

JANUARY 1945

The newness of the New Year of 1945 was made almost inconspicuous by the oldness of the situation of the men in foxholes and towns along the front of the 80th Division. The weather continued below freezing and the ground snow-covered; icy conditions made the roads and trails slippery and hazardous to operations. The 80th Division held a line running from the NE at HEIDERSCHIEDERGRUND through HOLZMULE SE along ETTLEBRUCK RIDGE and ETTLEBRUCK to a point SE of the town.

By the first day of January, more than a third of the ARDENNES zone of action had been retaken by the Germans as new enemy divisions were hurled against the salient of BASTOGNE (20 mi NW of ETTLEBRUCK). Towns and territory changed hands frequently, but each ~~attempt~~<sup>attempt</sup> by the enemy became ~~in-~~<sup>creasingly</sup> difficult <sup>to attain</sup> as the American lines increased in strength. With each failure the morale of the enemy dipped lower while that of the Americans reached new heights. The German drive had stalled at Christmas and, from that point on, was waning. Unknowingly, the thirsty Panzer Divisions had come within 3 miles of our major gas reserves. From the N, the Second British Army attempted to close the pocket and contact the elements of the Third US Army pushing N from the S. The German forces under Von Rundstedt had clearly reached the danger point of being trapped. Fighting an aggressive defense, Von Rundstedt began to extricate his battered legions from the ARDENNES salient.

Facing the 80th Division on 1 Jan 45, were elements of the German 9th, 79th, 276th and 352d Volks Grenadier Divisions plus miscellaneous units of the 519th Assault Bn and the SS Fuehrer Brigade. The identification of this units gave rise to the probability of a new German offensive.

~~Facing the lines of the 80th Division~~

CT 310, with <sup>11</sup>the Regimental CP, ~~the~~ Medical Detachment and ~~the~~ Anti-tank Co in COLMAR, occupied the town of EITLENBRUCK, EITLENBRUCK RIDGE on a line which extended 1200 yards SE of the town to the high ground overlooking DIERRECH. The 1st Bn, in ~~Regimental~~ <sup>Reserve</sup> reserve, was in SCHLITZ. Co A was sent to relieve Co I in positions on the ridge N of EITLENBRUCK at 1045. The 2d Bn, with Cos L and F on outposts to the E overlooking WALSDOEF, held positions N of SCHLITZ. The 3d Bn occupied billets in SCHLITZ. Cannon Co occupied WALSDOEF <sup>NEW BRG</sup> (X). Positions of CT 310 remained unchanged through the bitter cold night. At 2250, the 3d Bn entered Regimental reserve and the 1st Bn reverted to the left of the Regimental line.

N of the positions of CT 310, the enemy was found to be occupying the N and S bank of the SURE RIVER as well as the area to the S of the river which included the towns of BURDEN, EITLENBRUCK and DIERRECH. Interrogation of prisoners indicated the 1st and 2d Cos of the German 916th Volks Grenadier Regiment to be occupying BURDEN (3 rd N of EITLENBRUCK), with the 3d Co in position E of BURDEN with the mission of guarding railroad tunnels. Because of the recent replacements, the 1st Bn of the 916th VR Regiment was estimated to have between 300 and 400 men. The Fusilier Co of the German 49th Volks Grenadier Division was also located in the vicinity of BURDEN.

The bitter cold continued through 2 Jan 45 as CT 310 developed its defense lines around EITLENBRUCK. Strong patrols maintained contact with the enemy N and S of the SURE RIVER line. The 1st Bn, with Cos A and B in positions N of EITLENBRUCK, sent Co C forward under cover of darkness (2200) to secure the high ground S of BURDEN. The company was instructed to remain on the high ground (HILL 380) if no contact with the enemy was established, but to withdraw if strong resistance was encountered. The 2d Bn and 3rd Bn, the latter in reserve, continued in positions held

S-2 JF 2 JAN 45  
 VIE BURDEN - Some bridges  
 INTACT. ENEMY RET NW 1/4  
 BURDEN on W slope of Hill  
 WEAVING WHITE COPIES ENEMY  
 PLANES ACTIVE DANE NIGHT  
 BRIDGES GUARDED by enemy MG's

earlier.

Throughout 3 Jan 45, CP 316 continued to strengthen its positions around ETTLEBRUCK. Co C, 1st Bn, moved across the icy, snow-bound terrain along the SURE RIVER N towards the high ground S of BURDEN. As the company approached its objective a light snow-fall began. By 0430, Co C reached the vicinity 1 mi S of BURDEN when it encountered heavy enemy small arms fire from three sides plus some artillery. After sustaining 13 casualties Co C pulled back to its original positions on ETTLEBRUCK RIDGE.

The 2d Bn relieved its outposts of Co E with Co G on the high ground N of ETTLEBRUCK while the 3d Bn positions remained unchanged. Late in the evening (2200), the 1st Bn sent a patrol of Co A to probe the enemy defenses. <sup>UNRECORDED BY SMO 11495</sup> Lt Santiago (Co A) and the patrol moved in the darkness across the snow-covered terrain and encountered three enemy soldiers on sentry duty in the area of a railroad tunnel S of BURDEN at midnight. In the ensuing exchange of fire, two of the enemy were mortally wounded and the third taken prisoner. The action alerted the enemy who opened fire, thus enabling the patrol to plot their positions. The information and enemy prisoner were then turned over to the battalion headquarters. Interrogation of the prisoner revealed the German 352d Volks Grenadier Division, which had been committed in the vicinity of DIEKIRCH (3 mi NE of ETTLEBRUCK), to have shifted its position to the NW and was now occupying a line S of the SURE RIVER in and around the vicinity of BURDEN. The CP of the 1st Bn (916th Volks Grenadier Regiment) was in BURDEN. The mission of the enemy forces was, at the moment, primarily defensive.

CP 316, on 4 Jan 45, remained in defensive positions S of BURDEN in the ETTLEBRUCK vicinity. The weather continued cold and clear with occasional snowfalls through the day. All remained quiet through the period. The 1st Bn relieved Co C on the N and NW of ETTLEBRUCK RIDGE with Co B at 1930 as

S2 JF 3 JAN 45  
EN PATS via ETTLEBRUCK on hills S  
of BURDEN. TANKS via 34 Weisshof  
2 SP CO. N24 BURDEN. EN Army  
receiv in ETTLEBRUCK. BURDEN, 30 JAN 45, 1945  
WABKEN

the remainder of the battalion held positions on the Regimental left flank N and NW of the city. At 1930, Co A moved into battalion reserve positions in ETLEBRUCK. The 2d Bn, on the right, sent Co E to relieve Co F (CO:Lt Singleton) on the high ground SE of ETLEBRUCK at 0800. The 3d Bn, now in Corps reserve, remained in SCHIEREN.

The situation continued to be defensive in nature with only minor changes occurring in the Regimental sector through 5 Jan 45. On 6 Jan 45, with CT 318 in a defensive role, the 1st Bn (CO:Major Gaking) occupied positions N and W of ETLEBRUCK. Co B, at 0615, moved NW (0.5 mi) to outpost WARKEN. Co A continued to hold reserve positions in ETLEBRUCK. The 2d Bn, at 1245, moved NW from SCHIEREN, via ETLEBRUCK, to take up positions in NIEDERFEULEN (Route 15) as Regimental reserve. The 3d Bn moved through the 2d Bn at NIEDERFEULEN and went into positions in the vicinity of HILL 403 NE of the town. Cannon Co entered BROSIUSHAFF (SW of GRENZINGEN) and CT 318 established its' CP at MEDERHAFF FARM (W of GRENZINGEN).

On 7 Jan 45, little occurred as CT 318 continued to strengthen its forward positions. The weather continued very cold, and the already limited visibility became moreso as occasional snowfalls occurred through the day. Late in the afternoon, the 2d Bn of the US 351st Engineer Regiment was attached to CT 318 with the mission of acting as reserve infantry should the enemy break through in the ETLEBRUCK vicinity. Enemy heavy artillery was occasionally encountered in the forward positions of CT 318 in the morning and afternoon. Late in the evening, Co B 305 Med En closed into HAUFESCHAFF (1 mi SE of FEULEN). At this time, the attached Engineer battalion move to take up positions on the long ridge SW of ETLEBRUCK and Route 15. During 8 Jan 45, Co A 631st Tank Destroyer Bn was attached to CT 318 with the mission of reinforcing the Engineer unit on the ridge. The Regimental positions through the day were limited in

*5-2 318 7 JAN 45  
PART of Enemy in the Tunnel E of BUSDEN  
EN Blew Bridge in S of BUSDEN. EN Off  
in HANGSTACE via S of BUSDEN. Troops W  
AROUND Church in BUSDEN. 1 Bn in Nebelw.  
in 700 NE of BUSDEN. Tunnel 150 yds  
of RR square house on W Bank  
See Secret Plan Defense*

activity by the bitter cold, poor visability, heavy snows and icy road conditions. Aggressive patrols continued to probe the enemy strog-points to the NE.



← Patrol Act

(Capt. Caruso)

During (9) Jan 45, patrol actions continued. The 1st Bn, on the Regimental left, moved Co A from ETTLEBRUCK to positions in the woods S of BURDEN. Co B was relieved on ETTLEBRUCK RIDGE and entered the town by night-fall. The 2d Bn (CO: Capt Woods) remained in Regimental reserve positions in the vicinity of NIEDERWEULEN, posting three platoons of Co E on road-blocks around the town. The 3d Bn (CO: Major Neussner) continued to occupy its former positions in WELSCHEID (2 mi W of BURDEN). Little change was made through 10 Jan 45.

← BETTENDORF RAID 10 JAN 45 ← WELSCHEID RAID

On 11 Jan 45, prisoners taken from the German 79th VG Division Fuesilier Co by CT 317 in the KEHMEN area (NW of WELSCHEID) revealed that company had been relieved by the 1st Bn, 916 Volks Grenadier Regiment, that the E boundry of the 79th VG Division had been moved to a point W of ~~WELSCHEID~~ WELSCHEID, and that the sector E of that line had been taken over by the 2d Bn 916 VG Regiment. It was estimated that the enemy forces opposing CT 316 numbered about 800 men located in natural defense positions in the rugged terrain.

During the night of 11-12 Jan 45, a heavy snow-fall occurred. The weather became bitter cold with the biting gusts of wind. The men of CT 316 awoke in stiff, frozen sleeping bags covered by a blanket of snow. In the Regimental area, the 1st Bn continued to improve its defenses which extended from the N edge of the woods just S of BURDEN across ETTLEBRUCK RIDGE to the city of ETTLEBRUCK. The 2d Bn, plus Co K, remained in reserve in the town of NIEDERWEULEN. The 3d Bn (- Co K), in positions S of WELSCHEID until 1800, moved into new positions SW of the town. Co L moved to seize

3d Bn Co A moved from ETTLEBRUCK to positions S of BURDEN  
S-2 JF, 9 JAN 45  
EN ARTY fired #1100000 from ETTLEBRUCK  
Road Avn in Rd S of Haupt Hll. EN Tanks.  
Hll & positions active BURDEN vic  
2d Tanks moving into WELSCHEID.

Co E relieved by 1st Bn 916 VG  
S-2 JF 11 JAN 45  
EN Mine Field NE of WELSCHEID  
Troop entering woods N of WELSCHEID  
in force

LANGERSCHEID HILL, the high ground W of WELSCHEID. As the company reached the foot of the hill, it was delayed on the icy slope by intense fire from entrenchments of the enemy surrounding the enemy CP at the crest. Sgt Sieta (Co L) advanced through the raking machine-gun fire and across the ice and snow to a flank position some 30 yards from the enemy. At this point he opened fire on the enemy position, killing the gunner and capturing the enemy. Co L then moved up the slope and secured the hill. During the night, the enemy continued to harrass the forward positions of CT 318 with artillery fire.

On 13 Jan 45 the general positions of the Regiment remained unchanged until 2355 when the 1st Bn, relieved by the 2d Bn, moved toward NIEDERFEULEN. The line of the 2d Bn now extended from the SURE RIVER W to the WARK RIVER. Co G, in position 1,000 yards S of BURDEN, held the battalion position farthest N. The 3d Bn positions remained unchanged. The weather throughout the period continued bitter cold as the harsh, driving winds created numerous snow-drifts along the roads and trails.

During 14 Jan 45, the weather continued very cold and the biting winds whipped across the positions of CT 318. The men in the forward positions awoke cold and suffering, half frozen, and huddled in their positions as enemy artillery became increasingly heavy. Visability was exceedingly poor as the strong winds swept surface snows across the terrain. The 1st Bn arrived in reserve positions at FEULEN by 0100. The 2d Bn held its former positions between BURDEN and ETTLEBRUCK, and outposted the latter town on a line E to the SURE RIVER. The 3d Bn, in positions S of WELSCHEID, received the first of a number of light counter-attacks at 0600. With instructions to regain LANGERSCHEID HILL (Co L) and the high ground just W of WELSCHEID (Co K), elements of the German 1st and 5th Cos, 208th Regiment, 79th Volks Grenadier Division, struck at the

*11-17-45  
 1st Bn (L-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100)  
 1st Bn (L-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100)  
 1st Bn (L-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100)*

*3-2, JF, 13 JAN 45  
 EN DUC IN E MC 2 M D Around BURDEN  
 7th Co. 2nd Bn. General-Weischen-Burden  
 Sector - Sentries in front of Weischen  
 BURDEN, 2nd Bn 4th Tank*

211

3d Bn lines. Heavy artillery directed upon the enemy by the 314th Field Artillery Bn successfully repelled the attack.

During the morning hours, Col McVickar (CO:CT 318) and LCol Jacobs set out from the Regimental CP in a jeep to inspect the holdings of the 3d Bn. The two men parked their vehicle in the vicinity of Co I and, not knowing that the crest of the hill was still in German hands, moved to the woods in that area. Intent upon inspecting the positions of Co L, Col McVickar, moving ahead of Jacobs, left the first patch of woods to enter a second. With this movement, the Regimental Commander advanced to within a few yards of a fox-hole occupied by two German soldiers. The enemy opened fire and Col. McVickar threw himself into the woods. LCol Jacobs, on hearing the fire, sought unsuccessfully to locate McVickar. The former then retraced his route to obtain assistance to rescue McVickar.

Returning with Capt Chitwood (CO:Co I) and Lt Carlson, plus a squad of riflemen, LCol Jacobs returned to the site where McVickar was last seen. At this time a platoon of Co L moved from its positions and the enemy on the crest opened up with small arms, machine gun and mortar fire. In the ensuing fire-fight, the two Germans, believed to have captured the Regimental Commander, were killed. Beside ~~thier~~ fox-hole were found the gloves and helmet of McVickar, but there was no sign of the Colonel. Some days later, a short distance from where he was captured, the body of the Regimental Commander was found in the snow with ~~bayonet~~ wounds in the chest. The full story of the death of gallant Col. Lansing McVickar will never be known, but, to the Regiment he commanded, his passing was mourned and his presence missed. ~~In the days and months that followed, the phrase "if McVickar were only here, this would never have happened" was heard quite often.~~

During the remainder of 14 Jan 45, CT 318 made only minor adjustments in

S-238, 14 Jan 45  
EN Welscheid in NW of Welscheid  
+ NW of Seneider. 68 EN Tns in  
vic Welscheid. One EN Co in  
Kehmen. Heavy FN ARTY near  
in Niederfeulen & Erriesbruck

its positions on a NW to SE line between WELSCHEID and ETLEBRUCK. The enemy continued to pour in concentrations of mortar and nebelwerfer fire through the night.

~~318~~ ~~318~~ See (3) Page 395 14 Jan 45

On 15 Jan 45, the command of CT 318 passed to LCol Glenn Gardner (Regt Exec) ~~(XXXX)~~

~~318~~. The day remained cloudy and very cold as CT 318 improved its defensive positions. During the day, the elements of the 351st Engineers and the 631st Tank Destroyer Bn were relieved from their attachment to the Regiment and departed from their reserve positions. Harrassing enemy mortar and artillery fire continued to fall in the Regimental zone while relief of the outposts were carried on within the battalions.

During 16 Jan 45, CT 318 - now under the command of Col. James Luckett, formerly of the 4th Infantry Division, received field orders naming the town of BOURSCHEID, LUXEMBOURG as the Regimental objective for 18 Jan 45. The hour of the attack was to be when the 5th US Infantry Division, on the Regimental right, secured a bridgehead across the SURE RIVER and moved abreast of the 80th Infantry Division. BOURSCHEID (5 mi N of ETLEBRUCK) lay just W of the SURE RIVER and E of KEHMEN.

During the day the 1st Bn remained in reserve positions in NIEDERFEULEN; the 2d Bn, on the Regimental left, remained on line between BURDEN and ETLEBRUCK, while the 3d Bn (S of BOURSCHEID) was in position on the right in the vicinity of WELSCHEID. Minor changes were effected within the battalion zones through the night. Co E relieved Cos F and G in the vicinity of WARKEN under cover of darkness. During the night, enemy planes strafed the area of the 3d Bn and the Regimental vicinity continued to receive enemy artillery, nebelwerfer and mortar fire. The cold, ice and snow continued to plague the activity of the Regiment.

From 17-20 Jan 45, little activity took place. The weather became very



cold with occasional snowfalls, biting wind and sleet. Poor visibility began to close in on CT 318. On 17 Jan 45, Co G was shifted from EITLBERUCK and elements of the US 351st Engineers moved into the town at 2150. Later, additional support elements of the 631st Tank Destroyer Bn went into positions around EITLBERUCK. Continuous enemy artillery was received in the Regimental zone. In COLMAR, the anti-tank company was unloading vehicles when an enemy artillery shell fell into the vicinity of 203 AT mines which exploded and killed 9 men of the company. During the night, CT 318 made preparations for the coming assault on BOURSCHEID.

On 18 Jan 45, as CT 318 awaited orders to move on BOURSCHEID, the 5th Inf Division secured a bridgehead over the SURE RIVER. Orders were received by CT 318 at this time which indicated the Regiment was not to move, but to expect orders within the next 48 hours. For the remainder of the day, as the men huddled together against the biting cold winds and sleet, CT 318 continued to occupy and strengthen its positions. The situation, weather and disposition of the Regiment remained without change until the early morning hours of 20 Jan 45.

← Patrol Action 19-20 Jan 45

At 0200, 20 Jan 45, the enemy planned a withdrawel N of the SURE RIVER leaving as rear-guard the 79th Fuesilier Co of the 208 Volks Grenadier Regiment. The enemy began its withdrawel N of the river to prevent its being flanked from the E by elements of the 5th US Infantry Division. Through a mistake, the enemy 79th Fuesilier Co withdrew at 0600 under the cover of a heavy snowfall which concealed its movements.

CT 318 received orders at 1200 to commence the assault. Patrols of the Regiment had established the enemy to have withdrawn its forces from the BURDEN-WELSCHEID area leaving only a light rear guard. While the 1st Bn remained in reserve in NIEDERFEULEN, Co C had moved by motor over muddy, icy roads to the vicinity of BURDEN with the mission of clearing the

*S2-SF, 20 Jan 45  
2nd actvty in forward on bridge at N  
end of town E of Burden, Traffic jammed  
Heavy Division plus 400-500 men, 8000  
Alscheld, Hascheln REAS Mine fields in  
vicinity of E side of Burden B. 2000*

woods along the SURE RIVER between BURDEN on the S and BOURSCHEID to the N.

During the morning, the 2d Bn sent a patrol under Lt Carr (Co E) to check the enemy defenses in and around BURDEN. On reaching the outskirts of the town the patrol reported BURDEN to be apparently undefended and, on instruction, the patrol moved into occupy the town. At 1645, the 2d Bn moved forward with Cos E and G - supported by tanks and tank destroyers - to occupy BURDEN.

At this time the German 79th Pz Div made an attempt to rectify its earlier error and moved to re-occupy BURDEN; however, the enemy found the town already occupied by elements of the 2d Bn of CT 318 and, being unable to fight even so much as a delaying action, the enemy withdrew NE from the town.

By 2055, the 2d Bn had fanned out to the high ground around BURDEN and was digging in for the night when orders came for the battalion to move NW (2.5 mi) on the town of BOURSCHEID. At 2315, with Cos E and G leading, the 2d Bn moved out into the blinding snowstorm, sloshing NW through the heavy snow-drifts W of the SURE RIVER line.

The 3d Bn sent combat patrols at 2030 into the vicinity of WELSCHEID to probe the enemy positions in that town. Co L moved from the battalion vicinity S and SW of the town and went into defense positions NW of WELSCHEID in the direction of SCHEIDEL. All units of CT 318, except for the 2d Bn moving on BOURSCHEID, closed in their positions for the night. Cannon Co, Anti-tank Co, and Co B 305 Med Bn continued to occupy FEULEN, COLMAR and HAUFESCHAFF, respectively. The CP of CT 318 remained in the vicinity of MEDERHAFF FARM.

During 21 Jan 45, although still very cold, the weather warmed slightly and the snow melted - only to refreeze. The 1st Bn sent Co B, followed by Co C, to clear the woods S of BOURSCHEID and along the SURE RIVER, but no enemy were encountered. The remainder of the battalion continued in reserve positions in NIEDERFEULEN. At 0830, Cos B and C moved into BURDEN only to depart the town at 0905 with the mission of clearing the ground from BURDEN to WELSCHEID on the W. By 2210, the mission was accomplished and the companies returned to the battalion vicinity in NIEDERFEULEN.

The 2d Bn, moving on BOURSCHEID since 2300 the night before, encountered light resistance all the way, but by 0715 the battalion stood in assault positions on the SE outskirts of the town. With Cos E and G leading, the battalion commenced the assault on BOURSCHEID with the support of tanks of the 702d Tank Bn. By 1415, after two enemy tanks had been knocked out, the battalion had cleared the town of the enemy. Co F moved from reserve positions to secure the town from the high ground W of BOURSCHEID and Co E closed in positions on the high ground to the E.

The 3d Bn, which had probed the defenses of WELSCHEID and found them lightly held, moved to assault the town. Co I assaulted WELSCHEID as Co L moved W of the town to the vicinity of LANGERSCHEID HILL, SE of SCHEIDEL. Co K, in reserve, moved behind Co I during the latter's attack. Contact was made with a small group of fanatical enemy which temporarily held up the advance and Co K moved into support positions. Pvt Holgash (Co K) dashed through the intense enemy fire to pick up an automatic rifle from the hands of a fallen comrade and then whirled to deliver a devastatingly accurate volume of fire upon the enemy positions. Within a short time the assault companies moved into seize WELSCHEID. Co I went into positions on the high ground N of WELSCHEID in the vicinity of the HOCHGERICH, Co K to the SE of Co I, and Co L on the hills to the W of

of WELSCHEID.

By nightfall, CT 318 had taken possession of a line from LANGERSCHEID HILL on the W to BOURSCHEID on the N and then SE to BURDEN. The S ~~bank~~ and W bank of the SURE RIVER from ETLEBRUCK N to BOURSCHEID were in the hands of the Regiment. In the whole operation more than 100 enemy prisoners were taken, several mortars and anti-tanks guns were captured intact. Having completed its mission, CT 318 went into Division reserve.

On 22 Jan 45, CT 318 moved to relieve CT 317 which had been ordered to concentrate in the city of WILTZ (8 mi NW of BOURSCHEID). The 1st Bn, with Co A leading, moved over the icy roads at 0730 to arrive in KEHMEN (1 mi SW of BOURSCHEID) by 0830. The remainder of the battalion entered the town by 1045. Co A, ~~at~~ at 0900, had moved to search the high ground N of KEHMEN in the woods RINDERBACH and then E to the SURE RIVER line. The draw was cleared by 1400 and Co A went into battalion reserve. Co B was sent NW from KEHMEN and into the TALLER-RINGEL area where it relieved elements of CT 317. Co C moved SE from KEHMEN to occupy SCHEIDEL and establish outposts on the SCHEIDEL-KEHMEN road.

The 2d and 3d Bns remained in the BOURSCHEID-WELSCHEID vicinity and patrolled the area E to the SURE RIVER. The 2d Bn held positions in and around BOURSCHEID while the units of the 3d Bn secured WELSCHEID. By noon the Regimental CP closed in NIEDERFEULEN ~~where~~ it was soon joined by the Medical detachment and the Anti-tank Co. Cannon Co went into position S (1 mi) of WELSCHEID in the vicinity of PETIT WINDHOF at the base of HILL 330. At 1530, CT 318 received orders directing the Regiment to move the following day by motor into the town of WILTZ. Throughout the remainder of the day the weather continued cold with occasional snowfalls. The terrain and roads remained slippery and hazardous.

Although on 23 Jan 45 CT 318 was prepared to move to WILTZ, the 1st and 2d Bns continued to hold their respective positions through a greater part of the day. The 1st Bn outposted the TAILER-RINGEL area SE to KEHMEN as the 2d Bn continued to occupy defenses in the BOURSCHEID-WELSCHEID /via NDR Feulen vicinity. At 1530, the 3d Bn moved from WELSCHEID by motor along the icy roads to close in WILTZ at 1830. Cannon Co moved behind the 3d Bn but stopped for the night in NIEDERFEULEN. Little other activity occurred in the Regimental sector through the night of 23-24 Jan 45.

On 24 Jan 45, CT 318 was directed to ascertain if another battalion could find billets in the city of WILTZ and, if so, the 1st Bn was to moved from its positions in the TAILER-RINGEL vicinity and KEHMEN to WILTZ. By 1416, billets had been secured and the 1st Bn moved NW to close in WILTZ by 1720. Later, at 2210, the battalion was alerted to move under attachment to CT 317 as soon as that Regiment had reached its objective to the NE (PINTSCHE) across the CLERF RIVER. One platoon of tanks and a platoon of tank destroyers was assigned to the 1st Bn which had the mission of protecting the flanks of CT 317. The 2d Bn, CT 318, remained in its previous area as did the 3d Bn. By 2100, the Regimental CP, Co B Med Det, Cannon Co and the Anti-tank Co had closed in billets in WILTZ.

At 0800, 25 Jan 45, as CT 317 drove NE across the CLERF RIVER at three points (WILWERWILTZ, LELLINGEN and DRAUFFEL), the 1st Bn of CT 318 moved by foot from WILTZ NE (1.5 mi) to ERPELDANGE-L-WILTZ, reaching the latter at 1045. As CT 317 continued to slug its way past ENSCHERANGE toward the town of HOSINGEN, the 1st Bn (CT 318) moved to ENSCHERANGE crossing site on the CLERF RIVER, closing for the night in the town at 2000. Co A remained in ENSCHERANGE while Co C moved SE (0.5 mi) to PINTSCHE. Late in afternoon, the 2d Bn of CT 318 boarded trucks of CT 319 and moved from BOURSCHEID NW (4 mi) across the SURE RIVER to enter the town of DAHL. The

535F 23 JAN 45  
MINE fields & booby traps  
IN GARDENS & edges of houses in  
KEHMEN Rd from W. 1/2 to  
ESCHWEILEN Mine & R/A



high ground E of the town, heavy enemy resistance was encountered. By 0520, after sustaining heavy casualties, the battalion secured the town and HILL 521. The advance was then halted at this point for the remainder of the night but continued to probe the enemy defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE across the OUR RIVER. Late in the night of 27-28 Jan 45, the 1st Bn was relieved of the responsibility for the HOSINGEN vicinity by elements of the 17th Airborne and 5th Infantry Divisions. Preparations were then made for the move SE to CHRISTNACH, LUXEMBOURG.

Earlier (1030) CT 318 (-1st Bn and Service Co) had begun its move SE to relieve the elements of the 22d Inf Regiment, 4th Inf Division in the vicinity of CHRISTNACH. The move, made from WILTZ, was uneventful and the 2d Bn relieved the 1st Bn, 22d Infantry in BEAUFORT (8 mi E of SCHIEREN) by 1940. Co F was sent NW (1 mi) to take up positions in the village of BEFORTERHAID. The 3d Bn took up positions of the 3d Bn 22d Inf Regiment E (6.25 mi) of BEAUFORT. Co I secured the town to the SE. The Medical Detachment went into positions in the vicinity of CHRISTNACH (3.5 mi S of BEAUFORT). The Regimental CP moved to MEDERNACH (4 mi SW of BEAUFORT) on the ERNZ BLANCHE STREAM where the CP opened at FERME HETSCHETTE. Cannon Co and Service Co remained with the 1st Bn. The sector of CT 318 (-1st Bn) was on a line running about 4,000 yards E of BEAUFORT (W bank of ERNZ NOIRE RIVER) N to the SURE RIVER and NW to REISDORF, past which the ERNZ BLANCHE STREAM met its juncture with the SURE RIVER. On the left flank of CT 318 were the elements of CT 319.

Relieved from attachment to Task Force Summers the previous day, the 1st Bn, on 28 Jan 45, departed HOSINGEN at 0500 and moved via PINTSCHE where the move was halted at 1130. The battalion then moved SE to close in the village of HALLER, LUXEMBOURG just a short distance (1 mi) S of BEAUFORT by 1600. The battalion had travelled without event from PINTSCHE via

LELLINGEN SE through KAUTENBACH, BOURSCHEID, ERPELDANGE and thence past the Regimental CP at MEDERNACH NE to HALLER.

Through the day, the 2d and 3d Bns continued to develop their positions in and around BEAUFORT. During the day Cannon Co moved to positions NE of HALLER behind the 2d and 3d Bns. The 314th Field Artillery Bn moved into the vicinity in support of CT 318 as elements of the 702d Tank Bn were relieved of attachment to the Regiment.

← 30 JAN Patrol Action

Through the remainder of January, 1945, the sector of CT 318 remained quiet with no infantry action and only occasional artillery and mortar fire was received from the enemy. To the N and front of CT 318 positions was the SAUER RIVER, the SIEGFRIED LINE and GERMANY.

← 31 JAN Patrol Action

Interrogation of prisoners taken in the area revealed elements of the Germn 352d (915 VG Regiment) and 212th (423d VG Regiment) Volks Grenadier Divisions to be confronting CT 318. The mission of the enemy units was defensive. CT 318 during the month of January, 1945 had captured a total of 139 prisoners and had sustained 370 casualties.