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S E C R E T**EIGHTY THIRD SIGNAL COMPANY****A. P. O. 83****United States Army****31 January 1945****SUBJECT: Narrative Report of Operations.****TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.****THRU : CHANNELS.**

1. On January first the division was in offensive action in the Belgium-Ardenne on the north shoulder of the German salient. The forward command post was at Barvau, Belgium and the company was located at Havelange, Belgium.

2. On January first the advance party, made up of the displacement teams, moved to Izier and set up the command post. On the second the command post was moved to Izier; the company moved into a school at Comblain-au-Pont. A robot bomb dropped ten minutes before the arrival of the company and shattered all the windows. The displacement teams went in at Jevigny on the seventh and the move was accomplished on the eighth. The rear echelon occupied the old installation at Izier. The company went in to a hunting lodge at Gran Bru. On the fifteenth of January, the command post was advanced to Ottre, Belgium, and the company was in the village of Vaux-Chavanne. On the twentieth the division was relieved by the 84th Infantry Division and a garrison installation was used at the CP in Hamoir. The company used a garrison set up in Houmart. One officer and eleven men were sent on pass to Paris, France. One officer and twenty men were sent to Verviers, Belgium to a corps rest camp.

3. Wire communication during the month was good with the usual interruptions. At Izier, the construction platoon began to use spiral four cable for the first time in Belgium, also began to use the existing open wire circuits along the railroad. These needed rebuilding due to the bridges which were blown out. All units were in a radius of twenty-five miles in the rest area. When the installation was first put in, a switch was used on the trunks to the regiments, but when a change of location was made the switch was taken out. Tanks gave the usual trouble and the rest was due to the weather. Ice formed on all wire off the ground causing it to short where it was tied. Cable gave less trouble than wire W-110 with the ice. Due to icy roads the wire was broken in the process of vehicles sliding in and out of the ditches. The 329th Infantry Regiment set up a small arms range in the rest area and all the open wire circuits were cut by bullets. Field wire was laid around the area. All spare teams spent their time picking up wire W-110 and cable which was difficult due to the deep snow.

4. The Telephone and Telegraph section operated the forward CP with about twenty locals and twenty-three trunks. The switchboard, teletypewriters and telegraph were housed in a HO-17. There were four radio link channels which

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Narrative Report of Operations, 83d Sig Co, (Cont'd)

were stand by to VII Corps. The rear CP at Jevigney used a German switchboard main frame. Due to the supply units being widely separated, a division supply board was used off the rear board and trunk lines were maintained from that point. Telegraph was suspended due to the rest period. In case of long lines and weak calls a EE-89 was used with special jack and plug box. It was attached to the HD-96 and the wire chief listened and operated the EE-89.

5. Message Center made the two scheduled runs a day to the divisional units. There was also the corps run. Difficulty was experienced due to the icy roads and there were five accidents. The men from the wrecked vehicles were sent to the company area because of crowded conditions. Cryptographic security was stressed and all violations reported. There was an excessive amount of power unit trouble in the section, which was cleared up by having a mechanic make frequent inspections. During the rest, operations continued but were not strenuous.

6. Radio communication was maintained throughout the operation. On January 1st, a radio team was detailed to the 75th Infantry Division. They returned to the company on the 3rd, and another team was sent to the 3rd Armoured Division to establish a point to point net. In addition to the command net, the SCR-399 worked with corps and also monitored the 3rd Armoured Division nets. On the 23rd when the division was pulled out of the line, radio communications ceased completely. This was the first day in seven months that our radio stations were not operating. During the lull when the section was in Hamoir, Belgium, the section performed tests on the SCR-300 and SCR-536 trying to find a means of keeping the batteries from freezing. The tests were continuing as the month ended.

7. The Repair and Maintenance Sections had the usual amount of work while the division was in the line. While in the rest area all units were getting their equipment serviced and the extra load caused the section to work in two shifts. Up to the 20th, twenty-two phones were brought in for repair, and after, there were sixty seven. The major cause of trouble was shrapnel and the minor was dirty contacts. Time was also spent with the 774th Tank Battalion working with and installing interphone systems. Three days were spent experimenting on a SCR-300 relay station for the Division Signal Office.

8. Signal supply averaged three trips to the depot a week with three trucks. The total mileage averaged 1800 miles a week. Five trucks were attached from 83rd Quartermaster Company for ten days. They made four trips to the depot and helped in two moves. In all of the four locations, storage space was sufficient, every thing was under cover except the wire. In extreme cold a stove was used to keep the reserved battery stock from freezing.

9. Company supply during the month of January completed the issue of overshoes. Campaign stars and service stripes were issued. The company was allocated fifty sets of arctic clothing. Sleeping bags were issued to all enlisted men. The laundry was slow due to the cold, the laundry units were frozen.

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10. The company motor section was active, there were 27 weekly, 42 monthly, and six 6,000-mile inspections. Four jeeps had new brake shoes and radiators. They repaired 57 flat tires, inspected and serviced 16 power units, changed motor in a PE-95, repaired ten wrecks and pulled a large number of vehicles out of ditches and snow banks.

11. The mess section operated two kitchens and served "E" rations continuously. Had pie, cookies or cake at least three times a week. Never missed cooking a meal during the moves made this month. Have been feeding the Belgium civilians whose homes we set up in.

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

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 By LNARA Date 9-7-10

S E C R E T**EIGHTY THIRD SIGNAL COMPANY**

A. P. O. 83
United States Army

31 January 1945

UNIT JOURNAL FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1945

- January 1: Company Strength: 9 Off; 4 W.O.; 271 EM
 Company left Havelange, Belgium at 1300, arrived new bivouac area
 Comblain-au-Pont, Belgium at 1500. Distance traveled 25 miles.
- 2: No change
- 3: No Change
4. No Change
5. Pvt Nathaniel B. Petty duty to absent sick 308th Med Bn Clearing
 Station. Pvs Ondie L. Dickerson and Ralph E. Repman, Jr. dropped
 from assignment.
6. Pvt Nathaniel B. Petty returned to duty from 308th Med Bn
 Clearing Station.
7. Pvt George W. Hart, Jr. dropped from assignment to 102nd Evacuation
 Hospital.
8. No Change
9. Tec/5 Elmer G. Ferrell dropped from assignment to 102nd Evacuati n
 Hospital. Company left Comblain-au-Pont, Belgium at 1030 and
 arrived at Grand Bru, Belgium at 1200.
10. Tec/5 Walter A. Weaver, St. dropped from assignment to 102nd
 Evacuation Hospital
11. Pfc John J. Schneider and Pvt Tilton S. Powell, Jr. were assigned
 and joined this organization from 92nd Replacement Battalion.
12. Tec/5 Thomas E. Duff appointed Tec/4, Pfc Robert I. Engler appointed
 Tec/5, and Pvs Earl E. Trostle and Rudolph Zamula appointed Private
 First Class.
13. Tec 5 Arthur W. Coleman dropped from assignment to 102nd Evacuation
 Hospital.
14. Pvt Jerome L. Schwartz was assigned and joined this organization
 from Hqs. 92nd Replacement Battalion.
15. 7 EM from 83d QM Co attached for rations only.

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Unit Journal for January 1945, 83d Sig Co (Cont'd)

- January 16. Company left Grand Bru, Belgium at 1300 and arrived at Vaux-Chavenne, Belgium at 1500.
17. No Change
18. 2nd Lt. Willis P. McCreary was assigned and joined thir organization from 92nd Replacement Depot.
19. No Change
20. Tec/5 Walter A. Weaver, Sr. assigned and joined from 102nd Evacuation Hospital. Pvt George F. Kekaula transferred to Loire Disciplinary Training Center, APO 517, U. S. Army per GCMO #9, Hq 83rd Inf Div dated 18 Jan 45. 83rd Signal Company awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for superior performance of duty during period 1 July 44 to 31 December 44, under provisions WD Cir 345, dtd 23 Aug 44 & GO #4, Hq 83d Inf Div dtd 16 Jan 45.
21. 7 EM from 83d QM Co relieved from attached for rations. Company left Vaux-Chavenne, Belgium at 1000 and arrived at Houmart, Belgium at 1200.
22. Tec/4 Sol Nahoum assigned and joined this organization from 92nd Replacement Battalion.
23. S/Sgt Joseph P. Schaefer dropped from assignment to 67th Evacuation Hospital
24. No Change. Pfc Robert E. Thopy was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 16 January 45 in Belgium.
25. No Change
26. Pvt George W. Hart Jr. assigned and joined this organization from Hq 92nd Replacement Battalion.
27. Pfc Wilmer J. Webster and Pvt Charles W. Miskimens were assigned to this organization from Hq 92nd Replacement Battalion. Tec/5 Elmer G. Ferrell assigned and joined from 102nd Evacuation Hospital. 1 officer and 13 EM from VII corps relieved from attached for rations.
28. Tec 4 Paul C. Cooper and Pvt Wesslie J. Arledge were assigned and joined this organization from 92nd Replacement Depot.
29. Tec/5 Arthur W. Coleman assigned and joined from 92nd Replacement Battalion. S/Sgt Joseph P. Schaefer assigned and joined from 67th Evacuation Hospital. Pvt Arthur H. McLean dropped from assignment to 67th Evacuation Hospital.
30. No Change
31. Company Strength: 10 Officers, 4 W.O., 275 EM.

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