

Day Turner

Company B, 319th Inf Reg

"Liveth for Evermore" of the events in Dahl, Luxembourg surrounding Sgt Day Turner's MOH.
(MS Word Audio Transcript [NOT edited, just transcribed])

00:00:06 Speaker 1

On the 7th of December 1944, the US 80th Infantry Division was pulled off the front line in northeastern France and placed into a rest area near the city of Saint Avold. Following four months of continuous contact.

00:00:18 Speaker 1

With the enemy.

00:00:20 Speaker 1

However, as well contested W was, it was unexpectedly cut short and the German army launched their counteroffensive into the Ardennes region of Belgium, Luxembourg, on the 16th of December.

00:00:32 Speaker 1

As part of the Allied response to the offensive, the 80th Division was ordered N into Luxembourg as part of General George Patton.

00:00:38 Speaker 1

'S third army.

00:00:39 Speaker 1

Where it was initially tasked with defending the capital city prior to advancing on the German southern flank on the 22nd of December.

00:00:48 Speaker 1

By the 5th of January 1945, the ETF had assisted with breaking the encirclement of the 101st Airborne Division at BASTONE and established a bridge had across the river shore.

00:00:57 Speaker 1

A higher shooter.

00:00:57 Speaker 1

Ground.

00:01:00 Speaker 1

It was from this bridgehead that the 1st and 3rd battalions, the 319 Frenchmen attacked northwards on the 6th of January with Ghost off being liberated at 1000, followed by Dahl 4 Hours later.

00:01:13 Speaker 1

It was at the latter town that the two battalions established defensive positions in anticipation for potential German counterattacks, the first of which came in on the 7th of January, and was followed up by more.

00:01:23 Speaker 1

Determined effort the following morning.

00:01:27 Speaker 1

The second attack, which was opened by an artillery bombardment AT-0530 on the 8th of January to the Germans, launched Italian of infantry, were enforced by tanks against the American defences at dawn, over 319 regiments were port, noting that.

00:01:42 Speaker 1

Azura 630 First Battalion received enemy infantry pressure from the North East 3rd Battalion was attacked from the northwest with infantry and tanks.

00:01:53 Speaker 1

Our first battalions front the company helped with their positions against the German attack with their one outpost consisting of foxholes occupied by a nine man infantry squad led by Sergeant Day, Turner was forced to retire from their position to a nearby farm named as Emma Sturt.

00:02:10 Speaker 1

During the withdrawal, three members of the squad became wounded were private first class Raymond Moreno and private first class boring New Tree, carrying three casualties of the Snow Covered Hill and the relative safety of the farmhouse.

00:02:23 Speaker 1

Here, Sergeant Day Turner directed the remaining able bodied men of his squad into new positions on the 2nd floor where in front of the tree line was 170 metres away, German infantry appeared.

00:02:36 Speaker 1

From the farm, the US squad opened fire, causing heavy casualties. Smokey exposed German infantry and only had the weight of the American fire to contend with. Also had to wade through snow. That was at times knee deep.

00:02:49 Speaker 1

Consequently, the Germans were drew back to the tree line to regroup before launching another attack in the early afternoon. Unlike the first, this new assault was coordinated with the Germans laying down the smokescreen to cover their advance while targeting the farmhouse with both tank and water fire. Sadly, it was during this bombardment.

00:03:08 Speaker 1

At one of the US, Rathman was killed when a mortar round detonated close to the farmhouse. Unfortunately, no records indicate exactly who this soldier was.

00:03:18 Speaker 1

Or that the.

00:03:18 Speaker 1

Normal report for the company documents that five soldiers were killed in action in the 8th of January, including.

00:03:25 Speaker 1

Father, Jack and mass.

00:03:28 Speaker 1

Robert Albert Simpson's private first class, Dexter grammar.

00:03:34 Speaker 1

Prophet Maurice Keller.

00:03:37 Speaker 1

And finally, Father Billy alarms with the squad now reduced to only eight men, of whom three were wounded. Sergeant Day Turner went from room to room distributor whatever supplies. Initially Curtis soldiers. Just as German troops could be heard in the farms courtyard.

00:03:56 Speaker 1

Such will see effectiveness of the smoke screen and the preliminary bombardment that the German infantry had advanced up the hill and into the farm complex without being spotted by the men of the 80th. Having now reached their objective for the Germans moved to securing the farmhouse with five German infantry moon kicking down the front door and moving into the 1st.

00:04:15 Speaker 1

Door where they immediately came under fire from Sergeant Turner, who was positioned at the top of the staircase looking down towards the entrance.

00:04:24 Speaker 1

Far and off 2 rounds of his M1 Garand, the soldier fatally wounded. Two of the German soldiers for experiencing a German his rifle as the other three Germans appeared in the doorway, forced to drop his M1, Sergeant Turner grabbed a nearby oil lamp and held it down the staircase, causing it to ignite into flames and forcing the enemy to retreat outside.

00:04:46 Speaker 1

After several minutes, another group of German troops cautiously advanced back into the building. They were again met by Sergeant Dave Turner, who fled grenade down to the front door, causing his

second group to the Spurs in the confusion, 2 of the Germans rushed up the staircase and became involved in hand to hand fighting the Sergeant Turner, who, having recovered his ground.

00:05:06 Speaker 1

Bayonet to the two soldiers picked up one of their P 40s and drove the remaining German soldiers out.

00:05:11 Speaker 1

From the building.

00:05:15 Speaker 1

Meanwhile, elsewhere on the 2nd floor, the rest of turned the squad was engaged in other German troops, who, moving up to the farm, the two with the US infantrymen becoming wounded was reducing the US squad to only three men.

00:05:28 Speaker 1

Riding in the 12 riflemen to him, Sergeant Turner, realizing that to lower the fighting, had presided over the area that they mounted to the farms courtyard where they counted a total of 11 enemy killed and found a favor. 25 German infantrymen, many three were wounded. That happening saw one of the farm wounds, or 25 to be taken prisoner of war.

00:05:46 Speaker 1

Sergeant Turner and his two colleagues walking the end of the defence of the amateur farm.