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**HEADQUARTERS 80TH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP
APO 80 - U.S. Army**

31 January 1945

SUBJECT: Organization History.

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

1. Original unit.

- a. 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized)
- b. 15 July 1942.
- c. Camp Forrest, Tennessee.
- d. General Order, 80th Infantry Division.
- e. Cadre for Troop was obtained from 8th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop with the remainder of the men being furnished by Selective Service.

2. On 6 October 1942 the 80th Reconnaissance Troop was enlarged to form the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Provisional). The change never became permanent and on 7 November 1942 the Provisional Squadron was disbanded and the organization became a Troop again.

Table of Organization 2-27, dated 15 July 1943, under which the Troop is now operating, with Change 1, dated 15 September 1943, reduced the Troop to its present strength.

3. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:	<u>Officers</u>	<u>EM</u>
a. At beginning of period	6	142
b. Net increase during period	0	3
c. Net decrease during period	0	25
d. At end of period	6	120

4. Stations:

- 1 January 1945 - BISSEN, Luxembourg (797335)
Map: France-Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ sheet 137.
- 1 January 1945 - MERSCEID, Luxembourg (732428)
Map: France-Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ sheet 122.
- 18 January 1945 - GOESDORF, Luxembourg (730483)
Map: France-Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ sheet 122.
- 22 January 1945 - MERSCEID, Luxembourg (732428)
Map: France-Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ sheet 122.
- 22 January 1945 - WILTZ, Luxembourg (709530)
Map: France-Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ sheet 122.

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23 January 1945 - ESCHWEILER, Luxembourg (719569)
Map: France-Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ sheet 122.
26 January 1945 - WILWERWILTZ, Luxembourg (757558)
Map: France-Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ sheet 122.
28 January 1945 - FISCHBACH, Luxembourg (885286)
Map: France-Belgium 1/50,000 WILTZ sheet 137.

5. Marches.

Departed BISSEN, Luxembourg, (last reported location on December 1944 report) at 1230A 1 January 1945. Arrived MERSCHIED, Luxembourg, 1330 1 January 1945. Distance travelled nine (9) miles.

Departed MERSCHIED, Luxembourg, at 0600 18 January 1945. Arrived GOESDORF, Luxembourg, 0800, 18 January 1945. Distance travelled six (6) miles.

Departed GOESDORF, Luxembourg, at 1000 22 January 1945. Arrived MERSCHIED, Luxembourg, at 1130 22 January 1945. Distance travelled six (6) miles.

Departed MERSCHIED, Luxembourg, at 1600 22 January 1945. Arrived WILTZ, Luxembourg, at 1900 22 January 1945. Distance travelled 16 miles.

Departed WILTZ, Luxembourg, at 0600 23 January 1945. Arrived ESCHWEILER, Luxembourg, at 0800 23 January 1945. Distance travelled five (5) miles.

Departed ESCHWEILER, Luxembourg, at 1700 26 January 1945. Arrived WILWERWILTZ, Luxembourg, at 1900 26 January 1945. Distance travelled five (5) miles.

Departed WILWERWILTZ, Luxembourg, at 1430 28 January 1945. Arrived FISCHBACH, Luxembourg, at 1830 28 January 1945. Distance travelled 35 miles.

Condition of roads:

Throughout the period heavy snows hampered road traffic considerably, necessitating constant use of dozers. At times drifts were so deep that passage was impossible.

Weather:

Continuous snow fall through the period hampered operations to a great extent, restricting movement and observation. Extreme cold made conditions quite uncomfortable with many men suffering with frost-bitten feet and colds.

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6. Campaigns:
 - a. Name - Battle of Germany.
 - b. Duration - 15 September 1944 to - (date unknown)
 - c. Purpose - To conquer Germany.
 - d. Authority ordering - Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.
7. Battles:

(See attached narrative account of action)
8. Commanding Officers in important engagements:
 - a. Battle of Germany.
 - b. CAPT. PAUL L. SMITH, O-1030419, commanding 80th Reconnaissance Troop.
 - c. 1ST LT. MAX E. MOE, O-399172, executive officer 80th Reconnaissance Troop (also handles S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4 functions).
 - d. 1ST LT. PHILIP H. WAGNER, O-1032403, platoon leader 1st Platoon 80th Reconnaissance Troop.
 - e. 1ST LT. GEORGE P. RORK, O-528682, platoon leader 2nd Platoon 80th Reconnaissance Troop.
 - f. 1ST LT. MERRILL J. CAMP, O-1030131, platoon leader 3rd Platoon 80th Reconnaissance Troop.
 - g. 1ST LT. EUGENE P. RAMSEY, O-1032732, liaison officer 80th Reconnaissance Troop.
9. Losses in Action, Officers and EM:
 - a. Engagement: Battle of Germany.
 - b. Names:

Cpl Robert N. Wilcox, 39845560
Tec 5 Carl W. Hunt, 35313342
Pfc Carl W. Shelor, 33213209
Tec 4 Paul J. Clouser, 33185054
Pfc George NMI Schwindt, 20384862
Pfc James H. Smith, 36410001
Tec 5 Robert J. Oostdyk, 15105056
Sgt Paul F. Stader, 15105038
Sgt George NMI Brassington, 33348425
Pfc Sheldon J. Engebretson, 37554185
Pfc Thomas F. Fanning, 38061869
Pvt Silas O. Cosby, 35358857
Pfc Eugene NMI Elrod, 34710900
1ST LT. MERRILL J. CAMP, O-1030131
 - c. Killed in Action:

Cpl Robert N. Wilcox, 5 January 1945, Esch sur Sur, Luxembourg.
Tec 5 Carl W. Hunt, 5 January 1945, Esch sur Sure, Luxembourg.
Pfc Carl W. Shelor, 23 January 1945, Enscherange, Luxembourg.

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- d. Wounded in Action, Injured in Action:
- embourg. Tec 4 Paul J. Clouser, 5 January 1945, Esch sur Sure, Lux-
 - Luxembourg. Pfc George NMI Schwindt, 5 January 1945, Esch sur Sure,
 - bourg. Pfc James H. Smith, 5 January 1945, Esch sur Sure, Luxem-
 - Luxembourg. Pfc Charles A. Colburn, 5 January 1945, Esch sur Sure, (not hospitalized)
 - bourg. Tec 5 Robert J. Oostdyk, 11 January 1945, Goesdorf, Luxem-
 - bourg. Pfc Wilmer H. Dotson, 12 January 1945, Goesdorf, Luxem-
 - bourg. (not hospitalized) Tec 5 Jerry T. Worthington, 11 January 1945, Goesdorf,
 - Luxembourg. (not hospitalized) Cpl Alfonse F. Aramias, 18 January 1945, Dahl, Luxembourg.
 - (Not hospitalized) Pvt Kenneth V. Curren, 18 January 1945, Dahl, Luxembourg,
 - (not hospitalized) Pfc Charles A. Colburn, 17 January 1945, Dahl, Luxembourg.
 - (not hospitalized) Sgt Paul F. Stader, 19 January 1945, Dahl, Luxembourg.
 - Luxembourg. Sgt George NMI Brassington, 23 January 1945, vic Eschweiler,
 - Luxembourg. Pfc Sheldon J. Engebretson, 23 January 1945, vic Eschweiler,
 - Luxembourg. Pfc Thomas F. Fanning, 23 January 1945, vic Eschweiler, Lux-
 - embourg. Pfc Glenn NMI Simms, 23 January 1945, vic Eschweiler, Lux-
 - embourg. (not hospitalized) Tec 4 Milton E. Beimler, 7 January 1945, vic Esch sur Sure,
 - Luxembourg. (not hospitalized) Pvt Silas O. Cosby, 11 January 1945, Merscheid, Luxembourg.
 - Luxembourg. Cpl James L. Rush, 12 January 1945, vic Goesdorf, Luxembourg.
 - Luxembourg. Pfc Lloyd E. Wilson, 12 January 1945, vic Goesdorf, (not hospitalized)
 - Luxembourg. Pfc J.D. Belt, 16 January 1945, vic Goesdorf, Luxembourg,
 - Luxembourg. Pfc Eugene NMI Elrod, 19 January 1945, Dahl, Luxembourg.
 - Luxembourg. 1ST LT. MERRILL J. CAMP, 24 January 1945, Eschweiler,
 - (not hospitalized) Pfc Glenn NMI Simms, 16 January 1945, vic Dahl, Luxembourg.
- e. Missing in Action:
none
- f. Taken Prisoner:
none

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10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in Action:

a. Engagement - Battle of Germany.

b. Names:

Frank J. Lenner, Cpl, 35313316. Awarded Silver Star Award for gallantry in action on 31 August 1944 near Nettancourt, France.

Robert J. Oostdyk, Tec 5, 15105056. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 29 November 1944.

Howard J. Jeschke, Sgt, 15105136. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 24 November 1944.

Willis A. Ogburn, Pfc, 33313217. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 5 November 1944.

Robert J. Marks, Sgt, 33197761. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 5 December 1944.

George NMI Brassington, Sgt, 33348425. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 5 December 1944.

Ernest H. Gumm, Pfc, 33213090. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 24 September 1944.

Lawrence NMI Gular, S Sgt, 13097974. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 22 November 1944.

Lohman M. Bailey, Cpl, 37553742. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 24 September 1944.

Charles L. Hershberger, Pfc, 33278097. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 31 August 1944.

James J. Gerrity, Pfc, 33348155. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 31 August 1944.

Reuben W. Anderson, Pfc, 39183636. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 31 August 1944.

Thomas F. Fanning, Pfc, 32061869. Awarded Bronze Star for heroic achievement in France on 25 November 1944.

Edward F. Kammrath, Cpl, 36612199. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in France on 14 October 1944.

Paul F. Stader, Sgt, 15105038. Awarded Bronze Star for heroic achievement in France on 24 November 1944.

Cecil G. Stiles, S Sgt, 13017961. Awarded Bronze Star for meritorious service in France 6 November 1944 to 1 January 1945.

Milton E. Beimler, Tec 4, 33226040. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 7 January 1945.

William J. Ratsch, Pfc, 32608628. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 10 January 1945.

Silas O. Cosby, Pvt, 35358857. Awarded Purple Heart for injuries received in action on 11 January 1945.

Lloyd E. Wilson, Pfc, 33278376. Awarded Purple Heart for injuries received in action on 11 January 1945.

Robert J. Oostdyk, Tec 5, 15105056. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 11 January 1945.

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Wilmer H. Dotson, Pfc, 34390706. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 11 January 1945.

Charles A. Colburn, Pfc, 35618466. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 17 January 1945.

Eugene ~~NMI~~ Elrod, Pfc, 34710900. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 18 January 1945.

Kenneth V. Curren, Pvt, 35408893. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 18 January 1945.

Alfonse F. Aramias, Cpl, 33335869. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 18 January 1945.

Paul F. Stader, Sgt, 15105038. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 19 January 1945.

George ~~NMI~~ Brassington, Sgt, 33348425. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 23 January 1945.

Sheldon J. Engebretson, Pfc, 37554185. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 23 January 1945.

Thomas F. Fanning, Pfc, 32061869. Awarded purple Heart for wounds received in action on 23 January 1945.

James L. Rush, Cpl, 33213253. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 11 January 1945.

Jerry T. Worthington, Tec 5, 34312477. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 11 January 1945.

Glenn ~~NMI~~ Simms, Pfc, 35795685. Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 16 January 1945.

Glenn ~~NMI~~ Simms, Pfc, 35795685. Awarded Purple Heart (Oak Leaf Cluster) for wounds received in action on 23 January 1945.

10. Photographs of Personnel, important scenes or events.
None.

Paul L. Smith
PAUL L. SMITH
Captain, Cavalry,
Commanding.

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NARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF ACTION:

As the 80th Division continued to occupy defensive positions along the southern banks of the Sure River on 1 January 1945, the 80th Reconnaissance Troop was employed on the left flank, maintaining contact with elements of the 26th Division of the XX Corps.

Elements of less than battalion strength had crossed the river on the Division's extreme left flank and were holding firmly to their small bridgehead. A gap, however, existed between these forces and units of the adjacent Division and the Troop formed an outpost line from Buderscheid southeast toward the river to close the hole. The 1st and 2nd Platoons set up OP's on the high ground south of Buderscheid, commanding an excellent view to the north and northeast. The 3rd Platoon divided its sections at Esch sur Sure and Heiderscheid and carried on liaison between the 80th and 26th Divisions through their radios.

As the period opened enemy activity was limited to patrolling with heavy artillery and nebelwerfer barrages continuously harassing our front lines and towns occupied by our troops. The key high ground south of the Wiltz River was heavily defended by German infantry and much activity was reported in Goesdorf, Dahl and Nocher. Patrols from the 1st and 2nd Platoons developed many of these positions on 3 January 1945 and confirmed information as to the strength of enemy in the three towns. Night patrols from the 1st Platoon worked along the road running from Buderscheid to Nocher on 4 January 1945 and picked up considerable enemy movement in and north of the village.

Operations within the Division remained somewhat static from 1 January 1945 to 5 January 1945, consequently the Troop's disposition remained unchanged through that period. Only difficulties encountered were the continuous artillery and nebelwerfer fire which on 5 January 1945 struck the house at Esch sur Sure in which the 2nd Platoon was billeted, killing three men and wounding five others. The extreme cold and continuous snows also wreaked havoc with Troop personnel, several of them suffering from severe colds and frost bitten feet.

The attack of the 319th Infantry on Goesdorf 6 December 1945 enlarged the Division's bridgehead considerably and the Troop was immediately assigned the task of maintaining contact with advance headquarters of the regiment and elements of the 26th Division. Accomplishment of the mission was effected through the use of one section at each of the headquarters concerned, using radio communication. The Troop was given an additional mission of preventing possible enemy infiltration toward the vital bridge at Heiderscheidgrund and the 3rd Platoon set up a road block north of that position, protecting the approach with dismounted machine guns supported by 37mm AT guns. No enemy action, however, resulted throughout the day.

On 7 January 1945 the Troop established an outpost line from

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Buderscheid eastward to a point where elements of the 319th Infantry were dug in near Dahl. The 2nd Platoon set up an OP east of Buderscheid, situated sections in Dahl and Buderscheid and ran periodic mounted patrols through the three points. This plan provided adequate protection for the area assigned the Troop. Again no enemy activity was encountered in the immediate zone but considerable enemy information was picked up by the OP and reported to higher headquarters. The 1st Platoon set up a road block protecting the approach to the 319th Infantry's bridgehead along the Sure River on the same date and the 3rd Platoon, less one section which was attached to the 1st Platoon, supplemented signal communication between the 317th Infantry and the 319th. Operations were seriously handicapped by the heavy snows which raged through the section, limiting visibility and tying up roads. Extremely low temperatures also affected personnel of the Troop as they carried out the same missions until 17 January 1945. The only change effected between 7 January 1945 and 17 January 1945 was relief of the 1st Platoon at their road block on 10 January 1945 by the 3rd Platoon which had previously been relieved of their radio contact mission earlier in the day. The 1st Platoon went into Troop Reserve at Bissen.

On 15 January 1945 a ten man patrol attempted to reach the enemy 79th VG Division CP near Goebelsmuhle with the mission of raiding the headquarters but was forced to return after penetrating enemy lines to a point 500 yards west of the Sure River due east of Dahl. Nevertheless considerable enemy information was developed by the night patrol. A second attempt was made to reach the enemy CP on the following night but again the dense enemy defenses prevented crossing of the river.

The Troop was attached to the 319th Infantry on 17 January 1945 as that regiment prepared to attack north and seize Nocker, the apparent hinge of the enemy line south of the Wiltz River. Stiff resistance was met but doughboys of the regiment cleared the town by 1500 17 January 1945 and the Troop took over the mission of protecting the flanks and maintaining contact on both sides. The 1st Platoon set up northeast of Dahl, operating an OP and maintaining contact with periodic patrols to I Company in Nocker and the 1st Battalion on Hill 500 and Dahl. The 3rd Platoon set up on the left flank, outposting between Dahl and Nocker and physically contacting K Company at regular intervals. Two road patrols were conducted by the 2nd Platoon, one from Goesdorf to Nocker and another from Dahl to Buderscheid where the adjacent Division's flank was contacted. The operation again was hampered by the heavy snow and extreme cold. Enemy activity was considerable, heavy mortar, artillery and nebelwerfer fire hitting platoon positions throughout the period.

The general withdrawal of enemy forces to the north of the Wiltz River and east of the Clerf River was observed by the 1st Platoon OP who directed and corrected artillery on the mass movement

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to the east. The Troop suffered several casualties during the phase, several due to mines and many due to weather conditions. A platoon of D Company, 702nd Tank Battalion was attached to the Troop but was kept in mobile reserve and used to outpost Goesdorf. The Troop completed their attachment on 23 January 1945.

With a general withdrawal of German forces from the area east of Wiltz on 23 January 1945 occurring, the Troop was immediately assigned a task of establishing contact with enemy elements and reconnoitering the area to Wilwerwiltz. All three platoons were engaged, and although held up by blown bridges east of Wiltz, they moved without enemy contact into Eschweiler by 0400 23 January 1945. Task Force Talbot was formed by the Division on that date and the Troop attached to it. The platoons moved out at 0800 23 January 1945 in the lead of Task Force Talbot and with the mission of reconnoitering to Wilwerwiltz, crossing the river and continuing to Bockholz. The advance went uninterrupted to a point 400 yards west of the Clerf River but heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire halted the column. OP's were established at once and numerous gun positions, entrenchments and several tanks were spotted on the high ground east of the River. Nebelwerfer fire injured four members of the Troop and another was killed when a 10-man patrol, moving into Enscherange to scout the village, ran into heavy machine gun and small arms fire. The cold weather again took its toll among personnel of the Troop, several being evacuated through the next four days.

Division infantry elements met stiff resistance along the river line but broke through on 25 January 1945 and the platoons moved across later that day with the mission of protecting the north flank and contacting elements in the adjacent zone. Both platoons complied with the mission, screening the left flank and making contact with the 101st Infantry 26th Division east of Drauffel. On 26 January 1945 the mission was altered and both flanks of the zone were ordered screened. The 1st Platoon operated on the north, running periodic patrols along the road running east out of Drauffel and the 2nd Platoon ran patrols from Lellingen eastward. A six-man patrol of the 1st Platoon entered Munshausen shortly before dark on the 26th, cleared the town and captured 31 prisoners. No other enemy contact was reported.

As the Division was relieved on 28 January 1945, the Troop assembled in Wilwerwiltz and marched in administrative convoy to Fischbach. In Division Reserve, the Troop conducted rehabilitation of personnel and serviced all weapons and vehicles throughout the remainder of the month.

Paul L. Smith
PAUL L. SMITH
Captain, Cavalry,
Commanding.

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