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MAY 1945

On 1 May 45, the day was marked by a steady cold rain and winds as CT 318 continued its assault S and SW of the ISAR RIVER. Cos A and B seized DINGOLFING against moderately heavy resistance by ^{at daylight 7 20mm Gun in Wading from 6 Cos.} 0700. By 0920 the 1st Bn was relieved of the responsibility of safeguarding the bridgehead area by elements of CT 317. Cos A and B then moved 21 miles S toward FRONTENHAUSEN on the VILS RIVER, securing the town by 1808. The remaining elements of the battalion entered the town and remained there for the night. [The 2d Bn continued to push S during the day against scattered enemy resistance and, by 1905, lead elements of the battalion had seized crossings over the VILS RIVER and had captured REISBACH on the S bank. The 2d Bn outposted the town and closed for the night. [The 3d Bn completed crossing the ^{ISAR} river during the morning and, passing through the 1st Bn, had moved S to capture GRIESEBACH (5 miles SE of DINGOLFING). From this point the battalion ~~continued S~~ to close for the night in HACKERSKOFEN. Cannon Co closed in DINGOLFING and Co B 305 Med Bn remained with the CP of CT 318 in MOOSTHEINING (4 miles NW of the MAMMING-DINGOLFING bridgehead site). During the crossing of the ISAR RIVER and the assault on DINGOLFING, the Division Artillery fired fifty-seven missions in support of the attack, mostly the missions were directed on enemy troops and enemy machine gun positions along the river line on the S bank. During the attack the 633 AAA Bn engaged an ME 210 over the crossing area and the enemy plane was observed to have crashed in the area. By the close of the period, the 179th Engineer Bn had completed a class 40 treadway bridge in the vicinity of DINGOLFING which was capable of supporting four ton loads. However, the treadway bridge had to be dismantled as the treadway used in its construction was needed to complete a bridge over the river in the vicinity of MAMMING.

On 2 May 45 snow flurries began to fall, cold rain and wind made the dark morning hours miserable for the advancing troops. CT 318 began to move its jeeps and 15 trucks across the river. Sufficient transportation was ~~not~~ available by daylight to continue the advance southward. The 1st Bn had secured FRONTENHAUSEN, the 2d Bn was in REINSTORF, and the 3d Bn was in VORLITZEN with Co I in GEMERSDORF. By noon Cannon Co had moved via GRIESEBACH and WORTH ~~0.5 miles~~ to TAMM. At 1315 CT 318 was able to set up a command

post at REICHENEIBACH (13 miles S of FRONTENHAUSEN). By nightfall elements of the Regiment held positions along the N bank of the INN RIVER. The 30th Calvary Recon Troop, pointing the advance of CT 318, had captured 300 enemy prisoners including a Major General, and by night fall had a platoon along the N bank of the INN RIVER. At 2335 CT 318 was directed to cross the INN RIVER in the vicinity of BRAUNAU -AM-INN and relieve elements of the US 13th Armored Division. CT 318 was then to continue S to the US XX Corps objective - a jointure with the Russian forces. Priority on all roads and bridges was granted the Regimental units.

On 3 May 45, amidst the rain and mud, CT 318 ~~began to move~~^{MOVED} its assault battalions S by motor shuttle to the vicinity of SAMBACH-AM-INN (opposite BRAUNAU on the S bank). The 2d Bn jumped off at 0600, followed by the 3d and 1st Bns ~~in that order~~. By 0800 a command post for the Regiment was established at EGGSTETTEN (6 miles NW of SAMBACH). The only bridge immediately available in the vicinity of SAMBACH-BRAUNAU was a narrow, rickety, partially destroyed railroad bridge which was awash in the swift INN RIVER. Crossing of the bridge had to be accomplished in a single column of men and could be negotiated only with the greatest difficulty due to the slipperiness and the swift current of the river. By 1400 the 2d Bn had started to cross and, by 1500, only three companies were over the river. The crossing over the bridge and the occupation of BRAUNAU was completed at 1645 at which time the 2d Bn sent out security guards to maintain law and order in the city. The 3d Bn immediately followed the 2d Bn at 1645 and had its elements completely across the river by 1855. The 3d Bn then spread its forces out to enlarge the bridgehead and began to pass through the 2d Bn positions. The 1st Bn in SAMBACH followed the 3d Bn over the bridge and completed the crossing by 2400. The 30th Calvary Recon Troop sent motorized patrols along the main road (Route 12) running parallel to the river on the N bank. By the close of the period CT 318 had not met with any organized enemy resistance and 885 enemy prisoners were taken during the period. CT 318 had established its CP 4 miles NE of SAMBACH in the vicinity of EGGSTETTEN where it was joined by Co B 305 Med Bn late in the day. Cannon Co was in position 0.5 mile SW of IRGING. The 1st Bn entered OBER SAMBACH

~~and other~~

after Cos A and B seized the vicinity at 1600. Co D moved via ~~BERNBERG~~ to ~~MOOBACH~~⁸ and secured the town. The 2d Bn and 3d Bn remained for the night in BRAUNAU and vicinity. Throughout the period of 4-5 May 45 CT 318 remained in its previous vicinity surrounding BRAUNAU with all its elements now across the INN RIVER into AUSTRIA. Walking patrols maintained law and order in the town and the Regiment assumed the XX Corps mission of controlling prisoners taken in the 80th Division's zone of advance. Late in the day the Regiment was relieved of its mission by elements of the US 13th Armored Division and prepared to push S. The 1st Bn during ^{5 May 45} ~~the day~~ sent Cos A and D to OSTERBERG and Cos B and C to RAMSHOFEN ^{Allied PW camp} S of BRAUNAU vicinity. The 2d and 3d Bn remained in BRAUNAU with the Regimental CP and Co B 305 Med Bn. Cannon Co ~~moved 25 miles NE to ST PETER.~~^{moved 25 miles NE to ST PETER.}

On 6 May 45 CT 318 (-2d and 3d Bns) remained in BRAUNAU vicinity as Division reserve. The 1st Bn continued to assist in the processing of prisoners and supplied a guard for the prisoner of war enclosures. The 2d Bn and 3d Bns (less four heavy machine-gun platoons) entrained at 1900 for VOCKLABRUCK (50 miles SE of BRAUNAU) and were still enroute at the close of the period. ~~XX~~ CT 318 organized two motorized patrols, each consisting of two heavy machine gun platoons plus one platoon of tank destroyers. These units were sent S in the Division's zone of advance to the vicinity of ALM SEE. No resistance was encountered and the patrols rounded up about 3700 enemy prisoners. CT 318 moved its CP to SCHWANENSTADT (NE of VOCKLABRUCK) where it was joined by Co B 305 Med Bn. Cannon Company had departed ST PETER and moved 61 miles to NIEDERHOLSHAM in the vicinity of VOCKLABRUCK.

On 7 May 45 CT 318 CP remained in SCHWANENSTADT with Co B 305 Med Bn. Cannon Co was in positions 0.5 miles S of NIEDERHOLSHAM. The 1st Bn had moved S from the vicinity of BRAUNAU to MAUERKIRCHEN (10 miles ^{SS} of BRAUNAU) where elements of the battalion entrained at 1530 for VOCKLABRUCK vicinity where the unit joined the Regiment by 2200. On arrival, Co A, 1st Bn, remained as security in VOCKLABRUCK, Cos B supported by Co D moved to FITZENBERG at 2330, and Co C moved to RITZLING by motor. The 2d Bn departed VOCKLABRUCK and

~~Tuffelsham~~
moved to TUFFELSHAM, closing in the city by 1930. The 3d Bn had arrived in VOCKLABRUCK at 0300 and then moved its troops by foot to ATTNANG.

at 0400
On 8 May 45 all combat units of CT 318 ceased offensive action. The entire US 80th Infantry Division was concerned with the maintenance of law and order and the tremendous task of prisoner of war collection, orientation of displaced persons and the disposition of tremendous amounts of capture enemy war material. Many of the displaced persons were fleeing the Russians and entering American lines. Troops continued to pour into the Division area from Major General Soeth's surrendering German Corps and the newly surrendered SS Brigade Keittel which had a strength of over 3,000 men. At 1945, the General of the Panzer Group "Balck" surrendered his entire army of over 200,000 men to the Commanding General of the US 80th Infantry Division under the stipulation that all his men N and W of the ENNS RIVER as of 0001 9 May 45 could pass into the American lines. The remainder had to present themselves to the Russian forces.

The positions of CT 318 remained much ~~as~~ the same as the day before. The CP of CT 318 and Co B 305 Med Bn were in SCHWANENSTADT, Cannon Co held the vicinity 0.5 miles S of NIEDERHOLSHAM. The 1st Bn was now in ARZBURG with Co A in VOCKLABRUCK, Cos B and D in FITZENBERG and Co C in RITZLING. The 2d Bn was in TUFFELSHAM. A motorized patrol was formed consisting of a Military Government official, a half-track with infantry, a platoon of heavy machine guns, and a platoon of tank destroyers. The mission of the unit was to accompany a German informer to the city of STEINBERG (about 12 miles SE of GUNDEN) where a large collection of priceless art treasures was found and placed under guard. The 3d Bn continued to occupy the vicinity of ATTNANG.