

TROOP  
HISTORY  
80TH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP  
80TH INFANTRY DIVISION

1ST PART OF II

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# ACTIVATION OF DIVISION

The 80th Infantry Division was activated on 15 July 1942 at Camp Forrest, Tennessee in accordance with General Order No. 1, Hdqs., 80th Infantry Division, Camp Forrest, Tennessee, dated 15 July 1942. Major General Joseph D. Patch assumed command as of that date.

380-72.1

80th Division in World War I:

## 80th In Argonne 25 Years Ago

### Blue Ridge Outfit Participated in World War I

This past week marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the 80th Division's participation in the great Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

Unmarked by any military ceremony . . . it was far more fitting that the 80th observe this anniversary perfecting its training so that the Division will become ever more proficient in its ultimate aim . . . the total destruction of our present enemies on the field of combat.

Rated first of all National Army Divisions by the War Department, the 80th of World War I was called upon three times in the Meuse-Argonne operations . . . and never failed to take its objectives. The Artillery of the Division boasts more days of continuous combat firing than the batteries of any other American Division participating in the Great War, and it is interesting to note that the 80th captured two Germans and one machine gun for every man wounded and one piece of enemy artillery with gun crew for every ten men wounded. It was in the Argonne that the 80th suffered its heaviest casualties and earned the undying right to wear one of the two proud battle streamers which the Division colors bear.

The new 80th respects and gains strength and confidence from the heritage handed down by its parent unit.

## 80th RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

The 80th Reconnaissance Troop, 80th Infantry Division, was originally organized as the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachments, 159th and 160th Infantry Brigades which were organized at Camp Lee, Virginia in August, 1917; served overseas and participated in battle. These organizations returned to the United States and were demobilized at Camp Lee, Virginia (159th Infantry Brigades Headquarters) and Camp Dix, N.J. (160th Infantry Brigades Headquarters) in June, 1919.

In order to perpetuate the history and traditions of the Headquarters Detachments, 159th and 160th Infantry Brigades, they were, under the provisions of Section 3a, National Defense act, reconstituted as Headquarters and Headquarters Companies, 159th and 160th Infantry Brigades were redesignated the 80th Reconnaissance Troop, 80th Division Pursuant to letter from the War Department, dated 30 January 1942.

The 80th Reconnaissance Troop, 80th Division is entitled to silver bands for its guidon. The silver bands are engraved Somme Offensive, Meuse Argonne, Picardy and Lorraine.



## TROOP INSIGNIA



The yellow color in the background of the insignia combined with the saber denote that the unit is basically Cavalry. Lightning signifies the rapidity with which movements are performed by the Troop. Symbolizing the alertness and reconnaissance function of the unit is the head of the pioneer Scout. On the scroll is the motto "Find the foe", this expresses the purpose of the Troop.

## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

15 July 1942: Troop activated at Camp Forrest, Tennessee, per. General order #1, Hqs. 80th Infantry Division, dated 15 July 1942. Captain H.B. Wilson, first commanding officer. 2nd. Lts. E.J. Anselmi, M.J. Camp, R.W. Hill, E.C. Scholz, J.C. Smudin assigned and joined S.O. #1, 80th Infantry Division, 15 July 1942.

6 August 1942: Captain H.B. Wilson relieved of command, transferred to Southern Aviation Training School, Decatur, Alabama. 2nd. Lt. E.C. Scholz assumed command.

- 16 August 1942: Private Nelson died.

18 August 1942: Captain Tom Matlack assigned and joined S.O. #33, 80th Infantry Division. 2nd. Lt. E.C. Scholz relieved of command.

20 August 1942: 2nd. Lt. Paul L. Smith assigned and joined.

1 October 1942: Lts. Miles, R.C. Zimmer assigned and joined.

16 October 1942: 2nd. Lt. Brown, 313 F.A., 1st. Lt. Smith, 315 F.A., 2nd. Lt. Bellamy, 317 Infantry, 2nd. Lt. Henry, 318 Infantry and 2nd. Lt. Kilguss, 319 Infantry attached, S.O. # 73, 80th Infantry Division, 12 October 1942.

15 October 1942: 2nd Lts. Monohan, Warren, Stewart, Know, Jarr, Tubbs and Buccino attached, S.O. # 75, 80th Infantry Division.

20 October 1942: 1st. Lts. Dann, Kerr, 2nd. Lt. Cobb, assigned and joined, S.O. #80, 80th Infantry Division. Captain Moody, MC, attached for duty per. S.O. #79.

23 October 1942: 1st Lts. Znigradski and Fink, attached for duty, S.O. #47, 80th Infantry Division, 13 October 1942.

24 October 1942: 2nd. Lts. J.B. O'Connor, W.A. Simpson assigned per. S.O. #84, 80th Infantry Division.

Chronological history continued:-

31 October 1942: 2nd. Lt. Mathis assigned and joined, S.O. #90, 80th Infantry Division.

4 November 1942: 80th Reconnaissance Squadron (provisional) disbanded per. S.O. #90, Hqs. 80th Infantry Division.

21 December 1942: 1st. Lt. Kerr assumed command.

22 Decemdr 1942: Capt. Matlack relieved per. S.O. #300, Hqs. 4th. Service Command.

31 December 1942: 2nd. Lt. Mathis transfered to Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

3 January 1943: 2nd. Lt. Scholz transfered to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

13 January 1943: 2nd. Lt. Miles transferred to AAF Navigation school, Monroe, La.

23 February 1943: Beginning this date the 80th Reconnaissance Troop participated in Division maneuvers in the Lynchburg, Tennessee area.

26 April 1943: 2nd. Lt. Simpson to Army Air Corp., Berry Field, Nashville, Tennessee.

12 June 1943: 2nd. Lt. Wgner assigned and joined per S.O. #135, par. 2, 80th Infantry Division.

15 June 1943: Troop moved from Troop area to administrative bivouac one mile North of Camp Forrest, Tennessee.

22 June 1943: 2nd. Lt. Cobb transferred to AAF Classification center, Nashville, Tennessee., W.D. S.O. #40, par. 9.

23 June 1943: 80th Reconnaissance moved to bivouac area five miles South of Murfreesboro, Tennessee prior to Tennessee Manuevers.

9 August 1943: Troop reorganized in accordance with T/O 2-27 dated 15 July 1943 as of 12 August 1943 per. G.O. #12 headquarters 80th Infantry Division, dated 12 August 1943 as of 12 August 1943. Authorized strength 149 E.M., 6 officers.

25 August 1943: Troop moved from Lofton, Tennessee to Gallatin at completion of eight weeks 2nd. Army manuevers.

2 September 1943: Troop moved from bivouac area S.W. of Gallatin to entrain at Gallatin station.

4 September 1943: Troop detrained at Camp Phillips, Kansas, 2030 C.W.T.

29 September 1943: 1st. Lt. Anselmi transferred to P.M.G. school, Fort Custer, Mich., per W.D. S.O. #265, par. 10, dated 1 October 1943.

5 November 1943: 2nd. Lt. George P. Rork assigned and joined from C.R.T.C.

17 November 1943: 2nd. Lt. Robert O. Cleary assigned and joined from Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, per letter order 300.4 G.N.M.Q.C., dated 13 November 1943.

18 November 1943: 2nd. Lt. Eugene P. Ramsey assigned and joined. Per. S.O. #304, par. 7, Hq. Cav. School, Ft. Riley, Kan.

28 November 1943: Troop entrained at Camp Phillips, Kansas in preparation to moving to C-A.M.A.

1 December 1943: Troop arrived and detrained at Yuma Railhead, Yuma, Arizona.

3 January 1944: Capt. Kerr ordered on S.D. to Hq. 80th Infantry Division. 1st. Lt. Hill assumed command.

28 January 1944: 2nd Lt. John R. Danley transferred to Staff and Faculty Cavalry School, Fort Riley, Kansas.

12 February 1944: Troop departed Camp Laguna, moved by motor convoy to Palen Pass, California manuever area.



Chronological history continued  
25 March 1944: Troop departed C-A.M.A. moved by rail to  
permanant change of station to Fort Dix, N.J. ✓

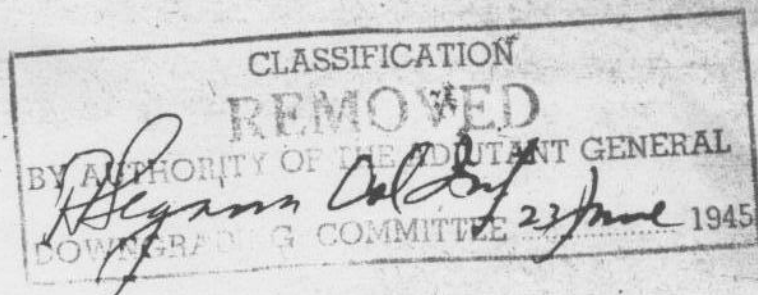
29 March 1944: Troop detrained at Fort Dix, N.J. ✓

21 April 1944: Tech. 4 John P. Egan died of injuries  
received in training.

NAVY DEPT \_\_\_\_\_

O S R D \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS BY LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES:



53

80 DIV

HEADQUARTERS 80TH RCN TROOP

6 January 1946

INVENTORY OF RECORDS: Camp Kilmer, New Brunswick, N.J.

Unit inactivated under authority of R 1-6

ITEM NO.

1

DESCRIPTION

Unit History

Inventory by:

*Eugene P Ramsey*  
EUGENE P RAMSEY  
1st Lt., Cavalry

80-DIV-1-0

1944-45

2ND PART OF II

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cast in the Firth of Clyde, disembarking was completed by eleven o'clock that night at <sup>GLASGOW</sup>, Scotland and odd-looking ~~XXXX~~ British trains were boarded. Six men were assigned each compartment and the usually coffee and donuts were passed out before moving out. The most noticeable thing at the time was that it was almost 2330 and darkness was just beginning to descend on this northern country.

The southern trip took all night and a great part of the next morning to reach the small town of Knutsford, near Manchester. The Division was now scattered for many miles throughout that section of England ~~KA~~ as a safety precaution against air attack. We found we were to be stationed at Mobberly Hall, but the distinguish sounding name proved to be nothing more than a tent camp in a pasture, with neissen huts for bath houses, and the same ~~XXXXXX~~ kind of a structure for mess hall and kitchen. During the three weeks there we found out why the sun never sets on the British Empire (it never rises). English oddities were noted with amusement but should never be questioned, the book said. Pubs proved to be about the same as drinking watered beer in a funeral parlor or a doctor's waiting room, but the Bird in Hand and Roebuck's still played host to the half the troop. Left hand driving was a nightmare for the first few days and more understanding could be procured from the road signs if they were read upside down and backwards. Passes were scarce but most of the men got out by showing they carried their rain coat which always proved of some value whether it rained or not. However when ~~THE~~ a surprise formation was called at midnight ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Sgt Small blew the whistle loud enough to be heard in Wilmslow and men appeared in a surprising array of available clothing to make it in time. Some actually were sleeping at the time.

Much time had been spent carving the waterproof treatment from the vehicles and with everything loaded and everyone accounted for, the road march for the Marshaling Area just outside of South Hampton was begun at 1100 the 31st of July. This march covered approximately 218 miles and brought us to the proper destination at 0500 hours the next morning. Last minute equipment was issued, more numbers were added to the vehicles for shipment and at 0300 hours on the 2nd of August everyone was rudely awakened and made preparations for reaching the port at South Hampton by 0600.

The column of vehicles pulled in beside a Liberty Ship and after a short wait, the big boom began reaching out again and again to pick heavy half tracks off the ground, swing them through the air and deposit them in the hold. By three that afternoon, the Troop and equipment was once again on the move. A convoy was picked up the next morning and by that evening we had our first view of memorable Utah Beach that was still a scene of many moving ships, men and machines as hundreds of ships were unloaded as fast as possible with the important elements of war needed to support the breakthrough the 3rd Army had achieved. Impatiently we awaited our turn and unloading began on the 5th of August and was completed the following day.



The Troop moved out of the confusion of the beach area to a bivouac outside the village of St. Jores for the final briefing and getting equipment ready for the first encounter with the enemy. After carrying gas masks and associated equipment for two years and struggling through numerous gas drills by the numbers, it was all turned in. Preparing for that first battle is a strange experience that keeps the mind revolving over thousands of questions that can only be answered with the first exchange of fire. Hundreds of battle tips received from all sources flash off and on when the orders to move out are received and the convoy rolls out of the pasture and down the road, through St. Jores, past the IP in the direction of Montigny.

That afternoon of 8 August 1944, the Troop convoy moved through Pierrefres, and witnessed their first totally destroyed city. Buildings ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ all over the city had been shaken from their foundations and spilled out onto the streets. At 1800 the column was stopped by General Summers and the Troop received a change of mission and were now to proceed to Lemans in advance of a reinforced combat team.

We more or less assumed that Lemans had already been taken so we ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ traveled all night, experienced half scared feeling of our first enemy air attack, and by morning went busting down the road to Lemans damn confident of ourselves until we began passing burning tanks and freshly killed krauts. Upon reaching the outskirts of the city and finding a battle still in progress we pulled off the road and laid around watching elements of the 90th Division flushing hoards of enemy out of nearby bushes without realizing we were lounging around almost in the midst of a heavy battle. Finally orders came through to move back to a tactical bivouac east of Vaiges.

A mission came through the next day and the Troop began working in advance of the Division in the direction of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Argentan. ~~WHICH~~ The third Platoon picked up the Troop's first prisoner from a friendly civilian and later that day grabbed six more.

On Sunday 13 August 1944, the 2nd Platoon received the first casualties while reconnoitering a road cleared previously by another unit. Like an electrifying shock one vehicle blew up and then in quick succession two more ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ were demolished upon striking mines. Sammy Romano, Edward Grutzmacher and Clarence Williams were killed instantly and several others were wounded. Those first casualties are hard to take. The stark reality that the enemy is no longer a dream but cold blooded, living, breathing men who ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ had just taken the lives of fellows we had lived with for so long, makes one mad at first that slowly tapers off with the thought that we have to continue on, that there will be many more days like this, many more being killed, it's a hell of a job but from ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ then on it was definitely we or they.

The Troop continued ~~on~~ the advance toward Argentan and out posted the Division sector as the infantry moved in and engaged in their first fierce fighting to close the southern arm of the Falaise trap on Von Kluge's 7th German army. Friendly air roamed the skies, pouncing on and destroying hundreds of enemy vehicles and by the 20th of August, Argentan fell, and with it died the German army in a mass grave.

A few days rest at Alemenaches, days of laying in the warm sunshine and swiping persistent bees ~~away~~ off the food, days of repacking equipment and then the Troop moved out in advance of the Division for a long march across France. Those were the days when we realized "to the victor belongs the spoils" for the French gave the miles long column the most enthusiastic welcome conceivable. Streets were lined in villages and cities with children, men and voluptuous women, waving, crying, yelling "Vive L'Americain". Volleys of tomatoes, eggs, bottles of champagne, wine and cognac were gladly thrown in the jeeps and armored cars and in ~~exchange~~ exchange for the sincere gratitude, cigarettes and candy was passed out freely along the route of march. For 350 miles, through Chantenay, Mezeray, Ecommoy, Le Grand luche, La Chatre, Monnaie, Vendome, Moree, Orleans, Chateaufort, Bellegarde, Montargis, and Sens, the Troop traveled fast, met no opposition and thoroughly enjoyed ~~the~~ ride which ~~was~~ ~~never before~~ was far removed from a war we had read about.

At this stage the Division began closing with the enemy and the Platoons were given the mission of locating and holding two bridge sites on the Seine River. Upon moving towards the Aube River with a similar mission, the Troop now held the distinction of being the lead element of the entire allied advance to the North west. One mile south of Mourleins the ~~the~~ 3rd Platoon met the enemy and inflicted numerous casualties, captured an army camp of 50 large buildings, and ammo dump. The same day, the 1st Platoon captured three enemy planes in their sector and along with elements of headquarters platoon captured two German trains of parachutes and equipment.

Long days kept the men moving constantly from dawn to dark, with little time for rest or food. Performance of the missions ~~was~~ was being conducted with great speed, ~~and~~ things went smoothly and then disaster struck. Carl Kredel and Harry Tucker were wounded and a day later the ~~the~~ 3rd Platoon ran into a well laid trap <sup>(over tank knocked out)</sup> in which John Bosetin was killed and Gerrity, Makrancy, Lakey, Lenner, Hershberger, Rueben Anderson, Sellers, and Kochan were taken prisoner. Shortly later Albert Abood was killed when a friendly vehicle struck a mine. The absence of these men meant a great loss to the Troop as they continued on to the Moselle River.

The Division made preparations for crossing the strongly held Moselle and on the 12th of September a bridgehead was forced and a five day battle ensued which swayed back and forth as the enemy counter attacked again and again. The Troop CP and trains were ~~almost~~ almost caught in a strong enemy attack on the 15th of September and managed to escape with little loss of equipment but Capt Hill was wounded in the encounter.

~~The situation~~ Capt Smith took over the reigns of the Troop and the situation became complex for all three Platoons, who had ~~previously~~ previously been ordered to reconnoiter east from the Moselle bridgehead, now found themselves practically cut off and receiving intense enemy fire in their respective areas.



Through successful maneuvering ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXX~~ the 2nd and 3rd Platoons were able to return to the west bank of the Moselle without casualty. The 1st Platoon, however, found themselves in a more precarious position and were forced to take a round about route in their effort to return, in which they met elements of the 4th Armored Division, pointed for them in their rampaging manner of waging war and eventually returned to friendly lines escorting 1000 4th Armored prisoners. One casualty was inflicted during that mission when Wilbur Meyers was hit and forced to be evacuated.

The bridgehead was slowly expanded and on the 8th of October the Division attacked to clear the enemy from three commanding terrain features in the area. The three platoons were assigned to each of the three infantry regiments for the relaying of information to division headquarters which proved to be one of the finest coordinated attacks the division had accomplished to date.

Upon the completion of the attack, the Troop was placed in Division reserve in the vicinity of Morey. ~~XXXXX~~ Extensive maintenance of vehicles and equipment was conducted in that area and the housing situation was taken care of through the construction of an unprecedented array of dug in shelters, equipped with hand made stoves, lights and music tapped from the few available radios at hand. During the extended ~~XXXX~~ reserve status for most of the Troop, several members were required to occupy an advantageous OP on Mont ST Jean which commanded a view of a greater part of the German lines east of the seille river.

The weather began turning ~~XXXX~~ chilly, and feet were continuously cold from tramping in the damp sloppy mud. Beards and moustaches were the style and there ~~XXXX~~ really were some beauties adorning many faces until one day they weren't considered quite proper and the razors were put to work. Passes were frequent to Nancy and Custines was visited daily for beer, and other things.

Suddenly on the 7th of November the Troop moved out after dark and it was learned the Division would attack ~~XXXX~~ the next day with many radios of the Troop again attached to infantry elements for liaison purposes.

The air corps roared overhead in full support, the rumbling of tanks clogging every road meant that once again we were on the move in an effort to reach the Saar River.

The attack ~~XXXX~~ proceeded rapidly as planned and by the 9th of November the Division had established several bridgeheads over the swollen Seille River. The pursuit followed closely on the heels of the attack. The 1st Platoon continued their liaison duties with the infantry, experiencing difficulties following their off-the-road moves, but nevertheless continued to carry out their mission efficiently with all three regiments. The Germans continued delaying actions which kept the 1st and 3rd Platoons occupied developing the situation.

By the 15th of November the 3rd Army's strategy was evident as elements ~~XX~~ to the north of the Division were closing in on the fortress city of Metz in an enveloping move. The 80th, protecting the rear and right of the XII Corps, halted in position south of the Foret De Remilly and engaged the Troop in patrolling the north flank.

Aggressive patrolling was continued through the 19th of November. The difficult mission of clearing the Foret De Remilly was undertaken by the 1st and 2nd Platoons and completed successfully ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ while the 3rd Platoon, ~~XXXXXX~~ at Vittoncourt, sent one section into Chanville and found it unoccupied by enemy forces. Their missions completed, all three Platoons moved back into Vittoncourt during the night and prepared to move in advance of the Division the next day.

Dismounted patrols were frequent in the following days as the ~~Division moved~~ Troop moved through Faulquemont and the enemy resisted determinedly in the old Maginot line fortifications.. The Platoons located numerous enemy positions, and while reconnoitering the 1st Platoon located and attacked a strong enemy patrol, killing four and taking seven prisoners in the skirmish. The following day the 2nd and 3rd Platoons trapped another enemy patrol of 12 men and wiped them out completely. It later developed, by the capture of a German battalion commander, that this patrol had been sent out to scout American positions in order that enemy defenses could be prepared to meet the inevitable attack.

The prospects of indulging in a real Thanksgiving dinner were practically nil until the last minute when the kitchen crew came forth with the turkey and the trimmings. It was necessary to eat in shifts, a section coming off the line at a time, until almost everyone had indulged in the famous American dinner.

The Troop was relieved of its reconnaissance mission as Division troops took all their objectives within the Maginot line. Later during the night each platoon was directed to destroy a junction box of the Maginot's communication system, and while attempting to complete this mission Sgt. Herbert Marchall lost his life as the result of the explosion.

Constantly the Platoons were kept moving, blocked ~~here~~ by floods, harassed everywhere by enemy artillery, hindered by cold, rainy weather that made the going that much rougher. An epidemic of flat tires spread throughout the Division area and the Troop received more than its share. Three flats in one day was not uncommon and one vehicle had as high as seven.



By the 7th of December, after a series of engagements with the enemy and fierce fighting in the vicinity of Betting, Henriville, Farbersviller, the Troop was relieved of all missions and ordered to assemble in Merlebach, France for rehabilitation of personnel and equipment and a rest which was needed by all personnel. Entertainment was furnished by Special Service, several men obtained passes, beer was plentiful, food was eaten from tables once again and the hot showers never felt better. After a rest like that everyone is reluctant to move back on the line again, and the Troop was no exception.

On the 17th of December the Division was ordered to take up a position on the 3rd Army's right flank, and the Troop moved out to in convoy to Guising, France. The stay in that sector was short lived however, for as stories began to drift in of the huge German push in the north, interest was directed that way and suddenly orders were received to move at once to Luxembourg. Late in the afternoon on the 19th of December the Troop proceeded northward. With the use of headlight throughout the night, a steady speed was obtained and on the 20th the capital city of Luxembourg was reached. The natives of the city welcomed the Troops pouring in with great relief and the hospitality received by everyone was unexcelled. A rest that night, and once again the Troop began their reconnaissance and liaison missions which greatly speeded the coordinated moves of the Division as they struck into the southern flank of Von Runstedts major drive and succeeded in driving the enemy to the north bank of the Sure River.

The 2nd Platoon took up position in Schieren, south of Ettlebruck and kept a vigilant watch on enemy positions in and around that town. Shortly later they were joined by the remaining two Platoons. On the 28th of December the Troop was attached to the 318th Infantry and went on line to defend the extreme right sector of their zone along the southern bank of the Sure River. Severe enemy artillery barrages continuously fell among the positions to add to the misery of the snow and extremely cold weather.

On New Years Eve the first casualties of our Battle of the Bulge were sustained when Larkins and Johnston were captured, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ while manning a forward outpost by a German patrol.

The battle to depress the bulge moved into high gear with the beginning of January and the enemy were slowly pushed back only after clinging tenaciously to every bit of high ground, every rock, every tree. Heavy snows blanketed the ground and life at the front was almost unbearable. Water froze in canteens, and many feet froze in boots. Trench foot was a rarity in the Troop but quite common elsewhere along the front. Million-dollar wounds were just exactly what the name signified, for anything was better than suffering up there, constantly evading the whistling rounds of artillery or the wailing, screaming mims. It was a fight against the weather as well as the enemy and many men were lost to the Troop. The continuous enemy artillery finally found it's mark on the Troop and struck the building where the 2nd Platoon was billeted in Esch, killing Tec 5 Carl Hunt and Cpl Robert Wilcox and wounding several others.

The Division had succeeded in getting a bridgehead across the Sure River and enlarged it with an attack on Goesdorf. The

Troop was immediately assigned the task of maintaining contact with advance headquarters of the infantry regiment and the 26th Division on the left flank. In addition the 3rd Platoon set up a road block ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ guarding the vital bridge at Heiderscheidergrund against enemy infiltration. 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. The 1st Platoon operated a road block protecting the approach to the 319th Infantry's bridgehead along the Sure River and then later relieved the 3rd Platoon on their road block. Operations were seriously handicapped by the raging snows, limiting visibility and tying up roads.

The Troop was attached to the 319th Infantry on 17 January as that regiment prepared to attack north and seize Nocher, the apparent hinge of the enemy line south of the Wiltz River. Bitter fighting ensued as the struggling infantry pushed forward. Black powder ~~XXXXXX~~ pocked the deep snow marking the hits of enemy artillery, and the enemy dead marked the path of the hard won advance. As the Regiment took over Nocher, the Troop guarded the flanks and maintained contact ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ between both sides. The 1st Platoon set up northeast of Dahl, operating an OP and maintaining contact with periodic patrols to I Company in Nocher and the 1st Battalion on Hill 500 and Dahl. The 3rd Platoon set up on the left flank, outposting between Dahl and Nocher and physically contacting K Company at regular intervals. Two road ~~XXXXXX~~ patrols were conducted by the 2nd Platoon, one from Goesdorf to Nocher and another from Dahl to Buderscheid where the adjacent Division's flank was contacted. The operation was again hampered by the heavy snow and extreme cold. Several casualties were sustained in the 1st Platoon when ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ an anti-personnel mine was exploded during routine patrol duties.

With a general withdrawal of German forces from the area east of Wiltz occurring, the Troop was immediately assigned a task of establishing contact with enemy elements and reconnoitering the area to Wilwerwiltz. At this time Task Force Talbot was formed by the Division ~~AND~~ with the Troop being ~~assigned~~ attached to the force as a reconnaissance element. The Platoons moved out on the 23th of January in advance of the Task Force and moved ahead without interruption to a point just west of the Clerf River where they ~~XXXXXX~~ were halted in place by intense enemy fire. The enemy threw plenty that day and the weather added to the casualties. Pfc Carl Shelor was killed while on a reconnaissance patrol and several others were wounded by the continuous enemy artillery. That day will never be forgotten as one of the worst the Troop ever encountered.

Infantry elements met stiff resistance along the river line but broke through on the 25th of January. The Platoons followed up with screening missions on the flanks and on the 26th, a six-man patrol of the 1st Platoon entered Munshausen shortly before dark surprising and capturing 31 prisoners.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

With the end of January the Battle of the Bulge had finally been won and relief of the Division was effected by the 17th Airborne Division. The Troop left shortly for Fishback and were placed in Division reserve as the allied line prepared for the next phase of the battle of Germany - the assault of the Siegfried line.



Fischbach, Luxembourg was the scene of an extended rest while the Troop remained in Division reserve. The ~~NIGHT~~ day we pulled in there we found it to be a quaint little village perched on the side of a hill and ~~XXXXXX~~ buried in snow, as everything else in Luxembourg at that time. A break in the weather gradually lowered the deep snow and raised the rivers which were to complicate operations somewhat. The welcomed rest came and went with the insertion of nightly patrols into the curriculum. ~~XX~~

On the 3rd of February, an eight-man patrol, led by Sgt Aramias became the first members of the Division to cross the raging Saar River. Crossing by rubber boat southeast of Hoesdorf, at 2300 hours, the patrol operated along the fringes of the Siegfried line, located enemy positions and returned at 0200 hours. Other patrols were carried out successfully, substantiating <sup>WHERE I WAS WOUNDED 1st TIME</sup> information received previously and on the 7th of February the assault of the Siegfried line began under cover of early morning <sup>TIME FEB 5</sup> darkness.

Resistance grew, and bitter fighting ensued for several days as the enemy continuously hurled artillery and mortar fire into the infantry's lines and well directed small arms fire hampered engineer operations to such an extent that no more than a foot bridge could be constructed across the river for several days.

While the Troop was forced to remain in reserve, a contingent of 22 reinforcements arrived on the 8th of February and their training began with an emphasis on reconnaissance tactics.

With the bridging of the river imminent, the Troop moved up to the high ground on the west bank on 18 February. ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ Doughboy tactics were used as the Platoons went on line replacing the 51st armored infantry battalion while protecting the division's north flank.

The long-awaited march into Germany was fulfilled on the 21st of February as the Troop crossed at Wallendorf and proceeded North along the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ mine-packed western edge of the Siegfried line to take up positions from Roth to Obersiegen on the north flank of the Division's zone as the infantry painfully proceeded into the depths of the well fortified line.

A quick thrust on the 24th of February broke the Line's defenses and the 4th Armored Division was again employed their famous lightning advances and captured a bridge intact over the Enz River near Sinspelt. Hostile forces then started a general withdrawal of the area, evidently attempting to reach the east bank of the Kyll River and defend along that line.

With liaison missions, general reconnaissance, and active patrolling, the three platoons moved in advance of the division as the tide of friendly lines moved eastward through Germany, across the Prum and Nims Rivers and reached the Kyll River with little opposition. <sup>I CAME BACK FROM HOSP. MARCH 10TH AT THIS POINT.</sup>

Captain Robert Hill had returned and again accepted duties as commanding officer. The 4th Armored Division broke away again and ~~XXXX~~ headed for the Rhine. The 90th Division ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ moving north of the division and the 5th Division on the south flank squeezed the 80th out of the line in the mad dash for the Rhine.

A few days relaxation and the Division was ordered to roll again, this time to the rear. A change of Corps, from the 12th to the 30th, a short rehabilitation in Luxembourg and the Division

again jumped off to action and drove their powerful wedge of infantry and tanks into the Seigfried Line for a second time.

The terrain in the new area east of Saarburg was definitely unfavorable. The thick woods and bad roads obstructed by numerous mine fields made Troop operations difficult.

The 3rd Platoon moved out to maintain contact ~~with adjacent units~~ with adjacent units on the division's north flank while the 1st and 2nd Platoons moved to screen the flank as the attack was pressed to the east. The towns ~~WAKE~~ of Mandern, ~~Waldweiler~~ and Waldweiler were cleared with little trouble. The 1st Platoon circled to the north, patrolling and reconnoitering as the 2nd and 3rd Platoon cleared the woods north of Waldweiler which put the 2nd into Steinberg for the night, 16th of March, where they received a strong counter attack and were forced to withdraw without casualties.

Early the next morning a new mission was received and the Platoons swung from the north to the south flank as the Division began a speedy pursuit of the enemy. The 1st Platoon grabbed the first big prisoner haul of 150 PW's. All three Platoon's ~~MADE~~ set a fast pace for the Division on the Reichsautobahn and moved into Kaiserslautern on the 20th of the month. ~~WHERE I SHOT THE FLAG OFF THE CITY HALL, WITH THE TANK GUN.~~ With the collapse of this key communication center without opposition, the enemy's defensive plan was shattered west of the Rhine. The pursuit was pressed to the east and huge quantities of supplies and equipment were being captured daily, together with hundreds of PW's who were surrendering at the sight of our advancing columns.

The 1st platoon knocked off a column of enemy vehicles south of Kaiserslautern, capturing seven, ~~KILLING~~ destroying 3 and taking 28 PW's. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons reconnoitered south east to Lambrecht and picked up 22 PW's during the operation.

A steady stream of allied machines poured towards the Rhine day and night. Roads were clogged with every piece of machinery, every weapon available and even huge landing barges ~~drifted down~~ roared down the highways in preparation for the coming crossing of the famous Rhine.

Again the Division swung out of line and the Troop moved north to Ransweiler for a several day break while the 3rd Army pushed across, constructed bridges under a heavy screen of smoke, established a bridgehead and then the Division moved back into ~~the pursuit~~ action again.

The Troop became attached to the 319th Infantry and moved across the 3rd Army's bridge ~~at~~ in the vicinity of Oppenheim and then swung north to Bischofsheim on the south bank of the Main River. ~~THEY~~ Preparations were made for the 319th to cross the Main River and assault the enemy's flank as the 317th Infantry established another bridgehead across the Rhine at Mainz. The operation was carried out successfully on the 28th of March.

The 1st and 3rd Platoons crossed the Main River by ferry and immediately moved out in advance of infantry forces, reconnoitering routes to the north east in preparation for a new phase of the pursuit.

The two platoon's joined forces to assault the town of Medenbach after observing much enemy activity. They first caught an enemy horse drawn column attempting to leave the town and destroyed or captured the complete column. Mortars and 37's were put to use and the town was fired until a patrol could gain entrance, followed by the remainder of the men, which netted a total of 200 PW's.



Reports were received that elements of the American 1st Army were spearheading down from the north and the Troop was given the mission to attempt contact. That same evening, B Troop, 89th Reconnaissance Squadron, ~~WAS~~ 9th Armored Division ~~WAS~~ linked with the two platoons of the Troop to complete a solid bridgehead east of the Rhine River from the British 1st Army on the North to the American 7th Army on the south.

A day later a northward spurt began with the objective Kassel. The 1st Platoon had a field day on the 30th when they captured 2500 PW's in the vicinity of Verheim. After marching them to and fro in an effort to get them off their hands they finally were successful in getting the MP's to take them for processing. ~~XXXXX~~  
~~XX~~  
~~XX~~

As the division raced northward on the Reichsautobahn on the left flank of the 3rd Army, the Troop was ordered to maintain contact with elements of the 1st Army on the left as they closed the Ruhr pocket.

On the 2nd of April the frontal assault of Kassel began with the enemy counterattacking again and again to no avail. The 1st and 3rd Platoon to the west of Kassel encountered determined enemy resistance. Anti-tank and small arms fire had to be overcome enabling the 1st Platoon to reach Isth and the 3rd cleared Breitenbach. One armored car of the 3rd Platoon ran into difficulty when it slipped from the road under anti-tank fire and several hours passed before it could be retrieved. During the operation 15 PW's were captured, 2 enemy trucks and 2 88mm guns were destroyed.

The strong point of Kassel was reduced by the Division on the 4th of April and the Troop immediately swung around to the right and south flank of the Division as the 80th pivoted on Kassel and began an advance eastward. The platoons ~~WAS~~ operated OP's ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ to observe enemy movement throughout the high ground east of the city. The 2nd Platoon disrupted an enemy attempt to blow ~~UP~~ a bridge in that area with a heavy concentration of machine gun fire. Soon after, however, all missions of the Troop/ were canceled, the division was relieved in the area by the 69th Infantry Division and the Troop immediately proceeded south east. The new mission consisted of determining the presence and location of enemy forces in the new zone in the vicinity of Gotha and contacting the 4th Armored Division there. A hurried reconnaissance proved all areas clear and as the division cleared their new area, the platoons immediately moved to the north flank to fill a gap between the 80th and their adjacent unit the 76th Division.

Company D of the 702nd Tank Battalion was attached to the Troop for operations and once again the attack to the east was continued.

On the 8th of April, the 1st Platoon made contact with the enemy, the first in this area, and frustrated an infiltration move. The 2nd Platoon repulsed a light enemy counter attack, capturing -6 enemy and wounding approximately 20. The first and 3rd Platoons coordinated their operations in clearing the woods in their area, killing several and capturing 15 of the enemy.

During the action, Sgt Edward Kamrath ~~was killed~~, platoon sergeant with the third platoon was killed by enemy rifle fire, while trying to force a surrender from several opposing groups.

Shortly afterwards all Platoons were recalled and assembled in Gotha awaiting the opening of the attack on Erfurt on the 10th of April. Determined resistance was met from outlying towns protecting the approaches to the city from three sides. By the end of the day the division had made successful gains, surrounded the city which fell the following day.

The attack progressed rapidly to the east, with Weimar falling without opposition. The cities of Jena and Eisenberg were gobbled up as the Troop raced ahead of the division taking one objective after another bypassed by the 4th Armored Division as friendly forces consolidated the allied line just west of the important enemy city of Chemnitz. *AT THAT TIME WE WERE THE FARTHEST TROOP'S EAST, 80TH*

~~XXXXXX~~ In the Division was pulled out of the line and ordered to a new area. *RELIN TROOP*

The 3rd Platoon had quite a time and somewhat of a break when they were ordered to the city of Schmolln for the purpose of guarding several key bridges in the area. They maintained law and order there under the command of Lt. Manelily and Lt. Doe.

Once again the Division was pulled from the line and ordered to a new area. On the 18th of April the move south to Bamberg began with the Troop being assigned to maintain law and order in that city upon arrival. *WHERE I WAS WOUNDED 2ND TIME APRIL 18 1945 AT BAMBERG*

Several days later the Division continued to the south to Hitler's beautiful city of Nurnberg, now a smoking mass of ruins. The constant bombing, climaxed by the recent assault of the city had taken it's toll on virtually every structure.

A week in the city gave almost everyone the opportunity of visiting the huge stadiums and structures of interest that once provided the scenes of huge ~~XXXXXX~~ Nazi gatherings. During this time the 2nd and 3rd Platoons took over the mission of guarding an immense enemy ammunition dump several miles south of the city. Extensive maintenance of vehicles and equipment was conducted during the brief respite from battle and then on the 28th of April the Troop proceeded the division as it moved south to Regensburg.

The Troop was attached to the 318th Infantry as the move south continued with the 2nd and 3rd Platoon's leading all division forces, and picked up 300 PW's enroute to the Isar River including a Hungarian General and staff.

The 318th established a bridgehead across the Isar against little opposition. The Troop followed closely on their heels and raced ahead against slight enemy resistance until reaching Braunau on the Inn River where they remained in position awaiting the remainder of the division as it pulled up on line.

On the 4th of May, with the activation of Task Force Smith, under the command of Capt Smith and consisting of The Troop, Company D of the 702nd Tank Battalion and 3 assault guns, the force moved into Austria to split any possible enemy resistance in the wake of the remainder of the division forces.

Outline - Troop reached Schwanenstadt, captured 2000 PW's.

~~XXXXXX~~ *XXXXXX*