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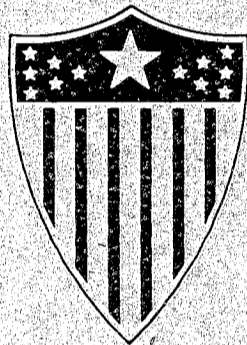
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WAR DEPARTMENT
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Unit History - 14th Inf Regt



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UNIT HISTORY

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Auth: CO 14th Infantry*
*Date: 10 June 1945 *
*Initials: CWC *

14th Infantry Regiment

Unit History of the 14th Infantry Regiment is submitted to cover the period 1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945.

The Regiment, commanded by Colonel Carl E. Lundquist, completed a 400-mile drive in the final forty days pursuit of the defeated German Army through southern Germany and Austria until contact was made with the Russian Army on the Enns River in the vicinity of Steyer, Austria. Wars end 8 May 1945 found the Regiment in the middle Danube plain at Droissendorf, Austria, faced with the problems of handling thousands of displaced persons and prisoners of war.

Temporary military government was established in the area with key control points at Bad Hall (V-8269), Kremsmunster (V-7559), Kematen (V-7966), and Neuhofen (V-8269). Strict military control was thus established, the area completely screened, and arrangements were made for the feeding and processing of the thousands of displaced persons and prisoners of war.

Contact was established between the 14th Infantry Regiment and the 1st Airborne Infantry, 5th Guards Division, of the Soviet Army which was located across the Enns River. Colonel Lundquist was officially made an honorary member of the 1st Airborne Infantry, and Colonel John Kuni, Infantry (Airborne) U.S.S.R., commanding that unit, was made an honorary member of the 14th Infantry on SO #71, dated 14 May 1945, Hq 14th Inf, and awarded the Combat Infantrymans badge. Both commanding Officers exchanged pistols according to the Russian custom. The Russian First Airborne Infantry thus became the Fourteenth's sister Regiment.

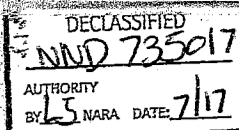
The Fourteenth suffered light casualties in the last eight days of combat from 1 May 1945 to 8 May 1945, losing only seven men wounded and none killed in action.

Moving 115 miles from its bridgehead at Landau on the Isar River through the shattered elements of the withdrawing enemy forces in five days, the Regiment was on the tip of General Patton's southeastern spearhead that had been thrust across the Danube River near Regensburg in the closing days of April, until the Enns River was reached at Steyer, Austria on 5 May 1945.

On 1 May 1945 the First and Third Battalions attacked south along the Landau-Braunau highway to expand the bridgehead over the Isar River. Fighting against sporadic resistance, the battalions swept woods and towns in their zone, moving forward

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rapidly to reach the line, Gigersreuth (U-6309)-Weltersdorf (U-6608). The Second Battalion remained in Regimental reserve at Landau. The 5th and 66th Regiments crossed the River during the morning and attacked on the north flank of the Regiment.

On 3 May 1945 the battalions leap-frogged 18-miles against light resistance to positions vicinity of Walburgskirchen (Z-8187), clearing towns and sweeping woods in the Regimental zone.

Masses of Hungarian troops were encountered during the day. These enemy elements offered no resistance, cheerfully assisting the regiment in freeing its vehicles when they bogged down on the poor roads in that part of the country.

The Regiment made a covered movement by motors and marching east to Ering (V-0181) on the third, to cross the Inn River on a captured dam southeast of the town. Movement of foot elements over the dam started at 1230, the battalions closing into assembly areas vicinity of Altheim (V-0776) by dark.

Plans were then made to strike swiftly down the Braunau-Lambach highway the following morning to cut the Linz-Salzburg highway, only remaining escape route from central Germany to the Redoubt Area in the Bavarian Alps; seize the crossing of the Traun north of Lambach; and push to the north, assisting the 66th Infantry in the capture of the Traun bridge at Wels.

On 4 May 1945 combat team 14, completely motorized, moved East on the Braunau-Lambach highway, leading elements crossing the IP at Altheim at 0930. Moving with a strong reconnaissance force composed of the I & R platoon, a platoon of AF Company, half-tracks of the 635 TD Bn, and a platoon of 71st Reconnaissance Troops two miles to its front, the column was 1 1/2 kilometers west of Horbach at 1200 hours when the reconnaissance force ran into a strong enemy delaying position astride the highway.

The reconnaissance force rapidly developed the enemy position by fire as advance guard troops of the Second Battalion deployed and enveloped the position from both sides of the road. Hitting hard and fast with the infantry-tank team, Company F soon destroyed the initial position, killing thirty enemy and taking forty prisoners. Continuous enemy strong points were encountered as the Second Battalion completed its deployment and fought its way through Horbach to Bachmaning (V-5066).

At 1300 hours the First Battalion started a flanking movement to the east at Gaspoltshofen (V-4667), moving by secondary routes via Wilhelmsburg (V-5069) and Krottendorf (V-5569) with the mission of cutting the escape route and racing for the Traun

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crossing. The Third Battalion followed the Second on the main highway in reserve.

At 1330, according to plan, a small task force composed of a motorized infantry platoon from Company F, a platoon of JI Company, and a platoon of Company G, 635 TD Battalion, moved as a diversionary force toward Lambach. Reaching positions on a high ridge overlooking Lambach from the southwest, the diversionary force sighted columns of enemy traffic moving both directions on the Linz-Salzburg escape route in the valley below at 1500 meters range.

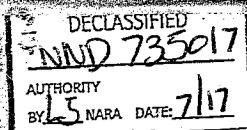
The anti-tank guns and tank destroyer guns went into action on the forward slopes, taking the highway under fire, destroying vehicles, and cutting the escape route to the Redoubt Area.

Meanwhile, the main force of the Second Battalion swung to the left at Bachmaning, to by-pass Lambach to the North. Small groups of the enemy screening forces whose will to fight was broken by the speed of the advance and the annihilation of one of their companies at Horbach, were scattered and large numbers of prisoners were taken.

The First Battalion, advancing parallel to the route of the Second Battalion and three kilometers to the north, ran into delaying forces composed of SS troops. These forces were outmaneuvered by reconnaissance and forced to surrender, as the advance of the battalion was slowed down by the many prisoners and enemy vehicles captured.

The Second Battalion broke the crust of the enemy positions late in the afternoon and reached the Wels-Lambach highway in force, 1 kilometer North of Lambach. Company G pushed across the highway and raced for the Traun bridge at Graben (V-5862), where it met well organized small arms fire. The remainder of the Second Battalion built up on Company G and seized the first of the two bridges as enemy resistance increased.

The Third Battalion moved up behind the Second Battalion and prepared to cross the river when the bridges were secured. The First Battalion emerged on the Linz-Salzburg highway at Strass (V-6156), pushed to the south behind the Third Battalion, and prepared to follow it across the Traun River. Word was received that the Wels bridge had been taken and the Regiment was ordered to advance in its zone to the River Enns after the Traun was crossed. The Russians were reported fighting in the vicinity of Amstetten with six German Divisions caught between the Soviet forces and the Enns River, which was set as the restraining line for the easterly advance of the U. S. forces.



By 0005 hours on 5 May 1945 the two bridges in the vicinity of Graben had been secured by the Second Battalion, but were found to be too weak for heavy traffic. The Third Battalion advanced on foot across the bridge followed by its vehicles less loads, attacked northeast to cut the Wels-Kremsmünster highway, and pushed east to Matselsdorf against sporadic resistance. The First Battalion, moving north, crossed the Traun at Wels, and attacked southeast toward Sippachzell (V-7464) where determined enemy resistance from SS units was broken and a large number of prisoners taken. The Second Battalion followed the third, and swept woods and towns in the Regimental zone, taking approximately 500 prisoners while meeting little or no resistance.

By 2000 hours all three battalions were moving into assembly areas in the vicinity of Proissendorf (V-8863). The motorized battalions, hampered by 1600 prisoners taken during days advance, plowed through narrow, muddy roads filled with columns of abandoned enemy vehicles as the daylight faded.

Orders were received to remain in position the following morning as the Division reached the restraining line on the Enns River. On 7 May 1945 the Regiment was officially notified that all hostilities between Germany and the United Nations would cease at 0001 hours, 9 May 1945.

The Third Battalion was ordered to Oberstallbach (V-8868) at 1600 hours on 8 May 1945 to occupy the line of the Enns on the left of the 5th Infantry Regiment. Pfc Alfred L. Marder of Company M made the Regiment's first official contact with the Russian forces, a company of the 1st Soviet Airborne Regiment motorized, at 1500 on 9 May 1945 on the Oberstallbach (V-8868) Dam.

The Third Battalion returned to the vicinity of Kenning (V-8764) on 10 May 1945, joining the Regiment in training and occupational duties.