

BRIEF HISTORY OF 329TH INFANTRY IN ACTION

NORMANDY

June 23 - August 2, 1944

The 329th Infantry landed in France on D D 17 (June 23, 1944) and moved to assembly area NW of Briouville. On June 28, the 83d Division relieved the 101st Airborne Division, S of Carentan; and for a week the regiment was in division reserve with the 1st Bn protecting the city of Carentan. On July 4, the big attack jumped off. The 2d Bn (the only element of the regiment in the initial attack) attempted to cross the swamp SW of Carentan, but met very heavy resistance by German paratroops and was unable to gain a foothold on the opposite bank. On the following day, the 3d Bn, followed by the 1st, drove 2500 motors through hedgerow defenses to Culoth, and although heavily counter-attacked by SS troupes, held their positions. From then until the great breakthrough of July 25, the fiercest fighting of the war took place, consisting of numerous assaults on fortified hedgerow positions. The 17th SS (German) Division opposing the Division was decimated. On July 26-27, following the withdrawing enemy; the regiment crossed the Taute River and reached Fougères where it went into an assembly area.

TOWNS CAPTURED..CULOT and approximately 1000 hedgrows.

P W's Captured - 106

ST MALO

August 3 - August 18, 1944

On August 3, the 329th moved by motor to Pontorson and on the 4th began the drive north to capture the Fortress of St Malo. After a hard fight by the 2d Bn at Chatoauneuf, the town was taken and the regiment drove on to engage the fortified belt around the city of St Malo. Thence followed an attack on the fortified positions which resulted in the entry into St. Sorvan, a suburb of St. Malo, on August 9. The 2d Bn was detached from the regiment at this time, and in a brilliantly executed attack seized the heavily fortified Ft. de la Varde, E of St. Malo, and captured 197 PW's. They then proceeded to capture the fort of Grand Bey. In the meantime, the city of St. Sorvan having fallen, the regiment laid siege to the Citadel, which after several assaults and heavy bombardment capitulated on August 17, when Col. van Auleck and garrison of 596 surrendered.

TOWNS CAPTURED DOLET, CATEAUNEUF CHATEAU MALO, ST JUAN, ST SULLIAC, ST BERE ST ANNE LA BOURELAIS LA BALUE. LA MOTTE ST SERVAN CITADEL OF ST SERVAN FORT DE LA VARDE GRAND BLY PW's captured 3203

LOIRE

August 19 - September 23, 1944

On August 19, the 329th moved to the city of Angers, charged with the defense of the city and the north bank of the Loire. By August 27, the sector of defense for the regiment had stretched to 130 miles from a point W of Angers to Orleans. The main activity during the period was patrol in-~~XXXXXX~~ cursions from south of the river. On August 30, the enemy forces S of the Loire began a general withdrawal to the east. On Sept 8, the I&R Platoon ~~XXXX~~ received information that a column of 20,000 Germans wished to surrender to American troops. Negotiations followed and on Sept. 16-17, General Elster and 19854 German Troops laid down their arms on the south bank of the Loire at Boaugency, and became PW's .

TOWNS CAPTURED - PONT DECE TOWNS ENTERED BY PATROLS - TOURS NEVERS ROMORANTIN CHATEAU ROUX CHATELLERAULT BOURGES and many smaller towns S of Loire - PW's Captured 20,058.

BRIEF HISTORY OF 329TH INFANTRY IN ACTION (CONTINUED)

LUXEMBOURG

September 24 - December 9, 1944

September 23d saw the 329th en route to the Siegfried Line, NE of Luxembourg and in the weeks that followed, the attacks on Grovenmacher (Oct 1 - 5), and Echternack (Oct 1 - 8) took place. German patrol activity was continuous, but no serious threats developed while the regiment held its sector of almost 25 miles of the west bank of the Moselle.

TOWNS CAPTURED OBERDONVEN NIEDERDONVEN GREVENMACHER OSWEILER BERDORF
DICKWELLER ECHTERNACK PW's Captured - 211

DUREN

December 10 - December 25, 1944

On Dec 10th, the 329th crossed the German Frontier and relieved the 8th Inf. 4th Div. in the Hurtgen Forest, W of Duren. Two days later, the attack to the Roer River jumped off; and after a day of heavy fighting the enemy line was broken and the edge of the forest reached. Dec. 13-14 saw a series of brilliant attacks against the towns of Gurzenich and Birgel by 2d and 3d bns respectively, and the seizure of those towns by our troops. The German counter-attack on Gurzenich in Bn strength supported by 6 assault guns took place on Dec 16, the day of the start of the great German countereffensive in the Ardennes. It was successfully repulsed, and but few of the attacking troops were able to withdraw to Duren. The following day, the 1st Bn took the town of Bolsdorf and on the 18th sent the first patrol across the Roer into Duren. On the 23rd, the 329th was relieved and moved to a reserve position at Eilendorf, Germany, where it spent Christmas Day.

Towns CAPTURED GURZENICH BIRGEL BOLSDORF - PW's Captured 1054

ARDENNES

December 26 - January 22, 1945

On the 26th, the regiment was rushed to the vicinity of Havelange, Belgium, to assist in containing the German breakthrough. Dec. 28th was the day when the 329th relieved the armor in the Division sector and launched the attack which carried B co into Rochefort. The pressure of the attack to relieve B Co, which was surrounded by Germans in the city, forced a premature withdrawal of the enemy panzer forces to the east leaving the regiment in control of Rochefort.

Relief by British forces, movement to the east, and the drive with the 3rd Armored Division to cut off the German spearhead followed; and on Jan 9, 1945 the regiment attacked again against German tanks and in freezing cold and snow to capture Petite Langlir. A night attack on the 11th saw 2n Bn in possession of Pont de Langlir, and a bridgehead for the armor. The attack to the east through the Bois de la Ronce resulted in the capture of Honyelez on the 14th and the seizure of the high ground W of Bovigny and Courtil, which towns were occupied on the 20th. The Germans began a slow withdrawal to the Siegfried Line, and on the 22d the 329th was relieved and pulled back to prepare for future offensive action.

TOWNS CAPTURED ROCHEFORT PONT DE LANGLIR HONYELEZ BOVIGNY COURTIL
CIERRIEUX ROGURY PW's Captured 615

C.O.'s of the 329th Infantry in Action	Total No. PW's captured
Regimental Commander - Col Edwin B. Crabill	25,247
Co. 1st Battalion - Lt. Col Tim O Cook	
Co. 2nd Battalion - Lt. Col. Granville A. Sharpe	
Co. 3rd Battalion - Lt. Col. John C. Speedie	
Campaign stars awarded Normandy, Northern France	Germany