

HEADQUARTERS 319TH INFANTRY
Office of the Regimental Commander
APO 80 U S Army

9 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal.

TO: Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80 U S Army
(Attention Division Historian)

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 and Memo No 64 Hq 80th Inf Div dated 24 Aug 44, the Unit History of the 319th Infantry Regiment for the month of May 1945 is herewith submitted.

2. Request acknowledgement of receipt by indorsement hereon.

FOR THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER:

W. L. Owen, Jr.

W.L. OWEN, JR.
Capt, Infantry
Historian.

1 Incl:
History of 319th Inf Regt
for month of May 1945.

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Adjutant Gen. Col. Owen
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 21 Aug 46

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HEADQUARTERS 319TH INFANTRY
Office of the Regimental Commander
APO 80, U S Army

UNIT HISTORY

(For Month of May)

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SECTION I - Original Unit.

- a. 319th Infantry Regiment.
- b. 15 July 1942.
- c. Camp Forrest, Tennessee.
- d. Selective Service.

SECTION II - Changes in Organization.

- a. None.

SECTION III - Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted.

Totals of 30 April 45	-	130 Officers and 2969 Enlisted Men.
Totals of 31 May 45	-	<u>163 Officers and 3011 Enlisted Men.</u>
Gain of		<u>33 Officers and 42 Enlisted Men</u>

SECTION IV - Stations: Permanent or Temporary.

- a. Griessenbach, Germany.
Departed on 2 May 1945 at 0610.
- b. Kruezpoint, Germany.
Arrived on 2 May 1945 at 2020
Departed on 3 May 1945 at 1030.
- c. Haunberg, Germany.
Arrived on 3 May 1945 at 1145.
Departed on 4 May 1945 at 1615.

SECTION IV - Stations: Permanent or Temporary (Contd.)

- d. Mauerkirchen, Austria.
Arrived on 4 May 1945 at 2015.
Departed on 5 May 1945 at 0740.

- e. Steyr, Austria.
Arrived on 5 May 1945 at 1830.
Departed on 6 May 1945 at 1130.

- f. Wimbach, Austria.
Arrived on 6 May 1945 at 1630.
Departed on 19 May 1945 at 0815.

- g. Altaussee, Austria.
Arrived on 19 May 1945 at 1215.

SECTION V - Marches.

a. Purpose: To better maintain contact with the foot troops after they crossed the Isar River.

b. Length of march: approximately 52 miles.

c. Departed from Griessenbach, Germany at 0610 on 2 May 1945, arrived in Kruezpoint, Germany at 2020 on 2 May 1945.

d. Weather was cloudy and cool; roads were in fair shape but in places torn up by use of heavy armor.

e. Route of motor march: Griessenbach, Postau, Hinzbachweg, Rimbach, Dornwang, Sossau, Dingolfing, Brauenbiburg, Front Hausen, Altenkirchen, Rampoldstetten, Ober Trenh, Sumkausen, Gangkofen, Mallweg, Massing, Zeilbach, Hausleiten, Wollersdorf, Grafing, Pleiskirchen, Walding, Aresing, Kreuzpoint. A temporary command post was set up in Front Hausen for three hours.

a. Purpose: To maintain contact with assault troops.

b. Length of march: Approximately 13 miles.

c. Departed from Kruezpoint, Germany, at 1030 on 3 May 1945; arrived in Haunberg, Germany, at 1145, on 3 May 1945.

d. Weather was cool and clear. Roads were in fair condition.

e. Route of motor march: Kreuzpoint, Aresin, Lederhub, Wald, Wisserdorf, Reichbach, Haunberg.

a. Purpose: To assemple the combat team south of Braunau, Austria.

b. Length of march: approximately 28 miles.

c. Departed from Haunberg, Germany, at 1615 on 4 May 1945 and arrived in Mauerkirchen, Austria, at 2015 on 4 May 1945.

d. Weather was cloudy and clear. Roads in fair condition.

e. Route of motor march: Haunberg, Pfaffenburg, Thannerserb, Gumpersdorf, Unter Turken, Mehl, Kohlberg, Kirschdorf, Braunau, Haselbach, Lindach, Kuhburg, Burgkirchen, Hartburg, Mauerkirchen.

a. Purpose: To move the combat team to the west bank of the Enns River vicinity Steyr and contact the Russians east of the Enns River.

b. Length of march: approximately 86 miles.

c. Departed from Mauerkirchen, Austria, at 0740 on 5 May 1945; arrived in Steyr, Austria, at 1830 on 5 May 1945.

d. Weather was cloudy and warm. Roads in poor condition - country roads torn up by heavy traffic.

e. Route of motor march: Mauerkirchen, Untendorf, Kaltenhausen, Mattighoffen, Pfaffstadt, Teichstadt, Freidburg, Amelsburg, Strasswalchen, Brimm, Muhlmann, Frankenmarkt, Mosendorf, Bierbaum, Timelkam, Vocklabruck, Pillsbach, Engelshur, Ottnang, Atzbach, Oberndorf, Engelsburg, Schwanenstadt, Schlatt, Lambach, Steinkirchen, Wollsburg, Sattledt, Bochendorf, Kremsmunster, Unter Rohr, Bad Hall, Steinerdorf, Walenkirchen, Hochhub, Mitteregg, Lahrn, Steyr.

SECTION V - Marches (contd).

- a. Purpose: To move the combat team into an assembly area in vicinity of Lambach, Austria.
- b. Length of march: approximately 36 miles.
- c. Departed from Steyr, Austria, at 1130 on 6 May 1945; and arrived in Wimsbach, Austria at 1630 on 6 May 1945.
- d. Weather was clear and warm. Roads in fair shape but dusty.
- e. Route of motor march: Steyr, Sierninghofen, Sierning, Ober Ruhr, Keinmegg, Kremsmunster, Sattledt, Oberheischbach, Steinerskirchen, Wimsbach.

- a. Purpose: To assemble in an area and better maintain contact with units patrolling the north bank of the Enns River.
- b. Length of march: approximately 58 miles.
- c. Departed from Wimsbach, Austria, at 0815 on 19 May 1945; arrived at Altaussee, Austria, at 1215 on 19 May 1945.
- d. Weather very warm and clear. Roads in fair condition.
- e. Route of motor march: Wimsbach, Steyrermuhle, Laarkirchen, Oberweis, Gmunden, Altmunster, Traunkirchen, Ebensee, Bad Ischl, Lauffen, Coisern, Stambach, Lupitsch, Bad Aussee, Altaussee. Delay enroute caused by traveling over a mountainous road.

SECTION VI - Campaigns.

- a. Battle of Northern France.
- b. Battle of Germany.

SECTION VII - Battles.

1. 1 May 1945. Greissenbach, Austria.
2. Narrative account of friendly action:

No change in attachments. Regtl CP in Griessenbach; 1st Bn CP in Ober Viehbach; 2nd Bn CP in Alchbach, 3rd Bn CP in Dietelskirchen. No change in mission. Co C 305 Engr Bn constructed Class 40 bridges in 1st and 2nd Bn areas making it possible to carry assault boats to the north bank of the Isar River. 2nd Bn started crossing at 0425; 1st Bn at 0445. The crossing was made without opposition. The Companies, as they landed on the south bank, reorganized and moved inland meeting no resistance and taking some prisoners. By 0755, both Bns had crossed all assault troops and were moving on to objectives. Supplies had to be rowed across the Isar River. The Bns commandeered horses and wagons to move supplies inland. 3rd Bn alerted to cross river at 1st Bn crossing. 3rd Bn began to cross at 1357 and completed crossing without incident. 1st Bn closed on position and 2nd Bn just to the west of 1st Bn. An allied PW enclosure was liberated in this advance. 3rd Bn moved through 1st Bn and continued to Dietelskirchen without opposition. 3rd Bn held there for the night. Plans made to continue advance to the Inn River on 2 May 45. Radio and wire communications to Bns and supporting units. Co C 305 Engr Bn completed 2 Class 40 bridges and manned assault boats in crossings.

1. 2 May 1945. Kreuzpoint, Austria.

2. No change in attachments. Regtl CP in Kreuzpoint; 3rd Bn CP in Horbering; 2nd Bn CP in Winharing; 1st Bn CP and 905 FA Bn CP in Aresing. No change in mission. Crossed Bn organic vehicles over bridge located vicinity Dingolfing. 1st Bn began advance to the southeast at 0400 and 3rd Bn moved out at 0500. Regtl Hq Co, Trusks and TDs crossed beginning at 0800. The Bns found the road net difficult due to mud and blown bridges. Co C 305 Engr Bn reinforced a bridge at Aham and the route of advance was changed and the CT continued south to complete mission. 1st Bn met very light opposition vicinity Pleiskirchen continued to assemble vicinity Z6378. 2nd Bn assembled vicinity Winhoring and 3rd Bn assembled vicinity Harbering. Regtl CP opened at Kreuzpoint and 905 FA Bn assembled at Aresing. Co C 305 Engr Bn maintained road net.

1. 3 May 1945. Haunberg, Austria.

2. Narrative account of friendly action.
Recon Co 811 TD Bn and Co C 305 Engr Bn released from attachment. Regtl CP in Haunberg, 1st Bn CP Z6774; 3rd Bn in Perach; 2nd Bn and 905 FA Bn CPs no change. 3rd Bn moved from Horbering to assemble vicinity Perach; 1st Bn moved to Z6774; 2nd Bn remained in Winhoring. Regtl CP and supporting units moved to Haunberg.

SECTION VII - Battles (contd).

1. 4 May 1945. Meuerkirchen, Austria.
2. Narrative account of action:

No change in attachments. Regtl CP, 905 FA Co C 305 Engr Bn and Co C 305 Med Bn in Mauerkirchen. 1st Bn CP in St Georgon, 2nd Bn CP in Burgkirchen, 3rd Bn CP in Uttendorf. Mission to assemble CT south of Brannau. Received orders to move rifle companies to north bank of the bridge site in Brannau and march foot troops across railroad bridge that had been gapped by Co C 305 Engr Bn. The trucks that moved foot troops returned and picked up remainder of Bns and crossed Inns River vicinity Braunau on Class 40 bridge. The Bns occupied assembly area south of Braunau with Regtl CP, 905 FA Bn, Co C 305 Engr Bn and Co C 305 Med Bn in Mauerkirchen. 1st Bn in St Georgon 2nd Bn in Burgkirchen and 3rd Bn in Uttendorf. The CT closed in assembly area at 050030 B May 45. Received Div Field Msg #11 and preparations were made to comply with Field Msg #11. Radio and wire communications to bridge site.

1. 5 May 1945. Steyr, Austria.
2. Narrative account of friendly action:

No change in attachments. Regtl CP, 3rd Bn, Co C 305 Engr Bn, Co C 305 Med Bn and 905 FA Bn in Steyr. 2nd Bn CP in Aschbach, 1st Bn CP in Vocklabruck. Mission to move to the west bank of the Emms River vicinity Steyr and contact the Russians east of the Emms River. 319th CT less 1st Bn moved out motorized at 0600 to advance east to the Emms River. No resistance was encountered on this move and the CT less 1st Bn closed in new area at 2215. Regtl CP, 3rd Bn, 905 FA Bn, Co C 305 Engr Bn, Co C 305 Med Bn closed in vicinity of Steyr. 2nd Bn closed at Aschbach. Law and order established in the part of Steyr occupied by CT 319. 1st Bn moved by train on Division Order to Vocklabruck and remained there. Wire communications to 2nd and 3rd Bns and supporting units.

1. 6 May 1945. Wimsbach, Austria.
2. Narrative account of friendly action:

No change in attachments. Regtl CP, Co C 305 Engr Bn, Co C 305 Med Bn, 905 FA Bn CP in Wimsbach. 1st Bn CP in Vocklabruck. 2nd Bn CP at V575568. 3rd Bn CP in Eberstallzell. Mission to move to assembly area vicinity Lambach. 319 CT minus 1st Bn moved by motor shuttle from vicinity Steyr after relief by elements of 66th Inf Div to an assembly area vicinity Lambach. 319 CT (-) closed in new area at 2145. Regtl CP and supporting units assembled in Wimsbach. 1st Bn remained in vockalbruck.

1. 7 May 1945. Wimsbach, Austria.
2. Mission to clear area of Germans and collect them at designated points.

319th Inf patrolled area for German soldiers and collected those apprehended to PWE designated by the Bns. The 319th zone was divided into two sectors with 2nd Bn responsible for the west sector. 2nd Bn placed a roving patrol on a large ammo factory located at V5558. Received word that all hostilities would cease 090001B May 45.

SECTION VII - Battles (contd).

1. 8 May 1945. Wimsbach, Austria.
 2. Narrative account of friendly action:
No change in mission. Continued to clear area of German soldiers. Received orders that there would be no more movement of large bodies of German troops who wish to surrender. These troops will be disarmed and held in place. Received information that enemy planes would be flying over our zone on their way to surrender.
1. 9 May 1945. Wimsbach, Austria.
 2. Narrative account of friendly action:
VE Day. 319th Inf continued to patrol area.
1. 10-14 May 1945. Wimsbach, Austria.
 2. Narrative account of friendly action:
No change in mission. On 10 May 45 Guard at Redl, Austria, relieved by elements of 318th Inf. One plat sent to Vorchdorf to maintain law and order in the town. On 11 May 45 all attached units were relieved effective immediately. A plat from 1st Bn sent to Bischkirchen to guard PW cage. I&R Plat guarding brewery vicinity ZYPF relieved by elements of 318th Inf. On 12 May 1945 troops were shown film on demobilization titled "Two Down and One To Go". In compliance with Div order, one plat under command of Capt Capps was sent to report to Maj Berara in Spital to guard a gold shipment. On 13 May 1945 one plat of 1st Bn was sent for duty with 80th Div Provost Marshal. On 14 May 1945 1st Bn placed a guard on 40 box cars of food vicinity Vocklabruck.
1. ~~15~~ May 45. Wimsbach, Germany.
 2. Narrative account of friendly action:
No change in mission. 1st Bn CP at V585110. 3rd Bn CP vicinity Alt Munster. 1st Bn 319th Inv minus 1 plat moved by rail from Vocklabruck at 0900 to vicinity Bad Aussie. 3rd Bn moved by shuttle to vicinity of Alt Munster. 2nd Bn moved from vicinity of Bad Ischl to move to Ebensee. All Bns continued to guard installations within their respective area. Received orders to patrol south of Enns River to contact the Russianas. 2nd Bn 318th Inf relieved.
1. ~~15~~ May 1945. Wimsbach, Austria.
 2. Narrative account of friendly action:
Ordered to move one Bn by rail to Bad Schll to relieve 2nd Bn 318th Inf. 2nd Bn 319th Inf moved by rail from Alchert at 1531 to Bad Sichll with mission of effecting relief of 2nd Bn 318th Inf. The train had mechanical difficulties resulting in 2nd Bn 319th Inf being delayed enroute. The Bn arrived at Bad Ischl at 2330 and no relief was effected. Received a change in boundaries and a mission for 319th Inf to move troops south and block German soldiers from infiltrating north of Enns River in zone.

SECTION VII - Battles (contd).

1. 17 May 1945. Wimsbach, Austria.

2. Narrative account of friendly action.

1st Bn CP vicinity Bad Aussee. No change in mission. The Bns continued to guard important installations within their zone and to patrol area for German soldiers. Law and order maintained in Regtl Zone. Patrol went south of Enns River but reported no contact with the Russians. Received information from higher Hqs that the 15th Army Gp would probably contact the 319th Inf along the Enns River.

1. 18 May 1945. Wimsbach, Austria.

2. Friendly action:

Cannon Co, 319th Inf, reverted to Regtl control. No change in mission. Continued to guard installations in Regtl Zone and to patrol area. Received orders to move two Bns to Enns River line and block anything moving north of Enns River. Told that 905 FA Bn and 702 Tk Bn would relieve part of our guard installations 19 May 45. Co A ordered to join Bn vicinity Aich night 18 May 45. 2nd Bn alerted to move to Enns River at 190900 May 45 and hold line running from Grobming to A775000. 3rd Bn alerted to relieve guard installations of 2nd Bn 19 May 45. 1st Bn capture a Maj Gen of the German Army.

1. 19 May 1945. Altaussee, Austria.

2. Friendly action:

Regtl CP in Altaussee, 1st Bn in Aich, 2nd Bn in Grobming, 3rd Bn CP no change. Cn Co CP vicinity Unterburg. Complied with orders received 18 May 45. 2nd Bn moved south using organic transportation and closed in area at 1500 and held a line along Enns River running from Grobming to A775000. 1st Bn held a line running from A490841 to Grobming exclusive. 1st and 2nd Bns patrolled south of Enns River and contacted no Russian or other troops. 3rd Bn relieved guards of 2nd Bn. Regtl Hq Co and Regtl CP moved to Altaussee and closed in area at 1200.

1. 20-26 May 1945. Altaussee, Austria.

2. Friendly action:

319th Inf continued to patrol Regtl Zone with special emphasis of Enns River in zone. Road blocks established and maintained in Regtl Zone to control passage across the Enns River. Maintained law and order and patrolled area for German soldiers and Nazi officials. Patrolled area north and northeast of Bad Aussee in search of Nazi Eigruber but could not locate him.

1. 27 May 1945. Altaussee, Austria.

2. Friendly action:

Ordered to patrol south of Enns River in zone to pick up PWs. In addition to regular patrol, 1st and 2nd Bns patrolled south of Enns River to a distance of six miles and instructed German soldiers to report back through American Lines for proper discharge papers. Received warning Order from 80th Div to move troops from Gmundensee area to vicinity Bad Ischl.

SECTION VII - Battles (contd).

1. 28 May 1945. Altaunsee, Austria.

2. Friendly action:

3rd Bn CP moved to Bad Ischl. One Bn ordered in area extending from Bad Ischl west to Strobl exclusive and south to the Enns River. 3rd Bn minus M, K and L Cos moved to Bad Ischl. Co I moved to Goisern, Co K remained at Ebensee waiting relief by 80th Recon Troop. Co M remained vicinity Gmunden See. Co L remained vicinity Mitterndorf.

1. 29 May 1945. Altausee, Austria.

2. Friendly action:

Co M moved to Halstadt. Co K remained at Ebensee guarding installations. 1st Bn established liaison with 20th Armd Combat Command at Haus and elements of a Bn of 15th Inf at Schladming pending extension to 1st Bn boundary west to Mandling. 2nd Bn continued present mission.

1. 30 May 1945. Altausee, Austria.

2. Friendly action:

319th Inf received notice that Wolfgang and Strobl are not in our area. The boundary runs from V3323 south to V330175. Co K moved 2 platoons to Hintertal. Remainder of Co K to move in the morning. Regt continued its mission of maintaining law and order in its zone and to police area for PWs and DPs.

1. 31 May 1945. Altausee, Austria.

2. Friendly action:

The remainder of Co K closed in Steeg. A guard consisting of six men from Co L placed on a Marine Experimental Base at Lake Toplitz. Continued to police area.

SECTION VII - Battles (contd): Narrative Account of Enemy Action during May 1945.

At the beginning of May, the 319th Infantry was in the vicinity of GRIESSENBACH (U3514) heading southeast to Steyr, Austria, on the ENNS River, with the mission of capturing the scattered enemy groups in it's area and of effecting a juncture with the Russian troops in the STEYR area. Our troops did reach the ENNS River in the STEYR area, encountering no organized enemy resistance.

In preparing to cross the ISAR River, we received some mortar and also small arms fire. But the actual crossing of the ISAR River by the 319th Infantry was unopposed in spite of the fact that the enemy had prepared an extensive system of entrenchments on the opposite side of the ISAR to prevent a crossing. No other points of resistance were later encountered. The enemy continued to surrender in small and large groups during the period. Approximately 21,000 PWs were taken by the 319th Infantry during the month.

After V-E Day the 319th Infantry continued to round up PWs and to guide elements of the 6th German Army westward to PWE cages. Roadblocks were set up to prevent the movement of German Army remnants from the Russian area into our zone. Movement of civilians was effectively restricted by the establishment of roadblocks and check points.

With the aid of cooperative civilians and members of the Free Austria Movement, our patrols picked up numerous political prisoners and also various holdout groups of the German Army, particularly SS troops. Patrols continued to follow all leads which aided them in their search for enemy political leaders and scattered remnants of the German Armies, who were hiding out in secluded mountainous areas.

There were no cases of sabotage reported except for two(2) instances of wire cutting in the BAD AUSSEE sector.

The First Battalion reported five(5) rounds of mortar fire landing in their zone along the ENNS River, but the fire was not directed at any target. The mortar was found and destroyed, but no one was found in the area. There were no evidences of an active enemy underground movement within the zone.

SECTION VIII - Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.

1. Battle of Germany during month of May 1945.
2. Regimental Headquarters Staff:

Col N.A. Costello,	017764	Commanding Officer
Lt Col Hiram D. Ives	0263687	Executive Officer
Major Richard F. Hill	0326133	Regimental S-4
Major Ralph J. Wevers	0318292	Regimental S-3
Major Marion J. Kloth	0287560	Regimental S-2
Major Rolf Kroll	0474065	Regimental Surgeon
Capt W.L. Owen, Jr.	0328291	Regimental S-1
1. First Battalion Staff and Company Commanders:

Lt Col Arthur H. Clark	0347224	Commanding Officer
Major Donald W. Poppen	01285491	Executive Officer
Capt Cyrus C. Addams	01296790	Battalion S-3
Capt Jesse R. Miles	024979	Battalion S-3
Capt Alphonse W. Salomone	01285644	Hq Co Commander
1st Lt Harry E. Farrald	01322230	Co A Commander
2d Lt Jerome A. Weitzer	01057643	Co B Commander
1st Lt George E. Greathouse	02041014	Co C Commander
Capt Stafford A Benedict	01296800	Co D Commander
2. Second Battalion Staff and Company Commanders:

Lt Col Paul Bandy	0358457	Commanding Officer
Major Roy E Thacker	01285663	Executive Officer
Capt John Leake, Jr	01301330	Battalion S-3
Capt George W. Harmon	0382573	Hq Co Commander
1st Lt Joseph H. Johnson	0532175	Hq Co Commander
1st Lt Alfred B. Coppers	0554340	Co E Commander
Capt William H. Chamberlain	01284292	Co F Commander
1st Lt James G. Schwartze	01325527	Co G Commander
Capt Lewis T. Kalil	01304739	Co H Commander
3. Third Battalion Staff and Company Commanders:

Lt Col Elliott B. Cheston	0355466	Commanding Officer
Major Robert J. Bee, Jr	01296979	Executive Officer
Capt William M. Blackman	01297142	Battalion S-3
1st Lt James M. Pyne	01304565	Hq Co Commander
Capt Frank E. Reves	01318701	Co I Commander
Capt Edward B. Smith	0379633	Co K Commander
1st Lt James G. Young	0460029	Co L Commander
Capt Cecil O. Carroll	01320100	Co M Commander

SECTION IX - Losses in action: officers and men.

1. 1 May 1945. Greissenbach, Austria.
2. Wounded in action:

Pfc Oplt, Joe 35 987 282 Co I

1. 3 May 1945. Haunberg, Austria.
2. Killed in action:

Pfc Martinez, Monico 38 417 042 AT Co

Died of wounds:

Pvt Lanum, Elbert C. 33 886 661 Co G