

S E C R E T

HQ 83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP
APO 83, US Army

31 May 1945.

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

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

Thru Channels.

1. 1 May '45 - 0300- Contacts made on right and left. 0900- Buergermeister of GLINDE and POMMELTE arrested and replaced by CIC. 1000- CP moved to POMMELTE at D-817851. 1100- Received report from Division G-2 of enemy disposition and strength across River determined by patrol from 330th Infantry going in and taking some PWs. 2300- Contact patrols made right and left.
2. 2 May '45- 0230- Units on right and left contacted. 0700- Mission continued. No change. 1100- Units on right and left contacted.
3. 3 May '45- 0230- Units on right and left contacted. Enemy soldier wounded and taken PW at 3rd Platoon OP. 0300- Enemy soldier taken prisoner by 1st Platoon. 0940- 1st Platoon took four (4) PWs that crossed ELBE river. 1530- 1st Platoon took fourteen (14) PW that crossed river. 1830- 1st Platoon took six (6) PWs that crossed river. 2050- 1st Platoon took four (4) PWs that crossed the river. 2230- Units on right and left contacted.
4. 4 May '45- 0500- 1st Platoon apprehended three civilians from across river and delivered them to CIC. 0700- Eleven DPs and four (4) enemy PWs crossed into our lines. 0800- Continued mission. Nothing to report. 1300- 736th Tank Battalion Mortar Platoon relieved from attachment. Returned to Tank Battalion. 1130- Contacts with adjacent units made.
5. 5 May '45- 0230- Contacted by patrol from 119th Infantry. 0620- Seven (7) PWs taken by 3rd Platoon. 0720- One (1) enemy soldier (female) surrendered to 3rd Platoon. 0740- Eight (8) PWs, two civilians and one (1) enemy soldier (female) surrendered to 3rd Platoon. 0820- Seven (7) PWs taken by 1st Platoon. 1500- Two (2) PWs taken by 1st Platoon. 2230- Contacted units on right and left.
6. 6 May '45- 0700- Troop relieved of mission. Assembled in POMMELTE (D817851) at 0900. 0930- Troop moved to assembly area. Closed at WERNIGERODE (C109642) at 1400. Route: POMMELTE, BARBY, CALBE, NIENBERG, NEUGATTERSLEBEN, STASSFURT, WINNINGEN, SCHADELEBEN, HEDERSLEBEN, WEGELEBEN, HARSLEBEN, WESTERHAUSEN, HEIMBURG, BENZINGERODE, and WERNIGERODE. (Map Central Europe 1/100,000 Sheet P5)
7. 7 May '45- 0700- Troop began rehabilitation and maintenance program. 0800- Received mission of relieving 8th Armored Division security duties. 0900- 2nd and 3rd Platoons established five (5) road blocks around perimeter of WERNIGERODE, six (6) guard posts on local warehouses, Post Office, Town Hall, City Jail and enemy vehicular motor Park and patrolled six (6) intelligence targets. 8th Armored Division relieved on schedule.
8. 8 May '45- 0700- Troop less 2nd and 3rd Platoon continued rehabilitation and maintenance of vehicles and equipment. 2nd & 3rd Platoons continued security missions and road blocks. 1700- Relieved of security missions and road blocks by 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division. 1930- Acquired local Cafe and held Troop celebration of "V-E Day". Honorary guest and speaker included AC of S G-2 83d Inf Division. Entire Troop participated and shared issue of liquor. 2400- The celebration continued at close of period.
9. 9 May '45- 0800- Continued rehabilitation program.
10. 10 May '45- 0800- Continued rehabilitation program. 1200- Billeting party sent to BAD-HARZBURG.
11. 11 May '45- 0800- Packed and prepared for move to new area. 0930- Began move to new area. Closed at BAD-HARZBURG at C943685 at 1100. Route: WERNIGERODE, ILSENBERG, STAPELBURG and BAD-HARZBURG. Settled in new area and continued rehabilitation.
12. 12 May '45- 0800- Continued rehabilitation program.
13. 13 May '45- 0800- Observed Sunday with religious services and rest.

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14. 14 May '45- 0800- Began organized program of rehabilitation, recreation and training, including dismounted drill in preparation for future ceremonies. Prepared vehicles for repainting. Training conducted in military courtesy and uniform regulations. Began Information and Education program by group discussions. Sent out organized tours of local scenery. Group athletics began. Began preparations for readjustment phase.
15. 15 May '45- 0800- Program continued. Maintenance and appearance of vehicles stressed in view of assignment as honor guard of Division.
16. 16 May '45- 0800- Program continued. Appearance and military courtesy stressed.
17. 17 May '45- 0800- Program continued.
18. 18 May '45- 0800- Program continued. 1700- 1st Platoon established guard on local SS convalescent hospital.
19. 19 May '45- 0800- Program continued. Personnel, equipment and vehicles inspected. 1300- Maximum use of local recreational facilities including ball games, horseback riding, swimming and theater. 1700- 2nd Platoon relieved 1st Platoon of hospital guard.
20. 20 May '45- 0800- Free period. Personnel sought own desired recreation. 1500- Training schedule for following week submitted to AC of S G-3. 1700- 3rd Platoon relieved 2nd Platoon at hospital guard.
21. 21 May '45- 0800- Began new week's training program including Information and Education tours, military courtesy and discipline, dismounted drill, weapons training, I & E program, physical conditioning and organized athletics. Troop School opened for mechanics and radio repairmen. New radio operators trained in all training, development of Junior leaders stressed. 1700- 1st Platoon relieved 3rd Platoon at hospital guard.
22. 22 May '45- 0800- Training in weapons, radio, and I & E began. Junior NCO development as instructors; leaders stressed. 1400- Recreational athletics, I & E tours. 1700- 2nd Platoon relieved 1st Platoon at hospital guard.
23. 23 May '45- 0800- Military courtesy, dismounted drill and message writing; weapons instruction continued, including a March and orientation period. 1700- 3rd Platoon relieved 2nd Platoon at hospital guard.
24. 24 May '45- 0800- Training continued. Training and outdoor recreation hampered by weather conditions. Check begun on individual equipment. 1700- 1st Platoon relieved 3rd Platoon at hospital guard.
25. 25 May '45- 0800- Continued training in weapons. 3rd Platoon leader and two EM injured in vehicle accident East of BAD-HARZBURG. All evacuated. Ordnance inspection of vehicles conducted by 783rd Ordnance Company. 1700- 2nd Platoon relieved 1st Platoon at hospital guard. 2200- One EM slightly wounded by gunshot wound in foot. Initiated investigation.
26. 26 May '45- 0800- Training continued. Check of unit equipment continued. Maximum use of local recreational facilities; I & E tours. 1700- 3rd Platoon relieved 2nd Platoon at hospital guard.
27. 27 May '45- 0800- Free Time. Maximum use of existing recreational facilities, I & E tours. Evacuation begun of SS Troops in hospital. 1700- 1st Platoon relieved 3rd Platoon at hospital guard. 1800- Evacuation of SS troops completed. Troop relieved of hospital guard mission. Week's schedule for training submitted to G-3.
28. 28 May '45- 0800- Week's program begun stressing unit formations in view of Memorial Ceremony on 30 May 1945. Firing of all personal arms. 1300- Inspection of Troop for completeness and neatness and current uniform regulations. 1400- Athletics and recreation.
29. 29 May '45- 0800- Close order drill and calisthenics followed by range firing of crew served weapons. 1300- Afternoon devoted to organized athletics, recreation and I & E tours.

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30. 30 May '45- 0800- Preparation for memorial services. Preliminary inspection. 0930- 1030- Memorial Services. 1030- Remainder of day free time for athletics, recreation and I & E tours. 1800- Received message from Division to send Liaison Officer to CP at 2000 for instructions on contemplated move to SOUTHERN GERMANY.

31. 31 May '45-0800- Billeting party departed. Close order drill, field firing of anti-tank weapons, personal arms and hand grenades.

Keith L. Wells
KEITH L. WELLS,
1st Lt., Cavalry,
Commanding.

Incl #2

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HQ 83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP
APO 83, US Army

31 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Narrative of Events, May 1945.

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

Thru Channels.

1. The period began with the Troop still on a holding mission along the ELBE river in the vicinity of GLINDE, Germany. Contacts were made with friendly units on our right and left flanks.
2. 2 May 1945. Daily contacts maintained but no enemy activity encountered.
3. 3 May 1945. During the day a total of twenty-nine (29) PWs were taken after they crossed the ELBE to our side. Flank contacts continued.
4. 4 May 1945. Eleven (11) DPs, three suspicious civilians and four (4) PWs taken into custody. 736th Tank Battalion Mortar Platoon was relieved from attachment and returned to Tank Battalion control. Contacts with adjacent units continued.
5. 5 May 1945. Twenty-five (25) PWs were taken, including two (2) enlisted women. Flank contacts made on schedule.
6. 6 May 1945. The Troop was relieved of its mission and assembled in POMMELTE (D817851) at 0900. At 0930 the Troop moved to WERNIGERODE (C109642) (Map Central Europe 1/100,000 Sheet P5).
7. 7 May 1945. Rehabilitation and maintenance of Troop equipment and individuals was begun. Troop received mission of relieving 8th Armored Division of security blocks. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons established five road blocks around WERNIGERODE and six guard posts on municipal buildings and patrolled six intelligence targets. 8th Armored Division relieved as scheduled.
8. 8 May 1945. Rehabilitation and maintenance continued less personnel on security missions. At 1700, Troop was relieved of its mission by the 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment of the 30th Infantry Division. At 1900, the Troop assembled in a local Beer Hall and celebrated "V-E Day". Division G-2 attended and spoke to the Troop.
9. 9 May 1945. Continued rehabilitation program through 10 May.
10. 10 May 1945. At 1200 a billeting party departed for BAD-HARZBURG in preparation for expected move.
11. 11 May 1945. Troop moved to new location at BAD-HARZBURG (C943685). Remainder of day spent reorganizing in new billets.
12. 12 May 1945. Rehabilitation program continued.
13. 13 May 1945. Troop observed the Sabbath in attending religious services and rest and recreational activity.
14. 14 May 1945. An organized program of rehabilitation and training in preparation for future ceremonies was begun. Vehicles were cleaned for re-painting. I & E classes and tours began.
15. 15 May 1945. Troop designated Division Honor Guard and all equipment was groomed accordingly.
16. 16-17 May 1945. Continued training in military courtesy, appearance and discipline. Information and Education program continued.
17. 18 May 1945. Guard was established on local SS Troops convalescent hospital.

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18. 19-20 May 1945. Continued program and inspection of men and equipment. Free periods allotted for attendance to religious services and recreational activities. Training schedule submitted to G-3 for the following week. Hospital guard continued.
19. 21 May 1945. New training schedule launched emphasizing leadership of Junior NCOs, appearance, courtesy and weapons training. Troop schools for radio repairmen and mechanics made available to those interested. Hospital guard continued.
20. 22 May 1945. Training in weapons, radio continued. I & E tours and recreation encouraged. Hospital guards maintained.
21. 23 May 1945. Classes in military courtesy, dismounted drill and message writing and road march followed by orientation period. Hospital guard continued.
22. 24 May 1945. Training and recreation were hampered due to weather conditions.
23. 25 May 1945. Ordnance inspection of vehicles conducted by the 783rd Ordnance Company. A 1/4 ton truck overturned injuring an Officer and two enlisted men which caused them to be evacuated. At 2200, an enlisted man was injured by accidental discharge of a pistol.
24. 26 May 1945. Training continued and equipment checked. Maximum use of recreational facilities encouraged. Hospital guard continued.
25. 27 May 1945. Period devoted to recreation and allowance of time for attendance to religious services. At 1800 Troop was relieved of hospital guard mission after evacuation of SS troops to another location. New training schedule submitted.
26. 28 May 1945. Familiarization firing of personal weapons with very satisfactory results incited by competitive firing. 1300- Troop inspection in preparation for Memorial Ceremonies to be attended on 30 May.
27. 29 May 1945. Range firing of crew served weapons and the afternoon was devoted to organized athletics and recreation.
28. 30 May 1945. Preliminary inspection and march to Division CP for Memorial Ceremony. As a result of continued preparation for such an occasion, the Troop was outstanding in appearance. The remainder of the day declared a holiday.
29. 31 May 1945. Billeting party departed for new location in SOUTHERN GERMANY to prepare billets for imminent move. Field firing of individual anti-tank weapons.

Keith L. Wells
KEITH L. WELLS,
1st Lt., Cavalry,
Commanding.

Incl #1.