

File: S-2 A/A 317 INF

HEADQUARTERS 317TH INFANTRY
APO 80, U. S. Army

Hq 317
APR 45
2 pp/15

2 May 1945

Subject: After Action Report (S-2).

To : Adjutant General, Washington D.C., thru Commanding General,
80th Infantry Division, APO 80, U.S. Army.

Apr 45

The following report (After Action) from S-2, 317th Infantry Regiment, is submitted in compliance with Section III, 2a, Memo No 64, Headquarters, 80th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1944.

1 Apr: Enemy continued to offer weak delaying action S of KASSEL and E of the FULDA River. The 6th Armored Division reported enemy tanks, out of ammunition, are ramming American half-tracks at full speed. Regt captured 3 enemy ME109s, Approx 1000 five-hundred pound bombs and airplane motors, camouflaged in woods W of airport near RORSHAIN.

2 Apr: During latter part of period, 317th Inf (Reinf) moved into area occupied by pockets of enemy troops, overrunning enemy AA positions. Enemy attempted breakthrough with force of 12 tanks and Inf, of which 4 tanks were knocked out and 1 tank damaged. Enemy appears to have no sizeable armor reserve in our sector at this time.

3 Apr: Enemy snipers using SA and AW fire continued to slow up the advance of the 317th Inf to the N. Enemy air was very active in the afternoon.

4 Apr: Enemy resistance was encountered in NE suburb of KASSEL. Enemy counterattacked from NE to SW Vic IHRINGSHAUSEN with an estimated force of 40 to 60 SS Inf; the entire force was killed or captured. Regt captured 207 PW's during the day.

5 Apr: Enemy continued delaying action to our advance-NE by Inf, AA and tank activity from key terrain features and towns. Light concentrations of artillery and mortar fire were received during the advance. Enemy launched 3 small counterattacks; all were repulsed. Higher Headquarters reports that the enemy has a reserve of 4000 troops in GOTTINGEN.

6 Apr: No enemy action reports in new Regtl assembly area.

7 Apr: Enemy air active in this sector; no organized enemy contacted.

8 Apr: Enemy air was again in sector. One enemy fighter plane was shot down by US Air Force in Regtl Sector. Enemy very active in woods NW of BIENSTADT.

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Hq, 317th Inf; S: After Action Rpt (S-2); Co Adj Gen, Washington
DC, thru CG, 80th Inf Div, APO 80, US Army.

9 Apr: Met harassing fire consisting of sniper and MG fire during advance. Enemy is capable of counterattacking with Inf and armor, estimated to have Approx 20 tanks in this sector.

10 Apr: Fanatical, small, isolated, hastily organized groups of stragglers continued to delay our advance to the E. No artillery fire was received by our troops throughout the day.

11 Apr: Enemy counterattacked to N from MARBACH at 110700B with CT KAUER, supported by 8 Assault Guns. CT 317 (Reinf) repulsed counter-attack, knocking out 2 Assault Guns.

12 Apr: Regt received considerable fire from direct fire weapons, AW and SA during the attack on ERFURT; captured Approx 1200 PW's.

13 Apr: Scattered resistance encountered in clearing JENA, E of the SAALE River; captured Approx 250 PW's.

14 Apr: Regt encountered light SA resistance, mopped-up areas Vic GERA, JENA and EISENBERG; captured Approx 900 PW's, including a Brig General, with his staff of four Officers.

15 Apr: Light resistance encountered in clearing woods SW of BAD KOSTRITZ; otherwise no contact with enemy.

16 Apr: Regt not in contact with the enemy.

17-30 Apr: No Change.

ADDENDA

During periods when the Regiment is not in contact with the enemy, the IPW Team is utilized by conducting orientation lectures for the troops. The Team is divided into two lecture teams which can cover the entire Regiment in two days.

Members of the IPW Team are constantly abreast of the "big picture" and can add considerably to their lectures with timely human interest stories which they gather through interrogation of PW's. A closer feeling between the men and the members of the IPW Team exists than under ordinary orientation conditions, making "open forums" more possible and more frequent. Large captured German school maps provide an excellent media for simple boundary and front line explanations to the troops.

Robert M. Walker
ROBERT M. WALKER,
Capt, 317th Inf,
S-2.