

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

20 November 1944


(5-1)/SEPTEMBER

Subject: After Action Report, Personnel Administration, 1 Sep 44 to 30 Sep 44.

To : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C., through Commanding General, 30th
Infantry Division, APO # 80 U. S. Army

1. The first few days of the extremely difficult and severe fighting up to and including the first attempt at crossing the Moselle River developed a sudden, extremely heavy number of casualties. As the fighting in this sector continued to be severe for many days, the number of casualties to be accounted for created a problem in proper reporting, maintaining the desired degree of accuracy and at the same time, submitting all reports as rapidly as possible. The company clerks who had been designated to prepare the casualty report and maintain the casualty accounting were faced with the problem of keeping up with the development of a great deal of work in the reporting and preparation of records for their own companies. The personnel Sergeant Major had great difficulty in maintaining immediate supervision of Casualty Reporting and keeping current with the rapidly increasing volume of work required of him. A former clerk in the personnel section, who had been serving in battle as an aid man with a rifle company, was secured from the Division Convalescent Station, where he had been sent to recuperate from a serious case of Battle Fatigue. This clerk would no longer be able to perform the duties of aid man with the fighting troops and therefore, was assigned the duty to control the accounting for casualties, including the preparation of casualty reports, as a sole duty. This clerk at the present time maintains all records, prepares all reports and accounts for all casualties of this regiment. At times when casualties are heavy, he is assisted in the preparation of reports by the clerk of that company which is enjoying the least volume of work. This method has established a definite duty for no man and provided a reliable method for controlling the reporting and accounting for all casualties. The results to date have been more than satisfactory.

2. A continuous policy of indoctrination and education of first sergeants in the importance of proper, accurate casualty reporting must be conducted at every opportunity. Strong emphasis must also be placed on speed in conjunction with accuracy.


FRANK J. WATSON
Captain, 317th Infantry
Regimental Historian

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

L. 283

26 October 1944

Subject: After Action Report (S-2) / SEPTEMBER

To : 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 September 1944:

1) Enemy.

There was no enemy contacted other than small delaying forces, and their attempts at delay were ineffective. Bridges were blown at SAINDREPT, LAHEYCOURT and BAR LE DUC, and the roads into NEVIGNY were mined. There was no enemy front line, and no air, artillery or armor reported.

2) Elements effecting action.

There was no reconnaissance by the enemy, and the civilians seemed to be quite friendly. The terrain was hilly, with rivers running at right angles to the movement of the CT.

2 September 1944:

An enemy force estimated at 100 men (35) and 100 men in the vicinity of MONTSEC fought delaying action. They had some mortars, but no artillery or other special weapons. Delaying action was unsuccessful, and the enemy withdrew to the East and North.

3 September-7 September 1944:

The enemy withdrew in the morning to the East bank of the MOSELLE River, and organized themselves from PAGNY to DIEULOUARD with an estimated Division. They were well supplied with artillery of all calibres, with mortars, and with heavy and light machine guns. All bridges over the MOSELLE in the Regimental Zone of Action had been blown. The civilians were not as reliable as they have been previously, and very few of them who had recently been on the East bank of the MOSELLE were to be found. MOUSSON and XON hills on the East Bank of the MOSELLE, and the high ground to the North and South occupied by the Germans afforded them excellent CP's and masks, behind which it was possible to supply and shift troops, and locate Artillery without coming under our observation. In the river valley itself, the ground formed a flat, flood plain over a thousand yards wide, without cover or concealment, giving the Germans excellent fields of fire for their automatic weapons. The river and canal formed a double obstacle to our troops.

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
22 April 1945

8 September-12 September 1944:

The Third Panzer Grenadier Division continued to organize on the East bank of the MOSELLE, and German artillery and mortars were active. There were no other changes in the enemy situation during this period.

12 September 1944:

German forces from the 29th Regiment, 3d Motorized Division, and the 1121st Regiment of the 553d Division, were captured, and the boundary between these two divisions had passed through the bridge at SCAPONS. The 1121st Regiment had six 81mm mortars, four 120mm mortars, and a number of light and heavy machine guns in each battalion. The 29th Regiment had a similar organization. The 1121st had 18 bazookas (German) per battalion. The attack of the CT 17th on the morning of the 12th September took the defending Germans by surprise, and we had captured our objectives before the Germans were able to take effective counter measures. The enemy has placed anti-personnel mines in the canal bank in the vicinity of our crossing points, but these were ineffective. German forces withdrew to a line from ATTON to the Road Junction at (U828321); to MILLERY to the MOSELLE River at (U765180). During the day, German 88 direct fire from MOUSSON and 150mm fire from positions further Northeast harassed troops and movements in the vicinity of the bridges built by the Engineers, and they attempted unsuccessfully to destroy these bridges. There were very few civilians in the bridgehead. Our forces had excellent observation of the ground to the East from the ST GENEVIEVE-BEAUMONT ridge, and LA PALAIS hill. Enemy occupation of MOUSSON gave them direct observation of the crossing sites, but the crossing at DIEULOUARD was somewhat screened from enemy observation by trees. We captured 16 PW's.

13 September 1944:

The Germans attacked early on the 13th September with 2 Battalions of the 29th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, from FORST DE FROU, through ST GENEVIEVE and BEAUMONT, then moved East toward VILLE AU VAL. The attack was supported by artillery and mortar fire, and the Germans also had half-tracks, self-propelled guns and tanks. The Regiment destroyed eight German tanks during the counterattack, which was entirely repulsed by 1400 on the 13th September.

14 September 1944:

Early in the morning an enemy AGF unit, consisting of from 400 to 600 men attacked and seized LA PALAIS ridge. By 1700, our counterattack had retaken LA PALAIS, and time fire decimated the enemy AGF unit withdrawing.

15 September 1944:

The Enemy, with an estimated force of 1 Battalion, counterattacked in the early morning, and captured ATTON and ST GENEVIEVE. The attack was supported with tanks, self-propelled guns, artillery and mortar fire. At 1630, an enemy force estimated at 1 Battalion and 33 tanks attacked the ST GENEVIEVE-BEAUMONT ridge, and were repulsed with the loss of an undetermined number of tanks.

16 September 1944:

The enemy occupied the line LANDEMONT-Hill 591-MILLERY with about 2 battalions. They defended successfully at MILLERY and LANDEMONT, supported

by artillery and mortars. At about 1700, remnants of the AGF unit which attacked the 3d Battalion on the 14th September, attacked again, but were driven off as darkness fell.

17 September 1944:

German forces occupied LANDREMONT-Hill 351-MILLERY. The force on Hill 351 consisted of an outpost and artillery CP, from which effective artillery and mortar fire could be directed on the advance of the 2d Battalion. In MILLERY, a small enemy force occupied the town and directed MG and mortar fire on K Company. There was a small delaying force in LANDREMONT which was strong in automatic weapons. All German forces were forced to withdraw.

18 September 1944:

The 3d Battalion met small enemy delaying forces in the Southwest sector on the BOIS DE CHAPITRE. These enemy forces tried to delay 3d Battalion in woods fighting, but were forced to withdraw.

19 September 1944:

Small enemy delaying forces operated ineffectively in the BOIS DE CHAPITRE.

20 September 1944:

An enemy force of about 100 men, with two 75mm AT guns and 5 HMG's held Hill 299 South of MILLERY. B Company's attack with tanks at 1700 captured forty-six PW's, and the remainder either scattered or were killed. The remnants of the enemy delaying detachments, estimated as 120 men, established a road block at 8532499, interfering with the flow of supplies to our 2d and 3d Battalions. This force had the support of 150mm guns and 120mm mortars, with a radio for fire directions.

21 September-22 September 1944:

The enemy line to our front extended from hill 401 through ERATTE. The German road block at 85352499 continued to harass our supply, and resisted the attempts of the 1st Battalion to dislodge them.

23 September-25 September 1944:

The Germans at the road block at 85352499 were either killed, captured or withdrew during the night of the 23d September. Our 2d and 3d Battalions, attacking at 1630, were held up by enemy delaying forces, heavily armed with MG's, on Hill 401. The delaying forces were either killed or captured, or withdrew to positions on MT ST JEAN-NOIVRONS, early on the 24th September.

26 September 1944:

An enemy force estimated at 1 battalion defended the Northwest part of MT ST JEAN, with the support of 120mm and 80mm mortars, 150mm gun, and direct fire artillery from JEANDELINCOURT, NOIVRONS and MT ST JEAN, and were able to maintain their positions. The 1st Battalion of the 3d Paratroop Training Regiment, from well organized positions around NOIVRONS, supported by medium and light artillery and mortars, successfully defended against our attack. An enemy force estimated at 1 company were forced to withdraw from HILL 340 by the 1st Battalion, and occupied SERRIERES, SIVRY, MT ST JEAN (NW) and NOIVRONS. ✓

27 September 1944:

The Germans, preceded by heavy artillery and mortar fire, attacked Hill 340 with CT 13 (XII) and CT Hildebrand, a total strength of 200-250 men. The German attacking force came from SIVRY and SERRIERES, moved around the base of Hill 340, and attacked from the North and Southwest. These German forces suffered extremely heavy casualties, and the remnants were forced to withdraw. This force penetrated some of our forward positions and approached the C Company CP to within 15 feet, where they were killed or wounded by point blank pistol, machine-gun and rifle fire, as well as grenades.

28 September 1944:

In the morning at about 0630 German remnants of about 120 men again attacked Hill 340, using tactics similar to those used on the attack the night of the 26th-27th September. In spite of a strong artillery concentration fired to precede the attack, the Germans were unable to get close enough to our Infantry to be effective. They again suffered heavy casualties, and were demoralized by artillery concentrations fired by our Cannon Company.

29 September-30 September 1944:

The enemy occupied MT ST JEAN, SIVRY, SERRIERES and MOIVIONS, and were active with 120mm and 80mm mortars and light artillery fire.


DONALD R. FORD
Captain, Infantry
Regimental S-2