

SECRET

File S-3 3170 A/A

MARCH 45

HEADQUARTERS 317TH INFANTRY  
APO #80, U S Army

3 April 1945

Subject: After Action Report (S-3).

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

The following report (After Action) from S-3, 317th  
Infantry Regiment, is submitted in compliance with Section III, 2a,  
Memo #64, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1944.

MARCH 45

1 Mar: Regtl CP 317th Inf at BIEDSDORF. 317th Inf attacked to  
the North. 1st Bn seized and occupied HILL 460, cleared area in  
vicinity of NIEDERWEILER, OBERWEILER of enemy; 2nd Bn seized and  
occupied HILL 450, cleared area in vicinity EHLENZ, SCHLEID of  
enemy; 3rd Bn in Regtl Reserve vicinity BIEDSDORF and LISSEN. 313th  
FA Bn supported the attack.

2 Mar: 317th Inf continued to mop up present area. One platoon  
(Reinf) Co E seized HEILENBACH and captured approximately sixty-  
three PWs. Co F relieved Co E, completed at 1750. Regtl CP re-  
mained in BIEDSDORF.

3 Mar: 317th Inf outposted sector, conducted school in map  
reading, message writing for NCOs. Period of rehabilitation and  
adjustment of troops.

4 Mar: Training was conducted by all units in Medical subjects  
(trench foot), map reading, duties of NCOs and unit tactics.

5 Mar: No change.

6 Mar: No change.

7 Mar: No change.

8 Mar: No change.

9 Mar: Training conducted throughout the day. At 2240, Regt was  
alerted for motor movement 10 Mar. Bns were placed on a one hour  
alert status.

10 Mar: No change.

11 Mar: 317th Inf (Reinf) moved from area vicinity BIEDSDORF,  
GERMANY to assembly area vicinity BEYDEN, FRANCE, attached XX Corps.

12 Mar: 317th Inf (Reinf) moved by motor and marching to forward  
assembly area West of OBERZERF.

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13 Mar: 317th Inf (Reinf) attacked to the East 130200A, encountering very heavy nebelwerfer, mortar and artillery fire. At end of day, 1st Bn and 3rd Bn were in woods North of GREIMERATH; Regtl CP located in OBERZERF.

14 Mar: 317th Inf (Reinf) sent combat patrols to the front in the morning, preparing to attack in the afternoon. 1st Bn commenced to advance at 1500, held-up after gaining approximately 200 yards. Regtl CP remained in OBERZERF.

15 Mar: Regt continued attack to Southeast. 1st Bn seized ground overlooking WALDHOLZBACH against determined resistance, and was entering town at end of day. 2nd Bn located West of SCHEIDEN. 3rd Bn at edge of woods Northwest of SCHEIDEN.

16 Mar: Regtl CP moved to RAPPWEILER. 1st Bn repulsed counter-attack at 0730, seized WALDHOLZBACH, ZWABACH, RAPPWEILER, THALEN; 2nd Bn seized MITLOSHEIM; 3rd Bn seized SCHEIDEN and reverted to Regtl Reserve. Regt knocked out two enemy tanks and captured 150 PWs.

17 Mar: 317th Inf (Reinf) continued attack to the East at 0830A. The attack was in column of Bns, 2nd, 3rd and the 1st Bn in reserve. 1st Bn advanced to WALDERN; 2nd Bn cleared WEIERWEILER, LOCKWEILER, KRETTNICH. I & R Platoon cleared WADERN and DAGSTUHL of enemy, and captured bridge intact at DAGSTUHL. This bridge was defended against enemy by the I & R Plat until troops came to their relief. Regt captured approximately 140 PWs.

18 Mar: 317th Inf (Reinf) continued advance to the East, mopping up resistance by-passed by the 10th Armd Div; seized OBERTHAL, GÜDESWEILER, NAMBORN and EISWEILER.

19 Mar: 317th Inf (Reinf) continued advance to the E, seized the following towns: PINSWEILER, FURSCHWEILER, HIRSTEIN, GEHWEILER, RITSCHIED, OBERKIRCHEN, SCHARZERDEN, PFEFFEBACH, ALBESSEN, EHWEILER, BLEDESBAACH, KUSEL. Regtl CP moved to KUSEL.

20 Mar: Regt continued the attack to the East, conquered the following towns: RAMMELSBACH, ALTENGALNG, FRIEDELHAUSEN, NIEDERSTAUFFENBACH, OBERSTAUFFENBACH, REICHENBACH, STEEGEN, SCHWEDELBACH, WEILERBACH, RODENBACH, SIEGELBACH, ERFENBACH, OTTERBACH and KAISERSLAUTERN. Regt captured 275 PWs, including one Colonel, four Majors, five Captains, three First Lts and seven Second Lts captured by the I & R Plat in KAISERSLAUTERN. Regtl CP moved to KAISERSLAUTERN.

21 Mar: 317th Inf moved by motor to assembly area vicinity BADDURKHEIM.

22 Mar: Regtl CP moved to WESTHOFEN. 1st Bn in assembly area at WESTHOFEN; 2nd Bn in GUNDERSHEIM; 3rd Bn in ABENHEIM.

23 Mar: No change.

24 Mar: 317th Inf (Reinf) moved to assembly area, with units located as follows: 1st Bn GERBACH, 2nd Bn OBERNDORF, 3rd Bn GAUGERWEILER, Regtl CP ST ALBAN.

25 Mar: Regt conducted training; otherwise, no change.

26 Mar: Regt conducted training throughout morning; commenced to move to assembly area in vicinity NIEDERSAULSHEIM at 1800A. Regtl CP moved to NIEDERSAULSHEIM.

27 Mar: Regt moved to area in vicinity MAINZ, preparing to cross RHINE R. Regtl CP moved to MAINZ.

28 Mar: 2nd Bn seized bridgehead across RHINE R in vicinity MAINZ, meeting determined enemy resistance. Co G repulsed two enemy counterattacks South of KASTEL; Co E repulsed enemy counterattack consisting of undetermined number of infantry and tanks in vicinity KASTEL. 1st Bn crossed RHINE R 0700A, and attacked to the North. 3rd Bn crossed RHINE R, attacked to the North and seized BIERSTADT. 317th Inf (Reinf) seized the following: KASTEL, WIESBADEN, BIERSTADT, BIEBRICH, KOSTHEIM, ERBENHEIM; also, an airplane factory, landing field, six enemy aircraft, an ordnance repair depot, numerous enemy field pieces and 20mm AA guns, a champagne factory with 4,000 cases of champagne and a German military hospital. Approximately 900 PWs were captured during the day. Regtl CP moved to BIEBRICH.

29 Mar: 317th Inf (Reinf) seized the following towns: GEORGENBORN, SCHLANGENHAD, WAMBACH, SEITZENHAHN, HETTENHAM, HAHN, BLEIDENSTADT, DOTZHEIM, FRAUENSTEIN, NEUDORF, SCHIERSTEIN, ELTVILLE, NIEDERWALLUF, OBERWALLUF, AURINGEN. Regt captured approximately 1200 PWs.

30 Mar: 317th Inf (Reinf) remained in position. Regt captured approximately 1000 PWs.

31 Mar: 317th Inf (Reinf) moved by motor to forward assembly area in vicinity LEIMSFELD. 1st Bn located GEBERSDORF, 2nd Bn RORSHAIN and LEIMSFELD, 3rd Bn FRIELENDORF. Regtl CP moved to LEIMSFELD.

#### ADDENDA

1. German resistance during this period was sporadic and of not too determined a character, except in one or two instances. No lessons were learned that would be valid in warfare against a determined enemy. Many calculated risks were taken to achieve tactical ends which would not have proven feasible under conditions of combat prior to this period.

2. During this period, the deterioration of the German Army became particularly evident from two different aspects: (a) large quantities of equipment abandoned, (b) wholesale surrender and desertion.

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S-3.