

SECTION I

ADVANCE TO THE MOSELLE RIVER

In compliance with 30th Division Field Order Number 10, 31 August 1944, the Division moved at 0900, 1 September 1944 by marching on assigned objectives in the direction of COMMERCY. Most of the movement was made by truck.

The enemy made no attempt to establish a defensive line, but organized resistance by German self-propelled artillery was encountered.

The 317th Infantry occupied the first objective, the vicinity east of SEIGNEVILLE, at 0230, prior to forward movement on 1 September 1944. The 318th Infantry had seized its first objective at 2100, 31 August 1944, in the vicinity of BAR-LE-DUC and continued movement to the east from there.

XII Corps ordered the 30th Division, at 1235, to relieve the 4th Armored Division on the high ground east of COMMERCY, to seize ST MIHIEL, and to occupy the high ground on the Corps north boundary to the line VOID, PAGNY-SUR-MEUSE, MENIL-LA-TOUR. The 1st Bn 319th Infantry reverted to Division control.

The 317th Infantry continued the pursuit of the enemy to the east at 0700, 1 September 1944, with the 1st and 2d Bns abreast, the 1st Bn on the left. The Regiment crossed the MEUSE RIVER at SAMPIGNY, 7 kilometers south of ST MIHIEL, without opposition. At 2000, an outpost was ordered established on the line ST MIHIEL, HOMESSEC, RAMBAUCOURT. The 3d Bn passed through the 1st Bn and established the outpost line of resistance.

On 1 September 1944, the 318th Infantry moved from BAR-LE-DUC, and crossed the MEUSE RIVER and occupied a bridgehead in the vicinity of COMMERCY. In his retreat, the enemy had destroyed all bridges across the MEUSE RIVER and abandoned large supply stores intact in COMMERCY and BAR-LE-DUC.

The critical shortage of gasoline during the month was alleviated by the capture of an enemy supply point at ST JULIEN, consisting in part of 25 tank cars of approximately 100,000 gallons.

The 319th Infantry received the mission to advance as

ordered and occupy positions in the vicinity of ST MIHIEL. The 3d Bn advanced on the town under enemy shell fire. "K" Company led the advance. One company of the 2d Bn occupied FT ST MIHIEL while the remainder of the Bn pushed through town and occupied the high ground to the southeast of the town. The 3d Bn (minus "K" Company) occupied the high ground north of ST MIHIEL on 1 September 1944. During the night 1-2 September 1944, light vehicles crossed the river by ferry, constructed by 305th Engineers. Positions were consolidated by nightfall.

The 319th Infantry moved from the vicinity of ST MIHIEL at 1130, 2 September 1944 and arrived at JOUY-SOUS-TEB-COTES at 1930. This position was outposted to protect the Division right front, with the 1st Bn on the right, the 2d Bn on the left, and the 3d Bn in Regimental Reserve.

On the 3d of September 1944, the Division extended and strengthened its bridgehead at COMMERCY.

The 317th Infantry continued to outpost its bridgehead. "B" Company was ordered to secure a trainload of captured enemy material at ESSEY-ET-MAIZERRAIS, which had been captured the previous evening by the 2d platoon, 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. Relief of the Reconnaissance platoon was accomplished by 1045, 4 September 1944.

The 319th Infantry continued to outpost its position in the vicinity of JOUY-SOUS-TEB-COTES on the Division right flank.

The 318th Infantry remained in Division Reserve.

The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, on 3 September 1944, reconnoitered an area bounded by the MOSELLE RIVER on the east, NANCY on the south, and PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE on the north. The 1st platoon encountered slight enemy resistance in MAMEY, but forced the enemy to withdraw. Then the platoon moved on to MARTINCOURT. Here the Germans had burned the village to the ground; killed 15 civilians and wounded others. This village, along with the towns of NETTANCOURT and LAHEY-COURT, was the first evidence of German vandalism that was encountered by this Division. Patrols of the 80th Reconnaissance Troop and the Second Cavalry Squadron reached the high ground west of the MOSELLE RIVER on 3 September 1944, establishing the fact that the main body of the enemy had withdrawn across the river.

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