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HEADQUARTERS, 317TH INFANTRY
OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER
APO # 80, UNITED STATES ARMY

SUBJECT: Regimental History.

Period from 1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945 inclusive.

5 June 1945
CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Richard C. ...
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 21 Aug 46

1. Original Unit:
 - a. 317th Infantry Regiment.
 - b. Organized 15 July 1942.
 - c. Organized at Camp Forrest, Tennessee.
 - d. Authority: WD ltr AG 320.2 organized reserve brackets 3/19/43, MR-N-CN SUBJECT: Organized Reserve Divisions ordered into active service during June and July 1942.
 - e. Original cadre transferred from 8th Infantry Division, balance of enlisted men received through Selective Service, with a small percentage of voluntary enlistments.

2. Principal changes in organization resulted from changes in Table of Organization and the activation of a Cannon Company about the month of November 1942 and reactivation in September 1943.

3. Strength:	<u>COMMISSIONED</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
a. At beginning of period:	135	4	2934
b. Net increase to 31 May 45:	23	0	159
c. Net decrease to 31 May 45:	0	0	0
d. Strength:	<u>158</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3093</u>

4. Stations of Units:
 - 1 May 45: Lengthal, Germany, WU 467195
 - 2 May 45: Dingolfing, Germany, WU 506141
 - 3 May 45: Reut, Germany, WZ 857803
 - 4 May 45: Timelkan, Austria, WZ 378508
 - 5 May 45 through 6 May 45: Steinbach, Austria, W 867510
 - 7 May 45 through 18 May 45: Kirchdorf, Austria, XV 766432
 - 19 May 45 through 31 May 45: Spital am Pyhrn, Austria, X V 178958Map Reference - Central Europe on all coordinates.

5. Marches:
 - 1 May 45: Moved from Martinsbuch, Germany to Lengthal, Germany. Weather cloudy with intermittent showers and snow. Roads good. Distance traveled 12 miles.
 - 2 May 45: Moved from Lengthal, Germany crossing Isar River and arriving at Dingolfing, Germany. Weather cloudy with intermittent rain and snow. Roads good. Distance traveled 4 miles.
 - 3 May 45: Moved from Dingolfing, Germany to Reut, Germany. Weather clear and cold. Roads good. Distance traveled 54 miles.

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4 May 45: Moved from Reut, Germany crossing the Inn River and arriving at Timelkan, Austria. Weather clear and cool. Roads excellent. Distance traveled 49 miles.

5 May 45: Moved from Timelkan, Austria to Steinbach, Austria with mission of contacting the Russian Army. Weather cool and rain. Roads good. Distance traveled 51 miles.

7 May 45: Moved from Steinbach, Austria to Kirchdorf, Austria. Weather cloudy and warm. Roads good. Distance traveled 20 miles.

19 May 45: Moved from Kirchdorf, Austria to Spital an Pyhrn, Austria establishing men in billets and performing occupational duties. Weather cloudy. Roads good. Distance traveled 35 miles.

6. Campaigns:

1. Battle of Northern France

- a. From 5 Aug 44 to 15 Sep 44
- b. To drive the Germans from France
- c. Authority ordering was the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.

2. Battle of Germany

- a. From 16 Sep 44 to date unknown
- b. To conquer Germany
- c. Authority ordering was the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.

7. Narrative Accounts of Action:

1 May 1945:

Enemy offered weak resistance to the crossing of ISAR River in the vicinity of DINGOLFING, with light small arms and mortar fire. The 712th Regiment, 416th Division, was identified in sector.

2d Battalion crossed ISAR River in the vicinity of DINGOLFING, and relieved the 1st Battalion of the 318th Infantry, with the mission of close-in protection of bridge site. Company L moved to MINGKOFEN and relieved the 2d Battalion of the 317th Infantry; 1st Battalion moved to DORNWANG. 1st and 3d Battalions were put on a one-hour alert for movement. Regimental Command Post moved from MARTINSBUCH to LENGTHAL.

2 May 1945:

All enemy troops encountered surrendered without resistance.

Combat Team, 317th Infantry crossed ISAR River in the vicinity of BINGOLFING, and prepared to attack East.

3 May 1945:

All enemy troops encountered surrendered without resistance. 1 JU88 flew over Regimental area.

Combat Team, 317th Infantry assembled in the vicinity of WITTBETH, and prepared to attack East. Regimental Command Post was located in REIT.

4 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered. Patrols investigating reports of groups of organized enemy troops, found no resistance; all enemy troops surrendered.

Combat Team, 317th Infantry moved to assembly area Northwest of the INN River, prepared to cross river and attack Southeast.

5 May 1945:

Guard was placed on only enemy liquid oxygen and V-2 testing plant in the vicinity of NEUKRN. All enemy troops encountered continued to surrender.

Combat Team, 317th Infantry crossed INN River in the vicinity of BRAUNAU, and continued to advance Southeast.

6 May 1945:

Bridge over ENNS River at TERBERG was captured intact. The commanding officer of the 26th Hungarian SS Division surrendered his Division to the Commanding Officer, Combat Team, 317th Infantry. Combat Team, 317th continued to take prisoners without resistance.

Combat Team, 317th Infantry continued to advance to the East. 3d Battalion was attached to TF SMYTHE.

7 May 1945:

Received official notice of the surrender of all German forces to the Allied Forces, effective 9 May 45. No enemy action encountered.

1st and 2d Battalions were relieved by elements of the 71st Division. Combat Team, 317th Infantry (-) was attached to TF SMYTHE in the vicinity of KIRCHDORF. Received notification of German surrender to the Allied Forces.

8 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period. Patrols captured enemy troops hiding out in woods and mountains, between KIRCHDORF and ENNS River.

2d Battalion was located in the vicinity of SPITAL, and the 1st and 3d Battalions were in the vicinity of KIRCHDORF; the Regimental Command Post was located in KIRCHDORF. Units were occupied in the evacuation of the 6th German Panzer Army.

9 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Guards were maintained on all important installations.

10 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Troops were engaged in guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

11 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units were reverted to Regimental Control from TF SMYTHE.

12 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

13 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

14 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

15 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

16 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

17 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

18 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

1st Battalion started movement to the vicinity of LIEZEN to relieve elements of the 2d Battalion.

19 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

1st Battalion completed movement to the vicinity of LIEZEN and relieved elements of the 2d Battalion. The 2d Battalion moved to the vicinity of ST. GALLEN. Regimental Command Post moved to SPITAL.

20 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

21 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

3d Battalion was attached to the 3d Cavalry Group; otherwise no change.

22 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

23 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

24 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

25 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

26 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

27 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

28 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

29 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

30 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

31 May 1945:

No organized enemy action was encountered during this period. Enemy troops continued to surrender throughout the period.

Units conducted training and maintenance of equipment concurrent with guarding installations, evacuating displaced persons and PW's, and maintaining contact with the Russian Forces.

ADDENDA

During the period, no tactical lessons were learned that would prove helpful in future operations.

At the close of World War II, new problems arose in the form of nuisance activity by "die-hard" SS troops. i.e., wire cutting, threats to civilians, petty theft, and the handling of displaced persons.

Troops continuing to resist in small groups have been hunted down with excellent help from civilian mountain guides; civilians in CIC roles have also been instrumental in apprehending SS personnel and leading Nazi politicians.

By the use of well-placed road blocks and bulletins, published in the language of those concerned, a vast improvement in holding control over the migration of displaced persons has been effected. Road blocks manned by alert guards have also netted numerous suspicious persons and SS troops.

Attached and/or supporting organizations included in the month of May 1945 are as follows:

313th FA Bn	1 May 45 to 12 May 45 incl
Co A, 305th Med Bn	1 May 45 to 31 May 45 incl
Co A, 305th Engr Bn	1 May 45 to 12 May 45 incl
Co A, 702d Tk Bn	1 May 45 to 12 May 45 incl
Co A, 811 TD Bn	1 May 45 to 12 May 45 incl
811th TD Reconnaissance Bn	1 May 45 to 12 May 45 incl
Btry A, 633d AA Bn	1 May 45 to 12 May 45 incl

8. Commanding Officer of the Regiment from 1 May 45 to 31 May 45 inclusive was Lt Colonel Henry G. Fisher, Infantry.

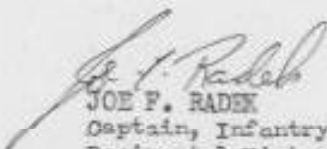
Exec Off	Lt Col Paul F. Roberts	1 May 45 to 31 May 45 incl
S-1	Capt Emerson R. Jones	1 May 45 to 31 May 45 incl
S-2	Capt Robert M. Walker	1 May 45 to 31 May 45 incl
S-3	Maj James H. Hayes	1 May 45 to 31 May 45 incl
S-4	Maj Archie G. Johnson, Jr.	1 May 45 to 31 May 45 incl

The following Battalions of the Regiment were commanded by Officers indicated.

1st Bn	Major Emmett H. McCrary	1 May 45 to 31 May 45 incl
2d Bn	Lt Col Samuel L. Williams	1 May 45 to 31 May 45 incl
3d Bn	Lt Col Robert W. Black	1 May 45 to 31 May 45 incl

9. Casualties:
List of casualties for period covered by this report attached hereto.
10. Former and present members of this organization who have distinguished themselves in action are as indicated by company lettering on the attached copies of General Orders.
11. Former and present members of this organization who have been awarded the Order of the Purple Heart for wounds received in action are as indicated by company lettering on the attached copies of General Orders.
12. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events not available up to 31 May 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:


JOE P. RADEK
Captain, Infantry
Regimental Historian

- 30 Incls:
Incl # 1 - List of Casualties
Incl # 2 - Ltr, President Roosevelt
Incl # 3 - Extract Cir 52, TUSA, 9 May 45
Incl # 4 - GO #98, TUSA, 9 May 45
Incl # 5 - GO #2, HQ, 317th Inf, 22 May 45
Incl # 6 - History of Pyhrn Pass District
Incl # 7 to 30 - Copies of 80th Division General Orders

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 31, 1945

My dear Colonel Fisher:

When Steve Early came back from his recent trip to Europe, he brought me the P-38 pistol which you and the officers and men of your regiment, the 317th Infantry, so thoughtfully sent me. I am delighted to have it and I do want to thank all of you who helped to make such a gift possible. I shall be happy to add this to my collection for permanent exhibition in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park.

Steve gave me also a copy of your fine letter to him, telling of the capture of the weapon at Bitburg, Germany. I am deeply appreciative of the spirit which it evidences on the part of the officers and men of the 317th. This is the spirit that is carrying our forces to victory.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Franklin D. Roosevelt

Lt. Colonel Harry G. Fisher
Commanding Officer
317th Infantry
A. P. O. 80, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Emerson R. Jones
/t/ EMERSON R. JONES
Captain, 317th Infantry
Adjutant.

A TRUE COPY:

J. F. Radek
JOE F. RADEK
Captain, 317th Infantry
Asst. Adjutant

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HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

CIRCULAR)
:)
NUMBER 52)

9 May 1945

SECTION I - Order of the Day.
SECTION II - Travel of Parents and Wives of Certain Military Personnel from Ireland to England, Scotland or Wales.
SECTION III - ETO, MD Form 311.

I. ORDER OF THE DAY.

The following message FWD 20956 from Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force dated 8 May 1945 is quoted for your information:

"Men and women of the Allied Expeditionary Force: The crusade on which we embarked in the early Summer of 1944 has reached its glorious conclusion. It is my special privilege, in the name of all nations represented in this theater of war, to commend each of you for valiant performance of duty. Though these words are feeble, they come from the bottom of a heart overflowing with pride in your loyal service and admiration for you as warriors. Your accomplishments at sea, in the air, on the ground, and in the field of supply have astonished the world. Even before the final week of the conflict, you had put five million of the enemy permanently out of the war. You have taken in stride military tasks so difficult as to be classed by many doubters as impossible. You have confused, defeated, and destroyed your savagely fighting foe. On the road to victory you have endured every discomfort and privation and have surmounted every obstacle ingenuity and desperation could throw in your path. You did not pause until your front was firmly joined up with the great Red Army coming from the East, and other allied forces, coming from the South.

"Full victory in Europe has been attained.

"Working and fighting together in a single and indestructible partnership you have achieved a perfection in unification of air, ground, and naval power that will stand as a model in our time.

"The route you have travelled, through hundreds of miles, is marked by the graves of former comrades. From them has been exacted the ultimate sacrifice. Blood of many nations - American, British, Canadian, French, Polish, and others - has helped to gain the victory. Each of the fallen died as a member of the team to which you belong, bound together by a common love of liberty and a refusal to submit to enslavement. No monument of stone, no memorial of whatever magnitude could so well express our respect and veneration for their sacrifice as would perpetuation of the spirit of comradeship in which they died. As we celebrate victory in Europe, let us remind ourselves that our common problems of the immediate and distant future can be best solved in the same conceptions of cooperation and devotion to the cause of human freedom as have made this expeditionary force such a mighty engine of righteous destruction.

"Let us have no part in the profitless quarrels in which other men will inevitably engage as to what country, what service, won the European war. Every

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LIST OF CASUALTIES

KILLED IN ACTION

Pvt Carl H Schrecker	33715796	Sgt Robert A Feebeck	35453064
Sgt Riley E Wilson	36414368	Pfc Richard L Forster	33928291
Pvt Floyd J Bennett	35071440	Pvt Ernest (NMI) Doboski	33924418
Pfc Thomas W Cairns	33320753	Pfc Franklin G Eckard Sr	34963591
Pfc Calvin E Jackson	34805573	Pvt Herbert H Grady	34302830
Cpl Arthur R Godinez	39159020	S Sgt William (NMI) Wentz	33235460
Pvt Walter J Mroz	36978124	Pvt Carl M Hamilton	33750010
Pfc Albert R Klesal	38675819	2d Lt James P Frank	02010461
Pvt Rocco P Addressa	35247038	T Sgt Marion B Miller	35409879
1st Lt Saul B Kadison	01304906	Pvt Kenneth W Wooden	35567063

WOUNDED OR INJURED IN ACTION

Pfc Joe H McGill	34986425	Tec 5 Robert E S Allen Jr	31162021
Pfc Edward A Klais	42101591		

MISSING IN ACTION

Pvt Morris (NMI) Rosenthal	31371444	Pvt William O Hundcutt	35813549
Pvt Herbert H Grady	34302830	Cpl Richard I Casparro	35222643
Cpl Peter R Monge	39087165	Pvt Ralph E Burns	35408908
Pvt William H Thompson	35933909	Pvt William E Richardson	6964736
Pvt Jesse E Mefford	39285708	S Sgt Lee C Fridd	12103200
Pfc Garfield E Hazelwood	35773447	Pvt James A Bolton	38698770