

HEADQUARTERS 319TH INFANTRY
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SUBJECT: Reports After Action Against Enemy.

From: 1 October 1944
To : 31 October 1944

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

- SECTION I Summary of daily operations and action (S-3)
- SECTION II Intelligence operations (S-2)
- SECTION III Logistics, supply procedure, problems (S-4)
- SECTION IV Personnel and allied administration (S-1)

SECTION I - Summary of daily operations and action (S-3)

ATTON 1 - 6 Oct 44

At 012000 Oct 44, 1st Bn -(C Co, Bn Res) and 3d Bn -(I Co, Bn Res) attacked abreast with mission to seize West edge of LA SEILLE RIVER. Little enemy resistance encountered and objective reached at 020235. Position consolidated for the night. 2d Bn - E Co, Regtl Reserve. E Co on left flank of 1st Bn. On 2 Oct 44 1st and 3d Bn continued to improve positions. Two squads of L Co 319th Inf seized RENAISSANCE FARM in 318th Inf sector in order to protect own right flank. Held RENAISSANCE FARM until relieved by elements of the 318th Inf and the 2 squads of L Co returned to Co control on 3 Oct 44. Battalions continued to improve positions and patrolled vigorously to their front. On 5 Oct 44 the 328th Inf, 26th Inf Div began relief of the 319th Inf. 2d Bn 319th Inf relieved 3d Bn 318th Inf vic BELLEAU. 328th Inf completed relief of the 319th Inf at 070205 Oct 44. Regtl CP moved to BEZAUMONT 071500 Oct 44. 1st and 3d Bn moved to forward assembly area under cover of darkness; 1st Bn U855300 and 3d Bn U852296.

BEZAUMONT - MOREY 8 - 9 Oct 44

At 080600 Oct 44 1st and 3d Bn attacked MT TOULON, 3d Bn on the right. B Co, 1st Bn attacked and seized LIXIERRES. Remainder of Bn moved on MT TOULON. 3d Bn achieved objective at 0657. 2d Bn sent E Co to mop up SERRIERRES. F Co attacked and seized SIVRY. 1st Bn organized line U8302, U877297, U886292, B Co in Reserve. 3d Bn reverted to Regtl Res vic SERRIERRES. 2d Bn reorganized at SIVRY and moved to positions on MT ST JEAN on line U886392, U897287, U892282, E Co in Reserve. Regtl CP moved to MOREY.

MOREY - LIXIERRES 9 Oct 44

Received mission to continue advance to NE at 090600 Oct 44. 905 FA and 315 FA laid down a barrage from 0545 to 0600 and 4.2 Mortars fired barrage until 0615. Attack jumped off at 0600 with 1st and 2d Bn abreast with 1st Bn on the left. Co C 702 Tank Bn in 1st Bn sector to support by fire 2d Bn advance. 1st Bn advanced rapidly, 2d Bn advance hindered by woods. 1st Bn on objective at 0920 and organized position. At 1300 3d Bn began movement to assembly area vic BOIS DE LA FOURASSE. 2d Bn on objective at 1445 and began digging in under arty fire. 3d Bn closed in assembly area at 1800. Regtl CP moved to LIXIERRES at 1730. L Co 3d Bn sent to close gap between 1st and 2d Bns. Received counter-attack from direction ARAUCOURT and LETRICOURT. Counter-attack beaten off.

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SECTION I (Cont'd)

LIXIERS 10 - 12 Oct 44

2d Bn received heavy arty fire and forced to withdraw to N edge of woods. 3d Bn - L Co plus 1 Co Tanks and 2 platoons of TD's alerted for counter-attack to restore 2d Bn positions. Attack jumped off at 1730. Counter-attack successful and 2d Bn restored positions. 1st Bn supported attack by fire. 3d Bn - L Co reverted to Regtl Res. On 11 Oct Bns continued to improve positions. On 12 Oct 44 319th Inf received mission of relieving 317th Inf. Relief completed at 130200 Oct 44. Regtl CP moved to MOIVRONS. 1st Bn reverted to Regtl Res. 3d Bn on line.

MOIVRONS 13 - Oct 44

2d and 3d Bns improved positions. 2d Bn relieved by 1st Bn at 132015 Oct 44. 2d Bn reverted to Regtl Res. 14 - 16 Oct 1st and 3d Bns continued to improve positions - assisted by Co C 305 Engr Bn. 17 Oct 44 2d Bn relieved 1st Bn and 1st Bn reverted to Regtl Res. Trip flares installed along Regtl front. On 20 Oct 1st Bn relieved 3d Bn at 1955. 3d Bn reverted to Regtl Res. Continued improvement of positions. 21 Oct 44 319th Inf instituted training program for personnel on Division order. 21-31 Oct Bns continued improvement of positions and tactical training. 25 Oct 44 3d Bn relieved 2d Bn and 2d Bn reverted to Regtl Res. On 30 Oct 44 2d Bn relieved 1st Bn and 1st Bn reverted to Regtl Res. Regt conducted nightly patrols to its front to ascertain disposition and strength of enemy. Total personnel of Res Co's of front line positions participated in tactical and technical training. Res Bns held training in the attack of a fortified zone.

SECTION II ... Intelligence Operations (S-2)

This period consists of an attack and defense Phase.

The enemy held two outstanding pieces of terrain which overlooked the entire area: One being MT TOULON and the other MT ST JEAN. By occupying these important pieces of terrain, the enemy had the best observation available and his presence was a continued threat to the entire bridgehead on the whole sector. The enemy had made repeated counter-attacks from towns in the vicinity of these hills and while the attacks were local in nature, the seriousness of a possible large scale attack was recognized.

This Regiment was withdrawn from the ATTON sector for the purpose of attacking MT TOULON, reorganizing, and continuing the attack to the NE, MT TOULON being the most important. The attack was planned with the coordination and cooperation of all arms, both attached and in support.

The attack was preceded by a half hour concentration of artillery which covered the entire enemy position. The Infantry following closely behind the artillery succeeded in capturing the objective in fifty-seven minutes after the attack started. At the same time that the 3d Bn was taking MT TOULON, B Co took the town of LIXIERRES. After taking MT TOULON and LIXIERRES, the 2d Bn went up MT ST JEAN which had been taken by the 317th Infantry. With the 1st and 2d Bns in line and with the 3d Bn in reserve, we continued the attack to the NE. F Co took the town of SIVRY and E Co took SERRIERES, taking many prisoners in spite of heavy resistance and mine fields which were craftily laid by the enemy. In the town of SIVRY over 120 PW's were taken.

Artillery was an important factor in the attack and contributed considerably to the success of the attack.

The following day the attack was continued with the 2d Bn going thru the BOIS DE LA FOURASSE while the 1st Bn on the left continued attack across the open ground to the SEILLE RIVER. The 2d Bn continued the attack and occupied the forward slopes of Hill 210.9. The enemy counter-attacked four times but each time was repulsed.

The following day the enemy again counter-attacked with 2 tanks and 3 assault guns but the enemy was again repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. The enemy harrassed our 2d Bn with very heavy artillery and mortars, including direct fire guns from three sides. Due to the exposed positions, it was decided that the 2d Bn take up more advantageous positions just N of the BOIS DU HOUT DES TRAPPES. It was in this defensive position that the period ended.

The success of this attack was indicated by the fact that 450 PW's were taken including 9 officers, one of whom was Capt. Hildebrand CO of CT Hildebrand which had given other organizations a great deal of difficulty. Large quantities of enemy supplies and ordnance were taken. It was estimated that most of the enemy infantry in this sector was completely destroyed or so highly disorganized that until reinforcements arrived, the enemy no longer was a serious threat.

SECTION III - Logistics, supply procedure, problems. (S-4).

1. Class I. (Rations)

a. Ration requests were submitted to Regtl S-4 daily for issuance 72 hours later. Requests were consolidated and forwarded to Div QM on a daily telegram.

b. Requests for rations showed the effective strength of the requesting units and the type of rations desired, namely C, K, or 10 in 1. The Reserve Battalion was issued B rations whenever available.

c. All units were required to maintain a two (2) day reserve for emergency. In the event that the reserve became depleted, a separate request was submitted to the Regtl S-4 indicating that the rations requested were for the purpose of maintaining the two (2) day reserve.

d. Wherever possible, C, K, or 10 in 1-rations were permitted to be supplemented by any type A or B rations that were available, either issued through QM or through purchase from Unit Funds.

e. All troops were warned that captured enemy foods and beverages would not be consumed except upon release by a medical officer who would check for the possibility of poison having been placed therein.

f. Rations were greatly improved during the month, due to the quantities of B rations available it was possible to issue the reserve battalion and all the units that were capable of preparing a hot meal the B type ration.

2. Water.

a. All troops were warned that water secured from other than authorized water points will be chlorinated or boiled before using.

b. Whenever available, water for use by troops was drawn from WPs set up by Army or Div Engineers. Units had sufficient Calcium Hypochlorite to purify water drawn from any sources available in the event that there was not an Army or Div Engineer WP.

3. Class II.

a. All unit requisitions for Class II supplies were cleared through each Bn S-4 to Regtl S-4. Special Unit Companies submitted requisitions individually to Regtl S-4.

b. Requisitions submitted by units to Regtl S-4 were checked to see that the following were correct:

(1) Correct nomenclature was used.

(2) Tarrif sizes on clothing requisitions were used.

(3) SNL groups and stock numbers were shown on all requisitions for ordnance items.

(4) Only one class of property was shown on each requisition.

(5) That basis for requisition was shown and requisition did not exceed authorized allowances.

c. Upon receipt of requisitions from units they were consolidated and forwarded to one of the Div Special Staffs by Regtl S-4.

d. When the property was drawn it was broken down to units and issued on a tally-out.

e. In the event that requisitioned organizational equipment was not available, and upon notification that it was not available, units were notified to use requisition as a drop voucher to company property and the equipment was held on back order by Regtl S-4.

f. Units were instructed that requisitions would not be duplicated in any case unless called for by the Regtl S-4.

g. Upon receipt of equipment, units had to turn in all salvage that the new equipment replaced. Salvage was segregated into like items, bundled and turned in to the Regtl Field Train, who in turn consolidated it into bundles and turned it in to the Class I truckhead.

.. Class III.

a. Gasoline was issued to units on a can for can exchange basis.

b. Requested Class III from Div QM through daily telegram.

c. Oils and greases were issued to units from stock on hand at Regtl Field Train.

5. Class V.

a. Third Army Scale basic loads of ammunition was maintained by units at all times.

b. Requests for maintenance quantities were submitted to the Regtl Munitions Officer at the Regtl Field Train when required. Requests contained a certificate signed by an officer that the request did not exceed the basic load.

6. Evacuation.

a. Deceased: Evacuated as near as possible to an axis of communication and the Graves Registration Officer was notified as to the location of the bodies. The collecting point was usually located in the vicinity of the medical collecting point. From the Regtl Collecting Point, bodies were evacuated by the Division Graves Registration Officer.

b. Prisoners: Evacuated to Division PWE after interrogation by the Combat Team PWE.

c. Materiel. Motor vehicles and weapons were evacuated by units to the Field Train if possible. If not possible, the S-4 was advised as to the location and personnel from the Field Train evacuated the vehicle or weapon. From the Field Train, the item was evacuated to 780th Ord Co.

7. General.

a. A limited amount of EM bedding rolls were issued to this organization and were reissued to the rifle companies of the Bns.

b. 2391 wool OD sweaters were issued to the regiment during October and were reissued to the Bns.

c. During October a drive was made to recover all salvage equipment both American and German. Large quantities of material were recovered and turned in to the appropriate supply agency.

d. Ammunition allocation for period 050600 Oct to 070600 Nov 44 was as follows:

	<u>Rds per Wpn</u>
Shell, 81mm Mortar Lt	78.8
Shell, 81mm mortar Hvy	41.8
Shell, 81mm mortar WP	44.1
Shell, 105mm How M3 HE	78.7
Shell, 105mm How M3 WP	2.9

SECTION VI - Personnel and allied administration (S-1).

1. Replacements.

During this month, due to the semi-static situation, casualties have been a few with a consequent small number of replacements needed. The replacements received, however, have not had sufficient training. In this connection training has been conducted by Regiment in scouting and patrolling and in the firing of the bazooka and crew-served weapons.

2. Special Service.

A rest area has been set up some 5000 yards behind the front lines and is occupied by the reserve battalion on a rotation plan. A special service installation has been set up in this area which provides for, stationery and a place to write, entertainment by movies, USO shows and orchestras.

3. Administration.

a. During the period that a Battalion is in the above mentioned rest area, all administration is cleared up, the personnel of the Regimental S-1 Section lending their services to the Battalion Commander.

b. The practice of maintaining all members of the Regimental S-1 Section in the forward CP has enabled this Regiment to maintain a high degree of efficiency in their administration. Practically all Company administration is accomplished by this section.

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