

SECTION III

AFTER ACTION REPORT - APRIL 1945

The operations for CT 60 during the month of April consisted of three major phases. From the 1st to the 11th of the month reduction of the enemy in the RUHR POCKET took place, the reduction of the HARZ MOUNTAIN pocket lasted from the 14th to the 21st and the final phase was the taking over of the line on the MULDE RIVER and the contacting of the SOVIET forces. Particularly heavy fighting occurred in the RUHR POCKET and, although the enemy put up fanatical resistance to open an escape route, casualties were light. With the reduction of the RUHR POCKET organized enemy resistance appeared to have collapsed and the HARZ MOUNTAIN engagements were mainly against small groups of enemy which had become cut off and were attempting to either surrender or escape to the east. The final phase consisted of patrolling to the east from the MULDE RIVER and capturing large groups of enemy fleeing from the approaching SOVIETS.

1 April 45

The 1st Bn was enroute for the new assembly area at BEDDELHAUSEN and arrived there at 0645 hours; jumped off in an attack following the 2d Bn at 1230 hours, moved to the north through WUNDERTHAUSEN thence through the woods to attack the town of MOLLSETTEN where first resistance was met. The Bn took some prisoners and cut the main east-west road.

The 2d Bn closed into the new area at BEDDELHAUSEN at 0345 hours, jumped off in the attack at 1215 hours. It proceeded to the north to WUNDERTHAUSEN then northwest to a point 2 miles southeast of GIRKHAUSEN where poor roads held up the advance. The Bn remained in these positions.

The 3d Bn closed into the new area at ARFELD at 0530 hours, was designated Division reserve and detached from the CT.

2 April 45

The 1st Bn, in positions in NEU ASTENBERG, was counterattacked at 0630 hours by tanks and infantry, was driven from the town, remained on high ground south of town during the day and moved to positions in MOLLSEIFEN at 1900 hours.

The 2d Bn attacked at daylight from positions one-half mile east of GIRKHAUSEN, arrived at the town at 0800 hours and proceeded to the north, sent G Co to the north, cut the road near LANGEWEISE. A heavy battle ensued at road curve at 480825. Position was carried at 1800 hours and final positions were reached at dark.

The 3d Bn remained detached to Division as Division reserve.

3 April 45

The 1st Bn remained in positions during darkness, moved into the town of NEU ASTENBERG to relieve the 3d Bn, 39th Inf, at 0530 hours, patrolled to north and northwest, remained in position to end of period.

The 2d Bn continued the attack at 0800 hours, moved north and then west, then captured the town of WESTFELD after a short small arms battle at 1630, received a counterattack at 1745 and repulsed it, took up defensive positions for the night.

The 3d Bn returned to regimental control at 2030 hours, moved I Co to join the balance of the Bn at HESBORN.

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