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

1 December 1944

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

TO: COMMANDBING 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:

DOLPH N. BUNCH
Capt., Infantry
Adjutant

Incls: 2

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

319.1/3101
1st Inf.
HEADQUARTERS 63D 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:

W. F. Couden
Capt., Adj.,
Asst Adj General.

2 Incls. n/c

SECRET

Ind 3
AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1944

1 NOVEMBER 1944

The first of the month started with Gt 329 still holding a stretch of the Sauer-Moselle River line from Berdorf, inclusive, 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 & II Platoons 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 77th Tk Bn, was attached and Co A of the same battalion was relieved from attachment as of 1200.

2 NOVEMBER 1944

The 9th Arm 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 Arm Inf Bn, part of the 9th Arm 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, 77th Tk Bn and Rcn Platoon of 302nd TD Bn were relieved from attachment. Also Co A, 305th 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 PA Bn and Co A of the 802nd TD Bn, under control of the 322nd PA Bn. In general support we also had 2 other PA Bns, the 171st and the 326th, both located in our sector.

2nd Bn was moved back into regimental sector from Hettange Grande and closed into their reserve area at 1445. 2nd Bn CP and Co H were at Beidwallier, E and F Cos at Blier and G Co at Bech.

A 6 man enemy patrol was encountered at 0800 in G 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. B Co was reinforced with 1 section of 81mm mortars and remained in Biver. H 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 MMG'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 Cawaller in 1st Bn sector. Co G remained in Bach and was reinforced with a section of 81mm mortars and a platoon of MMG'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 Ops 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 these units available for training were called for and the following subjects were the principle ones covered: rifle platoon in attack, deficiencies in MG tests, SCR for MG and mortars, chemical warfare, discussions of "Battle Experiences" and "Army Talks".

The 32nd and 31st FA Bns both moved out of our sector. This left us with only 32nd FA Bn and our own Cannon Company in direct support. Two FA Bns of the 9th Arm Div were still in a position from which they could reinforce our artillery fires. Three 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 days our own artillery was a little more active due to better observation and increased ammunition allowances. 32nd FA Bn fired about 20 missions a day, Co C, 6 or 8, and several easy by the 3rd and 73rd. On the 7th, Co C caused some confusion among 200 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 6th Arm Div Inf Bn.

2nd Bn relieved the 1st Bn on the left flank and occupied the following positions: B Co SW of Echternach; F Co at Echternach; G Co at Cawaller and Dickweiler; H Co and Bn CP at Bach. 1st Bn, going into reserve, occupied the following positions: BN OP, G Co and D Co at Berbourg; A Co at Biver; B Co at Scheidgen. The platoon of G Co, which was guarding the radio station at Junglinster, was replaced by a platoon from B Co.
After Action Report for November 17th (Con't):

An I Co chew 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 83rd Cav Squadrons, relieved the 330th Inf on the right. To assist this new unit, a reinforced platoon of C Co occupied Grevenmacher.

Co A, 306th Med Bn, moved to Sonnigen.

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 a reinforced platoon of B Co in Grevenmacher and the platoon of C Co at the radio station in Junglimmer, 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 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 Differ to Muntmarsh, 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 & B Platoon patrol and driven off. At 1300 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.
After Action Report for November 1944 (Cont'd):

Along with this change some new units came into our territory. Two Platoons of the 63rd Ron truly were attached and moved to Conduit to patrol the left flank with the 1 & 2 Platoons and the Marauder Platoon. Co A and 2nd Platoons of Co B, both of 79th Tk BN, in direct support, moved to Herborn in 3rd BN area. The 122nd FA Group, composed of the 171st and 81st FA BNs, moved into our area in general support of the 327th. The 81st was a battalion of 155mm Howitzers and the 171st a battalion of self-propelled 155mm guns.

15 NOVEMBER 1944

A camouflaged from First Army arrived and started instructing our units.

16 NOVEMBER 1944

A demolition squad from the engineers blew up a few 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 1 man. 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 L073555. 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 footbridge about a week previously.

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

Two light tanks from the 2nd platoon, Co D, 771st Tk Bn, located at Hersborn, were used this day as a roving patrol in the 3rd En sector. With infantrymen riding each tank, the 2 tanks visited the 3rd En 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, 771st Tk Bn, went east on the road from Leilleg 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 Ran 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 Arm Inf En, 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. Tps A and B of 89th Cav Ran Squadron were attached as of 0600 and closed into a bivouac area vicinity of Berdorf at 1030. Co B, 52nd Arm Inf En, was attached as of 0700 and closed into a bivouac area, vicinity of Oswiller, at 0815.

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

Another company problem was held, this time for Co A. The assault gun platoon of 771st Tk Bn was attached to the 322nd FA Bn and moved into a position north of Hersborn.
SECRET

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

23 NOVEMBER 1944

The new units in the reconnaissance sector on the left flank made combined patrols with our reconnaissance units in order to familiarize themselves with the sector. By nightfall B Co of 52nd Arm Inf En completed the relief of Co G and Co G pulled back into an assembly area in the vicinity of Cowailer.

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

24 NOVEMBER 1944

At 0800 Trps A and B of 89th Cav Ren Squadron took over the left flank reconnaissance sector. The 1st Platoon drew back to Gosdorf, and the 2nd Platoon moved to Lellig, on the right flank of the Reug sector. The 2 Platoons of the 83rd Ren Trp were relieved at 0900, cleared at 1000 and returned to their unit.

During the night Co G sent out 2 patrols. One of them went north toward Steinheim. They were challenged by an enemy OP located about 1 km south of Steinheim. The Co G patrol fired on the enemy OP with automatic weapons and drove them back. They did not pursue the enemy however, because the enemy placed a mortar concentration between the enemy OP and our patrol. The other patrol moved east to Rosport and reported that the town was clear of enemy.

There was an exchange of fire between an OP of B Trp, 68th Cav Ren Sqdrn, and a 3 man enemy patrol at 0200/1 and the enemy withdrew. Shortly before daylight the 3rd Bn sent out a patrol to sweep the woods in the vicinity of Oserbhillig. A 4 man enemy OP was encountered in this woods. Our patrol wounded 1, took him prisoner and drove off the other 3.

25 NOVEMBER 1944

1st Bn made preparations to go to the Maginot Line training area. At 1300 the A-7 Co mines platoon relieved the platoon of Co G at the radio station at Junglinster.

26 NOVEMBER 1944

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

In each battalion 1 officer and 2 NCO’s have been appointed to instruct all the officers and NCO’s, by companies, in the proper methods of reporting enemy mortar fire.

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 32nd as a motorized reserve in case of enemy counter-attack in the 32nd Inf sector.

27 NOVEMBER 1944

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, 714th Tk En, moved from Herborn to the vicinity of Dicksweiler.
During the evening there was one enemy patrol in our sector. This was
a 5 man patrol discovered at 2215 by elements of L Co. Fire was brought upon
the patrol and it dispersed. It was believed that 3 of the patrol were wounded.
During the night of 27/28 Nov, we sent out 4 patrols. A 5 man patrol from G
Co was sent north from Osmiler to knock out an enemy artillery OP known to be
located south of enemy occupied Steinheim. The OP was protected by wire and
after the patrol got inside the wire, mines and charges of dynamite were set
east of the patrol withdrew, suffering 1 missing and 11 wounded, 5 of which
were evacuated. It was learned from a prisoner the next day that the patrol
had inflicted 3 casualties upon the enemy. K Co sent a patrol to Wasserbillig
and found that it was still occupied. A patrol from the Marauder platoon
reported no enemy in the village of Boll but 3d enemy between Boll and the
Saar River. An L Co patrol reported no enemy in Hinkel.

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

A psychological warfare team has been with us for several days broadcasting
to the enemy in the vicinity of Wasserbillig. At the same time leaflets were
fired by our artillery. (See Incl #1). At 0600 a patrol of B Co, 52nd Arm Inf
Bn, went to Girster Klaus and reported no enemy. At 0800 a patrol from the
Marauder Platoon also went to Girster Klaus. Enemy estimated to be 1 squad,
occupied 1 house. The Marauders brought small arms fire upon the house and the
enemy dispersed without returning fire. Trp G of the 89th Cav Ron Squad was
attached at 0700 to relieve Trp A of the same unit. The relief was completed
by 1000. Co C, 52nd Arm Inf Bn, was attached at 0900 to relieve B Co of the
same unit. C Co closed onto Osmiler at 1400, relief to be effected on the 29th.
3rd Bn had a little party at the expense of Wasserbillig and Oberbillig, shoot-
ing up these towns at 1130 and 1205, respectively, with artillery and mortar fire.

29 November 1944

C Co, 52nd Arm Inf Bn, completed the relief of B Co, same unit, at 1230.
At 0915 a patrol from the Marauder Platoon went to the vicinity of Hinkel. They
were pinned down by enemy MG, mortar, rifle and tank fire and were not able to
withdraw until darkness. 1 man was missing.

During the night of 28-29 an L Co patrol went to Girster Klaus, returning
at 0300/00 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 pf Co G was tested in the morning. In the afternoon approximately
125 officers and EM went to the vicinity of the 77th Tk Bn to witness a "Snake"
demonstration.
On November 23, a 5 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 (III25) 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.
SECRET

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 Weilerbach L0338)
353rd Fusilier Bn
769th Landschtsan Bn (attached)

36th Div
87th Grenadier Regt (1 km SE Weilerbach L0338-vicinity
Wintersdorf L1135)
XXIII Fortress Bn, 999 (attached) - (vic Wintersdorf L1135 to
Metzdorf L1126)
116th Grenadier Regt (Metzdorf L1126 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 15 by the capture of 1 FW of the 3rd Co., 320th Grenadier Regt, 212th Volksgrenadier Division in the vicinity of Munschecker (L0625) 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, FW was captured from 1st Co, XXIII Fortress Bn, 999, indicating that that unit was still in position in its original sector. Later, FW 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 Schtemnach 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.
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.
SECRET
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 6-9") to provide 5 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
S-5