

& Company

SECTION VI

BREACHING OF THE MAGINOT LINE

The 80th Infantry Division launched a coordinated attack at 0800, 25 November 1944. The MAGINOT LINE was broken in each Regimental Sector. Eight forts of the MAGINOT LINE were captured.

The 317th Infantry, employing the 2d Bn, attacked in its zone at 0800. Moving eastward from the high ground south of TRITTELING, the Battalion swept through the northern edge of BOIS DE PONT-PIERRE to enter BOIS DE TETING. Light small arms fire and heavy mortar and artillery fire was encountered. Small pockets of enemy were encountered during the advance and by 1115 the Battalion had reached the east edge of the woods (212535-212528). Forts LAUDREFANG and TETING WOODS were captured and mopped up. By 1545, the 2d Bn had advanced to the vicinity of HILL 363 (218538), northwest of FOLSCHVILLER, where the advance was halted for the day.

Meanwhile the 1st Bn in CREHANGE, began movement at 0800 to the northeast to take up positions on the left of the 2d Bn. By 1500 leading elements had reached HILL 392 (northeast of LAUDREFANG) where the Battalion halted for the night. Light small arms fire and moderate mortar and artillery fire was encountered during the advance from TRITTELING to the objective.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, in MAINVILLERS, began movement at 0800 to TRITTELING, closing into that vicinity in the late evening 25 November 1944.

At 0800, 25 November 1944, the 318th Infantry, employing the 2d and 3d Bns, launched an attack to the north. The 2d Bn attacked north in the left sector of the Regimental Zone and the 3d Bn attacked on the right of the 2d Bn.

By 0825 the 2d Bn had advanced to the high ground (159574) northwest of BAMBIDERSTROFF against light small arms fire. At 1020 the Battalion reached the north edge of the woods BAMBESCH (164583-178581) where heavier enemy resistance was encountered. The advance was halted until tanks from "B" Company 702d Tank Bn could join the Infantry.

Construction of a bridge at BAMBIDERSTROFF was completed

at 1155 and "B" Company 702d Tank Bn crossed shortly thereafter, closing into the woods BAMBESCH at 1330 to join the 2d Bn.

The attack to the north was continued and the 2d Bn advanced into the BOIS DE KERFENT (175591) at 1530. "G" Company, supported by "B" Company 702d Tank Bn, attacked ZIMMING and cleared the enemy from the town by 1800. The advance was halted here for the day.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, attacking north from the high ground southeast of BAMBIDERSTROFF, cleared the town by 0900 and was halted on the hills before the Forts of BAMBIDERSTROFF and BAMBESCH at 1000 by heavy enemy fire. By 1100 the advance was continued and the Battalion seized HILLS 367, 343, 312, and 405 (northeast of BAMBIDERSTROFF) reducing all MAGINOT LINE forts in its zone of advance. Positions for the night were prepared on this high ground west of LONGEVILLE-LES-ST. AVOLD.

The 1st Bn, remaining in reserve, moved from CITES DES CHARBONNAGES to BAMBIDERSTROFF.

The 319th Infantry, employing the 2d and 3d Bns, launched an attack toward LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD.

The 3d Bn, in PAULQUEMONT, moved north at 0715 to the right flank of the 2d Bn north of TRITTELING.

The 2d Bn met heavy enemy resistance from the pill-boxes on HILL 400 (188550) but this was reduced and the advance was continued through the woods STOCKEN. By 0920 leading elements of the 2d Bn reached the east-west road from BAMBIDERSTROFF and then launched an attack against the enemy on the ridge EINSELINGERBERG. The enemy was driven off this high ground and the Battalion held up its advance until the 3d Bn came abreast.

The 3d Bn meanwhile, advancing on the right of the 2d Bn, cleared LAUDREFANG at 0900 and continued the advance north. The 3d Bn captured PORT QUATRE VENTS by 1150 and received heavy flanking fire from HILL 392 (208548) which was in the 317th Infantry sector. The 317th Infantry moved against HILL 392 and the flanking fire on the 3d Bn stopped.

At 1315 the 2d and 3d Bns continued their advance to the north. The 2d Bn was held up on the outskirts of LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD by fire from HILL 310. The 3d Bn, south

of LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD, moved self-propelled tank destroyers (610th Tank Destroyer Bn) into position to fire on HILL 310. Wiping out enemy resistance from this point, the 2d Bn fought its way into the western section of LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD and established strong points on HILL 310 and the high ground (220580). Road blocks were also established on roads leading into town from the north, south, and west. The enemy was contained in the eastern section of town.

The 3d Bn was on its objective (the high ground south and southeast of LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD) by late afternoon 25 November. Heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire was encountered throughout the day in the advance.

Meanwhile the 1st Bn, in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of FAULQUEMONT, moved north at 1245 to relieve "F" Company on EINSELINGERBERG RIDGE, "K" Company on HILL 371 (200555) and "G" Company on HILL 400 (188550). Relief was completed by 1515. The 1st Bn maintained these positions, with "B" Company on EINSELINGERBERG RIDGE, "A" Company on HILL 371, and "C" Company on HILL 400.

This offensive resulted in the 319th's capture of four main MAGINOT LINE fortifications - FORTS EINSELING, NORTH EINSELING, SOUTH EINSELING, and QUATRE VENTS. These boosted the total number of forts captured by the Division to eight; FORTS LAUDREFANG and TETING WOODS were captured by the 317th Infantry and FORTS BAMBIDERSTROFF and BAMBESCH were captured by the 318th Infantry.

At 0800, 26 November 1944, the Division continued the attack to the east. A ten-minute artillery preparation preceded the attack.

The 317th Infantry employed the 1st and 2d Bns in the attack. The 1st Bn, in the vicinity of HILL 392 (northeast of LAUDREFANG), attacked to the east, encountering light artillery and small arms fire. The advance was pushed rapidly and by 1045 the Battalion was at the eastern edge of BOIS DE VALMONT, preparing to attack VALMONT. Direct enemy fire was received from the northeast and enemy artillery fire became heavier. However at 1215, the Battalion entered VALMONT under heavy enemy artillery fire. The advance was continued until the high ground 1500 yards southeast of the town was seized. Here the 1st Bn halted its attack for the day.

Troops of the 80th Reconnaissance Troop entered FOLSCH-

May James H. Hayes G Company
VILLER the evening of 25 November 1944 and on the 26th the 2d Bn 317th Infantry sent "G" Company in to clean out the town. Sniper fire and heavy enemy artillery fire was encountered, but the town was cleared by 1600. The remainder of the Battalion closed in shortly thereafter, moving from HILL 363 (218538) northwest of FOLSCHVILLER.

Elements of the 2d Bn then moved to occupy the high ground 1000 yards southeast of FOLSCHVILLER.

The 3d Bn, in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of TRITTELING, moved out at 1115 to follow the 1st Bn in its zone of advance. Leading elements of the 3d Bn reached VALMONT at 1235 and the remainder closed in shortly thereafter.

On the morning 26 November 1944, the 3d Bn 318th Infantry jumped off at 0800 with the mission of capturing the high ground north of LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD. Only light resistance was met and by 0835 elements of the Battalion were in KLEINDAL. The high ground north of LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD was secured by 0845, with "L" Company on the north slope of the hill (196596) north of KLEINDAL. Between 0830 and 1730, "L" Company on the 3d Bn left flank, received five enemy counterattacks, all repulsed without loss of ground. A sixth was forming at 1700. Artillery fire (Time On Target) with six battalions, was placed on enemy troops forming for the attack. The sixth counterattack did not develop.

The 2d Bn held its position on the high ground north of BOIS DE KERFENT.

The 1st Bn, in Regimental Reserve vicinity BAMBIDER-STROFF, moved on 26 November 1944, to ST COMINIQUE FME (181585). "A" Company moved to fill a gap between the 2d and 3d Bns.

The 319th Infantry mopped-up LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD on the morning of 26 November 1944 and launched an attack to the east. A 15-minute artillery preparation was fired in support of the attack. The 2d and 3d Bns attacked to the east at 0800 with the 2d Bn on the left (north) and the 3d Bn on the right (south).

The 2d Bn attacked with "E" and "F" Companies abreast and "G" Company in LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD as reserve. Light enemy mortar fire was encountered and by 1015, the Battalion had advanced to LES TROIS MAISONS (220579). Here direct

enemy fire from the north was received.

"A" Company 1st Bn, moving from the vicinity of HILL 371, relieved "G" Company in LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD at 0945.

At 1240 the 2d Bn had advanced to the high ground in the woods HECHENWALD (233577 - 233574). Heavy enemy fire, small arms, automatic and direct fire weapons was received thus halting its advance. Road blocks and muddy terrain hampered movement of the self-propelled tank destroyers and tanks supporting the Infantry. By 1440 the Battalion held the high ground in HECHENWALD WOODS (238574) south to 238568. This position was consolidated for the remainder of the day.

Meanwhile the 3d Bn, advancing on the right of the 2d Bn, seized the high ground (232563) against heavy enemy fire at 1005. By 1130, leading elements reached the high ground 1500 yards west of ST AVOLD and at 1440, the 3d Bn held the line (238561 - 240560) on the high ground overlooking ST AVOLD. Heavy enemy fire held up further advances that day.

The 1st Bn, occupying the high ground east of BAMBI-DERSTROFF, was directed at 1530 to investigate the village of DOURDHAL. The town was occupied shortly thereafter.

"G" Company 2d Bn 319th Infantry reoccupied LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD to relieve "A" Company during the early evening 26 November. The 1st Bn (minus "C" Company), using two Companies, relieved the 3d Bn at 2230 from its positions west of ST AVOLD. The 3d Bn moved to the rear to the vicinity of HILL 371 as Regimental Reserve.

During the day the 42d Cavalry Squadron protected the Division left flank and maintained contact with the 95th Infantry Division.

At 0700, 27 November 1944, the 317th Infantry resumed the attack to the east, employing the 1st and 3d Bns.

The 1st Bn, occupying the high ground 1500 yards southeast of VALMONE, launched its attack towards ALTVILLER. By 0745, leading elements reached the high ground (265536) north of the town. Small pockets of enemy resistance were met and the advance was continued. By 0805, "C" Company reached the south edge of woods HEILIGENBUSCH (280522). Medium enemy artillery and mortar fire was received, but

the Infantry pushed on to outpost the line (288548 - 280534), southeast of LACHAMBRE. Patrols cleared the woods HOHNETZEL (288535) and reconnoitred south to the NIED ALLEMANDE RIVER. The Battalion held the high ground southeast of LACHAMBRE during the night.

The 3d Bn, in the vicinity of VALMONT, attacked to the east and northeast, seizing the high ground (265545) east of VALMONT at 0745 and twenty minutes later took the high ground (269543) west of LACHAMBRE. The town of LACHAMBRE was seized next and the Battalion swung its direction of attack northeast towards MACHEREN. Moderate enemy mortar and artillery fire was encountered, together with scattered pockets of enemy resistance. By 1505, 27 November, leading elements of the Battalion reached the high ground (287556) southwest of MACHEREN, seized the town at 1735 and mopped up a disorganized enemy. The Battalion halted its advance here, outposting the town for the night.

The 2d Bn, in Regimental Reserve, deployed its troops between the towns of FOLSCHVILLER the town of VALMONT on 27 November, having occupied FOLSCHVILLER the day before. However this Battalion moved to occupy the high ground west of MACHEREN by 1905 in preparation for the attack to the east on 28 November 1944.

On 27 November 1944, the 318th Infantry employed one Battalion to clear the woods on the left flank of the 319th Infantry. The 1st Bn, in the vicinity of ST DOMINIQUE FME, crossed the line of departure (west edge of FORET DE LONGEVILLE) at 1000 to clear the woods and take the high ground (231587) at the eastern edge. Little enemy resistance was encountered by the 1st Bn in its sweep through FORET DE LONGEVILLE. By 1400, "A" and "C" Companies reached HILL 189 (231587), the Battalion objective. At 1715, the 1st Bn closed in ST AVOLD, which was liberated that morning by the 319th Infantry.

Meanwhile the 2d and 3d Bns, in position north of BOIS DE KERFENT and north of LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD respectively, closed into LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD at 1600.

Troops of the 42d Cavalry Squadron protected the Division north flank and maintained contact with the 95th Infantry Division on the Division left flank. Elements of the 42d Cavalry Squadron operated as far north as PORCELLETE (2162). On the Division south flank, the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop continued its reconnaissance.

"C" Company 319th Infantry was motorized during the early hours 27 November to move to an assembly area in the vicinity of VALMONT in preparation for the 319th Infantry attack. The Company closed into the vicinity of VALMONT at 0500. The town of VALMONT was in the 317th Infantry sector.

The 319th Infantry, employing the 1st and 2d Bns, attacked to the east on 27 November 1944. The 1st Bn, occupying the high ground west of ST AVOLD (238574 - 238568), jumped off at 0900 and by 1000 had entered the town of ST AVOLD, meeting no opposition.

The 319th Infantry was then directed to push rapidly to the east to gain contact with the enemy. The 2d Bn, which had rendered support by fire to the 1st Bn, moved through ST AVOLD to assemble northeast of the town. At 1445, both Battalions continued the advance to the east. Only occasional enemy artillery fire was received. By 1515, the 2d Bn had reached the high ground in the southern part of FORET DE STEINBERG (275585) where the Battalion halted its advance. The 1st Bn, moving on the 2d Bn's right and encountering occasional enemy artillery fire, had advanced to HILL 320 (288569) by 1655. The advance was held up here for the remainder of the day. The 3d Bn, in Regimental Reserve vicinity HILL 371, moved to ST AVOLD and outposted the town to the north and east for the night.

With the end of the defense of ST AVOLD, all organized resistance ceased until advance elements of the Division reached the line of the MANDERBACH RIVER. Here the 17th SS Division, Reconnaissance Bn, reinforced by elements of the 38th SS Regiment of the 17th SS Division used the town of FAREBERSVILLER as a strong point.

The Division continued the attack to the east against enemy resistance on 28 November 1944, gaining eight miles of ground.

The 317th Infantry pushed far to the east, reaching FAREBERSVILLER by noon.

The 1st Bn, in position on the high ground southeast of LACHAMBRE, jumped off at 0730, meeting only scattered pockets of enemy. By 1010 elements of the 1st Bn occupied the vicinity of HILL 293 (347565). The advance was continued against moderate opposition and by 1515, the Battalion had advanced to the high ground south and southeast of FAREBERSVILLER.

The 2d Bn on the left of the 3d Bn attacked to the east at 0730, 28 November 1944. By 1015 it had reached the high ground north of SEINGBOUSE and by 1515 that afternoon, had advanced to the vicinity of HILL 316 (365588) where the advance was halted for the day.

At 0830 the 3d Bn jumped off with the 2d Bn on its left and the 1st Bn on its right. By 1015 the town of SEINGBOUSE was cleared of the enemy and elements of the Battalion had advanced east of the town to (348575) where small arms and anti-aircraft fire was encountered. However, the advance was continued and leading elements reached the outskirts of FAREBERSVILLER, where bitter fighting developed. The enemy was driven out of the town, but at 1950 he launched a counterattack and retook the eastern part of FAREBERSVILLER. Enemy resistance was fanatical and the 3d Bn was engaged in house-to-house fighting when darkness fell.

The 318th Infantry remained in Division Reserve on 28 November 1944. The 2d and 3d Bns 318th Infantry, in reserve at LONGEVILLE-LES-ST AVOLD, entrucked at 1100 to move to ST AVOLD. Detrucking there shortly after noon, the 2d Bn outposted the town. The 1st Bn, which had moved into ST AVOLD the night before, moved from the town during the afternoon 28 November to GUENVILLER, closing in at 1730.

During the night 28-29 November the 1st Bn moved to the high ground east of SEINGBOUSE to form a defense in depth in case of an enemy breakthrough at FAREBERSVILLER where the 317th Infantry was engaged with a determined enemy.

The 319th Infantry, advancing to the northeast, resumed its attack at 0800, 28 November 1944. The 1st and 2d Bns jumped off from positions occupied the previous night.

The 1st Bn, moving from HILL 320 (288569) met moderate enemy resistance and seized the high ground northeast of HONBOURG-BAS where the advance was temporarily halted.

The 2d Bn, moving from the high ground (275585) in the southern part of FORET DE STEINBERG, seized the high ground northwest of HONBOURG-HAUT. The advance was temporarily halted here.

The 319th Infantry resumed the advance at 1800, with the 1st Bn seizing BETTING-LES-ST AVOLD and BENING-ST AVOLD, while the 2d Bn took the high ground north and northeast of HONBOURG-HAUT and the high ground north of BETTING-LES-

ST AVOLD, thus tying in with the 1st Bn.

The 319th Infantry now held a line facing north, with the 2d Bn on the left and the 1st Bn on the right. The 2d Bn held its positions with "F" Company on the left, "B" Company in the center and "G" Company on the right, tying in with the 1st Bn north of BETTING-LES-ST AVOLD. The 1st Bn employed "C" Company between the towns of BETTING-LES-ST AVOLD and BENING-LES-ST AVOLD. "B" Company held BENING-LES-ST AVOLD and "A" Company occupied the ground south and southeast of that town. By 2125 both Battalions had consolidated positions gained.

The 3d Bn, in Regimental Reserve, remained at ST AVOLD.

On 29 November the 317th Infantry maintained its positions in the vicinity of FAREBERSVILLER against heavy enemy resistance.

The 3d Bn, engaged in house-to-house fighting in FAREBERSVILLER, continued to force the enemy from the town. Heavy fighting was in progress throughout the day and the enemy employed anti-aircraft and tank fire on our troops.

The 2d Bn, in the vicinity of HILL 318 (365588) north of FAREBERSVILLER, without losing any ground, successfully repulsed two enemy counterattacks consisting of five tanks and an unestimated number of infantry. Positions in the vicinity of HILL 318 were maintained throughout the day.

The 1st Bn, occupying the high ground south and southeast of FAREBERSVILLER, received enemy small arms fire. Positions here were held throughout the entire day.

During the latter part of the day 29 November, the 317th Infantry was ordered into Division Reserve. Relief of the Regiment was to be accomplished by the 318th Infantry.

The 317th Infantry was relieved by 2215, at which time the 2d Bn closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of GUENVILLER. The 1st Bn had been relieved at 2030 and closed into an assembly area vicinity MACHEREN. The 3d Bn was relieved at 2115 and closed into its assembly area in the vicinity of MARIENTHAL.

At 1645, the 1st Bn 318th Infantry east of SEINGBOUSE, began movement forward to take over the positions of the 317th Infantry. The 1st Bn was in position northwest of

FAREBERSVILLER at 1815 to cover the movement of the 2d and 3d Bns 317th Infantry to reserve positions.

The 2d Bn, holding outposts in the vicinity of ST AVOLD, began movement at 1220 to move to the vicinity of HENRIVILLE (356555) to take up positions in order to effect relief of the 1st Bn 317th Infantry. The Battalion closed into the vicinity of HENRIVILLE at 1600.

The 318th Infantry now held the right and front of the Division Zone with positions extending from northwest of FAREBERSVILLER (354585) south to HENRIVILLE. Active patrolling was conducted to the front and flanks to determine hostile positions.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, at ST AVOLD, moved out of the town at 0800 and closed into the vicinity of MACHEREN at 0915. Later in the day, the 3d Bn moved to the vicinity of SEINGBOUSE, closing in at 1835 as Regimental Reserve.

The 319th Infantry, blocking all routes from the north, continued to hold positions on the Division left (north) flank on 29 November 1944. Road blocks were maintained constantly and active patrolling was conducted to determine hostile positions.

The 1st Bn, occupying the right sector of the Regimental Zone, continued to occupy BETING-LES-ST AVOLD and BENING-LES-ST AVOLD. "A" Company, in position southeast of BENING-LES-ST AVOLD, cleared the woods and took up positions along the north edge of the woods LE KNEEBUSCH (353596). The Company was through the woods and on its new position by 0840. Anti-aircraft fire was received by this company at 1005 from the northeast.

The 3d Bn, in the vicinity of ST AVOLD, moved on the morning 29 November 1944 to the vicinity of HELLERING (305586), remaining in Regimental Reserve.

The 2d Bn maintained its positions north and northeast of HOMBOUT-HAUT, tying in with the 1st Bn just north of BETING-LES-ST AVOLD.

The Division, after advancing 18 miles in the last six days against determined enemy resistance, halted the attack for the purpose of regrouping its forces, resting its personnel, and servicing its equipment. The Division Artillery fired its first rounds of artillery into Germany on 30

November 1944. The first round to land on German soil was fired by the 314th Field Artillery Bn.

The 317th Infantry remained in Division Reserve on 30 November, with the 1st Bn in the vicinity of MACHEREN, the 2d Bn in the vicinity of GUENVILLER, and the 3d Bn in the vicinity of HARTENHAL.

Defensive positions were maintained on 30 November 1944 by the 318th Infantry. The 1st Bn remained in position northwest and west of FAREBERSVILLER, dominating the town with fire. The 2d Bn continued to occupy defensive positions in the vicinity of HENRIVILLE. The 3d Bn, in Regimental Reserve, remained in the vicinity of SEINGBOUSE. Enemy artillery interdiction fire was received throughout the Regimental Sector. However there were no counterattacks made by the enemy.

On 30 November the 319th Infantry continued to occupy and improve its defensive positions on the left (north) flank of the Division Zone. The 1st Bn remained in the vicinity of BENING-LES-ST AVOLD, BENING-LES-ST AVOLD, and the woods LE KNEEBUSCH. The 2d Bn continued to occupy defensive positions in the vicinity of HOMBOURT-HAUT on the left of the 1st Bn. The 3d Bn, in Regimental Reserve, remained in the vicinity of HELLERING. Only light interdiction artillery fire was received throughout the day.

Organic battalions of the Division Artillery fired a total of 1365 missions during the month, with an ammunition expenditure of 29,876 rounds of 105MM and 5,873 rounds of 155MM.

The 633d AAA AW Bn, attached to the Division, claimed one enemy aircraft destroyed and one probably destroyed during the month.