

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I

OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE BOTH INFANTRY DIVISION

	<u>Page</u>
I Attack To The West.....	1
II The Well-Earned Rest.....	1
III The Defense Of Luxembourg.....	1

PART II

INFILTRATION DATA

1. Original Unit.....	1a
-----------------------	----

HISTORY

2. Changes in Organization.....	1a
3. Strength.....	2a

BOTH INFANTRY DIVISION

4. Stations.....	2a
5. Marches.....	2a

DECEMBER 1944

6. Campaigns.....	2a
7. Battles - Included in Part I.	

8. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.....	1b
--	----

9. Losses in Action, Officers and Enlisted Men.....	1b
---	----

10. Former and Present Members Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action.....	2c
---	----

11. Photographs of Personnel, Important Scenes or Events.....	1d
---	----

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1

OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION

		<u>Page</u>
I	Attack To The East.....	1
II	The Well-Earned Rest.....	7
III	The Defense Of Luxembourg.....	9

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

**OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE
80TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

DEFENSIVE DECEMBER 1944

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
1 ATTACK TO THE EAST	1 - 6
11 THE WELL-EARNED REST	7 - 8
111 THE DEFENSE OF LUXEMBOURG	9 - 38

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BY AUTHORITY OF ~~FRG~~ DEF

SECTION I

ATTACK TO THE EAST

27 Aug 46 HSD
Date Initials

On the first day of December 1944, the Division was holding the high ground on the north flank of the XII Corps after the advance from the SEILLE RIVER. Elements of the Division were occupying temporary defensive positions between FAREBERSVILLER and ST AVOLD, while regrouping forces and resting personnel in preparation for a drive across the SARR RIVER toward the SIEGFRIED LINE.

XII

The 317th Infantry was in Division Reserve; the 1st Bn in the vicinity of MACHEREN, the 2d Bn in the vicinity of GUENVILLER and the 3d Bn in the vicinity of MARIENTHAL.

Defensive positions were occupied by the 318th Infantry west of FAREBERSVILLER. The 1st Bn was on the line northwest and west of FAREBERSVILLER at HENRIVILLE; the 3d Bn, in Regimental Reserve, was in the vicinity of SEINGBOUSE.

Protecting the left (north) flank of the Division, the 319th Infantry occupied positions in the vicinity of HOMBURG-HAUT, BETTING-LES-ST AVOLD, BENING-LES-ST AVOLD and the woods LE KNEEBUSCH. The 2d Bn was in position in the vicinity of HOMBURGHAUT on the left of the 1st Bn. HELBERING was occupied by the 3d Bn which was in Regimental Reserve.

Daylight and night patrols were sent (eastward) to probe the enemy's outpost line and determine possible tank crossings over the railroad and the creeks which provided natural barriers in front of the enemy lines.

North of ST AVOLD, in the vicinity of CARLING (Q-2563), the 3d Bn 10th Infantry (5th Infantry Division) continued to occupy defensive positions on the 80th Division left flank. The 95th Infantry Division, also on the left flank (east of METZ) of the 80th Division, continued the attack to the east and northeast.

5th Div
95th Div

Elements of the 2d Cavalry Group continued to patrol the north (left) flank of the Division Zone. One platoon of "A" Troop 2d Cavalry Squadron maintained contact with the 95th Infantry Division.

2d Cav Grp
2d Cav Sqd
95th Div

The 1117th Engineer Combat Group, supporting the 80th Division, maintained roads and bridges within the Division Zone.

1117 ENG

2 Dec

On 2, December 1944, the Division (Reinforced), prior to continuing the attack eastward, continued to occupy positions, regroup forces, rest personnel and service equipment.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve at HELLERING, began relief of the 2d Bn in the vicinity of HOMBURG-HAUT at 1520. Relief was completed by 1550 with the 2d Bn reverting to Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of BETTING-LES-ST AVOLD. The 1st Bn 319th Infantry remained in its position north of BETTING-LES-ST AVOLD, BENING-LES-ST AVOLD and the woods LE KNEEBUSCH.

The 317th Infantry, in Division Reserve, made no change in troop dispositions on 2 December 1944.

The 318th Infantry continued to occupy temporary defensive positions northwest, west, and southwest of PAREBERSVILLER. Active night patrolling was conducted to determine enemy dispositions.

NIGHT PATROLS

On the 80th Division left, the 95th Infantry Division continued the attack to the east and northeast. The 6th Cavalry Group, occupying the area between the 80th and 95th Infantry Divisions, launched an attack on L'HOPITAL (Q-2763).

6th CAV GP
95M

On the right flank of the Division, the 6th Armored Division continued to occupy defensive positions.

6th AD

The 808th Tank Destroyer Bn (TWD) was relieved from attachment to the 80th Infantry Division Artillery and assigned the primary mission of anti-mechanized defense.

808TD (T)

Field Order Number 19, issued 1300, 2 December 1944, revealed plans for the XII Corps to continue the attack to the northeast early on 4 December 1944. The 6th Armored Division, the 35th Infantry Division, the 4th Armored Division, the 26th Infantry Division and the 80th Infantry Division were to take part in the offensive.

FO #19

The Division was to attack with one Regiment (reinforced) early 4 December 1944, and seize the high ground northeast of PAREBERSVILLER.

The 318th Infantry was to spearhead the attack. The Regiment's front was to be shortened, with the 319th Infantry relieving elements of the 318th Infantry north of the AVOLD-FAREBERSVILLER highway and elements of the 6th Armored Division relieving the 2d Bn 318th Infantry southeast of HENRIVILLE. In addition, the 319th Infantry was to support the attack bz fire.

3 Dec

On 3 December 1944, elements of the 1st Bn 319th Infantry completed the relief of the 318th Infantry north of the ST AVOLD-FAREBERSVILLER highway by 0622.

The 6th Armored Division relieved the 2d Bn 318th Infantry southeast of HENRIVILLE by 1440. The 2d Bn then assembled in the vicinity of HENRIVILLE. These changes in the 318th Regimental sector prepared the Regiment for the attack planned for the following day. The 318th Infantry now held a narrow zone from the ST AVOLD-FAREBERSVILLER highway south to HENRIVILLE. 6th AD

The line held by the 319th Infantry extended from HOMBOURG-HAUT eastward to the woods LE KNEEBUSCH and thence south to the ST AVOLD-FAREBERSVILLER highway.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, holding the left portion of the Regimental sector north of HOMBOURG-HAUT, sent a combat patrol on 3 December 1944, north to GREYMING and MERLEBACH to determine enemy dispositions.

The 317th Infantry, in Division Reserve, remained in the same positions occupied the previous day.

4 Dec

At 0730, 4 December 1944, the 318th Infantry attacked to the northeast with the high ground in the vicinity of FAREBERSVILLER as its objective. The attack was preceded by both Corps and Division Artillery preparations, concentrations from the mortars of the reserve battalion 319th Infantry, mortar fire from all three organic heavy weapons companies, direct fire from "B" Company 808th Tank Destroyer Bn and by fire from fifteen heavy machine guns of the 319th Infantry. Heavy fire was placed on all objectives until the Infantry neared the immediate objectives. 808TD

The 1st and 2d Bns were employed in the attack with the 1st Bn on the left and the 2d Bn on the right.

Attacking through FAREBERSVILLER, the 1st Bn met medium enemy resistance and bz 0900, leading elements had reached

the high ground west of THEDING (370595 - 373593). By 1100, the Battalion occupied the ground west, east, and southeast of COCHEREN. Here only light enemy resistance was encountered. "B" Company moved on to take the high ground northeast of COCHEREN (364612) at 1155. By 1320, the 1st Bn occupied all of the high ground northeast of the town. The objective had been taken.

The 2d Bn, attacking on the right of the 1st Bn, moved on THEDING and at 0840 reached a point 500 yards southwest of the town. By 0930, leading elements of the Battalion, meeting medium enemy opposition, were fighting in the outskirts of THEDING. Heavy enemy automatic weapons fire in the town temporarily held up the advance, but by 1010, the town was reported clear of the enemy. At 1100, forward elements of the 2d Bn, encountering light enemy resistance, entered the woods on LE MONT DE THEDING. HILL 373 was taken at 1145 and the Battalion halted for the day. Both the 1st and 2d Bns consolidated and organized for defense of the ground taken in the attack. Road blocks, covering all likely tank approaches, were constructed.

EN AT
MG FIRE

Supporting fire from the tank destroyers and tanks aided the Infantry in taking the objectives. "B" Company 702d Tank Bn supported the 1st Bn; "A" Company 702d Tank Bn and "C" Company 610th Tank Destroyer Bn, supported 2d Bn.

702 TK
610 TD

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve, moved from HELLERING to FAREBERSVILLER on the morning 4 December 1944, closing in at 1140. During the afternoon, the 3d Bn moved northeast to THEDING as Regimental Reserve, closing in at 1815.

On 4 December 1944, the 319th Infantry had the mission of supporting the attack of the 318th Infantry by fire. From positions on the high ground northwest of FAREBERSVILLER, it supported the attack with fire from heavy machine guns and 81mm mortars. At 1055, the Regiment was relieved of its supporting mission. A contact point between the 318th and 319th Infantry Regiments was established west of COCHEREN (358610) at 1405.

The 317th Infantry remained in Division Reserve on 4 December 1944, with the 1st Bn in the vicinity of MACHEREN, the 2d Bn in the vicinity of GUENVILLER and the 3d Bn in the vicinity of MARIENTHAL.

"A" and "B" Companies of the 808th Tank Destroyer Bn

808 TD

displaced to Division objectives to provide anti-tank defense.

Elements of the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop maintained contact with the 6th Armored Division on the Division left flank.

80RCW
6AD

* At 2250, 4 December 1944, a building in ST AVOLD used as the 633d AAA (AW) Bn Command Post was destroyed by the explosion of a time bomb planted by the retreating Germans.

633AAA
See COMBAT
INTERVIEW

When the Division occupied ST AVOLD, an enemy agent surrendered himself to Division front line units. Upon interrogation, the agent, an Alsatian, declared he had been sent to ST AVOLD to secure a hidden radio and report the results of time bombs which the Germans had left in the town. Search revealed the radio and two time bombs, one concealed in the city gas works and the other in the former German artillery barracks. Further extensive search failed to uncover more bombs, but during the period the Division remained in ST AVOLD, four other time bombs detonated, destroying three buildings formerly occupied by Nazi Party organizations and a section of the artillery barracks.

633AA
M/Rs

5 Dec

On 5 December 1944, the Division continued to occupy positions which were taken the previous day.

The 318th Infantry occupied front line positions with the 1st Bn on the high ground northeast of COCHEREN and the 2d Bn in the vicinity of HILL 373 (north of THEDING). The 3d Bn, in Regimental Reserve, remained in THEDING.

The 319th Infantry held its front line positions lightly, employing elements of two Battalions. The 1st Bn continued to hold the sector BETTING-LES-ST AVOLD, BENING-LES-ST AVOLD, LE KNEEBUSCH with elements of "A" and "B" Companies, while the remainder of the Battalion assembled in the vicinity of BENING-LES-ST AVOLD.

The 3d Bn held its line north and northeast of HOMBURG-HAUT with elements of "I" and "L" Companies. The remainder of the Battalion assembled in the vicinity of HOMBURG-HAUT.

The 2d Bn, in Regimental Reserve, remained in the vicinity of BETTING-LES-ST AVOLD.

"A" Company 702d Tank Bn was relieved from attachment to the 318th Infantry at 1140, 5 December 1944.

702TK

The 317th Infantry remained in Division Reserve, occupying the same positions as on 4 December 1944.

On the Division left, elements of the 2d Cavalry Group continued movement to the northeast, protecting the XII Corps and Division left flank. The 2d Cavalry Squadron advanced through FREYMING to MERLEBACH, ST NICOLAS and ROSEBRUCH. Patrols were sent to the vicinity of MORSBACH and TORBACH.

2 CWGP
XII

5-6 Dec

During the night 5-6 December 1944, the 318th Infantry sent a patrol from the 1st Bn to enter Germany. These troops were the first in the Division to be reported operating on German soil.

6 Dec

The Division maintained its positions on 6 December 1944 and established contact with the 6th Armored Division on the right.

6th AD

The 318th Infantry, holding the Division east front, remained in position northeast of COCHEREN with the 1st Bn, while the 2d Bn remained in position in the vicinity of HILL 373 (north of THEDING). The 3d Bn remained in Regimental Reserve in THEDING. Contact was made by the 318th Infantry with the 6th Armored Division on the right and the 2d Cavalry Squadron on the left.

6th AD
2d Cav Sq

The 319th Infantry extended its position to the north on 6 December 1944. The 2d Bn, in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of BETTING-LES-ST AVOLD, began movement at 0730 towards MERLEBACH. At 0805, forward elements of the Battalion entered the town, meeting no enemy opposition. By 0930, the high ground in the vicinity of MERLEBACH was occupied and the town was outposted. The 1st Bn 319th Infantry continued to hold its sector lightly from BETTING-LES-ST AVOLD to BENING-LES-ST AVOLD and the woods LE KNEERUSCH, with most of the Battalion assembled in BENING-LES-ST AVOLD. The 3d Bn maintained a light line north and northeast of HOMBURG-HAUT, with most of the Battalion assembled in HOMBURG-HAUT.

6th AD

The 317th Infantry remained in Division Reserve without any change in troop dispositions.

The 610th Tank Destroyer Bn was released from attachment to the Division on 6 December 1944.

610TD

Contact between the 6th Armored Division and the 80th Infantry Division was maintained by the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop.

6th AD

SECTION II

THE WELL-EARNED REST

7 Dec

On 7 December 1944, the 80th Infantry Division was ordered by XII Corps into a rest area in the vicinity of ST AVOLD. The 6th Armored Division was to relieve the front line units.

XII
6th AD

The 317th Infantry, which had been in Division Reserve, began movement to ST AVOLD on the morning of 7 December 1944. The 1st Bn, in MACHEREN, began movement at 0800 and closed into ST AVOLD at 0950; the 2d Bn, in GUENVILLER, began moving at 0900, closing at 1030; the 3d Bn, in MARIENTHAL, began movement at 1000, closing at 1435.

On the morning of 7 December 1944, the 3d Bn 318th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve at THEDING, began movement at 0930 to FREYMING. Combat Command "B" of the 6th Armored Division began, at 1330, to relieve the 318th Infantry from its positions northeast of COCHEREN and north of THEDING. Relief was completed by 1605, at which time the 1st and 2d Bns began to move to FREYMING. By dark, both Battalions had closed into the assembly area.

CCB/6th AD

The 319th Infantry moved to MERLEBACH about noon on 7 December 1944, closing in at 1415. The 1st Bn moved from BENING-LES-ST AVOLD and the 3d Bn moved from HOMBURG-HAUT.

All Regiments and attached organizations were closed in assembly areas by 1710, 7 December 1944. Relief of the Division was effected by the 6th Armored Division. The 80th Infantry Division began rehabilitation of personnel and servicing of equipment.

6th AD

On the immediate left flank of the Division, the 86th Cavalry Squadron relieved the 2d Cavalry Group at 1415, 7 December 1944. The 2d Cavalry Group was released from attachment to the Division.

86th Cav Sq
2d Cav Grp

The 1117th Engineer Group was relieved of support of the Division on 7 December 1944.

1117 Eng Grp

The 314th, 905th and 315th Field Artillery Bns of the Division remained in positions to respond to calls for fire from the 6th Armored Division. The 313th Field Artillery Bn marched to the vicinity of FONTENY (0732) to participate in XII Corps demonstration of the POZIT fuse. All batteries

POZIT
FUSE

were registered on 8 December 1944, and the demonstration was performed on 9 December 1944. The Battalion returned to bivouac at ST AVOLD on 10 December 1944.

The relief of the Division by the 6th Armored Division terminated the 80th Division's one hundred and second consecutive day of contact with the enemy.

102 days

8-16 Dec

During the period 8 - 16 December 1944, inclusive, the Division continued to rehabilitate and train personnel and service equipment.

12 HAB
TNG

Division Artillery (less 313th Field Artillery Bn) remained in position and responded to calls from the 6th Armored Division. A total of 241 missions were fired by Division Artillery during the period 8 - 16 December 1944.

In the rehabilitation and training program conducted during the rest period, emphasis was placed on the training of assault teams, attack of fortified positions, anti-tank work, tank-infantry coordination, fighting in woods and use of demolitions and range firing.

On 13 December 1944, the 115th Infantry moved back to cross the initial point (coordinates northwest of ...)

On 14 December 1944, the 115th Infantry moved back to cross the initial point (coordinates northwest of ...)

On 15 December 1944, the 115th Infantry moved back to cross the initial point (coordinates northwest of ...)

On 16 December 1944, the 115th Infantry moved back to cross the initial point (coordinates northwest of ...)

The 317th Infantry remained in its assembly area west of ... 15 December 1944 and continued tactical and technical training.

SECTION III

THE DEFENSE OF LUXEMBOURG

16 Dec

Upon orders received on 16 December 1944 from XII Corps, the Division began preparation for movement south-east to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of BINING (Q-6549).

XII F/O

Field Order Number 20, issued 0100, 16 December 1944, provided for the 317th and 319th Infantry Regiments to move on the morning of 17 December 1944, while the 318th Infantry was to move the following morning, 18 December 1944.

F/O 20/16 Dec

17 Dec

The 317th Infantry moved from ST AVOLD at 0700, 17 December 1944, and closed into an assembly area west of SARRE-UNION at 1330.

The 319th Infantry began movement at 1045 from MERLEBACH to a forward assembly area in ROHRBACH-LES-BITCHE, closing in at 1632.

Liaison was established with the 25th Cavalry Squadron, 25 Cav Sq which was on line to the front of the 319th Infantry.

18 Dec

On 18 December 1944, the 318th Infantry moved from FREYMING to cross the Initial Point (crossroads northwest of MARIENTHAL) at 0700, closing into the new area at 1130, with the 1st Bn in BTTING, the 2d Bn in SCHMITTVILLER and the 3d Bn in BETTVILLER.

All units of the Division closed by late afternoon, 18 December 1944. The area held was on the right flank of XII Corps Zone, with the 37th Infantry Division on the left flank and the XV Corps on the right flank.

Meanwhile, the 2d Bn 319th Infantry, moving from the forward assembly area in the vicinity of ROHRBACH-LES-BITCHE at 0915, relieved elements of the 25th Cavalry Squadron on a line from the high ground south of UTWEILER to EPPING-URBACH, thence southeast to URBACH. Relief was completed by 1200, 18 December 1944.

The 317th Infantry remained in its assembly area west of SARRE-UNION, 18 December 1944 and continued tactical and technical training.

XII XV
187 80
85

25 Cav Sq

Orders from XII Corps were received on 18 December 1944 alerting the Division for movement to the vicinity of LUXEMBOURG (P-8491), where it was to assist in repelling an enemy counterattack in the zone of the VIII Corps.

F/021?
XII ORDERS
VIII

^{19 Dec}
The 2d Bn 319th Infantry was relieved by elements of the 12th Armored Division, XV Corps, at 1500, 19 December 1944 and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of ROHRBACH-LES-BITCHE.

12th AD / XV Corps

The 317th Infantry, in an assembly area west of SARRE-UNION, began movement northwest to the vicinity of LUXEMBOURG on 19 December 1944, crossing the Initial Point at SARRE-UNION at 1420. At 0400, 20 December 1944, the Regiment closed into the vicinity of GONDERANGE, LUXEMBOURG.

The 318th Infantry also began movement during the afternoon 19 December 1944, with the 1st Bn moving from BETTVILLER. The Regiment crossed the Initial Point at SARRALBE at 1715 and arrived at its new area in the vicinity BASCHARAGE, LUXEMBOURG at 0530, 20 December 1944.

Moving late 19 December 1944, the 319th Infantry left the assembly area in the vicinity of ROHRBACH-LES-BITCHE to move northwest to the vicinity of BASHCARAGE, LUXEMBOURG, arriving in it's new area the morning of 20 December 1944.

At the time the advance elements of the Division arrived in the LUXEMBOURG area, the ambitious German offensive in the ARDENNES, which began on 19 December 1944, was in the process of full development. The enemy drive was closing in on BASTOGNE (Q-5558), northwest of LUXEMBOURG and continuing to the west toward LIEGE and ST HUBERT. To the immediate north and east of LUXEMBOURG, the enemy had a well established bridgehead across the SAUER RIVER extending from ETTELBRUCK to the east of ECHTERNACH. Enemy efforts to expand the bridgehead were being contained by our forces with difficulty. The enemy units in contact in this sector were the 352d, 276th, 212th Volksgrenadier Division, with the 5th Paratroop Division attacking westward along the SAUER and SURE RIVERS towards BASTOGNE.

GERMAN
352/276/
212 Volk's Divs
+
5th Para Troop

^{20 Dec}
Field Order Number 22, issued 0300, 20 December 1944, provided for the 317th and 318th Infantry Regiments to occupy reserve battle positions on the high ground north

FO # 22
20 Dec 44

and northeast of MERSCH in the 4th Infantry Division Zone and prevent a breakthrough of hostile forces. These positions were to be occupied without delay.

4th INF DIV

The 317th Infantry moved during the morning of 20 December 1944, from the vicinity of GONDERANGE, LUXEMBOURG, to occupy reserve battle positions north of LUXEMBOURG CITY as directed by Field Order Number 22. The 317th Infantry held the right sector of the Division Zone northeast of MERSCH, the 2d and 3d Bns on the line and the 1st Bn in Regimental Reserve (mobile).

The 318th Infantry, after closing into the vicinity of BASCHARAGE early 20 December 1944, moved a few hours later to comply with Field Order Number 22. Moving into position northeast of MERSCH by noon 20 December 1944, the 318th Infantry held the left sector of the Division Zone, with the 2d Bn on the left, the 1st Bn on the right and the 3d Bn in Reserve.

The 319th Infantry, in Division Reserve, moved from the vicinity of BASCHARAGE to reserve positions just north of the city of LUXEMBOURG, near WEINMENSK. The Regiment was to be prepared to reinforce either the 317th or the 318th Infantry.

21 Dec

At 0030, 21 December 1944, Field Order Number 23 was issued, providing for the concentration of the Division northwest of LUXEMBOURG CITY, preparatory to advancing to the north. Plans were made to initiate movement of Infantry Regiments, but at noon, 21 December 1944, Field Order Number 23 was suspended. Later in the day, Field Message Number 3 amplified instructions given in Field Order Number 23 and Regiments moved to occupy positions as directed.

FO#23

FM#233

The 318th Infantry moved to its new zone in the vicinity of MERSCH, completing movement by 1600.

The 319th Infantry moved by shuttle to its new assembly area in the vicinity of BROUCH and completed movement by 1715.

The 317th Infantry, reverting to Division Reserve, moved south to the vicinity of STBINSSEL (8321), closing in at 1750.

22 Dec

Preparations were made by Regiments for an advance to the north at 0600, 22 December 1944.

The Division was placed under control of III Corps, with the 26th Infantry Division on the left flank and XIII Corps on the right flank.

808TD
III
26 Div

The 808th Tank Destroyer Bn was released from attachment to the Division and replaced by the 610th Tank Destroyer Bn (self-propelled) on 21 December 1944.

808TD
610TD

The Division advanced to the north at 0600, 22 December 1944, the 318th and 319th Infantry Regiments abreast and the 317th Infantry in Division Reserve. The Line Of Departure for the Division extended from BUSCHDORF eastward to BERINGEN.

915/352

The 318th Infantry, occupying the right sector of the Division Zone, attacked at 0600, 22 December 1944, in column of battalions, with the 1st Bn leading, the 2d and 3d Bns following. All units had crossed the Initial Point, WERSCH, by 0815.

The forward element of the 1st Bn was composed of "B" Company 702d Tank Bn, one platoon of light tanks 702d Tank Bn and one company of Infantry riding the tanks. Enemy opposition was first encountered at 1033 south of ETTLEBRUCK (P-8240). The enemy was taken by surprise and nearly a Battalion of enemy field artillery was destroyed on the ETTLEBRUCK-DINKIRCH highway. However, large forces of enemy infantry in ETTLEBRUCK made it impossible to clear the town on 22 December 1944. The Battalion was engaged in heavy fighting on the western and southwestern edge of ETTLEBRUCK throughout the remainder of the day. At nightfall, the 1st Bn held positions in houses on the western edge of the town.

B-702

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry, following the 1st Bn on the initial jump-off, swung to the left of the 1st Bn upon reaching COLMAR. Nearing the high ground northwest of BERG, the 2d Bn encountered small arms and mortar fire from the north. Progress was slowed, but by the end of the day, the 2d Bn had seized HILL 990.

The 3d Bn, in Regimental Reserve, assembled in COLMAR.

On 22 December 1944, the 319th Infantry, employing the 1st and 3d Bns, moved from the vicinity of BUSCHDORF

at 0600. The 3d Bn advanced on the left; the 1st Bn on the right. Contact with the enemy was made at MICHELBUCH by the 3d Bn as it entered the town at 0910. The town was cleared of the enemy by 1010 and preparations were made to move on MERZIG. Tanks from the 702d Tank Bn entered the town at 1040 and by 1100, the Infantry had advanced to the KOHELBERG FOREST, southeast of MERZIG. The 3d Bn encountered considerable enemy small arms and light artillery fire in MERZIG at 1205. Heavy fighting continued in MERZIG the rest of the day and at nightfall the 3d Bn had a strong hold on the town.

702

Enemy troops of the 915th Infantry Regiment (352d Volksgrenadier Division), marching in column from OBERPEULEN to MERZIG, were caught on the road by artillery fire. Two companies of enemy infantry plus the trains of the 915th Regiment were destroyed.

GERMAN
915th/352 Dn

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry advanced at 0600 on the right of the 3d Bn. At 1145, the 1st Bn had advanced 3500 yards north of BISSEN, where small enemy patrols were encountered. The advance was continued and by 1500, elements of the 1st Bn had seized OBERPEULEN against moderate enemy resistance. The attack was carried north-east towards PEULEN and NIEDERPEULEN; by nightfall both towns were captured.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve at BROUCH, was ordered to move to VICHTEN and closed into that area at 1425. At 1635, the Battalion was alerted for movement by motor. At 2045, the Battalion moved from VICHTEN to OBERPEULEN, closing late that evening to detrack and prepare for foot movement to HEIDERSCHIED.

The 317th Infantry, in Division Reserve, followed the 318th Infantry in its advance on 22 December 1944, relieving elements of the 318th Infantry from the mission of maintaining road blocks on the right flank of the Division. The 1st Bn moved north from the assembly area, in the vicinity of STEINSEL, to LINTGEN, at 0845. The 2d Bn moving from the vicinity of STEINSEL to CRUCHTEN at 1330, closed in at 1745 and received the mission of maintaining road blocks at CRUCHTEN. The 3d Bn moved from the vicinity of STEINSEL during the morning of 22 December 1944 to occupy BERINGEN at 1420. "I" and "L" Companies maintained road blocks at MOESDORF and BERSCHBACH respectively. This completed occupation of road blocks on the right flank of the Division Zone.

23 Dec

During the early morning hours of 23 December 1944, the Division attack reached the high ground across the SURE RIVER and had captured the town of HEIDERSCHEID. Strong counterattacks by enemy infantry and tanks were launched in that vicinity throughout the balance of the day. Twelve of the seventeen enemy tanks making the attacks were knocked out. The German units making the attack were identified as the Fuehrer Brigade "Grosdeutschland". Fierce resistance was met in the vicinity of ETTLEBRUCK and heavy nebelwerfer concentrations were encountered during the attack in this sector. The 406th Volks Artillery Corps was also identified as supporting the enemy in the ETTLEBRUCK area.

Fuehrer
BRIGADE
+
406 Volks ARTY
CORPS

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry moved from OBEREUBEN at 2355 and advanced northwest to HEIDERSCHEID. The leading elements reached encountered heavy machine gun fire at the outskirts of HEIDERSCHEID at 0525, 23 December 1944. One company moved into the town at 0625 under heavy supporting automatic fire and at 1000 hours the entire Battalion was in HEIDERSCHEID. Although heavy enemy resistance continued in that area, the town was cleared at 1110 and outposts were established to the north and northwest of the town. The enemy launched a strong infantry-tank counterattack from the east and northeast at 1215. The 2d Bn successfully repulsed this counterattack and knocked out eight enemy tanks. The Battalion continued to hold the town against numerous enemy counterattacks during the afternoon, maintaining positions throughout the night.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry continued mopping up operations in MERZIG on 23 December 1944 and had cleared the town by 1050. In the course of these operations, one hundred and eighteen prisoners were taken. The Battalion received orders to move immediately to assist the 2d Bn in the vicinity of HEIDERSCHEID. Movement was made to the northeast at 1130. The Battalion, moving north towards the town of TADLER, passed through the 2d Bn. Leading elements of the 3d Bn reached the outskirts of TADLER at 1800. Heavy small arms and some artillery fire were received at that point. The town was taken by enveloping action and cleared by 1955. Attempts were made to secure the SURE RIVER BRIDGE to the northeast of TADLER, but opposed by strong forces, the attacks were unsuccessful.

"I" Company was sent west of TADLER to the village

of HEIDERSCHNEIDERGRUND to secure the bridge over the
SURE RIVER. The town was taken at 2015 and the Company
advanced northwest to secure the bridge which was strongly
held by the enemy. Efforts to secure the bridge intact
failed and the Company maintained positions in the vicinity
of HEIDERSCHNEIDERGRUND throughout the night.

At 0700, 23 December 1944, the 1st Bn 319th Infantry
moved out of NEIDERPEULEN, advancing to the north against
negligible resistance. By 1000, the woods had been cleared
southwest of KEHMEN and the Battalion had advanced to a
point about 900 yards southwest of KEHMEN before heavy
enemy resistance was encountered. At 1630, an attack
was launched on the towns of KEHMEN and SCHEIDEL. The town
of KEHMEN was cleared at 1900 and the Battalion maintained
positions in that vicinity during the night.

On 23 December 1944, the 318th Infantry continued to
attack on its original objective. The 1st Bn, throughout
the entire day, continued its attack upon the town of
ETTELBRUCK against heavy resistance. In the evening,
under cover of darkness, the Battalion was moved to more
favorable terrain on the high ground southwest of ETTEL-
BRUCK. The movement was completed prior to midnight.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry advanced northward at 0655,
23 December 1944, from its position on HILL 390 (792378)
and took the high ground northeast of NEIDERPEULEN (802408)
by 1115.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry moved from COLMAR at 0655,
23 December 1944, advancing north toward the village of
WARKEN. At 1100, the Battalion occupied the high ground
northwest of ETTELBRUCK (815404) where artillery and small
armfire held up the advance.

The evening of 23 December 1944, found the 2d and 3d
Bns 318th Infantry on a line from (795408) to (817404),
along the high ground northwest of ETTELBRUCK. The 2d
Bn was on the left and the 3d Bn on the right. A road
block, to cover the NEIDERPEULEN-ETTELBRUCK highway,
was set up at the most westerly position of the 2d Bn.

On 23 December 1944, the 317th Infantry was to relieve
the 318th Infantry in the advance to the north on BOUR-
SCHEID. The advance northward was made in a column of
Battalions with the 2d Bn in the lead, followed by the

1st and 3d Bns. Elements of the XII Corps, advancing on the Division right flank, relieved the 317th Infantry of the responsibility of maintaining road blocks on that flank. XII

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry moved out of CRUCHTEN, northwest to the vicinity of COLMAR on the morning of 23 December 1944 and was in the assembly area at COLMAR at 1140. The Battalion moved from COLMAR northwest in the direction of OBERFEULEN at 1400 and by 1845, had passed through that town. The advance halted ~~2000 meters~~ northeast of NEIDERFEULEN where the advance elements of the Battalion were held up temporarily by strong enemy patrols. The advance continued however and the Battalion entered and cleared WELSCHHEID at 2400 in preparation for an advance the next morning.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry moved from LINTGEN to the northwest in the afternoon and closed into the assembly area near COLMAR at 1400. By 1430, the Battalion moved northwest enroute to OBERFEULEN and at 1900, it was in NEIDERFEULEN, advancing northeast behind the 2d Bn. At 2200, it was 600 yards south of WELSCHHEID and took up positions on the high ground in that vicinity for the remainder of the night.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry was at BERINGEN on the morning of 23 December 1944. At 0400, "I" Company relieved elements of the 318th Infantry on the road block at SCHIEREN, having moved there from MOESDORF. "L" Company moving from BERSCHBACH rejoined the Battalion, which proceeded north to the vicinity of SCHIEREN, reaching there at 0700. At 1245, the Battalion moved south to COLMAR, remaining there until late in the afternoon when it proceeded northwest to OBERFEULEN. At 2200, the Battalion was in the vicinity of NEIDERFEULEN, where it stayed throughout the night.

23-24 Dec

On the night of 23-24 December the 317th Infantry passed through the 318th Infantry to continue the attack upon BOURSCHHEID. The 318th Infantry assembled in Division Reserve with the mission of containing ETTTELBRUCK and protecting the Division right flank and rear.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, in position at HEIDERSCHHEID, was subjected to fierce enemy counterattacks by tanks and infantry at 0840, 24 December 1944. The hostile attacks were being pressed from the north, northwest and west of HEIDERSCHHEID. Elements of the 2d Bn, on the early morning of the 24 December 1944, had moved northwest to HEIDERSCHHEID-ERGRUND to relieve "I" Company 319th Infantry in the attack on the SURE RIVER bridge at that point. The Company was

relieved at 1000. The counterattack on HEIDERSCHEID however, cut these elements off and they were occupied in defense of their own positions. The counterattack against the Battalion continued throughout the morning, but was repulsed with heavy loss to the enemy. By 1500, the enemy was forced to withdraw. The elements of the Battalion at HEIDERSCHEIDERGRUND were relieved by elements of the 104th Infantry, 26th Infantry Division, and returned to the Battalion area at 2315. The Battalion consolidated its positions and remained in the vicinity of HEIDERSCHEID for the night.

104 INF /
26 DIV

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, on the morning of 24 December 1944, prepared to move west from KEHMEN to support the 2d Bn against enemy counterattacks. At 0845, strong enemy counterattacks from the east and northeast were launched against the Battalion in the vicinity of (764453). The Battalion successfully repulsed these counterattacks throughout the morning and maintained positions on the high ground two and one half kilometers west of KEHMEN. This position was consolidated and maintained throughout the night.

23-24 Dec

During the night of 23 - 24 December 1944, the 3d Bn 319th Infantry, in the vicinity of TABLER, with "I" Company of the 319th Infantry, in the vicinity of HEIDERSCHEIDERGRUND, continued the attacks on the bridges across the SURE RIVER. The attacks met heavy resistance and the bridges remained in enemy hands. On the morning of the 24 December 1944, the bridge northeast of TABLER was blown. At 1000, the 3d Battalion moved south in the direction of HEIDERSCHEID, to support the 1st and 2d Bns. Elements of the 3d Battalion continued to hold the town of TABLER. "I" Company, which was relieved by "G" Company, was cut off by the counterattack at HEIDERSCHEID and remained in HEIDERSCHEIDERGRUND throughout the day. At 1630, the 3d Bn arrived in the vicinity of HEIDERSCHEID and took up positions on the high ground north of that town (747545). The enemy engaged in the counterattack on HEIDERSCHEIDERGRUND was forced to withdraw and "I" Company was able to move from its position at HEIDERSCHEIDERGRUND in the late afternoon. It returned through the 2d Bn 319th Infantry and closed into the Battalion area at 2150. The 3d Battalion maintained its positions north of HEIDERSCHEIDERGRUND throughout the night.

24 Dec

On the morning of 24 December 1944, the 2d Bn 317th Infantry was in positions at WELSCHHEID. "E" and "F" Companies, with one platoon of "H" Company, passed through the town

of WELSCHRID to the north, and at dawn they were cut off. They remained so throughout most of the day. Heavy artillery fire fell on their positions most of the afternoon, but at 1700 they fought their way back to the Battalion. The Battalion moved to take up positions southwest of WELSCHRID on the high ground and companies were in consolidated positions, (802435) to (790449), at 2055. The Battalion remained there during the night.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry was ordered to advance to the vicinity of KEHMEN and support the 1st Bn 319th Infantry which was being subjected to fierce counterattacks by tanks and infantry. The Battalion advanced north from its position near NEIDERFEULEN at 1000. At 1820, it was on the high ground south of KEHMEN where it encountered heavy small arms, machine gun and artillery fire. Heavy resistance continued and the Battalion took up positions on the high ground southwest of KEHMEN (763454 - 774455), remaining throughout the night.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve, was south of WELSCHRID during the day of 24 December 1944. In the evening it moved to NEIDERFEULEN and took up positions for the night on the high ground east of NEIDERFEULEN (809405).

On the 24th of December 1944, the 1st Bn 318th Infantry was relieved by the 3d Bn in its mission of containing ETTTELBRUCK. The relief of the 1st Bn was completed at 1330. The position of the 3d Bn was from (819355) southwest of ETTTELBRUCK to the high ground northwest of ETTTELBRUCK (812403). At 1325, the enemy, using infantry and tanks, launched a counterattack threatening the Battalion positions northwest and southwest of ETTTELBRUCK.

At 1430, the counterattack had been repulsed with the Battalion continuing to hold its original positions. The Battalion maintained its positions throughout the night.

At 1330, orders were received directing the 318th Infantry, (minus the 3d Bn) to move by motor without delay to assist the 4th Armored Division in relieving besieged elements at EASTOGNE. The 1st Bn entrucked at COLMAR at 1700 and moved west to the assembly area. The 2d Bn entrucked at OBERFEULEN at 1700, moving west to the assembly area with the 4th Armored Division.

25 Dec

On 25 December 1944, the 319th Infantry was directed

See Pg 26
F/O 9318
24-28 Dec

AMAD
Sept 27-29

to clear the area in it's sector to the SURE RIVER, but not to attempt a crossing of the river.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, in the vicinity northeast of HEIDERSCHEID, moved north to TABLER at 0800, 25 December 1944. At TABLER, the elements which had outposted that town the previous night rejoined the Battalion. The advance continued northward in the Battalion sector. At 1545, the Battalion had cleared the entire area south of the SURE RIVER in it's sector. Contact with elements of the 26th Infantry Division, on the 80th Division left flank, was established. These positions were maintained throughout the night in the vicinity of TABLER. ~~Outposts~~ were maintained along the south bank of the SURE RIVER in the Battalion Zone. 26th INF

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, on 25 December 1944, in the vicinity of HEIDERSCHEID, moved out at 0900 and advanced to the northeast in an attack upon the town of RINGEL. At 1045, the Battalion approached RINGEL from the south and was receiving small arms fire from the town. At 1130, the leading elements entered RINGEL and by 1235, the town was clear and the Battalion had moved in. At 1545, the enemy counterattacked from the woods to the east of RINGEL, but this assault was broken up. The Battalion continued to receive artillery fire in the late afternoon, but no more counterattacks developed. Positions in the vicinity of RINGEL were consolidated and the Battalion remained there throughout the night.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, on 25 December 1944, remained in reserve positions on the high ground about two and a half kilometers west of KEHMEN with the mission of blocking any enemy advance from the east. These positions were maintained throughout 25 - 26 December 1944.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry moved from it's positions in NEIDERBULEN at 0735, 25 December 1944, enroute north toward the town of KEHMEN in preparation for an attack on that town. The plans for the attack provided for the 1st Bn to attack from the south and southwest with the 3d Bn moving in on the right. At 0845, the 1st Bn was on line on the high ground southwest of KEHMEN and at 1040 jumped off. A thirty minute artillery preparation preceded the attack. The Battalion was subjected to continuous small arms and mortar fire. At 1535 the Battalion held positions on the west, southwest and south of the town. An order

to hold up was received at 1630 and the Battalion moved to the high ground southeast of SCHEIDEL where it organized positions and remained for the night.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, on 25 December 1944, was on a line west of KEHMEN. In the early morning hours it moved to a position southeast of KEHMEN in preparation for the attack on that town in conjunction with 1st Bn. At 1030 the 3d Bn, supported by tanks, jumped off after a thirty minute artillery preparation. The Battalion drove to the north with elements swinging east of KEHMEN. Heavy resistance was encountered and considerable small arms and mortar fire were received. Leading elements, driving from the southeast, were one hundred yards outside the town at 1500. At 1630, orders were received to hold up the attack. The Battalion moved southeast of SCHEIDEL where it organized positions and remained for the night.

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry maintained positions on the high ground southeast of WELSHEID on the morning of 25 December 1944. The Battalion went into Regimental Reserve and prepared to move to NEIDERFEULEN. "F" Company outposted the high ground northeast of NEIDERFEULEN (787426) and was in position at 1530. The Battalion moved in the afternoon to the vicinity of NEIDERFEULEN and closed into the assembly area at 1535 where it remained throughout the night of 25 - 26 December 1944.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, on the 25 December 1944, continued to contain the town of ETTTELBRUCK from positions to the northeast of the town. During the afternoon, a patrol reconnoitered the town and found it free of enemy forces. During the hours 2200 to 2400 artillery fire was received in positions occupied by the Battalion. Enemy patrols endeavoring to infiltrate from the northeast were stopped and some prisoners were taken.

26 Dec

On 26 December 1944, at 2000, the Division was relieved from assignment to the III Corps and was assigned to the XII Corps. The Division held the left flank of the XII Corps Zone, with elements of the III Corps on the Division left flank and the 6th Armored Division on the right flank. The assignment to a new corps involved no change of Division boundaries or mission as it was a realignment of Corps boundaries on that front.

804 FARM
III Corps
↓
XII Corps
69 AD

At 0730 of 26 December 1944, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry

moved from positions on the high ground southeast of SCHEIDEL to attack the town. Leading elements, within three hundred yards of the objective at 0750, were encountering small arms and artillery fire. Shortly thereafter, one company entered the town and at 0900, the town was being cleared. Eighteen prisoners were taken in this operation. After clearing SCHEIDEL, the Battalion reorganized and prepared to move northeast to attack KEHMEN in support of the 3d Bn. While engaged in moving northwest to positions southeast of KEHMEN, the 1st Bn was directed to move to the vicinity of NEIDERPEULEN. "B" and "D" Companies were detached and moved southwest of KEHMEN to reinforce the 3d Bn. The remainder of the 1st Bn moved south at 1919 toward NEIDERPEULEN and closed into that vicinity at 2045, where it remained throughout the night.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry moved from the high ground southeast of SCHEIDEL to attack KEHMEN at 0750, 26 December 1944. At 1145, the Battalion was in position southeast of KEHMEN and prepared to launch the attack. The Battalion moved into the town, receiving close air-support as it advanced. Advancing forces encountered heavy resistance from automatic weapons and small arms fire. The town was entered at 1330. House to house fighting continued throughout the afternoon. The Battalion continued to advance, but at 1520, orders were received to move southwest to the vicinity of (775445) and organize defensive positions. This was accomplished and nightfall found the Battalion in defensive positions extending east along high ground south of KEHMEN. "B" and "D" Companies of the 1st Bn closed into the area at 2000 to reinforce the Battalion. Patrols were maintained throughout the night to contact elements of the 319th Infantry to the northwest.

Throughout 26 December 1944, the 2d Bn 317th Infantry remained in Regimental Reserve at NEIDERPEULEN. "F" Company continued to outpost the high ground northeast of NEIDERPEULEN (797426) throughout the day and night.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, in position in the vicinity of RINGEL, drove through the woods to the east of the town at 1230 on the 26 December 1944. The attack, made with the high ground to the north of RINGEL as the pivotal point, was launched to the east, but then wheeled and moved northward. At 1440, most of the wooded area had been cleared. The Battalion was now on a line from (777477) west to (765480), where it was momentarily halted by heavy

enemy machine gun fire. By 1820, enemy opposition was overcome and with the exception of DIRBACH, the Battalion held the entire south bank of the SURE RIVER in its sector. At 2045, the 1st Bn Infantry relieved the 2d Bn and then marched south to the vicinity of HEIDERSCHIED, closing into that area at 2300 where it remained throughout the night.

Throughout 26 December 1944, the 3d Bn 319th Infantry maintained positions in the vicinity of TADLER with outposts along the south bank of the SURE RIVER.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, on the morning of 26 December 1944, maintained positions on the high ground northeast of HEIDERSCHIED. In the late afternoon, the Battalion moved north to relieve the 2d Bn on the Regimental right flank and closed into the assembly area in the vicinity of RINGEL where the 2d Bn was relieved at 2045. The Battalion took up positions for the night in the vicinity of RINGEL. Outposts were maintained along the SURE RIVER on the high ground north of RINGEL and on the high ground south of the town. One company, astride the HEIDERSCHIED-KEHMEN highway, maintained contact with the 3d Bn 317th Infantry throughout the night.

26-27 Dec

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry continued to maintain positions on the high ground northeast of ETTLEBRUCK. Friendly patrols entered ETTLEBRUCK and reported it clear of enemy troops. Additional patrols were sent out to determine the condition of the bridges in the area east of the town. Artillery fire was received in the Battalion area during the night of 26 - 27 December 1944.

27 Dec

On 27 December 1944 the 1st Bn 319th Infantry maintained positions in the vicinity of RINGEL. At 1100, a 12 man enemy patrol advanced from the woods to the east of RINGEL and was repulsed. At 1450, an enemy counterattack developed from the woods to the east of the Battalion, vicinity of RINGEL. This was preceded by accurate enemy artillery fire. At 1605, the Battalion was still engaged in resisting the counterattack but had the situation under control. Enemy artillery fire continued to fall in the Battalion area. By 1900, the enemy was repulsed with severe losses. Division Artillery was most effective in support of the Battalion.

W: Cleev to see Nov 14 high clouds. Early AM fog especially in low valleys (XII)
G-2 Rpt
262000-272000
XII Coy 6-2
~ 150
30 Plus present

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry remained in position in the

vicinity of TADLER throughout 27 December 1944 and continued to outpost and patrol the SURE RIVER on the right flank of the Regimental Zone. The 2d Bn remained in Regimental Reserve in vicinity of HEIDERSCHIED throughout 27 - 28 December 1944.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry (reinforced) continued in defensive positions west of KEHMEN throughout the day and night of 27 - 28 December 1944. Patrols were active between the Battalion area and elements of the 1st Bn 319th Infantry. Artillery fire was received throughout the day.

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve, remained in the vicinity of NEIDERPEULEN throughout the day and night of 27 - 28 December 1944. "F" Company remained on outpost northeast of NEIDERPEULEN. Road blocks were maintained in the vicinity of NEIDERPEULEN.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry remained in vicinity of NEIDERPEULEN throughout 27 - 28 December 1944.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry continued to outpost the high ground in the vicinity of ETTLEBRUCK on 27 December 1944. At 1745, the Battalion was ordered to move one company to the high ground north of ETTLEBRUCK and another company to patrol the town of ETTLEBRUCK. Road blocks were set up and maintained on bridges to the northeast and roads to the north of ETTLEBRUCK. The positions designated were occupied by 0105, 28 December 1944 and defensive positions were established for the night. Battalion patrols were active in the vicinity of WARREN and east of ETTLEBRUCK.

28 Dec

On 28 December 1944, the 1st Bn 319th Infantry continued to hold defensive positions in the vicinity of RINGEL. At 1440, the enemy launched a counterattack from the east on the Battalion positions at RINGEL. This counterattack was repulsed by the Battalion with the assistance of strong artillery support. Accurate artillery fire prevented the enemy from digging in on high ground to the east of RINGEL. The Battalion consolidated positions and remained in this area throughout the night.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry remained in the vicinity of TADLER throughout 28 - 29 December 1944. Outposts and patrols were maintained in the Battalion Zone north to the SURE RIVER. Contact was maintained with elements of the 26th Infantry Division on the left flank.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve, remained in the vicinity of HEIDERSCHEID throughout the day and night of 28 - 29 December 1944.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, in defensive positions west of KEHMEN, in the vicinity of (762454), maintained positions throughout 28 December 1944. Sporadic artillery fire fell in the Battalion area throughout the day. After nightfall, the 2d Bn relieved the 3d Bn, completing relief at 0200, 29 December 1944. The 3d Bn (reinforced) marched south to the vicinity of NEIDERFEULEN and closed into that area at 0350 where it reverted to Regimental Reserve.

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry at NEIDERFEULEN was ordered north to relieve the 3d Bn on 28 December 1944. "F" Company, on outpost at (797426), was relieved by elements of the 1st Bn and rejoined the 2d Bn in NEIDERFEULEN. The Battalion moved to the north just after nightfall and closed into the area west of KEHMEN at 0200, 29 December 1944. Defensive positions formerly held by the 3d Bn were occupied.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry in the vicinity of NEIDERFEULEN on 28 December 1944, relieved the 2d Bn at road blocks in that area. "A" Company moved north to the vicinity of (797426) to relieve elements of the 2d Bn on outpost duty. At 0330, "B" and "D" Companies rejoined the Battalion from attachment with 3d Bn in the vicinity west of KEHMEN.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry maintained positions at ETTELBRUCK and on the high ground to the north of that town. Its patrols were active in the vicinity of WARKEN and BURDEN, encountering small arms fire from enemy positions in that area.

At 1400, 28 December 1944, Field Order Number 24 revealed that the XII Corps was to temporarily assume the defensive. The Division Zone remained the same, III Corps on the left and the 5th Infantry Division on the right. At the close of day, the elements of the Division were engaged in organizing defensive positions, with the 319th Infantry on the left of the Division Zone on line from the vicinity of HEIDERSCHIEDERGRUND east to TADLER, northeast to RINGEL and south to the HEIDERSCHIED-KEHMEN highway in the vicinity of (750452). Patrols were maintained in the area north to the SURE RIVER. The 317th Infantry,

FOH24
XII Corp
III Corp
SMMP

in the center of the Division Zone, was on line from (750452) on the HEIDERSCHEID-KEHMEN Highway east, to the high ground south of KEHMEN, then along the high ground southeast to WELSCHHEID and continuing south along the high ground to the vicinity of (797426), northeast of NEIDER-FEULEN. The 3d Bn 318th Infantry occupied the right flank of the Division Zone east to the SURE RIVER, east of ETTTELBRUCK. The right flank of the 318th Infantry was defended by one platoon of the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop.

During the period 22 - 28 December 1944, enemy resistance was determined and aggressive. On 22 December 1944, the Division's initial attack caught the enemy completely by surprise and the 915th and 916th Regiments of the 352d Volksgrenadier Division suffered severe losses of personnel, equipment and supplies along the highway from ETTTELBRUCK to MERZIG. The 914th Regiment of the same Division sustained some losses in the ETTTELBRUCK area. The 352d Division Artillery was badly cut up on the ETTTELBRUCK-DIEBKIRCH Highway. The Division attack reached HEIDERSCHEID, NEIDERFEULEN and ETTTELBRUCK against moderate resistance, but at those points the enemy was able to reorganize and severe fighting developed in the drive on the SURE RIVER objectives. The 916th Regiment developed the favorable defensive terrain in the KEHMEN and BOURSCHHEID area. The 80th Division advance here was met with extremely heavy resistance, supported by heavy mortar and small arms fire. Extensive nebelwerfer fire was encountered in the ETTTELBRUCK area in support of the 914th Regiment. On 24 December 1944, elements of the 79th Volksgrenadier Division were encountered in the KEHMEN area and that Division relieved the 352d Division in the ETTTELBRUCK-HEIDERSCHEID area. Successive counterattacks were launched to regain the ground lost at HEIDERSCHEID, RINGEL, KEHMEN and ETTTELBRUCK in compliance with orders of the German command to retake these points at all costs. But the cost proved too high, enemy losses were so severe that the attempts were finally abandoned. The enemy managed to retain the KEHMEN-BOURSCHHEID area. Captured enemy documents disclosed that the Division advance had cut one of the principal enemy Main Supply Routes, forcing it's supplies and reinforcements to use secondary routes from TRIER to the north, or the point of penetration.

At this time, 28 December 1944, the 26th Division on the 80th Division left flank, had crossed the SURE RIVER

GERMAN
915th / 352
916th / VG DIV

GERMAN
914th
79th VG DIV
352 DIV

315th
4th DIV

26th DIV

Handwritten notes in a circle: "10th ABND", "3rd BD", "10 AD".

and was attacking in the vicinity of WILTZ (705535). The 5th Infantry Division on the 80th Division right flank, had relieved the 6th Armored Division in it's zone.

6 MAD

29 Dec (WATCH Sequence - Jump back to 25 Dec on pg 27)

On 29 December 1944, the 1st Bn 319th Infantry in defensive positions at RINGEL, was relieved by the 2d Bn (reinforced) by one company of the 3d Bn) at 1945. The 1st Bn marched southwest to the vicinity of HEIDERSCHEID and closed into the assembly area at 2055.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, at HEIDERSCHEID on 29 December 1944, attached one company to the 2d Bn prior to it's move to the vicinity of RINGEL. One company moved northwest to outpost the village of HEIDERSCHEIDERGRUND in the afternoon. The Battalion remained at HEIDERSCHEID in reserve.

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry, in defensive positions astride the HEIDERSCHEID-KEHMEN Highway (765454), continued to improve defensive positions and maintain connecting patrols with elements of the 319th Infantry on the left during 29 December 1944.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry, in the vicinity of NEIDERFEULEN, during the evening of 29 December 1944 moved out to take up defensive positions on the high ground from (802431) to (800420), northeast of NEIDERFEULEN. Positions were organized and fields of fire developed.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, in the vicinity of NEIDERFEULEN as Regimental Reserve, sent two companies to cover the area in the gap between the 1st and 2d Bns. They took up positions on the high ground from (758432) to (770442), northwest of NEIDERFEULEN. The positions were established on the afternoon of 29 December 1944.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry continued to maintain defensive positions on the high ground to the north and northwest of ETTTELBRUCK.

CR 318 (-3d Bn 24-28 Dec) W/4AD

The 318th Infantry, minus the 3d Bn, having been relieved from attachment to the 4th Armored Division on the evening of 28 December 1944, returned to the Division area on 29 December 1944. It will be recalled that at 1300, 24 December 1944, the 318th Infantry, minus the 3d Bn, had been ordered to move without delay to assist the 4th Armored Division in relieving the 101st Airborne.

318 RELIEVED BY 4M AD

101st AIRBORNE

BASTOGNE
1015 ABN DN
9th AD
10 AD

Division and elements of the 9th and 10th Armored Divisions which were encircled by the enemy at BASTOGNE (P-5558), BELGIUM. At that time, the 1st and 2d Bns 318th Infantry were not in contact with the enemy. The 1st Bn assembled in the vicinity of BERG. The 2d Bn moved west from ETTELBRUCK to reserve positions in the vicinity of OBERPEULEN and closed into that area at 1330.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry marched from BERG to COLMAR and entrucked at 1700 for the movement west to the 4th Armored Division assembly area at FAUVILLERS (5141), BELGIUM. The 1st Bn entrucked at OBERPEULEN at 1700. At 1730, the 318th Infantry, minus the 3d Bn, was enroute west to the vicinity of FAUVILLERS (5141), BELGIUM, closing at 2300, 24 December 1944. The 1st Bn closed into the assembly area in the vicinity of WARNACH (555427), BELGIUM at 2230. The 2d Bn closed into the assembly area in the vicinity of FAUVILLERS at 2300.

The 1st Bn was attached to Combat Command "B", 4th Armored Division, with the mission to support the armor in breaking through the enemy and relieving the isolated American elements in the vital communications center of BASTOGNE.

ccB/4MAD
157 dn

On 25 December 1944, the 4th Armored Division launched its attack with Combat Command "R" on the left, Combat Command "B" in the center and Combat Command "A" on the right.

had
4th AD
ccB/ccB/ccB

At 0800, the 1st Bn attacked to the northeast in the vicinity of (565425), east of WARNACH, with the 53d Armored Infantry Bn on the left. The objective was the town of TINTANGE. The Battalion fought its way through very rough terrain to the Line Of Departure at 1100. At 1400, it had advanced and captured TINTANGE. Elements of the Battalion cleared the woods east and north of TINTANGE, then at 1700, advanced northeast from the town. Contact was made with elements of the 53d Armored Infantry Bn along the woods in the vicinity of (570445). Defensive positions were set up in this area northeast of TINTANGE for the night.

53rd AIB
326 ccB
101st
53rd AIB

At 0900, 25 December 1944, the 2d Bn, which had moved north from FAUVILLERS to the vicinity of BURNON (515455) during the early morning hours, jumped off in attack to the north with the town of CHAUMONT as its objective.

53rd AIB
100 ft
15 ft

The Battalion, attacking with the 10th Armored Infantry Bn on its left, advanced 1500 yards north to capture the objective and the high ground to the north. Defensive positions were established in that vicinity for the night.

Both Battalions encountered heavy resistance and heavy mortar and artillery fire. The enemy was well dug in and the country over which they advanced was extremely rugged terrain.

26 Dec
At 0800, 26 December 1944, the 1st Bn, driving toward northwest in the direction of HONVILLE, attacked from its positions on the high ground northeast of TINTANGE. The Battalion encountered heavy resistance from well emplaced enemy positions, but by night fall, had advanced 3000 yards through the thickly wooded and mountainous country. The Battalion organized defensive positions and remained for the night in the vicinity south of HONVILLE (55465).

The 2d Bn, from its positions just north of the town of CHAUMONT, attacked at 0900, 26 December 1944, advancing north to the town of GRANDRUE. The woods 1000 yards north of GRANDRUE were cleared by the Battalion which then held up, consolidated positions and remained for the night.

Early in the evening of 26 December 1944, elements of the 4th Armored Division had driven through to the besieged city of BASTOGNE, but those elements were insufficient in strength to return to the main body. A five-man patrol from the 2d Bn, led by Lt. Carr of "E" Company, went through enemy territory for 4000 yards and made contact with elements of the 326th Engineer Bn within BASTOGNE. This patrol was then escorted by men of the 326th Engineer Bn to the Command Post of the 101st Airborne Division. The patrol returned with overlays and G-3 periodics which showed positions of the besieged elements within BASTOGNE.

27 Dec
On 27 December 1944, at 0800, the 1st Bn attacked to the north from its positions northwest of TINTANGE and drove north to capture HONVILLE. After clearing that town, the advance was continued north to LIVERCHAMPS. Resistance in this area was very heavy. The enemy infantry, heavily supported by tanks, halftracks and 88 mm guns, was mainly from the 5th Paratroop Division. Elements of the 104th Panzer Grenadier Regiment and 15th Panzer Grenadier Division were encountered at Honville.

1344/1500

101/1015/10

804
BASTOGNE
CONTACT
LT CARR
326th ENGR Bn
10/15

GERMAN
5 PARA DIV
104 PZ Gren Regt
15 PZ Gren Div

On 27 December 1944, the 2d Bn attack at 0800 from positions in the vicinity of the town of GRANDRUE. The woods south of HOMPRES were cleared in the morning and the town was cleared by midday. The Battalion continued to advance to the north, clearing the woods south and east of ASSENOIS. This town was taken before nightfall and defensive positions were organized southeast of ASSENOIS for the night.

On 28 December 1944, the 1st Bn maintained positions in the vicinity of LIVERCHAMPS, on line between the towns of SAINLEZ and LIVERCHAMPS. At 1800, after being relieved by 3d Bn 134th Infantry, the Battalion ~~entrucked~~ and moved east towards the assembly area in the Division Zone at COLMAR. The Battalion closed into COLMAR at 0100, 29 December 1944.

134th Inf / 35th Div

On 28 December 1944, the 2d Bn, in the vicinity south-east of ASSENOIS, advanced north preparatory to attacking. At 0800, it attacked to the north and at 1000 had driven to the vicinity of (545560) where contact with elements of the 1st Airborne Division was made. At 2200, the Battalion was relieved by elements of the 10th Infantry and moved south to the vicinity of FOUVILLERS. The 318th Infantry (minus two battalions) entrucked on the morning of 29 December 1944, and proceeded west to the 80th Division area at COLMAR, closing at 1500. The 2d Bn closed into SCHIEREN at 1730.

10th Inf / 5th Div

During the operations from 25 December 1944 to the 29 December 1944, the 318th Infantry (minus two battalions) captured 769 prisoners.

30 Dec

On the 30 December 1944, the 3d Bn 319th Infantry occupied the same positions as the previous day in the vicinity of RINGEL with outposts at TABLER. At 0410, considerable small arms fire was being received north of RINGEL. The Battalion had been alerted for an enemy counterattack and ~~Division Artillery fired a counterattack mission at 0420.~~ The enemy endeavored to infiltrate into the Battalion position, but were repulsed with heavy losses at 0500. The remainder of the day was quiet. Patrols along the SURE RIVER were maintained and the Battalion remained in position throughout the night.

The 1st and 3d Bns 319th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve, remained in the vicinity of REIDERSCHIED throughout

The 317th Infantry, with 1st and 2d Bns on line and the 3d Bn in Regimental Reserve, continued to occupy the day and night of 30 December 1944. One company from the 3d Bn continued to outpost the town of HEIDERSCHNEIDERGRUND.

All Battalions of the 317th Infantry continued to occupy and improve their respective defensive positions throughout the day and night of the 30 - 31 December 1944. Friendly patrols were active between Battalion positions. Enemy Artillery was heavy throughout the day.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry continued to occupy and improve defensive positions north and northwest of ETTLEBRUCK. Battalion patrols were active north of these positions. The 2d Bn 318th Infantry remained in position in the vicinity of SCHIEREN on 30 December 1944. Reports of enemy bridging operations in the Regimental area were received and "G" Company moved from SCHIEREN to the vicinity of (B34595) to repel the operation. The report proved false. The 1st Bn 318th Infantry remained in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of COEMAR on 30 December 1944.

The 1st Platoon of the 80th Reconnaissance Troop continued to occupy and improve defensive positions on the right of the 318th Infantry sector on 30 December 1944.

31 Dec

On 31 December 1944, the 2d Bn 319th Infantry (reinforced) continued to occupy and improve defensive positions in the vicinity of RINGEL and TADLER. At 1910, this Battalion was relieved by the 1st Bn. One company of the 3d Bn, which was attached to the 2d Bn, was relieved and attached to 1st Bn. In the evening, the 2d Bn moved from the vicinity of RINGEL to HEIDERSCHNEID and closed into that area at 2030 as Regimental Reserve.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, in the vicinity of HEIDERSCHNEID, moved northeast to relieve the 2d Bn in the vicinity of RINGEL on the afternoon of 31 December 1944. The relief was completed at 1910 and the 1st Bn, reinforced by one company from the 3d Bn, took up the same positions which had been occupied in the vicinity of RINGEL and TADLER.

The 3d Bn (minus one company) continued in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of HEIDERSCHNEID on 31 December 1944. One company outposted the town of HEIDERSCHNEIDERGRUND.

The 317th Infantry, with 1st and 2d Bns on line and the 3d Bn in Regimental Reserve, continued to occupy and improve defensive positions occupied the previous day. Patrols were active in probing the enemy positions to the north of the Regimental positions. Enemy artillery continued to fall in the Regimental sector throughout the day of 31 December 1944.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry continued to occupy and improve defensive positions in the vicinity of ETTTELBRUCK. Battalion patrols were active to the north in the Regimental Zone. Enemy Artillery was active and fell during the day throughout the Battalion Zone. The 2d Bn 318th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve, remained in the vicinity of SCHIEREN throughout the day of 31 December 1944. "G" Company, southeast of ETTTELBRUCK (835395), was relieved by "F" Company of the 2d Bn at 0840. The 1st platoon of the 80th Reconnaissance Cavalry troop was also relieved at this time by "F" Company.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry, at 0800, 31 December 1944, moved north from its position in the vicinity of COLMAR and closed into SCHIEREN at 0945 as Regimental Reserve.

The end of the month found the Division, with the exception of the enemy held BOURSCHEID-KEHMEN Bridgehead, in control of all the high ground in its zone south of the SURE RIVER. One of the Main Supply Routes of the enemy to the BASTOGNE area was completely cut off. The Division had captured 1478 prisoners for the month. The total number of prisoners taken in the campaign was ten thousand. Division Artillery fired one thousand twenty eight missions during the month, with a total expenditure of 33,288 rounds of 105 mm ammunition and 10,918 rounds of 155 mm ammunition. Attached artillery units expended 44,196 rounds of ammunition.

The 633d AAA AW Bn, in direct support of the Division, shot down one enemy plane and claimed three probables.

The 610 Tank Destroyer Bn and the 702d Tank Bn were in direct support of the Division during the month. These units encountered particularly difficult terrain in their operations during the period from 22 December 1944 to 31 December 1944. Numerous counterattacks launched by the enemy during this period were stopped and the support by these units contributed greatly to the success of the Division. Especially noteworthy were the enemy attacks on KEHMEN and HEIDERSCHIED on 24 and 25 December 1944,

which were strongly supported by tanks of the Grosdeutschland Panzer Brigade. In each attack, these supporting units of the Division were most effective, contributing greatly to the substantial losses sustained by the enemy.

1. Original Units.

Reorganization - 20th Infantry Division.
Date of Organization - 25 July 1942.
Place of Organization - Camp Forrest, Tennessee.
Authority for Organization - Letter, War Department, 10 520.2 (7-13-42), 10 520-22, Subject: Organized Reserve Divisions Ordered Into Active Service During June and July 1942.
Sources from which personnel was obtained - Completed.

2. Changes in Organization.

The 700th Antiaircraft Battalion of the 20th Infantry Division was redesignated and activated at Camp Forrest, Tennessee, as the 700th Antiaircraft (Light Antiaircraft) Company under P/O P-2. Authority: War Department Letter, The Adjutant General's Office, 10 520.2 (7-13-42), 10 520-22 dated 21 October 1942, and General Order Number 19, Headquarters 20th Infantry Division, dated 9 November 1942.

The 807th Quartermaster Battalion, 20th Infantry Division, was redesignated and activated at Camp Forrest, Tennessee, as the 807th Quartermaster Company, 20th Infantry Division, order P/O 10-17, Authority: War Department Letter, The Adjutant General's Office, 10 520.2 (10-21-42) 10 520-22, dated 21 October 1942, and General Order Number 13, Headquarters 20th Infantry Division, dated 13 November 1942.

The 20th Infantry Division was reorganized 17 August 1942 in accordance with P/O Number 7 and allied tables, 15 July 1942, with authorized strength of 777 Officers, 41 General Officers, and 13,472 Enlisted Men.

In accordance with P/O Number 7-3, Headquarters Special Troops, 20th Infantry Division, was activated 11 August 1942, a 1st Battalion and 2nd Battalion of Special Troops, 20th Infantry Division, Headquarters Special Troops, 20th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 700th Antiaircraft Light Antiaircraft Company, 20th Quartermaster Company, 20th Signal Company, Attached Medical, Attached Chaplain, Attached Band.