

INTERVIEWEES: Major Charles F. Gaking, 1st Bn CO 318TH INF
 1st Lt Edward E. Hueske, 1st Bn, S-3

PLACE: CP 1st Bn, PINTSCH, LUXEMBOURG (P763583) 26 January 1945

MAP: BASTOGNE - Scale 1/50,000

INTERVIEWER: 1st Lt S. J. Tobin and Capt D. G. Dayton

(NOTE: This is the first interview with 1st Bn 318th Inf. Information contained is brief and inadequate because the town of PINTSCH had only been taken about 8 hours before our arrival and the Bn had just paused for rest following the attack. The rest was short-lived, for we had just arrived and begun the interview when orders came directly from the 80th Div for the Bn to attack and help seize the objectives of the 317th, HOSINGER and BOCHOLTZ.)

On the morning of 24 Dec 44, the 1st Bn received orders to move. The Bn detrucked at COLMAR at 1300 on 24 Dec 44 and moved to CCA Hq. detrucking at 2400 on 24 Dec 44.

At 2300 on 24 Dec 44, they received orders to attack at 0200 the next morning, 25 Dec. Troops to be in support on call were 8 tanks of the 35th Bk Bn and 5 tank destroyers from 704th TD Bn.

At 0800 on the morning of the 25th, the Bn jumped off in attack. Their mission was to take TINTANGE (575440). In the attack the infantry was used without the armor because of the terrain and lack of knowledge of the roads and enemy dispositions.

Enemy units in contact around TINTANGE were elements of the 5th Par Div who were heavily armed with automatic weapons and supported by artillery nobelwerfer.

TINTANGE was bombed and strafed by the Air Corps and subjected to artillery fire by the 66th FA Bn which was in support of the 1st Bn 318th Inf. In the attack, the Bn moved out with C Co on the right, A Co on the left and B Co in reserve. They reached the town of TINTANGE about noon. There they were pinned

down by enemy fire. They were under severe fire from direct enemy artillery from the town, especially from one large caliber self-propelled assault gun. B Co moved two platoons through the lead companies in a frontal assault on the town and sent the remaining platoon to flank the town around the right. The enemy disclosed their positions by firing at the two advancing platoons and were taken by surprise on the flank by the 3d Plat.

B Co captured over 160 PWs in addition to capturing the self-propelled gun intact. The town was occupied by about 1500 on the afternoon of 25 Dec 44.

After taking TINTANGE, the foxhole strength of the companies were B Co 60 men, A Co 30 men, and C Co 32 men. Including men from D Co, 1st AT Plat and the cavalry, the total number of men outposting the town was 187.

On the next morning at 0800 26 Dec 44, the Bn jumped off in attack with HONVILLE (559476) as their objective. They moved out with C Co on the left, B Co on the right and A Co in reserve. The tanks and tank destroyers followed.

The general situation on the attack of the 25th: COA 4th Armd Div advanced up the main road, ARLON-BASTOGNE, with infantry leading, the 51st Armd Inf Bn, dismounted, on the left and the 1st Bn 318th, attached, on the right. On the morning of 26 Dec 44 Co B 51st Bn was attached to the 1st Bn 318th. They moved up during the day and took HONVILLE. Enemy resistance was scattered during the day and nowhere near as strong as on Christmas day.

On the morning of the 27th they jumped off in attack at 0800 with LIVARCHALLIS as their objective. They took the town (565486) and remained in position in the town during the night.

The next day 28 Dec 44 they were relieved by elements of the 134th Inf of the 35th Inf Div.