

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 317TH INFANTRY
APO No. 80, U. S. Army

Kik: S/2 A/A 317 INF OPD
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Feb 45

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Feb
45

2 March 1945

Subject: After Action Report (S-2)

To : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C., thru Commanding General,
80th Infantry Division, APO No 80, U. S. Army.

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 Feb 45 - Intelligence schools were conducted on OP Procedure,
Map Reading and Handling of PW's. A lecture on the Russian situation
was planned for selected Officers from each Battalion.

2 Feb 45 - The organization of the Regimental Reconnaissance
Patrol was begun, to consist of 12 EM and 1 Officer, selected from
candidates from each Battalion. The purpose of the unit is to
conduct specified night patrol missions.

3 Feb 45 - Intelligence School for candidates for the Regimental
Reconnaissance Patrol was started.

4 Feb 45 - Regimental OP was established with purpose of
securing information in order to facilitate planned crossing of
SAUER River.

5 Feb 45 - Prepared overlay showing friendly and enemy mine-
fields in Div sector. No enemy activity in Regtl area.

6 Feb 45 - Sent overlay to units showing enemy defensive
organizations. Members of the IPW Team, this Regt, lectured to the
Bns on the handling of PW's. Four (4) rounds of enemy Arty fell
in Regtl area.

7 Feb 45 - Ordered I and R Platoon to man OP in Div sector.
Motorized patrols were sent out during the night.

8 Feb 45 - I and R Platoon operated OP's in Div sector, and
reported the progress of the 318th Infantry's crossing of the
SAUER River.

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9 Feb 45 - Continued to operate Regtl OP. No enemy activity reported in Regtl area.

10 Feb 45 - Continued to operate Regtl OP. No enemy activity reported in Regtl area.

11 Feb 45 - Sent overlay to Bns showing enemy disposition.

12 Feb 45 - Hvy enemy Arty fire reported in Vic of BOLLENDORF. Units encountered Heavy resistance from pillboxes and dug-in positions.

13 Feb 45 - Intermittent Arty and mortar fire fell on the 2d Bn positions throughout the day. No indication of an enemy counter-attack in our sector.

14 Feb 45 - Night patrols met heavy resistance N of the 2d Bn OPL, which runs generally S of ROHRBACH.

15 Feb 45 - Night 14-15 Feb, an enemy patrol consisting of 15 men and 1 Officer, was reported in 2d Bn sector. From this patrol, 3 enemy were killed and 6 were captured. During the day, enemy SA, AW, mortar and light Arty fire was received on our forward positions. Enemy attempted to delay our advance by use of abatis and Rd blocks.

16 Feb 45 - Enemy continued to harass our troops with light Arty, mortar and SA fire throughout Regtl sector, and maintained positions in ROHRBACH.

17 Feb 45 - Enemy continued to harass our positions with Arty and mortar fire. SP guns very active on the front.

18 Feb 45 - Enemy Arty, mortar and Dir fire Wpns very active. SP guns continued to harass our Trs.

19 Feb 45 - Enemy offered strong resistance against Atk of 317th Inf Regt Vic NUSBAUM (LO047), using Arty, light mortars, Dir AG fire and AW fire. AG fire harassed our Atk throughout the Regtl sector during the day. 170 PW's were taken.

20 Feb 45 - Enemy continued heavy resistance against the Atk of the 317th Inf Regt. Resistance consisted mainly of Dir fire from AG's and Tks, as well as AW and sniper fire.

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21 Feb 45 - Enemy offered fierce resistance against our Atk on Objectives 15 and 16, consisting of Dir fire Wpns, nebelwerfer, AW, SA and 20mmAA fire. Enemy presumably intended to hold the high ground at all costs, to cover a general withdrawal to the NE. 48 PW's were taken.

22 Feb 45 - Enemy continued harassing action, by employing Dir fire Wpns, Arty, mortar and sniper fire. Considerable Mvmt Obsvd in METTENDORF (P9950).

23 Feb 45 - Enemy began counterattack, but it was broken up before contact was actually made. The enemy fired a great many MG's and mortars when our Trs first noticed the counterattack, which was stopped by Arty fire. Intermittent Arty and mortar fire fell on our positions.

24 Feb 45 - Enemy continued to be very active with Arty and mortar fire, but gave no indication of another counterattack.

25 Feb 45 - Enemy withdrawing across the PRUM River; very active in placing mines and blowing Bns in Regtl sector.

26 Feb 45 - Enemy withdrawing in Regtl sector. Some SA fire received by 1st Bn. Sent very active patrols to the N and-NE. 117 PW's taken.

27 Feb 45 - Sent daylight patrol to LIESSEM, drew fire from outskirts of town. Intermittent mortar and Dir Wpns fire received in Regtl sector. 85 PW's were taken.

28 Feb 45 - Enemy resistance consisted of small groups, with orders to hold up our Adv as long as possible, then withdraw. 127 PW's were taken; morale of enemy very low.

ADDENDA

During the month of February, a special patrol was organized under the jurisdiction of the Regtl S-2, and administratively a part of Regtl AT Co. The purpose of this unit is to provide a patrol for night missions to be carried out by men endowed with skill in this line. All 18 of the patrol members were volunteers, including one Officer in charge. Training was conducted with special

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emphasis on perfection at night. Included in the training was Engr Rcn of Rds, Brs, methods of crossing rivers including expedients, demolitions, first aid, basic patrol functioning and aerial photography. Other subjects were stressed, but particular emphasis was laid on the subjects mentioned above.

Transportation for patrol members was initially by truck, a ton and one-half supplied for this purpose. A German motorcycle and sedan have since been added.

The results from patrols carried out by the Regimental patrol have not been amazing by any means, but it has possibilities that may make them so in the future. As the patrol members live and work together, they develop an Esprit de Corps of their own; the results will become more favorable as this feeling is developed and grows.

The instruction of personnel to report the condition of all Rds travelled, Brs crossed, and in general, a constant look out for Engr Info has greatly increased our efficiency in gathering necessary data for our attached Engrs. The more complete and prompt, the sooner the chow is brought up and wounded evacuated! All soldiers, patrols especially, report this Info through S-2 channels, and in turn, the Engr In Officer is informed of this as well as the tactical situation so that he may ascertain the safety of the situation under working conditions.

Night patrols sent in to investigate towns and report the presence or absence of enemy have proved successful. The mission may be greatly increased in its value of timeliness if the patrols maintain radio contact with their parent unit on every occasion, thereby enabling the force alerted to occupy the town to move much faster. The initial patrol often includes a German speaking member to question civilians upon first entering. In a few minutes the patrol has obtained enough information to determine its course.

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