

AFTER ACTION REPORT

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION

JANUARY 1945

PREFACE

At the beginning of the period covered by this report the 80th Infantry Division was maintaining temporary defensive positions South of the SUER and West of the SUER Rivers. The Division Command Post was located in ORLEANS (p7740).

1st

Defensive positions were maintained in the 80th Infantry Division Sector.

Extensive patrolling was conducted.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired twenty-nine (29) missions in support of the defense.

2d

The occupation of defensive positions continued.

80th Infantry Division Field Artillery fired one-hundred-seventeen (117) missions. Ten (10) prisoners were captured. Aggressive patrolling was continued to determine enemy strength and dispositions.

3d

Minor adjustments were made in MMR positions.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired one-hundred-twenty-one (121) missions.

Infantry patrols continued aggressive action to probe hostile defenses.

4th

Front line units were rotated and defensive positions were improved. Patrolling was aggressive to further develop hostile disposition.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired seventy-nine (79) missions.

Two (2) prisoners were captured.

5th

Defensive positions were maintained.

Active patrolling was conducted.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired one-hundred-twenty-one (121) missions.

6th

During this period Field Order No 25 became effective.

The 317th and 318th Inf Regts readjusted MLR positions, relieving elements of the 319th Inf from defensive positions.

The 319th Infantry regrouped its forces during the night 5-6 Jan.

The 166th Engineer Combat Bn constructed a bridge over the SURE River in the vicinity of HEIDERSCHEIDERGRUND (p7246) prior to daylight 6 January. At 060400A the 319th Infantry crossed the SURE River and launched an attack to seize GOESDORF (p7343) and DAHL (p7349).

The 3d Battalion crossed the SURE River, by-passed GOESDORF, overcame heavy hostile resistance and difficult terrain and seized DAHL.

The 1st Battalion attacked, overcoming hostile resistance and captured GOESDORF.

The 2d Battalion, Regimental Reserve, moved from HEIDERSCHEID (p7343) to GOESDORF.

Positions were organized for defense.

During this operation heavy artillery and mortar fire were received.

Two (2) enemy tanks were destroyed by the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

One hundred and four (104) prisoners were captured.

Defensive positions were maintained in the sectors of the 317th and 318th Infantry Regiments.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired one hundred eighty-five (185) missions.

7th

The enemy launched a counterattack against the positions of the 319th Infantry at GOESDORF and DAHL. The attack came from the East, North and Northeast and consisted of enemy infantry and tanks.

Artillery concentrations were placed upon the attacking forces inflicting heavy enemy losses.

The 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion destroyed seven (7) enemy tanks and four (4) more were probably destroyed. One (1) enemy tank was destroyed by bazooka fire.

Sixty-seven (67) prisoners were captured.

All defensive positions were maintained without loss of ground.

The 80th Infantry Division Artillery fired one hundred and fifty (150) missions.

The 2d Battalion, 351st Engineer General Service Regiment and Co A 651st Tank Destroyer Battalion were attached to the 80th Infantry Division and in turn were

attached to the 318th Infantry. These units occupied and prepared defensive positions South of ETTILBRUCK (P8240).

#### 8th

Defensive positions were maintained within the Division sector.

The 80th Infantry Division Artillery fired one hundred and ninety-four (194) missions.

Patrolling continued to be active to maintain contact with hostile forces and to determine their identification and dispositions.

#### 9th

Infantry Regiments continued defensive positions and patrolled. Ten (10) prisoners were captured.

The 80th Infantry Division Artillery fired one hundred and two (102) missions.

#### 10th

MLR positions were readjusted and strengthened.

Active patrolling continued.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired fifty-two (52) missions.

#### 11th

MLR positions were adjusted and strengthened.

E Co 319th Infantry reconnoitered in force the town of BUCKHOLTZ (P7958). Complete surprise was achieved. Seventy-three (73) prisoners were captured and the town liberated.

Defensive positions were occupied and prepared by Company E on the high ground West of BUCKHOLTZ.

#### 12th

MLR positions were readjusted and advanced to the North.

The 317th Infantry in the sector of the 3d Battalion advanced its MLR position to the high ground South of WELSCHEID (P8044).

Nine (9) prisoners were captured.

The 80th Infantry Division Field Artillery Battalions fired fifty (50) missions.

#### 13th

The 80th Infantry Division continued to maintain defensive positions and patrolled.

Seven (7) prisoners were captured.

The 80th Inf Div Artillery fired seventy-three (73) missions.

14th

During the period Infantry patrols continued to probe enemy lines.

Nine (9) prisoners were captured.

The 80th Inf Div Artillery fired sixty-eight (68) missions.

15th

Defensive positions were maintained and front line units were rotated.

The 80th Infantry Division Artillery fired eighty-seven (87) missions.

Seven (7) prisoners were captured.

16th

Infantry Regiments continued to occupy defensive positions and patrolled pending the resumption of the offensive.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired sixty-six (66) missions.

17th

80th Infantry Division units completed plans for continuing the attack to the North 180700A.

Field Artillery Battalions fired one hundred and seven (107) missions.

18th

Field Order No 26 became effective 180700A.

The 3d Battalion, 319th Infantry, attacked to the North to seize NOCHER (P7351) encountering heavy enemy resistance. This resistance was overcome and NOCHER was captured.

The 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry, attacked to the East to seize HASSLER (P7349). This attack was supported by fire by the 2d Battalion 317th Infantry. Heavy enemy resistance was encountered. The objective had not been captured by darkness and the 1st Battalion was ordered to occupy former positions in the vicinity of DAHL.

During this operation one hundred seventy-three (173) prisoners were captured. Ground gained by the attack was organized for defense.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired one hundred and seven (107) missions.

19th

Defensive positions were maintained and improved.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired one hundred and ten (110) missions.

Units remained in readiness to resume the attack.

## 20th

The 318th Infantry sent strong patrols to the vicinity of BURDEN (P8244) during the afternoon and finding it unoccupied the 2d Battalion advanced its MLR and occupied the town. The 318th Infantry prepared to continue its advance to the North.

The 317th Infantry prepared to launch an attack to seize KEHMEN (P7845).

The 319th Infantry continued to maintain defensive positions and patrolled.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired ninety-five (95) missions.

Eight (8) prisoners were captured.

## 21th

The 2d Battalion, 318th Infantry, continued its advance during the morning of 21 January and launched an attack on BOURSCHEID (P8047), overcoming hostile resistance and capturing the town.

The 3d Battalion, 318th Infantry, attacked and seized WELSCHIED (P8044). Elements of the 1st Battalion cleared the wooded area between BOURSCHEID and WELSCHIED and East of the SAUER River.

The 2d Battalion, 317th Infantry, attacked at 0500A to seize the bridges over the SURE R north of BOURSCHEID. Unfavorable terrain, deep snow and heavy enemy resistance prevented the capture of the objective and the 2d Battalion was ordered to resume occupation of defensive positions in the vicinity of RINGEL (P7646). Elements of the 1st Battalion attacked and captured KEHMEN (P7845).

One hundred and six (106) prisoners were captured in the operation.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired one hundred and five (105) missions.

## 22d

The defensive positions South of the SURE River were maintained, and units regrouped preparatory to launching an attack to the E of WILTZ (P7053).

The 317th Infantry concentrated in WILTZ.

The 318th Infantry relieved the 317th Infantry within its sector South of the SURE River and prepared to move to the vicinity of WILTZ.

The 319th Infantry maintained defensive positions North of the SURE River.

The 80th Infantry Division Artillery fired thirty-four (34) missions.

Sixteen (16) prisoners were captured.

## 23d

The 317th Infantry launched an attack 230730A to the East of WILTZ and crossed the CLARF River.

Heavy enemy resistance was encountered. The 3d Battalion, 317th Infantry, drove to the East and seized the high ground West of WILDERWILTZ (P7555).

The 1st Battalion attacked to the East to capture ENSCHERANGE (p7456).

The 2d Battalion, Regimental Reserve, remained in ERPELDANGE (p7255).

The 318th Infantry maintained defensive positions in the KENIGEN - BOURSCHIED (p8047) area.

The 3d Battalion, Division Reserve, moved by motor to WILTZ.

The 319th Infantry advanced to the North crossing the WILTZ River.

KAUTENBAUCH (p7652), ALSCHIED (p7653), and MERKELS (p7452) were captured. The 1st Battalion continued to protect the regiment's right flank by maintaining defensive positions South of the WILTZ River.

Twelve (12) prisoners were captured during the period.

#### 24th

The 317th Infantry continued its attack towards the CLERF River with the 1st Battalion capturing ENSCHERANGE on the West bank of the CLERF River and the 3d Battalion gaining the high ground West of WILDER WILTZ.

The 318th Infantry continued to outpost the BOURSCHIED area prepared to assemble in WILTZ.

The 319th Infantry crossed the WILTZ River and mopped up the area between the WILTZ and CLERF Rivers.

#### 25th

The 317th Infantry attacked across the CLERF River at ENSCHERANGE and WILDER WILTZ, clearing the town of WILDERWILTZ of enemy and establishing bridgeheads at both localities across the CLERF River. The 318th Infantry (- 2d Battalion) closed into assembly areas at WILTZ.

The 319th Infantry continued its mopping-up operation in the KAUTENBAUCH - ALSCHIED area.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired one hundred and fourteen (114) missions. One hundred and thirty-four (134) prisoners were captured.

Two (2) Class forty (40) Treadway bridges were opened across the CLERF River late the afternoon of the 25th.

#### 26th

The attack continued.

The 1st Battalion, 317th Infantry, captured BOCHHOLZ (p7958).

The 2d Battalion crossed the CLERF River and cleared the town of LELLINGEN (p7655).

The 3d Battalion seized SIEBENALER (p7758).

The 1st Battalion, 318th Infantry, attached to the 317th Infantry remained in Regimental Reserve.

The 2d Battalion 318th Infantry moved by motor from BOURSCHIED (p8047) and re-

26th

Relieved elements of the 319th Infantry at ALSCHHEIM (p7653) and KAUTENBURGH (p7652).

The 3d Battalion 318th Infantry remained in WILTZ (p7053).

The 319th Infantry prepared for movement to the zone of the 4th Infantry Division North of FELS (p9032).

Artillery fired one-hundred-thirty-three (133) missions.

One-hundred-twenty-seven (127) prisoners were captured.

27th

Task Force SUMMERS was formed to continue the attack to the E to seize the objective (the high ground West of HOSINGEN (p8259)).

Task Force SUMMERS consisted of the following troops:

- 317th Infantry
- 1st Battalion 318th Infantry
- Organic Field Artillery Battalions
- 80th Reconnaissance Troop
- 702d Tank Battalion (-three (3) medium companies)

At 270130 Task Force SUMMERS launched the attack to seize the final objective.

The 1st Battalion 317th Infantry seized NEIDHAUSEN (p8060) and cleared the towns of MARBURG (p8062) and DORSCHHEID (p8161).

The 2d Battalion 317th Infantry patrolled to the East to contact elements of the 5th Infantry Division.

The 3d Battalion 317th Infantry completed the clearing of BOCKHOLZ (p7958).

The 1st Battalion 318th Infantry seized the high ground West of HOSINGEN (p8259).

The 319th Infantry moved to FELS (p9132), and relieved elements of the 4th Infantry Division.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired one-hundred-thirty-three (133) missions in support of the attack.

One-hundred-twenty-seven (127) prisoners were captured.

28th

After seizing the objective, Task Force SUMMERS organized positions for defense.

All units of the 80th Infantry Division remaining in the WILTZ area were relieved by the 17th Airborne Division at 280700A and movement to the 4th Infantry Division sector began.

Co A 91st Chemical Battalion was relieved by Company B.

During the WILTZ-HOSINGEN operation three-hundred-fifty-eight (358) prisoners were captured.

29th

During this period all 80th Infantry Division units closed in the 4th Infantry Division sector.

The 1st Battalion 318th Infantry was released from attachment to 317th Infantry.

Task Force SUMMERS was dissolved.

317th Infantry and 318th Infantry began the relief of the remaining elements of the 4th Infantry Division in MLR positions.

The 319th Infantry in the North half of the Division sector was relieved by Task Force OBCE (4th Armored Division).

The 319th Infantry was placed under the operational control of the 4th Armored Division.

Task Force OBCE (consisting of three (3) Battalions of Armored Infantry, one company of Engineers and one (1) Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, all of the 4th Armored Division) was attached to the 80th Infantry Division.

610th Tank Destroyer Battalion was released from attachment to the 80th Infantry Division.

611th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached.

30th and 31st

Defensive positions were maintained.

80th Infantry Division Artillery fired thirty-five (35) missions.

Four (4) prisoners were captured.

Units in reserve conducted training and maintained vehicles and equipment.

#### GENERAL

Since becoming operational the 80th Infantry Division has captured 12,545 prisoners, and destroyed 130 enemy tanks. 1005 prisoners were captured during the month of January 1945.

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