

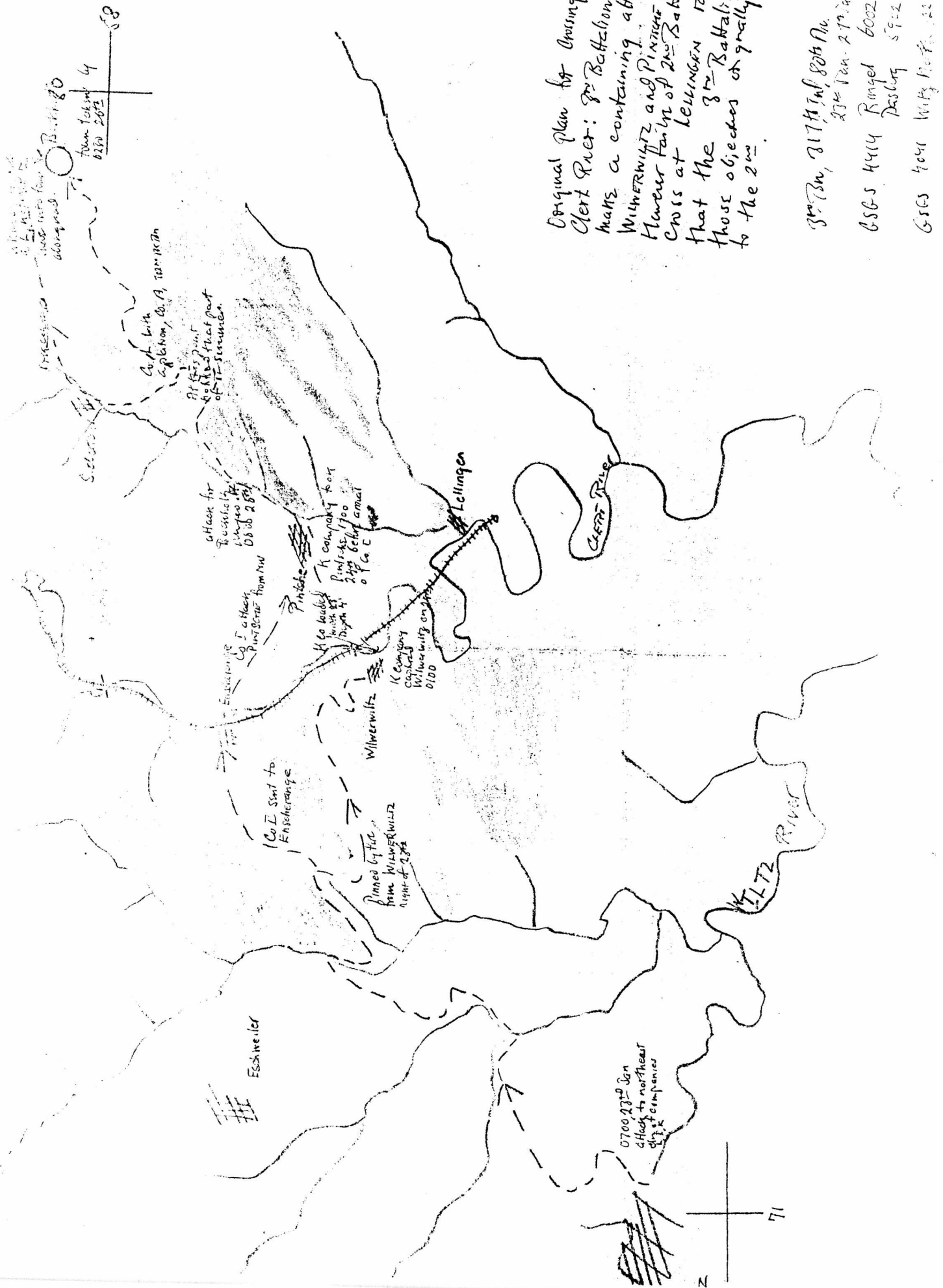
General Summary of the Activities of the 318th Regt, 80th Div, during the period 18-24 December 1944. Information was received in an interview with Capt. Frederick J. Maxsted, Regt S-3, at Wiltz, on 26 January 1945. Interviewer: Capt. Dello G Dayton.

Luxembourg

Freyming

The 318th was in ~~Freyming~~, France, when it was ordered to relieve the 4th Armored Division in the line. At 1000 on December 18 the regiment closed at Bettviller prepared to execute the relief, but at 2100 was informed it would not relieve the 4th Armored as planned. Later the same night the regiment was alerted for movement to another sector. At 0100^{on} the 19th the regiment requested 82 Quartermaster trucks for the prospective movement. The regiment pulled out of Bettviller at 1400 on the same day and headed north. The exact mission was unknown but the regiment knew it was being sent to assist in stopping the German counter-attack. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The division IP at Sarralbe was crossed at 1700 and the regiment proceeded to Luxembourg via the following route: Sarralbe-Sarre Union-St Avold, Metz, Esch-Bascharage. When the regiment started its road march it was notified that it would be met by a guide at Bascharage and ~~XXXXXXXX~~^{informed} of its mission. The column reached Bascharage at 0600 on the 20th after a long, cold, night ride. Full headlights were used most of the ~~way~~. After resting for a couple of hours at Bascharage, the regiment moved to positions about 2000 yards north of Luxembourg and were instructed "to defend the city at all costs." To the ~~left~~^{right} of the 318th was the 317th. The 319th, not yet arrived in Luxembourg was in Division Reserve.

The regiment didn't remain in the Luxembourg long. At 0430 on the 21st December the regiment received a division order instructing it to move to an assembly area in the vicinity of Mersch, and make preparations to attack north on the morning of the 22nd.



Original plan for Amusing.
 Alert River: 3rd Battalion
 makes a containing attack
 WILVERWILTZ and PINNIGER
 flower farm of 2nd Battle
 cross at LELINGEN 19
 that the 3rd Battalion
 those objectives originally
 to the 2nd.

3rd Bn, 817th Inf, 80th Div.
 27th Jan. 27th Jan.
 GSGS 4414 Ringel 6002
 Dasing 5922
 GSGS 4041 Wittig 10th 22
 Third Co 7th

General Summary 318th Regt 18-24 Dec (Cont) Page 2

The regiment moved as ordered, reaching Mersch on the 21st at 1600. At 0600 on the 22nd the regiment attacked north in a column of ~~ms~~. The 1st Bn led, with the other battalions following in numerical order. At 1023 the leading elements contacted the Germans southwest of Ettelbruck. It was a foggy and rainy day and, much to the surprise of the enemy, the regt overran artillery elements of the 352 VG Div. (At this particular time the 352 VG Div was moving west, across the front) The Germans recovered quickly from the initial surprise and put up some very stiff resistance. There was bitter fighting in the vicinity of Ettelbruck and the regiment did not succeed in taking the town. By nightfall, however, some troops from the 1st Bn had got into the houses on the southern outskirts of Ettelbruck. The company commander of B Company was wounded when he took his company into the town. By reaching Ettelbruck the regiment interfered considerably with the Main Supply Route of the Germans from Diekirch to Ettelbruck and along the front.

On The 2nd Bn, 318th, made a night attack on the 22nd and seized the high ground to the west of Ettelbruck-- the town would be of no value without the dominating ground around it. On the morning of the 23rd December the 3rd Bn was committed and given the mission, with the 1st Bn, of taking Ettelbruck. The Bns attacked during the day but because of the strategic position occupied by the enemy and the terrain features (there was a narrow valley approaching the town along the sides of which were very steep high ~~XXXX~~ slopes) no maneuver could be employed and the town was not taken. B company was still in the town. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~. Since the attack on the town had been stymied,

General Summary 318th Regt 18-24 December (cont) Page 3

the Commanding General of the 80th Div ordered the attack on the town to cease. At 1730 on the 23rd a heavy artillery concentration was placed on the center of Ettelbruck. During the artillery fire Company B was able to withdraw from the houses which it was occupying on the edge of the town. When the company withdrew, it brought with it a number of prisoners.

On December 24th ~~X~~ the 3rd Bn was ordered to contain the town of Ettelbruck and prevent the enemy from using the main supply route from ~~Deik~~kirch to the town. The 1st and 2nd Bns were ordered to entruck and move east to the 4th Armored Division, which they would assist in breaking through to Bastogne. These 2 Bns disengaged from the enemy with some difficulty but were in trucks by 1700. They had reached the 4th Arm Div by 2230 Christmas Eve, and by 0030 on the 25th the Regiment had closed into its new CP at Fauvillers, Belgium.
