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SECTION I

CAPTURE OF KASSEL

27 Aug 45

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Date

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1 Apr

The 1st of April found the 317th Division (about 31st Infantry) following the 3rd Armored Division in the vicinity south of KASSEL (G-3203). The Division was on the left flank of the 3d Corps sector and on the left flank of the 3d Army sector.

XN C-200

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OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION

APRIL 1945

The 317th Infantry was in the vicinity of KASSEL (G-3203) on 1 April. The 317th Infantry was in the vicinity of KASSEL (G-3203) on 1 April. The 317th Infantry was in the vicinity of KASSEL (G-3203) on 1 April.

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F/A-3

On 1 April the 317th Infantry was in the vicinity of KASSEL (G-3203) and was ordered to move south. The 317th Infantry, in Division Reserve, was to follow the 318th Infantry. The 317th Infantry was on the left flank of the 3d Corps sector and on the left flank of the 3d Army sector. The 317th Infantry was in the vicinity of KASSEL (G-3203) on 1 April. The 317th Infantry was in the vicinity of KASSEL (G-3203) on 1 April.

623 24A

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623 24A

742 70

811 70

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SECTION I

CAPTURE OF KASSEL

27 Aug 46

Date

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1 Apr SUN

The 1st of April found the 80th Division (minus 318th Infantry) following the 6th Armored Division in the vicinity south of KASSEL (C-2203). The Division was on the left flank of the XX Corps sector and on the left flank of the 3d Army. On the Division right was the 65th Infantry Division. The 318th Infantry was attached to the 6th Armored Division.

XX CORPS

65th DIV

The 317th Infantry was in an assembly area vicinity of LEIMSFELD (G-0761). The 318th Infantry was in the vicinity of HOMBERG (H-1772), with the 3d Bn vicinity of FELTSBURG (H-1883). The 319th Infantry was in the vicinity of HOMBERG with the 1st Bn at HUISA (H-2162), the 2d Bn at REMSFELD (H-2268) and the 3d Bn at OBERAULA (H-2252).

Field Message Number 3, issued at 1200, directed that the 318th Infantry would revert immediately to Division control and that the Division would pass through the 6th Armored Division in direct assault on the city of KASSEL. The attack would be launched on a line east of FRITZLAR (G-0883) to the FULDA RIVER in the vicinity of MALSFELD (H-2678). The 318th Infantry was on the left of the Division Zone with the objective of taking the city of KASSEL. The 319th Infantry was on the right with the mission of taking the hills to the east of KASSEL and to cut off any German elements endeavoring to retreat to the east or northeast. The 317th Infantry, in Division Reserve, was to follow the 318th Infantry. The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was on the left flank reconnoitering to the north and maintaining contact with elements of the 1st Army. The attached organizations, 633 AAA AW (mobile) Battalion, 702d Tank Bn, and 811 Tank Bn (SP) were in direct support of the Division.

633 AAA  
702 TK  
811 TD

Opposing the Division were elements of the 166th and 365th Infantry Division and numerous miscellaneous units including replacement anti-aircraft and LANDESSCHUTZEN Battalions. Considerable forces of tanks, concentrated near KASSEL, were in support of these units.

GERMAN  
166th INF DIV  
365 INF DIV  
+

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry moved north from HOMBERG



prior to 1430 on the afternoon of 1 April 1945. The main axis of attack was through FELSBERG, NDR VORSCHUTZ and north along the main highway into KASSEL. At the beginning of the advance, small arms and anti-tank fire was encountered. This was particularly heavy in the BESSE-HERTINGSHAUSEN area. However, a general withdrawal of the enemy was evident from that area north. The Battalion advanced a distance of eighteen miles and was in the vicinity of (C-198988) at OBERZWEHREN by midnight. Forward movement was stopped at that point to prepare for the advance the following day.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry moved from HOMBERG at 1430 and advanced on the left to the northwest. At 1505, the Battalion was advancing against slight resistance and had cleared the towns of MADEN, FLESBERG, ALTENBERG, LOHRE and GEISMAR. At 1710, the towns of RIEDE, METZE, LOHNE and ZUSCHEN were clear and the Battalion was advancing north from GUDENSBURG. At 1715, the leading elements were in the woods north of GUDENSBURG (H-133919). At 2250, elements of the Battalion were attacking GROSSENWITTE and at 2340 fighting was reported within that town. Shortly after 2400 the town was cleared and the Battalion held up for the night.

6 A/A  
CT 318  
Reld 2246M  
AD AT  
GUDENSBURG

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry assembled in Regimental Reserve southeast of FELSBERG. Shortly after the 1st Bn had passed through, it moved northwest to NDR VORSCHUTZ and closed into the area at 1500. At 0300, 2 April 1945, the Battalion closed at HERTINGSHAUSEN after marching north from NDR VORSCHUTZ.

The 318th Infantry, in its rapid advance, captured twenty-six towns during the day of 1 April 1945.

The 319th Infantry, with the objective of crossing the FULDA RIVER and advancing northeast along the east bank of the river, was, on 1 April 1945, in the vicinity of SCHWARZENBORN (H-2058). Preparations were made to move during the afternoon to an assembly area near MELGERHAUSEN (H-2384). The 1st Bn moved from HUISA by truck at 1500 and closed at MELGERHAUSEN at 1630. The 2d and 3d Bns had closed in at the same place at 1730. Immediate preparations were made to cross the FULDA RIVER. The Autobahn bridge at GUXHAGEN was made passable by the engineers.

Fulda R  
319

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry marched north, crossed the FULDA RIVER at GUSHAGEN and seized that town by 1930. At 2200 the Battalion was continuing the advance northward towards the town of DORNHAGEN but halted south of that town for the night.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, on the right of the 1st Bn, crossed the FULDA RIVER at KORLE and seized the town after some small arms resistance was encountered. The Battalion remained in that vicinity throughout the night.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry moved north from MELGERHAUSEN to GUXHAGEN at 2215 and remained in that vicinity throughout the night. The supporting tanks and tank destroyers were moved across the FULDA RIVER by fording in the vicinity of (H-222890).

The 317th Infantry, in Division Reserve near LEIMSFELD (G-0761), prepared to move north to MADEN in the late afternoon of 1 April 1945. At 1610, the 3d Bn moved out as the leading Battalion and the 1st and 2d followed in that order. The 3d Bn closed into GUDENSBURG at 2240 and immediately set up bridge guards at that point to relieve elements of the 3d Bn 318th Infantry. The 1st Bn closed into an assembly area vicinity of MADEN at 0005, 2 April 1945. The 2d Bn closed into the same area at 0315. Units of the Regiment remained in their respective areas throughout the night with elements guarding bridges at OBR MOLL-RICK, NDR MOLLRICK and ALTENBRUNSLAR.

#### 2 APRIL

On 2 April 1945, the 1st Bn 318th Infantry, near OBERZWEHREN, started to advance to the north at 0400 and at 0430 it was at NIEDER ZWEHREN (C-2100). At 0455, leading elements were entering the southern limits of KASSEL. At this time, the enemy launched a counterattack of infantry supported by twelve tanks. The attack was moving south in the area between the towns of NORDSHAUSEN and NIEDER ZWEHREN. It did not break into the Battalion lines but advanced to the south through the gap between the Battalion left flank and the right flank of the 2d Bn 318th Infantry on the left. Communications were disrupted and the Battalion advance was held up. Stiff resistance was encountered and heavy damage to the supporting tank destroyers was sustained. The enemy counterattack moved south to the town of ALTENBAUNA and to the vicinity of KIRCHBAUNA. This attack was broken up by elements of the 318th Infantry and 317th Infantry. At 1540, another

enemy counterattack driving southeast to NIEDER ZWEHREN, was launched in the vicinity of WAHLERSHAUSEN. The attack was softened by our artillery and the 1st Bn was able to break it up in the vicinity of NIEDER ZWEHREN. Resistance was extremely severe and heavy small arms, anti-tank and tank fire was encountered. By evening the Battalion was able to fight it's way into the southern outskirts of KASSEL, but was still meeting heavy opposition.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry on 2 April moved forward to attack in the early morning from its positions north of GROSSENRITE. The attack was directed toward ALTENRITE which was taken and cleared. The advance was continued northwest to the high ground and BRASSELSBERG. Strong resistance was encountered at this point from tanks and 20 mm Flak guns. This resistance was overcome and the town taken at 2010. The Battalion then took the high ground west of KASSEL and at the close of day was reorganizing on the outskirts of the city (C-1702) to assault from the west.

TANKS  
20 MM  
FLAK

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve and following the 1st Bn, moved north at 0400, 2 April 1945 to the area (C-190965) south of OBERZWEHREN when the enemy tank and infantry counterattack developed from the north. This Battalion, committed to aid in breaking up the counter attack, engaged in heavy fighting throughout the entire morning. Advancing in the gap between the 1st and 2d Bns 318th Infantry, it proceeded to advance north from OBERZWEHREN along the rail line to the outskirts of KASSEL. Pierce resistance was encountered, but by the close of the day it had entered the railroad yards on the south side of KASSEL and was still pressing north in the vicinity of (C-195025).

EN C/A

✓ The 318th Infantry, during 2 April 1945, destroyed ✓  
✓ six enemy tanks, numerous smaller vehicles and four 88 mm  
✓ guns. It had encountered heavy resistance from small arms,  
✓ tanks and anti-aircraft fire and had repulsed two enemy  
✓ tank-infantry attacks. At the close of the period, it was  
✓ in the outskirts of KASSEL on the west, southwest and  
✓ south of the city.

The 319th Infantry on the right, was advancing against increasing resistance in the area east of the FULDA RIVER. The 1st Bn on the left advanced in the early hours of 2 April 1945 and took DORNHAGEN against small arms fire.



The town was cleared by 0800 and the Battalion advanced to probe the woods to the east. Elements of the Battalion ✓ were receiving direct anti-aircraft fire in DORNHAGEN at 1010. At 1110 forward movement was halted at the northeast edge of the woods by an enemy road block at (H-237962). ✓ This road block consisted of anti-tank guns and tanks. After reducing the block, the Battalion continued its advance north and took DENNHAUSEN at 2000. DITTERSHAUSEN was cleared at 2135 and the advance halted for the night at BERGSHAUSEN.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, on 2 April 1945, attacked ALBSHAUSEN and was still fighting in that town at 0740. At 1110, the town was cleared and the Battalion moved northeast toward WELLERODE. WELLERODE was entered against slight opposition and cleared at 1600. The Battalion stopped at this point until late evening when orders were received to move north to VOLLMARSHAUSEN at 0200, 3 April 1945.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, near GUXHAGEN, at 1100, 2 April 1945, received orders to move north to WOLLRODE and then proceed northeast through the woods to attack VOLLMARSHAUSEN. At 1500, leading elements of the Battalion were in the vicinity of (H-250944) - (H-254942), southwest of VOLLMARSHAUSEN. At 1950, two companies encountered ✓ determined resistance and considerable small arms and ✓ mortar fire. At the close of the period, the Battalion ✓ was still fighting against stubborn resistance in VOLLMARSHAUSEN.

The 317th Infantry, in Division Reserve near MADEN, on 2 April 1945 was notified to send the 3d Bn to support the 318th Infantry against an enemy counterattack of tanks and infantry. All of the available tanks and tank de- ✓ stroyers attached to the 317th were also sent to help ✓ stem the attack. At 0915, 2 April 1945, the 3d Bn was notified to move north to the vicinity of KIRCHBAUNA to meet the counterattack of tanks and infantry. The Bat- talion moved northeast from GUDENSBERG at 1030 and reached KIRCHBAUNA at noon. Defensive positions were immediately prepared to resist the attack. By 1510, the counterattack had been broken up and the enemy was driven back to the north. In the evening the Battalion moved north and occupied RENGERSHAUSEN where it remained for the night. ENC/A

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry in the vicinity of MADEN,



on the morning of 2 April 1945 received orders to move north to the town of BESSE. At 1040, it was moving north and prior to 1400 was in BESSE. At 1445, the Battalion prepared to seize the high ground at (H-161980) northeast of ALTENRITTE. Before nightfall, the objective had been secured and the Battalion remained in the area northeast of ALTENRITTE for the night.

ORDER

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry, moving from MADEN at 1430, closed into a new area vicinity of GROSSENRITE at 2045 where it remained in Regimental Reserve throughout the night. Elements of the Battalion outposted the towns of ELGERSHAUSEN, ALTENBAUNA, and BREITENBACH (E-1099).

During the first two days of April, elements of the Division in contact with the enemy encountered fierce resistance from enemy small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and direct fire weapons. Towns and key terrain features were employed by the enemy as strong points, while advance was slowed by blown bridges. Moderate artillery fire and air activity was experienced in the Division area.

### 3 APRIL

On 3 April 1945, the attack on KASSEL continued with the 317th on the left flank moving to the northwest of the city. The 318th Infantry was in the center on the western and southern outskirts of the city. The 319th Infantry, on the right, was on the east bank of the FULDA RIVER continuing the attack to the north.

The 317th Infantry, on 3 April 1945, continued to protect the Division left flank and to mop up pockets of resistance in the outlying towns west of KASSEL. The 1st Bn, northeast of ALTENRITTE, prepared to move north to attack the town of WAHLERSHAUSEN. The 2d Bn, vicinity of GROSSENRITE, was prepared to follow the 1st Bn with an interval of 1000 yards. At 1115, the Battalions commenced marching to the north and at 1220, the 1st Bn was passing through the town of BRASSELSBERG. At 1400, the 1st Bn bypassed the town of WAHLERSHAUSEN and continued advancing to the north. At 1800, HARLESCHAUSEN and occupied against small arms and automatic weapons fire and elements of the Battalion were clearing the woods north of the town.

The 2d Bn at 1605 was fighting in WAHLERSHAUSEN and meeting severe resistance from small arms and automatic weapons fire. At 1810, the town was completely occupied

by the 2d Bn where it remained for the night.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, during the afternoon of 3 April 1945, in the vicinity of RENGENHAUSEN, moved elements north to outpost the area along the railway from RENGENHAUSEN to OBERSWEHREN.

On 3 April 1945, the 2d Bn 318th Infantry continued the assault on KASSEL from the west. This Battalion was attacking to the north, but at 0810, in the vicinity of (C-190034), turned to the east and penetrated to the FULDA RIVER in the center of the city. The Battalion had seized the northern half of the city, but at midnight, stubborn fighting continued for the possession of a footbridge and a vehicular bridge over the FULDA RIVER. Capture of these bridges would be a definite advantage for the continuation of the offensive.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, on the right of the 2d Bn, at 0500, 3 April 1945, attacked northeast from positions vicinity of (C-195025). At 1410, the Battalion had penetrated the city to a point (C-211035). There was little opposition and the elements were moving rapidly east. When the Battalion reached the two main avenues of WILHELMSTRASSE and HONENZOLLERNSTRASSE it attacked to the east to reach the FULDA RIVER. In the late afternoon, the enemy launched two counterattacks, one along each street, in a desperate effort to stem the advance of our units. The Battalion repulsed both attacks and at the close of the day was still advancing with most of the western part of the city in its possession.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry, on the Regimental right flank, was attacking northeast from its positions within the southern portion of the city. The attack was launched at 0500 along the FRANKURTERSTRASSE axis. When elements reached the southern edge of the Park wherein were located the INFANTERIE KASERNE and KRAEFFURER barracks, stiff opposition was encountered and the advance was slowed. At midnight, heavy fighting continued in the barracks area.

The day was one of fierce house to house fighting with marked advances despite the heavy and stubborn resistance. Among the installations captured were a radio station, power plant, gas mask factory, arms factory, railway yards and footbridge across the FULDA RIVER.

The morning of 3 April 1945 found the 1st Bn 319th Infantry in the vicinity of BERGSHAUSEN prepared to advance in late morning hours to the northeast to take CRUMBACH. At 1330, the town was taken and the Battalion was ordered to continue the advance and take the town of WALDAU. In attacking to the north, the Battalion encountered an airfield (C-2399) west of WALDAU. At this time, orders were received to continue toward the southeast portion of KASSEL (C-2303), but bitter fighting developed at the airfield and at the close of the period, the Battalion was still engaged in heavy fighting in that vicinity. A large airplane factory was captured during the afternoon.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, having closed into the area near VOLLMARSHAUSEN at 0200, remained there while the northern section of the town was being cleared by the 3d Bn. At 0930, the Battalion was receiving a counterattack from infantry and five enemy tanks driving from the northwest of the town. This counterattack was repulsed and the Battalion continued toward OCHSHAUSEN. That town was taken by encirclement, with "G" Company on the north and "E" Company on the south. "E" Company entered and cleared the town by 1430. Orders were received to continue the drive, remaining on the right flank of the 1st Bn and to make contact with elements of the 318th Infantry at the bridge over the FULDA RIVER in KASSEL. At 2145, the Battalion was fighting in BETTENHAUSEN and at the close of the day, was continuing the attack towards KASSEL.

The 3d Bn, on the morning of 3 April 1945, continued clearing VOLLMARSHAUSEN. In a coordinated attack with the 2d Bn, it moved to the north and took HILL 233 (C-280993), east of OCHSHAUSEN, while the 2d Bn attacked that town. The high ground overlooking BETTENHAUSEN and OCHSHAUSEN was organized and road blocks were set up at (C-272010) to protect the Division right flank. The 811th Tank Destroyers and the Artillery in support aided in the attack on towns and broke up the enemy counterattack.

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, on 3 April 1945, was relieved by the 3d Cavalry Group on the Division west flank and immediately moved to the east flank for attachment to the 319th Infantry.

**4 APRIL**  
The 1st Bn 317th Infantry, in vicinity of HARLESCHAUSEN, on the morning of 4 April 1945, attacked to the north at 0600 driving towards the town of NEIDERVELLMAR. At 0715, advanced elements were receiving small arms and mortar

fire, but by 0900 had overcome all resistance and had seized NIEDERVELLMAR. The Battalion remained in this area throughout the day to protect the north flank of the Division.

SURRENDER

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry attacked to the northeast at 0600, 4 April 1945, with IHRINGSHAUSEN as its objective. At 0900, it had advanced to (C-22060). The entrances to KASSEL from the north were secured. At 1800, enemy activity was observed in SUMMERSHAUSEN, north of the Battalion and shortly thereafter, a strong counterattack of an estimated two hundred infantry supported by tanks was launched upon the Battalion positions. At 1950, the enemy was repulsed with severe losses to his forces. At 2010, a similar counterattack from the north was repulsed with strong support from our Artillery and Tank Destroyers. Elements of the Battalion moved to secure the bridge at (C-264083). Throughout the day, the Battalion had been subjected to moderate mortar fire, heavy small arms, automatic weapons and direct fire weapons.

EN CIA

In Regimental Reserve, vicinity of RENGERSHAUSEN, the 3d Bn at 0600, 4 April 1945, moved to WAHLERSHAUSEN and closed into that area at 0945. It immediately moved out, marching northeast, and at 1145 was at (C-225065) north of KASSEL. At 1425 orders were received to proceed to SANDERSHAUSEN to relieve the 2d Bn 319th Infantry and upon arriving in that area to initiate reconnaissance to the east. The Battalion moved at 1550 and relieved the 2d Bn 319th Infantry at 1845.

ORDER

On 4 April 1945, the 318th Infantry continued to clear the city of KASSEL. In the early morning the German commander had asked for a three hour truce to permit evacuation of the civilians. It was denied because two-thirds of the town had already been evacuated. An ultimatum was delivered to the Commander of the garrison and at 1245, the German General, with the remnants of the garrison, surrendered in the large air raid shelter in the cliff upon which the old part of the city had been built. The 318th Infantry, after the surrender, took over the duty of patrolling the area.

SURRENDER

On 4 April 1945, the 2d Bn 318th Infantry continued mopping up the northeast section of the city west of the FULDA RIVER. In the morning, the Battalion crossed the vehicular bridge (C-241037), capturing it intact and



establishing contact with elements of the 2d Bn 319th Infantry at 1010. A drive was then initiated south along the west bank of the river to establish contact with the 1st Bn 318th which was driving from the southern part of the city. At 1245, when the surrender was effected, elements of this Battalion had advanced to positions enabling the 1st and 2d Bns to encircle the remaining enemy troops in the air raid shelter where they had assembled. The Battalion remained in KASSEL the remainder of the day.

SURRENDER

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, supported by tanks from the 702d Tank Battalion, continued its drive eastward down the main avenues of the city. House to house fighting was carried on and stiff resistance was encountered during the morning until the surrender by the garrison commander. At 1440, the Battalion had gone through the entire city from the west to the east. Patrols were maintained in the city throughout the night.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry, which had been engaged in stiff fighting in the barracks area in the southern part of the city, by daylight of 4 April 1945, had cleared the area and was prepared to advance north. The Park was cleared and advance was begun north along the west bank of the FULDA RIVER. By noon it had reached the air raid shelter in which the remnants of the garrison had prepared to make a last stand. At 1245, the city was surrendered and the Battalion continued northward to make contact with the 3d Bn. At 1510 orders were received to relieve the 1st Bn 319th Infantry east of the FULDA RIVER. The Battalion prepared to move out to the east and by 1800 had relieved the 1st Bn. It remained in this area throughout the night.

PARK

After bitter fighting throughout the night, the 1st Bn 319th Infantry had cleared the airfield vicinity of (C-2399) before 0320 and elements were in the town of WALDAU. The advance was continued north along the east bank of the FULDA RIVER to clear out that area into KASSEL. At 0900 the Battalion was engaged within that part of KASSEL lying east of the river. At 0910, elements of the Battalion drove north in conjunction with the 2d Bn to contact elements of the 318th Infantry at the vehicular bridge (C-241037). Contact was made at 1010. Pockets of resistance were eliminated and prior to 1800, the Battalion was relieved by the 1st Bn 318th Infantry and moved to an assembly area (C-260007) north of OCHSHAUSEN

where it prepared to continue the attack to the east.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, on 4 April 1945, continued to clear the area northwest of BETTENHAUSEN. Prior to 1000, one company, in conjunction with elements of the 1st Bn, was sent to contact elements of the 318th Infantry at the vehicular bridge (C-241037). Contact was made at 1010. The Battalion was then ordered to move northeast in attack on SANDERSHAUSEN. The town was taken without opposition. In the afternoon, from the vicinity east of SANDERSHAUSEN, the enemy launched an abortive counter-attack composed of tanks and infantry. This attack was broken up by artillery fire and at 1845, the Battalion was relieved by the 3d Bn 317th Infantry. After being relieved, the Battalion assembled at (C-263031) south of SANDERSHAUSEN. EN C/A

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve near HILL 233 (C-280995), remained in that position until the evening of 4 April 1945 when it went into an assembly area at Cross Roads (C-272010), southeast of BETTENHAUSEN, preparatory to jumping off in an attack to the east.

Upon the surrender of the enemy garrison in KASSEL at 1245, the Division was immediately prepared to swing to the east. The southern Division boundary ran along a line from WELLERODE (H-2895) to DOHRENBACH (C-0846). The left flank boundary remained as it existed prior to taking KASSEL on a north-south line approximately fifteen kilometers west of KASSEL. The division was on the left flank of XX Corps and 3d Army, with elements of the 1st Army on the left and the 76th Infantry Division on the right. Within the Division Zone, the 3d Cavalry Group was operating on the left flank, while the 317th Infantry occupied and maintained law and order in the city of KASSEL. XX  
76 DIV / FUSA  
3d CAV GR

#### 5 APRIL

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, vicinity of SANDERSHAUSEN, jumped off at 0700, 5 April 1945, in an attack to the northeast on the town of LANDWEHRHAGEN. At 1855, the leading elements of the Battalion were at (C-279048), at 1000, the Battalion was held up by small arms fire from the high ground at (C-298059). At 1240, enemy infantry and tanks were holding up the Battalion advance from positions at (C-280006). At 1255, in the face of small arms and assault gun fire, HILL 332 (C-298059) was taken. The positions on this high ground were held and at 1345

the Battalion was reorganized and prepared to continue the attack to the northeast. During the afternoon, the Battalion was relieved by elements of the 69th Infantry Division, after which it moved to BETTENHAUSEN.

At 0530, 5 April 1945, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry moved from vicinity NIEDERVOLLMAR to close at SANDERSHAUSEN at 1240, where it remained for the night.

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry was relieved at 0830 by elements of the 318th Infantry in the vicinity of IHRINGHAUSEN and moved to an assembly area vicinity of BETTENHAUSEN. At 1200, the Battalion closed into the new area and remained there throughout the day.

On the morning of 5 April 1945, the 2d Bn 319th Infantry, in vicinity of SANDERSHAUSEN, jumped off to the southeast in an attack upon HEILIGENRODE. The Battalion encountered small arms and automatic weapons fire in it's advance. At 1820, elements were inside the town and the attack was being pushed from the west and southeast in an encircling movement. At 1230, the resistance within the town had been overcome and the town was cleared.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, north of OCHSHAUSEN, was committed at 1205 and had reached the town of GUTWINDHAUSEN (C-3002) at 1330. Here the attack was held up on orders for the relief of the Regiment. During the afternoon, a counterattack by infantry and tanks was repulsed by the Battalion in the vicinity of (C-3002). Late in the afternoon, the Battalion moved to NIEDERKAUFUNGEN and occupied that town and vicinity for the night.

At 0615, the 3d Bn 319th Infantry moved to attack the towns of NIEDERKAUFUNGEN and OBERKAUFUNGEN. "K" Company moved against NIEDERKAUFUNGEN from the northwest and encountered stiff resistance from infantry and tanks. Artillery and tank destroyers were brought into position to support the attack and by their effective fire, overcame the enemy resistance. The company entered the town at 1215 and one hour later reported it clear of enemy. "I" and "L" Companies moved against the town of OBERKAUFUNGEN from the southwest meeting small arms fire from within the town and at 1330 it was cleared. Stiff resistance from infantry and tanks was encountered in taking these towns. The chief threat by enemy tanks was

overcome by supporting fire from our tank destroyers and artillery. A column of enemy vehicles, personnel and tanks was observed at KASSEL (C-3403) at 1135, air support was ordered and the threat was broken up by strafing. The Battalion remained in the area near OBERKAUFUNGEN throughout the remainder of the day after having been directed to hold up the advance and await relief by elements of the 76th and 69th Infantry Divisions.

7  
XIX TAC?

The 318th Infantry, during the day of 5 April 1945, occupied KASSEL with elements of the Regiment also occupying the outlying towns of IHRINGHAUSEN, HARLESCHAUSEN and OCHSHAUSEN. In the afternoon, the 271st Infantry of the 69th Infantry Division, began to relieve the 318th Infantry in KASSEL. The Regimental Commanding Officer was placed in command of all troops of the 271st Infantry until relief was completed. The morning of 6 April 1945.

69th  
DIV

The Regiment cleared the assembly area at 1630 and arrived at the assembly area vicinity BUCHHEIM (J-4970) at the following times: the 2d Bn, 2330; the 3d Bn, 2300; the 1st Bn, 2400. The Regiment remained in this assembly area throughout the night of 6-7 April 1945.

The 318th Infantry was relieved of occupation within KASSEL at 1135, 5 April 1945. Movement to the assembly area west of BUCHHEIM was made in column of Battalions with the 2d Bn leading. The 2d Bn cleared the area at KASSEL at 1735. The 1st Bn followed at 2145 and the 3d Bn closed out at 2200. The movement was completed at 1000, 7 April 1945.

The 318th Infantry remained at KASSEL throughout 6 April 1945. The 1st Bn remained at KASSEL. The 2d Bn moved from KASSEL southeast to OCHSHAUSEN where it remained throughout the day and night. The 3d Bn, in OBERKAUFUNGEN, remained there throughout the day and night.

76th  
69th

7 APRIL

The 317th Infantry, in assembly area vicinity of BUCHHEIM, on the morning of 7 April 1945, was notified to move to the northeast of KASSEL and relieve friendly units in that area. At 0630, the Regiment commenced movement and at 1100, it was entering the new area. The relief of elements of the 4th Armored Division and 89th Infantry Division was completed at 1700 hours. At 2000, the 1st Bn was in position vicinity of town GELBACH-HORNHEIM.

4th AD  
89th Div



PARZA. The 2d Bn SECTION II of the 1st Bn, was at  
MOLLSCHLERN. The 3d Bn east of GOTHEN occupied  
the towns of PRIMOVEMENT TO GOTHEN.

6 April

The 318th Infantry, ~~had~~ ~~lost~~ ~~the~~ ~~area~~ ~~at~~  
At 0001, 6 April 1945, ~~Field Message Number 1~~ was  
issued outlining the movement of the Division from its  
present position vicinity of KASSEL, east to GOTHEN  
(J-0965). The movement was to be made by truck over  
a distance of fifty-two miles. ~~The order of march~~ was,  
317th Infantry, 318th Infantry, and 319th Infantry. The  
Division, upon its arrival west of GOTHEN, was to go into  
assembly areas and make contact with the 4th Armored  
Division in that area.

FMB 1

TRUCK MARCH  
TO CONTACT 4AD  
AT GOTHEN

The 317th Infantry, in an assembly area near BETTEN-  
HAUSEN, prepared to move on the morning of 6 April 1945.  
The Regiment cleared the assembly area at 1030 and arrived  
at the assembly area vicinity BRUNHEIM (J-9970) at the  
following time: the 2d Bn, 2030; the 3d Bn, 2300; the  
1st Bn, 2400. The Regiment remained in this assembly  
area throughout the night of 6-7 April 1945.

The 318th Infantry was relieved of occupation within  
KASSEL at 1120, 6 April 1945. Movement to the assembly  
area west of GOTHEN was made in column of Battalions with  
the 2d Bn leading. The 2d Bn cleared the area at KASSEL  
at 1735. The 1st Bn followed at 2145 and the 3d Bn  
closed out at 2200. The movement was completed at 1000,  
7 April 1945.

The 319th Infantry remained at KASSEL throughout  
6 April 1945. It was completely relieved in the afternoon  
by elements of the 76th and 69th Infantry Divisions. The  
1st Bn remained at NIEDERKAUFUNGEN. The 2d Bn moved from  
HEILIGENRODE southwest to OCHSHAUSEN where it remained  
throughout the day and night. The 3d Bn, in OBERKAUFUNGEN,  
remained there throughout the day and night.

76<sup>th</sup>  
69<sup>th</sup>

7 April

The 317th Infantry, in assembly area vicinity of  
BRUNHEIM, on the morning of 7 April 1945, was notified to  
move to the northeast of GOTHEN and relieve friendly units  
in that area. At 0850, the Regiment commenced movement  
and at 1100, it was entering the new area. The relief of  
elements of the 4th Armored Division and 89th Infantry  
Division was completed at 1700 hours. At 2000, the 1st  
Bn was in position vicinity of towns GOLDBACH-HOCHHEIM-

4<sup>th</sup> AD  
89<sup>th</sup> INF DIV

WARZA. The 2d Bn to the east of the 1st Bn, was at MOLSCHLEBEN. The 3d Bn just east of GOTHHA occupied the towns of FRIEMAR and PFERDINGSLEBEN.

The 318th Infantry, having closed into the area at MECHERSTADT, was directed to move to the southeast of GOTHHA and relieve elements of the 4th Armored Division in that area. Movement to the new area started early in the afternoon and leading elements were in the new area at 1700. Relief of the 4th Armored Division elements was completed by 2000 and at that time, responsibility passed to the 318th Infantry. The 1st Bn was in position vicinity of WECHMAR, the 2d Bn in the vicinity of TUTTLEBEN and the 3d Bn vicinity of SIEBLETON. 4AD WECHMAR

WECHMAR The 319th Infantry, on the morning of 7 April 1945, was in assembly area in the vicinity of NIEDERKAUFUNGEN, OBERKAUFUNGEN and OCHSHAUSEN. Movement of all Battalions to the new assembly area began at 0930, with the 3d Bn leading followed by the 1st and 2d Bns. The 3d Bn closed into the southern section of GOTHHA at 2130, 1st Bn closed into the northern section at 0015, 8 April 1945, and the 2d Bn occupied the western section of the city at 0400. Division and the 4th Infantry Division which was formed by the establishment of temporary and permanent boundaries on the North flank. The Division front extended from the vicinity, one kilometer north of MOLSCHLEBEN, to approximately two kilometers south of von Antebahn near WECHMAR. XX 76

On 8 April 1945, the 318th Infantry continued to occupy its sector northwest of GOTHHA. Elements of the 2d Bn advanced and seized FROCHWILDECKEN against scattered resistance in the late afternoon. Elements of the 3d Bn seized PFERDINGSLEBEN in the afternoon of 8 April 1945 without meeting resistance. The 1st Bn remained in Regimental Reserve. but no active threat developed from that area during the day.

The 318th Infantry maintained positions throughout the day with a slight redistribution of 1st and 2d Bn elements. The 2d Bn moved elements in to occupy the town of TUTTLEBEN during the afternoon. The 1st Bn, at 1325, moved one company from vicinity of WECHMAR to take the high ground at (3-170385). At 1645, this company was on the high ground at that point and had set up a road block to control any movement on the WECHMAR. The 3d Bn remained in Regimental Reserve.

6 MAD  
TRAVELING IN  
ONE EXPERT-Weimar-Jena

SECTION III

MOVEMENT EAST FROM ERFURT TO CHEMNITZ

8 Aprn

On 8 April 1945, Division began the attack to the east which was to result in the capture of the cities of ERFURT, WEIMAR, JENA, GÖTTA and which was to carry the Division to the outskirts of the city of CHEMNITZ. The attack was made in conjunction with the 4th Armored Division with the axis along the Autobahn, which, despite some major demolitions by the enemy, contributed materially to the speed of the operation.

At this time, the Division was on the right of the XX Corps Zone, with the 76th Infantry Division on the Divisions left and elements of the VIII Corps on the right. The 317th Infantry was on the left in the Division Zone and the 318th Infantry was on the right. The 319th Infantry was in occupation in the city of GÖTTA maintaining law and order. The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, supported by elements of the 702d Tank Battalion, was in position in the area between the 76th Infantry Division and the 80th Infantry Division which was formed by the establishment of temporary and permanent boundaries on the north flank. The Division front extended from the vicinity, one kilometer north of MOLSCHLEBEN, to approximately two kilometers south of the Autobahn near WECHMAR.

XX  
76<sup>th</sup>

On 8 April 1945, the 317th Infantry continued to occupy its sector northeast of GÖTTA. Elements of the 2d Bn advanced and seized TROCHTELBORN against scattered resistance in the late afternoon. Elements of the 3d Bn seized PFERDINGSLEBEN on the afternoon of 8 April 1945 without meeting resistance. The 1st Bn remained in Regimental Reserve. The enemy was observed to be active in the woods northwest of BIENSTADT, but no active threat developed from that area during the day.

The 318th Infantry maintained positions throughout the day with a slight redistribution of 1st and 2d Bn elements. The 2d Bn moved elements in to occupy the town of TUTTLEBEN during the afternoon. The 1st Bn, at 1325, moved one company from vicinity of WECHMAR to take the high ground at (J-170585). At 1645, this company was on the high ground at that point and had set up a road block to control any movement on the Autobahn. The 3d Bn remained in Regimental Reserve.

At 0925, the elements of the Regiment had completed relieving elements of the 89th Infantry Division and the 4th Armored Division within GOTHA and during 8 April 1945 continued to occupy and patrol the city.

On 9 April 1945, the enemy forces, opposing the Division in the vicinity of ERFURT, was a divisional size combat team entitled "FELLER". It consisted of CT OPITZ, CT GRAU, 71st Panzer Group Replacement Battalion, 405th March Battalion, 124th Airport Operations Company, Alarm Company HINDERSLEBEN and other miscellaneous units. They were supported by tanks, self propelled guns and units of artillery.

GERMANN  
CT "FELLER"

On the morning of 9 April 1945, the 2d Bn 317th Infantry at MOLDSCHLEBEN moved out prior to 0530 in attack to the north on the woods and high ground vicinity of HILL 405 (J-152752). At 0530, leading elements of the Battalion, with tanks in support, were in ESCHENBERGEN. At 0810, the leading elements of the Battalion, meeting only light resistance from small arms fire, were advancing toward HILL 405. At 0920, HILL 405 had been taken and the woods were clear. "G" Company continued to advance north-east on GIERSTADT and KLEINFÄHNER, while "F" Company advanced southeast on the town of BIENSTADT. "E" Company had taken up positions on HILL 405. GIERSTADT, KLEINFÄHNER and BIENSTADT were seized prior to noon, and at 1940, the Battalion was relieved by elements of the 76th Infantry Division. After being relieved, it assembled at BIENSTADT for the night.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, on 9 April 1945, with elements in the towns of FRIEMAR and PFERDINGSLEBEN, moved eastward at 0540. At 0810, leading elements at (J-170680) east of PFERDINGSLEBEN were receiving small arms, machine gun and bazooka fire from enemy positions at (J-175675). At 1715, one company was in ZIMMERNSUPRA and had cleared the town of an estimated forty enemy troops. The Battalion held up at this point, with elements also occupying the towns of TROCKTELORN, PFERDINGSLEBEN and NOTTLEBEN.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve, remained in the vicinity of HAUSEN with elements moving to occupy the towns of MOLDSCHLEBEN and WESHAUSEN.

The 318th Infantry, on 9 April 1945, attacked east on limited objective. A line was established generally north and south from GAMSTADT to SUZENBRUCKEN.



On the Regimental left flank, the 2d Bn moved eastward at 1315. At 1450, "G" Company was west of GRABSLEBEN, while "E" Company was at (J-190630), west of GROSSRETTBACH. At 1515, "E" Company had taken LEINRETTBACH without opposition and occupied GROSSRETTBACH shortly afterwards. GRABSLEBEN and COBSTADT were overrun and the Battalion halted with elements in those towns. Contact with the 317th Infantry at GAMSTADT was effected at 2145.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry, on the right, moved out of position in the vicinity of WECHMAR at 1330, 9 April 1945, to advance to the east. At 1515, "E" Company took WANDERSLEBEN without opposition. At 1745, the same company took APPELSTADT against light resistance. At the same time, "C" Company cleared SUZENERUCKEN against light opposition.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, in reserve, moved east during the day of 9 April 1945 from SIEBLETON to SEEBERGEN and remained there throughout the day and night.

The 319th Infantry, in Division Reserve, continued to maintain law and order in GOTHHA on 9 April 1945. Road blocks were maintained and motor patrols were used within the city.

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, supported by tanks, was relieved in the area formed by the temporary and permanent boundary lines on the Division left flank at 1900, 9 April 1945. Upon relief of this unit, the temporary boundary between the 76th and 80th Infantry Divisions was discontinued.

10 April

At 1800, 10 April 1945, Field Order Number 2 was issued outlining the plan for continuation of the Division attack to the east. The plan provided for the 317th Infantry on the Divisions left to by-pass the city of ERFURT and continue the attack towards WEIMAR. The 318th Infantry, on the Divisions right, was to attack and clear ERFURT and be prepared to move the remainder of the Regiment as Division Reserve. The 319th Infantry was to move from Division Reserve to take up the Division right flank after the 318th Infantry had taken the towns of EGSTEDT and BECHSTEDT-WAGD and to continue the attack on WEIMAR. The Division continued to occupy the right flank of the XX Corps with the 76th Infantry Division on the left of the Division and elements of the VIII Corps on

F/02

XX  
76

the right. The 4th Armored Division was prepared to pass through the Division Zone in driving an armored attack eastward along the axis of the Autobahn. 4A AD

At 0700, 10 April 1945, the 2d Bn 317th Infantry attacked to the east with "G" and "F" Companies on line and "E" Company in reserve. At 0815, the town of TOTTLESTADT was taken and cleared with slight resistance. At 0915, the Battalion was reorganized and moved in the direction of SALOMENSBORN. At 1150, on a line from (J-235732) to (J-236725), the Battalion was receiving small arms fire, but the advance continued and at 1300, elements were fighting in TIEPTRAL. At 1305, the town was cleared and elements of the Battalion continued the attack towards SALOMENSBORN, GISPERSLEBEN and KILIANI. At 2315, all of these towns had been cleared and the Battalion remained there throughout the night. Two bridges, suitable for tank travel, were taken intact at GISPERSLEBEN.

The 3d Bn 317th at SIMMERNSUPRA, on the right of the Regimental sector, attacked at 0700, 10 April 1945, in the direction of ALACH and FRIENSTEDT. "L" Company was on the left, with "K" Company on the right and "I" Company in reserve. At 1150, "L" Company was at (J-224705) west of ALACH, "K" Company was on HILL 301 (J-220695) and "I" Company was clearing the town of FRIENSTEDT. At 1215, when the town was cleared, leading elements of "L" Company were nearing ALACH where stubborn resistance was encountered. At 1545, half the town was taken and cleared, but a stubborn enemy continued resistance throughout the night. In the meantime, "K" Company, moving from HILL 301, captured and cleared the town of BINDERSLEBEN.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry in reserve, followed the advance of the 3d Bn from its position near HAUSEN. At 2255, the Battalion closed for the night in the vicinity of SALOMENSBORN.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry, in vicinity of GROSSRETTBACH, at 0600, 10 April 1945 moved eastwards on the town of SCHMIRA. By 0900, the Battalion had advanced to (J-250660) where it encountered small arms and automatic weapons fire from SCHMIRA. An hour later, elements of the Battalion were fighting in SCHMIRA and despite a determined resistance, had cleared the town by late afternoon. Meanwhile, one company moved south and seized BISCHLEBEN at 1725 without meeting resistance. At this time, the Battalion was reorganized to continue the advance towards

ERFURT. Forward movement was halted at dark and the Battalion prepared positions at (J-290655) for the night.

On 10 April 1945, the 3d Bn 318th Infantry moved east from positions at SEEBERGEN and by 0600 had passed through the 1st Bn vicinity of APFELSTADT and SUZENERUCKEN to continue the attack on the right flank of the Regiment. "K" Company was on the left, "I" Company on the right and "L" Company in reserve. At 0900, elements of the Battalion right were in KORNHOCHHEIM and advancing towards the town of THORRY which was taken at 1245. On the left at 0900, elements were held up by mortar and small arms fire 400 yards east of APFELSTADT, but by 1030, had succeeded in overcoming the resistance and were entering the towns of DIETENDORF and NEUDIETENDORF. At 1740, final resistance was mopped up in the railway yards in DIETENDORF and the left flank of the Battalion continued to advance. At 2055, elements had advanced from ROCKHAUSEN to take the towns of BECHSTEDT-WAGD and EGSTADT where positions were established for the night.

10-11 APRIL

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry, at APFELSTADT and SUZENERUCKEN, after being passed through by the 3d Bn, was directed to attack to the east in the center of the Regimental Sector. At 1805, the town of MOLSDORF was taken and the Battalion continued to advance on the towns of WALTERSLEBEN and MOBISBURG. At 2055, elements were in WALTERSLEBEN and had cleared the town by midnight. At the same time, elements were moving to take MOBISBURG and at 0235, 11 April 1945, MOBISBURG was cleared without meeting resistance. The Battalion halted in the vicinity of MOBISBURG and WALTERSLEBEN for the remainder of the night.

At 0745, 10 April 1945, the 319th Infantry was notified it would be relieved of the mission of maintaining law and order in GUTHA and to be prepared at 1200 to move on one hours notice to support the attack to the east. At 1200, orders were received to move to an assembly area vicinity GAMSTADT. The regiment moved out with the 1st Bn leading, followed by the 2d and 3d Bns and by 1815, the units had closed into the new assembly area. Two hours later, the Regiment began movement to a forward assembly area at MOLSDORF and EISCHLEBEN. The 1st Bn closed into the area vicinity of MOLSDORF at 2330. The 3d Bn closed into the vicinity of EISCHLEBEN at 2300. The 2d Bn closed into vicinity of MOLSDORF at 0015, 11



April 1945. The Regiment remained in the new assembly area for the night.

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry, in the towns of GISPERSLEBEN and KILIANI, on the morning of 11 April 1945 continued fighting to clear the towns. At 0725, a counterattack against the 2d Bn positions was launched from the vicinity of ERFURT. The Battalion withstood the attack without loss of ground and with the 1st Bn 319th Infantry on the right, succeeded in repulsing it with severe losses to the enemy. At 1320 fighting still continued in GISPERSLEBEN and KILIANI, but later in the afternoon the towns were cleared and the 2d Bn moved, at 1955, into positions on the high ground northwest of KIRSPLEHEN. The Battalion occupied the town and surrounding area throughout the night.

At 0500, 11 April 1945, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry, near SALOMONSBORN, commenced movement to GISPERSLEBEN. After aiding the 2d Bn in repelling a counterattack in vicinity of GISPERSLEBEN, the Battalion reorganized and at 1320 entered the town to help clear it. After the town had been cleared of enemy, the Battalion remained there throughout the night.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, on the right of the Regimental Sector, was still fighting in the towns of BINDER-SLEBEN and ALACH. By 1130, BINDERSLEBEN had been cleared and at 1400, after stubborn resistance, ALACH was free of enemy. At 1830, orders were received to clear the town of MARBACH where a fanatical enemy was reported holding the town. "K" Company was in MARBACH clearing the town at 2230 and continued fighting throughout the night. At 0045, the Battalion had taken up positions for the night northeast of GISPERSLEBEN in the vicinity of (J-308739 - J-325750), where it remained for the night.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry, on the left of Regimental sector, moved to the north from BISCHLEBEN at 0600, 11 April 1945, and at 0705 it had advanced approximately a mile against small arms fire. At 1215, the Battalion with "E" Company on the left and "F" Company on the right, had fought its way to a position in the woods south of ERFURT (J-304664 - J-306663) and was receiving intensive small arms and automatic weapons fire. At 1740, a strong counterattack, supported by tanks, was hurled at Battalion positions (J-305670 - J-310670). The attack was repulsed



and by 1900, the Battalion had consolidated its positions with elements in HOCHHEIM. At the close of the period the positions were maintained south of ERFURT and in HOCHHEIM for the night.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry, in the center of the Regimental Sector, vicinity of MOBISBURG and WALTERSLEBEN, at 0430, 11 April 1945, moved out in an attack to the north. During the morning, the Battalion cleared the wooded area south of ERFURT and by 1630 halted at (J-318653 - J-324654) where positions were prepared under heavy fire. Forward movement was halted here for the night.

On the Regimental right, the morning of 11 April 1945, the 3d Bn 318th Infantry attacked to the north. At 1230, leading elements were at (J-339646) south of MELCHENDORF. At 1350, leading elements had advanced 400 yards southeast of MELCHENDORF. With the mission to cut communication lines to ERFURT the drive was continued to the north. At 1700, elements of the Battalion were in the towns of DITTELSTEDT, URBICH and BUSSLEBEN and had cut off the east and southeast escape routes from ERFURT. Little resistance had been encountered in the advance to these points.

On the morning of 11 April 1945, the 4th Armored Division began passing through the Division. One Combat Command passed north of ERFURT and the other Combat Command passed south along the axis of the Autobahn. The 319th Infantry followed the advance of the 4th Armored Division's spearhead, by-passing the 318th Infantry and advancing towards the next objective, the city of WEIMAR (J-5270).

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry moved from EISCHLEBEN at 0700, 11 April 1945, to take up the left flank of the Regimental Sector. At 0910, a halt was made at EGSTADT to permit elements of the 4th Armored Division to pass. At 1400, the Battalion, advancing on RHODA, was south of WINDISCH-HOLZHAUSEN. The attack on RHODA was made at 1540 and ten minutes later all resistance had ceased. In quick succession, the towns of MONCHENHOLZHAUSEN, OBERNISSA, SOHNSTEDT, BECHSTEDTSTRASS and UTZBERG were captured. After capturing the latter town, the Battalion remained in this vicinity for the night.

At 0700, 11 April 1945, the 1st Bn 319th Infantry advanced to the east. At 0910, the Battalion was in

BECHSTEDT-WAGD and preparing to continue movement toward the towns of KETTBACH and HAZN. At 1310, elements had taken KETTBACH and HAZN and were advancing on EICHELBOHN. The Battalion continued to advance along the axis of the Autobahn and prior to the close of the period, was assembled in POSSENDORF (J-5166).

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve, moved to BECHSTEDT-WALD at 1100, 11 April 1945. At 1200, the Battalion entered SCHELLRODA meeting only slight opposition west of the town. At 1700 motor movement was made to TROISTEDT (J-4766) where the Battalion remained during the night. Patrols were sent to contact elements of the 355th Infantry at GUTENDORF, on the Division right flank.

The 319th Infantry prepared an ultimatum addressed to the Commanding Officer of the WEIMAR garrison requesting surrender of the town by 0830, 12 April 1945, or the town would be destroyed by artillery.

An ultimatum delivered to the garrison commander of ERFURT to surrender the city by midnight was ignored by the enemy and preparations were being made to assault the city at the close of the period. During the day, stiff and determined opposition was encountered by our forces attacking the approaches to ERFURT. Two determined counterattacks were launched by the enemy against GISPERSLEBEN and KIBIANI and a third was received at the southern outskirts of ERFURT. Considerable fire from small arms, automatic weapons and direct fire weapons was received, while enemy artillery fire was confined to direct fire weapons, principally the 88 mm gun.

#### 12 APRIL

On the morning of 12 April 1945, the 2d Bn 317th Infantry received orders at 0905 to move to WEIMAR and relieve the 319th Infantry, by-passing all resistance enroute. At 0940, the Battalion was enroute by truck to NIEDERZIMMERN, with advance elements already detrucking in that town. At 1430, the 319th Infantry was relieved and the 2d Bn remained in WEIMAR with the mission of maintaining law and order.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, at (J-308739 - J-325750) northeast of GISPERSLEBEN, with "K" Company at MARBACH, continued the attack on ERFURT on the morning of 12 April 1945. During the morning, resistance was light, but at 1430, the Battalion was encountering increased small

arms and sniper fire at (J-311715). By 1830, the Battalion entered the city and made contact with the 318th Infantry. Meanwhile, "K" Company had cleared MARBACH in the morning and at 1200 was advancing towards ERFURT from the north-west. Heavy fighting ensued, but the Company stubbornly advanced and by late afternoon was within the city. At 1915, organized resistance ceased and the Battalion moved to an assembly area north of ERFURT.

On 12 April 1945, at 0930, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry attacked from its positions at GISPERSLEBEN. At 0835 the leading elements at (U-295725) were undergoing small arms and assault gun fire from the south. The enemy was using direct fire weapons within the city in an effort to slow the advance. Heavy fighting continued. At 1430 the tempo of fighting increased within the city. At 1445, contact was made with elements of the 318th Infantry at (J-311706), but fighting still continued in the 1st Bn sector. At 1605, the Battalion was notified to disengage itself and entruck for movement towards JENA (J-7082). At 1645, the Battalion, in assembly area north of ERFURT, was entrucking and at 0040, 13 April 1945, closed into KOTSCHAU (J-6369) where it remained for the night.

The 1st and 2d Bns 318th Infantry jumped off in coordinated attacks on ERFURT at 0630, 12 April 1945. The 2d Bn on the left, at the outskirts of ERFURT and in HOCHHEIM, moved forward against resistance until 0755 at which time it was held up to allow air support to make a strike on centers of resistance in the city. Three hours later the enemy had broken and fled. At 1200, the Battalion was on line in the southwest portion of ERFURT and driving north on the east bank of the stream. At 1835, the elements were advancing against only slight resistance in the vicinity of (J-291690 - J-308690). At 1845, one company had penetrated to (J-304696).

The 1st Bn, on the Regimental right, advanced on the southern section of the city. At 1100, the elements of the Battalion were subjected to considerable automatic and small arms fire at (J-321687) and (J-338689). At 1325, a bridge was taken intact at (J-325689), thus enabling troops to cross the canal. At 1735, contact was made with the 3d Bn 317th Infantry, but the enemy had been overcome in that area and at 1915, all organized resistance in the city ceased. The 1st and 2d Bns cleared the entire city of the enemy and remained in the city during the night.



The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, in the vicinity of DITTELSTADT, UBICH and BUSSLEBEN, on 12 April 1945, maintained positions cutting off the escape routes to the east and southeast. In the morning, elements moved north on LINDERBACH and AZMANNSDORF. Those town were cleared by 1325 and the Battalion remained there throughout the day and night.

On the morning of 12 April 1945, the 319th Infantry prepared to assault the city of WEIMAR. The ultimatum which had been delivered to the garrison commander was to expire at 0900. The 2d Bn, near THOISTEDT on the morning of 12 April 1945, advanced northeast towards WEIMAR without meeting opposition. At 0915 the Battalion relieved a prisoner of war camp of 2000 allied prisoners. At 0945, leading elements were at (J-496685) and by 1325, the Battalion was in WEIMAR which had surrendered unconditionally. The town was cleared and at 1430, the Battalion was relieved in occupation of WEIMAR by the 2d Bn 317th Infantry. Preparations were made to join in the attack on JENA. At 1945, the Battalion was moving into the town of GROSSCHWABHAUSEN (J-6366) where it remained for the night.

Buchanwald  
was NW 9  
Weimar in LA  
AD 2m

POW

What camp  
was this?

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, on the morning of 12 April 1945, assembled in DOSSENDORF prepared to advance on WEIMAR, but at 0945 it received orders to move by truck to attack JENA. At 1510, the leading elements were passing through NEIDERSYNDERSTEDT (J-6060) and at 1700, the Battalion had reached GOTTEN where it detrucked. Movement on foot was made to the vicinity of DOBRITSCHEN where a halt was made for the night. Leading elements encountered a strongly held road block at (J-677667) and after establishing a perimeter defense, remained in this area for the night.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, on the morning of 12 April 1945, moved to ULLA (4769), closing into that town at 0945. Orders were received to attack JENA. The Battalion moved by motor convoy to NEIDERSYNDERSTEDT closing at 1615.

13 April

The 13 April 1945 found the 317th Infantry and the 319th Infantry poised to attack JENA (J-7065). A coordinated attack was to be made with the 317th Infantry striking from the north and northwest and the 319th Infantry from the west and southwest. The attack was set for 0730.



The 1st Bn 317th Infantry was at KOTSHAU (6369) and the 3d Bn was in the vicinity of (J-680690) where it had spent the night. When the attack began, stiff enemy small arms, automatic weapons and bazooka fire was met. The 3d Bn was ordered to cross the SAALE RIVER and proceeded to do so, crossing at the Combat Command "B" bridge (J-726695) at 1400. It fought south along the east bank of the SAALE RIVER and by 1350 had crushed all resistance in that part of JENA east of the SAALE RIVER. Meanwhile, the 1st Bn had seized and held all high ground dominating JENA from the north and northwest to cut off all escape routes in that sector.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry was assembled at DOBRITCHEN (J-6364) with patrols out to the flanks of a road block at (J-676681). This Battalion was to join the attack from the southwest.

When the attack began, both the 1st and 2d Bns 319th Infantry met strong resistance on the steep wooded approaches to JENA. By 1115, the 1st Bn had cleared all resistance on the west bank of the SAALE RIVER and had entered JENA. That part of JENA, west of the SAALE RIVER, was cleared and the Battalion set up security and police guards until relieved by the 1st Bn 317th Infantry at 2200. Without rest, the 1st Bn 319th Infantry immediately moved east by truck to assemble at TOPPEIN (K-0062). The 2d Bn halted the attack when the 1st Bn entered JENA. It then proceeded to an area vicinity (J-731605) by foot and there entrucked toward an assembly area at (K-0160).

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop reconnoitered in advance of the 317th and 319th Infantries. The 1st platoon captured an airfield containing approximately thirty twin engine bombers and several fighters in vicinity (825725). At the close of the day, reconnoitering to the east in the zone where the 318th Infantry was to assemble, the troop had reached areas at (J-853715) and (J-825680).

At 1445, the 3d Bn 319th Infantry moved east to (K-0264) and leaving security at Crossroad (J-891615), the bridge (K-030650) and railroad bridge (K-037641), made preparations to take GERA (K-0662).

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry, until relieved by the 241st Field Artillery Battalion, continued to guard important installations at ERFURT (J-3170). After being

241st FA Bd

relieved, it made ready to entruck east at (140630). The 2d and 3d Bns remained in assembly area in ERFURT (J-3170) until 1700, at which time they moved to a temporary assembly area in vicinity (J-7170).

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry continued to guard important installations and maintained law and order in WEIMAR (J-5172).

14 April

The 319th Infantry, on the 14 April 1945, had continued its rapid advance east and at dawn, after an ultimatum to surrender had been refused by the city's garrison, was in a position to assault GERA (K-0460). The 1st Bn had assembled near TOPPEIN (K-0062). Elements of the 3d Bn were assembled in the vicinity (K-0262) and were prepared to attack from the east. The 2d Bn, assembled at (K-0160), were prepared to clear the woods and advance from the west.

The 905th Field Artillery Bn and the 315th Field Artillery Bn fired twenty-one missions in preparation and the Infantry began to advance at 0900.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, reinforced with "C" Company 702d Tank Bn and one platoon of the 811th Tank Destroyer Bn (SP), moved against an enemy threat reported by the 315th Field Artillery Bn, but failed to contact the enemy.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, moving east against scattered but determined resistance from small groups, was able to enter that part of GERA (K-0460) east of the WEISSE ELSTER RIVER and crush all resistance before noon.

However, the 2d Bn 319th Infantry ran into very heavy resistance from determined, dug-in infantry in the wooded approach to the city. Artillery fire was directed on the spots of resistance. The 315th and 905th Field Artillery Bns fired thirty-eight missions on this area. Finally the stubborn resistance was eliminated and the Battalion was able to enter that part of GERA west of the WEISSE ELSTER RIVER.

All resistance in GERA ended by 1300 and the 319th Infantry was ready to move east. It was decided to leave the 3d Bn 319th Infantry in GERA, with the responsibility of maintaining law and order and patrolling the surrounding

vicinity until the 317th Infantry could be brought up as relief. The Battalion remained assembled there as Regimental Reserve.

The 1st and 2d Bns 319th Infantry, with their supporting elements, were prepared to pursue the enemy at 1700. The 2d Bn moved to a forward assembly area vicinity (K-3658), arriving there at approximately 1945. The 1st Bn moved to vicinity (K-2756). The 1st Bn was directed to attack CHIMMITSHAU (K-2758), while the 2d Bn was to clear GLAUCHAU (K-3958).

At 1300, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry left JENA (J-7065) to relieve the 3d Bn 319th Infantry at GERA (K-046). The relief was effected at approximately 2300. The 2d Bn performed the important duty of policing WEIMAR (J-5172) until relieved by the 5th Ranger Bn. At 1800, it moved by truck to the vicinity of (J-891615), south of the Autobahn, for the purpose of clearing the woods northwest of GERA. The 3d Bn remained on patrol in JENA until relieved by elements of the 5th Ranger Bn at 2200.

While the 319th and 317th Infantries were so engaged, the 318th Infantry continued the lightning advance east in the wake of the 4th Armored Division. Its motor march was organized in a column of Battalions, with 3d Bn leading and the 2d and 1st Bns bringing up the rear. The 1st Bn moved from ERFURT (J-3069) at 0630, rejoined its Regiment and traveled approximately one hundred and four miles. The 3d and 2d Bns 318th Infantry left from vicinity of (J-722692) and covered approximately fifty two miles. Only scattered resistance was encountered by the column. The largest town passed through was EISENBERG (J-925715), which was cleared by 1000 and occupied by the 318th Infantry until elements of the 3d Bn 319th Infantry assumed the responsibility for law and order in the town. The 1st Bn 318th Infantry had the additional mission of establishing prisoner of war enclosures and evacuating prisoners enroute.

15 APRIL  
On the 15th April 1945, the 318th Infantry, behind the 4th Armored Division, continued to advance rapidly to the east in the ZWICK-MULDER RIVER bridgehead. At the close of the day, in accordance with Field Order Number 37, plans were in progress for the relief of the armor in the Regimental Sector.

At 0810, 15 April 1945, the 3d Bn 319th Infantry moved out to attack MEERANE (K-3260). No opposition was

ZWICK-MULDER  
318/4 AD  
F/037



met, hence the mission was completed at approximately 0930. The Battalion remained assembled there as Regimental Reserve.

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry reached the detrucking point at (J-891616) at approximately 1230 and immediately proceeded to work through the large woods northwest of GERA (K-0562). It cleared all resistance and eliminated the snipers who had been attacking lone vehicles traveling along the Autobahn. Some scattered resistance was reduced at (J-9464). The Battalion then proceeded to BAD KOSTRITZ (J-9967) sending out patrols to investigate the woods in vicinity (J-9668). The towns of KLOSTERLAUNIT (J-9065) and TAUTENHAIM (J-9366) were cleared by 1910.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry was at the gates of CHIMMITSHAU (K-2758) ready to attack at dawn. At 0210, the 315th and the 905th Field Artillery Bns commenced firing five missions in preparation. [Stubborn resistance in the form of small arms, automatic weapons, mortar, bazooka and sniper fire was encountered. This delayed the advance as sharp engagements lasted the greater part of the day.] However, the determined 1st Bn finally cleared the town and all but limited harassing sniper fire was eliminated by 1200.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry also experienced great difficulty in performing it's mission of taking GLAUCHAU (K-3958). It moved from the assembly area at 0740. Considerable small arms, automatic weapons, bazooka, mortar and sniper fire, was encountered. A particularly strong defensive position located in the center of town was knocked out only with the greatest difficulty. Elements of the 702d Tank Bn and the 811th Tank Destroyer Bn (SP) in support, fired at buildings at point blank range to successfully knock out enemy strong points. By nightfall, the 2d Bn had cleared all but the southeast section of town where groups of fanatical Nazis fought.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, relieved of it's duty of occupying JENA (J-7065), moved by motor to GRIMMITSCHAU (K-2758) to relieve the 1st Bn 319th Infantry. The relief was begun at 1916.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry continued to occupy GERA (K-0460), guarding important installations in the vicinity. Security was provided at bridges (K-031656) and (J-891615).



16 April

On 16 April 1945, the Division continued to reduce points of resistance, relieve the 4th Armored Division in the ZWICK-MULDE RIVER bridgehead and prepare for an attack on CHEMNITZ (K-5359).

4th AD

The 318th Infantry moved approximately twenty miles east to relieve the 4th Armored Division in its sector and deploy for the attack. The 1st Bn 318th Infantry became the Regimental Reserve and remained assembled at (K-585690). It established liaison with the 385th Infantry on the north and provided security of a train loaded with food and medical supplies. The 2d and 3d Bns, in the vicinity of HARTMANNSDORF (K-561672), relieved the 4th Armored Division in the Regimental Sector at 1557. The 2d Bn moved to high ground on the north sector and established outposts, while the 3d Bn moved to high ground on the south sector and kept contact with the 319th Infantry.

The 319th Infantry moved by motor to an assembly area at LIMBACH (K-5263) to effect relief of the 4th Armored Division. The relief was effected at approximately 1515 and a Regimental Command Post was established in the vicinity of PLEISSA (K-5461). The 1st and 3d Bns relieved elements of the 4th Armored Division in the ZWICK-MULDE RIVER bridgehead and deployed for an attack in the area west of CHEMNITZ (K-6359). The 2d Bn, cleared GLAUCHAU (K-3958), moved at 1630 to assemble at PLEISSA (K-5461) and become the Regimental Reserve.

Before the attack on CHEMNITZ, a fierce artillery concentration by Division Artillery and attached units was fired. The fire was to be lifted to permit negotiations on a surrender ultimatum presented to the city's garrison commander and then resumed immediately thereafter if the terms were refused. The 905th and the 315th Field Artillery Bns fired prior to the negotiations. At noon, the fire was lifted, but resumed again at 1625 when the ultimatum was ignored. Division Artillery and supporting units fired forty six missions to lay the ground work for the Infantry. It continued hammering away until the Infantry was ready to assault CHEMNITZ.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry remained at GERA (K-0561) maintaining law and order there and in adjacent areas. The 2d Bn was at BAD KOSTRIN (K-0166) with a similar mission. Elements from this Battalion guarded the large

~~ammunition dump~~ discovered in the woods vicinity (J-944647). The 3d Bn likewise had a similar mission at GRUMMITSCHAU (K-2852).

17 APRIL

In addition to performing routine duties of maintaining law and order in the Divisions Zone of advance, the Division continued to occupy and improve positions surrounding CHEMNITZ (K-6359) on the 17 April 1945.

While the 1st Bn 318th Infantry remained assembled as Regimental Reserve at (K-585690), the 2d and 3d Bns continued to improve their respective positions in the ZWICK-MULDE RIVER bridgehead. The 2d Bn patrolled the north sector, while the 3d Bn patrolled the south sector. The perimeter, fluid in nature, extended from (K-440660) to (K-490605) and the vicinity of (K-610570). Patrols constantly probing for the enemy, entered DRAISDORF (K-6366) and took several prisoners.

Recall  
order

On short notice, orders were received recalling the Division from the attack position. At 0940 all elements were alerted for movement to a new assembly point and every vehicle available to the Division was to be used to the maximum to successfully complete the new mission.

The 1st and 3d Bns 319th Infantry were relieved of responsibility in their assigned sector by elements of the 4th Armored Division at 1800. The Battalion was assembled and made ready for the ordered movement. The 2d Bn remained at PLEISSA (K-5461) as the Regimental Reserve.

Meanwhile, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry continued to guard important installations in GERA (K-0561) and bridges in vicinity of (K-031656) and (J-891615). The 2d Bn patrolled the town of BAD KOSTRIN (K-0166) and guarded the large ammunition dump located in the woods at (J-944647). The 3d Bn remained at GRUMMITSCHAU (K-2852).

At 1030, 18 April 1945, Combat Team 319, at the completion of its long march, closed into its designated assembly area east of BARCHAU (03449) in the vicinity of BARCHAU (03449). BARCHAU (03449) was chosen as the Regimental Command Post. The 1st Bn occupied BARCHAU (03449). The 2d Bn took over BARCHAU (03449) and the 3d Bn moved to BARCHAU (03449). The 3d Bn was given the mission of entering BARCHAU and maintaining the necessary

SECTION IV

MOVEMENT SOUTH AND  
OCCUPATION OF NURENBERG

18 April

The Division, on 18 April 1945, having received orders to move to a new assembly area northeast of BAMBERG (02648), in the vicinity SCHLESWITZ (03658), worked furiously to complete it's relief by elements of the 76th Infantry Division and the 4th Armored Division. At 1310, Field Message Number 3 was received by all the Division units. It designated the route of march west on the Autobahn to ERFURT at the intersection of Highway Number 4, thence south on Highway Number 4 to the vicinity of the new assembly area. The motor march was to be in five serials, Combat Team 319 forming the lead, followed by Combat Team 318, Combat Team 317, a serial made up of Headquarters, Signal and attached elements, and one composed of service units bringing up the rear.

B4c-B4c  
AMAD

Combat Team 319 was completely relieved at 0035 and immediately started to close. At 1508 the leading elements of Combat Team 319's motor serial had crossed the XX Corps Initial Point, intersection Route 40 and the AUTOBAHN-ERFURT (K-460579). The motor march involved a movement of approximately 190 miles.

By 0650, the 417th Infantry had relieved Combat Team 318. Combat Team 318 closed in and made preparations for the motor march. The XX Corps Initial Point was crossed at 1837. During the march, the column was strafed. At 2300, an ME 210 was shot down by "A" Battery 633d AAA AW (mobile) Bn in the vicinity of (J-655588).

XX

Combat Team 317 having been relieved during the night by elements of the 76th Infantry Division proceeded to close into the vicinity of (J-045655).

19 April

At 1030, 19 April 1945, Combat Team 319, at the completion of its long march, closed into its designated assembly area east of BAMBERG (02648) in the vicinity of SCHELSTZ (03558). NAISA (03450) was chosen as the Regimental Command Post. The 1st Bn occupied LOHNDORF (03751). The 2d Bn took over MELKENDORF (03669) and the 3d Bn moved to LITYENDORF (03650). The 2d Bn was given the mission of entering BAMBERG and maintaining the necessary



patrols therein. A joint mission was given to the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. By 2215 and 2d Bn had occupied the east section of the city and, together with the 80th Reconnaissance Cavalry Troop, had initiated security measures.

Combat Team 318 completed its motor march at 1315 and remained assembled in the vicinity of PEULENDORF (03655) as part of the XX Corps Reserve.

Combat Team 317 had followed and was closing in on its new assembly area, vicinity EHRL (03760), late in the afternoon.

**20 April**

On 20 April 1945, Combat Team 318 remained in vicinity of PEULENDORF (03655) as part of the XX Corps Reserve. The men were given a needed rest and an opportunity to carry on maintenance of equipment.

XX Corps  
Reserve

The remaining elements of Combat Team 319, at 0730, began entering BAMBERG (02648) and took the necessary steps for preserving law and order. The elements of the Combat Team were able to rest, re-equip and reorganize.

Combat Team 317 remained assembled in vicinity of EHRL (03760) utilizing the time for concurrent training, resting and re-equipping the men. Elements of the Combat Team occupied and maintained law and order in WURGAL (04058), BURGESAN (03960), SCHLAPPENREUTH (03858), and BURGELLERN (03659).

On the 20 April 1945, NURNBERG (T4200) fell to the 7th Army. The next day Combat Team 318 was directed to relieve elements of the 3d Infantry Division and occupy the east section of the city. At 1200, the Combat Team entrucked for a forty five mile trip to effect the relief. The relief was started at 1830.

Nurnberg  
Falls to  
7th US Army

Meanwhile, Combat Team 319, in BAMBERG (02648) and Combat Team 317, in vicinity of EHRL (03760), maintained law and order, reorganized and conducted tactical training of the troops.

**22 April**

Combat Team 318, on the 22 April 1945, continued to patrol the eastern section of NURNBERG (T4200). Food riots and disturbances were quelled and law and order restored. Forty four vital military warehouses and



installations were guarded. In it's area, all outgoing roads were guarded by road blocks. Some 2200 displaced persons were taken into custody and turned over to the proper authorities to prevent any looting or outbreaks.

58th ARMD  
FABN (Sep)

By 1250, the 58th Armored Field Artillery Bn had relieved Combat Team 319 at BAMBERG (02648) and preparations were made at once for Combat Team 319 to move to NURNBERG (T4200) and police the western part of the city. Combat Team 319 relieved the 7th Infantry at NURNBERG (T4200) the next day and took over the responsibility for the western section of the city at 1800.

7th INF Regt  
3d Div

Combat Team 317 assembled in vicinity of EHRL (03760) and prepared to move to NURNBERG (T4200) to assume the responsibility for occupying the center of the city. The movement was completed and the Combat Team completed the relief of the 15th Infantry at 1430 the following day.

On the 22 April 1945, the entire Division reverted to the XX Corps Reserve.

80th TO  
XX Corp Res.

#### 23 - 27 April

During the period from the 23 April 1945 to 27 April 1945, the Division remained assembled in NURNBERG (T4200). The missions ordered were to maintain law and order, enforce military law, prevent looting, enforce curfew, evacuate displaced persons to camps at (0441029) and (0472950), guard a large Prisoner of War Enclosure at (0472950) and carry on technical and tactical training. But above all, the men were given a needed rest, an opportunity for rehabilitation and time for care and cleaning of their equipment after their strenuous march east.

POW  
DP Camp

During this period, other elements of the XX Corps, taking advantage of the disorganization of the enemy, continued the lightning drive southeast from NURNBERG. While the enemy did resist locally in towns and occasionally from key terrain features, it became apparent that he was becoming weaker and less capable of any action other than defensive and that calculated risks, which may have proven disastrous when the German Army was less deteriorated, could be taken to achieve tactical ends. The drive was to continue until contact was made with the Russians somewhere in the vicinity of the German-Austrian border.

#### 25 April

On the 25 April 1945, preparation was made for the

Division to continue southeast to cross the DANUBE RIVER near REGENSBERG (U-1854) and attack through the bridgehead which the 65th Infantry Division had established. 65th

THE 13th ARMED DIVISION

25 APRIL

At 0200, 28 April 1945, the plan for moving the Division to a forward assembly area south of REGENSBERG (U-1854), was distributed to all units of the Division. The plan provided for the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop to move out at 0600 and secure the assembly area near ABRACH (U-1546). The motor column was organized into an order of Combat Team 318, Combat Team 319, Headquarters and attached units and Combat Team 317. Vehicles of the 13th Armored Division and the 4043, 3403, and 3393 Quartermaster Trucking Companies furnished the transportation. The first serial was directed to cross the Initial Point at (T-470975), south of ABRACH, at 0900.

13 AD  
Qm Truck Co.

The mission as set forth in the plan called for the Division to attack southeast following elements of the 13th Armored Division.

F/6 436  
13th AD

Combat Team 317 was directed to remain for the day in EURNBERG (U-4200) as the Division Reserve and to move to the forward assembly area the following day at 1700.

The motor march was approximately fifty two miles. However, it covered an area which was heavily over taxed with essential priority military traffic.

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop crossed the DANUBE RIVER, vicinity of ABRACH (U-1546), at 1730. The 2d Platoon reconnoitered and closed into the vicinity of EURNBERG (U-4200). The 3d Platoon performed a similar mission at EURNBERG (U-4200), while the 1st Platoon reconnoitered.

Combat Team 318 crossed the Initial Point (T-470975) at 0915 and closed into EURNBERG (U-4200) at 1200. Combat Team 319 moved from EURNBERG (U-4200) at 1200, but was still enroute at 2400. Combat Team 317 remained in EURNBERG (U-4200) as Division Reserve.

29 April  
SECTION V

COMMITMENT AT REGENSBURG  
AND THE ISAR RIVER BRIDGEHEAD

28 April

At 0200, 28 April 1945, Field Message Number 34 setting forth the plans for moving the Division to a forward assembly area south of REGENSBURG (U-1845), was distributed to all units of the Division. The plan provided for the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop to move out at 0600 and secure the assembly area near ABRACH (U-1546). The motor column was organized into four serials. In order of Combat Team 318, Combat Team 319, Headquarters and attached units and Combat Team 317. Vehicles of the 13th Armored Division and the 4049, 3903, and 3393 Quartermaster Trucking Companies furnished the transportation. The first serial was directed to cross the Initial Point at (T-470975), south of NURNBERG, at 0900.

13 AD  
Qm Truck Co

The mission as set forth in Field Order Number 38 called for the Division to attack southeast following elements of the 13th Armored Division.

F/O 438  
13m AD

Combat Team 317 was directed to remain for the day in NURNBERG (T-4200) as the Division Reserve and to move to the forward assembly area the following day at 1700.

The motor march was approximately fifty two miles. However, it covered an extremely poor road net work which was heavily over taxed with essential priority military traffic.

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop crossed the DANUBE RIVER, vicinity of ABBACH (U-1546), at 1730. The 2d Platoon reconnoitered and closed into the vicinity of TEUGE (U-135415). The 3d Platoon performed a similar mission at THALMASSING (U-240445), while the 1st Platoon reached SAALHAUPT.

Combat Team 318 crossed the Initial Point (T-470975) at 0913 and closed into OBERISLING (U-2052) at 2340. Combat Team 319 moved from NURNBERG (T-4200) at 1200, but due to the tie ups in the road net work, was still enroute at 2400. Combat Team 317 remained in NURNBERG (T-4200) as Division Reserve.



29 April

On the 29 April 1945, immediately upon the arrival of Combat Team 318 at the forward assembly area at OBERISLING (V-2052), the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was assigned the mission of reconnoitering southeast in the sector of advance. The 2d and 3d Platoons reached (U-348260) and (U-376156) without meeting any resistance. Three hundred prisoners, including a Hungarian General and his Staff, were taken.

Combat Team 318 moved by motor behind elements of the 13th Armored Division. The 1st and 2d Bns advanced approximately thirty miles to the vicinity of WEICHOFEN (U-4523) and stopped only because the armor had halted due to the lack of fuel. The 3d Bn remained in the assembly area at HOLKERING (U-1751) as the Combat Team Reserve. 13<sup>th</sup> AD

At 0940, 29 April 1945, Combat Team 319 closed into an assembly area near DUNZLING (U-2041). The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon immediately reconnoitered routes south. The 1st and 3d Bns, in column, initiated movement south by shuttle. Light resistance was met and the advance was rapid. At the close of the period the 3d Bn had reached the ISAR RIVER near ESSENBAACH (U-3010) and had occupied ALHEIM (U-2909). The 1st Bn occupied ERGOLDSBACH (U-2920). At 2300 the enemy failed in an attempt to ambush, with automatic weapons and hand grenades, a patrol of the 1st Bn at (U-284209). The 2d Bn remained assembled as reserve in vicinity of DUNZLING (U-2041).

Combat Team 317 moved by motor from NURNBERG (T-4200) at 1000 and closed at KOERING (U-2647) as Division Reserve at 1740.

At 2340, 29 April 1945, Combat Team 318 was ordered to establish a bridgehead at DINGOLFING on the ISAR RIVER. Priority was given troops of this Combat Team to pass through the limited bridgehead held by Combat Command "R" of the 13th Armored Division. CCK 13<sup>th</sup> AD

The 305th Engineer Combat Bn was prepared to support the crossing by operating the assault boats, while the 179th Engineer Combat Bn assembled equipment preparatory to constructing a floating treadway bridge and ferry across the ISAR RIVER near DINGOLFING (U-5014) and MANNING (U-5717). 179<sup>th</sup> Eng Bn

The 1st Bn Combat Team 318 immediately moved by motor



30 April

to forward assembly area at (U-575185) and from there proceeded by foot to a crossing site vicinity MANNING (U-581180). The crossing was made in company waves of twenty boats each. The Bn completed the crossing at 1715, 30 April 1945. With "A" and "B" Companies abreast, the Battalion set out on an advance southwest along the south bank of the river and completed its mission of advancing on DINGOLFING (U-5014). Light fire from small arms and automatic weapons was encountered and scattered, but increasing resistance was met. At the close of the period, the forward elements of the Battalion had reached the vicinity of (U-535150).

The 2d Bn Combat Team 318 began crossing the ISAR RIVER immediately behind the 1st Bn and completed the crossing at 2137, 30 April 1945. A reorganization was completed and the Battalion moved south to (U-600155).

The 3d Bn Combat Team 318, at 2200, followed the 2d Bn in the assault boats. At the close of the period, the crossing was still in progress, with "L", "I" and "K" Companies on the south side of the river and the remainder of the Battalion on the north side.

Meanwhile, Combat Team 319 cleared the north bank of the river in the Regimental Sector. It rounded up the enemy cut off by the knocked out bridges spanning the ISAR RIVER and also reconnoitered for possible ferry and pontoon bridge sites. At the close of the period, because of the swiftness of the stream and the difficulties in quickly constructing a bridge, it was decided to cross the Combat Team in assault boats.

Combat Team 317 moved at 1330 from its assembly area at KIFERING (U-2647) to an assembly area in vicinity of WEICHSHOFEN (U-4523). "E" Company occupied the north bank of the ISAR RIVER opposite DINGOLFING (U-5014) and prepared to support the attack to be made by Combat Team 318.

The Division Artillery in support of the crossing and in preparation for the attack on DINGOLFING (U-5014), fired twenty three missions.

1st Troops, 80th Infantry Division, was activated 12 August 1943, and assigned and/or attached to Special Troops are as follows: Headquarters Special Troops, Headquarters Company, 1st Platoon, 1st Brigade Light Infantry Company, 80th Quartermaster Company, 80th Signal Company, Attached Medical, Attached Chaplain, Attached Band.