

SECRET

317 S-2

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

L-314

3 February 1945

4 pp

Subject: After Action Report (S-2)

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

The following report (After Action) from S-2, 317th Infantry Regiment is submitted in compliance with Section III, 2a, Memo #64, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1944.

JAN 45

1 Jan 45 - Eight (8) PWs taken, identified from Engr Plat, Regtl Hq Co, 7th Co, and the 14th Co of the 208th Inf Regt in KEHMEN. Enemy incapable of launching a big offensive in this sector now.

2 Jan 45 - Increased SA, mortar and Arty fire in right portion of Regtl sector. Enemy patrols reported operating in this sector. Visibility throughout the day, very poor. No PWs taken.

3 Jan 45 - Enemy patrols very active in right portion of Regtl sector. Visibility very poor. Civilians report type of German soldiers in BOUKSCHEID varies from poor to fair.

4 Jan 45 - 2 PWs taken today stated that chew for the 6th Co, 208th Regt, was served between 1930 and 2030, 3 Jan. Distance between foxholes in MIA irregular. Strength of 6th Co approx 35 men, located in KEHMEN; also an unidentified Co there, with approx strength of 40-50 men. Enemy not capable of launching a big offensive in this sector now.

5 Jan 45 - No change in enemy front lines. Arty and increased mortar fell throughout Regtl sector; enemy patrols were aggressive during the period; flare activity in sector. Increased motor vehicle, horse-drawn vehicle and foot movement Obsvd travelling from NE to SW into BURDEN. No PWs taken. Enemy not capable of launching a large scale attack in this sector at this time.

6 Jan 45 - Enemy patrols very active throughout the early morning, attempting to draw our fire and determine location of our automatic weapons. No change in enemy front lines.

7 Jan 45 - Light Arty and mortar fire fell in Regtl area. Increased vehicular and foot movement in Vic of GOBBDORF. Indications of counterattack on Div left front. Enemy patrol captured two (2) 3d Lt in their foxholes. No PWs taken.

After Action Report (S-2), Hq 317th Inf, Jan 45 - Cont'd.

8 Jan 45 - Light Arty, flare and SA activity throughout the period. Enemy patrols very active throughout the night.

9 Jan 45 - Light Arty, mortar, SA and flare activity NW of TADLER. Enemy patrol operating in 3d Bn area captured one (1) American prisoner. PWs taken one (1).

10 Jan 45 - Increased vehicular movement Vic BURDEN and SCHEIDEL. Enemy patrols very active throughout the sector.

11 Jan 45 - Enemy very active at night, using a listening post and patrols.

12 Jan 45 - Light Arty and mortar fire throughout Regtl sector. Increased movement in right portion of sector.

13 Jan 45 - Regtl and Bn OPs gave reports of movement to the Regtl front. Enemy patrols very active.

14 Jan 45 - Enemy very active with flares. Sent patrols to obtain information about bridges and ferds on SURE River in Regtl sector.

15 Jan 45 - Patrols continued to reconnoiter for crossing of SURE River. Intermittent Arty and mortar fire fell in Regtl area.

16 Jan 45 - Regt sent very active patrols out. S-2 wrote Intelligence Annex to FO #27. Very little enemy activity in our sector.

17 Jan 45 - Distributed Intelligence Annex to FO #28. Very active patrol plan carried out during hours of darkness.

18 Jan 45 - Intermittent mortar and Arty fell throughout Regtl sector. No PWs taken. Very active patrol plan sent to the Bns. Enemy patrols very active during hours of darkness.

19 Jan 45 - Our patrols very active, and drew a great deal of fire from enemy outpost.

20 Jan 45 - Very active patrol plan sent to the Bns. 1st Bn patrol captured 3 PWs. At this time, the enemy is not capable of launching a large scale attack.

21 Jan 45 - Strong enemy resistance, consisting of direct weapons fire, nebelwerfer, Arty, mortar and SA fire, was encountered Vic NW of BOUSCHIBID, to prevent our seizure of bridges across SURE River.

After Action Report (S-2), Hq 317th Inf, Jan 45 - Cont'd.

22 Jan 45 - Enemy front line in Regtl sector is at a very fluid state. Enemy resistance was encountered N side of SURE River. Intermittent Arty and mortar fire fell on troops throughout the day.

23 Jan 45 - Enemy appears to be withdrawing, with an CPL remaining to cover the withdraw. OP observed bicycle troops entering PINTSCHE.

24 Jan 45 - Enemy continued to harass with Arty, nebelwerfer and mortar fire in Regtl sector. Enemy launched counterattack on our troops as they entered PINTSCHE. Attack consisted of Infantry troops, and was repulsed.

25 Jan 45 - Our troops met very heavy Cal Arty and some mortar fire. Enemy PWs captured from 1st Bn, 13th Regt, 5th Para Div (remnants); morale poor; troops were trained as paratroopers, and are employed as Infantry.

26 Jan 45 - Bns sent combat patrols to their front to establish the enemy's positions, and to draw fire. By means of these patrols, we located the enemy strong points. Heavy Arty and mortar fire fell on our troops throughout the day.

27 Jan 45 - Bns used patrols during the night in order to prevent the enemy from infiltrating into our lines.

28 Jan 45 - Started preparations for movement to new Div Zone; 317th Inf Div Reserve. Inaugurated plans to carry on schools for Intelligence Personnel on map reading, OP procedure, and general Intelligence subjects.

29 Jan 45 - Continued preparing for Intelligence schools, and made arrangements for an orientation lecture to the troops on the Russian situation.

30 Jan 45 - Continued plans for Intelligence school. Sent overlay to troops, showing enemy situation to our front. Sgt Stein of IPW Team 76-2, this Regt, gave lecture to the troops on the Handling of PWs.

31 Jan 45 - Plans made to conduct an orientation class for Officers concerning the Russian situation. Intelligence schools started, with selected personnel from the Bns in attendance.

ADDENDA

The snow during the past month has provided new problems, brought different solutions. From soldiers who did a lot of patrolling we received very satisfactory reports as to the effectiveness of the white camouflage suits issued. The same rules still apply, however, in blending with the background and avoiding skyline silhouettes. By bandaging weapons, and wearing extra bandoliers under the snow tunic, an almost total white appearance was achieved. Men on patrol so attired must realize the difficulty the enemy would have in spotting them; those who have, have been increasingly aggressive, in some cases approaching the enemy within 15 feet undetected.

Portions of the EIFFEL PLATEAU area are thickly wooded with fast growing pines. Some detailed wooded areas on 1/25,000-maps do not show up, probably due to the fact that last revision was made some ten years ago. Use of recent aerial photos gives necessary corrections for proper recognition of terrain features grown over with pine woods. The combination often provides the selection of a better route of advance offering more cover and/or concealment.

*Robert M. Walker*

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