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7. Narrative Account of Action:

1 December 1944:

With the 317th Regiment still held in Division Reserve, the intelligence picture did not develop into anything of much interest. SA firing was reported by Anti-Tank Co, CO of the 313th FA Bn, and the 3d Bn. A patrol was sent out to investigate these reports, and returned with information that they were our own Wpns being test-fired during the Res period. At 1330, the 3d Bn reported a jet-propelled plane (or rocket) passing over its area going SE. An unidentified medium bomber was heard passing over our sector at 1915, heading W.

Regiment remained in Division Reserve, in MACHEREN, FRANCE, and continued to reorganize and rehabilitate personnel prior to resuming the attack. Technical and tactical training was conducted.

2 December 1944:

Administrative and supply details were attended to during another day spent in Res. A German map was sent to G-2, arrangements for the 1st Bn S-2 to make a terrain reconnaissance by Arty Liaison plane were made, and additional copies of maps 1/50,000 and 1/25,000 were made throughout the Regt. The 3d Bn was notified of enemy observed along the Rd at (Q384553) and (Q384555), walking in the streets and occupying buildings in FARSCHVILLER. At least 20 enemy were observed.

Regiment remained in Division Reserve, in MACHEREN, FRANCE, and continued to reorganize and rehabilitate personnel prior to resuming the attack. Technical and tactical training was conducted.

3 December 1944:

The results of a patrol sent out the night of 2-3 Dec in a general NE direction for the purpose initially of training, but tactically of locating a roving enemy self-propelled direct fire Wpn, are as follows:

1. No enemy activity.
2. Terrain: Wooded, slopes slightly to the W, very soft ground, water at the base of slope.
3. No armor tracks, no signs of recent foot troops.
4. The 318th Inf Regt was contacted at (Q3555) in HENRIVILLE, also at (Q336548).

All units of this command were notified of censorship regulations concerning items of souvenir value being mailed home. Some enemy Arty fell in our Res sector; 15 rounds of Est 105mm fell at the junction of ST AVOLD-SAARBRUCKEN Ras, in the Vic of ST AVOLD at about 1930; 6 rounds fell in MARIENTHAL, coming from the NE, one (1) round at a time, Est 105mm, at 2225.

Regiment remained in Division Reserve, in MACHEREN, FRANCE, and continued to reorganize and rehabilitate personnel prior to resuming the attack. Technical and tactical training was conducted.

4. December 1944:

During the Atk on the high ground NE of FARBERSVILLER by the 318th Regt, the 317th I and R Plat set up a Regtl OP in the church bellfry in HENRIVILLE. Throughout the morning and well into the afternoon, when fog made visibility so poor as to limit observation to five hundred yards, the results and communications were satisfactory. In lieu of total dependency on 284 Radio, the direct line from the Arty OP housed in the same bellfry was used. Communications from a

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second CP were unsatisfactory due to weather conditions, and the excessive interference by the enemy. In this case a 300 radio was the sole means of communications, the wire being out from the beginning because of hostile Arty fire. Very light Arty fire was received in the Regtl sector during the 24 hour period.

Regiment remained in Division Reserve, in MACHEREN, FRANCE, and continued to reorganize and rehabilitate personnel prior to resuming the attack. Technical and tactical training was continued.

5 December 1944:

Throughout the day the Regtl CP continued to function as our main source of information concerning the situation of the enemy confronting the 318th Regt. Higher Headquarters reported a map found in FARSCHVILLER by the 6th Armd showed the following: defensive line organized along high ground GROSS (Q4863), ELITTERSDORF, LIXING (Q4662), HERRACH (Q4463), DETING (Q3963). 17th SS Div N Bdry is line between (Q3861) to (Q4968). 17th SS Ren Bn extends from N Bdry to (Q426610)-(Q459640). 3d Bn, 38th SS Regt from (Q440580) to (Q478640). 1st Bn, 37th SS Regt from (Q471590) to (Q500630). 2d Bn, 37th SS Regt from (Q490560) to (Q530605). 1st Bn 38th SS Regt from (Q446510) to (545580). CP of Ren Bn is at ALSTING (Q4565). CP of 37th Regt (Q52205613).

Regiment remained in Division Reserve, in MACHEREN, FRANCE, and continued to reorganize and rehabilitate personnel prior to resuming the attack. Technical and tactical training was continued. Order was received to move the Regiment to ST AVOLD, FRANCE.

6 December 1944:

The Regtl CP for today was moved to (Q458376). Units were further supplied with coverage of photomaps, and a report was made to higher headquarters of the loss (presumed captured) of the Division geographical code list. A report concerning a crashed P-47 airplane made to Higher Headquarters included the following: Pilot, Lt W. S. STONE; Crew Chief, Sgt Lavorgna; Asst Sgt, AT Anglis; Armorer, S Sgt Kaplan; Radioman, S Sgt Latta - Tail No-276148; side lettering "WEH". During the day's reconnaissance the I and R Plat took 5 PWs, all old deserters; hence, no new helpful information; located 3 aerial bombs in FOLLINGEN and three gun positions on side of a hill NE of above town. Generally the Regtl sector was quite quiet in its period of Res.

CT moved to ST AVOLD, FRANCE. All troops were billeted in the town, and training directives were sent to the Bns for training to be conducted while in that area.

7 December 1944:

The town of FOLLINGEN was reported clear of enemy at about 1030. The same source reported the previously located guns on the hillside NE of town were dummy, and made of wood. Plans were laid to initiate a patrol report blank for the use of Bn 3-2s in compiling a useful report upon completion of missions by patrols. Small numbers of enemy were reported dug in on high ground along ridge from (391633) - (400635). Some enemy were also observed between (430637) and (436644).

Care and cleaning of Weapons and Equipment was carried on by the troops throughout the day.

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8 December 1944:

Regt moved from MACHEREN to rest area in ST AVOLD. During the day all radios were closed. Units were informed that no hourly reports would be necessary, and that during the rest area status, only unusual occurrences and enemy Arty were to be reported. A program of rehabilitation of Intelligence units in Bns, and training of personnel was planned. The training stressed communications, orientation, and a general program to be enforced concerning all phases of intelligence work. The transfer of an EM as leader of the I and R Plat, and of 3 Officers as Bn S-2s took effect.

Tactical and Technical training was conducted, including range firing.

9 December 1944:

Intelligence Training continued throughout the Regt, including lectures to the Bns by the CIC, orientation by members of the IBW team, and training films on pertinent intelligence subjects. An intense compilation and study of material concerning the SIEGFRIED LINE was begun.

Tactical and Technical Training continued with emphasis placed on training of Assault Teams, Attack of Fortified Positions, and Anti-Tank work.

10 December 1944:

Training continued throughout the Regt, stressing Radio procedure throughout the Regtl Radio Net, for the purpose of instruction in proper message procedure, and monitoring by each unit of all messages sent within the Regt. In addition, the same training conducted on the previous day (9 Dec) was continued. All units were issued maps (scale 1/25,000) overprinted with installations of the SIEGFRIED LINE in sector being studied.

Tactical and Technical Training continued with emphasis placed on training of Assault Teams, Attack of Fortified Positions, and Anti-Tank work.

11 December 1944:

Regt continued using films, lectures and establishment of OPs in its training.

Tactical and Technical Training continued with emphasis placed on training of Assault Teams, Attack of Fortified Positions, and Anti-Tank work.

12 December 1944:

Regt was instructed that hereafter, as a Regtl policy, "Shell-Reps" would be sent in on forms provided and not by the method of stating an Az from a certain point etc. Intelligence Training continued.

Tactical and Technical Training continued with emphasis placed on training of Assault Teams, Attack of Fortified Positions, and Anti-Tank work.

13 December 1944:

More material concerning the SIEGFRIED LINE was issued, and training continued.

Regiment carried on Tactical and Technical Training, placing emphasis on Assault of Fortified Positions.

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14 December 1944:

Regt continued training, supplemented by an orientation lecture given by Div I and E Officer. Units were informed that Fort JEANNE D'ARC, the last of the METZ Forts, had fallen at 1115 today, with 500 or more PWs taken. They were warned of the possibility of some Germans from this Fort infiltrating into our area. All units were alerted, and Mtzd patrols were instituted to cover all roads leading out, 1-5 miles from ST AVOLD.

Regiment carried on Tactical and Technical Training, placing emphasis on Assault of Fortified Positions.

15 December 1944:

Road patrols were continued by the Bns, and further intensified study of the SIEGFRIED LINE material was made.

CT remained in ST AVOLD conducting training. Particular emphasis was placed on training the replacements in Infantry-Tank Teamwork, Bazooka Firing and Assault of Fortified Positions.

16 December 1944:

At 0900, a meeting of the Bn S-2 Officers and the I and R Plat ldr was held, for the purpose of discussing the available material on the SIEGFRIED LINE, and the suggested use of same in being passed on to the troops. All excess maps of areas no longer pertaining to us were turned over to the Engrs.

CT remained in ST AVOLD conducting training. Particular emphasis was placed on training the replacements in Infantry-Tank Teamwork, Bazooka Firing and Assault of Fortified Positions.

17 December 1944:

No variation from usual procedure on training was in effect throughout the Regt. 2 enemy aircraft flew over area, flying generally W - one at 0321, and one at 0355.

CT 317th (less 313th FA Bn) with Co "C" 808th TD Bn, Btry "D" 633d AAA Atchd, moved by motor at 0700 to Fwd Assembly area W of SARRE UNION. CT CP located at ALTIVILLER. Rd blocks were established on all Rds leading into CT area, and sector was divided unto 3 areas for patrolling; 2d Bn patrolled the NW sector; 1st Bn the NE sector, and 3d Bn the SE and E sectors.

18 December 1944:

Regt moved from location at ST AVOLD, FRANCE, SE to ALTIVILLER. The new area, including the surrounding towns, was immediately scheduled for motorized patrolling of all roads. Study was continued along the lines of terrain, intelligence and further map reconnaissance concerning the SIEGFRIED LINE.

Tactical and Technical Training was conducted with the emphasis on Assault of Fortified Positions.

19 December 1944:

Regt was advised of the main drive taking place by the enemy against the US 1st Army in the Vic of ST VITE, BELGIUM (P8588). The 3d Bn located a mine field NE of ALTIVILLER, and 1 unidentified plane was heard flying N. Active patrolling of the Rds surrounding the area was again conducted throughout the night, and intelligence study of the SIEGFRIED LINE sector continued.

Ordered to prepare to move 317th Inf (Reinf) by Mtr from Vic ALTIVILLER, NW to Vic LUXE MBOURG. Crossed IP at SARRE UNION at 1420.

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20 December 1944:

Regt moved from ALTVILLER, FRANCE to CONDERANGE, LUXEMBOURG. The majority of the day was spent in establishing liaison between Bn and Regtl S-2 sections. The first action was contacting the 12th Regt of the 4th Div, in order to obtain the situation in the new area.

Arrived new CP location Vic CONDERANGE, LUXEMBOURG at 0400. Orders received for the 317th Inf (Reinf) to organize and occupy Reserve Defensive Positions; 2d and 3d Bns to be on the line, with the 1st Bn in Regtl Res (Mol). 1st Bn was to select and organize Res Position, and be prepared to counterattack to N, NE or SE in conjunction with Co "A" of the 702d Tk Bn.

21 December 1944:

New maps were distributed to all units, and a check was made for adequate coverage. A considerable return of maps in the S sector was also accomplished. Motorized Rd patrols were established throughout the Res Pos now occupied by the Regt. The enemy situation was disseminated to the Bns in the form of Annex to FO.

Moved by Mtr and marching to a concentration area Vic STEINSEL, LUXEMBOURG.

22 December 1944:

Information was disseminated to units concerning the use of captured equipment by Germans. The curfew hours established for the CT while in present status were 1800 - 0700. Liaison was established with the 12th Inf Regt, and further plans were made for cooperation in intelligence channels.

317th Inf, in Div Res, advanced to the N following the 318th Inf. Relieved the 318th Inf of Rd blocks protecting the right flank of the 80th Inf Div.

23 December 1944:

Regt moved from CONDERANGE by motor and marching, to STEINSEL, and CT 317th was initially Div Res. A new distribution of maps was made to units, and a complete return of all maps outside of sector to Div Engrs was accomplished. Initial reports were received concerning the enemy nebelwerfer fire on our front line units, 15 to 20 rounds at a time. Motor and foot patrols were inaugurated to establish security in local Bn areas. Units were warned of "Grief Operation" and the threat of German soldiers, wearing GI clothing, infiltrating in our rear lines. A suspicious fire, huge blaze and green flame was investigated by Lt GIFFORD, CO of 702d Tk Bn, Co "A" on the hill at (843284). The blaze was extinguished by 2020, and reported all quiet. The enemy situation was given to all troops in Annex to FO.

317th Inf (Reinf) relieved the 318th Inf and advanced to the N in Clm of Bns (2d, 1st, 3d). CP located in NIEDERFEULEN. Harassing Arty fire was received throughout the night. The 2d Bn, continuing the Adv towards the SURE R, was held up by MG and SA fire Vic WELSCHIED.

24 December 1944:

The Regt moved to MERSCH and continued to prepare for commitment in the line. Units were advised that the enemy force consisted of the 352d Inf Div and that this unit had been caught by us on its left flank while moving SW to its objective, LUXEMBOURG. Considerable movement was reported by 318th & 319th Inf, vicinity ETTTELBRUCK, BOURSCHIED, KEHMEN and HEIDERSCHIED. Enemy armor reported in light strength as being used in area. Units advised of a PW

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statement that a new Div "Gross Deutschland" Div would possibly be moved to left flank to support enemy. Regt moved to new CP in NIEDERFEULEN and moved into position to attack WELSCHIED from high ground S of the town. 2d Bn held same ground. 3d Bn held high ground W & SW of KEHMEN. 1st Bn remained in Regtl Reserve Vic NIEDERFEULEN.

During the early hours of the morning, E Co, F Co and one MG Plat of H Co passed through the town of WELSCHIED, breaking contact with the remainder of the Bn. At dawn, they were cut off, and the situation remained thus throughout the day. At 1700 they began fighting their way back towards the remainder of the Bn. 1st Bn remained behind the 2d Bn until ordered to occupy NIEDERFEULEN for the night. 3d Bn occupied Pos Vic NIEDERFEULEN until Approx 1400, when they pushed off to Atk BOURSCHIED from the W. They met SA, MG and Arty fire Vic KEHMAN about 1600, and were still fighting for that town at 1800. At that time, they received orders to organize Pos on high ground SW KEHMAN.

25 December 1944:

Light Arty and mortar fire in Regtl sector. Reports were received of long range direct fire weapons harassing our Bn positions. Some hostile armor located in sector.

317th Inf (Reinf) attacked with 2 Bns abreast (3d Bn on the right, 1st Bn on the left). The 2d Bn in Regtl Res moved to Vic NIEDERFEULEN. Both the 1st and 3d Bn jumped off at 1030, preceded by a 30 minute Arty preparation, starting 15 minutes before H-Hour. The 1st Bn encountered SA fire, but continued to advance until they were on line with the 3d Bn. Both Bns met Hvy SA fire in the early afternoon, and at 1630, they were ordered to hold up and organize the high ground S and E of SCHEIDEL.

26 December 1944:

Regt attacked with 1st & 3d Bn on line. Time fire was received by 3d Bn, at 0955 six big explosions were reported in BOURSCHIED, probably the enemy blowing their supplies. 3d Bn captured 13 prisoners in KEHMEN. Enemy Arty and mortar fire received by both Bns throughout the day. Regtl OP reported friendly planes strafing vic of WELSCHIED and KEHMEN. This strafing was about two hundred yards in front of our troops. OP also reported enemy troops, company size, entering woods Vic of (899441). Div Arty was notified and they fired into area. PWs identified 5th, 6th & 7th Cos 208th VG Regt. Also stated on Plat 7th Co 208th stayed in KEHMEN: 2nd Bn CP as of 0800, 26 Dec located in WELSCHIED; elements 212th Regt moving in to reinforce 208th Regt. Bns sent out reconnaissance and contact patrols during night.

1st and 3d Bns attacked at 0730, with the 2d Bn in Regtl Res Vic NIEDERFEULEN, prepared to move to N on order. At 0750, the 1st Bn was within 300 Yds of SCHEIDEL, encountering SA and Arty fire. With 3 platoons of "C" Co remaining on the high ground as a covering force, 1 platoon was able to enter the town. At 0900, all of "C" Co was in SCHEIDEL, doing mopping up work. The 3d Bn was progressing very slowly, and at 0830, "I" Co was at (782457), receiving time fire. The 3d Bn continued to push forward, and established contact with the 1st Bn. There were a few bombs dropped in SCHEIDEL by unidentified planes. 18 PWs were taken from this town.

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At 1145, K and L Cos were in position outside KEHMEN, ready to attack. At this time, BOURSCHIED was effectively bombed and strafed, the strafing of KEHMEN following immediately. The latter strafing occurred Approx 200 Yds in front of our lines. "K" Co continued the attack and entered KEHMEN. At 1300 they had one-quarter of the town, conducting house to house fighting. They were receiving time fire, Auto Wpns, HE and SA fire, but continued to fight in the town. Heavy casualties were sustained. At 1520, orders were received from Higher HQ to withdraw "K" Co from the town, and to organize a defense position near the town.

After the 1st Bn took SCHEIDEL, they were reorganized into a column of companies, and moved to Atk the second objective. Just as this movement started, the Bn was fired upon by the enemy with Small Arms and Arty fire. At 1600, the 1st Bn was ordered to withdraw to the Vic of NIEDERFEULEN; the withdrawal began at 1830.

The 3d Bn was ordered to set up a defensive position W of KEHMEN, reinforced by Cos "B" and "D".

27 December 1944:

PWs from 14th Co 208th Regt. 3d Bn received harassing fire from direct fire weapon throughout the day. PW stated Regtl Reserve was in four RR tunnels in area E BOURSCHIED. Active reconnaissance and contact patrolling carried on by Bns.

The Regtl CP was located at NIEDERFEULEN. 2d Bn and 1st Bn (less "B" and "D" Cos) located Vic NIEDERFEULEN, with the 3d Bn (plus "B" and "D" Cos) occupying a defensive position W of KEHMEN, and maintaining contact with the 319th Inf on the left by means of foot patrols. The 3d Bn received Arty and mortar fire all day. The I & R Plat operated the OPs in the Regtl area. The 2d Bn maintained five road blocks on the roads leading into NIEDERFEULEN.

28 December 1944:

PW reported five 75mm guns at (P786484); also that 5th Co 212th Regt outposting woods E of RINGEL. Main body dug in center of woods in that area. Active reconnaissance and contact patrolling carried on by Bns.

The 3d Bn, continuing to occupy a defensive position W of KEHMEN, were relieved by the 2d Bn under cover of darkness, and moved back to Vic NIEDERFEULEN in Regtl Reserve. The 1st Bn relieved the 2d Bn on road blocks on roads leading into NIEDERFEULEN, and also patrolled the roads in the Vic of the town. Contact with the 319th Inf on our left was maintained.

29 December 1944:

PWs captured from 6th Co 226th Regt. Strength of Co, 50 men. Intermittent enemy Arty throughout day. Active reconnaissance and contact patrolling carried on by Bns.

Defensive position continued with the 1st Bn on the right, 2d Bn on the left and the 3d Bn in Regtl Reserve. FO #25 was distributed, and the Regtl CP remained in NIEDERFEULEN. Forty rounds of enemy Arty fell in NIEDERFEULEN. Approx 1145. Daylight movement of troops was impossible because of the enemy Arty, so moving into assigned areas was accomplished under cover of darkness. The 1st Bn established contact with the 318th Inf on our right.

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30 December 1944:

Bn & Regtl CPs very active in spotting Arty targets. Intermittent enemy Arty throughout the day. Active reconnaissance and contact patrolling conducted by the Bns.

All Bns remained relatively in the same positions. Co "C" moved Approx 800 Yds to the N, on the nose of the ridge in order to straighten out the Div front lines. This move was made at Approx 1900. Enemy P47's bombed and strafed the 3d Bn and 313th FA Bn areas. Intensive Arty fire was received in Regtl area all day.

31 December 1944:

Bn patrols very active throughout the night. Intermittent enemy Arty fell throughout the day.

Regt continued to occupy and improve defensive positions. Active patrolling was conducted. Enemy intermittent Arty and mortar fire fell on positions throughout the day.

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

313th FA Bn	1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl
Co "A", 305th Med Bn	1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl
Co "A", 305th Engr Bn	1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl
Co "A", 702nd Tk Bn	1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl
Co "C", 808th TD Bn	1 Dec 44 to 19 Dec 44 incl
Co "C", 610th TD Bn	20 Dec 44 to 20 Dec 44 incl
Co "B", 610th TD Bn	21 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl
Btry "D", 633rd AA Bn	1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl

8. Commanding Officer of the Regiment from 1 December 1944 to 3 December 1944 inclusive was Colonel Warfield M. Lewis, Infantry, and from 4 December 1944 to 31 December 1944 inclusive was Lt Colonel Henry G. Fisher, Infantry.

Exec Off	Lt Col Henry G. Fisher	1 Dec 44 to 3 Dec 44 incl
	Maj James H. Hayes	4 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl
S-1	Capt Robert P. Phifer	1 Dec 44 to 10 Dec 44 incl
	Capt Emerson R. Jones	11 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl
S-2	Capt Robert M. Walker	1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl
S-3	Capt Charles S. Johnson	1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl
S-4	Maj Archie G. Johnson, Jr	1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl

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

Hq 1st Bn	Maj James A. Craig, Jr.	1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl
Hq 2nd Bn	Capt James J. Mullen	1 Dec 44 to 3 Dec 44 incl
	Lt Col William J. Boydston	4 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl
Hq 3rd Bn	Lt Col William J. Boydston	1 Dec 44 to 3 Dec 44 incl
	Maj Edward J. Borszcz	4 Dec 44 to 14 Dec 44 incl
	Lt Col Paul F. Roberts	15 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 incl

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9. Casualties:

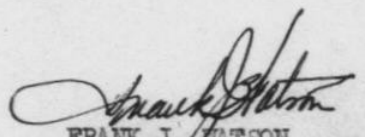
List of casualties for period covered by this report attached hereto.

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 December 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:


FRANK J. WATSON
Captain, Infantry
Regimental Historian

24 Incls:

Incls #1 to #23 - Copies of 80th Inf Div GO (Awards)
Incl #24 - List of Casualties.