804 Recentionp

SECTION I

A. Headquarters to which assigned or attached:

a. Assigned - 80th Infantry Division.

b. Attabhed - 319th Infantry Regiment from 18 January 1945 to 22 January 1945.

c. Attached - Task Force Talbot from 23 January 1945 to 27 January 1945.

B. Location of Command Posts:

1 January 1945 - BISSEN, Luxembourg (797335)
1 January 1945 - MERSCHEID, Luxembourg (732428)
18 January 1945 - GOESDORF, Luxembourg (730483)
22 January 1945 - MERSCHEID, Luxembourg (732428)
22 January 1945 - WILTZ, Luxembourg (709530)
23 January 1945 - ESCHWEILER, Luxembourg (719569)
26 January 1945 - WILWERWILTZ, Luxembourg (757558)
28 January 1945 - FISCHBACH, Luxembourg (885286)

C. Supporting ar attached units:

a. One platoon of light tanks, Company D, 702nd Tank Battalion, from 18 January 1945 to 22 January 1945.

D. Missions, general description of general plan of action and discussion of details of execution; communications:

The 80th Infantry Division was occupying a defensive position south along the Sure River with only elements less than battalion strength north of the stream and firmly entrenched southwest of GOESDORF, Luxembourg, as the period opened. The 26th Infantry Division, on the right flank of the XX Corps, held positions adjacent to the Division zone.

The 80th Reconnaissance Troop was being employed in mantaining contact between the two divisions on 1 January 1945. A slight gap existed between the flanks of the two units and the Troop set up an outpost line to fill the exposed terrain using two platoons, the 1st and 2nd, along the terrain running southeast from Buderscheid. Each platoon set up OP's on the high ground which commanded excellent view of the sector to the northwest and considerable enemy information was observed and reported. The 3rd platoon of the Troop was employed as separate sections, maintaining radio contact with elements of the 26th Division at Buderscheid and Esch sur Sure, and the 319th Infantry at Heiderscheid. Satisfactory liaison was carried on with the adjoining Division through this means in addition to the physical contact being carried out by the outpost line.

As operations of the Division remained more or less static for the next four days, all three platoons remained in those positions, the 3rd relaying hourly reports of the advance of the attacking 26th Division. However, active patrolling to the

- 1 -



east of Troop sector was conducted and dismounted patrols from the lst and 2nd platoons reconnoitered the area Nocher-Dahl-Goesforf over a three-day period. On 3 January 1945 the patrol of the 2nd worked northeast toward Nocher, picking up considerable enemy information, and during the night another patrol moved toward Dahl, establishing many hostile positions in that vicinity. Similar patrols were operated by the 1st Platoon toward Goesdorf with excellent results. Progress, however, was limited due to the heavy snow which made movement difficult and offered enemy excellent observation of daylight patrols working without camoflage suits. Nevertheless all patrols were successful through aggressive and determined actions. (Overlay)

Elements of the 319th Infantry, after grouping south of the Sure River, launched a coordinated attack north on 6 January 1945, clearing Goesdorf. The Troop was immediately assigned the task of maintaining contact with advance headquarters of the Regiment and elements of the 26th Division still in Buderscheid. Accomplishment of the assignment was effected through the use of one section, using radio communication, at each headquarters concerned. A second mission of preventing possible enemy infiltration to the vitally important bridge south of Goesdorf near Heiderscheidergrund was also given the Troop. The 3rd Platoon set up a road block along the road leading toward the bridge from the north, using dismounted machine guns supplimented with 37mm AT guns on the Armored Cars.

As the Division continued to enlarge and secure their bridgehead on 7 January 1945, the Troop was ordered to prevent enemy infiltration into the 319th zone via the road leading south from Buderscheid. Three sections were employed, one section setting up an observation post on the high ground due east of Buderscheid, a position that offered unlimited view of the approaches into the zone. One section set up in Dahl and another with elements of the 26th Division in Buderscheid. A contact patrol was operated through these three points at frequent intervals, completing a screen and preventing enemy infiltration. The lst Platoon maintained a road block along the road running parallel to the Sure River, preventing possible enemy vehicular movement into the 319th Infantry zone from the east.

The Troop carried out the same tasks on 8 January 1945 and in addition supplimented signal communication between the 317th Infantry at Heiderscheid and the 319th Infantry at Goesdorf. This necessitated the use of only one additional section since one radio car was already being employed at Goesdorf. (Overlay)

On 10 January 1945 the 1st Platoon, after conducting a reconnaissance eastward from their road block and discovering the area cleared, moved their position one mile farther east. To provide additional security and a warning system, an OP was established on the high ground south of Bockholz. At 1200, 13 January 1945 the Troop was relieved of the radio contact mission with the Infantry Regiments. The 3rd Platoon in turn relieved the 1st Platoon at the road block, with the latter going into



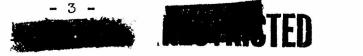
Troop reserve at Bissen.

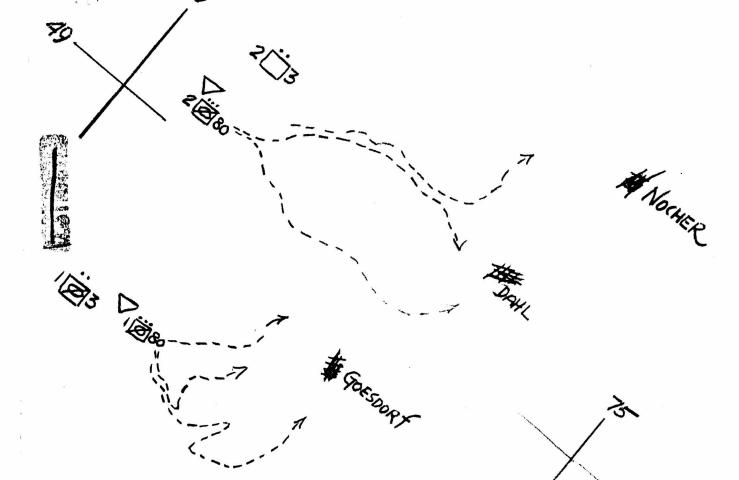
The Division continued to maintain and strengthen its defensive positions through 14-15 January 1945 with the Troop still being employed in maintaining contact between the 26th and 80th Divisions and operating the road block near Bockholz. A mission of sending a raiding patrol into the enemy 79th VG Division CP at Goebelsmuhle was given the Troop on 15 Januery 1945. Plan was to have the patrol move castword from Dahl through a route already patrolled by friendly infantry elements, cross the Sure River and make their way to the enemy command post during the night hours, remaining in that vicinity through the next day and then raiding the CP on the night of 16 January 1945. The patrol was successful in penetrating to a point 500 yards west of the river but density of enemy defenses prevented farther movement and the patrol returned at 0630 16 Janu ry 1945. Α second attempt to complete the mission was made during the night of 16 January 1945 but again the numerous enemy installations and difficult terrain made extremely hawardous by heavy snow, stopped the patrol short of its objective. A great number of enemy positions, however, were developed and the patrol was considered successful.

The 319th Infantry was preparing to Lounch an attack on Nocher on 17 January 1945 and at 1200 that date the Troop was attached to that unit to provide flank protection for the regiment after it had taken its objectives. One platoon of D Company, 702nd Tank Battalion, was at ached to the Troop to provide additional firepower.

The attack of the 319th Infantry apparently gained complete suprise and Nocher was taken after only medium resistance had Immediately the Troop displaced the lat Platoon in the been met. area northeast of Dahl, physical contact being maintained with I Company, 319th Infa try, and the lat Battalion 319th Infantry on Hill 500. An OP was established 2 mile northeast of Dahl, providing excellent observation on enemy movement to the regimental front. The 3rd Platoon, protecting the regiment's left flank, outposted the area between Dahl and Mocher, physically The contacting K Company at regular time intervals near Nocher. 2nd Platoon conducted a road patrol from Goesdorf northward to Dahl and thence to Buderscheid where contact was made with adjacent units on the XX Corps right flank. In addition to these missions, the Troop operated an CP west of Goesdorf, the post being manned by headquarters personnel since all sections of the platoons were being employed elsewhere (overlay). Throughout the operation the lat and Srd Platoon OF's reported large concentrations and movement of enemy troops to the north and northeast of the Division front, at times correcting artillery fire upon the numerous positions. Adjustment was made through radio communications direct from the forward posts. Heavy snow, extreme cold and limited visibility at times, however, presented a problem throughout the period.

The Tro op was relieved of its attachment to the 319th on 22 January 1945 as a withdrawal of enemy troops in the sector east





OVERLAY <u>Q</u> - <u>3</u>

(SHOWING DISPOSITION BOTH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP AND CONDUCT OF DISACUNTED PATROLS)

- MAPS: France-Belgium 1/25,000 WILT3 Sheets 122 North and South
- FRQ4: 010001 Jan 1945 TO : 052400 Jan 1945

HEADQUARTERS BOTH RECONNAISSANCE TROOF MERSCHEID (V732428)

LEGEND:

- Routes taken on 3 January 1945 - Routes taken on 4 January 1945 8,

为



of Wiltz was apparent. Immediately the Troop was assigned a mission of contact between the 317th Infantry, moving up on the Division left flank, and the 28th Cavalry north of Budershcied. The mission was completed without difficulty but due to rapid movement of the situation, the Troop was relived at 1600 and ordered to reconnoiter the area east of Wiltz to Wilwerwiltz and establish contact with enemy infantry elements. A blown bridge at Wiltz necessitated a long bypassing movement before the mission could be started but all three had proceeded at 2200, arriving in Eschweiler at 0400 23 January 1945. At 0800 the three platoons moved castward from that village toward Wilwerwiltz as part of Task Force Talbot which had been formed early that morning. The advance went uninterrupted to a point 400 yards west of Wilwerwiltz where heavy observed enemy artillery and mortar fire covered the area. Movement on toward the objective, Hosingen, was impossible as the enemy held the commanding terrain east of the Clerf Riverin force and had blown all bridges across the small stream. The lat Platoon, attempting to bypass the resistance, moved toward Enscherange but here direct AT fire halted their progress just short of the town. A dismounted patrol moved toward the village to determine what enemy forces occupied it but were pinned down 100 yards short of their goal and withdrew after two casualties were suffered.

Two OP's were extablished on the high ground overlooking both villages on 24 January 1945 and attached engineers attempted to reconnoiter the river bank for possible bridge sites. Enemy small arms and worther fire was consistent and prevented a close reconnaissance of the sector but two OP's picked up considerable information as to energy dispositions and relayed it through normal radio channels to Troop Headquarters.

As Division infantry elements contineued their advance eastward to reach and clear the Clerf River Line, the Troop situation remained somewhat static. However contact was established with the lolst Infantry on the Division's left flank on 25 January 1945.

The town of Pintsche was liberated on 25 January and Division infantry contined a steady advance eastward. The Troop was ordered to screen the north flank and maintain contact with the lolst Infantry who was also driving eastward. On 27 January 1945 the mission was altered and the Troop ordered to protect both flanks. The lot Platoon operated patrols every two hours from Drauffel eastward, making contact along the route with elements of the lolst. The other platoon operated from Lellingen eastward as far as forward elements of the Infantry (Overlay). Thirty-one PW's were taken by the lst Platoon after they had assaulted Munschaussen with only a small patrol of six men on 27 January 1945.

The Troop was relieved of its attachment on 28 January 1945 and assembled in Wilwerwiltz prior to the movement to the newly assigned Division sector west of Echternach. The 50 mile trip was made by administrative convoy, all elements of the Troop



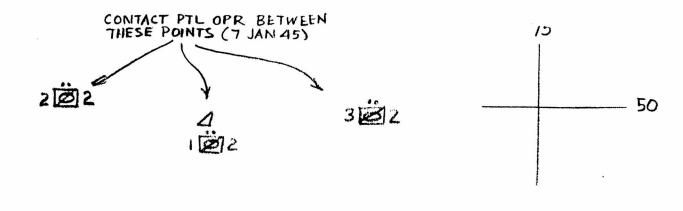


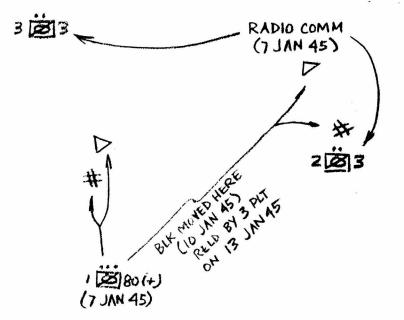
closing in Fischbach at 1830. Throughout the 29-30-31 January 1945 the Troop was in Division reserve conducting rehabilitation of personnel and servining vehicles and weapons.

Mar E. Moe

lst Lt., Cavalry, S-3 Officer.









1: 5.

Hand & Streaks

71

S-3 OVERLAX

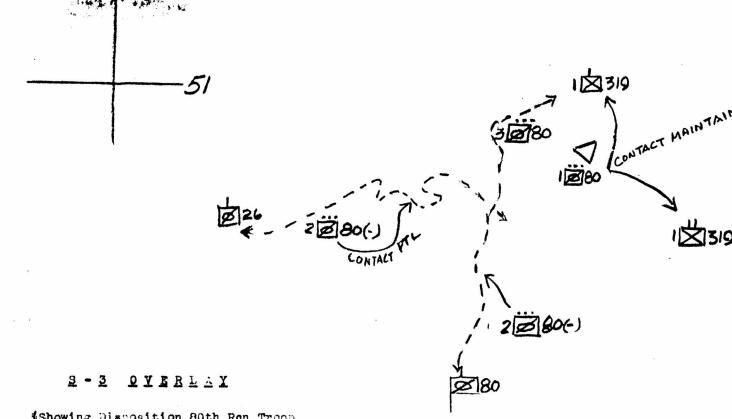
(Showing disposition 80th Ron Troop in outpost of Division NE flank and location of road blocks and OP's)

MAPS: France-Belgium 1/25,000 WILTZ Sheets 122 North and South

FROM: 060001 January 1945 TO : 171200 January 1945

HEADQUARTERS SOTH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP MERSCHEID, Luxenbourg (V732428)



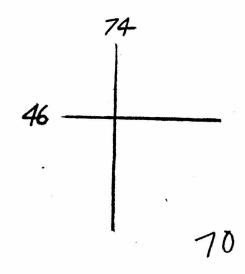


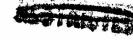
\$Showing Disposition 80th Ren Troop in defense of Clenks Sl9th Infantry and conduct of cond and contact petrols.)

MAPS: France-Statum 1/25,000 WILT: Sheets 123 North and South

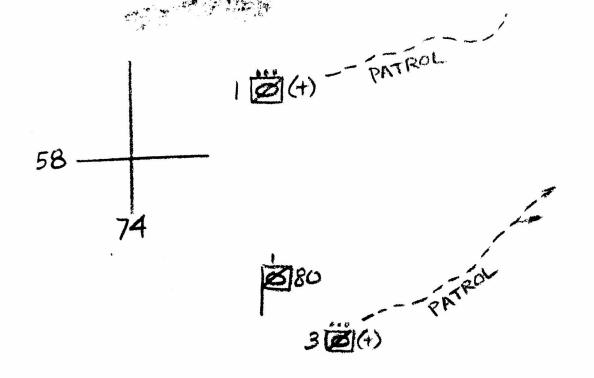
TRG4: 181800 January 1945 TO : 230700 January 1945

HEAD JUARTERS BOTH RECONNAISS ANCE TROOP GOESDORF, Luxenbourg (730483)





÷.,



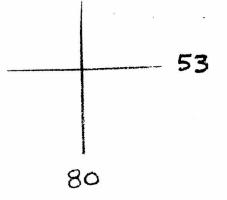
S - 3 OVERLAY

(Showing patrol plan in defense of flanks of Task Force Summers;)

MAPS: France-Belgium 1/50,000 Wiltz Sheet 122

FRQA: 1200 26 January 1945 To : 0600 28 January 1945

HEAD WARTERS SOTH RECONNAISS ANGL TROOD WILWERWILTZ, Luxeabourg. (756557)



SECTION II

'1

Period: 1-6 January 1945 Maps: France and Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ Sheet 122

As the period opened the enemy was entrenched firmly along the Sure River from its junction with the Clerf River westward to Bockholz and Goesdorf thence north toward Dahl. The outstanding terrain around Goesdorf offered excellent observation for hostile forces facing our troops who had pushed to the southern bank of the Sure River and established a small bridgehead one mile southwest of Goesdorf. Heavy artillery concentrations hit towns liberated by our forces consistently through the period. Enemy nebelwerfors were also active, concentrations being received periodically at Heiderscheid, Eschdorf and Buderscheid. Dismounted patrols of the Troop developed strong enemy forces in Goesdorf on 3 January 1945 along with considerable movement, including several tanks. Patrols from the 2nd Platoon also developed much enemy activity in Dahl and Mocher, the towns evidently being occupied during the daytime and enemy patrols working from them at night. Enemy air was negligible through the period. Enemy patrolling was extremely active, several of them being wiped out by our infantry. Capabilities of enemy forces in the area on 5 January 1945 were to defend the ridge line Goesdorf-Nocher with two battalions of infantby reinforced with artillery and nebelwerfer or to attack west, southwest or south from Bourscheid, Kehmen or Burden with elements of the 79th and 352nd Volks Grenadier Divisions.

Period: 6-19 January 1945 Maps: France and Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ Sheet 122

The attack of the 319th Infantry on 6 January 1945 cleared Goesdorf and Dahl, shoving enemy forces northward toward Nocher. An enemy counterattack on Dahl with at least two companies of infantry supported by 11 tanks was repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. As the 30th Division went into a temporary defensive setup after the 319th Infantry's attack, the enemy defended a line south of the Wiltz River, with the Hocher as a blage. Considerable artillery, nebelwerfer and mortar concentrations continued to harrass out troops daily and enemy patrolling continued to be extremely active. Troops facing our front lines evidently were covering the German's large scale withdrawal to the east from the Bastogne sector, protecting the road net running east from Wiltz. An eight men patrol of the Troop developed enemy positions east of Dahl on 16 and 17 January 1945. Enemy traffic, especially horse-drawn vehicles, was heavy along the



リン



Wiltz road with most of the movement being toward the east.

Period: 19-22 January 1945 Maps: France and Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ Sheet 122

Medium resistance was met as the 319th Infantry assaulted and cleared Nocher on 19 January 1945. Troop observation posts, established on both flanks of the regimental front, observed considerable enemy movement into Consthum on 20 January 1945, heavy concentrations of enemy foot troops and vehicles in the vicinity of Alscheid and much movement castward out of Wiltz. A general enemy withdrawal of the sector was indicated. Enemy nebelwerfer fire protected the movement, shelling our forward positions heavily on 20 and 21 January 1945. Artillery fire was neglibible after 20 January 1945.

Period: 22-26 January 1945 Maps: France and Bolgium 1/50,000 WILTZ Sheet 122

A complete disengagement movement by the enemy developed on 22 January 1945 with scattered elements providing rear guard action as the bulk of German forces moved east of the Clerf River. Defending the towns of Wilwarwiltz, Drauffel and Enscherange, the enemy dug in on the high fround east of the River, halting our advance with heavy small arms, direct AT and observed artillery and mortar fire. Florce resistance was met along the river, especially from forces displaced in Wilwerwiltz and Ensheerange with automatic weapons. Enemy artillery zeroed in and harrassed vehicular movement on the road leading eastward in Eschweiler. Severe cold weather, Limited observation and deep snow provided excellent factors for the enemy in his delaying defenses.

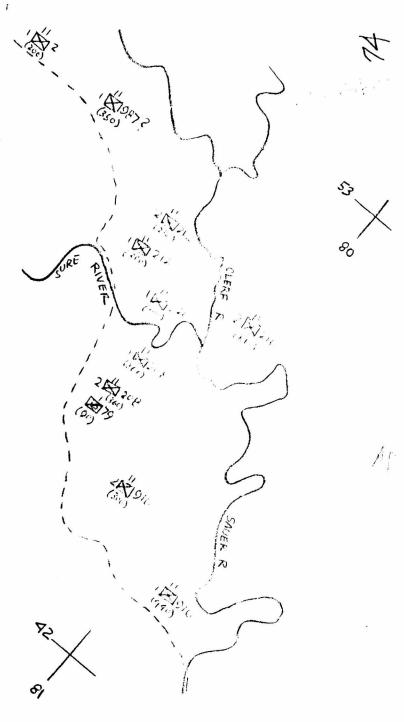
Period: 26-28 January 1945 Maps: France and Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ Sheet 122

The highway running north and south from Hosingen to Hoscheid was the mext line of resistance set up by the enemy after our infantry elements crushed his defenses along the Clerf River. Minefields, with box and plastic type mines being used, were scattered through the area. A conspicuous lack of enemy artillery fire was observed as the Cermans evidently moved their heavier guns back into the Seigfried Line less than 10 kilometers away. Our 1st Platoon took 31 FW's and cleared Munshausen on 26 January 1945 with little or no trouble.



Mate Mar

MAX E. MOE lat Lt., Cavalry, S-2 Officer.



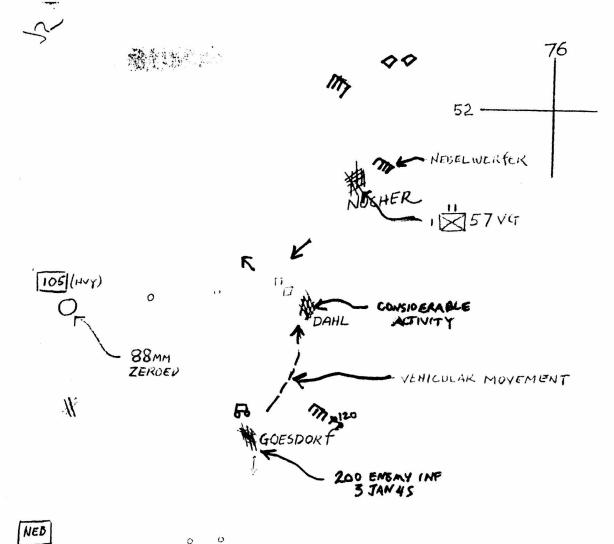
S-2 OYERLAY

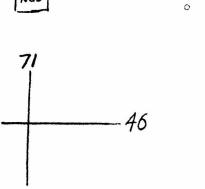
(Showing ensay front lines and location of hostile units)

AAP3: France-Belgium 1/50,000 WILT: Sheet 122

DATE: 12 January 1945

HEADQUARTERS BO TH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP MERSCHEID, Luxembourg (733428)





S-2 OVERLAY

(Showing location of enery elements discloped by 80th Ren Troop Petrols)

"AFS: France-Belgius 1/35,000 WILT3 Sheets 122 North and South

FROM: 010001 Jonuary 1945 TO : 052400 January 1945

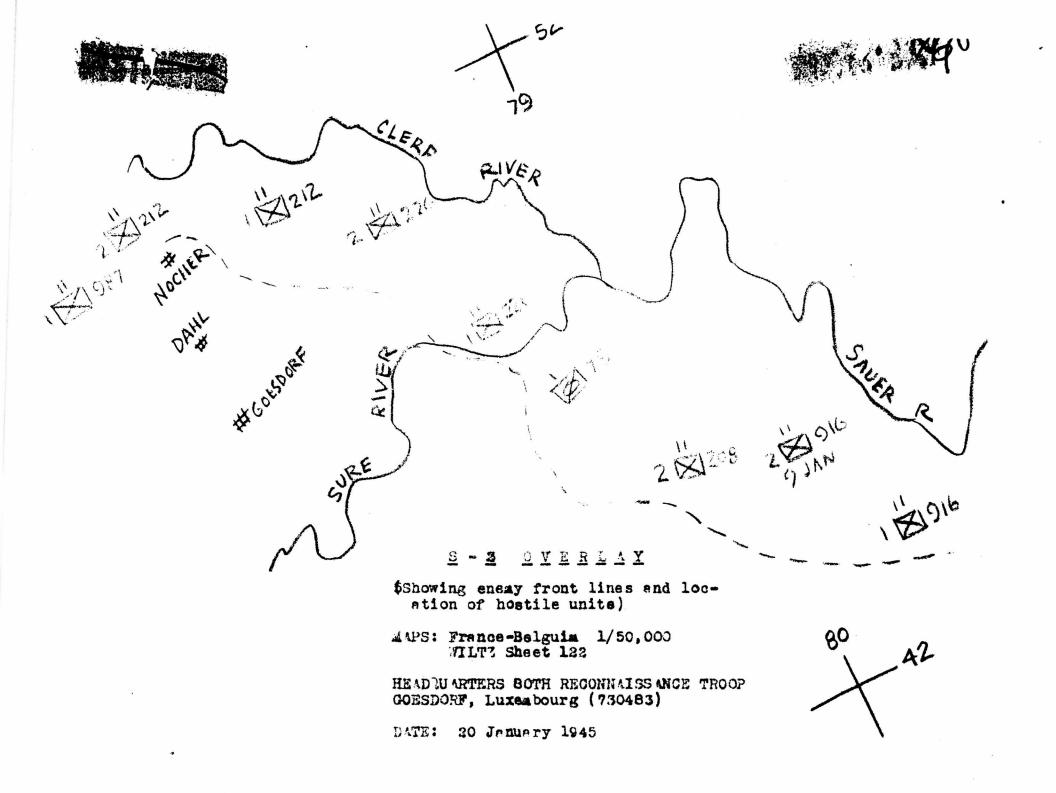
HEADMARTERS BOTH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP MERSCHEID, Luxembourg (V733428)

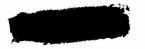
75

•

•••

lest (ALSO NELL)





SECTION III

CLASS I - No difficulty has as yet been encountered in procuring adequate rations. The practice of this organization has been to draw 10-in-One, C Rations and B Rations on alternate days thus varying the rations for the platoons as much as possible. Insofar as the tactical situation permits, an attempt is made to retain at least one platoon in reserve. During the past period the situation demanded commitment of all platoons the greater majority of the time.

CLASS II - The supply and re-supply of Class II items of equipment has been efficient. At the close of the period Shoe-pace were received in large sizes to offset the lack of combat boots in unobtainable sizes. Shoe-pace have not been in use for sufficient time for comment. It is anticipated that the Shoe-pac will be satisfactory for members of this organization. Replacement of handkerchiefs has during the present period remained critical. No difficulty has been encountered in replacement of salwaged items of equipment.

CLASS III - The supply and re-supply of Class III has been executed with facility. No difficulty has been encountered in maintaining proper fuel levels. Difficulty has been encountered in procuring No. 10 Engine Oil. No. 30 Engine Oil is being used with satisfactory results. The procurement of proper lubricating grease has offered no problem.

ORDNANCE - No difficulty has been encountered in the replacement of demaged or lost weapons. One M-8 Armored Car was lost during the period replacement of which was accomplished in five days. In one particular case however it was necessary to return a vehicle on three separate occasions for proper adjustment of a newly installed clutch. Had the work been properly performed while the vehicle was initially in higher echelon, the necessity for two additional trips would have been obviated.

SIGNAL - Supply of items of Signal equipment has been excellent.

ENGINEER - Supply of items of engineer equipment offered no problem since needs during the period were prectically nil.

CLASS V - During the period amunition expenditures were negligible. The resupply of expended amunition has not, during the period or prior to this period, offered a problem. A small reserve supply of all types of amunition is carried to offset immediate demands of using unit.

- 8 -



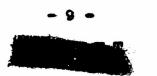


SECTION III (Cont'd)

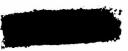
MEDICAL SUPPLY AND EVACUATION: Three aid men attached to this organization are supplied through the Troop S-4. Casualties are evacuated by platoon vehicle to the nearest aid station. Medical supplies for the aid men have been obtained with minimum delay.

May E. Mre

MAX E. MOE 1st Lt., Cavalry, S-4 Officer.







80th Reconneissance Troop

TABLE NUMBER 1

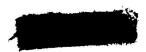
BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY

(Figures taken from Morning Report up to and including 31 January 1945 for the period 1-31 January 1945)

| DATE | KIA | DOW | WIA | IIA | AIM | TOTAL | RTD's |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| 5 Jan 45 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 |
| 7 Jan 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | l |
| 11 Jan 45 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 3 |
| 12 Jan 45 | 0 | 0 | ο | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 13 Jan 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 Jan 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 17 Jan 45 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 8 Jan 45 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| 19 Jan 45 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 23 Jan 45 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| 26 Jan 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 29 Jan 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | | | | | - | | |
| TOTAL | 3 | 0 | 15 | 7 | 0 | 25 | 13 |

- 10 -





SECTION IV (Contod)

80th Reconneissance Treop

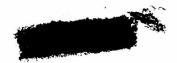
TABLE NUMBER 8

| PRISONERS OF | WAR CAPTURED | | |
|--------------|--------------|--|--|
| Dete | PW | | |
| 87 Jan 45 | 31 | | |
| | | | |
| Total | 31 | | |





80



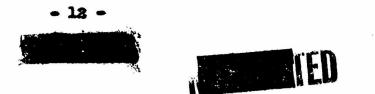
SECTION IV (Cont*d)

80th Reconnaissance Troop

TABLE NUMBER 3

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED (Including Hospital Returnees)

| Dete | No. | |
|-----------|-----|--|
| 16 Jan 45 | 1 | |
| 18 Jan 45 | 1 | |
| 87 Jan 45 | 1 | |
| , | | |
| Tetal | 3 | |



81

SECTION IV (Cont'd)

80th Reconnaissance Troop

TABLE NUMBER 4

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS (Decorations ewarded from 1-31 Jan 45, Incl)

No.

- <u>O</u> Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
- <u>0</u> Distinguished Service Cross
- <u>0</u> Silver Star (Posthumously)
- 0 Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star Medal
- <u>0</u> Bronze Star (Posthumously)
- 15 Bronze Star
- Q Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal
- 0 Air Medal
- 0 Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
- <u>0</u> Soldier's Medel
- 17 Purple Heart Award
- 1 (1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart Award
- 0 (2nd) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart Award

May Co. Max

MAX E. MOE 1st Lt., Cavalry, S-1 Officer.



Jaue J. Smith

PAUL L. SMITH Captain, Cavalry, Commanding.



. .

8: