

"The 80th only moves forward"

THE BLUE RIDGER

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Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes
Central Europe

Long Move Halts Big Nazi Push 150-Mile Dash Plugs Gap at Luxembourg

By Robert Richards
Of United Press

With U.S. Forces on the Western Front, Dec. 30 (U.P.)—Troops of the 80th Infantry Division, going without hot food and riding in open trucks through freezing weather, made a 150 mile dash into a defense line formed to save the city of Luxembourg, it was disclosed today as more details were released on the part played by Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton's troops in stemming the German counteroffensive.

The 80th, commanded by Major Gen. Horace L. McBride, was resting at the French town of St. Avold after hard fighting in the Saar, and was due to go back into line on the night of Dec. 17-18. So it traveled 40 miles east to Bitch, and then got a sudden order to move north when the German offensive opened.

To Protect Luxembourg

One regiment was loaded into trucks there at 1 A.M., Dec. 19, with orders to form a defensive line north of Luxembourg and hold it to the last man. Luxembourg city was a vital communications point and sheltered at least 50,000 men, women and children.

The regiment was in the line the morning of Dec. 20, registered its guns and opened fire. By afternoon the whole division was in position although the greater part of its men had had nothing hot to eat or drink for 36 hours.

Although the line was a defensive one, the 80th was ordered to attack on the morning of the 21st. The order was countermanded and then given again, because the position was decidedly fluid.

One regiment's trucks had gone back for more troops, so the regiment moved through the snow on foot for six miles to the West. It turned back when the orders were changed, then set out again to the west—a total hike of 18 miles in all.

At 6 A.M. on the 22d, it attacked and made 14 miles in the next 48 hours through the savage, rocky ravines and wooded ground. There was no time to sleep, no hot coffee or food.

"Purest Butchery" of Germans
It emerged along a road which formed one arm of a "V" along the other arm of which a German infantry division was moving northwest in close column, not suspecting the presence of the Americans. The Americans hit the middle of the German column.

"It was purest butchery," said one officer. "The 80th stood at a road junction, emptying its magazines into a mass of struggling men and horses."

The head of the German column fell back in panic and the 80th reported it wiped out about two-thirds of the German division.

The advance continued until Christmas Day.

"Up Front" With General McBride



Major Gen. H. L. McBride, CG 80th Div., discusses position of hastily emplaced anti-tank gun with two of his fighting men near Argentan.

Blue Ridgers Storm Vital Rail Center Nazi Fire Kassel; Civilians Caught in Firing; New Tanks Wrecked; Fighting Termed Savage

Kassel, Germany, April 3 (UP)—Three columns of the American Eightieth Division burst into this great rail and highway center last night, fought their way through its streets today in the bloodiest Third Army clash since the crossing of the Rhine and started a grim mopping up tonight.

Fire is blazing, lighting up the city and sending smoke columns hundreds of feet into the air, as a German rear guard sets fire to German Army supplies.

The infantrymen of the Eightieth held about all the strategically valuable buildings in the city. But it is a city that is 85 per cent destroyed—a city with a pre-war population of about 217,000 that has now paid the price of Nazi conquest.

The fight for Kassel lasted three days.

In an armored half track, a mobile command post, Lieut. Col. John Woods of Louisville, Ky., was directing the house to house fighting.

Sniper bullets pinged around and mortar shells were bursting.

Civilians Caught in Firing

German civilians, under deadly fire, had run out of their houses to sprinkle lavender and purple paney petals on the bloody bodies of their dead.

Wounded civilians were being carried away on stretchers. They had been caught, some of them in their own homes, where Americans and Germans were fighting to the death with hand grenades and machine guns.

One American column entered Kassel from the east through the zoological gardens. A second entered from the railroad station at the west end. The third made a frontal attack into the very heart of the city from the south.

Fighting was savage throughout today. Late this afternoon the Germans cracked. All three columns converged swiftly inward and started rounding up hundreds of German prisoners.

New Panther Tanks Wrecked

Shortly before noon tremendous explosions coming from the heart of the city indicated that the Germans were blowing up military installations preparatory to giving up the fight.

While the Eightieth Division's men were crashing through Kassel's outer defenses yesterday a column of twenty-eight German tanks, fresh off the assembly line, charged through doughboys in the southern suburb of Zwehren and knocked out some American tanks and tank destroyers before they were chased back into town.

Six of the enemy tanks, including four Panthers, were wrecked. The point of the tanks, produced at the Henschel locomotive works, was hardly dry. Their speedometers registered just fifteen miles—the distance they took on their circuitous route from the factory to the place where they stopped.

DIED IN SERVICE

From California Monthly, a college publication, November 1944.

Died in Service—Brigadier General Edmund Wilson Searby, class of 1918, USA, was killed in action in France on September 14, where he was serving as artillery commander of the 80th Infantry Division. He was the grandson of Prof. William Searby of the College of Pharmacy.

80th Doughboys Smash Famous Siegfried Line

80TH FIRES LAST SHOT

(Associated Press) May 8, 1945—

The last shot on the Western Front was fired in Czechoslovakia by the 80th Infantry Division of General Patton's Third Army, the last to remain in action. Patton issued his cease fire order at 3 a.m. today (3 a.m., Eastern War Time).

Ancient Fort Put Into Use By Germans Dry 15 foot Moat Surrounds Enemy

By Robert Richards
United Press Staff Writer

With the U.S. Third Army Across the Moselle River, Sept. 9 (Delayed)
After running for almost 400 miles, the Germans have turned at last and tonight are clinging stubbornly to every rock, hole and fence line on this side of the Moselle.

American big guns are booming from the hills high above Toul while our weary infantrymen crouch in the woods in the valley below waiting for the Germans who are concealed to the east to be forced into the open.

This particular outfit is very grim and bitter because the fighting since their crossing three days ago has been of the toughest.

A Fantastic Story
Perhaps one of the most fantastic stories of the war is being unfolded in this sector.

From where I stand can be seen the hump-shaped outline of Fort Ville Le Sec on the outskirts of the village of Fort Le Sec. This ancient fort, with its 8-foot thick concrete walls and surrounded by a dry, 15-foot deep moat, was written off long ago by the French as useless.

But the desperate Germans have turned it into a citadel again, and within a matter of hours made it fit to meet the conditions of modern warfare.

The fort was constructed in 1904, and moss and grass have grown over most of its parapets, but the Germans still managed to repulse two American assaults with tanks and infantry. In the second attack, the infantry forced its way to the moat but was unable to get across. The Germans simply tossed hand grenades into the hollow, creating a terrific blast.

"I wish we could get them to counterattack," said Col. Elliott B. Cheston of Annapolis, Md., a battalion commander. "Then we would fix them up." But the cagey Germans remain inside their thick enclosure, refusing to venture out.

Trio Catch Krauts With Lugers Down

Stars and Stripes

With the 80th Div.—It was a case of "don't fire till you see the whites of their eyes" for three Blue Ridge infantrymen of Co. F of the 318th Regt.

After pushing across the Sauer River and well into German-held territory, the trio, Sgt. Clyde A. Ray, of Monticello, Ark., Sgt. David A. Dick, of New Castle, Pa., and Pfc. James J. Meade, of Avoca, Pa., found themselves on outpost duty 300 yards ahead of their lines. They also found the Krauts all set to launch a heavy counterattack.

Tense the trio waited. It was getting dark but they could see the Jerries moving up, 100 yards away, 50 yards, 20 yards. At ten yards, the patrol let go with their M-1s. Simultaneously, they started screaming and yelling, as if the whole 80th Division was on the warpath. It was over in a few minutes. The surprised Nazis faltered, broke and fled, all except 25 who lay dead.

Yanks Claw Way Through Nazi Pillboxes

By Robert Cromie — Chicago Tribune

With U.S. 80th Infantry Division, Wallendorf, Germany, February 13—Infantrymen of this top night division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Horace L. McBride of Elgin, Neb., are steadily expanding their holdings in the Siegfried Line, methodically knocking out pillboxes as they go.

Crossing the swollen Our river in the face of German fire was no easy feat, and since the crossing was accomplished early in the morning of Feb. 7, 80th Division doughboys have taken more than 850 prisoners. In the region south of Cruchten they have worked their way entirely thru the main Siegfried defenses. There still are many pillboxes ahead, but they no longer provide each other with protecting fire.

Advance Less Difficult

Of the last 60 or 70 pillboxes taken, only two had to be blown up with high explosive, and in both of these German officers were found. In the others, in which the officers were found, the occupants surrendered, either before the Yanks were close enough to begin working in earnest, or at most after a grenade or two was tossed inside.

American 155s also have been persuasive — so persuasive, in fact, that the 80th has coined the phrase, "one round surrender," as the result of so many pillboxes giving up after a single round of 155 either has hit or landed near them.

Lt. Col. Elliott B. Cheston, of Annapolis, Md., commander of the 3rd Battalion of the 318th Infantry, said his unit last night took 80 prisoners from three pillboxes after working in so quietly that the Germans didn't know they were

Continued on Page 4 column 5

Rescues Under Fire Win DSC for Padre

—Army Times—Dec. 30, 1944—

With 80th Infantry Division in France—Father Benedict A. Henderson, of the 80th Infantry Division's crack 318th Infantry Regiment, now wears America's second highest military decoration, the Distinguished Service Cross, but to those who know him, his Chaplain's Cross stands for distinguished services far exceeding those covered by a mere citation.

On Sept. 6 the 3rd Battalion of the 318th Infantry, to which the Oakland, Calif., Chaplain is assigned, was attacking the heavily fortified Fort Ville Le Sec near Toul, France.

Heavy casualties were suffered and the overworked medical personnel were unable to evacuate all the wounded immediately. The Chaplain, hearing the cries of the wounded, crawled unhesitatingly through the cratered and mined battlefield and under heavy fire made his perilous pilgrimage to the torn, twisted wreckage of a disabled tank, from which he extricated a wounded soldier, carrying him 200 fire-swept yards to the rear and safety.

He again went forward under fire and encountered a hard-pressed litter squad working desperately over two wounded men, the most seriously wounded of which they evacuated. Realizing that prompt medical attention would save the other boy, Father Henderson gently lifted him onto his back and once again started the dangerous trip to the rear. Machine guns kicked up puffs of dust around him, sniper bullets whined their deadly warning, but crawling on his hands and knees, fearless Father Henderson saved a second life that day.

80th Infantrymen Penetrate Maginot Line; Nazi Border Stands Only Four Miles Away

New York Times

With American Third Army in France, November 26, 1944—Splitting the Maginot Line wide open with the seizure of ten of its forts, elements of the Eightieth Infantry Division continued right through the rears today and they were on three sides of St. Avold, a communications center. These troops are two miles beyond the Maginot Line and within four miles of the German border.

The Eightieth Division is now in a strong position, with its heavy guns firing into the Reich from ridges around St. Avold while its infantry is threatening the city itself.

One hour and a quarter after the attack on the line jumped off the first of the Maginot forts was taken. This was Fort Bambiderstroff. When it fell the crack in the wall started to widen. There was considerable opposition and mortar fire was particularly heavy.

One of the strongest points at the start of the attack was Fort Quatre Vents. It laid down a sweeping barrage of mortar fire but it could not seem to keep up the pace when pressure was applied from three sides. It was successfully stormed soon after Fort Bambider-

stroff fell and that was the beginning of the end for all the principal fortifications in this particular part of the famous Maginot Line. Most of the forts, like the Iselving group of three, were in clusters, with outlying pillboxes. Each was capable of mowing the other with inter-lacing crossfire.

While the attack was speedy and spectacular, and carried with it the element of surprise, it was a hard fought battle over difficult terrain studded with tanks. There were mine fields everywhere. There were tank traps, ditches and intricate road blocks.

80th Division Takes Heights in Ardennes

BY LEE MCCARDLE

With the U.S. 3d Army, Jan. 7, 1945. The fir-clad hills rise to a height of more than 1,500 feet where the main highway from Eitelbrück to Bastogne crosses the Sure River in the heart of the Ardennes. The river flows through a narrow gorge. The road zigzags down one steep side of the gorge, crosses the river on a high, double-arched stone bridge and forks just before it begins to climb again.

The right fork zigzags up a steep mountainside, then strikes off across a high plateau toward Wiltz. This plateau commands the high ground of the battle area in that sector. Captured yesterday by the 80th Infantry Division, it is held tonight by the same men who took it the troops commanded by two young Maryland officers.

The Germans counterattacked them fiercely at 3 o'clock this morning. They shelled them again this afternoon. The snow was black and grimy from the smoke of the exploding shells. From the hills you could look down into the deep river gorge and see the complete pattern of shell bursts, black against snow.

Little Other Activity

Little other activity was reported in the 3rd Army zone. West of Bastogne, our infantry had advanced about 1 mile northwest on a 3-mile front near the village of Flamierge. Southwest of Bastogne, the 35th Infantry Division had thrown back a counterattack by a German battalion with twenty tanks, knocking out six of the tanks near the village of Harlange.

But the Sure River crossing was the day's big news. We jumped out to look at it. The icy roads were still burdened with snow and sleet. More sleet was falling in fine, white, frost pellets. It reminded us of pictures we used to see of the Russo-Finnish War.

Preparations for the river crossing began the day before yesterday. Engineers sanded the icy, zigzag road leading down to the bridge whose two high stone arches had been blown by the Germans. They took up the mines which our infantry had planted this side of the bridge along the foot of the wooded hills. A mile or two upstream it turned northeast, climbed the snow-covered cliffs and struck out for the village of Dahl, 1 mile north of Goesdorf.

Started to Build Bridge

When it first became dark the night before last, a company of engineers commanded by Lieut. Joseph Lelevich, of Kulpmont, Pa., began putting a Bailey bridge across the first of the two broken arches of the old span. Half an hour later the Germans began shelling the engineers and finally drove them back up the road from the bridge abutment.

Most of the engineers were New Englanders, but there were a few Southerners, among them Tec 5 William G. Rose, of New Castle, Va., a bulldozer operator; Pfc. Paul Rash of Pulaski, Va., a platoon runner; Private Charles Walls, of Narrows, Va., and Private Robert Williams of Charleston, W. Va.

"It was pretty hot for a time," Rose said today. "I hit the ditch. I guess we all hit the ditch."

German artillery was zeroed in on the bridge site. One shell hit the center pier of the ruined double arch.

Went Back Later

Later that night, the engineers went back to the river with steel treadways for another type of bridge. They thought the construction of the treadway would be less noisy than the building of a Bailey bridge. But the Germans kept dropping time fire on the bridge site. They were still shelling the site this afternoon.

The Sure River isn't very wide here, not more than 90 feet, but it is deep and swift. And it looks mighty cold down there in its gorge. Meanwhile, two infantry forces, one commanded by Lieut. Col.

Hiram Ives, of Baltimore, and the other by Lieut. Col. Elliott Cheston, of Annapolis, had rendezvoused in the village of Heiderscheid, 2 miles south of the river. They were scheduled to cross the Sure at 4 yesterday morning. They crossed about two minutes late.

Used Secondary Road

Ives' infantry climbed the opposite heights, using a narrow, secondary road whose hairpin turns make it a series of steep switchbacks. So narrow was the road and so sharp its turns that some of the American tanks which tried to follow the infantry slipped over its edge. One had to be abandoned.

A mile beyond the river is the village of Goesdorf. It was Ives' original plan to deploy his force when approaching the village and enter it only after the American artillery, firing from below the river, had worked it over.

"But it was getting late," Ives said today. "It was almost 7:30 when we reached the point where we were to deploy on either side of the road. We talked it over and decided to try to slip in without any artillery preparation. Luck was with us."

Moved In From West

"Our force moved around and in from the west side of the town. The rest of us went up the main road, entered the town, turned east on the crossroad at the village church, and had almost reached the eastern edge of the town before a single shot was fired. The other force moved in from the east side of the town as they entered. It took us about two hours to clean out the Germans from the place."

Of the force of about 50 Germans in the village proper, Ives' men killed eight or ten and took most of the remainder prisoners. From the talk of the prisoners we later learned that the American attack came at a time when the Germans holding that sector of the enemy line were being relieved by other troops. As a result, there was considerable confusion and disorganization.

While Ives' force was advancing on Goesdorf, Cheston's Infantry was moving parallel to the Bastogne road along the foot of the wooded hills. A mile or two upstream it turned northeast, climbed the snow-covered cliffs and struck out for the village of Dahl, 1 mile north of Goesdorf.

Took Germans by Surprise

"It was a little tough making that climb in the dark," Cheston admitted today. "But we spread out when we reached high ground and took the Germans in the village by surprise. The villagers told us there were only 36 Germans in the town itself and when we finally counted up the dead, wounded and prisoners, we had exactly 36."

Five German tanks or self-propelled guns north of Dahl were destroyed by American artillery fire. They had dug from the bottom of their reserve barracks bags, were "decomatized" at a replacement center, and headed west—for the U.S.A. They were the Third's contingent of soldiers going home on the rest and recuperation plan just instituted.

Two men from the 90th Div., in the middle of their first hot bath in this sector before leaving today, said they had been fighting in a front-line German town when they were notified of their trip home. Ten more men were in a company engaged in the Siegfried defenses when their battalion commander sent a special patrol to get them.

Many men will see their babies for the first time. Cpl. Thomas Yee, 80th Division squad leader, hopes to find news of his wife and child left behind in China.

T/S Harvey Parsons, of St. Claire, Mich., a company medic who has three or four medals—he cannot remember how many for sure—said, "I guess I don't really deserve it. Wow—Imagine!"

Atrocities Taken by American Agents

Stars and Stripes

London, May 15 (UP)—Lt. Gen. of Police Ernst V. Kaltenbrunner, Heinrich Himmler's ace atrocity expert, has been reported captured by the special agent of the 80th Division with the aid of Austrian patriots in a fortified chalet in Tyrol. His adjutant, Arthur Scheid, also was captured.

Kaltenbrunner's capture places in the hands of the Allies the man charged with responsibility for the ghastly German gas extermination program, which is alleged to have snuffed out 4,000,000 lives...

Colonel McVickar Killed; Got First Aid to Bastogne

(New York Herald-Tribune)

Colonel Lansing McVickar, commander of the United States 3d Army's 318th Regiment, the first unit to break through the German encirclement of Bastogne, Belgium, and relieve the 101st Airborne Division, was killed in action on Jan. 14 in Luxembourg, according to a War Department message to his wife, Mrs. Erna Marie McVickar, of Cold Spring Harbor, L. I. He was fifty years old.

Colonel McVickar's regiment was part of the "Blue Ridge" Division which repeatedly spearheaded Lieutenant General George S. Patton's drive across northern France last summer and early autumn. This division was particularly noted for its role during the battle of Falaise Gap, when the German 7th Army was trapped and decimated following the Allied breakthrough at St. Lo.

Later the 318th Regiment received a unit citation for its achievements in the Metz-Nancy sector when General Patton's forces were pushing toward the Saar basin. Press dispatches of Nov. 11, 1944, to this regiment major credit for the capture of Delme ridge, a well-fortified German stronghold eighteen miles southeast of Metz by a frontal assault.

Cited Again in Three Weeks

Three weeks later, "The 318th Regiment was again cited in a message from General Horace L. McBride to Colonel McVickar, which read in part: 'The attack of the 318th Regiment on Dec. 4 once again demonstrated the superb spirit and dash that has characterized all the actions of the regiment in recent offensives.' At that time the regiment was reportedly within nine miles of Saarbrücken, having breached the Maginot line on Nov. 26 by capturing Fort Banebach."

The unexpected German counter-attack which started Dec. 16 found the 318th Regiment resting at St. Avold. The entire 80th Division was hastily transferred to the north and, by moving in forced stages, reached positions guarding the City of Luxembourg on Dec. 26. Six days later Colonel McVickar's unit became the first group to fight through the German lines to the beleaguered 101st Division, marking the turning point in the Battle of the Bulge.

Fighting at Sure River

Colonel McVickar's regiment was last reported forcing a bridgehead across the Sure River in northern Luxembourg, some two and a half miles from Wiltz, which fell on Jan. 22. Dispatches from the Ardennes sector on Jan. 14, the day he was killed, announced that the Germans were in full retreat toward their Westwall.

Bastogne Job Nets Commission For EM

Stars and Stripes

With the 80th Inf Div—Walter Hodge, of Louisville, Ky., joined the Blue Ridge Division as an adjutant on Nov. 10. By the end of the first day of combat, he was a platoon sergeant. In less than a month and a half, he was company executive officer.

Hodge received his second lieutenant's commission and the Bronze Star Medal for his courage and leadership in the 318th Inf. drive to relieve besieged Bastogne.

Then T/Sgt. Hodge, he took over when his company commander was wounded and led a wild charge that stormed and overran the objective. In the furious attack, Hodge personally killed seven Germans, wounded four more and took 31 prisoners.

Americans Capture Large Arms Plant

By Gene Currian, New York Times

With American Third Army, in France, Nov. 26—Splitting the Maginot Line wide open with the seizure of ten of its forts, elements of the Eightieth Infantry Division continued right through the breaks today and tonight they were on three sides of St. Avold, a communications center. These troops are two miles beyond the Maginot Line and within four miles of the German border.

While the Eightieth Division was driving toward the Saar Basin, the Ninetieth Infantry Division, farther along the river, captured a major German ammunition plant, thereby lowering the German military potential by 1,000,000 shells. The plant was one on which the Germans had depended, to a large extent, for land, air and sea explosives and had been shipping three carloads of shells a day for the past three years to units on the various fighting fronts.

But as night fell and the mopping-up process was about complete, troops of the Eightieth Division were dominating points to the north, south and west of St. Avold, with the badly shattered segment of the Maginot Line behind them and the German border just ahead.

Although the seized ammunition plant had been abandoned and stripped of machinery when the Ninetieth Division arrived, according to prisoners almost 1,000 slave laborers had been employed. It was a ten-acre plant, with seven large buildings hidden in the recesses of the millie. Around it was a World War trench system with ancient defenses.

In storage caves in the nearby hills were shells of every description with many of them stamped by manufacturers in the United States, Britain, Russia, Poland, Finland, Czechoslovakia and Germany. These were to be converted into modern explosives for the German war machine.

Great Variety of Ammunition

There was everything in this international ammunition pile from three-ton blockbusters to tiny hand grenades. There were enormous sea mines, heavy caliber naval shells, gigantic land mines, booby traps and white phosphorus shells.

Among the "slaves" who worked in this plant were 150 Russian women who, according to prisoners, toiled nine and a half hours a day and received forty marks a month.

Nazi Colonel Hands Sword to Doughboy

STARS AND STRIPES

With the 80th Inf Div, Jan. 4-1945. A T4 in Hqs Co., Third Bn., 317th Inf Rgt. is credited with forcing a Nazi lieutenant colonel to surrender an entire Nazi prison camp garrison at Strasbourg and release 164 Allied prisoners of war.

Sgt. Eric Reillinger, of New York, was shot in the leg in the 80th's Sella River crossing and was knocked unconscious when mortar shrapnel ripped through his helmet. He was picked up by an SS trooper, taken to three overcrowded Nazi military hospitals and finally to the Strasbourg prison camp.

Persistent German intelligence officers vainly pumped Reillinger, who speaks fluent German, and made him stand 14 hours in a corner under guard when he refused to talk.

Counter-Intelligence

With the aid of 14 French KPAs, and a British medic, Reillinger formed a counter-intelligence section. By grapevine the KPAs got word that the advancing French Army was only 12 miles away. Immediately Reillinger went to work. First, by talking to the guards, then convincing a frightened Nazi lieutenant that his small garrison of 55 old untrained soldiers, with poor equipment, could not hold the fresh French forces.

As Reillinger hoped, the officer lost no time in reporting this news to the commandant of the prison. This resulted in a meeting between the commandant and the Allied prisoners' committee of which Reillinger was the leader.

Given Authority

"I was released, as I suggested, to contact American troops," Reillinger said with the French Army. I returned from this mission with authority to accept unconditional surrender of the garrison, and to post ten of our men as guards over the Nazis," Reillinger related.

The Nazi commandant's complaint was Reillinger's insistence that the terms of surrender would include handing over his decorated pistol and sword to a Yankee T4.

After blowing off steam, the colonel surrendered.

Delme Ridge Falls To American Troops

By Gene Currian

New York Times

With American Third Army in France, November 10, 1944—Maj. Gen. Horace L. McBride's Eightieth "Blue Ridge" Division took Delme Ridge today. The ridge was one of the most important objectives in Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton's attack and just had to be taken if the Metz-Nancy line were to be straightened.

It fell after a bitter fight by troops of the 318th and 319th Infantry Regiments, but behind it all was a neat bit of strategy that caught the Germans unaware.

Delme Ridge, which is a bald top plateau 1,380 feet above sea level and approximately four miles long, was set by nature squarely across a valley, blocking it completely. Its position, just northwest of the town of Delme, is at the apex of an inverted triangle with Metz at the western end of the base and Faulquemont at the eastern side of the base. From its crest troops command the entire valley, including the Sure River.

The first plan to take the hill, which German prisoners considered the only sane one, was an attack from the western or Metz side. Hardly anyone in his right mind would conceive of a frontal assault on this lofty "fortress" because of the flooded areas in front of it and its steepness on the southern side. But that is exactly what General McBride decided to do.

Under the command of Col. Lansing McVickar of Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., the 318th Regiment started the attack from the northern end of the ridge, drawing fire where the Germans could reasonably ex-

pect some part of the assault. While this part of the operation was going on the 319th Regiment, under Col. Orion L. Davidson of Terrell, Tex., started the other half of the attack, taking the Germans completely off their guard. Meanwhile an artillery barrage that all but scalped the bald top was thrown in. Col. Max S. Johnson of St. Augustine, Fla., divisional chief of staff, who was watching the battle from a nearby ridge, saw the Germans scurrying up the ridge in great haste. Some were carrying parts of guns they hoped to assemble while others were making a quick exit with just their personal effects. By the time they had reached the top their forces had been dispersed and they wasted no time in disappearing over the other side. For a while there it looked like an Alp climbing expedition.

When the hill finally had been taken it was strewn with German dead and German guns. The element of surprise and the terrific impact of our artillery were so great that entire ack-ack emplacements were captured intact, ready to turn on the first enemy plane that appeared.

From the crest of the ridge observation eastward is unimpeded except for lesser ridges to the south, where fighting was still going on tonight. But the commanding view is perfect, with the expansive Forest of Romilly just eight miles ahead. Whatever other important objectives fall before the American Third Army in this drive to take the kinks out of the present way line, Delme Ridge will in all probability be considered outstanding.

THE BLUE RIDGER

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The 80th Only Moves Forward Record Shows

Salina Journal, Salina, Kansas

"Never failing to take an objective and never retreating from a position once taken" is the proud record of the 80th Division, which Salina claims, since it trained for two months at Camp Phillips.

The 80th division, known also as the Blue Ridge, went into combat August 3, 1944, and since that time has become a pile-driving spearhead for General Patton's Third Army. The Blue Ridge infantrymen have captured almost 12,000 prisoners and destroyed over 125 tanks since landing, a story passed by censors for the European Theatre of Operations relates.

"To the Blue Riders," says this story, "is given credit for liberation of Evron, Sille le Guillaume, Alencon, La Laccelle and scores of other towns during General Patton's Third Army breakthrough at Avranches, after which the division attacked north, seized Argentan, and helped liquidate the German Seventh Army trapped in Falaise Gap. Next moving south of Paris, the division spearheaded the Allied drive across France. The Seine, Aube, Marne, and Meuse rivers were crossed, and hundreds of towns, including Chalons sur Marne, St. Mihiel and Commercy, were freed in a triumphal pursuit of the fleeing Nazis.

"On September 4 the division established the first bridgehead across the Moselle river at Toul, continuing the push, the 80th paced the allied advance through the Saar Basin and seized St. Avold, key mining and communications center.

"When General Von Rundstedt crashed through the Luxembourg defenses, our troops, within 36 hours, made a 150 mile motorized dash, formed a defense line and saved the City of Luxembourg.

"Changing to the offensive, the 80th continued north and caught the surprised German convoys pouring west to reinforce the German salient. The resulting slaughter of Nazis seriously disrupted the enemy plans.

"Next a force of the 80th joined the Fourth Armored Division in rescuing the American forces at Bastogne. This last feat was well described in the December 30 issue of the New York Times which said, 'Lt Col. Harry E. Brown, a 4th armored staff officer, highly praised the seasoned 80th infantry, which fought in the Bastogne garrison's relief. The 80th's doughboys really did themselves proud. You can't say too much for them.'

Hitler's Hideout Captured by 80th

With the U.S. 80th Division in Germany, April 3 (AP) — A fabulous rock-hewn "eagle's nest" from which Hitler masterminded the conquest of France has fallen to Americans.

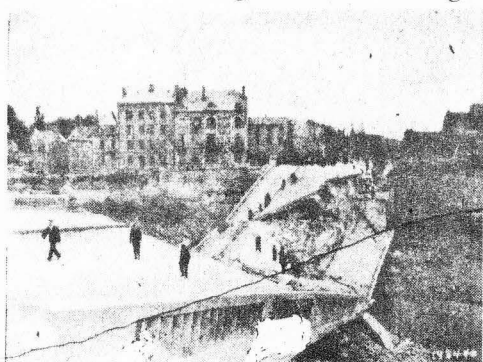
The mountain hideaway of a thousand air-conditioned chambers, which must stand in the class with Berchtesgaden—was captured by the 80th Division at Zandeneim, just west of the famed resort center of Bad Nauheim.

The place, called the "Adlerhorst," was so well concealed that doughboys thought at first they had come into possession of just another winery.

Hitler spent much of his time there in 1940, when he frequently was accompanied by Joachim von Ribbentrop, Heinrich Himmler, Rudolf Hess and Martin Bormann, deputy leader of the Nazi party. Each had gaudily appointed suites of rooms.

Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt dwelt in the Adlerhorst while plotting the Ardennes offensive of last December. Later the quarters were inherited by Field Marshal Kesselring, who succeeded Von Rundstedt as German commander on the western front. Kesselring's tenancy was cut short by the arrival of the Americans.

Germans Destroy Chalons Bridge



The swift advance of the 80th forced the Germans to blow up this bridge across the Marne River at Chalons-sur-Marne.

80th Division Takes Weimar; Germans Fail to Resist Yanks

Col. Costello Arranges for the Surrender

By Gene Currihan - New York Times
Weimar, April 12—This city, site of the Weimar Republic, which came about after Kaiser Wilhelm II had abdicated and revolution had broken out throughout Germany, was captured today without a shot fired. There were 2,000 Germans in the main square when the Americans arrived, and they mobbed our jeeps and tanks in a scene reminiscent of Normandy days.

No one is naive enough to think that the Germans are happy to have us as conquerors, but they are glad that the war is over for them and that from now on the bombings will cease. There has never been a display of friendliness similar to this one in Germany. The only sour note within the city itself was sounded by elderly folk who on occasion deliberately turned their backs when Americans came through.

The capture was accomplished by negotiation but not until quite a few American soldiers gave their lives in an ambush that was not part of the picture. It was after negotiations had been completed and our forces were moving into the city that SS units cut off in the woods on the outskirts of Weimar opened fire with small arms, burp guns and mortars. They had not heard of the armistice yet and to them enemy troops were enemy troops and that is all there was to it.

Gives Chance to Surrender

The negotiations, which seem like something out of a novel, were started at 5 A. M. today by Col. Norman O. Costello of the Eightieth Division. He was sitting four miles southwest of Weimar and thought it would be good idea to give the town a chance to surrender before he gave it the works.

He had artillery on a hill overlooking the city, ready to fire, and he had tanks in a position to take the town over. But instead he decided on negotiations if possible.

He got in touch with the burgemeister of Troistedt and gave him an ultimatum to deliver to the Mayor of Weimar. The burgemeister, who was roused from bed for this mission, was scared to death, but he went through with it.

The note he was asked to deliver was as follows:

"To the Commander of Troops, District of Weimar, German Army: 'The Third American Army advances once more triumphantly. We propose to pass through this district and through historic Weimar. Inasmuch as our superiority is now overwhelming, as your high leaders are requiring you to fight needlessly, the honorable but unconditional surrender of Weimar and of the troops in its vicinity is demanded forthwith.

"Therefore, in order to save the city of Weimar from unnecessary destruction and to prevent the further shedding of blood, you will accept this offer at once. Send an emissary at once to the place directed by the bearer.

"The rules of the Geneva Convention will be strictly adhered to

in all matters. An affirmative answer must be received at the time and place directed by the bearer or Weimar will be shelled.

"American Commander of Troops."

The Burgemeister started off hopefully, but with fear in his heart. The city was virtually surrounded by American troops, but there were numerous die-hards, including SS troops, in the vicinity who might object to peace-makers.

He made his way through and went directly to the Lord Mayor, Otto Koch, who was one of the few city officials with enough courage to remain after the German troops had moved out. Koch thought the idea of surrender was a smart thing and he went into executive session with police chief and his staff, who concurred.

After all, the main part of the city was already destroyed and why ruin the rest of it when they had nothing with which to defend it?

The Burgemeister was sent back at 2 o'clock with the acceptance of surrender terms. With him was an interpreter, who could speak English a little better than most Americans. She was a doctor of philosophy, Erica Fisher, daughter of the late German General Herman Schirmer. Her mother, Henrietta Hansen Schirmer, was born in New York as was her grandmother. Her mother is now with her in Weimar as both were bombed out of their Berlin apartment on Nov. 22, 1943, as she sarcastically remarked, "by your good American fliers."

In any event she accompanied the Burgemeister back to see Colonel Costello, and the deal was completed. Colonel Costello was a little doubtful about moving right in because some of his men had been ambushed near the town. Nevertheless, he went in himself with four jeeps. When they arrived in the town square shortly after 10 o'clock there were 2,000 people there to greet them. "Greet" is not the word—they mobbed them.

Vigilant MP Finds Prince of a Story

With 80th Inf Division—(Stars and Stripes)

Wide-awake MP Sgt. Tom P. Loftus, of Diamond, Ohio, stopped a portly man in British uniform riding through a Luxembourg town in a station wagon with a brigadier general's star on the bumper. It was a suspicious looking setup, so Sgt. Loftus asked for his credentials.

The ruddy-faced man protested mildly, declaring he was "the Prince of Luxembourg." "Yeh, bud," answered Loftus, "well, I'm Gen. Patton and I want to see your papers pronto!"

The suspect produced his passbook and sure enough, he was Prince Felix of Luxembourg, also a brigadier in the British Army.

Prince Felix commended Sgt. Loftus on his vigilance, shook hands and hit the royal road.

Blue Ridgers Cross Sure and Our Rivers

General McBride Directs Forces Over Difficult Terrain Before Wallendorf

By Joseph Driscoll

New York Herald Tribune
With Patton's Army—This is an eyewitness account of the battle of Riverside Drive.

If you wish to picture the 3d Army's crossings of the Sure and Our rivers from Luxembourg into Germany and the Siegfried line, just imagine you are standing on Manhattan's famous Riverside Drive. For Manhattan read Luxembourg.

Opposite you in the distance are the steep hills and cliffs of the New Jersey Palisades. For New Jersey read Germany.

Between Riverside Drive and the Palisades and running through a valley that is almost a gorge is a river known as the Sure and farther north as the Our, which is a tributary of the Moselle, which in turn is a tributary of the Rhine. For the various tributaries of the Rhine then let us read the Hudson River.

Neither the Rhine nor the Moselle is as broad as the Hudson and the Sure and the Our are much less so. The Sure and Our in fact are more like the Harlem or Passaic Rivers. However, the Sure and the Our have one never-to-be-forgotten attribute at this time of year—melted snows from the mountains have flooded their narrow banks and these overgrown creeks race through the rocky gorges like a real river desperately in search for the sea. All this does not make for an ideal river crossing with the enemy entrenched on the opposite shore.

Trying to report this war, a correspondent sometimes is stricken with a feeling of helplessness. There the whole panorama of war stretches before him—and yet he is to write it in words that will make it plain to the reader? It is no good to write of little villages being taken—villages that don't appear on the reader's maps and mean nothing except to the fighters on both sides and the villagers themselves, who are rendered homeless.

Occasionally the correspondent is fortunate to find himself standing on a high hill overlooking the field of battle.

The battle of which I write was fought mostly on the New Jersey or Germany side. To picture the hilly battlefield think of the Jersey Palisades as they were in George Washington's time without amusement parks or flashing electric signs or suspension bridges—just natural bunkers of cliffs and grass and trees, rising precipitately from the river's edge.

The Manhattan or Luxembourg side is equally wild and primitive, devoid of asphalt highways, traffic cops, tall apartment houses and memorials to dead Presidents, soldiers and sailors.

In other words, you have a hard-to-cross river separating two unfriendly shores. Thanks to our successful repulse of Von Rundstedt's counteroffensive, we control the entire Luxembourg shore. And now, with the Allied armies on the rampage, we are gradually taking over the opposite shore, which means we are smashing into Germany's Rhine Province and the Siegfried line. Presently the Rhineland will dwell with Luxembourg, France, Belgium and Holland more or less in peace.

This is the battle of Wallendorf (or Fort Lee or Englewood). To get near it you drive through such Luxembourg villages as Mederbach and Ermsdorf and Beaufort, which have felt the heavy hand of Mars. You drive through beautiful country and you wind up in mud. Snow makes mud; rains make mud; shells and footsloggers make mud.

General Horace McBride, of the 80th Division, which is taking Wallendorf, abandons his jeep when the axle sinks in the mire. The correspondents do likewise when their jeeps descend into Mother Earth. Footsloggers jog by with a smile, for they have no jeeps and no excess baggage.

We slosh along for a mile with our Long Toms booming behind us and the enemy counter-firing to the best of his diminishing ability. We push out of a woods into a meadow with dead cows and horses lying around and on into another woods overlooking the River Sure. The villages and meadows with their dead horses and livestock are sad

places. The forests retain their fragrant beauty, even though our men are digging deep foxholes and chopping evergreens to camouflage the yellow clay excavations. In one of these excavations we see a group of medics waiting for the inevitable calls to go forth and bring in the wounded.

General McBride, a handsome, gray-haired officer, is directing the battle of Wallendorf from a regimental observation point commanding a wide view of the valley. With him are Colonel J. F. Luckett, of Panama City; Colonel Richard Fleisher, of Philadelphia, and Private First Class Saul Press, of 190th Street and Riverside Drive, Manhattan. The O. P. is a hillside dugout with log-cabin walls and evergreen ceiling.

The "Blue Ridge" Division doughboys we passed in the mud are now being ferried across the river. They meet opposition not only from the Germans but from the flood waters racing by at ten to fifteen miles an hour.

The doughboys are traveling light. They have left their overcoats and their raincoats behind. They are wearing field jackets and trousers, with cloth overshoes over their leather boots. Over their backs are slung their carbines and canteens and rations. In their hands they carry what look like tin lunch boxes—that would be their extra ammunition.

"Have you ever noticed how pale men look when going into battle?" inquires one correspondent.

But these men are not exceptionally pale—pale considering that they have had little sunshine since last September and that hunting Germans is not the healthiest of sports. They look about as any one else would after living in foxholes month after month.

Being Americans, they retain their sense of humor under the worst conditions.

"Any Russians ahead?" one asks of the correspondents.

Another, surveying a pleasant vineyard turned into an ugly morass and littered with empty shell cases and ration boxes, remarks, "What a swell site for victory garden."

The Siegfried line begins at the opposite water's edge. We can see two pillboxes on the unfriendly slope. On the lower one the concrete stands out starkly. Farther up is an older one or perhaps better camouflaged. Neither one is giving us any more trouble. Our tank destroyers, mounting 76-mm. guns like nothing better than to potshot P.B.'s. One T.D. firing from 1,500 yards scored fourteen out of fifteen direct shots on a P.B.

We have crossed the river; we have knocked out the first pillboxes. Now we can see our troops ferried across and climbing the formidable palisades. The Germans are retreating to the top and back into their deepest part of the Siegfried line.

Lacking our wealth of guns, the Germans nevertheless manage to send over a disconcerting amount of heavy artillery, howitzers and nebelwerfers. Three times we heard the shout of "hit the deck" and three times we hit the mud flat first while the shells screamed overhead.

Thus ends the first phase of the Battle of Riverside Drive. We have gained a fresh foothold in the Rhine Province (New Jersey), and we shall have it all before long.

Grateful Yanks Say It With Silk Scarf Gifts

Stars and Stripes

With 80th Inf Div.—Grateful men of beleaguered airborne and armored units inside Bastogne gave "thank-you-gifts" of parachute silk scarfs to every member of the 80th's second Bn., 318th Inf., which made the initial infantry contact by cutting through the German ring encircling the Belgian communications center.

The parachutes had been used to drop supplies to isolated troops in the city.

Blue Ridgers Seize Strategic St. Avold

Operation Lasted Only Two Days

By Joseph Driscoll, N. Y.
Herald Tribune

St. Avold-With Patton's Army on the Saar River Front. Cleansing of the German pestilence from the invaded French "so days" after the final stages with the capture by the Americans of the strategic road junction and communications center of St. Avold, former headquarters of units of the German Army.

St. Avold was the last stronghold remaining to the Germans in Lorraine. From St. Avold the Germans retreated toward the Saar River and the Siegfried line with the Americans chasing them all the way. Between St. Avold and the Saar there remained but a few unimportant villages to clean up.

To the north of Lorraine lies the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which previously had been rid of Germans. To the south of Lorraine lies its sister province of Alsace, where the combined American and French forces have captured the capital, Strasbourg, and have encircled and are mopping up thousands of Germans who will never get home to the Reich.

Thus France is fairly freed of all her German invaders, save for the small pocket at Dunkerque and the large number trapped beyond rescue in the Bordeaux region. To a considerable extent St. Avold spells finis to the German invasion that began so well in 1940.

St. Avold the operation was completed "two days" after the Magnot line had been reached by other forces and found wanting, the 80th Division moved yesterday through the Magnot line and took the ridges overlooking St. Avold from the west, north and south, leaving the Germans only a narrow escape gap to the east.

With his artillery doing its job perfectly, Major General Horace L. McBride, commanding the 80th "Blue Ridge" Division, made up largely of Maryland and Virginia enlisted men, with many officers from Pennsylvania and New York, sent his infantry after the Germans at dawn. Last night (Nov. 26) they had fought the Germans in the western suburbs of St. Avold around the village of Bohrmuhl, where the Germans still commanded some of the important entrances. This morning, as McBride's men began encircling St. Avold, the Germans forgot all about the entrances and concentrated on their own exits.

St. Avold had been more important than its population would indicate. Because of its key location the Germans had headquarters there under the command of General Blaskowitz, who was succeeded by General Balck.

In the wake of the "Blue Ridge" Division correspondents entered St. Avold.

Citizens gathered around us. They had a tale to tell and they told it in fluent French, German and in halting English. Against the advice of the Germans 3,000 of them had sheltered for ten days in the crypt of St. Nabor Cathedral while the artillery thundered day and night and the Americans moved nearer every day. The others, when ordered to Germany, took to the woods. Yesterday the Germans caught five of them and shot them as a lesson to others who might disobey the Germans.

One citizen of St. Avold had lived in the woods for two years. He had fought the Germans in France as long as he could, he had fled to Africa and he had come home.

St. Avold is French again and pretty soon all France will be French again.

JERRY'S THIRD ATTEMPT AT "KAMERAD" SUCCEEDS

Stars and Stripes

With the 80th Inf Div. The German sergeant who surrendered his squad of eight to 80th Division doughboys said he had three good reasons for doing so.

He told Capt. Paul Loeser, of New Rochelle, N. Y., that his commanding officer was a "stinker," he had surrendered to the Yanks at the identical spot in the last war, and that he wanted to be sure to see his wife and son again.

The German sergeant said he tried to surrender three times previously, but each time his CO evacuated the squad before he could carry out his plan.

Grenade Elects Hoover Mayor

One Grenade Elects Doughboy Acting Fuehrer of Kaiserslautern

By Pat Mitchell—Stars and Stripes
With the 3d Army, Kaiserslautern, Germany, March 20—T. Sgt. Byron Hoover threw one grenade and became Mayor of Kaiserslautern with his 25-men I and R. platoon of the 317th Regt. of the 80th Inf Div, shortly after infantry riding on 10th Armored Division tanks rolled through the city at 10 a.m. without meeting determined resistance.

"These Germans are just bowled over and speed of this whole advance," Hoover said.

After detailing his men to give the town (pre-war population over 60,000) a quick frisk, Sgt. Hoover set up his CP in the town square and awaited results.

T. Sgt. John E. Dougherty, of Dummore, Pa., Hoover's chief of staff said, "The other 80th Doughboys were coming toward the town from the west, and so we expected some resistance from the eastern, or the escape route end of the town. We got it."

"There was a house down there loaded with Kraut officers and townspeople must have known about it because as soon as Hoover whipped down there and heaved one grenade through the window a German colonel and his staff walked out and surrendered. From then on the natives knew that us intelligence and reconnaissance boys were in charge."

In Kaiserslautern's center square, Hoover stood in front of the Chase National Bank and surveyed his catch one colonel, four majors, five captains, ten assorted lieutenants, 20 noncoms and 60 privates. Hastily fashioned white surrender flags dripped dejectedly from second floor windows and the 20 noncoms stood in ragged ranks with their backs to the 30-foot high stone statue glorifying Wehrmacht might.

Across the town square, several hundred women and children, the fraus and frauleins and kinder of the Jerry prisoners, bunched together and wept noisily.

Kaiserslautern itself which has served as a pivot point for the 46-mile advance in 24 hours by the 10th Armored Division tanks, showed results of almost four years of Allied air pounding.

Largest city within the Saar-Saillant and the junction of two super-highways and rail lines running westward from Mannheim to Saarbrücken, the Kaiserslautern depot area was pitted with bomb craters.

Roads radiating from the city were filled with armored and truckborne infantry moving up. The Rhine-bound columns stirred up heavy rolls of dust which settled on the wreckage of Wehrmacht equipment.

Platoon Sergeant Hoover said, "We got places to go. Who wants to be mayor of Kaiserslautern? Here are the keys to this joint."

Broadcast Helps Rout of Germans

Stars and Stripes

With the 80th Inf Div. — A psychological warfare sales talk with unheeded Air Corps sound effects helped 80th Division troops to capture Nomeny by convincing the Nazi garrison that the jig was up.

While S. Sgt. William H. Stevens, of New York City, S. Sgt. James E. Tracy, of Los Angeles, Calif., and Driver, Cpl. Johnny Carraway, of Columbia, S. C., were readying their half-track mounted PA System in the town, the Wehrmacht sponsored a pre-broadcast small arms show.

Stevens and Tracy replied by firing their script at the Nazis, telling them further resistance, at this hour, was useless. Just as they finished, hundreds of American heavy bombers swarmed overhead.

Taking advantage of the coincidence, Captain Martin J. Wegman, of Pemberville, Ohio, a Regimental Engineer, called the radio and warned the Germans the bombers would return to wipe them out unless they surrendered.

When troops entered Nomeny, later that afternoon they met only feeble resistance. Prisoners said most of the Nazis had been scared out of town by the broadcast.

Crossing Historical Rhine River



Men of the 80th load into a landing craft with vehicle and material prior to crossing the Rhine River.

80th Dough and Armor Halt German Advance

Ettelbruck, Neerfeulen, Heiderscheid, Tadel, Ringel, Fall to Blue Ridgers

By Lee McCauley, of the Baltimore Sun

With the U. S. 3d Army—Dec. 29, 1945—The speed with which Gen. George S. Patton's 3d Army threw both infantry and armor into battle a week ago to halt the German advance can now be revealed.

The first 3d Army elements to go into action, the 4th Armored Division and the 80th Infantry Division, each moved a distance of more than 100 miles in less than 24 hours to attack the Germans from the south.

Break Bastogne Ring

Units of these two divisions were the first to break the enemy's ring around Bastogne and join up with American troops holding that city, the 101st Airborne Division, with small elements of two other armored divisions and stragglers from various other outfits.

The 80th Division was some distance east of Sarreguemines when it was ordered to move into Luxembourg and support another division under orders to hold a defensive line in the Echternach area "at all costs."

The first regiment of the 80th Division to get rolling was the 317th Infantry. Loaded into motor trucks at 1 P. M. on December 20, the regiment had reached Junglinster in Luxembourg by 4 o'clock the following morning after a journey of 150 miles.

Weather Very Cold

The trip was made in bitterly cold weather. There were no halts for hot meals, not even for a warming cup of coffee. In many instances soldiers wrapped blankets around their heavy winter overcoats.

At dawn the regiment's supporting artillery fired for registration and by early afternoon all three of the division's infantry combat teams were in position. There had been a scramble to bring up the last outfit. Twenty-two motor trucks of the convoy which moved it had temporarily gone astray.

Shifted Farther West

On the morning of December 21 the entire division was shifted about ten kilometers farther west. The infantry covered this distance on foot. Because of last minute changes in orders, part of one regiment moved into new positions, back to the old line and then back to the new position again, marching and counter-marching a total of 30 kilometers. At 6 o'clock, an hour before dawn, on the morning of December 22, the 80th Division began its advance northward. The infantry moved across country, over rough, wooded hills and through deep ravines in the midst of a heavy snowstorm. The advance continued day and night for the next 48 hours, the weary, sleepless soldiers gaining 14 miles.

Fire on Nazi Infantry

They went into action shortly after 9 o'clock on the first morning of their advance. Scouts reaching a hilltop between the towns of Merzig in Luxembourg and Ettelbruck spotted a German infantry column with horse-drawn artillery marching south in the general direction of Luxembourg city.

The 80th opened fire with every gun in the position. The Germans, marching along the road in a co-

lumn of two's, were taken by surprise. The attack in the vicinity of Merzig was made by the 3rd Battalion of the 317th Infantry commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Elliott B. Cheston, of Annapolis, Md.

Capture Two Towns

Another part of the enemy column nearer Ettelbruck was attacked by the 3rd Battalion of the 317th Infantry, commanded by Lieut. Col. John C. Golden, of Cumberland, Md. Cheston's force drove the enemy through Merzig and Golden's battalion captured Ettelbruck. Neiderfeulen, midway between the other two towns, also was captured during the day.

The road above Merzig was strewn with slaughtered Germans, dead horses, and smashed German artillery pieces. Two German regimental commanders were wounded and from prisoners taken the Americans learned the column they had virtually destroyed had been moving south with the intention of attacking Luxembourg from the west.

Heiderscheid Captured

That night the 1st Battalion of the 317th Infantry, commanded by Lieut. Col. Hiram D. Ives, of Baltimore, Md., moved on from Neiderfeulen to take the next town of Heiderscheid, light tanks spearheading their advance. Fighting continued all next day, Cheston's battalion capturing the towns of Tadel and Ringel, northeast of Heiderscheid.

In addition to knocking off a projected flank attack on the city of Luxembourg, this battle resulted in final dispositions of American forces over territory which prevented the Germans using the main highway route from Diekirch to Bastogne, the road which the German command probably had hoped to use as the main supply route for their offensive in the south.

Join Drive To Bastogne

On Christmas Eve, with the weather still freezing cold, the 1st Battalion of the 317th Infantry, 80th Division commanded by Lieut. Col. Glenn H. Gardner, of Parkersburg, W. Va., moved another 40 miles west to join the 4th Armored Division in its drive to relieve Bastogne.

Cold Aids Armor

Christmas Eve found them advancing toward Bastogne along a front running generally from Vaux-les-Rosières to Neufchâteau. Snow and freezing temperatures had been to the advantage of the armored units. The cold snap, hardening muddy fields, had enabled tanks and tracked vehicles to leave the roads and maneuver across open country.

While a German infantry division was attacking encircled Bastogne from the south, a German paratroop unit tried to hold back the armor. The Americans' main effort was along the highway from Arlon to Bastogne, until Christmas Eve, when the 4th Division's reserves, commanded by Col. Wendell Blanchard, of Lowell, Mass., was switched suddenly from the extreme right to the left flank, resting on the road from Neufchâteau to Bastogne.

Gardner's battalion was the first infantry force to link up with the 101st Airborne Division in the city.

Writer Visits Gen. McBride

By Gault MacGowan, New York Sun

With the Third Army, March 20. I spent last night at the headquarters of the Eightieth (Blue Ridge Mountain) Division, which rescued me from life with the Nazis when I escaped from the Nazis last August. They were driving behind the last remnants of the Siegfried Line.

I sat with a tall Nebraska, Gen. Horace L. McBride, in his command post and heard his explanation of the drives which have brought him from Saarburg to within eleven miles of a burning train station outside of Sarreguemines that has been smoldering for a smoldering cold season more than 200 miles. Today the Blue Ridge Division is up the speed of an arm, driving an advance by an infantry division in the Third Army. Gen. McBride's latest reports put the division's position at a point seven miles west of the Siegfried line, thus lengthening the arrow escape gap from the Saar. The division itself is the Seventh Army in the Saarbrücken area.

Hemmed in for days with difficult forest fighting, McBride has broken out now into open country beyond St. Wendel, where the medieval saint lies buried. Ninth Air Force pilot's reported horse drawn vehicles and motor transport is jammed between Gen. McBride's division and armor operations in the adjacent Palatinat, and they used up their bombs and ammunition within a few minutes.

The 80th was Steve Early's old division in the last war and when the President's press secretary visited the war front recently he specially sought out the Eightieth and then long talk with the general. He promised to tell the President about the division's record from the breakthrough at Argentan and of the casualties suffered.

The division participated in the battle of Châlons (where they picked up your correspondent), won the first bridgehead across the Moselle, destroyed enemy resistance in the Magnot Line, fought the Battle of the Bulge, and shared the honors of bringing relief to Bastogne with the Fourth Armored Division. Amid lots of other actions, one of the high spots was McBride's newly painted jeep with a new engine was blown up by a German rocket as he entered a forward command post.

Fighting Infantry Smash West Wall

Continued From Page 1

there until 60 Yanks were swarming all over the pillboxes and tanks were looking right down the Nazis' throats.

The men are receiving heavy mortar and artillery fire, as well as small arms from an occasional bypassed pillbox, but nevertheless, one company yesterday cleaned out 10 pillboxes and took about 100 prisoners at a cost of only two American casualties. The pillboxes range in size from ones holding three to six men to big bunkers capable of holding 60. Most of them are connected to each other by open trenches.

Pvt. Ralph Passard of Flint, Mich., an automatic Browning rifleman who took part in a successful assault on two pillboxes said the method for taking pillboxes was to have direct fire against the apertures by small arms and machine guns to "button up" the box, while infantrymen worked in close enough to either throw grenades inside or blow the boxes with a pole or satchel charge.

Rain Fills Foxholes

Passard said it had rained most of the six days he had been in the line, and they'd had to bail out their foxholes with helmets or empty ration cans.

During the trip across the Our we found an area where doughboys right from the foxholes were given dry clothes, a chance to shave, rest, and have hot chow in comparative safety and quiet. Lt. Lawrence A. Duncan of Lucas, Kansas, in charge of the area, said it was opened yesterday and that of the first 51 men back from the water filled foxholes, 20 had to be evacuated for trench foot.

Wallendorf is badly battered, as you might expect a town to be which had been in our and the Germans' hands several times. But instead of describing the ruins, better quote an unknown G. I. who passed us in the main street.

He saw us writing and asked: "What you checking on? Slum clearance?"