

UNIT: 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div.

PERIOD: 8 Nov - 4 Dec 1944.

ACTION: LORRAINE Campaign (SEILLE & NIED River Crossings)

SOURCE: Lt Col Howard D. Ives, Exec O, 319th Inf, then CO 1st Bn
319th Inf Regt,

PLACE AND DATE OF INTERVIEW: MINDELHEIM, GERMANY, 319th Inf Regt CP,
25 June 1945.

INTERVIEWER: Lt S. J. Tobin.

MAPS: 1/50,000 - Title	Sheet No	GSGS No
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Note: The Unit History was used as a reference for time, date and the place during the interview.

On 8 Nov 1944, Regimental CP was at MOIVRONS, FRANCE. The Regimental mission was to secure the salient south of the SEILLE River between ABAUCOURT (918342) and LETRICOURT (943317) and establish a bridgehead east of ALNOIS sur SEILLE (9631). That morning the 1st Bn 319th Regt plus Co "D" 702d Tk Bn and one squad of Co "C" 305th Engrs jumped off in the attack on AULNOIS at 0600. Considerable artillery was fired in preparation and support of the attack. The attack progressed with "B" Co on the left, "A" on the right and "C" in reserve. The tanks remained in the vicinity of (934280) until a bridge could be built at (954295). "B" Co made good progress and entered the town at 0725. "A" Co was held up machine gun and mortar fire coming from the high ground NE of the town. "B" Co, however mopped-up the town and consolidated its positions at about 1145. The bridge was completed by about 1430 and the tanks moved over to support the Bn attack on CRAINCOURT (962319). The town was taken after a sharp fight. The tanks and infantry routed the defenders. "C" Co which had attacked the town with "B" Co on the left received a counterattack, however, this was beaten off by about dark and the Bn Consolidated positions in the town for the night.

During the day, the 2d Bn supported the attack by fire and at 1610 sent its reserve Co (F Co) to reinforce the 1st Bn. Co "C"

702d Tk Bn relieved Co "D" 702d at 1700. The tanks of "D" Co returned to the 3d Bn area in Regimental Reserve at JEANDELINCOURT to await further orders.

The next day 9 Nov, the regiment jumped off in attack to continue its mission. The 905th FA Bn reinforced by the Cn Co 319th Inf and Co "A" 808th TD Bn fired preparations on enemy positions in the CRAIN COURT area and continued to support the 1st Bn throughout the day. The 1st Bn plus "F" Co 2d Bn and Co "C" 702d Tk Bn completed mopping-up in CRAIN COURT and at 1400 pushed to the east. By 0815 the Bn had consolidated a line roughly (954320-963320-269316-972304 with B Co on the left, "C" in the center, "A" on the right and "F" Co in AULNOIS. At about 0900 Co "C" 305th Engr Bn began building a bridge across the SEILLE between LETRICOURT and CRAIN COURT.

Orders to continue the advance and seize the southern half of DELME RIDGE were received, and at 0945 the 3d Bn was ordered to cross the river and take the right half of the Regimental Zone. The 2d Bn was ordered to assemble in AULNOIS and the regiment jumped off in the attack on DELME RIDGE at 1400 with two Bns abreast, 1st Bn on the left and the 3d on the right. At 1430 the 1st Bn captured the bridge intact at (965328) and crossed the stream. The bridge was cleared of demolitions by the mine platoon of the anti-tank Co. By 1600, "B" Co was in LIOCOURT (980356), "A" Co was in ALAINCOURT (977342) and by 1630 the 3d Bn had advanced to the base of DELME RIDGE. "L" Co was in PUZIEUX (000336). All objectives were taken and the ridge cleared by 1830. The Regimental CP moved up to CRAIN COURT and the 2d Bn remained in reserve at AULNOIS. Resistance during the day was scattered and consisted mainly of machine gun and small arms fire. The enemy had extensive entrenchments on the ridge but did not defend them with any vigor.

On Nov. 10 the 1st Bn reverted to Regimental Reserve and was relieved in position by the 2d Bn. The mission for the day was to pursue the withdrawing enemy forces. The regiment attacked with the 2d Bn on the left, reinforced by Co "C" 702d Tk Bn -1 platoon, and the 3d Bn on the right, reinforced by one platoon 702d Tk Bn. The attack jumped off at 0900 and by 1030 the 2d Bn had advanced into

the BOIS de BACOURT woods where they met heavy small arms and mortar fire. Other elements of the Bn, which was attacking with three companies abreast, seized XOCOURT (005353). By approximately 1600 the 2d Bn had cleared the BACOURT woods and had taken Hill 328 (020371) west of BACOURT. Positions were consolidated in this area for the night. "F" Co was on the right and "G" on the left. Meanwhile the 3d Bn reached the vicinity of TINCERY (030347) at approximately 1300. Moderate resistance was met along the way and the town was cleared by mid afternoon. The Bn consolidated its positions and held in position for the night. Contact was made by the 3d Bn with "G" Co 137th Inf, 35th Div at (035343). The 1st Bn remained in Regimental Reserve occupying positions on DELME RIDGE. The Regimental CP was at ALAINCOURT during the day.

The next day 11 Nov, the attack was continued at 0800. The 2d Bn took the town of BACOURT by 1000 after a 15-minute artillery preparation. The attack was supported by tanks from the SW. By 1245 "I" Co took PREVOCOURT (041359) and at 1500 elements of the 2d Bn had reached the NIED River. Meanwhile the 3d Bn (I Co) took PREVOCOURT by about 1300 and "L" Co took HANNOCOURT (051351) shortly thereafter. During the afternoon the 3d Bn mopped-up in the area and pushed out to the east consolidating from a line roughly to ST JEAN farm (053377) for the night. The CP moved up to BACOURT during the day.

On the 12th of Nov the Regimental mission was to continue the attack to the NE. Plans were made to cross the NIED River at FREMERY (076364) following CCA 6th Armd Div. However, these plans were changed on Army order. The regiment then decided to put in a foot bridge in the vicinity of FREMERY and establish a crossing. The bridge was put in north of FREMERY and by 1630 elements of the 3d Bn had crossed the river taking FREMERY against little resistance and moved on to the high ground NE of the town.

The 1st Bn crossed behind the 3d Bn and advanced northward with the mission of taking LUCY (073389). Heavy resistance was met in the town and the 1st Bn 318th Inf crossed into the 319th zone to aid in taking the town. Assisted by tanks the 1st Bn 318th attacked and took LUCY shortly after 1700. The 1st Bn 319th Inf then moved into

LUCY about 1850 and set up positions for the night. The 3d Bn consolidated in the vicinity of FREMERY.

On the next day 13 Nov, the morning was spent sweeping the woods in the regimental sector. The 1st Bn cleared the BOIS de BARON woods by about 1300 and outposted in the vicinity of the road running south from ARRAIN COURT (420422) with two platoons and withdrew the remainder of the Bn to LESSE (1041) closing at 1600.

The 3d Bn cleared BOIS de LUCY by about 0930 and at 1030 moved out to seize CHICOURT taking the town against light resistance by about 1430. Meanwhile the 2d Bn in Regimental Reserve moved up to FREMERY and the Regimental CP moved into LUCY. Positions were consolidated in the respective positions for the night.

The next day 14 Nov the advance was continued at 0840. The 1st Bn reached the high ground east of the BRULANGE (432419) DESTRY (459389) road in its sector. The 2d Bn cleared the woods in its sector and also reached the high ground east of the road by about 1500. Very little resistance being met. During the afternoon one Co of the 1st Bn crossed the river into BRULANGE and the 2d Bn put a Co across the river into SUISSE (452413). A counterattack was received shortly after dark in SUISSE but was thrown back without great difficulty. The 3d Bn remained in CHICOURT during the day. During the day the 6th Armd Div elements in LANDROFF (468415) received a serious counter-attack.

The next day 15 Nov at 0300 "E" Co 2d Bn was sent to LANDROFF to help the 6th Armd Div in LANDROFF repel another counterattack. During the day the 1st Bn plus Co "C" 702d Tk Bn attacked enemy positions on COTE de SUISSE NW of LANDROFF. By 1730 the 1st Bn had reached its objective and consolidated positions along the ridge overlooking LANDROFF with "A" Co on the left and "B" on the right. "C" Co was in reserve in SUISSE. During the day the 2d Bn moved up to positions around LANDROFF and the 3d Bn remained in reserve at DESTRY.

On the morning of 16 Nov, the 319th Inf coordinated an attack with CCA 6th Armd Div. The 3d Bn moved from DESTRY to the vicinity of BOIS BRULANGE (439409) closing at 0915. The 1st Bn attacked to the NE from BRULANGE reinforced by one platoon Co "C" 702d Tk Bn

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following the attack by elements of the 318th and the 6th Armd Div. By evening the towns of CHEMERY (456454), ADELANGE (178458), BOUSTROFF (186451), VILLER (202436) and EINCHEVILLE had been taken. The CP moved up to JARDIN de MANY just south of BRULANGE.

On the 17th of Nov the Regimental mission was to reconnoiter the high ground SE of VILLER-HARFRICH (210409) and seize and hold the high ground generally east of BOUSTROFF. During the day the BOIS de ZANTE woods NE of LANDROFF and the woods between HARFRICH and VILLER were swept for mines. Some automatic fire and 20mm AA fire were received from the vicinity of HARFRICH. Artillery concentrations were fired on the town and the woods to the NE. During the day other elements of the division advanced onto the high ground east of BOUSTROFF against practically no resistance.

The next day 18 Nov, elements of the regiment continued to clear the woods in their zone and to mop up. Positions were consolidated throughout the area.

During the 19th of Nov vigorous patrolling was conducted along the borders of the regimental zone. The Regimental CP moved up to LANDROFF during the day.

On the 20th of Nov, the Regimental mission was to gain contact with the enemy to the north. The regiment advanced with two Bns, 1st Bn on the left and 3d Bn on the right. Key terrain features in the Regimental Zone were taken by about 1400 without resistance. By 1700 the 1st Bn had taken PONTPIERRE (2050). Bridges over the river in the town were found to be blown. During the day the 2d Bn was in reserve in VILLER.

On the 21st of Nov the 1st Bn moved from PONTPIERRE and VAHL (189480) to FAULQUEMONT at 2300. The 3d Bn extended its line to the left to tie in with the 1st Bn at FAULQUEMONT. Positions were consolidated along the line FAULQUEMONT PONTPIERRE for the night. Regimental CP moved up to VILLER during the day. The 3d Bn moved into GUESSLING-HEMERING during the day (2248).

On the 22d, the regiment held in position outposting a line generally from HEMERING (223480) PONTPIERRE to FAULQUEMONT. Regimental CP moved into FAULQUEMONT during the day.

During the 23d of Nov the 2d Bn moved to FAULQUEMONT and other

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elements of the regiment remained in position.

On the 24th of Nov the 2d Bn moved up to the high ground north of REDLACH (175536) and TRITTELING (185539). "L" Co moved into REDLACH about noon. Some resistance was received from pillboxes in the vicinity. Contact was made with the 317th in the area.

On the 25th of Nov the regiment jumped off in attack at 0800 from an LD in the vicinity of REDLACH, 2d Bn was on the left and 3d on the right. The 2d Bn met heavy resistance from a pillbox on Hill 400 (176544). This was knocked out and the advance was continued to the north thru the STOCKEN woods. By 0915 elements of the 2d Bn had reached the BAMBIDERSTROFF (166566) LAUDREFANG road and by 1130 the 2d Bn had taken the EINSELINGERBERG ridge. Elements of the 3d Bn moved into LAUDREFANG and pushed out toward the northeast. Heavy fire was received from Hill 392 which was in the 317th sector. The advance was continued and a large fort in the area was overcome. In conjunction with the 2d Bn the town of LONGEVILLE (2058) was taken. During the day, the Regimental CP moved to REDLACH. Four MAGINOT LINE forts, QUATRE VENTS and the forts in the vicinity of the EINSELINGERBERG ridge were overcome during the day.

On the 26th of Nov the 2d Bn continued mopping up in LONGEVILLE clearing the town during the early hours of the morning. The regiment attacked east toward ST AVOLD with the 2d Bn on the left and the 3d Bn on the right. The 1st Bn went into DOURDHAT (215560). The 2d Bn met heavy resistance along the way and engaged in a fire fight throughout the afternoon. By 1700 the 2d and 3d Bns had taken the high ground overlooking ST AVOLD (250565). Positions were consolidated on the high ground for the night. Regimental CP moved up to LONGEVILLE during the day.

The next day 27 Nov ST AVOLD was taken by the 1st Bn against no resistance by about 0930. The advance was continued to the east at 1400 with the 1st Bn on the right and the 2d on the left. Positions in the vicinity of HOMBERG HAUT (3058) and MACHEREN (2957) were held for the night.

On the 28th of Nov the advance was continued, 1st and 2d moved out at 0800 and by nightfall against light resistance pushed east along the main road to the vicinity of BETTING (3359) and BENING (345595).

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The Regimental CP moved up to BEINGBOUSE (340576) during the day.

During the period 29 Nov to 4 Dec the regiment held in position and conducted patrolling and defensive activities.

On the 4th of Dec the 319th supported the attack of the 318th with their heavy machine guns and 81mm mortars.