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HQ 83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP  
APO 83, US Army



30 April 1945.

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

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C.

Thru Channels.

1. (a). 83rd Reconnaissance Troop, 83rd Infantry Division.
- (b). None.
- (c). 1 April 1945: 6 Officers 142 EM plus 3 attached medical aid men. 30 April 1945: 5 Officers 143 EM plus 4 attached medical aid men. Net gain: 1 EM Net loss: 1 Officer.
- (d). European Theater of Operations, APO 83. Date of arrival: 19 April 1944.
- (e). Does not apply
- (f). Campaigns:
  - (1) Name:
  - (2) Duration:
  - (3) Purpose:
  - (4) Authority ordering:
- (g). See Narrative of Events (Incl #1).
- (h). Commanding Officers for the period: KEITH L. WELLS, 1st Lt., Cavalry, O-1030205 from 1 April to 30 April incl.
- (i). Losses in action:

NAME	RANK	ASN	DATE
Sperschneider, Mylius H. W.	Cpl	(KIA) 13136587	5 April 1945.
Taggart, William T.	2d Lt.	(SWA) 0-2010948	5 April 1945.
Campbell, John L.	Cpl	(DOW) 37567044	5 April 1945.
Tryon, Charles F.	Pfc	(SIA) 36966881	5 April 1945.
Lane, Clyde R.	Pvt	(SIA) 37642121	5 April 1945.
Buckley, Edward J.	T/5	(KIA) 33466152	12 April 1945.
Gotwalt, Robert E.	Pfc	(SWA) 13093678	12 April 1945.
Gilman, Murray L.	Pvt	(LNA) 12228002	12 April 1945.
Gorjanc, John	Pvt	(LNA) 35567885	13 April 1945.
Beckett, Wilfred W.	Pfc	(EWA) 37743534	14 April 1945.
Vela, Victor	Cpl	(SIA) 37338736	17 April 1945.
Siegel, Robert	Pvt	(LNA) 31451924	17 April 1945.
Willis, James M.	Pvt	(LIA) 35682376	17 April 1945.
Hamel, Joseph R.	Pfc	(SWA) 11041043	26 April 1945.
N ye, Glenn S.	Pfc	(SWA) 38699511	28 April 1945.

(j). Awards and decorations: None for this period.

(k). None.

(l). Inclosures: Incl #1 Narrative of Events  
Incl #2 Unit Journal  
Incl #3 FO #1 T/F RITCHIE w/overlay.  
FO #58 83d Infantry Division w/overlay.

WILLIAM D. EISENHOWER  
KEITH L. WELLS,  
1st Lt., Cavalry,  
Commanding.

For the Commanding General:

Approved:

(Signature: William D. Eisenhower)

For the Adjutant General:

HEADQUARTERS 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, A. F. WELLS, JR. 1945

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HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U. S. Army, 16 May 1945.

1st Ind.

TO: Commanding General, XIX Corps, APO 270, U. S. Army.  
(Attention: Adjutant General)

Forwarded.

For the Commanding General:

N. P. COWDEN,  
Major, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

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HQ 83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP  
APO 83, US Army

30 April 1945.



SUBJECT: Narrative of Events, 83rd Reconnaissance Troop, April 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C.

Thru Channels.

1. At the beginning of the period, the Troop less the 2nd Platoon was in LUDINGHAUSEN (RA-8052). 2nd Platoon was guarding bridges at RA-780590. The Troop received mission of escorting MKO to AHLEN B1051 and coordinated with 2nd Bn, 330th Infantry in blocking of routes and zones in AHLEN. The entire Troop moved to AHLEN and spent a busy day controlling civilian movement, suppressing riots and looting and taking PWs. At 1600, the Troop was attached to 2nd Bn, 329th Infantry whose mission was taking and securing an area along the LIPPE river from B1644 to B2840. Troop mission was reconnaissance in front of the Battalion; taking and holding two Road junctions vicinity B1644; town of LIPPBORG (B2241), RJ at B2440 and town of HERZFELD (B2840) until relieved by Infantry. All objectives taken without opposition except for some artillery fire from across the river on the 2nd Platoon. No casualties. At 2115, Troop was relieved by Infantry and assembled in BECKUM (B210507) and relieved from attachment to the 329th Infantry. During the day a total of eighteen (18) PWs were taken.

2. During this period from 0645-1600, the Troop investigated reports of enemy troops in vicinity and collected seven (7) PW and cleared roads adjoining BECKUM. At 1630 T/F RITCHIE was formed with Troop attached. T/F had mission of reconnoitering to the East of DEIBRUCK. Troop was given independent mission of making reconnaissance of objectives at B6758, B7160, B7660. The 88th Cavalry Squadron was contacted in DEIBRUCK and it was found they had elements in 1st objective. While moving toward objectives, progress was halted by a column of the 8th Armored Division crossing routes of advance under priority. This condition prevailed throughout the day and the Troop stood by with orders to proceed at earliest opportunity.

3. At 0600 the Armored convoy cleared and mission was resumed at 0630. By 1135 all objectives were taken, among them a tuberculosis Camp housing 1500 tubercular Russians. The Platoons established blocks and outposts in vicinity of CP at B678990. Troop attached to 329th Infantry at 1215. During the day a total of forty (40) PWs were taken representing a variety of units. The Russians launched a drunken looting and demolition campaign of nearby civilian homes and Troop took action to stop it but lacked enough personnel for adequate measures. No contact with 329th Infantry in regard to a new mission. At 2400 T/F RITCHIE was dissolved and Troop held objectives.

4. The Troop received orders to secure flanks of 2nd Bn, 329th Infantry during its move to HORN. Mission was executed successfully and netted four (4) PWs. At 1945 CO was informed the Troop was attached to T/F BIDDLE which had been formed at 1000. T/F mission was rapid, aggressive advance in Division Zone, overcoming weak resistance; by-passing and containing strong points, moving to WESER river and establishing a bridgehead in the vicinity of BODINWESER (C2277). T/F BIDDLE broken down to Force RITCHIE and Force HULSE. T/F RITCHIE to which Troop was attached was further divided into T/F RITCHIE and T/F CLYDE with one Platoon with each. Jumpoff time set for 050800 April 1945.

5. At 0500 Troop prepared to move from its location at SCHLANGEN. While lining up in the road and preparing for move, a passing tank collided with an Armored Car injuring three men, one fatally. Troop assembled at HORN with other T/F elements and operations began. No resistance to our movement until Troop reached a point mid-way between BELLE and STEINHEM. During subsequent action a scout Sergeant was killed by small arms fire. The T/F took over reduction of resistance in STEINHEM and also SCHIEDER. The Platoon leader, 3rd Platoon, was evacuated for injury from a bullet in his arm. By 2400 T/F CLYDE was entrenched in BRAKELSTEK for the night and T/F RITCHIE in SCHIEDER. During the days' operation, Troop took eleven (11) PWs and suffered five (5) casualties, two of which were fatal. A total of fourteen (14) towns were cleared of enemy.

6. On 6 April at 0900 T/Fs RITCHIE and CLYDE resumed operations.

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Ltr Hq 83d Bn Troop dtd 30 Apr '45 Subj: Narrative of Events, 83d Bn Tr, Apr '45.

Several towns were cleared without opposition. At 003059 small arms fire was received and after a thorough pasting by tank and small arms fire, eleven (11) PWs were taken. Heavy machine gun and small arms fire was received from KEMNADE C2277 and the T/F moved up to reduce opposition. At 1830, the bridge over the WESER river was destroyed by enemy demolition. The 1st Platoon and T/F CLYDE closed at HOHE. KEMNADE was cleared and the T/F spent the night in BROKEIN. During the day's operations, nine (9) towns were cleared along route of advance and to the flanks.

7. On 7 April 1945 T/F RITCHIE was dissolved at 0600 and the morning was spent resting and doing motor maintenance. At 1200 Troop was attached to 329th Infantry with mission of reconnaissance in front of 3rd Battalion toward DELLIGSH. Mission was completed with only light opposition. Thirty-five (35) PWs were taken and a total of six (6) towns cleared.

8. The morning of 8 April the Troop began reconnaissance mission ahead of 3rd Battalion towards the next objective, LAMSPRINGE at 0700. During the morning's advance an abandoned military train was located with a number of field guns intact and was reported to the Infantry. After skirmishes in which five (5) PWs were taken, the mission was completed and Troop assembled in LAMSPRINGE. At 1600 received mission to reconnoiter and secure bridge at C-610819 if intact. A Platoon was dispatched and when they arrived, found three bridges intact. Large numbers of displaced persons rioting made it necessary to reinforce the Platoon to maintain order and provide adequate security.

9. On the morning of 9 April, Troop elements were relieved of security posts by tanks and Infantry. Fifteen (15) German soldiers and two (2) Naval Officers were surrendered by Buergermeister of BOCKENUM. Troop reassembled in LAMSPRINGE and began preparations for a new mission the following day which involved rapid reconnaissance in front of 329th Infantry in a push to the ELBE river in the vicinity of BARBY.

10. On 10 April at 0700 the Regiment jumped off with a Platoon in front of each of two Battalions advancing abreast on parallel routes. The advance was characterized by several undefended road blocks and spotty disorganized resistance causing Troop temporary delays. Indications increased that the defenses were totally uncoordinated, large caliber weapons were totally lacking and the will to resist was decreasing as large groups of enemy surrendered readily without firing. When local resistance was met it was quickly dealt with and the advance gained momentum which carried our elements to C942768 and C9469 where the respective Battalions spent the night. As a result of operations, fifty-seven (57) PWs were taken, an enemy liaison plane shot down and seventeen (17) towns cleared.

11. 11 April 1945. This period of operations followed the general pattern of the 10th marked by rapid advances, brief skirmishes and capture of many PWs. Information of 1200 British and American PWs moving ahead of the column was received from 12 liberated British soldiers. It was anticipated that the enemy would attempt to entrain the PWs in HALBERSTADT for evacuation so both Battalions surged ahead in an effort to release these men, however a stubborn delaying action slowed the advance and it was 1600 before troops cleared the town. The 1st Bn was relieved of its mission at 1630. 3rd Bn pushed on to GRONINGEN. Elements advancing on our right flank had released the 1200 PWs. Score for the day was 1000 Russian PWs released, 541 PWs in addition to large numbers taken by Infantry, one ammunition train destroyed and eleven (11) towns cleared.

12. 12 April 1945. The advance to the ELBE was in its final stages. 3rd Bn continued its mission with our 2nd Platoon setting the pace. Resistance remained light with the exception of BARBY where one man was killed and two seriously wounded before relief by tanks and infantry. Troop billeted in POMMELTE. Twelve (12) towns were cleared and one hundred eighty-two (182) PWs taken including seven German WACS.

13. On 13 April 1945, troop reverted to Division control with mission of protecting Division right flank. During establishment of necessary road blocks, eighty-five (85) PWs were taken including seven (7) Officers. Enemy aircraft strafed positions but no casualties resulted although sniper fire from across the river wounded one man.

14. 14 April 1945. This period was spent organizing villages in area investigating reports of enemy activity. One man was wounded by sniper fire and two PWs were taken. The Troop was relieved by 113th Cavalry at 1600 and moved to CALBE. One Platoon established road blocks at WERKLITZ and one Platoon ran patrols from CALBE to NIENBERG to contact 113th Cavalry.

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Ltr Hq 83d Rcn Troop dtd 30 Apr '45 Subj: Narrative of Events, 83d Rcn Tr, Apr '45.

15. 15 April '45. Security mission along SAALE river continued.

16. 16 Apr '45. Continued security mission. At 1615, troop received mission of reconnaissance in front of 320th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Bn in advance to BREITENHAGEN and securing right flank of Bn to the South. Mission completed, seventeen (17) PWs taken.

17. 17 Apr '45. Security mission continued until 1500 when orders were received to reconnoiter area East of SAALE between CALBE and NIEMBERG. Five (5) towns cleared and thirty-four (34) PWs taken before troop set up blocks for the night.

18. 18 Apr '45. During the day investigation of several villages was carried out and two were found clear. At 1630 Troop received mission of relieving "B" Company, 320th Infantry along West bank of ELBE the following morning.

19. 19 Apr '45. Relief of B Company was effected as scheduled and Troop assumed defensive positions along West bank of the ELBE with one Platoon of "I" Company, 331st Infantry attached. Lateral contacts made and communications system completed.

20. 20 Apr '45. Continued with mission with little enemy activity noted. Five enemy with three machine guns taken under fire. Contacts were made at regular intervals. The 3rd Platoon was dispatched to guard Division QM installations. The 1st Platoon made local patrols in the vicinity of CALBE.

21. 21 April '45. The patrols continued and some rehabilitation was begun. Notice was received of a new mission upon relief by Troop "A", 113th Cavalry Squadron.

22. 22 April '45. At 0900 arrangements were made for Troop to relieve 453rd AAA who held another sector of the West bank of the ELBE. At 1400 the relief was completed and a series of outposts were established in our sector. Lateral contacts were made and future contacts planned.

23. Troop continued on mission with small local enemy activity observed and brought under fire by attached assault guns. Four (4) PWs taken.

24. 24 Apr '45. Defensive operation continued with only occasional enemy activity visible. Fire brought to bear on all movement observed. Two German Nurses and one wounded soldier crossed the river to our lines.

25. 25 Apr '45. The period was a repetition of previous periods with a short fire fight with undetermined number of enemy engaged by one of our patrols in a house on our side of the river.

26. Positions were maintained and assault gun fire used with good effect on enemy movement and enemy who continually harassed our positions with small arms fire and wounded one of our men.

27. 27 Apr '45. Defensive mission continued with employment of assault guns and small arms on enemy activity.

28. Continued firing on any movement across the river. Our sector was relatively quiet.

29. 29 Apr '45. The assault guns were released by a Mortar platoon and our mission continued with little variation. Two young soldiers in civilian clothing crossed the river and were taken.

30. Period closed with all quiet and under control.

31. Conclusion.... Operating on a good Cavalry mission against a dis-organized enemy in relatively open terrain for the first time, emphasized the necessity for aggressiveness, communication and coordination. The use of infantry mounted on the Armored Cars proved extremely valuable in all instances. Since the mission required the clearing of a route of advance, many possibilities for cross-country operations by-passing opposition could not be exploited. Given mission for which it is trained, equipped and intended, the Troop clearly demonstrated its ability to execute them successfully.

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Ltr Hq 83d Recon Troop dtd 30 Apr '45 Subj: Narrative of Events, 83d Recon Tr Apr '45.

Result of the month's operations were a total of 923 PWs exclusive of a large undetermined number of dead and wounded, one train, one plane and many hundreds of Allied PWs released. Our casualties were three dead, twelve injured.

KEITH L. WELLS,  
1st Lt., Cavalry,  
Commanding.

Incl #1.

