

HEADQUARTERS 318TH INFANTRY  
APO 80, U.S. ARMY

3 January 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944

In all the operations in the vicinity of FABERSVILLER-KOCKERN, the tactical action was supported by Bn trains from Bn Bivouacs, which were restricted to rear areas because of the congestion in forward areas due to the heavy concentration of troops. The regimental Service Company which had displaced very far forward, was ordered to return to the rear areas and supported the action from the vicinity of ST. AVOLD. At this time, a number of time bombs left in this vicinity by departed enemy, were detonated, and the Regimental Commander ordered Service Company to evacuate its location. The company retired to LONGEVILLE. Due to excellent roads, it was a simple matter to support the regiment over a distance of approximately twelve miles.

Great stress was placed on battlefield recovery of salvage at this time, and instructions were disseminated to units to provide for a thorough recovery from billets and assembly areas. Several of the installations were checked from time to time by the regimental S-4 and in each instance they were found in excellent state of police.

Upon the Division's going into a rest area, the regiment located in FREYMING. Corps immediately supported us with a Bath and Fumigation unit, and a laundry unit, all installations located close to our rest Billets. An officers' sales store was set up in the next town.

During this period, motor maintenance, and training in proper operation of vehicles was stressed. The 780 Ordnance Co. allocated a weapons repair team to us and all weapons were inspected and the faulty ones repaired or replaced. Close inspections of all clothing and equipment was made and by the time the rest period was terminated our equipment was in excellent shape.

At this time and on invitation of the Division Quartermaster, the Regimental S-4 had a conference with the Army Quartermaster, with the purpose of bringing to the latter's attention the problems of the fighting units. The keynote of this conference was an idea advanced by the Regimental S-4, about which the Army Quartermaster was quite enthusiastic. The idea advocated was that a course of instruction in SUPPLY DISCIPLINE be incorporated in the curriculum of basic training for all soldiers and also a reorientation in supply discipline be strongly given to all personnel when they pass through replacement centers. And that this supply discipline be given the

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same intense inculcation as ordinary military discipline. This is the only manner in which the troops can cooperate in lessening the tremendous supply problem of the present day. This problem is aggravated to unspeakable proportions by the high degree of replacement requirements. The tremendous yield turned up by battlefield recovery proves the need for control of the equipment and clothing once it has been distributed.

There is nothing of consequence to report in the motor movement to the south which followed this period of rest and reorganization. The same is true of the movement to LUXEMBOURG which immediately followed. Service Company went into bivouac in HELMDANGE and Bn Tns were released to BNS on arrival to support the attack which immediately followed.

G-4, 80th Division secured 16 trucks from Army and supplementing this group with 9 of our own trucks and a 32 man detail we moved our duffle bags and impedimenta from ST. AVOLD TO HELMDANGE. While enroute from ST. AVOLD to HELMDANGE the motor column of 16 Quarter-master trucks, which bore no identification panels was strafed by aircraft, which witnesses claimed were American "P-47s with Swastikas painted on the tail surfaces. One man of this organization was injured, and small damage was done to the equipment carried by these trucks.

About this time, we officially adopted a system of laundering the outer clothing in bulk. We stripped all the duffle bags of trousers, shirts, field jackets, socks and handkerchiefs and placed them in barracks bags. We tagged each bag of like items with the name of the item, its approximate size and the number of items, segregated them and stacked them in Bn piles. Whenever a Bn or a part thereof desires fresh clothing, issues are made from these bags. The soiled clothing turned in is sent to the laundry and when it returns it is properly sorted, sized and bagged by a two man detail from each Bn.

On the 24 December 1944 the regiment, less one Bn was attached to the 4th ARMORED DIVISION. The 1st Bn went with CGA and the 2nd Bn with CCB. Both of these combat commands took over the resupply of classes 1, 3 and 5 for the attached Bns. The 3rd Bn which remained in place was resupplied from the service train which also remained in place. The resupply of class 2 for all BNS was maintained by RSO from the Service Train. No problems. On 29 December 1944 the BNS were released from the 4th ARMORED DIVISION and the Regiment concentrated in the vicinity of the area it had vacated. The attrition of weapons and equipment in the 1st and 2nd BNS due to their operations with the armored division was very heavy, and immediate steps were taken to rehabilitate these Bns. Replacement was prompt and effective.

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S-4