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HEADQUARTERS 317TH INFANTRY
APO #80, U. S. Army

L-300

3 December 1944

Subject: After Action Report (S-2). /NOVEMBER

To : Adjutant General, Washington D. C., through Commanding
General, 80th Infantry Division, APO #80, U. S. Army.

The following report (After Action) from S-2, 317th Infantry
Regiment, is submitted in compliance with Section III, 2a, Memo #64,
Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1944.

1 November 1944 - No change in enemy front lines in Div sector.
Our patrols were fired on during early morning darkness on the E bank
of the SEILLE R. Harassing (enemy) mortar and Arty fire fell during
the day in MORVILLE, PORT SUR SEILLE and CLEMERY, but did no damage.
There was considerable flare activity during the night. River receded
slightly.

2 November 1944 - No change in front lines (German) in our sector.
Heard hammering and sawing on E bank of SEILLE R early in morning
indicating the Germans are building shelters. Harassing German Arty
and mortar fire fell in our sector. There was considerable flare
activity during the night, and hammering was again heard on the E
bank of the river.

3 November - No change in the German front lines in our sector.
German activity was observed in the vicinity of EPLY during the day.
German harassing Arty and mortar fire fell in our area during the
day. Our patrol captured one (1) German from 3d Co, 1451st Fortress
Bn on E bank of river W LE MOULIN FARM. Germans took no counteraction
and were probably unaware of the activity. LE MOULIN FME was mortared
early in the evening. We suffered some casualties. German harassing
Arty and mortar fire were received during the day. There was flare
activity during the night.

4 November 1944 - No change in German front lines in our sector.
German harassing Arty and mortar fire fell in PORT SUR SEILLE, MORVILLE
and CLEMERY; also FME DOMBASIE. Searchlights were reported in the
vicinity of ST JURSE. There was considerable flare activity during the
night.

5 November 1944 - No change in German front lines in our sector.
During the morning 15 rounds Arty fell in FORT A MOUSSON with no effect.
German harassing Arty and mortar fire fell in PORT SUR SEILLE and
CLEMERY.

6 November 1944 - No change in German front lines in our sector.
Mortar and Arty fell in CLEMERY, MORVILLE, PORT SUR SEILLE and FME
DOMBASIE during the day. There were a number of duds. Some Arty
landed in FORT A MOUSSON. In the night there was the usual flare
activity.

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7 November 1944 - No change in German front lines. There was flare activity during early morning. Mortar and Arty fire fell in CHEMINOT. There was flare activity at night.

8 November 1944 - Our attack surprised the Germans who did not believe we would attack in such unfavorable weather. The SEILLE RIVER rose quickly during the morning and forced our troops to wade through water for about 200 yards, knee deep. PW's were captured from the 1431st Fortress Bn. By the end of the day, the Germans had been forced back to the general line RAUCOURT-ST JUR-MAILLY. German mortar and Arty fire was very active but did not succeed in blowing up our bridges. AP minefields on the hillside in the vicinity of EPLY caused our troops some casualties.

9 November 1944 - Through unfavorable weather, we continued to force the Germans back and by the end of the day, their line was E of SECOURT, running N and S. PW's were captured from 37th SS Regt and 1126th Regt. Mortar and Arty fire was received all day. The MOSELLE RIVER was very high.

10 November 1944 - Mortar and Arty fire fell in RAUCOURT, RAUCOURT-NEUVES road and RAUCOURT-ST JUR road. Tanks (6) were reported at POMERIEUX. No of prisoners captured indicates that the 1431st Fortress Bn is no longer effective. The 48th Inf Div has also lost heavily. PW's were captured from 17th AA Bn, 128th Inf Regt. Enemy front lines non-existent and no definite front line could be established. However, LUPPY was clear of enemy.

11 November 1944 - BECHY was shelled by 150mm steadily during the morning. Their scattered elements continued their disorganized withdrawal to the E, and the Inf offered only slight resistance to our advancing columns. PW's were captured from the 128th Inf Regt, who were supposed to defend E bank of NIED RIVER in the vicinity of HAN-SUR-NIED. They had support of several quadruple mounted 20mm flak guns, and 10 tiger tanks. The bridge at HAN-SUR-NIED was not blown by the Germans. Despite plunging MG fire on the bridge, our troops pushed across, captured HAN-SUR-NIED, and consolidated their positions around town under cover of darkness. The disorganized enemy left weapons on their positions when they withdrew.

12 November 1944 - German Arty and mortar fire fell constantly trying to knock out the HAN-SUR-NIED bridge, and interdicting the road W out of HAN-SUR-NIED. It was 120mm mortar, 75 and 150mm Arty fire and seemed to come from the NE. Tiger tanks were reported in HERNY. 400 lbs of assorted demolitions charges were removed from the HAN-SUR-NIED bridge by our engineers. The enemy occupied ADAIRCOURT-BOIS DE CENSITAIRE-HERNY. There was very little SA fire on our troops who occupied the hills immediately NE, E and SE of HAN-SUR-NIED.

13 November 1944 - PW's continued to come in from the 128th Inf Regt, and the 42d AAA Arty Regt was identified who had 88's. PW's were caught from the 951st Regt, part of the 361st Gren Regt. HERNY was cleared of enemy, and by 1110, enemy mortar and Arty fire was falling in the town. PW reports indicate the 128th Inf Regt and the 951st Regt withdrew last night. Several AA, AT, and Arty pieces were along the HAN-SUR-NIED - HERNY road, having been knocked

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1300
out by our forces. In the afternoon, a PW (officer) from the 2d Bn, 268th Arty Regt, established the fact that the 36th Volks Grenadier Div is concentrating in the vicinity of FAULQUEMONT. Later identifications established the 1st Bn of the 165th Inf Regt as being in the Bois de Mainvillers. Enemy were cleared from MANY and very soon, both 150mm Arty and 120mm mortar fire started falling in town. PW established that elements of the 813th MS Bn, 126th and 128th Regts and 148th Replacement Bn had been formed into a CT called "Kuehn". This seems to indicate that there isn't much left of these outfits. At night an enemy tracked vehicle was stopped coming E on the MANY-HERNY road at the Eastern entrance to HERNY. Seven men were captured, 1 officer (German) was wounded, and 2 got away. They were from a Headquarters Heavy Arty Bn, which has 3 companies of nine (9) 88mm each. The half-track was looking for their gun, but got lost.

14 November 1944 - Arty and mortar fire continued to land in MANY and on our positions E of that town. The HERNY-MANY road was interdicted by 75mm enemy Arty firing from the S and NE. ARRIANÇE was occupied without incident, other than some MG fire from the woods to the N. German mortar and Arty started to fall in ARRIANÇE soon after we occupied it. The 110th Inf Regt, part of the 36th Volks Grenadier Div was identified by PW's captured in the vicinity of MAINVILLERS. They indicated one Bn of this Regt was in the Bois ELVANS. It is apparent that there are enemy in the FORST DE REMILLY, both Arty and Inf. The enemy line runs W of Mainvillers into the woods NW of there.

15 November 1944 - Enemy front lines from BJ 280 on CHANVILLE-ARRIANÇE road generally E through MAINVILLERS. Mortar and Arty fire was received in ARRIANÇE, MANY and HERNY. The German 165th Regt faces this Regt and seems to lack aggressiveness. Our patrols report extensive booby-traps and mines in FORST DE REMILLY.

16 November 1944 - No change in enemy front lines. German Arty fell in ARRIANÇE in spite of the fact that we had withdrawn from that town, another indication of their lack of aggressiveness, since they didn't even patrol sufficiently to discover our change in dispositions. Arty also fell in MANY and HERNY. Nebelwerfer fire fell in HERNY at about 1110. Two (2) enemy aircraft passed over our area in the afternoon, but took no action.

17 November 1944 - No change in enemy front lines. German Arty fell in ARRIANÇE, HERNY and MANY. Otherwise, there was little activity in our sector.

18 November 1944 - No change in enemy front lines. During the day, German Arty and mortar fire fell in HERNY, MANY, and ARRIANÇE. At 1740, the Germans heavily shelled our area with all calibres of mortar and Arty. Our patrol was able to enter MAINVILLERS during the night, and found the Germans had apparently withdrawn during the night.

19 November 1944 - Patrols established that Germans had withdrawn during the night. The exact positions they withdrew to are not yet known. There was no Arty received during the day. Minefields were found in the RR station in MAINVILLERS and on roads in FORST DE REMILLY.

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20 November 1944 - Mines were found on all roads leading N from HAIRVILLE and ARIANCE, and the enemy had blown all culverts and executed numerous craters, making vehicular circulations very difficult. All bridges over the RIED ALLEMAND R in our sector were blown, but a foot patrol to the CITE CASIMAS indicated the enemy had withdrawn N of there. The town of GUINELANG was heavily mined. There were extensive minefields and many demolitions of culverts and road craters on the N bank of the RIED ALLEMAND R. No Arty fell in our sector.

21 November 1944 - Enemy front lines HAUT-VIGNERELLE-BANHIDENSTOFF-TRITTELING. Some Arty fell in ELVANGE-ORANGE and ORVILLE. German patrols and outposts were rather amateurish, and were killed, captured or ran away whenever our patrols found them. The RIED ALLEMAND rose during the day, and the weather remained wet.

22 November 1944 - During the night the enemy blew down a large smokestack in the vicinity of the CITE CASIMAS. Many deserters were picked up, representing a marked increase over our former experience. Light Arty fire continued to fall in ORANGE and FLETANGE, evidently unobserved.

23 November 1944 - our patrol succeeded in cutting underground WIRELINE cables in the vicinity of GUINELANG and BLOUVILLE SUR RIED, on the afternoon of the 22d. There was no contact with the enemy other than extensive mines in GUINELANG.

24 November 1944 - Enemy lines: N side of woods between 154400-154400 EAST WEST ROAD-216150-along road to BANHIDENSTOFF. 3d Bn 165th Regt relieved by 1st Bn, 165th, who occupied above mentioned line. 165th Regt CP at 2d bend Q196981. Line very thin both sides AT ditch. 3d Bn 165th Regt was S of ditch between 216150 and 216150 Q1895. 1st Bn relieved night of 22d and 23d Nov, and had orders to go to LAUBRYANG to seal our defence and to make a counterattack. Bn was relieved by 3d Bn, 661st Regt, 347th Div, which occupied same ground as 1st Bn 165th Regt.

BANHIDENSTOFF now occupied. Activity from FT BANHIDENSTOFF to FT TRITTELING. Foot bridge at of BANHIDENSTOFF is intact at present. BASIN VIGNERELLE all bridges blown and roads cratered.

25 November 1944 - FT BANHIDENSTOFF clear of enemy. Road mined from LANSOUVILLE to BANHIDENSTOFF to HAUT VIGNERELLE S to BASIN-VIGNERELLE. AP mines on S slope Hill 400 between Rd and top of Hill. Minefield at 207507 to 215210. Sumner 208509. Mines in edge of woods 21333, both sides of road Hand S at 210308, field 243544 marked with signs and wire mined, and enemy blowing culvert and preparing road block via 211511. (Time 1505).

Arty: 1st Bns fell at TRITTELING on road 1st Bn is using. Arty and mortar falling in TRITTELING. M and P Cos receiving mortar and Arty fire at 0915-0949.

Corps reports column horse-drawn Arty from TRITTELING moving N at 100 rd intervals 1545. Also column horse-drawn Arty moving SE out of FALSOUVILLE (24354). Considerable troop movement in ST AVOLD. 3d Bn receiving interdicting fire (88mm) at 191548 coming from due East.

one (1) motorcycle and 20 men moving in woods at 0854305; 1 of 2 enemy vehicles from 08049 to FALSOUVILLE 02358 at 1030. 2 PW's

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identified as 36th Fusilier Co, strength 50 men, 6 LMG's, 2 bazookas, transportation, 15 bicycles. Mission to take FORT LAUDRETFANG, but failed when attacked by our forces. Morale of troops low.

26th November 1944 - At 2040 hrs, patrol on high ground E of RR tracks fired on by Arty from Vic FALSCHVILLER. 50 to 60 enemy troops withdrawing on Hill W of BELLING. 1st Bn receiving 20mm fire (Q2654). Rd mined at Q243543 and Q244540. RR bridge at Q264547. Trees NE VALMONT prepared for demolition. CR prepared for demolition (Q247564) in ST AVOLD. Rd from ALTVILLER to ST WOLD prepared for blasting.

Trains of 13th Co 118th Regt in HOMBURG-HAUT.

PW reports 87th Inf Regt on L, 118th on center, 163th Inf Regt on right. (3) 75mm How at N side VALMONT (Q241550) 36th Div Clearing Station at FORBACH (Q392657).

Patrol reported some enemy activity at R50956.

27 November 1944 - 80th Recon troops report 50-60 enemy withdrawing on hill W of BELLING. 1st Bn reports they are receiving 20mm fire at (Q2654). AT ditch reports d to be above FALSCHVILLER, time 2315, will be filled as soon as work on bridge is completed. The road is reported mined at (Q243543) and (Q244540). The enemy also continued delaying demolition activity by blowing the RR bridge at (Q260547) and preparing the trees along the road NE of VALMONT for demolition. PW interrogation revealed no new identifications of units confronting the Regt, but did establish the presence of the 87th Inf Regt in ALTVILLER (Q264531), LACHAMBRE (Q278540), HOLBACH (Q286531) and BILDING (Q306515), with a reported weak strength. PW further stated that he observed no great number of his troops in this sector except in HOMBURG-HAUT (Q300588) and that one battery of unknown calibre was located in the vicinity of HOMBURG-BAS (Q311594). The trains of the 13th Co, 118th Regt were reported by PW's to be in HOMBURG-HAUT (Q300588) and that all four 75mm howitzers of the 3d battery, 268th Arty Regt, have been destroyed. Of (6) 75mm howitzers in the 3d battery, 268th Arty Regt, only 2 guns were left and the location of these was unknown by the PW's. The total count of PW's for the period was 63.

6 PW's captured at the road junction (Q260547) established no new identification confronting the Regt, but did confirm that the 87th Inf Regt was on the enemy's left flank, the 118th Inf Regt in the center and the 163th Inf Regt was on the right. The enemy had the 8th Co, 118th Regt at the N side of VALMONT (Q241550) this morning with (3) 75mm howitzers firing for the same area in support. The 36th Inf Div Clearing Station was reported by a PW as being located in FORBACH (Q392657).

Patrols during the night from the 2d Bn reported the bridge over the RR at FALSCHVILLER had been blown, and that the bridge at (Q2655) was intact and that enemy were reported talking in the Vic of this same bridge.

28 November 1944 - Enemy tanks and Inf reported heading W from Pfareberweiler. Estimated 200 SS (3755) dug in around PFARBERSWEILER, also supported by armor. Received 20mm fire from Vic L69985. Civ reports Arty unit of about 100men, morale very low, some deserted and refused to fight-left village of GURVILLER, Sat 25 Nov at 0700, all retreating to SAARBRUCKEN. One Bn SS troops also reported in this Vic. Bridge at 278565 intact 24' wide, 15' high. Undetermined

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number of tanks in PFARBERSWEILER.

29th November 1944 - 5 tanks supported by Inf moving on road E from THEODINGEN (Q3859), fired on 2d Bn. SA firing continued in town of PFARBERSWEILER (Q3657). Enemy troops reported moving E out of PFARBERSWEILER. 16 enemy tanks moving NW of THEODINGEN and in general direction of KOCHERN (Q3660) and FOLKING (Q3661). Enemy reported in HENRIVILLE and AT gun on high ground N and NE of PFARBERSWEILER. 3 PW's captured Vic BOIS DE BIRSON BUSH, identified from 17th SS security Co. Elements of 1st Bn located at following places: Security Co in position in front of woods BIRSON BUSH (Q350380) and 3d and 4th Co's in PFARBERSWEILER - approx strength of 3d and 4th Co's Sec Bn, 75 men each. (3) AA 20mm guns mounted MK III chassis also in PFARBERSWEILER. Report that main body of troops in PFARBERSWEILER (Q365577) withdrawn at 1300, one group went S on rd to CAPPEL, others withdrew across field NE to THEODINGEN (Q386593).

30 November 1944 - German tanks had crossed river N of RR bridge. Hostile aircraft over FOLSCHVILLER at 1436. Enemy direct fire Wpn located Vic Q36568 in woods in front of 2d Bn. PW reported that 17th SS medical Co of approx 80-90 men is armed with rifles w/o brassards, fighting in FARSCHVILLER fighting as infantry.

Robert M. Walker
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Capt, 317th Inf
S-2