

A/A 80 Rcn  
Feb

SECTION I

A. Headquarters to which assigned or attached:

- a. Assigned - 80th Infantry Division.
- b. Attached - 319th Infantry Regiment from 17-21 February 1945.

B. Location of Command Posts:

1 Feb 45 - FISCHBACH, Luxembourg 5885285)  
17 Feb 45 - GILSDORF, Luxembourg (885418)  
18 Feb 45 - LONGSDORF, Luxembourg (905455)  
21 Feb 45 - GENTINGEN, Germany (923455)  
22 Feb 45 - AMMELDINGEN, Germany (936444)  
25 Feb 45 - OBERSCHOCKLER, Germany (965538)  
26 Feb 45 - NIEDERWEIDINGEN, Germany (024574)

C. Supporting or attached units:

- a. Two platoons Company D, 702nd Tank Battalion from 26-27 February 1945.

D. Missions, general description of general plan of action and discussion of details of execution; communications:

The 80th Reconnaissance Troop was still in Division Reserve at Fischbach, Luxembourg, as the period opened. Rigorous training, maintenance of equipment and rehabilitation of personnel was being conducted by the Troop as the 80th Division continued to occupy defensive positions along the west bank of the Our and Sauer Rivers between Bettel and Bollendorf, Luxembourg.

Prior to the 80th Division's first attack across the German frontier the Troop planned and executed several night patrols across the Our River into the forward defenses of the Siegfried Line. The patrols consisted of eight men. Plan was to effect a crossing in a two-man rubber boat and use a cable attached to each end of the boat to tow it back and forth across the river. Two men were left on each bank of the river to protect the boat and provide support in case of an emergency while the four remaining men conducted a reconnaissance into enemy positions. The first patrol scheduled on 2 February 1945 was unsuccessful in making a crossing due to the swollen waters and ice floes. Two patrols were operated on 3 February 1945 and one succeeded in reaching the east bank south of Hoesdorf (942434). Believed to be the first within the 80th Division to reach German soil, the patrol picked up considerable positive information on enemy defenses despite adverse conditions. Although a deep penetration into the defenses was not effected,

[REDACTED]

the outpost line along the river bank were developed, minefields established, positions located and enemy movement detected. Two more patrols operated on the night of 5 February 1945 but again only one was able to cross the river. Information gathered on the night of 3 February was confirmed by the patrol which crossed at the same point southeast of Hoesdorf. Presence of the patrol was detected by hostile forces and three members were injured by a barrage of mortar fire near the assembly point.

The Troop continued maintenance of vehicles and equipment throughout the period 1-7 February and on 8 February, after a contingent of 22 reinforcements were assigned to the organization, started a thorough training schedule for the new men. Emphasis was placed on reconnaissance tactics, use and firing of weapons and vehicular instruction. The training of these personnel, who had previously undergone infantry basic courses in the states, was considered essential and beneficial to the smooth operation of platoons in future missions. The program continued until the Troop left Division Reserve and went into an active status in the line on 18 February 1945.

The 80th Division launched a coordinated night attack on 7 December 1945, crossed the Our and Sauer River against slight resistance and penetrated the forward positions of the Siegfried Line. Subsequent attacks expanded the bridgehead despite fierce opposition but bridging operations were impeded by the strong river currents intensified by steady rainfall and heavy enemy artillery zeroed in at the crossing sites. The Troop remained in its reserve status but used one platoon to establish a division observation post at 926412 near Bigelbach. A minor mission of reconnoitering the road network within the Division zone was given the Troop on 12 February and was completed before 1200 that date by the 3rd Platoon. Condition of most roads were excellent although several spots were under direct observation of enemy forces on the high ground east of the river.

Two additional OP's were established by the 2nd Platoon on 14 February, one northeast of Ammeldingen at 964414 and another at 987434 on the Division's right flank near Biesdorf. Both were maintained, in addition to the one at 926412, until 17 February. Observation was extremely limited at times because of low ceilings and occasional rains but nevertheless a great deal of positive information was spotted and reported to higher headquarters. The use of enemy smoke also affected visibility, especially in low areas along the river.

After a temporary lull in the offensive the 80th Division took up the attack on 17 February and expanded the bridgehead farther into the dense Siegfried Line defenses. Moving north and northeast, elements of the Division broke resistance within the immediate area and secured firmly their foothold in Germany. The Troop was attached to the 319th Infantry Regiment on 18 February and took up defensive positions along the west bank of the Our River south of Bettel, relieving the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion which occupied the comparatively quiet zone for several weeks.

All three platoons were used on line, each taking over a section

12

originally defended by a company of the armored battalion. Since the strength of the Troop did not permit as dense a defense as had been set up by the relieved unit, the Troop set up positions along the high ground guarding the approaches to the zone with light machine guns supported by 60mm mortars. Artillery concentrations were planned, providing necessary protection on key terrain features. No enemy contact, however, was reported with the exception of a small skirmish with two enemy stragglers uncovered in Bettel by the 1st Platoon. Considerable information was reported throughout the operation on enemy and friendly activity to the east of the river as Division Troops continued the attack to the north and northeast toward the Prum River. Positions of the three platoons were moved forward to the west bank of the river at 1600 30 February to prevent infiltration of the enemy into the zone during an attack from Obersiegen westward toward the river. No contact developed from the infantry's pressure on the pocket due east of the Troop's positions but 337 prisoners were taken by the attacking forces from the area in their surprise westward assault. Throughout the period contact was maintained with the 28th Cavalry Squadron operating in the zone adjacent to the Division's left flank. Communication within the Troop was by telephone, wires being strung to each forward outpost. The Troop was relieved of the mission and attachment to the 319th Infantry on 21 February.

The Troop crossed the German border at Wallendorf at 1430 21 February and immediately took up an assigned mission of protecting the Division's left flank between Roth and Obersiegen, relieving elements of the 53rd Armored Infantry who had taken positions along that line after an advance northward along the river. Two platoons, the 1st and 2nd, were used to outpost the area and maintain contact with the 6th Cavalry Group who were moving northeast on the Division's north. The Troop maintained the defensive line until 23 February and reported no enemy contact and little hostile activity. Contact was maintained on 23 February with B Troop 28th Cavalry in Beuter, A Troop 28th Cavalry in Berscheid and the 319th Infantry in Obersiegen. Physical contact was effected by periodic mounted patrols and communication was carried out through normal radio nets of the Troop.

The Troop was relieved of the contact mission at 1800 on 24 February and assigned a mission of reconnaissance to the north and northeast from Sinspelt with the objective of meeting elements of the 90th Division moving south and east along the Prum River. Plan was to dispatch two sections of the 3rd Platoon northward by rear areas to contact headquarters of the advancing division and report progress of their troops through radio communication to the 2nd and 3rd Platoons who were to work northeast toward Fischbach and Philippsweiler. Contact was made at 1000 25 February at Krautscheid and location of the 90th Division's forward elements immediately reported. The 1st and 2nd Platoon left Sinspelt at 0600, moving northeast along planned routes. The 1st Platoon's advance went uninterrupted except for scattered enemy resistance of no consequence and at 1800 they met the most southerly elements of the 90th just west of Philippsweiler.

[REDACTED]

The 2nd Platoon, working a route east of the 1st Platoon's route of advance, proceeded to Konigsberg, cleared the town and continued to the high ground northwest of Altscheid. Resistance in force was met at that point at 1600 and the platoon backed off, set up defensive positions and awaited the approach of Division infantry elements.

During the day elements of the 4th Armored Division, in an attack eastward, snapped enemy resistance and moved across the Nims River to cut the important road running northward from Bitburg. A general withdrawal of enemy forces from the area was evident and on 26 February the Troop was ordered to cross the Prum River and develop enemy positions to the north. The 2nd Platoon moved to Biersdorf, contacted enemy elements and although unable to move forward, kept them under observation until friendly infantry reached the vicinity. In the ensuing fire-fight the platoon took 12 prisoners. The 1st Platoon moved northeast of Rittersdorf where they contacted forward elements of the 4th Armored Division and maintained contact with them after being unable to move farther because of the road congestion caused by the advancing columns. At 1600 the 3rd Platoon made contact with CCB of the 4th Armored and the 6th Cavalry Group, conducting liaison with both groups. Two platoons of light tanks of D Company 702nd Tank Battalion were attached to the Troop at 1800 for operations on the following day.

The Troop received the task of crossing the Nims River to conduct an area reconnaissance between the NIM-Khlen and Kyll Rivers north of Metzen. The 1st Platoon, reinforced by a platoon of light tanks, crossed the river but were unable to proceed farther due to elements of CCB 4th Armored engaging enemy forces in the area vicinity 030585. The 2nd and 3rd Platoon attempted to cross at Rittersdorf, but again priority of friendly armor kept them from reaching the assigned sector. The Troop was relieved of the mission at 1600 and ordered to maintain contact with the advance armored units. The 3rd Platoon took over the task, moving up to relieve the 1st Platoon which went in Troop Reserve along with the 2nd at Niederweidingen. Both platoons of light tanks were relieved of attachment to the Troop at 1600 and proceeded to an assembly area at Sinspelt. The 3rd Platoon continued their contact mission throughout the remainder of the period.

At the close of the period the Troop CP and the 1st and 2nd Platoons were in Niederweidingen, the 3rd being the only element active.

*Max E. Moe*  
MAX E. MOE  
1st Lt., Cavalry  
S-3 Officer

S - 3 QYERLAY

MAPS: GERMANY - 1/25,000  
Sheets 5003 5103

(Showing conduct of two patrols, night,  
which crossed OUR R on 3 Feb 45 and 5 Feb 45)

HQ BOTH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP  
FISCHBACH (885385)

WALLENDORF

97

41

44

AMMELDINGEN

HOESDORF

2 MEN LEFT  
ON EA SIDE  
RIVER

DISMOUNTED  
HERE

93

44

△  
(ESTAB 15 FEB)

45  
98

△  
(ESTAB 15 FEB)

△  
(ESTAB 11 FEB)

95

S - S OVERLAY

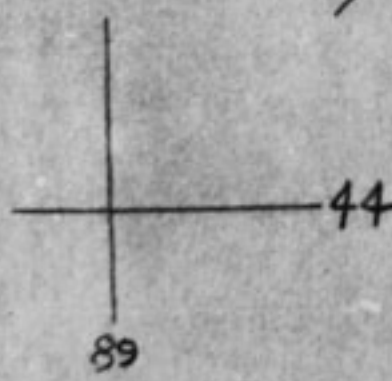
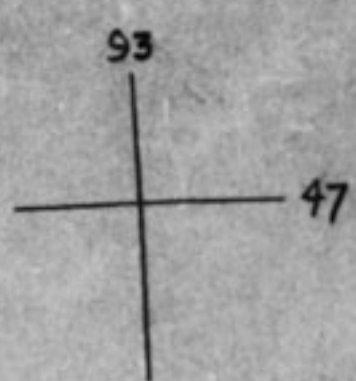
40

171200 Feb 45  
HQ 80TH RECONNAISSANCE TR

MAPS: GERMANY 1/25,000  
Sheets 6103 6203

(Showing location OP's established 11 Feb 45  
and 15 Feb 45 and maintained until 17 Feb 45)

45



E - 3 0 Y X B L A I

180600 Feb 45  
H3 80TH RECONNAISSANCE TR  
BUNSDORF (908455)

MAPS: GERMANY 1/55,000  
Sheets 6004 6104

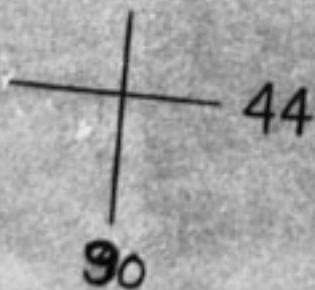
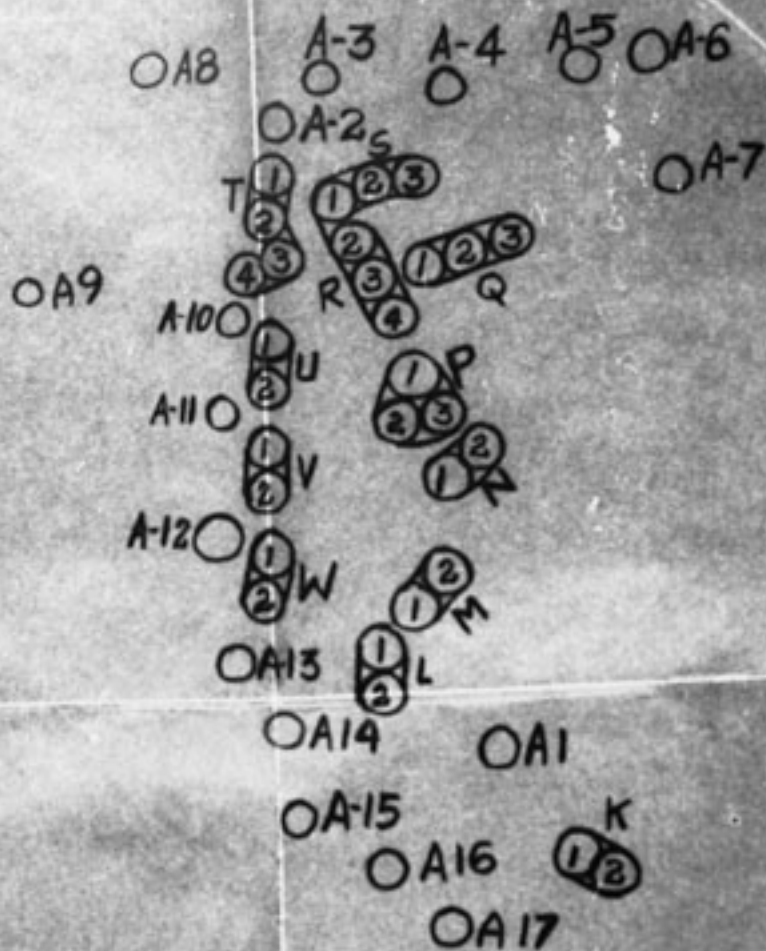
(Showing defense plan of 80th Recon Tr along  
Our River from 18 Feb 45 to 21 Feb 45)

46

46

50

94

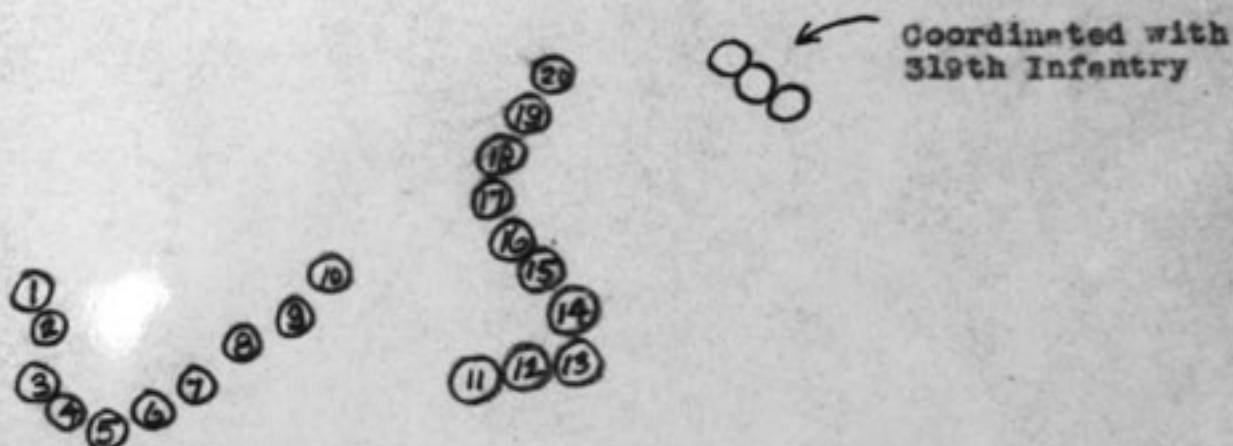
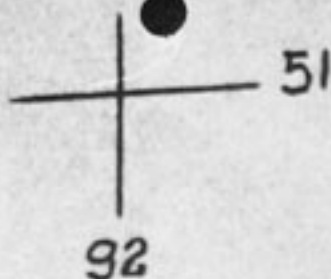


A - 2 2 1 2 2 1 1

180000 Feb 45  
 HQ 80TH RECONNAISSANCE TR  
 LINDSDORF (900455)

MAPS: GERMANY 1/25,000  
 Sheets 6003 6103

Defensive fire preparation plan for 80th Recon  
 Tr. All Guns Fd 3 volleys HX F1)

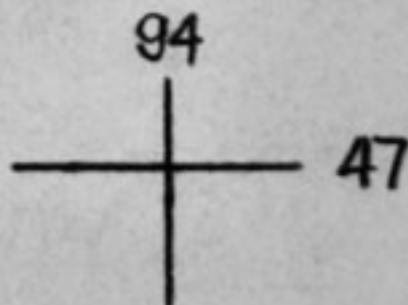


(Note: All cone Nos. followed by letter "Y")

B - 3 OVERLAY

212400 Feb 45  
H3 80TH RECONNAISSANCE TR  
AMELDINGEN (936444)


(Defensive fire preparations for  
80th Recon Tr in defense of sector  
ROTH-OBERGEGEN)



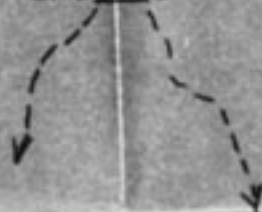
48

EIM  90  
KRAUTSCHED  
3  80  
(RADIO CONTACT)

64  
03

E/MS  90(+)

E/MS  90(+)



57  
98

FISCHBACH

PROPOSED ROUTES TO  
CONTACT ELMS 90 DIV


1-1 2 1 2 2 1 1 1

242000 Feb 45  
HQ 20th MEDICAL BRIGADE  
AMSTERDAM (204444)

SCALE: 1/25,000  
Sheets 2903 2904 3103 3104

(Showing proposed plan of troops to contact elements of  
20th Infantry Division advancing S and SE toward 20th  
Division sector)


NIEDERRADEN

 80(-)

Elms  90  
KRAUTSCHIED  
5  80  
(RADIO CONTACT)

03

64

Elms  90(+)

Elms  90(+)


FISCHBACH

PROPOSED ROUTES TO  
CONTACT ELMS 90 DIV

57

98

NIEDERRADEN

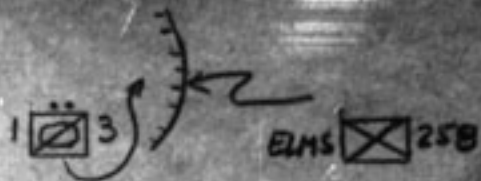
 80(-)

1-1 1111111

248000 Feb 45  
HQ 20th RECONNAISSANCE TR  
ARMY (920444)

Scale: GRAPHIC 1/25,000  
Sheet 5903 5904 5103 5104

(Showing proposed plan of Troop to contact elements of  
20th Infantry Division advancing S and SE toward 20th  
Division sector)



R - 2 I N E L A X

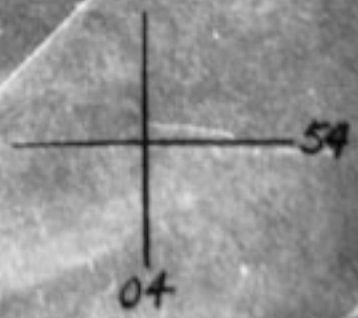
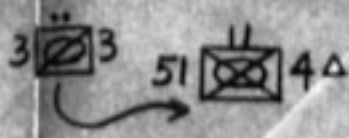
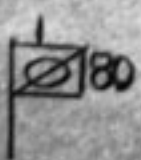
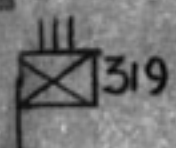
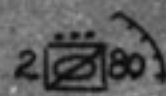
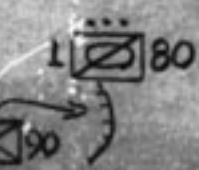
250000 Feb 45  
 1st 80th REDONALISSANT TROOP  
 GUNNERS (P50030)

MAP: GERMANY 1/25,000  
 Sheets 5003 5004 5005 5006

OPERATIONS FOR 25 FEB 45

- (1) 1st Platoon conducted reconnaissance N and NE from KUNSPLET, making contact with elements 90th Inf Div west of PHILIPPSTADT at 1200h.
- (2) 2nd Platoon conducted reconnaissance N and NE from KUNSPLET along left flank of 90th Division. Heavy resistance at Kungiberg was overcome. Set up defensive position as shown per overlay at 2000 and sustained contact with elements 91st Infantry.

- (3) 3rd Platoon:
  - a. 1st Section moved N along W bank of Mos River and contacted elements 90th Division from rear, reporting their advance through radio communication.
  - b. 2nd Section moved N along E bank of Mos River and contacted elements 90th Division from rear, maintaining liaison with 1st Bn 850th Infantry Headquarters at KRAUTSCHEN.
  - c. 3rd Section in Troop reserve until 1200h. Then proceeded S to maintain liaison with elements of 90th 4th Armored Division at LUDWIGEN.
- (4) Troop CP and Trains at GUNNERS.



## SECTION II

PERIOD: 1-7 February 1945  
MAPS: GERMANY 1/25,000  
Sheets 6003, 6004, 6103, 6104

Enemy activity along the Division front was negligible as the period opened and hostile forces held only one locality on the west bank of the Our and Sauer Rivers within the Division zone. That town, Hoesdorf, was cleared by an infantry attack on 3 February 1945 that met only moderate resistance.

Both the Our and Sauer Rivers rose considerably during the latter part of the previous period forming a formidable obstacle that hampered crossing attempts by friendly patrols. At one place the usually small Our River was nine feet above its normal stage. A Troop patrol, however, succeeded in making a crossing on 3 February just southeast of Hoesdorf and developed defenses along the east bank of the river which was thickly mined with AP, Shu Mines and trip wires. Pillboxes on the high slopes overlooking the river were manned in strength and outposts were extremely alert during the period, evidently expecting a crossing in force by our Infantry. Enemy artillery during the period was moderate. Considerable movement behind the first line of defenses could be detected by OP's established on the high ground west of the river although visibility during the period was affected considerably by continuous fogs, rain and smoke screens set down by the enemy. The use of smoke by the enemy was extensive, huge smoke pots being set off in the low terrain along the river valley to form an effective screen.

PERIOD: 7-28 February 1945  
MAPS: GERMANY 1/25,000  
Sheets 5903, 5904, 5905, 6003, 6004, 6005, 6102, 6103, 6104

The initial assault of Division infantry across the river at 0200 7 February was met by only light resistance in the form of small arms and machine gun fire but as the enemy became aware of the crossing sites, concentrations were immediately intensified, heavy artillery, mortar and nebelwerfer fire falling steadily. Resistance grew stiffer throughout the day with several small scale counter attacks repulsed along the bridgehead.

Bridging operations were impeded by the high swift waters of the river for the next four days. Heavy artillery concentrations at the crossing sites also held up construction of a heavy-traffic bridge. The enemy continued to resist fiercely from pill boxes which covered all terrain in the area. Minefields were numerous and especially heavy in the immediate vicinity of pillboxes.

Our Troops, however, continued to advance and secure their

[REDACTED]

bridgehead with resistance decreasing steadily. By 17 February Rohrbach was cleared and artillery fire was noticeably decreasing in intensity. Approximately 100 prisoners were taken in the biggest haul since the bridgehead was established. The new type "Hetzer" assault gun was employed in enemy defenses to a great extent.

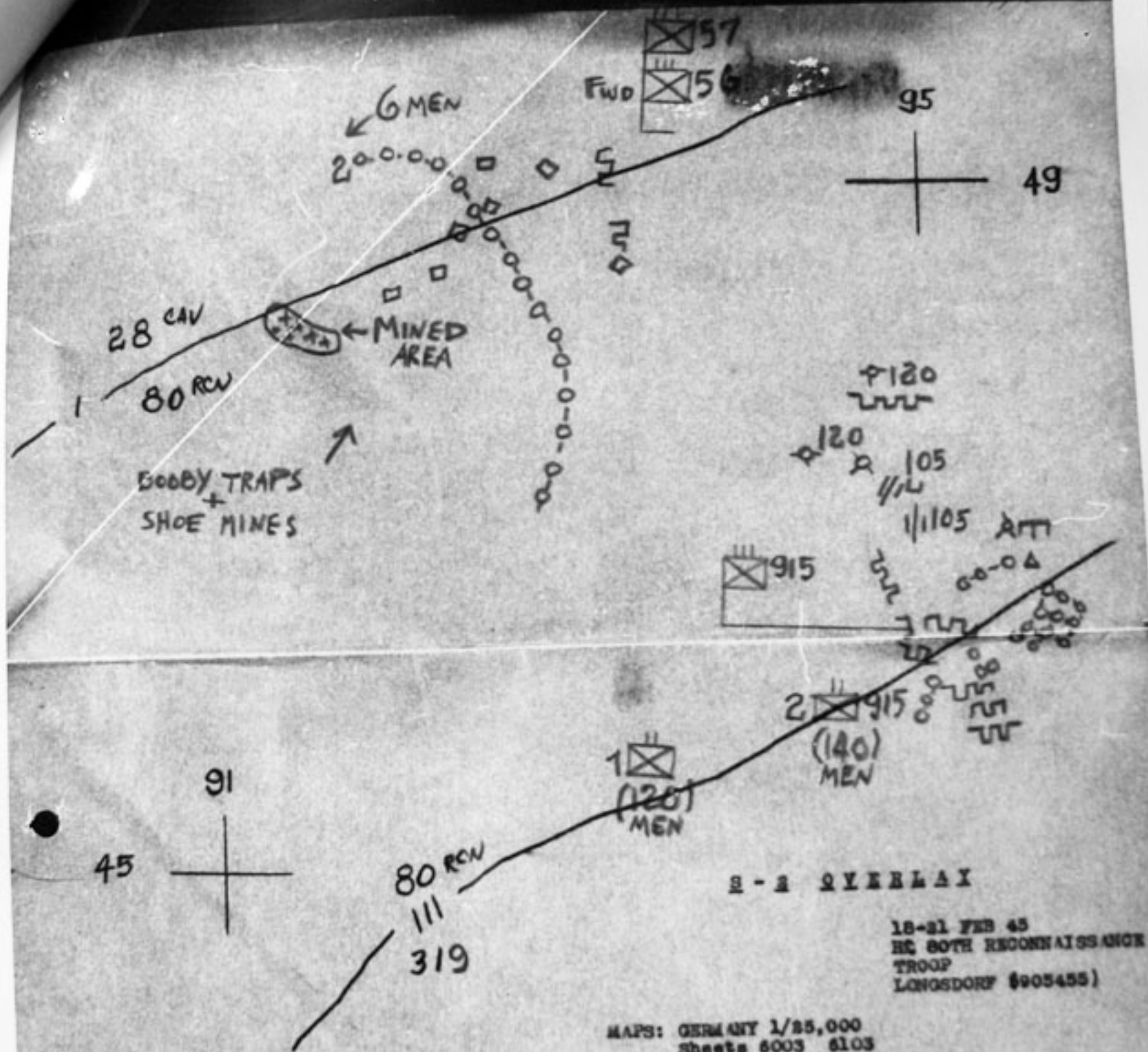
As the Troop was assigned the mission of occupying defensive positions along the west bank of the Our River south of Bettel on 18 February the bridgehead had been enlarged and firmly established. In an assault north in front of the Troop's positions, Division infantry took 286 prisoners and cleared Korperich, Enzen, Seimenich and Obersgegen on 20 February, catching the enemy in a trap against the river. Then driving westward from Obersgegen, the infantry pushed to the Our River and cleared the pocket they had created by their rapid advance to the north, taking 369 prisoners. Six tanks were also destroyed by infantry troops on that date.

By the 28th of February the enemy was conducting a general withdrawal of the area, fighting a rear-guard action. Resisting fiercely, these elements fought until either captured or destroyed. At the close of the period it appeared that the enemy was completely disorganized by our attacks and were making an effort to withdraw east of the Kyll River.

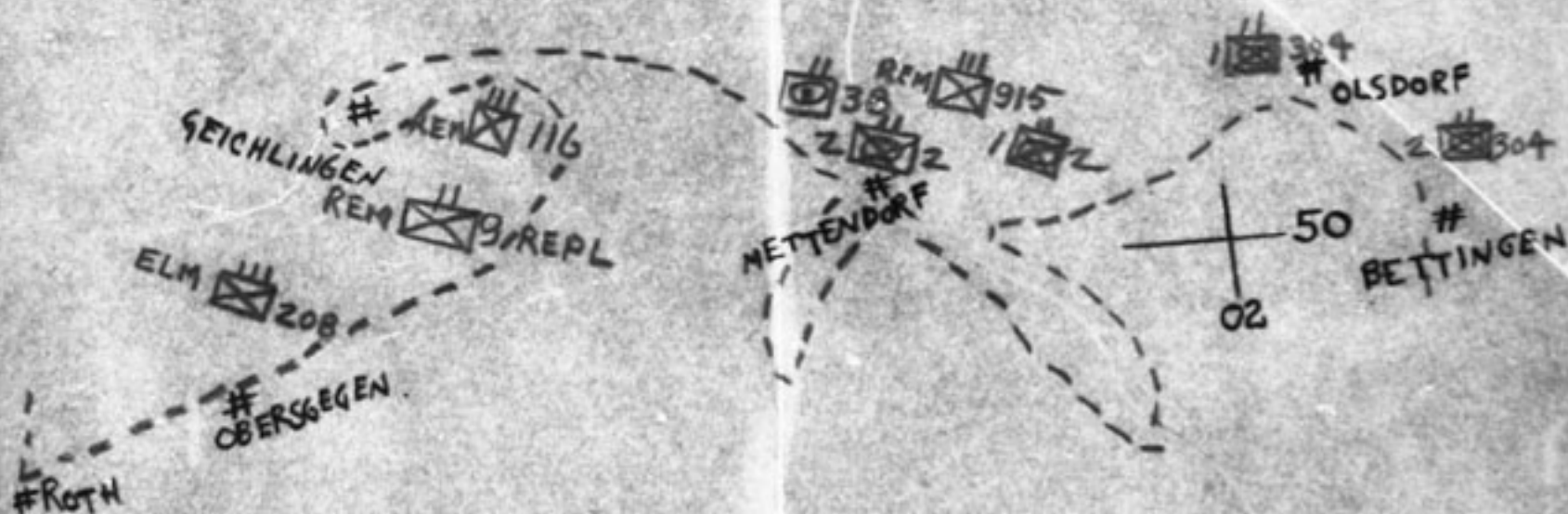
*Max E. Moer*

MAX E. MOE  
1st Lt., Cavalry,  
S-2 Officer

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96



S - 2 0 Y E R L A I

211600 Feb 45  
HQ 80TH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP  
LONGSDORF (905445)

MAPS: GERMANY 1/25,000  
Sheets 6003 6103 6004 6104

(Showing Disposition enemy forces and front lines)

Class I - An effort was made during the period to increase the number and palatability of hot meals served to the three platoons employed on tactical missions. To effect desired result, an additional number of GB ration were drawn and emphasis placed by the kitchen crew on proper and tasty preparation of same. Some difficulty was encountered in keeping the meals warm over sufficiently long periods to reach the platoons. This condition was however, largely unavoidable inasmuch as it is extremely difficult to calculate the platoon positions at the time when the meals arrived at the respective platoon positions. No difficulty was experienced during this period in sending meals to operating units inasmuch as the situation was comparatively stable.

Class II - No great difficulty was encountered during the period in procurement of items of Class II supplies. All requisitioned items have been received with minimum delay. Complete issue of Shoe-passes however, had not at the end of the period been completed. It is felt that due to rainy weather and resultant muddy conditions, completion of issue of Shoe-passes is desirable. It is thought advisable that this organization and similar organizations be allowed full issue of combat suits. Constant mounting and dismounting from vehicles and extensive foot-patrolling necessitate freedom of movement which is not possible when wearing overcoats or parkies.

Class III - The procurement of fuel has offered no problem. Inasmuch as the situation has been comparatively static during the period, fuel consumption has not been excessive. One complete filling of fuel tanks will normally suffice for two days operation.

Ordnance - Repair and replacement of vehicles and parts has been light during the period. The vehicles of this organization have been in constant use for eight months and practically all vehicles will require replacement or complete overhaul in the very near future.

Signal - Several SCR 506 Radios of this organization have been in constant use except for comparatively short maintenance periods for eight months. Some difficulty has been experienced in securing replacement for dynamos for SCR 506. Inasmuch as this organization depends upon the excellence of communication, any delay in replacement of parts results in a decided lowering of combat efficiency.

Engineer - Supply of engineer equipment offered no problem during the period since needs have been practically nil.

Class V - During the period ammunition expenditures were negligible. The resupply of expended ammunition has not during the period

RECEIVED

56

Class I - An effort was made during the period to increase the number and palatability of hot meals served to the three platoons employed on tactical missions. To effect desired result, an additional number of "SB" rations were drawn and emphasis placed by the kitchen crew on proper and tasty preparation of same. Some difficulty was encountered in keeping the meals warm over sufficiently long periods to reach the platoons. This condition was however, largely unavoidable inasmuch as it is extremely difficult to calculate the platoon positions at the time when the meals arrived at the respective platoon positions. No difficulty was experienced during this period in sending meals to operating units inasmuch as the situation was comparatively stable.

Class II - No great difficulty was encountered during the period in procurement of items of Class II supplies. All requisitioned items have been received with minimum delay. Complete issue of Shoe-pacs however, had not at the end of the period been completed. It is felt that due to rainy weather and resultant muddy conditions, completion of issue of Shoe-pacs is desirable. It is thought advisable that this organization and similar organizations be allowed full issue of combat suits. Constant mounting and dismounting from vehicles and extensive foot-patrolling necessitate freedom of movement which is not possible when wearing overcoats or mackinaws.

Class III - The procurement of fuel has offered no problem. Inasmuch as the situation has been comparatively static during the period, fuel consumption has not been excessive. One complete filling of fuel tanks will normally suffice for two days operation.

Ordnance - Repair and replacement of vehicles and parts has been light during the period. The vehicles of this organization have been in constant use for eight months and practically all vehicles will require replacement or complete overhaul in the very near future.

Signal - Several SCR 506 Radios of this organization have been in constant use except for comparatively short maintenance periods for eight months. Some difficulty has been experienced in securing replacement for dynamotors for SCR 508. Inasmuch as this organization depends upon the excellence of communication, any delay in replacement of parts results in a decided lowering of combat efficiency.

Engineer - Supply of engineer equipment offered no problem during the period since needs have been practically nil.

Class V - During the period ammunition expenditures were negligible. The resupply of expended ammunition has not during the period

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or prior to this period, offered a problem. A small reserve supply of all types of ammunition is carried to offset immediate demands of the using unit.

Medical Supply and Evacuation - Three aid men attached to this organization are supplied through the Troop S-4. Casualties are evacuated by platoon vehicle to the nearest aid station. Medical supplies for the aid men have been obtained with minimum delay.

*Max E. MoE*

MAX E. MOE  
1st Lt., Cavalry,  
S-4 Officer

SECTION IV

80th Reconnaissance Troop

TABLE NUMBER 1

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY

(Figures taken from Morning Report up to and including 28 February 1945 for the period 1-28 Feb 45)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>IIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD's</u>
2 Feb 45	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
5 Feb 45	0	0	3	0	0	3	2
7 Feb 45	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
19 Feb 45	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
21 Feb 45	0	0	2	1	0	3	1
23 Feb 45	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	0	0	5	1	0	6	8

TABLE NUMBER 4

80th Reconnaissance Troop

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

<u>Date</u>	<u>No</u>
26 Feb 45	12
	<hr/>
Total	12

TABLE NUMBER 3

80th Reconnaissance Troop

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED  
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>
2 Feb 45	1
3 Feb 45	1
4 Feb 45	1
6 Feb 45	22
8 Feb 45	1
10 Feb 45	3
11 Feb 45	1
14 Feb 45	4
19 Feb 45	1
23 Feb 45	1
24 Feb 45	2
	<hr/>
TOTAL	38

RESTRICTED

60

TABLE NUMBER 4

80th Reconnaissance Troop

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS  
(Decorations awarded from 1-31 Jan 45)

FEB?

No.

- 0 Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
- 0 Distinguished Service Cross
- 0 Silver Star (Posthumously)
- 4 Silver Star Medal
- 0 Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star Medal
- 0 Bronze Star (Posthumously)
- 12 Bronze Star
- 2 Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal
- 0 Air Medal
- 0 Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
- 0 Soldier's Medal
- 5 Purple Heart Award
- 1 (1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart Award
- 0 (2nd) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart Award

*Max E. Moore*  
MAX E. MOORE  
1st Lt., Cavalry,  
S-1 Officer.

RESTRICTED

*Paul L. Smith*

PAUL L. SMITH  
Captain, Cavalry,  
Commanding.

**REDACTED**