UNIT JOURNAL, 83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

1 July
Maintained OPs East of Carentan by 1st Platoon.
2215 - 3rd Platoon patrol returned - one
man missing.
2245 - 3rd Platoon patrol to 323010 (Map France, 1/25000,
Carentan sheet)

2 July
0615 - 3rd Platoon patrol returned. Located enemy MG
at 325511.
1515 - 2nd Platoon relieved 1st Platoon on OPs East of
Carentan.
2300 - 3rd Platoon patrol to 322805.

3 July
Continued OPs East of Carentan.
0615 - 3rd Platoon patrol returned. Negative report.
Prepared for Division attack, 4 July.

4 July
Patrolled right flank of Division, North OPIR, 1st Platoon.
Mopped up rear areas.
2000 - Filled gap in 330th Infantry lines until 0800, 5 July.
2nd Platoon on OPs East of Carentan.

5 July
Troop less patrols and OPs moved to 376828 (Map France,
1/25000, Carentan sheet)
Continued OPs on left (East of Carentan) and patrols on
right.

6 July
Relieved of reconnaissance and security on Division right.
1st Platoon closed in bivouac, 1500.
Dismounted OPs East of Carentan, 2nd Platoon closed 1830.

7 July
3rd Platoon made mounted reconnaissance toward Santiney -
lost 1 Pk. - 2.1/12, 1 Pk. lost, 90 men captured by enemy.
2nd Platoon dismounted, made contact between 12th In-
fantry and 33rd Infantry and 2nd Platoon located.
1930 - 325511 - Filled gap between 329th Infantry and
200th Infantry, patrolled on French 1/25000 Periers
sheet (until 0600). (End of classification)

8 July
Filled gap in 329th Infantry lines, 0001-0600.
Closed in new bivouac, 379618 at 0930 (Map France, 1/25000,
Carentan Sheet)
Maintenance and rest.
1800 - Reconnoitered routes to south for air reported tanks.
Negative.
9 July 14
Troop in assembly area.
Reconnaissance routes on peninsulas St. Georges de Bohon and St. Andre de Bohon.
Maintenance and rest.

10 July 14
0800 - attended conference 330th Infantry CP. Attached to 330th Infantry for moving up.
CP moved to 369785 (Map France, 1/25000, Perieres sheet) at 1030.

11 July 14
Continued covering left flank by operating security patrols on left of 330th Infantry.

12 July 14
Attached to 330th Infantry to mop up in their zone. Took three prisoners vicinity St. George de Bohon.
Patrols in vicinity Le Rust.
2015 - Troop CP moved to 396780.
OPs established from 397762 to 388768 (Map France, 1/25000, Perieres sheet)

13 July 14
Continued to protect Division left by patrols and OPs from Le Memoir to St. Georges de Bohon
Attached to 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry.

14 July 14
0800 - continued to protect Division Left, from Co Memoir to St. Georges de Bohon, patrols and OPs; attached to 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry.
1700 - Attached to Detachment, 330th Infantry to protect Division left. Troop responsible from St. Georges de Bohon to Le Moulin. CP moved to 378756, at 1100.
(Map France, 1/25000, Perieres sheet)

15 July 14
Continued mission of protecting Division left flank by patrolling and manning OPs.
1st Platoon TD (towed) Co C, 802 TD Battalion attached for defense.

16 July 14
Continued mission of protecting left flank by patrols and OPs.
2130 - OPs maintained, bulk of troop assembled 374757, to cross to Le Varde on call and assist holding peninsula. Attached to 331st Infantry for operation.

17 July 14
0800 - continue present mission until Le Varde secured by 331st Infantry, then cross causeway, attached to 331st Infantry for defense of Le Varde position.
1015 - 3rd Platoon patrol under Lt. Walton sent to Le Varde to contact 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry and report progress and situation.
1300 - 1st Platoon contact patrol met returning 3rd Platoon patrol and came in.
1330 - 3rd Platoon contact patrol forced off causeway by enemy fire - one killed.
2000 - 00 and Lt. Burton with reconnaissance patrol approached Le Varde. Reconnaissance by fire after dark disclosed two enemy MG emplacements.
15 July 44
0400 - Troop CO and crew approached Le Varde in L-3. Fired 21 rounds HE and AP, 37 mm, at suspected A/A emplacements. No return fire.
1700 - Troop attached to 3rd Battalion, 331st Infantry for defense of Le Varde. Troop on causeway.
Continued present mission.

19 July 44
0100 - CO, 388th Engineers arrived, established CP and liaison with Reconnaissance Troop.
0300 - Radio communication established with Liaison Officer at CP, 331st Infantry. Cleared messages with Division Engineer and Division CP.
0600 - Troop alerted for move.
0700 - Troop CO arrived Le Varde, received orders for employment, reconnoitered position, moved troop to its sector, issued orders for defense. Troop dug in.
1200 - Tank-Infantry attack on I Co., to front, forced I Co. to withdraw to Reconnaissance lines.
1445 - Troop CO ordered report to Battalion CO to coordinate defenses of position.
1515 - German tank-Infantry counterattack from North and West on prepared position.
1600 - Troop plus remanents, I Co, 331st Infantry, overrun by two tanks and withdraw from position.
1715 - Reorganization and return to Le Varde attempted.
1800 - Artillery fire halted maneuver at South end of causeway.
2000 - Troop completed withdrawal from Le Varde.
2200 - CO, L, 331st Infantry, attached for defense of Le Moulin, outposted western sector.
Elements of all platoons used to outpost troop's sector of Le Moulin. Remainder of troop reorganized in reserve. CP, 380761 (Map France, 1/25000, Perieres sheet)
No further enemy action.
Three killed, Nine wounded, two combat exhaustion.
One officer wounded, died 22 July.

20 July 44
Continue present mission.
0600 - Entire day spent improving positions on Le Moulin.
1000 - S-3, 388th Engineers Battalion requests relief of guard on Engineer bridge South of Ieroit. 1st Section, 1st Platoon took over duties. 1st Platoon positions shifted to cover new assignment.
1300 - New weapons and equipment received.

21 July 44
1100 - G-3 orders troop responsible for defense of Le Moulin and Les Aubris. CO, L, 331st Infantry took over troop's positions on Le Moulin, west of 377756, at 1600. TD's remained in position. 2nd and 3rd Platoons relieved, Co, B, 388th Engineer Battalion of defenses of Les Aubris, at 1800.
Daylight hours spent occupying positions.

22 July 44
0730 - Platoon, CO G, 802 TD relieved, 1st section CO B, 802 TD attached for defense Le Moulin.
0800 - CO, CO B, 388th Engineers has mission to lay mine field across North exit Le Varde causeway and Les Aubris peninsula. Both fields covered by concertina wire.
1100 - G-3 advises that elements 153 AAA Battalion will protect Engineer Bridge, vicinity Tribolieu - Reconnaissance section relieved, 1100.
2100 - CO, CO B, 25th Cavalry Troop visited CP and looked over defensive organization of Le Moulin prior to occupation.
Continued present mission.
23 July hh
1000 - Received Amendment #1 to FO 5/15. Continue present mission.
1600 - Mortar fire, sporadic fall on 1 Co. sector - three casualties.
2030 - Capt. Sklar, Troop B, 25th Reconnaissance Sq. arrived to coordinate occupation of this sector by his unit.
2200 - Received replacements, one officer, seven enlisted men.

24 July hh
0940 - G-3 - Elements 4th Armored will relieve you present mission at 1030. Furnish guides.
1500 - 1st, 2nd and 3rd Platoons relieved. Started move to new bivouac.
1615 - 1 Co. relieved, returned to control 331st Infantry. Troop cleared bivouac 1615, closed, 1650.
CP, 34hh770, (Map France, 1/25000, Perieres sheet)
1700 - Mission - Keep contact with left of 331st Infantry and 4th Armored Elements, between Auxains and RJ 307757, Map France, 1/25000, Perieres sheet.
Troop in Division Reserve. TD Section released.
2300 - Officer in charge of contact patrols reports A Co., 331st Infantry making hourly patrols over same route. Our patrols standing by to relieve A Co.

25 July hh
1020 - B Troop, 25th Cavalry, reports German patrol vicinity 363750.
1200 - Report not verified by our patrols sent to investigate.
1500 - Mortar instruction for replacements and all crews.
Continued contact patrols between 331st Infantry left and B Troop, 25th Cavalry.

26 July hh
Continuing mission of contact patrols between Troop B, 25th Cavalry Sq. and left of 331st Infantry.
Instruction on new German mines.
One German prisoner surrendered to Troop B.

27 July hh
Received mission - Dismounted night patrols across Taute River, coordinate with 331st Infantry.
1900 - Dismounted patrols crossed Taute River at 339732 (Map France, 1/25000, Perieres sheet). Returned 2h00. No enemy information from peninsula.
2000 - Troop alerted for reconnaissance to South, moved to 377756 at 2200.

23 July hh
0030 - Received reconnaissance mission from G-3 - To reconnoiter mounted to South in Division Zone, locate any enemy and mine fields. Report locations.
0515 - 3rd Platoon moved out on mission. 2nd Platoon followed Headquarters making area reconnaissance in zone.
1200 - CP, 320699 (Map France, 1/25000, sheet 31/16 SE).
Two road blocks of mines and debris encountered to St. Lo - Perieres road. Third block of 20 Teller mines removed at 330698.
1300 - 1st Platoon relieved 3rd Platoon in west half of Division Zone. 2nd Platoon reconnoitered east half of zone.
1430 - CP, 336673.
1700 - CP, 326633.
23 July 44
Reconnaissance extended to Savoy - 13 hour road.
1830 - Relieved of mission, troops assembled at 336.37, closed
at 1915.
All men references, France, 1/25000, Sheet 31/16 E.
Received mission to contact 9th and 90th Divisions on flanks,
observe Marigny-Marchasselles road. All contacts made
by 2330.

29 July 44
Continued contact and surveillance mission all day. 9th
Division moved out about 1030, replaced by elements
of 1st Division.
Maintenance of weapons and equipment. Showdown inspection.
Pfc. Flanagan killed by accidental discharge of own carbine, 0200.
1500 - Groppled German plane crashed 200 yards north of bivouac.

30 July 44
Map France, 1/25000, Sheet 31/16 SE
Continuing present mission.
1930 - 18th Infantry to move from right flank between 1900 and
2000.
2130 - Patrouls now contacting 629th Engrs. Battalion, 369635
and 2nd Battalion, 357th Infantry, 90th Division,
at 308618.

31 July 44
Continuing contact missions.
1045 - Reconnaissance patrol to reconnoiter routes to South
between N-5 grids 305 and 365; contact fighting
elements and report locations of rear elements VII
Corps, pay particular attention to condition of
routes used.
1630 - Patrol reports on condition of routes, all good.
1905 - Report from reconnaissance patrol on unit locations
of VII Corps troops.
2130 - Received mission of route reconnaissance in Division
zone, between N-S line thru 305 and 365, 1/50000,
Perieres sheet, France, South of St. Sauver Landlin-
Marigny Road to fighting elements VII Corps. Sent
elements 3rd Platoon.

HEISTER H. DRUM
Captain, Cavalry
Commanding