

6 Company

SECTION III

PURSUIT TO THE NIED RIVER

The 317th Infantry, with the 1st and 3d Bns abreast, continued its advance at 0900, 10 November 1944.

The 1st Bn, northeast of SECOURT, continued its advance to the northeast against light small arms and heavy artillery fire. This Battalion pushed forward during the day to the area just south of LUPPY, where the attack was halted for the night.

The 3d Bn, having halted its advance the previous day southwest of SOLGNE, attacked at 0900, 10 November 1944 to seize the town at 1620. The 3d Bn then moved eastward through BOIS ST PAUL advancing to HILL 254 (south of LUPPY) where the attack was halted for the night. Here the 3d Bn contacted the right (southern) flank of the 1st Bn.

The 2d Bn, in Regimental Reserve vicinity ST JURE, moved to relieve the 3d Bn on the night 10-11 November 1944.

The 313th Infantry, employing the 1st and 2d Bns, resumed the attack at 0900, 10 November 1944. The 3d Bn constituted Regimental Reserve.

The 1st Bn moving towards FOVILLE, met no enemy resistance. Forward elements entered the town at 1030 and had cleared the town of scattered enemy resistance by 1100. Tanks of "B" Company 702d Tank Bn were operating with the Battalions. The advance was continued to the northeast, with the town of JUVILLE as the next objective. "A" Company was 500 yards northwest of FOVILLE at 1115 and by 1222, leading elements were but 500 yards southwest of JUVILLE. Scattered enemy resistance was met and the 1st Bn seized JUVILLE at 1330. In the advance between the towns of FOVILLE and JUVILLE, the enemy was cleared from the northern end of DELME RIDGE. By dark, on 10 November 1944, the Battalion occupied the high ground east of JUVILLE, where the advance was halted for the night.

The 2d Bn, on the northeast edge of BOIS DE PHLIN, attacked to the northeast towards the towns of SAILLY and ACHATEL at 0900, 10 November 1944. By 0945, leading elements were entering SAILLY against scattered enemy resistance. The town was cleared of the enemy shortly thereafter and the advance continued towards ACHATEL. By 1100 ACHATEL was free

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of the enemy and the Battalion turned its direction of advance easterly towards the town of MONCHEUX. Elements of the Battalion were fighting against scattered enemy resistance in MONCHEUX at 1530 and by 1645, this town was added to the list of those liberated by the Division. The attack was halted about one mile northeast of MONCHEUX. Positions were organized and consolidated for the night.

The 3d Bn, constituting Regimental Reserve, moved from MAILLY-SUR-SEILLE on the morning 10 November 1944 towards VULMONT and at 1100 was about 1000 yards west of the town. During the evening 10 November 1944, the Battalion began movement to MONCHEUX to take up a reserve position about 500 yards northeast of the town.

During the night 9-10 November 1944, the 2d Bn 319th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve vicinity AULNOIS-SUR-SEILLE, moved northeast to relieve the 1st Bn from its positions in the left sector of the Regimental Zone, vicinity LICCOURT. Relief was completed during the early hours 10 November 1944. The 1st Bn then reverted to reserve.

The 319th Infantry, with two Battalions abreast, attacked at 0900, 10 November 1944 from DELME RIDGE. The 2d Bn, reinforced by "C" Company 702d Tank Bn (minus one platoon) advanced on the left; the 3d Bn, reinforced by one platoon "C" Company 702d Tank Bn, advanced on the right.

At 1030, the 2d Bn had advanced 300 yards into the BOIS DE BAUCOURT under heavy enemy machine gun and mortar fire. The progress of the attack was slowed down by determined enemy resistance, but by 1335, leading elements were 300 yards from the east edge of BOIS DE BAUCOURT and continued to advance. At 1455, the Battalion had cleared the woods and had made preparations to seize HILL 328 (west of BAUCOURT). With "F" Company on the right and "G" Company on the left, the Battalion attacked and seized HILL 328 at 1610. Positions here were consolidated and held for the night.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, advancing in the right sector of the Regimental Zone, employed three companies abreast. XCCOURT was seized at 1030. The Battalion reorganized with "I", "K" and "L" Companies on the line from XCCOURT to the road junction northwest of the town of DELME and then continued the attack to the northeast.

"I" and "K" Companies of the 3d Bn entered BOIS DE LA FOUILLOUS. PON DE CHASSE (northwest of TINCEY) at 1255 and cleared the enemy from the woods by 1350. "L" Company moved

towards TINCRY, crossing the stream RAU DE LAMPE at 1350.

At 1500, "K" Company seized HILL 326 (northeast of BOIS DE LA FOUILLOUSE PON DE CHASSE). "I" Company tied in with "K" Company on the north and "L" Company on the south. The progress of the Battalion was temporarily halted by enemy fire from HILL 328 to the north. However, the 2d Bn drove the enemy from HILL 328 at 1610, thus allowing "L" Company to seize TINCRY and advance 200 yards to the east of the town. The 3d Bn was then ordered to hold for the night. Contact was made that evening with "G" Company 137th Regiment (35th Infantry Division), on the 3d Bn's right flank and about 600 yards southeast of TINCRY.

The 1st Bn 319th remained in Regimental Reserve, with "A" and "B" Companies occupying positions on BELME RIDGE.

At 2015, the Division Commander ordered the advance of all three Regiments to continue at 0800, 11 November 1944.

The 317th Infantry continued the attack at 0800, 11 November 1944, with the 1st Bn on the left and the 2d Bn on the right.

The 1st Bn, having halted its attack the night before south of LUPPY, by-passed the town and advanced northeast towards the town of BECHY. This town was cleared of the enemy by 0910 and the advance continued rapidly to the east against light small arms fire and heavy enemy artillery fire. At 1100, the Battalion was 500 yards east of BECHY and north of the BECHY-HAN-SUR-NIED highway. By 1300, the Battalion had entered the woods southwest of AUBECOURT. Elements were only 600 yards west of HAN-SUR-NIED at 1400. Enemy small arms, artillery fire and direct fire from anti-aircraft weapons became extremely heavy at this time. However the Battalion entered the town of AUBECOURT at 1720 and after a short skirmish, the town was cleared of the enemy.

At 1800, elements of "A" Company captured intact the bridge crossing the NIED-FRANCAISE RIVER at HAN-SUR-NIED. Elements of the 6th Armored Division crossed shortly thereafter and the bridgehead was held despite heavy enemy fire.

Meanwhile, the 2d Bn 317th Infantry, which had relieved the 3d Bn from its position vicinity HILL 254 (south of LUPPY) attacked to the east at 0800, 11 November 1944. The 2d Bn, moving on the right of the 1st Bn, advanced eastward against light small arms fire and heavy enemy artillery

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fire, reaching a point about 600 yards southeast of BECHY at 1100. When approaching HILL 285, enemy small arms fire increased, but the advance continued. At 1305, the Battalion was approaching the lakes northeast of FLOCCOURT and at 1330, against light enemy resistance, had reached GR D'ETANG (southwest of HAN-SUR-NIED). After passing the lakes, intense enemy small arms, artillery and anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Progress was slowed somewhat by this heavy fire, but by 1840, the Battalion advanced to HILL 225 (southwest of HAN-SUR-NIED).

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, which during the morning had been relieved by the 2d Bn from its positions south of LUPPY, moved to CORVEE DE PRETRE (midway between BECHY and HAN-SUR-NIED) as Regimental Reserve. The Battalion closed into the woods (025444) at 1840.