

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1

OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE BOTH INFANTRY DIVISION

I	Disbandment and Movement to Forward Assembly Area.....	1
II	Movement to Battle La Guillemette.....	2
III	Forward March Toward Argentina.....	3
IV	Battle of Argentine-Panama Gap.....	10
V	Movement to The East.....	15
VI	Capture of Chalons Sur Saone.....	24

HISTORY

1.	Original Unit.....	12
2.	BOTH INFANTRY DIVISION	12
3.	Strength.....	24
4.	Station..... AUGUST 1944	25
5.	Marches.....	24
6.	Campaign.....	24
7.	Division..... <i>Discussed in Part 1</i>	24
8.	Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.....	15
9.	Losses in Action, Officers and Enlisted Men.....	13
10.	Former and Present Members who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action.....	24
11.	Photographs of Personnel, Important Scenes or Events.....	14

280-086

OCT 18 1946.

25737
OCT 18 1946
25737
COPY 2

Less Photos

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1

OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION

	<u>Page</u>
I Disembarkment and Movement To Forward Assembly Area.....	1
II Movement to Sille Le Guillaume.....	4
III Movement North Toward Argentan.....	9
IV Battle of Argentan-Facaize Gap.....	12
V Movement to The East.....	20
VI Capture of Chalons Sur Marne.....	24

PART 2

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

1. Original Unit.....	1a
2. Changes in Organization.....	1a
3. Strength.....	2a
4. Stations.....	2a
5. Marches.....	2a
6. Campaigns.....	2a
7. Battles..... Included in Part 1.....	
8. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.....	1b
9. Losses in Action, Officers and Enlisted Men.....	1c
10. Former and Present Members who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action.....	2c
11. Photographs of Personnel, Important Scenes or Events.....	1d

SECTION I

DISSEMBARKMENT AND MOVEMENT TO FORWARD ASSEMBLY AREA

OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE BOTH INFANTRY DIVISION AUGUST 1944

Section	Page
I DISSEMBARKMENT AND MOVEMENT TO FORWARD ASSEMBLY AREA.....	1 - 3
II MOVEMENT TO SILLE LE GUILLAUME.....	4 - 8
III MOVEMENT NORTH TOWARD ARGENTAN.....	9 - 11
IV BATTLE OF ARGENTAN-FACAISE GAP.....	12 - 19
V MOVEMENT TO THE EAST.....	20 - 23
VI CAPTURE OF CHALONS SUR MARNE.....	24 - 26

The Third United States Army, commanded by General George S. Patton, Jr., began operational at 010000 August 1944. Because the VIII Corps had advanced so rapidly that it had passed beyond the other divisions of the Third United States Army, it was, as of the 1 August 1944, placed under the control of the Third United States Army. In addition to the VIII Corps, the Third United States Army was composed of the XII, XV, and the XX Corps. The XII Corps received and staged Third Army units arriving on the continent. These units were moved to rear areas and prepared for combat missions. The XV and XX Corps were in bivouac in the northern part of the COCHIN PENNINSULA. They were assembling troops and preparing to become operational.

At the beginning of August 1944, the Both Infantry

DOWNGRADED TO
CLASSIFICATION REMOVED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE JCS

Date

Initials

Preceded by D-Day

SECTION I

DISSEMBARKMENT AND MOVEMENT TO FORWARD ASSEMBLY AREA

BKOURC
Pursuit
P9430

On 1 August 1944, the 80th Infantry Division was in England. The men possessed the highest morale and were ready to test in combat that which they had learned in many months of patient training. They were desirous of upholding the reputation of, "the 80th only moves forward", earned by the Division's gallant service in World War I.

The renowned COBRA operations, designed to effect a breakthrough near ST. LO, went into effect on 25 July 1944, at which time the First United States Army had captured the entire area of the COTENTIN PENINSULA. By 1 August 1944 the attack of the First United States Army had developed into a major breakthrough. Elements of the VIII Corps, First United States Army had smashed out of the COTENTIN PENINSULA, and were racing through AVRANCHES, headed for the important Brittany town of RENNES. Meanwhile, elements of the VIII Corps, First United States Army were also cutting south into a zone east of AVRANCHES.

The Third United States Army, commanded by General George S. Patton, Jr., became operational at 011200 August 1944. Because the VIII Corps had advanced so rapidly that it had become separated from the other elements of the First United States Army, it was, as of the 1 August 1944, placed under the control of the Third United States Army. In addition to the VIII Corps, the Third United States Army was composed of the XII, XV, and the XX Corps. The XII Corps received and staged Third Army units arriving on the continent. These units were moved to rear areas and prepared for combat missions. The XV and XX Corps were in bivouac in the northern part of the COTENTIN PENINSULA. They were assembling troops and preparing to become operational.

Note this

VIII
XII
XV
XX

At the beginning of August 1944, the 80th Infantry

- 1 -

DOWNGRADED TO:
CLASSIFICATION REMOVED
BY AUTHORITY OF TAG PLP

27 Aug 46 HSR
Date Initials

Division was attached while in England, to the XII Corps. This Corps was commanded by Major General Walker. Everything was set at the beginning of the month for the Division to move to the continent and engage hostile forces.

On the 1 August 1944 the advance party of the 80th Infantry Division, including a Medical Detachment, the 80th Military Police Platoon, Headquarters Detachment, and the Signal Company, assembled at the Marshalling Area, V-1, Camp 7, SALISBURY, England, preparatory to embarking for France. The advance party departed at 0840 by motor march for SOUTHAMPTON. At 1440 the party was boarding boats. The Channel crossing selected was approximately eighty miles long. Disembarkment was at a point east of CHERBOURG HARBOR, at LES DUNES DE VILLA (UTAH BEACH) (VT-4598). The advanced party began coming ashore at 1215 the next day.

To facilitate an efficient method for unloading the Division shortly to arrive, the advance party set up two teams. They were placed under the command of the G-4 Section. The first team was known as the Traffic Control Team, and was charged with the task of controlling and guiding the Division into the allocated concentration areas, and was to be composed of members of the 80th Military Police Platoon. The second team set up was the Beach Liaison Team, charged with the responsibility of the actual beach traffic control, including all beach liaison work, and the handling of the Division's impediment. It was made up of members of the G-4 Section.

The main body of the 80th Infantry Division, following the advance party, began to land on UTAH BEACH at Transit Area "B" (VT-4598). The channel crossing was made on LST and Liberty Ship Transports which had embarked from the channel ports of SOUTHAMPTON, PORTLAND and vicinity.

Disembarking at 1400 on the 5 August 1944 was the 317th Infantry, followed by the 318th Infantry at 2000. Upon arrival the various units were efficiently organized into

sections for a short motor march of approximately twenty three miles, to tactical bivouac areas in the vicinities of ST GERMAIN/ DE VARREVILLE and COIGNY.

Throughout the night, the Division continued to arrive. At 0100 the Divisional Artillery disembarked and moved to a bivouac area vicinity ST. JORES, at which place the Division's Forward Command Post was opened. The Divisional Artillery was followed by the 319th Infantry which also bivouaced in the vicinity, the 780th Ordnance Company, and the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop which assembled at ST. GERMAINE DE LANIER, and the 305th Engineer Combat Bn which assembled in vicinity of ST. JORES. 0.5 mi SW of COIGNY

The following day the 305th Medical Bn, Special Troops, the 80th Quartermaster Company, and the 702d Tank Bn, which had been attached to the Division, disembarked and moved to PRETOUT. PRETOUT 0.5 mi W of COIGNY

Immediately upon entering the bivouac areas, the men were busied with general shakedowns, cleaning and adjusting equipment, and zealously preparing themselves for that which was shortly to come. But at the same time the men contributed to the general improvement of the tactical bivouac areas.

While the 80th Infantry Division had been staging in France, the rapidity and strength of the breakthrough at AVRANCHES by the Third United States Army's newly assigned VIII Corps, and the success of the attack on the BRITTANY PENINSULA, had temporarily thrown the Germans on this front into utter confusion. The enemy at this time had committed approximately forty five Divisions on the NORMANDY front and had managed to build up a mobile reserve of five panzer divisions. This reserve together with the remnants of the units swept aside at AVRANCHES, as soon as they could muster enough strength, counterattack on the 6 August 1944 from MORTIN, in a desperate effort to cut the Third United States Army's rather weak supply line in the vicinity of AVRANCHES, and separate a potent portion of the Third United States Army from the remainder of the Allied Forces.

It was to meet this great threat that the 80th Infantry Division received it's first combat orders.

SECTION II

MOVEMENT TO SILLE LE GUILLAUME

BK OUT
PS 497-
505

On the 8 August 1944, the 80th Infantry Division had begun its advance from the assembly area southward toward AVRANCHES. The Division had been temporarily motorized and had been directed to proceed in the general direction towards LE MANS. Initially the Division was assigned to the XX Corps. The German counterattack had been stopped in the vicinity of MORTAIN. Nevertheless the administrative motor march of the 80th Infantry Division continued to the south.

XX
BK OUT
513-513
F/O H 13

On the afternoon of 8 August 1944, Combat Team 317 had left its bivouac areas and advanced on the left in the Divisional Zone. After a forty mile trip it closed in at PAIN D' VAINE at 1735 and moved out on foot at 2144 towards LE MANS. At the close of the period, it was advancing toward CONLIE and LE MANS.

CONLIE
IS KAW
LEMAN
PAIN D'VAINE

Combat Team 318 had moved from the vicinity of ST JORES and after a motor march of approximately fifty seven miles, arrived in the vicinity of ST HILAIRE DU HARCOURT at 1300. The Combat Team remained here until 2120. While in this area the troops were under fire for the first time when enemy planes bombed the town. Likewise the Division's first prisoner of war was taken here. *

The Combat Team 319 was left behind to outpost the staging and bivouacing zone of the Division.

During the period, the 80th Infantry Division was assigned to the XV Corps from the XX Corps.

XV
XX

The next day in the 80th Infantry Division's Field Order Number 2, the Division was directed to continue the advance. Elements of the XV Corps had reached the vicinity of LE MANS, and were advancing rapidly to the north. In the XV Corps' zone only scattered enemy resistance was reported. This was mostly from remnants of the enemy's 9th SS Panzer and 708th Infantry Divisions, and was coming mainly from the areas west of the LAVAL-LE-MANS highway

FO #2

XV
GERMAN
9 SS PZ DIV
708 INF DIV

and east of the BAZOURGERS-MAYENNE road. Without delay Combat Teams 317 and 318 were to advance and seize EVRON and STE SUZANNE respectively. Combat Team 319 was to continue its present mission and give particular attention to the north and east, and act as part of the Division's reserve. In effect the Division was to be committed from LAVAL eastward to LE MANS, to strengthen the main Allied supply line to LE MANS which was very vulnerable to enemy attack.

Combat Team 317 had completed its eight mile foot march during the dark hours of the morning of 9 August 1944 without opposition and assembled south of EVRON to prepare for an attack. At 0800, with the 3d Bn on the left, and 1st Bn on the right, and the 2d Bn bringing up the rear as the reserve, the Combat Team moved out in attacking echelon to take EVRON. In two hours the town had been captured and the high ground northeast of the town had been taken.

Combat Team 317 then was directed by Divisional Field Order Number 3 to be prepared to advance and seize CONLIE.

The 3d Bn of Combat Team 317 was left behind to hold the high ground seized, and to patrol the town of EVRON, while the remainder of the Combat Team advanced toward CONLIE. The force proceeded twenty seven miles by truck to BENAY. The route was via LA CHAPPELE, RAINSOIN, VAIGES CHASSILLE, to the detrucking area vicinity BENAY. The men deployed for the attack on CONLIE and by 2000 the town was seized and occupied. The tired troops reorganized and prepared to continue the attack in the morning.

Combat Team 318 continued its seventy mile motor march toward VAIGES closing there at 091030 August 1944. At 1915 the same night, it continued its advance to a final assembly area in the vicinity a half mile northeast of CHAMMES, arriving there at 0330 the next day. It immediately made preparations to assault STE SUZANNE. During this phase of the march, the Combat Team suffered its first casualties when sniper fire wounded some of the men.

Divisional Field Order Number 3 instructed the Combat Team, upon securing STE SUZANNE, to assemble there and be prepared to immediately move against SILLE LE GUILLAUME.

Combat Team 319 was directed to assemble in place and

FO #3

MISSION 6514
XIX TAC 358
CP ASSAULT AREA
COVER 4-10 AUG IN
AREA FOUGERES-
CHATEAUBRIANT - LA
FLECHE - LA MUE
LAVAL: XIX TAC
OPNS CTR 19,
ISSUED 9 AUG
C125 B
XIX C1X5001b

F103
X

be prepared to move immediately forward on orders, as the Divisional Reserve.

On the 10 August 1944 the 80th Infantry Division was again assigned to the XX Corps' control. XX

While "C" Company of Combat Team 317 was left to hold CONLIE, the remainder of the Combat Team proceeded at 100800 August 1944 by foot fifteen miles to the vicinity of SILLE LE GUILLAUME and upon arrival in the vicinity, proceeded to deploy for an attack the following day.

At 0900 Combat Team 318 started on the initial mission of taking STE SUZANNE. The Combat Team began advancing in a column of Battalions, but after the 2d Bn had outposted the final assembly area, (vicinity one half a mile northeast CHAMMES), the 1st Bn passed through the 2d Bn, and was closely followed by the 3d Bn. The 3d Bn was echeloned to the rear left. Little resistance was encountered. By 1018 the town was occupied by the 1st Bn of the Combat Team.

At 1915 a new mission was given to the Combat Team 318. It was directed to continue the advance to SILLE LE GUILLAUME. The 1st Bn (reinforced) formed the advance guard while the remainder of the Combat Team followed at one thousand yard intervals in the advance on the new objective. Elements of Combat Team 317 were ordered sent to relieve Combat Team 318 of the responsibility of securing STE SUZANNE.

Arriving in the vicinity of VOUTRE at 1935, the advance guard of Combat Team 318 ran into a strong road block which delayed the column for two hours. It consisted of two burnt out tanks covered by automatic weapons, small arm and artillery fire. The enemy fire from the high ground just north of VOUTRE was particularly strong. The 315th Field Artillery Bn, in support of the Combat Team, fired its first mission in combat and was successful in driving the enemy north. This in turn permitted the Combat Team to continue the advance.

At 2025 the column of the Combat Team 318 was passing through VOUTRE, and continued on the road right through the night, with no further opposition than mined roads, and a few weak road blocks left undefended.

Combat Team 319 remained in position, alerted for movement during the 10 August 1944. It was placed under ✓ XX

the direct control of the XX Corps with an assignment to secure a bridgehead obtained by the XX Corps in the vicinity of LE MANS, and keep the routes of communication open in that sector. This assignment was to separate Combat Team 319 from the remainder of the 80th Infantry Division for several days. XX

On 11 August 1944 Combat Team 318, (less the 1st Bn and the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon), were set to assault the area in the vicinity of SILLE LE GUILLAUME. This area had been holding up the 106th Cavalry Regiment. It was decided to have it taken by the joint efforts of Combat Teams 317 and 318. The mission was necessary to assist in protecting the north flank of the Third United States Army and keeping the main supply route from LAVAL to LE MANS open and free from interference. 106 CAV

By noon, Combat Team 317 had succeeded in occupying the high ground southeast of SILLE LE GUILLAUME. The resistance was slight, and the Combat Team reorganized and consolidated its position in the area.

The 1st Bn and the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon of Combat Team 317 continued to secure EVRON and STE SUZANNE, after the Combat Team 318 was relieved of the responsibility there. ✓

Combat Team 318 arrived in the vicinity of SILLE LE GUILLAUME at 110630 August 1944 and immediately deployed for the attack. Scattered resistance was encountered in the town and areas surrounding it. The 3d Bn remained in town, while the 1st and 2d Bns occupied the high ground north of the town. Vigorous patrolling to the north, northeast, and northwest was initiated to maintain contact with the fast retreating enemy.

Combat Team 319 undertook its new XX Corps mission of outposting LE MANS, safeguarding the vital installations in the town, maintaining law and order, and maintaining the routes of communication in the vicinity used by the XX Corps free and open. The Combat Team had taken off from its assembly area at 1225 and arrived at LE MANS at 1345. XX

On the 12 August 1944 Combat Team 317 continued in the mission it had assumed the day before, namely vigorously patrolling in the vicinity of SILLE LE GUILLAUME. At 0900

"A" Company of Combat Team 317 had entered and occupied SEGNIE, after which time, the Combat Team instituted patrols from SILLE LE GUILLAUME to CONLIE to SEGNIE. No enemy were encountered.

Combat Team 318 remained in SILLE LE GUILLAUME and vicinity during the day carrying on patrolling in the vicinity and preserving law and order.

Combat Team 319 continued its mission at LE MANS.

The orders of the 80th Infantry Division were changed. The Division (less Combat Team 319) was directed to assemble in the concentration areas EYBOS, MEANT, LES BUISSONS and ST. GEORGES LE MONT.

The 1st and 2nd Combat Teams 317 and the 40th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop were directed to precede the column and wipe out any enemy in the vicinity of the concentration areas.

Combat Team 317 had concentrated at ST. GEORGES LE MONT. The advance guard of the Division had taken off at 0730. In August 1944, the Reconnaissance Troop, the 10th of Cavalry and the 1st and 2nd Combat Teams 317 were directed to precede the column and wipe out any enemy in the vicinity of the concentration areas. The 1st and 2nd Combat Teams 317 and the 40th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop were directed to precede the column and wipe out any enemy in the vicinity of the concentration areas. The 1st and 2nd Combat Teams 317 and the 40th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop were directed to precede the column and wipe out any enemy in the vicinity of the concentration areas.

SECTION III

MOVEMENT NORTH TOWARD ARGENTAN

13 Aug 44

BK OUT
Pg 524-527

FO #4

XV

At 130400 August 1944 the 80th Infantry Division's Field Order Number 4 was issued, directing the Division, (less Combat Team 319) to advance northeast in three columns at 0800, and contact and destroy any hostile forces in the zone of advance. The columns were to establish contact with any of the armored elements of the XV Corps when those elements crossed the Division's front.

Combat Team 318 had assembled in the vicinity of ROUEZ and took off on time for fulfilling the required mission as set forth in the Field Order. The Combat Team advanced against scattered resistance to a position north of ALENCON where it bivouaced for the night.

Combat Team 317 also moved in the designated zone of advance. It was able to advance against slight resistance through VILLAINES to positions south of LA LACELLE where it bivouaced for the night.

Enemy mine fields were encountered by all the advancing elements. Contact with elements of the 2d French Armored Division was established south of CARROUGES.

The Combat Team 319 continued its mission at LE MANS.

The orders of the 80th Infantry Division were changed. The Division (less Combat Team 319) was directed to assemble in the concentration areas EVRON, NEANL, LES BOUILLONS, and ST GEMMES LE ROBERT.

The 2d Bn of Combat Team 317 and the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop were directed to precede the columns and wipe out any enemy in the vicinity of the concentration areas.

Combat Team 317 had concentrated at PRE EN PAIL. The advance guard of the Division had taken off at 0730, 14 August 1944, to reconnoiter the route of approach and the new areas. Casualties were suffered by this group from mine fields which were replanted during the night by the Germans after they had previously been removed by friendly engineer troops. Minefields and blown bridges hindered the advance. The newly designated Divisional

*

assembly area bounded by BIAS, GRAZAY, AVRON, MOULAY, MONTSURE, NEAU, AND EVRON, an area approximately ten miles long and fifteen miles wide, was successfully reconnoitered. This area was mostly flat but wooded.

At 1631 the remainder of the Combat Team 317 began to move by foot and by shuttles to the new area. At the close of the period it was still on the road.

Combat Team 318 was also on the move to assemble in the vicinity of EVRON.

Combat Team 319, still under the control of the XX Corps, was alerted to prepare for movement from LE MANS to ANGERS to relieve the 2d Infantry of the 5th Infantry Division. XX

On the 15 August 1944, at 0700, Combat Team 317 closed into the assembly area in the vicinity of DEUX EVAILLES. Immediately it reorganized and took steps to correct any deficiencies that were observed after the first combat mission.

Combat Team 318 closed into an area one mile north of EVRON and engaged in similar activities to those of Combat Team 317.

On orders of the XX Corps, Combat Team 319 entrucked from LE MANS to assume its new mission at ANGERS. It completed the fifty eight mile trip via ARNAGE, GUECELARD, FOULLETOURT, CLERMONT ORENNS, LA FLECHE, BAZOUGES, DURTAL, SEICHES, to ANGERS and closing shortly before the close of the period. It immediately made preparations to relieve the 2d Infantry.

"I" Company of the 319th Infantry had been detached from the Combat Team to assume the mission of safeguarding the Command Post of the XX Corps. XX

Until 17 August 1944 Combat Teams 317 and 318 remained in their respective assembly areas and continued rehabilitating.

On the 16 August 1944, Combat Team 319 at ANGERS relieved the 2d Infantry and outposted the town and the surrounding vicinity, paying particular attention to the north bank of the LOIRE RIVER. "I" Company of the 319th Infantry continued its mission of giving security to the

BKOUR
PS 563
634
w/XIXTNC

XX Corps' Command Post. Combat Team 319 (less "I" Company) on assuming this new mission, was placed under the control of the VIII Corps. VIII

Field Order Number 5 of the 80th Infantry Division was received on the 16 August 1944 directing the Division, less Combat Team 318, to assemble in a concentration area vicinity BROU, CHATEAUDON, COURTELAIN in the Third United States Army's reserve. The time for movement was never received and the Division's mission was changed. FO#5 80(-318)

See Breakout Pursuit, USA WWII page 527 on 80 FO#5

In compliance with Field Order Number 5 as changed by the subsequent Field Order Number 1, and Field Order Number 3, Combat Team 319 was on the move commencing at 0400, 17 August 1944. At 0800, it had closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of MONTAIGNE, and from there it moved at 0900 for the jump off position, vicinity AUMER 12 1400. It moved into these positions at 2200 for the attack on AUMER on the following day, prepared to force the important line through the town. The attack was a surprise, the large number of enemy in the town was surprised and ready to meet Germans fighting desperately to save remnants of the elite 7th German Army.

At 171500 August 1944 Combat Team 317 started movement from vicinity BOURG MONTAIGNE to an area vicinity of AUMER, reaching there at 2200. The Combat Team was to serve as the Divisional reserve.

The Combat Team 319 continued its mission on the 17 August 1944 at AUMER. At 1800 in a formal ceremony, the Commanding Officer of the Combat Team, Colonel Davidson presented a flag to the Mayor of AUMER. Later in the day the Combat Team received orders from the 3rd Army that it would be relieved of its mission at AUMER by Combat Team 323 of the 83d Infantry Division and that upon being relieved, it would immediately assemble. VII

U228-183

SECTION IVBATTLE OF ARGENTAN-PALAISE GAP

Field Message Number 1 of the 80th Infantry Division changed the concentration area set down in Field Order Number 5 to a march bivouac in the vicinity of ALENCON.

FM #1

Field Order Number 6, issued at 171800 August 1944 by the 80th Infantry Division, ordered the Division (less Combat Team 319) to attack at 180800 August 1944 and seize the high ground (HILL 213) north of ARGENTAN. The order was issued in compliance with a directive from Major General Gerow's V Corps of the First United States Army, to which the 80th Infantry Division (less Combat Team 319) was attached as of that date. The ultimate objective was for the 80th Infantry Division, in conjunction with other forces, to seize ARGENTAN and participate in the closing of the ARGENTAN-PALAISE GAP, and by so doing, to destroy the entire German Seventh Army.

FO #6

V

In compliance with Field Order Number 5, as changed by the subsequent Field Message Number 1, and Field Order Number 6, Combat Team 319 was on the move commencing at 0420, 17 August 1944. At 0945, it had closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of MORTEE, and from there it moved at 1800 for the jump off positions, vicinity AUNOU LE FAUCON. It closed into these positions at 2210 for the attack on ARGENTAN the following day, prepared to forge the important link in the chain of armored night encircling the large number of enemy in the PALAISE trap and ready to meet Germans fighting desperately to save remnants of the elite 7th German Army.

FO #5 AMENDED
by FM #1 and FO #6

At 171700 August 1944 Combat Team 317 started movement from vicinity DEUX EVAILLES to an area vicinity of ARGENTAN, reaching there at 2200. The Combat Team was to serve as the Divisional reserve.

The Combat Team 319 continued its mission on the 17 August 1944 at ANGERS. At 1600 in a formal ceremony, the Commanding Officer of the Combat Team, Colonel Davidson presented a flag to the Mayor of ANGERS. Later in the day the Combat Team received orders from the VIII Corps that it would be relieved of its mission at ANGERS by Combat Team 329 of the 83d Infantry Division and that upon being relieved, it would immediately assemble

McHugh Photo
on Flag Pass.

VIII

northeast of ANGERS to await further orders.

"I" Company of the 319th Infantry was released by the XX Corps, but assumed a similar mission of safeguarding the Command Post of the 80th Infantry Division, and Combat Team 319 did not gain control over the Company.

I-319
XXCORP

BK OUT Pg
533-534

FO 46

On the 18 August 1944 Combat Team 318 was all set to attack ARGENTAN. The original plan as set down in Field Order Number 6 called for the Combat Team to attack north in a column of Battalions, with the 1st Bn in the lead followed by the 2d and 3d Bns. When HILL 213 and the high controlling ground northeast of the town were taken, Combat Team 318 was to move southwest and capture the town itself, and if possible have elements prepared to continue the attack in the direction of TRUN. The city of ARGENTAN and the high ground to the north, were strongly held by elements of the crack enemy 728th Infantry Regiment, and the elite 116th Panzer Division. The enemy numbered between two thousand and twenty five hundred seasoned soldiers, well dug in, in the finest defensive positions, protected by tanks, artillery, anti-aircraft guns, automatic weapons, barbed wire entanglements, and well placed mine fields. The terrain also was tough, favoring the enemy in defense, with its hedgerows, and its sufficient open spaces to permit good fields of fire for tanks, and mutually supporting automatic weapons. In addition to this the enemy had cleverly zeroed in every key avenue of approach to their positions for accurate artillery fire. Against this Combat Team 318 had to advance.

GERMAN
728th Inf Regt
116 Pz Div

At 0700 Combat Team 318, in a column of Battalions, jumped off on the attack. Almost immediately very heavy fighting was encountered. Particularly heavy resistance was discovered in the vicinity of BORDEAUX. The advance of the 1st Bn was restricted. "A" and "B" companies were held up by tank, machine gun, and heavy small arms fire, as was "C" Company, which protected the right flank. Finally the 1st Bn was forced to withdraw south of the ARGENTAN-LE BOURG LEONARD Highway, after enemy artillery, and tank fire heavily opened up from the Battalion's left flank. When the advance was stopped the Battalion dug in for the night to consolidate and prepare to continue the next day, after reorganizing.

The 2d Bn moving west along the ARGENTAN-LE BOURG LEONARD Highway was also stopped by the extremely heavy firing coming from ARGENTAN and the high ground northeast of the town.

The 3d Bn succeeded in cleaning out enemy resistance in the vicinity of SAI. The locality was occupied at 1533. By 1700 the 3d Bn was on its way toward BORDEAUX. It passed through the 1st Bn which was reorganizing, and succeeded in occupying the town.

On the 18 August 1944 Combat Team 317 was placed in the Division reserve, while Combat Team 318 attack ARGENTAN. At 1115 its Command Post moved to BOSSIE LE LAND. The 2d Bn was ordered at 1935 to patrol toward the northeast in the vicinity of ARGENTAN and protect the rear and right flank of Combat Team 318.

Combat Team 319 continued its mission at ANGERS, detached from the rest of the 80th Infantry Division.

BKOUR P₁
549

For the 19 August 1944 a new plan of attack on ARGENTAN and vicinity was decided upon. The new plan called for the 2d Bn of Combat Team 318 to attack from the northwest toward ARGENTAN under the cover of a terrific concentration of artillery. This concentration was to be fired by seven supporting battalions in addition to all the artillery fire power that the Combat Team could muster from its regularly attached units. The 314th Field Artillery Bn was in direct support. The 313th, 315th, 974th, 775th Field Artillery Bns and the 404th Field Artillery Group were made available for general support and for reinforcing the fires. Combat Team 317 was removed from the reserve of the 80th Infantry Division to be committed in the attack, firing in support from HILL 171, and advancing on ARGENTAN from the north, while at the same time lending support to the 3d Bn of Combat Team 318.

1/2 of
404 F.A.G.P.
(974 FA Bn)
(775 FA Bn)
404 F.A.G.P.

But on the second day of the attack, progress was also very slow.

The 3d Bn of Combat Team 318 tried to again advance on ARGENTAN, but ran into very heavy resistance, and by 1430 was obliged to reorganize in the vicinity of VROU.

The 2d Bn of Combat Team 318 was equally unsuccessful in the advance it started at 0645. The Battalion was halted by withering fire coming from the vicinity just east of ARGENTAN.

The 1st Battalion of Combat Team 318 was kept at BORDEAUX as the reserve.

The 2d Bn of Combat Team 317 had assembled at a jump off position in the vicinity south of HILL 171 at 0130 and was followed by the remainder of the Combat Team. From positions on HILL 171 it gave small arms and automatic weapon support to the attack being made by the 3d Bn of Combat Team 318. But even with this support the attack was unsuccessful.

At 1735, despite terrific enemy infantry, artillery and armored resistance, Combat Team 317 passed through Combat Team 318 to assume the initiative. Advancing in a column of battalions, with the 2d Bn leading, the Combat Team launched an attack on ARGENTAN and the high ground in the vicinity of the town. Heavy fire from the west edge of FORET DU GAFFERN made progress extremely slow and difficult. By 2030 the Combat Team had advanced to the southern outskirts of ARGENTAN. Because of the heavy concentrations of German armor, and heavy artillery observed in the woods at (U-261214), a counterattack was expected. In view of this, the advance halted and positions were prepared to defend the ground gained.

Combat Team 319 was relieved at ANGERS by Combat Team 329 of the 83d Infantry Division on the 19 August 1944 and prepared to assemble northeast of ANGERS to await further orders.

83 INF

During the hours of darkness of the 19 and 20 August 1944, the enemy had secretly withdrawn most of its forces from the area, leaving only comparatively weak delaying forces for rear guard action. But during these same hours the seven Battalions of artillery supporting the 80th Infantry Division blasted the city with five volleys, setting it afire. Amid this barrage, the enemy had chosen to withdraw most of its forces and suffered great casualties.

Because of this terrific artillery concentration, and the withdrawal of a large number of the opposing forces, the 80th Infantry Division was once more able to move forward and sweep aside the remaining enemy.

The 3d Bn of Combat Team 317 at 0830 had advanced to the vicinity (U-290200) and then turned west and attack ARGENTAN.

The 2d Bn of Combat Team 317 made an attack on ARGENTAN at 0930 from the south.

The 3d Bn of Combat Team 318, after reorganizing, succeed in occupying the west approaches to ARGENTAN.

The 1st Bn of Combat Team 318 had moved to the vicinity (U-294202) to protect the Division's right flank. At 1135 the 1st Bn was ordered to take CRENNES, and patrol to the east and north and establish contact with elements of the 90th Infantry Division, which was on the right of the 80th Infantry Division.

By 1330 the operations had so successfully progressed, that Combat Team 318 was ordered to complete the mopping up of ARGENTAN, clear the woods to the south, and see to it that the road net work in the immediate vicinity was cleared of mines and booby traps.

By 1500 the 2d and 3d Bns of Combat Team 318 and the 3d Bn of Combat Team 317 had ARGENTAN pretty well cleared and under control.

The 1st and 2d Bns of Combat Team 317 had taken the Division's objective, HILL (213), to the north of ARGENTAN at 0400, and had met only very light resistance. Both Battalions had organized in positions and sent out combat patrols to secure the area.

By 1320 Combat Team 317 was given the mission of mopping up the woods in the Division's sector, from the boundary between the 80th Infantry Division, and the British elements on the north, to include the boundaries between the 80th and 90th Infantry Divisions on the east, and then as far south as CRENNES.

BRIT'
80th
90th

Darkness found the 1st Bn of the Combat Team 317 up against stiff opposition in the wooded area vicinity (U-290230). By the close of the period, the 3d Bn of Combat Team 317, which had come up as support, and the 1st Bn, were preparing to clear these woods of any enemy tanks, automatic weapons, or straggling enemy personnel which were encountered. But with the closing of the ARGENTAN-FALAISE gap and the successes of the 80th Infantry Division, there remained little to do around the area.

On the 20 August 1944 Combat Team 319 assembled in an

area northeast of ANGERS. Verbal orders were received from the VIII Corps to move on the 21 August 1944 to the vicinity of ST CALAIS.

On the 21 August 1944 Combat Teams 317 and 318 continued to mop up in their respective zones, until relieved later in the day by elements of the British 50th Infantry Division. The Combat Teams then assembled in the nearby vicinity.

The ARGENTAN battle was the first test of the 80th Infantry Division against well trained and equipped enemy in force. During this action, the Division encountered the strongest types of defenses prepared in anticipation of the Allied invasion of the Continent.

The cooperation of the organic units of the Division demonstrated that diligent training had molded a fighting team.

Units attached to the Division during the ARGENTAN action were: the 610th Tank Destroyer Bn, the 633d AAA Bn and the 702d Tank Bn.

The Division's contribution to the closing of the ARGENTAN-FALAISE GAP resulted in the destruction of large numbers of enemy forces as well as huge stores of equipment, supplies and ammunition. During the operation, over one thousand prisoners of war were captured. Several enemy tanks and self propelled guns were destroyed. One ammunition dump captured by the Division contained twenty seven thousand tons of ammunition.

During the 21 August 1944 Combat Team 317 continued mopping up in the wood area within the Division's north sector, on a line from ARGENTAN to CRENNES. At 2000 the

Combat Team began assembling in an area southwest of ARGENTAN.

Combat Team 318 continued to mop up enemy resistance in ARGENTAN and the woods south of CREPNES within the Divisional boundary, and proceeded to concentrate in the vicinity of MEDAVY.

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop provided local security, with certain elements of Combat Team 317, for the new assembly area during the concentration.

Combat Team 319 closed into the assembly area north-east of ANGERS in the vicinity of NAUNET, and made preparations to move, pursuant to the orders of the VIII Corps, to the vicinity of ST CALAIS. The 1st Bn was motorized and took off at 1745 for the new area while the remainder of the combat team followed by shuttles when transportation was available. The destination of the 1st Bn was FOUNTAINE. Its column was on the road at the close of the period. The route followed was via NAUNET, SEIGES, DURTAL, LA FLEACHE, GERANS, FOULLETOUTTE, ARNAGE, LE MANS, ST CALAIS, to FOUNTAINE, a distance of approximately one hundred and fifteen miles.

On the 22 August 1944 at 0820 Combat Team 317 closed into its new assembly area southwest of ARGENTAN. The Command Post of the Combat Team was located at AUNOU LE FAUCON. While so assembled, the troops were given a much needed rest, an opportunity to clean their equipment, and for general rehabilitation. But important training was also undertaken, particularly on anti-tank warfare and infantry-tank coordinating tactics, which training was to prove so beneficial as the 80th Infantry Division continued the pursuit of the enemy.

Combat Team 318 remained in MEDAVY and indulged in a similar program to that which Combat Team 317 was going through.

Combat Team 319, on the 22 August, closed in at the vicinity of FOUNTAINE and ST CALAIS commencing at 0200 and took up defensive positions. Upon arriving at FOUNTAINE the Combat Team reverted to the control of the XII Corps. The XII Corps directed that the 1st Bn of Combat Team 319, motorized, move to PITHIVIERS, to occupy and protect the town. No enemy was present and the mission was accomplished with no difficulty.

80 Rcv

VIII

319

Route
of
MARCH

317 CP

XII

The remainder of Combat Team 319 was almost immediately directed to proceed by motor, forty eight miles, to ORLEANS and occupy a defensive line between ORLEANS and GIEN. Preparations for movement were in progress at the close of the period.

On the 23 August 1944 Combat Teams 317 and 318 continued their training in their respective concentration areas.

At 231400 August 1944 Combat Team 319, (less the 1st Bn) closed in at its new assembly area, vicinity ORLEANS, and immediately set up hasty defense positions for the night. Its route was through BUSLOUP, FRETEVAL, MOREE, BINAS, D'OZOURE, LE MARCHE, CHARSONVILLE, ORMES, ANGRE, ST JEAN DE LA ROULE, to an area four miles northeast of ORLEANS at FAY-AUX LOGES, a distance of twenty two miles. The 1st Bn remained at PITHIVIERS maintaining law and order there. The mission of Combat Team 319 was to protect the southern flank of the XII Corps, between ORLEANS and GIEN, and occupy a defensive position along the river line.

319
Route 9
March

XII

Combat Teams 317 and 318 still continued to remain in concentration on the 24 August 1944, engaging in rehabilitation and training.

Gen Le Clerc
ATTICS PARIS
AT DOWN IN 2 down pour
vain that diminished by a
drizzle.

The 1st Bn of Combat Team 319 was ordered to rejoin its Regiment and support its mission. The 166th Engineer Combat Bn was attached to the Combat Team 319 as general support. The mission of Combat Team 319 continued to be that of safe guarding the southern flank of the XII Corps.

XII

SECTION V

MOVEMENT TO THE EAST

319

25 Aug
BKOUT Pg 664

FO #7

On the 25 August 1944 Field Order Number 7 of the 80th Infantry Division, directed the Division, less Combat Team 317 to a concentration area in the vicinity of SENS, which was only fifty miles southeast of Paris. Throughout the day preparations were made by Combat Teams 317 and 318 for the long march. Combat Team 319 continued its mission in the vicinity of ORLEANS.

On the 26 August 1944, the 80th Infantry Division reverted to the control of the XII Corps of the Third United States Army.

26
XII

FO #7

Pursuant to Divisional Field Order Number 7, the Combat Teams 317 and 318 were organized into tactical formations but no real opposition from the enemy was expected during the movement. The ordered motor march east was approximately two hundred and eighty miles.

Combat Team 318 took off from the vicinity of MEDAVY at 0500. It was still on the road the following morning.

Combat Team 317 took off from its assembly area vicinity southwest of ARGENTAN at 0700, and after a motor trip all day without any unusual incidents enroute, began closing into its designated assembly areas ten miles west of SENS at the close of the period.

On the 26 August 1944, Combat Team 319 was relieved by the 137th Infantry. It was reorganized and made preparations for a move of approximately one hundred and ten miles to the vicinity of ST FLAVY.

137th/35th Div

The move of elements of the 80th Infantry Division such great distances east, was made possible by the tremendous defeat of the enemy requiring the hasty retreat.

On the 27 August 1944 Field Order Number 8 of the 80th Infantry Division was issued directing the Division to continue the advance.

27
FO #8

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop had preceeded the column to reconnoiter the advance. It had reconnoitered from the area where it had assembled, five miles northwest

80
RCN

of SENS to a line ROMILLY SUR SEINE to TROYES. At TROYES the 4th Armored Division had established a bridgehead the previous day. The specific mission of the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was to seize and hold any bridge sites in the 80th Infantry Division's Zone of Advance over the SEINE RIVER, until foot troops could be brought up to take over. By noon the Troop had discovered all bridges in the Zone of Advance had been blown by the fleeing Germans. Therefore to continue its reconnaissance, it crossed the SEINE RIVER on a pontoon bridge thrown up by an adjacent unit. Immediately after crossing on the pontoon bridge, it proceeded to the north on a similar mission to the AUBE RIVER. At the start of this advance, after crossing the SEINE RIVER, the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop had the distinction of being the point for the spearheading 80th Infantry Division, and leading the entire Allied Forces in the advance in pursuit of the fleeing enemy. Throughout the entire day the Troop kept in contact with the Combat Teams 317 and 318 which were advancing in their respective zones.

4AD

The 80th Infantry Division had moved from ARGENTAN south to the LOIRE RIVER, and then east along the LOIRE and SEINE RIVERS to reach the vicinity of SENS. The marches were through CARROUGES, MORTREE, COUPTAIN, JAVRON, VILLAINES, COURCITES, BILLE LE GUILLAUME, and CREUX LA LAINE. The enemy had blown all bridges across the SEINE and AUBE RIVERS in the Division's Zone of Advance.

80 RCE
9 MARCH

On the 27 August 1944 Combat Team 319 reverted to the control of the 80th Infantry Division. It began its long motor march to the vicinity of ST FLAVY. It moved through FAY AUX LAGES, CHATTEAUNEUF SE DE LOIRE, LADON, MONTARGIS, LA CHAPPELLE, COURTNEY, SUBLIGNY, SENS, MAYLAY, LE PETIT, PONT SUR VANNE, VALAINES, PLANTY, MARCILLE, RIGNY, LE NONNEHOUSE, ST MARTIN DE BOSSENEY, to ST FLAVY. The Combat Team began closing into the new assembly area at the close of the period. Throughout the day, Combat Teams 317 and 318 continued the advance as directed in Field Order Number 8. At 1300 Combat Team 317 had moved to PAVILLION and closed there at 1900.

319 RCE
9 MARCH

Combat Team 318, after arriving at its assembly area vicinity of COLLEMIERS, (five miles south west of SENS), moved at 1135 for a fifty mile motor march to the vicinity ORVILLIERS, arriving at 1530.

The advance up to this point by the columns had been

very rapid due to the very light resistance encountered. The light resistance could be accounted for in part to the splendid aid given to the advancing Allies by the PFI in eliminating snipers and the few isolated troops left behind by the enemy to hinder the advance. But from this point on the rate of advance had to be considerably slowed down, as there was great possibility of running into strong enemy positions.

Field Order Number 9 of the 80th Infantry Division, was issued late on the 27 August 1944 directing the advancing columns to seize successive objectives, capture CHALONS SUR MARNE and establish a bridgehead north of the MARNE RIVER in the Division's Zone. FO#9

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop continued to reconnoiter the route of the advancing columns. Difficulty was experienced in locating a bridge over the AUBE RIVER as the retreating Germans had blown every crossing in the Division's Sector. The Troop finally crossed at 281030 August 1944, vicinity ARCIS SUR AUBE, and continued to reconnoiter the roads and bridges northwest toward CHALONS SUR MARNE. This entire area from the SEINE RIVER to CHALONS SUR MARNE had never been cleared of enemy, but little difficulty other than blown bridges was encountered, and hence advance was surprisingly rapid. 28
80
Recw

The crossing of the MARNE RIVER and the CANAL running parallel to it, was on a pontoon bridge put up by the 4th Armored Division. CR ENH
RPT
4th AD

Combat Team 318 had left late the night before from ORVILLIERS, for VALLANT, and closed in at the later area early in the morning. It remained in the immediate vicinity until 0755 and continued its march. Upon reaching the SEINE RIVER, no great difficulty was experienced as the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop had already secured the area, and the river proved fordable. As the Combat Team moved toward the AUBE RIVER the enemy did offer some resistance along the route, but this was weak, coming from second rate troops. The 1016 Homeguard Bn and elements of the 301st GAF Signal School Regiment were employed by the enemy to try to stop the advance. These troops were either too young or too old to put up any kind of a decent struggle, and proved of little interference value to the steam-roller like advance of that element of the 80th Infantry Division. The Combat Team crossed the AUBE RIVER GERMAN
1016
301st GAF

at FERRE CHAMPENOISE. During the crossing, four enemy ME 109s flew over the column, but the gunners of the 633d AAA AW Bn drove them off before any damage could be inflicted.

On the 28 August 1944, the 80th Infantry Division continued its rapid advance east, against very limited opposition.

While crossing the MARNE RIVER and SAAL, Combat Team 318 ran into some determined resistance. The resistance was relatively ineffective because it lacked proper and adequate artillery support or support from other heavy weapons or tanks. It was from the enemy Combat Team Chalons, elements of the 769 Homeguard Infantry Bn, 126th Infantry Regiment of the 48th Infantry Division, and the 301st GAF Signal School. It was quickly overcome. The general advance of the column was toward CHALONS, and was only slowed by blown bridges. At 2320 the Combat Team closed into an area nine miles north of LES GRANDE LOGES.

2
GERMAN
769 HMG Bn
126th Inf Regt
301st GAF Sch

Combat Team 317 continued its attack northeast with the objective of taking CHALONS SUR MARNE. By midnight it had reached a point a mile southeast of CHALONS SUR MARNE. There it remained and prepared to attack its objective the next morning. A battle was expected to accomplish the reduction of the town. It was decided that the Combat Team would advance in a column of Battalions, with the 3d Bn in the lead and the 2d and 1st Bns following. This attack was to commence at 0800, and was to be coordinated with a joint attack to be made by elements of the 4th Armored Division from the east bank of the MARNE RIVER.

On the 28 August 1944, Combat Team 318, less the 905th Field Artillery Bn and "I" Company, were ordered to assemble north east of MERY SUR SEINE. The 905th Field Artillery Bn was placed under direct Divisional control to support the 314th Field Artillery Bn. "I" Company remained in position to give local security to the Divisional Command Post. The Combat Team was in the Divisional Reserve.

The 1st Bn was motorized and took off for the newly designated assembly point at daybreak with "C" Company of the 702d Tank Bn as direct support. The remainder of the Combat Team followed the 1st Bn by shuttle movement. The Combat Team closed into the assembly area just south of MERY SUR SEINE.

SECTION VI

CAPTURE OF CHALONS SUR MARNE

At 290100 August 1944, Combat Team 317 was directed to attack CHALONS SUR MARNE. The attack was to begin at 0900 from the area two miles southeast of town. During the night large fires were seen burning in the town and loyal civilians reported that the Germans were withdrawing.

Combat Team 317 coordinated its attack on CHALONS SUR MARNE with Combat Command "A" of the 4th Armored Division. Those elements of the 4th Armored Division were to attack from the east bank of the river. Combat Team 317 planned to attack in a column of Battalions, with the 3d Bn leading. 4MAD

The attack began at 0900 and by 1120, leading elements of the Combat Team had taken CHALONS SUR MARNE. The crossing, which had been blown was partially repaired to permit foot troops to pass most of the way. Brush rafts and all available boats in the area enabled the complete crossing over the deep water. This bridge site, over the river and the canal, led into the heart of the town. As the doughboys rushed ahead, little resistance was encountered in the town itself. The Combat Team continued the advance and organized positions on the high ground between ST MARTIN and CHALONS SUR MARNE by 1300.

Combat Team 319 (minus previously assigned elements) had moved to VILLESEANAUX where it received orders to attack CHALONS SUR MARNE from the southwest. Due to the little opposition encountered by Combat Team 317 in its attack, the orders of Combat Team 319 were cancelled.

Combat Team 318 after it had closed into its assembly area in the vicinity of LES GRANDE LOGES at 282320 August 1944 remained there throughout the day. No hostile action was experienced except when two hostile planes flew over and bombed and strafed friendly installations. Reconnaissance

patrols sent out by the Combat Team had discovered and captured without resistance, large quantities of enemy material and equipment, including a huge dump of gasoline, a large number of enemy guns and a food train at BOUIE.

On the 29 August 1944 the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop continued its mission of reconnoitering in the Division's Zone of Advance. The crossing at the MARNE RIVER and the CANAL running parallel to it was on a pontoon bridge put up by the 4th Armored Division. AAD

On the 30 August 1944 Field Message Number 10 directed the disposition of Combat Teams 317 and 318 on the perimeter of the MARNE RIVER bridgehead established by the 80th Infantry Division the day before. Fm #10

Combat Team 317 continued to consolidate its position on the east portion of the newly established bridgehead, north of the MARNE RIVER. Combat Team 318 continued to send out reconnaissance foot patrols in its sector. Combat Team 319 on foot closed into an assembly area four miles northwest of CHALONS SUR MARNE. The 905th Field Artillery reverted to the control of the Combat Team 319 as did "I" Company. However, "I" Company was given a special mission of guarding the railroad yards in CHALONS SUR MARNE, and again became separated from the rest of the Combat Team.

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop continued on its almost continuous reconnaissance mission and covered practically the entire Divisional area. By the 30 August 1944 it had reconnoitered on a line TOURS SUR MARNE, VERZY, SUIPPES, and LE FRESNE, and had wiped out what little opposition met. In addition to reconnoitering it aided in outposting the Divisional area.

Field Order Number 10 of the 80th Infantry Division, issued on the 31 August 1944, directed that the Division continue on the move east on three routes, to seize BAR LE DUC, and COMMERCEY, and prepare for action toward ST MIHIEL and the battle fields the Division knew so well from the last war. FO #10

During the entire move of the Division pursuant to Field Order Number 10, the Division was just one step behind the fast retreating Germans. The speed of the Division was greatly aided by the large gasoline dump captured the day before in BOUIE, this particularly so in that the Division's supply lines were becoming very extended. FO #10

Combat Team 318 moved by motor march forty two miles southeast to RIVIGNY and later moved on to BAR LE DUC, where it closed just prior to midnight.

Combat Team 317's Zone of Advance was to VILLERS. It preceeded Combat Team 319 in the advance.

Combat Team 319 left "I" Company behind in CHALONS SUR MARNE to safeguard the railroad yards there. In addition its 1st Bn was ordered attached to the 4th Armored Division, and had been moved to FRANCOIS DE VITRY for its new mission. The remainder of the Combat Team followed, motorized, in the path of Combat Team 317, as the Divisional Reserve. It moved through LONGEVAS, MARSONS, ST JEAN SUR MOIVRE, COUPEVILLE to FRESNE. There, after its thirty five mile trip, it detrucked and moved by shuttle to NETTENCOURT, where it closed for the night.

SEE SEP Pg 2

The end of the month marked the rapid retreat of the enemy. Valuable territory was gained by our forces because the enemy was unable to establish an effective defensive line. The success of the Allied advance was materially aided by the speed, daring and skill of our forces, the help of the F.F.I. in clearing the route of advance of delaying forces and the general collapse of German forces in France with its consequent loss of morale and organization.

NOTE: For period 1-31 Aug XIX TAC flew 12,342 Sorties, losing 101 pilots with a loss rate of 0.82 pilots/100 Sorties; and lost 122 A/C with a loss rate of 0.99/100 Sorties. Statistical Report on Pilot and Aircraft Losses. Reel 5936

The 80th Infantry Division was reorganized 12 August 1943 in accordance with T/O Number 7 and Allied orders. 13 July 1943, with authorized strength of 13,000 officers, 44,000 enlisted men, and 12,472 horses and mules.

In accordance with T/O Number 7-3, Headquarters Special Forces, 80th Infantry Division, was activated 12 August 1943, units assigned and/or attached to Special Forces were as follows: Headquarters Special Forces, Headquarters Company, 1st Platoon, 780th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company, 80th Quartermaster Company, 80th Signal Company, Attached Medical, Attached Chaplain, Attached Band.