

*Parsons*

UNIT: 2d Bn 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div.

PERIOD: 8 - 28 Nov 1944.

ACTION: LORRAINE Campaign (SEILLE & NIED River Crossings)

SOURCE: Lt Joseph H. Johnson, S-2, then AT platoon leader,  
S/Sgt Thomas P. Parkinson, Operations Sgt.

PLACE AND DATE OF INTERVIEW: KRUMBACH, GERMANY, 2d Bn CP,  
27 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
CHATEAU SALINS	35-14	4471
LAARGUEMINES	36-13	4471
SARRE UNION	36-14	4471

Note: Bn Unit Journal was used as a reference during the interview.

During the attack to cross the SEILLE River on 8 Nov, the 2d Bn 319th Inf supported the attack of the 1st Bn by fire with its mortars and heavy MGs. At 1600 the 2d Bn sent its reserve Co (F Co) to support the 1st Bn at AULNOIS (9631)

On 9 Nov the Bn crossed the river and moved into AULNOIS, in reserve.

The next day 10 Nov, the Bn moved to DELME ridge going by way of CRAINCOURT (962319), ALAINCOURT (977342) to LIOCOURT (980356) where they passed through the 1st Bn and attacked to clear the BOIS de RAY woods and take the high ground west of BACOURT (028372).

The attack jumped off at 0900 down the east slope of DELME ridge from LIOCOURT. Heavy resistance was met in the BOIS de RAY consisting of MG, mortar fire and some direct fire from AT guns. After hard fighting the woods were cleared by about 1430. The Bn then attacked Hill 328 (020371) west of BACOURT with F Co on the left and G on the right. Artillery was fired on the hill and the infantry pushed up driving the enemy back into BACOURT. The hill was taken by about 1600 and positions were consolidated in the area for the night. Several officers and ten men were wounded during the day. Because of weather and the wooded terrain vehicles couldn't be used and all supply and

evacuation had to be made by hand.

The next morning 11 Nov, the Bn jumped off from Hill 328 at 0800 with the mission of taking BACOURT and pushing out to the NIED River. A 15-minute artillery preparation was fired on the town and a platoon of tanks from C Co 702d Tk Bn supported the attack from the SW. BACOURT was taken by 1000 against moderate resistance. By 1500 elements of the Bn reached the NIED River west of LUCY (073389). Positions were consolidated on the high ground around Hill 271 and the FARM de MENIL (059381) for the night. Mortar and artillery fire were received on their positions coming from the BOIS du BARON during the afternoon. Patrols were sent along the river looking for bridges, however all were found to be blown.

During 12 Nov the Bn remained in position during the morning and that afternoon moved back to BACOURT in reserve.

On 13 Nov the Bn crossed a foot bridge at the FARM de MENIL which had been built by 3d Army Engrs and moved through LUCY to FREMERY (076364) and remained there for the night, continuing in reserve.

On the 14th of Nov the 2d Bn received orders to clear the woods east and north of FREMERY, BOIS de CHICOURT and BOIS COMMUNAL de LESSE and establish a line along the NE edge of the woods. They jumped off at 0800 and cleared the area finding no enemy. After clearing the woods orders were received to continue on and establish a line along the railroad tracks of SUISSE (153413). Elements of the 6th Armd Div were contacted that night in SUISSE about 1800. The only resistance met during the day was scattered mortar fire coming from the FARM la NETZ (141399). That night elements of the 6th Armd Div in LANDROFF (178415) received a heavy counterattack and E Co was sent up to help them.

The next day 15 Nov all elements of the Bn moved through SUISSE and then to LANDROFF taking up positions in the town. At 1400 an observation plane reported an attack coming from the north toward LANDROFF. G Co and a platoon of tanks from C Co 702d Tk Bn was sent up to the COTE de SUISSE ridge to stop the attack. The attack was stopped by artillery and tank fire before the enemy got within rifle range. The Bn consolidated positions on the ridge and in the town

for the night.

The next day 16 Nov, 2d Bn jumped off in a coordinated attack with elements of the 6th Armd Div. The Bn mission was to clear the BOIS de ZANTE woods and take the town of VILLER (203435). The attack was to jump off at 0800 with tanks from 6th Armd Div, but for some reason they didn't get started until 1100. When the tanks from the 6th Armd arrived they pushed through the woods using artillery and tank fire. Only slight resistance was met. After an artillery preparation on VILLER, the town was taken against slight resistance by 1500; 10 Pws were taken. Principal difficulties during the day were muddy terrain and an anti-tank ditch just east of the BOIS de ZANTE which had to be filled with a bulldozer before the tanks could cross.

Later that evening at 1730 F Co went into BOUSTROFF, meeting no resistance, and took 15 Pws. That night three truck loads, some 150 Pws were sent back from the area.

Positions were consolidated in the area with G Co in VILLER, F in BOUSTROFF and E Co moved into EINCHEVILLE later that night.

Positions were maintained in the respective areas from 17 Nov to 23 Nov.

On the 23d of Nov the Bn moved to FAULQUEMONT (1750).

The next morning 24 Nov, they moved out at 0500 and took up positions north of REDLACH (175538) and TRITTELING (185538). Some long range MG fire was received from pillboxes on Hill 400 (188550). Contact on the right was made with the 1st Bn 317th Inf.

The next morning 25 Nov, the Bn jumped off with the mission of clearing the STOCKEN woods, taking the pillboxes on Hill 400 and the town of LONGEVILLE (2058). The formation for the attack was: G Co on the right, E on the left and F Co in reserve. G Co met heavy resistance from <sup>pillboxes on</sup> Hill 400, but these were taken when the TDs from the 610th TD Bn with their 90's slammed a few rounds of AP into the pillboxes. The Hill was in G Co hands by 0900. Flanking fire from Hill 392 (208548) in the 317th sector caused some casualties to G Co and knocked out one of their supporting tanks. Little resistance was met in the STOCKEN woods. EINGELINGERBERG ridge was attacked and taken

by 1130. TDs and tanks fired on the pillboxes and most of them gave up immediately when approached by the infantry. A large AT ditch 20 feet wide and 10 to 15 feet deep running from the BAMBESCH woods to the ridge caused some delay until a bulldozer could be brought up to fill a crossing. The 2d Bn held up on the EINSELINGERBERG ridge until the 3d Bn on the right came abreast and then pushed into LONGEVILLE. By dark about half the town was occupied and defensive positions were set up for the night.

During the morning of 26 Nov, the Bn completed mopping up in LONGEVILLE and with the 3d Bn jumped off to take ST AVOLD (2557). They met heavy resistance along the road to the town and engaged in a fire fight all afternoon. By night they reached a position about 1 km from the town. Positions were consolidated overlooking ST AVOLD for the night. Considerable artillery, mortar and MG fire was met.

On the morning of 27 Nov the 1st Bn went into ST AVOLD without opposition. The Germans had pulled out during the night before. The 2d Bn moved through the town and pushed to the east reaching the high ground in the FORET de STEINBERG (278585) where they held for the night. Very little resistance was met during the day.

The next day 28 Nov, the Bn moved out and took the high ground north and east of HOMBURG HAUT (3059) and BETTING (3359) where they held in position during the remainder of the period.