

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

L-282

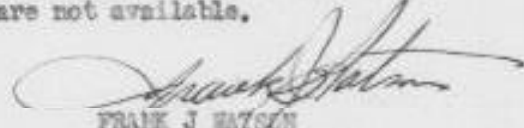
20 November 1944

Subject: After Action Reports, August 1944

To : Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO # 80 U. S. Army.
Attn Division Historian, Captain Hanson

1. Enclosed are after action reports for S-1, 2, 3, 4 staff sections, this regiment, covering period from 5 August to 31 August 1944.

2. S-1 journal for this period is also enclosed. Journals of other staff sections (S-2, 3, 4) for August 1944 are not available.



FRANK J HANSON
CAPTAIN, INFANTRY
Regimental Historian

380-2 NE (317) - D. 2

A/A Report - 317th Inf Regt - 80th Div

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.
W. Bradley Capt ASD 22 Apr 46
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

Copy - HQ

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

3 September 1944

SA/AUGUST


Subject: After Action Report, Personnel Administration, Period from 5 August 1944 to 31 August 1944.

To : Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C., through Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO #80, U. S. Army.

1. Upon arrival in France, 7 August 1944, personnel administration consisted primarily of preparation and submission of payrolls, entry of pertinent data on personnel records, preparation and submission of morning reports and usual personnel duties. Throughout the period of time prior to landing in France, and including the period beginning with this date to the unit's initial combat engagement, emphasis was placed on education and preparation for the processing of reports and records and the accounting for of casualties during battle.

2. In the short interval immediately preceding the entry of this organization in actual conflict with the enemy, a concentrated period of education, in addition to previous instruction, was conducted for First Sergeants. Strong emphasis was placed on the proper method of reporting the status of all members of the company on morning report summaries, and the urgency and importance of accuracy stressed.

3. In consideration of the possibility of accounting for and reporting of large numbers of casualties, a casualty section was arranged under the supervision of the Personnel Sergeant Major and consisting of two additional clerks, who would function in this section in addition to the normal clerical duties required for the companies to which they were assigned. This casualty section was detailed the responsibility for complete knowledge of all requirements of casualty reporting, and the maintaining of necessary controls. The basic procedure established called for the reporting by the company clerks of casualty information contained on the company morning report summaries, preparing for this a small card, designated a battle casualty card. From the information contained on this card, the casualty section was to enter the required information on the ETC Casualty Form #1, which would be completed each day. This procedure, when put to its initial test in the campaign to close the Argentan-Falaise Gap, worked very satisfactorily. The company clerks designated to conduct the casualty reporting were from companies not having a high I/O assignment strength and not likely to suffer many casualties. The success of the procedure outlined in the first strong fighting of this Regiment, and its continued success in operations to the closing date of this report encouraged its continuance.


FRANK J. WATSON
Captain, Infantry
Personnel Officer

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HEADQUARTERS 317TH INFANTRY
APO #60, U. S. ARMY

3 September 1944

Subject: After Action Report S-2

/ AUGUST

To : Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO # 80, U. S. Army.

5 August 1944 through 17 August 1944:

No enemy forces contacted.

18 August 1944:

4 or 5 rounds of enemy artillery fell in the Regimental area. No casualties occurred.

19 August 1944:

88 mm, small arms and 20 mm AA fire were received by our attacking echelon in the afternoon. Enemy were organized on the high ground NE of Argentan. During the night enemy artillery fire continued to fall in our sector.

20 August 1944:

Enemy column of Mark V tanks, and assorted other types of vehicles moved NE out of Argentan attempting to escape from the pocket, they ran into our 2nd Battalion advancing N and all but a few were destroyed or captured. By late afternoon the enemy had been completely driven from the regimental objective. Many prisoners were brought in who were stragglers from escaping units or remnants of units destroyed in the Falais pocket.

21 August 1944 through 23 August 1944:

No enemy contacted. Large quantities of Ammunition and supplies of all kinds were found in the woods NE of Argentan during this period and the regiment recovered numerous serviceable enemy vehicles of all types.

24 August 1944:

SS Captain, in civilian clothes, was captured during a practice attack on Hill 213 NE of Argentan by Company "L", 3d Battalion. He was from the SS Division "Hitler Youth".

25 August 1944 through 27 August:

No enemy contacted.

28 August 1944:

Remnants of enemy units were contacted between Pavillion and Chalons-

sur-Marne. Enemy delaying forces were dispersed to hold Chalons-sur-Marne to allow withdrawal of enemy Panzer units to E. Enemy blew Chalons bridge during the night.

29 August 1944 through 31 August 1944:

Enemy withdrew from Chalons, only a few stragglers were encountered. Our field train was strafed on the 31st by 3 ME 109's. We suffered two casualties.

James H. Hayes

JAMES H. HAYES
Major, Infantry
S-2

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HEADQUARTERS 517TH INFANTRY
APO #80, U. S. ARMY

3 September 1944

Subject: After Action Report (S-3) / AUGUST

To : Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO #80, U. S. Army

The following report (After Action) from S-3, 517th Infantry Regiment, is submitted in compliance with Section III, Para 64, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1944.

5 August 1944:

Loading elements loaded at Utah Beach at 1400. Started concentration at Varenville.

6 August 1944:

Regiment completed disembarkation; moved by truck to concentration area vicinity Coigny.

7 August 1944:

Regiment completed concentrating at Coigny.

8 August 1944:

OT moved by motor to Pain d' Vaine. At 1735 OT ordered to move motorized on Lorraine without delay and outpost Coigny, Lorraine-St Georges. OT moved out at 2134.

9 August 1944:

OT ordered to seize Evron at 1900. Issued orders 1900. OT moved without delay to assembly area south of Evron.

10 August 1944:

Attack Evron at 0800 with 1st and 3rd Bns in attacking echelons. 3rd on left, 2nd Bn on reserve. Co "A" 702 TD Bn and Co "C" 610 TD Bn attached to OT. Evron occupied 1000 by 1030. OT held high ground NE Evron which was the objective. OT ordered to leave 3rd Bn to occupy Evron, remainder of OT to proceed to vicinity of Bernay to seize Coigny. Occupied Coigny 2000.

11 August 1944:

OT (-) moved on Sillie le Guillume from Coigny at 0800, left one R company to hold Coigny (C Co). By 1200 occupied high ground southeast of Sillie le Guillume. 517th INF determined to occupy Sillie de Guillume and high ground to north.

12 August 1944

At 0900 one R Co (Co "A") ordered to hold Sagne. C Co reverted to Bn control from holding Coalis. CT started patrolling from Sillie de Ouilhaie to Coalis to Sagne.

13 August 1944

Started movement to concentrate CT at Evron by 0700 had concentrated there. Ordered to move motorized from Evron at 0800 toward Alencon. CT detrucked at Vallaines at 1200. By 2000 leading elements were at Pre en Pail. CT ordered to concentrate south Pre en Pail which was completed at 2300.

14 August 1944

At 0955 one Rifle platoon was sent to Javron to work with the 80th Recon Troops. At 1631 CT started movement to Deux Evailles (motorized by shuttling).

15 August 1944

Closed in assembly area there at 0700.

16 August 1944

Remained in assembly area vicinity of Deux Evailles. At 1500 ordered to concentrate in area vicinity Argentan.

17 August 1944

Started movement at 1700; reached area 2200.

18 August 1944

CT 318th attached to east and north Argentan at 0800. CT 317th in Division Reserve. At 1115 CP moved to Bossis le Lund. 2nd Bn ordered to NE position at 1255 to cover right flank and rear CT 318th.

19 August 1944

CT attacked at 1600 in column of Bns, 2nd Bn, 1st Bn, 3rd Bn.

20 August 1944

CT captured objective at 0600. 3rd Bn attacked towards Argentan at 0945. At 1044 3rd Bn took Argentan; contacted British there at 1405. 1st Bn moved North Sagt objective and cleared area in CP zone of advance.

21 August 1944

CT moved to assembly area SW of Argentan at 2000.

22 August 1944

OT closed in concentration area at 0620 SW of Argentan. CP located near Amou le Faucon.

23 August 1944

Remained in area

24 August 1944

Frontal attack on Hill 215 NE of Argentan. At 1000 by the 3rd Bn.

25 August 1944

At 2200 OT ordered to move vicinity of Sens.

26 August 1944

OT crossed IP at 0701, 1st Bn - 3rd Bn - 2nd Bn motorized enroute to Sens. Continued moving all day. Arrived about 10 miles W of Sens by 2400.

27 August 1944

At 1300 moved to Fevillon. Closed there by 1900. OT ordered to attack to NE at 0600 to capture Chalons Sur Marne.

28 August 1944

OT moved motorized. By 2400 occupied position 2 miles SE Chalons Sur Marne.

29 August 1944

Ordered to attack Chalons Sur Marne at 0100, attack to jump off at 0800. Order 3rd Bn-2nd Bn-1st Bn in columns. At 0900 OT C C coordinated with S-5 WDA 4th Area Div to attack from East bank Marne on Chalons at 1000. Attack jumped off on time, 3rd Bn leading then 2nd, then 1st. At 1120 leading elements of the 3rd Bn took Chalons. At 1700 OT ordered to establish a portion of Division bridgehead S of Marne River.

30 August 1944

At 1300 all elements of OT 317th were in bridgehead position S of the Marne River.

Howard R. Ford

HOWARD R. FORD
Captain, Infantry
Regimental S-5

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

3 September 1944.

Subject: After Action Report. (S-4) / AUGUST

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
Thru Channels.

1. Regimental Supply echelon 317th Infantry landed in France Utah Beach 2 Aug 44. First supply element of Div to land. Vehicles utilized by Div to transport large percentage of foot elements of Div from beach area to initial bivouac areas Div pending landing other transportation of Div.

2. Operations of Regt supported from 2 Aug to 31 Aug include mileage covered of 729 miles; rations drawn and issued - 90,000; gasoline drawn - 23,500; gasoline on hand close of period - 1,500 gallons. Basic loads of ammunition maintained. $\frac{1}{3}$ allowance of vehicles and weapons on hand at close of period.



ARCHIE O. JOHNSON, JR.,
Major, 317th Infantry,
Regimental Supply Officer.