

HQ 83D RECONNAISSANCE TROOP
APO 83, US Army

L-403

31 January 1945.

SUBJECT: Unit Journal, 83rd Reconnaissance Troop, January 1945.

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

Thru Channels

1. 1 Jan '45 - 0800 - First Platoon continued mission of contacting 75th Infantry Division (290th Inf Regt) at Werpín (VP-394870, Map France-Belgium, 1/50,000 Sheet #92). Troop (-1st Platoon) remained in Melreaux (364891). 0830 - Flying Bomb V-2 landed at 36348940 injuring four civilians. 1230 - Female Allied Intelligence Agent crossed over from behind German lines to our First Platoon position. Escorted to G-2. 1500 - Third Platoon relieved Second Platoon at Road blocks leading into Melreux. 1530 - Second Platoon relieved First Platoon at WERPÍN. 2100 - Alerted for 0600 Stand By on 2 Jan and move at 0800 to new area.

2. 2 Jan '45 - 0600 - Troop "Stand By". Packed for move to new area. 0800 - Troop relieved of mission at WERPÍN and started to new area, Route; NY, OPPAGNE, WERIS, HEYD, AISNE, VILLERS, STE. GERTRUDE, GRAND BOU, SODELHEID, BURNONTIGE, PICHE ROTTE to Bivouac area in woods at VK-51980050 (Map France-Belgium, 1/50,000 Sheet #80). Closed at 1330. 1500 - CO called by G-3 for briefing and mission.

3. 3 Jan '45 - 0800 - Remained in present bivouac at 519005. 1500 - Contact parties sent to Third Battalion, 329th Infantry Regiment (83d Inf Div) and 325th Regiment (82nd AB Div). 1630 - Contact party to 329th Regiment returned. 2015 - Wire patrol sent to investigate suspected tapping. 2015 - Contact sent to G-2 with report. 2100 - Contact party to 325th Regiment returned.

4. 4 Jan '45 - 0830 - Contact parties sent to Third Battalion, 329th Inf Regiment and 325th Inf Regt (82d AB Div). 1100 - Contact to 329th returned. 1200 - Contact to 325th Regt returned. 2000 - Alerted for move to new area on morning of 5 January.

5. 5 Jan '45 - 0800 - Began move to new area. Route ; 519005 to GRAND TRIKHE, WERBOMONT, HABLEMONT, TROU-DE-BRA, SNAMONT, BRA (VP-576934) (Map France-Belgium, 1/50,000, Sheet #92). 1030 - Closed at BRA. 1330 - Contact party sent to Third Battalion, 329th Inf Regt and 325th Inf Regt. 1600 - Contact party returned. 2100 - Alerted for move to new area.

6. 6 Jan '45 - 0830 - Quartering party sent to new area. 1230 - Began move to new area. Route: BRA, SNAMONT, TROU-DE-BRA, HABLEMONT, WERBOMONT, GRANDE TRIKHE (VK-529010, Map France-Belgium, 1/50,000 Sheet #80). 1500 - Closed at new area.

7. 7 Jan '45 - 0900 - C. O. called to meeting at CP 331st Infantry. 1130 - Alerted for move to new area. 1300 - Began move to new area. Route: GRANDE TRIKHE, WERBOMONT, HABLEMONT, TROU-DE-BRA, SNAMONT, LIERNEUX, REGNE (VP-612856 Map France-Belgium, 1/50,000 Sheet #93). 1800 - Closed at REGNE. Town received sporadic shelling during night.

8. 8 Jan '45 - 0100 - Attached to 330th Infantry Regiment. Called to meeting at CP at 1200. 1100 - 1/4 Ton Truck hit mine at 608856. No casualties. 1730 - First Platoon sent to Quarry at 626848 to protect right flank of 330th Infantry Regt. 1900 - First Platoon in position accompanied by patrol from I & R Platoon. Took one (1) prisoner.

9. 9 Jan '45 - 0830 - Second Platoon left to relieve First Platoon. Company "B" moved into position near First Platoon and received enemy Small arms fire from West and South. Second Platoon arrived at position 621849 and met small arms fire from South. Fire fight ensued. Second Platoon went into defensive position. Enemy dispersed by our fire inflicting casualties. First & Second Platoon received intermittent Mortar and Artillery

fire. 1700 - Third Platoon left to relieve First Platoon. 1800 - First Platoon relieved and arrived at Troop bivouac. 2300 - First Platoon sent to quarry at 620818 to 625818 to prevent enemy infiltrating on flanks of Zone. Additional mission of cleaning out quarries at 0800 on 10 January. CP received Artillery fire throughout period.

10. 10 Jan '45 - 0100 - First Platoon arrived at position 628818 and organized defenses. 0800 - Second & Third Platoons remained in position at 621849. 1000 - Troop CO called to meeting with Asst Div CG at 331st Inf Regt CP. 1030 - One (1) EM killed and one (1) seriously injured by heavy Artillery fire on CP Area. 1130 - Notified that I & R Platoon of 330th Infantry would relieve our elements at 628818 and 621849. To be detached from 330th Infantry and attached to 331st Infantry when relief is completed. 1730 - Relief by I & R Platoon completed. All Platoons enroute to bivouac area. 1830 - First Platoon returned. 1900 - Second Platoon and Third Platoon returned. 2000 - Troop CO returned from conference with mission. Alerted Troop for night march (dismounted). 2030 - Troop CO visited 1st Battalion CP, 330th Inf to coordinate. 2400 - Troop departed (dismounted) for vicinity BIHAIN (625839) with mission of taking woods vicinity South of BIHAIN and securing that Area.

11. 11 Jan '45 - 0300 - Second Platoon moved from BIHAIN to secure intermediate objectives at 628839 - 632837 and 629837. These points secured without opposition. 0400 - Remainder of Troop moved up thru positions secured by Second Platoon, under intense Artillery fire. 0600 - Third Platoon formed line between 629837 and 628838. Second Platoon held along line 629837 and 632837. First Platoon in reserve along line 632837 and 629838. CP with First Platoon. 0800 - 1400 - Small German patrols seen by Second & Third Platoons. Results: Eight (8) German prisoners and some Germans killed. Several prisoners from 9th SS Panzer Division. 0900 - 1130 - Our positions was under intermittent Artillery fire. 1600 - Troop relieved to perform later contact mission. CP 626842. 1900 - First & Third Platoons enroute to 632829 and 626824 to keep contact between these positions between 331st Infantry and elements of Third Armored Division. 2230 - Platoons reached objectives and established contact. Mission continued until 0700 12 Jan 45. 1000 - Kitchen 3/4 ton truck hit anti-tank mine vic 608867 Result: Truck destroyed and 2 EM seriously injured.

12. 12 Jan '45 - 0400 - First Platoon captured four (4) prisoners vicinity of 632829. 1100 - Received mission to contact 331st Infantry and Third Armored Division and protect right flank of Regiment in vicinity 628814. 1300 - The 27 men available for this mission moved out on the route BIHAIN-634835, 629832, 630818. Objective reached without incident. CP 630818. 1630 - Third Armored Division elements contacted at 625821. 1800 - Position at 630818 outposted and secured by occupying fox holes dug by the Germans that day. 1830 - Contact again made with Third Armored Division elements at 626817. 2230 - Leading elements, "E" Company, 331st Infantry arrived. "E" Company dug in for the night. Right flank at 631818. 2300 - Contact patrol to left flank Third Armored Division continued.

13. 13 Jan '45 - 0100 - 1400. Continued contact patrol to Third Armored Division elements. 1400 - Troop attached to Second Battalion, 329th Infantry with mission of clearing woods in triangle 676848, 677838 and 686843. Beginning at 0900, 14 Jan, one (1) Platoon of Light Tanks, "D" Co., 774th Tank Battalion attached. 1730 - CP moved to 611856. Be

14. 14 Jan '45 - 0800 - Troop moved out on mission. 0900 - Tanks assigned and Platoons moved on separate routes. 1000 - CP established 683844. 1100 - Mission completed. First Platoon organizing and holding vicinity 682840; Second Platoon 686843; Third Platoon 684844. Tank Platoon released. 1500 - Forward Observer, 329th Inf Cannon Company fired mission into woods 688845. Second Platoon sniped at exposed Germans. 1800 - Received orders to withdraw one Platoon to be attached to 331st Infantry Regiment. 1820 - Second Platoon departed for vehicles at REGNE to go on mission. 2030 - Second Platoon left REGNE to protect right of 331st Infantry Regiment vicinity 678805.

15. 15 Jan '45 - 1100 - CO called to War Room for new mission and departed. 1130 - First & Third Platoon began sweep of woods North of LANGLIR River from 687844 to 700850 to contact 75th Division outpost. Woods cleared by 1630. 1430 - Three (3) Germans captured vicinity CP. 1800 - First Platoon enroute to REGNE for vehicles to proceed on new mission. Released from 329th Infantry. 1930 - Third Platoon returned to REGNE. Present mission: To contact 331st Infantry at 679803, contact Third Armored Division elements vicinity VP-679797 (Map France-Belgium 1/50,000 Sheet 107)

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and outpost Highway from 679797 to 684799 to prevent enemy infiltration. 2030 - "E" Company, 32nd Armored Regiment contacted 677803 (Map France-Belgium 1/50,000 Sheet #93). 2300 - First Platoon stopped for night at 673803. 2330 - 32nd Armored Regiment ran patrol every 2 hours to 679797 during hours of darkness (Map France-Belgium 1/50,000 Sheet 107).

16. 16 Jan '45 - 0530 - Outposts established at 679797 to 684799 by Second and Third Platoons. No opposition. 0630 - CP at 678805 (Map France-Belgium, 1/50,000 Sheet #93). 0700 - Second Platoon dug in at 679803 since 0200, 14 Jan. Third Platoon at 678804, First Platoon located at 673803. 0830 - 5 Man German patrol seen South of outposts and fired on. 0915 - 8 man German patrol seen South of outposts and fired on. 1000 - First Platoon takes over outpost duty. 1330 - "E" Company, 331st Infantry moves to outpost line to attack thru outposts to Southeast. Outpost withdrawn except for contact party. 1400 - Trains closed vic CP. 1500 - Second Platoon established outpost at 677797 (Map France-Belgium, 1/50,000 Sheet 107) to watch right flank of 331st Infantry. Troop attached to 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry Regiment. 1630 - Second Platoon outpost contacted 32nd Armored Regiment outpost at 673793. 2000 - First Platoon relieved Second Platoon at outpost at 678793.

17. 17 Jan '45 - 1200 - 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry Regiment to attack from 681798. 1245 - Contact party from Third Platoon sent to 2nd Battalion line of departure. 1430 - Liaison Officer reports German counter-attacks by tanks and Infantry at 689804 (Map France-Belgium 1/50,000 Sheet #93). 1500 - Contact party reports 2nd Battalion making little progress, encountering Machine gun fire. 1515 - 32nd Armored Regiment requests contact patrol cease operating. 1200 - Contact party to 2nd Battalion withdrawn. 1800 - Third Platoon relieves First Platoon on outpost at 677797. Third Platoon to continuing contact to 32nd Armored Regiment outpost at 673793 (Map France-Belgium 1/50,000 Sheet 107)

18. 18 Jan '45 - 0830 - Third Platoon moved outpost to 678797 to emplace and guard minefield at bridge at 679797. 1200 - First Platoon patrolled edge of woods to 682788. Found no enemy. Third Platoon outpost withdrawn. 1500 - Second Platoon patrol went out to contact Third Armored Division elements in vicinity 685785. No elements Third Armored Division found to contact. 1530 - Third Armored Division elements withdrawn from 677803 (Map France-Belgium 1/50,000 Sheet #93).

19. 19 Jan '45 - 1200 - First Platoon patrol departed to find Third Armored Division elements, and arrange for contact point. 1400 - Contact point established at 695785 (Map France-Belgium 1/50,000 Sheet 107). First Platoon to make contact every 2 hours on even numbered hours, from 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry CP at 686795. 1600 - Contact maintained throughout day with Third Armored Division elements. 2130 - Notified to send billeting party to Regimental CP at 0730.

20. 20 Jan '45 - 0700 - Billeting party departed. 0800 - Continued contact mission. 1530 - Troop moved to new Division assembly area. Closed at KHIGNESSE (VK-445065, Map France-Belgium 1/50,000 Sheet #80) at 2100, Route: BACLAIN, LANGLIR, PETITE-LANGLIR, JOUBIEVAL, HALT, SART, VERIEUMONT, LIERNEUX, SNAMONT, TROU-DA-BRA, HABLEMONT, WERBOMONT, FILOT, HAMOIR, KHIGNESSE.

21. 21 Jan '45 - 0900 - Began rehabilitation program. Vehicles, weapons and equipment cleaned and maintained. 1800 - Showers and movies made available in HAMOIR.

22. 22 Jan '45 - 0900 - Continued rehabilitation program. Area reconnaissance for suitable Road Block positions, to be manned on Division Order in event of Airborne operations.

23. 23 Jan '45 - 0900 - Continued rehabilitation program. Area reconnaissance for firing Range. Training schedule submitted to AC of S, G-3, 83d Inf Div for periods 24 Jan to 27 Jan 45. 1700 - First Platoon alerted for 24 hours for Anti-airborne operations.

24. 24 Jan '45 - 0900 - Training program: First, Second and Third Platoons on map & communications Exercise. 1330 - Training continued. Route reconnaissance problem. 1700 - Second Platoon alerted for 24 hours for anti-airborne operations. Billeting party sent to COMBLAIN-FAIRON (VK-445074 Map France-Belgium 1/50,000 Sheet #80).

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25. 25 Jan '45 - 0830 - Troop moved to new area. Closed at COMBLAIN-FAIRON at 1000. Route: XHIGNESSE, HAMOIR, COMBLAIN-FAIRON. 1700 - Third Platoon alerted for 24 hours for Anti-airborne operations.

26. 26 Jan '45 - 0900 - Training program continued. Familiarization with alternate weapons. 1330 - Firing demonstration of Light machine guns, 60-mm Mortars and 37mm Anti-tank guns. 1600 - Troop assembled for reading of VII Corps citation. 1700 - First Platoon alerted for 24 hours for anti-airborne operations.

27. 27 Jan '45 - 0900 - Training program continued. Firing of alternate weapons, individual weapons zeroed. 1200 - Rehabilitation. 1700 - Second Platoon alerted for 24 hours for anti-airborne operations.

28. 28 Jan '45 - 0900 - Rehabilitation continued. 1000 - Visited by American Red Cross Mobile Unit (Keystone State). 1200 - Showers and moving pictures made available. 1700 - Third Platoon alerted for 24 hours for Anti-airborne operations.

29. 29 Jan '45 - 0900 - Training program continued in driver training, Code practice and procedure, gun placements and field firing problem. 1700 - First Platoon alerted for 24 hours for anti-airborne operations.

30. 30 Jan '45 - 0900 - Training program continued in: Driver training, code practice and procedure, gun placement and compass problems. 1700 - Second Platoon alerted for 24 hours for anti-airborne operations.

31. 31 Jan '45 - 0900 - Training program continued in use of mine detectors and Field Artillery fire adjustment. 1700 - Third Platoon alerted for 24 hours for anti-airborne operations.

Heister H Drum

HEISTER H. DRUM,
Captain, Cavalry,
Commanding.

Incl #2

[REDACTED]

HQ 83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP
APO 83 US Army

31 January 1945.

SUBJECT: Narrative of Events, January 1945.

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

Thru Channels

1. At the end of the previous period the Troop moved to MEIREUX (Map France-Belgium, 1/50,000 Sheet #92 (364894) and immediately received the mission of keeping contact between the 83rd and 84th Infantry Divisions, on the Right flank of the 83rd Division at WERPIN (396870). WERPIN was outposted by elements of the 290th Infantry Regiment of the 75th Infantry Division, attached to the 83rd Infantry Division.
2. 1 Jan '45 - First Platoon on continued contact mission at WERPIN. At 1230 a woman claiming to be a member of the Belgium Secret Army, reported to Lt. House at WERPIN, asking for transportation to an adjacent Corps G-2. She was escorted to the Division G-2 and gave valuable information of the area around MONTICOUR. During the day the Troop established security blocks and interrogation points around MEIREUX. The Second Platoon relieved the First Platoon in WERPIN. At 2100 the Troop received an alert for 0600 2 January and warning orders for movement at 0800.
3. On the morning of the 2nd, the Troop stood by on alert, packed vehicles, and at 0800 moved out by Platoons for new assembly area, on the route: MEIREUX, N Y, OPPAGNE, WERIS, HEYD, AISNE, VILLERS, ST. GERTRUDE, GRAND BRU, SODELHEID, BURONTIGE, PICHEROTTE to assigned bivouac area at 51980050 (Map France-Belgium, 1/50,000 Sheet #80). Due to congested traffic on one-way secondary roads, the Troop did not close in the new bivouac until 1330. The remainder of the day was spent in preparing shelters by the men.
4. The Troop remained in its bivouac during 3rd and 4th January, sending contact parties to 325th AB Infantry, 83rd AB Division, and to the 329th Infantry to keep contact and to coordinate for future operations.
5. At 0800, 5 January, we began a move to a new area, on the route: GRAND TRIXHE, WERBOMONT, HABLEMONT, TROU-DE-BRA, SNAMONT, BRA, and closed at 1030 (Map France-Belgium 1/50,000 Sheet #92) CP 576934. We again made contact with the 325th and 329th Infantry Regiments.
6. The Troop was moved the next day to the area just vacated over the same route and closed at 529010 (Map France-Belgium 1/50,000 Sheet #80), at 1500.
7. We moved again on the 7th at 1300 on the route: GRAND TRIXHE, WERBOMONT, HABLEMONT, TROU-DE-BRA, SNAMONT, LIERNEUX, REGNE (612856, Map France-Belgium, 1/50,000 Sheet #93).
8. The Troop was attached to the 330th Infantry at 0100 8 January 1945. We received the mission of protecting the right flank of the Regiment during its attack on BIHAIN 9 January 45.
9. The First Platoon went to the quarries at 626848 to fulfill the mission and give the Regiment a short route to BIHAIN. A patrol from the I & R Platoon, 330th Infantry accompanied the Platoon, which reached its objective at 1900. One German was found and captured at the position. I & R Patrol returned to CP with the prisoner. 4800
10. The Second Platoon left at 0800, 9 January, to relieve the First Platoon. As the Second Platoon neared the position, it received small arms fire from the South. The Platoon assumed a defensive position, scouted the enemy position and contacted the First Platoon. In the meantime, Company "B", 330th Infantry appeared and coordinated with our Second Platoon and First Platoon. 6

11. "B" Company, 330th Infantry, took cover awaiting orders to move on its mission and our Platoons defended their position in accordance with the mission.

12. During the day, groups of 3-12 Germans appeared in the vicinity of the First and Second Platoons, were fired on, dispersed and suffered casualties. Intermittent German Mortar and Artillery fire fell on the position during the day. At 1700, the Third Platoon went to the quarry and relieved the First Platoon, which returned to the CP at 1800. "B" Company had moved on its mission.

13. At 2300, the First Platoon departed to occupy the quarries from 628848 to 625848 to prevent enemy from infiltrating on the flanks of the 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry. The First Platoon was in position by 0100, 10 January. No casualties were sustained during the day.

14. We were notified at 1130, 10 Jan, that the I & R Platoon, 330th Infantry, would relieve us at which time the Troop was to be attached to the 331st Infantry. We were relieved at 1730 and had a new mission viz: To take a small portion of the woods Southeast of BIHAIN and hold to allow the free passage of a Battalion of the 331st Infantry to the Southeast.

15. The Troop moved out, dismounted, from REGNE for BIHAIN at 0000L, 11 Jan. Our mission was to secure the line 632837 to 629838.

16. After coordination with elements of the 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry, the Second Platoon moved out at 0300 to secure intermediate objectives.

17. At 0400 the remainder of the Troop followed the Second Platoon. At 0415 intense German Artillery fire forced the Troop to take cover and slowed our movement. When the fire shifted, we moved on to the objective.

18. By 0600, the Third Platoon had a line of outguards between 629837 and 628838. The Second Platoon held the line 629837 to 632837. The First Platoon held the edge of the woods 632877 to 629838, with Headquarters Platoon and CP with the First Platoon.

19. After daylight, the Third Platoon swept the woods between the Third Platoon outguards and the First Platoon and took eight (8) prisoners, seven from 9th SS Panzer Division and killed a number of Germans.

20. From 0900 to 1130 the Troop was under intermittent Artillery fire, both friendly and enemy.

21. When the Third Battalion, 331st Infantry cleared out position at 1600, we were relieved and assembled in BIHAIN. CP at 626842. At 1900 the First and Third Platoons were enroute to 632829 and 626824 respectively, to make contact between Platoons at connecting trails enroute and keep contact between the 331st Infantry and the Third Armored Division at the respective destinations.

22. The Platoons reached their objectives and established contact by 2230 and continued the mission until 0700, 12 January. The First Platoon took four (4) prisoners on this mission.

23. Many men suffered from the cold, from sore feet caused by an unusual amount of walking and from standing in the snow for long periods.

24. At 1100, 12 Jan, the Troop received the mission of making contact between the 331st Infantry and elements of the Third Armored Division in vicinity of 628814 and moved out from BIHAIN, 27 men strong.

25. Enroute to the objective, the Troop overtook "E" Company, 331st Infantry and coordinated for future action after receiving the plan from the Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry.

26. We first contacted Third Armored Reconnaissance elements at 1630 by a patrol at 625821.

27. Our route of march: BIHAIN, 634835, 629832, 634825, 628823, 630818. The Troop reached and organized its position, patrolled to front and flanks by 1800 and contacted Third Armored Division elements again at 626818 at 1830. We occupied fox holes that had been dug by the Germans that day.

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28. A Platoon of "E" Company, 331st Infantry, reached our position at 2230. Later the entire Company came up and dug in with its right at 631818.

29. During the night, we contacted "E" Company and Third Armored Division, maintained communications with 331st Infantry CP and 2nd Battalion 331st Infantry and fulfilled our mission of protecting the right flank of the 331st Infantry.

30. We continued the mission until 1400, 13 Jan without incident. At that time, the Troop was attached to the 329th Infantry and the CO went to the CP, 329th Infantry for instructions while the Troop returned to its former billets in REGNE.

31. At 1630, 13 January, the Troop was attached to the 2nd Battalion, 329th Infantry and the CO went to the Battalion CP for instructions. The following mission was received: To clear the woods in triangle 676848, 677838, 680843, beginning at 0900, 14 January. One Platoon of light tanks, Company "D", 774th Tank Battalion was attached.

32. At 0800, 14 January, the Troop left REGNE for its mission. The tanks were picked up and assigned at 0900 and the First and Second Platoons moved on the mission.

33. The mission was completed by 1100, with the First Platoon occupying ground at 682840, Second Platoon at 686843 and Third Platoon at 848844. The tank Platoon was released and the CP established at 683844.

34. After contacting the 2nd Battalion, 329th Infantry, a Forward Observer from the Cannon Company, 329th Infantry arrived at 1500 to fire into woods at 688845. The Forward Observer adjusted and fired several concentrations into the woods with good results, driving Germans from their positions. These exposed enemy were taken under small arms fire by the Second Platoon.

35. Orders were received at 1800 to withdraw one Platoon to be attached to the 331st Infantry. The Second Platoon was withdrawn and sent to REGNEZ for its vehicles while the Platoon Leader went to the CP of the 331st Infantry for instructions, planning to meet the Platoon in LANGLIR. The Troop, less the Second Platoon, remained in position that night. The Second Platoon went to 679803 to protect the right of the 331st Infantry.

36. 15 January '45- 1130- The First and Third Platoons began sweep of woods North of LANGLIR RIVER to limiting point on boundary between the 83rd Division and 75th Division at 7085. CP remained at 683844, received and forwarded progress reports from the Platoons.

37. During the day, the Second Platoon moved with "I" Company, 331st Infantry to 679804, dispersed vehicles and dug in.

38. Three Germans eluded the sweep of the First and Third Platoons and were captured near the CP at 1430.

39. The woods were cleared by 1630 and contact made with the 75th Division at 7085. The First Platoon was withdrawn and sent to REGNE to go on a new mission. The Troop was detached from the 329th Infantry and put under Division control.

40. We received a new mission: Contact the 331st Infantry near 679803, contact the Third Armored Division near 679797 and outpost the Highway from 679797 to 684799, to prevent enemy infiltration.

41. The Third Platoon returned to REGNE at 1930. The Second Platoon contacted "E" Company, 32nd Armored Regiment at 677803 at 2030. At 2130 the First Platoon was enroute with instructions on the new mission, to coordinate with the Second Platoon already on the ground.

42. Heavy Armored traffic on roads delayed our movement to new area of employment. Roads and bridges were in poor condition after passage of the tanks.

43. The First Platoon was not in BACLAIN (665792) until 2230, learning locations, dispositions and plans of T/F WALKER. The First Platoon was unable to locate a route to objective from BACLAIN and

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spent the night at 673803. It attempted to locate the Second Platoon dismounted.

44. At 2330, the Third Platoon and Headquarters left REGNE via HEBRONVAL, OTTRE, PETITE LANGLIR, LANGLIR, 663814, 678808, and 678804.

45. Headquarters and Third Platoons arrived at 678804 at 0400 16 January. The outpost mission was given to the Second and Third Platoons and the outposts were in position, unopposed, by 0530. CP established at 678805.

46. Soon after daylight, 2 German patrols were seen and fired on South of the line of outposts, also rattling of mess equipment, talking and the sounds of digging were heard from the woods to the South.

47. At 1000 the First Platoon took over the outpost duties. At 1330 "E" Company, 331st Infantry moved up to the outpost line to attack thru to the South. Out outposts were withdrawn and a contact party remained with the Infantry. At 1500 the Troop was attached to the 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry and established an outpost near 677797 to protect the right flank of the 331st Infantry. Contact by patrols had been maintained with Third Armored Division elements at 673803 during the day and a new Third Armored Division outpost was found at 673793 and contacted periodically.

48. During the 17th January, we kept a contact party with the 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry and protected the right flank of the 331st Infantry. We made contact with the Third Armored Division at 673793 during darkness.

49. On the 18th January, we moved our outpost to 678797 and mined the bridge at 679797. In the afternoon, we patrolled along the edge of the woods to 682788 and found no enemy. The 2nd Battalion attack moved Southwest toward 685785 and our outpost at 678797 was withdrawn. A mounted patrol was sent to 685785 to try to locate Third Armored Division elements without success. This patrol returned about midnight.

50. Again on the 19th January, a patrol looked for the Third Armored Division contact parties near the 2nd Battalion right flank but was able only to contact T/F WALKER, CP and arrange for a contact every two hours on the even hour at 695785. Our patrols to operate from and under control of 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry CP at 686795. Contact was maintained until 2400, after which no Third Armored Division patrols could be found or met at the designated place.

51. Until 1500, 20 January, our patrols operated from the 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry CP. At 1530 the Troop was assembled and moved on the route: BACLAIN, LANGLIR, PETITE-LANGLIR, JOUBIEVAL, SART, VERIEUMONT, LIERNEUX, SNAMONT, TROU-DE-BRA, HABLEMONT, WERBOMONT, FILOT, HAMOIR, KHIGNESSE where we were billeted.

52. January 21, 22 and 23rd were spent in rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of equipment. The Troop was assigned locations to establish two road blocks on Division Order in the event of enemy airborne operations. One Platoon to be kept on alert at all times.

53. The period 24 January to 31 January was spent in training, concentrating out time on weapons instruction for all personnel. We moved from KHIGNESSE to COMBLAIN-FAIRON via HAMOIR on 25 January.

Heister H Drum
HEISTER H. DRUM,
Captain, Cavalry,
Commanding.

Incl #1

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