

L-175

1 October 1944.

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

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

Thru Channels.

1. 1 Sept '44 - 0800 - Troop began new mission to comply with Field Order #19, 331st Infantry. Second Platoon attached ~~one~~ Team to each Battalion Headquarters near BLAIN, ST. ETIENNE de MONTLUE, and NOTRE DAME des LANDES. First Platoon places one Team at BLAIN with 3rd Battalion, 331st Infantry and two Teams at REDON, to patrol between BLAIN and REDON. 1500 - Third Platoon relieved and returned to bivouac.

2. 2 Sept '44 - 0800 - One Reconnaissance Team of the First Platoon went from REDON to PLESSE to assure orderly evacuation of refugees supposedly to come through. 0900 - Entire mission changed. New mission: To patrol the Loire River between NANTES and ST. GEORGE, to observe enemy and to contain him South of the Loire. First Platoon, less one Team, was sent to MAUVES. Second Platoon was sent to VERADES and Third Platoon to ANCENIS. Headquarters Platoon moved to vicinity of MAUVES with the First Platoon, closed 1630, (Map France, 1/50,000 Sheet Nantes 156617). CP remained with CP of the 331st Infantry. No enemy activity reported. 2130 - Remainder of First Platoon closed from PLESSE.

3. 3 Sept '44 - 0800 - Continued patrol mission. 0900 - United States P-51 Plane landed in the vicinity of VERADES and was guarded by the Second Platoon. Pilot, Lt. Wolf. 0930 - German warehouse in ANCENIS was found in French Gendarmerie by the Third Platoon. Guard was put on warehouse by the Third Platoon. 2000 - No enemy contacts. Outposts established at VERADES, ANCENIS, and MAUVES.

4. 4 Sept '44 - 0800 - Outposts came in and patrols began operating on present mission. Guards were maintained on ANCENIS warehouse and on the U. S. Plane. 1200 - 2nd Lts. House, Burton, and Walton notified of promotions to 1st Lt. as of 30 Aug '44. 2000 - No enemy contacts. Patrols discontinued and outposts established.

5. 5 Sept '44 - 0800 - Outposts recalled and patrols began operating again. No enemy contacts. First Platoon left bivouac and moved toward VERADES to patrol toward ANCENIS and guard plane. Second Platoon moved to ANCENIS to patrol toward VERADES and MAUVES. Third Platoon moved to bivouac to patrol toward ANCENIS and contact the advance CP 331st Infantry in NANTES. 2000 - No enemy contacts. Patrols discontinued and outposts established.

6. 6 Sept '44 - 0800 - Outposts recalled and patrols began operating. No enemy contacts. Continued present mission. 2000 - Patrols discontinued and outposts established. No enemy activity reported.

7. 7 Sept '44 - 0800 - Outposts recalled and patrols began operating. No enemy activity. Continued present mission. 1400 - One Reconnaissance patrol was sent South of the Loire river, Destination: BORDEAUX. 2000 - Patrols discontinued and outposts established. No enemy activity.

8. 8 Sept '44 - Continued present mission. Outposts recalled and patrols began operating. No enemy activity. 1430 - Messenger returned with enemy information from Reconnaissance patrol from NOIRT. Patrol continued South. 2000 - Patrols discontinued and outposts established. No enemy activity.

9. 9 Sept '44 - 0800 - Continued present mission. Outposts recalled and patrols began operating. No enemy contacts. 2000 - Patrols discontinued and outposts established. No enemy activity.

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10. 10 Sept '44 - 0800 - Outposts recalled and patrols began operating. No enemy activity. Continued mission. 1200 - Troop detached from 331st Infantry and attached to 330th Infantry. Mission unchanged. 1620 - Reconnaissance patrol returned from BORDEAUX with information of the port and enemy pockets. Information sent to S-2, 331st Infantry and G-2, 83rd Infantry Division. Three EM, 329th Infantry, were located wounded in a French hospital in NOIRT. 2000 - Patrols discontinued and outposts established. No enemy activity.

11. 11 Sept '44 - 0800 - Continued present mission. 1330 - CP left MAUVES enroute to LA RIOTIERE (Map France, 1/100,000 Sheet Cande-Ancenis 531731) closed 1500. 1600 - Messenger arrived from G-3. Message: Troop to be attached to 329th Infantry on 12 Sept 1944. 2000 - Patrols discontinued and outposts established. No enemy contacts.

12. 12 Sept '44 - 0001 - Detached from 330th Infantry and attached to 329th Infantry. Mission: To relieve patrols of the 802nd TD Reconnaissance Platoons and continue patrolling between GIEN and AUXERRE (Europe Road Map 1/200,000 Sheet #65). 0800 - Guard on U. S. Plane and ANCENIS warehouse relieved. Troop enroute from LA RIOTIERE to GIEN in order of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Hq Platoons. CP closed LA RIOTIERE 1100. Troop closed GIEN 2230. 2230 - CP, vicinity of Gien (Europe Road Map 1/200,000, Sheet 65) Route: ANGERS, BOUGE, NOYANT, CHATEAU-la-VALLERIE, NEUILLE, CHATEAU RENAULT, BLOIS, ORLEANS, CHATEAUNEUF, and GIEN.

13. 13 Sept '44 - 0800 - First Platoon sent to ST. FARGEAU to patrol between BONNY and TOUCY. Third Platoon sent to MEZILLE to patrol between TOUCY and AUXERRE. 0900 - Mission changed to: Conduct patrols around triangle, BONNY, CLAMECY, AUXERRE, BONNY. 1500 - Second Platoon sent to ENTRAINS to patrol between BONNY and CLAMECY. 1000 - Third Platoon moved to COURSON-les-CARRIERES to patrol between AUXERRE and CLAMECY. 1545 - Troop CP moved to THOU (Map France 1/250,000- Auxerre Sheet #16 M-4287) closed 1630. 2000 - Additional outposts maintained at AUXERRE and ST. AMABE to be continued each night.

14. 14 Sept '44 - 0800 - No enemy activity. Two Reconnaissance Platoons from 802nd TD Battalion attached to Troop and placed in reserve. 0815 - First Platoon began reconnaissance to Southeast to contact the 7th US Army. 1400 - Contact patrol sent to 15th Corps. 2000 - Outposts established. No enemy contacts.

15. 15 Sept '44 - 0800 - No enemy contacts by First Patrols. Continued same mission. 1900 - First TD Reconnaissance Platoon sent to AUXERRE, Second TD Reconnaissance Platoon to COURSON, Third (83rd Rcn) Platoon to ENTRAINS. Second (83d Rcn) Platoon to bivouac in reserve. 2130 - Contact patrol to 15th Corps returned. Corps CP located at GUGNEY (10 miles West of CHARMES, Europe Road Map 1/200,000 Sheet #62). 2000 - Outposts established. No enemy contacts.

16. 16 Sept '44 - 0800 - No enemy contacts. First TD Reconnaissance Platoon from attached to relieved. 1000 - 83rd Infantry Division MII Team visited CP enroute to AUXERRE and informed us that they would avail us with any enemy information obtained. 2000 - Outposts established. No enemy contacts. 2330 - First Platoon returned. Contact with 7th US Army made at LONS-le-SAUNIER (40 Km West of Chalons-sur-Saone) on 15 Sept 1944. Major Broune, 7th US Army G-3 Section, arrived with First Platoon enroute to 3rd U.S. Army CP.

17. 17 Sept '44 - 0800 - Continued same mission. No enemy contacts. 0930 - MII Team, 9 US Army visited CP enroute to AUXERRE. 0830 - Major Broune, 7th US Army, given transportation to TROYES, departed. 1800 - First Platoon enroute to ENTRAINS to relieve Third Platoon. 2000 - First Platoon closed in bivouac.

18. 18 Sept '44 - 0800 - Outposts recalled, patrols operating. 0830 - Second Platoon sent on Reconnaissance mission South to NEVERS. 1300 - Reports received from civilians of 14 Germans at COURCELLES. 1430 - Negative report from First Platoon on enemy in the vicinity of COURCELLES. 2000 - Patrols discontinued. Outposts established.

19. 19 Sept '44 - 0800 - Negative report from First Patrol. Outposts recalled. 1000 - First Reconnaissance Platoon, 802nd TD Battalion, returned to Battalion for maintenance. 1500 - Second Platoon returned from Reconnaissance mission to NEVERS. No enemy activity. 2000 - Patrols discontinued, outposts established.

20. 20 Sept '44 - 0800 - Outposts recalled, patrols in operation. No enemy contacts. 0830 - Second Platoon enroute to relieve First Rcn Platoon.

802nd TD Bn, at COURSON. 0900 - Third Platoon enroute to ST. BEZIN de AZY on reconnaissance mission. 1215 - First Rcn Platoon, 802nd TD Bn, arrived in bivouac and was relieved by Second Platoon (83d Rcn). 1530 - Second Rcn Platoon, 802nd TD Bn., arrived in bivouac from Battalion maintenance. 2000 - Patrols ceased operating. No enemy contact. 1600 - 22 German prisoners received from FFI and turned over to 2nd Battalion, 329th Infantry.

21. 21 Sept '44 - 0800 - Patrols operating. No enemy contacts. 1400 - Second Platoon returned from investigating reports of small groups of enemy Northeast of AUXERRE. No enemy contacted. 1700 - Third Platoon returned from two day reconnaissance and patrol to ST. BEZIN de AZY. Negative enemy information. 2000 - Patrols ceased operating. No enemy contacts.

22. 22 Sept '44 - 0800 - First Platoon recalled to bivouac and given mission to patrol between ST. FARGEAU and GIEN. 0830 - Third Platoon given mission to patrol between CHATEAUNEUF and ORLEANS. First and Second Rcn Platoons, 802 TD Bn, given mission to patrol between GIEN and CHATEAUNEUF. CP vicinity of GIEN. 1030 - Second Platoon (83d Rcn) sent to TOUCY to patrol between AUXERRE and ST. FARGEAU. All changes as a result of the following message received from 83rd Infantry Division at 0200:
"Troop to assume responsibilities of 329th Infantry from ORLEANS (exclusive) to AUXERRE." 1800 - Troop relieved as of 23 Sept. Orders received to move to LUXEMBOURG via the following route: AUXERRE, TROYES, BRIENNE-le-CHATEAU, MONTIEN-en-DEP, ST. DEZIER, BAR-le-DUC, ST. MEHIEL and to contact 20th Corps at ST. MEHIEL for instructions to proceed to LUXEMBOURG.

23. 23 Sept '44 - 0700 - Troop moved from THOU enroute to ST. MEHIEL. 1600 - Arrived at ST. MEHIEL and followed guides to LEUDELANGE. Arrived 2000. 2045 - Troop closed in bivouac (Map, Central Europe 1/100,000 Sheet Neunkirchen). (7909)

24. 24 Sept '44 - 0800 - Troop attached to 331st Infantry until the fall of REMICH. 0900 - 1500 - Reconnaissance of Area with the Commanding Officer of the 331st Infantry.

25. 25 Sept '44 - 0730 - First Platoon enroute to establish Observation Posts in the vicinity of 998990 (Map, Central Europe 1/100,000 Sheet Neunkirchen). 0745 - Second Platoon enroute to BASSE KONTZ to establish Observation Posts in the vicinity of 0095 (same Map). 0900 - First Platoon OP's in place. Received accurate Artillery Fire from the enemy several times during the day. 0930 - Two 1/4 ton Patrols of the Second Platoon into BASSE KONTZ received rifle fire from this town and proceeded to 0097-985976 to First Platoon OP's. Headquarters and Third Platoons arrived at 962977. CP that location. 1015 - Third Platoon attempted to establish Observation Posts at 0095 and received Artillery fire from the enemy at 9997 and withdrew. 1030 - Patrol in HANTE KONTZ fired on from vicinity of RETTEL by Machine guns. OP in HANTE KONTZ, 977957, drew rifle fire at 1130, Machine gun fire at 1515 and again at 1630. 1215 - Crewless American B-17 crashed at 958011. 1700 - OP at HANTE KONTZ withdrawn. First Platoon remained in observation until 1800
26 Sept. 2000 - CP moved to 955005 (same map).

26. 26 Sept '44 - 0800 - Two Armored Car, M8, and two 1/4 ton trucks with machine guns mounted, attached to 2nd Bn, 331st Infantry to assist in the capture of Hill 248 at 993048. 0830 - OP established in HANTE KONTZ by Second Platoon. No enemy activity all day. OP withdrawn at 1730. 1800 - Third Platoon relieved First Platoon on OP's in the vicinity of 998990. 1930 - First Platoon closed in bivouac.

27. 27 Sept '44 - 0900 - Second Platoon enroute to 991976 to make dismounted reconnaissance into BASSE KONTZ, supported by fire from the Third Platoon. 1215 - Second Platoon patrol, 23 man strong, at 998970 drew fire from two machine guns at 001967. Third Platoon, supporting fire, drew heavy, accurate Artillery fire from Magnetic Azimuth of 120 degrees at 993972, to the extent of about thirty rounds. Our casualties: 1 EM. wounded. 1230 - Third Platoon OP drew machine gun fire from 976964. This position attacked and the enemy withdrew. Two German Rockets found. Attacking party continued to 985960 and was fired on by enemy Machine guns from across the MOSELLE river, Northeast of RETTEL. Attacking party withdrew, leaving OP at 986967 at 1415. 1430 - Outpost at 986967 brought in suspect in civilian clothes taken at outpost position. Suspect delivered to S-2, 331st Infantry. 1730 - Second Platoon relieved Third Platoon on OP duty. Third Platoon closed in bivouac at 1900. 2020 - Liaison Officer reports Troop relieved from attached to 331st Infantry to attached to the 329th Infantry, effective on relief of OP's by the 331st Infantry.

28. 28 Sept '44 - 0730 - Second Platoon OP relieved by 331st Infantry. 0830 - Troop enroute to CP, 329th Infantry, at Junglinster, 932247. Arrived at 1015. 1100 - Troop closed at CONSDORF, (993317, Map Central Europe, 1/100,000 Trier Sheet) CP that location. 1500 - Mounted patrols sent to BERDORF, 005370, 962384, and 025315. No enemy encountered. 1545 - Contact made with 85th Reconnaissance Battalion at 989383 and in BEFORT. 1730 - First Platoon reconnaissance Team established outpost at 995295 for the night. Troop mission: To patrol Area bounded on the North by the MOSELLE river; on the West, the line from 9429 to 990383; and on the East by the line from 0030 to ECHTERNACH (0536), exclusive; to drive out any enemy patrols in this Area; and to maintain contact with the 85th Reconnaissance Battalion on the left.

29. 29 Sept '44 - 0830 - First Platoon sent on patrols to 026333, to 028337, to 034348. Road block extends from 026333 to 028337. Trees felled across the road. Another at 026337, of 6 felled trees. Second Platoon made dismounted patrols through the woods from 0037 to 0139. Third Platoon in reserve at BERDORF. 1200 - No enemy contacts, by any Platoons. 1430 - First Platoon sent an ambush party of 1 Officer and 9 EM to 019370. Third Platoon sent ambush party of 1 Officer and 9 EM to 020364. Mission of both Platoons: To trap German patrols reported to be visiting BERDORF from ECHTERNACH occasionally. Second Platoon patrol, CONSDORF, BREITWEILER, Mullerthal, 984373, BARDORF. No enemy contacts by any Platoons.

30. 30 Sept '44 - 0530 - First Platoon and Third Platoon ambush parties returned to 020364 and 019370 respectively. 0800 - Third Platoon mounted party to BERDORF in reserve. Second Platoon dismounted patrol to BERDORF to patrol woods from 0037 to 0139 to 0337. 0810 - Third Platoon surprised 12 man German patrol at 0237. Believe three Germans wounded. 0915 - Second Platoon patrol encountered five Germans at 027378. Wounded two who fell over a cliff and believed to be killed by fall. 0930 - C. O. with elements of Headquarters, First, Second and Third Platoons escorted Public Address sound Truck to 037354 and to 0139, to wage psychological warfare on the Germans at ECHTERNACH and BELLENDORF. Small arms fire received at both places. German road block at 038355. 0950 - Third Platoon captured five Germans at 0237. Prisoners delivered to S-2 Coordinator, 329th Infantry at CONSDORF. 1430 - Third Platoon party returned to 019370. No enemy contacts. 1600 - First and Second Platoons moved to BERDORF to occupy village and prevent enemy traffic to South through village. 1610 - Lt. Jones, Troop C, 85th Reconnaissance Battalion, contacted the 83rd Reconnaissance Troop at CONSDORF and agreed to make contact patrols in BERDORF.

Heister H Drum

HEISTER H. DRUM,
Captain, Cavalry,
Commanding.

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