



HEADQUARTERS III U. S. CORPS
3RD INFORMATION AND HISTORICAL SERVICE
(Team "K")

23 January 1945

ARDENNES CAMPAIGN
320th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division
26 December 1944 to 12 January 1945

At METZ on the 26th of December, a Division administrative order directing the movement of the 320th Infantry Regt to ARLON was issued. When the Regiment arrived at ARLON, it found that the town was filled *there were no accommodations for them to stop there. They* and proceeded to western LUXEMBOURG and billeted in the town of ROODT LES ELL (P6234). There a fragmentary order was received containing instructions for an attack northward across the LA SURE River to be launched at 270800. At that time the 6th Cavalry Gp was outposting a line south of the river, the other side of which was known to contain the enemy.

Co C 654th Tank Destroyer Bn, Co C 60th Engineer Combat Bn, and one battalion of the Division artillery were in direct support of the 320th Infantry Regt. The Division did not have an attached tank battalion. The 654th Tank Destroyer Bn marched the night of the 26th to be on hand for the attack.



The attack jumped off at 270800 with the 3rd Bn on the left, the 2nd Bn on the right and the 1st Bn in reserve. The 3rd Bn moved to a site at (P607433) where it was planned to build a footbridge. One squad waded the river, approximately waist deep, and formed a small bridgehead to enable the engineers to operate. The remainder of the battalion crossed over this footbridge. Small arms fire was received during the engineers' operations.

The 2nd Bn crossed the river at (P633430) where a partially demolished bridge was used by the foot elements.

At 1730 the platoon of Tank Destroyers supporting the 2nd Bn was 100 yards east of a ford at (P633430). Companies F and G occupied BOULAIDE (P6144) and Co E was in BASCHLEIDEN (P6246) by 2000.

The 3rd Bn with Cos K and I in the lead, hit FLEBOUR (P6146) and outposted the high ground beyond the town. A patrol was sent forward to mine the crossroad at (P617472).

(Between 1015 on the 26th and 1815 on the 27th, the 320th Infantry Regt had travelled 86 miles, passed through three countries, taken over an unreconnoitered front line, launched an attack, crossed a river over which there was no existing bridge, captured three towns, and taken 35 prisoners - all without a casualty.)

During the 28th the Engineers put in bridges across the LA SURE that could carry vehiclular traffic. Late in the morning the 3rd Bn received heavy machine gun fire from enemy positions in a wooded area at (P625475).

The regimental CP moved through RAMBROUCH (P6438) to ARSDORF (P6341)

DECLASSIFIED
735017
NARA, DDC

on the 27th and to BOULAIDE (P6144) on the following day.

It became increasingly apparent that the enemy would oppose bitterly any further advance northward. The 2nd and 3rd Bns were both heavily engaged. The 2nd reached the high ground at (P613465, and the 3rd BN a line from (P617472) northeast to (P624477).

On the morning of the 29th the 2nd Bn was held up at FARM FUHRMAN (P6149), and the 3rd Bn was met by tenacious resistance. At the end of the day Co I was at (P615489) and Cos K and L were south of the clearing (P623487). During the day the 2nd Bn was working its way through the woods immediately south of HARLANGE (P610490). Contact had been made with the 26th Infantry Division on the right.

The enemy held strong positions around HARLANGE and southeast along the road to FARM FUHRMAN. The heaviest enemy machine gun fire thus far encountered was received.

There was little material change on the 30th, and the 31st was characterized by only local advances. During this day supporting fires ~~were received from Co D 3rd Chemical Bn.~~

On 2 January Cos F and G cleared a portion of the wood (P6049), then passing eastward across the front of Co I, secured the road from FARM FUHRMAN south to FLEBOUR (P6146). The 3rd Bn using three rifle companies, advanced and secured a position south of the road (P618491-620493). The 1st Bn was attached to the 137th Infantry Regt thereby depriving the 320th Infantry Regt of its reserve. The order had been issued verbally by the CG at 1445 1 January.

The main enemy counter-attack had been delivered on the 31st of De-



ceMBER, diagonally across the front of the 320th. The enemy had to hold the main SONLEZ (P6353)-LUTREMANGE (P5851) road, the axis of the push. HARLANGE (P6149) flanked this road and therefore had to be held. Thus the regiment never reached its objective. A second possibility was that the enemy might shift his line of attack and hit the 320th perpendicularly with a main effort. With this realization, an order was issued by Division directing the procedure in the event of a counter-attack. The battalions after destroying what might be of value to the enemy were to withdraw southward. Such an enemy thrust did not develop.

On 3 January Co C 135th Tank Bn arrived to support the regiment. It had nine tanks operational with one 105-mm self-propelled gun.

On 4 January at 0630 the 2nd and 3rd Bns jumped off with tank support. Resistance was fierce and an enemy counter-attack was received from HARLANGE by enemy troops armed with many automatic weapons. By 1600, two platoons of Co E had occupied the first four houses on the east edge of the town. Ten prisoners had been taken. Then, without warning, the supporting tanks withdrew. Immediately capitalizing on the lack of support, the enemy counter-attacked with tanks and drove the two platoons out of town. During the day the 3rd Bn supported by tanks, had cleared more woods on the right. In the process, ten machine guns were overrun, 88 prisoners taken, and approximately 80 Germans killed.

The 2nd Bn repelled a counter-attack on the 5th which was pointed by three tanks and a halftrack.

On the 5th the 1st Bn was detached from the 137th Infantry Regt and attached to the 134th.



On the 6th the 1st Bn of the 101st Infantry Regt 26th Infantry Div relieved the 3rd Bn of the 320th, which moved to an assembly area at BASCHLEIDEN () preparatory to movement by motor to BASTOGNE to join Combat Command B of the 6th Armored Div. The order was delivered verbally by the Division liaison officer. Relief was completed by 070715 January.

As of 7 January the status of the regiment was as follows: 1st Bn with 134th Infantry Regt, 3rd Bn with Combat Command B 6th Armored Div, 2nd Bn holding a position southeast and east of HARLANGE prior to relief by Tp A 28th Cavalry Sq, 6th Cavalry Gp. The Regimental Combat Team had ceased to exist with the attachment of the 3rd Bn to the 6th Armored Div.

On 8 January the 2nd Bn was relieved and attached to Combat Command A 6th Armored Div. with the cannon company. Only Headquarters Co, the Anti-tank Co and the Service Co remained.

At 1115 on the 9th, Lt. O'Brien, Liaison Officer from Division, brought Field Order No 2 HQ 6th Armored Div. It directed that the 320th reinforce its battalions with anti-tank guns and showed the composition of task forces formed by the 2nd and 3rd Bns. On the 12th the 2nd Bn was relieved from attachment to 6th Armored Div, and the 1st Bn was detached from the 134th Infantry Regt. Both battalions were reassigned to the 320th and it in turn was attached to the 6th Armored Div to operate as a Task Force.

Source - Capt O. E. Faubus, Asst S-3, 320th Infantry Regiment.

Interviewer - C. J. Angulo, T/Sgt.

Date of Interview - 17 January 1945.

Map Reference - GSCS 4040-Sheets

BASTOGNE 121
TULIGNY 124
ARLON 127
WILTZ 122