

Authority NND 735017
 AB NARA Date 6/19/03

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S E C R E T
 EIGHTY THIRD SIGNAL COMPANY
 A. P. O. 83
 United States Army

OPAD P
 Eto - 1

1 December 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against the Enemy.

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

THRU : Command Channels.

1. In compliance with Ltr Hq FUSA File 319.1/401 (c), dated 13 July 1944 and Par. 1, G2, AR 345-105, 9 March 1943, the following report is submitted.

2. GENERAL: 1 November to 8 November 1944, the 83d Division continued to hold it's position along the static Moselle River front on the East border of Luxembourg, with no change from the October situation during which the division headquarters and service installations were comfortably established in Luxembourg City. Action limited to routine patrols and artillery fire. On 8 November 1944, the division Command Post was advanced eleven miles south-east to Mondorf, Luxembourg in preparation for a follow-through behind the Third Army crossing of the Moselle River led by the 90th Infantry Division. After extensive communication preparation, the plan for participation was changed and on 14 November 1944, this division returned to its previous location and mission. On 17 November 1944, the Signal Company forward echelon, including the Construction Platoon, moved into the school building with the Radio Section in the Gesperich suburb.

3. WIRE CONSTRUCTION: The October situation and construction duties continued until 7 November, when circuits of combined open and field wire were laid to Mondorf by two 6-man teams for the division advance C.P. From there, in preparation for the expected advance, a five mile axis, spiral four cable 10-circuit line was installed and maintained. On November 12, 1944 one 10-man wire team went back to Luxembourg City to re-install the lines required for the return of the Division Command Post, to it's former location on November 14th. Division Artillery command post move on 16 November required a four mile 2-circuit line which was installed in 2 hours by 2 8-man teams with German cable.

A normal amount of trouble shooting by wire teams was required during the month. Principal causes of wire breaks were road and bridge construction activities and falling trees. No evidence of sabotage or enemy action.

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4. TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH AND TELETYPE OPERATION: The 45 man section was operating three centrals. Two TC-4's were required at the forward C.P. to service the 35 trunks and 30 local lines. Telegraph communication was maintained with four units and teletype to three units. Radio link and courier service, with equipment and operators supplied by VIII Corps, was in operation. One TC4 accommodated the two trunks and eleven locals at the Rear C.P. By use of simplex circuits and party lines, a BD-72 carried the trunk lines and eight locals at the service area central. On 4 November 1944, a 4-man team moved to Mondorf and installed a 20 trunk and 27 local line set-up. On 8 November the division command post moved to Mondorf and the rear C.P. moved into the old location of the forward C.P. On 14 November both echelons returned to their former locations. On 5 November, a captured German 80 drop, two position, switchboard was substituted for the two TC4s at the forward C.P. without interrupting communications. On 7 November the BD-72 at the service central was replaced with a 40 drop French commercial board using a lamp indicator. At the end of the month the forward board was maintaining 36 trunk lines and 42 locals.

5. RADIO OPERATIONS: The SCR-399 was operated in the corps command net. 4-man teams were attached to each Infantry Regiment. On 9 November 1944, a liaison team was sent to the 90th Division. On 10 November, the section moved to Mondorf and on the 12th returned to its former location and resumed operations in 45 minutes. On the 17th of November a liaison team was sent to Task Force POLK and traffic was received from them on the 18th. On 24 November this team was attached to the 10th Armored Division and are still with them. Transmitting distances ranged from 20 miles for secondary nets, to 35 miles for corps.

6. MESSAGE CENTER OPERATIONS: The situation existing for the last part of October was in effect. The section moved to Mondorf on the 9th of November and on the 12th returned to their former location. During the month the section handled approximately 1500 incoming and 1200 outgoing registered messages in addition to the 250 cryptograms and many routine and unregistered messages. Seven scheduled messenger runs were maintained in addition to a 94 mile round trip run to corps headquarters. The nine messenger jeeps averaged approximately 500 miles a week. The month's communication consisted of TWX to corps and army, Telegraph to three Infantry Regiments and Division Artillery, and wire and messenger to all units.

7. ADMINISTRATION, SUPPLY AND REPAIR OPERATIONS: The division signal office section published the "Division Radio News" daily and the "Sump Hole" once a week. On the November 20th, regular S.O.I. items and changes were published and distributed. The section moved to Mondorf on November 8th and returned to Luxembourg City on the 14th. The section draftsman drew up daily traffic and circuit diagrams and required charts.

The Signal supply section carried an average stock on hand of 700 miles of wire and 18000 batteries in addition to approximately four truck loads of miscellaneous supplies. Five trips, involving some eight trucks and averaging 300 miles per trip were made to the depot. During the month the division and attached units consumed approximately 615 miles of wire and 35000 batteries.

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By KNARA Date 9-7-10

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The Telephone and Telegraph Section of 5 men repaired 40 telephones and 24 switchboards during the month, approximately half of them requiring major repairs. An exchange system was used whenever possible. Many other items of equipment were repaired including captured enemy equipment.

The Radio Repair Section of 8 men repaired an average of 44 sets per week during the month, most of them requiring only minor repairs. An average of two hours a day were spent on enemy equipment and special service radios. On November 13th two men spent 8 hours a day for 4 days checking the division's radio equipment.

The Motor Section of 8 men put in an average of 300 man hours a week on mechanical labor involving both major and minor repairs and including winterization of all vehicles with prestone. Three trucks were covered with sheet metal for winter operations and five $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton vehicles were equipped with side shields.

The Mess Section of 16 men, divided into forward and rear kitchens, managed to serve ice cream on the first of the month and either cookies, cake or pie at least twice a week. A consolidated meal was served to the company on Thanksgiving Day, November 23rd.

The company supply section maintained the normal required amount of reserved supplies. A special issue of socks was made on the 15th of November.

Weekly laundry service and distribution of PX rations and clothing and equipment shortages was carried on. Changes in the T/O & E which came out November 3rd required requisitions for added clothing and equipment.

Training activities were a part of the daily schedule and all sections attended classes.

Marion L. Harkey
MARION L. HARKEY
Capt, Signal Corps
Commanding.

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Copy of Unit Journal for month of November 1944.

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