

October, 1944: Introductory paragraph

Throughout the month of October, 1944, the Allied front engaged in no large scale attacks. The U.S. Third Army and the German Fifth Panzer Army were on the defensive. Von Rundstedt was asking in vain for reinforcements to meet expected attacks by the Third U.S. Army. Instead, ~~Hitler shifted~~ Hitler shifted forces northward to meet the attack of the Second British Army. ^{② ③ pg 304} Hitler hoped that he could still inflict enough damage upon the Allies to bring about a stalemate and force them to negotiate a separate peace.

Handwritten:

OCTOBER 1944

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On 1 October 1944 CT 318 remained in positions assumed the previous day when the Regiment relieved CT 317. The Regimental sector of the MOSELLE RIVER bridgehead to the N extended E from the river through PONT A MOUSSON and BOIS DE LA FOURASSE to MORVILLE SUR SEILLE. Directly E from the crossing site the line ran through STE GENEVIEVE to the E edge of BOIS DE MANCHE SEILLE. On the southernmost point CT 318 occupied the river's edge E to BRATTE and included the towns of MILLERY, MOREY and BELLEAU as well as BOIS DE RUMONT and the area S of the LANDREMONT-BELLEAU highway (Rt D10). The commanding high ground E of the Regimental positions from MT TOULON (375) SE to MT ST JEAN (HILLS 396/470) and NE to JEANDELAINCOURT still remained in enemy hands. Northward, in the Regimental center, from the N edge of the BOIS DE BUZZARD-BOIS DE MANCHE SEILLE complex of woods lay the MANONCOURT SUR SEILLE-ATTON highway running E to W. N of this road and between it and the SEILLE RIVER, were LES QUATRE FIERS, BENICOURT and CLEMERY. E of CLEMERY and across the SEILLE RIVER stood the town of NOMENY. ROUVES, similarly on the E side of the SEILLE RIVER lay NE of CLEMERY and N of NOMENY.

The enemy elements occupying the vicinity of JEANDELAINCOURT, MT TOULON, MT ST JEAN, SERRIERES (1 mi N of BELLEAU) and the adjacent HILL 340 (S of SERRIERES) belonged to the German 53d Grenadier Division. Defending the area N and E of the SEILLE RIVER were elements of the 17th SS Panzer Division and the 1431 Fortress Battalion.

During ~~the~~ 30 Sep 44 the 1st Bn of CT 318 ^{had gone} ~~went~~ into positions around LANDREMONT on the SW tip of BOIS DE MANCHE SEILLE. Co A returned to battalion positions after being relieved by Co L in the vicinity 1 mi NE of MILLERY. Co B entered BOIS DE ST CLEMENT as Cos C and D entered

*See notes from
at Mannheim*

Co G on H/6 from FALAISE RIVER
To Ste Genevieve

the adjacent woods of BOIS DE MANCHE SEILLE. The 2d Bn entered reserve positions, behind the 1st Bn, in VILLE AU VAL (0.5 mi WSW of LANDREMONT). The 3d Bn set up defenses in MILLERY and to the E edge of BOIS DE CHAPITRE. Co I was sent into VILLE AU VAL while Cos K, L and M held positions 1 mi NE of MILLERY. Cannon Co moved into VILLE AU VAL with the 2d Bn. Co B 305 Med Bn was in LOISY.

DURING NIGHT 2 PLATOONS of
Reynold's Reconnaissance Co, B attempted to
Heavy enemy resistance more attacks
2-12-44

The bad weather continued through the 1st of Oct 44 and occasional cold rains plagued the defensive positions of the Regiment. Late in the day Co E moved from VILLE AU VAL to take up positions along the high ground S of the town in the vicinity of LA FALAISE HILL 373. No other changes in the disposition of the Regimental elements were made during the night and all elements dug into the muddy ground for the

night. ON 2 OCT the 3rd US Army launched an attack on the Metz fortifications. As the 8th AF Div moved NE from its position on the E bank of the Moselle River. The essence of the West Wall was to see the opening of the 3rd Army reduced to zero. (b) enemy supply difficulties, lack of support, bad weather, terrain, very resistant.

On 2 Oct 44, in the cold early morning hours, two platoons of Co B moved N from their positions in the woods to attack LA RENAISSANCE FARM (just S of the ATTON-MANONCOURT ROAD) and LES QUATRE FERS S of CLEMERY. Co C (CO: Capt F. Williams), employing two platoons in a pincer movement, moved E from the woods to successfully seize LES FRANCS FARM on the E edge of BOIS DIT LA FOURASSE (1.5 mi E of LIXIERRES). In this successful maneuver one whole company of the enemy was capture or killed by the troops of Co C. While one squad held the farm, the two platoons continued NE to seize BOIS DIT LA FOURASSE. The assaulting units remained in their areas through the remainder of the day. No changes were made in the positions of the reserve 2d Bn in and around VILLE AU VAL. The 3d Bn, while the remaining companies were in position E and NE of MILLERY, sent Co I N in a bid to take SERRIERES (N of HILL 340 and BELLEAU) after that company had taken HILL 340. Heavy enemy machine gun fire from the town and artillery

from the vicinity of MT TOULON to the E drove the company back to HILL 340. Throughout the remainder of the night over 500 rounds of enemy artillery were directed on HILL 340 but Co I dug in and held on throughout the night. The remainder of the 3d Bn received many local counter-attacks on its road blocks at BELLEAU but no gains were made by the enemy. No further changes occurred through the day and night of 3 Oct 44.

At 0300 1 Oct Co. WARD placed a heavy cone of ARTY fire on SIVRY a little town with estimated BW of 100 Co G, 317 cut off at 1500. Co E, 317 made contact at 1500 but also cut off. 1st Bn 317 could not reach Co E 317 at 1400

The 1st Bn, 4 Oct 44, sent patrols through BELLEAU E to contact elements of CT 317 which had been cut off in the SIVRY area. Contact was made at 1720 on the SW edge of the town but the patrols were unable to enter the town because of enemy artillery from the MT TOULON-MT ST JEAN area. Later, at 1830, CT 317 was able to withdraw its besieged troops from SIVRY. The 2d Bn sent the 1st platoon of Co E into STE GENEVIEVE while the 3d platoon moved into the vicinity of LANDREMONT. In the 3d Bn area elements of Co I on HILL 340 received severe enemy concentrations of artillery from 0345 to 0430 but retained their positions.

On 5 Oct 44, the 1st Bn moved 500 yards N into positions in BOIS DE BUZZARD and shortened its line from BOIS DE ST CLEMENT and BOIS DE MANCHE SEILLE on the NE. The defense line of the battalion now extended on a line between FORET DE FACQ on the NW and LIXIERES on the SE. The 2d Bn moved out of reserve and took up positions extending from VILLE AU VAL E to include LANDREMONT. The 3d Bn, relieved from its positions around and in MILLERY by elements of CT 319, went into reserve positions in the vicinity of BEZAUMONT. Co I was relieved of the responsibility for HILL 340 and rejoined the 3d Bn later in the day. The lines of CT 318 remained unchanged through 6 Oct 44.

*6 Oct
Little battle area BREUIL
SIVRY (about 800 yards)
Tiller area*

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Interrogation of prisoners revealed the Regiment to be faced by the elements of the 53d Grenadier Division dug in on the N slope of HILL 340 (S of SERRIERES). The remaining enemy elements held positions on MT TOULON (NE of SIVRY-BELLEAU) and MT ST JEAN to the SE. About 80 men of a panzer grenadier unit held the vicinity of RENAISSANCE FARM and LES QUATRE FERS.

During 7 Oct 44, the 1st Bn sent Co C to the N edge of BOIS DE BUZZARD and Co A entered BOIS DE ALZEE. Co D moved to the W edge of BOIS DE BUZZARD. The 2d Bn (CO: Capt Gardner) established its CP on the S tip of FORET DE FACQ while Cos E, F and G entered BOIS DE MANCHE SEILLE on the right of the 1st Bn. Co H remained as security for the battalion CP in FORET DE FACQ. The 3d Bn moved its rifle companies into reserve positions in behind the 2d Bn in the vicinity 1.5 mi SW of MANONCOURT-SUR SEILLE. Cannon Co closed into STE GENEVIEVE by 1900. Co B 305 Med Bn remained in position in LOISY.

The 8 Oct 44 broke with clear skies as, in the early morning hours, CT 318 launched a full-scale assault N with the intention of clearing the enemy from the area S and N of the SEILLE RIVER. The objectives of the Regiment were to clear the SEILLE RIVER AREA W of MANONCOURT SUR SEILLE, to seize MT TOULON (HILL 375) and MT ST JEAN (HILLS 396/470) and to clear BOIS DIT LA FOURASSE N of JEANDELAINCOURT. Attacking along the US 80th Division right were elements of the US 5th Infantry Division while the US 6th Armored Division protected the southern flank of the 80th Division.

At 0615, 8 Oct 44, after a 30 minute artillery preparation, a full attack was launched by the Division with the support of USAAF fighter planes. The 1st Bn, on the Regimental left flank, attacked NE ~~from~~

At 0600, 8 Oct 44, after a 30 minute artillery preparation, and a bombing, strafing attack by fighter planes of the USAAF on MT ST JEAN and the bridge site near HILL 212 S of NOMENY, the 1st Bn moved ^{NE} through the foggy morning from the vicinity of BOIS DE BUZZARD. The objectives assigned the 1st Bn (CO: LCOL Tosi) were LES QUATRE FERS, BENICOURT and CLEMERY. The 1st Bn, aided by the direct fire support of ~~the~~ Co B 702d Tank Bn, moved N with Cos A and B on the left and right flank, Co C in reserve and Co D in support of the assault companies.

Moving across the open ground past the highway junction at LA RENAISSANCE FARM and NE toward LES QUATRE FERS, the lead company ^{is} ~~was~~ pinned down by a withering heavy machine gun cross fire. Co A (CO: Capt Lamb) ^{WIA 0830} elements hit the ground as the enemy opened up with heavy artillery and mortars in addition to the automatic fire. In short order the company commander and the platoon leader of the 1st platoon (Lt McAllister) were wounded. Lt Morrison, weapons platoon leader, assumed command of the company and, under intense fire, reorganized the men to continue the assault. Sgt Antal (2d platoon), ^{CO 2} ~~without regard for his own safety~~, rushed across the open terrain to knock out the enemy machine guns, capturing the only German left in the machine gun nest. Lt Morrison led the men toward the objective through the severe enemy mortar and artillery fire. LES QUATRE FERS was taken at 0715 and, despite a wound in the hand, Morrison continued to lead the men until wounded a second time when the assault ~~reached~~ ^{at} the outskirts of BENICOURT (500 yards N). Only after assisting in the reorganization of the hard-hit company, did he relinquish his command to the sole surviving officer (Lt). The attack then continued NE through BENICOURT at 0800 toward CLEMERY.

*dense
silence
CAPT LAMB WIA 0830*

At CLEMERY the enemy continued to pour a heavy volume of fire into the advancing troops. After the platoon leader and platoon sargeant had become casualties, Sgt Smith assumed command of his platoon and advanced to personally kill two men of an enemy sniper patrol in one of the machine gun nests delaying the advance. The attack continued forward, under continuous enemy artillery fire, to seize CLEMERY and the high ground to the N by 1130. The company then set up defense positions along the high ground overlooking the SEILLE RIVER for the night. During the days action Co A had taken a severe mauling but, despite 52 casualties - 3 officers and 49 EM (13 KIA & 39 WIA), the objectives of LES QUATRE FERS, BENICOURT and CLEMERY were taken by sheer force of arms and guts.

Co B, attacking along the right flank of Co A, had moved on LES QUATRE FERS from the S and SE. In the approach the company ran into a raking enemy machine gun fire as well as heavy mortar and artillery concentrations. As the enemy cut down both the platoon leader and platoon sargeant, Sgt Kuntz - despite a leg wound - took over and led his unit on to its objective. Co B, having sustained more than 14 casualties, went into position W of Co A at CLEMERY LES DEUS. Co C, during the attack, remained in reserve behind the assaulting companies. Co D, in a supporting role, sustained a moderate number of casualties through enemy artillery fire and went into position NE and N and STE GENEVIEVE. Co E ^{2 weeks to pre Cleary 57 Cleary} in ^{1st Bn Parois Nacie men to river repr} ~~Mairie Mame d'Am~~ Benicourt. ^{FROM 30.072 B. AMT.}

The 2d Bn (CO: Capt Gardner) moved NE from its previous positions to attack HANONCOURT SUR SEILLE and HILL 203 N of the town (1000 yards). By 0715 elements of the battalion were on the W outskirts of the town when an enemy pillbox and a dug-in tank opened fire to slow the advance. Co E bypassed the town to the W and stormed HILL 203. Sgt Garza (Co E) ~~set~~ up his mortar in an exposed position as hostile forces

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STE in 17567 - EMUSIN
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Clemery is 1500 was cleared except for forward resistance in the center. It was surrounded by tanks and concentrated fire by A Massey 20 French from Hill Point completely by 1700.

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launched a counter-attack. The accuracy of his mortar fire broke the force of the enemy attack and the latter withdrew with 13 casualties and the loss of two machine guns. Co E then swept up HILL 208 and completed its capture by 0907. Co F (), moving directly on MANONCOURT SUR SEILLE after it had been bombed and strafed by our fighter planes, received direct fire from the enemy strongpoints in the town's church and chateau. PFC Fralin (Co F) crawled 150 yards to a position where he could observe the enemy positions and, using hand and arm signals, directed his mortar squad ~~in~~ in the destruction of the enemy positions. Co F moved forward to secure the town by 1300 and went into defense positions overlooking the MANONCOURT SUR SEILLE-ATTON highway. Co G and H closed within FORET DE FACQ in support of the battalion CP.

^{increased SA}
^{was fighting in the streets (123) AM, after clearing enemy from church & chateau}

The 3d Bn (CO:) moved forward at 0830 in support of the 2d Bn and took up reserve positions at 1100 in the vicinity of the cross-roads between LIXIERES and BOIS DE MANCHE SEILLE on HILL 220 at FARM DE MANCHE SEILLE. Cannon Co, in the vicinity of STE GENEVIEVE, sustained a number of casualties from the enemy artillery fire and remained in defensive positions throughout the night. Co B 305 Med Bn was extremely active during the day due to the mounting casualties. The Corpmen unhesitatingly went into the open field while the enemy ~~was~~ continued to pour artillery and mortar fire into the area. Aid was given to the wounded on the spot where they lay and evacuations were carried on throughout the day. By nightfall CT 318 had taken its assigned objectives W and SW of the SEILLE RIVER and elements of the Regiment were deployed facing to the NE toward ROUVES and NOMENY on a line from CLEMERY SE through MANONCOURT SUR SEILLE.

On 9 Oct 44, the 1st Bn maintained its positions in the vicinity of CLEMERY. Cos A and B remained in defense positions NW of CLEMERY as Cos C and D outposted BENICOURT. The 2d Bn remained in and around the town of MANONCOURT SUR SEILLE, with defensive positions on the high ground to the E. The 3d Bn continued occupying the vicinity of HILL 220 and the NE edge of BOIS DE MANCHE SEILLE. Cannon Co remained in its previous positions and Co B 305 Med Bn closed into STE GENEVIEVE during the day, which for the most part was cold, cloudy and dismal.

The medical unit continued to receive ^{and} casualties throughout the day. ~~CT 318 held 170 casualties over 340 PzD's were taken.~~
The situation remained without change in the Regimental positions

- 11 -
through 10 Oct 44. Changes and relief in positions were carried out within the assault battalions.

On 11 Oct 44, during the late night hours, the enemy replaced its battered remnants along the line from NOMEY to RUE DE LA POMPEY. Elements of the 38th Panzer Regiment of the 17th Panzer SS Division moved to relieve the defending troops. The 1st, 2d and 3d Bns of the 38th Panzer Regiment occupied overlapping positions from ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ELY (E of MORVILLE SUR SEILLE) SE through ROUVES to NOMEY, the towns lying on the E side of the SEILLE RIVER. This placed the southernmost boundary of the 17th SS Panzer Division in the zone of CT 318. SE from ELY and interspaced between the battalions of the 38th Panzer Regiment were the 1st, 2d and 3d Companies of the German 1431 Fortress Battalion.

During the night of 11 Oct 44 the 1st Bn, CT 318, yielded its positions around CLEMERY to elements of CT 317, and the battalion went into position 3000 yards S of MANONCOURT SUR SEILLE in the town of LIXIERRES. Except for aggressive patrolling by CT 318 and the enemy units, no movements on either side brought a change in positions until late in the

night of 16 Oct 44 when the German 17th SS Panzer Division replaced its units to the immediate front of CT 318.

From 11 - 23 Oct 44, no changes in the positions of CT 318 took place. Relief of line companies was accomplished in the battalion areas and the Regiment was again brought up to its fighting strength with the addition of new replacements. During the 11 Oct 44 the Fall rains began. The roads became swamped and men were rained out of their foxholes. Unrelenting, the rains continued until 21 Oct 44. The weather broke temporarily during the 22 Oct 44 but rain soon continued.

On 23 Oct 44 the MOSELLE RIVER went on a rampage. The SEILLE RIVER over-flooded to pour into the streets of CLEMERY on the W bank. The river width, due to the torrential rains, widened at various points from 100 to 600 yards. In places the mud was almost knee deep. The men and vehicles slithered about in the quagmire and foxholes were rained out. Little change occurred in the Regimental dispositions except that the 1st Bn, during the night of 22-23 Oct 44, moved to relieve elements of the 3d Bn along the S bank of the SEILLE RIVER. Co A moved NE from LIXIERRES to relieve elements of the 3d Bn in FARM DE LA BORDE across the river from the MONTIGNY PENINSULA SE of NOMENY. Co B relieved Co I in position behind Co A. Co C and D fanned their troops around the southern outskirts of MANONCOURT SUR SEILLE (2000 yards to the W). The 2d Bn remained in MANONCOURT SUR SEILLE. The 3d Bn, after being relieved, moved S to take up reserve positions in the town of LIXIERRES.

The situation remained unchanged except for active aggressive patrolling. Through 23-24 Oct 44 the rivers in the vicinity continued to overflow. In a patrol action Sgt Caouette (Co A), a member of a four man patrol, crossed the SEILLE RIVER to the ~~MONTIGNY PENINSULA~~ and penetrated enemy

territory for the purpose of capturing prisoners for interrogation. Leaving two men on the outskirts of NOMENY, Sgt Caouette and the officer continued to a building still in enemy hands. The officer was captured shortly thereafter. Sgt Caouette, on entering a foxhole, encountered the enemy and - in a sharp fire fight - shot and killed the enemy occupants. Proceeding a short distance he surprised a group of 5 enemy soldiers on whom he opened fire with his submachine gun, killing the entire group. Sgt Caouette then made his way back into friendly territory.

Patrol activities 24-25 Oct 44. See Vol I Pg 84
 Training, active patrolling, and strengthening of positions was carried out 25-31 Oct 44. During the period 17-23 Oct 44 PONT A MOUSSON on the MOSELLE RIVER was subjected to shelling by an enemy 280mm rail mount gun without damage to military targets. During the night of the 30-31 Oct 44 the 1st Bn was relieved by the 3d Bn along the high ground on the SELLE RIVER. The 1st Bn then reverted to Regimental Reserve positions to the S in LIXIERRES. The line between Clermont & the RR E of MANONCOURT,

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④ Pg 151
 31 Oct
 L.S. H.W.
 A comparison of the account of the First U.S. Army in recent and current plans (?) appears as order. In 7 Mexican weeks, over 40,000 square miles were liberated at a cost of 4,575 killed, 23,794 wounded and 6,156 missing. In the four weeks of hobbled October fighting, only 125 sq. miles of territory were cleared, with a loss of 1,279 killed, 6,116 wounded, and 822 missing. His losses were (the enemy) was 5,481 PW's, and an estimated 9,150 killed & 20,100 wounded.