

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 80TH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP
APO 80, U. S. Army

30 April 1945

Subject: Organization History.

To : Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division, APO 80,
U. S. Army.

1. Original unit:

- a. 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized).
- b. 15 July 1942.
- c. Camp Forrest, Tennessee.
- d. General Order, 80th Infantry Division.
- e. Cadre for Troop was obtained from 8th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop with the remainder of the men being furnished by Selective Service.

2. On 6 October 1942 the 80th Reconnaissance Troop was enlarged to form the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Provisional). The change never became permanent and on 7 November 1942 the Provisional Squadron was disbanded and the organization became a Troop again.

Table of Organization 2-27, dated 15 July 1943, under which the Troop is now operating, with Change 1, dated 15 September 1943, reduced the Troop to its present strength.

3. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:	<u>Officers</u>	<u>EM</u>
a. At beginning of period	8	138
b. Net increase during period	0	9
c. Net decrease during period	0	11
d. At end of period	8	136

4. Stations:

- 1 April 45 - SONDMHEIM, Germany (158682)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Marburg
Sheet R-3
- 1 April 45 - FALKENBERG, Germany (165760)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Hersfeld
Sheet R-4
- 2 April 45 - GUDENSBERG, Germany (140879)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Hersfeld
Sheet R-4

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2 April 45 - WICHENDORF, Germany (095933)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Marburg
Sheet R-3

3 April 45 - WELLESBODEN, Germany (280950)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Hersfeld
Sheet R-4

4 April 45 - CRUMPACH, Germany (256984)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Kassel
Q-4

5 April 45 - VOELMARSHAUSEN, Germany (275975)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Kassel Q-4

6 April 45 - WOLFSBEHRINGEN, Germany (935710)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Erfurt
Sheet R-5

7 April 45 - GOTHHA, Germany (080649)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Erfurt
Sheet R-5

7 April 45 - WIEGLEBEN, Germany (028762)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Erfurt
Sheet R-5

9 April 45 - BALLSTADT, Germany (090749)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Erfurt
Sheet R-5

9 April 45 - GOTHHA, Germany (080649)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Erfurt
Sheet R-5

12 April 45 - FRIENSTEDT, Germany (230668)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Erfurt
Sheet R-5

12 April 45 - NIEDERZIMMERN, Germany (425730)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Erfurt
Sheet R-5

13 April 45 - BUSSENBORN, Germany (565713)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Jena
Sheet R-6

13 April 45 - ISSERSTEDT, Germany (658692)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Jena
Sheet R-6

14 April 45 - ELSENBERG, Germany (925718)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Jena
Sheet R-6

14 April 45 - GRETZSCHNITZ, Germany (085690) Jena
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Jena
Sheet R-6

15 April 45 - MOCKZIG, Germany (330700)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Chemnitz
Sheet R-7

16 April 45 - ZIEGELHEIM, Germany (385701)
MAP: Central Europe 1/100,000 Chemnitz
Sheet R-7

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19 April 45 - MISTENDORF, Germany (378464)
MAP: Germany 1/100,000 Bamberg Sheet T-5
19 April 45 - BAMBERG, Germany (267499)
MAP: Germany 1/100,000 Bamberg Sheet T-5
21 April 45 - NURNBERG, Germany (405002)
MAP: Germany 1/100,000 Nurnberg Sheet U-5
28 April 45 - ADACH, Germany (153468)
MAP: Germany 1/100,000 Regensburg
Sheet V-6
29 April 45 - SAALHAUPT, Germany (169413)
MAP: Germany 1/100,000 Regensburg
Sheet V-6
29 April 45 - HAGELSTADT, Germany (281427)
MAP: Germany 1/100,000 Regensburg
Sheet V-6
29 April 45 - HONIGSBACH, Germany (445242)
MAP: Germany 1/100,000 Braunau Sheet W-7

5. Marches:

Departed SONDHEIM, Germany, 1000 1 April 1945. Arrived
FALKENBERG, Germany, 1130 1 April 1945. Distance travelled 7
miles.

Departed FALKENBERG, Germany, 1000 2 April 1945. Arrived
GUDENSBURG, Germany, 1100 2 April 1945. Distance travelled 12
miles.

Departed GUDENSBURG, Germany, 1400 2 April 1945. Arrived
WICHENDORF, Germany, 1445 2 April 1945. Distance travelled 6 miles.

Departed WICHENDORF, Germany, 1700 3 April 1945. Arrived
WELLERODE, Germany, 2000 3 April 1945. Distance travelled 26 miles

Departed WELLERODE, Germany, 1500 4 April 1945. Arrived
CRUMBACH, Germany, 1545 4 April 1945. Distance travelled 5 miles.

Departed CRUMBACH, Germany, 1500 5 April 1945. Arrived
VOLLMARSHAUSEN, Germany, 1530 5 April 1945. Distance travelled
4 miles.

Departed VOLLMARSHAUSEN, Germany, 0830 6 April 1945.
Arrived WOLFSBEHRINGEN, Germany, 1500 6 April 1945. Distance
travelled 62 miles.

Departed WOLFSBEHRINGEN, Germany, 1400 7 April 1945.
Arrived GOTHHA, Germany, 1500 7 April 1945. Distance travelled
15 miles.

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Departed GOTH A, Germany, 1730 7 April 1945. Arrived WIEGLEBEN, Germany, 1830 7 April 1945. Distance travelled 11 miles.

Departed WIEGLEBEN, Germany, 0830 9 April 1945. Arrived BALLSTADT, Germany, 0900 9 April 1945. Distance travelled 7 miles.

Departed BALLSTADT, Germany, 1800 9 April 1945. Arrived GOTH A, Germany, 2000 9 April 1945. Distance travelled 10 miles.

Departed GOTH A, Germany, 0630 12 April 1945. Arrived FRIENSTEDT, Germany, 0715 12 April 1945. Distance travelled 8 miles.

Departed FRIENSTEDT, Germany, 1830 12 April 1945. Arrived NIEDERZIMMERN, Germany, 2030 12 April 1945. Distance travelled 22 miles.

Departed NIEDERZIMMERN, Germany, 1200 13 April 1945. Arrived SUSSENBORN, Germany, 1330 13 April 1945. Distance travelled 10 miles.

Departed SUSSENBORN, Germany, 1630 13 April 1945. Arrived ISSERSTEDT, Germany, 1700 13 April 1945. Distance travelled 6 miles.

Departed ISSERSTEDT, Germany, 0745 14 April 1945. Arrived EISENBERG, Germany, 1130 14 April 1945. Distance travelled 25 miles.

Departed EISENBERG, Germany, 1730 14 April 1945. Arrived CRETZSCHWITZ, Germany, 1900 14 April 1945. Distance travelled 15 miles.

Departed CRETZSCHWITZ, Germany, 0830 15 April 1945. Arrived MOCKZIG, Germany, 1130 15 April 1945. Distance travelled 22 miles.

Departed MOCKZIG, Germany, 1430 16 April 1945. Arrived ZIEGELHEIM, Germany, 1510 16 April 1945. Distance travelled 5 miles.

Departed ZIEGELHEIM, Germany, 1515 18 April 1945. Arrived MISTENDORF, Germany, 1500 19 April 1945. Distance travelled 200 miles.

Departed MISTENDORF, Germany, 2045 19 April 1945. Arrived BAMBERG, Germany, 2200 19 April 1945. Distance travelled 8 miles.

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Departed BAMBERG, Germany, 1200 21 April 1945.
Arrived NURNBERG, Germany, 1600 21 April 1945. Distance travelled 45 miles.

Departed NURNBERG, Germany, 0600 28 April 1945.
Arrived ABBACH, Germany, 2000 28 April 1945. Distance travelled 74 miles.

Departed ABBACH, Germany, 2230 28 April 1945. Arrived SAALHAUPT, Germany, 0200 29 April 1945. Distance travelled 4 miles.

Departed SAALHAUPT, Germany, 1130 29 April 1945.
Arrived HAGELSTADT, Germany, 1300 29 April 1945. ~~Arri~~ Distance travelled 14 miles.

Departed HAGELSTADT, Germany, 1500 29 April 1945.
Arrived HONIGSBACH, Germany, 1800 29 April 1945. Distance travelled 25 miles.

All marches during the period were mounted.

Condition of Roads:

Roads were generally good for the most part of the period. Long distances were covered with ease. Whenever possible the autobahns were used. Operations south of Regensburg were slowed considerably due to narrow one lane dirt roads that were impassable in many places.

Weather:

The greater part of the operations for the period were completed in fair weather. The latter part of the period was marked with occasional rain that rendered many dirt roads unusable.

6. Campaigns:

- a. Name - Battle of Germany.
- b. Duration - 15 September 1944 to (date unknown)
- c. Purpose - To conquer Germany.
- d. Authority Ordering - Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.

7. Battles:

(See attached Narrative account of Action.)

8. Commanding Officers in important engagements:

- a. Battle of Germany.
- b. CAPTAIN ROBERT W. HILL, O-1030156, Commanding Officer 80th Reconnaissance Troop, from 1 to 30 April 1945.

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CAPTAIN PAUL L. SMITH, O-1030419, Executive Officer, 80th Reconnaissance Troop, from 1 to 30 April 1945.

1ST LT PHILIP H. WAGNER, O-1032403, Platoon Leader, 1st Platoon, 80th Reconnaissance Troop, from 1 to 30 April 1945.

1ST LT GEORGE P. RORR, O-528682, Platoon Leader, 2nd Platoon, 80th Reconnaissance Troop, from 1 to 30 April 1945.

1ST LT MAX E. MOE, O-399172, Platoon Leader, 3rd Platoon, 80th Reconnaissance Troop, from 1 to 30 April 1945.

2ND LT. JAMES H. MAHEILLY, O-2010339, Assistant Platoon Leader, 3rd Platoon, 80th Reconnaissance Troop, from 1 to 30 April 1945.

9. Losses in Action, Officers and EN:
 - a. Engagement: Battle of Germany.
 - b. Names:
Sgt Edward F. Kammrath, 36612199
 - c. Killed in Action - Sgt Edward F. Kammrath, 36612199.
 - d. Wounded in Action, Injured in Action: None.
10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None.
11. Photographs of Personnel, Important Scenes, Events: None.

Paul L. Smith
PAUL L. SMITH
Captain, Cavalry,
Commanding.

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NARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF ACTION:

The 80th Division continued the advance on Kassel as the period opened. The Division's zone of operations placed them on the left flank of the Third Army. The Troop mission was to reconnoiter north in the Division zone and maintain contact with elements of the First Army on the left flank of the 80th Division.

The 1st Platoon reached FRITZLAR (080825) where they made contact with the 27th Infantry of the 9th Armored Division, the 102nd Cavalry and the 2nd Ranger Battalion, all elements of the First Army. They proceeded in a direct route north through Haddamar, Lohne, Merxhaysen, then northeast to Niedenstein. The 3rd Platoon covered a parallel route, reconnoitering via Wabern, Zennern, Werkel, Wehren, Kirchburg and Ermheis. No opposition was met by either Platoon but 15 PW's were captured during the day. The 2nd Platoon remained with the Troop CP in reserve.

On the 2nd of April the Division met stiffening resistance on the outskirts of Kassel. Two enemy counter attacks were repulsed, road blocks were reduced, and small pockets of enemy previously by-passed were mopped up. This increased resistance was felt by the 1st and 3rd Platoons as they continued north. Anti-tank and small arms fire was received but were finally overcome to enable the 1st Platoon to reach Isth (040018) with the 3rd Platoon reaching Breitenbach (100995). One armored car of the 3rd Platoon ran into difficulty when it slipped off the road under anti-tank fire. Due to constant enemy observation and continuous fire, the crew members were several hours getting it back into the engagement. During this operation 15 PW's were captured, 2 enemy trucks and 2 88mm guns were destroyed. Contact was maintained with the 2nd Ranger Battalion, 102nd Cavalry Group and a third contact was made with the 273rd Infantry Regiment of the 69th Division.

Strong resistance was still being met by all three infantry Regiments of the Division as the attack was continued on Kassel. As the 318th Infantry Regiment fought into the city from the southwest the Troop was directed to proceed north and reconnoiter in the 317th zone of advance through Ehlen ~~then~~ to Dornberg (120062). The 1st and 3rd Platoons reached Ehlen when the Troop was relieved of mission by the 3rd Cavalry Squadron and attached to the 319th Infantry with the mission of reconnoitering to their right flank, south of Kassel. Fifteen PW's were taken by the two Platoons for the third successive day. 1st Lt. Merrill J. Camp became the first officer of the Troop to return to the United States on temporary duty and a 45 day leave.

On 4 April 1945, the Troop proceeded on their new mission from the town of Wellerode, southeast of Kassel, where they had been assembled late the previous night. The 1st and 3rd Platoons moved out to fulfill the mission and had reached Eschenstruth when they were ordered to the vicinity of Vollmershausen to set up OP's. From this position they kept close vigilance on enemy movement to the north in the vicinity of Niederkaufungen and Oberkaufungen.

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At noon of that day all organized resistance collapsed in the city of Kassel with the surrender of General Hrxleben, the garrison commander. This marked the denial of a key road and rail center to the enemy and opened a new avenue of attack to the east which the Division was rapidly making preparations for. The Troop was detached from the 319th Infantry and given the mission to reconnoiter in advance of the 317th and 319th Infantry as they pivoted on Kassel and advanced to the east.

The 1st Platoon, advancing ahead of the 319th Infantry, moved from the vicinity of 260040 to the vicinity of 272028 where considerable enemy tank and infantry movement was observed. The enemy was then kept under constant observation while the infantry attacked to clear the area. The 2nd Platoon ran into the same type of enemy activity while reconnoitering to the vicinity of 280050 in advance of the 317th Infantry. They succeeded in disrupting an enemy attempt to blow a bridge in that area, dispersing them with a heavy concentration of machine gun fire. The 3rd Platoon also kept the enemy under close observation from an CP set up in the vicinity of 290985. These missions of the Platoons terminated when the Division was notified of relief in their area by the 69th Infantry Division, the 80th being ordered to a new zone of action.

On 6 April 1945 the Troop was the first element of the Division to move with the two fold mission of reconnoitering in the Division's new zone to determine the presence, location and strength of hostile elements and to contact elements of the 4th Armored Division to secure dispositions of their unit. A reconnaissance of this type had to be accomplished hurriedly, yet accurately for the Division was following closely in motorized columns. The 1st and 2nd Platoons covered a net of roads, which proved to be clear of enemy, in the 317th and 318th areas just west of Gotha (095650). The 2nd Platoon then proceeded to Gotha and secured complete dispositions of the 4th Armored Division who were on line just east of the city. During the movement the 3rd Platoon was used as security for elements of the Division CP. The movement of the Troop met no enemy resistance whatsoever. Communications were difficult due to the distance involved but were maintained successfully on the Troop net. Roads in this area of Germany were generally good and facilitated rapid movement of all troops into their assembly area.

The 2nd Platoon moved from its position in Gotha the following day with the mission of contacting friendly elements to the north of the Division zone and acquire dispositions. Upon the completion of this mission the Troop was ordered at 1500 on 7 April 1945 to protect the left flank of the 80th Division. Assisting them in this operation were the attached units of the 702nd Tank Battalion, Company D and one Assault Gun Platoon. Due to an extended temporary mortar boundary of the Division, the Troop and attached units were disposed along the line 035788 to 070725 to protect this temporary gap between the 80th Division and the 76th Division on the north. The 2nd Platoon on the northern end of the line maintained contact patrols with elements of the 317th Infantry on the southern end.

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The 3rd Platoon and Troop CP operated from Weibleben (028761) in the center of the zone.

On 8 April 1945 the 1st and 2nd Platoons moved eastward several kilometers to improve their defensive positions now in the vicinity of 120740 and 132770 respectively. The 3rd Platoon maintained contact with elements of the 76th Division from their new positions at Burgtonna (094785), and patrolled the road from that point to the 1st Platoon's position. Late that night the 1st Platoon made contact with the enemy, the first the Troop had met in this area. The enemy was fired on and dispersed as they attempted to infiltrate through the 1st Platoon's position.

One Platoon of the 811th TD Reconnaissance Company and one section of TD's were attached to the Troop for the advance to the east in conjunction with the 317th Infantry. Moderate enemy resistance was met during the day. The 2nd Platoon repulsed a light enemy counter attack, capturing 6 enemy and wounding approximately 20. The 1st and 3rd Platoons coordinated their operations in clearing their section killing several and capturing 15 of the enemy. During the action, Sgt Edward F. Kammrath, platoon sergeant with the 3rd Platoon, was killed by enemy rifle fire. The 1st and 3rd Platoons succeeded in reaching and clearing 168780 and 145770 when the Troop was relieved of their positions and missions in the late afternoon. Relief was effected at 1900 when elements of the 385th Infantry Regiment took over the above positions. All attached units to the Troop returned to their parent units as the Troop assembled and moved to Gotha.

The Troop was placed in reserve when the 80th Division opened the attack on Erfurt at 0700 on 10 April 1945. Determined resistance was met from outlying towns protecting the approaches to the city from the north, south, and west. By the end of the day the Division had made successful gains and had the city surrounded on three sides and had occupied the high ground south of the city.

The Troop remained in the assembly area at Gotha performing maintenance on vehicles and weapons until 12 April 1945 when a new mission was received, after being placed on alert a day previous. Company D of the 702nd Tank Battalion was attached to the Troop for the new mission of establishing road blocks west of Erfurt in the vicinity of Schmira and Bindersleben, while the infantry attacked the city from the north and south. The 1st and 2nd Platoons were assigned this mission which was accomplished early in the day. As the attack progressed on Erfurt the Platoons were ordered to proceed into the city from the west. Nearing the city they received a concentration of heavy enemy mortar fire which caused no damage. They advanced into town, captured 115 PWs against slight opposition and made contact with the 318th Infantry coming up from the south. By the end of the day the capture of the city was complete and the city of Weimar had already fallen to the 319th Infantry with very little opposition.

Once again organized resistance had crumbled and the Division rapidly motorized elements of infantry in preparation to continue

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the attack east with all possible speed. The Troop was immediately ordered to proceed east in advance of the 317th Infantry, the northern element in the Division zone. The 1st Platoon reached the vicinity of 450769 and the 2nd Platoon made Weimar before night fall.

On 13 April 1945 the rapid advance to the east continued as the Division mopped up pockets bypassed by the 4th Armored Division. The 1st and 2nd Platoons with attached light tanks of Company D rapidly reached the Saale River in advance of the 317th Infantry, crossing in the vicinity of 735690. The city of Jena was captured and while the infantry mopped up scattered resistance the Platoons continued eastward. The 1st Platoon captured an enemy airfield containing approximately 30 twin engine bombers and several fighters in the vicinity of 825725. During the advance the Platoons captured 82 PW's including 1 colonel, 1 Lt colonel, and 1 major. Enemy resistance had collapsed and the Platoons were able to reconnoiter fast and freely, however the handling of PW's caused a slight delay several times. At the end of the day the 1st Platoon had reached 853715 and the 2nd Platoon reached the vicinity of 825680. The 3rd Platoon had remained with the Troop CP in reserve during the operations but as the advance continued one section was attached to the 318th Infantry to inform them of the progress of the Platoons as they reconnoitered in the 319th zone.

On 14 April 1945 the advance east was transformed into a race as all elements moved rapidly, unmolested by any enemy opposition. The Troop CP followed closely behind the Platoons and attached light tanks as the 1st reached Altkirchen (240695) and the 2nd making Stobnitz (270680) by the end of the day. Eisenberg fell to the Troop with the 318th Infantry following closely behind to occupy the city. Again numerous PW's were captured along the route of the advance, the total for the day being 100. Among them were 3 men from the 317th Infantry who had been captured by the enemy at Erfurt. Communications and supplies were presenting a problem but both were maintained over considerable distances.

On 15 April 1945 the 1st and 2nd Platoons made excellent progress by reaching 530675 and 530673 respectively. Contact was made with elements of the 4th Armored Division by both Platoons and dispositions were secured. Forty five PW's were taken during the day.

While the 1st and 2nd Platoons remained in contact with elements of the 4th Armored Division, the 3rd Platoon was ordered to Schmolln (254655) to guard several bridges in the town and maintain law and order. At noon on 16 April 1945 the Troop was relieved of reconnoitering to the east in the zone of the 318th Infantry and placed in reserve as the Division prepared to relieve the 4th Armored Division in its present zone just west of the city of Chemnitz. Company D, 702nd Tank Battalion, reverted to the control of its parent unit. The 3rd Platoon continued to guard the city of Schmolln. Fifty PW's were taken during the day.

The status of the Troop remained the same until 18 April 1945 at which time relief of the Division by the 76th Division and the

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4th Armored Division had been completed and the Troop moved with the Division to their new area in the vicinity of Bamberg. After an all night move of approximately 185 miles, the Troop arrived in their assigned area of Ludweg (405555) at 0800 and then proceeded to Mistendorf (377468) that afternoon. At 1800 the Troop was ordered to proceed to the city of Bamberg to maintain law and order. Upon the arrival there at 1900 they were attached to the 319th Infantry. The three Platoons were assigned zones in the city which were constantly patrolled to prevent looting by the populace.

The Troop remained on their mission of guarding Bamberg until the 21 April 1945 when they were detached from the 319th Infantry and attached to the 318th Infantry for the movement of the Division to Nurnberg. The Troop departed from Bamberg at 1200 and moved in advance of the 318th Infantry. Upon their arrival in Nurnberg at 1600 the Troop reverted to Division control and awaited further orders as the remainder of the 30th Division closed into the city to maintain order. Adolph Hitler's most beautiful city was found in ruins. The constant bombing climaxed the recent assault on the defended city and had taken its toll on every structure.

The Troop remained in Division reserve until 1600, 22 April 1945, when the mission was received to relieve elements of the 3rd Infantry Division guarding a huge ammunition dump in the vicinity of 500920. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons were used on the mission, effecting relief at 0900. The Troop CP and the 1st Platoon in reserve remained in Nurnberg. On 25 April 1945 the Troop was relieved of the mission of guarding the ammunition dump by the 58th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons returned to the Troop area in Nurnberg at 1600. Extensive maintenance of vehicles and weapons was conducted during the next few days in preparation for a new mission.

On 28 April 1945 the Troop proceeded the Division, moving south to secure the Division assembly area south of Regensburg. The Troop crossed across the Donau (Danube) River in the vicinity of Abbach at 1730. The 2nd Platoon proceeded to Toun (135415), the 3rd Platoon to Thalmassing (240445) while the 1st Platoon and Troop CP reached Saalhaupt (170413). The Troop was then attached to the 318th Infantry with the mission of reconnoitering to the southeast in the 318th zone of advance. 2nd and 3rd Platoons were assigned the mission and moved out early on the morning of the 29th. The 318th and 319th Infantry Regiments passed through elements of the 65th Division and followed the attack of the 13th Armored Division. The 3rd Platoon met no opposition as it reconnoitered to 376156 and the 2nd Platoon found conditions the same as they reached 348260. However, the two Platoons captured over 300 PWs enroute including a Hungarian General and his staff. One section of the 1st Platoon maintained liaison with the 318th Infantry.

On 30 April 1945 the 318th Infantry received orders to cross the Isar River and established a bridgehead as soon as possible.

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The 3rd Platoon was ordered to reconnoiter the crossing site in the vicinity of Mammeling while the 2nd Platoon reconnoitered for a possible bridge site in the general vicinity of 4314. Foot troops were ferried across in the vicinity of the 3rd Platoon's position while a bridge was under construction. At the end of the period the 80th Division was rapidly expanding their bridgehead in preparation for the continuance of the pursuit southeast.

Paul L. Smith
PAUL L. SMITH
Captain, Cavalry,
Commanding.