

G-3

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

3 - 31 August 1944

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SECTION I - DISEMBARKATION AND ASSEMBLY

August

3 - 7

The 80th Division disembarked at Les Dunes De Villa Varres (Utah Beach) France. The port of embarkation was Southampton, England. Duration of the voyage was approximately twenty-one hours.

Upon arrival in France, a motor movement was made to an assembly area in the vicinity of St Jores.

The 80th Division became a part of the XX Corps and of the Third Army, commanded by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton.

The period from 3 August to 7 August was spent in assembling the organizations of the Division and in preparation for further movement.

SECTION II - FORWARD ASSEMBLY AREA

8th

At 0600 the movement was begun to the Forward Assembly Area W of Le Mans. Reassignment from XX Corps to the XV Corps was made.

SECTION III - MOVEMENT TO SILLE LE GUILLAUME

8th

The Division moved on Evron and St Suzanne. It reconnoitered the area to the E and prepared to occupy Le Mans with one CT.

10th

CT 317 seized Evron at 1020 and CT 318 occupied St Suzanne 1000. CT 319 was in Division Reserve.

CT 317 was ordered to advance on Conlie while CT 318 was to move on Sille Le Guillaume.

Under orders of XX Corps, CT 319 was given the assignment to secure a bridgehead at Le Mans and to keep routes of communication open in that vicinity.

August

11th

CT 318 seized SILLE LE GUILLAUME at 1200. CT 317 occupied high ground one Km SE SILLE LE GUILLAUME. CT 319 occupied bridgehead at LE MANS.

August

12th

CT 318 (-) assembled vicinity ROUEZ in Division Reserve at 1800. Preparations were made for further movement.

SECTION IV - MOVEMENT NORTH TOWARD ARGENTAN

13th

CT 317 moved to a concentration area vicinity EVRON. FO #4 was issued 0400 for 80th Division (-CT 319) to advance NE in three columns at 0800 to contact and destroy hostile forces encountered, established contact with XV Corps Arm'd Elements, when these elements crossed the Division front.

In accordance with FO #4, CT 318 advanced against scattered enemy resistance to position N of ALENCON where it bivouaced for the night. CT 317 advanced against scattered resistance through VILLAINES to positions S of LA LACELLE where it bivouaced for the night. Enemy mine fields were encountered by all advancing elements.

Contact with the 2d Fr Arm'd Div was established S of CARROUGES.

14th

80th Division (-CT 319) was ordered to concentration area EVRON-NEANL-LES BOUILLONS-ST GEMMES LE ROBERT. 2d Bn, CT 317, (Mtz) preceded Division to concentration area to clear out reported enemy resistance.

15th

80th Division (-CT 319) closed in the concentration area EVRON-NEANL-LES BOUILLONS-ST GEMMES LE ROBERT at 1230. CT 319 moved from LE MANS to ANGERS to relieve 2d Infantry, 5th Division, from outpost duty vic ANGERS.

16th

FO #5 directed movement of 80th Division (-CT 319) to a concentration area BROU-CHATEAUDON-COURTELAIN in Third Army Reserve. The time for movement was never received and mission was changed.

SECTION V - BATTLE OF ARGENTAN-FALAISE GAP

17th

Field Mag #1 changed concentration area in FO #5 to march bivouac in the vicinity of ALENCON. FO #6 issued 1800 ordered 80th Division (-CT 319) to attack at 0800 on 18 August and seize the high ground (Hill 213) N of ARGENTAN. CT 318 was to by-pass ARGENTAN and seize the Division Objective, attack ARGENTAN from the NE with one battalion and be prepared to continue attack in the direction of TRUN.

This order was issued in compliance with a directive of the V corps of the First Army, to which this Division was assigned for this action. In conjunction with other forces the 80th Division seized ARGENTAN and participated in the closure of the ARGENTAN-FALAISE GAP and in the final destruction of the German Seventh Army.

AUGUST

18th

The attack of the 318th Inf jumped off at 0800 in column of battalions, 1st, 2d and 3d. By 0905 elements of the 1st Bn were fighting in BORDEAUX against stiffening resistance which finally halted its forward movement in that vicinity. 2d Bn moved W along the ARGENTAN-LE-BOUÏG LEONARD HURY road until held down by fire from ARGENTAN and the high ground NE of its position. 3d Bn moved to clean out enemy resistance in the vicinity of SAI occupying that locality at 1533. 3d Bn then moved to occupy BORDEAUX and continued attack at 1700, relieving elements of 1st Bn which reorganized.

After the attack was stopped the 318th Inf adjusted positions as follows: 1st Bn, after reorganization, relieved 3d Bn in BORDEAUX and the right of 2d Bn which was facing ARGENTAN. Plans were made for 318th Inf to continue the attack early on 19 August to seize the Division Objective.

317th Inf moved to a forward assembly area in Corps Reserve. One Bn of 317th Inf started moving into Division Reserve at 2100.

19th

The attack jumped off at 0645 with 2d Bn, 318th Inf attacking in the direction of ARGENTAN. This advance was halted by hostile fire from the vicinity E of ARGENTAN.

3d Bn launched attack on the Division Objective at 0700. It met heavy enemy resistance consisting of tanks and infantry and was forced to reorganize in the vicinity of VROU at 1430.

1st Bn was in Regtl Reserve in the vicinity of BORDEAUX.

2d Bn of 317th Inf closed in assembly area S Hill 171 at 0130. It was given the mission of supporting by fire the above mentioned attack of the 3d Bn 318th Inf from Hill 171.

317th Inf passed through the 318th Inf in column of Bns with 2d Bn leading, launching an attack on Division Objective at 1735. Progress was very slow due to heavy fire from the W edge of FORGE DU G. UFFEN and the Division Objective. At 2030 advance had progressed to SE edge of Objective on southern slope of Hill 213. They were ordered to dig in and resume attack at 0700 on 20 August.

20th

2d Bn 317th Inf continued attack on hill 213 and by 0800 was on the Division Objective. 1st Bn followed the 2d Bn to the Division Objective. Both Bn organized positions and sent out combat patrols. 3d Bn advanced N and turned W and attacked Argentan on Division order at 0830.

317th Inf at 1230 was given the mission of sopping up wooded area in the Division sector from the boundary between the 80th Division and British Forces on the N to include boundary between the 80th Division and the 90th Division on E and as far S as Crennes exclusive. 1st Bn was engaged in darkness with enemy tanks and automatic weapons in woods at (290230).

August

20th

1st Bn 318th Inf moved to protect Division right flank. It then seized CRENNES and sent out patrols to establish contact with elements of 90th Division on the right. The 2d Bn attacked and seized ARGENTAN in conjunction with the 3d Bn 317th Inf. 3d Bn reorganized and followed 2d Bn in trace. It then moved S through ARGENTAN and occupied positions W of the town.

318th Inf was then ordered at 1330 to complete the mopping up of ARGENTAN and clean out woods S of CRENNES to Division boundary. It was also to clear the E-W highway running across Division sector through ARGENTAN of mines and booby traps.

CT 319 was relieved on order of VIII Corps by Ct 329, 83d Division from its mission at ANGERS. It went into assembly area to await further orders.

21st

The 80th Division was relieved by the 50th Inf Div (Br) and moved to a concentration area S of ARGENTAN-EXIES Road.

317th Inf prior to its concentration continued mopping up of enemy resistance in wooded areas within the Division Sector N of line ARGENTAN and CRENNES. 318th Inf continued mopping up of enemy resistance in ARGENTAN and woods S CRENNES within Div Bd and their concentration area.

Ct 319 closed in assembly area vic ANGERS and received orders from VIII Corps to move to the vicinity of ST CALAIS. Shuttle movement was begun.

22d

Concentration of 80th Division in assigned area was completed 0130. 317th Inf outposted the Division area. 80th Cav Ren Tr maintained contact with British N of the Division Concentration Area. CT 319 closed in the vicinity of Fountaine at 0200 and received orders from XII corps to move to the vicinity of Orleans.

23d

80th Division (-CT 319) participated in Infantry-Tank and Anti-Tank training. 317th Inf outposted Division area to the N. CT 319 (-) closed in assembly area in the vicinity of Orleans.

24th

80th Division (-CT 319) conducted training in Infantry-Tank coordination.

SECTION VI-MOVEMENT TO THE LAST

25th

Movement to East. Fo #7 provided that 80th Division (-CT 319) move to a Concentration Area in the vicinity of Sens (50 miles Se Paris) 26 August. Preparations completed for movement.

August

26th

Div reverted to Third Army, XII Corps. Movement to Sens was completed.

27th

Division (-CT 319) by FO #8 continued its movement to the E and NE toward the towns of Plancy and Sal6n. Isolated hostile resistance was met. FO #9 provided for an advance on 28 August to seize successive objectives, capture Chalons Sur Marne, and establish a bridgehead N or Marne R.

28th

80th Division (-Ct 319 (-)) made a motorized advance from the vicinity of Plancy and Salon in direction of Chalons. 1st Bn CT 319 arrived in the area of Droupt St Marie. Remainder of CT 319 also under Div control was making a shuttle movement closing in this area from old position near Orleans.

SECTION VII - CAPTURE OF CHALONS SUR MARNE

29th

The Division Objective of Chalons was taken 1120. The bridgehead was made secure with 317th and 318th Infs disposed on the perimeter and 319th Inf in Division Reserve as directed by Field Msg #10.

30th

80th Div moved from the vicinity of Chalons to La Veure in the direction of Commercy our new objective. 1st Bn 319th Inf was attached to the 4th Arm6d Division.

31st

FO # 10 directed that the 80th Div advanced E on three (3) routes 0700, seize Bar Le Cuc (1st Obj), Commercy and prepare for action toward St Mihiel and to the E. 317th and 318th Infs were to move motorized in their zone of advance to detrucking points vic Revigny, Villers and Laheycourt. 319th Inf remained in Division Reserve.

SUMMARY

During the month of August 2172 prisoners were captured and 18 enemy tanks were destroyed.