

*Review*

UNIT: 80th Division.

PERIOD: 28 April to 7 May, 1945

ACTION: Drive from REGENSBURG to VOCKLABRUCK.

SOURCE: 1st Lt. Rex L. Pruett, Division Liaison Officer, G-3 Section.

PLACE & DATE OF INTERVIEW: KAUFBEUREN, Germany, 19 June 1945.

INTERVIEWER: Capt. James J. Cowen.

MAPS: 1'/100,000	TITLE	SHEET NO.	GSGS NO.
	REGENSBURG	V-6	4416
	STAUBING	V-7	4416
	LANDSHUT	W-6	4416
	BRANAU	W-7	4416
	SALZBURG	X-7	4416
	WELS	X-8	4416

NOTE: No records were used during the interview.

The 80th Infantry Division received the mission on 28 April 1945 while in the NURNBURG area to pass through the 65th Infantry Division bridgehead across the DANUBE River at REGENSBURG (1955) and attack to the southeast to seize crossings over the ISAR River in the vicinity of DINGOLFING (2014).

The division CP moved from NURNBURG to REGENSBURG late in the afternoon of 28th April, setting up in the west edge of town. At the time, the 65th had a bridgehead about eight miles wide and five miles deep. The 80th crossed over the 65th's main pontoon bridge at REGENSBURG.

The 80th Division zone was the right boundary of XX Corps zone, with the 71st Infantry Division on the 80th's left. The 13th Armored Division preceded both the 71st and 80th Divisions and operated in their combined zones. Third Corps was on the XX Corps right. Within the 80th Division, CT 318, with the recon troop attached, was on the

left, and CT 319, with recon company, 811 TD Bn, on the right. CT 317 was in division reserve.

The 80th Division followed in the wake of the 13th Armored Division 30 April. On 1 May, the division CP moved due south to ERGOLDSBACH (2920), where they stayed one night. Just south of ERGOLDSBACH, the ISAR River flows in a generally east-west direction. Some German small arms fire came from across the river and the 80th Division returned the fire.

On 2 May, the division CP moved to DINGOLFING on the ISAR River. Division Headquarters crossed a newly-constructed bridge over the ISAR the afternoon of 2 May to get into the city.

The next day, 3 May, Division CP moved to FRONTENHAUSEN (5305), where the division received the mission of crossing the INN River in the vicinity of BRANAU (9376). Because a bridge was out across the INN at BRANAU, the division CP was established at SIMBACH (9277), just north and across the river from BRANAU. This was on 4 May. The next day, 5 May, the CP was moved to BRANAU itself, occupying the house of Hitler's birth. The story is that the house, a large brownstone construction, was an inn at the time of Adolph's birth, but now it is used variously as an art gallery, a library and for practicing music. It is known as the Heimat Haus, for reasons unknown by the 80th Division members.

On 6 May, Lt. Pruett remembered they received orders to clean the area up to the west bank of the ENNS River in the 80th zone of all enemy troops and to make contact with the Russians. But they were not to cross the ENNS. The 80th was in the process of fulfilling this mission, the CP having arrived in VOCKLABRUCK (4152) when word was

received that V-E day was declared to fall on 8 May.

However, 80th Division operations continued when TASK FORCE SMYTHE (Brig Gen (then Col) George W. Smythe, Ass't Division Commander) organized to pursue a reported 10;000 SS troops located in the area between KIRCHDORF (7644) and LEIZEN(8906). This action continued for two more days and negotiations resulted in the surrender of approximately 20,000 Germans. In addition it was during this action the 80th was given credit for firing the last shot in anger among American troops in the ETO. (See interview with Maj E. C. Kerr regarding TF Smythe, also included in this series.)

The final 11-day 150 mile drive had no historical significance other than the facts that it was one of the last actions of the war, the division had been given credit for firing the last shot in anger among American troops in the ETO and received the surrender of the entire 6th German Army. That the operations were unimportant tactically are borne out graphically by the casualty figures for the division for the period 28 April - 8 May 1945, inclusive. During that time, a total of 19 casualties were suffered, breaking down into 3 KIA, 12 WIA, and 4 MIA.