

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

13 January 1945

SUBJECT: The Attack of 319th Infantry (Reinforced) to Seize Goesdorf and Dahl, Luxembourg.

TO : Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80, U. S. Army.

1. The 319th Infantry (Reinforced) was ordered to seize, occupy and defend Goesdorf and Dahl, Luxembourg. To cross the Sure River the 135th Engineer Battalion started to build a Bailey Bridge at 051800A January 1945 but due to enemy artillery fire, changed plans and build a treadway. All but one section was completed at 060430A January 1945 when the 3rd Battalion foot troops crossed enroute to attack Dahl. The treadway bridge was completed at 060430A January 1945. 3rd Battalion advanced on road to Buderscheid and then turned East cross country towards Dahl. 1st Battalion followed 3rd Battalion across the Sure River at 060530A January 1945 and moved North and East to attack Goesdorf. One German outpost was captured by the 1st Battalion and when the 1st Battalion entered Goesdorf it was a complete surprise to the hostile forces. To further add to the element of surprise, the artillery preparation was cancelled. All but very few of the German forces in and around Goesdorf were either killed, wounded or captured. Occupation of Goesdorf was completed at 061000A January 1945. The 3rd Bn attacked Dahl and seized and occupied the town at 061400A January 1945. 3rd Battalion prepared to advance North but was ordered to remain in Dahl because of approaching darkness. 1st Battalion was ordered to move to Dahl and 2nd Battalion to Goesdorf. Positions were prepared with the 3rd Battalion defending Dahl from the North and West, 1st Battalion defending from North and the high ground to the East, and 2nd Battalion setting up a perimeter defense around Goesdorf. The operation of seizing Goesdorf and Dahl was successful and a complete surprise to the Germans.

2. The following morning at 070300A January 1945 both Goesdorf and Dahl received an extremely heavy artillery barrage and at 070650A January 1945 another barrage was received. All Battalions were on the alert and a small scale counter-attack was launched against Dahl but was easily repulsed. 2nd Battalion was ordered to reconnoiter from Goesdorf to Bockholz-sur-Sure and Company "E" moved out at 0840. At 1000 Company "E" contacted a strong enemy force about 1000 yards East of Goesdorf and Company "E" was ordered to withdraw to their positions at Goesdorf.

3. At 055530 January 1945, Dahl and Goesdorf received an enemy artillery barrage and the Germans launched a tank and infantry attack on Dahl from the Northwest, North and Northeast and on Goesdorf from the East. The hostile forces that attacked Dahl were from the 1st Fusilier Battalion, 2nd Motorized Battalion, 3rd Panzer Battalion, all of the Der Fuehrer's Brigade (Grenadier) and the 519th Gty Anti-Tank Battalion; those that attacked Goesdorf were from the 1st Battalion 220th Infantry, 1st Battalion 212th Infantry and the 3rd Company 179th Engineer Battalion, all of the 78th VG-Division. This counterattack was successfully repelled by 061200A January 1945 with severe casualties inflicted on enemy personnel and vehicles.

For the Regimental Commander:

HAROLD B. MEINEM
Capt, Infantry
I & L Officer