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HEADQUARTERS 329TH INFANTRY
APO 83

1 November 1944

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

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Thru Channels).

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. Due to the rather static condition of the operations, a training program was inaugurated which necessitated a constant shift of the personnel in order that equal training could be had by all personnel. Battalions are now rotating a training schedule whereby a battalion is drawn back to the Maginot line and receives instructions and practice in attacks on fortified positions.

c. As operations during the month consisted practically mostly of patrolling, very few casualties resulted.

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

2 Incls.

1 - Day by day summary.

2 - Journal, 1 Oct 44 to 31 Oct 44. *not sent 26 Dec 44*

319.1/401 1st Ind.
HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U.S. Army, 22 November 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

Inc #7
H. Ganss
DEC 26 1944

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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 329TH INFANTRY
APO 83

1 November 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1944

1 OCTOBER 1944

Company A continued the attack towards Grevenmacher. They encountered small arms fire, artillery fire, mines and road blocks. By night-fall they had occupied part of the city but due to artillery fire were ordered to withdraw during the night to high ground west of the city. A reinforced platoon of Co I, totaling about 80 men, moved to the vicinity of Osweiler by motor, dismounted and moved on foot toward a woods directly west of Echternach. This platoon swept through these woods to within 1 mile of Echternach without opposition and without casualties. In the evening, Co L was sent up to reinforce this platoon of Co I in preparation for an attack on Echternach the next day.

2 OCTOBER 1944

Co I surprised a 20 man enemy outpost along the road near Echternach, killing and capturing most of the outpost. Co I did not go into Echternach but commanded the high ground SW of the city. Co L was brought back to 3rd Bn area to increase the Regimental reserve. Co A occupied and continued to hold high ground to the west of Grevenmacher. 2nd Bn saw a trainload of Germans on the railroad across the river from Wasserbillig and brought artillery fire upon it. The enemy smoked the train and results of the artillery were not known. Some P-47's also spotted the train and bombed it.

3 OCTOBER 1944

Units of CT 329 continued to hold positions already occupied. Patrolling was carried on in the CT sector.

4 OCTOBER 1944

Co I was engaged during the afternoon and evening with a platoon of enemy which had worked to the west from Echternach. Co G drove back an enemy patrol trying to work SE from Echternach. 1st Bn planned to take heights closer to Grevenmacher. A platoon of Co A on the right and a platoon of Co C on the left started moving towards these positions at 1900. By 2330 the positions had been occupied without opposition. 323rd FA Bn, which had been in general support of CT 329 and located in the CT 329 sector, was attached to the 330th Inf and moved out of our sector.

5 OCTOBER 1944

No activity during the day. During the night, the platoon of Co G overlooking Grevenmacher moved into the city without opposition. Also all elements of Co A in this sector were relieved by Co G and Co A occupied positions formerly held by Co G in the vicinity of Wecker.

-1-

S E C R E T

DEC 26 1944



S E C R E T

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

6 OCTOBER 1944

Patrolling was continued in CT sector. An enemy patrol, which crossed the Moselle River in the area of Co B, was driven back.

7 OCTOBER 1944

At 1600, Echternach was bombed in preparation for an attack upon the city. The bombing was followed by an artillery barrage. At about 1700, the attack upon Echternach was made with Co K and 2 platoons of tanks. By 1815, 2 platoons of Co K and 2 platoons of tanks occupied the center of the city. The enemy still held the water front and part of a hill, referred to as Hill 249, SE of the city. This situation continued throughout the night.

8 OCTOBER 1944

In the morning, Co K cleared the enemy from the remainder of the city of Echternach and Hill 249. 1 platoon of Co I was also put in the city and later withdrawn. This city had been occupied by most of 2 German companies, plus a MG platoon. In addition to this opposition, enemy mortar and artillery fire came from across the river. The Germans did not make a strong bid to hold the town after a couple of initial strong points were eliminated, and the enemy withdrew before Co K was close enough for hand to hand fighting. After Co K had completely occupied the city, 1 platoon of Co L remained on a hill west of town and another platoon of Co L on a hill south of town. 2 platoons of Co I were assembled at a position SW of town.

9 OCTOBER 1944

All of Co I was brought back to 3rd Bn area to increase the Regimental reserve. There was little activity and units continued to hold positions already occupied. A few changes in dispositions were made, principally to effect relief of units on outpost duty. The principle activity was the firing of harassing missions by our artillery upon miscellaneous German targets on the east side of the Moselle-Sauer river line.

10 OCTOBER 1944

Our artillery continued to fire harassing missions and the infantry units continued patrolling in the CT sector. (See Encl #1, Patrolling).

11 OCTOBER 1944

Co L was returned to the vicinity of Echternach to an assembly area 2 km SW of the town to be held in reserve in case the enemy made a counter-attack against Co K. There was very little activity on this day. Patrolling continued and our artillery fired a few missions across the river. (See Encl #2, Train Activity). During the night, a force of Germans, estimated to be from 15 to 30 men, crossed the river and occupied 3 buildings in Echternach.

-2-

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

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

12 OCTOBER 1944

When we arrived in this area, our left boundary had been the boundary between the 3rd Army, of which we were a part, and the 1st Army. Later, when the 9th Army moved in between the 3rd and 1st Armies, this left boundary became the boundary between the 3rd and 9th Armies. Today the 83rd Division became part of the 9th Army again, so the left boundary became merely the boundary between the 83rd Division and the 8th Division, both part of the 6th Corps. 330th Inf was on our right, having relieved the 331st Inf several days previously. This was our fifth change in Armies since arriving in France. We crossed the channel as part of the 3rd Army, fought through Normandy as part of the 1st Army, went up the St. Malo peninsula back in the 3rd Army, and while defending the Loire River were put in the 9th Army. We were sent to Luxembourg as part of the 3rd Army again, and today's change back in the 9th Army was the fifth one.

At 1700, Co K attacked the buildings in Echternach which had been occupied by Germans the night before. They received MG fire from the buildings and mortar and artillery fire from across the river. These buildings commanded a good field of fire, and it was decided that the loss of men in a frontal attack would not be worth the gain, so Co K, with 3 casualties, withdrew. It was planned to keep these buildings under fire of bazookas, A-T grenades, and mortars until their occupancy became too hot for the Germans.

1 platoon of Co B received some MG fire from across the river.

Our artillery continued harassing missions and received some counter-battery fire, also some harassing enemy artillery fire was received, particularly in the 2nd Bn area. The casualties from enemy artillery fire have, up until this time, been very light.

13 OCTOBER 1944

There was little activity in Echternach and Co L relieved Co K in the city. Co K was moved to an assembly area SW of the town. A platoon of tanks was moved to a position in the rear of Co K. It was decided to use this platoon for direct fire missions on pillboxes which could be seen in enemy territory across the Sauer River. On the left flank, a patrol of the I & R platoon met an enemy patrol, inflicted 2 casualties and drove off the remainder.

The 241st FA Bn, which had been in support, moved out of our sector. Our attached assault gun platoon from 774th Tk Bn, was moved from Wecker north to the position formerly occupied by the 241st FA Bn. In the 2nd Bn area, an enemy patrol estimated to be 30 men inflicted 5 casualties on a Co G outpost and withdrew. Co B again received fire from an enemy force estimated to be 10 or 15 men on our side of the Moselle. A combat patrol from Co B went after the enemy but withdrew when night fell. There was an air mission flown on the railroad yards at Konz-Karthaus at 1500. Results are not known.

14 OCTOBER 1944

Continued to hold positions already occupied. Patrolled in sector.

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

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

15 OCTOBER 1944

The platoon of tanks with 3rd Bn in the vicinity of Echternach fired direct fire missions against pillboxes which could be observed on the enemy's side of the Sauer River. It was believed that good results were obtained. In return about 350 rounds of enemy artillery were received in the area, without casualties. There was no activity in Echternach. Mortar fire had been brought upon the few houses held there by the enemy, but the houses were stone and the mortar fire ineffective. It was planned to reduce these houses by means of direct fire weapons or charges of dynamite. In the 2nd Bn area, an enemy patrol estimated to be 5 men was sighted east of Givenig. Artillery fire was called for, and the patrol was driven back. A reconnaissance was made in the 2nd Bn area for positions for a platoon of tanks to fire direct fire missions at targets across the Moselle River. At 0930 an air mission was carried out against Konz-Karthaus and targets south of that town, but due to weather conditions, results could not be observed.

The enemy patrols which are encountered from time to time by Co B, are believed to hide out in caves on steep slopes in the vicinity of Machtung on our side of the Moselle River. To blast out this enemy would mean the exposure of our men to fire from both sides of the river, and it was believed that casualties which we would suffer would not be worth the objective obtained. Therefore this area is kept under constant observation, and when the enemy appears he is shelled by mortars and sometimes artillery. 3 known enemy casualties were inflicted in this manner today. Cannon Co fired 157 rounds on Witerbach with good results.

16 OCTOBER 1944

324th FA Bn moved east to the vicinity of Berbourg. Co A, 774th Tk Bn, moved to the vicinity of Lillig and occupied positions for indirect firing. There was very little activity on this day due partly to the rainy weather. Even the artillery had cut down its firing because of reduced ammunition allowances.

Due to the fact that this situation in Luxembourg was comparatively static, the Regiment started in this week on a definite and planned program of training. Although many miscellaneous subjects were included in the training schedules, there were 2 things of primary importance that were to be stressed: a rifle platoon in the attack and the SOP for weapons platoons and heavy weapons companies. There were 2 reasons why it was felt that this training was necessary. First the Regiment had received many replacements since landing in France. Second the type of fighting done by the Regiment in France, because of the hedgerows, had been quite different from the tactics learned in the states. Now that the hedgerows were in back of us, it was necessary to review the old basic principles. Due to the fact that a large portion of the Regiment was either outposting, patrolling or occupying strategic positions, a schedule of rotation of troops was worked out so that all of the men would receive training.

-4-

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

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

17 OCTOBER 1944

Another attack was attempted against the small pocket of Germans holding the few houses in Echternach. Co L, who was still occupying the remainder of the city, jumped off at 1115 but were unable to drive the enemy from all of the buildings. These remaining buildings commanded a very good field of fire, and Co L would have suffered many casualties in obtaining the objective. Therefore at 1300, Co L withdrew from its advance positions, and the result of the attack was that the German pocket was reduced in size.

Several nights previously, a German patrol estimated to be 20 men, entered the city of Munschecker in Co A's area. At 1530, Munschecker was attacked by 1 platoon of Co A with a section of MG's and 1 platoon of tanks. The tanks raked the buildings with fire as they approached the town. 10 Germans were seen to leave the town, and by the time our small task force had entered the town there were no more Germans to be found. The platoon of Co A with a section of MG's remained in the town for the night and the platoon of tanks withdrew.

18 OCTOBER 1944

Continued patrolling and defense of sector. Train activity formerly reported in Konz-Karthaus has continued with an average of 3 or 4 trains being seen each day.

19 OCTOBER 1944

Preparations were made for an artillery, mortar and MG demonstration against the enemy at E Echternach and E Wasserbillig, the purpose to determine the reaction of the enemy.

20 OCTOBER 1944

At 0700, the demonstration planned by Division started. An artillery preparation of 987 rds was fired from 0700-0725 upon E Echternach and E Wasserbillig by 322nd FA Bn, assault gun platoon of 774th Tk Bn, 324th FA Bn, Co A 802nd TD Bn, Co A 774th Tk Bn, and 329th Inf Cannon Co. From 0715 to 0800, 81mm mortar fire (from a total of 15 mortars) and HMG fire were also brought upon these two points by all 3 Bns of the 329th Inf. Rounds of mortar expended were approximately 180 rds WP and 195 rds HE. Due to poor visibility, it was not possible to ascertain the effect of our fire. There was very little immediate reaction to our fire. Soon after the demonstration started, a few flares were sent up by the enemy across the river from Echternach, and about one half hour later approximately 8 rds arty fire and 12 rds mortar fire were received in the Echternach area from the enemy. From 1030 on, our units in Echternach received intermittent but fairly heavy concentrations of mortar and arty fire (about 15 rds per concentration) from the enemy. The arty fire was heavy enough to go through walls of buildings.

21 OCTOBER 1944

A psychological warfare team with a loudspeaker system, has been used at various points in the sector to encourage desertion in the German Army. Not much effect has been obtained however, most the deserters being members of labor Bns.

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

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

21 OCTOBER 1944 (Cont'd)

Evacuation of all civilians in a zone about 9 km wide parallel to and west of the Moselle-Sauer River line was started. The tanks moved back to the vicinity of Eschweiler and the Engrs moved from Brouch to Bech. A patrol from 2nd Bn met an enemy patrol at Mertert, killed 3 and wounded 1. A patrol of the 83rd Rcn Trp met an enemy patrol in their sector, killing 1, wounding 1, and driving off the remainder of the patrol.

22 OCTOBER 1944

A meeting of Bn Comdrs was held to discuss some changes to be made during the coming week. The 330th Inf is to take over the 1st Bn area on Thurs, Oct 26, after being relieved by the 32nd Cav Squadron. On Friday, Oct 27, the 1st Bn is to take over the Echternach area and the I & R platoon will patrol the Berdorf sector. On Monday, Oct 23, 3rd Bn is to go to the Maginot Line for training but Co I is to be left in Echternach until 1st Bn takes over that area on Friday, Oct 27. When these changes are made, the left sector of the 2nd Bn will be reduced slightly. A motorized Bn of the 331st will be available if a reserve is needed. 3rd Bn will also take with them to the Maginot Line 1 platoon of Engrs and 1 platoon of tanks. On Sunday, Oct 29, the 331st will make a reconnaissance of our CT sector and on the following day, relieve us, at which time we will go in Division Reserve.

Co L was withdrawn from Echternach and placed at Rodenburg.

VIII Corps was transferred from 9th Army to 1st Army.

23 OCTOBER 1944

3rd Bn, less Co I, a platoon of HMG's, and a section of 81mm mortars, moved to the Maginot Line at Hettange Grande for training exercises on "attack on fortified positions". 1 platoon of tanks and 1 platoon of Engrs were also taken along to participate in the training. 1st Bn, 331st Inf, which is motorized and available to us as a reserve if necessary, made a reconnaissance in our sector for routes and forward assembly areas. A couple of German patrols were seen in 2nd Bn area but no contact was made with them.

24 OCTOBER 1944

Cannon Co moved to the vicinity of Consdorf. A platoon of tanks moved to the vicinity of Echternach as a reserve for Co I. A 12 man enemy patrol was discovered in Co G's area and was dispersed with mortar fire.

25 OCTOBER 1944

The tank company moved into Eschweiler to get out of the mud. A 3 man patrol of 83rd Rcn Trp was ambushed near the Sauer River. 1 was killed, 1 wounded and 1 escaped. A 5 man patrol of Co C hit a mine in a house in Grevenmacher. All 5 men were casualties.

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

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

26 OCTOBER 1944

330th Inf took over the sector on the right flank occupied by 1st Bn and 1st Bn moved to the left flank to take over the Echternach area. 2nd Bn sector was decreased somewhat and they were able to put all of Co G in reserve at Herborn.

27 OCTOBER 1944

Elements of 3rd Bn, which had been in Echternach and were relieved by 1st Bn, rejoined the 3rd Bn for training on the Maginot Line, in the vicinity of Hettange Grande. Staff officers of 331st Inf made a reconnaissance of this sector preparatory to relieving this Regiment on the 29th and 30th. 83rd Rcn Trp was relieved and reverted to Div. The reconnaissance platoon of 802nd TD Bn was relieved and reverted to its Bn. The sector on the left flank, which had been covered by the I & R platoon and 83rd Rcn Trp was reduced in size. The I & R platoon covered this sector aided by the R group of the 2nd Bn and a new Marauder group recently formed. This Marauder group consists of 1 officer and 30 EFM and is to be used principally for night patrolling.

28 OCTOBER 1944

Continued mission of patrolling and defending sector.

29 OCTOBER 1944

Relief by 331st Inf was cancelled. The Regtl Comdr called Bn Comdr for a meeting at 1900 and the following plans were discussed: Cos K and L would relieve Cos E and F after dark on Monday, 30 Oct; entire 2nd Bn would be prepared by 0800 Tuesday, 31 Oct to go to the Maginot Line for training; Co I would be brought back from the Maginot Line on Tuesday afternoon and join 3rd Bn.

30 OCTOBER 1944

Cos K and L relieved Cos E and F at 1945 and the 2nd Bn assembled in the vicinity of Herborn prepared to move to the Maginot Line the next day. A reconnaissance platoon of the 802nd TD Bn was attached to CT 329 and sent up on the left flank to work with the I & R platoon. Cannon Co moved into the vicinity of Osweiler in order to be able to fire on some targets which could not be reached from their old position. A 15 man enemy combat patrol supported by small arms and artillery fire succeeded in driving back our outpost at Givenigs. The patrol was taken under fire and withdrew.

31 OCTOBER 1944

2nd Bn was taken to the Maginot Line for training. The returning trucks brought back Co I, which went into 3rd Bn reserve at Herborn. Co D, a light tank company of the 774th Tk Bn, was to be attached and a reconnaissance was made for positions. 9th Armd artillery observer reported a 50 man enemy patrol crossing the Sauer River in the vicinity of 1024374. Artillery fire was brought upon the patrol. Elements of the I & R platoon and Marauder platoon went out to engage the patrol and found that the patrol had withdrawn to the other side of the river.

S E C R E T



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ENCLOSURE #1 to After Action Report for October 1944.

PATROLLING

During this operation, the CT had the mission of defending a 28 mile sector of the SAUER-MOSELLE River line, including bends in the rivers. Actually, on a straight line, this distance was reduced to $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The sector of the 1st Bn, on the right, was $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles; the sector of the 2nd Bn, in the center, was $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles; and the left flank sector of $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles was covered by the 83d Rcn Trp and the 329th I & R Platoon, excepting the city of Echternach, taken on Oct 8 by Co K. To patrol such wide sectors effectively was a problem. OP's on heights overlooking the river, and guarding strategic routes into our sector were established and occupied by day. However, due to wide distribution of units, it was not possible to hold many of these points in force at night. In such cases, to avoid encirclement of these outposts by enemy patrols during the night, they were withdrawn to platoon assembly areas and in the morning returned to their positions. During daytime the entire CT sector was covered either by fire, patrol, or observation.

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ENCLOSURE #2 to After Action Report for October 1944.

TRAIN ACTIVITY

During this operation, one interesting feature was the long fields of observation available at various places in our sector. From an OP near Givenigs 1096285, rail movement was spotted at Konz-Karthaus, 10 km distant. As many as 17 trains passed within observation during daylight hours of a single day. Usual daily total was 4. At least a portion of the traffic was proven by PW statement to be the movement of the 416th Infantry Division from Denmark to Merzig, Q2094. This unit was first identified in line October 10, when a soldier from 9th Co, 713th Inf Regt was captured at U936962 in the Division sector. The railroad at this point was subjected to 155mm Arty fire and several bombing attacks by medium bombers. Several engines and cars were damaged by arty fire and direct bomb hits were made on the railroad. The Germans were reported to keep a company of engineers on hand at this point and usually made necessary repairs to roadbeds in 2 to 3 days.

S E C R E T



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ENCLOSURE #3 to After Action Report for October 1944.

COMMUNICATIONS

Due to the large sector which the CT had the mission of defending during this operation, the Reg'tal Wire System employed 120 miles of field wire and 26 miles open wire. Under normal conditions only about 30 miles of wire would be employed. In the early part of the month, 3 cases of sabotage by civilians were encountered but after a few suspects were apprehended by the CIC this sabotage ceased. Radio was not in operation due to excellent wire communications.

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