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

L338

1 January 1945

Subjects: After Action Report (S-3) / DECEMBER

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

I. 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.

1 December 1944 - Regiment remained in Division Reserve, in MACHESN, FRANCE, and continued to reorganize and rehabilitate personnel prior to resuming the attack. Technical and tactical training was conducted.

2 December 1944 - No change.

3 December 1944 - No change.

4 December 1944 - No change.

5 December 1944 - No change. Order was received to move the Regiment to ST AVOLD, FRANCE.

6 December 1944 - GT moved to ST AVOLD, FRANCE. All troops were billeted in the town, and training directives were sent to the Bns for training to be conducted while in that area.

7 December 1944 - Care and Cleaning of Weapons and Equipment was carried on by the troops throughout the day.

8 December 1944 - Tactical and Technical training was conducted, including range firing.

9 December 1944 - Tactical and Technical Training continued, with emphasis placed on training of Assault Teams, Attack of Fortified Positions, and Anti-Tank work.

10 December 1944 - No change.

11 December 1944 - No change.

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12 December 1944 - No change.

13 December 1944 - Regiment carried on Tactical and Technical Training, placing emphasis on Assault of Fortified Positions.

14 December 1944 - No change.

15 December 1944 - CT remained in ST AVOLD conducting training. Particular emphasis was placed on training the replacements in Infantry-Tank Teamwork, Bazooka Firing and Assault of Fortified Positions.

16 December 1944 - No change.

17 December 1944 - CT 517th (less 313th FA Bn) with CO "C" 508th TD Bn, Btry "D" 633d AAA Bn Atand, moved by motor at 0700 to Fed Assembly area W of SARRS UNION. CT CP located at ALTVILLEH. Ad blocks were established on all rds leading into CP area, and sector was divided into 3 areas for patrolling; 2d Bn patrolled the NW sector; 1st Bn the NE sector, and 3d Bn the SE and E sectors.

18 December 1944 - Tactical and Technical Training was conducted with the emphasis on assault of Fortified Positions.

Army entry
19 December 1944 - Ordered to prepare to move 517th Inf (Reinf) by Htr from Vic ALTVILLEH, NW to Vic LUXEMBOURG. Crossed IP at SARRS UNION at 1420.

20 December 1944 - Arrived new CP location Vic BONDARANGE, LUXEMBOURG at 0400. Orders received for the 517th Inf (Reinf) to organize and occupy Reserve Defensive Positions; 2d and 3d Bns to be on the line, with the 1st Bn in Regtl Res (Rd). 1st Bn was to select and organize Res Position, and be prepared to counterattack to N, NE or SE in conjunction with Co "A" of the 70th Tk Bn.

21 December 1944 - Moved by Htr and marching to a concentration area Vic STEINSEL, LUXEMBOURG.

22 December 1944 - 517th Inf, in Div Res, advanced to the N following the 316th Inf. Relieved the 318th Inf of Ad blocks protecting the right flank of the 60th Inf Div.

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23 December 1944 - 317th Inf (Reinf) relieved the 318th Inf and advanced to the N in Cts of Bns (2d, 1st, 3d). CP located in NIEDERFELDEN. Harassing Arty fire was received throughout the night. The 2d Bn, continuing the Adv towards the SW. R, was held up by MG and SA fire Vic WELSCHID.

24 December 1944 - During the early hours of the morning, E Co, F Co and one M Plt of H Co passed through the town of WELSCHID, breaking contact with the remainder of the Bn. At dawn, they were out off, and the situation remained thus throughout the day. At 1700 they began fighting their way back towards the remainder of the Bn. 1st Bn remained behind the 2d Bn until ordered to occupy NIEDERFELDEN for the night. 3d Bn occupied Pos Vic NIEDERFELDEN until Approx 1400, when they pushed off to Atk SOUSCHID from the W. They met SA, MG and Arty fire Vic KAHMAN about 1600, and were still fighting for that town at 1800. At that time, they received orders to organize Pos on high ground SW KAHMAN.

25 December 1944 - 317th Inf (Reinf) attacked with 2 Bns abreast (3d Bn on the right, 1st Bn on the left). The 2d Bn in regtl pos moved to Vic NIEDERFELDEN. Both the 1st and 3d Bns jumped off at 1030, preceded by a 30 minute Arty preparation, starting 15 minutes before H-Hour. The 1st Bn encountered SA fire, but continued to advance until they were on line with the 3d Bn. Both Bns met Hvy SA fire in the early afternoon, and at 1030, they were ordered to hold up and organize the high ground S and E of SCHIDEL.

26 December 1944 - 1st and 3d Bns attacked at 0750, with the 2d Bn in regtl pos Vic NIEDERFELDEN, prepared to move to N on order. At 0750, the 1st Bn was within 300 Yds of SCHIDEL, encountering SA and Arty fire. With 3 platoons of "C" Co remaining on the high ground as a covering force, 1 platoon was able to enter the town. At 0900, all of "C" Co was in SCHIDEL, doing mopping up work. The 3d Bn was progressing very slowly, and at 0830, "I" Co was at (782457), receiving time fire. The 3d Bn continued to push forward, and established contact with the 1st Bn. There were a few bombs dropped in SCHIDEL by unidentified planes. 18 PWs were taken from this town.

At 1145, K and L Cos were in position outside KAHMAN, ready to attack. At this time, SOUSCHID was effectively bombed and strafed, the strafing of KAHMAN following immediately. The latter strafing occurred approx 200 Yds in front of our lines. "K" Co continued the attack and entered KAHMAN. At 1300 they had one-quarter of the town, conducting house to house fighting. They were receiving time fire, Auto guns, HZ and SA fire, but continued to fight in the town. Heavy casualties were sustained. At 1520, orders were received from Higher HQ to withdraw "K" Co from the town, and to organize a defensive position near the town.

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After the 1st Bn took SCHEIDEL, they were reorganized into a column of companies, and moved to Atk the second objective. Just as this movement started, the Bn was fired upon by the enemy with Small Arms and Arty fire. At 1600, the 1st Bn was ordered to withdraw to the Vic of NIEDERFAULAN; the withdrawal began at 1830.

The 3rd Bn was ordered to set up a defensive position W of KAHMAN, reinforced by Cos "B" and "D".

27 December 1944 - The Regt CP was located at NIEDERFAULAN. 2nd Bn and 1st Bn (less "C" and "D" Cos) located vic NIEDERFAULAN, with the 3rd Bn (plus "B" and "D" Cos) occupying a defensive position W of KAHMAN, and maintaining contact with the 319th Inf on the left by means of foot patrols. The 3rd Bn received Arty and mortar fire all day. The I & A Plt operated the CPs in the Regt area. The 2nd Bn maintained five road blocks on the roads leading into NIEDERFAULAN.

28 December 1944 - The 3rd Bn, continuing to occupy a defensive position W of KAHMAN, were relieved by the 2nd Bn under cover of darkness, and moved back to vic NIEDERFAULAN in Regt Reserve. The 1st Bn relieved the 2nd Bn on road blocks on roads leading into NIEDERFAULAN, and also patrolled the roads in the Vic of the town. Contact with the 319th Inf on our left was maintained.

29 December 1944 - Defensive position continued with the 1st Bn on the right, and 2nd on the left and the 3rd Bn in Regt Reserve. 20 MG was distributed, and the Regt CP remained in NIEDERFAULAN. Forty rounds of enemy Arty fell in NIEDERFAULAN. Approx 1145. Daylight movement of troops was impossible because of the enemy Arty, so moving into assigned areas was accomplished under cover of darkness. The 1st Bn established contact with the 318th Inf on our right.

30 December 1944 - All Bns remained relatively in the same positions. Co C moved Approx 800 Yds to the N, on the nose of the ridge in order to straighten out the Div front lines. This move was made at Approx 1900. Enemy Pz's bombed and strafed the 3d Bn and 319th PA Bn areas. Intensive Arty fire was received in Regt area all day.

31 December 1944 - Regt continued to occupy and improve defensive positions. Active patrolling was conducted. Enemy intermittent Arty and mortar fire fell on positions throughout the day.

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II. ADDENDA:

The terrain of the LUXEMBOURG area, in which we have operated since the 19th Dec 44, presents more obstacles to offensive purposes than any previously encountered. It features a great number of steep ravines, with successive high ground, making the maneuvering of tanks in the support of Infantry Operations practically impossible. The climatic conditions of late, bringing about a perpetual freezing of the ground, has tended to somewhat alleviate this condition.

The high ground in this vicinity is favorable for the building up of defensive positions, a situation of which the enemy has taken advantage.

It has come to our attention of late, that the coordination between our Air Corps and our Ground Forces, has not been of the high caliber known in the past. A number of times our troops were bombed and strafed by Allied planes.

APPROVED:

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