

NOV 73 1944

HEADQUARTERS 330TH INFANTRY
APO 83, U. S. Army

3 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against the Enemy.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Thru Channels).

In accordance with paragraph 10, (c-3), AR 345-105, the following report after action for the month of August 1944 is submitted.

Period: 1 - 2 August 1944

Location: LE LORY (389815). Div in Corps reserve. Regiment reorganizing; cleaning and repairing equipment. Training in hedgerow fighting and firing MGs, bazookas and rifle grenades carried out. Reconnaissance of roads and assembly areas to S & S.W. made in conjunction with an alert order for movement.

3 August 1944

At 0005, CG issued order for Regiment to move by motor to assembly area in vicinity of PONTORSON (1602), a move of 75 miles. 330th Combat team, motorized crossed IP at 0225, and closed into assembly area at 1455. Entire move made without encountering enemy action but considerable delay was caused by roads congested with armor and supply columns. At 1830, CT 330, moved by truck to new assembly area near BAGEUR PICAN (025028) two miles east of DOL.

4 August 1944

At 1000, CT launched attack to seize DOL DE BRETAGNE (982025). 2nd Bn in assault astride road, 1st Bn on right rear and 3rd Bn on left rear. Only light resistance was met although extensive defensive positions consisting of road blocks, wire and AT ditches surrounded the town. At 1130 2nd Bn was on objective and proceeded through town toward main highway leading to FIERGUER (915005), the new Regt'l objective. 1st Bn remained in vicinity of Dol to clean out the MONT DOL sector (771050). Regt (- 1st Bn) advanced to vicinity of MINIAC (860992) where they moved into assembly area for night. No resistance was met after passing through DOL.

5 August 1944

Regt in Div Res. 3rd Bn was given mission (on Div order) to cross the RANCE River in vicinity of (800978) to establish a bridgehead across the river and block the main DINAN-DINARD road. Patrols were sent out during the night to reconnoiter for suitable site for crossing and to feel out enemy. 1st Bn moved from DOL at 0630 into assembly area joining rest of Regt. At 1900 3rd Bn crossed two companies in assault boats after arty and mortar concentrations drove enemy from positions. At 2000, 3rd Bn was ordered by CG to withdraw from bridgehead across river and was attached to Task Force A, commanded by Brig. Gen. Ernest. Withdrawal effected under heavy enemy arty concentrations. Regt (- 3rd Bn) moved to new assembly area vic of (865099) preparatory to launching attack on ST MALO.

6 August 1944

Regt (- 3rd Bn) attacked at 0900 in column of Bns, 1st Bn leading, advanced rapidly 3 1/2 kilometers and were on objective at 1130. At 1350 attack on ST MALO proper began with a rapid advance by 1st Bn until they were held up by a mine field. 2nd Bn was committed around left flank of 1st Bn.

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1944

August 1944

Attack on ST MALO renewed at 0630. 2nd Bn was held up by strong point (ST JOSEPH FORTRESS) (815142). This strong point consisted of permanent gun emplacements in granite rocks of a quarry. Shafts led down to caves hewn out of granite in which enemy holding this point were garrisoned. Stone walls and wire were in front of point. 1st Bn advanced to (809149) following heavy arty preparation on high ground to their front. 1st and 2nd Bns suffered 120 casualties and captured 215 prisoners.

8 August 1944

2nd Bn still held up at ST JOSEPH'S FORTRESS and spent most of the day trying to maneuver around it. 1st Bn initially held up at same strong point but sufficiently strong arty concentrations were placed in front of them to reduce long range mortars and MG fire allowing them to advance to the right of ST JOSEPH FORTRESS (814145). Arty continued to pound ST JOSEPH FORTRESS and 2nd Bn advanced a little taking many prisoners. By 2115, 185 prisoners had surrendered to 2nd Bn and Lt. Col. Norris at 2140, requested arty fire to cease to enable more prisoners to surrender. 2nd Bn resumed attack and were still attempting to close in on bunkers at 2400. Casualties for day 124. 350 prisoners captured.

9 August 1944

2nd Bn continued attack on bunkers till 0245 but were forced to give up attempt to occupy them during darkness due to FPL MG fire along wire and stone walls. At 0725 Germans in ST JOSEPH FORTRESS (815141) began negotiations for surrender with the 2nd Bn and the greater part of the morning was spent by 2nd Bn in taking over the fort. 434 prisoners were brought to the PW cage. After passing the fort opposition was light except for SP guns. 1st Bn launched attack at 0830 and moved forward against slight resistance. By 1120 A Co had reached the waters edge of ST MALO in its zone (798144) and B Co was close behind in its zone, and operations began to comb out snipers and pockets of resistance which had been by-passed. L Co and 2nd Bn, 331st Inf, attached to the Regt for operations against old ST MALO and LE VARDE peninsula. Total PWs for the day: 657.

10 August 1944

1st Bn attacked across causeway (797151) leading to old ST MALO, progress slow. Enemy fought from house to house and had to be blasted out by TD fire and grenades. Heavy fire was received from islands to the north. 2nd Bn 331st started attack to seize ST IDEUC (828161). Patrols were pushed into town but were withdrawn, Bn received fairly heavy fire from LE VARDE peninsula, believed to be naval guns and automatic artillery (AA) from ST IDEUC. Heavy arty fire was laid on ST IDEUC and part of garrison surrendered. 2nd Bn 331st Inf casualties: 9.

11 August 1944

1st Bn relieved 2nd Bn in its sector and continued mission of occupying old ST MALO. 2nd Bn detached and moved to DINARD area under Div control. 1st Bn operations consisted principally of reducing pillboxes and silencing arty fire from ST MALO. At close of day 1st Bn had advanced to point (792150) and occupied the CASINO. 2nd Bn 331st Inf progress slow but methodic in face of arty fire from concrete and steel coastal defense bunkers. Anti-Aircraft guns were used by enemy as direct fire weapons. Pillboxes, bunkers, and strong points were reduced with aid of heavy arty, and tank destroyer weapons. French Resistance forces under command of an American officer protected our right flank. 2nd Bn 329 was attached to Regt on evening of 11th for operations on following day.

12 August 1944

1st Bn 330th Inf with L Co 331st Inf, attached continued attack on the CHATEAU (78951500) guarding approach to ST MALO. No great progress made. Efforts to reduce walls, pillboxes and gun emplacements by heavy arty and direct fire weapons was continued. CHATEAU was dive bombed at 1330. Enemy 20mm guns still active. 2nd Bn 331st captured fort at ST IDEUC (825164) taking 160 prisoners in process, then advanced steadily and strong point at LA FRESNE (825169) was taken in early afternoon. 2nd Bn 329th launched its attack on LE VERDE peninsula and assisted 2nd Bn 331st by flanking strong points that had held up their advance.

NO. 235047

12 August 1944 (cont.)

G Co, 329th Inf, on the left of Bn sector was held up by bunkers at LA BASTILLE (839169). After reducing this strong point the Bn advanced rapidly through skillful use of supporting tanks, TDs and other supporting weapons. By 2130 all the area SE of LA VERDE peninsula had been cleaned out and the peninsula itself cut off. French Resistance forces occupied ST VINCENT (843171) and had a strong patrol in ROTHENEUF (831181) after patrols during previous night found them unoccupied by the Germans. Total prisoners for the day: 303.

13 August 1944

No change in tactical situation in ST MALO sector. 1500 civilians evacuated from ST MALO under a truce. 2nd Bn 329th relieved 2nd Bn 331st in its sector. 2nd Bn 331st reverted to control of the 331st Inf. 2nd Bn 329th cleaned out rest of LE VERDE peninsula after stubborn resistance of fortified positions at (818176) and (820118) was overcome. Fire from AT and TD weapons kept bunkers buttoned up while infantry assaulted with grenades and flame throwers. 106 prisoners, four of which were officers, taken in capture of bunkers.

14 August 1944

Heavy arty fire was placed on THE CHATEAU and old ST MALO at dawn. At 0900 1st Bn began assault. 3" TD guns were employed to smother fire of enemy and smoke was placed on flank to prevent enemy from using supporting fires from the CITADEL. Tanks were employed but ran into minefields and were unable to advance. Infantry surged through the city gates into the city of old ST MALO meeting only slight resistance. I Co 331st Inf and A Co, 330th Inf, by-passed the CHATEAU and went on into the city. Only snipers and MGs were encountered in mopping up the city. MGs firing from top of the CHATEAU hampered efforts of C Co to place prepared demolitions on walls of building. Upon use of the demolitions the enemy garrison surrendered. 150 PWs taken from CHATEAU. Casualties - none. 329th Inf relieved the 1st Bn 330th Inf in ST MALO, at 1900. Regt (- 2nd and 3rd Bns) at 2130 began move by motor to assembly area at BOIS DE PONTUAL. (092732).

15 August 1944

Regt and attachments closed into assembly area in early part of morning. Regt given mission of mopping up a sector by-passed by 331st Inf in its attack on DINARD. No enemy found in sector. Remainder of day given over to rest for troops. All attachments released. 2nd Bn reverted to Regtl control and moved to assembly area vicinity of Regt.

Period 16, 17 and 18 August 1944

Regt in Reserve. Care and cleaning of personnel and equipment and training programs carried out.

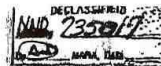
19 August 1944

Regiment ordered to garrison the ST MALO - DINARD Area from CONCALE (918171) west along the coast to ST JACUT DE LA MER (S 6609). Mission: Locate and guard enemy supplies and equipment, maintain order, capture or prevent enemy forces from landing along coast. 1st Bn relieved 331st Inf in DINARD sector. 2nd Bn relieved 329th Inf in ST MALO Area. Regtl CP located on the outskirts of DINARD (76581220). 323d FA Bn (- 1 Btry) and Co C, 802d TD Bn attached.

Period 20 - 24 August 1944

During period search and consolidation of German supplies carried out. Outposts along coast established with motorized patrols maintaining contact. German food and supplies issued civilians through Civil Affairs section and Regtl Supply section. An attempt on 20 August was made, under white flag of truce, to induce garrison on ILE DE CEZEMBRE (758180) to surrender. Attempt unsuccessful. Harassing fire from Arty and TD guns on CEZEMBRE continued. ILE DE CEZEMBRE being the only German resistance remaining in this area. On 21 Aug, 150 FFI were attached to Regt. 50 in turn were attached to 1st Bn and 100 to 2nd Bn for employment.

Period 20 - 24 August (Continued)



On August 22 propaganda leaflets were fired on island by Arty after which another party, under flag of truce, again went to island to try and induce them to surrender, this attempt also unsuccessful. Island was dive bombed on 23 August.

25 August 1944

Co E relieved 1st Bn in the DINARD area and 2nd Bn took over responsibility of garrisoning the ST MALO - DINARD Sector. Cannon Co was attached to 2nd Bn for this mission. At 1000, Regt (- 2nd, 3rd Bns and Cn Co) with 325d FA Bn and Co C, 802d TD Bn attached, departed from ST MALO - DINARD area on 180 mile road march to CHATEAU LA VALLIERE (484852). The movement was made without incident. 308th Engr Bn, a provisional battery of 453d AAA Bn (AW) consisting of quadruple .50 cal. guns and two recon platoons of 802d TD Bn were attached to Regt to assist in carrying out mission of establishing OPs and patrols, and to search out and prevent enemy from infiltrating across LOIRE River between SAUMUR (exclusive) and ORLEANS (exclusive). 1st Bn closed into assembly area vic of CLERE (530714) and Regtl Hq and attachments vic 2 1/2 miles south of CHATEAU LA VALLIERE at 2200.

26 August 1944

1st Bn reconnoitered and outposted LOIRE River line from SAUMUR 1755 (exclusive) to TOURS (7567) (exclusive) LANGAIS (540603) and CINQ-MARS-LA-PILE (582628) thought to be enemy strong points were occupied. All enemy in sector driven south of LOIRE River. Patrols consisting of elements of the I & R Platoon, quadruple .50 cal. guns of 453d AAA Bn and motorized infantry were formed. These patrols reconnoitered area N and N.W. of TOURS and vic S., S.E. and S.W. of CHATEAU LA VALLIERE. Contact made with Free French, who were active in area, and plans for coordination of efforts effected.

27 August 1944

1st Bn continued to man OPs and patrol area in its sector. River line and area between TOURS and ORLEANS patrolled. No contact with enemy made in either sector. Efforts to coordinate and equip FFI with German equipment continued. The caves captured at CINQ-MARS-LA-PILE (582628) was found to contain German supplies, principally food, of tremendous proportions. There existed tunnels, some 22 kilometers in length, with large store rooms off each side of tunnel. Regtl Staff contacted Div Hq to get a higher Hq to take over control of caves to avoid complications with FFI who claimed possession of the captured stores.

28 August 1944

At 0800, 329th Inf assumed control of 330th sector. 1st Bn 330th was attached to 329th Inf and remained in present positions. At 0830, Regt (less 3 Bns) plus Co B 808th Engrs and Co C, 802d TD Bn attached moved by motor to DINARD. Regt closed into assembly areas at 1900. Because joint operations with navy were to be inaugurated to seize ILE DE CEZEMBRE (755180), elements of Div forward CP were moved to Regt CP.

29 - 30 August 1944

Plans for assault of CEZEMBRE were formulated and 2nd Bn troops receiving training in landing technique using alligators and LCPs. Softening up process on island continued with air bombings, naval bombardment and arty fire.

31 August 1944

Softening process continued. 300 Heavy bombers and 24 P51's, latter with oil bombs, bombed island. 8" Howitzers and 8" guns shelled island.

Total Casualties for Period 525
Total Prisoners for Period 2,191