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HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 83, U. S. Army

AG 9.1/401 10 January 1945

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

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Channels)

In compliance with paragraph 10, C-3, AR 345-105, After Action Reports for Headquarters 83d Infantry Division covering the period 1-31 December 1944 is submitted herewith:

a. Original Unit: No Change.

b. Changes in organization: None.

c. Strength:

	Officers	Warrant Officers	Enlisted Men
1 December 1944	54	8	116
31 December 1944	48	8	114
Net Decrease	6	0	2

d. Stations:

Departed Luxemburg, Luxembourg, 6 December 1944; arrived Krewinkle, Germany, 6 December 1944.
Departed Krewinkle, Germany, 26 December 1944; arrived Eilendorf, Germany, 26 December 1944.
Departed Eilendorf, Germany, 26 December 1944; arrived Havelange, Belgium, 27 December 1944.
Departed Havelange, Belgium, 27 December 1944; arrived Nettine, Belgium, 27 December 1944.
Departed Nettine, Belgium, 31 December 1944; arrived Barvaux, Belgium, 31 December 1944.

e. Marches: See Appendix No. 1.

f. Campaigns:

(1) Campaign Germany (No. 1).

(2) 1-31 December 1944.

(3) Purpose: See Inclosure #2, "General Summary and Daily record of Operations".

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by NARS, Date 1-6-76

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Ltr, Action Against Enemy, Report After/After Action, Reports, Hq 83d Inf Div, dated 10 Jan 1945.

(4) Ltr Hq European T of Opns, APO 887, AG 200.6 AGOA, subject: "Battle Participation Awards - Germany Campaign (No. 1)", dated 24 December 1944.

g. Battles. See narrative reports, Appendix No. 1.

h. Commanding Officers in important Engagements--Major General Macon commanded throughout this period.

i. Losses in action: None.

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None.

k. Photographs: None.

For the Commanding General:

N. P. COWDEN
Major, AGD,
Asst Adj General.

6 Incls:
Incl 1 - Appendix No. 1.
Incl 2 - General Summary & daily record of opns.
Incl 3 - G-2, G-3 Journal w/supporting papers.
Incl 4 - G-2 Int Summary for December 1944.
Incl 5 - G-1 Journal.
Incl 6 - G-4 Journal.

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APPENDIX #1

TO

AFTER ACTION REPORT

OF

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION

1-31 December 1944

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1 December 1944

The Division Commander held a conference of all unit commanders and briefed them on the coming operation. Following this briefing he held a discussion with infantry regimental commanders regarding the tactics to be employed in "Woods Fighting". The Division Commander stressed the point that since the enemy was holding the front line positions very lightly with small units well dug-in with overhead cover, who were largely acting as observers for artillery and mortar that we would attack with our leading elements thinned in order to minimize the losses from artillery and mortar fire but that the units must be prepared to support the thinned leading elements very rapidly by a violent infantry action.

The assembly of the 330th Combat Team and the preparation for its move were completed.

The Division Artillery fired 182 harassing and interdiction missions, 25 target of opportunity missions, 8 registrations, 16 TOTs and 3 counterbatters missions.

Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion was moved to the KREWINKEL (K983418) area for the purpose of preparing a Command Post.

2 December 1944

"Plans were made to establish a replacement battalion under Division control to process replacements received during the operation period. It was planned that this battalion ~~would~~ in addition to orienting and checking of equipment and training of incoming personnel would organize this personnel into squads and platoons so that the replacement squads and/or replacements platoons would be available to be sent up to replace a squad and/or platoon which had been badly depleted and that this squad or platoon would be withdrawn for reorganization."

The 330th Infantry with the 323d Field Artillery Battalion, Company B, 308th Engineer Battalion, and Company B, 308th Medical Battalion attached moved to the GRESSENICH (K9942) area. The regiment crossed the IP (HESPERANGE P8509) at 1200 and at 2230 was reported to be passing through KORNELIMUNSTER (K9038).

The 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) closed Northeast of EUPEN (K8027) and was attached to the Division at that place.

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry which had been training in the vicinity of HETTANGE GRANDE, FRANCE was moved to the BIWER - BURBOURG, LUXEMBOURG area as a regimental reserve replacing the battalion of the 330th Infantry which had been available to the 329th Infantry as a reserve.

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2 December cont'd

The Division Artillery fired 174 harassing and interdiction missions, 28 target of opportunity missions, 27 registrations, 23 TOTs and 9 counterbattery missions.

3 December 1944

The 330th Combat Team closed in the GRESSENICH area during the night of 2-3 December. During daylight of 3 December the 330th Infantry relieved the 22d Infantry (4th Division) which at that time had all 3 battalions of the regiment committed, and was attached to the 4th Division at 1900A.

The remainder of the Division continued its previous mission in the LUXEMBOURG area. Enemy action in the LUXEMBOURG area was confined to light harassing fire in various river towns.

An advance detachment of Headquarters 4th Division, Colonel Rodwell, Assistant to the Division Commander in charge, arrived in the LUXEMBOURG area to coordinate the relief.

4 December 1944

In compliance with instructions of the Commanding General VII Corps transmitted through the Commanding General VIII Corps the Division Commander accompanied by a small party departed for the VII Corps area and established an advance Command Post in the new Division area. This advance command post opened at 1315.

Hq and Hq Battery, Division Artillery closed in the vicinity of GRESSENICH at 1700. The 322d Field Artillery Battalion (329th Combat Team) moved with the Headquarters of the Division Artillery. The 324th Field Artillery Battalion departed from the LUXEMBOURG area en route to GRESSENICH, staging over night in the vicinity of EUPEN. The 422d Field Artillery Group (VIII Corps Artillery) assumed the duty of Division Artillery in the LUXEMBOURG area.

The 774th Tank Battalion, less Company C which had been previously moved, commenced its move from the LUXEMBOURG to the GRESSENICH area with the intention of staging over night (3-4 December) in the vicinity of EUPEN.

The 22d Combat Team (4th Division) closed in the LUXEMBOURG area at 2245 prepared to relieve the 331st Combat Team on the 5th according to schedule.

Between 1900 and 2100 an undetermined number of enemy aircraft were over the Division Area. This was the first enemy air activity over LUXEMBOURG in several days. No bombs were dropped in the Division area.

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8 December 1944

During the night of 7-8 December the 330th Infantry seized and occupied Hill 376 (FO68378). A patrol of platoon strength which was sent out on the evening of the 7th to determine the conditions on the Hill reported back that they has reached the crest of the Hill and found it unoccupied. This patrol was immediately reinforced to company strength and a second company sent up to extend the position. When the second company arrived it was discovered that the patrol had been mistaken in its locations and was some 700 yards short of the Hill. At 0200 the Company Commander advanced to his previously reported position and after a sharp fire fight in which 23 prisoners including 1 officer was taken occupied the Hill. The prisoners were from the 6th Company of the 943d Regiment.

Responsibility for the LUXEMBOURG area previously held by the Division was turned over during the afternoon to the 4th Division.

Casualties for the day:

KIA	3
WIA	44
NBC	43
Total	90

9 December 1944

A conference was held at Division Headquarters by Major General COLLINS with the Division Commander and Major General OLIVER, Commanding General, 5th Armored Division. During the course of the conference the Corps Commander issued a directive for the operations to be started on 10 December. These verbal orders were later confirmed by Field Order No 13, VII Corps (See Item 184, G-2, G-3 Journal, 9 December 1944). The initial mission assigned to the 83d Division was to sieze the towns of GEY (FO740) and STRASS (FO739) so as to follow the movement of the 5th Armored Division to a point where it could be employed in the present part of what was then the 83d Division zone.

The 329th Infantry remained in the LUXEMBOURG area under control of the 4th Infantry Division. The 331st Infantry patrolled the area north and west of GEY. The town of GEY appeared to be deserted and was periodically shelled by the enemy.

A major problem which confronted the Division in the coming operations was the matter of roads for communication, supply and evacuation. The positions which the Division had taken over from the 4th Infantry Division were in the eastern part of the wooded area lying between AACHEN and DUREN. This area had been fought over for some weeks and the

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9 December 1944 cont'd

extremely limited roadnet which existed had been badly damaged by the operations. In addition to the damage to the roads by military operations the almost continuous rains of the past 10 weeks had thoroughly soaked the ground and the matter of drainage was extremely difficult. Stringent restrictions on circulation were necessary and the matter of maintenance of roads was for the first time since the Division became operational a matter of prime importance.

Field Order No 37 was issued covering the operations initiated on 10 December.

Casualties for the day:

KIA	5
WIA	34
MIA	18
IIA	2
NBC	62
Total	121

10 December 1944

On this date the 83d Infantry Division commenced the operation which was designed to break out of the HOCH WALD, FORST WENAU and to reach the RUR (ROER) River in front of DUREN (F1145). The initial mission assigned the 83d Division was the securing and clearing of the GEY (F0740) - STRASS (F0738) defile to allow the debouchment of the 5th Armored Division and the subsequent employment of that unit on the right (South) of the 83d Division. The final objective of the 83d Division was the LENDERSDORF (F1141) - ROLSDORF (F1044) road.

The 330th Infantry, employing the 3d Battalion supported by Company C, 774th Tank Battalion, attacked and seized the town of STRASS. The attack was launched at 0630.

It had commenced snowing early, before first light, and continued until mid-morning, then clearing with excellent visibility. The severity of the STRASS operation may be judged from the fact that 2 commanders were lost by the battalion making this attack. Enroute to STRASS an estimated 100 entrenched enemy troops were by-passed in the darkness and snow in the vicinity of SCHAFBERG (F0738) and during the afternoon it was necessary to commit elements of the 2d Battalion to initiate the clearing of this area.

By 1200, the operation of the 3d Battalion, 330th Infantry had cleared the defile through SHAFBERG and STRASS sufficiently to allow the debouchment of CCB, 5th Armored Division. However, operational conditions

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made it impossible for CCB to take advantage of this opportunity and to move prior to 1500. For this reason the attack of CCB was postponed until the following day.

As a preliminary measure to secure the necessary roadnets to allow CCA, 5th Armored Division to attack to the East, the 331st Infantry assaulted GEY. The attack was made by the 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry and, by 1130, 2 companies (E and F Companies) had gained foothold in the town. Unfortunately, the unit erronously reported that they had captured and cleared the town, and, as a result of this erronous report, CCA was directed by VII Corps to prepare to debouche through GEY the following day.

The operation initially were conducted in the face of intense enemy artillery and mortar fire and under extremely difficult conditions of terrain coupled with unsuitable routes for communications. The preparation and repair of routes suitable to allow the advance of support weapons, supplies and evacuation were a major problem throughout the entire operation of forcing the GEY - STRASS defile.

Weather conditions were ideal for the creation of a large number of non-battle casualties, particularly trenchfoot, and the operating conditions of front line troops in many cases made it impossible for men to take proper care of their feet. Any movement of front line troops drew heavy mortar or artillery fire from the enemy.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	28
WIA	160
MIA	3
NBC	55
Total	246

The 329th Infantry closed in the GRESSENICH area at 1900.

11 December 1944

During the night of10-11 December enemy forces infiltered back into the SHAFBERG - STRASS area and the following day it was necessary for the 330th Infantry to employ the 3d Battalion to reclear that area. The artillery fire during the night had been so heavy that it was impossible to resupply or evacuate this battalion. During the morning elements of CCB passed through the 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry which was holding Hill 376 and were committed to the east. These elements consisted of Armored Infantry fighting on foot against extremely heavy opposition. The losses suffered by this armored infantry unit were so great

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that it later (12 December 1944) became necessary for the Corps Commander to decide to attach the 2d Battalion, 330th Infantry to CCB to allow it to continue its mission.

By 1830 the enemy was reported to have been again cleared from STRASS but shortly after 1900 a counterattack was launched against our troops in STRASS from the east and southeast at F08453928 and F08353950. The counterattacking force consisted of infantry supported by high velocity guns. By 2200 the counterattack was stopped.

At 1445 the 331st Infantry resumed the attack on GEY. Company G advancing toward GEY from the south and Company A being committed against the southern part of GEY from the west. The forward area continued to receive a large amount of enemy harassing and interdicting artillery fire.

7 enemy airplanes were over the Division area between 1615 and 1715. 6 of the 7 planes (4 ME-109s and 2 FW-109s) were shot down by the 453d AAA Bn (AW) which was attached to the Division.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	8
WIA	78
MIA	13
NBC	63
Total	162

Prisoners of War taken: 122, including 5 evacuated through medical channels.

329th Infantry relieved the 8th Combat Team (4th Infantry Division) in the Northern Sector of the division area. The 8th Combat Team reverted to the 4th Division and, on the following day, departed by motor for LUXEMBOURG.

12 December 1944

The 329th Infantry jumped off with the 1st and 2d battalions abreast at 1000 from positions in general along the 055 Northing, previously taken over from the 8th Infantry Regiment and instituted its attack to seize the town of GURZENICH (F0844). Initial advance was made against machine gun and small arms fire which stiffened toward the middle of the day and in the afternoon the unit received heavy mortar and artillery fire. The initial regimental objective, HAF HARDT (F061432) was taken at 1350. Contact was established with the 39th Infantry (9th Division) on the left (north) flank.

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12 December 1944 cont'd.

The 2d Battalion, 330th Infantry resumed the attack on SCHAFBERG at 0730 and at approximately 1745 the area was reported clear of the enemy and the 2d battalion moved north to STRASS and made contact with the 3d battalion of that regiment. The 1st battalion of that regiment having been relieved by CCB, 5th Armored Division, later in the afternoon moved to SCHAFBERG to garrison thatarea.

During the night of 11-12 December 1944, a 10 man patrol reached STRASS at 0330 with medical supplies. This was the first physical contact with that battalion since it had secured its objective. During the day food was dropped to that unit by artillery liaison planes.

3d Battalion, 331st Infantry relieved the 2d battalion of that regiment in GEY at 0700 and resumed the attack against that town. Concurrent with this attack the clearing of the GROSSHAU - GEY road was initiated. This road was discovered to have been heavily mined with non-metallic mines.

The enemy strongly resisted the advance throughout this period by utilizing self-propelled and automatic weapons fire from dug-in positions and villages supported by heavy artillery fire from positions on both sides of the ROER river. 2 small counterattacks were launched against the 329th Infantry during the afternoon. The opposition against the 330th Infantry and 331st Infantry was particularly stubborn throughout the period, and inthe SCHAFBERG area particularly, our troops were subjected to intense mortar and artillery fire.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	30
WIA	293
MIA	50
NBC	50
Total	423

In addition to the casualties suffered by the Division units, the following casualties were suffered by the 774th Tank Battalion:

KIA	3
WIA	38
MIA	1
NBC	2
Total	44

Prisoners of War taken: 106, including 13 evacuated through medical channels.

Colonel ROBERT T. FOSTER, O-11258, Commanding Officer, 330th Infantry was lightly wounded in action and was evacuated this date.

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12 December 1944 cont'd

Colonel RUSSEL F. WALTHOUR, O-7158, who was attached unassigned to the Division as a spare regimental commander assumed command of the 330th Infantry.

13 December 1944

During the night the supply road from SCHAFBERG to STRASS was cleared. The clearing operation was completed at 0330. Supplies were moved by armored convoy (tanks with trailers) into STRASS at approximately 0700. This was the first supply that had been able to reach the 2 units in STRASS and the receipt of these supplies enabled the 2d battalion, 331st Infantry to be resupplied with ammunition in preparation for its operation under the control of CCB, 5th Armored Division. Direct fire weapons, believed to be firing from the vicinity of (F083388) continued to prevent any supplies from reaching STRASS in daylight hours.

The 329th Infantry resumed the attack toward GURZENICH at 0800 and at 1340 reached the first building of the town. By dark the 2d Battalion had advanced approximately one-third of the way through town. Stubborn resistance was met in town. During the advance of the regiment contact was maintained with Company A, 39th Infantry (9th Division) on the left. At 1330 the Commanding General, VII Corps issued instructions to attach the 329th Infantry to the 9th Division for this operation since its operation was not closely connected with the operation in which the remainder of the Division was engaged and was connected with the operation being conducted by the 9th Division on the north. However, at 1800, as a result of the advance being made by the 329th Infantry, these instructions were changed and the regiment remained under Division control.

The 2d Battalion of the 330th Infantry was attached to CCB, 5th Armored Division at 0700. However since the operation of CCB was postponed for another 24 hours to allow it to be conducted concurrent with the initial operation of CCA, same Division, the battalion did not function under CCB until the following day.

The 331st Infantry resumed the operation of the clearing of GEY. At 1145 the Division Commander directed the Commanding Officer, 331st Infantry that as soon as he was through GEY to push directly out for (F078428): to have the Engineers clear the road to STRASS and then work on the road that goes directly east from GEY. The town of GEY was reported clear of the enemy at 1225. However numerous concentrations of mortar and artillery fire prevented Company C from attacking the aforementioned objective, (F078428), until 1545. The road into GEY from the south was cleared of mines during the afternoon. Work was initiated on the road leading east from GEY and from GEY to STRASS after dark.

During the night the enemy continued to heavily shell the GEY - STRASS area and all roads therein.

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13 December 1944 cont'd

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	20
WIA	99
MIA	17
NBC	77
Total	209

The 774th Tank Battalion suffered the following casualties:

KIA	3
WIA	11
MIA	5
NBC	6
Total	25

Prisoners of War taken: 209, including 13 evacuated through medical channels.

14 December 1944

On this date, the CCA, 5th Armored Division debouched through GEY and with CCB, same Division, commenced operations toward the east on the south flank of the 83d Division, A temporary boundary was established through the Division.

In the southern sector the enemy resistance consisted chiefly of very heavy artillery fire in the SCHAFBERG area during the night (13-14 December) and the morning of 14 December. During the afternoon this fire was considerably lighter.

The 329th Infantry continued its advance at 0830 and cleared the town of GURZENICH, this was completed at about 1400. During the mopping up operation the regiment was opposed by enemy fighting from basements and behind walls of buildings supported by heavy mortar and artillery fire. At approximately 1700, 50-60 enemy troops supported by tanks launched a counterattack against GURZENICH from the northeast and the attack was driven off by our fire and two (2) of the tanks were destroyed.

During the morning the boundary between the 329th and 331st Infantrys was changed so as to include the village of BIRGEL (FO942) to the former. The 329th Infantry Regiment employed its 1st battalion to clear a line of departure along the edge of the forest (FO79422), moved 3d Battalion up to this line, and at 1430 this battalion attacked BIRGEL with Company K on the right, Company I on the left and Company L echeloned to the right rear in reserve. The advance to the town was made rapidly

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and at 1500 the assault company entered the town taking 100 prisoners. At 1545 the enemy launched a counterattack against BIRGEL from the northeast consisting of 6 tanks supported by infantry. This formation was broken up by artillery and only the tanks reached the town. After being ejected, the tanks made 2 more efforts to enter the town and by 1700 were driven off and withdrew. Due to the fact that at this time the battalion had been unable to get-up supporting weapons and also was short of ammunition for rocket launchers it was unable to destroy the tanks.

The 1st battalion, 331st Infantry attack to the east at 0700 with Companies B and C in the assault and at 0830 the battalion had seized its 2 objectives. The Hill at F089399 and highground at F083403. At 1130 the 2d battalion, 331st Infantry was passed through the right of the 1st battalion of that regiment, advanced 1000 yards and seized its objective the highground (F0940) 1000 yards southwest of BERZBUIR (F1041).

The 3d battalion, 330th Infantry from positions at NEGSTRASS attacked to the northeast and occupied its objective at (F082396) at 1045. The 2d battalion of this regiment advanced to the east under control of, and attached to, CCB, 5th Armored Division, The 1st battalion remained in position vicinity of SCHAFBERG.

The artillery fire received in the GEY area during the period varied from moderate to heavy. The artillery and mortar fire in the STRASS area during the morning and day was the heaviest encountered by the 330th Infantry in that area. The advance of the 2d battalion, 331st Infantry was made in the face of heavy mortar and artillery fire.

During the night 13-14 December the second armored supply train successfully completed the trip into STRASS. At 0330 the STRASS - GEY road was cleared of mines and during the day it was possible to get ambulances into STRASS for the first time to evacuate the wounded.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	67
WIA	281
MIA	48
NBC	102
Total	498

The above figures include some wounded in action and non-battle casualties of the 3d battalion, 330th Infantry which had been sustained during the past 3 days and which, up to this time, had been impossible to evacuate from STRASS.

The 774th Tank Battalion suffered the following casualties for the day:

WIA	5
MIA	1
Total	6

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14 December 1944 cont'd

The 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) suffered the following casualties:

KIA	7
WIA	5
Total	12

Prisoners of War taken: 439, including 22 evacuated through medical channels.

15 December 1944

The 329th Infantry improved positions already taken in GURZENICH and continued clearing the enemy out of BIRGEL (F0942). Patrolling was conducted toward ROLSDORF (F1043) to determine the presence and strength of enemy entrenched in that vicinity. Patrols received small arms fire from the enemy in trenches (F096436 - F098432). Patrol sent out by the 3d Battalion reported that enemy high velocity guns were implaced south of the town of BIRGEL in the vicinity (G09241) and the enemy was dug-in on the northeast slope of the Hill at (F097408).

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry was moved from positions in the vicinity of SCHAFBERG to Division Reserve in the area between GEY and GROSSHAU. Battalion closed in this area at 1500. Company L of this regiment held positions northeast of STRASS during the day. At dusk Company L and remainder of the 3d Battalion, 330th Infantry (STRASS) were moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (F047388).

The 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry jumped off at 0800 to clear the Hill to the south of BIRGEL. The Hill was completely cleared and organized at 1045. Plans were immediately made to attack the town of BERZBUIR (F1041). Patrols were sent out at 1200 to determine the enemy strength in the area, these patrols were stopped by fire from entrenchments 200 yards from the town and were unable to proceed further. The battalion attacked BERZBUIR at 1715 and at 1945 entered the town.

The 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry was moved at 1055 to occupy positions previously held by CCA, 5th Armored Division in KUFFERATH (1040) and the Hill in the vicinity of (F108399).

The 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry remained in positions previously occupied for most of the day and later in the afternoon Company C attacked the high ground south-west of BIRGEL and occupied it at 1700.

The enemy placed heavy mortar and artillery fire in the forward areas throughout the period. During daylight he fought vigorously from trenchworks and high ground and was supported by artillery which had

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15 December 1944 cont'd

been by this time displaced to the east of the ROER river. In the 331st Infantry area the enemy utilizing terrain features employed mortar and artillery fire against the forward elements. Apparently the enemy considered GURZENICH a lucrative artillery target and for the second day continued to shell this town heavily. In BIRGEL he fought vigorously from buildings in the eastern end of the town employing small arms and high velocity weapons. For list of enemy troops employed against the Division see G-2 Periodic Report Number 126, 83d Infantry Division, 15 December 1944.

In general the Division was opposed by elements of the following German Divisions:

353d Infantry Division
47th Infantry Division
272d Volksgrenadier Division
91st Infantry Division

The mission of enemy units as stated by Prisoners of War taken was to defend and counterattack locally.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	11
WIA	141
MIA	51
NBC	85
Total	288

Casualties for the day for the 774th Tank Battalion were as follows:

KIA	3
WIA	12
MIA	1
NBC	10
Total	26

Casualties for the day for the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) were as follows:

WIA	4
NBC	4
Total	8

Prisoners of War taken: 157, including 36 through medical channels.

16 December 1944

During the night 15-16 December the enemy remained relatively quiet but continued to subject front line units to harassing artillery fire.

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Before daylight the 2d Battalion, 103d Infantry Regiment (German) crossed the ROER River and prepared to launch a counterattack against GURZENICH. Several attempts were made to infilter patrols into the town without success. Between 0515 and 0600 the town was shelled heavily. At 0700 the enemy battalion reinforced by elements of the 47th Fusilier Battalion, and by assault guns, launched an attack upon the town. 3 of the assault guns were brought into the town - 2 were quickly knocked out and 1 withdrew. Fighting was very heavy in the town until 1100 and by noon the enemy was forced to withdraw. The enemy suffered severe casualties during this operation. This operation marked the committment of the reserve regiment of the 47th Infantry Division (German) which had first been identified on the front of the 83d Division on 14 December. This Division which was destroyed in FRANCE had been reconstituted as a Volksgrenadier Division and then recommitted against First US Army, was on 16 November, caught in the carpet - bombing while detraining for committment. It had been reported that the depleted Division had been combined with the 12th Infantry Division which was intended originally for relief. However at this time (16 December) it was believed that the 47th Division was fighting under its own command headed by Major General BORK.

Prisoners of War taken in the GURZENICH attack stated that the mission of his unit was to seize the town and if that operation was successful the attack would be followed up by an attack by an entire, unidentified German Division. At this time it was believed that a German Panzer Divsion was in the vicinity of DUREN and that some elements of that Division occupied the town.

It was later determined, through intelligence sources of higher headquarters, that the above attack against GURZENICH definitely was a part of the all-out bid launched by Von RUNSTEDT against the First US Army front and that decisive defeat inflicted against the attempted bridgehead at this point caused the German C-in-C West to abandon, at least temporarily, plans for an attack against AACHEN from the direction of DUREN and to concentrate his strength to exploit the success achieved in the EIFFEL area of BELGIUM and LUXEMBOURG.

Enemy aircraft were active over the Division area shortly after dark. At 1737 enemy planes strafed the forward area of the 329th Infantry and dropped 2 bombs.

The weather continued cold with fair visibility.

The 3d Battalion, 329th Infantry resumed the attack against the enemy still occupying positions on the south edge of BIRGEL. After overcoming stubborn resistance Company I succeeded in driving the enemy out of the town at 1245.

The 330th Infantry (less 2d Battalion) which had closed in assembly area on 15 December began a program of reorganization and rehabilitation. This unit had suffered such heavy casualties that the combat efficiency was materially effected and it was estimated at this time that the maximum combat efficiency of the entire regiment, including the 2d Battalion then still attached to CCB, 5th Armored Division, was not greater than that of a regiment less a battalion.

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The 322d and 324th Field Artillery Battalions were displaced to support the continued offensive operations. Field Artillery positions were extremely difficult to find in the heavily wooded area and it had been necessary to initially place the battalions in positions well to the rear of what would normally be considered proper supporting distance for offensive operations. Active assistance by the Division Engineers was necessary both to accomplish the displacement and prepare positions and clear fields of fire after the displacements were completed.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	12
WIA	69
MIA	33
NBC	66
Total	185

Casualties for the 774th Tank Battalion were as follows:

KIA	10
WIA	10
NBC	10
Total	30

Prisoners of War taken: 183, including 29 through medical channels.

Approximately 150 dead were abandoned by the enemy in front of GURZENICH.

The casualties suffered by the 3 infantry regiments during the period 4 - 16 December were as follows:

	Battle Casualties	Non-Battle Casualties	Total
329th Infantry	438	142	580
330th Infantry	1094	400	1494
331st Infantry	376	156	532

The following replacements and returnees to duty were received during the same period.

329th Infantry	2 officers, 61 enlisted men
330th Infantry	12 officers, 289 enlisted men
331st Infantry	1 officer, 66 enlisted men

222 of the above casualties reported by the 331st Infantry in their daily estimate had been returned to duty this time and the actual losses

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16 December 1944 cont'd.

of the regiment during the period was 60 officers and 1224 enlisted men.

The failure to promptly supply needed replacements was beginning to affect all units of the Division.

17 December 1944

During the night 16-17 December considerable enemy air activity ranged wide over the entire VII Corps zone and parachutists were dropped at several points. Many of these parachutists were taken prisoners on the morning of the 17th and questioned at length. Interrogation revealed that the parachutists were under the command of Colonel von der HEYDTE who had formerly commanded the 6th Parachute Regiment when it was committed against the 83d Division in Normandy. The mission of von der HEYDTE's troops was to secure for 48 hours a road junction controlling a network of roads in the V and VII Corps. During that time a large offensive was to be launched against the Anglo-American Forces.

On this date it was determined that the 103d Regiment (German) had on 14 December received replacements in DUREN. These replacements many of whom were Poles had been trained in SILESIA.

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry jumped off from GURZENICH at 0740 to take ROLSDORF (F104440). Companies B and C in the assault advanced against small arms fire and entered the town at 0900. The battalion spent the rest of the day mopping up the rest of the town and consolidating positions. The opposition encountered in the attack on this town was lighter than had been previously encountered on this part of the Division sector. The 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry attacked LENDERSDORF (F112420) at 0700. The town was entered at 0800 and was cleared during the day. Contact was established with the 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry in ROLSDORF.

The capture of the LENDERSDORF - ROLSDORF area placed the Division upon its objective.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	8
WIA	84
MIA	7
IIA	8
NBC	34
Total	141

Prisoners of War taken: 176, including 19 through medical channels.

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18 December 1944

No new identifications were established on this date. However an Italian who escaped through the enemy line stated that on 14 December 150 Armored vehicles belonging to the SS Panzer Division "HERMAN GOERING" arrived in the DUREN area from the east to relieve an unidentified unit. A German artilleryman captured on this date said that 18-20,000 troops were scheduled to arrive in the vicinity of DUREN between 17 - 24 December. Arrival of these troops to be the signal for an all out counter-offensive in that area. A captain belonging to the 3d Parachute Division (German) claimed that the Division Command Post (on 16 December) was in DUREN. Prisoners of War continuedto report the presence of Tiger tanks in DUREN. Prisoners of War reported that the east bank of the ROER River west of DUREN was laid with barbed wire extending 5 feet in depth from the river bank.

The 329th and 331st Infantrys cleared the area between ROLSDORF and the ROER River. The railroad bridge at F107445 and the road bridge at F108453 were both destroyed while the bridge at F1149 was found with a 20 foot span blown. At approximately noon a six (6) man patrol was sent across the second bridge into DUREN and permission was requested from VII Corps to heavily reinforce this patrol. This permission was not granted and after running into heavy opposition the patrol was withdrawn. During the night of 18-19 December the enemy completed the destruction of the bridge at (F111449).

Enemy aircraft was again very active over the Division area both during the night of 17-18 December and during the daylight of 18 December. Flares and bombs were dropped during the night, in addition to mortar shell and butterfly bombs, set for air burst and contact. No parachutists were dropped in the Division area. During daylight 131 enemy aircraft operated over the Division area. The 453d AAA Bn (AW) which was attached to the Division made the following claims:

Category	I - 29
Category	II - 15
Category	III - 1

The Division Engineer reported that all bridges over the ROER River in our zone were destroyed by the Germans.

At 1758 the Corps Commander notified the Division Commander that a change had been made in the Corps boundary and that part of the 9th Division would go to the V Corps to be used in repelling German counter offensives underway against that Corps. It would be necessary for the 83d Division to take over that part of the permanent zone of the 83d Division now occupied by the 39th Infantry (9th Division) and the relief would be effected under cover of darkness this night. The Corps Commander authorized the Division Commander to blow any remaining bridges in the Division zone that had escaped damage by the Germans.

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18 December 1944 cont'd.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	7
WIA	47
MIA	3
IIA	4
NBC	54
Total	115

Prisoners of War taken: 337, including 21 through medical channels.

Acumulative losses sustained by the 774th Tank Battalion, which was attached to the Division, resulted in an effective strength as of 172400 of 123 below T/O strength. That shortage included 16 officers out of a T/O strength of 47. The Division Commander notified the G-3, VII Corps that unless replacements became available for that battalion it would be necessary to cannabalize the light tank company to keep all the medium tanks in operation. Medium tanks were considered to be more essential to the success of the mission of the 83d Division than a light tank company at this time.

The mission of the Division was now to defend its present sector, prepared to resume the offensive.

19 December 1944.

Field Order Number 38, Headquarters 83d Division, 1600, 18 December 1944 was actually issued during the early morning of 19 December. This Field Order provided for the completion of the clearing of the enemy from the west bank of the ROER River in the Division zone and the holding of the west bank of ROER River in such a manner as to prevent the enemy from raiding, mine laying, patrolling or infiltrating. The Field Order placed the 331st and 329th Infantrys in line in their former zones and the 330th Infantry in Division Reserve. This order provided in addition that units prepare plans to assembly their overhead in critical areas as reserve; maintain only a minimum number of troops in forward areas during daylight; prepare trees for felling as road blocks; make maximum use of abatis and wire; and divide the Division zone into areas and assign responsibility for defense in each area against enemy airborne troops. Advance engineer dumps were established behind each front line regiment and stocked with fortification materiel (See Item 373, G-2, G-3 Journal, 18 December 1944).

Except for harassing artillery fire along our front and patrol in the 331st Infantry area, the enemy remained defensive throughout the period. 2 enemy patrols were sent into the 331st Infantry area to determine if LENDERSDORF was occupied. One patrol leader was wounded and captured.

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19 December 1944 cont'd.

The enemy employed smoke opposite ROLSDORF to conceal moments.

Information was received from VII Corps that First US Army reported about 150 Germans dressed in American uniforms and equipped with American arms and vehicles had infiltered into our lines and were operating in the rear areas. This apparently was a part of the GR[illegible]F which had been referred to by Secret Letter, Headquarters First US Army, file number 400 (B), subject: Possible Use of Captured American Equipment, dated 18 December 1944.

First identification of the 3d Company, 3d Parachute Engineer Battalion was obtained through 7 prisoners of war captured from that unit.

All prisoners of war captured during the period stated that the mission of their units were to defend.

The reduction on the demand for direct support of the infantry regiments by the 308th Engineer Battalion allowed this battalion to effect much needed improvements, particularly bridging, throughout the Division area.

Front line units completed the clearing of all enemy west of the ROER River in the zone of the 83d Division.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	7
WIA	23
MIA	7
NBC	55
Total	92

Prisoners of War taken: 42, including 6 through medical channels.

20 December 1944

Enemy forces opposing the 83d Division remained defensive throughout the day. Enemy artillery showed an increase over the previous day, although visibility continued to remain poor. No new identifications were established.

Colonel Edward G. Farrand, Chief of Staff, 5th Armored Division, visited the Command Post 83d Division and discussed with the Division Commander the operations of the 5th Armored Division in clearing the SCHNEIDHAUSEN-WINDEN area. Colonel Farrand stated that the 5th Armored Division expected to have some difficulty in this operation due to a shortage of troops and requested that the 83d Division agree to garrison

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20 December 1944 cont'd.

Hill 211 (F1139) and SCHNEIDHAUSEN (F1140) after SCHNEIDHAUSEN had been taken by the 5th Armored Division in order to allow that Division to employ the troops which otherwise would be required for garrisoning SCHNEIDHAUSEN and use them in the reduction of WINDEN. The Division Commander agreed to this request and directed the 331st Infantry to relieve the garrison of the 5th Armored Division on Hill 211 under cover of darkness and to relieve the 5th Armored Division garrison in SCHNEIDHAUSEN at the same time if, they should succeed in taking the place by that time.

At 1000 the Division Commander held a conference of all unit commanders and explained to them his plans for the occupation and defense of the Division sector while preparing to resume the offensive. At the conclusion of this conference a dictated Field Order was issued which was later confirmed by Field Order Number 39, Headquarters 83d Division, 2000, 20 December. This Field Order was predicated on the assumption the 5th Armored Division would be withdrawn after clearing its zone and that the 4th Cavalry Group would be attached to the 83d Division. The plan called for the 4th Cavalry Group and all three infantry regiments to initially be in line in order 4th Cavalry Group, 330th Infantry, 331st Infantry, 329th Infantry, from right to left. As soon as it could be accomplished the 329th Infantry was to be withdrawn from its sector, which would be taken over by the 331st Infantry, and be placed in Division Reserve in order to provide a striking force. At the time of the preparations of these plans the right flank of the Division area to be taken over from the 5th Armored Division was considered to be the most critical for the safety of the Division due to the facts that it contained ground the seizure of which by the enemy would make the rest of the Division area untenable, the bridges across the ROER River in that area were still held by the Germans and were intact, and the observation was such that the Germans artillery could effectively support a quick effort to grab the key terrain in that sector.

All units were alerted to the possibility of the flooding of the ROER River and the area which might be flooded by increasing the depth of the river 10 meters was indicated on the overlay accompanying the Field Order (See Item 82, G-2, G-3 Journal, 21 December 1944).

The boundary between the 83d Division and the 104th Division, which had extended down to take over the area north of the Division previously held by the 9th Division prior to its withdrawal for employment by the V Corps against the German counter-offensive, was changed in the GURZENICH area.

The 331st Infantry relieved elements of CCA, 5th Armored Division on Hill 211 under cover of darkness but due to the fact that the 5th Armored Division had not cleared SCHNEIDHAUSEN of the enemy it did not occupy that town.

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20 December 1944 cont'd

The day was spent in improving positions, mine laying and constructing road blocks and obstacles. Units accomplished the maximum amount of rehabilitation possible to improve the combat efficiency which had been reduced by the past operations.

The 330th Infantry received 322 enlisted fillers which raised its enlisted strength to equal to that of the other 2 regiments. However, this regiment remained 30 officers short of T/O strength and 579 enlisted men. The 329th Infantry was short 18 officers and 618 enlisted men. The 331st Infantry was short 555 enlisted men. Information available indicated that no replacements, except returned to duty from hospital, could be expected at any time in the near future.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	8
WIA	17
MIA	7
NBC	27
Total	59

Casualties included Colonel Robert H. York, Commanding Officer, 331st Infantry, who was lightly wounded in action while on reconnaissance and evacuated the following day.

Prisoners of War taken: 14, including 1 through medical channels.

21 December 1944

Enemy activity during the period was confined to artillery and mortar fire which showed an increase after darkness especially in the 331st Infantry area. The bulk of the enemy artillery fire fell in the forward areas of the Division.

The 951st Field Artillery Battalion (155 How) and the 193d Field Artillery Battalion (105mm How) were detached from attachment to the Division at 0600. Minor adjustments were made in the 3 infantry regiments. Units continued to improve their positions and to lay mine fields and construct road blocks.

Liaison Officer from this headquarters to the VII Corps notified the Division Commander at about 1100 that he observed the VII Corps Headquarters making preparations to move to the vicinity of LEIGE, BELGIUM and that he understood that the XIX Corps was moving to KORNELIMUNSTER and would take over from VII Corps. No official notification of this impending change was reported to this headquarters until 2400 at which time the XIX Corps took over. This placed the 83d Division again in the Ninth US Army which was under the operational control of the 21st Army Group (British).

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21 December 1944 cont'd

Casualties for the day were as follows:

WIA	2
NBC	39
Total	41

Replacements received 54, all of which were returnees to duty.

Prisoners of war taken: 9, including 3 through medical channels.

22 December 1944

The enemy continued to remain defensive and employed scattered artillery fire in our forward areas. During the morning the Division Commander attended a conference at the Headquarters of XIX Corps in KORNELIMUNSTER and received a directive to assume the defensive, defending the present positions along the ROER River. Shortly, after noon the Division would be withdrawn from the line and placed in Ninth US Army reserve in the vicinity of AACHEN. Certain details such as to whether or not the Division Artillery would be withdrawn at this time or remain in support of the two (2) Divisions which would have to side slip to take over the former Division zone; whether or not the tank destroyers and the tank battalion to the Division would be detached or accompany the Division on the withdrawal were not firmed-up at this time.

Field Order Number 40, Headquarters 83d Division, 2330, 22 December was actually issued at 1910, 23 December 1944 and confirmed fragmentary and oral instructions given covering the move. (See Item 290, G-2, G-3 Journal, 23 December 1944).

Company A, 87th Chemical Battalion which had been supporting the 331st Infantry was detached from the Division effective 2400, 21 December 1944.

The 772d Tank Destroyer Battalion (T) was attached to the Division at 1930 as a replacement for the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) which was to be detached as soon as it could be disengaged. The 772d Tank Destroyer Battalion (T) had only recently arrived on the continent after leaving the United States sometime in September, was without combat experience, and arrived in the Division area without basic loads of ammunition.

Company C, 331st Infantry completed the relief of Company A, 34th Tank Battalion and Company B, 46th Armored Infantry Battalion, 5th Armored Division units, in SCHNEIDHAUSEN (F113400) at 0820.

The 1st battalion of the 330th Infantry relieved the 15th Armored Infantry Battalion and the 85th Reconnaissance Battalion, 5th Armored Division units, at 2210 in order to allow the disengagement of the 5th Armored Division which had been ordered into First US Army reserve.

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22 December 1944 cont'd

The 350 replacements which had been received by the 330th Infantry on 21 December 1944 were absorbed into companies and the enlisted strength of that regiment was raised to the equivalent of the other two (2) regiments.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

WIA	17
NBC	34
Total	51

Replacements received 34, including 33 returnees to duty.

Colonel Robert T. Foster, O-11258, who had been wounded and evacuated on 12 December 1944 returned and resumed command of the 330th Infantry. Colonel Russell F. Walthour, O-7158, assumed temporary command of the 331st Infantry Regiment during the absence of Colonel Robert H. York, Commanding Officer, 331st Infantry.

23 December 1944

The enemy along the Division front continued to act defensively and confined his activity chiefly to harassing artillery and mortar fire except for the WINDEN (F113385) bridgehead area.

At 1000 the Commanding General, XIX Corps, directed that the Division clear the WINDEN - UNTERMAUBACH area prior to being withdrawn. This area was the original zone of action of the 5th Armored Division but, due to the fact that that Division was withdrawn and sent to First US Army reserve, the completion of the mission of clearing that zone of action to the ROER River was divided between the 8th Division and the 83d Division. The Division assigned the mission of clearing the WINDEN - UNTERMAUBACH area to the 330th Infantry.

1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, reinforced, attacked WINDEN at 1615 and entered the edge of town about 1700 against extremely heavy artillery and mortar fire.

The 1st Battalion 329th Infantry and the 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry were relieved by elements of the 414th Infantry (104th Infantry Division).

The 329th Infantry, less 3d Battalion, was withdrawn and closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of AACHEN. The 3d Battalion of the 329th Infantry was assembled in the vicinity of BIRGEL (F0942) and acted as regimental reserve for the 414th Infantry.

Field Order Number 40, Headquarters 83d Division, dated 2330, 22 December 1944 was actually issued at 1910, 23 December 1944 and confirmed oral instruction previously issued for the relief and assembly of the Division as Ninth US Army reserve.

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24 December 1944 cont'd

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	2
WIA	8
MIA	2
NBC	13
Total	27

Prisoners taken: 10, including 6 through medical channels.

3d Battalion, 330th Infantry captured a factory at (F108373) at 2330 which had been converted into a strong point by the Germans and had effectively blocked all progress toward the bridge at F112373.

On this date XIX Corps directed that the 83d Division be withdrawn as soon as possible so as to be available for Ninth US Army reserve. The relief was set for 252400 December but "Letter of Instructions Number 91", Headquarters XIX Corps, 241400A December (See Item 366 and 367, G-2, G-3 Journal, 24 December 44) provided that the Division Artillery and the 772d Tank Destroyer Battalion would remain in position in support of the 104th Infantry Division and detached the 774th Tank Battalion from the 83d Division and attached it to the 104th Division.

The first hard freeze of the season occurred during the night of 23-24 December and the ground remained frozen during the day. The freeze was sufficient to make many pieces of terrain which previous had been impassable mires, readily passable to tanks or any other motor transport. A security warning was issued to all units.

In compliance with instructions from Ninth US Army transmitted through XIX Corps the Division prepared plans to counterattack in the zone of the 78th Division and to restore the original line in that sector should the Germans effect a penetration there.

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, reinforced, continued the attack on WINDEN: Company A attacking from the south; Company B from the west; Company C from the north. By 1130 Company A had advanced through the town as far north as the church at (F113386) against small arms and sporadic artillery and mortar fire.

The 3d Battalion, 330th Infantry initiated the clearing of the area to the bridge at (F111374) in order to allow access to this bridge so that it might be destroyed. The 2d Battalion, 330th Infantry which had been detached from the 5th Armored Division as of 1630, 23 December remained in position east of STRASS. The 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry was attached to the 330th Infantry as a reserve should it be necessary to employ this battalion in the WINDEN area. The 329th Infantry completed closing in its assembly area in the vicinity of AACHEN.

The 324th Field Artillery Battalion obtaining air adjustments on the bridge at F116389) succeeded in obtaining 15 direct hits making the bridge impassable to vehicular traffic. The bridge remained passable to foot troops.

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24 December 1944 cont'd

Recent identifications pointed to the fact that the enemy units on the Division front had been re-shuffled. The 942d Infantry Regiment, 353d Division had moved from the vicinity of GURZENICH and BIRGEL to the UNTERMAUBACH area; the 943d Infantry Regiment, 353d Infantry Division had likewise undertaken a move from the vicinity of KUFFERATH to the WINDEN - UNTERMAUBACH sector. The 353d Alarm Company which had withdrawn from the BIRGEL area was now located east of BOGHEIM. These movements indicated that the 47th Infantry Division (Volksgrenadier) controlled a sector on the east bank of the ROER River between the 40 and 45 Easting and that the 353d Infantry Division in conjunction with the 343d Division was disposed between the 36 and 40 Easting. With the exception of the WINDEN area enemy artillery fire was much lighter than on the previous days.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	6
WIA	28
NBC	19
Total	53

Prisoners taken: 53.

25 December 1944

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry with Company F, 330th Infantry attached and supported by tanks resumed the attack on WINDEN at 0730. The town of WINDEN was cleared at 1700.

The 331st Infantry was withdrawn and moved into an assembly area southeast of AACHEN.

At 1845 the Division received instructions to send a representative of the Division Commander to the Command Post of the First US Army early on the morning of 26 December to receive instructions.

At 1955 General MCLAIN, Commanding General, XIX Corps called General MACON by telephone and told him that he believed that the prupose of the meeting was to exchange the 83d Division for the 5th Armored Division which at that time was in First US Army reserve. At 2045 Ninth US Army directed that the Division be placed on a one (1) hour alert for movement beginning at 1000, 26 December.

26 December 1944

Detachment of the 308th Engineer Battalion blew the bridge at F111374) at 0300.

The 113th Cavalry Group which was attached to the 8th Infantry Division completed the relief of the 330th Infantry 0730 at which time the 8th Infantry Division assumed responsibility for the remaining part of the former Division zone in the DUREN area. This completed the relief of the Division.

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During the period 10 - 26 December inclusive the 83d Division had advanced from the line in the HOCK WALD area taken over from the 4th Infantry Division and had completed clearing all German forces from west of the ROER River within its zone of action, thereby accomplishing its mission. The following known casualties were inflicted on the enemy during this period:

Prisoners of War Captured: 2037, including 192 evacuated through medical channels.

Enemy dead buried: 440.

The Division Command Post closed at KREWINKLE (K951410) and opened at EILENDORF, GERMANY (K891435) at 0930.

In compliance with instructions received the previous evening, Brigadier General FERENBAUGH, Assistant to the Division Commander arrived at Headquarters First US Army at approximately 0900. At 1140 General FERENBAUGH telephoned the Division Commander and notified him that the Division was relieved from assignment to Ninth US Army, reassigned to First US Army and in turn assigned to VII Corps; that the Division would move immediately by motor to the VII Corps area; routes and time of departure to be furnished later; that the Division Commander was to report to the Commanding General VII Corps at the Command Post of VII Corps for orders.

At 1310 the Division Commander accompanied by the AC of S, G-3 departed from EILENDORF to meet the Commanding General, VII Corps. All regimental commanders were directed to follow the Division Commander and report to him at the Command Post of VII Corps. All units were directed to send billeting details to HAVELANGE, BELGIUM (K225019) to report to representatives of VII Corps at that point.

At 1330 General FERENBAUGH called the Chief of Staff and notified him of the routes that the Division would follow.

At 1350 XIX Corps notified the Division that it would commence its moves at 1400 or as soon thereafter as practicable.

The 329th Combat Team moved from its assembly area in the vicinity of AACHEN at 1430 via LIEGE and assembled in the vicinity of HAVELANGE, BELGIUM. The 330th Infantry, following relief by the 113th Cavalry Group, moved to assembly area south of AACHEN and closed in that area at 1430.

At 1750 the 330th Combat Team moved out following the 329th Combat Team and assembled in the vicinity of SOMME LEUZE (P3195). Upon arrival in this area the 330th Combat Team less the 323d Field Artillery Battalion was placed in Corps Reserve.

The 331st Combat Team moved at 1600 from its assembly area in the vicinity of AACHEN via MAASTRICH and HUY and assembled in the vicinity of OSSOGNE, BELGIUM (K2103). The Division Artillery followed the 331st Infantry Combat Team. Division Troops and Trains followed the Division Artillery on the same route.

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26 December 1944 cont d

The 774th Tank Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 104th Infantry Division at 1000 and re-attached to the 83d Infantry Division. Due to the fact that this battalion had been relieved from the line at 0300 that morning, had been fighting for three days, and needed maintenance and replacements, it was moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of AACHEN and did not resume its movement until after first light on the 27th of December.

The Division Command Post closed at EILENDORF, GERMANY (K891435) at 1930.

27 December 1944

The Division Command Post opened at HAVELANGE, BELGIUM (K225019) at 0100.

The 83d Division, minus 330th Infantry reinforced, which was placed in Corps Reserve was assigned the mission of following up the 2d Armored Division which at this time was attacking south in the general direction of L'HOMME RIVER between ROCHEFORT (P2076) and MARCHE (P2983) and relieved that Division the night of 27-28 December at whatever point the 2d Armored Division had reached in its progress.

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry was moved from its assembly position in the vicinity of (P 2495) toward BUISONVILLE (P1983) and occupied that town about 1530. The 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry occupied SERINCHAMPS (P213845) at 1530. The 3d Battalion, 329th Infantry advanced in column of companies on HUMAINE (P2381) and occupied the northern edge of that town at 2030.

The 331st Infantry closed in its assembly area in the vicinity of OSSOGNE (K152103) at 0100. Plans and reconnaissance were made in preparation for moving this regiment forward to establish defensive positions behind the 329th Infantry. The 2d Battalion of this regiment was moved forward and occupied positions in the vicinity of MEHOGIVE (P2090) at 1600 (The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was employed in screening the movements of the 329th Infantry).

All elements of the Division, including all attachments, had closed in the HAVELANGE area by 1200.

The Division Command Post closed at HAVELANGE and opened at NETTINE, BELGIUM (P235902) at 1215.

For Units in Contact see G-2 Periodic Report Number 137, Headquarters 83d Infantry Division, 27 December 1944 (Item No. 76, G-2, G-3 Journal, 27 December 44). For detailed disposition of the Division as of midnight see G-3 Periodic Report Numbers 94 and 95, 83d Infantry Division (Item 75, G-2, G-3 Journal, 27 December 44).

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27 December 1944 con d

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	5
WIA	11
NBC	5
Total	21

Prisoners of War taken: 10

28 December 1944

For summary of the information of enemy situation as was known at Division Headquarters on this date see G-2 Periodic Report Number 138, Headquarters 83d Infantry Division, 28 December 1944.

Plans had been made to send armed reconnaissance south of the L'Homme River on this date to determine the enemy situation. These plans were a result of the fact that close contact did not exist in the zone of the 84th Division to the left (East) of the 83d Division and it was desired to determine if the enemy was withdrawing. However, on the morning of 28 December the 2d Armored Division which had undertaken an attack of ROCHEFORD had been unable to proceed against strong opposition and the plan for the armed reconnaissance were cancelled, as unnecessary.

The Commanding General, VII Corps directed that the 83d Division take that part of ROCHEFORD laying north of the L'Homme river employing that part of the 329th Infantry which was not required to garrison HUMAINE for the task. The Division was forbidden to use any part of the 331st Infantry in this attack.

The 329th Infantry relieved Combat Command "A" of the 2d Armored Division during midafternoon and, at 1530, resumed the attack on ROCHEFORD which had been initiated by that Division. Elements of the 1st and 2d Battalions were employed, 1st Battalion on the right. Company B entered the town at 1830 and contact with that company was immediately lost by the battalion. The attack was continuing at midnight.

The 3d Battalion, 329th Infantry organized and garrisoned a defensive position at HUMAINE.

The 330th Infantry, minus 1st Battalion was attached to the 84th Infantry Division, remained in assembly positions in the vicinity of SOMME LEUZE in Corps Reserve.

During the morning, the Division Commander was notified that he would be relieved in his sector by elements of the 30th British Corps and that following this relief the 83d Division would relieve the 3d Armored Division, which was occupying a sector to the East.

Very poor visibility which had existed since the Division had gone into position behind the 2d Armored Division continued throughout the day and it was impossible to register the Division Artillery. The attack on ROCHEFORD was supported by the artillery of the 2d Armored Division.

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28 December 1944 cont'd

At 1631 AC of S, G-2 of the Division received a message from G-2 of VII Corps to the affect that higher headquarters intelligence expected a heavy attack to be made by the Germans sometime during the next two days against HOTTON (P3788). The attack was expected to extend from GRAND-MEMIL on the east to MARCHE on the west and to be made by the 2d Panzer Corps.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	3
WIA	11
MIA	2
NBC	45
Total	61

Prisoners of War taken: 128, including 7 through medical channels.

175 infantry replacements were received on this date and assigned to the 329th Infantry which at that time had an enlisted strength of 2658. While this regiment had the highest strength of any of the three regiments, it had reached the point that further battle losses would materially affect the ability of the regiment to recover and it was the only regiment engaged. For this reason the replacements were assigned to this regiment instead of the regiment with the lowest strength.

29 December 1944

During the morning Major General COLLINS, Commanding VII Corps, visited the Command Post of the 83d Division and directed that the 331st Infantry be moved to the zone of the 3d Armored Division accompanied by Engineers and a Collecting Company. Upon arrival in that zone the regiment reinforced would pass to the control of the 3d Armored Division temporarily. The 83d Division was to follow the 331st Infantry and to assume responsibility for the present zone of the 3d Armored Division by 311200 December.

The 290th Regimental Combat Team (75th Division) which was attached to the 3d Armored Division was to remain in position and pass the control of the 83d Division after the 83d Division assumed responsibility for that sector. The 83d Division was to hold the front line with the 290th Infantry and not to commit either the 329th or 331st Infantrys unless it was necessary to counterattack locally to restore the line of the 290th Infantry. General COLLINS outlined the general plan for a counter-offensive employing the 2d Armored Division, 3d Armored Divison, 84th Infantry Division and the 83d Infantry Division. Each Infantry Division was to attach one infantry regiment to one of the Armored Divisions. The attack was to be made by the 2d Armored Division attacking through the troops holding the front lines. Each Armored Division was to be followed by an Infantry Division (less a regiment).

During hours of darkness the enemy opposed the attempt to relieve troops in ROCHEFORT with fire from small arms, machine-guns and high velocity weapons. Several times during the night the enemy counter-

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29 December 1944 cont'd

attacked the 329th Infantry without success. Enemy fire slackened after dawn, but upon resumption of our activities again increased. The 329th Infantry resumed the attack on ROCHEFORT at 0730. Attempts were made to contact Company B which had been cut off in the town the previous day. At 1800 no physical contact was made with Company B because of small arms and high velocity fire and it was decided to burn the town by artillery (WP) fire in the hope that the company could withdraw during the confusion. The Field Artillery successfully set fire to several parts of the town but no contact was made with or word received from Company B.

The 331st Infantry moved at 1530 to assembly area in the vicinity of (BIRON P3992) and closed at 2015. The regiment passed to the operational control of the 3d Armored Division on arrival.

Weather continued cold with ground frozen solid but visibility improved sufficiently to allow the Division Artillery to register and to support the operations of the 329th Infantry.

Sufficient snow had fallen to pack and freeze on the roads in the Division sector making it necessary for all grades and turns to be sanded to be safe for travel.

Advanced detachments of the 30th Corps (British) completed the reconnaissance for the relief of the 329th Infantry.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	4
WIA	27
MIA	3
NBC	54
Total	88

Prisoners of war taken: 42, including 3 through medical channels.

The 329th Infantry received 1 officer and 129 enlisted replacements; the 330th Infantry received 17 officers and 279 enlisted replacements.

30 December 1944

The enemy abandoned ROCHEFORT at 0300. According to Prisoners of War the order for withdrawal was given at 2200 on the previous evening. It is believed that the presence of troops on the outskirts of town and the heavy volume of artillery fire which had been fired into the town in the evening in an effort to give Company B an opportunity to withdraw gave the impression that a large attack was to take place. At 0930 radio contact was established with Company B, 329th Infantry and at 1130 the company had completed withdrawing bringing with them 9 prisoners of war (3 officers and 6 enlisted men). During the time they had been cut off they had suffered 3 casualties which were evacuated with the company.

The Division was relieved of its responsibility at 1800 by the 160th Brigade, 53 Division (British). The actual relief of the 329th Infantry

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30 December 1944 cont'd

was not completed until 1915 at which time all battalions had been relieved and had pulled back to an assembly area generally in the vicinity of the battalion command posts.

Casualties for the day were as follows:

KIA	8
WIA	13
MIA	2
IIA	1
NBC	56
Total	80

Prisoners of War taken: 42, including 5 through medical channels.

The 329th Infantry received 6 officer replacements; the 330th Infantry received 6 officers and 7 enlisted replacements; the 331st Infantry received 212 enlisted replacements.

31 December 1944

The Division Command Post closed at NETTINNE (P235902) at 1200 and opened at BARVAUX, BELGIUM (P405971) at 1200.

The 83d Division assumed responsibility for the sector previously held by the 3d Armored Division at 1200. The 290th Combat Team (75th Division) was attached in place to the 83d Division at this time. The mission assigned the Division was a defense of the zone from HAMPTEAU (P3886) to AMONINES (P4487). The 290th Combat Team remained in the line defending the sector; backed up by the 330th Infantry which reverted to control of the Division at the time it assumed responsibility of the zone. Certain adjustments were affected in the disposition of the 290th Combat Team and the Division Artillery was placed in general support with the 323d and 908th Field Artillery Battalions given the additional mission of reinforcing fires of the 898th Field Artillery Battalion (290th Combat Team).

The enemy remained quiet throughout the entire 24 hour period. A few prisoners of war who were taken indicated that the enemy had made a considerable effort in the past several days to improve his local defenses by constructing road blocks, blowing bridges and/or preparing them for demolition and reconnoiterring for defensive positions for tanks in the woods. The enemy artillery activity indicated the employment of batteries rather than single guns. Recent information indicated that elements of the following divisions were on the front of the zone for which the 83d Division had assumed responsibility:

560th Volksgrenadier Division
2d SS Panzer Division
12th SS Panzer Division.

The Corps Commander held a conference of Division Commanders at which the final plans for the counter-offensive by the VII Corps were firmed-up.

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These plans involved the 83d Division turning over its present zone to the 84th Infantry Division, side-slipping another zone to the east and operating on the front MANHAY (P5390) to BERGIFAZ (P5994); following the 3d Armored Division through this front, clearing the resistance by-passed by the 3d Armored Division; and either holding the line CHERAIN (K6677) - BOVIGNY (K7082) and/or assisting in the capture of HOUFFALIZE (K6172).

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Hq, 83d Inf Div
Office of AC of S, G-3
APO 83, U. S. Army
1 January 1945

OPS
ETO-1

SUBJECT: 01 (C)

TO : CT: Operations of the Division, 1-31 December 1944.

: Commanding General, 83d Infantry Division, APO 83, U. S. Army.

1. In compliance with verbal instructions, the following report on the operations of the Division for the period 1-31 December 1944 is submitted.

2. The following units were attached to the Division during the period:

Plat, Co B, 297th Engr (C) Bn (atchd 7 Dec; Detchd 9 Dec)
CT 22 (4th Inf Div) (Detchd 7 Dec)
Co C, 52d Armd Inf Bn (Detchd 7 Dec)
Trs A & C, 89th Cav Rcn Sq (Detchd 7 Dec)
422d FA Gp (Detchd 7 Dec)
81st FA Bn (155 How)
174th FA Bn (155 Gun)(SP)
Btry C, 559th FA Bn
Btry A, 285th Obsn B n (Detchd 4 Dec)
CT 8 (4th Inf Div)(Atchd 7 Dec; Detchd 11 Dec)
8th Inf Regt
Co A, 803d TD Bn (SP)
Co A, Plat Co D, and Assault Gun Plat, 70th Tk Bn
Co A , 4th Engr Bn
Co A, 4th Med Bn
29th FA Bn, w/Btry A, 377th AAA Bn (AW)
4th Cav Gp (Detchd 11 Dec)
759th Lt Tk Bn (- Co C)
635th TD Bn (T)(- Co A & Plat of Co C)(Atchd 7 Dec)
Tr A, 24th Cav Rcn Sq
2 Plats, Co C, 297th Engr (C) Bn
Co C, 297th Engr (C) Bn (- 2 Plats)(Atchd 11 Dec; Detchd 18 Dec)
24th Cav Rcn Sq (- Tr A)(Atchd 7 Dec; Detchd 18 Dec)
193d FA Bn (105 How)(Atchd 13 Dec; Detchd 21 Dec)
951st FA Bn (155 How)(Atchd 7 Dec; Detchd 21 Dec)
Co A, 87th Cml Bn (Atchd 9 Dec; Detchd 21 Dec)
629th TD Bn (SP)(Atchd 9 Dec; Detchd 23 Dec)
25th FA Bn (105 How)(Atchd 22 Dec; Detchd 24 Dec)
Co C, 87th Cml Bn (Atchd 31 Dec)
453d AAA Bn
772d TD Bn (T)(Atchd 22 Dec)
774th Tk Bn (Detchd 24 Dec; Atchd 26 Dec)
RCT 290 (Atchd 31 Dec)
898th FA Bn (105 How)
Btry B, 440th AAA Bn (AW)
m Co B, 629th TD B n (SP)(Atchd 2 Dec; Detchd 31 Dec)
Co B, 750th Tk Bn
1st Plat, Co B, 275th Engr Bn
Co B, 275th Med Bn

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a. Supporting Troops:

202d Engr (C) Bn (from 1 to 7 Dec)
9th Armd Div Arty (from 1 to 7 Dec)
73d Armd FA Bn (from 1 to 7 Dec)
3d Armd FA Bn (from 1 to 7 Dec)
811th TD Bn (SP) (from 1 to 7 Dec)
294th Engr (C) Bn (from 7 to 22 Dec; 31 Dec)
183d FA Bn (from 13 to 22 Dec)
295th Engr (C) Bn (from 22 to 27 Dec)
300th Engr (C) Bn (from 27 to 30 Dec)

b. Dispositions of troops at close of period are shown in Item Number 100, G-3 Journal, 31 December 1944.

3. For daily record of operations, see Inclosure 1 (attached).

Map Ref: CENTRAL EUROPE, 1/100,000. Sheets T1 and U1.

GERMANY, 1/25,000. GSGS 4414, Sheets 5103, 5104, 5202, 5203, 5204.

FRANCE - BELGIUM, 1/50,000. GSGS 4083, Sheets 79, 80, 81, 90, 91, 92, 93, 105, 106, 107.

C L Boyle
C. L. BOYLE,
Colonel, FA,
AC of S, G-3.

Incl - Daily Record of Operations.

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1 December 1944

As the month of December began the Division was devoting much time to planning for future operations in a new zone of responsibility. On the afternoon of 28 November, the Chief of Staff, VIII Corps, visited the Division Command Post and talked with the Division Chief of Staff concerning a new assignment for the future employment of the 83d Division, namely: Relief of one of the Divisions in the VII Corps. As a result of this talk and later discussion with the Division Commander, orders were issued directing the 330th Infantry to prepare for movement by motor early on 30 November, and a Combat Team was formed by attaching to the Regiment the following units: 323d FA Bn; Company C, 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed); Company B, 308th Medical Battalion, and Company B, 308th Engineer Battalion. At the same time, the 331st Infantry was ordered to effect relief of all elements of the 330th remaining in the line, and to have the relief completed prior to 0001, 30 November.

At 1630, 29 November, the 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry completed relief of the 330th Infantry and assumed responsibility for the area previously assigned to the 330th Infantry. The 2d Battalion, 330th Infantry closed into new regimental assembly area vicinity FILSDORF (L9205) at 1700. On 30 November the 330th was in reserve, organized for movement to the VII Corps area upon Division order. A quartering party, including Battalion Commanders, departed for the new zone, the area occupied by the 4th Infantry Division, at 0850. Company C, 774th Tank Battalion, was added to the attachments forming the 330th Combat Team, effective at 1200, 30 November, and Company C, 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed) was detached from the Combat Team at the same time, as self-propelled tank destroyers would be available in the new zone of operations.

During the afternoon of 30 November an advance party from the 4th Infantry Division arrived at the 83d Division Command Post to make arrangements for the relief of the 83d in the LUXEMBOURG area simultaneously with the 83d's relief of the 4th Infantry Division in its area in the VII Corps zone.

The 83d Infantry Division had two regiments on the line, the 331st Infantry on the right (south) flank from a point on the MOSELLE River (L0102) to MERTERT (L0923), and the 329th Infantry on the left flank from MERTERT to BOLLENDORF (L0140). In the 331st sector the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 329th Infantry had the 3d Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center and Troops B and C, 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on the left. The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry and one platoon of the 308th Engineer Battalion, Company A, continued training on MAGINOT LINE fortifications at HETTANGE GRANDE.

The 3d Cavalry Group was on the right (south) flank and the 28th Infantry Division on the left (north) flank of the Division.

A patrol from the Marauder Platoon, 329th Infantry returned to HINKEL (L1132) and detected enemy activity at positions on opposite side of the river. Artillery fire was placed on this target. Another patrol of 20 men went from Company K, 329th Infantry to investigate mine laying activities in vicinity of WASSERBILLIG (L1024) and returned with report that no enemy mines were located. Company L, 329th Infantry relieved Company K and established command post at LELLIG (L0625).

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The 330th Infantry and attachments remained in an assembly area prepared for movement to North on Division order.

The 83d Division Artillery and attachments were in positions where they could best support the Division sector. On the first day of December, the 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed), 453d Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion (Automatic Weapons), and the 422d Field Artillery Group, consisting of 81st Field Artillery Battalion, 174th Field Artillery Battalion, Battery A, 285th Observation Battalion, Battery C, 559th Field Artillery Battalion, were attached to the Division Artillery.

2 December 1944

In accordance with plans made on the 28th of November with the Chief of Staff VIII Corps, and 83d Infantry Division, the 330th Infantry and attachments were ordered to move to vicinity GRESSENICH, GERMANY (K9942) to relieve elements of the 4th Infantry Division. The regiment crossed the initial point at HESPERANGE (P8509) at 1200.

1st Battalion, 329th Infantry, returned from training at HETTANGE GRANDE and closed at BIWER (L0124) and BERBOURG (L0326) at 1130. Company G, 329th Infantry, relieved Company F at ECHTERNACH (L0535) at 1000. In other units of the Division training and preparation for movement continued. Company C, 308th Engineer Battalion, removed booby traps from three houses in LUXEMBOURG.

Company C, 774th Tank Battalion, was relieved from attachment to 330th Infantry and moved to staging area eight miles north of HOUFFALIZE (P6172), under Battalion control.

VIII Corps stated that the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) began movement at 1300 to the 4th Division area. Upon closing into the new area the Battalion was attached to the 83d Division.

No enemy air activity was reported over Division area during period.

3 December 1944

The 330th Infantry in Combat Team formation closed in new area, and was attached to 4th Infantry Division, shortly after 0030, 3 December. Company C, 774th Tank Battalion, closed vicinity GRESSENICH (K9842) at 1315, and was attached to 330th Infantry.

In the 329th Infantry area (LUXEMBOURG) patrols from Company C, 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion, went to GIRSTWEIKLAUS (L1132) at 1745 on the 2d December and again at 2130, and found no enemy. Another patrol from the same organization entered ROSPORT (L1134) on the afternoon of the 2d and no enemy observed.

Plans continued for the movement of other elements of the Division and the relief of the 4th Infantry Division, to be accomplished within the following week. Preparations were made for the movement of an advance party of the Division Headquarters Forward Echelon on 4 December to Advance Command Post vicinity KREWINKEL (K9740).

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4 December 1944

An advance party of the Division Command Post left for KRUWINKEL (K9740), closing at 1315. Advanced Command Post opened at 1345.

The 329th Infantry and 331st Infantry, with attachments from the 9th Armored Division, continued patrolling in the Division area.

The 330th Infantry completed relief of the 22d Infantry by 1200, 4 December. The 1st Battalion occupied positions on the right and 2d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was assembled in reserve vicinity (E0539).

The 331st Infantry (in the LUXEMBOURG area) completed plans for a movement north and issued movement orders for 6 December (see item 199, G-2, G-3 Journal, 4 December 1944).

The 22d Infantry, a part of Combat Team 22, closed in the LUXEMBOURG area during the night 4-5 December and made preparations to relieve the 331st Infantry on 5 December.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 83d Division Artillery and 322d Field Artillery Battalion, moved to vicinity GRESSENICH (K9842), closing at 1700. The 324th Field Artillery Battalion also moved this date. The Battalion staged the night of 4-5 December along the road vicinity (P5686). At 0600, Battery A, 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, was relieved from attachment to the 422d Field Artillery Group and attached to V Corps. The 3d Armored Field Artillery Battalion (9th Armored Division) moved to vicinity HERBORN (L0628) at 0630 and were placed under operational control of the 422d Field Artillery Group during the process of relief of elements of the 83d Infantry Division.

The 774th Tank Battalion (- Company C) began movement to vicinity GRESSENICH. The Battalion staged during night 4-5 December at point vicinity (P5974).

Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion, cleared roads and conducted reconnaissance in new area of operations.

Enemy aircraft were over the Division area vicinity LUXEMBOURG (P8412) in undetermined numbers between 1900 and 2030. No reports of hostile acts were received.

5 December 1944

The 329th Infantry remained in positions along the MOSELLE - SAUER RIVERS. Platoons of K and L Companies engaged in platoon problems in reserve areas.

The 330th Infantry (in the 4th Division area) consolidated and strengthened positions taken over the previous day from the 22d Infantry (4th Division). Artillery and mortar fire was intense in the forward positions.

The 331st Infantry (in the LUXEMBOURG area) was relieved in its zone by the 22d Infantry at 1830, 5 December. The regiment assembled in rear of positions and all units and attachments prepared for movement to 4th Division area on 6 December.

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The 81st Field Artillery Battalion was relieved by the 44th Field Artillery Battalion at 1030 and moved to vicinity ELAKWEILER (L9919). The 81st Field Artillery Battalion relieved the 908th Field Artillery Battalion at 1430 so that the 908th Field Artillery Battalion could move north with Combat Team 331. The 324th Field Artillery Battalion closed in new area vicinity GRESSENICH (K9842) at 1630.

The 308th Engineer Battalion (- Company A) closed vicinity GRESSENICH at 1800. Units of the Battalion continued road reconnaissance and clearance of mines in new Division area.

The 774th Tank Battalion (- Company C) closed vicinity VICHT (K9639) at 1700.

An undetermined number of enemy aircraft were reported over LUXEMBOURG (P8412) at 2000.

6 December 1944

The 329th Infantry with Troops B & C, 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, and Company C, 52d Armored Infantry Battalion, continued patrolling east to MOSELLE and SAUER RIVERS on left flank of Division zone.

The 22d Infantry attached to the 83d Division patrolled in its zone.

The 330th Combat Team, attached to 4th Infantry Division, maintained defensive positions in new area from F080390 to F065385 to F060377 with the 2d Battalion on the left, the 1st Battalion on the right, and the 3d Battalion in reserve.

The 331st Infantry moved to new assembly area vicinity SCHEVENHUTTE (F0042) and closed in at 1910. Plans were made for relieving 12th Infantry and maintaining defensive positions.

Division Artillery units continued movement and establishment of new positions. The 908th Field Artillery Battalion, enroute, staged for the night between Route B and EYNATTEN (K8334). The 322d Field Artillery Battalion closed in new area at 0900, vicinity (F023422). The 324th Field Artillery Battalion closed in vicinity of (F002401) at 1230.

The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop completed movement and closed in its new area at 1830 vicinity KREWINKEL (K9740).

Forward Echelon of the Division Command Post closed at 1600 in KREWINKEL (K981410). A plan of attack was drawn up for the 83d Infantry Division (reinforced) (See Item 284, G-2, G-3 Journal, 6 December 1944).

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7 December 1944

At 1600 the 83d Division became responsible for the 4th Division area and was simultaneously relieved of responsibility for the LUXEMBOURG area, where the 329th Infantry, attached to the 4th Infantry Division at 2400, continued to patrol West of the SAUER and MOSELLE Rivers. At the same time 83d Division Artillery became operational in the new area and the 951st Field Artillery Battalion and Company A, 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion (towed) were attached. In the LUXEMBOURG area the 422d Field Artillery Group exercised operational control over all artillery. The 323d Field Artillery Battalion closed in new positions at 1705, and the 908th Field Artillery Battalion at 1500.

The 331st Infantry completed relief of the 12th Infantry at 1600 and assumed responsibility for the center of the new Division zone, with the 1st Battalion on the left, the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion in reserve. Company D, 774th Tank Battalion was attached to the 331st Infantry.

The 330th Infantry, with Company B, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled) and Company C, 774th Tank Battalion attached, continued to maintain defensive positions on the right flank of the new area, and at 1600 reverted to Division control. At 1800 Company A, 330th Infantry occupied the hill at F070377.

At 1600 Combat Team 8 was attached to the 83d Infantry Division. On the Division left flank the 8th Infantry continued to patrol the area to the front and made contact with enemy with the 1st Battalion on the left, the 2d Battalion on the right.

At 1600 the 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was attached to the Division and maintained its positions. The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was attached to the 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and relieved the 4th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop at 1400.

Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion constructed log shelters for 331st Infantry Command Post and Company B did demolition work on walls in GROSSHAU (F052387). Company C cleared mines and fields of fire to assist 908th Field Artillery Battalion into new area, and all companies did work on roads in their respective areas.

At 1600 Company C, 52d Armored Infantry Battalion was relieved from attachment in positions in the LUXEMBOURG area (see Item 37, G-2, G-3 Journal, 7 December, 1944). At the same time Combat Team 22, patrolling the right (South) flank of the LUXEMBOURG area, was relieved from attachment and reverted to the 4th Infantry Division in position.

At 2400 Troops A and C, 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and the 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion (towed) were relieved from attachment to the Division.

8 December 1944

The Division issued Field Order Number 36, dated 1600, 7 December 1944 (see Item 44, G-2, G-3 Journal, 8 December 1944), stating mission of the Division to relieve 4th Infantry Division, assume responsibility for the sector and consolidate and hold positions previously in zone. The 4th Cavalry Group was attached to the Division at 0600.

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The 329th Infantry remained in the LUXEMBOURG area and were placed under control of the 4th Infantry Division as of 072400.

The 330th Infantry occupied the right flank of the Division front from F080390 to F065385 to F060377. Companies A and B took HILL 375 (F071377) and captured 22 prisoners, including the Commanding Officer of the unit, at 0600. Another patrol from the 330th observed SCHAFBERG (F0738) from a forward position and saw no enemy.

The 331st Infantry strengthened and consolidated positions taken over from the 12th Infantry (4th Infantry Division) from F059410 to F059390. Company K patrolled East to GEY (F073398) and through woods to the North of GEY and brought back negative reports. Company B, 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion (towed) closed into area at 1600 to support the regiment.

The 24th Cavalry Squadron, with 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop attached, occupied positions from F057420 to F061409. Contact with the enemy was made at F057425. The 8th Infantry occupied positions from F052434 to F055420, and continued aggressive patrolling to the East. Contact with the enemy was made at F057425.

Division Artillery continued to improve positions for direct support of regiments and general support of Division operations. Continuous air observation was maintained during hours of daylight, and harassing missions were fired during the night.

The 759th Light Tank Battalion (minus Companies B and C) was attached to the 330th Infantry; Company B was attached to the 331st Infantry.

The 308th Engineer Battalion continued work on roads throughout the new area, and swept mines in addition to the construction work on shelters for the 331st Infantry Command Post.

9 December 1944

Field Order Number 13, VII Corps, dated 8 December, was received (see Item 184, G-2, G-3 Journal, 9 December 1944), giving the 83d Infantry Division the mission of seizing the area STRASS (F0739) - GEY (F0739), continuing the attack to sieze the West bank of the ROER River in Zone, and protecting the right flank of VII Corps until relieved by elements of 5th Armored Division on Corps order.

The 329th Infantry remained in positions in the LUXEMBOURG area, under control of the 4th Infantry Division.

The 330th Infantry improved defensive positions. A light tank with the 1st Battalion fired successfully on an enemy tank (F073376).

Patrols from the 331st Infantry reconnoitered area to the East of their positions and discovered barbed wire at F065393. Patrols North and East of GEY (F073898) encountered no enemy. An outpost of Company F killed two enemy vicinity F064398.

Combat Team 8 on left flank of 331st Infantry Continued to patrol the sector to the left of the Division area. At F065417 enemy was observed digging in and artillery fire was located coming from clearing vicinity F073376.

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Division Artillery and attached units fired 250 missions on personnel, machine gun and mortar positions, counterbattery and harassing fires, in addition to maintaining air observation during daylight hours.

The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, attached to the 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, assisted in patrolling area between the 331st Infantry and Combat Team 8. An enemy machine gun nest was found at FO62241 and an occupied enemy dugout at FO63421. Twenty enemy troops were observed at FO67414.

The 308th Engineer Battalion continued road repairs and constructed new roads in various parts of the area.

10 December 44

Division Field Order No 37, dated 9 December 1944 and issued as of 2400, 9 December (see Item 234, G-2, G-3 Journal, 9 December 1944). The Division was ordered to attack early 10 December, initially to capture the STRASS (FO79390) - GEY (FO7390) area, from there to continue the attack to clear the enemy to the West bank of the ROER River in Zone, and to protect the right (South) flank of VII Corps until relieved by the 5th Armored Division upon Corps order.

The 3d Battalion of the 330th Infantry crossed the Line of Departure at 0630 and advanced into the town of STRASS at 1000. Enemy mortar and artillery fire was extremely heavy. Company C, 774th Tank Battalion moved into the town with K and L Companies of the 330th. SCHAFBERG (FO77384), by-passed by the 3d Battalion during darkness at the beginning of the attack, was found to contain an entrenched force of approximately 100 enemy troops. Company G, 330th Infantry was ordered to clean out this force and secure the town.

At 0630 the 2d Battalion of the 331st Infantry also attacked, E and F Companies advancing into the town of GEY in the face of heavy mortar and artillery fire. An enemy tank was knocked out by our artillery fire and 36 prisoners were taken. One platoon of Company B, 774th Tank Battalion moved up to support Companies E and F.

Other elements of the regiments taking part in the attack continued to hold previous positions, with the exception of Companies A and B, 330th Infantry which advanced about 300 yards to new lines against heavy resistance.

Combat Team 8, on the Division left flank, supported the attack by artillery fire, thus diverting some enemy fire from the main attack in the South. Artillery attached to Combat Team 8 dispersed enemy Battalion on road East of HATHARDT (FO643), inflicting many casualties.

Division Artillery fired 125 close support missions during the advance of the infantry, in addition to eight preparations, and about two hundred other missions against personnel, machine gun and mortar positions, tanks and counterbattery, harassing and interdiction fires.

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The 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, with 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop attached, patrolled between 331st Infantry and 8th Infantry. Troop A, 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron assisted 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry in containing enemy to the Southeast.

The 329th Infantry was relieved from attachment to the 4th Infantry Division and reverted to Division control. The regiment crossed Initial Point vicinity LUXEMBOURG at 0913 and reached assembly area South of GRESSENICH (K9747) during the afternoon, closing in at 1900.

The 308th Engineer Battalion continued to construct and repair roads in various parts of the Division zone.

As a result of the day's operations in the Division zone three enemy planes were shot down and four enemy assault guns (self-propelled) were knocked out East of STRASS.

11 December 44

The 329th Infantry began relief of 8th Infantry at 0730, taking over, unit for unit, the positions already held by the 8th. This relief was completed at 1400 and the 329th Infantry took responsibility for the sector at that time. Contact was made with the 4th Cavalry Squadron on the left flank of the sector.

330th Infantry continued to hold positions reached during the previous day's operations. K and L Companies in STRASS (F079390) received heavy artillery and mortar fire and at daylight were attacked by enemy armor and infantry. Attempts were made by our tanks and self-propelled tank destroyers to establish contact with the two companies holding STRASS, but these efforts were driven back by bazooke and artillery fire. At 1915 the enemy counterattacked with infantry and high velocity weapons, but this threat was repelled by 2200. The 1st Battalion held in position vicinity GROSSHAU (F052382) while elements of Combat Command B, 5th Armored Division passed through to the East. The Marauder Platoon patrolled to the West of these positions, vicinity F0438. In the 2d Battalion zone, Company E was committed around right flank of Company G, when Company G was held up by heavy enemy fire from small arms, rifle grenades, machine guns, artillery and mortars.

The 331st Infantry continued to hold GREY (F0739) under intensive enemy fire and worked on clearing mines from East-West road through the town. Companies E and F remained in Western half of the town, while Company G moved toward the town from the South. Company A launched an attack on the Southern section of the town at 1445 but made small advances. Company A (minus one platoon), 774th Tank Battalion was attached to the 331st Infantry at 1100.

Artillery units fired over one hundred and fifty missions during the day in support of the infantry operations. At 1345 enemy gun positions at F113395 and F122422 and hill at F0940 were marked with red smoke for dive bombing attacks. The 453d Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion shot down six enemy planes over the Division area between 1615 and 1715; two were FW190s and the other four were ME109s.

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At 0730 the 4th Cavalry Group passed from Division control and was attached to the 5th Armored Division. The 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (minus Troop A) remained under Division control, and maintained contacts with the 329th Infantry and 331st Infantry. Patrols reached F065419 and F060413, receiving fire at the latter point only.

The 308th Engineer Battalion was engaged in extensive road construction and repair throughout the Division zone.

During the day a plan of attack for the Division was made in conjunction with Combat Command B of the 5th Armored Division (see Item 76, G-2, G-3 Journal, 11 December 1944). At 2000 a fragmentary order was issued ordering the 329th Infantry to capture HAFHARDT (F0643) and be prepared to capture GURZENICH (F0944) (see Item 106, G-2, G-3 Journal, 11 December 1944) on Division Order.

12 December 44

The 329th Infantry occupied positions taken over from the 8th Infantry on 11 December. At 1000 the 1st and 2d Bns launched an attack and advanced in the face of MG and small arms fire. Later in the day Company F received heavy artillery and mortar fire, but the lines were advanced sufficiently to take the regimental objective, HAFHARDT (F061432), at 1350. Company E sent out a patrol and made contact with Company B, 329th Infantry, a unit of the 9th Infantry Division, early in the afternoon and contact with the 9th Infantry Division was maintained throughout the period. Eighty prisoners were taken during the day.

The attack on SCHAFBERG (F077383) was resumed at 0730 by Companies G and E, 2d Battalion, 330th Infantry. The advance made progress initially, but was delayed by direct fire from enemy guns in the town and from well concealed enemy tanks or self-propelled guns. Despite this resistance the town was occupied and reported clear of enemy at 1745. The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry relieved from previously held positions by Combat Command B, 5th Armored Division, moved in to hold SCHAFBERG, and the 2d Battalion moved North to make contact with the 3d Battalion in STRASS (F079390). Although STRASS had first been occupied during the morning of 10 December, communication and supply lines could not be established due to the enemy strong point in vicinity of SCHAFBERG. Meanwhile the 3d Battalion, 330th Infantry, reinforced by Company C, 774th Tank Battalion, and Company B, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled), maintained their positions in STRASS. At 0330 a patrol reached the troops in STRASS with medical supplies, and the patrol leader returned to report need for food and ammunition. At 1430 a supply of food was dropped to the troops in STRASS from an artillery liaison plane, and when the 2d Battalion made contact at about 1900 with the 3d Battalion, the situation was considerably relieved.

The 331st Infantry continued fighting in GEY (F072398). At 0700 Companies I, K and L completed relief of Companies G, E and F. Company A, 1st Battalion, attacking South, made contact with Company I, which was attacking North. The very large number of mines in GEY and on the roads leading into the town had to be removed before the entire town could be cleared. Extremely heavy artillery and mortar fire continued to fall in the vicinity throughout the day. By the end of the day positions in the town had been considerably improved, contact was made with Combat Command A of the 5th Armored Division, and the road from the West leading into the town was definitely secured and cleared.

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Over one hundred missions were fired by Division Artillery during the day in support of operations. The quarry at FO938 continued to be an important enemy strong point due partly to lack of good observation on the position. The 323d Field Artillery Battalion marked the quarry with smoke preparatory to a dive bombing attack at 1630.

The 308th Engineer Battalion accomplished road construction and repair, and also cleared teller mines from the GROSSHAU - SCHAFBERG road and the GROSSHAU - GEY road. Road signs were posted in the Division area.

The 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained contact by patrols between the 329th Infantry on the left and the 331st Infantry on the right.

During the course of the days operations a total of 150 prisoners were captured.

The forward area of the 329th Infantry sector was strafed shortly before noon by two or three ME109s, but no casualties resulted and no damage was reported.

13 December 44

The 329th Infantry attacked at 0800. The 2d Battalion occupied the left flank of the line, the 1st Battalion was in the center, and Company L, 3d Battalion on the right flank. Enemy resistance consisted mostly of small arms fire, mortar fire and mines during the early hours of the operation. Shortly after noon Company G, advancing in the center along the road from HAFHARDT (FO63432), reached the buildings at the Western end of GURZENICH (FO93446), reporting this progress as of 1340. At 1500 Company F, following Company G, passed through the lines of Company G and moved further into GURZENICH. Company E moved in behind Company G at 1600, taking up positions to the Southeast. The advance of the 1st Battalion was materially assisted by the rapid advance of the 2d, which weakened the enemy resistance during the early afternoon. At 1600 Companies A and B had advanced about 2200 yards. The 3d Battalion advanced in column of Companies with Company L leading and made some progress up to strong points from FO62424 to FO63420, which slowed the advance after 1100. Contact was maintained by the regiment during its advance with Company A, 39th Infantry, an element of the 9th Infantry Division, on the left, and with a platoon of the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop on the right. At 1330 the 329th Infantry was attached to the 9th Infantry Division for employment, but due to the rapid advances which the regiment made during the afternoon, this plan was abandoned and the regiment returned to Division control at 1800.

At 0700 the 2d Battalion, 330th Infantry was attached to Combat Command B, 5th Armored Division. Meanwhile with the 2d Battalion on the left and the 3d Battalion on the right, the positions in STRASS (FO79390) were maintained and improved, and the principal supply road from SCHAFBERG (FO77383) was reported clear at 0330. An armored convoy moved supplies into STRASS by this route at 0700, and enemy fire from self-propelled guns or tanks prevented the use of this approach during daylight hours. Throughout the day heavy mortar and artillery fire continued to fall in STRASS and in SCHAFBERG. The 1st Battalion maintained and improved its positions in the town of SCHAFBERG.

The town of GEY (FO72398), in the 331st Infantry sector, continued to offer resistance during the morning. At 0925 Company B, 331st Infantry attacking through Companies K and L, approached the commanding high ground to the East, and by 1225 the town of GEY was reported entirely clear of enemy. The 2d Battalion remained in positions to the West of the town. Concentrations of mortar and artillery fire hindered operations in the town

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during most of the day, and prevented Company C from moving in until 1545.

Division Artillery fired about one hundred and fifty missions in support of the ground operations. At 1300 the 193d Field Artillery Battalion (105 howitzer) was attached to the Division and used for general support. Low ceiling and poor visibility during the day resulted in no air missions flown in response to requests made by the Division.

Elements of the 774th Tank Battalion destroyed five anti-tank guns, 2 scout cars, five machine guns and a pillbox and killed at least 35 enemy personnel.

The Companies of the 308th Engineer Battalion, working with their respective regiments, did a great deal of work on roads, especially during the hours of darkness, the only time when repairs could be effected on the roads around STRASS, SCHAFBERG and GEY. Company A also cleared abatis vicinity F057442 and F055426 and swept road East from HAFKARDT (F0643) for mines. Sixty pole charges were prepared for the use of the 329th Infantry.

One enemy plane was reported over the Division area during the day but no hostile act was committed. A total of 150 prisoners were taken during the day, according to the estimates available at the close of the period.

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14 December 1944

The Division issued a Fragmentary Order dated 132400 (See Item 361, G-2, G-3 Journal, 14 December 1944) ordering the following objectives taken: high ground west of BERZBUIR (F1041), town of BERZBUIR and high ground south of BIRGEL (F0942).

At 0630 the 329th Infantry resumed its attack and cleared the town of GURZENICH (F0944). A boundary change was made effective as of 13 December between the 329th Infantry and the 331st Infantry, giving the town of BIRGEL to the 329th Infantry. Patrols from the 2nd Battalion were sent northeast from GURZENICH and at 1000 Cos E and G moved ahead clearing out enemy troops from cellars and ruined buildings. The progress was slow in the face of mortar and artillery fire. At 1315 Company E has reached the railroad tracks on the north side of the GURZENICH - DUREN road. The 3d Battalion moved to positions on the eastern edge of the forest shortly before noon where enemy small arms and mortar fire was severe. At 1430 an attack was launched from these positions against the town of BIRGEL, with Company I on the left flank, Company K on the right and Company L in reserve. By 1500 the assault companies were in the town and 100 prisoners had been taken. The enemy counter-attacked with six tanks and infantry at 1545 directing his main effort against the positions of the 2nd Battalion. The enemy was repulsed and forced to withdraw after suffering severe casualties.

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, continued to hold positions in SCHAFBERG (F077365) The 3d Battalion from positions in STRASS (F079390) attacked to the northeast and occupied the line F081397 to F083396 at about 1045. The 2nd Battalion, attached to Combat Command B, 5th Armored Division, attacked at 0645, advanced in a column of companies against small arms, mortar, and artillery fire. Company E knocked out two tanks vicinity of road junction at (F089385). Company G was later employed on the left flank of Company E. Enemy mortar and artillery fire, especially during the morning was the heaviest encountered by the regiment during its operation in this area.

In the 331st Infantry sector, the 1st Battalion attacked at 0700. Companies B and C led the assault and the high ground south of BIRGEL was seized at 0830. The 2nd Battalion passed through the right flank of the 1st Battalion at 1130 and advanced 1100 yards to take the high ground west of BERZBUIR. Heavy concentrations of artillery and mortar fire fell in the sector of Company F, causing progress to be slow. On the right flank, Company G overcame and wiped out enemy resistance at (F088398) and took a pillbox which yeilded forty or fifty prisoners. The 3d Battalion continued to occupy GEY (F072398) and clear the town of mines. Very heavy concentrations of enemy artillery fire were placed on the town.

The 193d Field Artillery Battalion (105 howitzer) closed into a new position at 1300 vicinity (F047407) to fire in general support of the Division. During the day Division Artillery and attachments fired over two hundred missions supporting the operations of the Infantry units.

Four air missions requested by the Division were refused due to lack of priority.

The 308th Engineer Battalion swept roads of mines in the areas of the three regimental advances and assisted in clearing vehicles from roads at various points. In the 330th Infantry area, just south of GEY (F072398), Company B installed a treadway bridge over a crater which blocked the road at that point.

Sixteen enemy planes strafed our front lines during the morning, and at 1430, a flight of twelve or more strafed the vicinity of GURZENICH (F0944) where the 329th Infantry was attacking. A total of four hundred and fifty prisoners were captured during the day.

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15 December 1944

A Fragmentary Order issued at 2300, 14 December (See Item 5, G-2, G-3 Journal, 15 December 1944) ordered the following objectives taken: high ground West of BERZHUIR town of BERZHUIR, and high ground South of BIRGEL.

The 329th Infantry continued to consolidate its positions in GURZENICH (F09 44) and BIRGEL (F09 42) and to secure both towns against infiltration by enemy troops. The 1st Battalion sent patrols toward ROLSDORF (F10 43) to determine presence and strength of enemy positions. Small arms fire fell on the patrols from entrenched position line F096436 & F098432. The 2nd Battalion, with Company B attached, continued to regroup and maintain positions in GURZENICH (F09 44). The 3d Battalion continued to reduce and clean out small pockets of resistance in the southern section of BIRGEL. The enemy continued to hold points to the South of the town and patrols reported high velocity guns vic F092417 and troops dug in at F097408 on the northeast slope of the hill. During the afternoon contact was made with the 3d Battalion, 39 Infantry (9th Infantry Division) on the left.

The 2d Battalion, 330th Infantry, continued to be attached to Combat Command B, 5th Armored Division, and jumped off at 0900 with that organization. By 1015 Company G was on its primary objective and at 1105 the Battalion had reached the edge of its second objective (F097388). After noon Company G continued its attack and by 1500 captured the town of BERGHEIM (F103387). The 1st Battalion moved out of its positions in the vicinity of SCHAFBERG (F07 53 84) and closed in Division Reserve between GEY and GROSSHAU at 1500. Company L of the 3d Battalion, after holding positions northeast of STRASS (F07 39) throughout the day, joined the remainder of the battalion in STRASS and moved to the assembly area with the 1st Battalion in regimental reserve.

The 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry, attacked at 0800 to clear the hill South of BIRGEL, a part of Objective "B", and completed the operation by 1050. After a Brief period of planning a new attack and was launched at 1200 against the town of BERZHUIR (F10 41) (Objective "H"). Initially the attack consisted of strong reconnaissance patrols which moved forward to determine enemy strength in the town. Fire from entrenchments 200 yards from the town stopped these patrols and prevented them from approaching any closer. At 1715 the battalion formed for an attack on BERZHUIR and advanced to positions inside the town. The 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry, moved out at 1055 to occupy positions in the town of KUFFERATH (F10 40) previously held by Combat Command A, 5th Armored Division, and the hill vicinity F108399. Companies K and L remained in the town while Company I dug in to hold the hill early in the afternoon. During most of the day the 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry remained in its present positions, but late in the afternoon Company C attacked the high ground southwest of BIRGEL (F09 42)(Objective "E") and captured the position at 1700.

Division Artillery and attached battalions fired one hundred and forty missions during the day, largely interdiction and harassing fires.

The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, attached to the 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, continued patrolling in the sector adjoining the 329th I nfantry. Troop B, 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, reported booby traps and mines in positions abandoned by the enemy vicinity F061413.

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Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion, swept roads and maintained them for traffic in 329th Infantry area. Companies B and C did similar work in the sectors of the 330th and 331st Infantrys and filled in craters at two points.

No enemy air activity was reported during the day over the Division area. Approximately 400 prisoners were taken in the course of the day's operations, including a number of Russians from forced labor battalions

16 December 1944

Fragmentary Order issued by the Division as of 2200, 15 December (See Item 77, G-2, G-3 Journal, 16 December 1944) directed the regiments in the line to continue their advance and clear the enemy within their zones of advance.

Repeated counter-attacks were directed against the forward positions of the 329th Infantry, the first at 0700 in GURZENICH (F0944) where the enemy advanced from the north against the 2nd Battalion. Artillery and small arms fire succeeded in warding off this attack without loss of ground. At 0915 enemy infantry attacked the positions of Company E and at the same time the enemy launched a coordinated tank and infantry attack across the open ground between GURZENICH and ROLSDORF (F1045) against the lines held by Company G and Company F. Three enemy tanks were knocked out by our fire and the counter-attacks were all repulsed by artillery and small arms fire, inflicting severe casualties on the attacking enemy force. Company I, 329th Infantry, drove the remaining enemy out of the southern edge of BIRGEL (F0942) by 1245.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 330th Infantry began reorganization and rehabilitation in the assembly area to which they withdrew on 15 December, between GEY and GROSSHAU at (F055385). The 2nd Battalion continued to be attached to Combat Command "B", 5th Armored Division.

In the 331st Infantry sector, the 1st Battalion cleared the town of BERZHUIR (F1041) by 1000. During the night, positions in the regimental area were consolidated and supplies brought forward, mine clearance and road repairs were accomplished by Company C, 308th Engineer Battalion. Companies K and I were relieved at 1700 by Combat Command "A", and joined Company L in an assembly area southwest of KUFFERATH (F092402).

Division Artillery fired over one hundred missions during the day and four battalions fired on the enemy counterattacks against the 329th Infantry during the first hours of daylight.

Companies A and B, 308th Engineer Battalion, cleared mines and repaired roads in 329th and 330th Infantry area respectively.

17 December 1944

The Division continued to advance toward the west bank of the ROER RIVER, clearing enemy from all areas and consolidating positions against possible counterattacks. By the close of the day the Division held the west bank within its sector.

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry, with Compaines B and C leading the assault, jumped off at 0740 to take ROLSDORF (F1044). Advancing against small arms fire, the units entered the town at 0900, and spent the rest of the day mopping up throughout the town and consolidating new positions. Company E led the 2nd Battalion in an advance toward the western bank of the ROER RIVER which move out at 0730. Intense small arms fire was received from Buildings all along the road and very heavy artillery fire fell on the

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zone of advance. The 3d Battalion sent Company K against the southern portion of ROLSDORF at 0730. At 600 yards distance from the edge of the town fire was received from an enemy 88mm guns vicinity of F105436. On drawing closer to the town fire from an enemy tank vicinity of F103439 was directed on the advancing infantry. The 88mm gun was knocked out by mortar fire and the tank by an anti-tank gun firing from vicinity BIRGEL (F088425). By the end of the day ROLSDORF was under the control of the regiment and ninety-eight prisoners had been taken.

The 2d Battalion, 330th Infantry remained attached to the 5th Armored Division, and the 1st and 3d Battalions continued rehabilitation and reorganization in the assembly area to which they had withdrawn earlier.

Early in the evening of 16 December the 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry sent a patrol to LENDERSDORF (F112420). Due to enemy flares and outposts, the patrol was able to advance only to within 300 yards west of the town, and was therefore unable to make any report as to the strength or dispositions of the enemy in the town. At 0700 the 3d Battalion launched an attack on the town, Company I on the left and Company L on the right. By 0800 both companies had advanced to the western edge of the town in the face of fire from small arms, artillery and tanks, which placed direct fire on the advance. Two of our tanks moving up with the infantry were knocked out at 0930 by enemy anti-tank guns firing from the East bank of the river. By 1800 the 3d Battalion reported LENDERSDORF completely mopped up and clear of enemy.

Artillery fired one hundred and fifty missions during the day in support of ground operations and on targets picked up by air observation post. The bridge at F110448, used by enemy troops to counterattack the 329th Infantry, was fired on by 8" howitzers and several direct hits were scored. Although the bridge continued to be useable for foot troops it was damaged so that vehicles could not use it. Twenty-four direct hits were placed on a water tower in DUREN (F1246) by a 155 gun of the 991st Field Artillery Battalion, believed to be used by the enemy as an observation post, and the tower was damaged, although not demolished.

The 308th Engineer Battalion continued work on road clearance and repairs, and also prepared two bridges at GURZENICH and one at F118422 for demolition. Mined road blocks were laid in the vicinity of these bridges.

As a result of the large number of enemy aircraft reported over the Division area and adjacent territory during the early morning hours, each of the three regiments was allotted a sector of the Division zone to sweep for parachutists who may have dropped into the area. Other units were alerted to keep strong outposts and to maintain defensive plan against attack by airborne enemy. No parachutists were picked up in the Division zone, but over 100 prisoners were taken, mostly in ROLSDORF by the 329th Infantry during the day.

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18 December 1944

Company A, 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry, sent two platoons along the road into DUREN, and by 0900, the west end of the bridge at (F111449) and the factory at (F103449) had been seized with relatively little resistance. Later a twelve man patrol crossed the river and drew small arms fire from buildings on the east bank. At 1600, Company A received enemy fire from a high velocity gun located vicinity (F112450). Companies G and F advanced at 0730 and by 1000 had captured their objective, the groundon the west bank of the ROER RIVER. Patrols examined the bridge at (F108453) and reported two spans had been blown in the center of the structure. Company L, 3d Battalion, moved out from BIRGEL (F0842) to the group of houses south of ROLSDORF (F1044), and after encountering slight resistance the objective was captured by 1200. All positions were consolidated and listening posts established from the road to the river.

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, moved to a new assembly area, closed at 1030 vicinity (F044423) prepared for immediate use as Division Reserve. The 2nd Battalion was attached to the 5th Armored Division; the 3d Battalion remained in assembly positions previously occupied. All areas were swept for enemy paratroopers.

The 331st Infantry continued to consolidate positions, clear away mines and improve supply routes. Areas were thoroughly searched for enemy paratroopers. The road between GEY (F072398) and BIRGEL (F0842) was strafed in the vicinity of the regimental command post.

Artillery fired one hundred and forty missions during the day. Air observation was limited during a large part of the day as a result of enemy air activity over the Division zone and poor visibility. Units of the 453d Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion claimed a total of twenty-nine enemy planes shot down during the period.

At 0800 the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was relieved from attachment to the 5th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, and remained in Division Reserve. The 774th Tank Battalion likewise remained in Division Reserve for rehabilitation.

19 December 1944

The Division continued to strengthen positions and keep on the alert throughout all areas for enemy paratroopers and agents.

Company A, 329th Infantry, relieved Company F at 1230. Mines were laid along approaches to positions from the ROER RIVER and defenses of all units were tied together for close coordination in the event of infiltration or enemy counterattack. Forty-six prisoners were captured in the area.

The 330th Infantry continued to reorganize defensive positions in GEY (F0739). The 2nd Battalion remained an attachment to 5th Armored Division, for operatiins with Combat Command "B". Plans were made for meeting a counterattack, including probably assembly areas and routes to them.

The 331st Infantry continued to improve positions, and supplies were moved to the units in LENDERSDORF (F1141) during hours of darkness night of 18-19 December. A six man enemy patrol was reported in area occupied by Company L at 0700. The leader was captured and the rest of the group dispersed by fire.

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Artillery fire was limited to fifty missions as a result of poor visibility and the relative inactivity on the Division front. Two enemy planes, FW 190s, flew over at a low altitude late in the afternoon, strafing some roads, but no damage was reported nor were the planes known to have been hit by our anti-aircraft fire.

The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop in Division Reserve, moved into a new assembly area vicinity of MAUSBACH (F9741) closing in at 1400.

The 308th Engineer Battalion continued to work on roads and minefields, and installed a treadway bridge at (F107451), and inspected bridge blown by enemy at (F111449).

20 December 1944

The Division continued to regroup and improve defensive positions, clearing enemy minefields and preparing road blocks, barriers and anti-tank mines against enemy counter-attack or infiltration.

The 329th Infantry, preparatory to future changes of boundary began regrouping of 1st Battalion. The 2nd Battalion moved to reserve area vicinity BIRGEL (F0942) and the 3d Battalion began regrouping vicinity GURZENICH (F1044) as units were relieved from the line by the 39th Infantry (104th Infantry Division).

The 330th Infantry, continued reorganization and rehabilitation, constantly checking sector for paratroopers and any signs of enemy infiltration. The 2nd Battalion, attached to Combat Command "B", 5th Armored Division, took part in an attack on BILSTEIN (F1037) and advanced against heavy resistance; mainly artillery fire from the east bank of the ROER RIVER.

The 331st Infantry also improved defenses and prepared their sector against enemy infiltration by placing mines and barriers on approach roads. Heavy concentrations of enemy artillery and harassing fire were received vicinity of WEY (F0739) during the day. Company A, 1st Battalion, relieved elements of Combat Command "A", 5th Armored Division vicinity of SCHMIDHAUSEN (F1140) and Company C moved to position occupied by Company B, closing at 1800. Company L relieved Company G at BERZHUIR (F1041) at 1800.

About seventy-five artillery missions were fired inspite of poor visibility and relatively quiet front lines during the day. Approaches to ROER RIVER crossings were interdicted during the night.

The 308th Engineer Battalion continued to improve roads and assisted the units in the preparation of road blocks and obstacles. Considerable reconnaissance was done concerning the ROER RIVER bridges and possible crossing points for future operations. Close observation was maintained by all units for changes in the height of the river, indicating flooding of the valley by the enemy.

It should be noted that concern was felt by some commanders and staffs over the capability of the enemy in flooding the RUR VALLEY by blowing the URFT DAM (F0723)(on the URFT RIVER) and the EARTH DAM (F0827) on the RUR RIVER. Blowing of the dams would flood many of the front line positions in the Division sector. Little damage would be caused as long as no elements of the Division were east of the RUR RIVER. Flooding with the Division astride the river might be a serious matter, however.

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21 December 1944

83d Division Field Order Number 39, dated 2000, 20 December 1944, was issued at the beginning of the day (see item 82, G-2, G-3 Journal, 21 December 1944). The order set forth new boundaries which would become effective on Corps order and indicated the relief of the units concerned, and their respective missions. The 83d Infantry Division was ordered by Operations Instructions No. 88, XIX Corps, 21 December 1944 (see item 241, G-2, G-3 Journal, 23 December 1944) to relieve 5th Armored Division in the sector from F078359 to F114405, and then to hold positions and prepare to resume the offensive on Corps order.

In the 329th Infantry sector, Company A, 329th Inf was relieved by Company K, 413th Infantry (104th Infantry Division) 1315. Company A moved to new positions. The 2nd Battalion was relieved at 0300 by the 3d Battalion, 413th Infantry and assembled in positions in the eastern edge of GURZENICH (M044) and at 1600 the 2nd Battalion moved into Division Reserve area vicinity F065440.

The 2nd Battalion, 330th Infantry, continued to operate with Combat Command "B", 5th Armored Division, in its attack to clear the west bank of the ROER RIVER in the 5th Armored Division zone. The 1st Battalion moved from its positions on the north boundary of the Division into Division Reserve vicinity GROSSHAU (F053S), closing at 1100.

The 331st Infantry continued to maintain positions and improve defenses with mines and wire. The 3d Battalion readjusted those positions which were affected by the new boundary.

The artillery fired one hundred and fifty missions during the day, mostly harassing fire on enemy positions. A fifteenminute preparation was fired from 0655 to 0710 by the 402nd, 323d, 908th, and 324th Field Artillery Battalions. At 0600 951st Field Artillery Battalion and 193d Field Artillery Battalion were relieved from attachment to the Division.

The 308th Engineer Battalion continued to improve roads and assisted units in clearing enemy minefields and preparation of defensive mine blocks and obstacles.

22 December 1944

As of 2400, 21 December, the Division was relieved from VII Corps control and placed under control of the XIX Corps (Ninth US Army). Division received letter of instruction, #88, XIX Corps (See Item 241, G2, G-3 Journal, 23 December 1944), ordering the relief of the 5th Armored Division in its zone from F114393 to F110373 to F094369; relief to be completed at the earliest possible time. Relief of the 5th Armored Division was completed at 2210 and the 83d Division assumed responsibility for its zone at that time. The Commanding General and the G-3 visited the XIX Corps Command Post. Plans were made for moving the Division from positions along the ROER RIVER to Ninth Army Reserve vicinity of AACHEN (K6342). Division Field Order #40 was published showing routes of march to AACHEN and assembly areas for units of the Division (See Item 290, G-2, G-3 Journal, 23 December 1944).

The 329th Infantry maintained its positions on the left flank of the Division front. A 10-man enemy patrol was encountered by an outpost of Company C at 0200, vicinity (F112441), but was dispersed by small arms fire. Company L sent out a 12-man patrol at 0800 to the SPORTSPLATZ (F116432), which reported back at 0930 that enemy was digging in along the river. Artillery fire was directed on the positions given; no results were observed.

The 330th Infantry moved its command post to a new location (F065393), opening there at 1235. The 1st Battalion relieved the 15th Armored Infantry Battalion and the 85th

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Reconnaissance Battalion at 2210. The 2d Battalion, assisted by elements of Combat Command "B", 5th Armored Division, captured the town of UNTERMAUBACH (FO937). The 3d Battalion relieved the 2d Battalion at 2210.

The 331st Infantry continued to improve defenses; constructed obstacles and placed mine fields throughout the sector. Company C moved into the town of SCHNEIDHAUSEN (F113400), and completed relief of Company A, 34th Tank Battalion and Company B, 46th Armored Infantry Battalion, at 0820.

Artillery continued to be limited by poor visibility, but more than one hundred missions were fired, about half of which were interdiction and harassing fire. During daylight, flights were made every hour to check weather and visibility. The 324th Field Artillery Battalion moved into a new position vicinity (FO440) at 1415, with Battalion Command Post at (FO45408). The 25th Field Artillery Battalion (105 Howitzer) was attached to Division Artillery this date.

Companies A and C of the 774th Tank Battalion, moved to new positions for employment on direct fire missions under control of the 322d and 323d Field Artillery Battalions, respectively. The 308th Engineer Battalion continued work on roads and to place mines and defensive obstacles throughout the Division sector.

The 772 Tank Destroyer Battalion (towed) arrived in the Division area preparatory to relief of the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled). Company A, 87th Chemical Battalion, was detached from the Division as of 2400, 21 December.

Three hundred and fifty replacements were received and assigned to the 330th Infantry equalizing the combat efficiency of the three infantry regiments. Continuous attention was given to security and special vigilance was maintained throughout the rear areas against infiltration by enemy personnel.

23 December 1944

The Division received Letter of Instruction #89, XIX Corps (See Item 284, G-2, G-3 Journal, 23 December 1944), which ordered the Division to reduce enemy resistance west of the ROER River from (F115390) to (F113373), thereupon to prepare to be relieved in present sectory by the 8th Infantry Division (southern flank) and the 104th Infantry Division (northern flank).

The 329th Infantry withdrew from the line uppn relief by elements of the 414th Infantry, 104th Infantry Division. The 1st and 2d Battalions moved to reserve area vicinity AACHEN (K8445), the 2d Battalion closing at 1600, The 1st Battalion crossed Initial Point of march at 2230. The 3d Battalion assembled vicinity BIRGEL (FO942) to constitute a regimental reserve for 414th Infantry during the relief.

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, launched an attack against the town of WINDEN (F113385) at 1615, and reached the edge of the town by 1700. Enemy opposition in the form of artillery and mortar fire was extremely heavy, coming from positions east of the river. Progress was slow but the attack continued during the night. The 2d Battalion relieved from attachment to 5th Armored Division at 1630, remained in reserve positions vicinity STRASS (FO78390), and gave support to the attack on WINDEN by mortar fire. The 3d Battalion, maintained defensive positions in the town of UNTERMAUBACH (FO937).

In the 331st Infantry sectory the 1st Battalion continued to consolidate and improve its positions and laid additional mines. The 3d Battalion following its relief on the line by the 2d Battalion, 414th Infantry, 104th Infantry Division, moved into

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into GEY (F072396), closing at 2230, relieving the 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry, from its defensive positions in that town. The 2nd Battalion moved out to new reserve area vicinity AACHEN (K8445).

The 25th Field Artillery Battalion (105 Howitzer) moved into positions vicinity (F045383), closing at 1600. The 772nd Tank Destroyer Battalion (towed) was attached to the Division Artillery at 1000 and completed relief of the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled), which moved out of the Division sector at 1200. During the day ofer fifty missions were fired, chiefly interdiction and harassing fires on enemy positions. Support was given to the attack on WINDEN by the 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, at 1615 and throughout the evening.

Elements of the 308th Engineer Battalion continued to work on placing minefields and prepared bridges in the 330th Infantry sector for demolition. One enemy plane strafed the Division sector shortly after noon but no casualties or damage were reported.

24 December 1944

The Division continued to reduce enemy resistance west of the ROER RIVER vicinity of WINDEN (F113385); meanwhile elements in reserve proceeded to assemble in areas vicinity AACHEN (K8445), thereupon to be placed in Ninth United States Army Reserve.

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry, having closed in new area (K878433) at 2400, 23 December 1944, began a program of rehabilitation and reorganization. The 2nd Battalion moved into their assembly area (K886435) and commenced reorganization, closing at 1600. The 3d Battalion remained at former area vicinity BIRGEL (F0942), constituting regimental reserve for 414th Infantry until 1600, when the 414th Infantry completed relief and took over the sector. The 3d Battalion then moved to vicinity HILDENDORF (K8950433) closing at 1830. The Regimental Command Post opened at 2400, 23 December (K8950433), and at the same time responsibility for the sector held by the 329th Infantry passed to the 414th Infantry, 104th Infantry Division.

The 330th Infantry, with 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry attached as of 2400, 23 December, remained in its sector west of the ROER RIVER. The 1st Battalion continued to attack WINDEN (F113385) in the morning. Company A attacked from the south side of the town, Company B from the west and Company C from the north. At 1100 Company A had advanced to the church at (F113386), which was strongly held by the enemy. During the advance, small arms fire was received and sporadic mortar and artillery fire. Company B was forced to reorganize after meeting large concentrations of artillery fire during the early hours of the attack. Company C, with a platoon of Company B, 774th Tank Battalion, received fire from an enemy self-propelled gun or tank at 1000. The 3d Battalion, facing heavy enemy fire from mortars, artillery, and automatic weapons, continued to clear the area to the bridge at (F111374). The 2nd Battalion stayed in position east of STRASS (F0839) and continued rehabilitation.

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, attached to the 331st Infantry held defensive positions along the ROER RIVER from (F113402) to (F114395) on the left flank of the regimental sector. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve vicinity GEY (F0739). The 2nd Battalion began rehabilitation and maintenance of equipment in its new reserve area vicinity (K871410); a Regimental Command Post (Advance) was established at (K879409).

Over one hundred missions were fired by the Division Artillery and attached units. The factory at (F106372) used by the enemy as a strong point was fired on by 240mm Howitzers from 1300-1415; one direct hit and other rounds within twenty-five yards were adjusted on the target. The 324th Field Artillery Battalion scored fifteen hits on bridge

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at (FI16389) making it impossible for use by all except tracked vehicles. The 453d Anti-Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion shot down one plane of four enemy planes over the Division area during the day. The 25th Field Artillery Battalion (105 Howitzer) was detached from Division at 1630.

During the day fifty-three prisoners were taken.

The 774th Tank Battalion was attached to the 104th Infantry Division at 1800.

29 December 1944

At about 1500 the Commanding General received from the Ninth United States Army Commander verbal instructions to have the Division prepared for movement on a three-hour notice to a new zone of operations in the First United States Army sector. The 329th Infantry was designated as the leading regiment of this movement, and therefore was placed on a three-hour alert.

The 329th Infantry remained in a reserve area; time was spent in maintenance of equipment and general rehabilitation, and training was conducted on the use of the rocket launcher, using disabled German tanks in the vicinity as targets. The Regimental Command Post was at K895435; 1st Battalion in area vicinity K878432; 2nd Battalion vicinity K887-435; 3d Battalion vicinity K896432.

The attack on WIDEN (FI13385) continued at 0730 by the 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry. Company A advanced to within 200 yards of the objective (FI13389) at 1055. Company B, following Company A, turned right and secured the road junction at FI15038S5. The assault companies were assisted in their advance by Company F, which was attached to the 1st Battalion for the operation. Enemy resistance consisted of small arms and automatic weapons fire during the early part of the advance, but later mortar and artillery fire was received. The mortar fire coming from a point vicinity of FI23394 at 1215 was especially heavy. Supporting artillery fire was placed on this point and the mortars were silenced at 1235. At 1700 the town of WIDEN was cleared, Companies A and B cleared Companies A and B cleared the northern edge of the town and Company F the southern edge. The 2nd Battalion (minus Company F) began moving to entrucking area near GROSSHAU (FI2538) at 1600; Company K, assisted by a platoon of Company I, continued clearing enemy from the area in vicinity of bridge at FI12373. The 1st Battalion of the 331st Infantry continued to be attached to 330th Infantry.

At 1800, the 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry attached to the 330th Infantry, was relieved of its responsibility in the sector from FI13402 to FI14395 by elements of the 113th Cavalry Group. Meanwhile, Company B was en route at 1600 to new area (K858425) southeast of AACHEN. Company A was relieved before 1600 and Company C at 1800, and both Companies moved to GROSSHAU (entrucking point, preparatory to movement to new area (K858-425). The 2nd Battalion remained in assembly area vicinity K873409. The 3d Battalion began moving to new area (K858425) at 1100 and closed in at 1230. The Regimental Command Post at FI057396 closed at 1330 and opened K879409 at the same time.

The 322nd Field Artillery Battalion remained in place in direct support of 414th Infantry (104th Infantry Division). The 453d Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion claimed two hits (Category II) on three jet-propelled enemy planes which passed over the area between 0830 and 0910. Corps artillery neutralized a target observed by air observation consisting of vehicular traffic in the vicinity of German barracks (FI2147).

The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop moved from its former location at K974412, closing in new location at 1600 vicinity K863399.

Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion, closed in new area vicinity AACHEN (K856446) at 1400. Company B remain with the 330th Infantry, prepared a bridge for demolition

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at TL12373. Company C prepared for movement on 26 December to AACHEN area.

26 December 1944

At 0930, soon after the Divison Command Post opened vicinity HILLENDORF (K6943) orders were received from Ninth United States Army Headquarters that the Division initiate movement south to the sector occupied by the 2nd Armored Division, VII Corps, vicinity HAVELANGE (K2201), BELGIUM.

At 1030 orders to initiate this movement were issued and billeting parties moved out at once. The 329th Infantry, leading the Division, began movement from vicinity HILLENDORF (K6943) at 1430, to assemble-area vicinity HAVELANGE.

The 330th Infantry was relieved of responsibility for its sector vicinity WINDEN (T113385) by the 113th Cavalry Group at 0730. The regiment moved to assembly area south of AACHEN, and was completely closed in at 1430. At 1730 the 1st Battalion crossed Initial Point (southeast edge of AACHEN) and began movement to VII Corps area, to assemble in regimental area vicinity SOMME LEUZE (P3195).

The 331st Infantry began movement in Combat Team formation at 1600 from their reserve area southeast of AACHEN to assembly area vicinity OSSOGNE (K2103).

Division Artillery, less field artillery battalions attached to the three infantry regiments, was relieved of its mission supporting the XIX Corps Artillery in the ROER RIVER sector, and began movement at 2000 from firing positions to new area vicinity HAVELANGE, BELGIUM (K2201).

The 774th Tank Battalion was relieved from attachments to the 104th Infantry Division and reverted to control of the Division at 1000.

83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop moved at 1430 to vicinity HAVELANGE. The Troop was used as a screening force to assist the 329th Infantry in establishing a line from P253812 to P205765.

The Division Command Post at HILLENDORF closed at 1930 and opened at HAVELANGE at 0100, 27 December.

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27 December 1944

The 83d Division received operations memorandum No. 140, VII Corps, 28 December 1944 (see item 83, G-2, G-3 Journal, 28 December 1944) which ordered the Division to relieve elements of 2d Armored Division within the division zone, to completely organize HUMAIN (P2381), and to organize defensive position North of the HOMME - WAMME Rivers with one infantry regiment.

The Division Command Post closed HAVELANGE, BELGIUM (K2201), and opened at NETTINNE, BELGIUM (P235902) at 1215.

329th Infantry moved from assembly area at HAVELANGE (K2201) to front line positions, 1st Battalion was in position vicinity BUISSONVILLE (P1983) at 1530. The 2d Battalion at the same time took up positions at SERINCHAMPS (P213845). At 2000 the 3d Battalion reached the North edge of the town of HUMAIN (P2381), having advanced in a column of companies, starting at 1530. Elements of the 2d Armored Division were relieved vicinity HUMAIN.

The 330th Infantry (minus) was ordered into VII Corps Reserve; the 1st Battalion was attached to the 84th Infantry Division. The regiment closed in its assembly area vicinity SOMME LEUZE (P3195) at 0550.

The 331st Infantry, after closing in vicinity OSSONGE (P152103) at 2400, 26 December, made plans and reconnaissance for moving into defensive positions from P252863 to P190835 behind the sector occupied by the 329th Infantry. The 2d Battalion moved into positions vicinity MEROGNE (P2090), closing at 1600.

Division Artillery Command Post opened North of NETTINNE (P2390) at 1030.

The 774th Tank Battalion and the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop remained in Division Reserve. The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop screened the advance of the 329th Infantry to front lines for relief of units of 2d Armd Div. The 308th Engineer Battalion (-Companies A, B and C, supporting the three regiments) closed in its new area at 1900.

28 December 1944

At 2400, 27 December, the Division issued Field Order Number 41 (see Item 74, G-2, G-3 Journal, 28 December 1944). The mission of the Division was to hold positions occupied in the VII Corps sector and prepare to assume the offensive upon order. The 330th Infantry (-1st Battalion) remained in VII Corps Reserve (P3196) vicinity SOMME LEUZE. The 1st Battalion was attached to the 84th Infantry Division.

The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was attached to the 329th Infantry; also Company A, the Assault Gun Platoon and one Platoon, Company B, 774th Tank Battalion. After relieving elements of Combat Command "A", 2d Armored Division, the 329th Infantry resumed the attack on ROCHEFORT (P2076) at 1530. The attack was made in two columns with the 1st Battalion on the right, and the 2d Battalion on the left. Resistance initially was from small arms fire. High velocity guns were later brought into position and used by the enemy. Company B succeeded in entering the town at 1830, and attack continued through the night.

The 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry, moved from vicinity OSSONGE (K2103) to a new position vicinity HOGNE (P2586) and began organizing defensive positions along a line extending from P252863 to P221847. The 2d Battalion did likewise along a line extending from P221847 to P190835. The 3d Battalion moved from OSSOGNE to BUISSONVILLE (P1983), closing at 1930, and set up defensive positions in regimental reserve.

Poor visibility prevented the artillery from registering during the day. The 322d and 323d Field Artillery Battalions were organized as a groupment with the mission of direct support of the 329th Infantry, with the Commanding Officer, 322d Field Artillery Battalion, commanding. The Division Artillery Command Post closed at P237915 and opened at P201902 at 1930.

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The 308th Engineer Battalion assisted the regiments in laying mine fields and recording same, and in constructing road blocks and clearing abatis. One platoon, Company B, remained attached to the 330th Infantry in VII Corps reserve. An engineer dump was established at P2184 for distribution to units of anti-tank mines, wire concertinas and pickets.

29 December 1944

At 0300 the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 returned from an interview at VII Corps Headquarters with verbal instructions alerting the Division for movement to the East to relieve the 2d Armored Division upon order of VII Corps. Plans were made and units ordered to make the necessary reconnaissance. At 2000 Division Field Order Number 42 (see Item 216, G-2, G-3 Journal, 29 December 1944) was issued confirming these instructions and stating that Division would be relieved in its present sector by the British 30th Corps at 1600, 30 December and would take command in its new sector at 1200 on the following day.

At 0730 the 329th Infantry resumed the attack on ROCHEFORT (P2076), attempting to make contact with Company B, which was cut off in the town during the night of 28-29 December. Intense small arms fire and direct fire from high velocity weapons prevented all physical contact, but radio communication was established intermittently. In the woods northeast of the town Company G captured twenty prisoners from the 9th Panzer Division. Officers of the 30th Corps (British) completed their reconnaissance for relief of the 329th Infantry.

The 330th Infantry (minus) remained in VII Corps Reserve in assembly area vicinity SOMME LEUZE (P3196); the 1st Battalion was attached to the 84th Infantry Division.

The 331st Infantry began movement to an assembly area vicinity BIRON (P3992) at 1530, clearing the Initial Point at 1745, and closing in completely at 2015. The regiment was placed under operational control of the 3d Armored Division, after closing into new area.

Division Artillery fired thirty-seven missions during the day. The 908th Field Artillery Battalion reinforced the fires of the groupment formed by the 322d and 323d Field Artillery Battalions.

The 308th Engineer Battalion constructed a Class 9 timber bridge and a bypass road vicinity P212800, in addition to laying and recording minefields.

30 December 1944

At 0930 the 1st Battalion 329th Infantry made contact by radio with Company B, cut off in the town of ROCHEFORT (P2176) during the night of 28-29 December. The enemy had abandoned the town at 0300 and the company withdrew completely by 1130, bringing out with them nine prisoners of war, three of whom were officers. By 1915 all battalions of the 329th Infantry had been relieved by elements of the 160th Brigade, 53d Division (British), and the regiment withdrew to areas vicinity battalion command posts for assembly prior to movement into new area vicinity TOHOGNE (K3900).

The 330th Infantry, less 1st Battalion, attached to the 84th Infantry Division, remained in VII Corps Reserve, assembled vicinity SOMME LEUZE (P3196).

The 331st Infantry organized defensive positions along a line running South of the road from HOTTON (P3788) to EREZEE (P4390). At this time the 331st Infantry was under operational control of the 3d Armored Division.

One gun from each organic battalion of the Division Artillery was moved to 3d Armored Division area and registered during the afternoon.

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At1915 the Division w relieved of responsibility for s sector by the 53d Division, 30th Corps (British).

31 December 1944

At 1200 the 83d Infantry Division assumed responsibility for the sector occupied by the 3d Armored Division. The Division Command Post closed NETTINNE (P2390) at 1200 and opened BARVAUX (P405971) at the same time.

Regimental Combat Team 290, attached to the 83d Division at 1200, occupied defensive positions from P865401 to P878452, with the 1st Battalion on the left, the 2d Battalion in the center and the 3d Battalion on the right. Regiment held positions and improved defenses along line.

The 329th Infantry began movement at 1345 to vicinity TOHOGNE (K397005). The 1st Battalion closed vicinity VERLAINE (K423025) at 1820; the 2d Battalion vicinity HOUMART (K397027) at 1730; the 3d Battalion vicinity LONGUEVILLE (K382013) at 1800. The new regimental command post opened at TOHOGNE at 1820.

The 330th Infantry continued to be in VII Corps Reserve, 1st Battalion being attached to the 84th Infantry Division.

The defensive positions set up by the 331st Infantry on 30 December from HOTTON (P3788) to EREZEE (P4390) were maintained. The 331st Infantry passed from operational control of the 3d Armored Division to Division control at 1200. The 1st Battalion was on the left, the 2d in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the right flank.

Division Artillery opened its command post in the new sector (P403971) at 0915.

The 774th Tank Battalion moved to new location at PETIT-HUN (P364950), closing in at 1200, and remaining in Division Reserve. The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, likewise in Division Reserve, moved to new location, closing in at 1500 vicinity MELREUX (P3689). Company C, 87th Chemical Battalion, passed to control of the 83d Infantry Division at 1200, although remaining attached to Regimental Combat Team 290. The 308th Engineer Battalion units conducted road reconnaissance and sanded roads in the Division sector.

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Fr Annex No. I to G-2 Per Rept No. 118, Hq, 83d Inf Div; OB SUMMARY: 7 Dec 44

In Genl confrontd by 353 Inf Div & 272 VG Div which have tactical control over miscel units fighting in area, i.e., remanants of 275 Inf Div & 91 Inf Div. At extreme north of front, a Bn of Paratroops of 3 Para Div is engaging our troops. The above units plus arty in support, in front of Duren and on W bank of Roer R, roughly estimd to toal 6,000 men. Reserves: 12 SS Panzer Div "HitlerJungend" vic Berg & Nideggen on E bank of Roer R immediate reserve; at least 6000 men, a Bn Mk V tks, and prob a Bn assault guns.

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Fr G-2 Per Rept No 119, 8 Dec 44:

330th: Occupied Hill 375 (068378). 331st: patrol reachd 100 yds W of GEY (0739), no en outposts encountrd.

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Fr G-2 Per Rept No 120, 9 Dec 44: 09001 to 092400.

Front lines: 070370 - 074375 - 074380 - 070391 - 068396, 065390 - 064400 - 065405 - 066408 - 062410; 057433 - SE to 058424.

Units in contact: 2 Bns, 943 Inf, 353 Inf Div; 1 Bn, 941 Inf, 353 Inf Div; 2 Bns, 942 Inf, 353 Inf Div; 2 Bns, 981 Inf, 372 VG Div; elemts 91 Inf Div; 353 Fus Bn, 353 Inf Div; 353 Engr Bn, 353 Inf Div.

En along front contd defensive, harrassing our fwd area w/ scattrd arty & mrtr fires; contd to outpost & improve present line.

330: During nite patrol advanced to (074392), encountrd no en trs or obstacles, reptd no activity in STRASS (0739).

331: During afternoon 5 man en patrol observd in our fwd area & taken under fire. Approx 20 en trs seen at 067414 at noon, undetermind number en trs seen in dugout at (063421). Slight movemt and activity heard ar (065 415) at 1340.

8th Inf: Patrol reachd (062426) w/o contacting en; second patrol observd en digging in vic (065417); third patrol recd MG fire at (056437) which came fr E & SE edge of woods at 056435.

Armor: One camouflaged tank or SP gun reptd at (075382) during morning. One en tk observd vic (073376) was fired on, withdrew.

PW's claim HOF HARDT (0643) - GURZENICH (0844) road mined and that a C/A wd be launchd, w/ tks, direction GEY (0739) - KLEINHAU (0537).

Weather forecast: Clouds overcast 1-2000 ft until noon, breaking to 2-3000 ft in afternoon, w/ broken clouds at 5000 ft. Scatterd rain & snow flurries until noon. Visibility: ½ - 1 mi in snow, increasing to 2 - 3 mi by 1100 and 4 - 6 mi in afternoon. Surface winds: W, SW at 8-12 mph. Max Temp 41 degr, Min Temp 32 degr. Flying conditions poor until 1200, moderate in afternoon.

Enemy capabilities:

a. Defend fr present positions, conducting local C/As to disrupt our atks & seal off local penetrations.

b. Continue delaying @, utilizing previously prepd positions & flooding ROER valley after crossing, to retard our advance.

c. Break contact and withdraw to E.

d. Launch a major attack employing panzer & inf reserves presently disposed E of ROER R.

e. Continue to employ airforce & V-weapons to harass our trs.

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Fr G-2 Per Rept No. 121, 10 Dec 44: 100001 to 102400

Front lines : 330: 072373 - 084379 - N to 0839 - then E of STRASS to 077393. En pocket at 071387. 331: En occupies portions of GEY. 8 Inf: No change.

New identification: 14th Co, 981 Inf, 272 VG Div, vic KUFFERATH 099399.

General: During night en along our front remd defensive, again limiting his activity to harassing our fwd areas w/ arty & mrtr concents. Initially his react to our atk was slow, opposition concisting chiefly of s/a fire. After daylight, however, en brought hvy mrtr & arty fires to bear, thereby impeding advance of our trs & inflicg casualties. By midmorn our trs had passd thru SCHAFBERG 0738 & entered outskirts of STRASS 0739. By early afternoon en driven fr STRASS; he had, however, infiltrated trs back into SCHAFBERG area vicin 071386, & by nightfall had trs in / town itself. Strength this force per PW is approx 100 trs. Early in day our trs reached Westrn outskirts of GEY 0739, but here en c hose to defend fr house to house, offrd stubrn resist; hvy arty fire fell on fwd trs in this area thruout day. In 8th Inf Regtl sect en contd defensive thruout period.

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Air: Toward end of day, FW 190s, ME 109s & one JU 88 strafed & bombed our fwd areas. No casualties, no damage reptd. One FW 190 knockd down by AA fire, 2 ME 109s knockd down & 2 others hit.

Armor: Per PW, 4 en assault guns SP kod in area betw SCHAFBERG & STRASS. One assault gun known kod by 330 in this area. Early in day 3 en tks reptd operating vic 077389, 3 at 08023907. Tks also reptd at 085391, 076383 & 074433.

Weather forecast: Overcast til 1200, cloud base 1000-1500'. Clouds broken after 1200, with bases 1000-2000'. Light continuous rain in morning, scattrd showers during afternoon. Winds 10-18 mph. Visibility poor in morning, moderate in afternoon, 2-3 mi until 1100, 5-6 mi fr 1200 til end of day, except during showers. Temp range 32 - 40 degr. Flying conditions bad during morning, moderate during afternoon.

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Fr G-2 Per Rept No 122, 11 Dec 44 : 110001 to 112400

Front lines: 330: 075373 - 078300-076385 - 080390 - 077393. 331: No change. 329: 064420 - 063424 - 059422 - 059430 - 057437 - 058442 - W to 055445.

New identifications: 7th Co, 6th Para Regt and 2d Co, 217 Assault Gun Bn.

General: During hours of darkness en remd quiet except for scattrd arty & mrtr concents directd v our fwd areas. During daylight hrs en fought stubbornly in Gey & Strass areas. Our trs encountrd innumerable mines in Gey, many of them non-metalic type. By 1830 en reptd to have been cleard fr Strass, but shortly after 1900 a C/A was launchd v our trs in Strass fr / E & SE at 08453928 & 08353950. Size of C/A force unknown, but consisted of inf supportd by high velocity guns. C/A reptd stoppd by 2200.

Air: Six out of seven en planes over Div area were shot down by AA fire during afternoon. Score: 2 ME 109s at 1615, 2 ME 109s at 1620, 2 FW 190s at 1625, 1 ME 109 over at 1715 not hit.

Armor: 2 en tks reptd at 09204546, oneof them was KOd. 2 SP guns reptd KOd at 07253820.

Weather forecast: Clouds overcast in morning w/ bases 2000-3000 ft, broken after 1000. Visibility good. Surface winds SW 8-12 mph. Temp range 34-42 degr.

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Fr G-2 Per Rept No 123, 12 Dec 44 : 120001 to 122400

Front lines: SCHAFBERG - generally NE of STRASS - N thru E portion of GEY - NW to point E of HOF HARDT - N to ROTTFELD.

New identifications: 2 and 7 Cos, 942 Regt, 252 Div; 8 Co 943 Regt, 353 Div; 4 Co, 344 Repl Bn; 5 Co, 6 Para Regt.

General: En strongly resistd our advances thruout period, utilizing SP & automatic wpns fire fr dug-in positions & villages, supportd by hvy arty fire fr both sides ROER R. HOF HARDT cleard by noon, while house to house fighting contd in GEY. The advance of 329 was met initially by moderate resist which stiffened as our trs contd to advance. Two small C/As were repulsd during afternoon. Opposition v 330 & 331 contd stubborn thruout period, extensive minefields interfering w/ our operations in GEY. In the SCHAFBERG area, en offrd strong resist to our operations by laying intense mrtr & arty fire on our trs.

Air: 2-3 ME 109s strafed fwd area of 329 shortly before noon. No casualties, no damage reptd.

Accord to PW, en C/A v STRASS during previous period was conducted by approx 90 inf supptd by 4 tks & some SP guns. Our fire KOd one tk/

Weather forecast: Scattrd rain & snow showers. Visibility 3-5 mi during beginning of period, 4-6 mi after 1100. Wind SW, 8-12 mph. Temp range 34-42 degr. Flying conditions moderate.

OB NOTES : 83d confrontd by 11 weak Inf Bns plus remnts of 1057 & 1058 Inf Regts of 344 (91) Inf Div. Divl arty in support of these units composed of 191 353 Arty Regts. Inf elements constitute components of 353 Inf Div, 272 VG Div, 3 Para Div, 344 (91) Inf Div, and 6 Para Regt; 217 Assault Gun Bn. Total en strength in our zone W of ROER R max of 5000 men.

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Fr G-2 Per Rept No 124, 13 Dec 44 : 130001 to 132400

Front lines : E of SCHAFBERG - E of STRASS - E of GEY. E of HOF HARDT - GEY road in grid square 0642. 083430 - 083435. FO9 Northing thru GURZENICH.

New identifications: 6 and 14 Cos, 942 Inf Regt; Hq, 2, 3, 4, and 5 Cos, 943 Inf Regt; 5 Btry, 353 Arty Regt; 12 Co, 6 Para Regt; 2 and 4 Cos, 8 Para Regt; 1 Co, 115 VG Regt; 3 Co, 682 AT Bn.

General: During hours of darkness en confined activity to harassing our fwd areas with scattrd arty fire, bulk of which fell in the STRASS and SCHAFBERG areas.

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In 330 zone en shelling during daylight hrs lighter than prev period; our operations hamprd consid by direct fire fr AT & SP guns located vic 081381 & 083388; our communications w/ fwd elemts were seriously interfered w/ by shelling fr quarry at 092383. After 331 had cleard all of GEY, early in morning, en began placing arty concents on it. Contd thruout day. During afternoon, en emplyed high velocity wpns v our advances. Resist v 329 consistd of s/a, MG, mrtr & arty fire, particularly in southern part of zone. An en defensive line was developed shortly before noon vic 057429. En forces manning this line of trenchworks and bunkers, stubbornly resisted our trs during remdr of day, utilizing considerable arty & mrtr fires. In northern part of regtl zone only scattrd resist offrd v our drive to GURZENICH, a portion of which was occupied before close of day. At end ofperiod a pocket of en trs remd in vic 060414. Towrrd close of period en placed hvy arty concents on rd betw GEY and STRASS, and on rds leading to STRASS fr the W were heavily interdictd w/ time fire.

Armor : One en tk destroyd at 095404.

Air : One en plane reptd over area at 1730. No hostile ⓐ.

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