

SECRET

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

3 November 1944

Subject: After Action Report (S-2) /OCTOBER ✓ 284  
To : Commanding General, 30th 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 30th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1944.

1 October 1944:

German forces occupied line, Sivry, Molvroos, Mt. St. Jean, Serrieres. Some harassing artillery fire fell and a report was received from Division Artillery that Germans were withdrawing from Jemmal incourt.

2 October 1944:

A German six (6) man patrol was captured by Co "B" on the edge of the woods West of Bratte at 0655. German troops fought (about 55 men) Co "B" in Sivry and were reported to be receiving reinforcements and supplies from Mt. Toulon. By 1630, 15 men and 1 officer (German), the remnants of the Sivry Garrison surrendered to Co "B". The defending German force was the 6th Co of the 1121st Regt and had had mortar and artillery support.

3 October 1944:

Germans were using Molvroos as a supply center and during the night vehicles (horse drawn) could be heard moving through the town. 6th Co, 1121st Regt was determined to occupy the South slope of Mt. Toulon by PW interrogation. A PW interrogated at 2345 stated an attack on Sivry was planned for night of the 3rd or morning of the 4th. Germans were said to be reinforced and to have 30 Machine Guns. Reinforcements of about 200 men to enter attack following mortar and artillery barrage.

4 October 1944:

Enemy artillery started falling in Sivry at 0320 and out communications with Co "B". German attack penetrated into Sivry and surrounded the CP of Co "B". The attacking force was the 1st Bn, 1121st Inf plus reinforcements supported by four 80mm mortars and undetermined number of 120mm mortars. At 1130 the attack by the German force continued, however, and had the support of artillery firing from North of the Mt-Toulon-St Jean saddle.

5 October 1944

During the night track laying German vehicles were reported but not seen to the North of our positions. Captured PW's (7) revealed that 200 men from the 8th Pz Gr. Regt 3d Mt., 3d Div. helped the 1st Bn, 1119 Inf in the attack on Sivry, on the 4th. Germans pressed attack on Sivry and at 15:00 remnants of our Co "D" were forced to capitulate to the German force of about 400 men. Germans reoccupied Sivry and re-established their position held on Oct 1, 1944.

6 October 1944

German Forces occupied Serrieres, Sivry, Mt St Jean, Moivrons. German mortar and artillery fire fell on Hill 407 and Belleau. German aircraft was seen at 1245 but took no action. German artillery also fell in Lesiremont.

7 October 1944

German propaganda broadcast at 0050 reported saying "Do not attack the hill in front of you (Mt. St. Jean) if you want to get home. If you do you will surely die." German minefields exist in great quantity around Moivrons. There was German harassing artillery on Hills 401 and 340.

8 October 1944

Our attack on the morning demoralized the enemy force and although they fired artillery and mortars it was ineffective. German artillery (direct and indirect) and mortars on the ridge south of Mt. St. Jean from Moivrons and Jandelincourt caused casualties in our 3rd Battalion. By 0712 we had captured Mt. St. Jean and the garrison there surrendered. By 1730, 316 PW were captured including 12 Officers and German remnants withdrew N of Jandelincourt on a line extending East.

9 October 1944

German minefields around Moivrons were quite extensive and had many Italian box mines among them. German heavy mortars actively shelled our front lines.

10 October 1944

German forces estimated at 120 men with 5 8 P guns attacked the Regt (315) on our left but were driven back after making a slight penetration on the morning of the 10th. German mortars and artillery actively shelled our front lines all day and heavier artillery fell in Jandelincourt and Moivrons. Germans occupied Letricourt, Atancourt, Comy. All bridges along Sille River in our sector are blown.

11 October 1944

Chenecourt revealed as free from Germans by our patrols. German line extended from Hecy to Letricourt and to E. They seemed to be organizing

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the East bank of the Saille River. Enemy artillery and mortar continued to be active and seemed to come from Hemony and the woods in the vicinity of Phlin. Some 150's fell near the Re\_t'l CP-Jeandelincourt and Moivrons.

12 October 1944

Enemy planes came over our area in the afternoon but took no action. Their artillery and mortars did not fire as much as on the 11th. No change in German lines.

13 October 1944

Enemy planes were over our area in the morning and took no action. No change in German lines. German artillery and mortar fire almost non-existent.

14 October 1944

Some German artillery fell near Chesicourt (5 dubs). Otherwise no change in German lines.

15 October 1944

Germans continued to defend East bank Saille River and all bridges were out over the river as far as vehicles are concerned. There was very little German activity with the exception of some wild firing of German machine pistols from the East bank of the river. The river is 25 to 50 feet wide, knee to waist deep. Banks muddy and there is little concealment on either bank of the river.

16 October 1944

No change in German front line. At about 0330 a six man German patrol captured two (2) men from Co "E" outpost on Regt "L" flank but released them and withdrew to E bank of River (Saille) when fired on by Co "E" outpost. At 1125 enemy shelled Merville and the vicinity with 500M shells. Lemonille was shelled at the same time. Enemy mortar trucks were seen in St. Jure and Saucourt at 1600 and heard in Phlin. Some German H. G. fire was heard during the night on East side of Saille River (fire ineffective)

17 October 1944

No changes in German front line. There was light harrassing enemy artillery and mortar fire throughout the day. The night was characterized by numerous German flares, white being predominant. No German patrols were observed.

18 October 1944

No change in German front line. From 0135 to 0400 German 210MM gun shelled Font-a-Dunson without effect. A German 8 man patrol was reported on our side of the Saille River on our right flank in 2d Bn's area but was unconfirmed (0200). A few rounds of German 120MM mortar fell in Glassy at

about 1030. There was German activity in Eply at about 1800 consisting of 15 men going from a dugout on west edge of Eply into Eply itself. German artillery was very inactive all day long.

19 October 1944

No change in German lines. High ground E Morville heavily mined and booby trapped. Our patrol had casualties there from 3 mines. We captured 2 PW from 1431 Fortren Bn who say they are organized from Eply to Rounes. Each co has about 100 men, 2 M.G. and 2 80MM mortars. They are probably under tactical command of the 1799 Pa Bn. German infantry were again seen walking around in Eply. This must be a German C. P. German artillery and mortars were relatively inactive. During the night Germans fired numerous flares. One was Blue and seemed (from a report by a 2d Bn patrol) to be a signal for the outpost to withdraw.

20 October 1944

No change German front lines in our sector. Our patrol heard a German train moving slowly near Oisecy at about 0200. During the morning a few rounds of German artillery fell near Louvigny. Otherwise German artillery was quiet.

21 October 1944

No change German front line in our sector. There was some German artillery around Rouscourt in the morning and afternoon. German harassing artillery and mortar fire fell in Lixeres-Chateau de Oisecy and sur Saille.

22 October 1944

No change German front lines in our sector. German 240 MM shells landed in Font-a-Mousson from 0130-0430. Our patrols received MG fire on East bank of Saille evidently from German C P L. Harassing German artillery and mortar fire was received in Oisecy-Morville. There was considerable movement of vehicles on the Eply-Oisecy road during darkness, evening of the 22nd. River was highest it had been since we came into sector. German 240 MM again shelled Font-a-Mousson starting at 2355.

23 October 1944

No change German front lines in our sector. German 240MM continued shelling until 0425. No damage was done. German C P L fired MG and small arms during the early morning darkness. German propaganda broadcast at 1625 promised that "we could come across the Saille River with or without arms and surrender or they would come after us in five minutes" Germans took no further action. Some flares were fired during the night. River rose during the day.

24 October 1944

No change in German front lines in our sector. German MG fire prevented our crossing the Saille River during the early morning darkness. By noon the

river was 38 inches above normal at Olesery. German harrasing artillery and mortar fire was received during the day. German trucks were heard on the East bank of the Seille River during the late evening.

22 October 1944

No change in German front lines. Harrasing German mortar and artillery fire was received during the day. M3s and flares were fired by Germans during the night and vehicles used the Eply-Rouves Road. River flooded about 150 yards over old width.

25 October 1944

No change in German front lines in our sector. German CIL fired M3s and flares when our patrols attempted to penetrate on East side Seille River during early morning darkness. German artillery and mortar fire (harrasing) fell in our area during the day. Aircraft flew over around 1100 but took no action. River is from 100 to 600 yards wide. German flares and small arms fire was seen and heard during the night coming from E bank Seille River. Hostile aircraft were over our area during morning but took no action. German patrol attacked rubber boat in 3rd Bn sector N of Morville during early morning darkness.

27 October 1944

No change in German front lines in our sector. 240mm shells fell in Font-a-Housson from 0115 to 0405 without effect. Our patrols received some machine gun fire on E bank of Seille River from German CIL. German 88mm harrasing fire fell in 1st Bn area-no effect. German plane was over Font-a-Housson at about 2345 but took no action. The river fell about 6 inches.

28 October 1944

No change in German front lines in our sector. German soldier seen walking in vicinity of Raucourt and Eply. Hostile aircraft were overheard at about 2000 but they took no action. Harrasing German artillery and mortar fire was received in Morville and Fort sur Seille but had no effect. The river receded about 12 inches from the highest point it had reached. Moonlight very bright.

29 October 1944

No change in German front lines in our sector. German soldiers observed in Eply in morning. German harrasing artillery and mortar fire were received in Morville and Fort sur Seille and Olesery. German plane was over area at 1950 but it took no action. German CIL on E side of Seille River fired numerous white flares during the night. River receded slightly during the day but still 300 to 400 yards wide in some places.

30 October 1944

No change in German front lines in our sector. German patrol of 5 or 6 men crossed to W side of Seille River at about 0510 went into small cleft

of trees just E of Morville. They withdrew at 0945 when our 3rd Bn sent combat patrol to capture them. Harassing German mortar and artillery fire was received in our area but had no effect. River receded slightly today and is within banks in many places. Too deep for fording on foot in our area however.

31 October 1944

No change in German front lines in our sector. German harassing artillery and mortar fire fell in Morville and Fort-sur-Selle and Olmery but did not damage. Some German activity was seen in the vicinity of Sply during the day. There was a few flares fired during the night. Our patrol on E bank of Selle River N of Morville was prevented from completing reconnaissance by rifle and machine pistol firing from German C.P.S. This was during the night.

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