

  
83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP  
APO 83  
UNITED STATES ARMY

OOD  
ETD  
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30 August 1944

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

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

Thru Channels.

1. 4 Aug. '44. 1930 - Troop received mission to reconnoiter the east bank of the Rance River, north of Dinan, for (a) enemy in the area; (b) Routes to the river and (c) Location and condition of bridges over the Rance River.
2. Troop CO with 1st Rcn Platoon moved out on the mission at 1945. About 2015, Troop CO met CO of a 1st Army Engineer Co attacking a German pocket west of Le Val Hervelin.
3. The 1st platoon was disposed north and south of the highway to Dinan as flank security and moved forward with the attack.
4. The Engineer Company, astride the highway, and the Troop CO in an M-8, on the highway, moved west.
5. The weapons of the M-8 were used to fire into the hedgerows and on enemy positions while the Engineers moved forward and closed with the Germans. The 1st platoon moved forward on the flanks and met no resistance.
6. Results: Four Germans killed, 12 captured. Our casualties, None.
7. First platoon moved on to continue the reconnaissance mission, assisted by the Second platoon. Both platoons bivouacked at 823960 (Map, France, 1/50,000 Combours Sheet) CP that location. Dismounted patrols sent out from there. Results: No more enemy found east of Rance River. No suitable approaches or crossings found. No bridges found intact.
8. 050700 (Map, France, 1/50,000, Combours Sheet) Third Platoon made route reconnaissance from 805951 to 833992. The platoon encountered 20 enemy at 807954 and received mortar fire from undetermined location.
9. Dismounted action and fire from automatic weapons dispersed the enemy. Entire route cleared.
10. 051630. Two M-8s were sent to 795969 to assist by fire the crossing of the Rance River at that location by the 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry. Results of fire not known. Our casualties, None.
11. 070600. Troop combat elements, less 1st platoon on security mission moved to Dinan. Mission - Zone reconnaissance from Dinan to Dinard, in front of (attached to) CT 121. 2nd Platoon, main route, Dinan to Dinard, 3rd Platoon, secondary route, Dinan, Plover, Dinard. 1st Platoon (joined troop at Lanvallay at 0630), in reserve. Headquarters behind 2nd Platoon, on main route.

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12. At 0815 the Second Platoon made first enemy contact at 761011, (Map France, 1/25,000, St Malo Sheet). German cycle rider came around curve in the road and was killed by Machine Gun fire. Six dismounted men killed at same point and a truck full of German infantry and one US M-8 withdrew. Second platoon continued on its mission and at Pleslin sent a reconnaissance team east on the main highway to contact the 3rd Platoon at Plouer.

13. At 0910 the 3rd Platoon met dismounted enemy in and around Plouer. The platoon leader approached main intersections from the rear and surprised several outposts. Two Germans killed, several wounded and 16 prisoners taken in vicinity of Plouer. The F.F.I. was very helpful in this area and their chief, a Dr. Chevalier of Plouer, gave the troop every possible assistance throughout the Dinard operations.

14. Second Platoon reached 754041 at 1100 and drew Machine Gun fire from 757049, at the same time discovering a road block at 754049. Machine Gun fire from the leading M-8 drove the crew from the gun at 757049, and attention was turned to the road block.

15. The platoon leader directed 37 mm, 60 mm mortar and Machine Gun fire against personnel and enemy installations in the vicinity of the road block and sent dismounted reconnaissance forward along both sides of the highway.

16. German Artillery fire caused the platoon to withdraw to 754038 while CO, 3rd Battalion, CT 121, sent infantry supported by artillery to clear the road block at 754049. Troop CP remained with Second Platoon.

17. By 1115 the reconnaissance in the east half of the zone by the 3rd platoon had reached an East-West line through 790055. Mine fields, tactical wire, and booby traps, plus observation from the German defenses stopped further mounted reconnaissance.

18. At 1335 the troop received the mission from CO, CT 121, to reconnoiter and secure the right flank of CT 121. Area reconnaissance to the east to the river between Tremereuc and Pleslin was accomplished by the 1st and 2nd Platoons. At the completion, about 1630 the troop was assembled, in vicinity 792054. German artillery fire began falling in the area and the troop withdrew to vicinity Plouer. One M-8 disabled, 2 men killed, 1 wounded.

19. The security mission was accomplished by patrolling routes and manning OPs and listening posts. CP, 7901. Casualties for the day, 2 killed, 4 wounded and injured.

20. 8 Aug. to 1400, 10 Aug.; The troop maintained combat and reconnaissance patrols on the right of CT 121 with the mission of protecting the right flank. All three reconnaissance platoons were employed and succeeded in locating enemy gun installations and OPs which were brought under the fire of artillery and TD guns. The security mission was carried out successfully under sporadic artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. 091640, CP moved to 76950345.

21. 101405. Mission completed. New mission; move to left flank, secure left flank and prepare to attack to North when ordered. 2300, one combat team, 3rd platoon attacked by 25 man German combat patrol at 723063. Patrol was driven off with no casualties to either side.

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22. Morning of 13 August spent in reconnoitering for suitable area from which to attack to take the ground just north of Pleurtuit. Entire river line north of Ploubalay covered by German wire and small arms fire. 600 - 800 yards of open ground to be crossed to first cover.

23. At 1400 elements of the first platoon emerged from cover at 707098 and was attacked in the left flank by a German Combat patrol of about 25 men.

24. At 1500 the 3rd Platoon moved out from 707075, supported by its own mortars. At 1630 the 1st Platoon again moved from cover at 707098 and drew a heavy, short concentration of artillery.

25. Attached artillery forward observers fired missions on 73600070, 73370800, and 73240860.

26. The troop dug in along the line 705100-706096, with the CP at 705097, prepared for all around defense for the night. Two casualties during the day's action.

27. 141600. The troop received the mission to advance to 695115, secure the high ground there and support the division by fire on St. Briac and to the north. We moved out from 753033 at 1700. By 1815 the 2nd Platoon was on the objective, and beyond to the tip of the peninsula.

28. Firing and observation was carried out from positions around Lancieux on St. Briac by mortars, 37 mms and machine guns of the troop and attached TD Reconnaissance Platoon, plus the attached forward observer's battalion, during the daylight hours of the 14th and all day on the 15th. Very little enemy fire received. CP at 691108. The artillery observer was unable to fire on the 15th because of the proximity of friendly troops.

29. At 1120, 15 August, a patrol from 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry contacted us in Lancieux. We maintained local security and OPs for possible targets on the afternoon of the 15th but were able to do little firing because of friendly troops.

30. Results of the fire was one ammunition dump fired, 2 AT guns destroyed, and many Germans with wounded emerged from their installations and surrendered to friendly forces.

*Heister H Drum*

HEISTER H. DRUM  
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Commanding