

83RD RECONNAISSANCE TROOP
APO 83, US Army

31 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Unit Journal, 83rd Reconnaissance Troop, October 1944.

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

Thru Channels.

1. Oct 1 '44 - 0600 - Third Platoon dismounted patrol made sweep from 025356 to 030357 to 040356 to 033350 to pick up German outpost reported in this area. One German seen running thru woods at 031355. 0800 - 1800 - Routes in Troop Zone patrolled. Contact maintained with the 85th Armored Reconnaissance Bn on left. (Map, Central Europe 1/100,000 Sheet T-1)
2. 2 Oct '44 - 0800 - Patrols began operating on all roads in Troop Zone. Third Platoon standing by to be employed protecting left flank of Infantry attacking ECHTERNACH on order from S-2 Coordinator, 329th Infantry. 1415 - Patrol reports road block at 027334 has been removed. 1445 - Patrol contacts friendly Infantry, Company "L", 329th Infantry at 033350. 1500 - Patrol finds Troop "C", 85th Armd Reconnaissance Bn has moved out. 121st Infantry Regiment has assumed responsibilities on our left. Arrangements made for contacts. 1826 - First Platoon reports five rounds enemy Artillery coming from North, landing North of BERDORF.
3. 3 Oct '44 - 0730 - Patrols operating on roads in troop area. 1630 - All roads in troop area patrolled at least twice. Contact made with Combat Team of 121st Infantry on the left during the day. No enemy contacts.
4. 4 Oct '44 - 0730 - Patrols operating on roads in Troop area. 1100 - Observation Post located and established 01253875 (Map, Central Europe, 1/25,000, BOLLENDORFZSheet). 1500 - Another Observation Post established 025379 (Same map). 1515 - Five Germans surprised at 025376, one killed by First Platoon patrol. 1830 - Observation Posts report no unusual activity. Second Platoon relieved First Platoon at BERDORF. First Platoon returned to CONSDORF in reserve.
5. 5 Oct '44 - 0800 - Observation Post established at 01253875 and 025379. Patrols operating on routes in Troop area and contacting adjacent units. 1530 - Lt. Col. Cook visited Platoons in BERDORF. Cannon Company, 329th Infantry, moved to BERDORF to select and occupy gun positions. 1630 - Four rounds of German Artillery fell on BERDORF. No casualties. 1830 - No unusual enemy activity reported by Observation Posts. No enemy contacts by patrols.
6. 6 Oct '44 - 0700 - Observation Posts established above SAUER river on South bank. 0800 - Roads patrolled in Troop area. Contacting Infantry on right and left. 1630 - Refugees evacuated from ECHTERNACH by Germans, arriving in CONSDORF. 1730 - First Platoon relieved Third Platoon in BERDORF. 1830 - Third Platoon returned to CONSDORF in reserve. 1900 - No enemy activity seen in Troop area. Civilians report German patrol of twenty men vicinity 027368 at 1700.
7. 7 Oct '44 - 0700 - Observation Posts established to observe across SAUER. 0800 - Patrols operating in Troop area contacting adjacent units. 1600 - ECHTERNACH bombed. 1830 - No enemy encountered or unusual activities noted. ECHTERNACH evacuees continued to enter CONSDORF.
8. 8 Oct '44 - 0700 - Observation Posts established to observe across SAUER. 0800 - Patrols operating on roads in troop area. 121st Infantry reports a Colonel shot by three Germans in US uniforms at BEFORT. 1215 - Observation Post shelled at 01253875 and withdrew. Ten rounds. Personnel attempted to return to Observation Post after Artillery fire stopped and were met by machine gun and rifle fire from woods. Personnel established Outpost at 011385. No further enemy activity reported. 1730 - Third Platoon relieved Second Platoon at BERDORF. 1830 - Second Platoon returned to CONSDORF in reserve.

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9. 9 Oct '44 - 0730 - Patrols comb woods around BERDORF for reported enemy patrols and outposts. 1130 - No enemy contacts. 1300 - Outposts manned again above SAUER River. BOLLENDORF shelled by Cannon Company, 329th Infantry. Some buildings set on fire. Ammunition dump hit. 1715 - Observation Posts withdrawn. 1800 - Contact and security patrols run all day. No enemy activity.

10. 10 Oct '44 - 0730 - Observation Posts established. Contact and security patrols began operating. 1100 - Two Germans seen vicinity Observation Post at 01253875 by the First Platoon. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. No further German activity noted. Second Platoon to BERDORF to relieve First Platoon. 1900 - First Platoon returned to CONSDORF in reserve.

11. 11 Oct '44 - 0800 - Contact and security patrols operating in troop Zone. Units contacted on left and right. 121st Infantry reports patrol captured and Artillery fire in it's Zone. 1030 - Dismounted patrol from BERDORF to 025363. No enemy seen. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. No enemy activity seen.

12. 12 Oct '44 - 0730 - Observation Posts established. 0800 - Patrols operating on roads in troop area for contacts and security. 1200 - 1515 - Fifty rounds Artillery fell between BOLLENDORF and BERDORF. Sound of gun, 75 degrees magnetic azimuth from 01253875 estimated 105mm. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. No enemy activity noted.

13. 13 Oct '44 - 0530 - Observation Posts manned. 0800 - Contact and security patrols operating in troop area. 1300 - Eleven rounds 75mm Artillery landed vicinity 0137. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. No enemy activity noted. 1730 - First Platoon relieved Third Platoon at BERDORF. Third Platoon returned to CONSDORF in reserve. 1820 - Projectile showing bright light and leaving smoke or vapor trail, went over CONSDORF. Came from magnetic azimuth of 140 degrees from 993317. 1920 - Five rounds 75mm at 003361. 1945 - Four rounds 75mm at 001370. 2130 - Sixteen rounds 75mm scattered around BERDORF.

14. 14 Oct '44 - 0700 - Observation Posts established. 0800 - Contact and security patrols operating in troop Zone, contacting units on right and left. 0830 - Number of civilians evacuating BERDORF increased today after last night's Artillery fire. 1730 - No enemy activity in troop area and none reported all day by units on right and left.

15. 15 Oct '44 - 0630 - Observation Posts established. 0800 - Security and contact patrols operating in troop area. Units contacted on left and right. 1345 - Enemy ten man patrol dispersed vicinity 013387. No casualties. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. 1830 - Contact patrols ceased operating.

16. 16 Oct '44 - 0730 - Observation Posts established. 0800 - Contact and security patrols operating in troop area contacting units on right and left. 1155 - Contact patrol to 121st Infantry reports flying bomb (V-1) exploded vicinity 9638 about 1130. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. Third Platoon relieved Second Platoon at BERDORF. 1830 - Second Platoon closed at CONSDORF in reserve.

17. 17 Oct '44 - 0800 - Observation Posts established. Contact and security patrols operating in troop area. 1730 - No enemy activity. Observation Posts withdrawn.

18. 18 Oct '44 - 0800 - Patrols (dismounted) operating in woods west North and North and East of BERDORF to clean out suspected enemy outposts. Mounted patrols operating in troop area. Security and contact with adjacent units. 1000 - Observation Posts established. 1330 - Col. Crabill, C. O. 329th Infantry, visited BERDORF to inspect Observation Posts. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. No enemy activity. 1830 - Suspect in civilian clothes picked up in BERDORF and turned over to the I & R Platoon, 329th Infantry for identification.

19. 19 Oct '44 - 0730 - Observation Posts established. 0800 - Contact and security patrols operating in troop area. 1020 - 1100 - Twenty-two rounds enemy Artillery fell vicinity 013393. 1500 - Two German soldiers seen and fired on vicinity 014391. One believed wounded. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. 1800 - Second Platoon relieved First Platoon in BERDORF. First Platoon returned to CONSDORF in reserve.

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20. 20 Oct '44 - 0700 - Observation Posts established. 0815 - Contact and security patrols operating in troop zone. 1500 - Draw at 024376 booby trapped. Ambush party stationed there. 1530 - Major Murtock, C.O., 32nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron visited CP to arrange for tactical reconnaissance of Troop area preparatory to the Squadron relieving the Troop. 1800 - Ambush parties established at 014384, 0237, 021363. Ambushes to remain in position all night. Observation Posts withdrawn. No enemy contacts.

21. 21 Oct '44 - 0800 - Observation Posts established. Contact and security patrols operating. 0930 - Major Mays and 14 Officers visited CP to make tactical reconnaissance and billeting details for arrival of 32nd Cavalry Squadron to relieve 83rd Reconnaissance Troop in this zone. 1000 - Enemy patrol 3-5 men met at 024377 by our patrol. One German killed, 1 wounded. Patrol withdrew. 1230 - Fifth rounds 81mm Mortar fell at 015392. Intermittent Artillery fire fell in vicinity remainder of afternoon. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. No enemy activity noted.

22. 22 Oct '44 - 0730 - Observation Posts established. 0830 - Contact and security patrols operating. 0900 - Civilians began evacuating BERDORF per order. 1410 - A V-1 passed over CONSDORF heading generally West, at about 400 ft. 1230 - Observation Posts withdrawn. 1800 - Patrols ceased operating. No enemy activity all day. 1830 - 32nd Cavalry Squadron will not relieve Troop as anticipated.

23. 0700 23 Oct '44 - Observation Posts established. 0800 - Contact and security patrols operating in troop zone. Evacuation of area North and East of CONSDORF still continuing. Went on all day. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. Patrols ceased operating. No enemy activity all day. 1800 - First Platoon relieved Third Platoon at BERDORF. Third Platoon returned to CONSDORF in reserve.

24. 24 Oct '44 - 0700 - Observation Posts established. 0800 - Contact and security patrols operating. Vehicular patrols do not enter ECHTERNACH as they draw Artillery fire. 0930 - 9th Armored Division Officers visit BERDORF looking for Artillery Observation Posts. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. No enemy activity all day.

25. 25 Oct '44 - 0730 - Observation Posts established. 0815 - Mounted patrols, security and contact, operating in troop zone. 0920 - Civilian reports six Germans in US uniforms and two in civilian clothes vicinity 983287 (Map, Central Europe, 1/100,000, Sheet U1) at 0830. Our patrol searched the area in vicinity and to the Northeast found no trace of the enemy. 1015 - Patrol contacted Platoon of 121st Infantry at 987371 and began return trip. Fired on at 988370 by Germans with machine gun. One Enlisted man killed. 1630 - Observation Posts withdrawn. No further enemy activity.

26. 26 Oct '44 - 0800 - Observation Posts established. Contact and security patrols operating. 0930 - 1200 - Five rounds 75mm Artillery landed vicinity 014393. 1215 - Lt. Col. Roulen, CO, 3rd Field Artillery Bn, visited CP. 1730 - Observation Posts withdrawn. Patrols made last contact.

27. 27 Oct '44 - 0700 - Observation Posts established. 0815 - Contact and security patrols operating in troop area. 1130 - Last contact made with 121st Infantry. 1200 - Observation Posts withdrawn for dinner and relief of present mission. 1330 - Troop enroute to LORENTZWEILER, CP 851236 (Map, Central Europe, 1/100,000, Sheet U1). 1500 - Troop, less First Platoon, left in BERDORF, not relieved. Closed in new location.

28. 28 Oct '44 - 0800 - Entire day spent in maintenance of weapons, vehicles and personal equipment by Second and Third Platoons. 1145 - First Platoon closed after relief in BERDORF by 329th Infantry. 1600 - Show-down inspection individual clothing and equipment. 1200 - Second Platoon on alert. Relieved Third Platoon.

29. 29 Oct '44 - 0800 - 1600 - Rest and rehabilitation of individuals. Reconnaissance of area assigned the Troop for the execution of Plan "X".

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30. 30 Oct '44 - 0800 - 1200 - Reconnaissance of Area assigned to Troop under Plan "X". Maintenance of Vehicles and weapons by the First Platoon. 1300 - 1600 - Rehabilitation of individuals.

31. 31 Oct '44 - 0830 - Began move to new location. 0915 - Troop closed in new location. CP 845164 (Map, Central Europe, 1/100,000 Sheet U-1). 1015 - Inspection of clothing and equipment by ASst G-4. 1200 - 1600 - Recreation and entertainment.

Heister H Drum

HEISTER H. DRUM,
Captain, Cavalry,
Commanding.