

AFTER ACTION REPORT  
80TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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DECEMBER 1944

18 December

The Division occupied a forward assembly area in the vicinity of BINNING preparatory to launching an attack to the North to breach the SIEGFRIED LINE in the ZWEIBRUCKEN area.

Orders were received from XII Corps alerting the Division for movement to the North to concentrate in the vicinity of LUXEMBOURG to assist in repelling the hostile attack in the Zone of the VIII Corps.

19 December

The 80th Infantry Division began movement by motor to a forward assembly area in the zone of the 4th Infantry Division. The Division was assigned to III Corps.

20 December

The 80th Division Command Post opened at the Headquarters of the 4th Infantry Division at LUXEMBOURG at 0200A.

Field Order Number 22 was issued directing the occupation of a Reserve Battle Position in the zone of the 4th Infantry Division.

The 80th Division units closed into designated sectors.

21 December

Occupation of the Reserve Battle Position continued.

The 610th TD Battalion was attached to the 80th Infantry Division.

The 808th TD Battalion was released from attachment.

Preparations were made to attack to the North to repel hostile forces advancing on the City of LUXEMBOURG.

Forces were regrouped and units were prepared to advance at 220600A.

22 December

The 80th Infantry Division advanced to the North at 0600A with the 318th Infantry and 319th Infantry abreast; the 317th Infantry in reserve.

22 December (Continued)

The 318th Infantry gained contact with hostile forces South of ETTELBRUCK (P8240).

The 319th Infantry first contacted hostile elements in MERZIG (P7538).

Heavy fighting developed at ETTELBRUCK.

MERZIG (P7538) and NIEDERFEULEN (P7941) were captured by the 319th Infantry. One hundred twenty-five (125) prisoners were captured.

In this action great quantities of enemy materiel were destroyed and heavy casualties inflicted. The enemy forces attempting to advance to the Southwest were completely repulsed.

23 December

The attack continued to the North. During the night 22-23 December the 2d Battalion 319th Infantry advanced to the North to seize HEIDERSCHEID (P7444).

The 317th Infantry passed through the 318th Infantry and advanced on BOURSCHIED (P8047).

The 318th Infantry reverted to Division Reserve with the mission of containing ETTELBRUCK (P8240) and protecting the Division right flank.

HEIDERSCHEID (P7444) was seized and cleared at 1100A.

The 3d Battalion 319th Infantry seized TADLER (P7547).

The 1st Battalion 319th Infantry seized the high ground Southwest of KEHMEN (P7846).

During this action the 702d Tank Battalion destroyed three (3) enemy tanks. The 610th TD Battalion destroyed ten (10) enemy tanks.

Three hundred and ninety (390) prisoners were captured.

Seven (7) kilometers of ground were gained.

24 December

The enemy counterattacked HEIDENSCHIED during the morning. This attack was repulsed and heavy enemy losses were inflicted.

The enemy also launched an attack against the 1st Battalion 319th Infantry position West of KEHMEN. This attack was repulsed.

The 318th Infantry (less 3d Battalion) was attached to 4th Armored Division and began movement to the BASTOGNE AREA. (See ANNEX NO. 1)

24 December (Continued)

The 3d Battalion 318th Infantry continued to contain hostile forces in ETTELBRUCK.

Thirty-nine (39) prisoners were captured.

25 December

The attack was continued.

The 317th Infantry after passing through the zone of the 318th Infantry launched an attack with the 1st and 2d Battalions to seize KEHMEN (P7846) and BOURSCHIEB (P8047). Due to the heavy enemy resistance and extremely rugged terrain towns were not captured.

The 319th Infantry continued the attack and seized RINGEL (P7647).

Heavy artillery concentrations had been placed on ETTELBRUCK in addition to direct fire from elements of the 610th TD Battalion and the 702d Tank Battalion. Hostile troops not destroyed by these fires vacated ETTELBRUCK.

Elements of the 3d Battalion 318th Infantry entered ETTELBRUCK and established listening posts.

The 610th TD Battalion destroyed two (2) enemy tanks, one (1) cargo truck and one (1) half-track.

The 702d Tank Battalion destroyed three (3) enemy half-tracks and four (4) Anti-tank guns.

One hundred and eight (108) prisoners were captured.

26 December

The 317th Infantry attack to seize KEHMEN, with the 1st and 3d Battalions, was continued without success.

The 319th Infantry held ground previously gained and outposted the SURE River.

The 3d Battalion 318th Infantry maintained defensive positions in the vicinity of ETTELBRUCK.

One hundred forty-two (142) prisoners were captured.

Division Artillery in support of Infantry Regiments fired one hundred fifty-two (152) missions.

The 80th Division was assigned to XII Corps.

27 December

The 317th Infantry occupied and maintained defensive positions West of KEHMEN.

The 3d Battalion 318th Infantry patrolled ETTELBRUCK and maintained defensive positions.

The enemy launched a counterattack in an attempt to seize RINGEL. The 1st Battalion 319th Infantry repulsed this attack inflicting heavy enemy losses.

Forty-eight (48) prisoners were captured.

28 December

The 80th Division temporarily assumed the defensive as directed by XII Corps.

The 318th Infantry (less 3d Battalion) was released from attachment to 4th Armored Division and began movement to its assembly area in the vicinity of COLMAN (P8135).

The enemy again launched a counterattack against the 1st Battalion 319th Infantry positions Northeast of RINGEL. This attack was repulsed with heavy enemy losses.

Division Artillery fired one hundred and thirteen (113) missions.

Since the beginning of the 80th Division's attack on 22 December, sixteen (16) miles of ground were gained, twenty (20) enemy tanks destroyed, and one thousand six hundred eighty two (1682) prisoners were captured. By this action the threat to LUXEMBOURG was eliminated.

29 December

Infantry Regiments continued to maintain and strengthen defensive positions.

Division Artillery fired one hundred and thirteen (113) missions in support of the defense.

30 December

The enemy again attempted to seize the high ground in the vicinity of RINGEL (P7648). Again the counterattack was repulsed, and heavy losses inflicted on the enemy.

Forty (40) prisoners were captured.

Division Artillery fired one hundred-fifty (150) missions.



31 December

Defensive positions were maintained and improved.

Infantry Regiments patrolled aggressively to determine enemy dispositions and identifications.

Division Artillery supported the defense by firing one hundred-four (104) missions.

Thirty-four (34) prisoners were captured.

JANUARY 1945

1 - 5 January

Division held positions and readjusted forces South of the SURE and West of the SAUER Rivers. The Division CP was located in OBERFEULIN (P7740).

6 January

During this period Field Order Number 25 became effective.

The 317th and 318th Infantry Regiments readjusted MLR (Main Line of Resistance) positions, relieving elements of the 319th Infantry from defensive positions.

The 319th Infantry regrouped its forces during the night 5-6 January.

The 166th Engineer Combat Battalion constructed a bridge over the SURE River in the vicinity of HEIDERSCHIEDERGRUND (P7246) prior to daylight 6 January. At 060400A the 319th Infantry crossed the SURE River and launched an attack to seize GOESDORF (P7848) and DAHL (P7349).

The 3d Battalion 319th crossed the SURE River, by-passed GOESDORF, overcame heavy hostile resistance and difficult terrain and seized DAHL.

The 2d Battalion 319th, Regimental Reserve, moved from HEIDERSCHIED (P7343) to GOESDORF.

The 1st Battalion 319th attacked overcoming hostile resistance and captured GOESDORF.

Positions were organized for defense. During this operation heavy artillery and mortar fire was received.

Two enemy tanks were destroyed by the 610th TD Battalion.

One hundred and four (104) prisoners were captured.

#### 6 January (Continued)

Defensive positions were maintained in the sectors of the 317th and 318th Infantry Regiments.

The 80th Division Artillery fired one hundred eighty-five (185) missions.

#### 7 January

The enemy launched a counterattack against the positions of the 319th Infantry at GOESDORF and DAHL. The attack came from the East, North and Northeast and consisted of enemy infantry and tanks.

Artillery concentrations were placed upon the attacking forces inflicting heavy enemy losses.

The 610th TD Battalion destroyed seven (7) enemy tanks and four (4) more were probably destroyed. One (1) enemy tank was destroyed by bazooka fire.

Sixty-seven (67) prisoners were captured.

All defensive positions were maintained without loss of ground.

The 80th Division Artillery fired one hundred and fifty (150) missions.

The 2d Battalion, 351st Engineer General Service Regiment and Company "A" 651st TD Battalion were attached to the 80th Infantry Division and in turn were attached to the 318th Infantry. These units occupied and prepared defensive positions South of ETTELBRUCK (P8240).

#### 8 January

Defensive positions were maintained within the Division Sector. The 80th Division Artillery fired one hundred ninety-four (194) missions. Patrolling continued to be active to maintain contact with hostile forces and to determine their identification and disposition.

#### 9 January

Infantry Regiments continued defensive positions and patrolling. Ten (10) prisoners were captured. The 80th Division Artillery fired one hundred-two (102) missions.

#### 10 January

MLR (Main Line of Resistance) positions were readjusted and strengthened. Active patrolling continued. 80th Division Artillery fired fifty-two (52) missions.

#### 11 January

MLR Positions were adjusted and strengthened.

11 January (Continued)

"E" Company 319th Infantry reconnoitered in force the town of BUCKHOLTZ (P7958). Complete surprise was achieved. Seventy-three (73) prisoners were captured and the town liberated. Defensive positions were prepared and occupied by Company "E" on high ground West of BUCKHOLTZ.

12 January

MLR positions were readjusted and advanced to the North. The 317th Infantry in the sector of the 3d Battalion advanced its MLR position to the high ground South of WELSHEID (P8044).

Nine (9) prisoners were captured. The 80th Division Artillery Battalions fired fifty (50) missions.

13 January

The 80th Infantry Division continued to maintain defensive positions and patrolled. Seven (7) prisoners were captured. The 80th Division Artillery fired seventy-three (73) missions.

14 January

During the period infantry patrols continued to probe enemy lines. Nine (9) prisoners were captured. The 80th Division Artillery fired sixty-eight (68) missions.

15 January

Defensive positions were maintained and front line units were rotated. The 80th Division Artillery fired eighty-seven (87) missions. Seven (7) prisoners were captured.

16 January

Infantry Regiments continued to occupy defensive positions and patrolled pending the resumption of the offensive. 80th Division Artillery fired sixty-six (66) missions.

17 January

80th Infantry Division units completed plans for continuing the attack to the North 180700A. Artillery Battalions fired 107 missions.

18 January

Field Order Number 26 became effective 180700A.

The 3d Battalion 319th Infantry attacked to the North to seize NOCHER (P7351) encountering heavy enemy resistance. This resistance was overcome and NOCHER was captured.

18 January (Continued)

The 1st Battalion 319th Infantry attacked to the East to seize MASSELER (P7849). This attack was supported by fire of the 2d Battalion 317th Infantry. Heavy enemy resistance was encountered. The objective had not been captured by darkness and the 1st Battalion was ordered to occupy former positions in the vicinity of DAHL.

During this operation 175 prisoners were captured. Ground gained by the attack was organized for defense. Division Artillery fired 107 missions.

19 January

Defensive positions were maintained and improved. 80th Division Artillery fired 110 missions. Units remained in readiness to resume attack.

20 January

The 318th Infantry sent strong patrols to the vicinity of BURDEN (P8244) during the afternoon and finding it unoccupied the 2d Battalion advanced its MLR and occupied the town. The 318th Infantry prepared to continue its advance to the North.

The 317th Infantry prepared to launch an attack to seize KEHLEN (P7845).

The 319th Infantry continued to maintain defensive positions and patrolled.

80th Division Artillery fired 95 missions. Eight prisoners were captured.

21 January

The 2d Battalion 318th Infantry continued its advance during the morning of 21 January and launched an attack on BOURSCHEID (P8047), overcoming hostile resistance and capturing the town.

The 3d Battalion 318th Infantry attacked and seized WELSCHIED (P8044). Elements of the 1st Battalion cleared the wooded area between BOURSCHEID and WELSCHIED and East to the SAUER River.

The 2d Battalion 317th Infantry attacked at 0600A to seize the bridges over the SURE River North of BOURSCHEID. Unfavorable terrain, deep snow and heavy enemy resistance prevented the capture of the objective and the 2d Battalion was ordered to resume occupation of defensive positions in the vicinity of RINGEL (P7647). Elements of the 1st Battalion attacked and captured KEHMEN (P7845).

106 prisoners were captured in the operation. 80th Division Artillery fired 105 missions.

22 January

The defensive positions South of the SURE River were maintained, and units regrouped preparatory to launching an attack to the East of WILTZ (P7053).



22 January (Continued)

The 317th Infantry concentrated in WILTZ.

The 319th Infantry maintained defensive positions North of the SURE River.

80th Division Artillery fired 34 missions. 16 Prisoners were captured.

23 January

The 317th Infantry launched an attack 230730A to the East of WILTZ and crossed the CLERF River. Heavy enemy resistance was encountered. The 3d Battalion 317th Infantry drove to the East and seized the high ground West of WILDERWILTZ (P7555). The 1st Battalion attacked to the East of capture ENSCHERANGE (P7456). The 2d Battalion, Regimental Reserve, remained in ERPELDANGE (P7255).

The 318th Infantry maintained defensive positions in the KEHMEN-BOURSCHEID (P8047) area. The 3d Battalion, Division Reserve, moved by motor to WILTZ.

The 319th Infantry advanced to the North crossing the WILTZ River. KAUTENBACH (P7652), ALSCHIED (P7653), and MERKOLE (P7452) were captured. The 1st Battalion continued to protect the Regiment's right flank by maintaining defensive positions South of the WILTZ River.

Twelve prisoners were captured during the period.

24 January

The 317th Infantry continued its attack towards the CLERF River with the 1st Battalion capturing ENSCHERANGE on the West bank of the CLERF River and the 2d Battalion gaining the high ground West of WILDERWILTZ.

The 318th Infantry continued to outpost the BOURSCHEIL Area prepared to assemble in WILTZ.

The 319th Infantry crossed the WILTZ River and mopped up the area between the WILTZ and CLERF Rivers.

25 January

The 317th Infantry attacked across the CLERF River at ENSCHERANGE and WILDERWILTZ clearing the town of WILDERWILTZ of enemy and establishing bridgeheads at both localities across the CLERF River. The 318th (less 2d Battalion) closed into assembly areas at WILTZ.

The 319th Infantry continued its mopping up operation in the KAUTENBAUCH - ALSCHIED Area.

80th Div Arty fired 114 missions. 134 prisoners were captured.

Two (2) Class 40 Treadway bridges were opened across the CLERF River late the afternoon of the 25th.

26 January

The attack continued. The 1st Battalion, 317th Infantry, captured BOCKHOLZ (P7958). The 2d Battalion crossed the CLERF River and cleared the town of LELLINGEN (P7655). The 3d Battalion seized SIEBENALER (P7758).

The 1st Battalion 318th Infantry, attached to the 317th Infantry, remained in Regimental Reserve. The 2d Battalion 318th Infantry moved by motor from BOURSCHEID (P8047) and relieved elements of the 319th Infantry at AISCHIED (P7653) and KAUTENBACH (P7652). The 3d Battalion 318th Infantry remained in WILTZ (P7053).

The 319th Infantry prepared for movement to the zone of the 4th Infantry Division North of FELS (P9032).

Artillery fired 133 missions. 127 prisoners were captured.

27 January

Task Force SUMMERS was formed to continue the attack to the East to seize the objective (high ground West of HOSINGEN (P8259)).

Task Force SUMMERS consisted of the following troops:

- 317th Infantry
- 1st Battalion 318th Infantry
- Organic Field Artillery Battalions
- 80th Reconnaissance Troop
- 702d Tank Battalion (less 3 medium companies)

At 270130A Task Force SUMMERS launched the attack to seize the final objective.

The 1st Battalion 317th Infantry seized NEIDHAUSEN (P8060) and cleared the towns of MARBURG (P8062) and DORSCHIED (P8161).

The 2d Battalion 317th Infantry patrolled to the East to contact elements of 4th Infantry Division.

The 3d Battalion 317th Infantry completed the clearing of BOCKHOLZ (P7958).

The 1st Battalion 318th Infantry seized the high ground West of HOSINGEN (P8259).

The 319th Infantry moved to FELS (P9132), and relieved elements of the 4th Infantry Division.

80th Division Artillery fired 133 missions in support of the attack. 127 prisoners were captured.

28 January

After seizing the objective, Task Force SUMMERS organized positions for defense.

All units of the 80th Infantry Division remaining in the WILTZ area were relieved by the 17th Airborne Division at 280700A and movement to the 4th Infantry Division sector began.

Company "A" 91st Chemical Battalion was relieved by Company "B".

During the WILTZ - HOSINGEN operation 359 prisoners were captured.

ANNEX I

HEADQUARTERS 318TH INFANTRY  
APO 80, U. S. ARMY

3 January 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report - Covering Operations of 318th Infantry, Minus,  
During its Attachment to 4th Armored Division.

TO : Commanding General, 80th Inf Div, APO 80, U. S. Army  
(Attention: G-3)

24 December 1944

At 1200 24 December 1944, both 1st and 2d Battalions, 318th Infantry were out of contact with the enemy. At that time, enemy elements in ETTTELBRUCK (P8240) were contained by the 3d Battalion. The 2d Battalion was moving to reserve positions in OBERFEULEN (P7840) and 1st Battalion was assembled in the vicinity of BERG (P6430). At 1300 the Regiment, less one (1) battalion, was ordered to move without delay to assist the 4th Armored Division in relieving the 101st Airborne Division and elements of the 9th and 10th Armored Divisions who were encircled by the enemy at BASTOGNE (P5558), BELGIUM. The 1st Battalion was entrucked at COLMAR (P8235) at 1700 and moved via BISSEN (P7933), ELL (P6431), MARTELLANGE (P5638) to an assembly area in woods just Northeast of WARNACH (P5642). The 2d Battalion closed in the area at 2300. Regimental Headquarters, one (1) platoon Company B 305th Engineer Battalion and four (4) ambulances from Company B 305th Medical Battalion left COLMAR (P8235) at 1700 and moved via ELL (P6431) and ARLON (P6122) to FAUVILLERS (P5141) closing at 2300. The 1st Battalion was attached to Combat Command A, 4th Armored Division, 318th Infantry, minus two (2) Battalions, was attached to Combat Command B 4th Armored Division.

25 December 1944

At 0800 the 1st Battalion attacked from the vicinity of 565425 and fought its way through heavily wooded and extremely rough terrain up to 1st Line of Departure by 1100 and moved on to capture the town of TINTANGE (P5744) and approximately one hundred-fifty (150) prisoners by 1400. The 1st Battalion was supported by elements of Company B 35th Tank Battalion. From 1400 until 1600 B and C Companies cleaned out the woods on the high ground East and North of the town. At 1700 the Battalion moved Northeast from the town and made contact with B Company 53d Armored Infantry Battalion along a woods line at 570445.

At 0800 the 2d Battalion jumped off from its assembly area vicinity BURNON (P5145). The 10th Infantry (Armored) Battalion was on its left. The Battalion attacked through a large patch of woods for approximately fifteen-hundred (1500) yards to capture the town of CHAUMONT (P5148) and the high ground just beyond. The enemy was well dug in on very rough terrain.

26 December 1944

At 0800 the 1st Battalion jumped off from a position just Northeast of TINTANGE (P5744) and advanced approximately three-thousand (3000) yards against heavy opposition through thickly wooded and extremely mountainous country.

(ANNEX I)



ANNEX I (Continued)

26 December 1944 (Continued)

The 2d Battalion, attacking with the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, jumped off at 0800, captured the town of GRANDRUE (P5149) and cleared the woods one thousand (1000) yards to the North.

Early in the evening of the 26th, tank elements of the 4th Armored Division were able to get into the besieged city of BASTOGNE (P5558), but were unable to get back out again. An officer leading a four (4) man patrol went through about four thousand (4000) yards of enemy held territory. This advance through enemy lines was facilitated by the use of red and green light signals which had been learned from the enemy during the previous two (2) days. The patrol made contact with elements of the 326th Engineer Battalion within the city at 0430A on the 27th and was escorted to the Command Post of the 101st Airborne Division. The patrol brought back an overlay of the positions of the 101st within the city, and the G-3 Periodic Report of that unit.

27 December 1944

1st Battalion attacked to the North at 0800 and captured HOEVILLE (P5547) and LIVARCHAMPS (P5648) against heavy resistance. The 2d Battalion attacked at 0800, cleared the woods South of HOMPRES (P5351) and advanced to the town. For the night defensive positions were set up Southeast of ASSENNOIS (P5253).

28 December 1944

At 1800 the 1st Battalion was relieved by 3d Battalion 134th Infantry.

During the night the 1st Battalion returned to COLMAR (P8235) in the 80th Division Sector.

At 0800 the 2d Battalion from its positions North of ASSENNOIS attacked to the North and made contact with elements of the 101st Airborne Division at 1000, vicinity 550340. At 2200A this Battalion was released to Regimental control and moved the next day at noon to rejoin the Regiment at SCHIEREN (P8238). Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Company returned to COLMAR (P8235) on 29 December 1944. During this operation the two Battalions captured a total of 769 prisoners of war. One (1) Mark IV Tank was destroyed.