

29th Infantry Division  
After-Action-Report  
September 1944

PHASE VIII (CONT'D) - REDUCTION OF THE MONTRESS BAST  
1 - 10 September 1944

The VIII Corps continued the attack on MONTRESS on 1 September 44, with the 29th Division on the right, the 2nd Division on the left and the 6th Division in the center. The 29th Division on this date had the following attachments:

021st Engr Bn (T)  
Co A, 6888 Central Postal Directory Bn  
Bns A and B, 60th Cav Recon Sqdn (attached to Task Force "Sugar")  
Co A, 707th Tank Bn (1 platoon attached to 175th Inf)  
(Co A, less one platoon, attached to Task Force "Sugar")  
2nd Ranger Bn (attached to Task Force "Sugar")  
Co A, 60th Cal Bn (attached to 110th Inf)

The division at 0700 hrs 1 September resumed the attack from the general line vic of MONTRESS (091503) - MONTRESS (091020) - MONTRESS (V805903). The division had therefore reached and partially passed through the first main defensive line of the enemy with Hill 103 as one of the principal keys in this line as was conclusively proved by the determined resistance the enemy put up there. The 115th Infantry on the left held a frontage of 7,000 yards with the 1st and 2nd Bns in line. These two Bns fired heavy diversionary fires for this attack while the 3rd Bn in reserve continued the training of replacements. The attack of the 110th Infantry met extremely heavy resistance and the three Bns had gained little ground at 1015 hrs when the attack was halted. Intense artillery fire hit the 2nd and 3rd Bns of the 175th Infantry and the attack got under way. The 2nd Bn advanced 300 yds during the day while the 3rd Bn in the face of stiff opposition made no advance. The 1st Bn during this period continued working up operations on Hill 103 (high ground at MONTRESS (V805903)). Task Force "Sugar" composed of the 2nd Ranger Bn, Bns A and B, 60th Cav Recon Sqdn, 1 platoon, Co A, 121st Engr Bn, Co A, 707th Tank Bn (less 1 platoon) continued to attack enemy strong points on the MONTRESS peninsula, and had advanced by 0600 hrs 1 September to the line 400 yds N of MONTRESS (V75402) 300 yds W of MONTRESS (V773907) - MONTRESS (1000975).

The 5th Ranger Bn (less Cos C, D and E) was attached to the division at 0950 hrs 1 September and was given the mission of reducing enemy forces at MONTRESS (V805903). During this period Co A, 60th Cal Bn effectively supported the attack of both the 175th and 110th Infantry regiments.

At 1000 hrs 2 September, the 110th and 175th Inf Regts resumed the attack on MONTRESS while the 110th continued holding the defensive line in its sector and fired every available weapon from the division attached, for diversionary purposes. The 3rd Bn 110th Infantry continued the training of its replacements and prepared for possible employment as division reserve. The 110th Infantry attacking, and the 1st and 2nd Bns met extremely heavy resistance. The 1st and 2nd Bns succeeded in making some slight gain during the day, consolidating for the night on positions 300 yards W of MONTRESS. The 175th Infantry in the center of the division, however, also met extremely heavy resistance and the attack was halted at 2000 hrs on the forward slopes of Hill 103 approximately 60 yards W of MONTRESS (V800990). The 3rd Bn, 110th Inf and Co A, 60th Cal Bn were attached to the 175th Inf at 1000.

Task Force "Sugar" continued the mission of reducing the MONTRESS peninsula defenses, maintained pressure against the enemy and advanced slightly in the center of its zone. The trench forces of the interior operated in conjunction with Task Force "Sugar" and patrolled vigorously.

3 September, the 29th Division continued the attack to seize the eastern portion of MONTRESS, the division objective.

The 1st and 2nd Bns, the attacking Bns of the 110th Infantry moved out under close artillery support. The plan was to have the artillery concentrations just ahead of the advancing troops and for the troops to take immediate advantage of this fire by advancing as soon as the fire was lifted. Operations for the day were concluded in the middle of the afternoon, after registering gains of approximately 300 yds.

The 3rd Bn, 115th Inf attacked at 0600 hrs and was given close support by Co A, 60th Cml Bn. Resistance at the outset was light, but heavier resistance developed as the attack progressed. A few hundred yards were gained and the close of operations found this Bn some 1800 yds W of LA TAILLE (V076980) and immediately SE of the notorious Hill 103 (V060998). The 3rd Bn, 175th also attacked at 0600 hrs, but made no gain and early in the afternoon, 3 September, was ordered to hold the line in their sector of the Regimental zone. Later on that afternoon this Bn took over the area occupied by the two right flank Cos of the 115th Inf. This relief was completed at 2300 hrs, 3 September. The 1st and 2nd Bns were then withdrawn to assembly areas to receive and train replacements.

The 115th Infantry had a boundary change during this period. Part of the 2nd Bn outside the new boundary (see Map #1) was relieved by elements of the 28th Infantry of the 8th Inf Div. The 3rd Bn 175th Inf relieved elements of the 1st Bn 115th Inf during the night as the right boundary of the 115th Inf also changed. Co A, 60th Cml Bn and 1 pliat, Co A, 70th Tk Bn were attached at 1600 hrs. Task Force "SULAN" continued operations on LA CUE BAI peninsula where gains were made in the center of the zone. The 5th Ranger Bn continued with the mission of destroying enemy forces located in the vicinity of POINTE DE CHATELAIN (V814947) and POINTE DE CHATELAIN (V082943). At 1415 hrs 3 September this Bn captured the fort at (V082947) on POINTE DE CHATELAIN and continued the attack to the E.

All Regiments during the day 4 September defended on the positions gained 3 September and prepared for the night attack scheduled to take place the night of 3-4 September.

The 115th Infantry (less 3rd Bn) made extensive use of Chemical mortars on enemy pill-boxes. One pliat of the 621st Tn Bn of also assisted in this mission. The 110th Infantry, with the 1st and 2nd Bns at acting jumped off at 2100 hrs on a limited objective attack. Resistance initially consisted of small arms fire, but strong enemy positions were met as the attack developed. A gain of 600 yards was made, however, placing this Bn in a position a few hundred yards E of LA TAILLE. The 3rd Bn 115th Inf, attached to the 175th Inf, was the attacking Bn in the 175th zone of action while the 1st and 2nd Bns, 175th Inf continued rehabilitation. The attack got under way on time and good progress was made. Some three hundred yards was gained on the left, while eight hundred yards were gained in the right sector of this Bn. This move gained the high ground E of Hill 103.

The remainder of the 5th Ranger Bn, formerly attached to the 2nd Division, reverted to Bn control. This Bn continued the reduction of enemy fortifications in the POINTE DE CHATELAIN - POINTE DE CHATELAIN area. Approximately two thousand yards of the coast line in this area was cleared during this period.

Task Force "SULAN" continued operation on the LA CUE BAI peninsula and during this period had advanced immediately W of CUSUHR (V800974) and W of ZERVA (V775960).

During this entire phase excellent close support was accorded the Division by the 4th Tactical Air Command. This support was achieved and coordinated by the Air Support Party attached to Division. Fighter-bombers operating in flights of four directly supported the Division "on call" missions. They were very effective not only because of their destructive capabilities, but also because of the psychological effect on the enemy. This support was available on all days that the weather permitted and medium and heavy bombers furnished support through VIII Corps.

Co A, 60th Cml Bn was detached from the 115th Infantry attached to Task Force "SULAN" at 1600 hrs. The 3rd Bn 110th Inf was also attached to the Task Force at this time.

During the day 5 September no further advance was attempted and the enemy was simply contained on all Regimental sectors. The following attachments were made during this period:

Co A, 60th Cml Bn detached from 115th Inf at 1600 hrs  
3rd Bn, 110th Inf attached to Task Force "SULAN" at 1600 hrs

The 5th Ranger Bn continued offensive operations along the coast and gained approximately two thousand yards.

The XIX Tactical Air Command on 6 September was extremely active in the Division zone and operated chiefly in the zones of the 115th Inf and Task Force "SUGAR". Eighteen missions were executed and 102.5 tons of bombs were dropped in addition to vigorous strafing of enemy positions. At 1500 hrs evidence of enemy withdrawal, attributable to the bombing was noted and the 1st and 2nd Bns 115th Inf advanced approximately nine hundred yards. The 1st Bn 116th Inf also advanced three hundred and fifty yards through slight resistance. The 175th Inf finding the same conditions of withdrawal to their front moved their 3rd Bn and the 3rd Bn, 115th Inf atchd forward behind strong combat patrols. The close of this period therefore found the 29th Division advanced to the line: POINTE DU DIABLE (V894963) - 400 yds E of LA TRINITE (V897980) - 200 yds N of BRAWLLOW (Q890018) - 600 yds N of KEROULDRY (Q915021)

Task Force "SUGAR" attacked 0830 hrs 6 September and gained eight hundred yards during the period which advanced the unit to an arc with its zenith centered on KERGAYID (V785973). One plat Cn Co, 116th Inf was attached at 1910 hrs.

The 7 September all Regiments continued the probing of enemy positions to establish the depth of their withdrawal and to "feel out" new strongpoints.

The 3rd Bn 115th Infantry was relieved by the 1st Bn, 175th Inf at 1900 hrs and closed into an assembly area in Regimental Reserve and later at 2230 hrs was relieved by the 2nd Bn, 175th Inf in position.

Task Force "SUGAR" attacked on 7 September with the 3rd Bn, 116th as the attacking element. Resistance stiffened as the attack developed and artillery fire was particularly heavy. The line running 200 yds W of KERGAYID (V785973) and KERGARET (V788964) was reached however at the close of operations. The following attachments and detachments were made 7 September:

- 1st Plat, Co A, 709th Tk Bn relieved of atchmt to 115th Inf at 1300 hrs
- 5th Ranger Bn (less Cos B & F) atchd to Task Force "SUGAR" at 1300 hrs
- 1 Plat, Co A, 709th Tk Bn
- Co A, 121st Ingr C Bn (less 2 Plats)
- Co A, 64th TD Bn SP
- 22nd FA Bn
- Btry C, 227th FA Bn
- Co A, 86th Qd Bn relieved of atchmt to Task Force "SUGAR" at 1600 hrs
- Co A, 86th Qd Bn atchd to 175th Inf at 1800 hrs.

The 175th and 115th Infantry Regiments were the attacking Regiments on 8 September in the attack that jumped off at 1000 hrs. The 116th Inf (less 3rd Bn) defended in this sector during this period and at 0930 hrs fired all mortars to assist the attack of the other Regiments. The 1st and 2nd Bns, 115th Inf also attacked at 1000 hrs. The 1st Bn registered a gain of 1200 yards and captured the old fort in the vic of Q922018. The 2nd Bn (atchd 1 plat, Co A, 709th Tk Bn) advanced 800 yards to capture the strongpoint KERGONANT (Q927032).

The 2nd Bn, 175th Inf continued against heavier opposition and gained approximately 500 yards. The 3rd Bn sent out strong combat patrols and by this means the main body advanced 600 yards during the day.

Task Force "SUGAR" continued the attack through 8 September. The 3rd Bn, 116th Inf encountered moderate opposition and occupied the town of MLOUONVELIN (V775956) and the high ground in that vicinity. The 5th Ranger Bn through the extensive use of patrols advanced to occupy the ground in the vicinity of KERGEO (V768986). One platoon, Co A, 709th Tk Bn was relieved of attachment to the Task Force and attached to the 115th Infantry during this period. The 29th Cav Rcn Tr operated on the LE COMJNET Peninsula and maintained contact between the 116th Inf, Task Force "SUGAR" and Cos B and F, 5th Ranger Bn. The Troop also operated Q's along the coast from POINTE DE CREACHEUR (V780946) to FORT DE BELLEC (V890958).

The 115th Infantry (less 3rd Bn) and with 1 platoon, Co B, 709th Tk Bn attached began its attack on the 9 September at 0900 hrs. The 1st Bn on the right defended in its zone. The 2nd Bn was the attacking unit for the Regiment and advanced on the left flank to capture the town of LAO (027020) and then in the late afternoon this Bn was relieved by the 1st. At 1500 hrs the 3rd Bn was relieved of attachment to the 175th Infantry and began the occupation of that area held by the 3rd Bn 175th Infantry.

The 2nd Bn was also the attacking Bn for the 175th Infantry 9 September. Heavy small-arms fire was met and very little gains were registered during the day. The 3rd Bn contained the enemy in the positions secured on 6 September. The change in boundary between the 115th and the 175th Inf Regts was effective at 2230 hours and the 3rd Bn 175th, after it was relieved by the 3rd Bn, 115th Inf, moved to an assembly area in Regimental Reserve. The 116th Infantry with the 2nd Bn in line assisted the advance of the Regiment on the left, the 175th Inf, by fire while the 1st Bn continued rehabilitation training with emphasis on battle and bayonet drills.

Task Force "BUGAR" on this day employed in its attack from left to right the 3rd Bn, 116th Inf, 2nd Ranger Bn, 5th Ranger Bn (less Cos C & D). Early in the morning enemy opposition was very determined but in the late morning hours the enemy forces broke and all units of the Task Force advanced with small opposition. At 1330 hrs the commander of the LAO CO, GPF (V733982) garrison surrendered the peninsula. This left only a few isolated strongpoints and the Task Force made preparations to reduce these the following day.

10 September was occupied largely in the shifting of forces and boundaries. The 175th Infantry, however, continued the attack at 0900 hrs. The 2nd Bn as the attacking unit could make no headway, so at 1130 hrs the 1st Bn was committed through the 2nd Bn and succeeded in gaining some five hundred yards. This established the Regiment on the line 1700 yds N of KSA V. LAM (030000).

The 115th Infantry maintained pressure against the enemy and at 2310 hrs that evening the 8th Division officially took over the 115th area and the 1st and 3rd Bns moved to an assembly area just S of LAO (030100) (V352990). The 2nd Bn moved directly from their assembly area to relieve the 1st Bn, 175th Inf on position. One platoon, Co B, 709th Tk Bn was relieved from attachment to the 115th Inf at 1200 hrs and attached to the 175th Infantry. The 116th Infantry was placed in Division reserve after the 2nd Bn had been passed through by the 175th Infantry. Rehabilitation training, therefore, occupied the entire Regiment. This period saw a shift of the Division to the south as VIII Corps closed in on BANG.

Task Force "BUGAR" on 10 September eliminated the last resistance on the LAO CO, GPF peninsula by taking the fort at LAO BLANCHE. (V731987)

The boundary between the 2nd and 8th Infantry Divisions changed during this period. VIII Corps plan called for the 8th Division to be relieved by the 2nd Division, thereby relieving the 8th for operations on the GULCOB peninsula.

The 115th and 175th Inf Regts each attacked with their 2nd Bns on 11 September at 1030 hrs. The 115th Inf met generally heavy resistance throughout the day but continued the attack until 2045 hours at which time vertical gridline 04 was reached (line extending due N from Fort DE BUISSAC (V390950). At 1100 hrs this day 1 platoon, Co B, 709th Tk Bn was detached from the 115th Inf and attached to the 175th Inf. The 3rd Bn, 115th Inf moved to an assembly area N of LAO (030100) in the afternoon in preparation for an attack on 12 September. At 1000 hrs Co B, 709th Tk Bn was attached.

The 175th Infantry was also forced to advance slowly due to heavy small arms and mortar fire and that evening at 2000 hours had reached positions at LAO (030000) where the Bn halted and reorganized on position for the resumption of the attack. The 1st Bn jumped off one hour later than the 2nd Bn. Extremely heavy small-arms fire was met but 300 yds were gained before the Bn halted in the early afternoon. This Bn then took to the attack at

1030 hours but very little rain was registered.

The 116th Inf continued training in the rain paying special attention to training in assault of fortified positions.

Main force "Cobra" having completed the reduction of the 1st Bn. ST Peninsula was effectively dispersed at 1030 hours this day and all units reverted to parent control, the 2nd Bn. ST reverting to Division control.

Both A and B Cos, both 3rd Bn rendered valuable fire support to the 115th and 175th Infantry Regiments. Experience with these was proved conclusively the value of mass firing by platoon. Such a concentration was found more effective and because fires were delivered for a shorter period, the mortars were consequently harder to locate. One occasion when only one Bn in a Regiment was attacking, the fire of these platoons could be brought to bear on a single target (swamp road, magazine, etc). Such an action was accomplished by setting up a simple fire direction center and by using 100 rounds, one with the ground observer, and with the fire direction center and one in the platoon itself. An experience had also shown that the enemy expected us to place our mortars in areas of ravines, the best location for these was found to be well up on the reverse slope of a hill. The four mortars in the platoon are placed 50 yards apart and usually all mortars use the same azimuth. On occasion, however, the fire of all mortars is converged by using the deflection table. For registration all four mortars register one round on the base point and when the registration mortar is fired all mortars correct with the same data as the registration mortar.

The 116th Infantry resumed the attack just after midnight on 11 September and had advanced approximately 100 yards at 0200 hrs 12 September. The 3rd Bn attacked through the 2nd in the late morning hours with the objective of seizing the segmental objective. Fort 1042500 (1907507) was captured by the 3rd on after stiff resistance was overcome. The 1st Bn was committed on the 1st of the 3rd and at the end of the day this Bn had reached a line 200 yards from Fort 1042500 (1907507). The attack by the Regiment on this day, therefore, had netted gains of approximately 1200 yards on the 1st and 1000 yards on the 3rd. Coy 1042500 (less 1 plct) was attached at 2100 hours to the 115th Inf.

The 111st and 3rd Sqdn (Buff's) (Br) was attached to the Division at 0001 hrs 12 September and then at 2100 hrs was attached to the 116th Inf. This Sqdn was equipped with "crocodile" flame-throwing tanks and the 116th Infantry Regiment trained with this squadron in the assault on fortified positions in preparation for possible employment in the 175th zone of action.

1st Bn on the left, 2nd Bn on the right constituted the attacking formation of the 175th Infantry as the Regiment continued the attack begun in the early morning hours of 12 September. The 1st Bn captured the town of Kham (086002) at 0915 hrs and continued the attack with slight opposition, and by nightfall when the attack was halted had reached a line approximately 500 yards from Fort 1042500 (1905995). The 2nd Bn also met comparatively little opposition during the day and by nightfall this Bn held the line beginning 500 yards from Fort 1042500 and extending approximately 300 yards W.

The 29th Cav Recon Troop maintained contact between the 1st and 3rd Bns, 5th Tiger Bn until 2000 hrs this day when the troop shifted to the east to maintain contact between the 175th Inf and the 20th Inf, 8th Div on the left. This therefore saw the continuation of the penetration of the enemy's second main defense line with the Forts 1042500 and 1042500 as the main bastions.

During the night 12-13 September the enemy reoccupied Fort 1042500 with small force. The 1st and 3rd Bns, 115th Inf attacking abreast at 1030 hrs 13 September gained no ground due to heavy opposition. During the entire period the enemy continued attacks to regain the ground of the ditch at Fort 1042500, but all attacks were unsuccessful. The 116th Inf moved into a forward assembly area in preparation for going into the line between the 115th and 175th



Infantry Regiments. At the close of the day 13 September, the 1st Bn 116th Inf was in the process of relieving elements of the 1st Bn 115th Inf in the vicinity of Fort MONTBAREY.

The 2nd Bn 175th Inf launched an attack at 1100 hrs aimed at Fort KERANROUX (V915995). In just 20 minutes the capture was complete and at darkness the Bn consolidated just E of the Fort. Co A, 86th Cml Bn was relieved of attachment to the 175th and attached to the 116th Inf at 1800 hrs.

The 8th Infantry Division after being pinched out moved to the CROCQON Peninsula and the 2nd Division was then on the left of the 29th and the 29th Cav Acn Tr maintained contact with them. The 5th Ranger Bn operated on the Division's right flank with a protective mission and they were supported by 1 plat, Co A, 644th TD Bn SF who effectively neutralized emplacements at V904970.

Relief of the 1st Bn 115th Inf by the 1st Bn 116th Inf was completed at 1400 hrs. The 3rd Bn 115th Inf was relieved by the 2nd Bn 115th Inf at 140105 hrs. All Regiments of the Division attacked at 0800 hrs on 14 September.

The 2nd Bn 115th Inf was unsuccessful in the first attack and gained no ground but at 1400 hrs Hill 91 (V900980) just SW of Fort MONTBAREY was taken. The night the enemy counter-attacked and regained the hill. The 116th Inf attacked in a column of Bns with the 1st Bn leading. At noon the 3rd Bn was committed on the left and succeeded in capturing enemy emplacements along the LADIMITE - RECOUVRANCE road (V920988). At 1615 hrs the 1st Bn in conjunction with the "crocodile" flame-throwing tanks of the 111st MAC Sqdn attacked and captured positions in the vicinity of Fort MONTBAREY. The Regiment was buttoned up for the night at 2030 hrs in an arc approximately 400 yds to the SE of Fort MONTBAREY.

The 1st Bn 175th Inf attacked towards the butts of the Naval Firing Range which they succeeded in capturing at 1230 hrs. The 2nd Bn whose initial objective was the CR (at V921993) completed its initial mission and in the late afternoon consolidated for the night. The 3rd Bn was committed at 1454 hrs. This Bn passed through the other two and captured its objective (at V935998). The 5th Ranger Bn (less Co B) continued the protection of the right flank of the 29th Division and advanced to conform with the advance of the 115th Inf on its left.

During most of the 15 September the 115th Inf continued to hold defensive positions W of Hill 91 which the enemy had regained the night before. At 1615 hrs the 1st Bn moved through the zone of the 116th Inf to attack from main road E of Fort MONTBAREY towards the rear of the fortifications on the hill. The attack was successful and the Bn stopped for the night. The 2nd Bn which was assisted by fire the attack of the 1st moved forward on the flank of the 1st Bn. The 3rd Bn (less Co L) also moved into the zone of the 116th Inf and packed at 1915 hrs due S from the main road at ST PIERRE (V911988). 50 yds were gained and at 2330 hrs the Bn halted along the line (V911982 - V911982). At 1210 hrs Co L was attached to the 5th Ranger Bn.

The 1st Bn, 116th Inf continued to mop up enemy positions on the perimeter of Fort MONTBAREY and succeeded in encircling the Fort itself. The 3rd Bn attacked at 1000 hrs this day and succeeded in gaining approximately 800 yds. The 175th Inf with one plat Co A, 709th Tr Bn attached maintained defensive positions and attacked in the vicinity of the Naval Firing Range. The 1st continued in defense of the butts of Naval Firing Range NW of RECOUVRANCE and also protected the left flank of the Regiment. The 2nd Bn continued the defense of Fort KERANROUX and protected the right flank of the Regiment. The 3rd Bn attacked and by the end of the day 15 September had reached positions just E of the SE end of the Naval Firing Range.

The 5th Ranger Bn on the Division right flank encircled LA CUSQUEN (903974) and here they buttoned up for the night.

At 1000 hrs on 16 September the 115th Inf once more resumed the attack on RECOUVRANCE with the 1st and 3rd Bns abreast, 1st Bn on the right. Enemy fire from numerous pillboxes was very heavy and the attack was halted until 1000 hrs when the 1st Bn again jumped off and seized the high ground 150 yds SE of KERNELIN (V922978). The 2nd Bn moved to a forward assembly area and reached the LD at 1440 hrs. At 1945 hrs it attacked and gained 300 yds just SE of

KERDIA. The 3rd Bn 115th also resumed the attack at 1107 hrs and succeeded in taking the high ground N of KERDIAIOS (V914977). Co L was relieved of attachment to the 5th Ranger Bn at 1200 hrs and Co B, 86th Cml Bn supported the attack of the 1st and 3rd Bns during this period.

The mission of the 110th Inf was to reduce enemy resistance in RECOUVRANCE S of the Naval Firing Range. The attacking formation used was 2nd and 3rd Bns abreast with each Bn in a column of Companies. Progress was necessarily slow as house-to-house fighting was the type engaged in, but resistance was generally light. The 1st Bn operating with the 111st RAC sqdn took Fort MONTBANEY at 1725 hrs 16 September. Opposition here had been very determined and its fall was of major importance as it was one of the main points in the enemy defensive line. Co A, 86th Cml Bn was detached from the 110th Inf at 1430 hrs and attached to the 8th Division.

The 1st Bn, 175th Inf relieved the 3rd Bn of the defense of Fort KERDIAIOS and mopped up enemy emplacements NE of the firing range. The 2nd Bn at 1000 hrs attacked toward the city wall of RECOUVRANCE and at 1900 hrs crossed the wall to occupy the city of BRIST. The 3rd Bn, after mopping up resistance at the S end of the firing range, reached the city wall also and contacted the 2nd Bn. The 5th Ranger Bn captured LE COSQUER (V903974) and made preparations to seize PUNTE DU PORTIC. Cos B and C reverted to 5th Ranger Bn control at 1500 and 1720 hrs respectively.

On 17 September all Bns of the 115th Inf attacked at 1000 hrs with the 1st on the right and the 2nd Bn on the left with the mission of seizing the high ground immediately N of KERDIAIOS (V914977 - V920977) and the submarine pens (V923972). In front of the 1st Bn the enemy had many pillboxes from which heavy small arms fire was delivered and consequently the attack was held up. Tank Destroyer fire was not effective against these steel pillboxes.

The 2nd and 3rd Bns 110th Inf attacked at 1000 hrs also and at 1500 hrs the 1st was committed on the right. At the close of the day's operation the Regiment held the high ground overlooking the beach and drydocks, roughly 150 yards from the MADE DE BRIST. During the night the 110th fired illuminating flares at 30 minute intervals over the breakwater so as to keep observation on this enemy escape route. The 111st RAC sqdn (Buffs(Br)) was detached from the 110th Inf and attached to the 115th Inf at 1000 hrs.

The 175th Inf (1 platoon Co A, 709th Pk Bn attached) continued the mopping up of enemy resistance inside the city wall to the river and some resistance N along the Penfeld river. The 5th Ranger Bn was held up also by enemy pillboxes and also found that TJs were ineffective against them. One combat patrol from this Bn the night of the 17 September knocked out one pillbox with an 80 lb. beehive charge, but heavy enemy fire prevented the blowing of any others.

An enemy delegation of four officers approached the lines of the 115th Inf at 0730 hrs 18 September and asked for surrender terms. They were informed that there were no surrender terms and that if they wanted to surrender to come out immediately with their hands up. At 0800 hours all organized resistance ceased and the enemy surrendered in small groups to our forces. The 111st RAC sqdn reverted to III Corps control at 2014 hrs.

Thus ended the successful attack on the fortress held with the 29th Division capturing RECOUVRANCE and that portion of the PENFELD river on 16 September. The 2nd Division took the portion of the city S of the PENFELD river the same day and on the 20th September the 8th Division cleared all enemy resistance from the KERDIA peninsula. This campaign netted approximately 37,000 prisoners and freed one of the largest parts in France. In capturing this city the 29th Division met extremely heavy defensive positions and the crack enemy troops of the II Para Regt and succeeded in beating both.

On 19 September the 110th Inf consisting of the 111th RAC, Co B, 121st Engr Bn and Co D, 104th Pk Bn took over from the other two regiments the protection of the Division zone while the 115th and 175th Inf Regts moved to an assembly area in the KERDIA peninsula. At 2000 hours 3rd troops assumed responsibility for the entire KERDIA and MADE DE BRIST sections in the Division zone and the 110th RAC also moved to an assembly area.