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83d Inf Div
APO 83, U.S. Army
1 December 1944

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319.1401 (C)

SUBJECT: Operations of the Division, 1-30 November 1944.

TO : 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 1-30 November, 1944 is submitted.
2. The following units were attached to the Division during the period:

802d TD Bn (T)
774th Tk Bn
453d AAA Bn (AW)
81st FA Bn (155 How)
174th FA Bn (155 Gun) (SF)
32d Cav Rcn Sq (to 9 Nov)
Hq & Hq Btry, 422d FA Gp (from 6 Nov)
Task Force POLK (from 9 to 11 Nov)
3d Cav Gp
Hq & Hq Tr, 3d Cav Gp
3d Cav Sq
43d Cav Sq
705th TD Bn (SF)
Co A, 135th Engr (C) Bn
Co C, 81st Cml Bn (11 Nov only)
Btry C, 558th FA Bn (155 Gun) (SF) (11 Nov only)
Btry A, 285th FA Obsn Bn (from 21 Nov)
Tr A, 89th Cav Rcn Sq (from 22-28 Nov)
Tr B, 89th Cav Rcn Sq (from 22 Nov)
Co B, 52d Armd Inf Bn (from 22-29 Nov)
Btry C, 559th FA Bn (155 Gun) (from 27 Nov)
Tr C, 89th Cav Rcn Sq (from 28 Nov)
Co C, 52d Armd Inf Bn (from 28 Nov)

a. Supporting Troops;

202d Engr (C) Bn
Hq, 9th Armd Div Arty
73d Armd FA Bn
3d Armd FA Bn
Btry B, 16th FA Obsn Bn (7 Nov only)
Btry A, 285th FA Obsn Bn (from 8-20 Nov)
811th TD Bn (SF) (from 28 Nov)

b. Dispositions of troops at close of period are shown in Item Number 88, G-2, G-3 Journal, 30 November 1944.

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L. L. Clayton
25 Apr 46*

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

Map Ref: CENTRAL EUROPE, 1/100,000. Sheets TL, UI, VI.

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

Incl - General Summary and Daily Record of Operations.

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Name *Col CAC*
Date *2.5.4.1946*
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HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 83, U.S. Army

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GENERAL SUMMARY

On 1 November 1944, the 83d Infantry Division continued its mission to patrol vigorously to the MOSELLE - SAUER Rivers, and to prevent an enemy river crossing thereof. The Division was located on the West bank of the MOSELLE - SAUER Rivers from BOLLENDORF (LO10401) to SIERCK LES BAINS (Q002943). The Division Command Post was located about two miles Southeast of LUXEMBOURG. Troops were disposed as follows: the 329th Infantry on the left flank from BOLLENDORF to vicinity of railroad tracks at MERTERT (LO95233); the 330th Infantry in the center, having its right (Southern) boundary in the vicinity of BESCH (LO101); and the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to the Division, on the right flank, having its right (Southern) boundary in the vicinity of SIERCK LES BAINS. On the right (South) flank of the Division, Task Force POLK, attached to the 90th Infantry Division, occupied positions; on the left (North) flank the 8th Infantry Division was employed generally along the SAUER River.

On 29 October, 1944, Commanding General, Third U.S. Army, called at the Division Command Post, after visiting Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group, and stated that the Third Army was taking the offensive in the near future. The 83d Infantry Division would be borrowed from the VIII Corps and First Army and placed under operational control of the XX Corps, Third Army.

On 2 November 1944 orders were received from XX Corps to seize the high ground at BASSE KONTZ (LE STROMBERG HILL) as a preliminary to the operation "UNICORN", Third Army.

On 3 November 1944 Field Order Number 12, Headquarters, XX Corps, dated 3 November, was received. The 90th Infantry Division was ordered under the cover of darkness night of D (D+1) to cross the MOSELLE River in vicinity of KOENIGSMACHER and secure a bridgehead and pass 10th Armored Division, 83d Infantry Division and 3d Cavalry Group through bridgehead over the MOSELLE River.

On 4 November 1944 the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, supported by a platoon of Company B, 308th Engineer Battalion, launched an attack on LE STROMBERG HILL (Q0096) at 0900. 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry relieved the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron at 1930, consolidated the gains made, dug in, and prepared to resume the attack at 0800, 5 November to capture LE STROMBERG.

On 5 November 1944 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, supported by the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron assaulted LE STROMBERG at 0800 with Company B attacking South and Company A attacking Northeast around the slopes of the hill. Small gains were made during the day, positions consolidated and dug in for the night. On 6 November 1944 the 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry captured and secured LE STROMBERG.

D Day for operation "UNICORN" was 8 November, 1944, on which date the Division passed to operational control of XX Corps, Third U.S. Army, at 1200.

On 9 November 1944 the 90th Infantry Division crossed the MOSELLE River vicinity of KOENIGSMACHER with two regiments abreast at 0300. The 83d Infantry Division Command Post opened at MONDORFF and the Division began staging units behind the bridgehead, preparatory to crossing.

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On 10 November 1944 the 331st Infantry was motorized by XX Corps and placed in Corps Reserve, prepared for movement on Corps order. Remaining elements of the 330th Infantry closed into staging area South of LUXEMBOURG at 1100. Bridging operations across the MOSELLE River vicinity of MALLING and CATTENOM were delayed due to the height of the river.

On 11 November 1944 operational control by the XX Corps over the Division ceased at 2120, and the Division reverted to control of the VIII Corps. The 330th Infantry was ordered to relieve Task Force POLK from SIERCK North to WELLEN (L0615).

On 12 November 1944 an enemy counterattack developed from the East in the vicinity of PETITE HEPTANGE. The artillery with the XX Corps was employed on defensive fires to assist in breaking up the counterattack. The Division Artillery covered the draw from SIERCK to MOUNTERNACH. The counterattack was beaten off with considerable loss to the enemy. The Division Command Post moved from MONDORFF and closed in the vicinity of LUXEMBOURG at 1400. The 330th Infantry completed relief of Task Force POLK at 1800, thus ending the Division's participation in the operation "UNICORN".

On 13 November 1944 the Division resumed its former mission of patrolling vigorously to the SAUER - MOSELLE Rivers and preventing enemy crossing thereof, protecting South flank of VIII Corps and maintaining contact with Third U.S. Army. All regiments occupied positions on line, each with one battalion in reserve.

From 14th to 16th November the Division continued to patrol East to the MOSELLE SAUER Rivers from SIERCK to BOLLENDORF. During this same period 83d Division Artillery continued to support Task Force POLK with all available fire power in the Southern sector.

From 16th to 20th November there was patrolling along the Division front. On 20 November 1944, at the request of XX Corps, and with permission of the VIII Corps, the Division agreed to support by fire the advance of the 10th Armored Division in its drive North toward SAARBURG (L1413).

On 22 November 1944, by First Army order, the MOSELLE River from SIERCK North and East through TRIER (L2028) to KOFLENZ (L8995) became the permanent boundary between the First and Third Armies.

On 27 November 1944 the 3d Cavalry Group, having been assigned the mission of relieving the 10th Armored Division within its zone, requested the artillery assistance of the 83d Division. The request was granted and an artillery battalion moved South.

On 28 November 1944 the Chief of Staff, VIII Corps, visited the Division Command Post and talked with the Division Chief of Staff concerning future employment of the Division. Orders were issued for the 330th Combat Team to be prepared to move by motor early on 30 November to VII Corps area in the vicinity of GRESSENICH (K9842).

On 29 November 1944, 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry completed relief of the 330th Infantry at 1630 and assumed responsibility for the area at that time.

On 30 November 1944 a Quartering Party from the 330th Infantry, including Battalion Commanders, departed for the 4th Division area at 0850. The 330th Infantry was assembled in reserve, awaiting orders to move to the VII Corps area.

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HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 83, U.S. Army

DAILY RECORD OF OPERATIONS

1 November 1944

The 83d Infantry Division continued its mission to patrol vigorously to the MOSELLE - SAUER Rivers, and to prevent an enemy river crossing thereof. The Division was located on the West bank of the MOSELLE - SAUER Rivers from BOLLENDORF (LOLO401) to SIERCK LES BAINS (Q002943). The Command Post was located in vicinity of LUXEMBOURG. Troops were disposed as follows: the 329th Infantry on the left flank from BOLLENDORF to vicinity of railroad tracks at MERTERT (LO95233); the 330th Infantry in the center having its right (Southern) boundary in the vicinity of BESCH (LO101); and the 32d Cavalry Squadron, attached to the Division, on the right flank, having its right (Southern) boundary in the vicinity of SIERCK LES BAINS.

The 3d Battalion, 329th Infantry relieved the 2d Battalion. The regiment continued patrolling to the SAUER - MOSELLE Rivers. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon made contact with the 121st Infantry on the left (North) flank. Company D, 774th Tank Battalion was attached to the regiment and moved to the vicinity of ESCH-WEILER (P974252). A patrol from Company C captured a six-man enemy patrol.

In the 330th Infantry area enemy patrols were active. All patrols were driven off with a total of three enemy casualties. Scheduled weapons firing tests were conducted for those units not in contact.

The 331st Infantry conducted training which included firing of weapons, map reading and small unit problems.

The 32d Cavalry Squadron maintained contact with 330th Infantry on the North and Task Force POLK, attached to the 90th Infantry Division on the South. Hostile forces made a determined effort to occupy West slopes of LE STROMBERG (Q0096) vicinity BASSE KONTZ, held by the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. Enemy patrols were active but were driven off with assistance of artillery.

On 29 October, Commanding General, Third U.S. Army, called at the Division Command Post, after visiting Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group, and stated the Third Army was taking the offensive in the near future. That the 83d Infantry Division would be borrowed from the VIII Corps and First Army and placed under operational control of the Third Army. That the 90th Infantry Division (XX Corps), would attack Southeast across the MOSELLE River between THIONVILLE (U8685) and BASSE KONTZ (U9996) establish a bridgehead and pass the 10th Armored Division through and continue the attack South with it to cut off the METZ garrison. That the XX Corps attack would be coordinated with an attack by the XII Corps and the 5th Division (XX Corps) from the bridgehead already established across the MOSELLE River, South of METZ. The 95th Division, from positions West of the MOSELLE River between THIONVILLE and boundary with the 5th Division, would attack the METZ area and make a feint river crossing in the vicinity of UCKANGE (U8579).

That the 83d Infantry Division would be given a mission of passing one regimental combat team through the bridgehead established by the 90th Infantry Division and attack Northeast, clear the area between the SAAR and MOSELLE Rivers of the enemy, attack and secure crossings over the SAAR River, vicinity of SAARBURG, establish a bridgehead and

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be prepared to pass elements of the XX Corps through the bridgehead. That elements of the second combat team which would be uncovered West of the MOSELLE River and be used to support the attack. That the Division would not be used beyond the bridgehead operation at SAARBURG and the net gain would be a considerable shortening of the present front of the 83d Infantry Division.

Planning was initiated immediately for the participation of the Division in this operation.

2 November 1944

The 329th Infantry continued patrolling in its sector from BOLLENDORF to MERTERT. The 1st Battalion captured three prisoners of war who had deserted the Germans at 1800 November in the vicinity of MERSDORF (L1128). Six medium tanks from the 9th Armored Division, VIII Corps Reserve, equipped with 76mm guns, fired a total of 180 rounds at pillboxes and houses opposite ECHTERNACH across the SAUER River. The tanks fired from positions about one kilometer Southeast of ECHTERNACH (L0535) between hours of 1515-1545. The enemy returned the fire with artillery of 150mm caliber. No casualties were suffered. Tanks scored direct hits on pillboxes and steel turrets as well as houses in ECHTERNACHBUCK (L0536) which were used by the Germans as observation posts.

The front of the 330th Infantry was quiet, with no enemy contact during the period. Weapons units were tested as scheduled.

Units of the 331st Infantry continued small unit training.

In the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron's sector enemy patrols continued active at LE STROMBERG (Q003960) with contact being made at 0905 and 1630. Artillery again assisted in driving off the enemy.

OPERATION "UNICORN"

Planning continued. XX Corps stated that bridges were planned immediately for REITEL (U9894), MALLING (U9592) and CATTENOM (U9291), followed by one at THIONVILLE and one later at REMICH when that site was uncovered. The Division was to have the two North bridges for the crossing. Orders were received from XX Corps to seize the high ground at BASSE KONTZ (LE STROMBERG HILL) as a preliminary to the operation since the hill commanded the North shoulder of the proposed bridgehead. It was also directed that the operation be conducted in such a manner as not to draw attention of the Germans to the importance of the ground.

3 November 1944

The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 329th Infantry, made contact with 60th Armored Infantry Battalion (attached to 8th Division) on the left. The 329th Infantry continued patrolling and outposting. A Platoon of Company K encountered a 20-man enemy patrol at L102265 at 1300. After exchange of rifle and machine gun fire enemy dispersed into woods at L100275. Casualties were two enemy killed and one of our own men wounded. Company L, at 1405, routed enemy from woods in their vicinity.

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The 330th Infantry encountered no enemy patrols during the period. Enemy artillery fire was light. The regiment continued normal outpost and patrol missions. Units not in contact carried on small units training.

Units of the 331st Infantry continued training activities in Division Reserve area East of LUXEMBOURG.

A patrol of the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron contacted a 3-man enemy patrol at LE STROMBERG (Q001960) at 1230. Two enemy believed killed. A coordinated attack was ordered at 0900, 4 November, to capture LE STROMBERG (See Item 72, G-2, G-3 Journal, 3 November 1944).

Company B, 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the Division, fired a direct fire mission on a mine shaft opening vicinity CONTZ-LES-BOIS during evening 3 November. The results were unknown.

OPERATION UNICORN

Field Order Number 12, Hq XX Corps, dated 3 November (See Item 129, G-2, G-3 Journal, 2 November 1944) was received from XX Corps. The 90th Infantry Division was ordered under cover of darkness night of D (D+1) to cross the MOSELLE RIVER in vicinity of KOENIGSMACHER and secure a bridgehead and pass 10th Armored Division, 83d Infantry Division and 3d Cavalry Group through bridgehead over the MOSELLE RIVER. The 83d Infantry Division was ordered to protect LUXEMBOURG and contain enemy in North of present zone prepared to concentrate with maximum secrecy on Corps order. Task Force POLK (3d Cavalry Group reinforced) was to be attached to the 83d Infantry Division and to relieve 330th Infantry containing West bank of MOSELLE RIVER. Division on Corps order to pass through the 90th Infantry Division bridgehead attack Northeast and secure crossings of the SAAR River vicinity of SAARBURG and establish a bridgehead at that point. On Corps order to pass elements of the Corps through the SAARBURG bridgehead.

In preparation of the coming operations the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was ordered to capture HILL LE STROMBERG 4 November. Time of attack 0900. The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, was alerted to assume the mission in case the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron failed.

Plans were initiated with Task Force POLK for relief of the 330th Infantry starting immediately when the 90th Infantry Division attack had passed through the present front lines of Task Force POLK.

XX Corps was contacted reference the area MONDORFF (P9502), DALHEIM, HASSEL, EVRANGE, as a staging area for the Division preparatory to crossing. The actual staging was to be on CORPS ORDER.

Task Force MARKLE consisting of the 774th Tank Battalion (- Cos A, B, C and Serv), the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop and one Reconnaissance Platoon, 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed) was formed and training initiated. Task Force MARKLE was to have the mission of protecting the right of the Division during the attack Northeast and to maintain contact with the 10th Armored Division.

4 November 1944

The 329th Infantry continued to patrol in its sector. The 2d Battalion closed 041645 from MAGNOT LINE training area at HETTANGE GRANDE to vicinity of ESCHWEILER

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(P9725). Patrol encountered a 4-man enemy patrol (L103332) at 0800. One prisoner was taken. The Reconnaissance Platoon of the 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion and Company D, 774th Tank Battalion were relieved from attachment at 0800.

The 2d Battalion of the 330th Infantry relieved the 1st Battalion in position at 041100. The 1st Battalion closed into an assembly area in Regimental Reserve at 1200. 2d Battalion and 3d Battalion occupied the whole of regimental front. 1st Battalion made reconnaissance to clear area West of the MOSELLE RIVER in vicinity of LE STROMBERG (Q0096) in conjunction with 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. No enemy patrols reported and artillery and mortar fire was light.

The 331st Infantry units continued training in Division Reserve.

The 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron supported by a platoon of Company B, 308th Engineer Battalion launched an attack on LE STROMBERG at 0900. Lead tank of the force was knocked out on narrow road. The attack was stopped by enemy mortar and small arms fire. Many Anti-Tank and anti-personnel mines were encountered. Small gains, against estimated enemy force of one reinforced company on LE STROMBERG, were consolidated and troops dug in for the night.

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry relieved the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron at 1950, consolidated the gains made, dug in, and prepared to resume the attack at 0800, 5 November, to capture LE STROMBERG.

OPERATION UNICORN

Warning Order, dated 4 November 1944 (See Item 80, G-2, G-3 Journal, 4 November 1944), was issued directing that reconnaissance be made of routes from present areas to staging area (vicinity MONDORFF (P9401)), preparatory to crossing the MOSELLE RIVER and attacking Northeast and capturing SAARBURG.

An effort was made to secure additional artillery to support the Division during the coming operation.

5 November 1944

The 329th Infantry continued patrolling in its sector. The 8th Infantry Division on the North was contacted.

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, supported by the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron assaulted LE STROMBERG (Q0096) at 0800 with Company B attacking South and Company A attacking Northeast around the slopes of the hill. The attack progressed slowly against mortar, artillery and small arms fire and over ground covered with mines. By the end of the day the attack of Company A had progressed to (Q001953) and Company B to (Q006965) where they dug in for the night.

Company C of the 331st Infantry was attached to the 330th Infantry and moved to MONDORFF (P9401) at 1630. The 330th Infantry (less 1st Battalion) continued patrolling of its sector on the MOSELLE RIVER from MERTERT to REMICH while the 331st Infantry (less Company C) continued training in Division Reserve.

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The 324th and 174th Field Artillery Battalions fired seven concentrations on TRIER and MARKUSBERG starting at 1600 hours.

OPERATION UNICORN

The 81st Field Artillery Battalion (155 Howitzer) and 174th Field Artillery Battalion (155 Gun)(SP) were detached from the Division by VIII Corps, attached to the 422d Field Artillery Group and the Group in turn attached to the Division. Battery B, 16th Field Artillery Observation Battalion (Sound and Flash) was placed in support of the Division. No VIII Corps Artillery units were to be employed East of the MOSELLE RIVER.

The Division plan of operation (UNICORN) (See Item 134, G-2, G-3 Journal) due to its Top Secret classification was given verbally to the regimental commanders.

6 November 1944

The 329th Infantry continued to patrol along the MOSELLE RIVER without incident.

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, captured and secured LE STROMBERG (Q0096) at 1100. Several casualties were caused from mines and booby traps. Engineers who were supporting the attack were shelled by mortar fire while clearing mined road blocks and adjacent mine fields. XX Corps was notified of the successful termination of this operation.

The 331st Infantry, with Companies A and B, 774th Tank Battalion attached, continued training in the Division Reserve. Company C (reinforced), which had been attached to the 330th Infantry, reverted to regimental control at 1440.

Battery B, 453d Anti-Aircraft Battalion, attached to the Division, shot down two ME 109 Airplanes (German) in the vicinity of (P965184) at 1527 hours. The pilots were seen to parachute over German held territory East of the MOSELLE RIVER.

Task Force MARKLE continued to train with special emphasis on communications.

The 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied positions on the flanks of hill vicinity of LE STROMBERG HILL after its capture by the 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry.

The 422d Field Artillery Group Headquarters and Headquarters Battery were attached to the Division Artillery and closed in MONDORFF at 2200. The Group was placed in general support of the Division.

OPERATION UNICORN

Planning and briefing of Regimental Commanders for operation UNICORN continued. Plans were made to move the Division Command Post to MONDORFF for the initial phases of the operation. Efforts to obtain more artillery support for the Division during the operation were continued.

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7 November 1944

The 83d Infantry Division continued to patrol East to the MOSELLE - SAUER RIVERS. The enemy was contained East of the two rivers by aggressive patrolling and outposting along the river lines.

The 329th Infantry patrolled and outposted the regimental sector and held positions already occupied. Training in lessons from combat experience (and small units problems) was continued for units not in contact. Three Russian prisoners of war surrendered to Company C during the evening.

The 330th Infantry contained the enemy east of the MOSELLE RIVER by active patrolling. The 1st Battalion organized and held LE STROMBERG with two companies on the position and one in reserve. Each company had two platoons forward and one in support. Arrangements were made to de-mine the area. The Cannon Company received 200 rounds of 105mm counterbattery fire in vicinity LO42232 between 1030 and 1115. No casualties resulted. During the day no enemy contact was made.

The 331st Infantry, in reserve, proceeded with normal training from assembly areas in vicinity LUXEMBOURG.

The 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained outposts on the flanks of LE STROMBERG.

General EISENHOWER and Lieutenant General BRADLEY visited the Command Post from 1710 to 1755.

The 774th Tank Battalion performed maintenance and conducted tactical training. The tank companies experimented with the M2 Demolition "Snake" and trained with the tank dozer. Troops were instructed in booby trap removal.

OPERATION UNICORN

The Division issued Field Order 34 (See Item 130, G-2, G-3 Journal) for the operation. The Division (reinforced) was to continue containing the enemy in present sector and, less containing force crossed the MOSELLE RIVER through the 90th Infantry Division bridgehead, attack north, destroy the enemy between the SAAR and MOSELLE RIVERS and seize a bridgehead over the SAAR River in the vicinity of SAARBURG.

The Division Artillery Commander, the Regimental Commanders, Commanding Officer Task Force MARKLE, with staffs, were given a final briefing on the order to include the movement to the staging area, crossing the river and the initiation of the attack to the north.

Permission was granted by XX Corps to move the Division Command Post to MONDORFF after 0300 (D plus 1).

8 November 1944

In the 329th Infantry sector the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon contacted the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion, 9th Armored Division, on the left, while the 3d Battalion made contact with the 330th Infantry on the right. The regiment continued patrolling. The 2d Battalion was held in regimental reserve. During the day a regi-

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mental command post exercise was held in the area.

The 330th Infantry encountered slight enemy activity during the day. Minor regrouping was initiated with Company A relieved by Company C at LE STROMBERG HILL at 1925. In a minor patrol action Company K fired on an enemy patrol of three men in vicinity (LO29163) at 0025. After daylight two men of this patrol were captured. They stated the third man was killed. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was light during the day.

The 331st Infantry remained in position as Division Reserve.

The 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to occupy positions along the river line and maintained contact with Task Force POLK and 330th Infantry on the South and North flanks, respectively.

OPERATION UNICORN

D Day for the Third Army arrived with the XII Corps and the 5th Infantry Division opening the attack from the bridgehead already held across the MOSELLE RIVER South of METZ. The weather was bad with considerable rain falling.

The Division passed to operational control of XX Corps at 1200.

The Division Artillery Command Post opened at MONDORFF at 1400. The Division Artillery was prepared to support the 90th Division bridgehead. Battery A, 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion (Sound and Flash) replaced Battery B, 16th Field Artillery Observation Battalion in direct support of the Division during the coming operations.

Orders were received to assemble one Regimental Combat Team (331st) in staging area night of (D plus 1) (D plus 2) (9-10 November). The second Regimental Combat Team (330th) was to be assembled in the staging area as soon as practicable thereafter. The movement of the 330th Regimental Combat Team hinged upon relief of mission along MOSELLE RIVER by Task Force POLK.

The 1139th Engineer Combat Group was to be prepared to relieve the 3d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron of Task Force POLK on the South from 95th Division boundary to LA KISSEL approximately 1200 (D plus 1), 9 November. This would speed the relief of 330th Infantry by Task Force POLK. The remaining cavalry squadron (43d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron) would be relieved piecemeal when the 90th Infantry Division attack, (D plus 1) 9 November, had passed through the Line of Departure held by that squadron. The squadron was to infiltrate to the rear through the columns of the 90th Division, assemble and complete relief of the 330th Infantry.

Instructions were issued to the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron to assemble all available elements vicinity of SCHRASSIG in order not to interfere with movement of Division to staging area night of 9-10 November.

9 November 1944

OPERATION UNICORN

The 90th Infantry Division crossed the MOSELLE RIVER vicinity KOENIGSMACHER with

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two regiments abreast at 0300. The initial crossing was a complete surprise to the enemy with only the third wave coming under small arms and automatic weapons fire. The river continued to rise and the weather continued bad. Bridging operations at MALLING and CATTENOM commenced at daylight.

The Division Command Post closed vicinity LUXEMBOURG and opened at MONDORF at 1200.

Task force POLK was attached to the Division as of 1200. The 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self propelled) attached to Task Force POLK was less Company A and with Company A, 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed) to cross the MOSELLE RIVER in support of the Division. The 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed) less Company A, and with Company A, 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self propelled) attached, was attached to Task Force POLK for employment on the West side of the river.

The relief of Task Force POLK along the river from 95th Division bridgehead North to 83d Division bridgehead proceeded without delay. Task Force POLK started relief of 330th Infantry at 1420 and completed at 2140.

The 331st Infantry started movement into the staging area at 1800 and completed the movement at 2300.

The 330th Infantry started movement into the staging area by echelon at 1425 as soon as elements were relieved by Task Force POLK. Movement was completed at 1100, 10 November.

Company C, 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion, was detached from the 5th Infantry Division, and attached to the 83d Infantry Division effective 2400, 10 November. G-3 stated that due to present condition of the river and height of the water that actual movement of the company would be delayed as it could not be brought West of the river in the 5th Division area.

The Division Artillery Commander received word at 2000 that one battery of 155mm Gun (self propelled) would be available to the Division later for employment across the MOSELLE RIVER.

Task Force MARKLE continued training. The Task Force was to stage from present areas in crossing the river.

The 908th Field Artillery Battalion in support of the 90th Division bridgehead destroyed an enemy tank after obtaining three direct hits. The Division Artillery maintained continuous air patrol from 0700 to 1730.

10 November 1944

OPERATION UNICORN

The 329th Infantry in its sector continued to patrol and to hold positions already occupied. During the day's activity, three enemy (Russians) surrendered to the 2d Battalion at OSWEILER (L0632).

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The 2d and 3d Battalions and Cannon Company of the 330th Infantry closed into the staging area South of LUXEMBOURG at 1100, 10 November.

The 331st Infantry, having closed into a new area night 9-10 November, immediately prepared for future employment East of the MOSELLE RIVER. At 1515 the 331st Infantry was motorized by XX Corps and placed in Corps Reserve, prepared for movement on Corps order (See Item 380, G-2, G-3 Journal, 10 November).

Task Force POLK continued occupation and consolidation of positions taken over from 330th Infantry at 2140, 9 November. The 3d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered routes for nightly contact points.

32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was relieved from attachment 1200, 10 November, moved to the city of LUXEMBOURG, attached in place to 14th Cavalry Group, and placed in VIII Corps Reserve. (See Item 349, G-2, G-3 Journal, 10 November 1944).

The bridging operations continued to be delayed due to the height of the river. Operations were continued to both MALLING and CATTEMOM sites even though approaches were inundated to a depth of three feet. Ferrying of weapons and supplies continued at both sites. The crest of the river was expected to pass the bridge sites about 1600. At 2400 a report was received of the river falling one foot nine inches during the previous 24 hour period in the 5th Infantry Division area at PONT-A-MOUSSON.

11 November 1944

OPERATION UNICORN

The 329th Infantry continued patrolling in the northern portion of the Division sector. Task Force POLK reported no contact with enemy during previous night.

The MALLING bridge was completed at 0300. The river level started to drop at 0600.

The 330th Infantry and 331st Infantry remained in the staging area. Plans were made for movement across the river.

At 1704 a request was received for the use of the Division Artillery on a large enemy tank concentration at 00490. The tanks were engaged by a squadron of fighter bombers and all the artillery with the XX Corps. The concentration was broken up with approximately 6 tanks destroyed and 15 more put out of action.

At 2120 word was received that the operation control of the XX Corps over the Division ceased at once; that the Division was to revert to its original status under VIII Corps; that the Division would relieve Task Force POLK without delay at which time it would revert to control of XX Corps. Attachments of the Chemical Company and the battery of 155 Gun (self propelled) ceased also.

The 330th Infantry was ordered to relieve Task Force POLK from SIERCK North to WELLEN (L0619) 12 November. All elements possible to relieve during daylight were to be relieved starting at daylight. The remainder were to be relieved the night of 12-13 November.

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12 November 1944OPERATION UNICORN

At 0630 an enemy counterattack developed from the East in the vicinity of PETITE HETTANGE. The artillery with the Corps was employed on defensive fires to assist in breaking up the counterattack. The Division Artillery covered the draw from SIERCK to MOUNTERNACH. The counterattack was beaten off with considerable loss to the enemy. Over two hundred German dead were found in the streets of PETITE HETTANGE after the engagement.

The 329th Infantry was given the mission of relieving elements of Task Force POLK in the GREVENMACHER area.

The Division Command Post moved from MONDORFF and closed in the vicinity of LUXEMBOURG at 1400.

The 331st Infantry remained in the staging area.

Relief of the remaining elements of Task Force POLK was completed by the 330th Infantry at 1800 and by the 329th Infantry by 1830. With the completion of the relief Task Force POLK reverted to XX Corps Control and began assembling in Corps Reserve in the vicinity of VOLKRANGE (U8085).

With the relief of Task Force POLK the Division ceased to participate in OPERATION UNICORN. Plans were initiated to reoccupy the Division Sector with three regiments on line each with two battalions up and one in Reserve.

Task Force MARKLE was dissolved.

The 330th Infantry was notified to garrison and hold LE STROMBERG HILL at all costs.

13 November 1944

Field Order Number 35 (See Item 151, G-2, G-3 Journal, 12 November 1944) was issued, restated the mission of the 83d Infantry Division, reinforced, to be that of patrolling vigorously to the SAUER - MOSELLE RIVERS and prevent enemy crossing thereof, protect South flank of VIII Corps and maintain contact with Third U. S. Army.

The 330th Infantry accomplished their mission by vigorously patrolling East to the MOSELLE RIVER from SIERCK (Q005945) North to GREVELDANGE (L0010).

The mission of the 331st Infantry was to patrol vigorously East to the MOSELLE River from GREVELDANGE North to MERTERT (L0938).

The 329th Infantry was ordered to patrol East to the MOSELLE - SAUER RIVERS from MERTERT to BOLLENDORF (L014404). Two platoons of the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, reinforced with one reconnaissance platoon of the 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion were attached to the 329th Infantry.

One medium tank company was placed in direct support of each regiment, task units were to be used on secondary mission as artillery when not required for training or

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for primary mission. In addition one platoon of the light tank company was placed in direct support of the 329th Infantry. Movement was initiated by the tanks and artillery to positions in each regimental sector.

The 774th Tank Battalion received new flame throwers for use in the tanks. Training began in the installation and use of the flame throwers.

In the Division sector, only sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire fell throughout the day. Information was received from VIII Corps that the defense of the radio station at JUNGLINSTER would be assumed by Battery B, 467th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, (AW).

14 November 1944

Regrouping continued in accordance with movements initiated on previous day.

During the night of 13-14 November a seven-man patrol from G Co, 330th Infantry, crossed the MOSELLE RIVER at (L023130) and advanced to RJ at (L05051265), a few meters outside of WINCHERINGEN (L053130), and returned without incident at 2400. No enemy was encountered, nor were road blocks or mine fields discovered in the area covered.

The 331st Infantry relieved elements of the 329th Infantry and the 330th Infantry in its new regimental sector.

The Division Artillery Headquarters and Headquarters Battery closed its Command Post at MONDORFF (P9402) and opened new Command Post at HESPERANGE (P8610) at 0900.

In the 90th Division area XX Corps Engineers completed an M1 Treadway bridge across the MOSELLE RIVER vicinity of CATENOM (U920907). Work continued on a floating Bailey Bridge at a point 300 yards downstream. The bridge at MALLING (U956927) was completed and ready for traffic at 1400.

15 November 1944

The regrouping of the Division was completed early in the day. All units continued to patrol vigorously East to the MOSELLE - SAUER RIVERS.

A "no fire line" extending through Q005948, Q016915, and Q016900 was established by arrangement with Task Force POLK. This "no fire line" was on the Northeast flank of the 90th Division bridgehead. The 322d Field Artillery Battalion continued to support Task Force POLK East of the MOSELLE RIVER.

Between midnight of 14 November and first light on 15 November a 7-man enemy patrol operated in the 330th Infantry area South of STADTEREDIMUS (L0107). The group was dispersed by fire from an outpost and forced to withdraw. Two patrols from the 330th Infantry crossed the MOSELLE RIVER during the night 14-15 November. One from the 3d Battalion reached a point close to DILMAR (L044077) and returned at 0100 to report no activity or personnel discovered, although some fortifications were observed. An 8-man patrol from Company A crossed the river vicinity SCHENGEN (Q007977)

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and penetrated to edge of PERL (Q0209), encountering no defensive works, minefields, booby traps or enemy personnel.

Units of the 331st Infantry continued to consolidate positions. Elements in reserve spent the day cleaning weapons and equipment.

The 774th Tank Battalion conducted a demonstration for selected personnel of the Division at 1430 showing the operations of the tank flame thrower.

16 November 1944

The 83d Division continued to patrol East to the MOSELLE - SAUER RIVERS from SIEMCK (Q005945) to BOLLENDORF (L014404). Operations for the period were limited to our patrols crossing the MOSELLE RIVER and training for those units in reserve.

Plan "X", revised 15 November 1944 (See Item 20, G-2, G-3 Journal, 16 November 1944) was issued to units of the Division for meeting possible offensive action of the enemy in the Division sector.

In the 330th Infantry sector a three-man patrol from I Company crossed the MOSELLE RIVER at L020075 with the mission of going to DILMAR (L043077) to observe enemy activities. The patrol had difficulty with the river being at flood stage and were not able to reach their objective. Outpost of C Company observed 2-man enemy patrol in vicinity of Q009987 at 0300 and drove them off with fire. There was no enemy mortar fire and the artillery for the period was light.

The 331st Infantry continued its present mission and conducted training programs for those units not actually occupying positions on the front line.

The 83d Division Artillery continued to support Task Force POLK.

A general warning was received from higher headquarters that the enemy may be expected to use air in greater strength and to employ such strength for offensive operations in the near future. Units were directed to complete detailed plans for air raid security.

17 November 1944

Normal patrolling activity continued without incident.

At 1225 the Commanding General directed that the 330th Infantry send contact patrol across the MOSELLE RIVER to maintain contact with Task Force POLK in the advance to the North.

In the 329th Infantry sector, an enemy patrol was sighted across the river vicinity L05903588 at 1200. These troops entered a house at that point and were taken under fire. At daybreak an estimated 10-man enemy patrol was met at L105285 and driven off.

The 323d Field Artillery Battalion moved to vicinity of CANACH in order to provide better support for the advance of Task Force POLK to the North and also to support possible patrol activity of the 330th Infantry.

Intensive training was carried on for those units in reserve.

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On the left flank of the Division, the 8th Infantry Division was in the process of being relieved by the 28th Infantry Division. The 9th Armored Division remained in Corps Reserve midway between the 8th and 83d Infantry Divisions vicinity MERSCH (P8329). The 73d Armored Field Artillery Battalion and the 3d Armored Field Artillery Battalion were at this time supporting the Division.

18 November 1944

There was no change in the mission or disposition of the 83d Infantry Division from that outlined in Field Order Number 35.

On the Division right flank, the 330th Infantry extended from SIERCK (Q005945) North to GREVELDANGE (L0010), with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve.

The 331st Infantry occupied its part of the Division sector from GREVELDANGE to MERTERT (L0923) with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left leaving the 2d Battalion in reserve.

On the extreme left, the 329th Infantry patrolled East to the MOSELLE - SAUER RIVERS with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion on the left, and the 1st Battalion in reserve.

At 1000 the 330th Infantry reported a patrol in contact with the 3d Cavalry Squadron East of the MOSELLE RIVER. Company I encountered enemy patrol of undetermined strength at L008080 - patrol was forced to withdraw. Later in the day, contact patrols from the 3d Battalion and Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon crossed the MOSELLE RIVER at L019062 with no difficulty.

The Commanding General, VIII Corps, visited the Division Command Post at 1325. He discussed with the Chief of Staff the desirability of employing the cavalry reconnaissance troops and one company of armored infantry of the 9th Armored Division along the Division front for purposes of training.

19 November 1944

A new temporary boundary of the MOSELLE RIVER for operational purposes was agreed upon between the 83d Division (VIII Corps) and the 10th Armored Division (XX Corps). This temporary boundary was agreed upon at Army level.

In the sector of the 330th Infantry no contact was made with the enemy during the day. A patrol from the 1st Battalion crossed the MOSELLE RIVER at SCHENGEN (Q009978), made contact with Task Force POLK and collected data regarding terrain, enemy troops, and types of fortifications. A small bridgehead was established on the east bank of the MOSELLE RIVER opposite SCHENGEN.

Patrols from the 331st Infantry were active during the period. A patrol from the 3d Battalion reached L091231 and discovered an enemy observation post in vicinity of MERTERT (L095233), another patrol approached the town of MACHTUM and fired on enemy observation post in that area.

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Enemy patrols were particularly vigorous in the 329th Infantry area. At 0700 and 0900 ~~six~~ and fifteen-men patrols approached two front line observation posts but both enemy patrols were driven off. At 1100 an eight-man patrol was discovered at L077335 and forced to withdraw after suffering three casualties.

In order to take advantage of a relatively inactive period, the Division initiated a three-week course of advanced training for selected non-commissioned officers at MONDOEFF (P9402). Some of the more important subjects to be taught were map reading, tactical training of the infantry soldier, combat orders and troop leading, patrolling, tactics (from a rifle squad to and including an infantry battalion) and other essential subjects.

On the Division left flank the relief of the 8th Infantry Division by the 28th Infantry Division was completed at 0830.

20 November 1944

Foot and motorized patrols continued to operate along the Division front while reserve elements were engaged in training activities and maintenance of equipment.

The 329th Infantry, 330th Infantry, 331st Infantry, and the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop received instructions that the 10th Armored Division would take over the mission of Task Force POLK. A temporary boundary between the 83d Infantry Division and the 10th Armored Division was established on the MOSELLE RIVER from SIERCK North to a point L0720 thence east to the SAAR RIVER at L1520. The 330th Infantry was ordered to make a study of the bridge site at REMICH with a view of protecting it if possible from the West side of the river and to investigate the possibility of sending a security force to the East bank immediately prior to the uncovering of the site by the advance of the 10th Armored Division.

At the request of the XX Corps, and with permission of the VIII Corps, the Division agreed to support by fire the advance of the 10th Armored Division in its drive North toward SAARBURG (L1413).

The 330th Infantry was directed to withdraw Company B from the BASSE KONTZ area to Battalion Reserve in the vicinity of BURMERANGE. The regiment was ordered to send contact patrols across the MOSELLE RIVER behind the front lines of the 10th Armored Division as they advanced North in order to study the terrain and determine the nature and amount of enemy resistance.

Activity in front of the 331st Infantry was limited to patrol action. A six-man enemy patrol was ambushed by Company K at L079231 at 0900 and a fire fight ensued. The result of the action was four Germans killed and two escaped.

At 1630 a 15-man patrol was sighted by Cannon Company of the 329th Infantry at L091356 and brought under fire by this organization. Plans were completed this date with officer representatives from the 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron for employment by the 329th Infantry for purposes of training.

The 774th Tank Battalion continued to fire a great many secondary missions. The Battalion fired five concentrations and several harassing missions on KONZ KARTH-AUS (L1820 and LIERSBERG (L1425), NENNIG (L0205), SINZ (L0605), and several small

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towns. While on a routine patrol, a tank ran over an enemy mine at road junction Northwest of WASSERBILLIG and was destroyed by burning.

21 November 1944

Normal patrolling and training activities continued along the Division front without incident.

Having been uncovered by 10th Armored Division, East of the MOSELLE RIVER, Company B, 330th Infantry, was withdrawn from area BASSE KONTZ North to a point (Q0199). The area was covered with observation posts during hours of daylight and by patrols at night.

The 331st Infantry had one patrol cross the MOSELLE RIVER vicinity (L028118) but made no contact with the enemy.

There was no patrolling by the enemy in the 329th Infantry sector. A company problem was held for C Company and one platoon of B Company.

Shortly after midnight on 21 November a single enemy plane passed over Division area. At 1840, three to five enemy planes were over the area and two hours later what was believed to be a jet-propelled plane passed over U998993 flying Southeast. Shortly thereafter a single plane was heard over the same position, and four aircraft were over the area between 2115 and 2240. One of these flights dropped six small bombs in the vicinity of SENNINGEN (P9217), not far from the 331st Regimental Command Post, but no damage resulted.

22 November 1944

The Division continued patrolling and training activities without incident. In the 331st Infantry sector the 2d Battalion was relieved by the 3d Battalion, which closed in reserve at 2215.

Officers from Troops A & B, 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Company B, 52d Armored Infantry Battalion (all units from the 9th Armored Division) received final details from the 329th Infantry regarding the relief of two platoons of the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop and Company G, 329th Infantry. (Relief was to be completed by 23 November).

The Division Artillery carried out minor regroupings in order to better support the advance of the 10th Armored Division on the East side of the MOSELLE RIVER. The 323d Field Artillery Battalion closed in vicinity CANACH (P9813) at 0915. The 324th Field Artillery Battalion closed vicinity WECKER (L0222) at 1630. The Assault Gun Platoon, 774th Tank Battalion (being used on secondary mission) closed vicinity MICHELSHOF (L026315) at 1100. A TOT with three battalions was fire on MACHTUM (L0618) at 1830, and on NITTEL (L0618) at 1850.

By First Army order the MOSELLE RIVER from SIERCK (L0094) North and East through TRIER (L2028) to KOELENZ (L8995) became the permanent boundary between the First and Third Armies (See Item 345, G-2, G-3 Journal, 22 November 1944).

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Platoons from the 331st Infantry and 330th Infantry were tested by a group of Division Officers. The following techniques were observed: The attack of intermediate objective (the outpost line of a defensive position) and final objectives, and reorganization and consolidation of final objective.

23 November 1944

Patrolling and training activities continued throughout the Division. Enemy patrol activity was increased somewhat during the day and their efforts were directed toward taking prisoners, cutting wires, tapping communication lines, in determined attempts to get information concerning our strength, plans, movements and operations. One man was killed and three listed as missing as a result of these enemy patrols.

Relief of Co G, 329th Infantry, by Company B, 52d Armored Infantry Battalion, was completed and Company G moved to an assembly area vicinity OSWEILER (L0632). 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, withdrew from its positions covering the river line on the right flank of the Division area, and moved into an assembly area vicinity ITZIG (P8711), Company C remained behind at BURMERANGE (U9799).

Company B, 308th Engineer Battalion, operated a ferry at SCHENGEN (Q0097), and continued hydrographic study of the MOSELLE RIVER at that point.

One jet-propelled plane was observed flying South over HERBORN (L0628) at approximately 0930. An unidentified aircraft was observed at 2230 over (P8710).

The entire Division was alerted to "Stand By" at 2300, but no unusual activity was observed or reported in the Division area during the night 23-24 November.

24 November 1944

Patrolling of MOSELLE RIVER, West bank, from SIERCK (L0094) to the mouth of the SAUER RIVER (L1124) and thence North along the SAUER RIVER to the Division boundary (L0240), continued without incident.

Two platoons, 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop and the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 329th Infantry, withdrew to assembly areas upon relief by Troops A and B, 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, units of the 9th Armored Division attached to the 329th Infantry, Company B, 52d Armored Infantry Battalion, also a unit of the 9th Armored Division attached to the 329th Infantry, moved into position and effected relief of Company G, 329th Infantry.

Company I, 330th Infantry, relieved Company C at BURMERANGE (U9799), Company C withdrew to assembly area vicinity FENTANGE (P8508) close to remainder of 1st Battalion.

Company C, 331st Infantry, relieved Company A at 1530.

The Reconnaissance Platoon, 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion, was relieved from attachment to the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop at 0900.

No enemy air activity was reported over the Division zone during the day.

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25 November 1944

Patrolling continued along river line and units in reserve carried on training. 2d Battalion, 330th Infantry, completed relief of 3d Battalion at 1200.

Enemy plane flew over area shortly after midnight. Eight or ten V-weapons projectiles went over during the course of the day, headed either Southwest or Northwest. Four enemy planes were over various parts of the Division zone between 1930 and 2100. The 10th Armored Division was contacted regarding establishment of a "No Fire Line" South of which no patrols of the 331st Infantry would cross the MOSELLE RIVER. Due to their dispositions, the 10th Armored Division could not, at this time, establish a "No Fire Line" East of the MOSELLE RIVER. The 331st Infantry was therefore ordered not to send reconnaissance patrols across the MOSELLE RIVER in front of the 10th Armored Division.

The 422d Field Artillery Group fired three counterbattery missions on sound locations reported by Battery A, 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion. The 323d Field Artillery and Companies B and C of the 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion fired TOT on enemy battery positions at 1405. The Division Artillery Air Outpost observed the firing and reported the area well covered and an ammunition dump burning in the vicinity.

First Week of Advanced Training School for Non-commissioned officers at MONDORFF (P9402) was completed.

26 November 1944

Patrolling East to the MOSELLE and SAUER RIVERS continued without important occurrences.

1st Battalion, 329th Infantry, accompanied by one Platoon, Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion, moved to vicinity of HETTANGE GRANDE (U8591) for training in the assault of a fortified position, using MAGINT LINE installations.

During the period that the 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry, remained in the HETTANGE GRANDE training area, the 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, was made available to the CO, 329th Infantry, upon request to this Headquarters. The Battalion remained under control of CO, 330th Infantry, until alerted by this Headquarters. The battalion will be prepared to move by motors on 2 hours notice. Fifteen trucks from the 330th Infantry will be furnished on a thirty minutes notice for movement of the 1st Battalion.

The 308th Engineer Battalion continued its study of the MOSELLE RIVER at SCHENGEN (Q0197) at the same place Company B operated a ferry. The river level had risen at 1800, a total of 9.7 feet since 1200, 20 November 1944, and the velocity of the current was estimated to be 5.8 miles per hour. Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion, carried out road repairs in two or three parts of the Division area, and Company C assisted the 774th Tank Battalion in preparation of area for tank demonstration.

Enemy planes were over the Division area at 0215, and again at 2200 and 2300, and during the course of the day at least 10 V-weapon projectiles were reported crossing the area from the East and moving either Northwest or Southwest.

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~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~27 November 1944

Patrolling continued along the Division front.

Division Artillery planned a five-day program of artillery fires upon enemy pockets West of the MOSELLE RIVER and known enemy positions and emplacements elsewhere. Battery C, 559th Field Artillery Battalion, was attached to the 422d Field Artillery Group at 0800, although remaining in previous location outside the Division area; movement to position with the 422d Field Artillery Group planned for the following day.

Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion, was engaged in constructing a gun position for the 422d Field Artillery Group and assisted the 329th Infantry in construction of gun emplacements in the Regimental area. Company C, 308th Engineer Battalion, experimented with methods of effectively neutralizing Anti-Tank ditches in enemy territory.

Planes were over the Division area in small numbers between 1800 and 2030, being reported by the 330th Infantry and the 331st Infantry.

The 3d Cavalry Group having been assigned the mission of relieving the 10th Armored Division within its zone, requested the artillery assistance of the 83d Division. The request was granted and it was stated that an artillery battalion would be moved to the South on the 28th of November.

Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Training School began its second week of intensive work with a selected group of Non-Commissioned Officers from the units of the Division.

28 November 1944

Considerable patrol activity during the period resulted in detailed information on a number of points along the Division front. A patrol from Company K, 329th Infantry, went close enough to WASSERBILLIG (L1124) to determine that enemy troops still occupy the town. Patrol returned at 0300 after capturing one Prisoner of War from pillbox at (L10502515) and killing three. Mines and road blocks were found outside the town; one member of the patrol was injured by a schu mine at (L102254). Another patrol from Company G, 329th Infantry, attempted to knock out enemy artillery Observation Post at (L095354). Of the twenty-five men who made up the patrol, one was missing and eleven were wounded when patrol returned at 0230; wire protection and electrically controlled mines and dynamite charges surrounded the objective, forcing the patrol to withdraw. A patrol from the Marauder Platoon, 329th Infantry, went to BORN (L1129) and returned without incident to report the town clear, but approximately fifty enemy troops occupied the ground between the town and the SAUER RIVER. A patrol from Company B, 52d Armored Infantry Battalion, reported GIRSTERKLUS (L1032) clear of enemy, and a patrol from Company L, 329th Infantry, found HINKEL (L1132) likewise clear. In the 329th Infantry area, C Troop, 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron relieved A Troop of the same organization. Company C, 52d Armored Infantry Battalion, was attached to the 329th Infantry.

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The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, submitted a plan for movement to the 329th Infantry area to be executed on a 90-minute alert upon order from the CO, 329th Infantry. (See Item 372, G-2, G-3 Journal, 28 November 1944).

The 323d Field Artillery Battalion and 324th Field Artillery Battalion moved to new positions at ELLANGE (P9603) and CANACH (P9813), respectively, to support the 3d Cavalry Group in position East of the MOSELLE RIVER. Battery C, 559th Field Artillery Battalion (155 Gun), was attached to the 422d Field Artillery Group, and moved into position vicinity BERBOURG (L0227).

During the afternoon, the Chief of Staff, VIII Corps, visited the Division Command Post and talked with the Division Chief of Staff concerning future employment of the Division. Orders were issued for the 330th Infantry to be prepared to move by motor early on 30 November to GRESSENICH (K9842) in combat formation, with the following attachments: 323d Field Artillery Battalion, Company C, 802nd Tank Destroyed Battalion (Towed), Company B, 308th Medical Battalion, and Company B, 308th Engineer Battalion. The Division was scheduled to relieve one of the Divisions in the VII Corps. The 331st Infantry was directed to relieve all elements of the 330th Infantry in the line prior to 0001, 30 November.

Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion, assisted the 81st Field Artillery Battalion in construction of emplacements, and Company B conducted a mine and booby trap demonstration at the Non-Commissioned Officers School. The hydrographic station conducted by the 308th Engineer Battalion at SCHENGEN (Q0197) reported the MOSELLE RIVER to be falling rapidly at 1800.

Enemy planes flew over the Division area at 1845 and again at 2015, and some ten V-weapons were reported during the day, one of which crashed at 1500, without causing any casualties, West of the city of LUXEMBOURG.

29 November 1944

The 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry, completed relief of the 330th Infantry at 1630 and assumed responsibility for the area at that time. 2d Battalion, 330th Infantry, closed in new area vicinity FILSDORF (L9205) at 1700. Company B, 52d Armored Infantry Battalion, attached to the 329th Infantry was relieved by Company C, same organization, at 1245.

A Marauder Platoon patrol from the 329th Infantry went into GIRSTERKLUS (L1032) and found one house occupied by the enemy. The Marauder Platoon fired on the house and dispersed the enemy.

The 331st Infantry reported that an enemy patrol cut communications between 1st Battalion and Company C. Two members of the enemy patrol were wounded when fired upon by outpost in vicinity of RJ (L040163).

The 330th Infantry sent a patrol from Company I to contact friendly forces, and obtain information on terrain, and enemy activities East of the MOSELLE RIVER.

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SECRET

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1st Battalion, 329th Infantry, and one Platoon, Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion, continued training in assault of a fortified position at HETTANGE GRANDE (U8390).

Company C, 308th Engineer Battalion, continued operation of ferry and hydrographic station at SCHENGEN (Q0097). The river continued to fall. The difference in water level from 201200 to 291800 was 6.4 feet.

In the rear areas, reserve units continued training, and the Non-Commissioned Officers School proceeded with its program of special training at MONDORFF.

The Division Artillery continued to fire on road junctions and possible mortar and artillery positions. Between 1400 and 1600, 800 rounds were fired on the above targets by the 323d, 908th, and 324th Field Artillery Battalions. A prisoner of war captured said the harassing missions were particularly effective.

30 November 1944

The 83d Infantry Division on the last day of the month had the mission to patrol vigorously to the SAUER - MOSELLE RIVERS and prevent the enemy crossing thereof. Two regiments were on the line. The 331st Infantry on the right from a point on the MOSELLE RIVER (L0102) to MERTERT (L0923) and the 329th Infantry on the left from MERTERT to BOLLENDORF (L0140).

The Division CP was located in the vicinity of LUXEMBOURG.

The 331st Infantry was disposed along the MOSELLE RIVER with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center and the 2d Battalion on the left.

The 329th Infantry occupied positions along the MOSELLE - SAUER RIVERS with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and Troop B and C of the 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on the left. Company C of the 52d Armored Infantry Battalion occupied positions within the 2d Battalion sector. The 1st Battalion and one Platoon, Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion, continued training on MAGINOT LINE fortifications in vicinity of HETTANGE GRANDE.

The 330th Infantry was assembled in reserve awaiting orders to move to the VII Corps area. A quartering party including Battalion Commanders departed for the 4th Division area at 0850. Company C, 774th Tank Battalion, was attached in place to the 330th Infantry effective 1200.

Company C, 802nd Tank Destroyer Battalion having been attached to 330th Infantry at 1200, 29 November 1944, was detached effective 1200 this date.

The 308th Engineer Battalion discontinued operation of the ferry at SCHENGEN at 1800.

The 83d Division Artillery at this time was supported by the 73d Armored Field Artillery Battalion, the 3d Armored Field Artillery Battalion, and the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) (firing secondary mission). The attachments to the Division Artillery were the 802nd Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed), 453d Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion (AW), the 422d Field Artillery Group, consisting of the 81st Field

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Artillery Battalion (155 Howitzer), the 174th Field Artillery Battalion (155 Gun) (self propelled), Battery A, 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion and Battery C, 559th Field Artillery Battalion (155 Gun).

The 81st Field Artillery Battatlion (attached to the 422d Field Artillery Group) moved to ELLANGE (P9603). The 324th Field Artillery Battalion fired five defensive fire missions at the request of the 3d Cavalry Group to repel a counter-attack vicinity (L069021).

An advance party from the 4th Infantry Division arrived at the Division Command Post early in the afternoon to make arrangements for taking over installations and the sector of the Division.

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OPERATIONS

UNICORN

(Third US Army)

and

QUEEN

(First US Army)

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
L. J. [Signature] Col PAC 25 Nov 44
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

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SECRET**OPERATIONS UNICORN**29 October 1944

Lieutenant General GEORGE S. PATTON, JR., Commanding General, Third US Army visited the Command Post of the 83d Infantry Division at 1325 and informed the Division Commander that he had just been informed by the Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group that the 83d Infantry Division would be placed under operational control of the Third US Army for the purposes of clearing the area between the MOSELLE and SAAR RIVERS and seizing crossings over the SAAR RIVER in the vicinity of SAARBURG. Written confirmation from Twelfth Army Group, through First US Army, was to follow. On 2 November 44, the Division received a copy of letter Headquarters Twelfth Army Group, Subject: "Directive for Current Operations", To: Commanding General, Third US Army, dated 30 October 1944, confirming the use of the 83d Infantry Division by the Third US Army. Prior to departure, General Patton outlined to the Division Commander the use he intended to make of the Division. This included placing the Division under control of the XX Corps for the operation. General Patton departed at 1342 for the XX Corps.

Major General TROY H. MIDDLETON, Commanding General, VIII Corps, arrived at the Command Post 83d Division at 1450 and was informed by the Division Commander of the information given by General Patton.

31 October 1944

The Division Commander, accompanied by the Chief of Staff, visited the Commanding General VIII Corps arriving at the Command Post VIII Corps, BASTOGNE, BELGIUM, at 1115. General Middleton stated that after leaving the Command Post 83d Division on 29 October 44 he had stopped in LUXEMBOURG and talked with Lieutenant General O. N. Bradley, Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group, regarding the employment of the 83d Division by the Third Army. At this time General Middleton had not received any information from the First US Army regarding the operation. General Middleton stated that he proposed to give the Division the maximum assistance possible but, due to the length of the front the VIII Corps was occupying, the assistance which he could furnish would not, in his opinion, amount to the support that the Division should have. He proposed to leave the present attachments and planned to reinforce them by two (2) battalions of field artillery; a 155mm gun battalion and an 8-inch gun battalion. These two battalions of the Corps Artillery were not to be taken across the MOSELLE so that a field artillery group headquarters was included to control the artillery remaining on the west bank. The 32nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was to be employed in the northern part of the VIII Corps sector. The Division Commander discussed a proposed plan that was based on verbal instructions received from General Patton on the 29th.

The target date for the operation had been set as 5 November. Due to the time element, General Middleton directed the Division Commander to get in touch with the Commanding General XX Corps without delay in order to initiate the necessary planning with that unit. The Division Commander left the VIII Corps for the Command Post of the XX Corps which was located at JARNY, FRANCE, at 1335. Prior to leaving BASTOGNE the Chief of Staff telephoned to the Division Artillery Commander to meet them at JARNY.

Upon arrival at the Command Post, XX Corps, the Division Commander and the Chief of Staff were joined by Brigadier General Robert M. Montague, Division Artillery Commander, 83d Division. Major General Fred L. Walker, Commanding General, XX Corps,

SECRET31 October 1944 (Cont'd)

was absent. In the absence of the Corps Commander, Brigadier General Julius E. Slack, Artillery Officer, XX Corps, briefed the three officers from the 83d Division in Plan "A" XX Corps. Brigadier General McMahon, Artillery Officer, VIII Corps, was present at this briefing. The matter of artillery support for the 83d Division was discussed but no agreement was reached.

During the above absence of the Division Commander, the Chief of Staff XX Corps (Colonel William A. Collier) visited the Command Post, 83d Division at BONNEVOI, LUXEMBOURG, and discussed the above mentioned Plan "A" with Brigadier General Claude B. Ferenbaugh, Assistant to the Division Commander, and Colonel Conrad L. Boyle, Acting G-3, 83d Division. Prior to leaving he left a copy of the XX Corps plan.

Colonel Collier returned to the Command Post XX Corps prior to the departure of the Division Commander and informed the latter he had seen and had firmed-up the employment of the 83d Division with Brigadier General F. A. Kibler, G-3, Twelfth Army Group.

The Division Commander returned to his Command Post at 1832. During the course of the evening, he held a conference with the heads of the General Staff Sections, the Division Signal Officer and the Division Engineer to orient them on the coming operations.

1 November 1944

The Division Commander briefed the regimental commanders prior to the departure of the latter for a conference, ordered by Commanding General, Third US Army, at the Command Post, 4th Armored Division.

The Assistant to the Division Commander visited the Commanding General VIII Corps, explained the plan of Commanding General XX Corps for the employment of the 83d Division and requested answers to the following questions:

1. Since the Division, less one RCT, was to operate under the XX Corps, would the VIII Corps "fight" the part of the Division not under operational control of the XX Corps?
2. What unit or units would relieve the 330th Infantry on their present front?
3. Would it be possible to have the 329th Infantry released for employment east of the MOSELLE?
4. What additional artillery support could the VIII Corps provide?

The Commanding General VIII Corps stated that he could not answer these questions until after discussing the matter with the Commanding General, First US Army, but that he would see General Hodges on the following day and obtain the answers.

The Division plan for the operation was revised to conform to Plan "A" XX Corps.

Detachment B-1, Army Information Service, Third US Army, commanded by 2d Lieut Alton Sawin, Jr, was attached to the Division.

Military Government Detachment F2-G2, commanded by Lieut Col Spears and destined for TRIER was attached to the Division by VIII Corps.

Liaison was established through Liaison Officers with the XX Corps and the 90th Division.

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SECRET2 November 1944

The Division Commander called on the Commanding General XX Corps at JARNEY at 1130. The Commanding General XX Corps approved the recommendation that the 10th Armored Division be directed to seize the high ground from U-998937 to Q-001923 to protect the left (east) flank, and informed the Division Commander that (1) Task Force Polk (3d Cavalry Group, reinforced) would not be available for the relief of the 330th Infantry until passed through by the 90th Infantry Division since it (Task Force Polk) was holding the line of departure of the 90th Infantry Division; and (2), on Corps Order, Task Force Polk (or elements thereof) would be passed across the MOSELLE and employed on the right (east) flank of the Division.

The Division Commander returned and held a conference of Regimental Commanders at the Command Post 331st Infantry at 1500. Commanding Officers 774th Tank Battalion and 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion were present at the conference. Briefing of Regimental Commanders was completed at this conference.

At 1600 the Division Commander received instructions by telephone to report to the Commanding General, VIII Corps. Upon reporting, he was told by General Middleton that as a result of a conference with General Hedges the following would be effective when the 83d Division went under operational control of the Third US Army.

- a. Boundary between First and Third Armies would be moved North to the present boundary between the 8th and 83d Divisions. Third Army would become entirely responsible for the area south of the 8th Division.
- b. First Army would continue to supply the 83d Division.
- c. VIII Corps would allot to the Division only its proportionate share of the ammunition allotted to the Corps. Any additional ammunition for the operation would have to be furnished by the Third Army.
- d. All Corps artillery support would have to be arranged by the Third Army.
- e. For Operation UNICORN the 83d Division to have only normal (Tr Bn, TD Bn, AAA Bn) attachments. All other attachments to be withdrawn.

XX Corps ordered 83d Division to seize and hold the high ground at BASSE KONTZ (LE STROMBERG) Q-0096, employing the minimum force and not giving the impression of anything of unusual importance.

3 November 1944

The 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was directed to seize and hold the high ground at BASSE KONTZ (LE STROMBERG) Q-0096. The 330th Infantry was directed to alert the 1st Battalion to be prepared to reinforce the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron.

Company "A", 308th Engineer Battalion moved to ASPELT (P-9003).

Company "D", 308th Medical Battalion (Clearing Company) and a field hospital unit moved to FRISANGE (L-9903).

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SECRET3 November 1944 (Cont'd)

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, VIII Corps visited Command Post, 83d Division, and arranged to establish an ASP at ROESER (P-8506) to supply the 83d Division.

Ordnance Officer, Third US Army, visited Command Post 83d Division and stated that: (1) the ammunition allocations to XX Corps would provide for the 83d Division; (2) Third US Army was prepared to furnish Ordnance Support and replacements for battle losses to the 83d Division.

4 November 1944

32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attacked LE STROMBERG (Q-0096) at 0900. Attack was launched from line (P-998964) - (Q-039689). The attack was unsuccessful and the 330th Infantry was directed to employ the 1st Battalion of that regiment to relieve the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron during the night of 4-5 November and to take LE STROMBERG on 5 November. During the course of the attack of the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, artillery support was handicapped by foggy air conditions which made it impossible for Air OP's to observe. The attack was stopped by enemy small arms, including mortar, fire. Anti-tank and anti-personnel mines were encountered.

An ASP for the 83d Division was established by VIII Corps in the area southwest of HESPERANGE.

The 308th Engineer Battalion (less Companies "A", "B", and "C") moved to FRISANGE (P-883026). Company "B" moved to MONDORF (P-941016). Company "C" moved to FRISANGE (P-885039).

A memorandum was sent to all unit commanders directing that motor vehicles be winterized without delay. Sufficient Prestone was not available to allow this to be completely accomplished at this time.

5 November 1944

1st Battalion 330th Infantry relieved the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron during the night of 4-5 November and at 0800, 5 November 1944, attacked LE STROMBERG. Company "A" attacked from the East and Company "B" attacked from the North. The nature of the terrain on the top of the hill and the location of the German defenses made it necessary for both attacks to follow the MOSELLE. Very slow progress was made against small arms fire. The German positions on the reverse slope were discovered to be well wired-in and protected by extensive fields of Anti-tank and anti-personnel mines. The South slope was the most heavily defended. Heavy casualties were suffered from artillery and mortar fire from the far side of the MOSELLE. By 1330 the attacks had progressed to 005978 and 007965. Prior to 1550 both companies had been counterattacked. The counterattacks were repulsed. Company "A" resumed the attack, made some progress and was then cut-off. One company of the 331st Infantry was placed under the control of the 1st Battalion 330th Infantry to be committed only on Division order. No progress was made during the late afternoon and the battalion organized its positions for the night. The presence of uncleared mine fields made it impossible to locate and evacuate all wounded during the night.

324th and 174th Field Artillery Battalions fired TOT on TRIER and MARKUSBERG at 1600. Seven (7) concentrations were fired on each target.

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5 November 1944 (Cont'd)

Arrangements were completed with Major Moore, SHARP PWX Officer at VIII Corps for the handling of United Nations Prisoners of War in German hands who might be uncovered by overrunning German Prisoner of War Camps. This action was necessitated by the existence at TRIER, which was in the Division zone, of STALAG XIII -c.

6 November 1944

During the night of 5-6 November 1944 the German garrison of LE STROMBERG withdrew to the East bank of the MOSELLE. 1st Battalion 330th Infantry occupied the hill. Due to the large number of mines encountered the occupation was not completed until 1100. The garrison of LE STROMBERG had consisted of the 3d Company, 713th Infantry Regiment, 416th Infantry Division.

At approximately 1539, two (2) ME-109s strafed the area of the 1st Battalion 329th Infantry Regiment. Both planes were shot down by Anti-aircraft fire and fell within the German lines. (Confirmed by field artillery observers). Destruction credited to Battery "B", 453d AAA Battalion (AW).

G-4 XX Corps (Colonel Leitch) visited the Division Command Post and stated that the XX Corps would be prepared to supply additional gasoline if necessary and that subject to limitation of the supply available to Corps, XX Corps would supply what ammunition was needed by the Division. XX Corps would not be able to supply APC for 76mm and 3".

First US Army removed the restriction on gasoline consumption that had previously been in effect and placed the item on a straight requisition basis.

8 November 1944

The 83d Infantry Division passed to operational control of XX Corps at 1200.

XX Corps notified the Division that the RATTLE crossing would be constructed and to make plans accordingly. Previously there had been some doubt as to whether or not a bridge would be constructed at that point.

Commanding General VIII Corps made a Quartermaster Truck Company available to the Division to assist in the movement of units to the staging area.

9 November 1944

Command Post 83d Division closed at BONNEVOI (P-849118) and opened at MONDORF (P-9401), LUXEMBOURG at 1200.

Task Force POLK consisting of the following was attached, effective 1200 and immediately instituted the relief of the 330th Infantry Regiment and the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron along the MOSELLE.

3d Cavalry Group

3d Cavalry Squadron

43d Cavalry Squadron

705th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP)

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S E C R E T

9 November 1944 (Cont'd)

The 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion (T) (less Company "A" and one Reconnaissance Platoon) were attached by the Division to Task Force POLK in exchange for the 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) (less Company "A") which was attached to the Division Artillery.

The relief of the 330th Infantry was completed by 2140.

The 331st Infantry moved under cover of darkness from positions in reserve East of LUXEMBOURG to a staging area preparatory for crossing the MOSELLE behind the 10th Armored Division. Companies "A" and "B" 774th Tank Battalion were attached. Command Posts were located in the staging area as follows:

331st Infantry P-917003

1st Battalion P-9100

2d Battalion P-9000

3d Battalion P-9001

The 81st and 174th Field Artillery Battalions were detached from the 83d Division by the VIII Corps and attached to the 422d Field Artillery Group which was in turn attached to the 83d Division and the Division attached them to Division Artillery. The Commanding General, VIII Corps, acting under instructions of the Commanding General, First US Army, would not allow these battalions to be taken west of the MOSELLE. The aforementioned arrangement provided a group headquarters to handle the artillery left on the left bank of the MOSELLE. XX Corps notified Division that it would attach a battery of 155mm guns (SP) to the Division after it crossed the MOSELLE.

Task Force MARKLE, consisting of the following, was constituted for the purpose of providing protection for the right flank of the Division:

774th Tank Battalion (less Companies "A", "B" and "C")

83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop.

Reconnaissance Platoon, 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion

Company "C", 81st Chemical Battalion was attached to the Division effective at 2400. Time of arrival in the area could not be predicted.

The Division Artillery and attached VIII Corps artillery supported the crossing of the MOSELLE by the 90th Infantry Division.

Little enemy activity was noted along our front during the day, no reaction to the attack launched at 0300 by the 90th U.S. Infantry Division was apparent. The 90th Infantry Division reported contact with the 1st and 2d Battalions, 713th Infantry Regiment, 416th German Infantry Division in the MALLING (U9592) area. These locations had previously been established. The remainder of the 416th German Infantry Division was opposing the 83d Infantry Division.

A Prisoner of War taken on 8 November indicated that the 416th German Infantry Division had already completed plans for withdrawal to the northeast to the SIEGFRIED LINE, between MERZIG (11802) and SAARBURG (11116).

S E C R E T

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9 November 1944 (Cont'd)

The temperature dropped to the neighborhood of freezing. The supply of Prestone available to the Division had not been adequate to allow complete winterizing of vehicles and units were alerted of the possibility of freezing weather.

10 November 1944

The relief of the 330th Infantry by Task Force POLK was completed during the night of 9-10 November and the 330th Infantry completed its concentration in the staging area south and west of DALHEIM by 1010. The 322d Field Artillery Battalion moved with the 330th Infantry.

The 32nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was relieved from attachment to the Division at 1200, returned to control of the 11th Cavalry Group and placed in VIII Corps Reserve. Squadron was assembled in the northern part of the city of LUXEMBOURG.

At 1515 a message was received from Headquarters XI Corps placing the 331st Regimental Combat Team in XI Corps reserve. Two (2) truck companies were provided by XI Corps for the movement of this reserve should the occasion require. No plans for the possible employment of this reserve were received.

The Division Artillery, employing the 324th and 908th Field Artillery Battalions and the 422d Field Artillery Group, continued to support the operations of the 90th Division.

Definite indications of the shifting of enemy troops along our front were established. A Prisoner of War from the 2d Company, 712th Infantry Regiment, 416th German Infantry Division, claimed that a new unit was to have relieved his company during the night of 9-10 November. It was later determined that the 1st Battalion, 712th Infantry Regiment moved south to engage the 90th U.S. Infantry Division. In addition, our troops reported several groups of foot troops moving south during the morning in the vicinity of 10602 and 10702.

A further indication of the extent to which the enemy was committing the 416th Infantry Division against the 90th U.S. Infantry Division was made through interrogation of prisoners taken in the MALLING area. In this area the 416th Anti-Tank Company, 416th Fusilier Company, and 10th and 11th Batteries, 416th Artillery Regiment, were identified.

According to statements made by a number of Prisoners of War taken during the week preceding the attack of the 90th U.S. Infantry Division, the enemy was aware of the extent of the area being held by the 83d Infantry Division. Knowing this, the enemy felt secure in thinning his line opposite the 83d Infantry Division in order to oppose the 90th U.S. Infantry Division, after the attack of that Division was launched.

90 trucks from various units of the Division were held available for troop movement on this date.

G-4 XI Corps notified G-4 83d Division that the following type of ammunition would not be available through XI Corps:

Fragmentation Grenades

Beehives

SABOTS

SECRET

SECRET10 November 1944 (Cont'd)

Four (4) officers and 94 enlisted replacements were received. This enabled the 330th Infantry to replace the losses that had been sustained by the 1st Battalion on 5-6 November and bring that unit to strength. All other infantry battalions were at that time at full strength.

11 November 1944

The original time table for Operation UNICORN contemplated that the 83d Division, following the 10th Armored Division across the bridges established by the 90th Division, would begin to cross the MOSELLE either during the night of 9-10 November or during daylight of 11 November. However the heavy rains had raised the level of the MOSELLE to flood stage and, in spite of the fact that the 90th Division had succeeded in occupying the opposite shore thus making it possible for bridging operations to be commenced on the 9th, no bridges had been completed in the zone of the 90th Division until 0300, 11 November. At this time the bridge at MALLING was completed but was unusable due to water over the approaches. At 0800, the maximum depth of the water over the approaches was 54 inches.

At 1100, 11 November 44, all artillery with the Division fired one round as an Armistice Day Salute. Targets were KIRSCH AND MANDEREN. Continuous air patrol was maintained over the zone of the 90th Division from 0700 to 1730. Only nine (9) targets of opportunity were observed during this period. All were taken under fire.

At 1740 an order was received from the Commanding General XX Corps to return the 330th Infantry to its previous mission of defending the MOSELLE and to relieve Task Force POLK of this mission.

At 2120, the Commanding General XX Corps notified the 83d Division that effective at once, operational control of the 83d Division by the XX Corps ceased, the 83d Division reverted to its previous status (under VIII Corps) and would resume its former mission. The Commanding General VIII Corps was notified of the receipt of these instructions. At 2205, the Deputy Chief of Staff, VIII Corps (Col Stanton), confirmed the resumption of control of the 83d Division by the VIII Corps and the resumption of its former mission by the Division.

It had been previously reported by VIII Corps that the 165th Infantry Regiment, 36th German Infantry Division, had already been withdrawn from the line opposite the 8th U.S. Infantry Division. This indication of the withdrawal of the 36th German Infantry Division was further substantiated by a considerable increase of enemy activity in the LREEL-FUSION (11428) area. It was subsequently learned 12 November, that the 118th Infantry Regiment was withdrawing with the intention of moving south of METZ.

Observation showed indications of the movement of troops south from the sector held by the 416th German Infantry Division.

12 November 1944

The 330th Infantry completed the relief of all elements of Task Force POLK. Task Force POLK had reverted to control of the XX Corps at 2115 on 11 November, to be effective as relieved. Complete relief was effected by 1800.

The 32d Field Artillery Battalion closed in positions in direct support of the 330th Infantry at 0845.

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12 November 1944 (Cont'd)

Task Force MARKLE was dissolved at 1000.

Command Post 83d Infantry Division closed at MONDORF and reopened at BOMBEVOI, LUXEMBOURG at 1400.

That part of the Division Artillery supporting the bridgehead of the 90th Division assisted in breaking up a counter-attack that developed against that Division in the vicinity of (Q-0092) at 0730. Groupment "B" was formed placing the 32d and 90th Field Artillery Battalions in direct support of the 330th Infantry.

According to prisoner of war taken during the day it was learned that the 1st Battalion, 714th Infantry Regiment, 416th German Infantry Division, in the sector between WINCHERINGEN (L0513) and NITTEL (L0618). The relieved Battalion, according to prisoner statement, moved south on the night of 10 November to launch a counter-attack against the 90th Division bridgehead.

13 November 1944

The Division Commander issued orders to regroup the Division placing all regiments in the line, each regiment to employ two (2) battalions up with one (1) battalion in reserve, battalions to be rotated, and to place the mass of the artillery in the northern part of the Division sector. Rear boundaries were assigned to all regiments and regimental commanders directed to assume complete responsibility for their areas. Units were directed to dig-in and to winterize their front line units.

The 306th Engineer (c) Battalion and the 308th Medical Battalion moved to billets at HELMDANGE (P850225) and WALFERDANGE (P850191), respectively.

Two (2) platoons of the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop and one (1) Reconnaissance Platoon, 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion were attached to the 329th Infantry.

Previous indications of the movement of the 118th Infantry Regiment, 36th German Infantry Division to the METZ area, were confirmed by a prisoner of war from the 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment, 36th German Infantry Division, who stated that the battalion was to leave the area (junction of the MOSELLE and SAUER Rivers) and proceed to the vicinity of METZ.

On this date the 1st Battalion, 712th Infantry Regiment, 416th German Infantry Division was contacted by the 90th U.S. Infantry Division, thus verifying prisoner statement made on 10 November. This was the third battalion of this division identified in the MALLING area.

A further shifting of troops was observed by our front line troops during the day.

Prestone for radiators was still unobtainable and information was received that it would not be available in sufficient quantities until sometime after the 15th of December. First US Army was able to supply a limited amount of alcohol for radiators. An additional amount of alcohol was purchased from local sources and all vehicles in the Division treated to withstand a temperature of zero degree fahrenheit without freezing.

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SECRET

S E C R E T14 November 1944

A patrol of seven (7) men from Company "G", 330th Infantry crossed the MOSELLE during the night of 13-14 November at (1023130) and reached the road junction at (105051265), a few meters from WINCHENGEN without encountering enemy mines, road blocks or personnel. This was the first patrol from the Division to operate in Germany. The patrol was led by Sergeant Boyd.

The Division was regrouped (see FO 35, 83d Division, 12 November 44), the 331st Infantry relieving elements of both the 329th and 330th Infantry (see G-3 Periodic Report No 53, 83d Infantry Division, 2400, 14 November 44).

The Division Artillery fired 109 harassing and interdiction missions and 8 target of opportunity missions.

Information was received that the 3d Cavalry Group was to be employed by the XX Corps for the execution of the mission previously assigned the 83d Division. (Clearing the area between the MOSELLE and SAAR Rivers).

Front line units of the 83d Infantry Division continued to report enemy movement east of the MOSELLE. Direction of movement was both East and West, indicating that the relieving of troops on the line was still in progress.

It was definitely established through prisoner of war interrogation that the 1st Battalion, 320th Infantry Regiment, 212th Volksgrenadier Division, had entered the area in general vicinity of the junction of the MOSELLE and SAUER River, relieving 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment. This identification was the first made of the 212th Volksgrenadier Division on the Western front. This division, according to prisoner of war statements, was formed in POLAND, some 200 kilometers from WARSAW, six weeks ago. This information, together with Third U.S. Army identification of elements of the 36th German Infantry Division in vicinity of FALKENBERG (Q1750), established the fact that the 36th Infantry Division had moved out of our area and was being employed against the 6th U.S. Armored Division, operating southeast of METZ. It was not known at this date how much of the 212th Volksgrenadier Division had been committed along our front, nor whether another German Division had taken over positions previously occupied by the 116th German Infantry Division from the 19 Easting South.

15 November 1944

An officer-led 8-man patrol from Company "A", 330th Infantry crossed the MOSELLE during the night of 14-15 November in the vicinity of SCHENGEN and penetrated to the edge of PERL. No defensive works, mine fields, road blocks, booby traps or enemy personnel were encountered.

The 3d Cavalry Group crossed the MOSELLE over bridges in the zone of the 90th Division and relieved elements of that Division on the northeast flank of the bridgehead in the vicinity of SIERCK. Since this unit (3d Cavalry Group) was destined to operate on the right (east) bank of the MOSELLE north of the south boundary of the 83d Division, close liaison was established between the 323d Field Artillery Battalion and the artillery battalion supporting the Cavalry Group. Arrangements were made to distribute to all interested units the "no fire lines" furnished by the 3d Cavalry Group. Arrangements were made by the Division Artillery to support the operations of the 3d Cavalry Group from positions west of the MOSELLE.

Information was received from the Commanding General VIII Corps that the 8th Infantry Division, then in position on the north of the 83d Division, would be replaced by the 28th Division; relief to start on the 15th and to be completed prior to daylight of 20 November.

SECRET15 November 1944 (Cont'd)

The complete withdrawal of the 36th German Infantry Division from the 83d Infantry Division sector was confirmed by a report received from Third US Army which stated that the three regiments of the Division had been identified near FALKENBURG (Q-1750).

A prisoner of war taken from the 320th Infantry Regiment, 212th Volksgrenadier Division claimed that only a portion of the Division was to be committed along our front, that the remainder of the division would go south to the METZ area. No other indication that this was the intention of the enemy was available.

XX U.S. Corps reported presence in the MALLING area of the 2d Battalion, 714th Infantry Regiment, 416th German Infantry Division. This constituted the fourth battalion of the 416th Division to be identified there.

A group of officers visited the 2d Infantry Division to inspect the winterized troop shelters, machine gun emplacements and other special installations which had been constructed in that area with a view to adapting to the needs of the 83d Division.

Following casualties were suffered by the Division during the period 1 - 15 November, inclusive:

KIA	12
WIA	118
MIA	19
Non-Battle	<u>330</u>
Total	479

82 Prisoners of War were taken during the period 1 - 15 November, inclusive.

16 November 1944

A patrol from Company "I" 330th Infantry crossed the MOSELLE, during the night of 15-16 November, at LU20075 with the mission of going to DILMAR (1043077) to observe. The patrol landed at the foot of a steep bank south of PALZEM and was unable to reach its objective.

The Division Artillery maintained contact by radio (SCR 193) with the 241st Field Artillery Battalion, supporting the 3d Cavalry Group. No requests for fire in support of that unit were received. The Division Artillery fired 103 harassing and interdiction missions, 4 counterbattery missions, 4 targets of opportunity missions and 26 registrations, all in the Division zone. The 9th Armored Division Artillery, from positions astride the 8th Division - 83d Division boundary fired 23 harassing and interdiction missions, 8 target of opportunity missions, and 10 registrations in the zone of the 329th Infantry.

The 308th Engineer Battalion was employed to clear the main roads of a heavy coat of mud that had been carried on the roads by vehicles entering from muddy fields, and to improve the routes of approach to the MOSELLE RIVER.

A message was received from the VIII Corps that the indications were that the enemy was expected to use his air force in greater strength and for offensive operations in the near future. This warning was transmitted to all units.

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SECRET16 November 1944

Plan "X" (Revised 15 November 44) to be placed in effect in case the enemy undertook offensive operations in force was issued.

There were some indications in the southern sector that elements of the 416th German Infantry Division were in the process of conducting a withdrawal generally to the Northeast, direction SAARBURG. These indications consisted of Air Outpost reports of large fires in the following towns: RITZING (Q0793), EVENDORF (Q0491) and KALT-VILLER (Q0290).

Description of enemy troops which occupied the BOLLENDORF (P0140) area, as made by an enemy espionage agent, suggested that a new unit of the 212th Volksgrenadier Division may have taken over the area formerly occupied by the 769th LANDESCHUTZEN Battalion and the 2d Battalion of the 165th Infantry Regiment, 36th German Infantry Division.

A undetermined number of enemy aircraft were over the Division area between 2020 - 2330.

17 November 1944

The progress being made by the 3d Cavalry Group indicated the possibility of that unit clearing the East bank of the MOSELLE of enemy opposite the 330th and 331st Infantry Regiments. The Division Commander issued a directive to his staff to have a reconnaissance in force conducted of the East Bank of the MOSELLE to determine the strength of the opposition remaining in that area. A Patrolling and Planning Directive (Item 71, G-2, G-3 Journal, 17 November 1944) was sent to the 330th Infantry, 331st Infantry, Division Artillery and the 308th Engineer Battalion. This directed the 330th Infantry and the 331st Infantry to conduct patrolling East of the MOSELLE with the view of later occupying the ground. Patrols were to be supported by other troops, supporting weapons and artillery. No troops other than patrols were to cross the MOSELLE until further orders. The Division Engineer was directed to be prepared to establish ferries at the following points: SCHENGEN; REMICH; STADTBREIDMUS; WORMELDANGE and to be prepared to establish a floating bridge in at least one of those places.

The Division Engineer contacted the Engineer VIII Corps who obtained one (1) M-1 Treadway Bridge Company to be available, on call, at BASTOGNE, BELGIUM. The 202d Engineer Battalion furnished four (4) large floats suitable for use as ferries. Engineer VIII Corps reported sufficient Bailey equipment on hand to repair the highway bridge at REMICH.

The 323d Field Artillery Battalion and the 324th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm How) were moved to new position areas to support the 3d Cavalry Squadron and patrol action of the 330th Infantry. The Division Artillery fired 137 harassing and interdiction missions, 19 targets of opportunity and 29 registrations.

An inspection was made of the camouflage throughout the Division area by a platoon of the 602d Engineer Camouflage Battalion.

At 1225 the Division Commander directed the Commanding Officer 330th Infantry to get patrols across the river with a view of taking over sufficient area to establish a bridgehead. The 3d Cavalry Group was reported to be making more rapid progress than had been anticipated and their front line at 1200 had been reported to be 01159862 - 02979830 - 04309734.

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18 November 1944

A total of seven (7) patrols succeeded in crossing the MOSELLE during the night of 17-18 November 44. One of these patrols from the 330th Infantry succeeded in making contact with the 3d Cavalry Squadron in PERL. Two of the patrols from the 330th Infantry established OP's, remained in observation throughout the day and returned the night of 18-19 November.

The Commanding General VIII Corps visited the Division Command Post at 1325 discussed the situation and the employment of certain elements of the 9th Armored Division which he proposed to attach to the Division for experience. No directives for the future employment of the Division were issued. The Corps Commander stated that if the Third Army did advance to the Northeast he would probably order the Division to cross the MOSELLE, advance in its zone and shorten its front.

The Executive Officer 3d Cavalry Group called the Chief of Staff and requested an Artillery Liaison Officer and a Forward Observer from the Division Artillery for the 3d Cavalry Squadron. These were furnished by the 324th Field Artillery Battalion. However no calls for fire in support of that unit were received.

The Division Artillery fired 120 harassing and interdiction missions, 3 preparations, 8 counter-battery missions, 14 targets of opportunity and 16 registrations.

The Division Engineer was directed to be prepared to initiate ferry operations across the MOSELLE at SCHENGEN on 19 November and to have the treadway bridge company then enroute to BASTOGNE, BELGIUM moved to BOUS, LUXEMBOURG.

The 308th Engineer Battalion continued the clearing of roads within the Division area and initiated the clearing of road blocks in the vicinity of GREVENMACHER.

19 November 1944

The 28th Infantry Division completed the relief of the 8th Infantry Division in the sector immediately North of the 83d Division boundary and assumed responsibility for the sector at 0830. Liaison was established with the 28th Division.

At 1030 the Division Commander directed the Commanding Officer, 330th Infantry to send an officer's patrol to LE HAMMELSBERG (Q032973), one to LE SCHNEEBERG (Q069740) and one to the high ground North of SEHNDORF (Q021991) for the purpose of determining the enemy situation in the area that had been passed through by the 3d Cavalry Squadron. The officers sent were to be from the units that the Commanding Officer 330th Infantry intended to employ in the establishment of a bridge-head in that area, should he be directed to do so. Patrols were to be coordinated with the 3d Cavalry Group.

The 330th Infantry established a small bridge-head on the East Bank of the MOSELLE opposite SCHENGEN to serve as a base for patrol operations and initiated the patrolling directed above. The patrols made contact with the 3d Cavalry Group.

The Division Artillery fired 153 harassing and interdiction missions, 5 counter-battery missions, 39 targets of opportunity and 32 registrations.

The Division Engineer completed the preparations for the operation of a ferry service to SCHENGEN. No instructions were issued to initiate this service.

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19 November 1944 (Cont'd)

During the afternoon it was learned that the 10th Armored Division (less Combat Command B) which had been advancing to the Southwest behind METZ was halted and given the mission of turning North, passing through the 3d Cavalry Group, attacking North-east, and seizing a bridgehead over the SAAR RIVER in the vicinity of SAARBURG (WILL0130). Later, in the evening, it was learned that Regimental Combat Team 358 (90th Division) would be attached to the 10th Armored Division, that the 3d Cavalry Group would hold in place until passed through and then assemble in the area APACH (Q015965) - PILLINGERHOF (Q038994) - BESCH (1011150). This information was transmitted to VIII Corps.

The enemy situation on the West bank of the MOSELLE and SAUER within the Division zone as was known at Division Headquarters was as follows. No enemy were present from South of the vicinity of MACHTUM (1061185) to the South boundary of the Division. The village of MACHTUM and the hill to the immediate South were held by a force estimated to be a platoon. This platoon was known to be dug-in and wired-in on the river side of the hill. The MERTEH (1094234) - WASSERBILLIG (1108247) area was held by a force estimated to be of reinforced company strength. During the afternoon an artillery forward observer reported a foot bridge being built at 111472457. This bridge was destroyed by our artillery fire. MOERSDORF (1109280) was unoccupied but German patrol frequently passed through the village. BORN (1119298) was occupied by the enemy and used as a patrol base. One of our patrols attempting to enter the village on 17 November was stopped by mortar fire believed to originate on the East bank of the SAUER. Status of HINKEL (1120323) was unknown. HILL 236 (1124343) was occupied by an enemy force estimated to be a platoon. The position was known to be wired-in and protected by a mine field. Our patrols had never entered STEINHEIM (1091369). Six (6) days previously we had placed artillery fire on enemy machine gun positions in that area. Up until the 16th of November, the enemy had hung on to a small bridgehead consisting of three (3) fortified houses in ECHTERNACH. This bridgehead was abandoned apparently on the night of 16-17 November.

The enemy situation on the East bank of the MOSELLE, South of its junction with the SAUER, as known at Division Headquarters, was as follows: The 1st Battalion, 320th Infantry, 212th Volksgrenadier Division had replaced the battalion of the 36th Division that had been in WASSERBILLIG area. This was a new unit that had been organized in Poland six weeks previously. All elements of the 416th Division which had previously been opposing the southern part of the Division, except the 1st Battalion 714th Infantry and the 2d Battalion 712th Infantry, had been withdrawn and committed against the 90th Division. They had later withdrawn to the East in the general direction of MERZIG. No information was available as to what troops, if any, had replaced the 416th Division.

The enemy situation on the East bank of the SAUER was unknown. The 36th Division which had previously been in that sector had been withdrawn and identified in the METZ area. No prisoners had been taken in this area for eight (8) days. No identifications had been established.

Four (4) escaped Russian workers who had been impressed by the Germans reported that the railroad on the North bank of the MOSELLE opposite KONZ KARTHAUS was being torn-up at night by the Germans and the rails removed.

The proposed operations of the 10th Armored Division required that that unit have maneuver room in the 83d Division zone. Accordingly, they requested the 83d Division to establish a temporary boundary between the two divisions. Since the South boundary of the 83d Division was also the boundary between the First and Third Armies the request

SECRET19 November 1944 (Cont'd)

was referred across at Army level and after being notified by VIII Corps that it was all right to make the agreement, the 83d Division agreed to a temporary boundary as follows: MOSELLE RIVER North to 20 Easting - thence East to permanent boundary.

20 November 1944

Infantry operations were limited to patrolling. No new identifications were obtained.

The Division Field Artillery fired 124 harassing and interdiction missions, 11 counterbattery missions, 47 targets of opportunity, 32 registrations, and 2 TOTs. The village of BORN (1119298) was set afire as a result of one of these missions. The 422d Field Artillery Group fired 7 counterbattery missions.

The Division was notified that, due to the change in boundaries (temporary change) the treadway bridge company would not be needed and hence would not be brought down from the V Corps by First Army.

Liaison was established with the 10th Armored Division and arrangements made to support the action of that Division by artillery fire.

As a result of a warning received from VIII Corps, all units were again warned that there were positive indications that the German Air Force might be used in strength against the First Army.

21 November 1944

Enemy activity in the northern sector was confined to light, harassing fires. The German Air Force was active over the Division area between 1840 and 2240.

Our own infantry activity was confined to patrolling.

The Division Commander ordered the Commanding Officer, 329th Infantry to take the necessary action to capture sufficient prisoners to establish the identification of the enemy units on his front.

The Division Artillery fired 97 harassing and interdiction missions, 2 counterbattery missions, 5 TOTs, 31 targets of opportunity and 19 registrations.

The Division Engineer was directed to establish engineer liaison with the 10th Armored Division to obtain data on type of obstacles erected by the Germans between the MOSELLE and SAAR Rivers, and to initiate ferry service across the MOSELLE at SCHENGEN.

A minor adjustment in the temporary boundary between the 83d Division and the 10th Armored Division to follow the MOSELLE North of the 20 Easting was agreed to.

The 6th and 7th Companies, 316th Infantry Regiment, 212th Volksgrenadier Division (Germany) were identified in the general vicinity of RAHLINGEN (11234). The 2d Company, 58th Fortress MG Battalion was identified in the WINCHERINGEN (10513) - NITTEL (10618) area. A PWI Team from the 83d Division was placed on duty at the PW cage of the 10th Armored Division to obtain information for the 83d Division.

All Luxembourgers who at any time were members of the Wehrmacht or of the Nazi Party were ordered to register with the CIC prior to 1 December 44.

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SECRET21 November 1944 (Cont'd)

A serious Quartermaster supply problem with respect to replacements for non-tariff size shoes developed. Many filler replacements had been received who could be properly fitted only by a non-tariff size shoe and who were equipped with only one pair of shoes on arrival. Certain non-tariff sizes were unobtainable through normal supply channels and 374 individuals in the Division who required these sizes did not have a serviceable pair.

22 November 1944

The boundary between the First and Third Armies was adjusted as follows: STENAY (P-1502) - LONGUYON (U-4596) - ESCH (P-7302) - SIERCK (Q-0094) (all inclusive to Third Army - thence along the MOSELLE RIVER to KOBLENZ (L-8995) (all inclusive to First Army) by Top Secret Letter, Headquarters Twelfth Army Group, Subject: "Amendment Number Five to Letter of Instructions Number Ten", dated 21 November 1944.

The Division Artillery was regrouped, the 323d and 324th Field Artillery Battalions being moved North to take advantage of the shortening front resulting from the slight advance of the 10th Armored Division and to better support the action of that unit by fire. The Division Artillery fired 105 harassing and interdiction missions, 5 counter-battery missions, 42 targets of opportunity and 25 registrations.

Troops "A" and "B", 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, and Company "B", 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion (all 9th Armored Division Units) were attached to the 83d Division, primarily for training and experience, and were in turn attached to the 329th Infantry Regiment.

Enemy aircraft dropped six (6) bombs in the vicinity of the Command Post 331st Infantry during the night of 21-22 November.

The 308th Engineer Battalion completed the minimum necessary demining in the BASSE KONTZ - SCHENGEN area to allow use of the roads as communication routes. Approximately 3000 S mines were removed in this area. A few wooden mines also were discovered.

23 November 1944

Enemy patrolling in zone of the 329th Infantry was active. Enemy artillery activity showed a marked increase over the previous 48 hours. The Division Artillery received the first counterbattery fire that it had received for several days. The enemy method of fire was to employ an auxiliary adjusting point and then shift. No new identifications were obtained.

The 10th Armored Division on the East of the MOSELLE had advanced sufficiently to allow the withdrawal of the 1st Battalion 330th Infantry (less Company "C") to an assembly area in the vicinity of ITZIG (P8711). Company "C" continued to occupy LE STROMBERG.

The Division Artillery fired 141 harassing and interdiction missions, 21 counter-battery missions, 6 targets of opportunity, 12 registrations, and 4 TOTs. Three field artillery battalions, two tank destroyer companies, and one tank company fired a TOT on HELFANT (10410) at 1600.

In order to prevent the enemy from obtaining any benefit from a surprise action on the holiday (Thanksgiving Day) a "stand-by" for the entire Division and attachments was held at 2300. Special reports regarding the conditions along the entire front were required from all units during the night of 23-24 November.

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24 November 1944

Enemy activity was very light and limited chiefly to artillery action. One German patrol was reported to be operating in the area of the 329th Infantry.

The 330th Infantry effected a minor regrouping, replacing Company "C" by Company "I" in the BASSE KONZ area and completing the assembly of the 1st Battalion in the ITZIG area.

The Division Artillery fired a program of harassing and interdiction on towns in Germany on the front of the 10th Armored Division, during the night 24-25 November.

The two reconnaissance platoons of the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop which had been attached to the 329th Infantry reverted and rejoined their troop.

25 November 1944

Enemy operations during the period 250001 to 252400 was characterized chiefly by considerable troop movement south of the BITBURG - TRIER Road.

Visibility was good for the first time in a week and numerous working parties were observed improving field works on the East bank of the SAUER. The Division Artillery fired 124 harassing and interdiction missions, 3 counterbattery missions, 15 targets of opportunity, 17 registrations and 3 TOTs.

In general, the entire front was very quiet. Inability of the 10th Armored Division to guarantee no-fire lines east of the MOSELLE prevented patrolling East of that river.

26 November 1944

The Division Commander learned through a Liaison Officer from the XX Corps Artillery that the plan of that Corps was being altered so as to abandon the advance on SAARBURG, to move the 10th Armored Division to alongside of the 90th Division and to turn the protection of the left flank of the XX Corps area to Task Force POLK which would be reconstituted. This change in plans by the XX Corps made it apparent that the present front of the Division would not be shortened by any advance North along the East bank of the MOSELLE by elements of that Corps. The Commanding General VIII Corps was notified of a change in the situation. (Item 200, G-2, G-3 Journal for 26 Nov 44).

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry moved to the HETTANGE GRANDE (U8591) area to train in assault of fortified positions. A section of the MAGINOT LINE was used as a training area for this purpose. The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, was made available, upon request to this headquarters, to the 329th Infantry as a reserve, should one be required.

The MOSELLE RIVER which had been at flood stage during the crossing by the 90th Division and had since subsided, started to rise again on the 20th. Between 201200 and 261800 the river rose 9.7 feet at SCHENGEN. Average velocity, 5.8 MPH.

The Division Artillery fired 127 harassing and interdiction missions, 5 counterbattery missions, 37 targets of opportunity and 25 registrations. Missions were fired on FERSCHWEILER (10441), ERNZEN (10539) and IRREL (10839) where photo interpretation showed suspected labor camps to be located.

Prisoners of War captured by the 329th Infantry stated that the enemy was planning an attack on DICKWEILER, the crossing for the attack to be made in the vicinity of HINKEL but that river conditions had prevented the attempt. Attack was to be made by

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26 November 1944 (Cont'd)

elements of the 99th Training Regiment. The regiment, which was composed of political prisoners, was very enthusiastic about the attack since crossing the river would give them the opportunity to surrender.

27 November 1944

Prisoners of War taken this date from the 23 Fortress Battalion, 99th Training Regiment confirmed previous statements that an attack was imminent and that the men were looking forward to the opportunity to surrender. Prisoners of War also stated that the rumor that GOEBING was either under arrest or had been killed still persisted in the German forces.

Confirmation was received of the change in the plan of the XX Corps. The Executive Officer of Task Force POLK visited Division Headquarters and requested that, due to the long front he was taking over, and the fact that he had only one battalion of field artillery, the Division be prepared to support his left flank. The Division Commander issued instructions to regroup the Division Artillery in order to accomplish this support.

The Division Artillery fired 120 harassing and interdiction missions, 5 counter-battery missions, 37 targets of opportunity and 23 registrations.

As of 271800, the MOSELLE RIVER continued to rise.

28 November 1944

The Chief of Staff, VIII Corps (Col Searcy), visited the Division Command Post and notified the Division Commander that the Corps Commander had been notified at First Army Headquarters two days previously that it was probable that the 83d Division would be employed to replace the 4th Division (VII Corps), and the 4th Division would assume the mission of the 83d Division - the relief to be effected by Combat Team. Col Searcy stated that he had been notified by G-3, First Army, this morning to notify the 83d Division to have one combat team (330) prepared to move within 2 to 5 days but not to alert the unit for any movement. The Corps Commander suggested, through his Chief of Staff that the Division Commander visit First Army Headquarters (SPA, BELGIUM) on the 29th of November, find out the plan for the relief of the Division and also visit the headquarters of the Corps to which it would be assigned.

At 1725, General Middleton called the Division Commander, stated that he had just been talking to the Chief of Staff, First Army, who said that Major General J. L. Collins, Commanding General, VII Corps, desired to see the Division Commander and certain staff officers at Headquarters VII Corps on 29 November 44. General Middleton told the Division Commander to stop by and see him on his way up.

At 2120, Col Searcy phoned that he had been notified that the movement would probably be initiated on 30 November 44. Orders were issued directing the 331st Infantry to relieve the 330th Infantry prior to 0001, 30 November; the 330th Infantry to be prepared for movement as a combat team on 30 November 44; and constituting the 330th RCT effective 1200, 29 November 44.

Nine Russian workers escaped into our lines during the day, confirmed information received from Russians the previous day and reported the wholesale German looting of LUXEMBOURG villages. According to these Russians enemy troops occupying SIEGFRIED LINE fortifications in the 329th Infantry sector were spending most of their time improving these defenses.

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29 November 1944

The Division Commander, accompanied by the Assistant to the Division Commander and certain staff officers, visited the Command Post of the VII Corps at KORNELL-MUNSTER, GERMANY (K905381) and the Command Post of the 4th Division at ZWEIFALL, GERMANY (K956368). Enroute, the Division Commander stopped at the Command Post, VIII Corps, and conferred with Gen Middleton regarding the exchange of divisions.

Gen Collins outlined to the Division Commander his tentative plan as follows:

a. 330th Combat Team to be moved by motor to a staging area in the vicinity of GRESSENICH. 22d Combat Team (4th Division) to be withdrawn from action and moved to the GRESSENICH area. 330th Combat Team to pass to control of the 4th Division, in place, in division reserve. 22d Combat Team to move, by motor, to LUXEMBOURG, and relieve the 331st Combat Team. 330th Combat Team to be committed under the 4th Division control on the right of the 4th Division in such a manner as to permit disengagement of the 12th Combat Team (4th Division).

b. Following relief by the 22d Combat Team, the 331st Combat Team would be moved to the GRESSENICH area and a similar exchange with the 12th Combat Team, which was to be withdrawn, would be effected. The 12th Combat Team was to be moved by motor to LUXEMBOURG. The 331st Infantry was to relieve the 8th Infantry (4th Division) by attacking through that regiment. Command in the area was to pass from the 4th Division to the 83d Division at the time the 331st Infantry was committed.

c. Following the exchange of the 331st for the 12th, the 12th Combat Team was to move by motor to LUXEMBOURG and relieve the 329th Infantry. Command in the LUXEMBOURG area was to pass from the 83d Division to the 4th Division after the arrival of the 12th in that area.

d. The actual date of the initiation of the relief was dependent upon the capture of GRY by the 22d Combat Team which would allow the 5th Armored Division to be employed on the Right (South) of the 4th Division and a general readjustment of boundaries between divisions within the VII Corps to be made.

e. It should be noted that this plan required the 83d Division to be responsible for two (2) widely separated sectors simultaneously, i.e., the time between the commitment of the 331st Infantry and the arrival in LUXEMBOURG of the 12th Combat Team. This was not expected to result in any difficulty.

Late in the evening, the VIII Corps notified the 83d Division that the move of the 330th Combat Team was postponed 24 hours, the 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion would not accompany the Division on transfer to the VII Corps, and that the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, then attached to the 2d Division, would be moved to the EUPEN - EYNATTEN area and attached to the 83d Division on arrival.

30 November 1944

The Division Headquarters Commandant was sent to the GRESSENICH area on a reconnaissance mission. A Command Post location was selected at KREWINKEL (K983418).

Reconnaissances of the new area were made by the Assistant G-4, Division Signal Officer and Division Engineer.

The Division Commander, accompanied by the Acting G-3, had remained in the area overnight. During the day he completed his reconnaissance and series of conferences with local Commanders and in the evening returned to his Command Post at BONNEVOIE, LUXEMBOURG.

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~~SECRET~~30 November 1944 (Cont'd)

The Division was notified that the initiation of the move was postponed an additional 24-hours, i.e., until 2 December 1944.

Following casualties were suffered during the period 1-30 November, inclusive:

KIA	20
WIA	168
MIA	22
Non-Battle	<u>653</u> 863

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947 replacements were received during the period 1-30 November, inclusive. Of these replacements, 849 were "returned to duty" personnel.

162 Prisoners of War were taken during the period 1-30 November, inclusive.

S. V. KRAUTHOFF,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

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