

After Action Reports
310th Infantry Regiment
78th Infantry Division
March 1945



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Die Geschichte der 62. Volksgrenadier Division von der Neuaufstellung in Neuhammer bis zu letzten Kämpfen im Ruhrkessel.

The History of the 62nd Volksgrenadier Division from the Rebuilding in Neuhammer until the last fightings in the Ruhrpocket.

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 310TH INFANTRY
A.P.O. 78, U. S. ARMY

1 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, United States Army, Washington 25, D. C.

THROUGH: Commanding General VII Corps, A.P.O. 307, U.S. Army

AUTHORITY: In compliance with AM 345-105 etc., the following After Action Report, covering the period 010001A Mar 45 to 312400A Mar 45 is submitted:

AFTER ACTION REPORT IV

FROM: 010001A Mar 45

TO : 312400A Mar 45

1. INTRODUCTION

a. 310th Infantry Regiment commanded by Lt Col THOMAS H. HAYES.

b. Maps referred to in report:

GGCS Germany 1:25,000. Sheets 5205, 5206, 5207, 5208, 5209, 5304, 5305, 5306, 5307, 5308, 5309, 5405, 5406, 5407, 5408, 5409.

c. Station (end of period):

Rechlinghoven, Germany

d. Stations (previous):

Schmidt, 1 Mar - 2 Mar
Heisbach, 3 Mar - 4 Mar
Fusenich, 4 Mar - 5 Mar
Oberlevnich, 5 Mar
Fuskirchen, 5 Mar - 6 Mar
Rheinbach, 6 Mar - 7 Mar
Ringen, 7 Mar - 9 Mar
Rad Neuenahr, 9 Mar - 10 Mar
Kasbach, 10 Mar - 16 Mar
Honnef, 16 Mar - 17 Mar
Siebengebirge, 17 Mar - 20 Mar
Oberröllendorf, 20 Mar - 21 Mar
Rechlinghoven, 21 Mar - 31 Mar

-1-

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e. Changes in organization:

- 1 Mar - 1st Bn attached to OCB 9th Armd Div
3d Bn attached to OGA 9th Armd Div
- 2 Mar - 2d Bn attached to 311th Inf
- 3 Mar - 2d Bn detached from 311th Inf, attached to 309th Inf
Cannon Co attached to 903d FA Bn 0845A, reverted to
310th Inf control 1845A
- 5 Mar - 2d Bn attached to OGA, 9th Armd Div
- 6 Mar - 2d Bn reverted to 310th Inf control
3d Bn reverted to 310th Inf control
- 10 Mar - 2d Bn attached to 47th Inf
52d AIB attached to 310th Inf
- 11 Mar - Co B 583d TD Bn attached to 310th Inf 2d Bn reverted to
Co B 774th Tk Bn attached to 310th Inf Regimental Control
- 12 Mar - 1st Bn detached from OCB, attached to 311th Inf
- 14 Mar - 2d Bn became 78th Div reserve
- 16 Mar - Co Q attached to 311th Inf
52d AIB detached
- 17 Mar - 1st Bn reverted to 310th Inf control
Co G reverted to 310th Inf control
2d Bn reverted to 310th Inf control
3d Bn reverted to 310th Inf control
60th AIB attached to 310th Inf 1500A, detached 2200A
- 22 Mar - Co B 774th Tk Bn detached
- 23 Mar - Co B 893d TD Bn detached
- 24 Mar - Co B 893d TD Bn attached to 310th Inf
Co B 774th Tk Bn attached to 310th Inf

2. THE ENEMY SITUATION

- a. Unit S-2 (See Annex 1, S-2 Overlay)
- b. IFW Report (General Summary of Interrogations)

Because of the fast-moving situation which has been prevalent during most phases of operations this last month, it is extremely difficult to accredit appropriate sub-units within the Regiment with the number of POW coming from them. We cannot, therefore, make a detailed breakdown on this point; however, the total number of prisoners processed this month was 579, which includes 10 officers. This brings the grand total since the beginning of operations up to 1420. There were also 35 Italians this month, who carry a kind of indefinite status as prisoners of war in this stage of the European conflict.

The form in which the enemy was encountered in the last 31 days was a thing well worthy of note. The number of units was again all

-2-

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out of proportion to the number of troops facing us. In fact, in the majority of instances the German strategy was one of withdrawal in which only the minimum number of men were employed in a kind of hold-to-the-last-man situation until this had been accomplished. The overly-large number of identifications was due mainly to the fact that the shuffle of troops in the enemy lines has again taken on increased proportions. Whereas it was still possible to make established identifications a month ago, the present confusion has left before us only jumbled and piece-meal combinations which in most instances turn out to be only hastily organized combat groups or remnants of replacement battalions which have been moved up to the front and thrown into the fray wherever they happened to be needed most. A great many transfers are being made today from other branches of the Wehrmacht to the Infantry; this is especially true of the old Luftwaffe personnel. It is not uncommon, therefore, to find that prisoners are very willing to be of service to our own forces, yes, even anxious, but with the present chaos existing in their army, they are often unable to give much information which would be of value to our forces, even with the best intentions. They repeatedly report that they have been with their present units only two or three days. Even the Soldbuch is useless at this stage of the game, entries having been almost entirely dispensed with in lieu of more important matters.

The soldier himself is thoroughly disgusted with the war at this point, and is more often than not, happy to be a prisoner of the American Army. His contempt for the whole Hitler Regime is now very spontaneous and outspoken, and he would like to see things brought to a head as soon as possible. From all this it is quite evident in what state the morale of the German Army must be at this time, and judging by the overwhelming number of deserters which make up our total of POW for this month, things must be nearing a climax of some kind. Desperation measures have garnished the Nazi lines with every kind of replacement to be found within the present borders of the Reich; boys of thirteen are serving next to men who have already passed the sixty mark. And this must have been going on for some time, since lads who have just become sixteen tell us they have already served in the German Army over a year, and have sufficient evidence to substantiate the fact. Many of the deserters tell us they are members of the German Volksturm, which has also been thrown into the lines to perform any service possible to extract from them, from the digging of emplacements and trenches to the ordinary duties of the Infantry soldier. They come over to us at every opportunity, many even swimming the Sieg River to effect their escape. Others have run away and hidden in barns and cellars for weeks, just waiting until the American forces were

-3-

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close enough for them to make their way to our lines. Frequently soldiers on furlough used their time to escape and desert. One PW tells us how he started out with his truck loaded with supplies back in January, headed toward our lines until he ran out of gas, and then came to us the rest of the way by the hide and seek method. Many of the deserters burn their uniforms to avoid possible detection by Nazi agents while enroute. Still others come to us in civilian clothes because of the present shortage of uniforms in the German Army, especially in the Infantry.

Other interesting things that come up this month are still linked with morale and desertion. Even the Nazi prison camps yawn occasionally and yield some of their contents to the American cause. This month we again counted several such cases among our prisoners, having successfully escaped from just such places and come over to us, one man serving a sentence for the fifth time. Occasionally an officer himself will desert; this happened again this month, his own men firing upon him and fatally wounding a friend who wanted to come with him. There was one NCO who came to us at night, warned us of several counter-attacks of which we knew, and gave exact times and places; his information was later corroborated and his intentions proven to be genuine. Others have surrendered or led Americans to supplies they were supposed to blow up, saying that enough damage had already been done without making more. Very often the prisoners tell us they have not eaten or drunk in four days due to the constant shuffle of troops and the blasted supply lines; even the wounded must walk back from the front now, they say.

The outstanding story of the month is of two prisoners who met at the interrogation cage a few days ago; they met in the very same manner in 1916 in a prison camp in England. It might also be interesting to note two things the PW invariably ask us when they come in for interrogation: "Are we going to America?", and "When will the United States fight Russia?".

All in all, the picture for this month seems to be rather encouraging.

KURT STEIN
1st Lt, AUS,
IPW Team 133-B

3. NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS AND ENEMY RESISTANCE

-4-

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1 March 1945

1st Battalion was attached to GCB 9th Arm Div, crossed the Roer River and moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Vettweiss. 78th Rec Trp relieved the 2d Battalion at 2400A. 3d Battalion and one platoon of Cannon Company was attached to GCA 5th Arm Div and began to move across the Roer River.

2 March 1945

1st Battalion moved from its assembly area in the vicinity of Vettweiss and, against very stubborn resistance, captured Weilerweiss. 2d Battalion was attached to the 311th Infantry. At 0130A it moved across the Schwammanneel Dam over the Roer River and captured Kloster Marienwald. Resistance from small arms and artillery was very heavy. 3d Battalion captured the Kollers heim Woods and Langendorf. Cannon Co was placed in direct support of the 2d Battalion.

3 March 1945

1st Battalion moved from an assembly area in Desterzich to an assembly area in Lommersum. 2d Battalion was detached from the 311th Infantry and attached to the 309th Infantry. Then at 1945A it reverted to 310th Infantry control. 3d Battalion captured Merzenich, Sinzenich and Florin. AT Co was attached to the 309th Infantry at 0845A and returned to Regimental control at 1845A. Cannon Co (less 1 platoon) was attached to the 903d FA Bn at 0845A and reverted to Regimental control at 1845A.

4 March 1945

1st Battalion attacked and captured Gross Bullesheim and Klein Bullesheim against light resistance. 2d Battalion moved into an assembly area in Fussenich. 3d Battalion after a 5 mile advance under intense artillery, automatic weapon and sniper fire captured the important communications, road and rail center of Buskirchen at 2000A.

5 March 1945

1st Battalion followed closely behind GCB tank spearheads and cleared the towns of Ludendorf, Flerzheim, Luftalberg, Miel, Mornhoven and Mittinghoven. 2d Battalion captured Cuchenheim, Oberdreis, Weidesheim, and Rheinbach against moderate enemy resistance. 3d Battalion cleared out Buskirchen and captured Reitzheim and its ford across the Ert Canal against stubborn resistance.

6 March 1945

1st Battalion passed through Stadt Mackenheim and captured Adendorf and Aradorf against light resistance. 2d Battalion remained in defensive positions in Rheinbach. 3d Battalion moved from an assembly area in Cuchenheim to an assembly area in Rheinbach.

7 March 1945

1st Battalion cleared the towns of Villip, Poch, Holzon, Gimmerdorf and Berkum against light resistance. While attacking Mehlen and Lanne seldorf

-5-

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the battalion was ordered to break contact. It was moved to Remagen and prepared to cross the Rhine River. 2d Battalion attacked and captured Heimersheim, then continued to attack southward against light resistance. 3d Battalion passed through the 60th Infantry to capture Bad Neuenahr and the bridges across the Ahr River against moderate enemy resistance.

8 March 1945

1st Battalion (attached to CCB) crossed the Rhine at 0430A via the railroad bridge at Remagen. It was the first unit of an Infantry Division to reach the east bank of the Rhine River. Co B led the column of companies, which after crossing, attacked to the south and captured Kasbach and Ockenfels. 2d Battalion reverted to the 310th Infantry at 1200A, and advanced to an area 2000 yards south of Heimersheim where it set up defensive positions. 3d Battalion captured high ground south of Bad Neuenahr. Artillery fire was heavy throughout the period.

9 March 1945

1st Battalion (attached to CCB) captured Linz meeting fairly light opposition. 2d and 3d Battalions occupied and improved their defensive positions. Enemy artillery fire was light.

10 March 1945

1st Battalion (attached to CCB) attacked Dattenberg and overcoming severe resistance captured and held the town. 2d Battalion moved from its assembly area at 0130A, crossed the Rhine and moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Ohlenberg at 0600A. A strong enemy counter-attack caused the battalion to displace to defensive positions. It was attached to the 47th Infantry at 0755A. 3d Battalion moved from assembly area at 0130A, crossed the Rhine and entered an assembly area in Linz. It moved east and crossed the LD at 1335A; then overcoming medium resistance secured high ground north east of Ohlenberg at 1800A. The battalion consolidated and improved its position. The 52d AIB was attached to the 310th Infantry at 1100A. It jumped off at 1830A, pushed through heavy opposition and consolidated on positions north east of Ohlenberg. In general, enemy resistance was heavy during the day.

11 March 1945

2d Battalion attacked at 0735A, and despite heavy artillery and small arms resistance pushed ahead to take its objective, F692835. Positions were consolidated and the battalion made plans to resume the attack before dawn 12 March. The 3d Battalion improved its defensive positions and

-6-

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prepared to resist an enemy counter-attack. 52d AIB continued to improve defensive positions. Co B 893d TD Bn and Co B 774th Tk Bn were attached to the Regiment. One platoon of each was attached to the 2d Battalion.

12 March 1945

1st Battalion was detached from OCB and attached to the 311th Infantry as of 1200A. The enemy resisted fiercely when the 2d Battalion attacked at 0645A. But pushing through heavy mortar, artillery and small arms fire the battalion reached its objective, F697240. A counter-attack by 4 tanks and a company of Infantry penetrated Co F positions and Cos F and G withdrew to stronger positions. 3d Battalion improved positions. 52d AIB was held in reserve and formed plans to attack at 130500A. It moved to a forward assembly area at 1815A and closed in at 2030A. Enemy resistance was very heavy. 2d Battalion was bombed and strafed twice during the period, heavy artillery and mortar fire fell continuously and direct fire from dug in tanks slowed 2d Battalions advance.

13 March 1945

1st Battalion attached to 311th Infantry attacked west of Honnes against heavy enemy resistance. 2d and 3d Battalions continued to occupy and improve defensive positions. Co L, in Regimental reserve, prepared to attack in the Regimental zone if necessary.

52d AIB (attached to 310th Infantry) attacked toward Objective G (69742) and D (700742) at 0600A. Supported by a platoon of tanks and a platoon of TDs the battalion fought through heavy resistance from dug in tanks, artillery and mortar fire to reach the objectives, but had not secured them by the end of the period. At 1800A, 2 additional platoons of tanks were attached to 52d AIB.

14 March 1945

1st Battalion (attached to 311th Infantry) continued to advance to the north into Reider Dollendorf. 2d Battalion moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Honnes at 1500A as 78th Division reserve. 3d Battalion sent out patrols to search out the area to the north. One platoon of Co K occupied the positions vacated by 2d Battalion and Co M assisted the 39th Infantry by harassing fire.

At 0430A the 52d AIB attacked to secure objective C and D. It encountered very heavy resistance and at 1600A an enemy counter-attack penetrated the zone. Some enemy infiltrated through the battalion lines but the position was held. Patrols were sent to search out the area. Enemy resistance was very heavy and aggressive during the period.

-7-

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15 March 1945

1st Battalion (attached to 311th Infantry) consolidated companies in Nieder Dollendorf. 2d Battalion remained in Division reserve. Co I jumped off at 0600A to secure Objective C and D and obtain observation on Kellenborn. Despite heavy opposition from artillery, tanks, and semi-automatic fire the company captured its initial objective at 0847A. At 1230A it resumed the attack with Co C 52d AIB and secured Objectives C and D at 1747A. Positions were consolidated, road blocks were established, and contact was made and maintained with the units on the right and left.

Co A 52d AIB relieved Co K 310th Infantry at 1050A and occupied defensive positions. Co B 52d AIB continued to occupy and improve defensive positions. Co C was attached to 3d Battalion 310th Infantry. Enemy resistance was heavy. Three dug in tanks were knocked out and 3 personnel carriers were destroyed.

16 March 1945

1st Battalion remained attached to 311th Infantry and consolidated positions north of Konigswinter. Co G was attached to the 311th Infantry and the remainder of the 2d Battalion continued to be in Division reserve. 3d Battalion was relieved by 60th AIB at 1000A, closed into assembly area northeast of Honerf, and was attached to the 311th Infantry as of 1315A. 52d AIB was detached as of 1000A. Artillery fire was fairly heavy throughout the day.

17 March 1945

1st Battalion was detached from the 311th Infantry at 1500A and closed into assembly area in Regimental reserve at 1800A. Co G reverted to 310th Infantry control at 1500A. 2d Battalion moved into forward assembly area and completed relief of the 60th AIB at 2200A. 3d Battalion occupied and improved defensive positions after being detached from the 311th Infantry at 1500A. 60th AIB was attached to the 310th Infantry as of 1500A and detached upon relief by 2d Battalion 310th Infantry at 2200A. Enemy shelling was light throughout the period.

18 March 1945

1st Battalion remained in Regimental reserve. 2d Battalion attacked at 0600A. Overcoming heavy resistance it captured and secured F651334 to F658329 by 1230A. Contact with adjacent units was established and maintained. 3d Battalion jumped off at 0600A and by 1130A had captured and secured F643333 to F648328. Resistance was heavy, and more than 100 prisoners were captured. Co L repulsed an enemy counter-attack at 1000A and inflicted very heavy casualties on the enemy. Co L relieved Co I 309th Infantry at 1930A.

-3-

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19 March 1945

1st Battalion passed through 2d Battalion at 1420A and captured objective F654334 and F658323 against very light resistance. 2d Battalion (less Co E) moved into an assembly area at 2030A as Regimental Reserve. Co E met no resistance and captured Objective F645335 at 1800A. 108 prisoners were captured during the day. Enemy artillery fire was very light during the period.

20 March 1945

1st Battalion closed into assembly area in the vicinity of Oberdellendorf at 1130A; then moved to a forward assembly area at 1700A and closed in at 1900A. Co A relieved Co I 309th Infantry at 1900A. 2d and 3d Battalions closed into assembly area in Oberdellendorf at 0930A and conducted general inspection of all troops.

21 March 1945

1st Battalion closed in a forward assembly area at 0415A. Attacking at 0550A Cos B and C captured Hangelar at 0700A. Co B continued the attack and supported by 1 platoon of tanks captured Menden at 0930A. Meanwhile Co A, initially in reserve, captured the airfield northwest of Hangelar at 0900A. Co B was relieved by Troop A, 4th Cav Rcn Sqdrn at 2115A.

Cos F and G jumped off at 0715A. Co F captured Heidarpleis at 0815A while Co G secured Mission House at 0815A. Co G then pushed on and captured Siegburg-Kulldorf at 0945A. Positions were organized and contact was made with adjacent units. Enemy resistance was light but 1st Battalion positions received heavy artillery and direct fire during the afternoon.

22 March 1945

Co E held defensive positions. The remainder of the Regiment conducted training for reinforcements and care and cleaning of equipment in an assembly area. Co B 774th Tk Bn was detached as of 2000A.

23 March 1945

1st Battalion conducted training for reinforcements and relieved 2d Battalion at 2130A. 2d Battalion occupied defensive positions, maintained contact with adjacent units and moved into an assembly area at 2345A. 3d Battalion conducted training for reinforcements and test fired weapons. Co B 893d TD Bn was detached as of 1200A.

24 March 1945

When the 1st Battalion attempted to clean out an enemy strong point between F592444 and F601443, it encountered heavy resistance from anti-aircraft guns, artillery, and machine gun and small arms fire. The

-9-

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enemy counter-attacked at 0600A and Co B withdrew to its original positions. At 2300A Co B continued the attack against the strongpoint. 2d and 3d Battalions conducted training for reinforcements, supervised care and cleaning of equipment and test-fired weapons. Co B 393d TD Bn and Co B 774th Tk Bn were attached to the Regiment as of 1400A.

25 March 1945

1st Battalion secured the enemy strongpoint (F592444 to F604443), established OP's and occupied defensive positions. Co F closed in new positions at 0415A. Co E completed relief of the 4th Cav Recon Sqdn at 0830A. Co L 310th Infantry relieved Co L 309th Infantry and was attached to 1st Battalion 310th Infantry at 2300A. 3d Battalion continued training for reinforcements, care and cleaning of equipment and test-firing of weapons.

26 March 1945

Co B relieved Co G at 0305A. Cos A and C were relieved by Cos I and K at 2230A. Co L was detached from 1st Battalion at 2130A. 2d Battalion continued to occupy defensive positions and sent out patrols. Enemy resistance consisted of sporadic 20mm anti-aircraft fire and artillery fire.

27 March 1945

Units occupied and improved defensive positions, conducted training for reinforcements and test fired weapons. Care and cleaning of weapons and equipment was supervised. Combat patrols were sent across the Sieg River.

28 March 1945

Tank-killer training and training for reinforcements was conducted. Units test-fired weapons, practiced the use of the Panzerfaust and sent reconnaissance patrols across the Sieg River.

29 March 1945

The previous days training was continued. Units sent reconnaissance and combat patrols across the Sieg River.

30 March 1945

Units test-fired weapons, conducted training for reinforcements and Infantry tank training, and sent reconnaissance and combat patrols across the Sieg River.

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-10-

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31 March 1945

Combat and reconnaissance patrols reconnoitered north of the Sieg River. Units conducted Infantry-Tank and Panzerfaust training, held small unit problems and test-fired weapons. There was sporadic anti-aircraft and artillery fire during the period.

4. PERSONNEL

a. Strength of Officers and Enlisted Men

31 March 1945	150 Officers	3194 Enlisted Men
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b. Commanding Officers (and of period)

2d Battalion Comdr.	Major	Henry H. Hardenbergh
2d Battalion Exec O	Captain	Hiram L. Sauls
3d Battalion Comdr	Major	Walter H. Pierce
3d Battalion Comdr	Captain	Lester K. Olson
Regimental S-1	1st Lt	James A. Dood
Company Comdr Co A	1st Lt	Millard G. Durhan
Company Comdr Co B	Captain	Mitchell E. Hope
Company Comdr Co C	Captain	Joe M. Ashmore
Company Comdr Hq Co 2	1st Lt	Leonard P. Dileanis
Company Comdr Co E	Captain	Clyde H. Baden
Company Comdr Co F	Captain	William H. Edwards
Company Comdr Co G	Captain	William G. Smith
Company Comdr Co H	1st Lt	Lloyd E. Howard
Company Comdr Co I	Captain	James R. Booner
Company Comdr Co M	1st Lt	David F. Stout

c. Casualties (See Annex No. 3)

d. Graves Registration - 94 official burials.

e. Number of reinforcements and return to duty

Return to duty:	9 - Officers	272 - Enlisted Men
Reinforcements	29 - Officers	1030 - Enlisted Men

f. Prisoners of War - 10 Officers and 569 men
35 Italians

g. Number of promotions

Battlefield Promotions	3
Battlefield Appointments	4
Officer Promotions	3

-11-

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Officer Promotions	3

-11-

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m. Courts-Martial

1 General Courts-Martial

6 Special Courts-Martial

5. SUPPLY AND EVACUATION

a. Ordnance - For the period covered by this report, one unit of fire was authorized in addition to the basic load. This allowance was maintained despite the extended supply lines which characterized the action. Maintenance was largely second echelon. Third echelon work was evacuated to the 778th Ord LN Co despite attachment of sub-elements to other units. Vehicle losses were limited to $\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks. Replacement was satisfactory.

b. Quartermaster -

- (1) Rations were furnished as requested by units once operation got under way. Initially each individual combat element carried one "K" and one "D" ration. Available types were "A", "K", "D", and 10 in 1. Hot meals were drawn from QM 9th Arm'd Div during attachment thereto.
- (2) Gasoline and oil - Gasoline was available at Regimental Class III point. Auxiliary SP's were established well forward whenever necessary or indicated by traffic conditions. Oil and lubricants were furnished at the 26 Echelon Shop.
- (3) Miscellaneous - Quartermaster individual equipment was supplied on hand receipt. Clothing re-supply was conducted through the Regimental Clothing Supply Point on an exchange basis. The stock was maintained by laundering.

c. Signal - Losses during the period were smaller than in the past. Regimental Communications Officer controlled receipt and distribution of signal supplies. Re-supply was swiftly effected.

d. Engineer - As a rule, there was little need for tactical engineer supplies during the period. Such supplies as were needed were available at Division Engineer SP.

e. Mail - Mail was distributed daily (or as often as received) to unit mail clerks at the Regimental Train Bivouac. It was brought forward by the Regimental mail section which operated in the Division Rear Echelon.

-13-

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f. Medical Evacuation - Facilities were ample at all times. In the critical phases of the Rhine bridgehead, ambulances evacuated from a control point on the west bank. Evacuation to this point was effected by jeep and Collecting Company ambulances. Traffic priority for medical evacuation was established almost immediately.

g. Comment - The value of advance planning for supply of rations and fuel was forcibly demonstrated on the Rhine crossing. It was found necessary to speedily establish SPs on the east bank. Although not favorable, traffic conditions permitted sufficient circulation to maintain these SPs. Gasoline resupply was simplified by the tactical limitation of circulation on the bridgehead. Considerable difficulty, however, was experienced in attempting to bring hot meals forward to troops during the first few days when traffic conditions were prohibitive and the approaches to the bridge were under constant enemy bombardment. It was found that attachment to another unit need not necessarily aggravate the problem of resupply. Coordination and cooperation are the determining factors in such situations.

T. Hayes
T. HAYES,
Lt. Colonel, Infantry,
Commanding.

-14-

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After Action Reports

310th Infantry Regiment

78th Infantry Division

April 1945



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Die Geschichte der 62. Volksgrenadier Division von der Neuaufstellung in Neuhammer bis zu letzten Kämpfen im Ruhrkessel.

The History of the 62nd Volksgrenadier Division from the Rebuilding in Neuhammer until the last fightings in the Ruhrpocket.

S E C R E T

**HEADQUARTERS 310th INFANTRY
A.P.O. 72, U. S. ARMY**

1 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, United States Army, Washington 25, D. C.

FROM: Commanding General First United States Army, A.P.O. 203, U.S. Army

REFERENCE: In compliance with AR 345-105 etc., the following After Action Report, covering the period 010001A Apr 45 to 302400B Apr 45 is submitted:

AFTER ACTION REPORT V

FROM: 010001A Apr 45

TO : 302400B Apr 45

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

a. 310th Infantry Regiment commanded by Lt Col HARRY LUTZ.

b. Maps referred to in report.

Germany 1:50,000. Sheets 98 (Wuppertal), 73 (Hagen), 79 (Gummersbach), 99 (Siplo), 100 Westerbarg. Germany 1:100,000 sheets 93, 94, 95, 96. Germany 1:250,000 sheets 851, 852, 151, 152.

c. Station (end of period):

Süd Wiltungen, Germany

d. Station (previous):

Neuhilgenroth, 1 Apr - 4 Apr
Arnsdorf, 5 Apr - 6 Apr
Waldbach, 6 Apr - 9 Apr
Krausenborn, 9 Apr - 10 Apr
Wiltbergersdorf, 10 Apr - 11 Apr
Wiltbergersdorf, 11 Apr - 12 Apr
Gruentling, 12 Apr
Berlischke, 12 Apr - 13 Apr
Wuppertal, 13 Apr - 14 Apr
Katharinen, 14 Apr - 15 Apr
Beyenburg, 15 Apr - 16 Apr
Wuppertal, 16 Apr - 17 Apr
Stadland, 17 Apr - 18 Apr
Süd Wiltungen, 18 Apr

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d. Changes in organization:

- 5 Apr - Batteries C and D 552d AAA Bn attached
Co B 95th Chemical Mortar Bn attached
Co D 774th Tr Bn attached
- 6 Apr - 3d Bn 311th Infantry attached
- 9 Apr - 3d Bn 311th Infantry detached
- 10 Apr - 78th Recon Trp attached
- 12 Apr - 78th Recon Trp detached
- 16 Apr - 3d Bn 310th detached
- 17 Apr - Co's B and D 774th Tr Bn detached
Co B 893d TD Bn detached
Co B 95th Chemical Mortar Bn detached
Battery C 552d AAA Bn detached
- 21 Apr - 3d Bn 310th Infantry attached to 311th Infantry
- 23 Apr - 3d Bn 310th Infantry reverted to Regimental control
Co B 893d TD Bn attached
Cannon Co attached to 1st Bn
- 24 Apr - Battery D 552d AAA Bn attached to 2d Bn
Co B 893d TD Bn attached to 3d Bn

2. THE ENEMY SITUATION

- a. Unit S-2 (See Paragraph 3, Narrative of Ops and En Resistance)
- b. IPW Report (General Summary of Interrogations)

A total of 9,907 prisoners were captured during the period. With the exception of a small number of deserters in the Siegburg area, all of them were captured during the mopping up of the Ruhr area. Many of these prisoners surrendered en masse.

Since 17 April all POW taken are arrestees in civilian clothes, or uniformed released patients from German hospitals in the Regimental zone. Highest ranking arrestee in civilian clothes was Major General Lackner, Commanding General of 2d Parachute Division, arrested in his home in Pritolar 30 April.

KURT STEIN
1st Lt, AGS,
IPW Team 133-B

3. NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS AND ENEMY RESISTANCE

-2-

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1 April 1945

1st Battalion, in assembly area in Hangelar (F998404), conducted training for reinforcements, held small unit problems, test fired weapons. It began the relief of the 2d Battalion at Manden, (F995137), at 2200. 2d and 3d Battalions occupied and improved defensive positions and sent a combat patrol across the Sieg River north of Manden and sent a reconnaissance patrol across the Sieg River in the vicinity of Siegburg (F625445).

2 April 1945

1st Battalion completed relief of the 2d Battalion at 0130. 1st and 3d Battalions sent out 1 combat and 2 reconnaissance patrols into Siegburg. 2d Battalion test-fired weapons and conducted training for reinforcements near Hangelar. A reconnaissance patrol from the I & B platoon returned from a 72 hour patrol 5 kilometers north of the Sieg River. (See Annex 2)

3 April 1945

1st and 3d Battalions improved defensive positions and sent patrols across the Sieg River near Siegburg. 2d Battalion conducted Infantry-Tank training and small unit problems.

4 April 1945

Relief of 1st and 3d Battalions by the 303d Infantry Regiment began at 2200. The 2d Battalion moved from an assembly area in Hangelar to an assembly area in Betendorf (F095435). It moved in at 1630 and began to relieve the 3d Battalion 28th Infantry at 2200.

5 April 1945

The 303d Infantry completed the relief of the 1st and 2d Battalions by 0300. 1st Battalion moved from an assembly area in Villich-Mulldorf (582402) to an assembly area in Betendorf at 0500, completed the relief of the 1st Battalion 28th Infantry at 2000 and improved positions. 2d Battalion completed the relief of the 3d Battalion 28th Infantry, cleared the battalion area and improved positions. 3d Battalion moved from an assembly area in Hangelar at 0500 to an assembly area in Betendorf, completed the relief of 2d Battalion 28th Infantry at 2015 and improved positions. Batteries C and D, 552d AAA Bn; Co B, 95th Chemical Battalion; and Co D, 724th Tn Battalion were attached at 0700. See Annex 2.

-3-

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6 April 1945

1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions attacked abreast at 0500B and met moderate resistance from enemy pockets. 1st Battalion cleared 12 small inhabited places and made gains up to 4000 yards. 2d Battalion cleared 14 small inhabited places and gained up to 6000 yards. 3d Battalion advanced up to 6000 yards, clearing 12 inhabited places. All positions were consolidated and road blocks were established.

The 3d Battalion 711th Infantry was attached to the 310th Infantry and closed into an assembly area in Betsdorf at 0700B. Two platoons maintained road blocks and one platoon patrolled the east-west road along the Sieg River.

Enemy resistance was generally light and 367 POW were captured.

7 April 1945

Co A attacked across country at 0600B and secured the south edge of Niedendorf (F119521). Companies B and C cleared Fischbacherhütte, (F000909) and Eir Fischbach, (F104510). All of Niedendorf was cleared, positions were consolidated and road blocks were set up.

Co E advanced at 0600B and captured the ground in the vicinity of coordinates F007475. Companies F and G continued to clear the enemy in their zones, attacked at 1600B and captured the high ground in the vicinity of coordinates F051553 and F071556. Positions were consolidated and road blocks were established.

Co I attacked at 0600B, captured the ground at F007475 and secured the town of Alzen, (F003504). Companies J and K attacked at 1500B. Co K secured the high ground 800 yards north of Stostenbach, (F014507). Co I was hit by an enemy counter-attack consisting of 4 tanks and 150 men and was forced to withdraw to its original position.

Co I, 311th Infantry advanced at 1800B and captured the high ground south of coordinate F105524.

Enemy resistance was sporadically heavy throughout the day. 747 POW were captured.

8 April 1945

Co A attacked at 0400B and advancing through heavy resistance from artillery and automatic weapon fire captured Obr Heusingen, (F129549).

-4-

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Then with Co B it continued the attack. Froudenberg (FO97355) was captured against heavy resistance and positions were consolidated.

Co E cleared the eastern sector of the battalion area, secured the hill vicinity coordinates FO9055, and supported the 1st Battalion by fire. Companies F and G captured the forward edge of Objectives 34 (FO7A599) and 35 (FO53463) and sent out reconnaissance patrols.

3d Battalion attacked at 0600R and encountered heavy resistance from infantry supported by tanks. Co I captured the high ground north-east of Objective 82 (FO1B543); Co L captured Objective 82 (FO0B599) and Co H pushed to the south slope of Objective 81 (FO35536).

3d Battalion 11th Infantry supported the attack of the 1st Battalion. One platoon established contact with the 13th Infantry and set up road blocks on the eastern flank.

In general advances up to 4000 yards were made against heavily defended pockets of enemy resistance. More than 500 POW were captured.

9 April 1945

1st Battalion continued the attack at 0600R. Co A cleared Froudenberg and pushed to high ground north of town. Companies B and C advanced cross-country east of Froudenberg and made gains up to 4000 yards.

2d Battalion attacked at 0600R. Companies E and G cleared Hohenain (FO20573) against light resistance. Co F continued the attack and captured Mildenburg and Wendersbagen. Co G captured Objective 73 (FO55593) against moderate resistance.

3d Battalion consolidated and defended its positions until passed through by 2d Battalion 11th Infantry. 3d Battalion closed into an assembly area near Solbach at 1400R and moved to a forward assembly in Hohenain, closing in at 1900R.

3d Battalion 11th Infantry was detached as of 0600R.

Approximately 650 POW were captured during the day.

10 April 1945

1st Battalion met light resistance and quickly captured Funstern, (FO10603) and Objective 68 (FO95996). The battalion was then reorganized

-5-

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

and passed through the 78th Pan Trp. It captured Eckenhausen (F971657) and consolidated positions.

Attacking at 0500B the 2d Battalion captured Neppen, (F996606), Neppert, (F528837), and Eucken, (F979634), against sporadically heavy resistance. Co F was attached to the 78th Pan Trp at 1200B.

3d Battalion encountered moderate resistance after jumping off at 0600B. Co I captured Bruner Hof, (F075622), and entered Hillfelohe, (F058645). Co K captured Schwarzbach, (F040634), and Bahn, (F019634). Co L captured Vahlberg, (F045519), Heid, (F050613), and Hosten, (F014661). Positions were consolidated.

The 78th Pan Trp was attached to the 310th Infantry at 0910B. It attacked at 1700B and captured Branschhausen, (F987617).

Advances up to 10,000 yards were made and over 700 POW were captured.

11 April 1945

Attacking at 0500B the 1st Battalion made gains up to 6000 yards against moderate resistance. Baisenberg, (F945678) and Bergmestadt, (F042693) were captured.

2d Battalion (with 78th Pan Trp) captured Hesselbach, (F910698) against light resistance, then overcame stiff opposition to capture Genkel-Agger-Strasse Dam, (F927709), Leisbach, (F930704), and Umenberg, (F916714), as gains up to 8000 yards were made.

3d Battalion continued the attack at 0600B and made gains up to 13000 yards against moderate resistance. It captured Rosten, (F013661), Menolpe, (F003687), Nonenoth, (F983604), Altenbach, (F997707), Wiedenest, (F961694), and Perze, (F974715).

Approximately 1200 POW were taken.

12 April 1945

1st Battalion moved before daylight to an assembly area to the rear of the 2d Battalion, attacked at 0600B and captured Ronsahl, (F844794), Klauwipen, (F815796), Sezwipper, (F804759), and Kluppeldurg (F826793) against moderate enemy resistance.

2d Battalion attacked at 0430B and captured the high ground east of Fromersbach, (F910719). Continuing the attack at 1000B it captured Prullenbach, Neunhude, and Zivingshausen, (F826766), against light resistance.

-4-

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3d Battalion passed through the 1st Battalion and gained up to 3000 yards against moderate resistance.

Gains were made up to 13000 yards and approximately 1200 prisoners were captured.

13 April 1945

1st Battalion, after a day in reserve, cleaning, reorganizing, etc., moved from an assembly area in the vicinity of Klappenberg, (F824795), to an assembly area near Wipperfurth, (F760800), at 1710B and closed in at 2130B.

2d Battalion continued the attack at 0630B, gained 2000 yards and reached the southwest edge of Wipperfurth. Continuing the attack at 1830B, it overcame sporadically heavy resistance and gaining up to 7000 yards, captured Klusenfeldt and Athenhane.

Attack at 0630B 3d Battalion gained 3000 yards to reach the south side of Wipperfurth, (F760800). Heavy resistance was encountered when it continued the attack at 1830B. Overcoming it, the battalion captured Hiesenkamp, (F735810), Tannenbaum, (F733628), and Huckwagen, (F720837).

700 POW were captured.

14 April 1945

1st Battalion continued the attack at 0630B. Co C searched out the area southeast of Wipperfurth, capturing 500 POW, then marched 8 miles, passed through Co A and captured ground southeast of Lennep. Leading elements passed through Lennep meeting no resistance. Co B attacked through the 3d Battalion at 0800B and gained up to 7000 yards against sporadically heavy opposition. Co A followed Co B and captured the high ground 2000 yards north of Lennep.

2d Battalion gained up to 7000 yards against heavy resistance to reach positions 1400 yards south of Lennep.

3d Battalion consolidated positions in Wipperfurth and moved to an assembly area in the rear of the 1st Battalion at 1800B.

15 April 1945

Attacking at 0700A the 1st Battalion captured Lettringhausen, (F659905), Warsheld, (F654994), and Ramenthal, (F659967), as gains up to 10000 yards were made against light resistance. The battalion crossed the Upper River at (F648955) and closed into positions on the eastern edge of Kuppertal at 1930B.

Initially in Regimental Reserve via Lennep, the 2d Battalion was motorized and crossed the Upper River in vicinity of Beyenburg (688947) at 1330B. The battalion captured Vesterturg (F683961) and secured the high ground south of Schwelm making gains up to 10000 yards.

3d Battalion attacked at 0600B, crossed the Upper River at Beyenburg, secured the bridge across it and the high ground on the north side of the river. Gains of 14000 yards were made.

-7-

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Approximately 2000 POW were captured during the day.

26 April 1945

1st Battalion stopped up the enemy in its zone and moved to an assembly area on the eastern edge of Wuppertal at 1800H.

2d Battalion moved to an assembly area northeast of Wuppertal at 1800H after stopping up in its zone.

3d Battalion was detached from the Regiment at 1900H and moved to Gussersbach to guard POW for Corps.

17 April 1945

1st and 2d Battalions remained in assembly area, conducted inspection of all troops and supervised the care and cleaning of weapons and equipment.

3d Battalion reverted to Regimental Control as of 1000H and remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of Gussersbach.

Companies B and D 7th Wz Tk Bn, and Co B 89th TD Bn were detached as of 1200H. Co B 95th Chemical Mortar Battalion was detached at 0600H.

18 April 1945

1st Battalion moved by motor at 1400H to an assembly area in Urbach, (P995175), and Kirchdorf, (P995183), closing in at 2030H. 2d Battalion moved at 1500H by motor to an assembly area in the vicinity of Raubach, (P923197). It closed in at 2100H. 3d Battalion left Gussersbach at 1200H and moved by motor to an assembly area near Kirchdorf, closing in at 1900H. The Regimental CP opened in Dierdorf, (P944165) at 1700H.

19 April 1945

All units remained in their assembly areas. There was a physical inspection of all personnel, weapons and equipment were cleaned, and group games and orientation were conducted.

20 April 1945

Units conducted physical training, orientation, weapons training and organized athletics.

-4-

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21 April 1945

1st Battalion, motorized, moved out at 1830H and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of Wring at 2130H. 2d Battalion, motorized, moved out at 1800H and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of Korbach, (W897778), at 2130H. 3d Battalion conducted weapons training, orientation and physical training. It was attached to the 311th Infantry at 1800H and made reconnaissance and plans to relieve elements of the 112th Infantry. Cannon Co, Battery C 903d FA, and 1 platoon Co B 309d Regt were attached to the 3d Battalion at 1900H. A-T Co was attached to the 2d Battalion at 1800H.

22 April 1945

1st Battalion relieved elements of the 309th Infantry and 311th Infantry and took over their security mission as of 1800H.

2d Battalion relieved elements of 23d TP Group at 1800H and took over security mission.

3d Battalion (attached to 311th Infantry) relieved elements of the 112th Infantry.

903d FA Bn (less Battery C) relieved elements of the 308th FA at 1800H and took over their security mission.

23 April 1945 - 30 April 1945

The Regiment continued to carry out its security mission. 175 towns were screened and 650 prisoners were taken. Weapons training, physical training, orientation, security training, and military courtesy training were conducted for all personnel.

3d Battalion (less Co M and A and P Platoon) reverted to Regimental control at 231715H and relieved the 903d FA Bn. Cannon Co was attached to the 1st Battalion at 231715H and Battery D 552d AAA Battalion was attached to the 2d Battalion at 241400H. Co B 893d TD Bn was attached to the 3d Battalion at 241400H.

4. PERSONNEL:

a. Strength of Officers and Enlisted Men

30 April 1945 114 - Officers 3196 - Enlisted Men

b. Commanding Officers (End of Period)

Regimental Commander	Lt Colonel	Harry Lutz
1st Battalion Commander	Major	Lester K. Olson

-9-

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1st Battalion Base Co	Captain	Richard S. Hays
1st Battalion B Co	Captain	Alan J. ...
Company Commander Co A	1st Lt	Thomas J. ...
Company Commander Co B	1st Lt	Jay B. ...
Company Commander Co C	Captain	John P. ...
Company Commander Co D	1st Lt	George J. ...
Company Commander Co E	1st Lt	Richard A. ...
2d Battalion Base Co	Major	Donald J. ...
Company Commander Co A	1st Lt	Virginia ...
Company Commander Co B	1st Lt	David L. ...

d. Casualties (See Annex No. 2)

e. Graves Registration 108 official burials.

f. Number of reinforcements and return to duty

Return to Duty	10	Officers	353	Enlisted Men
Reinforcements	10	Officers	285	Enlisted Men

g. Prisoners of War 9,467

h. Number of promotions

Battlefield Promotions	8
Battlefield Appointments	21
Officer Promotions	4

i. Reassignment 1

j. Number of Decorations and Awards

Purple Heart	100
Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart	10
Silver Star	10
Bronze Star	20
Combat Infantryman Badge	500

k. Religious Activities

(1) Protestant (2 Chaplains; Lutheran and Baptist)	
16 Sunday Services	Attendance 461
13 Weekday Morning Services	443
3 Communion Services	197

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In addition the Chaplains held group discussions, personal interviews, made hospital visits, distributed Religious and recreational materials, and answered inquiries made by emergency addresses of soldiers.

(2) Catholic (1 Chaplain)

Attendance

72 Masses
657 Confessions
828 Holy Communion
285 Personal Contacts

1158

The Chaplain also conferred with Company Commanders, visited hospitals and aid stations, and distributed Religious tracts and materials.

k. Red Cross - No change

l. Special Service

A total of 72 Officers and 774 Enlisted Men were sent on pass during the period. Of these 370 went to Verviers, 197 to Brussels, 130 to Spa, 103 to Paris, 42 to United Kingdom, and 4 to the Riviera. Movies were shown to all units, and athletic equipment was supplied. Special Service Office printed and developed films without charge, arranged for Red Cross Clubmobiles, took care of overseas gift orders, and supplied PX rations.

m. Courts-Martial

6 General Courts-Martial
4 Summary Courts-Martial

12 Special Courts-Martial
1 Special Courts-Martial (acquitted)

5. SUPPLY AND EVACUATION

a. Ordnance - One unit of fire in addition to basic load was maintained throughout. Maintenance was largely second echelon. Third echelon work was evacuated to the 778th Ord LN Company. Vehicle replacement particularly on larger vehicles was very satisfactory. An increased difficulty in drawing vehicle parts was noted.

b. Quartermaster -

(1) Marked limitation on all types of rations. Alternate difficulty in procuring K or IO in I rations, with the result that ration reserve was not always maintained.

-11-

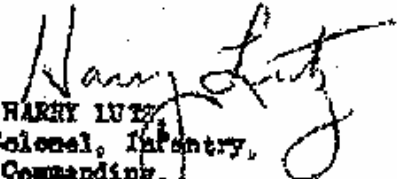
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- (2) Gasoline and oil - Regimental Class III SP maintained sufficient loads for organic and attached units at all times. Exceptional amount of shuttling in the operation frequently necessitated employment of fuel trucks in forward areas.
- (3) Miscellaneous - Clothing re-supply effected through Regimental clothing SP on exchange basis. Stock was maintained by laundering. Small amounts of new stock was available at Division Quartermaster.
- c. Signal - Trend to fewer combat losses continued. Regimental Communication Officer controlled Receipt and Distribution of Signal Supply. Resupply was very satisfactory.
- d. Engineer - Extremely limited use of tactical Engineer supplies. Necessary supplies were available at Division Engineer SP.
- e. Mail - Mail was distributed daily (or as often as received) to unit mail clerks at the Regimental Train Bivouac. It was brought forward from the Regimental Mail Section which operated in the Division Rear Echelon.
- f. Medical Evacuation - Facilities were ample at all times, although the evacuation problem was often aggravated by a fluid situation which made it difficult for aid stations to keep pace with forward elements.
- g. Combat - Principal difficulty was in keeping service trains well forward during a rapidly-moving situation. Economic use of transportation facilitated simultaneous troop shuttling, and unbroken flow of supplies.


HARRY LUTZ
Lt. Colonel, Infantry,
Commanding.

-12-

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