

MARCH 1945

*March 1945*

Cold rain swept the positions of CT 318 on 1 Mar 45 as the regiment remained in Division Reserve. Regt Hqs and Hqs Co were situated in HUTTINGEN. The Regt Trains ~~were~~ in KRUCHTEN. The 1st Bn CP, also located in HUTTINGEN, had its line companies in defensive positions NW of METTENDORF alongside elements of the 3d Bn located in METTENDORF and vicinity. The 2d Bn occupied defensive positions near HILL 381 N of LAHR. Cannon Co was located 0.5 miles E of the town of BIESDORF. Co B, 305 Med Bn, was situated in KRUCHTEN. Assembled in these areas CT 318 made preparations to move to a new area under the control of the US 76th Infantry Division. Orders for the move were received at 1030 1 Mar 45, from CG, XII Corps.

At 1515, the 1st Bn moved by foot from its positions NW of METTENDORF to HUTTINGEN b. LAHR where it entrucked and moved 25 miles SE to IDESHEIM via KRUCHTEN, BOLLENDORF and ECTERNACHTERBRUCK, arriving at its destination at 1900. The battalion then moved 2 miles S to close at 2315 in positions in WELSCHBILLIG. In this vicinity the battalion made preparations to relieve the 417th Infantry (US 76th Infantry Division) in the vicinity of NEWEL. The 2d Bn closed in IDESHEIM and outposted the town to the N. The 3d Bn had de-trucked at ITTEL-KYLL where it outposted the high ground to the SE and occupied the town itself. The three battalions were now situated in an inverted triangle of positions, the 1st Bn was farthest S at the apex and the 2nd and 3d Bns were situated at the W and E leg of the base, respectively. The Regimental CP opened in IDESHEIM at 2120. Cannon Co was with the 1st Bn in WELSCHBILLIG and Co B, 305th Med Bn remained in KRUCHTEN until early morning of 2 Mar 45.

In the zone of the US 76th Division elements of the German 2d Panzer Division, the 560th and 212th Volks Grenadier Divisions occupied defensive positions with the primary mission of rear-guard action. Isolated strongpoints consisted

MARCH 1945

chiefly of well armed roadblocks. The enemy positions extended along the E bank of the MOSELLE, KYLL and SAUER RIVERS. Moderate enemy artillery was received from direct fire of 88mm guns located E of KORDEL (3 miles SE of WELSCHBILLIG).

*At 0500, 2 Mar 45, the 1st Bn - in operation with the 76th Infantry & struck S from the town of WELSCHBILLIG toward NEWEL. Co A (CO: Capt Goerke) was temporarily delayed by a heavy concentration of enemy mortar fire in the vicinity of HILL 392. The company CO exposed himself to the enemy mortar fire, urging each man to move onward to the objective. At the company entered NEWEL another enemy mortar concentration was registered among the company and which mortally <sup>INJURED</sup> ~~wounded~~ the commander. <sup>at 1400</sup> Despite the enemy resistance the men moved on to seize the town and then continued the attack until the <sup>ne</sup> high ground beyond was secured. Cos B and C continued the attack toward the high ground SE of AACH, at 0615, moving from the high ground S of NEWEL to secure the objective. The companies then moved on to the high ground NW of TRIER by 1530. <sup>(in Pfalzeler Wald)</sup> One platoon of Co C became lost and, with radio contact impossible, Pfc Spada <sup>C.O.</sup> (Pa) voluntarily made his way over 500 yards of enemy territory through heavy mortar fire to rally the platoon and return them to the company. The high ground which the battalion seized during the period had been unsuccessfully assaulted by elements of the 76th Infantry during the last two days. The action resulted in the capture of 152 prisoners by the 1st Bn. During the day the 2d Bn remained in the vicinity of IDESHEIM with its line companies in position 1 mile N of the town. The 3d Bn retained Cos K, L and M in ITTEL KYLL while Co I was positioned on outpost at HOFWEILER (1.5 mi E of ITTEL-KYLL). Earlier in the day, at 1300, CT 318 (-1st Bn) was relieved of attachment to the 76th Infantry but had remained in position awaiting orders for movement to Corps Reserve vicinity of STEINFORT. Cannon Co remained in its former positions in and around WELSCHBILLIG. Co B, 305 Med Bn, was located in KRUTCHTEN to the N.*

In the morning of 3 Mar 45, CT 318 received orders directing the Regiment to move N to relieve CCB of the 4th Armd Division between the NIM and KYLL RIVERS. At 1300 CT 318

(1st Bn) began its move N along Route 51 to BITBURG, then N via RITTERSDORF to the town of BICKENDORF where the Regimental CP was opened at 1500. Cannon Co closed in the area shortly afterward. Co B 305 Med Bn was to remain in KRUTCHIEN until the following day. At 1330 the 1st Bn was relieved from attachment to the 76th Infantry and moved by foot from the high ground N and NE of TRIER via AACH to concentrate in NEWEL. At 1900 the Bn entrucked at NEWEL and began its 17 mile northward trek along the Regimental route to arrive in reserve positions in SEFFERN (4 mi N of BICKENDORF) by 2345. The 2d and 3d Bn made preparations to relieve the armor of CCB, 4th Armd Division. Late in the evening the 2d Bn moved 3 miles N to secure SEFFERWEICH while the 3d Bn moved NE 3 miles to close in MALBERGWEICH. At 2100 CT 318 was reinforced by elements of the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop and was assigned a multipurpose mission of (1) clearing the enemy from the area between the NIMS and KYLL RIVERS N to the VIII Corps boundary, (2) to block all roads into the XII Corps zone from the N between the rivers, (3) to protect the Divisional N (left) flank and (4), to reconnoiter for crossings over the KYLL RIVER between DENSBOHN (6 mi N of KYLLBURG) and KYLLBURG. The 80th Recon Troops were assigned to patrol the W bank of the KYLL RIVER between MALBERGWEICH and IRSCH (2 mi NE of BITBURG). CT 318 was also to maintain contact on the N and S flank with the US 90th and 5th Infantry Divisions, respectively.

*cast, mi km*  
By 0015 4 Mar 45, CT 318 had completed the relief of the armored units in their area. Throughout the cold, rainy day the 1st Bn remained in billets in SEFFERN. Reconnaissance was begun to the N to establish enemy positions preparatory to reducing them. At 1300 the 2d and 3d Bn (reinforced) attacked N in a sector extending from the town of NEIDENBACH (3 mi NE of SEFFERN) SE to the KYLL RIVER, thence S along the E edge of the river. *1 K & L RECON, ARTY FIRE (DIRECT)*  
Enemy resistance consisted chiefly of roadblocks, abatis, antipersonnel and anti-tank mines. Although the KYLL RIVER had been ordered held at all costs, enemy resistance was scattered and there was evidence of enemy withdrawal E of the river. At the end of the attack the towns of MALBERG (SE of MALBERGWEICH) and NEIDENBACH had been cleared. The <sup>C & G</sup> 2d and 3d Bns now occupied the W bank of the KYLL RIVER between the two towns. The 2d

with its CP in SEFFERWEICH sent strong patrols E and NE. Cos E and G established outposts along the periphery of the town and in the woods. Co F, in reserve, sent three combat patrols to outpost the high ground W of NEIDENBACH (HILL 500). Co H remained in support of the Bn CP until late in the evening when it sent one heavy machinegun platoon each to Cos E and G on outpost. The 3d Bn sent strong patrols to the N to seize KYLLBURG against little opposition. With the 3d Bn CP in MALBERGWEICH, Co I moved NE to seize the high ground (HILL 478?) under heavy enemy artillery fire. Co K on the right of Co I secured the SE flank of the high ground and a small area to the S. Co L remained in MALBERGWEICH with the headquarters elements and Co M (-2 platoons). Co M sent one heavy machine-gun platoon to each of the rifle companies in the vicinity of HILL 478. Co K, after securing its first objective, sent two platoons to outpost MALBERG and the remainder moved S to clear the peninsula S of the town along the KYLL RIVER. Late in the evening the 1st Bn sent Co C to outpost the high ground NE of SEFFERN (vicinity HILL 470 and 498?). Before the close of the period, Cannon Co moved from its previous positions through SEFFERWEICH to secure the high ground around HILL 475 (0.5 miles NE). Co B 305 Med Bn moved from KRUTCHTEN NE (9 miles) to close in WISSMANNSDORF (4 miles WNW of BITBURG). Positions were secured in the vicinity for the night.

See  
Map  
5409

On 5 Mar 45 CT 318 continued to mop up the last remnants of enemy opposition along the W bank of the KYLL RIVER. The 1st Bn remained in its positions in SEFFERN. At 1900, Co A was sent to relieve Co C and the latter closed in billets in SEFFERN. The 2d Bn cleared its sector N to the VIII Corps boundary and E to the KYLL RIVER. The 3d Bn cleared its sector S to the Regimental boundary and E to the river. In its mop-up CT 318 had seized USCH and ST THOMAS (5 miles NE and 4.5 miles E of SEFFERN, respectively). The 80th Recon Troop had secured its outposts along the high ground W of the KYLL RIVER (HILL 362 and EITELDORF, S of MALBERG) between MALBERGWEICH and ERDORF (3 miles NE of BITBURG) and maintained contact with the US 5th Infantry Division. By 0730 the 4th Armored Division had launched an attack E across the 5th Infantry Division KYLL RIVER bridgehead and pushed back the enemy line on the E bank. CT 318 was sent to follow in the wake of the armor but lost contact with the enemy which had withdrawn. Only 38 prisoners were taken

-4-

during the days action. The 1st Bn remained in SEFFERN for the night. Late in the day the 2d Bn, with its CP in now in NEIDENBACH, Co E was sent to secure the high ground (HILL 537) <sup>Hmesent as support</sup> E of ERNTEHOF (1.5 miles NE of NEIDENBACH) above NEIDENBACHER WALD. Co F entered reserve positions in SEFFERWEICH to the SE while Cos G and H remained in NEIDENBACH. The 3d Bn held MALBERG and KYLLBURG to the SE. Co I moved NE to secure MOHRWEILER and then sent two platoons NE (1 mile) to clear ST THOMAS. Co K remained in MALBERGWEICH, Co L in MALBURG, and Co M closed in MALBERGWEICH late in the day. Cannon Co and Co B 305 Med Bn retained their previous positions.

During the period of <sup>light rain cleared - 7th light rain w/ snow</sup> 6-10 Mar 45 CT 318 continued to outpost and strengthen its positions which extended from SEFFERN E to the KYLL RIVER and S from the river line across the river to include KYLLBURG. The 1st Bn remained in position in SEFFERN through 10 Mar 45. The 2d Bn rotated roadblock duties within the battalion as the rifle companies gradually began to concentrate in the vicinity of NEIDENBACH. The 3d Bn made minor changes in defensive positions established in the MALBERG-KYLLBURG vicinity. <sup>Co I moved to SEFFERN to clear mines</sup> On 7 Mar 45 Co I of the 3d Bn left MOHRWEILER enroute to KYLLBURG, clearing mines enroute. Cannon Co moved from SEFFERWEICH to join the 2d Bn in NEIDENBACH. Co B 305 Med Bn remained in WISSMANNSDORF. During this period all battalions carried out training and reorganization. Motorized security patrols maintained contact with adjacent units. At 2030 9 Mar 45 CT 318 was alerted for movement the following day. At 1630, Co B 305 Med Bn moved from its previous positions via ESSLINGEN to KYLLBURG. The weather during the period was relatively fair but cloudy. Due to the dry weather the roads and terrain began to dry out. <sup>Dis. AF IN WOOD - pg 741</sup>

<sup>meets & light showers - vis fair</sup> At 1100, 10 Mar 45, the 80th Division was relieved from the control of the XII Corps and attached to the XX Corps. The weather continued clear as CT 318 made preparations for the divisional movement S to the vicinity of MONDORF-LES-BAINS (E of the MOSELLE RIVER on the LUXEMBOURG-FRANCE border). Throughout the day CT 318 remained on alert status and its units began to concentrate in the vicinity of BICKENDORF. <sup>over 1000 barrels of 8th AF Fuel at KASSEL on 9 Mar 45</sup>

At 0130 11 Mar 45, orders were received to remove all unit designations from clothing and vehicles. At 0330 CT 318 began its move S to MONDORF. The Regimental CP departed the area

of BICKENDORF at 0350 and moved S 5 1/4 miles along Route 51 through BITBURG, then SE on Route 257 through ECTERNAETERBRUCH and, finally, S to the assembly area. CT 318 CP was established at 1000 in ELLANGE, LUXEMBOURG (1.5 miles NNE of MONDORF). The 1st Bn arrived in WELLENSTEIN (2 miles SW of REMICH). Co C moved from WELLENSTEIN to secure REMICH. The 2d Bn detrucked in <sup>near KLEINMACHER</sup> KLEINMACHER on the MOSELLE RIVER (Between WELLENSTEIN and REMICH). The 3d Bn closed in the vicinity of WINTRANGE-SCHWEBESANGE on the MOSELLE and went into positions a mile S of the 1st Bn. Cannon Co, having arrived in ELLANGE, moved NE 2 miles to take up positions in the village of WELFRANGE. Co B 305 Med Bn closed one mile S of the Regimental CP and in the village of ELVANGE LES BURMERANGE. Having closed in the assembly area by 1300, CT 318 began preparations for a forthcoming attack to the E through elements of the US 94th and 26th Infantry Divisions. Awaiting departure orders the Regiment performed maintenance of its equipment and participated in personnel rehabilitation.

At 0630 12 Mar 45, in fair weather, the 80th Infantry Division began movement to forward assembly area. Divisional elements received orders as to the disposition of their troops, movement to forward areas, communications and air-craft identification methods. CT 318 CP elements departed ELLANGE, LUXEMBOURG, and moved NE via REMICH and SAARBURG crossing the MOSELLE and SARRE RIVERS. Movement continued SE through BEURIG to close in IRSCH (2 miles E of SAARBURG) by 1120. At 0700 the 1st Bn had departed the vicinity of WELLENSTEIN by motor to move along the Regimental route to <sup>Am Saar</sup> BEURIG where the battalion detrucked. ~~The battalion~~<sup>and</sup> then moved E by foot to IRSCH, ~~where~~ Cos A, B and C moved E to secure the high ground of HILLS 443, 454 and 424. <sup>6 d 11 200</sup> Co D remained with the Bn CP in IRSCH. The 2d Bn, having arrived in IRSCH, retained Cos G and H in the town and moved Cos E and F to the high ground 1 mile NW (HILL 258?) to dig in. The 3d Bn moved through IRSCH and took up defensive positions to the <sup>NE</sup> of the town along the ~~W~~ edge of the IRSCH-ZERF highway. Co K, supported by Co M, went into position 3 miles <sup>NE</sup> of IRSCH in the vicinity of the woods <sup>near DUNLEY NOTE</sup> KUMMERWALD (W of BALDRINGEN AND FROMMERSBACH). <sup>CANNON CO</sup> Positions were then consolidated for the night in preparation for the advance E towards ZERF. At 2300 the 1st and 3d Bns moved from their positions E of IRSCH to reach the LOD by 0300 the following morning.

By 0300 13 Mar 45, the assaulting 1st and 3d Bns jumped off from the LOD in a surprise  
 attach intended to clear the enemy from the sector W of the RHINE RIVER. Similar attacks  
 were being carried out by the US 94th and 26 Infantry Divisions, the sum total of the  
 forward movement was to clear the enemy from the triangle formed on the N by the MOSELLE  
 RIVER, on the E by the RHINE RIVER and S and W by the SAAR RIVER - the last remaining  
 enemy holdings W of the RHINE RIVER. The mission of the 80th Division was to clear the  
 large wooded area between NIEDERZERF and WEISKIRCHEN to the E, thus enabling the US 10th  
 Armored Division to break through and conquer the SAAR-PALATINATE. [Moving swiftly E, with  
 the 2d Bn in reserve positions, the 1st and 3d Bns struck toward the high ground E of  
 OBER ZERF. The contested ground was covered with the dense, dark and thickly wooded area  
 of the FORET DE WADERN, FORET DE NOIRE and FORET DE ZERF. Enemy elements engaged in the  
 defense of the area belonged to the German 2d Mountain Division and the 67th Reconnaissance  
 Battalion. The 2d Mountain Division, while having sustained severe losses in the COLMAR  
 POCKET, was estimated to have a effective combat strength of 3,000 men, including re-  
 inforcements; its troops had high morale, good uniforms and equipment, and better leader-  
 ship. In addition, the division was supported by the 111th Mountain Artillery Regiment  
 (at approximately half strength in weapons), and the 84th Nebelwerfer Regiment of the  
 7th Nebelwerfer Brigade.

Initially the assaulting 1st and 3d Bns, supported by one platoon each of Co B 702 Tank  
 Bn and Co B 811 Tank Destroyer Bn per assaulting battalion, progressed rapidly. But, as  
 the enemy took up the slack and fell into defensive depth, the attack slowed considerably.  
 In addition to small arms fire and mortar concentration, the enemy employed heavy fire  
 from its artillery and nebelwerfer support elements. The towns of OBER ZERF and NIEDER-  
 ZERF suffered particularly heavy artillery fire as forward elements of CT 318 approached.  
 The 1st Bn attacking ESE assaulted ZERF and NIEDERZERF. Co A at 0800 had swung ESE along  
 the ZERF-WEISKIRCHEN highway to assault HILL 521 E of ZERF overlooking the torturous  
 southward bend of the highway which ran along the S edge of ~~the~~ HILL 521. Meeting heavy  
 opposition in the contest for this valuable ground the company was dispersed by enemy  
 small arms and artillery fire. Sgt Cooper (Ill.) charged through the enemy fire to re-

organize the battered remnants of the company which, on reforming ranks, <sup>14 Mar 45</sup> ~~changed~~ forward to seize the objective. Obtaining the heights the company dug in and strengthened its positions. Cos B and C spent <sup>S/A MTR & MTR five</sup> a good part of the day clearing the area in and around the towns of OBER ZERF and NIEDER ZERF. The 2d Bn in Regimental reserve moved along the left flank of the 1st Bn to clear the woods HECKLEBUSCH which lay E of ZERF. By 1945 elements of the battalion had cleared HECKLEBUSCH and had moved through BOIS DE MANDERN N of HILL 521. Enemy counterattacks in the vicinity attempted to over-run the battalion CP. Pfc Hirst (Hq Co, 2d Bn) opened fire killing six enemy attackers with the result that the attack was broken up. Cos E and F moved into ZERF as Regimental Reserve. Co G moved to clear the woods <sup>holding S/A & MG</sup> NW of ZERF and later <sup>(1045)</sup> in the day moved back to ZERF. Co H remained in the vicinity of IRSCH. The 3d Bn, moving N along the Regimental left flank at 0745 with Cos K and L abreast (Co M in support) drove into BALDRINGEN (2 miles N of ZERF). Co I struck <sup>ENEMY TANK 200 YDS E of K</sup> SE toward FROMMERSBACH (0.5 miles E of ZERF) which was secured by noon. Cos K and L then moved SE through the positions of Co I to secure the high ground SE of FROMMERSBACH in the BOIS DE MANDERN (2 miles SE). Co M remained behind to outpost the town of BALDRINGEN. The positions of the assault battalions were secured defensively in the woods and ~~on~~ the high ground in the vicinity. The variable terrain and thickly wooded areas afforded the enemy excellent opportunities for deception, deployment, infiltration and counter-attack. By the close of the period the 1st Bn had secured the vicinity of ZERF SE to HILL 521. The 2d Bn at the same time had reached the center of the woods BOIS DE MANDERN and was astride the single good road through the forest. The 3d Bn had secured BALDRINGEN and FROMMERSBACH and was in position 2 miles to the SE of the latter town. Cannon Co established positions behind the 3d Bn approximately 2 miles NE of IRSCH. Co B 305 Med Bn was still in ELVANGE, LUXEMBOURG. By the days end, CT 318 had taken more than 290 prisoners some of which had participated in a counterattack against the 2nd Bn positions in an attempt to retake the HILL WILHEIMSKOPF (W of BALDRINGEN) but lost 21 men of the 65 attacking.

On 14 Mar 45, CT 318 established its CP in NIEDER ZERF. The 1st Bn continued to clear the dense W section of the woods surrounding its positions (HILL 521) 2 miles SE of NIEDER ZERF. Clearing this area, <sup>from S/A MTR & MG</sup> the Bn then moved E to clear the main road. Heavy fire from



*Bn went with 5 to cut road.*

enemy automatic weapons, small arms and assault guns <sup>4</sup> was encountered and the Bn closed in defensive positions around and on HILL 659 overlooking the ZERF-WEISKIRCHEN highway from the N. Meanwhile the 2d Bn made rapid advances toward WEISKIRCHEN S of the road to SCHEIDEN. By the close of the period elements of the battalion were in position E and N of SCHEIDEN. <sup>800m in distance</sup> Cos E, F and G were in defensive positions on the high ground (vicinity HILL 610) in the woods BORET DE ZERF one mile N of SCHEIDEN. Co H had moved one mile E of the town to positions W of WALDHOLZBACH. <sup>SEC 159 Co K was in position</sup> The 3d Bn consolidated its positions with its elements 2 miles SE of the BALDRINGEN-FROMMERSBACH vicinity. During the evening Co I was isolated by enemy infiltration but managed to hold its position although supplies and ammunition were dwindling. The Co moved slowly forward to secure the highground in the E edge of BOIS DE MANDERN (vicinity HILL 527?) N of HILL 659. A supply party was sent forward to contact the company but was ambushed and had to withdraw. At the close of the period all elements of CT 318 were strengthening their positions. Cannon Co and Co B 305 Med Bn remained in their former positions. The Regiment received fire support from the 314th FA Bn, Co B 811 Tank Destroyer Bn and Co B 702 Tank Bn throughout the night.

*2 Bns (300-400 men) of 6 SS MP Div entered Weiskirchen at 1500 then moved toward WALDHOLZBACH then to Scheiden & into woods*

During the days action additional units of the enemy 2d Mountain Division were encountered as counterattacks were successively throughout the day. The most vicious counter-thrust was made by elements of the 137th Mountain Infantry Regiment <sup>50 men from 5th Co 5 reg</sup> which was supported by four assault guns, four tanks, several 75mm anti-tank guns and mortar sections. The mission was to recapture the strategic highground along the ZERF-WEISKIRCHEN highway (HILLS 659 and 521 N of the road, and HILL 647 to the S). Also identified in the attack was the enemy 55th Anti-tank Bn of the 2nd Mountain Division. By evening of the day CT 318 had captured 356 prisoners, numerous top secret documents, and destroyed a large amount of enemy equipment. The enemy 136th Mountain Infantry Regiment had almost suffered total liquidation and the German 67th Reconnaissance Bn was almost wiped out.

On 15 Mar 45, the 1st Bn in the center of the Regimental zone cleared the main supply route along the ZERF-WEISKIRCHEN highway and the adjacent woods. Road blocks were

*Memorandum 0100*

established on all roads and trails coming out of the woods in this area and the battalion began to concentrate its elements on and around HILL 659 (SE of HILL 521) astride the highway. Late in the evening the enemy was reported to be working between the 1st and 2nd Bns along the S edge of the highway. Co B moved forward to support Cos A and C already in that vicinity. The 2d Bn sent Co E across the highway to clear the woods FORET DE WADERN lying N of WEISKIRCHEN as the remainder of the battalion advanced on the town of WEISKIRCHEN. The 2d Bn, with elements of the 3d Bn in support, drove into the S edge of WEISKIRCHEN against heavy enemy fire directed upon them by the German 2d Bn of the 12th SS Mountain Regiment, 6th SS Mountain Division. Heavily engaged, the 2d Bn managed to repulse one strong enemy counterattack. During the night hostile troops infiltrated through the positions of the 2d Bn and established a roadblock which cut the battalion's long supply and communications line. Sgt Clark (W. Va.) and Pfc Jones (La) of Hqs 2d Bn made eight trips through enemy lines during the night in an attempt to lay wire and maintain communications. They were fired upon but managed to evacuate two seriously wounded comrades on their first trip. On the second trip they captured 38 Germans. In the town the battalion assault companies attempted to push NE toward the town's center. Fierce house-to-house fighting continued during the night. In the late night of the period the 3d Bn continued to drive E in an effort to reopen the supply route to WEISKIRCHEN. During the evening Cannon Co moved to a position 0.5 miles E of OBER ZERF and Co B 305 Med Bn closed in IRSCH.

The assault battalions continued to engage the enemy in the vicinity of WEISKIRCHEN through the early morning hours of 16 Mar 45. The 1st Bn secured its positions around HILL 659. The 2d Bn engaged the enemy in viscious fighting in WEISKIRCHEN while the 3d Bn moved toward the town from the W and SW in an attempt to reopen the supply route. The 2d Bn by early morning had penetrated to the center of the town but was still encountering heavy enemy opposition. During the day Lt Simmons (Pa) Hqs 2d Bn had crawled over 300 yards under heavy fire to assist in the evacuation of the wounded to safety and reorganized his men to move forward despite the ~~fire~~ fierce enemy fire, a move which killed 20 of the enemy and captured 15 others in a position which severely harrassed the advance. T/4 Truax (Ohio) ~~spunk~~ Co B 305 Med Bn, spent a good part of the day dashing through fire swept streets

← *Platoon sent to Blue at base at Weiskirchen*  
to direct the evacuation of the wounded in spite of ~~a~~ having sustained a severe wound earlier in the day. By late morning the 3d Bn had swept through the enemy opposition and reopened the supply route to the 2d Bn. The 3d Bn then move into WEISKIRCHEN from the S to join the 2d Bn which had secured two-thirds of the town and was fighting bitterly for the remainder against <sup>infantry (6)</sup> ~~the~~ elements of the German 6th SS Mountain Division. The heavy fire fight was to continue through the night and early morning of the following day.

<sup>/17 Mar 45</sup>  
By 0800 the 1st Bn had secured its former positions around HILL 659. The battalion was then attached to the US 10th Armored Division (CCA). With the rifle companies mounted on armored cars and tanks the column swiftly moved from the entrucking vicinity 1 mile N of ZWALBACH (SW of WEISKIRCHEN) along the highway through WEISKIRCHEN and RAPPWEILER to the woods FORET DE WADERN in the FRIEDWALD. Detrucking at this point the 1st Bn (- Co A) moved by foot into WADERN (2 miles E) to close in the town by 1500. Co A motored to the village of STEINBERG (2.5 NE of WEISKIRCHEN) and, after clearing the town, the company moved SE (3 miles) through MORSCHOLZ to close in WADERN by 1630. Throughout the early morning hours the 2d and 3d Bn continued to fight for possession of WEISKIRCHEN which was finally secured by 0800. Both battalions remained in the town to clear the last remnants of enemy opposition from the fringes of the town and the surrounding vicinity. CT 318 moved its CP to WEISKIRCHEN by 1320. Cannon Co remained in HIRSCHFELDENHOF and Co B 305 Med Bn moved from the vicinity of IRSCH to close in CONFELD (1 mile E of WEISKIRCHEN).

On 18 Mar 45, while attached to CCA, 10th Armored Division, the 1st Bn motored at 1300 from WADERN E via DAGSTUHL, LOCKWEILER, KRETTNICH and MUHLFELD to close in METTNICH (0.5 mile N of PRIMSTAL) by 1530. Cos A, B and C then moved 1 mile N of the town to assemble in the vicinity of STEINBACHSWALD while Co D continued N to KASTEL. The Bn was now N of PRIMSTAL on a line along the E bank of the PRIM RIVER. Ct 318 (-1st Bn) was bivouracked in WEISKIRCHEN. The 2d Bn, with one platoon of Co B 811 Tank Destroyer Bn in support, was placed in Divisional reserve in the town. Co F, which had earlier in the day moved to CONFELD, returned to WEISKIRCHEN to close in the town by 2128. At

0930 the 3d Bn had been attached to CCB, 10th Armd Division and moved 6 miles NE through the positions of the 1st Bn to seize SOTERN (E of SCHWARTZENBACH). The 1st Bn, at 1900, moved from its assembly positions N of METTNICH S to PRIMSTAL and then 10 miles SE to WINTERBACH where the unit closed by 2330. Preparations were then made by the battalion for the coming attack on ST WENDEL (4 miles E). Cannon Co moved from HIRSCHFELDENHOF (S of HILL 521 on the ZERF-WEISKIRCHEN HIGHWAY) to WEISKIRCHEN. Co B 305 Med Bn remained in CONFELD. *Jeep was sent down to see town being destroyed to get R/B down or else*

*11 P-163*  
On 19 Mar 45, at 0100, the 1st Bn crossed the LOD <sup>on part</sup> to attack ST WENDEL where the battalion encountered little enemy resistance and the town was secured by 0430~~00~~. Cos A, C and D outposted ST WENDEL to the N, E and S. Co B was sent SE to outpost the high ground in the vicinity of HILL 422 <sup>2</sup> (S of WERSCHWEILER). At 1600 the battalion then moved by motor SE from ST WENDEL to join Co B at the latter's position. At 1730 Co A <sup>C</sup> attacked S from the <sup>6500</sup> battalion position to seize and clear the town of DORRENBACH (1 mile S) by 1800 after which the company returned to the vicinity of WERSCHWEILER. At 1930 the 1st Bn entrucked to move E 15 miles via FROHNHOFEN and ALTENKIRCHEN to close for the night at 2330 in the town of BRUCKEN (PFALZ). The 2d Bn with the CP of CT 318 moved E 20 miles from WEISKIRCHEN to OBERTHAL via SELBACH and GRONIG. On arrival the 2d Bn received orders to take over the mission of the 3d Bn. The 3d Bn, with CCB 10th Armd Division, fanned its rifle companies E from SOTERN. Co I moved 8 miles <sup>238</sup> ~~332~~ to RUCKWEILER, Co K 4 miles E to seize the high ground at NOHFELDEN, and Co L moved 11 miles SE to HAUPERSWEILER. One platoon of heavy machine guns and an 80mm mortar platoon of Co M was sent into RUCKWEILER as support for Co I. The 3d Bn CP, with the remainder of Co M as support and security, moved 10 miles SE to OBERKIRCHEN (N of Co L). Further penetration was made by the battalion which took KUSEL with the aid of the armored elements. Cannon Co departed its former positions and closed for the day in ALSWEILER (1.5 miles W of WINTERBACH). *Co B 305 Med Bn*

*11 P-163-146*  
On 20 Mar 45 the 1st Bn - attached to CCA 10th Armd Division - departed BRUCKEN at 0900 and, passing through the outskirts of KAISERSLAUTERN to the S, moved 35 miles E from BRUCKEN to HOCHSPEYER on Route 37 by 1500. The battalion sent strong combat patrols to clear the woods

NE of the town (N to HILL 339) in the vicinity of FISCHBACH. By 1600 the battalion had cleared the vicinity and ~~then~~ Cos A and B turned ESE to clear the woods HOCHSPEYERBACH <sup>E</sup> W of FRANKENSTEIN and S of Route 37. <sup>C cleared Hochspeyer</sup> Elements of the battalion meanwhile continued with the armor to a point 7 miles W of LUDWIGSHOFEN in the vicinity of OGGERSHEIM. Returning to the vicinity of FRANKENSTEIN, Cos A and C boarded tanks of CCA and rode SE along Route 39 for 9 miles to close in LAMBRECHT by 2000. The town lay along the route to NEUSTADT and was surrounded by the heavy forest PFALZER WALD lying both N and S of Route 39. <sup>B continued on at 2400 toward NEUSTADT</sup> Cos B and D elements remained with the 1st Bn CP now established in HOCHSPEYER. The 2d Bn moved from OBERTHAL to ST WENDEL where it mopped up enemy elements in the wake of the armored thrust to the E. Co E was given the mission of guarding a captured hospital and prisoners. The 3d Bn, which accompanied the armor of CCB in its drive toward the vicinity of LUDWIGSHOFEN, returned to KAISERSLAUTERN. The Regimental CP moved 22 miles E from OBERTHAL to close for the day in KAISERSLAUTERN. Cannon Co moved from ALSWEILER <sup>snipers in OBERKIRCHEN TC</sup> via ST WENDEL to close in NIEDERKIRCHEN (12 miles E of ST WENDEL). Co B 305 Med Bn moved from OBERTHAL via MUNCHWEILER to KAISERSLAUTERN.

On 21 Mar 45 <sup>←</sup> the 1st and 3d Bns of CT 318 remained attached to CCA and CCB 10th Armd Division, respectively. ~~Regimental headquarters of CT 318 moved 23 miles to BAD DÜRKHEIM~~ and the 80th Recon Troop continued to screen the S flank of the Division disrupting enemy supply lines in that sector. At 0330 the 1st Bn moved E along Route 37 to FRANKENSTEIN and then swung SE along Route 39 via WEIDENTHAL and NEIDENFELS to pass through the positions of Cos A and C previously established in LAMBRECHT. Leaving Co D in defensive reserve positions at LAMBRECHT, the 1st Bn (-Co D) moved SE along the route to assault NEUSTADT (2 miles SE of LAMBRECHT) which lay on the SE tip of the PFALZ WALD above Route 39. <sup>CAB</sup> The assaulting companies encountered heavy enemy mortar fire and sniper action. Co A became dispersed and Pfc Johnson <sup>C.I.B.</sup> (Ill) voluntarily dashed from house to house through mortar and sniper fire to contact the platoon leaders. The Regimental Chaplain, Father Martin, moved forward under fire to assist in the evacuation of the wounded although the enemy fire continued to be concentrated in the area. Late in the day the town was secured. [From the period 19 Mar 45 through 21 Mar 45, the 1st Bn was credited with the

capture of more than 1400 prisoners. The 2d Bn remained assembled in KAISERSLAUTERN as Division reserve. The 3d Bn fanned its forces S to the perimeter of the 80th Recon Troop. Cos I, K and M as part of Task Force REED moved SW from the vicinity of KAISERSLAUTERN along Route 270 to secure WALDFISCHBACH. Co K had moved to positions in SCHOPP N of the battalion on Route 270. For the period 19-21 Mar 45 the 3d Bn had bagged 573 prisoners and presently held the S (right) flank of the Regimental sector. Cannon Co moved from its former position to close for the day in KAISERSLAUTERN. Co B 305 Med Bn joined the CP of CT 318 in BAD DURKHEIM (on Route 38 N of NEUSTADT).

On 22 Mar 45, with the Regimental CP in BAD DURKHEIM, all battalions were released from attachment to the 10th Armd Division and returned to Regimental control. During the entire operation of the past four days (18 -21 Mar 45) CT 318 sustained a moderate number of casualties. The 80th Division has moved by motor and foot marches 115 miles forward and had captured 5,084 prisoners. After the breakthrough at WEISKIRCHEN enemy resistance had virtually collapsed as the enemy withdrew NE across the RHINE RIVER leaving only moderate pockets of resistance along the withdrawal route. Elements of CT 318 concentrated in the assembly areas of NEUSTADT, MUSSBACH and BAD DURKHEIM along the E edge of the PFALZ WALD. The 1st Bn departed NEUSTADT in the afternoon to move 3 miles NE along Route 38 to the village of MUSSBACH where the battalion closed at 1500. The troops were billeted in the town for the night. The 2d Bn remained in KAISERSLAUTERN with Service Co after having relieved elements of CT 319 on outposts around the town and continued to patrol the N portion of that city. All companies of the 3d Bn assembled in NEUSTADT by nightfall. CT 318 was now relieved of the mission of attacking E as the Division prepared for movement to a new zone of advance toward the N. Cannon Co and Co B 305 Med Bn joined the Regimental CP in BAD DURKHEIM.

On 23 Mar 45, IMSWEILER on Route 40 (32 miles N of KAISERSLAUTERN) was designated the forward assembly area for CT 318. At 1530 Co C of the 1st Bn was sent N to BAD DURKHEIM from the battalion positions at MUSSBACH as security for the Regimental CP. The 1st Bn (-Co C), followed at 300 yards by the 3d Bn (-Co L), moved <sup>N</sup> via BAD DURKHEIM along Route

271 to BAD DURKHEIM, thence along Route 37 W to KAISERSLAUTERN. From this point the battalion moved N along Route 40 to WINNWEILER then NW along Route 48 via HOCHSTEIN to close in SCHWEISWEILER on the same route. Co A remained in MUSSBACH outposting the town to the E. The 2d Bn continued to patrol KAISERSLAUTERN throughout the day. The 3d Bn, following the 1st Bn, journeyed to SCHWEISWEILER and then deployed its rifle companies to secure the surrounding vicinity. The 3d Bn CP plus Cos I and K moved 2 miles W to secure the area of GUNDESWEILER. Co M joined the battalion as support. Co L remained in NEUSTADT where it received sporadic enemy concentrations of artillery throughout the day. By the end of the day the town of RÜCKENHAUSEN (4 miles N of IMSWEILER) was designated as the new forward assembly area for the 80th Infantry Division. Cannon Co went into position 0.25 miles SE of KRIEGSHEIM and Co B 305 Med Bn remained in its previous position.

Throughout 24 Mar 45 CT 318 began to concentrate in its assembly areas IMSWEILER-ROCKENHOUSEN vicinity. Cos A and C left their positions of 23 Mar 45 and moved by motor to join the 1st Bn in SCHWEISWEILER. The 2d Bn departed KAISERSLAUTERN at 0800 to arrive in IMSWEILER by 1000 where ~~its~~ troops were billeted in houses. The 3d Bn in the vicinity of GUNDESWEILER was joined by Co I late in the day. Cannon Co went into billets 1 mile N of IMSWEILER in the village of DORNBACH. Co B 305 Med Bn closed in the vicinity of IMSWEILER. By nightfall the Regimental CP was established at IMSWEILER, the Regimental trains were 1 mile SW of GUNDESWEILER in the village of MESSERBACHERHOFF. Late in the evening Co B 702 Tank Battalion and Co B 811 Tank Destroyer Bn were attached to the Regiment. Throughout the day CT 318 posted security guards on designated railroad bridges, tunnels, and astride the main highways. Care and cleaning of equipment was carried on and restrictive action was enforced upon the civilian population in and around the bivouac areas. The program was continued throughout the 25 Mar 45.

③ Pg 432-25 Mar 45

The favorable battle weather, which had prevailed since the last rains during the night of 11 Mar 45, ended with a sudden rainfall of 26 Mar 45. At 1230 the Division received orders to concentrate in the RHINE RIVER vicinity of MAINZ to the NE. Elements of the

Division began to move NE to the new assembly area of SCHWABENHEIM (5 miles SE of OBER INGLEHEIM). In the rain the roads became deep with mud as CT 318 prepared for the move. CT 318, with the 1st Bn leading, departed the vicinity of IMSWEILER at 1430 enroute N to OBER INGLEHEIM. During the move CT 318 motored N along Route 48 to BAD KREUZNACH, thence NE along Route 41 to OBER INGLEHEIM. The Regiment closed in the vicinity at 1930 after having traveled approximately 40 miles. The 2d Bn remained in IMSWEILER where the troops were entertained with a USO show. The 3d Bn continue to occupy its former area of GUNDERSWEILER. Cannon Co was still in BORNACH and Co B 305 Med Bn closed in OBER INGLEHEIM. Little change occurred in the forward positions of CT 318 on 27 Mar 45. During this day the 2d Bn (-Co H) and the 3d Bn arrived in OBER INGLEHEIM. Co H moved to occupy positions in NIEDER INGLEHEIM. The remainder of the day was devoted to care and maintenance of equipment.

*Little, Brown & Co  
Boston 1957*

*28 MAR*

*Invasion Of France And Germany 1944-1945 Vol XI  
A Hist of United States Naval Operations in World War II, Morison, Samuel E  
Pg 320-321* ... Toughest crossing at Mainz in short notice in early hours of  
28 Mar. Six of the 12 LCP at Oppenheim and ~~to~~ six LCMs  
were used. Rhine covered at Mainz by enemy artillery & mortar assault  
wave which crossed at 0100 w <sup>ARMY</sup> ~~assault~~ boats almost wiped out. At  
0330 crossing was suspended. At 0330, but a naval officer did not know  
of the suspension, sent an LCP across unopposed saw smoke below assault line  
Army piled in boats & crossed safely until 0630 when the Germans began  
mine & opened up everything but did not hit a single boat  
LCP (Landing Craft Vehicle & Personnel) LCM (Landing Craft, Mechanized)

to the right of the 2d Bn, attacked NNE to seize IGSTADT and AURINGEN (2 and 5 miles N of ERBENHEIM, respectively). The 3d Bn then continued N parallel to the REICHAUTOBAHN. The 1st Bn, following the 3d Bn N, had crossed from MAINZ to KASTEL at 1500 leaving Co C



in MAINZ until 1630 when the company followed the other rifle companies across the river. Departing from KASTEL at 1700 the 1st Bn mopped up resistance left behind by the 3d Bn <sup>toward ERBENHEIM 1800</sup> thrust northward. During this period the 1st Bn remained in Regimental reserve. By night- <sup>2 Co A IN 1650 TANK OUT 2230</sup> fall the 3d Bn had pushed 10.5 miles N from KASTEL vicinity and had seized the village of NIEDENHAUSEN. <sup>(NIEDENBACH?)</sup> Late in the evening the 2d Bn left AURINGEN and moved SW (2 miles) to assault and seize RAMBACH where the battalion closed for the night. The 1st Bn joined the 3d Bn in NIEDENHAUSEN for the night. Co B was sent to outpost the vicinity of the town of RAMBACH. Cannon Co and Co B 305 Med Bn remained in the vicinity of MAINZ with the Regimental CP.

④ 432

On 29 Mar 45 a Field Message was received which disclosed that the US XX Corps was now composed of the 80th, 65th and 5 Infantry Divisions plus the 6th Armored Division. As part of the XX Corps drive to the NE, the 80th Division continued to cross the RHINE RIVER. Hazed by intermittent rain storms, CT 318 continued to develop its positions N of the bridgehead and cleared its objectives. The disorganization of the German units was evidenced by the total of 1125 enemy prisoners captured in the enemy defense of the RHINE RIVER barrier. Most of the prisoners were 16-17 years old and were members of anti-aircraft battalions. The lowest morale yet encountered was found among the prisoners in the 40-50 year old age group. Only a handful of these captured had belonged to regular units.

Throughout the day the 1st Bn remained chiefly in the NIEDER<sup>N</sup>HAUSEN vicinity. In addition to Co B on outpost duty at RAMBACH, the 2d platoon of Company A was sent to clear and outpost the village of KORNIGSHOFEN (1 mile N) lying W of the Reichsautobahn. Sniper activity from the nearby woods took the life of the commander of Co A (Lt Weireshauser).

The platoon ~~then~~ moved into the woods from the Autobahn and cleared the area in a frontal

assault on the enemy dug in deep in the woods. The 2d Bn deployed its units in the area

of RAMBACH to the E of the 3d Bn positions at NIEDENHAUSEN. Cannon Co moved during the

day from MAINZ across the river to KASTEL, from which it then moved into positions S of the forward elements to close in KLOFFENHEIM. Co B 305 Med Bn remained in MAINZ and ~~the~~

CT 318 established its CP in NAUROD (1 mile NW of AURINGEN) behing the 1st and 3d Bns. Positions were consolidated for the night.

On 30 Mar 45 CT 318 completed clearing of its assigned objectives and began to move from the NIEDERNHAUSEN-RAMBACH vicinity to assemble in NAUROD by 1230. The Regiment remained in this position for orders to follow the advance of the US 6th Armored Division. Late in the afternoon CT 318 departed NAUROD with the armored units for the vicinity of HOMBERG (54 miles SW of KASSEL). Enroute the Regiment moved SE toward FRANKFURT-A. MAIN and then swung NE past the northern outskirts of the town. Moving through the late evening hours the convoy traveled 62 miles NE to close in BURKHARDSFELDEN (6 miles due E of GIESSEN and 1 mile E of the Autobahn). The 1st Bn closed in SAASEN 3<sup>1915</sup> miles NE, the 2d Bn moved to REINHARDSHAIN (2 miles NE of SAASEN)<sup>2011</sup> and the 3d Bn closed with Regimental Headquarters in BURKHARDSFELDEN<sup>1800</sup>. Cannon Co and Co B 305 Med Bn joined the headquarters units late at night.

At 0615 31 Mar 45 CT 318 continued its NE drive toward HOMBERG and moved 51 miles from BURKHARDSFELDEN along the AUTOBAHN via ALFIEDD, then N on Route 254 through ZIEGENHAIN, to close in the vicinity of HOMBERG by 1030. The 1st Bn moved 1 mile SE to take up its positions in and around HOLZHAUSEN by 1100. The 2d Bn halted 2.5 miles SW of HOMBERG at the village of LUTZELWIG on Route 254. The 3d Bn closed in the nearby village of ZENNERN. Cannon Co moved 4.5 miles NW of HOMBERG to UTTERSCHAUSEN. Co B 305 Med Bn closed in the town of HOMBERG near the Regimental Headquarters. In the early afternoon the 3d Bn attacked 6 miles N with the Route 254 as its left boundry and moved to expand the bridgehead of the 6th Armored Division in the vicinity ~~of~~ NW of OBERMOLLRICH and NIEDERMOLLRICH on the EDDER RIVER. Co I moved NW through CAPEL<sup>AK</sup> at 1330 and then swung<sup>to clear</sup> due SE to join in the attack on NIEDERMOLLRICH. Moving to a point on the road (Route 254?) the troops received heavy enemy fire from an area 300 yards from the edge of the town. Forming a skirmish line the ~~company~~ attacked at 1500 but withdrew into a difiladed position after receiving heavy fire from enemy 20mm guns, 120mm mortars and small arms. At 1400 three tank destroyers and 2 M-8's arrive to assist in the assault. The company, plus one platoon of heavy machine

*Break Down sent to clear sheet 69 p.w.*  
guns of Co M, and the tank destroyers attacked to clear and occupy the town by 1900. In the action the company captured one medium bomber and 53 prisoners. Co I<sup>e</sup> then outposted the town for the night. At 2300, Co C, 1st Bn, pushed N towards its objective of DISSEN (5.5 miles N of NIEDERMOLLRICH) to reach the bridgehead area on the EDDER RIVER by 2400.

Enemy opposition in the vicinity was identified as elements of the German 166th and 326th Volks Grenadier Divisions in addition to miscellaneous units. By the close of the period, CT 318 had been released from the US 6th Armored Division and had reverted to control of the 80th Infantry Division. During the month of March 1945, over 4,617 prisoners were taken by the Regiment. This ~~total~~ total was approximately One-fourth of the total taken by the entire Division (17,665) during the month.