

UNIT: 318th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div.

PERIOD: 8 Nov - 4 Dec 1944.

ACTION: LORRAINE Campaign (SEILLE & NIED River Crossings)

SOURCE: Lt Col Glenn H. Gardner, Exec O, 318th Inf Regt, then CO 2d Bn
Capt John L. Gann, S-3, 318th Inf Regt, then Hq Co CO.

PLACE AND DATE OF INTERVIEW: KEMPTEN, GERMANY, 318th Inf Regt CP,
21 June 1945.

INTERVIEWER: Lt S. J. Tobin.

MAPS: 1/50,000 - Title	Sheet No	GSGS No
METZ	34-13	4471
NOMENY	34-14	4471
ST AVOLD	35-13	4471
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Note: Unit history was used for reference during the interview.

On Nov 8, the 318th Inf Regt jumped off in attack to establish a bridgehead across the SEILLE River. A 30-minute artillery preparation was fired on enemy positions on the east side of the river. Prior to the assault crossing the Engrs had placed assault boats on the river's edge for the infantry to use in crossing. Due to the heavy rains during the period, the river ~~raised~~^{rose} several feet during the night and the infantry had to wade through waist deep water about 100 yards to reach the assault boats. The first waves crossed in the assault boats and the later waves crossed on infantry support bridge which was put in by the Engrs early in the morning.

The attack jumped off at 0530 and by 0630 both of the assault Bns were across. The 2d Bn crossed in the vicinity of CLEMERY (872342) and the 1st Bn on the right crossed the river southeast of NOMENY in the vicinity of (903324). The 1st Bn proceeded northward and captured the high ground Hill 217 overlooking the town of MAILLY (909256) shortly after noon. About 1600 the enemy launched a counter-attack against the 1st Bn but this was driven back shortly before dark and the Bn held in the position for the night.

The 2d Bn pushed out across the river against mortar and small arms fire. "E" Co was sent in to take the town of ROUVES (879344) "G" and "F" Cos by-passed the town and continued on to road junction 212 (892355) by 0830. An enemy counterattack consisting of about 100 infantrymen was launched from the direction of RAUCOURT (890370)

The attack was supported by machine gun fire and tank fire at approximately 0900. "E" Co was pulled out of ROUVES to help hold the attack. Excellent fields of fire were obtained on the advancing enemy and they were beaten off without any trouble. Later in the day artillery fire was received from the direction of MAILLY. However this ceased when elements of the 2d Bn put a 57mm AT gun in a position at the cross roads and put several rounds of HE into each of the church steeples in the town. The 2d Bn held in position for the night in the vicinity of cross roads 212.

On the morning of 9 Nov the 1st and 2d Bns jumped off in the attack at 0630. Co "B" 702d Tk Bn was attached to the 1st Bn for the day's operation. The 1st Bn took the towns of MAILLY, PHLIN (931358) and THESEY ST MARTIN (944344) and outposted the towns of PHLIN and THESEY ST MARTIN for the night.

The 2d Bn pushed off cross country toward the NE and clearing the woods BOIS le SEIGNEUR and BOIS de PHLIN. Scattered resistance was met along the way and an enemy defensive line which was lightly held in the edge of the BOIS le SEIGNEUR woods was breached and some 75 prisoners taken. The woods in the vicinity were cleared and the Bn outposted a line generally along the east edge of the BOIS de PHLIN woods. Some 140 PWs were taken during the day. The enemy was said to be making a withdrawal from the area. Enemy artillery activity was noticeably lacking during the day. During the day the Regt CP moved up to MAILLY. That night supplies were replenished under extreme difficulties owing to the weather, the mud and impassable road conditions almost prohibited the use of vehicles.

The next morning, ~~on~~ the 10th Of Nov, the 1st and 2d Bns moved out to take DELME RIDGE. The 1st Bn took VULMONT (950372) FOVILLE (965361) and JUVILLE (982378). Slight resistance was encountered in FOVILLE and VULMONT with increasing sniper fire on DELME RIDGE. Meanwhile the 2d Bn took SAILLY (949389), ACHATEL (949392) and MONCHEUX (976385). Light resistance was encountered at SAILLY and ACHATEL with increasing small arms fire on DELME RIDGE to MONCHEUX⁴. At MONCHEUX contact was made with TF Forrest, 6th Armd Div.

The 1st Bn held in JUVILLE for the night and the 2d Bn held a line from MONCHEUX northwest along DELME RIDGE.

On 11 Nov, the Regt renewed the attack at 0800. By 1000 the 1st Bn had cleared the woods BOIS de JUVILLE (0039) and by 1030 moved on toward MORVILLE sur NIED (048396). The town was cleared during the afternoon and outposted for the night. The 2d Bn pushed off from MONCHEUX and took TRAGNY (006409) by 1000 and with the aid of Co "B" 702d Tk Bn took THIMONVILLE by 1300. By this time the fighting strength of the Bn had been whittled down to approximately 150 men. Col Gardner formed the remnants into a company and attacked FLOCOURT. The town was taken against practically no resistance by about 1500. At FLOCOURT the 2d Bn reverted to Regimental Reserve and the 3d Bn moved thru and captured ST EPVRE shortly before dark. The 3d Bn also secured a railroad bridge across the river at (0642). Defensive positions were set up along the river for the night.

The next day 12 Nov the 1st Bn moved out and crossed the NIED River capturing the town of BAUDRECOURT (0641). They then turned south and captured the town of LUCY (072388). The 3d Bn held in position along the NIED River in the vicinity of ST EPVRE during the day.

On the 13th of Nov the 1st Bn attacked to the NE and took CHENOIS (093407) without resistance, passed thru LESSE (9041) and moved into HOLACOURT (905422). The 3d Bn crossed the railroad bridge and "L" Co in conjunction with the 6th Armd Div took VATIMONT (0743).

The next day Nov 14, the 1st Bn moved from HOLACOURT to BRULANGE (132419) and the 3d Bn moved up to the high ground NW of THICOURT (136440). The 2d Bn moved up to HOLACOURT during the day and was placed in Division Reserve. Units remained in positions during the 15th. The 318th Inf having a mission of protecting the Corps left flank.

On the 16th of Nov the 3d Bn moved north from THICOURT to the high ground north of CHEMERY (157455). In these positions were received an enemy counterattack from the woods to the north. However, this was beaten back without much trouble. The 1st Bn remained in BRULANGE during the day.

During the period Nov 17, 18, and 19 the units held in their respective positions, the 1st Bn in THICOURT, the 3d Bn in the vicinity of CHEMERY. In the meantime the 2d Bn received the necessary

replacements to bring them up to strength.

At 1200 on Nov 20, the 3d Bn moved into FAULQUEMONT against no resistance. The 1st Bn moved up thru FAULQUEMONT to within a 1000 yards of TRITTELING (184538). The 2d Bn moved up to the vicinity of CREHANGE(148503).

On the 21st of Nov, the 2d Bn moved up by truck from HOLACOURT to FAULQUEMONT (1750) then dismounted and moved out to DORVILLER (142536) going by way of ELVANGE and FLETRANGE. The 1st Bn meanwhile moved up to REDLACH (174537).

On the 22d of Nov the 2d Bn moved out to a position on the high ground overlooking HAUTE VIGNEULLE (140565). The 3d Bn moved up to the high ground overlooking BAMBIDERSTROFF (167567). The 1st Bn moved back to Division Reserve at FAULQUEMONT.

During Nov 23 units remained in position and made preparations to attack on the morning of the 25th to take the towns of BAMBIDERSTROFF, ZIMMING (160592) BAMBESCH woods and the forts of KERSTEN, BAMBIDERSTROFF and BAMBESCH.

On the 24th of Nov the 2d and 3d Bns moved forward a few hundred yards in preparation for the attack the next day.

At 0800 on the 25th of Nov, an artillery barrage was fired on the enemy positions and the Bns jumped off in the attack. The 2d Bn on the left was reinforced by Co "B" 702d Tk bn, the 3d Bn on the right was reinforced by Co "C" 610th TD Bn. The 3d Bn captured the town of BAMBIDERSTROFF by 0900 but was pinned down by fire from the forts on the high ground for a short time. However, they were able to continue on and by 1100 had captured their objective and knocked out the two Maginot Forts in their sector. Meanwhile the 2d Bn ran into heavier resistance, their tanks being held up by an AT ditch. After maneuvering past the ditch, the tanks and infantry were able to secure their objective by about 1500. Over 200 PWs were taken during the day's operation.

The next morning 26 Nov, the 3d Bn jumped off to take the high ground overlooking LONGEVILLE (198598). This was accomplished by about 0830. However, the enemy launched four conterattacks on the position, all of which were thrown back by artillery fire.

On the 27th of Nov, the 3d Bn of the 10th Inf, 5th Div relieved

the 2d Bn at ZIMMING at 0900. The 1st Bn moved up thru the 3d Bn and cleared the LONGEVILLE woods and reached a position (249587) by the end of the day overlooking the town of ST AVOLD (250565). The next day 28 Nov, units of the Regt moved into ST AVOLD.

On the 29th of Nov the 2d Bn moved out from ST AVOLD and took the high ground in the vicinity of HENRIVILLE (356556) and the 1st Bn took the high ground in the vicinity of FAREBERSVILLER (365577). Units held their positions during the period 30 Nov to 4 Dec 1944.

On the morning of Dec 4, the Regt attacked with the mission of taking THEDING (385591) and the high ground west of the town. The 2d Bn attacked on the right and the 1st Bn on the left. A 30-minute artillery preparation was fired on the enemy positions in the area with seven Bns of artillery and the mission was accomplished with slight resistance.