

83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP  
APO 83, US Army

1 October 1944.



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

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

Thru Channels.

1. On 24 September 1944, the 83rd Reconnaissance Troop was attached to the 331st Infantry for employment in the Regimental Area until the fall of REMICH.

2. On the morning of 25 September 1944, the following missions were given the Reconnaissance Platoons: First Platoon: To establish Observation Posts in the vicinity of 998990 (Map, Central Europe, 1/100,000 Sheet NEUNKIRCHEN). Second Platoon: To reconnoiter BASSE KONTZ and establish an Observation Post at 0095. Third Platoon: In reserve. To move with Headquarters Platoon to 962977 (GANDREN).

3. The Troop moved from bivouac at LEWDELANGE in the order of First, Second, Third and Headquarters Platoons.

4. The First Platoon had 3 Observation Posts established in its Area by 0900. It received accurate Artillery fire on the Observation Posts at 1030, 1200 and 1445, from the direction of MERSCHWEILLER, 045966. The Observation Posts moved each time they were fired on and when the firing ceased, took up new positions.

5. The Second Platoon moved from bivouac to HAUTE KONTZ, and Lt. Burton took a two 1/4-ton truck patrol along the river road to BASSE KONTZ, where it received some rifle fire. The patrol returned the fire with its machine guns, entered BASSE KONTZ, proceeded on the road to 0097, to 985976 and then to the vicinity of the First Platoon Observation Posts.

6. The Third Platoon was given the mission of establishing the Observation Post at 0095 at 1015 and proceed to 985975, mounted. The Third Platoon dismounted there and proceeded on foot as the Second Platoon reconnaissance discovered that vehicles could not be moved to the vicinity of the Observation Post on the available roads.

7. When the dismounted party from the Third Platoon reached 9997, it received some Artillery fire and withdrew. All movement over the crest of the hill toward the proposed Observation Post drew either small arms or Artillery fire.

8. At 1030, a small patrol from Headquarters Section entered HAUTE KONTZ to observe across the MOSELIE. The patrol exposed itself and drew machine gun fire from the vicinity of RETTEL and later rifle fire from the same direction. When it became apparent that an Observation Post could not be established at 0095, an Observation Post was put in HAUTE KONTZ. This Observation Post was fired on from RETTEL by machine guns at 1515 and again at 1630. The Observation Post was withdrawn at 1700.

9. On 26 September 1944, two Armored Cars and two 1/4-ton trucks, mounting a light machine gun each, were attached to the 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry for use in the capture of Hill 248 at 993048.

10. At 1400, the hill was attacked from the direction of 980057 and 980037, simultaneously, by one Armored Car and one 1/4-ton truck from each direction. Targets previously located by Infantry patrols were fired on, and although one Armored Car proceeded to 995054, no enemy were seen. A few rounds of enemy Artillery fire fell at 987045 during the mounted attack.

11. At 0900, 27 September 1944, the Second Platoon was enroute to 991976 to make a dismounted reconnaissance into BASSE KONTZ and if free of enemy, to establish an Observation Post at 0095. The plan was to move into the town on the road under the cover of the hill on the East

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and the supporting Mortar and machine gun fire of the Third Platoon from 9997.

12. The twenty-three man Second Platoon patrol, under Lt. Burton, moved out from 991976 and the leading Scouts reached 9997 when they drew fire from two German machine guns at 001967. The patrol took cover and returned the fire.

13. The Mortars and machine guns of the Third Platoon opened fire on the enemy positions and silenced the guns. As the patrol was about to move on the enemy, Artillery opened fire on the supporting weapons of the Third Platoon and drove them from position. The Artillery fire came from 120 degrees Magnetic Azimuth from 993972. The patrol withdrew as the Artillery fell on the forward slope of the hill and in the woods at 995977. A total of thirty rounds were fired.

14. While the patrol withdrew, about 1230, one Third Platoon Observation Post was fired on by enemy machine guns from 976964. The men on the Observation Post withdrew under their own fire and reported the enemy location.

15. This position was attacked by four 1/4-ton trucks mounting light machine guns and the enemy withdrew, leaving two rockets at the position. The attacking party continued to the vineyards at 985960, overlooking the MOSELLE, and was fired on by German machine guns from Northeast of RETTEL. The party withdrew, leaving an outpost at 986967.

16. At 1430, this outpost caught a man in civilian clothes, carrying a pistol, coming up the side of the hill toward them. The suspect was turned over to S-2, of the 331st Infantry.

17. On 28 September 1944, the Troop was attached to the 329th Infantry to operate North, East and West of CONSDORF, 993317 (Map, Central Europe, 1/100,000 TRIER Sheet). Unable to locate any Germans by two days of patrolling, the following action was taken on 30 September 1944.

18. An ambush party was placed at 020364 and 019370, to trap enemy patrols reported to visit BERDORF (005370) from ECHTERNACH (055357). A dismounted patrol of twenty men was sent through the woods from BERDORF to 0037-0139-0337 to attack an enemy outpost reported to be at 028376. A mounted reserve was held in BERDORF.

19. About 0745, a dispersed German patrol of about twelve men came upon the ambush party at 019370, was fired upon and withdrew with three wounded men.

20. The dismounted patrol under Lt. Burton encountered five Germans at 027378. Two Germans were wounded and fell over a cliff in their efforts to get away. The other three, plus several not seen, disappeared down a ravine.

21. As our dismounted party was returning to BERDORF, five Germans came up the ravine at 019370 and were captured. The prisoners were turned over to S-2 of the 329th Infantry.

*Heister H Drum*

HEISTER H. DRUM,  
Captain, Cavalry,  
Commanding.

1 Incl: Unit Journal.

314.7

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U. S. Army, 3 October 1944.

TO: Commanding General, XX Corps, APO 83, U. S. Army.

Forwarded.

For the Commanding General:

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

1 Incl: n/c