

HEADQUARTERS 319TH INFANTRY
Office of the Regimental Commander
APO 80, U. S. ARMY

1 April 1945

AG 319

SUBJECT: Reports After Action Against Enemy
TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

From: 1 March 1945
To : 31 March 1945

SECTION I.....Summary of daily operations and action (S-3)
SECTION II.....Intelligence operations (S-2)
SECTION III....Logistics, supply procedure, problems (S-4)
SECTION IV....Personnel and allied administration (S-1)

SECTION I - Summary of daily operations and action (S-3)

OUTSCHEID (LO156) 1 - 5 March 1945

Mission: To hold present position and to rehabilitate and re-equip personnel.

On March 1, 319th Infantry Reinf continued to rehabilitate and re-equip personnel and to prepare ranges for small arms and mortar firing. 3d Bn sent K Co minus to ECHTERHAUSEN (LO559), one squad of K Co at HAMM (LO658) and one squad on high ground Southwest of ECHTERHAUSEN.

During 2 March 1945, the Regiment continued to occupy present positions and to continue training in firing small arms and mortars.

During 3 March 1945, continued training on ranges. Received Division Field Order No 32 giving the 319th Infantry an assembly area vicinity NATTENHEIM, FLIESSEM, and MATZEN. The Regiment prepared to send reconnaissance party to this area 4 March 1945.

On 4 March 1945, 1st Bn assembled A and B Cos in WEIDINGEN (LO257) with the remainder of the Bn at PHILLIPSWEILER (LO362). 3d Bn assembled Bn in ALTSCHIED (LO358). 2d Bn remained in OUTSCHEID (LO156). An officer from each Bn and from Hq Co and the Spt units made a reconnaissance of the new area North of BITBURG (LO353).
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During 5 March 1945, the Regiment continued training on ranges.

OUTSCHEID (LO156) 6 March 1945

Mission: 319th CT alerted for movement to 76th Division area.

At 061230A March 1945, 319th CT alerted for movement to the 76th Division area. CT CO and S-3 went to NIEDERWEIS to contact CG 76th Division but the 76th Division CP had moved to SULM the previous day. Colonel Costello and Major Weyers did not contact CG 76th Division.

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Summary of daily operations and action (Cont'd).

KYLLBURG (L1860) 7 March 1945

Mission: Complied with VOGG to move East of PRUM River.

On 7 March 1945, 319th Infantry ordered by CG 80th Infantry Division to move to East of PRUM River. 2d Bn ordered to make move and 1st and 3d Bns remained present position. 905th FA Bn remained at BICKENDORF. Regt Hq Co (Command Group) and one Plat of Engineers moved to KYLLBURG (L1860). 2d Bn closed in FLIESSEM at 1845. Regt CP, Hq Co, Co C 305th Medical Bn and one Plat Co C, 305th Engineer Bn closed in KYLLBURG (L1860).

KYLLBURG (L1860) - TRIMFORT (L1646) 8 March 1945

Mission: 319th Infantry (Reinf) Atchd to 76th Division upon closing in division area, move to be made by motor.

The 319th Infantry (Reinf), minus the 2d Bn, Atchd to 76th Division upon arrival in division area, moved from KYLLBURG and vicinity by motor to 76th Division Zone. 1st Bn moved to ESSLINGEN (L1346), 3d Bn to BEILINGEN (L2351) and was alerted by 76th Division for possible commitment. Regt CP moved to TRIMFORT and opened at 1815. 2d Bn, 319th Infantry remained at FLIESSEM (L1459) and would be moved only on 80th Division order. 905th FA Bn moved to GILZEN (L1241) and was Atchd to 76th Division Artillery. Co C, 305th Engineer Bn was relieved of attachment to 319th Infantry and did not make the motor march to 76th Division Zone. Co C, 305th Medical Bn, Co C, 811th TD Bn, and Btry B, 633d AAA Bn, moved to TRIMFORT. Ordered by 76th Division to relieve elements of 2d Cavalry. Received word from XII Corps through 80th Division that the 319th Infantry would not be committed unless ordered by XII Corps. Mission of relieving 2d Cavalry cancelled. 3d Bn alerted to move West of KYLL River and assemble at MECKELS (L1244). 905th FA Bn relieved of attachment to 76th Division Artillery and Atchd to 319th Infantry. Bns remained in assembly area for the night.

TRIMFORT (L1646) - KYLLBURG (L1860) 9 March 1945

Mission: 319th Infantry (Reinf) received order to move to 80th Division Sector vicinity KYLLBURG.

319th Infantry (Reinf) moved at 1445 from vicinity TRIMFORT (L1646) to comply with 80th Division order. Co C, 811th TD Bn, relieved of attachment to 319th Infantry. 3d Bn moved West of KYLL River to MECKELS (L1244). 2d Bn remained at FLIESSEM (L1459). 1st Bn moved from ESSLINGEN to KYLLBURG. Regt CP, Hq Co and Co C, 305th Medical Bn moved from TRIMFORT at 1630 and closed 1845. 905th FA Bn moved from GILZEN (L1241) to BICKENDORF closing at 1715. 3d Bn remained at MECKELS.

Summary of daily operations and action (Cont'd).

KYLLBURG (1860) 10 March 1945

Mission: 319th Infantry (Reinf) received order to move to 80th Division Sector vicinity KYLLBURG.

3d Bn moved by motor from MECKEL (L1244) to ST THOMAS. The Regiment devoted time to rehabilitating men and caring for equipment.

KYLLBURG (L1860) - PUTTELANGE (Q9399) 11 March 1945

Mission: 319th Infantry (Reinf) to move to assembly area vicinity PUTTELANGE.

The 319th Infantry (Reinf) moved by motor to an assembly area vicinity PUTTELANGE and made the move without incident. The Regtl CP and support units assembled in PUTTELANGE, 1st Bn at HALLING, 2d Bn at RODEMACK, 3d Bn at FIXEM. The Regiment started movement at 0730 and closed in areas at 2100.

PUTTELANGE (Q9399) - IRSCH (L1712) 12 March 1945

Mission: 319th Infantry (Reinf) moves by shuttle to Forward Assembly Area vicinity IRSCH and is in Division Reserve initially.

319th Infantry (Reinf) moved by shuttling to Forward Assembly Area vicinity IRSCH with Regtl CP and support units closing in IRSCH at 1755, 2d Bn at BEURIG (L1512) at 1830, 1st Bn at OCHFEN (L1614) at 1850, and 3d Bn at NIDERLEUKEN (L1513) at 1945. The move was made without incident and the Regiment prepared to comply with Division Field Order No 33.

IRSCH (L1712) - (L214114) 13 - 15 March 1945

Mission: 319th Infantry (Reinf) ordered to move troops to Forward Assembly Area.

During 13 March 1945, 1st Bn moved by foot from OCHFEN (L1614) to Forward Assembly Area vicinity L217105 clearing OCHFEN at 1030 and closed in assembly area at 1215. 3d Bn moved by motor to Forward Assembly Area vicinity L214115 moving from NIDERLEUKEN (L1513) at 1020 and closed in assembly area at 1445. 2d Bn remained at BEURIG (L1512). 1st Bn alerted to follow TFD from 26th Division when it started to move.

During 14 March 1945, 1st Bn maintained liaison with TFD, 26th Division, preparatory to jumping off to advance on BERGEN (L2404). 2d Bn alerted to move to Forward assembly Area and would move at 1830. 1st Bn jumped off at 1630 and moved Southeast from present position.

Summary of daily operations and action (Cont'd).

The 905th FA Bn reported to Regiment and was in direct support of the 319th Infantry. At 1820, C Co attacked pillboxes located vicinity L234067 and in the attack the Company Commander was killed. B Co echeloned 600 yards to the right rear of C Co. 2d Bn closed in area L217106. 3d Bn received orders to cross the Line of Departure (North edge of woods at L170064) at 150600A March 1945 and seize hill at L171053 and continue South to high ground West of BRITTEN and seize the town of BRITTEN (L2303). 1st Bn had C Co contain pillbox at L231063 and A and B Cos continue South to BERGEN (L2404).

During 15 March 1945, XX Corps planned to attach one Bn of infantry of the 319th Infantry to 10th Armd, 2d Bn 319th Infantry alerted for this mission. 1st Bn jumped off at 0115 for BERGEN (L2404) to sweep woods to the South of the town and to seize HAUSBACH (L2491). At 0320, B Co reached Northwest edge of BERGEN meeting light resistance. By 0600, A Co had joined B Co in BERGEN mopping up, a patrol was sent South toward HAUSBACH. This patrol drew considerable small arms fire. Received word at 0710 that 2d Bn would not be attached to 10th Armd. 3d Bn advanced on BRITTEN (L2303) and by 0705, their leading elements were at L223070. At 0825, 2d Bn, one Plat light tanks from 702d Tk Bn Atchd, ordered to move by 0930 to high ground vicinity L2305 and to clear woods in that vicinity. By 1050, 2d Bn had moved troops to L223077. 1st Bn ordered to assemble Bn in BERGEN, reorganize and move on high ground South of BERGEN and continue on to seize HAUSBACH. 2d Bn ordered to advance on LOSHEIM (L2801). L Co attacked enemy dug in positions located at L225047 at 1315 and cleaned this pocket out by 1340. Continued to advance passing K Co through L Co. 3d Bn had hard fight to gain high ground West of BRITTEN and by 2250 held ground vicinity L227037. 2d Bn delayed in jumping off to coordinate Armor, artillery and infantry plan of attack on LOSHEIM. 2d Bn began advance against light opposition about 2230 and by 2315 had reached point L259032 where they received small arms fire. 1st Bn advanced on HAUSBACH but held up from going into town pending outcome of 3d Bn in BRITTEN. Tanks and TDs continued to support the infantry in its advance.

BRITTEN (L2303) - NUNKIRCHEN (Q3598) 16 - 17 March 1945

Mission: To continue attack to the East.

On 16 March 1945, 2d Bn ran into road block at L257033 but bypassed it and continued toward LOSHEIM (L2801). 1st Bn held up attack on HAUSBACH (L2402) pending 3d Bn's progress in attack on BRITTEN (L2303). 2d Bn reported two craters at L255029 that made road impassable for tanks. Co C, 305th Engineer Bn, ordered to work on craters. 1st Bn ordered by Regimental Commander to attack HAUSBACH without delay. At 0629, A and B Cos moved on HAUSBACH. Both 2d and 3d Bns,

Summary of daily operations and action (Cont'd).

having coordinated artillery, jumped off for their respective objectives. By 0810, B Co had entered HAUSBACH with A Co following them into town. 3d Bn at this time was attacking BRITTEN. 2d Bn met heavy resistance at L261033 in attack on LOSHEIM and held up advance pending 1st Bn sending troops against LOSHEIM from the South. 1st Bn mopped up HAUSBACH and killed many Germans fleeing from BRITTEN due to pressure exerted on that town by 3d Bn. 905th FA Bn placed artillery in towns and on fleeing groups of enemy infantry and vehicles. The I and R patrol reconnoitered road net in Regtl Zone. By 1220, 2d Bn continued attack on LOSHEIM with C Co of 1st Bn advancing to and holding high ground (L279005). 2d Bn entered LOSHEIM at 1520 and began mopping up operations. Received word that elements of 10th Armd Division had passed through NIEDERLOSHEIM (L3000) and 319th Infantry ordered to send troops to occupy and hold the town. G Co, plus one Plat Co C 702d Tk Bn ordered to NIEDERLOSHEIM. Regtl CP closed at BRITTEN at 1740. 1st Bn, minus, ordered to WAHLEN (Q3039) and I Co moved to HAUSBACH. By 1745, G Co (Reinf) was on outskirts of NIEDERLOSHEIM. G Co (Reinf) had occupied and outposted the town by 1820. 1st Bn had occupied WAHLEN by 1945. Reconnaissance Co, 811th TD Bn Atchd to 319th Infantry at 2140 and ordered forward. Received word sufficient trucks to motorize one Bn would report to 319th Infantry to comply with plan to keep the infantry close up to the armor. The I and R Plat (Reinf) sent to check approach to NUNKIRCHEN (Q3598) and the town itself. The Regiment had cleared and occupied BRITTEN, HAUSBACH, LOSHEIM, WAHLEN, NIEDERLOSHEIM and had taken approximately 600 PWs and killed over 200 Germans.

On 17 March 1945, 3d Bn advanced from BRITTEN to NUNKIRCHEN and moved South to MICHELBACH (Q3496) where they engaged in a fire fight with a road block (Q361961). Due to the terrain features, K Co experienced some difficulty in overcoming the road block. The enemy blew the bridge in that vicinity. 2d Bn, minus G Co (located at NUNKIRCHEN), to move from LOSHEIM (L2801) to NUNKIRCHEN to join G Co and to move on to river and cross. 2d Bn reported the bridge at Q379978 blown. At 1740, E Co started to ford river at Q379979 to advance on LIMBACH (Q3997). By 1930, E and F Cos had forded river but ran into enemy MG fire on both flanks as they had advanced approximately 500 yards from ford. This MG fire combined with rugged terrain made progress slow for the 2d Bn. G Co remained on W side of river until the situation cleared with E and F Cos. 1st Bn, after making reconnaissance of PRIM River, started river crossing at 2315 and planned to cross vicinity (L371009) to contact elements 90th Rcn Squad of the 10th Armd on East side of river and advanced to LINDSCHEID (Q4199). 3d Bn reinforced by one Plat Co C, 702d Tk Bn, one Plat light tanks from Rcn Co 811th TD Bn, alerted to move by motor across PRIMS River early morning 18 March 1945. Co C, 305th Engineer Bn, made a reconnaissance of bridge at Q379978 and estimated 128 feet of bridging material needed to bridge gap. 179th Engineer Bn to build bridge at this point. Co C, 811th TD Bn, and Co C, 702d Tk Bn, to support infantry in the advance.

Summary of daily operations and action (Cont'd).

NUNKIRCHEN (Q3598) - THELEY (I4800) 18 March 1945.

Mission: To continue attack to the East.

2d Bn, supported by 905th FA Bn, continued its attack on LIMBACH (Q3997) advanced against small arms fire and knocked out a house that had been blocking the advance. With this strongpoint out, the 2d Bn advanced into town and had it cleared by 0730. Maintained close liaison with the 90th Cav Rcn Squad who crossed the PRIMS River to the North. 1st Bn moved out at 0025 and crossed the PRIMS River vicinity BURCHFIELD (L3700) maintained contact with 90th Cav Rcn Squad and moved on to LINDSCHEID (Q4199) and closed in the town at 0455. 3d Bn reinforced with TDs and tanks moved out motorized and passed through LIMBACH and moved toward OBERTHAL, starting at 0800. 3d Bn leading elements held up at THELEY (I4800) where Colonel Costello conferred with the 1st and 3d Battalion Commanders. 3d Bn detrucked outside THELEY and the trucks were sent to pick up 2d Bn at LIMBACH. 3d Bn moved out on foot to attack BLISSEN (Q5499) in conjunction with the 10th Armd Division. 1st Bn marched through THELEY toward THOLEY (Q4998) and ALTWEILER (Q5197) closing in ALTWEILER at 1505. Received word that the armor had cleared BLISSEN and passed on to the East so 3d Bn moved into the town closing at 1805. 2d Bn moved toward WINTERBACH (Q5497). Bns held positions for the night and prepared to continue advance in the morning.

THELEY (I4800) - ST WENDEL (Q5996) 19 March 1945.

Mission: To continue advance to the East.

319th Infantry maintained close contact with the 10th Armd and followed close in their advance. 2d Bn passed through OBERLINXWEILER (Q5794) picking up a few PWs and held up advance until armor moved forward. Elements of the 10th Armd had passed through ST WENDEL so the Forward Regimental CP moved into the city and opened at 1030. 2d Bn swung South of ST WENDEL and passed through WERSCHWEILER (Q6394), SAAL (Q6496) and held up at KROTTTELACH (Q7096) for the night. 1st Bn followed 2d Bn and advanced to STEINBACH (Q7495). 3d Bn moved to ST WENDEL and guarded the town. Support units closed in ST WENDEL.

ST WENDEL (Q5996) - KAISERLAUTERN (R0293) 20 March 1945.

Mission: To continue advance to the East.

3d Bn, motorized, moved from ST WENDEL (Q5996) at 0630, having been relieved from responsibility of guarding the town by 2d Bn, 318th Infantry. 3d Bn followed the Northern route in Regimental Zone of advance to the East. 1st Bn motorized B Co and advanced on KAISERLAUTERN. The remainder of the Bn moved out on foot. 2d Bn moved out

Summary of daily operations and action (Cont'd).

on foot following a Southern route through Regimental Zone. The plans had been made earlier to hold up unit short of KAISERLAUTERN but the situation permitted moving into KAISERLAUTERN. The Forward Regimental Command Group entered the superhighway just South and East of RAMSTEIN and sped toward KAISERLAUTERN. The advance party reached LOO8952 where the bridge had been blown. A by-pass was found and the advance group entered KAISERLAUTERN at approximately 1300. The 1st Bn advance group entered the city from the West at approximately the same time. A radio message was sent to the 2d and 3d Bns to move without delay via the superhighway and assemble in the city. The 2d and 3d Bns pushed on East of the city and closed in HOCHSPEYER (R1294) at 2005. 1st Bn took over the guarding of KAISERLAUTERN within the Regimental Zone.

KAISERLAUTERN (R0293) - MAXDORF (R4098) 21 March 1945

Mission: To continue advance to the East.

319th Infantry continued advance to the East by motor and foot movement. 2d Bn was motorized to follow the armor. The Bn cleared HOCHSPEYER (R1294) prior to 1040 and moved to MAXDORF without incident. Movement was slow due to exceedingly heavy traffic and the fact that the road net was cluttered with debris of wrecked enemy equipment. 3d Bn moved from HOCHSPEYER to FUFSGONHEIM (R4095) by 1900 and sent L Co to set up outpost at SCHAUERNHEIM (R4193). 1st Bn moved by motor from KAISERLAUTERN (R0293) to R395975 closing at 2250. 2d Bn was alerted for possible movement to MUTTERSTADT (R4594) to support armor engaged in fire fight in that vicinity.

MAXDORF (R4098) - PFEDDERSHEIM (M3915) 22 March 1945

Mission: To move 319th Infantry (Reinf) to assembly area vicinity WORMS (M4514) and to relieve elements of the 11th Armd in its sector.

319th Infantry, reinforced by Co C, 305th Medical Bn, received orders to move by motor to assembly area just West of WORMS. Co C, 702d Tk Bn and Co C, 305th Engineer Bn released from attachment to 319th Infantry. 905th FA Bn detached for movement to new area and moved with 80th Division Artillery. 319th Infantry (Reinf) moved by motor using trucks from Division Artillery. Enemy air active during movement but no casualties were suffered by the 319th Infantry. Regimental CP, Hq Co, 3d Bn 319th Infantry, and 905th FA Bn moved to PFEDDERSHEIM (M3915), 1st Bn to LEISELHEIM (M4115) and 2d Bn to PHEFFLIGHEIM (M4213).

Summary of daily operations and action (Cont'd).

PFEDDERSHEIM (M3915) - PHIFFLIGHEIM (M4213) 23 March 1945

Mission: To move to assembly area West of WORMS (M4514) and relieve elements of 11th Armd Division in WORMS.

319th Infantry (Reinf) completed motor movement to new assembly area vicinity WORMS 230505A March 1945. The Bns occupied the following areas: 1st Bn in LEISELHEIM (M4115), 2d Bn in PHIFFLIGHEIM (M4213) with elements in WORMS, 3d Bn in PFEDDERSHEIM (M3915). The Regimental CP moved to PHIFFLIGHEIM. Received orders not to relieve 11th Armd Division until ordered to do so by 80th Infantry Division. OPs established in WORMS to observe the RHINE River and activity on East bank of the RHINE. Reconnoitered for possible crossing sites.

PHIFFLIGHEIM (M4213) - MANNWEILER (MO421) 24 - 25 March 1945

Mission: To move to assembly area North of KAISERLAUTERN (R2093)

On 24 March 1945, the 319th Infantry (Reinf), minus 3d Bn, moved by motor to an assembly area North of KAISERLAUTERN. 3d Bn remained at PFEDDERSHEIM to move early morning of the 25 March 1945. Regimental CP, Hq Co, Co C, 305th Med Bn, Co C, 305th Engr Bn in MANNWEILER. 1st Bn in STALBURG. 2d Bn in BRAYERFIELD. 905th FA Bn in DIELKIRCHEN (MO517). The Regiment (Reinf) minus 3d Bn closed in assembly area at 2320.

During 25 March 1945, 3d Bn moved from PFEDDERSHEIM (M3915) by motor to WURZWEILER closing at 1315. The Regiment devoted its time to rehabilitating and re-equipping personnel. Bns made preparations to fire reinforcements on ranges.

MANNWEILER (MO421) 26 March 1945

Mission: Division Field Order No 35: Attack, seize initial bridgehead across MAIN River.

319th Infantry (Reinf) alerted for possible movement to assembly area Southeast of MAINZ (M3856). Quartering party sent to assembly area to billet troops. The move for the 26 March 1945 cancelled by 80th Division and 319th Infantry (Reinf) to move directly across the RHINE River to an assembly area vicinity BISCHOFSSHEIM (M5444) 27 March 1945 and be prepared to force crossing of MAIN River and establish bridgehead vicinity HOCHHEIM to protect building of a bridge.

MANNWEILER (MO421) - BISCHOFSSHEIM (M5444) 27 March 1945

Mission: Division Field Order No 35: Attack, seize initial bridgehead across MAIN River.

Summary of daily operations and action (Cont'd).

The 319th Infantry started motor movement to new assembly area East of RHINE River at 270710A March 1945 with 1st Bn leading. The Regiment (Reinf) closed in Forward Assembly Area East of the RHINE River at 1800 with the Regimental CP, 2d Bn and support units in BISCHOFSCHEIM, 1st Bn in GINSHEIM (M4352). 3d Bn initially moved to GUSTAVSBURG (M4255) then on orders of this Headquarters moved to RUSSELSHEIM (M4854). 2d Bn prepared to cross MAIN River by assault boats vicinity BISCHOFSCHEIM. 3d Bn prepared to cross the MAIN River in assault boats vicinity RUSSELSHEIM. Co C, 702d Tk Bn and Co C, 811th TD Bn to support attack by attaching one Plat of each to 2d and 3d Bns. The 179th Engineer Bn and 206th Engineer Bn to support the attack by constructing two ferries vicinity BISCHOFSCHEIM. 1st Bn alerted to follow the 2d Bn across the MAIN River on orders this Headquarters. The 478th Tk Bn (Amphibious), minus, attached to 319th Infantry and in turn attached to 1st Bn. Co C, 305th Engineer Bn made reconnaissance of MAIN River and checked roads.

BISCHOFSCHEIM (M5444) - HOCHHEIM (M4457) 28 March 1945

Mission: Division Field Order No 35: Attack, seize initial bridgehead across MAIN River.

2d and 3d Bns each reinforced with one Plat Co C, 702d Tk Bn, one Plat Co C, 811th TD Bn, one squad 319th Infantry Mine Plat, forced crossing of MAIN River in assault boats early morning of 28 March 1945. The 179th Engineer Bn and the 206th Engineer Bn supported the crossing of the CT by constructing and operating three ferries and building a floating roadway across the MAIN River vicinity BISCHOFSCHEIM (M5444). Light opposition encountered during the crossing consisting chiefly of small arms fire. 2d Bn cleared the town of HOCHHEIM and moved on to DELKENHEIM (M4461). All of the 3d Bn crossed the river in 35 minutes and continued on to clear the towns of FLORSHEIM (M4957), WICKER and MASSENHEIM (M4660). The amphibious tanks crossed on the ferry because the banks were too soft for the tanks to reach the river. 1st Bn ordered across MAIN River and occupied HOCHHEIM. Regimental CP and support units CPs moved to HOCHHEIM. Many underground factories were overrun, the most interesting being a factory that housed facilities to make airplane parts and assemble planes.

HOCHHEIM (M4457) - KELKHEIM (M5271) 29 March 1945

Mission: The 319th Infantry (Reinf) ordered to advance to Northeast and secure line running from KONIGSTEIN to BAD SODEN.

At 1130, the 319th Infantry (Reinf) received orders to move by 1330 to the Northeast and secure a line running generally from KONIGSTEIN to BAD SODEN. A Bn and Special Units Commanders meeting

Summary of daily operations and action (Cont'd).

was held at 1215 and an oral order issued to comply with Division oral order. 1st Bn reinforced with one Plat Co C, 702d Tk Bn and one Plat Co C, 811th TD Bn, moved out at 1330 to BAD SODEN and then Northwest to secure KONIGSTEIN. 3d Bn moved out on foot and secured BAD SODEN. 2d Bn moved out on foot to occupy KELKHEIM. The Regimental CP and support unit CPs with Co C, 305th Medical Bn moved to KELKHEIM. The Regimental I and R Plat reconnoitered route in front of 1st Bn and reported BAD SODEN clear and that 1st Bn moved immediately to the town and proceeded toward KONIGSTEIN. The 80th Cav Rcn Tr reconnoitered routes of the 2d Bn. The move of the 319th Infantry (Reinf) was completed by 1930 and the Regiment had completed its mission. The Regiment was alerted to continue advance to the Northeast 300700A March 1945.

KELKHEIM (M5271) - GROSSEN BUSECK (G7424) 30 March 1945

Mission: 319th Infantry (Reinf) to continue advance to the Northeast.

The 319th Infantry (Reinf) received initially the mission of advancing to and securing BAD NAUHEIM (M7197). The I and R Plat moved out in advance of the Regiment and assembled in the town of OBERHOCHSTAHL (M5776) and reported no enemy resistance. The 1st and 2d Bns moved out motorized towards objective. Received orders that the Regiment was to continue beyond initial objective to vicinity GROSSEN BUSECK (G7424). The Bns advanced to the Autobahn and moved to 2d objective without meeting any enemy resistance. The 3d Bn moved using organic transportation. The Regimental CP and support units moved to GROSSEN BUSECK (G7424). 2d Bn assembled in REISKIRCHEN (G7722). 3d Bn assembled in RODGEN (G7123).

GROSSEN BUSECK (G7424) - SCHWARZENBORN (H2158) 31 March 1945

Mission: To continue advance to the Northeast.

The 319th Infantry (Reinf) continued to advance to the Northeast, meeting light opposition and taking many PWs and materials of war. Enemy snipers were active throughout the day. 1st Bn assembled in HERGETSFELD (H2161) and NIEDER HULSA (H2162), 2d Bn assembled in REMSFELD (H2168), 3d Bn originally ordered to move to vicinity GREEBHAGEN (H2259) but order changed because of enemy sniper fire vicinity OBERAULA (H2252), detrucked at H295490 and marched on foot to town of OBERAULA. Received sniper fire vicinity road from OBERAULA to WEISSENBORN (H2048). The Regimental Adjutant was killed by a group of German soldiers in this area and three

Summary of daily operations and action (Cont'd).

other men taken PW but later released. A search was made of this area but could not find the Germans. The Regiment awaited further orders from Division.

Ralph J. Wevers
RALPH J. WEVERS
Major, Infantry
S-3

Approved:

N. A. Costello
N. A. COSTELLO
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

SECTION II - Intelligence Operations (S-2).

During the month of March we were out of contact with the enemy until 13 March 1945. The first enemy contact was made in the vicinity of Irsch, Germany.

Prisoners taken during the month were identified from the 416th VGD, the 2nd Mtn Div, 6th SS Mtn Div, 719th Div, 38th SS Regt, and many service elements. These service elements included replacement battalions, administrative personnel, SS police battalions, special purpose, border control and numerous AAA units. In addition, deserters were picked up by CIC in nearly every town.

The enemy east of Irsch, Germany, using SS Mtn troops to bolster his defenses and many assault guns and tanks covering his road blocks defended tenaciously initially. However, once our infantry had definitely broken through their defense lines, and allowed the armor to get through and find space in which to maneuver, the enemy seemed to become confused and to surrender by the hundreds.

Artillery, nebelwerfers, SP's, assault guns and tank fire were used by the enemy near Irsch, Britten, and Nunkirchen, Germany. After the enemy line had been definitely broken, however, guns were found in position with ammunition near by that had not been fired on our troops when it seemed they could not have helped but to have had excellent observation on our advance. Huge stores of nebelwerfer and artillery shells were found abandoned along the routes of retreat west of Kaiserlautern.

After we crossed the Prims River at Nunkirchen, Germany, few prisoners were taken from infantry division units. Identifications showed them to be nearly all from service units and anti-aircraft units. Thousands of these service troops surrendered without any resistance. They lined the roads marching to the west without guard holding their hands over their heads whenever sighting our vehicles or troops. They came from hiding in woods isolated villages and basements of towns we held searching for some place to turn themselves in.

Some m
~~Many~~ enemy troops were convalescent, old, young, crippled, ~~and~~ through which our armor had passed or by-passed. Kaiserlautern was entered by the Commanding Officer of the 319th Infantry before troops had entered the town. More than 300 prisoners were taken in Kaiserlautern.

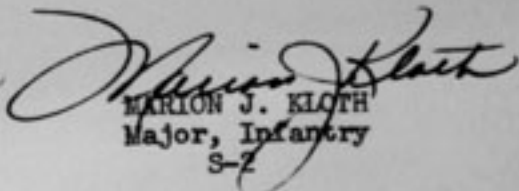
Our troops crossed the Mainz River the night of 28-29 March. Again the initial resistance was stiff but when the enemy learned that we had crossed in force many gave up without resistance.

Here for the first time we noticed that the enemy was forced to use anti-aircraft batteries as artillery and to use the anti-aircraft crews of batteries overrun as infantry. There seemed to be but few actual field artillery pieces.

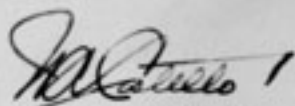
SECTION II - Intelligence Operations (S-2) contd.

Very little difficulty was encountered with the civilian population. Some civilians appeared to be glad we had finally come and that the bombings and artillery barrages were finally over for them. In many towns the people threw flowers and applauded our entry into their towns.

White flags were flown from houses as soon as the enemy troops left the vicinity. Many civilian officials ~~were~~ ordered to demolish their public utilities but failed to do so. *had been*


MARION J. KLOTH
Major, Infantry
S-2

APPROVED:


N. A. COSTELLO
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

SECTION III - Logistics, supply procedures, problems (S-4).

1. Class I (Rations)
 - a. Rations requests were submitted to Regtl S-4 for issuance 72 hours later. Requests were consolidated and forwarded to Division QM daily.
 - b. Request for rations showed the effective strength of the requesting unit and the type of rations desired.
 - c. Due to the fast moving situation during the last two weeks of the month units were required to maintain five (5) day reserve for emergency. In the event the reserve became depleted a separate request was submitted indicating that the rations were for the purpose of maintaining a five (5) day reserve.
 - d. All troops were warned that captured enemy foods and beverages would not be consumed except upon release by a medical officer who would check for the possibility of poison having been placed therein.
2. Water.
 - a. All troops were warned that water secured from other than authorized water points will be chlorinated or boiled before using.
 - b. Whenever available, water for use by troops was drawn from water points set up by Army or Division Engineers. Units had sufficient Calcium Hypochlorite to purify water drawn from any sources available in the event that there was not an Army or Division Engineer Water Point. All units were notified that all water regardless of source would be chlorinated prior to use by troops.
3. Class II (Clothing and Equipment).
 - a. All unit requisitions for Class II supplies were cleared through the Battalion S-4s. Special Unit Companies submitted requisitions individually to the Regimental S-4.
 - b. Requisitions submitted were checked for the following:
 - (1) Correct nomenclature was used
 - (2) Tariff sizes on clothing requisitions were used
 - (3) SNL groups and stock numbers were shown for ordnance items
 - (4) Only one class of property was shown.
 - (5) That basis for requisition was shown and requisition did not exceed authorized allowances.
 - c. When the property was drawn it was broken down to units and issued on a tally out.
 - d. Upon receipt of equipment, units had to turn in all salvage that the new equipment replaced. Salvage was segregated into like items, bundled, and turned in to the Regimental Field Train, where it was in turn consolidated into bundles and turned in to the Class I truckhead.
4. Class III (Gasoline and Oil).
 - a. Gasoline was issued to units on a can for can exchange basis.
 - b. Oils and greases were issued to units from stock on hand at the Regimental Field Train.
5. Class V. (Ammunition).
 - a. Third Army scale basic loads of ammunition was maintained by units at all times.
 - b. Requests for maintenance quantities were submitted to the Regimental Munitions Officer at the Regimental Field Train when required. Requests contained a certificate signed by an officer that the request did not exceed the basic load.

SECTION III - Logistics, supply procedure, problems (S-4)(contd).

6. Evacuation.

a. Deceased. Evacuated as near as possible to an axis of communication and the Graves Registration Officer was notified as to the location of the bodies. The collecting point was usually located in the vicinity of the medical collecting point.

b. Prisoners. Evacuated to the Division PWE as soon as possible after interrogation by the Combat Team IPW Group.

c. Material. Motor vehicles and weapons were evacuated by units to the Field Train if possible. If not possible, the S-4 was advised as to the location and personnel from the Field Train evacuated the vehicle or weapon to the 780th Ordnance Company.

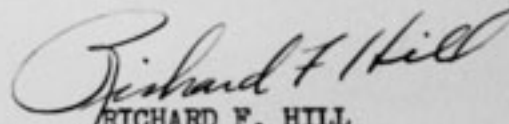
7. General.

a. Socks were available for issue to all units on the basis of one pair per man each day. This system has contributed much towards decreasing the number of cases of trench foot.

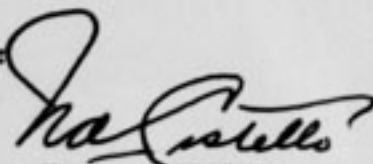
b. During the last two weeks of the month, only emergency type rations were issued.

c. Large quantities of both American and enemy material was picked up during the month by Salvage Crews organized by Battalion and Regimental S-4s.

d. All Shoepacs in the hands of troops were turned in to the Division Quartermaster and service shoes or combat boots were issued.


RICHARD F. HILL
Major, Infantry
S-4

APPROVED:


N. A. COSTELLO
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

SECTION IV - Personnel and Allied Administration - (S-1).

Evacuation:

During the month of March the Regiment moved daily with but a few exceptions. Consequently the number of prisoners captured increased. Our long moves, plus the stretching of the supply lines, kept the trucks on the go to and from the PW In-closure and the Supply Depots. Evacuation of the prisoners of war was a problem. It is recommended that during such fast-moving actions, since the limited number of trucks are continually engaged, that Division make some means of handling the prisoners under such circumstances.

Casualties:

Casualties during the month of March have been considerably low due to the low morale of the enemy forces caused by the fast moving situation. Self-inflicted wounds, however, have remained on an even par with previous months even though enemy resistance was broken.

Reinforcements:

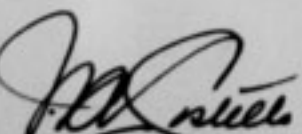
The number of reinforcements received and the individuals returned to duty have kept the Regiment close to its authorized strength. The replacement of officers has continued to be slow; however, several battlefield appointments have kept the officer strength at an efficiently operating par.

Administration:

Due to the fast moving situation administration was held to a low degree of proper functioning. However, individual efforts were made by the section keeping all reports and allied administration up to standard.


WILLIAM E. FORGES
WOJG, U.S.A.
Asst. Adjutant

APPROVED:


M. A. COSTELL O
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

R- [REDACTED] E-D
TABLES FOR S-1 SUMMARY

319th Infantry
APO 80, U S Army.

TABLE NUMBER ONE: -

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY

(Figures taken from Battle Casualty Reports, Personnel Section, up to and including 31 March 1945 for the period 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945).

DATE	KIA	DOW	WIA	LIA	MIA	TOTAL	RTD's
1 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
2 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
3 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
4 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
5 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
6 March 1945	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
7 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
9 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
12 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	9	18
13 March 1945	...	...	5	1	...	42	18
14 March 1945	3	...	31	4	...	54	4
15 March 1945	7	...	45	3	...	18	7
16 March 1945	6	1	10	...	5	4	...
17 March 1945	3	...	2	...	...	3	4
18 March 1945	2	...	1	...	...	7	...
19 March 1945	...	2	2	...	4	1	5
20 March 1945	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
21 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
25 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
26 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	25	...
27 March 1945	...	...	16	3	3	...	...
28 March 1945	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
29 March 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30 March 1945	...	...	...	...	1	5	...
31 March 1945	2	...	...	...	...	...	...

R- [REDACTED] T-E-D

TABLE NUMBER TWO: -

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PRISONERS</u>
1 March 1945	10
2 March 1945	
3 March 1945	4
4 March 1945	
5 March 1945	
6 March 1945	2
7 March 1945	
8 March 1945	
9 March 1945	
10 March 1945	
11 March 1945	
12 March 1945	
13 March 1945	30
14 March 1945	
15 March 1945	72
16 March 1945	612
17 March 1945	222
18 March 1945	702
19 March 1945	179
20 March 1945	460
21 March 1945	376
22 March 1945	147
23 March 1945	14
24 March 1945	
25 March 1945	10
26 March 1945	
27 March 1945	1
28 March 1945	681
29 March 1945	192
30 March 1945	737
31 March 1945	456

TABLE NUMBER THREE: -

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
1 March 1945	
2 March 1945	30
3 March 1945	
4 March 1945	33
5 March 1945	9
6 March 1945	41
7 March 1945	1
8 March 1945	
9 March 1945	
10 March 1945	46
11 March 1945	
12 March 1945	36
13 March 1945	67
14 March 1945	21
15 March 1945	3
16 March 1945	4
17 March 1945	8
18 March 1945	
19 March 1945	4
20 March 1945	
21 March 1945	5
22 March 1945	
23 March 1945	
24 March 1945	6
25 March 1945	128
26 March 1945	
27 March 1945	49
28 March 1945	
29 March 1945	
30 March 1945	
31 March 1945	

TABLE NUMBER FOUR: -

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 March to 31 March.

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DECORATION</u>
1	Distinguished Service Cross
21	Silver Star Medals
1	Silver Star Medal (Posthumously)
135	Bronze Star Medals
7	Bronze Star Medals (Posthumously)
10	Oak Leaf Clusters to Bronze Star
87	Purple Heart Awards
34	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
9	(2nd) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
1	(3rd) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
1	(4th) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart