

S E C R E T

Auth: CO 317th Inf
Inits: HRP
Date: 1 Mar 45

HEADQUARTERS 317TH INFANTRY
APO No 80, U S Army

L-514

1 March 1945

Subject: After Action Report (S-3).

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-3, 317th
Infantry Regiment is submitted in compliance with Section III, 2a
Memo No 64, Headquarters, 80th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1944.

FEB 45

1 Feb 45 - Regt CP located at Medernach, Luxembourg; 1st Bn in
Medernach, 2nd Bn in Cruchten, 3rd Bn in Heffingen; all troops bil-
leted in houses. Regt conducted training throughout the day, with
emphasis being placed on firing of individual weapons.

2 Feb 45 - Regt continued to conduct training. Crew-served
weapons were test fired. Plans made for a sniper school.

3 Feb 45 - Regt continued to conduct training. Sniper School
conducted for selected personnel of all units.

4 Feb 45 - Regt continued to conduct training; formulated plans
for move to Regt Assembly Area vicinity of Diekirch.

5 Feb 45 - Regt moved to Regt Assembly Area in Diekirch, closing
in at 1530. Issued warning order to units: 80th Inf Div (Reinf)
attacks 070200A Feb 45, crosses Our & Sauer Rivers, breaches Siegfried
Line, and continues attack NE; 317th Inf in Div Reserve present
location.

6 Feb 45 - Regt remained in Diekirch. Plans for three possible
ways of employing unit issued to Bns. Extensive road reconnaissance
made by S-3.

7 Feb 45 - Regt remained at Diekirch in Div Reserve. 318th &
319th Inf attacked at 0200. Co A 305th Engr (C) Bn conducted a
demonstration on the "fuze lighter".

8 Feb 45 - Regt remained in Diekirch. Training was conducted,
emphasis on "squad assault teams".

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NCWN by *[Signature]*

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9 Feb 45 - Regt remained in Diekirch. Training conducted with emphasis on "squad assault teams". At 2100 received instructions to move Co F to Beaufort, and be attached to 318th Infantry. Co F moved by truck to Beaufort.

10 Feb 45 - Co F moved across Sauer R by boat, took up positions with 318th Inf; remainder 2nd Bn moved to Beaufort prepared to cross river. 1st and 3rd Bns remained in Diekirch, continued to conduct training.

11 Feb 45 - 2nd Bn (-) crossed river and were attached to 318th Inf. Remainder of Regt remained in Diekirch, continued to conduct training.

12 Feb 45 - 2nd Bn was relieved of attachment to 318th Infantry and reverted to 317th Inf control; 2nd Bn directed to be prepared to seize high ground S of Rohrbach, and be prepared to continue attack to the high ground N of Rohrbach. 1st Bn moved from Diekirch to Beaufort; 3rd Bn remained in Diekirch. Regtl CP moved from Diekirch to Mullenbach.

13 Feb 45 - 1st Bn remained in assembly area vicinity Beaufort. 2nd Bn maintained positions, sent strong patrols to the N of Rohrbach. 3rd Bn remained in Regtl Reserve in Diekirch, under Division control.

14 Feb 45 - 3rd Bn relieved from Division control, moved to position N of Bollendorf. 2nd Bn seized ground S of Rohrbach. 1st Bn took up positions NW Bollendorf. Regtl CP remained in Mullenbach.

15 Feb 45 - Regtl CP moved from Mullenbach to Bollendorf, Germany. 317th Inf (Reinf) occupied and improved defensive positions S Rohrbach.

16 Feb 45 - 317th Inf (Reinf) occupied and improved defensive positions. G Co seized Schwarzen, capturing 53 PW's. Co I occupied Hill 386.

17 Feb 45 - Regtl CP remained in Bollendorf. Co G repulsed enemy Counterattack consisting of 4 enemy tanks. Reinforced Flat from Co E took 4 houses in Rohrbach.

18 Feb 45 - 317th Inf (Reinf) seized and occupied Rohrbach and Steckigt. No other changes.

19 Feb 45 - Regtl CP moved from Bollendorf to Schwarzenbruch. Regt continued attack NE. 2nd Bn seized Freilingenrohe and Nusbaum and Freilingen. 3rd Bn cleared woods S of Enzen. 1st Bn remained in Regtl reserve.

20 Feb 45 - 317th Inf (Reinf) continued attack to NE. 1st Bn located in Enzen. 2nd Bn seized Hill 407. 3rd Bn seized Bridge across Lnz River in vicinity Enzen, crossed river and seized Enzen.

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21 Feb 45 - Regtl CP moved from Schwarzenbruch to Nusbaum. 1st Bn advanced approx 1000 yds against heavy resistance. 2nd Bn continued mopping-up operations vicinity Hill 407. 3rd Bn attacked to NE against heavy resistance, advanced to ground SW Steffershof.

22 Feb 45 - Under cover of darkness 1st Bn 317th Inf was relieved by elements 5th Inf Div; 1st Bn assembled in vicinity Nusbaum. 2nd Bn moved CP to Feilinger. 3rd Bn maintained contact with 5th Inf Div on the right; 3rd Bn CP at Enzen.

23 Feb 45 - Regtl CP remained in Nusbaum. 1st Bn vicinity Nusbaum in Regtl reserve, prepared to relieve elements 318th Inf. 2nd & 3rd Bns 317th Inf continued to improve and occupy defensive positions.

24 Feb 45 - 1st Bn 317th Inf relieved A & B Cos of 318th Inf vicinity Mettendorf. F Co with two squads G Co continued to occupy positions Hill 407. 3rd Bn continued to occupy position NW of Enzen.

25 Feb 45 - Regtl CP moved from Nusbaum to Mettendorf at 1800. 317th Inf cleared Mettendorf, Niehl, Olsdorf and Hissel of enemy.

26 Feb 45 - Regtl CP moved from Mettendorf to Feilsdorf. 1st Bn seized and occupied Hill 380; counterattack repulsed by Co A, 8 PW's taken. 2nd Bn moved to assembly area at Wissmannsdorf. 317th Inf occupied ground vicinity Keesbusch. Co A 702nd Tk Bn relieved of attachment 317th Inf effective 261515A.

27 Feb 45 - 1st Bn 317th Inf continued to improve and occupy Hill 380; sent daylight patrols to Liessem, found town occupied by enemy. 2nd Bn in assembly area vicinity Wissmannsdorf, outposted high ground vicinity town with three reinf plato; remainder of bn billeted in town. 3rd Bn continued to occupy and improve position vicinity of Keesbusch.

28 Feb 45 - Regtl CP moved from Feilsdorf to Biersdorf. 317th Inf attacked night 28 Feb - 1 Mar, seized high ground W Scheid. 1st Bn seized high ground N Oberweiler, mopped-up area Oberweiler, Neiderweiler, Biersdorf, Prum River. 2nd Bn seized high ground W Scheid. 3rd Bn assembled in Regtl reserve in area Biersdorf, Biersdorf, Liessem.

ADDENDA

This period was characterized by daily disintegration of the German Army. The resistance was not determined in the sense that the German soldier resisted to the end; after a short fight, the Germans would, in most cases, surrender.

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Further evidence of the collapse of German resistance was the appearance of numerous battle groups, composed of the remnants of several divisions. Considerable amounts of materiel were captured, including at least nine cannons in excellent shape and several tanks. This equipment, according to PW's was abandoned because of lack of gasoline.

Howard R. Ford
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