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HEADQUARTERS 331ST INFANTRY  
APO 83  
UNITED STATES ARMY

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7 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.  
TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

In compliance with paragraph 10, (C3), AR 345-106, the following report of the period 1 August 1944 through 31 August 1944 is hereby submitted:

1. a. From 1 August 1944 to 2225, 2 August 1944, the Regiment remained in the vicinity of La Cardonierre, Regimental command post located 329624, Map: France 1/25000, St. Sauveur Lendilin Sheet. Instruction continued in weapons firing, rocket and grenade launchers and close order drill. Major General Hoslip, Commanding General XV Corp visited the Regiment between 1000 and 1130. He stopped at the regimental command post and then visited the 2nd and 3rd Battalions. At Company "F", he made a short address to assembled company. No air alerts for the past forty eight (48) hours. Warning order was received for regiment to be prepared after 0500, 2 August to move to south on three (3) hours notice.

b. 3 August 1944, the regiment less 2nd battalion, moved by motor to vicinity of Pontorson. Left Compond 2225, arrived Pontorson 1000, 4 August 1944. Troops occupied bivouac area south-east of Pontorson at 195005. At 1500, 3rd Battalion followed by 1st Battalion moved to assembly areas east of Dol de Bretagne at 996029 and 005034 respectively. The 2nd Battalion arrived from Compond at 1930 and occupied assembly area at 020035. Instructions were received at about 1830 to occupy a line north of Dol de Bretagne from Mont Dol to the coast preparatory to an advance on St. Malo at 0830, 5 August 1944. Advance began at 0830 with 1st battalion on the right, 3rd battalion on the left, and 2nd battalion in reserve. Regiment was supported by 908th and 324th Field Artillery battalions, Company C, 86 Chemical battalion, Company B, 705 Tank Destroyer battalion (SP) and Company C, 308th Engineers. Resistance was light, but great difficulty was encountered in two (2) canals that run across the front of the regiment about six (6) kilometers to northeast of area of departure. The chief resistance was in this form of obstacles, and road blocks. Mines were encountered along the coast road and 1st battalion was shelled from gun positions at Cancale. By midnight, the 3rd battalion was astride the road south of St. Meloir des Ondes. The 1st battalion was east of the same town with its right flank on the coast.

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DOD Dir. 6200.9, Sept. 27, 1958  
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1st and 3rd battalions were instructed to seize St. Meloir and the cross roads at Villegantier prior to daylight in preparation for operation for the 6 August 1944.

c. 6 August 1944, Company I succeeded in reaching the outskirts of St. Meloir. The 1st battalion did not succeed in reaching the crossroads at Villegantier. Plan of attack for the day called for jump off at 0900. The 2nd battalion to pass through the 3rd battalion and advance to northwest through St. Meloir and Tertoebal. The 1st battalion to seize Villegantier and send one platoon of Company A to St. Coulomb and patrol to Cancale.

By 1010, the 2nd battalion had advanced to vicinity of Tertoebal. Company A reported no hostile troops in Coulomb or Cancale. Company A was instructed to advance on Labas (857165). Infantry resistance was light and scattered. Long range artillery and naval gun fire were the principal means of enemy resistance. At the end of the day the 2nd battalion had advanced to 300 yards east of road junction at 830156. The 1st battalion (Companies A and B was in the vicinity of La Mettrie.

d. 7 August 1944, the attack was resumed at 0630. The 1st battalion was to advance on La Bastille and La Fresne, the 2nd battalion on St. Ideuc. Heavy fog obscured enemy ground targets and made artillery support difficult until 0830.

Advance of 2nd battalion was stopped by heavy fire from a fortified position at road junction (83051550). 1st battalion made some slight advance but was stopped by fire from La Fresne and La Bastille. The advance across the 1st and 2nd battalions front appeared to be stopped by strongly prepared fortified positions. No further advance was made during the day. At 2240, 1st battalion (less one (1) platoon, Company A), was ordered to withdraw and proceed to vicinity Pre Bois in Division reserve. During the day approximately eighty-five (85) prisoners was captured.

e. 8 August 1944, the 2nd battalion resumed the attack at 0830 with Companies E and F in an attempt to reduce the strong point at St. Ideuc. No progress was made; Company G was ordered to pass through Company E, but was unsuccessful. Company G then attempted to go around the south flank. Completion of movement was stopped by fire. At 1700, platoon of Company A on north flank was ordered to rejoin 1st battalion.

The 3rd battalion, attached to 330th Infantry, was during the day, pushed in on the right of the 330th Infantry to the west of Parame'. At 1600, 3rd battalion reverted to regimental control. At about 1800, withdrawal of 2nd battalion, less three (3) platoons was initiated. Move was made under cover of fire and smoke. Battalion to proceed to vicinity of Parame' in rear of 3rd battalion. Battalion was disengaged by 2030. By dark, Companies I, K, and L were well into the eastern outskirts of St. Malo followed by Companies F and G. During the night, the three platoons of E, F, and G, in front of St. Ideuc, were withdrawn to join the 2nd battalion.

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f. Night of 8th of August, 9th August was quiet except for sporadic rifle and artillery fire. The attack was resumed at 0900 the 9th August. Company K passed through Company I and proceeded to advance to the southwest, its' right on the water front. I and L Companies abreast, Company I on the right followed mopping up. The 2nd battalion took up a position on the east edge of the town facing St. Ideuc to prevent any interference with cleaning out St. Malo. During the afternoon, we ceased firing in order to permit those of the enemy who wished to, to surrender. A large number of prisoners were taken, but during the lull in fire, the enemy attempted to land troops from small boats at the end of the causeway connecting St. Malo with the Citadel. Firing was at once resumed, three (3) artillery "serenades" placed on the Citadel. By dark, Company K, followed by I and L had advanced two-thirds of the way across the causeway. One battalion, 330th Infantry, relieved the 3rd battalion (less Company L). The 3rd battalion was assembled and moved to vicinity of regimental command post and joined elements of the regiment in movement to new area. 2nd battalion reported slight gains against St. Ideuc, including capture of an 88 gun and crew. Five hundred thirty-nine (539) prisoners were captured during the day. During the period 5--9 August 1944, nine hundred fifty (950) prisoners were captured. Approximately five hundred (500) others were captured on the 8th and 9th but reached other prisoner of war inclosures.

Casualties for the period 5--9 August 1944 were:

31 Killed  
242 Wounded in Action  
17 Non Battle Casualties  
15 Missing in Action

These were principally in the 2nd and 3rd battalions.

g. 10 August 1944, the 1st battalion, in Division reserve, was moved on the afternoon of the 9th to the vicinity of Tremereuc, nine (9) kilometers south of Dinard, to relieve pressure on the 121st Infantry's left flank, in their advance on Dinard.

At 0720, 10 August 1944, the 3rd battalion, less Company L and Regimental Headquarters, Anti-Tank Company, Cannon Company, and Service Company moved by motor to an initial assembly area just northwest of Dinan. Troops arrived at 0530. During the late afternoon, the 3rd battalion moved to vicinity of Pleslin. Regimental command post was located at 747032 (Pleurduit sheet) with separate units in close proximity.

The 3rd battalion, 121st Infantry in an attack two (2) days previous had been cut off from the remainder of its' regiment. At 2000, the 1st battalion, 331st Infantry attacked north from the stream north of Tremereuc in order to gain contact with the 3rd battalion, 121st Infantry. The battalion advanced about five hundred (500) yards by dark. Contact with the 121st Infantry was

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not made. The night was quiet except for an occasional mortar or artillery shell falling within the lines. The attack was resumed at 0830 and met with indifferent successes. Progress was slow, due to extensive mine fields, tank barriers, and wire, but by 2130, La Rogerais had been secured. Germans launched a counterattack at 2130, but were repulsed, the situation remaining unchanged. The night was quiet.

h. 12 August 1944, the attack was resumed at 0900, with the mission of seizing the village of Pleurtuit, contacting 3rd battalion, 121st Infantry and continuing advance to north. Company I followed in column by Company K had reached Pleurtuit by 1700. The 1st battalion, on the left, ran into an enemy strong point of five (5) pillboxes; Companies A and C bypassed these, while B Company began reduction of the strong point. By 2200, Company B had captured one hundred fifty-eight (158) prisoners, five (5) bunkers, two (2) trucks and two (2) trailers, one (1) 88 gun and one (1) Mark IV tank destroyed. Company B, in its operation advanced to just southwest of Pleurtuit, while Company C covered its' left flank and Company A completed mopping up. Companies I and K gained the main East - West road in Pleurtuit. Our casualties were sixteen (16) wounded. Company L was still attached to 330th Infantry and operating in St. Malo. 2nd battalion was operating in the vicinity of St. Ideuc.

i. 13 August 1944, the attack was resumed at 1000 hours. Atmospheric conditions indicated a late morning attack in order to get artillery observation. Company K, leading company of the 3rd battalion on the right, had by 1100 advanced 1200 yards against light opposition. The 1st battalion on the left ran into some organized strong points and moved forward slowly. By early afternoon, the 3rd battalion was moving forward with the 2nd battalion 330th Infantry advancing in rear in a column of companies ready to be committed when needed. During the late afternoon, Company B broke through the enemy resistance and advanced rapidly across the airfield west of le Bourgneuf. By dark the 3rd battalion and the 2nd battalion 330th Infantry had advanced to the high ground, one (1) kilometer east of Launay in position to make the final assault on Dinard.

While the advance of the 1st battalion had been slow, it had been renumerative, three hundred fifty-three (353) prisoners were captured together with numerous articles of ordnance. During the afternoon, the 2nd battalion, 331st Infantry rejoined the regiment in the area and went into area reserve southwest of Pleurtuit with the mission of protecting the left flank. Many prisoners were taken by the 3rd battalion 331st Infantry during the day.

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j. 14 August 1944, the assault on Dinard began at 0930 and progressed rapidly. By 1400, both assault battalions had reached the shore line in their zone of action and began mopping up. During the afternoon, the 1st battalion was ordered to advance on St. Lunaire and the 2nd battalion on Briac. At 2130, the 2nd battalion, 330th Infantry was ordered to withdraw when relieved by the 1st battalion 121st Infantry. This relief was effected by midnight. By midnight the 2nd battalion had advanced to Le Chenais, southeast of Briac with patrols in the edge of the town. The 1st battalion was on the western outskirts of St. Lunaire. Operations for the day netted a total of twelve hundred (1200) prisoners, three (3) 150 mm guns, three (3) ammunition dumps and several cannons of various caliber.

k. 15 August 1944, operations by the 3rd battalion consisted mainly in policing and patrolling the western half of Dinard. Some artillery fire fell in this area, mainly from the Citadel and the Island of Cezembre.

The 1st battalion continued its attack on the fortified position at Pointe Du Decolle (Hill 48) north of St. Lunaire. Infantry fire on the fortress was ineffective. However, from a captured prisoner it was determined that the main defenses consisted of one 75 mm gun and three (3) 150 mm guns, whose location he was able to give. Heavy artillery bombardment culminated by a serenade of all Corps artillery late in the afternoon succeeded in setting fire to the ammunition, forcing the garrison to surrender. The 2nd battalion entered Briac without opposition and advanced to the coast line west and north of the town. The 3rd battalion took over the eastern half of Dinard. Company L operated patrols from Dinard to St. Lunaire. At the end of the day the regiment had control of the coast and towns from Dinard inclusive to St. Briac and the mouth of the Fremur River.

During the two (2) days of the 14th and 15th, a total of 3338 prisoners were captured including the garrison commander of Dinard, Colonel Bacherer.

l. 16 August 1944, patrolling and the removal and clearing of mines was carried on throughout the area. Some artillery fire fell in Dinard about noon, apparently coming from St. Malo Citadel and the Island of Cezembre. Five (5) prisoners were collected during the day. Thus came to a close a successful operation the regiment may well be proud of.

A total of 3822 prisoners were captured during the period August 10 -- 16th. Our casualties were light; nine (9) killed, one hundred eighty-three (183) wounded and fourteen (14) missing.

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m. 17 August 1944, the regiment received new replacements and reorganized. Day spent in instructions of tactics, weapons firing, disciplinary and close order drill. A demonstration of attack of a fortified position was put on by the 3rd battalion stressing the "crack and thump" method. 1st battalion replaced 3rd battalion in Dinard. 3rd battalion withdrew to assembly area west of Dinard.

n. 18 August 1944, police and patrolling of shore line from Dinard (inclusive) to Fremur River was taken over by the 1st battalion 330th Infantry. 1st and 2nd battalions withdrew from Dinard and Briac.

o. 19 August 1944, regiment in preparation to move to new assembly area in vicinity of Vern sur Seiche, approximately four (4) miles south of Rennes, France. 2nd battalion plus Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies departed from present station at 1200 hours for new assembly area.

p. 20 August 1944, regiment (less 2nd battalion) moved to new area southeast of Rennes and occupied bivouacs. Regimental command post established at Vern sur Seiche. Regiment closed in new area at 1830.

q. 21 August 1944, Company E was ordered to proceed to vicinity of Nantes to take over a patrolling mission from a portion of the 2nd Cavalry Group (Mecz). Company left at 0830. Almost immediately orders were received to move the remainder of the regiment less 3rd battalion to same area. 2nd battalion less Company E and Regimental Headquarters, Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies left at 1145. 1st battalion, 908th Field Artillery battalion, Company B 802 Tank Destroyer battalion and Company C 308th Engineers left for Nantes area at 1400. All movement was made by motor.

Upon arrival in Nantes area, regiment took over patrolling of Nantes and the north bank of Loire River from Angers (exclusive) on the east to Nantes on the west, thence northwest to Redon. Organized Free French already in the area assisted in the patrolling.

r. 22 August 1944, relief of 2nd Cavalry Group completed. Patrolling continued. 453rd AAA battalion was disposed throughout the area for AA defense and defense of road net.

s. 23 August 1944, patrolling and collecting of enemy information. Patrol from Company G encountered hostile patrol near le Temple de B, killed one and captured two prisoners. Time 1515. Prisoners were from 1st Battalion Air Corps Replacement Regiment.

Battery D, 473rd AAA battalion detached and reported to 329th Infantry.

Regimental command post moved to Heric, closing at 2000.

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t. 24 August 1944, during the day the 1st battalion moved its command post to location southwest of Heric and north-east of Nord. Company A moved to vicinity of Corquefou. Patrolling continued by 1st and 2nd battalions. No contact with the enemy.

u. 25 August 1944 continued patrolling. Reconnaissance platoon of 802 Tank Destroyers was fired on in vicinity of Blain de B by bazookas. One M-8 armored car disabled, one man killed. Germans escaped.

v. 26 August 1944 continued patrolling. Contact gained with 329th at Champtoce. 83rd Reconnaissance patrol contacted one platoon 156th Infantry at Redon. Contact and liaison continued with the FFI.

w. 27 August 1944, at 0700, hostile force of about 500 approached outpost of Company F, southwest of Blain. Germans approached close to outpost by use of two (2) captured US Half-tracks. In the ensuing action the enemy was driven off with the loss of thirteen (13) killed, ten (10) prisoners and unknown number of wounded. We also captured one (1) 20 mm AA gun. Our losses were one killed, two (2) wounded and one (1) M-16 Half-track captured. No activity along Loire River in 1st battalion area.

x. 28 August 1944, continued patrol activity. At approximately 0200, 500 Germans drove FFI from town of Rieux and blew a bridge span over Vilaine River southwest of Redon. Germans occupy Rieux.

y. 29 August 1944, patrols from 1st battalion crossed Loire River east of Nantes. No contact with the enemy. In front of island in Loire opposite Nantes, FFI captured German battalion commander whose battalion was withdrawing. Captured documents indicate a German withdrawel to southeast on August 29th---31st.

In 2nd battalion area, 83rd Rcn informed by FFI that German plan raid on Redon after dark. One platoon Company C and one section machine guns sent to Redon. Raid did not take place.

z. 30 - 31 August 1944 patrolling continued by 1st and 2nd battalions and 83rd Rcn troops. One battalion French para-troops occupied road from H-661022 to N-560988. On the 31 August 1944 all battalions made reconnaissance west of the Rennes - Nantes road for new positions. Company B, 774 Tank battalion attached to regiment 2100 this date. No contact with the enemy. Contact made with 329th Infantry at Champotecu.



2. Casualties sustained during the month of August are as follows:

KIA - 43  
WIA - 380

Replacements during the month of August:

Officers - 14  
Enlisted men - 633

For the Commanding Officer:

*Robert C. Walker*

ROBERT C. WALKER.  
Captain, Infantry.  
Adjutant.

1 Incl.  
Unit Journal.

319.1/401  
(7 Sep 44)

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U.S. Army, 9 Sep 44.

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.

1 Incl. n/c

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