platoon from Co D, 774th Tk Bn, moved from Herborn to the vicinity of Dickweiler.

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November 1944 (Cont'd):

27 NOVEMBER 1944 (Cont'd)

Colonel Crabill left early in the morning for London on special duty there with First Army for 3 days plus traveling time. Lt Col French took command of the regiment during Colonel Crabill's absence.

28 NOVEMBER 1944

29 NOVEMBER 1944

During the night of 29-30 an L Co patrol went to Girsterklaus, returning at 300h00 with a negative report.

30 NOVEMBER 1944

1st Bn continued training at the Maginot Line training area. A Regt team continued to run rifle platoons of the 2nd Bn through a platoon problem. 1st Platoon of CO G was tested in the morning. In the afternoon approximately 125 officers and EM went to the vicinity of the 74th Tk Bn to witness a "Snake" demonstration.

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Incl #1 to After Action Report, 1 December 1944.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE CAMPAIGN

On November 23, a 3 day psychological warfare campaign, designed to weaken the will of the new unit to our front to resist, was initiated. Due to technical difficulties with the sound equipment the program was not completed until November 27. The program consisted of six broadcasts over a public address system directed at the Wasserbillig (L1125) area, and 75,000 copies each of 5 different leaflets, fired by the artillery into 38 places along our front. The only immediate results prior to the end of the month was artillery fire on sound truck during broadcast, firing of propaganda by enemy in our sector, and surrender of 2 PW's from the Wasserbillig area.

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Incl #2 to After Action Report, 1 December 1944:

UNITS IN CONTACT

At the opening of this period the regiment was opposed by elements of 2 divisions:

353rd Div (Bollendorf L0140, 1 KM SE Weiterbach L0338)
353rd Fusilier Bn
769th Landschutzen Bn (attached)

36th Div
87th Grenadier Regt (1 km SE Weiterbach L0338-vicinity
Wintersdorf L1135)
XXIII Fortress Bn, 999 (attached) - (vic Wintersdorf L1133 to
Metzdorf L1128)
118th Grenadier Regt (Metzdorf L1128 to Temmels L0821)

On the opening of the Third Army offensive in the vicinity of Metz, there appeared evidence of withdrawal or relief of units to our front. This was confirmed on November 13 by the capture of 1 PW of the 3rd Co, 320th Grenadier Regt, 212th Volkgrenadier Division in the vicinity of Munschecker (L0623) by 1st Bn. All elements of the 36th Division were shortly thereafter identified on the front of the XII Corps east of Metz. On November 21, PW was captured from 1st Co, XXIII Fortress Bn, 999, indicating that that unit was still in position in its original sector. Later, PW identified the 316th Grenadier Regt in the sector formerly held by the 87th Regt. On the 27th of November elements of the 353rd Div were identified on the front of the VII Corps east of Aachen. This proved that the picture NW of Echternach had changed also, but at the close of the month no identifications had been made. From lack of customary activity in this sector it was believed to be occupied by a skeleton force.

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SHORT HISTORY OF 212TH VG DIVISION

Division was formed in Poland about October 1, 1944, of Luftwaffe, Marine, and Army personnel. From there they were sent to East Prussia for further training. Left East Prussia by rail on November 4, detrained near Trier, arrived in this sector on November 12 and relieved the 36th Division.

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Incl #3 to After Action Report, 1 December 1944:

TROOP SHELTERS

During this month, the adverse weather conditions necessitated the construction of troop shelters for the front line units. The construction of these shelters was based on a diagram and instructions drawn up at Regtl Hq and distributed to the battalions. Due to the short time these shelters have been in use, the battalions have not been able to elaborate on or improve these shelters to any extent. However, it was found in several instances that if the shelters were dug in to the prescribed depth of 2 ft, they would soon fill with water. Dug in to a depth of 1 ft they proved satisfactory.

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HEADQUARTERS 329TH INFANTRY
APO 83

24 November 1944

SUBJECT: Troop Shelters.

TO : All Units.

Construct on reverse slope in nearest possible location to firing positions.

Excavate bank to depth equivalent to outside height of rear wall of shelter.

Save spoil for fill on roof and against exposed sides and front. Use sandbags if available.

Use straight bogs 4 to 8 inches in diameter for walls and roof, spruce, pine or hemlock preferred.

If boards used for walls in place of logs, increase number of upright studs (logs 6-8") to provide 3 feet, on centers, interval.

Pitch of roof and slope of bottom of excavation are necessary to proper drainage.

Diagram of Squad Shelter and covered MG emplacement attached.

By Order of Colonel CRABILL:

JAMES C. BAGLEY
Major, 329th Infantry
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