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SECTION I

ADVANCE TO THE INN RIVER

1 May

On 1 May 1945, the 2d Bn Combat Team 318 continued to push south. By 1905 it had seized crossings on the VILS RIVER and captured the town of REISEBACH (U-6008). With little rest the Battalion made preparations to continue its advance.

OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION

On 1 May 1945, the 2d Bn Combat Team 318 attack the town of REISEBACH (U-6008) to the town of DINGOLFING (U-507143). En route MAY 1945 resistance in the vicinity (U-505150), which is quickly neutralized. The attack continued after the 1st Bn Combat Team 318 was relieved of the responsibility for safeguarding the bridgehead by Combat Team 317 at approximately 0920. The Page Section to the VILS RIVER, and the Battalion's objective, (U-505150) was reached at 1905. Plans were laid to 10-4

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The 2d Bn Combat Team 319 completed its crossing of the ISAR RIVER at 0425, while the 1st Bn started at 0445. Both crossings were made with the 305th Engineer Combat Bn rushed to completion two bridges in the vicinity (U-375115) and (U-420133), which were completed respectively at 0225 and 0345. These enabled the infantry to advance to the VILS RIVER vicinity (U-575042), where it closed at 2155.

In the zone of advance of Combat Team 319 it was necessary to bridge a stream in order to make the approach to the ISAR RIVER. The 305th Engineer Combat Bn rushed to completion two bridges in the vicinity (U-375115) and (U-420133), which were completed respectively at 0225 and 0345. These enabled the infantry to advance to the VILS RIVER vicinity (U-575042), where it closed at 2155.

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SECTION I

ADVANCE TO THE INN RIVER

1 May

On 1 May 1945, the 2d Bn Combat Team 318 continued to push south. By 1905 it had seized crossings on the VILS RIVER and captured the town of REISBACH (U-6008). With little rest the Battalion made preparations to continue the attack southeast in the morning.

During the same period the 1st Bn Combat Team 318 attack parallel to the ISAR RIVER to the town of DINGOLFING (U-507143). En route it met light resistance in the vicinity (U-505150), which it quickly neutralized. The attack continued after the 1st Bn Combat Team 318 was relieved of the responsibility for safeguarding the bridgehead by Combat Team 317 at approximately 0920. The advance continued to the VILS RIVER, and the Battalion's objective, (U-555035) was reached at 1808. Plans were laid to continue the attack in the morning.

The 3d Bn Combat Team 318 completed it's crossing of the ISAR RIVER in assault boats and raced on foot through the 1st Bn Combat Team 318 and reached it's objective vicinity (U-555155), and on to the VILS RIVER vicinity (U-575042), where it closed at 2155.

In the zone of advance of Combat Team 319 it was necessary to bridge a canal in order to make the approach to the ISAR RIVER. "C" Company, 305th Engineer Combat Bn rushed to completion two class 40, twenty four feet, treadway bridges in vicinity (U-375115) and (U-420133), which were completed respectively at 0225 and 0345. These enabled the infantry to carry assault boats to the river.

The 2d Bn Combat Team 319 started crossing the ISAR RIVER at 0425, while the 1st Bn started at 0445. Both crossings were made with no opposition. As the infantry companies landed on the south bank of the river, they immediately reorganized. In moving inland no resistance was met, and some prisoners of war were taken. By 0735, both Battalions had crossed all their elements, and were ready to move in pursuit of the enemy. ✓ Supplies were rowed across the river, and horses and wagons were commandeered to move the supplies. ✓

The 1st Bn Combat Team 319 closed in at (U-4005). The 2d Bn closed in slightly to the west.

The 3d Bn Combat Team 319 crossed the ISAR RIVER after the 1st Bn Combat Team 319, without instant. The crossing took place in vicinity (U-420133). It was completed at 1357.

During the advance an Allied prisoner of war camp at NEIDAICHBACH (U-375012) was liberated, and some three thousand British and Americans were set free. POW

The 3d Bn Combat Team 319 passed through the 1st Bn Combat Team 319 and continued on to DIETELSKIRCHEN (U-4099).

Meanwhile Combat Team 317 continued as Divisional Reserve. The 2d Bn Combat Team 317 crossed the ISAR RIVER in the vicinity DINGOLFING (U-5015), and relieved the 1st Bn Combat Team 318, at 0910 of the responsibility of safeguarding the construction operations at the bridgehead. Outposts around the vicinity were set up.

"D" Battery 633 AAA (AW) Bn while in support of the river crossing operations and the attack on DINGOLFING (U-5014), engaged an ME 210, vicinity (U-5323), which plane was observed to have crashed vicinity (U-6018).

The Divisional Artillery fired fifty seven missions in support of the attack on DINGOLFING and the river crossing, mostly on dug in enemy and on enemy machine guns.

The 179th Engineer Combat Bn operated a "treadway" ferry across the ISAR RIVER in vicinity DINGOLFING (U-5015), and was in the course of constructing a Class 40 treadway bridge in the same vicinity. By the close of the period the bridge was completed sufficiently to pass four ton loads, but the "treadway" ferry had to be discontinued as the treadway used in it's construction was needed to complete the bridge. 179ENG
Cbr Bn

2 may

In the cold dark hours of the morning of 2 May 1945, impeded by rain and snow flurries, the 80th Infantry Division worked furiously to complete the crossing of the ISAR RIVER, not alone with foot troops, but also with sufficient vehicles and supplies to continue in the wake of the 13th Armored Division toward the ENNS RIVER and jointure with the Russians. The opportunity presented was to be fully exploited and no chance was to be given to the enemy 13 MND

to coordinate or unify again in an effective fighting machine. It was the responsibility of the 179th Engineer Combat Bn and the 305th Engineer Combat Bn to support the crossing and maintain the roads and bridges in the zone of advance.

179th
305th CB

Since Combat Team 318 had secured permission from the XX Corps to pass fifteen trucks over a bridge, vicinity (U-604190), in the 71st Infantry Division's Zone, and had brought across on the ferry vicinity DINGOLFING (U-507123), its jeeps, it had sufficient transportation by 0245 to continue the advance on foot and by shuttle.

XX
71st IDN

Two bridges on the VILS RIVER vicinity (Z-600097) and (Z-575074) capable of carrying light vehicles were discovered intact. "C" Company 305th Engineer Combat Bn was detailed to strengthen the structures. By 1030 trucks and tank destroyers of Combat Team 318 were over bridge (Z-600097), together with the vehicles of 314th and 905th Field Artillery Bn and the 94th Chemical Mortar Bn.

94th
Chem Bn

By 1315 Combat Team 318 was able to set up a Command Post at REICHENEIBACH (Z-6096).

By night fall, Combat Team 318 had closed on elements of the 13th Armored Division, occupying positions along the INN RIVER vicinity (Z-7780).

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, pointing the Combat Team 318's advance, had captured three hundred prisoners of war, including a Major General. It's 2d Platoon had reached the INN RIVER vicinity (Z-670730), while it's 3d Platoon reached a position (Z-671809). The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop only halted due to blown bridges over the INN RIVER in the zone of advance.

At 2335 Combat Team 318 was directed to cross the INN RIVER vicinity BRAUNAU (Y-9376), and relieve elements of the 13th Armored Division, and continue south toward the XX Corps objective, jointure with the Russian forces.

13th AD
XX Corp

Combat Team 319 was prepared to race after the 13th Armored Division as quickly as sufficient vehicles could be brought across the ISAR RIVER vicinity DINGOLFING (U-5014).

The 1st Bn Combat Team 319 was on the go at 0400, and the 3d Bn moved out at 0500. By 0800 sufficient vehicles

had been brought across the ISAR RIVER to shuttle the foot troops forward. Progress was only hindered by the mud, weather and blown bridges enroute.

"Q" Company 305th Engineer Combat Bn reinforced a bridge at AHAM (Z-4903) to facilitate the Combat Team 319 crossing the VILS RIVER.

The 1st Bn Combat Team 319 ran into a road block supported by some one hundred and fifty enemy, vicinity FLEISKIRCHEN (Z-6079). But after the infantry and tank elements deployed for an attack, the enemy dispersed, and the Battalion continued to advance, closing vicinity (Z-6378).

The 2d Bn Combat Team 319 reached the INN RIVER vicinity WINHÖRING (Y-6475) and the 3d Bn assembled in vicinity HARBERING (Z-5687).

Combat Team 319 opened a Command Post at KREUZPOINT (Z-6075) and the 905th Field Artillery Bn closed in vicinity (Z-6176).

Combat Team 317 continued as Divisional Reserve. It moved across the ISAR RIVER and closed into assembly area south of DINGOLFING (U-5015) at 1900.

SECTION II

ADVANCE THROUGH AUSTRIA

2-3 MAY

The weather continued cold with occasional snow and rain. At 022330B May 1945 an order was issued to the 80th Infantry Division, from the XX Corps directing the Division to move immediately to vicinity BRAUNAU (Z-9277), relieve the 13th Armored Division, and be prepared to exploit the bridgehead across the INN RIVER. Priority on all roads and bridges in the Division's Zone of Advance was granted, and engineering material assembled by the 13th Armored Division was made available to the 80th Infantry Division, to get a bridge across the swift INN RIVER, and continue the movement night and day, until the Corps' objective, contacting the Russian forces, was accomplished.

ORDER
XX

13 AD

3 MAY

Combat Team 318 immediately made preparations to move, by shuttle movement, in column of battalions, lead by the 2d Bn, and followed by the 3d and 1st Bns. The 2d Bn took off at 0600. At 0810 Combat Team 318 had established a Command Post at EGGSSTETTEN (Z-8879).

✓ The only bridge immediately available in vicinity BRAUNAU (Z-9277), was a narrow, rickety, partially destroyed railroad bridge, smash in the swift INN RIVER. Crossing of this bridge had to be done in a single column of men and could only be negotiated with the greatest difficulty, due to the slipperiness and the swift current. By 1400 the 2d Bn had started across, and by 1500 only three companies were over. But the 2d Bn assumed control of the bridgehead with these troops and relieved the 13th Armored Division. The 2d Bn completed it's crossing at 1645, and set out security guards and patrols to maintain law and order in the city.

The 3d Bn Combat Team 318 immediately followed the 2d Bn, and was completely across at 1955. It immediately fanned out to enlarge the bridgehead in vicinity (Z-2976), while at the same time establishing a perimeter defense and foot patrols. It had passed through the 2d Bn.

The 1st Bn Combat Team 318 followed the 3d Bn and was completely across at the close of the period.

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop initially

screened the crossing with motor patrols along the main road which runs parallel to the river on the north bank, preventing the enemy from establishing any action on the south side of the river in that vicinity.

At 0600 the 179th Engineer Combat Bn moved from DINGOLFING (U-507143), to reinforce the 305th Engineer Combat Bn, already on the scene, in completing a bridge across the INN RIVER, vicinity BRAUNAU (Z-9277). The 1154th Engineer Group supported this work. The swiftness of the current presented serious problems for the engineers. Work continued all night long under flood lights.

179 Eng Bn

1154 Eng Gp

Combat Team 319 reverted to the Divisional Reserve. It's 2d Bn remained in vicinity WINHÖRING (Z-6475). It's 1st Bn moved vicinity (Z-6176). The 3d Bn and Regimental Command Post and supporting units moved to vicinity HAUNBERG (Z-7178).

Combat Team 317 was alerted for movement to an assembly area in vicinity BRAUNAU (Z-9277). Transportation was speeded to it. The Reconnaissance Company 811th Tank Destroyer Bn, being relieved of it's previous assignment with Combat Team 319, was assigned to Combat Team 317 to reconnoiter the route of march.

The 1st Bn Combat Team 317 moved out at 0730, to be followed by the remainder of the Combat Team as soon as transportation was available. It closed in vicinity BRAUNAU (Z-9277) at 2050, and assumed the mission of patrolling the section on the north side of the river. At the close of the period, the rest of the Combat Team 317 was prepared to move south from DINGOLFING (U-5015).

Field Message Number 3, coming down at 0930, created Task Force SMITH, from elements of the 80th Infantry Division. It was composed of the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, "D" Company 702d Tank Bn, three mobile assault guns, and an ambulance. These elements were relieved of all other assignments to enable them to promptly assemble and assume the new mission. This mission was to cross the INN RIVER and race to seize crossings over the AGER RIVER, TRAUN RIVER, and the ELM RIVER, and if possible complete the mission of contacting the Russians. At the close of the period this Task Force was assembled on the north bank of the INN RIVER in vicinity BRAUNAU (Z-9277), waiting to get it's vehicles across as soon

FM #3
Task Force
SMITH
(SMITH)

as possible.

Task Force SMITH upon the recommendation of the Engineers, and with the consent of the XX Corps, crossed the INN RIVER into AUSTRIA at 0800, in the 71st Division's sector, on the dam vicinity (V-140845). It took a route back to the 80th Infantry Division's Zone of Advance to vicinity (V-078765), and vicinity (V-115742) and then south on its mission. A rapid advance was made all day over hilly terrain. Such speed was used that any possible enemy resistance was surprised and prevented.

When the Task Force reached SCHWANENSTADT (V-4957), a bridge over the AGER RIVER, vicinity (V-499564), was found intact. Time was taken out to consolidate around that town, and to assume control over all the enemy material and equipment and installations found in the area. Over 2000 prisoners of war were taken, along with numerous trucks and a great number of freight cars loaded with army stores. At the close of the period plans had been completed to continue the advance.

1154 CG

All through the early hours of the morning, the 1154th Engineer Group, supported by elements of the 305th Engineer Combat Bn raced to completion the bridge and its approaches, over the INN RIVER vicinity BRAUNAU (Z-9376). At 0930 the bridge was open to traffic.

The 2d and 3d Bns, Combat Team 317, entrucked from DINGOLFING (U-5015) at 0500 to close on the INN RIVER, vicinity BRAUNAU (Z-9370), and join the 1st Bn Combat Team 317 already assembled there.

The Reconnaissance Company 811th Tank Destroyer Bn (SP), attached to Combat Team 317, moved out of BRAUNAU (Z-9376) to reconnoiter in the Zone of Advance of the Combat Team.

811 TD

The Combat Team moved out following the Reconnaissance Company in a column of Battalions, lead by the 3d Bn, and followed by the 2d and 1st Bns. No resistance was encountered until the Combat Team captured VOCKLABRUCK (V-4152), and attempted to clear it. Then stiff enemy resistance from dug in infantry was met. At the close of the period the 3d Bn was putting down this resistance. The Combat Team found much abandoned military equipment in the vicinity of TINELKAN (V-3750). And the roads were crowded with surrendering enemy. By midnight, Combat Team 317

had patrols out looking for a suitable crossing of the AGER RIVER in the Zone of Advance, east of VOCKLABRUCK (Z-4152).

During the advance of the Combat Team 317, the 3d Cavalry Group in support, screened the right flank of the 80th Infantry Division, and reconnoitered to the east.

4 MAY

Combat Team 318 continued to occupy its positions surrounding and in vicinity of BRAUNAU (Z-9376), with all its elements over the INN RIVER into AUSTRIA. Walking patrols maintained law and order in the town. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon was used to control the prisoners of war streaming back as a result of the rapid advance of Task Force SMITH, Combat Team 317 and the 3d Cavalry Group. Toward the close of the period, Combat Team 318 assumed the XX Corps' mission of controlling prisoners of war in the Division's Zone of Advance.

3d CAU
GP

Combat Team 319 moved across the INN RIVER to assembly areas south of BRAUNAU (Z-9376), closing in at 2150. It prepared to move southeast on orders. Its assigned trucks had crossed the Class 40 bridge constructed at BRAUNAU. The same trucks had been used to move the Combat Team 317 from DINGOLFING (U-5015).

The 1st Bn Combat Team 319 was at St. GEORGON (Z-9370), the 2d Bn in BURGIKIRCHEN (Z-9370), the 3d Bn at UTTENDORF (Z-9965) and its supporting elements at MAUERKIRCHEN (V-0068).

13th AG

Task Force SMITH continued mopping up around vicinity SCHWANENSTADT (V-4957). An enemy airfield, with the operating personnel, was captured by one jeep of the Task Force in vicinity (V-495575).

The 1st Platoon of the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, pointing the advance of the Task Force, met resistance toward the east in vicinity (V-640600). The resistance was from a group of SS, armed with a 20mm gun. The pocket of resistance was by-passed so as not to impede the rapidity of the moving column. A bridge was captured intact over the STEYR RIVER, vicinity (V-837555). Friendly foot troops were permitted to cross at this bridge, while the column moved north to STEYR (W-9760), and crossed the river there. The column continued south to the ENNS RIVER vicinity (W-960555). The ENNS RIVER was the limit of advance set

21 TD

Troop, 31st Tank Destroyer Bn, Cannon Company 317 Infantry, 31st Field Artillery Bn, 4th Company 503rd Engineer Combat

for the United States troops. Patrols under commissioned officers crossed the ENNS RIVER to contact the Russians but were unsuccessful in meeting them. All patrols were withdrawn to the west side of the river, and at the close of the period Task Force SMITH was directed to assemble in the vicinity SAUTERN (V-755480), and there be dissolved.

Combat Team 319, less the 1st Bn. (motorized), took off at 0600 from its assembly area south of BRAUNAU (Z-9376) to move east. No resistance was encountered, and after a rapid advance of ninety five miles, the ENNS RIVER, the Division's objective, was reached. At 2215 the 3d Bn Combat Team 319 and the supporting elements of the Combat Team were closed in vicinity STEYR (V-9760), and the 2d Bn Combat Team 319 closed at ASCHBACH (V-9552).

The 1st Bn Combat Team 319 moved out at 1115 from BRAUNAU (Z-9376) by train. The train had been placed in operation by the 305th Engineer Combat Bn. The 1st Bn closed at VOCKLABRUCK (V-4151), arriving there at 2110.

5 MAY

The 1st Bn Combat Team 317 had cleared VOCKLABRUCK at 0130. This enabled Combat Team 317 to press east against scattered and weak resistance. By the end of the day it had advanced fifty two miles and closed along the ENNS RIVER. Patrols which crossed the river to contact the Russian forces were unsuccessful and were called back to the west side of the river. Preparations were put in progress for the relief by the 71st Infantry Division.

Combat Team 318 continued as Divisional Reserve, assembled in BRAUNAU (Z-9376), in charge of collecting prisoners of war. But it was all ready to move forward. It was relieved by the 13th Armored Division of its responsibility for guarding installations and maintaining law and order in the city.

13th AD

During the day more than seven thousand prisoners of war were taken, many of whom were permitted to advance toward the rear unescorted. The railroad which the Division had placed in operation between MAUERKIRCHEN (Z-0068) and VOLKABRUCK (U-4151) was pressed into use to aid in evacuating prisoners of war.

At 1855 the Commanding General of the 80th Infantry Division directed that Task Force SMITH be created, composed of the 3d Bn 317 Infantry (motorized), 702d Tank Bn (less companies "B" and "C"), 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, 811th Tank Destroyer Bn, Cannon Company 317 Infantry, 315th Field Artillery Bn, "B" Company 305th Engineer Combat

811 TD

Bn, Platoon of "A" Company 305th Medical Bn, Psychological Warfare Unit of the 317th Infantry, and a Platoon "C" Company 94th Chemical Mortar Bn. This Task Force was to be commanded by General (then Colonel) George W. Smythe. It was to be assembled as quickly as possible. Its mission was to race south down the valley of the ENNS RIVER clearing any resistance met north and west of the river. Reconnaissance up any valley enroute was to be conducted, and all resistance was to be crushed.

94
CM BN

The Zone of Advance of the 80th Infantry Division was changed, so that the Division was to move generally south along the ENNS RIVER into the AUSTRIAN mountain region. The 71st Infantry Division was to relieve the 80th Infantry Division in its former zone.

71st Div

The 3d Bn (motorized), 317th Infantry, and the Psychological Warfare Unit of the 317th Infantry, and 317th Field Artillery Bn, 317th Engineer Bn, 305th Engineer Bn, Platoon of "A" Company 305th Medical Bn, formerly attached to Combat Team 317, commenced assembling to form Task Force SMITH, just as quickly as the respective units were relieved by elements of the 71st Infantry Division. The units assembled in place, vicinity STERN (V-9760).

SMITH

"A" and "B" Companies, 305th Medical Bn upon being relieved from attachment with Task Force SMITH, proceeded to assemble vicinity STERN (V-9760) for their new mission with Task Force SMITH.

To better enable Task Force SMITH to accomplish its mission, the Commanding Officer divided his force into three counterparts, in accordance with the Task Force's first Field Order. The plan called for three reconnaissance elements, each of which was to move south from STERN, reconnoiter to the flank, and pass on to the next other to new attack points. Thus Task Force SMITH was divided into Task Force SMITH, Task Force SMITH, and Task Force SMITH.



Task Force SMITH was made up of the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, "K" Company 317th Infantry (motorized), one platoon of light and one platoon of medium tanks of the 702d Tank Bn, one section 317th Cannon Company, one section 317th Tank Destroyer Bn, one section Medical Detachment, and one Platoon "A" Company 305th Engineer Combat Bn.

T.K. Jones

SMITH

Task Force SMITH was composed of Reconnaissance

T.K. Jones
SMITH

SECTION III

TYROLEAN FINALE

6 MAY

On the 6th May 1945, Task Force SMITH assembled in vicinity SAUTERN (U-755480). It arrived there at 1200 and upon arrival was dissolved. Its elements were released to assume new missions.

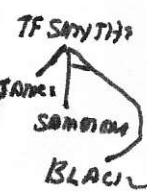
The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, assigned to the newly created Task Force SMYTHE, took off for the designated assembly area, vicinity north of KIRCHDORF (V-756430) and vicinity MAISDORF (V-7249).

The 3d Bn (motorized), Cannon Company, and the Psychological Warfare Unit of the 317th Infantry, and 313th Field Artillery Bn, Platoon of "B" Company 305th Engineer Combat Bn, Platoon of "A" Company 305th Medical Bn, formerly attached to Combat Team 317, commenced assembling to form Task Force SMYTHE, just as quickly as the respective units were relieved by elements of the 71st Infantry Division. The units assembled in place, vicinity STEYR (V-9760).

SMYTH

"A" and "D" Companies, 702d Tank Bn upon being relieved from attachment with Task Force SMITH, proceeded to assemble vicinity MAISDORF (V-7249) for their new mission with Task Force SMYTHE.

To better enable Task Force SMYTHE to accomplish its mission, the Commanding Officer divided his force into three counterparts, in accordance with the Task Force's first Field Order. The plan called for three sub Task Forces, each of which was to move out to check points, reconnoiter to the flanks, and pass on through each other to new check points. Thus Task Force SMYTHE was divided into Task Force JAMES, Task Force SAMMONS, and Task Force BLACK.



Task Force JAMES was made up of the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, "K" Company 317th Infantry (motorized), one platoon of light and one platoon of medium Tanks of the 702d Tank Bn, one section 317th Cannon Company, one section 811th Tank Destroyer Bn, one section Medical Detachment, and one Platoon "B" Company 305th Engineer Combat Bn.

T.F. James

811TD

Task Force SAMMONS was composed of Reconnaissance

T.F. SAMMONS

Company 811 Tank Destroyer Bn (minus one Platoon), "A" Company 702d Tank Bn (minus two medium Tank Platoons), "I" Company 317th Infantry (motorized), Platoon light tanks of the 702d Tank Bn, one Section 317th Cannon Company, Section Tank Battalion's Medical Detachment, and one Platoon "B" Company 305th Engineer Combat Bn.

Task Force BLACK was comprised of Headquarters Company 3d Bn 317th Infantry, "D" Company 702d Tank Bn (minus two light Tank Platoons), "L" Company 317th Infantry (motorized), Platoon light tanks 702d Tank Bn, Section 317th Cannon Company, one Platoon Medium Tanks "A" Company 702d Tank Bn, one Section Medical Detachment 702d Tank Bn, and one Platoon "B" Company 305th Engineer Combat Bn.

T.F.
BLACK

Task Force SMYTHE learned through intelligence that a large number of SS Troops were holding KLAUS (V-8035) and intended to fight at the entrance to the STEYR RIVER valley. Prepared for stiff opposition in the performance of their mission, Task Force SMYTHE jumped off from the vicinity KIRCHDORF (V-756430) at 1700. Almost immediately a representative of the enemy defense commission requested representatives of the United States Forces to meet August Eigruber, Gauleiter of GEBERDONAU to discuss surrender terms. A meeting took place as requested behind German lines. Eigruber desired to surrender his Gau to United States Forces, provided that the Germans be allowed to withdraw to the east to continue the fight against the Russians. This proposition was dismissed as being ridiculous. Eigruber was forcefully informed that all movement of the German forces must immediately stop and that the unconditional surrender of all his troops must be made forthwith. Eigruber requested four hours for making his reply so as to enable him to contact higher authorities. He promised to send a representative to MICHELDORF (V-7739) by midnight with his reply. When the emissary arrived with a negative answer, plans for the attack were put in operations again. During the thirty five mile trip behind the German lines our delegates who contacted Eigruber, observed some ten to fifteen thousand enemy troops of all descriptions, horse drawn artillery, tanks, and mechanized equipment. Hence from every indication, particularly the negative reply to the demand for an unconditional surrender, a stiff fight was expected at KLAUS (V-8035).

T.F.
SMYTHE

Combat Team 313 less the 2d and 3d Bns, throughout this period remained in BRAUNAU (Z-9376), as Divisional

Reserve. The 1st Bn continued to aid in the processing of prisoners of war and supplied a guard for the prisoner of war enclosure located at vicinity (V-009688). But the Combat Team prepared to displace forward as soon as directed.

The 2d and 3d Bns Combat Team 318, (less four heavy machine gun platoons, motorized) entrained at 1900 in vicinity (Z-959758) for VOCKLABRUCK (V-4151), and were in route at the close of the period.

Combat Team 318 organized two motorized patrols, each consisting of two heavy machine gun platoons, and one platoon of Tank Destroyers. These were sent out to the south in the Division's Zone, to the vicinity ALM SEE (V-6524), and all roads were checked. No resistance was met and the patrols rounded up approximately three thousand seven hundred fifty prisoner of war.

Combat Team 319 (minus it's 1st Bn), moved by motor shuttles from vicinity STEYR (V-9760) to an assembly area in vicinity LIMBACH (V-5561), closing into the new area at 2145. The Regimental Command Post and supporting units assembled in WIMSBACH (U-5859), the 2d Bn in vicinity (U-575568), and the 3d Bn in the town of EBERSTALLZELL (U-6457).

The 1st Bn Combat Team 319 remained in VOCKLABRUCK (V-4151), maintaining law and order and securing vital installations.

Combat Team 317 (minus the elements assigned to Task Force SMYTHE) after being relieved by the 71st Infantry Division assembled in place vicinity (V-6047), prepared for movement and support of the Task Force.

On the 7 May 1945, to strengthen the pending attack of Task Force SMYTHE, the remainder of Combat Team 317 not already attached to the Task Force was ordered from vicinity (V-6047) to assemble vicinity KIRCHDORF (V-756430), to support the pending attack as the reserve.

At 0630 Task Force SMYTHE jumped off and advanced rapidly to the south despite limited enemy demolitions.

Task Force JAMES, a counterpart of Task Force SMYTHE reached LIEZEN (V-888065), where they were directed to halt in place. The route they followed was over extremely mountainous terrain, and although no resistance was en-

countered from the ground, the column was strafed with no damage, by a lone enemy plane.

EN PLANE

Task Force SAMMONS, also a counterpart of Task Force SMYTHE, at daylight moved south and reached KLAUS (V-8035) where an enemy made avalanche, blocked the road south. At the close of the period foot elements had by passed the avalanche.

T.F. SAMMONS

At approximately 0930 a field message was received through channels from Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces as follows:

"1. A representative of the German High Command signed the unconditional surrender of all German land, sea and air forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Force, and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command at 0141 Hours Central European Time, 7 May 1945, under which all forces will cease active operations at 0001 B Hours 9 May 1945.

"2. Effective immediately all offensive operations by Allied Expeditionary Forces will cease and Troops will remain in present positions. Moves involved in occupational duties will continue. Due to the difficulties of communication there may be some delay in similar orders reaching the enemy troops. So full defensive precautions will be taken.

"3. All informed, down to and including Divisions, Tactical Air Commands, and Group and Base Sections and Equivalent. No release will be made to the press pending an announcement by the heads of the Three Governments.

EISENHOWER"

After the receipt of the message Task Force BLACK continued to maintain defensive positions and patrolled the roads in the vicinity KIRCHDORF (V-7543).

Task Force JAMES at 1115 moved from LEIZEN (V-888065) to GARSTEN (V-935240), set up defensive positions and patrolled the roads in the vicinity of the town. The entire treasury of the National Bank of Hungary was surrendered to the Task Force. It consisted among other items of thirty million dollars in gold bullion and three hundred thousand dollars worth of foreign money.

It was announced that Corps Major General Soeth had unconditionally surrendered his forces, composed of some one hundred and fifty thousand men, stationed north and west of the ENNS RIVER, to the Commanding General of the 80th Infantry Division, together with great quantities of arms, ammunition, horses, and vehicles. This effectively were all the forces in the 80th Infantry Division's Zone of Advance.

By this time heavy streams of surrendering enemy troops began pouring into the Allied lines. As they passed through GARSTEN (V-9324) they were disarmed and directed to the routes of march set down in the surrender terms.

Task Force BLACK moved to GARSTEN to assist in handling law and order problems and the flow of prisoners of war.

Elements of Task Force JAMES were temporarily used to control the traffic of Hungarian and German prisoners of war, liberated Allied personnel and Displaced Persons.

DPs
POWs

The 1st Bn Combat Team 318 entrained at 1530 at MAUERKIRCHEN (V-0068), to rejoin the Combat Team in VOCKLABRUCK (V-4151). It closed there at 2000.

Combat Team 318 maintained law and order in VOCKLABRUCK (V-4151). Prisoners of war and displaced persons flowing back, were collected in the Division's Zone, west of the LAMBACH (V-5862) road to GMUNDEN (V-5243). Motor patrols along the road accomplished this mission.

Combat Team 319 maintained law and order, collected prisoners of war and displaced persons in the 80th Infantry Division's Zone east of the LAMBACH-GMUNDEN road. The 2d Bn Combat Team 319 placed a roving patrol on a large ammunition factory located at (V-5558).

At noon on 7 May 1945 in accordance with Supreme Allied Expeditionary Forces instructions, all offensive operation of the 80th Infantry Division was halted, and defensive positions were established all along the Division's front.

8 MAY 80

On 8 May 1945 all units of the 80th Infantry Division had ceased offensive action. The entire Division was concerned with the maintenance of law and order, and tremendous task of collecting prisoners of war, displaced persons and the huge quantities of enemy military

material. Many of the prisoners of war and displaced persons were fleeing from the Russians across the American lines. Troops continued to pour in from Major General Seeth's surrendered German Corps, and the newly surrendered SS Brigade KRIEDEL, which had a strength of over three thousand men.

At 1945 General der Panzer Truppe Balck surrendered his entire Army of some two hundred thousand men to the Commanding General of the 80th Infantry Division, under stipulations that all his men north and west of the RNNS RIVER as of 090001B May 1945 could pass into the American lines. The remainder had to present themselves to the Russians.

Task Force SMYTHE, Combat Team 318, Combat Team 317, and Combat Team 319 maintained the relative positions held the previous day, and performed similar missions.

From the 2d Bn Combat Team 318 was formed a motorized patrol consisting of a Platoon of machine guns, one ton and a half truck with Infantry, a Platoon of Tank Destroyers, and a Military Government official, with the task of accompanying a German informer to STEINBERG (V-5012), and recovering large collections of priceless art treasures. The mission was successful and a guard was immediately placed over the treasure.

The close of the period marked the official end of hostilities for the 80th Infantry Division, but not the end of the useful and necessary work which the Division was to perform after VE Day.

11. Headquarters, 80th Infantry Division, dated 13 November 1945.

The 80th Infantry Division was reorganized 12 August 1945 in accordance with G-4 Annex 1 and allied tables, 12 July 1945, with authorized strength of 737 Officers, 44 warrant officers, and 13,473 enlisted men.

In accordance with G-4 Annex 1-3, Headquarters Special Troops, 80th Infantry Division, was activated 12 August 1945, with personnel and/or attached to Special Troops are as follows: Headquarters Special Troops, Headquarters Company, HQ Platoon, 150th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company, 80th Quartermaster Company, 300th Signal Company, Attached Medical, Attached Chaplain, Attached Band.