HEADQUARTERS 330TH INFANTRY
APO 85, U. S. Army

3 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against the Enemy.


In accordance with paragraph 15, 118-5, 349-105, the following
report after action for the month of August 1944 is submitted.

Period: 1 - 2 August 1944

Location: LE NAY (548015). Div in Corps reserve. Regiment reorganizing;
claiming and repaving; reequipping. Training in hedgerow fighting and firing
Mir, bazookas and rifle grenades carried out. Reconnaissance of roads and as-
sembly areas to S & S.W. made in conjunction with an alert order for move-
ment.

2 August 1944

At 0005, CG issued order for Regiment to move by motor to assembly area in
vicinity of POMPIONS (1682), a move of 73 miles. 330th Combat Team, motor-
ized crossed IP at 2225, and closed into assembly area at 1405. Entire move
made without encountering enemy action but considerable delay was caused by
roads congested with armed and supply columns. At 1850, CT 330, moved by
truck to new assembly area near BAUCOUR PIGAN (065023) two miles east of DOL.

4 August 1944

At 0000, CT launched attack to seize DOL DE BRETANGE (935025). 2nd Bn in
assault astride road, 1st Bn on right rear and 3rd Bn on left rear. Only
light resistance was met although extensive defensive positions consisting
of road blocks, wire and AT ditches surrounded the town. At 1150 2nd Bn was
on objective and proceeded through town toward main highway leading to
PENNER (915005), the new Reg't objective. 1st Bn remained in vicinity of
DOL to clean out the MOST DOL sector (771503). Regt (3 1st Bns) advanced to
vicinity of HIRIAO (065092) where they moved into assembly area for night.
No resistance was met after passing through DOL.

2 August 1944

Regt in Div Res. 3rd Bn was given mission (on Div order) to cross the RANCE
River in vicinity of (437076) to establish a bridgehead across the river and
block the main DINAIS-DINAIS road. Patrols were sent out during the night to
recommence for suitable site for crossing and to feel out enemy. 1st Bn
moved from DOL at 0530 into assembly area joining rest of Regt. At 1900
3rd Bn crossed two companies in assault boats after arty and mortar con-
centrations drove away from positions. At 2000, 3rd Bn was ordered by CG to
withdraw from bridgehead across river and was attached to Task Force A,
commanded by Brig. Gen. Ernest. Withdrawal affected under heavy enemy arty
concentrations. Regt (- 3rd Bn) moved to new assembly area vic of (855099)
preparatory to launching attack on 1150.

6 August 1944

Capt (- 3rd Bn) attacked at 0500 in column of Bns, 1st Bn leading, advanced
rapidly 3 4 kilometers and were on objective at 1145. At 1200 attack on NT
140 proper began with a rapid advance by 1st Bn until they were held up by a
sh field. 2nd Bn was committed around left flank of 1st Bn.
August 1944

Attacks on ST HALO renewed at 0630. 2nd Bn was held up by strong point (ST JOSEPH FORTRESS) (818145). This strong point consisted of permanent gun emplacements in granite rocks of a quarry. Shells led down to cover men out of granite in which enemy holding this point were garrisoned. Stone walls and wire were in front of point. 1st Bn advanced to (809146) following heavy anti-preparation on high ground to their front. 1st and 2nd Bns suffered 120 casualties and captured 115 prisoners.

6 August 1944

2nd Bn still held up at ST JOSEPH FORTRESS and spent rest of the day trying to maneuver around it. 1st Bn initially held up at same strong point but sufficiently strong anti concentrations were placed in front of them to reduce long-range mortars and MG fire allowing them to advance to the right of ST JOSEPH FORTRESS (814146). A rty continued to pound ST JOSEPH FORTRESS and 2nd Bn advanced a little taking many prisoners. By 1415, 185 prisoners had surrendered to 2nd Bn and Lt. Col. Norris at 2140, requested anti fire to cease to enable more prisoners to surrender. 2nd Bn resumed attack and were still attempting to close in on bunkers at 0400. Casualties for day 154, 350 prisoners captured.

9 August 1944

2nd Bn continued attack on bunkers till 0645 but were forced to give up attempt to occupy them during darkness due to JP and MG fire along wire and stone walls. At 0705 Germans in ST JOSEPH FORTRESS (818141) began negotiations for surrender with the 2nd Bn and the greater part of the morning was spent by 2nd Bn in taking over the fort. 434 prisoners were brought to the POW camp. After passing the fort opposition was light except for TP guns. 1st Bn launched attack at 0930 and moved forward against slight resistance. By 1120 A Co had reached the waters edge of ST HALO in its zone (790144) and B Co was close behind in its zone, and operations began to comb out snipers and pockets of resistance which had been bypassed. L Co and 2nd Bn, 531st Inf, attacked to the right for operations against old ST HALO and LE VERDE peninsula. Total POW for the day: 667.

10 August 1944

1st Bn attacked across causeway (797135) leading to old ST HALO, progress slow. Enemy fought from house to house and had to be blasted out by TD fire and grenades. Heavy fire was received from islands to the north. 2nd Bn 331st started attack to seize ST INDRIC (839143). Patrols were pushed into town but were withdrawn. 1st Bn received fairly heavy fire from LE VERDE peninsula, believed to be naval guns and automatic artillery (AA) from ST INDRIC. Heavy air fire was laid on ST INDRIC and part of garrison surrendered. 2nd Bn 331st Inf casualties: 2.

11 August 1944

1st Bn relieved 2nd Bn in its sector and continued mission of occupying old ST HALO. 2nd Bn detached and moved to DINARD area under BLF control. 1st Bn operations consisted principally of reducing pillboxes and silencing anti fire from ST HALO. At close of day 1st Bn had advanced to point (799140) and occupied the CAPIED. 2nd Bn 331st Inf progress slow but methodic in face of anti fire from concrete and steel coastal defense bunkers. Anti-Aircraft guns were used by enemy as direct fire weapons. Pillboxes, bunkers, and strong points were reduced with aid of heavy anti and tank destroyers. French Resistance forces under command of an American officer protected our right flank. 2nd Bn 330th was attached to 2nd Bn on evening of 13th for operations on following day.

13 August 1944

1st Bn 350th Inf with L Co 331st Inf, attacked continued attack on the CHATEAU (7991300) gun emplacement to ST HALO. No great progress made. Efforts to reduce walls, pillboxes and gun emplacements by heavy anti and direct fire weapons was continued. CHATEAU was dive bombed at 1330. Enemy 105mm guns still active. 2nd Bn 331st captured fort at ST INDRIC (839144) taking 160 prisoners in process, then advanced steadily and strong point at LA FRESNE (831169) was taken in early afternoon. 2nd Bn 330th launched its attack on LE VERDE peninsula and assisted 2nd Bn 331st by flanking strong points that had held up their advance.
August 1944

G Co, 529th Inf, on the left of 2nd sector was held up by bunkers at LA BASTILIE (629109). After reducing this strong point the BN advanced rapidly through skilful use of supporting tanks, TDs and other supporting weapons. By 1200 all the area SE of LA VERDE peninsula had been cleared out and the Germans themselves cut off. French Resistance forces occupied ST VINCENT (843171) and had a strong patrol on ROTTEDUM (853181) after patrols during previous night found them unoccupied by the Germans. Total prisoners for the day: 505.

13 August 1944

No change in tactical situation in ST MALO sector. 1500 civilians evacuated from ST MALO under a truce. 2nd BN 529th relieved 2nd BN 321st in its sector. 2nd BN 321st reverted to control of the 321st Inf. 2nd BN 529th cleared out rest of LE VERDE peninsula after stubborn resistance of fortified positions at (818176) and (660118) was overcome. Fire from AT and TD weapons kept bunkers buttoned up while infantry assaulted with grenades and flame throwers. 168 prisoners, four of which were officers, taken in capture of bunkers.

14 August 1944

Heavy arty fire was placed on the CHATEAU and 9th ST MALO at dawn. At 0900 1st BN began assault. 8th TD guns were employed to prevent fire of enemy and smoke was placed on flank to prevent enemy from using supporting fire from the CITADEL. Tanks are employed but ran into a nistfield and were unable to advance. Infantry surged through the city gates into the city of old ST MALO meeting only slight resistance. 2 Co 321st Inf and A Co, 529th Inf, by-passed the CHATEAU and went on into the city. Only snipers and MGs were encountered. G Co firing from top of the CHATEAU hampered efforts to place prepared demolitions on walls of building. Upon use of the demolitions the enemy garrison surrendered. 150 Pts taken from CHATEAU. Casualties - none. 529th Inf relieved the 1st BN 321st Inf in ST MALO, at 1800. Regt (- 2nd and 3rd Bns) at 2100 began move by sector to assembly area at BOIS DE PONTENAL. (22675R).

15 August 1944

Regt and attachments closed into assembly area in early part of morning. Regt given mission of mop up sector by-passed by 321st Inf in its attack on DINARD. No enemy found in sector. Remainder of day given over to rest for troops. All attachments released. 2nd BN reverted to Regt control and moved to assembly area vicinity of Regt.

Period 16, 17 and 18 August 1944

Regt in reserve. Care and cleaning of personnel and equipment and training programs carried out.

19 August 1944

Regt ordered to garrison the ST MALO - DINARD Area from CORSEILLE (618171) west along the coast to ST JACUT BN LA MFR (S 6509). Mission: Locate and guard enemy supplies and equipment, maintain order, capture or prevent enemy forces from landing along coast. 1st BN relieved 321st Inf in DINARD sector. 2nd BN relieved 329th Inf in ST MALO Area. Regt CP located on the outskirts of DINARD (756184). 3rd FA BN (- 1 Bty) and Co G, 529th TD BN attached.

Period 20 - 24 August 1944

During period search and consolidation of German supplies carried out. Outposts along coast established with motorized patrols maintaining contact. German food and supplies issued civilians through Civil Affairs section and Regt Supply section. An attempt on 20 August was made, under white flag of truce, to induce garrison on ILLE DE CEZIBRE (750183) to surrender. Attempt unsuccessful. Harassing fire from AY and TD guns on CEZIBRE continued. ILLE BN CEZIBRE being the only German resistance remaining in area. On 21 Aug, 150 FFI were attached to Regt. 3rd in turn were attached to 1st BN and 100 to 2nd BN for employment.
On August 22 propaganda leaflets were fired on island by Argy after which another party, under flag of truce, again went to island to try and induce them to surrender, this attempt also unsuccessful. Island was dive bombed on 23 August.

25 August 1944

Co E relieved 1st Bn in the DINARD area and 2nd Bn took over responsibility of garrisoning the ST MALO - DINARD sector. Cannon Co was attached to 2nd Bn for this mission. At 1000, Hqst (~ 2nd, 3rd Bns and Co Co) with 524th TA Bn and Co G, 502d TD Bn attached, departed from ST MALO - DINARD area on 150 mile road march to CHATEAU IA VALIERS (ASABHY). The movement was made without incident. 50th Bn 3rd Bn, a provisional battery of 45mm AAA Bn (AD) consisting of quadruple .50 cal. guns and two recoiless cannons of 50mm TD Bn were attached to Hqst to assist in carrying out mission of establishing CPs and patrols, and to search out and prevent enemy from infiltrating across LOIRE River between SAUMUR (exclusive) and DINARD (exclusive). 1st Bn closed into assembly area via of Glain (590714) and Regts HQ and attachments via 26 miles south of CHATEAU IA VALIERS at 2000.

26 August 1944

1st Bn rendezvous and departed LOIRE River line from SALMONT 1759 (exclusive) to TOUSS (7567) (exclusive) LAMAYS (592630) and DINARD (592626) thought to be enemy strong points were occupied. All enemy in sector driven south of LOIRE River. Patrols consisting of elements of the I 2 R Platoon, quadruple .50 cal. guns of 45mm AAA Bn and motorized infantry were formed. These patrols reconnoitered area N and W. of TOUSS and via O-A-B and S-W. of DINARD. Contact made with Free French, who were active in area, and plans for coordination of efforts formed.

27 August 1944

1st Bn continues to use CPs and patrol area in its sector. River line and area between TOUSS and DINARD patrolled. No contact with enemy made in either sector. Efforts to coordinate and equip PFI with German equipment continued. The caves captured at DINARD (590742) (592626) was found to contain German supplies, principally food, of tremendous proportions. There existed tunnels, some 22 kilometers in length, with large storerooms off each side of tunnel. Regts Staff contacted Div HQ to get a higher HQ to take over control of caves to avoid complications with PFI who claimed possession of the captured stores.

28 August 1944

At 0800, 359th Inf assumed control of 350th sector. 1st Bn 359th was attached to 329th Inf and remained in present positions. At 0800, 2nd (less 3 fins) and Co B TOUSS 5th Bn and Co G, 502d TD Bn attached moved by motor to DINARD. Hqst closed into assembly areas at 1000. Because joint operations with navy were to be inaugurated to seize ILE DE BREHAIN (PS5190), elements of Div Forward CP were moved to next CP.

29 - 30 August 1944

Plans for assault of GISOREUSE were formulated and 2nd Bn troops receiving training in landing technique using alligators and LCVPs. Softening up process on island continued with air bombings, naval bombardment and arty fire.

31 August 1944

Softening process continued. 500 heavy bombers and 24 P55's, latter with all bombs, bombed island. 8" Howitzers and 8" guns shelled island.

Total Casualties for Period ........ 235
Total Prisoners for Period ........ 2,191