

(E)

From Sept "Action" Report

Preparations for and
crossing of MOSELLE R

1-15 Sep 44

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SECTION I - ADVANCE TO MOSELLE RIVER

1 Sep - In compliance with 80th Div FO #10, 31 Aug 44, 80th Div moved at 0900 by marching, on assigned objectives in the direction of COMMERCY. CT 317 occupied 1st objective vic E of SEIGNEVILLE, at 0230, prior to forward movement 1 Sep. CT 318 had occupied its 1st objective 2100, 31 Aug, vic of BAR LE DUC and continued its forward movement from there.

XII Corps ordered 80th Div, at 1235, to relieve 4th Armd on high ground E COMMERCY and ~~to take back the 1st Bn, CT 318 attached with 4th Armd~~, to seize ST MIHIEL and occupy high ground Corps N Boundary to line - VOID-PAGNY-SUR-MEUSE-MENIL-LA-TOUR.

Resistance was met during the forward movement by hostile SA and artillery. CT 317 and CT 318 crossed the MEUSE R and occupied a bridgehead vic of COMMERCY. CT 319 reached the W side of the MEUSE R vic of ST MIHIEL, 1 Sep, and reconnoitered possible sites for crossings.

2 Sep - CT 319 crossed the MEUSE R from vic ST MIHIEL; seized APREMONT; reached its objective at 1530, and established outpost of the right flank of the bridgehead. CT 318 completed relief of 4th Armd at 1200 and became the Div Res upon the arrival of the 319th. CT 317 established an outpost line for the left flank of bridgehead.

3 Sep - 80th Div extended and strengthened its bridgehead at COMMERCY. CT 317 and CT 319 expanded and continued to outpost the bridgehead within their respective zones. CT 318 remained in Div Res.

4 Sep - 80th Div extended its COMMERCY bridgehead and advanced to the E. 3d Bn CT 319 attacked at 0700 and seized its objective, the high ground NE of TOUL, at 1900. Remainder of CT 319 moved to vic of TOUL, closing in at 2000. CT 317 advanced to vic W of PONT A MOUSSON and prepared for an attack across the MOSELLE R. CT 318 (- 1st Bn with CCA 4th Armd Div) advanced to E in center

of Div zone of advance. CCA 4th Armad Div, with 1st Bn CT 318 attached, followed CT 317 to the E.

SECTION II - ATTEMPTED RIVER CROSSING

5 Sep - 80th Div advanced E and made an unsuccessful attack of the MOSELLE R line.

✓ 1st, 2d, and 3d Bns of CT 317 attempted separate crossings of MOSELLE R. 1st Bn went across canal at 1045 vic S of PONT A MOUSSON, but was unable to cross MOSELLE R. 2d Bn attempted crossing vic VANDIERES, but was unable to do so due to hostile fire consisting of automatic fire, mortar, and artillery. One (1) Plat of "G" Co CT 317 was across the river at 1605, but the enemy subsequently threw it back across the R. 3d Bn was also prevented from crossing due to hostile fire.

CT 318 launched an attack on HILL 326 with elements of 3d Bn, but made only limited progress toward the objective.

CT 319, with its 3d Bn, made an unsuccessful attack against GONDREVILLE and VILLEY LE SEC, but succeeded in extending the bridgehead.

6 Sep - 80th Div continued mopping up of enemy resistance W of MOSELLE R within Div Sector; maintained bridgehead at TOUL and prepared to force a bridgehead across the MOSELLE R.

✓ 3d Bn CT 317 had elements of Cos "L" and "I" across the MOSELLE R by 0425, but the bridgehead was forced back across the river under heavy enemy pressure by 1100. 2d Bn CT 317 crossed the canal with two (2) Cos, but was unable to force a bridgehead across the river. 1st Bn CT 317 met considerable small arms fire and was unable to initiate a crossing.

CT 318 ((-) 1st Bn) continued mopping up operations W bank of MOSELLE R, HILL 326 at 1530, and attacked hostile forces vic FT DE L'AVANT GARDE.

3d Bn CT 319 renewed its attack on FORT DE VILLEY LE SEC, but failed to reach its objective.

7 Sep - CT 318 captured MARBACHE at 2040 and continued to mop up resistance W of the MOSELLE R. CT 319: 1st Bn swept woods BOIS DE LIVERDUN, 2d Bn outposted line from S edge of BOIS DE LIVERDUN to the left flank of 3d Bn (LIVERDUN). 3d Bn held bridgehead E of MOSELLE R vic of TOUL. CT 317 prepared for later crossing of the MOSELLE R.

8 Sep - CT 318 continued attack vic of MARBACHE and BELLEVILLE. Enemy counterattacked at MARBACHE and forced elements of 3d Bn, there, to withdraw.

✓ CT 317 continued patrolling of river line and preparations for the attack. CT 319 continued to hold bridgehead vic of TOUL, LIVERDUN was seized by elements of 1st Bn at 1830.

9 Sep - CT 319 captured town of LIVERDUN at 2100 and consolidated positions for the night with plans to mop up the town in the morning. CT 318 continued mopping up operations vic of MARBACHE and BELLEVILLE and seized both towns. CT 317 continued preparations for river crossing.

10 Sep - CT 319: 3d Bn enlarged bridgehead vic TOUL to include the FORT VILLEY LE SEC, the towns of VILLEY LE SEC and GONDREVILLE. CT 318 and CT 317 continued mopping up operations and preparations for river crossing.

11 Sep - 80th Div prepared for movement to E as directed by 80th Div FO #11. CT 317 and CT 318 completed preparations for river crossing operations vic DIEULOUARD. CT 319 prepared to attack FORET DE HAYE and NANCY. FO #11 issued at 1700 provided that 80th Div (Reinf) (less 1st Bn 318th Inf with 4th Armd Div) attacks at 0400, 12 Sep, forces a crossing MOSELLE R vic DIEULOUARD, establishes bridgehead PONT A MOUSSON to MILLERY with two (2) Regts (-), advances on NANCY from vic TOUL with CT 319, prepares to continue advance to the E on Corps Order.

✓ CT 317 was to seize the high ground across the R E of DIEULOUARD with CT

318 (- 1st Bn) crossing later and moving N to high ground vic PONT A MOUSSON.
1117th Engr Gp supported the bridging operations.

✓ The order of crossing was to be (1) 317th Inf with minimum essential light vehicles and TDs (2) 313th FA Bn (3) 318th Inf with minimum essential light vehicles and TDs (4) Tanks in direct support 318th Inf (5) tanks in direct support 317th Inf (6) 314th FA Bn (7) 512th FA Bn (8) other units on call.

SECTION III - BRIDGEHEAD ESTABLISHED ACROSS MOSELLE RIVER

✓ 12 Sep - CT 317: 2d and 3d Bns attacked river line abreast. 1st Bn in reserve. At 0920 the foot elements had reached their objectives on the high ground E of DIEULOUARD, and were consolidating their positions. Hostile artillery, mortar, and small arms fire opposed the crossing.

CT 318 (- 1st Bn) concentrated in a forward assembly area and crossed the R. Co "G" continued to outpost river line. Ct 319 outposted river line in zone and continued reconnaissance in force to the E along the W edge of FORET DE HAYE. Mopping up operations were continued vic of LIVERDUN.

13 Sep - 80th Div threw back determined counterattacks on its bridgehead and consolidated its position. *LCA 4th Armored Div passed close to 80th Div in Bredonville - beginning at 0830*
✓ Ct 317 organized and held bridgehead. 1st Bn repelled counterattack from the SE, 2d Bn (-) repelled counterattack. "G" Co was forced from high ground vic ST GENEVIEVE. This position was restored by an attack in conjunction with tank support. 3d Bn received small arms and artillery fire and repelled infiltration of hostile patrols.

CT 318: 2d Bn repelled counterattack. Co "F" at road block vic LOISY was forced to the S. By 1510 3d Bn had retaken LOISY and reestablished road block.

Ct 319 reconnoitered W edge of FORET DE HAYE. 2d Bn outposted river line in zone with "G" Co of 318 CT. 3d Bn maintained bridgehead E TOUL until re-

lieved by 1st Bn. 3d Bn then assembled in CT Res.

14 Sep - 80th Div extended and consolidated its bridgehead on the high ground E of the MOSELLE R.

CT 318: 3d Bn attacked MOUSSON HILL 0900 and reached the castle on top of MOUSSON HILL at 1350. It then threw back a counterattack. 2d Bn was in reserve. "G" Co reverted to CT 318 from duty of patrolling river line.

✓ CT 317: 3d Bn extended bridgehead to SE capturing the high ground vic FALAISE, but enemy counterattacked and retook the position. 1st and 2d Bns restored and extended positions.

CT 319 maintained bridgehead vic of TOUL and cleared roads N of LIVERDON.

15 Sep - CT 318: 1st Bn, released from attachment to CCA 4th Armd Div, moved to the W with one (1) Co of medium tanks of CCA in support. Hostile forces were encountered in vic of NOMENY at 1700. Heavy fighting took place that temporarily held up advance. 2d Bn maintained road blocks and provided Regtl Res. 3d Bn on MOUSSON HILL continued its defense of that position, repelling enemy counterattacks.

✓ CT 317: 1st Bn occupied high ground vic LANDREMONT. 2d Bn organized position vic ST GENEVIEVE and successfully withstood a counterattack. 3d Bn consolidated and defended its sector.

CT 319, as part of Task Force Seabree, advanced E toward NANCY, ~~one mile~~, starting at 0600. At 1345 CT 319 reverted to 80th Div control. 3d Bn ordered to augment 1st Bn CT 317 E of river in vic of BEZAUMONT.