

HISTORY

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION

FEBRUARY 1945

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See Photos

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OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE
80TH INFANTRY DIVISION
FEBRUARY 1945

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SECTION I

THE DIEKIRCH-HALLER SECTOR

27 Aug 46
Date

HSD
Initials

1 Feb

On 1 February 1945, the 80th Infantry Division was holding the high ground northwest of DIEKIRCH to HALLER forward at all points to the SURE and SAUER RIVERS. The 318th Infantry held the HALLER, or east sector and the 319th Infantry, the BETTENDORF, or west sector. This sector was on the west or left of the XII Corps Zone. Contact on the left of the Division was maintained with the 6th Cavalry Group of the VIII Corps whose line ran generally north and south along the west bank of the OUR RIVER.

XII

VIII

In reserve on 1 February 1945, the 317th Infantry billeted in MEDERNACH, CRUCHTEN and HEPPINGEN. This Regiment conducted training throughout the day with emphasis being placed on firing of individual weapons.

The 318th Infantry occupied a line approximately 6000 yards along the south bank of the SAUER RIVER. The 1st Bn was assembled in Regimental Reserve in HALLER, where weapons training was stressed. The 2d Bn, on the left half of the Regimental Sector, occupied an area approximately 3000 yards along the south bank of the SAUER RIVER from WALLENDORF. The right half of the Regimental sector was defended by the 3d Bn on a line extending 3000 yards along the SAUER RIVER to include approximately two thirds of the peninsula area northwest of HALLER. Supporting units were: The Collecting Company, "B" Company, 305th Medical Bn, "B" Company, 305th Engineer Bn, the 314th Field Artillery Bn, reinforced by fires from the 512th and 974th Field Artillery Bns, with Batteries emplaced in the vicinity of HALLER. In addition, the 3d Platoon, "A" Company, 91st Chemical Mortar Bn with four 4.2 Chemical Mortars was in position approximately 2000 yards north of HALLER. The Battalions on line maintained and improved their defensive positions and patrolled along the south bank of the SAUER RIVER during the night.

SAUER

214 FA
B-305 MED
B-305 CE
Collecting Co
512 FA
974 FA
91st Ch Bn

Attached to the 4th Armored Division for operational purposes only, the 319th Infantry remained on one hour alert status in the vicinity of KEHLIN, ROLLINGEN, STEINSEL and HEISDORF SUR ALZETTE. Rehabilitation and re-equipment of personnel took place here. Continued reconnaissance

319 W/4AD

of routes to and from LUXEMBOURG and the route and terrain east of LUXEMBOURG was made in compliance with the counter-attack plan of the 4th Armored Division.

Task Force "Oboe" maintained defensive positions and patrolled in the sector bounded by FUHREN on the northwest and BIESDORF to the southwest. This Task Force was composed of three battalions of Armored Infantry, one Company of Engineers and one Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, all of the 4th Armored Division.

TASK FORCE OBOE

10th AIB

53 AIB

51 AIB

? TP/25 RCA 50
Co/24 Arm Eng 24

2 FEB

On 2 February 1945, the 317th Infantry continued to conduct training. Special emphasis was placed on the test firing of crew served weapons and plans were made for a sniper school.

SNIPER School (see below)

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry continued weapons training in HALLER. A special group of approximately twenty men gathered from all companies of the Regiment and was formed with the sole mission of doing long range night patrolling for the Regiment. At 1800, 80th Division Field Message Number 1, outlining the general plans for an attack north across the SAUER RIVER, was received. The 2d and 3d Bns maintained defensive positions and patrolled their sectors, however, because of the turbulent and debris filled waters, neither could get patrols across the SAUER RIVER.

SPECIAL GROUP

80 DIV F/01

Reconnaissance of the counterattack area of the 4th Armored Division was completed by the 319th Infantry on 2 February 1945. All Battalions were in reserve and weapons were fired on selected ranges within the rest area.

3 FEB

"B" Company, 10th Armored Infantry Bn of Task Force "Oboe" attacked HOESDORF at 2200 and by 0520, of 3 February 1945, had cleared the town of enemy occupying the inhabited areas. The remainder of Task Force "Oboe" maintained defensive positions.

T.F. OBOE

Selected personnel of all units of the 317th Infantry attended a sniper school conducted while the Regiment remained in Division Reserve on 3 February 1945.

SNIPER School

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry continued weapons training in reserve. A redistribution of bazookas was made within each battalion. [All rifle platoons were equipped with two bazookas and each weapons platoon with one.] The 2d and 3d Bns maintained defensive positions and sent out

BAZOOKAS

patrols which were unsuccessful in crossing the SAUER RIVER.

The 319th Infantry continued training on 3 February 1945. The Battalions prepared to comply with Regimental Field Order Number 46 moving the Regiment, on 4 February 1945, to an area held by Combat Command "B", 4th Armored Division to relieve the 10th and 53d Armored Infantry Bns.

REGT F/046
CCB
4AD

4 FEB

On 4 February 1945, the 317th Infantry remained in Division Reserve.

On 4 February 1945, the 318th Infantry received Field Order Number 30 providing for an attack to be made at 0300, 7 February 1945. Defensive positions were maintained and during the night, the 2d Bn was able to get a patrol across the river in the right half of its sector. Relief of the 3d Bn (minus "K" Company) was completed at 1300 by the 53d Armored Infantry Bn in the right half of the Regimental sector. The 3d Bn (minus "K" Company) assembled at BEAUFORT. "B" Company 811th Tank Destroyer Bn (SP) was attached to the Regiment and moved into the 2d Bn sector. Elements of the 633d AAA Bn were given a direct fire mission in support of the crossing.

811TD
633AA

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry moved out at 1125 and closed into KLEINREISDORF at 1330. The 2d Bn began movement at 0930, crossed the SAUER RIVER and closed into MOESTROFF at 1235 where it relieved elements of Cavalry attached to Combat Command "B". The 3d Bn, at 0800, moved to vicinity of BETTENDORF, relieved the 53d Armored Infantry Bn at 1000, the 10th Armored Infantry Bn at 2135 and consolidated positions for the night. Task Force "Oboe", attached to 3d Bn 319th Infantry, maintained defensive positions and patrolled.

CROSSED
SAUER

53RD AIB
10th AIB

TASK FORCE
OBOE
(See PG 2)

5 FEB

On 5 February 1945, the 317th Infantry closed into an assembly area at DIEKIRCH at 1500.

The 318th Infantry maintained defensive positions and made preparation for the coming attack on 7 February 1945.

The 1st and 2d Bns 319th Infantry, the two assault Battalions in the coming attack, practiced river crossings in the vicinity of MOESTROFF. The 3d Bn remained in vicinity of BETTENDORF.

6 Feb

The 317th Infantry in reserve, 6 February 1945, conducted training and rehabilitation of equipment and personnel.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry remained assembled in the vicinity of HALLER. The 2d Bn, in conjunction with the 166th Combat Engineers Bn, moved boats and other crossing equipment close to the river's edge before daylight. After dark, the 2d Bn assembled in the wooded area above the crossing site in the vicinity of BIGELBACH. The 3d Bn remained in the Battalion Command Post area at BEAUFORT. "K" Company, at 2000, was brought back from its position on the river line to the 3d Bn assembly area. Two outposts were left on the river line.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry remained in the assembly area in the vicinity of KLEINREISDORF during the daylight hours of 6 February 1945. The 2d Bn, in the vicinity of MOESTROFF, departed at 2245 to assemble at HOESDORF on 7 February 1945 at 0010. The 3d Bn remained in the assembly area at BETTENDORF. "A" Battery 558th Field Artillery Bn (155mm SP Gun) was attached to Division Artillery.

166th ENOV
558 FA
BN

The 3d Bn, which was to follow the 2d Bn, was assembled above the crossing site. The 33d Armored Infantry Bn, attached to the 318th Infantry, made a feinting movement in the right flank of the Regimental Center in cooperation with the infantry attack.

53rd AIR
ATTN TO
218th

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry moved, under cover of darkness, from assembly area at KLEINREISDORF to the vicinity of the OUR RIVER north of WALLESDORF. By 0625, "B" and "C" Companies had crossed under hazardous conditions against enemy artillery fire. By 0715, these Companies had advanced 200 yards up the slope of the hill northeast of the crossing point. The advance was continued to form a line northwest of WALLESDORF. During the morning, "A" Company, crossing under the cover of smoke, was ordered to advance, seize WALLESDORF and outpost the high ground to the north and east. By 2015, "A" Company reported the town cleared and the objective occupied.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, preparatory to forcing a crossing of the OUR RIVER, closed into HOESDORF at 0010 on 7 February 1945. (The Battalion experienced considerable

SECTION II

THE CROSSING OF THE OUR AND SAUER RIVERS
AND ASSAULT OF THE SEIGERIED LINE

7 FEB

On 7 February 1945, the 317th Infantry remained at DIEKIRCH in Division Reserve.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry, which was to follow the 3d Bn across the SAUER RIVER, remained assembled in HALLER.

At 0300, on 7 February 1945, the 2d Bn 318th Infantry jumped off in the attack. At 0327 "F" Company reported that it was across the river and moving out against light opposition.

"E" and "G" Companies were having difficulty in launching boats into the flood stage and debris filled waters. At daylight, enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire increased in intensity at the crossing point. The 166th Engineers were unable to construct a bridge during the day, but by 2300, the 2d Bn had crossed the river and moved out to enlarge the perimeter of the bridgehead. By 0330 the 3d Bn, which was to follow the 2d Bn, was assembled above the crossing site. The 53d Armored Infantry Bn, attached to the 318th Infantry, made a feinting demonstration in the right half of the Regimental Sector in coordination with the infantry attack.

166th ENGR

53rd AIB
ATTACHED TO
318th

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry moved, under cover of darkness, from assembly area at KLEINREISDORF to the vicinity of the OUR RIVER north of WALLENDORF. By 0625, "B" and "C" Companies had crossed under hazardous conditions aggravated by intense enemy artillery fire. By 0715, these Companies had advanced 200 yards up the slope of the hill northeast of the crossing point. The advance was continued to form a line northwest of WALLENDORF. During the morning, "A" Company, crossing under the cover of smoke, was ordered to advance, seize WALLENDORF and outpost the high ground to the north and east. By 2015, "A" Company reported the town cleared and the objective occupied.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, preparatory to forcing a crossing of the OUR RIVER, closed into HOESDORF at 0010 on 7 February 1945. [The Battalion experienced considerable

difficulty due to the high flood level of the OUR RIVER, the swiftness of the current and heavy enemy artillery and nebelwerfer concentrations. Engineers in support were unable to complete construction of bridges, thus all crossing were made in assault boats or by swimming. At 0705, "F" Company made a crossing and was pinned down on the north side of the river by intense and accurate artillery and mortar fire. Due to the heavy artillery concentrations in the 2d Bn area, it was decided to move the remainder of the Battalion to the 1st Bn sector for a crossing. However, because of the artillery concentrations, the Battalion was unable to move from its present position to take advantage of the 1st Bn crossing site. "F" Company held ground attained on the north side of the OUR RIVER while the 2d Bn (minus "F" Company) remained south of the river for the night.

FLOODING

8 Feb

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry was alerted to make a crossing early on the morning of 8 February 1945. Troops moved from the assembly area at BETTENDORF into MOESTROFF and KLEINREISDORF preparatory to crossing.

At 0715, the 51st Armored Infantry Bn, attached to the 319th Infantry, in an attack to the east occupied the town of BETTEL.

51st AIB
ATTACH TO 319

On 8 February 1945, the 317th Infantry remained in DIEKIRCH conducting training with emphasis placed on "squad assault teams".

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry remained in reserve in vicinity of HALLER until 1200. It then moved to an assembly area just above the crossing site, closing at 1545.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry attacked at 1300 from its bridgehead and by 2300 reported an advance of 1200 yards.

"L" Company of the 3d Bn crossed the SAUER RIVER at 0515, becoming attached to the 2d Bn, moved to the southern portion of the bridgehead in the vicinity of DILLINGEN and attacked to the south to clean out the peninsula area. The remainder of the 3d Bn continued to make preparations to cross the SAUER RIVER. The crossing was made more difficult during the day by artillery fire on the crossing site.

The 53d Armored Infantry Bn maintained its position in the right half of the Regimental Sector.

53 AIB

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry consolidated its positions north of the OUR RIVER. Additional boats were sent to its crossing area in order to make possible the supply of the bridgehead.

At 0400, the 2d Bn 319th Infantry (minus "F" Company) attempted to cross the OUR RIVER by boats, but pulled back to reorganized when heavy artillery fire made direct hits on boats attempting to cross. At 0612, twenty-seven men had crossed but artillery precluded the possibility of further crossings. At 2030, the 2d Bn had succeeded in ferrying supplies across to the bridge group on the north side of the river and brought back casualties. At 2317, the supply and casualty evacuation of this group was completed. At 2400, the remainder of "F" Company began to cross.

In the early morning, the 3d Bn 319th Infantry started to move to its crossing site, but at 0612, it had made no crossing due to artillery concentrations which wrecked the boats at the crossing site. Additional boats were brought up, but attempted crossings at 0915 and 1605 were unsuccessful.

The 51st Armored Infantry Bn continued to protect the left flank of the Regiment and to support by fire the attack.

51st AIB

9 FEB

The 317th Infantry remained in reserve at DIEKIRCH on 9 February 1945. At 2100 the Regiment received instructions to move "F" Company to BEAUFORT to be attached to the 318th Infantry. This Company moved out at 2330 and was in BEAUFORT by 0125 of 10 February 1945.

At 0730, 9 February 1945, the 1st Bn 318th Infantry had only "A" Company across the river, but by 1900, the crossing was completed. The Battalion, passing through positions of the 2d Bn, attacked north and gained 1000 meters before taking up defensive positions at dark.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry continued to mop up within the bridgehead and to consolidate positions to protect the north flank. At 0330, 9 February 1945, the 3d Bn crossed the SAUER RIVER and attacked to the east and southeast. "I" and "K" Companies secured the high ground 1000 yards east of the Regimental crossing site. "L" Company attacked to the southeast clearing the northern

half of the peninsula area.

"B" Company, 53d Armored Infantry Bn advanced to the banks of the SAUER RIVER and occupied defensive positions.

On 9 February 1945, the 150th Engineer Bn attempted to build a floating treadway bridge in the vicinity of WALLENDORF and a ferry in the vicinity of the 1st Bn 319th Infantry crossing, however due to the enemy artillery fire there, the projects were never completed. "A" Company, 319th Infantry remained in the vicinity of WALLENDORF during the day. At 0720, "B" Company, 600 yards north of the western most part of WALLENDORF, was counterattacked by infantry from the northwest. The company continued to advance slowly during the day. At 0520, "C" Company reported infantry pressure on their right flank but experienced no difficulty in overcoming it. Small gains were made during the day and by 2400 "C" Company had contacted "B" Company.

150 ENGR
Bn

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry crossed the remainder of "F" Company beginning at 0001, 9 February 1945. By 0443, "E" and "G" Companies had also crossed. These units assisted the 1st Bn in mopping up the high ground northeast of WALLENDORF and protected the north flank of the bridgehead.

The 3d Bn 319th was unable to make a crossing due to heavy enemy artillery fire. The 3d Bn was ordered to remain south of the OUR RIVER until further orders and to outpost HOESDORF from the northwest to the east of town with one reinforced platoon. The remainder of the 3d Bn was to stay as Regimental Reserve at KLEINREISDORF.

The 51st Armored Infantry Bn continued to occupy defensive positions.

On 9 February 1945, the 702d Tank Bn and the 811th Tank Destroyer Bn coordinated fire with Division Artillery. Planes from Division Artillery and 905th Field Artillery Bn flew 35 missions and succeeded in dropping medical supplies, food and ammunition to the troops.

702 TIC
811 TD

On 10 February 1945, "F" Company 317th Infantry, attached to the 3d Bn 318th Infantry, moved up to the river from BEAUFORT and was in position for a crossing at 0755. The crossing of two platoons was made in assault boats by 1335 and a perimeter defense was set up around

10 FEB

11 Feb
the crossing site. This site was to be used in new attempts to bridge the river about 400 yards below DILLINGEN. The remainder of the 2d Bn 317th Infantry, attached to 318th Infantry, closed at BEAUFORT at 1230 and prepared to cross the river.

The 1st and 3d Bns 317th Infantry remained in DIEKIRCH and continued to conduct training.

At 0800 on 10 February 1945, the 1st and 2d Bns 318th Infantry, with the 1st Bn on the right and the 2d on the left, were attacking north from their bridgehead positions. Moderate opposition from enemy pillboxes was encountered. By the end of the day, the 1st Bn had taken the high ground 1500 yards southeast of BIESDORF. The 2d Bn made only slight progress during the day, but after darkness, was able to by-pass the enemy pillboxes within its sector and seize the town of BIESDORF by 2044.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry continued to attack east and southeast on 10 February 1945 to clean out the peninsula formed by the SAUER RIVER in the Battalion sectors.

The 1st and 2d Bns 319th Infantry supplied and evacuated casualties north of the OUR RIVER during the early morning of 10 February 1945. This project, under enemy artillery fire, was carried out by boats with the assistance of the 150th Engineer Battalion. The 1st Bn, reinforced by "F" and "G" Companies of the 2d Bn, continued to advance against pillboxes in its sector. Progress was slow, but the Infantry, displaying a determined and aggressive spirit and with the assistance of support fires, advanced against the enemy's fortifications. Each pillbox had to be attack separately. The 2d Bn (minus "F" Company) assisted the 1st Bn in mopping up the high ground northwest of WALLENDORF. These Battalions had increased their bridgehead thus facilitating resupply and evacuation of wounded personnel. 150th CEAB

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry continued in reserve in KLEINREISDORF, but at 1235 plans were made to cross the Battalion. However, while the Battalion was prepared to cross the OUR RIVER, at the close of the period no crossing had been made.

The 51st Armored Infantry Bn continued to occupy defensive positions to the left of the 319th Infantry Sector. 51st AIB

11 Feb

At 1855, on 11 February 1945, elements of the 2d Bn 317th Infantry had been ferried across the SAUER RIVER and by 2025 all were across except the mortars and rear Command Post.

The 1st and 3d Bns in reserve, remained in DIEKIRCH, where they continued to conduct training.

During the day 11 February 1945, the 1st Bn 318th Infantry advanced approximately 500 yards to the north to positions approximately 1200 yards due east of DIESDORF. The 2d Bn mopped up enemy opposition between DIESDORF and the SAUER RIVER. The 3d Bn, continued its task of clearing the area on the peninsula formed by the SAUER RIVER, east and southeast of the crossing site.

At 0800, on the 11 February 1945, the 53d Armored Infantry Bn was relieved from attachment to the 318th Infantry. It began movement to leave its area at 0915 and by 1045, the area had been cleared. 53 AIB
Relieved

During 11 February 1945, the 319th Infantry continued to supply units across the OUR RIVER by boat. The 1st Bn held the positions gained the day before. At 0710, "F" Company 2d Bn was released from attachment to the 1st Bn and reverted to Battalion control. "G" Company 2d Bn was released from attachment to the 1st Bn at 1100 and reverted to Battalion control.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry assembled its forces in the area north of the OUR RIVER, approximately 1100 yards northwest of the confluence of the OUR and SURE RIVERS.

"C" Company 305th Engineers had been alerted to cross the 3d Bn 319th Infantry by boat, but when the 179th Engineer Bn reported that a bridge would be constructed for foot traffic by 1900, the boat plan was cancelled. By 2250, one half of the 3d Bn had crossed the bridge to assemble at WALLENDORF. The bridge, lacking approximately 30 yards, did not completely span the river and the troops had to wade the distance to shore in knee deep water. The 3d Bn cleared the bridge at 2312. 179th ENG BN

The 51st Armored Infantry Bn continued to defend the left flank of the 319th Infantry. 51st AIB

12 FEB

On 12 February 1945, the 2d Bn 317th Infantry was

entirely across the river and had moved up to relieve the 3d Bn 318th Infantry. By 0430, the relief was completed and the 2d Bn reverted to the control of the 317th Infantry. Defensive positions were improved and patrols were sent to the east. Contact with the 5th Infantry Division was attempted near BOLLENDORF, but by the end of the period, no report of such contact had been made.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry remained in reserve in DIEKIRCH until the afternoon of the 12th when they moved out to assemble at BEAUFORT preparatory to defending the Regimental Sector. The Battalion closed at BEAUFORT at 1900. The 3d Bn, under Division control, remained in DIEKIRCH.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry attacked to the north at 1130, but because of heavy enemy assault, mortar and artillery fire from dug in enemy emplacements on HIEHNENKOPF HILL, was unable to make much progress during the day. 318

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry continued to mop up pillboxes and enemy positions around BIESDORF and to consolidate positions. Contact was established with the 319th Infantry at WALLENDORF at 0915.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry completed mopping up the peninsula southeast of DILLINGEN and patrolled to the east. The Battalion was relieved by the 2d Bn 317th Infantry at 0430, 12 February 1945. At this time the Battalion moved north taking up positions on the high ground southeast of the 1st Bn.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry remained in its zone clearing the high ground north of WALLENDORF. 319

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry assisted the 1st Bn in mopping up the high ground north of WALLENDORF and at 0715 attacked AMWELDINGEN. The attack progressed slowly due to the resistance being met from pillboxes and at 2000, the Battalion held positions for the night approximately 500 yards east of AMWELDINGEN.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, passing through the 1st Bn, attacked northeast at 0711 from the vicinity 1000 yards northwest of WALLENDORF. Reduction of successive pillboxes slowed the advance, but the Battalion continued pushing ahead yard by yard through the day and night of 12 February 1945.

The 51st Armored Infantry Bn maintained defensive positions on the left of the 319th Infantry.

51st AIB

13 Feb

During 13 February 1945, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of BEAUFORT. The 2d Bn maintained positions on the high ground northwest of BOLLENDORF. At 0100 contact had been made with the 5th Infantry Division on the 2d Bn right in the vicinity of BOLLENDORF. The 3d Bn, in reserve, remained at DIEKIRCH under Division control.

The 318th Infantry, in its position on the high ground, completed mopping up enemy resistance on 13 February 1945. The 3d Bn, occupying the high ground in the vicinity of HILL 380 (994428), began movement at 0930 to relieve the 1st Bn from its position (9944) in the vicinity of BIESDORF. Relief was completed at 1137 and the 1st Bn moved southeast to occupy the high ground formerly held by the 3d Bn. The 2d Bn, in positions in the vicinity of BIESDORF, after mopping up pillboxes and the high ground south of BIESDORF, improved its positions.

On 13 February 1945, the 319th Infantry continued to mop up pillboxes in its zone and expand its bridgehead to the north and east.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, having passed through the 1st Bn the day before to carry the attack to the north of WALLENDORF, continued to reduce pillboxes on HILL 386 (945455). At 0230, 13 February 1945, "K" Company had advanced to the objective (HILL 386) and began to reorganize its troops. Heavy enemy artillery fire was received and the pillboxes in its sector were not mopped up. "I" Company was ordered to move forward and assist "K" Company in clearing the enemy from HILL 386. At 0900, "I" and "K" Companies, coordinating in mopping up pillboxes on HILL 386, were receiving heavy enemy artillery fire. By 1325 "K" Company held the northwest and west slope of HILL 386 and "I" Company held the northeast and top of the hill. Enemy small arms, artillery and mortar fire were being received when the Battalion consolidated its position.

The 2d Bn, in position approximately 500 yards southeast of AMMELDINGEN, moved out at 0800 to attack the town and surrounding ground. Numerous pillboxes within the zone of advance made progress slow. At 0937, the Battalion ordered the cessation of supporting fire and advanced toward the town. By 1130, two platoons of "E" Company

occupied the high ground north of the town and "G" Company moved into AMMELDINGEN which was unoccupied. The advance was halted and the ground gained during the day was consolidated.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve vicinity of HILL 304 (north of WALLENDORF), was protecting bridging operations.

This Battalion was ordered to take HERRENKOPF HILL (P-953441) prior to daylight 13 February 1945. "I" Company attacked at 1700, but after advancing 500 yards, was temporarily halted by heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. "L" Company jumped off at 0253 and passed through "I" Company against mortar and small arms fire to reach its objective by 0800. The 1st Bn continued to occupy the high ground vicinity HILL 300 (P-94426), while the 2d Bn consolidated positions in and around BIBSDORF.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, from positions on the high ground vicinity HILL 304 (north of WALLENDORF), moved forward in the early morning hours to assault pillboxes in that area. Considerable difficulty was experienced in reaching them due to the darkness and the well camouflaged positions of the pillboxes.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, located on HILL 386 (P-945455) northeast of AMMELDINGEN, with direct fire support from tank and tank destroyer companies, continued to clear out pillboxes. Explosives consisting of hand grenades, watered charges and dynamite were placed in the apertures, ventilator shafts and at the entrances of the pillboxes. Direct fire from 155 mm self propelled guns was successfully employed against pillboxes in this attack. "K" and "I" Companies, supported by two platoons of tank destroyers and one section of tank assault guns, planned a coordinated night attack on the high ground vicinity of WALLENDORF. The 2d Bn, Infantry continued to occupy and improve defensive positions in and around AMMELDINGEN.

Field Order Number 31, Headquarters 50th Infantry Division, issued at 2000, provided for resumption of attacks northeast to the PRUM RIVER. H-Hour and D-Day were to be announced later.

On 15 February 1945, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry continued to improve defensive positions vicinity HILL 390 (northwest of BOLLENDORF), while the 2d Bn consolidated

positions on HILL 385. SECTION III some towns. Elements
from both Battalions moved to the north. The
3d Bn 317th Infantry THE SAUER-OUR BRIDGEHEAD in Division
Reserve, was moved by night to an assembly area
north of BOLLENDORF. Its units closed into the new
area.

THE SAUER-OUR BRIDGEHEAD

14 Feb

On 14 February 1945 Division units held positions generally on a line (P-9154473) - (P-948455) - (P-991460). The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, on the Regimental right flank, maintained positions east of BIESDORF (P-9944). At 1300, this Battalion was ordered to take HUNNENKOPF HILL (P-983441) prior to daylight 15 February 1945. "I" Company attacked at 1700, but after advancing 500 yards, was temporarily halted by heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. "L" Company jumped off at 0253 and passed through "I" Company against hostile small arms and mortar fire to reach its objective by 0800. The 1st Bn continued to occupy the high ground vicinity HILL 380 (P-994428), while the 2d Bn consolidated positions in and around BIESDORF.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, from positions on the high ground vicinity HILL 304 (north of WALLENDORF), moved forward in the early morning hours to assault pillboxes in that area. Considerable difficulty was experienced in locating them due to the darkness and the well camouflaged positions of the pillboxes.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, located on HILL 386 (P-945455) northeast of AMMELDINGEN, with direct fire support from tanks and tank destroyers continued to clear out pillboxes. Demolitions consisting of hand grenades, satchel charges and dynamite were placed in the apertures, ventilator shafts and at the entrances of the pillboxes. Direct fire from 155 mm Self Propelled guns was successfully employed against pillboxes in this attack. "K" and "I" Companies, supported by two platoons of tank destroyers and one section of tank assault guns, planned a coordinated night attack on the high ground vicinity of WALLENDORF. The 2d Bn, Infantry continued to occupy and improve defensive positions in and around AMMELDINGEN.

Field Order Number 31, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, issued at 2000, provided for resumption of attacks northeast to the PRUM RIVER. H-Hour and D-Day were to be announced later.

15 Feb

On 15 February 1945, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry continued to improve defensive positions vicinity HILL 390 (northwest of BOLLENDORF), while the 2d Bn consolidated

DIV
FO#31

positions on HILL 385, north of the same town. Elements from both Battalions maintained patrols to the north. The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, which had been at DIEKIRCH in Division Reserve, was moved by motor at 0700 to an assembly area north of BOLLENDORF. Battalion units closed into the new area by 1100.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry continued to improve positions in the vicinity of HILL 380 (P-994428) and to utilize the period for rest and rehabilitation, while 2d Bn units of the same Regiment maintained previously held positions in and around BIESDORF. The 3d Bn units continued operations in the vicinity of HUNNENKOPF HILL, which had been taken at 0800 by "L" Company. Other Battalion units mopped up pillboxes and small enemy groups attempting to infiltrate the high ground south of CRUCHTEN (P-9845).

During 15 February 1945, the 1st Bn 319th Infantry continued to improve positions north of WALLENDORF, while 2d Bn units held positions in the town of AMMELDINGEN and vicinity. In the early morning hours, 3d Bn elements to the north of AMMELDINGEN, following up the attack launched the previous night by "I" Company, continued their attack on SIEGFRIED pillbox defenses. Small arms, mortar and artillery fire from well dug-in positions near enemy held pillboxes slowed down the forward progress of our troops. Individual isolated pillboxes continued to offer stiff resistance to our advance throughout the period.

Field Message Number 1, Headquarters, 80th Infantry Division, issued at 1100, 15 February 1945, designated 0600, 16 February 1945 as H-Hour and D-Day for implementation of Field Order Number 31. This designation was cancelled later in the day.

80 FM #1
80 FO #31

16 Feb
On the 16 February 1945, the 317th Infantry on the Division right flank maintained positions in BOLLENDORF and to the north of the town. The 1st and 3d Bns remained in assembly areas north and northwest of BOLLENDORF. Positions were improved and patrols sent to the north and northeast. 2d Bn elements maintained positions vicinity HILL 385 north of BOLLENDORF, while other elements, continuing their drive north along the wooded high ground on either side of the main BOLLENDORF-NUSBAUM ROAD, cleared the area as they advanced and seized the town of SCHWARZENBRUCH. By midnight, Battalion troops had advanced to the high ground two kilometers southwest of CRUCHTEN and astride the BOLLENDORF-NUSBAUM ROAD.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry maintained defensive positions vicinity HILL 380 (P-994428), while 2d Bn units continued to improve defensive positions vicinity of BIESDORF. The 3d Bn units cleared enemy forces from the area north of HUNNENKOPF HILL. Enemy pillboxes in this area were reduced and hostile troops, continuing their attempts to infiltrate the high ground south of CRUCHTEN (P-9845), were destroyed.

The 1st and 2d Bns 319th Infantry continued to occupy defensive positions to the north of WALLENDORF and vicinity of AMMELDINGEN throughout the day. The 3d Bn continued to knock out pillboxes in it's sector northeast of AMMELDINGEN. The pillboxes in the area were connected by communicating trenches and strongly supported by enemy mortar and artillery fire. Offensive operations continued throughout the day against heavy enemy resistance. During the night, the 2d Bn relieved the 3d Bn in position, the 3d Battalion then moved to assembly vicinity WALLENDORF (P-9642) and MOESTROFF (P-9241).

The 51st Armored Infantry Bn continued to maintain defensive positions to the left of the 319th Infantry on the Division left flank.

51st AIB

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry consolidated positions on the high ground north of WALLENDORF. Vigorous patrolling was maintained to the Battalion front throughout the period. The 2d and 3d Bns remained in position on the high ground south of HUNNENKOPF and in assembly areas vicinity WALLENDORF and MOESTROFF respectively. Plans and preparations for the impending morning attack at 0600, 18 February 1945, were perfected. At 1715, the 3d Bn commenced relief of the 2d Bn and closed into positions by 2100. The 2d Bn moved to an assembly area south of AMMELDINGEN where they closed by 2200. The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop began relief of the 51st Armored Infantry Bn during the night and was attached to the 319th Infantry following relief of the unit. The 51st Armored Infantry Bn in turn reverted to control of the 4th Armored Division upon completion of the relief.

*51st AIB
relieved*

On 18 February 1945, the 317th Infantry continued to attack north in the direction of NUSBAUM after units of

SECTION IV

the 2d Bn had cleared ROHRBACH the previous period. The THE ADVANCE TO THE PRUM RIVER vicinity of ROHRBACH, closing there at 0600 to take the town of ST. ROHRBACH, scattered resistance.

17 Feb

The 1st and 2d Bns 317th Infantry maintained previously held positions northwest and north of BOLLENDORF respectively. 2d Bn units, deploying east from the high ground vicinity of road junction (P-995445), by 2400, 17 February 1945, had cleared the area, captured the town of ROHRBACH and the bridge at (P-005445).

At 0900, 17 February 1945, Field Message Number 1, Headquarters, 80th Infantry Division, was issued, which announced D-Day and H-Hour, specified in Field Order Number 31, as 0600, 18 February 1945. Field Order Number 31 provided for the resumption of the attack to the northeast at H-Hour and D-Day.

80th Inf Div #1

The 1st and 2d Bns 318th Infantry, vicinity HILL 350 (P-994428) and BIESDORF respectively, spent the period improving defensive positions and making preparations for the attack which was to begin at 0600 the morning of the 18th. The 3d Bn completed mopping up HUNNENKOPF HILL and the general area south of CRUCHTEN. Battalion units, with supporting tanks and tank destroyers, had reduced considerable enemy artillery and pillboxes in the course of the past few days operations.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry consolidated positions on the high ground north of WALLENDORF. Vigorous patrolling was maintained to the Battalion front throughout the period. The 2d and 3d Bns remained in position on the high ground south of NIEDERSGEGEN and in assembly areas vicinity WALLENDORF and MOESTROFF respectively. Plans and preparations for the impending morning attack at 0600, 18 February 1945, were perfected. At 1715, the 3d Bn commenced relief of the 2d Bn and closed into positions by 2100. The 2d Bn moved to an assembly area south of AMMELDINGEN where they closed by 2200. [The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop began relief of the 51st Armored Infantry Bn during the night and was attached to the 319th Infantry following relief of the unit. The 51st Armored Infantry Bn in turn reverted to control of the 4th Armored Division upon completion of the relief.

51st AIB
Relief
complete

51st AIB
REMOVED

18 Feb

On 18 February 1945, the 317th Infantry continued to attack north in the direction of NUSBAUM after units of

the 2d Bn had cleared the town of ROHRBACH the previous period. The 2d Bn, from positions in the vicinity of ROHRBACH, continued its attack to the northeast at 0600 to take the town of STOCKGIT against scattered resistance. By nightfall, the high ground south of NUSBAUM was reached and occupied. The 3d Bn, in support of the 2d Bn drive on NUSBAUM, moved out at 0720 from positions north of BOLLENDORF, and were clearing the enemy from the woods northeast of STOCKGIT by 2200. The 1st Bn, in Regimental Reserve, moved from its assembly area northwest of BOLLENDORF to the vicinity of (P-002438), south of ROHRBACH. This move was completed by nightfall.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry jumped off at 0600 from positions in the vicinity of BIESDORF and by 0800 occupied the high ground northwest of CRUCHTEN. The remainder of the period was devoted to clearing the area of enemy troops. The 3d Bn likewise began its attack at 0600 from positions southeast of CRUCHTEN, CRUCHTEN was seized and the attack continued to HOMMERDINGEN against strong enemy resistance and well emplaced anti-tank defenses. Toward the close of the period, the 3d Bn took up positions in Regimental Reserve in CRUCHTEN. The 1st Bn moved from its location in the vicinity of HILL 380 (southeast of CRUCHTEN) to an assembly area at BIESDORF.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, during the morning of 18 February 1945, continued to occupy defensive positions on the high ground north of WALLENDORF. Elements of this Battalion engaged in clearing the valley northwest of WALLENDORF during the afternoon. The 2d Bn moved from the vicinity of AMMELDINGEN and crossed to the east side of the GAY RIVER, assembling in the vicinity of (P-961426), south of BIESDORF. In preparation for the attack towards NIEDERSGEGEN (9546), the Battalion shifted to the vicinity of BIESDORF and closed there by 1900. The 3d Bn continued to maintain defensive positions on the high ground south of NIEDERSGEGEN. The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, attached to the 319th Infantry, by 1200 had completed the relief of the 51st Armored Infantry Bn vicinity of BETTEL on the west bank of the OUR RIVER.

51st AIB
Relief
complete

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry remained in Regimental Reserve at (P-002438), south of ROHRBACH, until 2045. The Battalion then moved into ROHRBACH, closing there at 2150.

19 FEB

At 0530 on the morning of the 19th, 2d Bn 317th

20 Feb

Infantry resumed the attack to the north and captured the towns of NUSBAUM, FREILINGERHOHE, and FREILINGEN.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, attacking on the right flank of the 2d Bn, cleared the woods northeast of ROHRBACH and reached the west bank of the ENZ RIVER.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry jumped off from BIESDORF in the early hours of the 19th and passing through the 3d Bn at CRUCHTEN, seized the town of HOMMERDINGEN. The Battalion consolidated positions and prepared for a night attack to begin after 0001, 20 February 1945.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry, from positions northwest of CRUCHTEN, at 0425, 19 February 1945, attacked north of HOMMERDINGEN to seize the high ground beyond the town. The objective was reached at 0730 and at the close of the day, it had been cleared of the enemy.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve at CRUCHTEN, was reorganizing and equipping in preparation for resumption of the attack on the 20 February 1945.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry continued to clear the valley between NIEDERSGEGEN and WALLENDORF and moved to an assembly area vicinity (P-960449), southeast of NIEDERSGEGEN.

At 0800, the 2d Bn 319th Infantry, passing through the left flank of the 2d Bn 318th Infantry, jumped off for an attack northwest towards NIEDERSGEGEN. After seizing the high ground northeast of NIEDERSGEGEN, the Battalion shifted southwest to attack the town from the rear. By late afternoon, NIEDERSGEGEN had been taken and completely cleared.

The 53d Armored Infantry Bn was attached to the 319th Infantry on 19 February 1945 for relief of the 3d Bn 319th Infantry. Beginning at 1620, elements of the 53d Armored Infantry Bn moved to positions in vicinity AMMELDINGEN, closing completely by 2145. Upon relief, the 3d Bn moved to WALLENDORF.

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was relieved from attachment to the 319th Infantry and under Division control, continued to occupy positions on the west bank of the OUR RIVER near BETTEL.

53rd AIB
ATTACHED TO
319th INF

80th Cavalry

20 Feb

On 20 February 1945, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry moved from ROHRBACH to an assembly area south of ENZEN where the Battalion prepared for continuation of the attack to the north.

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry, advancing north from NUSBAUM, FREILLINGERHOHE, and FREILINGEN, captured the day before, seized HILL 407 (P-95489) which dominating the high ground north of FREILINGEN.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry seized a bridge across the ENZ RIVER in the vicinity of ENZEN, crossed the river and captured ENZEN.

The 1st and 2d Bns 318th Infantry continued the attack through the area north and northwest of HOMMERDINGEN against strong resistance from enemy self-propelled guns and dug-in infantry. The Battalions succeeded in advancing into positions suitable for attack of the high ground southwest of METTENDORF (P-9951) which was the largest town and key road center of the area.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry moved north to HOMMERDINGEN from CRUCHTEN and attacked northwest toward HUTTINGEN (P-969490). [Slow progress was made against strong resistance from enemy assault guns and small arms fire.]

At 1130, 20 February 1945, the 1st Bn 319th Infantry attacked to seize OBERSGEGEN (P-9349) and the high ground extending from the town southwest to the OUR RIVER thus isolating a two and one half miles occupied portion of the SIEGFRIED LINE.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry continued its attack to the northwest and captured SIEMERICH (P-9447) and KORPERICH (P-9448), while the 3d Bn, in preparation for attacks against the town of LAHR (P-9650), moved north to the vicinity of HUTTINGEN (P-9749).

The 1st and 3d Bns 317th launched a coordinated attack against the high ground west of NIEHL (L-0151), but only advanced to positions southwest of STEFFESHOF (L-0150). The 2d Bn continued to occupy the high ground north of NUSBAUM and mopped up the forward slopes of HILL 407 (P-995489) to the ENZ RIVER.

Attacking northeast, the 1st Bn 318th Infantry gained the high ground 500 yards west of METTENDORF

(P-9951) and the town of HUTTINGEN (P-9648) and occupied defensive positions in Regimental Reserve. The 3d Bn attacked north toward NIEDERGECKLER (P-9753) against light opposition. By night, Battalion elements were approximately 1500 yards south of the town and occupying strategic high ground overlooking the town.

21 FEB

During early morning of 21 February 1945, the 1st Bn 319th Infantry seized the town of ROTH (P-9148) on the OUR RIVER, thus completing the encirclement of the isolated pocket of the SIEGFRIED LINE.

At 1500, the 2d Bn 319th Infantry moved out for an attack on GEICHLINGEN (P-9451). By nightfall, the Battalion had entered the town and was mopping up in preparation for the advance towards OBERGECKLER (P-9653).

22 FEB

The 53d Armored Infantry Bn moved north at 0600 to mop up resistance in the encircled portion of the SIEGFRIED LINE from AMMELDINGEN (P-9344) to ROTH (P-9148) and to relieve elements of the 319th Infantry in that area.

Upon attachment of Combat Command "B", 4th Armored Division to the 80th Infantry Division, the 53d Armored Infantry Bn was relieved from attachment to the 319th Infantry. Its positions were taken over by the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. Combat Command "B", in preparation for an attack to the northeast, began movement to an assembly area in the vicinity of GEICHLINGEN (P-9451).

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry remained in defensive positions north of ENZEN until 2345, at which time it was relieved by the 2d Infantry, 5th Infantry Division. As Regimental Reserve, the Battalion then moved to NUSBAUM (L-0047). The 2d Bn completed mopping up enemy on the high ground north of FREILINGEN (P-9947) and west of the ENZ RIVER valley, northeast of ENZEN and occupied positions blocking hostile approaches to ENZEN from METTENDORF.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry improved it's positions on the high ground on the bank of the ENZ RIVER overlooking METTENDORF. The 2d and 3d Bns attacked to the north and encountered determined resistance in the woods south of SINSPILT (P-9853) and NIEDERGECKLER (P-9753).

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry maintained defensive positions in vicinity ROTH (P-9148) and OBERSGEGEN (P-9349)

CCB
4MAD
53 AIB
4MAD
CCB ACH to
80 DIV
53rd AIB Rel'd
from 319
2d INF / 5th DIV
CCB 4MAD

during the morning, moving at 1100 to occupy GEICHLINGEN (P-9451) in Regimental Reserve. At 0510, 22 February 1945, the 2d Bn began an attack on OBERGECKLER (P-9653) and by 1000 had captured the town. The 3d Bn engaged in clearing the woods running north from LAHR (P-9650) to an enemy strong point reinforced with armor at Road Junction (963526). Capturing the Road Junction and an adjacent bridge intact at P-63525, the Battalion remained in position to hold the ground gained until passed through by Combat Command "B" of 4th Armored Division. Combat Command "B" closed into an assembly area in vicinity GEICHLINGEN (P-9451) during the afternoon and completed preparations for an attack to the east.

CCB
AMAD

23 FEB

On 23 February 1945, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry remained in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of NUSBAUM (L-0047), while 2d and 3d Bns maintained defensive positions west and east of the ENZ RIVER.

The 318th Infantry, on 23 February 1945, remained in defensive positions, mopped up isolated pockets in surrounding woods of the high ground area west of METTENDORF (P-9950) and awaited results of operations by Combat Command "B" to secure a bridgehead across the ENZ RIVER.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry continued to maintain defensive positions in vicinity of GEICHLINGEN (P-9451), while Battalion elements patrolled to the north of the town to determine enemy positions. The 2d Bn, after a fierce fight with enemy infantry and armor on the south edge of the town, completed clearing OBERGECKLER (P-9653). The 3d Bn continued to hold defensive positions north of LAHR (P-9650).

Combat Command "B", 4th Armored Division passed through 3d Bn 318th Infantry during the early morning hours of 23 February 1945 and began its attack to seize crossings of the ENZ RIVER in the vicinity of SINSPELT (P-9853). Overcoming strong enemy resistance at Cross Road (P-969532), junction of GEICHLINGEN-NIEDERGECKLER and METTENDORF-OBERGECKLER roads, the town of NIEDERGECKLER (P-9753) was taken and the bridge over the ENZ RIVER captured intact.

CCB 4MAD

24 FEB

On 24 February 1945, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry moved from vicinity NUSBAUM at 1030 to effect the relief of elements of the 1st Bn 318th Infantry occupying positions

on the high ground west of METTENDORF (P-9950). The 2d Bn remained defensive on the high ground west of the ENZ RIVER below METTENDORF and the 3d Bn continued to maintain defensive positions northwest of ENZEN. Battalion elements patrolled towards METTENDORF and to the northeast.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry, upon relief by 1st Bn 317th Infantry, moved to an assembly area at HUTTINGEN (P-9648). The 2d and 3d Bns engaged in clearing all remaining enemy from the area between SINSPILT (P-9853) and METTENDORF (P-9950) along the west bank of the ENZ RIVER.

Defensive positions were maintained by the 1st Bn 319th Infantry in vicinity of GEICHLINGEN (P-9451), with elements patrolling north and northeast. The 2d Bn seized the high ground north of OBERGECKLER (P-9653) and completed clearing the enemy in that area, while Battalion elements relieved units of Combat Command "B" which were guarding the SINSPILT bridge across the ENZ RIVER. Outposts of the 2d Bn, above OBERGECKLER, contacted elements of the 6th Armored Division of VIII Corps engaged in completing encirclement of the SIEGFRIED LINE in the VIII Corps Zone. The 3d Bn remained in defensive positions in vicinity north of LAHR (P-9650).

6 AD AA
RPT 5015 319
CONTACTS AT
0700A/24 Feb

6 MAD
VIII

Combat Command "B", exploiting the SINSPILT bridgehead (P-9853), drove northeast and east to seize the towns of OUTSCHEID (L-0156) and BRIMINGEN (L-0153). By nightfall the towns were taken and the surrounding high ground organized. At 2400, Combat Command "B" was released from attachment to the 80th Infantry Division and reverted to control of the 4th Armored Division.

← CCB, 4 MAD
REL'D FROM
ATTN TO 80

25 FEB

During the early morning of 25 February 1945, elements of the 1st Bn 317th Infantry entered METTENDORF and cleared enemy resistance from the north half of the town. Upon relief by elements of 2d Bn 318th Infantry, the Battalion moved from vicinity of METTENDORF to effect relief of elements of Combat Command "B" in vicinity of BRIMINGEN (L-0153). The 2d and 3d Bns maintained their respective positions on the high ground southwest of METTENDORF and the area northwest of ENZEN.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry moved from HUTTINGEN (P-9648) to effect relief of the 3d Bn in positions northwest

of METTENDORF. Following it's relief, this Battalion in turn relieved the 2d Bn in adjacent areas northwest of METTENDORF. The 2d Bn then moved to vicinity (P-970510), northeast of LAHR (P-9650), in Regimental Reserve.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry moved northeast from vicinity GEICHLINGEN (P-9451) to attack and seize NIEDERRADEN (P-9954) and OBERRADEN (P-9956). Other elements completed clearing of OUTSCHIED (L-0156) taken the day before by Combat Command "B". The 2d Bn moved northeast from vicinity OBERGEOCKLER (P-9653) and assembled at OUTSCHEID (L-0156) in Regimental Reserve.

Moving from the vicinity of LAHR (P-9650), the 3d Bn 319th Infantry advanced to successively take, against light opposition, the towns of NIEDERWEIDINGEN (L-0257), WIEDINGEN (L-0257) and ALTSCHIED (L-0358). By midnight, Battalion elements occupied the high ground on the west bank of the PRUM RIVER overlooking EOTERSHAUSEN (L-0559).

26 Feb

During the early morning hours of the 26 February 1945, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry jumped off from vicinity BRIMINGEN (L-0153) and rapidly advanced against light opposition to the west bank of the PRUM RIVER. Battalion elements, after crossing the PRUM RIVER, took the towns of WIERSDORF (L-0857) and BIERSDORF (L-0859). PRUM ~~Wine~~ 150 mm howitzers were captured intact. By nightfall, other elements had gained the high ground at HILL 380, (L-092592) where a small enemy counterattack was quickly repelled.

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry moved east from vicinity METTENDORF (P-9950) and advanced to OBERWEIS (L-0552) on the PRUM RIVER. PRUM After clearing the town, the Battalion moved northwest to an assembly area at WISSMANSDORF (L-0775) and outposted the high ground to the east.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry moved from vicinity northwest of ENZEN (L-0147) and seized the towns of NIEHL (L-0151) and HISEL (L-0252). Turning east, the Battalion advanced rapidly to occupy the high ground northwest of HERMESDORF (L-0756), in the vicinity of KOSSBUSCH (L-0656).

The 318th Infantry, in Division Reserve, remained in position northwest of METTENDORF. Preparations were made for a movement to the east.

Continuing the attack northeast, the 1st Bn 319th Infantry captured the towns of PHILLIPSWEILER (L-0362) and MANEL (L-0364) and in the course of these operations, cleared the enemy from the west bank of the PRUM RIVER within it's zone of advance. The 2d Bn, Regimental Reserve, remained in an assembly area at OUTSCHEID (L-0156). The 3d Bn continued to occupy the high ground west of the PRUM RIVER near ECTERSHAUSEN (L-0559), while Battalion elements cleared that town of the enemy.

PRUM
L-0362
L-0364
L-0156
L-0559

On 27 February 1945, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry consolidated positions on the high ground northeast of BIERSDORF (L-0859) and seized the town of LIESSEN (L-1059), while Battalion elements patrolled to the north entering the town of NIEDERWEILER (L-0760). The 2d Bn remained in the assembly area at WISSMANNSDORF (L-0755), while the 3d Bn continued to occupy the high ground between KOSSBUSCH (L-0656) and HERMESDORF (L-0756).

PRUM
L-0859
L-1059
L-0760
L-0755
L-0656
L-0756

The 318th Infantry remained in Division Reserve in the vicinity of METTENDORF.

All three Battalions of the 319th Infantry remained assembled in their respective positions, while elements of each Battalion completed clearing the west bank of the PRUM RIVER from MANEL (L-0364) to HAMM (L-0558).

PRUM

The towns of NEIDERWEILER (L-0760) and OBERWEILER (L-0761) were seized by the 1st Bn 317th Infantry on 28 February 1945. The 2d Bn moved north through the 1st Bn and captured the high ground west of SCHLEID (L-1063), while elements of the 3d Bn assembled in Regimental Reserve in the area bounded by WIBERSDORF (L-0857), BIERSDORF (L-0858) and LIESSEN (L-1059).

28 Feb

On 28 February 1945, the 318th Infantry, in Division Reserve, continued to occupy its assembly area in the vicinity of METTENDORF. Battalions devoted this period to training of reinforcements.

The 319th Infantry remained in position with Battalions utilizing this static period for rehabilitation, re-equipping and training.

During the month of February the Division had fulfilled all objectives and had advanced from the CUR-SAUER bridge-heads to the PRUM RIVER. The period was notable for the

PRUM

daily disintegration of the German Army whose soldiers generally surrendered after token resistance. Other evidence of German deterioration was revealed in the process of cannibalization through which divisions, rendered understrength by battle losses or desertions, took over and absorbed other units of which only small remnants remained.

Attached to the Division for direct support were the following organizations: 633d AAA (AW) Bn, 811th Tank Destroyer Bn, and 702d Tank Bn.

During this month, Division Artillery fired a total of 60, 939 rounds against the enemy. Tanks of the 702d Tank Bn, newly equipped with 60 barrel T-34 Rocket Launchers firing 4.2 inch rockets singly or sixty rockets simultaneously, operated under Division Artillery fire control. In this connection, it is interesting to note, that German officers taken prisoner during the period stated they marvelled at the accuracy of the Division Artillery fire and the close coordination between the Artillery, Tanks and Infantry elements. They stated specifically that the effect of our rockets, combined with Tank and Infantry attack, was impossible to cope with and that the fire power of our Infantry Combat Teams was beyond all proportions to anything encountered in six years of war.

Enemy aerial activity was extremely light during the month. Enemy tanks and self-propelled guns were generally used as stationary artillery, or immobilized by lack of gasoline. Considerable amounts of enemy material were overrun and captured; forty-seven enemy tanks were destroyed. The attempts to defend the shattered SIEGFRIED LINE were nullified and 4091 prisoners taken. The gap thus created in the enemy lines by the 80th Infantry Division was exploited by the 4th Armored Division on the historic dash to the RHINE.

633 DAW
811 TD
702 TK

NEW 60-
BARREL T-34
ROCKET LAUNCHER
4.2" ROCKETS