

26 July 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

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

1. About 0600, 19 July, 1944, CO, 83d Reconnaissance Troop received orders to move his unit South across the causeway from Le Moulin to La Varde.
2. CO, 83d Reconnaissance Troop issued orders to mount the troop and form for the crossing, then went forward to the advance CP, 3rd Bn., 331st Infantry, to get orders for disposition and employment of the troop.
3. A guide was dispatched to the troop assembly area, vicinity of Le Moulin, who returned with the troop, mounted, to the selected assembly area in vicinity of La Varde, where men, equipment, weapons and ammunition were dismounted and the vehicles dispatched to the rear, the drivers returning on foot.
4. Meanwhile the troop CO contacted CO, 3rd Bn., 331st Infantry, and received orders to occupy and defend the high ground running NW from 360736. Troop CO sent for platoon leaders, reconnoitered the ground and made plans for the defense. *Map, France, 1/25000, Perieres Sheet*
5. I Co., 331st Infantry, had its right flank at 359737, with some elements to the N and the SW. On the arrival of the 83d Reconnaissance Troop the line was extended to the North, East and South for all-around defense.
6. Machine gun emplacements were dug in the hedgerows and the troop dug in to defend its sector.
7. About 1200 a tank-infantry attack on the hedgerow sector forced I Co. to withdraw, with many casualties into the Reconnaissance Troop lines.
8. No squad or platoon organization was left in I Co. so individuals were used to fill firing points in the Reconnaissance defenses.
9. At 1445, Troop CO was ordered to report to Bn. CO for instructions on coordinating fires for the night.
10. About 1515, two tanks and approximately 150-200 German infantry attacked the new lines from the South and West. When the position could no longer be held Lt. Burton and Lt. Walton conducted a withdrawal to the North, fighting from hedgerow to hedgerow.
11. Finally the troop was broken into small groups by enemy action and these groups started across the causeway individually.
12. Troop CO returned from Bn CP about 1610, and found the position vacated. He moved North along the main road and overtook the withdrawing troops on the causeway. Fifty to seventy-five men accompanied the CO and returned to La Varde. At the Northern tip of the peninsula this formation was broken up by well-placed artillery fire and the entire troop returned to Le Moulin.

Heister to Drum
HEISTER H. DRUM
Captain, Cavalry
Commanding

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