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83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP  
APO 83, U.S. ARMY

1 August 1944

SUBJECT: Unit Journal, 83rd Reconnaissance Troop.

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

UNIT JOURNAL, 83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

- 1 July 44 Maintained OPs East of Carentan by 1st Platoon.  
2215 - Last of 2nd Platoon patrol returned - One man missing.  
2245 - 3rd Platoon patrol to 323810 (Map France, 1/25000, Carentan sheet)
- 2 July 44 0615 - 3rd Platoon patrol returned. Located enemy MG at 324811.  
1515 - 2nd Platoon relieved 1st Platoon on OPs East of Carentan.  
2300 - 3rd Platoon patrol to 322805.
- 3 July 44 Continued OPs East of Carentan.  
0615 - 3rd Platoon patrol returned. Negative report.  
Prepared for Division attack, 4 July.
- 4 July 44 Patrolled right flank of Division, North OPLR, 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 44 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 44 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 44 3rd Platoon made mound reconnaissance toward Santiney - lost 1 M-8, 1 1/4 ton, 8 men wounded by mines.  
2nd Platoon dismounted to restore contact between 12th Infantry and 329th Infantry. Both units located.  
1930 - Troop began to fill gap between 329th Infantry and 329th Infantry, protecting 329th Infantry, from 329th Infantry, 1/25000, Map France, 1/25000, Berieres sheet) (until 0800, 8 July)
- 8 July 44 Filled gap in 329th Infantry lines, 0001-0800.  
Closed in new bivouac, 379818 at 0930 (Map France, 1/25000, Carentan Sheet)  
Maintenance and rest.  
1800 - Reconnoitered routes to South for air reported tanks.  
Negative.

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- 9 July 44 Troop in assembly area.  
Reconnoitered routes on peninsulas St. Georges de Bohon  
and St. Andre de Bohon.  
Maintenance and rest.
- 10 July 44 0800 - Attended conference 330th Infantry CP. Attached to  
330th Infantry for mopping up.  
CP moved to 369785 (Map France, 1/25000, Perieres sheet)  
at 1030.
- 11 July 44 Continued covering left flank by operating security patrols  
on left of 330th Infantry.
- 12 July 44 Attached to 330th Infantry to mop up in their zone. Took  
three prisoners vicinity St. George de Bohon.  
Patrols in vicinity Le Ruet.  
2015 - Troop CP moved to 396780.  
OPs established from 397782 to 388768 (Map France, 1/25000,  
Perieres sheet)
- 13 July 44 Continued to protect Division left by patrols and OPs from  
Le Manoir to St. Georges de Bohon  
Attached to 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry.
- 14 July 44 0800 - Continued to protect Division left, from Le Manoir  
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 1440.  
(Map France, 1/25000, Perieres sheet).
- 15 July 44 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 44 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 penin-  
sula. Attached to 331st Infantry for operation.
- 17 July 44 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.  
1800 - 1st Platoon contact patrol met returning 3rd Platoon  
patrol and came in.  
1830 - 3rd Platoon contact patrol forced off causeway by  
enemy fire - One killed.  
2000 - CO and Lt. Burton with reconnaissance patrol approached  
Le Varde. Reconnaissance by fire after dark disclosed  
two enemy MG emplacements.

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- 18 July 44 0400 - Troop CO and crew approached Le Varde in M-8, Fired 21 rounds HE and AP, 37 mm, on suspected MG emplacements. No return fire.  
1700 - Troop attached to 3rd Battalion, 331st Infantry for defense of Le Varde. To cross on causeway.  
Continued present mission.
- 19 July 44 0100 - CO, 308th 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 remnants, I Co, 331st Infantry, overrun by two tanks and withdrew from position.  
1715 - Reorganization and return to Le Varde attempted. Artillery fire halted maneuver at South end of causeway.  
1800 - Troop completed withdrawal from Le Varde.  
2000 - 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 20 July.
- 20 July 44 Continue present mission.  
0800 - Entire day spent improving positions on Le Moulin.  
1000 - S-3, 308th Engineers Battalion requests relief of guard on Engineer bridge South Lepot. 1st Section, 1st Platoon took over duties. 1st Platoon positions shifted to cover new assignment.  
1300 - New weapons and equipment received.
- 21 July 44 1400 - 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, 308th Engineer Battalion of defenses of Les Aubris, at 1800.  
Daylight hours spent occupying positions.
- 22 July 44 0730 - Platoon, Co C, 802 TD relieved, 1st section Co B, 802 TD attached for defense Le Moulin.  
0800 - CO, Co B, 308th 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 453 AAA Battalion will protect Engineer Bridge, vicinity Tribouh - Reconnaissance section relieved, 1100.  
2100 - CO, Co B, 25th Cavalry Rcn Sq. visited CP and looked over defensive organization of Le Moulin prior to occupation.  
Continued present mission.

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- 23 July 44 1000 - Received Amendment #1 to FO #18. Continue present mission.  
1600 - Mortar fire, sporadic fell on L 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 44 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 - L Co. relieved, returned to control 331st Infantry. Troop cleared bivouac 1615, closed, 1650.  
CP, 344770, (Map France, 1/25000, Perieres sheet)  
1700 - Mission - Keep contact with left of 331st Infantry and 4th Armored Elements, between Auxais and RJ 367757, 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 44 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 44 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 44 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 2400.  
No enemy information from peninsula.  
2000 - Troop alerted for reconnaissance to South, moved to 377756 at 2200.
- 28 July 44 0030 - Received reconnaissance mission from G-3 - To reconnoiter mounted to South in Division Zone, locate any enemy and mine fields. Report locations.  
0545 - 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, 328633.

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- 28 July 44 Reconnaissance extended to Camprond - Le Lorey road.  
1830 - Relieved of mission, troop assembled at 335637, closed at 1915.  
All map references, France, 1/25000, Sheet 31/16 SE.  
Received mission to contact 9th and 90th Divisions on flanks, observe Marigny-Lachapelle 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.  
1545 - Crippled German plane crashed 200 yards North of bivouac.
- 30 July 44 Map France, 1/25000, Sheet 31/16 S E  
Continuing present mission.  
1930 - 18th Infantry to move from right flank between 1900 and 2000.  
2130 - Patrols 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~~ - S 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 Lendlin-Marigny Road to fighting elements VII Corps. Sent elements 3rd Platoon.

*Heister H Drum*

HEISTER H. DRUM  
Captain, Cavalry  
Commanding

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