

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS 817TH INFANTRY  
APO # 80 U.S. ARMY

L-335

5 January 1945

Subject: After Action Report, December 1944

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

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

2. Pertinent data is enclosed in the form of Journals, Message Center forms, Field Orders, Field Messages, periodic reports and overlays.

HENRY G. FISHER  
Lt Col, Infantry  
Commanding



CLASSIFICATION CHANGED  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

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

1 January 1945

(51)/DECEMBER

Subject : After Action Report, S-1 (Personnel and Allied Administration),  
for Period 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944.

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

1. Tabulations as covered by attached sheets include daily and total figures of battle casualties; prisoners of war; reinforcements received; and awards and decorations for the period of this report.

2. On 7 December 1944, John B. Yeater, (Off. 0887705) was sworn in at this Headquarters as 2nd Lieutenant, AUS in compliance with orders of Headquarters Third U.S. Army granting him a battlefield appointment as a commissioned officer.

3. The Graves Registration Team of this organization, consisting of one officer and six enlisted men, collected from the areas of operation 84 American and 57 German deceased. The team made no individual burials and all remains were turned over to the 80th Division Graves Registration Officer for delivery to proper cemeteries for burial.

#6 { 4. In the period 5 December through 16 December 1944, EXTENSIVE use was made of the opportunity to provide for recreation and relaxation of all members of the regiment. Passes to Nancy and Paris, France were issued, and moving pictures provided for entertainment. Magazines, cigars, tobacco and a number of bottles of perfume were offered for sale through the medium of the Regimental Post Exchange. On two occasions the Special Service Officer secured sufficient quantities of beer for sale at minimum price to all members of the regiment.

#6 { 5. A provisional company has been created within the Service Company Train for the processing of replacements and men returning to duty from the hospital. All men are moved from the rear of the Divisional Area under the supervision of a non-commissioned officer, and checked in to the provisional company, where they are picked up on a morning report summary. Replacements are then held for at least a period of 24 to 48 hours, during which time they are given the opportunity to bathe; shortages of clothing and equipment made up; rifles are seroed in; orientation and instruction in battle facts is conducted; and provision for exchange of currency and applications for allotments for saving and purchase of War Bonds is made. This provisional company consists of one officer and three non-commissioned officers, who provide for the details of processing as outlined and maintain the accounting for the replacements from the time they leave the Division rear area until they join the unit to which they are assigned.

6. It has been noted that large numbers of replacements arrive at the Regimental level apparently without full opportunity to convert currencies of the United States or the United Kingdom into the medium of exchange of that country to which they have been sent to perform duty. In the constant survey of the administrative status of these men, and in the soliciting of desired allotments for savings or the purchase of war bonds, full instruction in the advantages of this type of disposal of surplus personal funds has not been applied. It is recommended that such greater effort as may be possible be made to provide for exchange of currencies and preparation of allotments in rear areas.



FRANK J. WATSON,  
Capt, 517th Infantry,  
Personnel Officer.

~~SECRET~~

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.

After Action Report (S-3) - Cont'd

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 700d 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.

After Action Report (S-3) - Contd.

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 SCHNITZEL 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 SCHNITZEL.

26 December 1944 - 1st and 3d Bns attacked at 0730, 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 SCHNITZEL, 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 SCHNITZEL, 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 SCHNITZEL 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, SCHNITZEL 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.

After Action Report (8-3) - Cont'd.

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 247'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.

After Action Report (S-3) - Cont'd.

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:

*Henry G. Fisher*  
Lt Col, 317th Inf,  
Comd.

*Charles S. Jones*  
Capt, 317th Inf,  
S-3

~~SECRET~~

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

1 January 1945.

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

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

1. At the beginning of December the Regiment was in a reserve position out of immediate contact with the enemy. Serious attention was directed to the further familiarization of personnel in the use of their weapons. At this time and continuing through the Regiment's stay in St Avold the constant attention of the supply echelon was directed to supplying of training ammunition, the elimination of shortages in weapons and the maintenance of ordnance.
2. The greater part of the month the Regiment was in a position to enjoy "B" type rations. The use of operational rations was kept to the minimum consistent with the tactical situation. There is a growing and insistent clamor against the "C" type operational ration. This feeling is practically universal and is expressed concerning the new type "C" ration as well as the old type.
3. Immediately prior to moving into billets at St Avold, a showdown shortage inspection of T.E. 21 clothing and equipment was held. Requisitions submitted were filled with a few exceptions. Gloves, Field Jackets, and Artic overshoes have been impossible to obtain in necessary quantities. Requisitions for field jackets have recently been filled by the issue of wool blouses. The principal difficulty with overshoes lies in insufficient stocks of the larger sizes. The durability of the woolen gloves is very poor and has resulted in a very high rate of salvage requiring replacement.
4. While in St Avold the Ordnance (weapons) was submitted to ordnance inspection and repair teams. Reports of the inspectors indicated an excellent state of maintenance throughout the Regiment. During the same period the Regimental Commander conducted a command inspection of the vehicles of the Organization.
5. On 6 December 1944 Regimental and Battalion salvage teams were formally organized. It is their full time duty to closely follow their units and recover all equipment for reissue or salvage. The duffle bags of the Regiment have twice been moved this month. December 4th they were removed from Rospey, France to Valmont, France. December 30th they were removed from Valmont to Lintgen, Luxembourg.
6. On 23 December the individual GWS equipment including gas

~~SECRET~~

6. Continued.

masks was removed from storage and distributed to all personnel. Material necessary to complete the organizational CWS equipment was drawn from Chemical Warfare supply points and is presently held on hand in the Regimental Service Echelon.

7. Resupply of Class III and Class IV was normal throughout. No difficulty was experienced in resupply of Class V.

8. The Regiment entered the last week of the month fully equipped as respects all weapons. Severe fighting resulted in the loss of some BAR and Rocket Launchers. All other weapons were on hand in T.E. quantities at the close of the month.

9. Twice during the month the Regiment moved motorized. The necessary transportation for these moves was furnished by outside sources.

10. During the month of December, evacuation presented no unusual problems. The cold weather made it imperative that evacuation times be as short as possible. Battalion sections operated in towns where the patients could be kept warm and where there was adequate space to hold patients. This system often kept them at a distance from their Battalion but liaison was always maintained. A total of 1145 casualties were evacuated through the combat team installations. This figure is that of the 317th personnel alone. There were no shortages affecting the efficiency of medical care.

11. It is recommended that serious consideration be given to the reduction in or complete elimination of the issue of "C" type ration to the Infantry. Its present compulsory issue when operational rations are requested results in wasted material and highly unsatisfactory rationing of the troops. It is the consensus of opinion that the present winter uniform leaves much to be desired from a practical viewpoint. Experience indicates that the so called combat jacket and trousers, at present a limited issue to the Armored Forces, would much more efficiently clothe the combat Infantryman. Its issue is strongly desired by all concerned. The results obtained from the operations of the unit salvage teams has been very satisfactory and has resulted in the recovery of substantial quantities of equipment that otherwise would have been lost to the war effort.

~~SECRET~~

*Archie Johnson Jr*  
Archie C. Johnson, Jr.,  
Major, Infantry,  
C-4.

APPROVED:

*Henry C. Fisher*  
HENRY C. FISHER,  
Lt. Col., Infantry,  
Commanding.

-3-

~~SECRET~~