

FEBRUARY 1945

On 1 Feb 45, the 80th Infantry Division was in position NW of DIEKIRCH SE to BEAUFORT along the S bank of the SAUER RIVER. CT 318 was in possession of the Divisional E sector, to the right of CT 319, which ran along the bank of the river from BIGELBACH SE to BEAUFORT, LUXEMBOURG. The Regimental line was approximately 6000 yards long and faced GERMANY to the NE. S of BEAUFORT, the 1st Bn was in Regimental reserve in HALLER undergoing weapons training. The 2d Bn, on the Regimental left, occupied 3000 yards of the line along the river below WALLENDORF to BEFORTERHAED. The 3d Bn held the remaining 3000 yards along the S bank from the positions of the 2d Bn SE to the W bank of the ERNZ NOIRE.

The Regimental CP and Anti-tank Co were located in FERME HETSCHETTE in the vicinity of MEDERNACH. Co B 305 Med Bn and Co B 305 Engineer Bn were in WAILDBILLIG just a short distance S of HALLER. Batteries of the 314th (105mm) Field Artillery Bns were located in the vicinity of HALLER in direct support of the Regiment. In addition, batteries of the 512 (105mm) and 974th (155mm) were in support of the 314th F.A. Bn. Cannon Co was with the 1st Bn in HALLER.

Also attached to CT 318 as direct support was a platoon of Co A, 91st Chemical Bn with four 4.2 chemical mortars in position 2000 yards N of HALLER. Improvement of the Regimental defensive positions and river patrolling were carried on through the day and night. The weather remained cold with occasional snow flurries and cold, intermittent rain began to drench the Regimental sector.

The SAUER RIVER to the front of CT 318 is formed by a juncture of the OUR RIVER and the SURE RIVER just W of WALLENDORF. The SAUER RIVER then runs past WALLENDORF and, after series of short turns, passes S past DILLINGEN. Below DILLINGEN, the river turns E for a short distance and

then ^{curves} N toward BOLLENDORF, thus creating a U-bend in which lies the wooded peninsula S of BIESDORF. On the N bank of the SAUER RIVER, moving NNE are WALLENDORF, BIESDORF, KRUTCHTEN (CRUTCHTEN), HOMERDINGEN and, beyond that, METTENDORF. S of the river, running W to E along the bank, are the towns of REISDORF, BIGELBACH, DILLINGEN and GRUNDHOF. Also S of the SAUER RIVER, on the left flank of the 2d Bn was the ERNZ BLANCHE STREAM which joined the SAUER RIVER at REISDORF. The right flank boundry of the 3d Bn was the ERNZ NOIRE STREAM which joined the SAUER RIVER at GRUNDHOF. In between the two streams were the assault battalions of CT 318 which, in a N to S line, occupied BEAUFORT, HALLER, WALDBILLIG, MEDERNACH and CHRISTNACH.

Interrogation of German deserters and stragglers indicated that elements of the German 352d and 212th Volks Grenadier Divisions were defensively occupying that part of the SIEGFRIED LINE fronting the zone of CT 318. Other reports disclosed the enemy line in the vicinity of BOLLENDORF to be occupied by the German 915th VG Regiment, 352d Volks Grenadier Division with an estimated strength in excess of 1,000 men; and the 2d Bn, 423 VG Regiment, 212th VG Division with 300 men. The 352d VG Division had almost been annilated in the LUXEMBOURG sector by the US 80th Inf Division during the German counter-offensive of December-January, 1944-1945. From interrogation of prisoners it was learned that the remnants of all three former regiments (914th, 915th and 916th) were combined to form the 915th Volks Grenadier Regiment. For the record, the 352d VG Division had been destroyed once before at ST LO, but had been reconstituted with GAF and Naval personnel.

← Patrol Action 1 Feb 45

On 2 Feb 45, the weather took a turn for the better. The rains of the day befoer had ceased, but not before they and the melting snowdrifts had turned the roads, trails, and terrain into seas of mud. As if to assist

the enemy, which could be seen patrolling the opposite banks of the river; the SAUER RIVER had widened from its normal 25-30 feet width to more than 100 feet in some places due to the constant heavy rains and the early Spring thaw. The current raced along the swollen banks at close to 20 miles per hour.

The 1st Bn continued weapons and replacement training in HALLER through the period. The 2d Bn, with Co E in KLAUSBERG and Co F in positions N (0.25 mi) of BEAUFORT, continued to patrol the S bank of the SAUER RIVER in its zone. The 3d Bn, NW of HALLER, patrolled its river frontage along the Regimental right front. A number of combat patrols made unsuccessful attempts to cross the river but the debris-filled, turbulent waters prevented the crossings. "Task Force Patrol" was formed by men from all companies under Lt Smith (1st Bn) and whose mission was long-range night patrolling for the Regiment. At 1800, a field order was received outlining general plans for the coming attack N across the SAUER RIVER. At this time the 53d Armd Inf Bn, US 4th Armd Division was attached to CT 318 with the mission of relieving the 3d Bn in the right half of the sector and of supporting the coming crossing by fire from this position.

← Patrol Area 2-3 15A

On 3 Feb 45, despite the continuing cold weather and sporadic heavy rain, the 1st Bn carried out its training program in HALLER while the 2d and 3d Bns strengthened their positions along the river. A redistribution of bazookas was made within the units and sniper schools were attended by selected personnel. Each rifle company was equipped with ten 20-lb pole charges and each rifle platoon received two bazookas. Each weapons platoon received one bazooka. Due to the current, debris, ice, etc., patrols were unable to cross the SAUER RIVER during the night.

The cold rains of 4 Feb 45 and served only to increase the turbulence of the already swollen SAUER RIVER. Roads became quagmires of mud and traffic

was held to a minimum. On outposts, the infantrymen of CT 318 huddled against the cold blasts of wind and rain as clothing and equipment became saturated with mud. During the day CT 318 received a field order providing for the attack forward to be made at 0300, 7 Feb 45. The mission of the Regiment was to attack along the Division right flank and establish a bridgehead in the vicinity of DILLINGEN on the SAUER RIVER.

During the day, the 53d Armd Inf Bn relieved the 3d Bn on the Regimental right and the 3d Bn assembled in BEAUFORT by 1800. Co B, 811th Tank Destroyer Bn was attached to CT 318 and moved into the 2d Bn area. Elements of the 633d AAA Bn were assigned a direct fire mission in support of the river crossing. Placed in charge of all crossing operations was the 166th Engineer Bn. During the night of 4-5 Feb 45, the 2d Bn sent another team to probe for crossings across the river, but the patrol was driven back by heavy enemy fire. The patrol, under Lt Packer (Co F), managed to reach the opposite shore where it encountered an enemy patrol which was routed in a sharp fire fight. On returning to recross the river, the patrol encountered heavy enemy machine-gun fire and three of the patrol were killed. The remainder of the patrol crossed the river and delivered their report. For this action all the patrol members were awarded the Bronze Star for heroic achievement.

4-5 Feb 45: Heavy Action

Throughout the period of 4-6 Feb 45, the situation continued unaltered and the weather remained cold with intermittent heavy rains. Patrols of the assault battalion constantly probed the enemy defenses along the N river shore. Some patrols were successful, others were not. Very few patrols returned in the same strength as they departed. Heroism became the order of the day and the night, as our patrols fought the elements and the enemy, both seemingly insurmountable.

★

Before daylight of 6 Feb 45, while the 1st Bn remained assembled in reserve in HALLER, the 2d Bn and the 166th Engineer Bn began to move assault boats and other equipment close to the river's edge in the vicinity of BOIS DE DILLINGEN on the W outskirts of DILLINGEN and BIGELBACH. After dark the 2d Bn moved into the wooded area N of the village of BIGELBACH and along the S bank of the SAUER RIVER just SE of WALLENDORF. The 3d Bn remained assembled in BEAUFORT. The battalions were now assembled in a line running N to S, with the 2d Bn (BIGELBACH), 3d Bn (BEAUFORT) and the 1st Bn (HALLER) in that order.

Early in the morning (0200) of 7 Feb 45, CT 318 began its move toward the river line through the cold rain and sloshing muddy terrain. At this time the 53d Armd Inf Bn began an hours' firing of all weapons into the peninsula area including BOLLENDORF. This fire succeeded in drawing a considerable volume of enemy artillery fire from the N side of the river. Enemy armored activity could be hear on the other side as, at 0210, a fifty minute artillery barrage was begun on all known enemy positions.

Spearheading the thrust, the 2d Bn moved out at 0300 to storm the "West Wall" of the SIEGFRIED LINE under a dense smoke screen which rendered the river almost invisible. The men of the battalion trudged slowly down the perilous slippery slope to the bank which then had a sheer drop of several feet into the waters edge. Men were injured by the trecherous terrain and drop to the waters edge. With difficulty, wooden assault boats were launched into the swift, muddy, debris-filled, icy water. Co F (CO:) was across by 0327 against slight resistance. The remainder of the battalion followed as day-light broke to disclose the crossing site to enemy observers. At this time a murderously intense fire from enemy small-arms, heavy weapons, self-propelled guns, artillery and nebelwerfers was brought to bear upon the river crossing. Lfc Moreschi,

Reisbörfer held
40-50 rounds per min at 1515
Haller. 15 per 105 mm
held in 1st Bn Area at 1740

3rd of 5th Med Mortar During
 Two days since By Direct Fire (Co 2)
 By 1310 7 Feb 24th has only
 13 of 45 Boats left.
 0800 Co E. H. C. 1st M. 12 Barrag
 still on 9 Bank. M. 6 then on
 of 9th Barrag planning set up
 of fort bridge
 0720 12th Bn of Army landed S bank
 Co E 6 looking for enemy
 0520 "F. H. C. 1st of 5th M. 12
 0728 Co A stepping down enemy
 1055 only 10 boats & crew.
 One did not show up. got a
 first rate & crew. 1st Bn
 considered.

time and again, braved the enemy fire and swift current to rescued the wounded. It looked like a field day for the Medical Detachment.

As a result of the increasing enemy fire, the remaining elements of the 2d Bn did not complete the crossing until late in the night (2300). Sgt Falzone (Hqs 2d Bn), after crossing the SAUER RIVER, reconnoitered enemy gun positions despite the heavy enemy fire. Moving in-land, he located an American AT gun which was manned by five enemy soldiers. As he advanced on their position, the enemy attacked him but were driven back with the loss of two killed and one wounded. The remainder took to the rear in the face of Sgt Falzone's deadly fire. By nightfall the 2d Bn had a strong foothold over the SAUER RIVER in the vicinity just E of WALLENDORF.

In the vicinity of DELLINGEN, the 3d Bn made preparations to ford the river in that area. The 1st Bn continued to occupy HALLER to the S of the 3d Bn. Co B 305 Med Bn estimated the casualties for the day to have been more than 50 wounded and/or killed. The collecting station had been established just S of the crossing site of the 2d Bn and in the vicinity of BIGELBACH. Heavy enemy artillery fire was heard from behind the lines in the vicinity of HALLER & DELLINGEN.

The rains ceased mercifully during the early morning of 8 Feb 45. At 0300 the 3d Bn, with Co L (CO:) leading, attempted crossing the SAUER RIVER in the vicinity of DELLINGEN. By 0515, Co L was across river and, with a heavy machine-gun crew in support, was ordered to turn S to clear out the peninsula and BOLLENDORF. Co I (CO:) was next to cross as was attached as reserve infantry to the 2d Bn. In the meanwhile, the 3d Bn continued to push its men across the river. At this time, the 1st Bn moved to the woods just above the crossing site.

As if the turbulent, treacherous river and the intense enemy automatic,

mortar and artillery fire were not enough, the assaulting companies of the 2d Bn had to move up to the crest above the river. Overlooking the river and down the throats of the 2d Bn, the enemy had developed forts with over-lapping fields of fire. Camouflaged pill-boxes resembled houses, barns, haystacks; the dense foliage covered numerous fox-holes, minefields and booby-traps. Literally into the gaping jaws of Hell moved the 2d Bn.

Through this murderous fire attacked the 2d Bn at 1300 and, by 2300, was only able to report a gain of some 1200 yards. In some instances groups of men moved ahead of the main line while others were stopped cold. Sgt's Ray and Dicks, with Pvt Meade (CoF) found themselves all alone some distance beyond the foremost lines of the 2d Bn. At this time an enemy counter-attack was mounting to their immediate front. Waiting until the enemy slowly and tantalizingly came to within 10 yards of their position, the Americans then opened fire killing 25 of the enemy and the rest ran for their lives. The positions of the 2d Bn were developed off the night.

~~THE 1ST BN, HAVING REACHED THE CROSSING SITE AT 1200, MADE PREPARATIONS TO CROSS THE FOLLOWING DAY.~~

With the weather turning fair on 9 Feb 45, CT 318 sought to enlarge its perimeter at the crossing site. The 1st Bn began crossing in the vicinity of DILLINGEN at 0330, encountering only slightly less enemy fire, and by 0730 had only managed to get Co A (CO:) across the river. By 1900, however, the remainder of the battalion had reached the N shore. The 1st Bn passed through the 2d Bn, which had been attacking NE, and attacked N to gain some 1,000 yards before dark. [The 3d Bn, with Co L still clearing the peninsula to the S, moved its companies to seize the high ground 1000 yards E of the bridgehead site in the vicinity of HILL 390. In the concerted attack, all units encountered strong resistance from pill-boxes and dug in defenses all along the N bank of the river.

At 1800, CT 318 established its CP on German soil in a log bunker on the high ground adjacent to the river crossing site. At 2240, the Regiment received notification that elements of CT 317 would assume responsibility for the security of the crossing area, thus relieving CT 318 to penetrate deeper into the SIEGFRIED LINE.

During the three day period of 7 through 9 Feb 45, the enemy forces contacted by CT 318 were from the German 915th Volks Grenadier Regiment of the 352 VG Division and the 316th Volks Grenadier Regiment of the 212 VG Division. The enemy artillery support came from the guns of the 1352 Artillery Regiment which had several nebelwerfer battalions and self-propelled guns. Late in the evening the German 1130 (1st Bn) Volks Grenadier Regiment, 560th VG Division was also contacted in the vicinity. As soon as CT 318 had gained a foot-hold, additional enemy forces was rushed in to throw the Regiment back into the river.

On 10 Feb 45, as the early morning rains ceased, the 1st Bn moved N along the right flank of the 2d Bn with Cos A and B abreast. The mission of the battalion was the high ground 1500 yards SE of BIESDORF, GERMANY, some two miles NE of the bridgehead. Strong enemy resistance was encountered as the forward elements closed in on the objective. Lt McAllister (Co B) advanced to the front of his pinned down comrades to learn his commander had been injured. Taking command, he led the men forward in an action which killed 70 of the enemy and ~~saw~~ 50 others taken prisoner. By 1800, the high ground was seized and the assault companies dug in for the night.

The 2d Bn was only able to make slight progress during the day because of the strongly defended pillboxes which lay between the battalion and its objective, the town of BIESDORF. One stronghold was eliminated by the heroism of Pfc Frank (Co E) who crawled 150 yards from his lines to attack the enemy, killing 3, wounding 2 and capturing 3. Pfc Dudley (Co G)

charged 250 yards through enemy fire to assault another enemy position, taking a number of prisoners. After darkness, the 2d Bn by-passed the stronger enemy positions to capture BIESDORF by 2044, thereby isolating all enemy forces in positions S of the town. The capture of the town made the SAUER RIVER bridgehead the largest in the Corps sector.

^{Co L}
The 3d Bn continued clearing the enemy from positions to the S on the peninsula and in BOLLENDORF while the major advance was being made to the N. During the days action CT 318 had contacted strong opposition from elements of the German 560th Volks Grenadier Division whose units had been filled with 18 year-old recruits and returned wounded personnel. By the close of the period, CT 318 had captured more than 400 prisoners, killed more than 150 of the enemy and had, itself, sustained more than 100 casualties.

¹¹
The weather of ~~11~~, Feb 45 remained cold and, once again, a driving rain drenched the positions of CT 318. Elements of CT 317 began to relieve the 3d Bn (CT 318) on the peninsula and the latter moved into the town of BOLLENDORF. At 0800, the 53d Armd Inf Bn was relieved of attachment to CT 318, its role in drawing fire from the bridgehead site was highly commended by CT 318.

At 0800, the 1st Bn, with Cos A and B leading, pushed N from the high ground SE of BIESDORF (HILL 380?) and advanced 300 yards to a point 1200 yards SE of BIESDORF (HILL 393?), just short of HUEHNENKOPF HILL (HILL 340?). At this point strong enemy resistance was encountered from enemy positions of the 1st Bn, 915th VG Regiment and the 352d Replacement Bn plus attached units which guarded the roads E and W from this vicinity. As Co A entered the woods in this vicinity, heavy enemy machine-gun fire pinned the company down. TSgt Blaszcask (Co A) charged to within 30 yards of one machine gun and, after throwing two hand-grenades, captured the

MINES ON HILL 380 leading
to 307 of 318
1518 Co L K&A P. 1150 - 13 Dec
Killed 13
2030 Co L Capt FN 400 1129

Heavy enemy resistance
seen during attack on BOLLENDORF
11 Feb 45
Co L 1st Bn 53d Armd Inf Bn
entered BIESDORF (in AM) with
throwing grenades 0815. 20 Bn
needed lots of mortar, arty & D/F
weapons in BIESDORF

crew. Sgt Lee (Co A) voluntarily crawled through enemy mortar and artillery fire to an exposed position not 50 yards from another machine-gun which was firing on the company from the flank. Lee destroyed this position with one round of rocket fire and then went forward to knock out an enemy anti-tank gun with another rocket. By this time, the company had lost a number of its officers by the strong enemy defenses in the woods and Lt Weireshauser (Co A) assumed command to lead the remnants of the company in a head-long assault into the enemy positions in the woods. Sgt Wilson (Co A), realizing the need for leadership, organized his men although painfully wounded and led them forward behind Lt Weireshauser. Sgt Post's mortar platoon of Co A surprised an enemy patrol in the dense area of the woods and managed to establish contact with the company after a sharp fire-fight. The platoon was then ordered back to the flank where they received - to their relief - the surrender of 35 of the enemy who had lost their officer.

Co B spent a greater part of the days clearing pillboxes and enemy strong-points around BIESDORF. Numerous casualties were sustained by the company through the day. Co C similarly had a number of casualties as an enemy mortar fire was received in their area S of BIESDORF.

The 2d Bn continued to mop up enemy resistance between BIESDORF and the N bank of the SAUER RIVER. The 3d Bn entered BOLLENDORF and cleared a number of the enemy from the vicinity during the day. During the night of 11-12 Feb 45, ammunition, medical supplies and food had to be hand-carried to elements in the battle area. Down on the river, boats continued to capsize in the raging current.

← Cold rains swept the positions of CT 318 on 12 Feb 45. At 1130, the 1st Bn attacked N but, because of the heavy enemy assault gun, mortar and artillery fire from enemy emplacements in the vicinity of HUEHNENKOPF

Co A captured 211600 + 300000
8 MCS

Co B captured 211600 + 300000
8 MCS

Wallerdorf Shelter destroyed
in AM 0200 to 0700 12 Feb
one 25 lb. Barge in valley between
Wallerdorf & Geybren at 0700

2d Bn. 1st Bn.

HILL, was unable to make much progress during the day. The battalion consolidated its positions for the day after sustaining a number of casualties. The 2d Bn, while clearing the vicinity of BIESDORF S to the river, established contact with CT 319 in the vicinity of WALLENDORF. At night, the 2d Bn consolidated its positions in and around BIESDORF.

The 3d Bn, in BOLLENDORF and vicinity, engaged in a few sharp fire-fights with enemy hold-outs. Co K, supported by Co M, was attacked from the flank by the enemy. Sgt Veglia (Co M) held off the enemy attack until his ammunition was expended, then he brandished his empty weapon and effected the surrender of the enemy position. Sgt Joki (Co M) moved forward toward another enemy emplacement. Throwing grenades, Sgt Joki killed 3, wounded 2 and captured 4 of the enemy. ^{in the approaching darkness} The 3d Bn then moved back into BOLLENDORF and established outposts for the night.

2d Bn from position in vicinity of Hill 380. While 2d Bn moved back, enemy positions were covered by direct fire.

In the fair weather of 13 Feb 45, CT 318 consolidated its positions on the high ground around BIESDORF and completed mopping up of enemy positions. Early in the morning, the 3d Bn (CT 318) was relieved by elements of CT 317 and, at 0430, the battalion had moved N to go into position, behind the 1st Bn, on HILL 380. At 0900 the first bridge, a Class 40 pontoon bridge, was completed by the engineers in the vicinity of DILLINGEN.

The 1st Bn, at 1137, in position near HUEHNENKOPF HILL was relieved by the 3d Bn, and the former moved into reserve positions on HILL 380. The 2d Bn continued developing its positions around BIESDORF. The 3d Bn, now occupying positions just short of HUEHNENKOPF HILL, prepared to assault the hill. At 1700, ~~the battalion sent Co I forward but the assaulting forces were met with a devastating fire from enemy artillery, mortar and direct fire weapons. Losing a number of its men, the rifle company withdrew.~~

1750: I jump off with 1st Bn
at 1800 (1800) 2nd Bn (2)
shock in rear & came attacking them
the 1st Bn 200 ft

On 14 Feb 45 CT 313 held positions in BIESDORF and the high ground to the E and SE of the town. The weather remained fair and the terrain, ~~which~~ although still wet and slippery, was beginning to dry out. The 1st Bn continued in its positions on HILL 380 behind the 3d Bn. The 2d Bn was in and around BIESDORF. The 3d Bn, in the approaches to HUEHNENKOPF HILL, sent Co I forward at 1700 to seize the hill. The assaulting forces met a devastating wall of enemy fire from artillery, mortar, and direct fire weapons. Losing a number of men, the riflemen withdrew back into their lines. Little other activity occurred as CT 313 dug in for the night.

← 15 Feb 45

At 0253, while the 1st and 2d Bns continued to occupy their former positions, the 3d Bn, with orders to take HUEHNENKOPF HILL before daylight, sent Co L forward to assault the hill. Co L (CO: Capt Marshall) moved through the total darkness in a single file. A mile-long communications wire maintained contact among the men who held on to the wire as the unit moved through the dark. Successfully slipping past the enemy assault guns, the company reported reaching its objective by 0800. Shortly after seizing the hill, ~~was cut off by enemy units infiltrating~~ enemy units infiltrated and cut Co L off from the re-

~~main body of the 3d Bn. Co L then moved forward at 1300 to attack the~~
~~enemy positions along the hill. Co L then moved forward at 1300 to attack the~~
~~enemy positions along the hill. Co L then moved forward at 1300 to attack the~~

mainder of the 3d Bn. At 1300, Co I sent a small patrol forward to contact the encircled Co L. The patrol of 10 men had to seek cover when enemy fire was directed upon them. Four of the men dove into an unoccupied but booby-trapped foxhole and were wounded. The remainder of Co I, supported by tanks and tank destroyers attacked but were stopped by ~~severe~~ severe enemy artillery fire from the pillboxes. The Company withdrew until 1630 when it attacked again and was again pinned down by enemy machine-gun fire. The assault company then withdrew and, this time, bypassed the enemy strong-points to make contact with Co L where both companies dug in on the hill.

The situation continued without change through 16 Feb 45. The Regimental CP established its outpost in the woods of the SIEGFRIED LINE.

During 17 Feb 45, the weather turned cloudy, wet and fog- which was not dispersed by the rain - enveloped the positions of CT 318 and that of the enemy. A field order was received by the Regiment providing for the resumption of the attack to the NE at 0600 the following day. Throughout the period, the 1st and 2d Bn remained in position on HILL 380 and in BIESDORF, respectively. The 3d Bn continued clearing the vicinity of HUEHENKOPF HILL and the general area S of KRUTCHEN. In the past few days the battalion of CT 318 had, with the support of tanks and tank destroyers, destroyed a considerable number of enemy artillery pieces and reduced innumerable pillboxes of the SIEGFRIED LINE. Cannon Co was in positions E of WALLENDORF by night fall.

Patrol
Action

On 18 Feb 45, at 0600, the 2d Bn jumped off through the cold rain from BIESDORF to attack N to the high ground (HILL 368) NW of KRUTCHEN. Cos E and G moved into the attack and, in doing so, passed a well camouflaged enemy position which opened fire on the rear of the assault companies. Cpl Schmorenberg (Co G) charged alone toward the enemy position through the enemy fire. Employing grenades and firing his rifle, he killed two of the enemy, wounded four and captured ten. The assault companies were then able to seize their objective by 0800.

The 3d Bn, operating to the right of the 2d Bn, attacked at 0600 from its positions SE of KRUTCHEN to seize the town against moderate resistance by 0830. From this point the 3d Bn, with a platoon of tanks and tank destroyers in support, attacked toward HOLLERDINGEN. The approach to HOLLERDINGEN (.75 mi N of KRUTCHEN) was over open, flat country and, at the beginning of the attack, a heavy fog afforded excellent concealment to the advancing infantry. Moving through the dense fog, the 3d Bn moved

ROAD 00009 Krutchen was mined
with 4 TANK @ 0830. Another Tank
lost at 1117 after 2400 SW 1230 electric
RIB (reptd at 1000) of 71000 AP-AT
mines for the line, feeding into
Reichsbach from S.
In mine Reptd at 1135 in Western area
House of NCSBauer & 16 BSM 1400
C&E AP 4114 at 1130. Then.

*Co C - when fog lifted
was caught in barrage fire
Direct Fire up to*

to within 400 yards of the objective when the fog suddenly lifted. In the open, without any visible concealment available, the assault forces were battered by heavy fire from enemy small arms, heavy weapons, mortar and artillery fire covering the southern approaches to the town. Unable to enter the outskirts of the town, from which heavy anti-tank fire was now being delivered, the battered 3d Bn - its casualties mounting - with ^{equipment lost} drew S into KRUTCHTEN and went into Regimental reserve positions in that area.

The 1st Bn, alerted, made preparations in its vicinity, to move into the assault on HOMERDINGEN. CT 318 spent the night developing its positions and preparing for renewal of the assault to the N. Co B 305 Med Bn closed in BEAUFORT during the night.

In the wee hours of 19 Feb 45, the 1st Bn attacked N toward HOMERDINGEN. Passing through the lines of the 3d Bn at KRUTCHTEN, the battalion moved N to approach HOMERDINGEN from the rear and reached the outskirts of the town by 0200. By 0300 the town was seized. Cos A and C went into position NW (1 mi) of the town just S of AUF HASSLICH ~~in the vicinity of~~ ~~HEM~~ and HUTTINGEN. Co B established a roadblock along the HOMERDINGEN-HUTTINGEN highway.

At 0425, the 2d Bn attacked N from its positions around BIESDORF to take the high ground parallel to the positions of the 1st Bn. Cos E and F developed the forward positions while Co G cleared the isolated pockets of enemy resistance formed by the advance from BIESDORF. By the close of the period, the mission had been accomplished and Co G entered the town of HOMERDINGEN as battalion reserve. The 3d Bn, in reserve in KRUTCHTEN, spent the day reorganizing and equipping in preparation for resuming the attack N. Cannon Co entered BIESDORF, Co B 305 Med Bn was in BEAUFORT, and the CP CT 318 was in the woods 2 mi S of BIESDORF.

*19 Feb
1043: 1st Bn "soldier" Mike & B
due to heavy fire from FREITINGEN
and ARMY K.C.'s 7 MED TANK &
75mm Assault Gun; 7 dep. U.S. TANK
e.g. RN H/TK's - 1100 Co Bpounded
Back into town due to direct fire*

*Co C sent patrol into woods
chased by RN out, 25 PW's*

In the cold rain of 20 Feb 45, CT continued its attack northward. The 1st Bn departed HOMERDINGEN vicinity at 0400 and moved NE with Cos A and C abreast, supported by Co D, and Co B trailing in reserve. The battalion advanced through the vicinity of NUSBAUM where Co B went into reserve positions for the day in the nearby woods. The advance of the assault companies then continued NE through FREILINGEN toward METTENDORF and the high ground SW of the town (HILL 369). While enroute, Cos A and C encountered strong enemy resistance from dug in enemy infantry supported by SP guns but, by the close of the period had seized the high ground of HILL 369 where defensive positions were developed for the night.

The 2d Bn, attacking N along the left flank of the 1st Bn, also encountered heavy enemy resistance and was forced to close in positions 0.25 mi N of HOMERDINGEN behind the positions of the 1st Bn. The 3d Bn had moved N from KRUTCHTEN to HOMERDINGEN earlier and had then attacked NW toward MUTTINGEN and the high ground in the vicinity of AUF HASSLICH (HILL 426). CT 318 elements were now in positions which dominated the town of METTENDORF, a key road center and the largest town in the area. The CP of CT 318, following the advance, closed in KRUTCHTEN for the night.

← Hasslich Hill

In the darkness of ^{EARLY} 21 Feb 45, at 0001, the battalions of CT 318 were deployed in a N to S line; the 1st Bn at the farthest N followed at 1000 yard intervals by the 2d and 3d Bns, in that order. At 0305 the 1st Bn attacked NE, its objective HASSLICH HILL 426 N to the long ridge dominating METTENDORF from the W. HASSLICH HILL, savagely defended, was infiltrated in the darkness and the battalion then continued N to the ridge which was secured by 0800. Co B, in reserve, went into position in FREILINGEN.

The 2nd Bn was passed through by the 3d Bn which attacked N along the Regimental left bypassing METTENDORF to the W and advancing N to a point just S of NIEDERHECKLER and HUBERT HILL (HILL 402?). By 0940, little

RE Mettendorf Slope (Hill 369) was pushed down moving NW toward Mettendorf. Co I pushed forward. Co B was attacking Mettendorf.

*31 Feb
Co A in pos (0738) did not
start fire on SW side were
pulling out of Mettendorf across
the river.*

opposition had been encountered and Co I dug in on HUNERT HILL. Late in the morning, elements of the 1st Bn reported a large number of enemy tanks and infantry to be withdrawing out of METTENDORF to the E.

Late in the evening the 2d Bn passed through the positions of the 3d Bn with the mission of advancing N to seize a bridge over the ENZ RIVER at SINSPELT (2 mi N of METTENDORF) just NE of NIEDERGECKLER. Having pulled abreast of the 3d Bn, the 2d Bn received a tank supported enemy counter-attack which was repulsed by our artillery fire. Attacking abreast, the 2d and 3d Bns encountered heavy opposition from elements of the 2d Panzer Grenadier Regiment, 2d Panzer Grenadier Division which had recently arrived from PRUM and was being contacted by CT 318 for the first time. The enemy employed its tanks as mobile pillboxes and the assault elements of the 2d and 3d Bns were only able to advance about a 1,000 yards in the face of the fierce enemy opposition. Both battalions consolidated their positions for the night. Cannon Co, having moved N from BLES DORF at 1345, closed into positions in the vicinity of FREILINGEN.

The weather broke clear and cool as CT 318 on 22 Feb 45 continued to consolidate its defensive positions W of METTENDORF (1st Bn) and N to NIEDERGECKLER and SINSPELT on the W bank of the ENZ RIVER (2d and 3d Bns). In the early morning hours Cos A ~~and E~~ attacked through the two main draws leading SW out of METTENDORF. Moving into the draw, the company encountered heavy enemy fire which delayed the lead platoon. Lt Santiago (Co A), not desiring to expose his men to the severe direct enemy fire, undertook the hazardous duty of securing armored vehicles to aid the attack. He dashed across the fire-swept open field only to be severely wounded in the leg. Enroute to the rear on an evacuation jeep, Lt Santiago died. Pvt Berkowitz (Co A), having assumed command of a machine-gun when the gunner had been wounded, remained in position on the forward slope of a hill

ENZ River 12 miles NW
of Mettendorf
deep draw
draws leading SW

AC elements
1st Bn 54 Mettendorf by 0130
draws leading SW
draws leading SW

giving supporting fire to his company from a exposed position until he was wounded by enemy fire. Sgt Anderson (Co A) continually exposed himself to the enemy fire in an effort to move his platoon, composed mainly of new reinforcements, forward toward the objective. Realizing experienced leaders were needed, an "instant on-the-job" training was begun as Sgt Anderson led a selected group of the men in an assault on a well fortified enemy position and captured nine of the enemy. Throughout the day, Sgt Anderson moved through the heavy fire positioning his men and leading them forward. By nightfall, both draws were cleared of the enemy and Co A outposted the high ground between them for the night. The remainder of the battalion continued to occupy their former positions on METTENDORF RIDGE.

Co E elements were in N of Mettendorf.
Major due to 1st Co. was shot & killed.
Heavy fire (2330) of 8th Co. killed 1st Co.

/ and 3d
During the day the 2d Bn attacked N up NATZEN CREEK VALLEY, but the enemy panzer units continued to fiercely defend the area. Late in the day, both battalions were withdrawn 1000 yards S of the severely contested ground to make way for the US 4th Armored Division passing across the Regimental front. The armored unit was assigned the mission of establishing a bridgehead across the ENZ RIVER. While awaiting the results of the advance of the 4th Armored Division, the 2d and 3d Bns turned to clearing the last elements of enemy resistance from their vicinity. Isolated enemy pockets were eliminated along the route of advance. Sgt Monahan (Co F), as his company encountered intensive enemy fire, dashed 300 yards across the terrain and then crawled to within 75 yards of the enemy. At this point he jumped to his feet and, firing his rifle, charged the enemy position. In the melee, with rifle fire and grenades, Sgt Monahan killed a number of the enemy and captured 20, including one officer. Positions were then dug in for the night of 22-23 Feb 45.

Under fair skies of 23 Feb 45, CT 313 continued in its previous positions

as the 4th Armored Division overcame enemy resistance at the GEICHLINGEN-NIEDERGECKLER crossroads and the METTENDORF-OBERGECKLER junction. The armor seized the vicinity of NIEDERGECKLER and the bridge over the ENZ RIVER was taken intact. The 1st Bn remained in position NW of METTENDORF, the 2d Bn and 3d Bn S of NIEDERGECKLER and 600 yards N of LAHR.

On 24 Feb 45, the weather became warm, the skies cleared and visibility was good. The 1st Bn, leaving Co C in position NW of METTENDORF, was relieved by CT 317 and moved SW to the assembly area of HUTTINGEN where it was joined by Co C (CO: Lt Brown) late in the afternoon. The 2d and 3d Bns were engaged most of the day in clearing all remaining enemy from the area between SINSPLT and METTENDORF along the W bank of the ENZ RIVER. Cannon Co joined the Regimental CP and Co B 305 Med Bn in HUTTINGEN by 1300. By nightfall, with Co H to the W in LAHR with the battalion CP, the 2d Bn had established Cos E, F and G on outposts from LAHR E to the ENZ RIVER above METTENDORF. The 3d Bn entered positions NE of LAHR to a point NE of SINSPLT.

During the early morning hours of 25 Feb 45, CT 317 entered METTENDORF and began clearing the enemy from the northern portion of the town. Later in the day, CT 317 was relieved by the 2d Bn of CT 313. The 1st Bn (CO: Capt Faribault) moved from HUTTINGEN late in the evening to relieve the 3d Bn (CT 313) in positions NW of METTENDORF. The 3d Bn, in turn, relieved the 2d Bn (CT 313) in METTENDORF and the latter moved to the vicinity of HILL 381 NW of LAHR as Regimental reserve.

Throughout the remainder of the month CT 313 held its positions. While the men showered, trained and relaxed, the Regiment made preparations for movement to the E. Newly arrived reinforcements were distributed among the depleted battalions. The weather, except for the rain of 27 Feb 45, continued fair and warm. For the month of February, 1945, CT 313 had taken a total of 1,120 prisoners. - 18 -

