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

(5-1)/OCTOBER

CLASSIFICATION

CANCELLED

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Personnel Section, 317TH INFANTRY, OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
through 31 October 1944.

DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

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

1. Prior to the engagement of the 317th Infantry Regiment in actual combat with the enemy, the Personnel Section prepared the basic fundamentals of operation to cope with the possibilities of accounting for heavy casualties. Procedures were established for the necessary processing of reports, records and allied papers on casualties and all other losses.

2. A casualty section was set up under the direct supervision of the Personnel Sergeant Major and consisting of two additional clerks, who would function in this section in addition to the normal clerical duties required for the company to which they were assigned. This casualty section was detailed the responsibility for complete knowledge of all requirements of casualty reporting, and the maintaining of necessary controls. The basic procedure established called for the reporting by the company clerks of casualty information contained on the company morning report summaries, preparing for this a small card, to be designated a battle casualty card. From the information contained on this small card, the casualty section was to enter the required information on the EMB Cas Form #1, which would be completed each day or several times a day as might be required by the volume of casualties involved. This procedure, when put to its initial test in the campaign to close the Argentan - Falaise Gap, worked very satisfactorily. The company clerks designated to conduct the casualty reporting were from companies not having a high T/O assignment strength and not likely to suffer many casualties. The success of the procedure outlined in the first strong fighting of the Regiment, and its continued success in operations across France to the Moselle River, encouraged its continuance.

3. 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 was unable to keep up the rapidly increasing volume of work required of him. As the

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casualties mounts. Difficulties arose in securing accurate reports from the companies, and, at times, a time lag of 2 or 3 days occurred for companies and even battalion morning report summaries. Correspondence concerning records and casualties began to mount due to the increase in losses, and the casualty section as originally organized proved inadequate to handle the tremendous volume. Therefore, a former clerk in the personnel section, carrying with a rifle company as a medical aid man, 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 an aid man at the front, 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 one man, and provided a reliable method for controlling the reporting and accounting for all casualties. The results to date have been more than satisfactory.

4. As a result of the high number of casualties within the Regiment, the volume of service records and allied papers to be received and also forwarded demanded the establishment of a means to speed up the processing and, at the same time, afford a means to check all outgoing records for completeness of all entries. In consideration of this a records section, consisting of one personnel clerk and a personnel non commissioned officer received as a replacement, was set up to clear all service records and allied papers. It is the duty of these two clerks to keep thoroughly acquainted with all instructions pertinent to service records and allied papers, verify all entries in outgoing records, and prepare letters of transmittal for the forwarding of records.

5. In the processing of replacements received for the regiment, it became apparent that these new men could not be sent forward to the respective companies to which they were assigned until they had first been cleared through the Service Company. When replacements had been received, the WD AGO Form No. 20 was turned over to the personnel section by the Division Classification Section, and from these cards a roster of the company assignments was prepared for the Regimental S-1. However, one roster of all company assignments proved inadequate, therefore, this part of the procedure was changed to include the preparation of a separate roster for each company, with one copy for the company to which men were assigned and one for the Regimental S-1. In this way companies were supplied with a check list against the men they were receiving as replacements. Replacements were moved from the Rear Echelon to Service Company through the Regimental S-1 to the battalions, and thence to the companies to which they were assigned.

6. Operations throughout the entire period of this report emphasize the necessity of close coordination and contact between the Regimental S-1 and the Personnel Officer. Education of First Sergeants in the proper reporting of men on morning report summaries, strongly emphasizing the importance of accuracy, must be conducted at every opportunity. At least one additional non-commissioned officer in each company should be completely familiar with the preparation of morning report summaries, as a guard against the possibility of the First Sergeant becoming a loss. The battalion sergeant major should maintain a control of the morning report summaries of the companies of the battalion. In the event that no responsible individual is available within

a company to prepare the morning report summary the battalion sergeant major should report all information available that can be secured by him.

7. It is recommended that possibility of a change in Table of Organization allowances for a Regimental Personnel Section be considered with a view to increasing the authorized clerical personnel over and above company clerks by the addition of two men. It is further recommended that consideration be given to the possible increase in grade of company clerk from corporal to sergeant, due to the degree of responsibility now incorporated in his duty.



FRANK J. WILSON
Captain, Infantry
Personnel Officer

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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, Molvrons, 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 Molvrons 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 Homeny 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 Cheslocourt (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 210M 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 120M 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.

Edward R. Ford
EDWARD R. FORD
Captain, Infantry
Regimental S-2

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

3 November 1944

Subject: After Action Report (S-3) / OCTOBER

L 284

To : Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO #80,
U. S. Army.

The following report (After Action) from S-3, 317th Infantry Regiment, is submitted in compliance with section III, En, Memo #64, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1944.

1 October - At 1230 CG ordered Regt to take SIVAY by 030800A Oct 44. 1st Bn moved to new assembly area 1 mile W of MONTENOT. 2d and 3d Bn continued to organize defensive positions. G Co was selected to take SIVAY.

2 October - Regt continued to improve and strengthen defensive position.

3 October - 0345 G Co moved out. Enemy Arty was intense but inaccurate as a result of our Arty smoking their observation. However, the Arty fire kept the Co communication lines out most of the day. By 0530, G Co had taken one street in the SE edge of SIVAY. Enemy forces were estimated to be one (1) company. Approximately two-thirds of the town was controlled by G Co at 0800. At this time, the CG of G Co called for additional ammunition and rations. Resupply and evacuation was extremely difficult during daylight and was only effective after dark. CG of G Co reported the town captured at 1800. Enemy Arty fell constantly throughout the night. Regt (+ G Co) continued to improve defensive positions.

4 October - At 0300 the Germans placed a heavy arty concentration on SIVAY and launched an attack with two (2) battalions. Co F was completely surrounded by 0800, and Co E was ordered to assist Co G. Co A met heavy arty fire while approaching SIVAY, and then extremely heavy small arms fire when they reached the edge of town. Two (2) Platoons entered the town from the SW by infiltration, and were met with heavy cross fire. It was 1500 before the other two Platoons made contact with the remainder of the Co. At 1830, our troops were ordered to evacuate SIVAY. The Regt (-G and E Co) continued to improve its' defensive position.

5 October - The Regt sent strong patrols out to MONTENOT and vicinity. The Regt continued to strengthen its' defensive position.

6 October - 3d Bn was relieved by 2d Bn of the 319th Inf, completing at 0510. Strong patrolling was conducted all along the front.

Co B was relieved in the line by Co E at 2000. Received Div order for future attack.

7 October - The Regt continued to defend and strengthen its defensive position, and reorganize for an attack.

8 October - 1st Bn launched an attack at 0600, with the mission of seizing Hill 400 (RT ST JEAN). By 0730, the battalion had seized objective and was in process of organizing position. 2d Bn supported the attack by fire on RT ST JEAN and RT BOULON from reserve position, and then moved to vicinity Villa du Val, where it was motorized and became Division reserve. 3d Bn attacked at 0615, with the mission of seizing Hill 407 (RT ST JEAN) and relieve elements of the 8th Armd Div at MOIVREUX and LAI COUHT. At 0710, they were on S slope of objective, ceasing M3 and M4 fire. By 1530 objective was taken. C4 I was sent to relieve C4V at MOIVREUX at 0900, and set heavy M3 and M4 fire E of town. After fighting their way into the town, they relieved C4B about 1305.

9 October - At 0600, the 1st Bn followed by the 3d Bn, advanced behind CGA 8th Armd Div, with mission of seizing objective vicinity LAI COUHT. The objective was reached late in the afternoon, and CGA was relieved. 2d Bn (motorized) remained in Div Reserve.

10 October - Regt (-2d Bn Div Reserve) organized its positions for the defense.

11 October - Regt (-2d Bn Div Reserve) continued to occupy and improve defensive position.

12 October - Regt (-2d Bn Div Reserve) continued to occupy and improve defensive position. Orders were received assigning new sector of defense to Regt upon relief by 318th Inf.

13 October - 1st Bn, relieved by 3d Bn 318th Inf at 0200, moved by marching to OPL, where it instructed for movement to new sector. Closed in position at 1430. 2d Bn relieved Div Reserve, and moved by marching to new sector. 3d Bn moved by motor and closed in position at 0330. Regt relieved 318th Inf with 2d and 3d Bn in line.

14 October - Regt continued to occupy and improve defensive position.

15 October - No Change.

16 October - No Change.

17 October - 1st Bn moved to PONT a MOUSON in Regt Reserve.

18 October - 1st Bn relieved 3d Bn in line. 3d Bn moved to PONT a MOUSON. Our front line (OPL) was pulled back to high ground E of the SAILLE river, and the OPL remained generally along river from vicinity CHATEAU to LAI COUHT.

19 October - Regt continued to develop hostile positions by patrolling. Defensive positions were improved and strengthened.

20 October - No Change

21 October - No Change

22 October - Continued to occupy and defend defensive position and develop hostile position by patrolling. Technical and Tactical Training was conducted.

23 October - No Change

24 October - No Change

25 October - 3d BN relieved 2d BN in line during the hours of darkness and 2d BN moved to PERM a POSITION.

26 October - Continued to occupy and improve defensive positions. Active patrolling was conducted to front and flanks. Technical and Tactical Training was conducted.

27 October - No Change

28 October - No Change

29 October - No Change

30 October - No Change

31 October - No Change