

83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP  
APO 83  
UNITED STATES ARMY

L-173

1 September 1944

SUBJECT: Unit Journal, 83rd Reconnaissance Troop, Month of August 1944.

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

UNIT JOURNAL

On 31 July the troop was contacting units on the right and left of the division, conducting route reconnaissance to the south in the expected zone of advance of the division and reporting the locations of CPs of the units of the VII Corps as the corps advanced to the south.

- 1 Aug. '44 Continuing both contact missions and route reconnaissance.  
1400 - Received warning order to move south on 6 hours notice.  
1420 - 3rd Platoon report on routes south to Noirpolu.  
1830 - 1st Platoon sent to relieve 2nd Platoon on Reconnaissance contact mission.  
2100 - Patrol to 2nd Battalion, 357th Infantry reports that battalion prepared to move out.
- 2 Aug. '44 0210 - 2nd Platoon closed in bivouac, relieved.  
0630 - 2nd Battalion, 357th Infantry moved out.  
1300 - 629th Engineer Battalion on left flank - moved out.  
1715 - Received new mission - To reconnoiter to South in division zone to find two parallel routes to division assembly area to include two bridges over See and Selung Rivers.  
1830 - 3rd Platoon started on 1715 Mission.
- 3 Aug. '44 All reconnaissance called off by G-3. 1st and 3rd Platoons to assemble at Sartilly.  
1330 - Troop move out, follow Division Command Group to new assembly area. Troop moved to Pontorson via Lessay, Coutances, Brehal, St. Pierre, Sartilly (picked up 1st and 3rd Platoons there) Avranches, Pontaubault, Pontorson.  
1900 - Troop closed, vicinity Pontorson.  
1930 - Received reconnaissance mission to Dol, from South. 2nd Platoon reached Dol. Platoons reported valuable information of Dol and vicinity. CP, La Boussac.
- 4 Aug. '44 0300 - 2nd Platoon patrols in Dol.  
0800 - 2nd Platoon patrols in Dol.  
0930 - New mission: Reconnoiter North-west of Dol towards St. Malo. 2nd and 3rd Platoons sent on mission.  
1130 - CP moving behind reconnaissance platoons.  
1500 - CP 935024 (Map France, 1/50000, Dol de Bretagne)  
1515 - Received message of bomblines.  
Recalled platoons until line located on 1/200,000 map. Troop less Administrative Sections assembled at 935017 (Map France, 1/50,000, Dol de Bretagne Sheet)  
2000 - Headquarters and 1st Platoons moved on mission, 1415 message from G-3 (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)  
2015 - Met 1st Army Engineer Co. attacking German pocket, west of le Val Hervein. Assisted with 1st Platoon. 12 Germans captured, 4 known killed.  
2100 - 1st Platoon delayed by enemy, 2nd Platoon sent on mission of 1415 message.  
2215 - 1st Platoon reached 823960 (Map France, 1/50,000, Combours Sheet) CP that location.  
2230 - 2nd Platoon joined 1st Platoon. Dismounted patrols sent on 1415 message mission. Patrols returned 050300; no suitable crossings or approaches found to Rance River.  
2250 - Troop less 1st and 2nd Platoons closed in <sup>bivouac</sup> at 849967. (Map France, 1/50,000, Combours Sheet)  
2nd Platoon took 5 prisoners vicinity Dol during the day.



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- 5 August '44
- 0230 - Message for G-3, Troop attached to 330th Infantry for crossing Rance River. CO reported to CO, 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry for instructions.
  - 0700 - 3rd Platoon to reconnoiter route 805951, (Map France, 1/50,000, Combours Sheet) to 833992. Encountered enemy, 807954, cleared entire route. CO reported to CO, 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry at 861992, and CP moved to 816976 (Map France, 1/50000, Combours Sheet) with 3rd Platoon there, 1st and 2nd Platoons at 805951, ready for employment.
  - 1630 - Two M-8s, 3rd Platoon, went to 795969 to assist by fire, crossing of 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry.
  - 2030 - Released from attachment 330th Infantry.
  - 2200 - Troop less Administrative Sections closed in bivouac, 823966 (Map France, 1/50,000, Combours Sheet)
- 6 August '44
- 0800 - Executive Officer arrived with new mission; Hold line 827998 - 845960 - 870963, prepare to assist capture St. Malo. CP moved to 861992 (Map France, 1/50,000, St. Malo Sheet)
  - 1345 - 3rd Platoon moved to reconnoiter for bridge sites, South of Dinan.
  - 1800 - 1st Platoon moved to cover South and West of assembly area of CT 121. Troop attached to CT 121 for capture of Dinard on 7 August.
  - 2200 - Received verbal orders, CO, CT 121, for employment 7 August.
- 7 August '44
- 0600 - Combat elements, less 1st Platoon, moved from bivouac - mission, Zone reconnaissance from Dinan to Dinard, in front of CT 121. 1st Platoon joined at 0630 at Dinan, in reserve. 2nd Platoon, west half of zone, 3rd Platoon, east half of zone. Headquarters followed 2nd Platoon. Trains in bivouac. (Map France, 1/25,000, St. Malo Sheet)
  - 0815 - First enemy contact, 2nd Platoon, 761011. Killed motorcycle rider, several dismounted men. Truck of infantry and US M-8 withdrew.
  - 0910 - 3rd Platoon encountered enemy at 795012. Several Germans wounded, 16 prisoners, 2 killed.
  - 1100 - 2nd Platoon at 754041 drew machine gun fire from 757049. Dismounted reconnaissance forward of position. Artillery fire caused withdrawal to 754038. CT 121 sent infantry supported by artillery to clear road block at 754049.
  - 1115 - 3rd Platoon reached East-West line through 790055.
  - 1335 - Received mission to reconnoiter and secure right flank of CT 121.
  - 1355 - 1st and 2nd Platoons, area reconnaissance East from highway North-South through 753030. North boundary, 04 grid; South boundary, Highway through 756020.
  - 1655 - Drew artillery fire from 804046 or 803068 at 792054. Three casualties and one M-8 disabled.
  - 1745 - Withdrew to 794016 to reorganize.
  - 1830 - Patrolled route East-West through 756020, from there East to sea, for remainder of night, by 3rd Platoon. Troop bivouac, 7901.
- 8 August '44
- 0800 - Continue present mission of patrolling main East-West road, as of 071830.
  - 0805 - Received message from CO, CT 121 to push reconnaissance North. 3rd Platoon moved to vicinity 791053. 1st and 2nd Platoons moved to extend and protect right flank of CT 121.
  - 1415 - 1st Platoon from 772051 to 773056. 2nd Platoon continued line to South.  
Maintained positions all day.  
Contacted enemy patrols, observed supporting fires.
- 9 August '44
- 0800 - Continued contact and security mission all day. Maintained OPs and patrols on right flank of CT 121.
  - 1110 - 1st Platoon in position 774056 to 773051 to protect right of CT 121. 2nd Platoon at 777051, same mission, drawing direct machine gun fire from North-East. 3rd Platoon patrols and OPs to east coast.
  - 1640 - CP moved to 76950345.



- 10 August '44
- 0800 - Continuing security mission, prepared to move forward with attacking infantry, and to move to the left flank.
  - 1405 - Mission completed - Move to left flank for security and observation, and attack to North, when ordered. 2nd Reconnaissance Platoon, 802 TD Battalion attached.
  - 1500 - Reconnaissance of area, selection of positions and
  - 2000 occupation of new area. TD Platoon and 3rd Platoon on the line. CP, 1st and 2nd Platoons and trains at 714048 at 2025.
  - 2300 - One combat team, 3rd Platoon, attacked by 25 man German combat patrol at 723063.
- 11 August '44
- 0800 - Continuing present mission.
  - 1300 - 1st and 2nd Platoons relieved 3rd and TD Platoons on the line. Relieved platoons returned to bivouac.
  - 1820 - 2nd Platoon captured 9 Germans, surrendered without a fight.
  - 2335 - Germans shelled positions in Ploubalay. No casualties.
- 12 August '44
- 0800 - Continuing present security mission.
  - 1100 - Received mission to take one platoon to Cap Freale to accept surrender of 400 Germans in garrison there. 3rd Platoon went on mission. TD Platoon to Ploubalay to take over 1st Platoon positions. 1st Platoon extended beyond La Metrie.
  - 1430 - Reached Cap Freale. Negotiating with German Garrison CO. Troop CO spoke with German CO who refused to surrender without a fight until after the battle of St. Malo.
  - 1800 - Received message to return to bivouac from Cap Freale.
  - 2030 - Forward Observer, 323rd Field Artillery Battalion attached for attack on la Ville Agan.
- 13 August '44
- 0800 - Reconnoitered North and South of Ploubalay for the attack. German positions discovered behind the river line for its entire length, as far North as St. Briac. Artillery fired missions 73600070, 73370800, 73240860. Entire line North Ploubalay contains enemy wire, mines covered by small arms fire, 600 - 800 yards of open ground to be crossed to first cover.
  - 1400 - 1st Platoon under heavy small arms fire on emerging from cover, 707098.
  - 1500 - 3rd Platoon at 707095, supported by own mortars.
  - 1630 - 1st Platoon drew heavy artillery fire. Has not moved forward.
  - 1830 - Not practical to attack across this ground with this force and support.
  - 2100 - Troop digging in for night along 705100 - 706096. CP, 705097.
  - 2315 - Executive officer brought new mission - Relieve unit on security at 772063. Troop bivouac vicinity 753033. CO report to CP 121 and remain in telephone communication with War Room, 83rd Infantry Division.
  - 2330 - Drivers returned to bivouac, vehicles brought forward, troop withdrew to 703097 to await vehicles. 1st Platoon sent to relieve elements at 772063.
- 14 August '44
- 0100 - Captured 2 Germans at 703097 while waiting for vehicles.
  - 0300 - Troop closed in bivouac at 753033, CO reported to CP, CT 121 at 756037.
  - 0930 - CP moved with CP, CT 121 to 764067.
  - 1400 - CP moved with CP, CT 121 to 757097.
  - 1600 - Received mission - Advance with troop and attachment of TD Reconnaissance Platoon to secure the high ground at 695115 and support the division by fire on St. Briac and North thereof. (Map France, 1/25,000, St. Malo Sheet).
  - 1700 - Troop moved out, 2nd Platoon, Headquarters, 3rd Platoon, TD Rcn Platoon, 1st Platoon, en route Lancieux.
  - 1730 - 2nd Platoon moved on objective on parallel routes from East-West road at 693094. Troop (less) held at 696081.
  - 1815 - 2nd Platoon at 694116. Objective clear of enemy.
  - 1900 - Troop moved into objective by platoons, took up firing and security positions at 696118, 694114, 698107, 704114. Firing on enemy targets vicinity St. Briac. Enemy mine



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14 August '44 1900 - (cont'd)  
fields all around Lancieux. CP 693109 2220 - CP moved to 691108. Trains moved to new CP.

15 August '44 0800 - Continued to fire on targets of opportunity vicinity of St. Briac.  
Located and fired on enemy personnel and installations, fired on an ammunition dump at 698125, caused enemy in many isolated positions to surrender to friendly forces in St. Briac. Drew some mortar fire on 694115. Fired machine guns, 60 mm mortars and 37 mm. Artillery observer unable to fire on any targets because of proximity of friendly forces.  
1120 - Patrol, 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry, contacted us in Lancieux.  
1200 - Fired few missions in afternoon. Friendly troops seen in many places in St. Briac. Maintained local security and OPs for possible targets.  
1815 - Artillery Observer recalled by Battalion CO.  
1830 - Each platoon closed into separate bivouac, established security and maintained OP for possible targets.  
2000 - Liaison Officer reports mission completed.

16 August '44 0930 - Liaison Officer brought instructions to move to new bivouac vicinity 730945. Troop alerted for move.  
1130 - Instructions issued to move to new bivouac.  
1140 - Headquarters Platoon moved out, followed in order by 1st, 2nd, 3rd and TD Rcn Platoons.  
1255 - Entire troop closed in bivouac. CP 729946.  
1400 - Maintenance of vehicles and weapons, reorganization and assignment of personnel. (Map France, 1/50,000, DINAN SHEET)

17 August '44 0930 - One platoon to be attached to 331st Infantry for observation and patrolling of Dinard Area.  
1300 - Leader, 1st Platoon attended conference, 331st Infantry CP for employment of platoon.  
1630 - 1st Platoon left bivouac to establish OPs at St.-Jacut-de-la-Mere and at Lancieux. Patrols to operate between the two OPs.  
Entire day spent in continued maintenance of vehicles, equipment, weapons and personnel.

18 August '44 0800 - Division shower point and laundry made available to troop and used.  
1530 - Alerted for move, vicinity Rennes, 20 Aug.; 1st Platoon to be relieved from attachment to 331st Infantry. 2nd and 3rd Platoons received instruction on "Battle Experiences" and notes from current campaign.

19 August '44 0900 - Firing 37 mm, Light machine gun and Individual weapons  
1600 by replacements. Zeroing new weapons.  
1530 - 1st Platoon returned to troop control and bivouac.  
1800 - Preparations for move to vicinity Rennes.

20 August '44 0742 - Moved from bivouac.  
0800 - Head of column reached IP.  
1017 - Troop closed in new bivouac, 080493, Map France, 1/50,000, Rennes Sheet.  
Remainder of day spent in maintenance and rest.

21 August '44 0745 - Troop put on 3 hour alert for movement, by G-3.  
0830 - CO ordered to report to CO, 331st Infantry for instructions for move to vicinity Nantes.  
1000 - CO accompanied CO, 331st Infantry to la Gr. Haie (17 kilometers North Nantes) to contact CO, 2nd Cavalry Group regarding relief of his unit along Loire River from Redon to Angers.  
1015 - Troop left bivouac enroute CP, 2nd Cavalry Group. Arrived 1300 and established CP. Headquarters platoon bivouacked that locality.  
1430 - 3rd Platoon attached to 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry, 1st and 2nd Platoons attached to 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry, for patrols in battalion sector and radio communication from companies to Battalion, to Regiment.  
1500-2200 - Platoons joined respective battalions, received instructions and began operations.



- 22 August '44
- 0100 - Radio car sent to 2nd Battalion Headquarters for communication to Regiment.
  - 1030 - Two Reconnaissance Platoons, 802TD Battalion attached to troop.
  - 1130 - Troop put on 3 hour alert to move.
  - 2000 - Troop called off alert.  
Troop continued patrolling and communication mission all day.
- 23 August '44
- 0800 - Troop continued present mission.
  - 1000 - French Paratroop Lieutenant arrived and offered services of 14 men. Referred to CO, 331st Infantry.
  - 2015 - CP moved to Heric with CP, 331st Infantry.
  - 1430 - Elements 3rd Platoon engaged enemy installations vicinity Thouare by 37 mm, Cal. .50 and Cal. .30 fire. Burned one building, drove out one machine gun nest, killed 4 Germans swimming river.
  - 2130 - Elements 1st Platoon damaged or destroyed 12 small boats with 37mm & cal. .30 fire, used by Germans South of Ancenis.
- 24 August '44
- 0800 - Continued present mission of patrols and communication from Blain to Angers, via Nantes.
  - 1030 - 2nd Platoon, 802 TD Battalion, sent on reconnaissance mission towards Redon. Enemy contact near Rozay. One 1/4 Ton destroyed, 1 M-8 disabled, 1 man killed, 2 wounded by German rockets. No enemy casualties. Six Germans seen to withdraw. Dismounted patrol to Plesse disclosed no more enemy. 1st TD Rcn Platoon on patrol to Angers. No enemy contact.
- 25 August '44
- 0800 - Continuing present patrol and communication mission.
  - 1045 - 2nd TD Rcn Platoon plus one M-8, 83rd Rcn Troop relieved two teams, 3rd Platoon 83rd Rcn Troop to go on mission to Redon, via Guemene. 3rd Platoon made reconnaissance to south from Guemene. No enemy contacts. Contacted 156 Infantry at Redon. Obtained information from F.F.I.
  - 1400 - Began shift of bulk of troop to the west. 1st Platoon kept communication with 1st Battalion and Reconnaissance Teams with B Co. north of Couffe, A Co at Carquefou. 2nd Platoon with E Co. in Nantes and G Co. at La Temple. On completion of reconnaissance mission to Redon, 3rd Platoon to assemble with F Co. at Blain and patrol from Blain to la Temple. The troop patrols the Regimental front.
  - 2130 - 3rd Platoon returned with information of Redon area and F.F.I. officer to give full information to Regimental CO. Entire platoon assembled at Blain. 2nd TD Rcn Platoon returned to bivouac.
- 26 August '44
- 0800 - Troop continues mission as changed on 25 Aug.
  - 0930 - Elements 3rd Platoons sent to Redon to investigate communication possibilities. Patrol between Redon and Blain begun.
  - 0700 - Both reconnaissance platoons, 802 TD Battalion relieved from attachment.
  - 1420 - Communications established from Redon via 3rd Platoon.
  - 1620 - Platoon leader, 3rd Platoon, sent to Muzillac to contact elements 6th Armored Division there. Reconnaissance element there agreed to patrol east to Redon.
- 27 August '44
- 0800 - Troop now ~~disposed~~ with Headquarters Platoon (-) with CP 331 at Heric, Executive Car with 2nd Battalion Headquarters at Treillieres, two reconnaissance teams at 1st Battalion Headquarters, 2 miles north of Nort, one team, 1st Platoon at Ancenis and a team at Carquefou, one team, 2nd Platoon at Nantes and a team at la Temple. 3rd Platoon(-) at Blain. One 3rd Platoon team at Redon. Perimeter of front, by routes relatively free from enemy, 167 kilometers.



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- 27 August '44      0800 - (Cont'd)  
Units contacted, 329th Infantry at St. Georges, near Angiers, on left, and bivouac with 156th Infantry at Redon to contact 6th Armored Division elements on right.
- 0830 - About 0745, patrol from Blain to le Temple turned back to report approach of German column with one U.S. half-track, one German tank and (from prisoner reports) 150-500 Germans with one 20 mm gun. This force attacked the 331st Infantry garrison at Blain, killed one, wounded two, took half-track from 473d AAA and left 20 mm gun. They knocked out one 57 mm AT gun.
- 2145 - Report of mortar shells dropping on le Temple - Fay de Bretagne road, 4000 yards north of le Temple, as of 2000.
- 2215 - Redon station reports 200 Germans approaching Redon, from south, two miles distant. Infantry only. A.F.F.I. report.
- 28 August '44      0800 - Continuing present mission.
- 1035 - French driven from Rieux, 5 miles south Redon. Rieux now occupied by 400 Germans. Redon team fired on patrols of 6 - 12 men at 0530. (Report from 3rd Platoon. Given by F.F.I.)
- 29 August '44      0800 - Continuing present mission.
- 1030 - Patrol sent from Blain to Conquereuil on report of Germans being that vicinity. No enemy found.
- 2130 - Entire 3rd Platoon less one M-8 moved to Redon on report from French paratroops that Germans planned to attack Redon.
- 2230 - Liaison Officer with M-8 alerted to guide motorized infantry platoon (plus) and platoon AAA half-tracks to Redon. Departed 2300.
- 30 August '44      0600 - M-8, Infantry and half-tracks arrived at Redon. Enemy patrols active around Redon night 29-30 August.
- 0800 - Continuing present mission.
- 1400 - 1st Platoon established forward posts on Loire River bank at Mauves and Vande.
- 31 August '44      0800 - 3rd Platoon returned to Blain. Left one M-8 in Redon for communication. Continuing present mission.

*Heister H. Drum*

HEISTER H. DRUM  
Captain, Cavalry  
Commanding

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