

Pain

UNIT: 3d Bn 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div

PERIOD: 8 - 28 Nov 1944

ACTION: LORRAINE Campaign (SEILLE & MIED River Crossings)

SOURCE: Capt James L. Long, S-3, 3d Bn

PLACE AND DATE OF INTERVIEW: BADELHAUSEN, GERMANY, 3d Bn CP,
15 June 1945.

INTERVIEWER: Lt S. J. Tobin

MAPS: 1/50,000 - <u>Title</u>	<u>Sheet No</u>	<u>GS GS No</u>
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Note: Bn Unit History was used as a basis for the interview.

On 8 Nov, during the jump off to cross the SEILLE River, the 3d Bn was in regimental reserve in the vicinity of JEANDELINCOURT.

The next day the 3d Bn mission was to pass through the 1st Bn bridgehead and take the town of PUZIEUX (000335) and the south portion of DELME ridge. The Bn jumped off in the attack from along the road east of CRAIN COURT (965315) with K Co on the left and L Co on the right. The mission was completed by nightfall, the ridge and the town were occupied against practically no resistance. Elaborate entrenchments and defensive positions were found in the area. From the top of the ridge some 200 enemy infantry were seen retreating in the direction of XOCOURT (005353). Some 32 PWs were taken in PUZIEUX. That evening patrols were sent into DELME (015328) and contact was made with elements of the 35th Div. I Co occupied PUZIEUX and K Co was on the southern part of the ridge during the night.

The next morning 10 Nov, the 3d Bn attacked with all three com-

panies abreast. K Co took XOCOURT by approximately 0900 and L Co took TINCERY (030347) by 1130. K Co attacked Hill 326 (025360) during the afternoon but was thrown back suffering severe casualties. The hill was defended by a large pillbox and several 20mm AA guns. K Co lost 38 men including 2 officers and 10 men killed,; 20 PWs were taken during the fighting. After suffering severe losses the company withdrew to XOCOURT. Only slight resistance was met during the day by the other companies. The Bn held positions in the area for the night.

The next morning 11 Nov, the Bn attacked toward the east; K Co on the Bn left flank captured Hill 326 by 0900. The AA guns and most of the enemy defending the hill had withdrawn during the night. Meanwhile I Co took PREVOCOURT (041359) and the attack was continued toward the SE and HANNOCOURT (051351) was taken by 1300 against very light resistance. Vehicles of the Bn got mixed up in the vicinity of HANNOCOURT with elements of a Task Force of the 4th Armd Div which had been sent to help the 35th Div clear the BOIS de SERRES WOODS SW of the town. A fire fight was going on in the woods during the afternoon and harassing artillery fire fell in HANNOCOURT during the afternoon.

The next day 12 Nov, the Bn assembled in the town and moved out to FREMERY (076364) closing at 1400. No resistance was met and a few stragglers who had remained in the town were taken prisoner. They crossed a foot bridge at FREMERY and moved up on the high ground east of the town and spent the night in the vicinity.

The next morning 13 Nov, the Bn moved north and swept the BOIS de LUCY woods by about 1230. The woods were clear and no enemy were found. After combing the woods they moved down to CHICOURT (1036) and remained in the town until 15 Nov in reserve.

During the 15th of Nov the Bn moved to DESTRY (1639). In the vicinity of the town elements of the 4th and 6th Armd Divs were shooting at each other. The day was very foggy and visibility was bad. Units of the armored divisions caught fleeting glimpses of each other through the breaks in the fog. They were moving on more or less parallel routes and recognition was practically impossible under the existing conditions. No damage was done to either party to the best of Capt Long's knowledge.

On the 16th of Nov the Bn moved north and combed the BOIS de BRULANGE woods and then crossed the river at about 1500 at BRULANGE (1342) and continued along the main road to LANDROFF (178415) closing at 1800.

The Bn remained in LANDROFF during 17 Nov and moved out the next day to VILLER (203436) where they remained until 21 Nov. Activity was confined to maintaining defensive positions and sending out patrols. The enemy was inactive in the area throughout the period.

On the 21st of Nov the Bn moved up to the vicinity of GUESSLING HEMERING (2248). No resistance was encountered, however some artillery fell in the area during the night.

During 22 Nov, the Bn moved up to VAHL (189482), still in reserve.

The next day 23 Nov they moved into FAULQUEMONT (1750), remaining there until the morning of the 25th. The 3d Bn mission for the attack on the 25th was to pass through the 2d Bn in the vicinity of TRITTEI (185539) and attack northward to breach the MAGINOT line and take the high ground in the vicinity of DOURDHAT (215560). The Bn moved out FAULQUEMONT at 0600 and passed through the 2d Bn northeast of TRITTEI with L Co on the right and I Co on the left. LAUDREFANG (200541) was taken by 1200. The fort on the hill was taken without much re-

sistance as it was defended only by small arms fire. Direct fire was received from Hill 392 (209549) which was in the 317th Inf sector. One of the supporting tanks was knocked out and several casualties were suffered from this fire. During the afternoon L Co combed the woods north of DOURDHAT and I Co took the CASTELBERG ridge south of LONGEVILLE (2058). Pillboxes in the area were taken with comparative ease after being fired on by the 90mm guns on the SPs of the 610th TD Bn. All objectives were taken by 1800. The pillboxes were defended only by a few snipers in the area and although some of them contained French guns they were not usable for some unknown reason. Positions were consolidated for the night in the vicinity of DOURDHAT, the woods north of the town and the CASTELBERG ridge south of LONGEVILLE.

The next morning the Bn jumped off in the attack toward ST AVOLD (2557). L Co moved from the woods north of DOURDHAT SE to VALMONT (243546). K Co moved out behind L and I followed in reserve. Considerable mortar and harassing artillery fire was received. The 3d Bn consolidated positions on the high ground east of VALMONT during late afternoon. The 1st Bn relieved the 3d Bn in position on the high ground NE of VALMONT south of ST AVOLD at 2030 and the Bn moved back into DOURDHAT for the night.

The next morning 27 Nov, the Bn moved into ST AVOLD about 1200, the 1st Bn having taken the town earlier in the day. They spent the night in ST AVOLD and moved out the next day 28 Nov to the vicinity of HOMBOURG HAUT (3059). During the remainder of the period the Bn outposted the area between HOMBOURG HAUT and BETTING (3359).