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OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE SOTH INFANTRY DIVISION OCTOBER 1244

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EXPANSION OF THE BRIDGEHEAD EAST OF THE MOSELLE RIVER

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On 1 October 1944, the 80th Infantry Division had a firmly established bridgehead east of the MOSELLE RIVER. The enemy still held MT TOULON and MT ST JEAN, the most commanding ground to the Division front between the MOSELLE and SEILLE RIVERS. These vantage points afforded the enemy excellent observation of the Division's activities in the MT TOULON-MT ST JEAN sector.

The German lines in the 80th Division zone extended along the east bank of the SEIBLE RIVER from the DESMENTES-CHEMINOT highway to CLEMERY, where the line crossed the river to link up with the high ground of MT TOULON and MT ST JEAN.

The 17th SS Division, controlled the line on the east bank of the SEILLE RIVER, in conjunction with the 38th SS Regiment which had replaced the battered 49th SS Brigade.

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The remainder of the line was held by the 553d Division was Regiment and the 3d Ret Tinglest Barachute Training Regiment. In immediate reserve for local counterattacks in the sector of the 553d Division was Regiment. The 3d Panzer Grenadier Division of the EXIII Corps.

Organizations of the 80th Division continued to develop and strengthen defensive positions on 1 October 1944.

The 317th Infantry occupying the Division's southern sector, continued to maintain defensive positions with the 2d Bn defending BOIS DE LA RUMONT and immediate vicinity and the 3d Bn defending the area between BRATTE and HILL 418, southwest of VIELERS-LES-MOIVRON. The 1st Bn remained in Regimental Reserve north of MONTENOY.

The 318th Infantry remained in positions occupied the previous day, 30 September 1944. The vicinity of SERRIERES was reconnoitered to determine enemy positions. A reinforced rifle platoon began its reconnaisance mission at 1900. Enemy machine gun fire was encountered at the road junction north of SERRIERES and further hostile resistance prevented the platoon from entering the town.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry continued to occupy defensive positions in the BOIS DE BAUZARD, BOIS DE ST CLEMENT, and BOIS DE MANCHE-SEILLE. The 3d Bn continued to defend the vicinity of MORRY, BELLEAU, and HILL 340, the latter being on the outpost line of resistance. The 2d Bn (-) remained in Division Reserve in the vicinity of LOISY-STE GENEVIEVE.

"G" Company 2d Bn 318th Infantry occupied the high ground from the FAIAISE RIDGE to STE GENEVIEVE.

At 2000, 1 October 1944 the 319th Infantry 1st Bn (-"C" Company, Bn Reserve) and 3d Bn (-"I" Company, Bn Reserve) advanced abreast from FORET DE FACQ with the mission of seizing the west edge of the SEILLE RIVER. Little enemy resistance was encountered, and the objective was reached at 0235, 2 October 1944. Positions were dug in and consolidated for the night.

The 2nd Bn (-"E" Company) was in Regimental Reserve northeast of MOUSSON HILL. "E" Company protected the left flank of the 1st Bn in the vicinity of LESMENILS.

On 2 October 1944, the 317th Infantry, employing "G" Company, attacked the town of SIVRY which was still held by the enemy. The attack jumped off at 0300 with "G" Company moving on SIVRY from the south. By 0620, this Company had reached the southern edge of SIVRY. Heavy hostile resistance was encountered. Two-thirds of the town was cleared of the enemy by 1420, and at 1600 the town was in our hands. Enemy artillery fire continually knocked out communication lines to this company.

There was no other change in the positions occupied by the other Bns of the Regiment.

The 318th Infantry launched local attacks to extend the main line of resistance within its zone. RENAISSANCE FME, LES QUATRE FERS, and FME DE FROUX MANCHE-SEILLE were the objectives of this drive.

During the night 1-2 October 1944, two platoons from "B" Company 318th Infantry moved to attack RENAISSANCE FME and LES QUATRE FERS. Heavy enemy resistance was encountered and the enemy continued to hold its positions.

On the morning of the 2d, two platoons from "C" Company attacked the FME DE FROUX MANCHE-SEILLE and seized this objective at 0635. One squad was left in the town while the

two platoons (minus one squad) moved to clean out the tip of the woods to the north where an enemy force had dug in. The attack was completely successful and one enemy company was captured or killed.

Otherwise, there was no change in the Bn positions from the previous day, 1 October 1944.

The 319th Infantry, employing two platoons from "L" Company, attacked RENAISSANCE FME at 1040, and the objective was selzed shortly thereafter. This attack was preceded by an artillery preparation and direct fire from tank destroyers.

Positions of the remaining units of the 319th Infantry were anchanged from the previous day.

"C" Company 86th Chemical Bn was attached to the Division on 2 October 1944, and was placed in direct support of the C.86 CMB 317th Infantry.

Little change took place in defensive dispositions of the Division on 3 October 1944.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry, in Division Reserve in the vicinity of LOISY-STE GENEVELEVE, reverted to Regimental Control and assembled at VILLE-AU-VAL.

The 319th Infantry 2d Bn, in Regimental Reserve northeast of MOUSSON HILL, moved to the southern edge of FORET DE FACQ, just north of STE GENEVIEVE, at 0840, 3 October 1944.

Elements of 318th Infantry relieved the two plateons of "L" Company 319th Infantry which were holding RENAISSANCE FME.

The enemy continued to harass the Division positions with mortar and artillery fire.

At 0300, 4 October 1944, the Germans placed a heavy concentration of artillery fire on SIVRY and launched an attack on the town at 0320 with an estimated Bn of infantry. The enemy succeeded in cutting off "G" Company 317th Infantry from the remainder of the Bn by 0800. "E" Company was ordered to advance to SIVRY and relieve "G" Company. At 1018 "E" Company was moving towards SIVRY, and met heavy enemy artillery fire. Upon reaching the southern edge of town, heavy small arms fire was received, but two platoons succeeded in entering from the southwest by infiltration. Here the platoons were met by a heavy cross fire. It was 1500

before the other two platoons made contact with the remainder of the company.

At 1400, the 1st Bn 318th Infantry sent patrols from BELLEAU to contact "E" Company and "G" Company 317th Infantry. The patrol made contact with "E" Company on the southwest edge of SIVRY at 1720, but could not enter the town to contact "G" Company.

At 1830, "E" Company and "G" Company 317th Infantry were ordered to evacuate SIVRY and occupy the high ground south of the town.

"B" Company relieved "E" Company from its position on the mainline of resistance south of SIVRY, and the 2d Bn reverted to Regimental Reserve on the night 4-5 October 1944. There was no change in the disposition of the 3d Bn 317th Infantry.

The 318th and 319th Regiments continued to occupy their defensive positions without change on 4 October 1944.

"C" Company 602d Tank Destroyer Bn (SP) became a sup- 6-610TD porting unit to the Division on 4 October 1944 and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of BEZAUMONT at 2030.

At 1530, 5 October 1944, the 328th Infantry Regiment of the 26th United States Infantry Division closed into an as— 328 minimal sembly area northeast of MOUSSON HILL and became attached to the Division. This regiment was to relieve the 319th Infantry from its positions in the northern sector of the Division zone, thus enabling the 319th Infantry to augment the Division sion's striking power in aiding XII Corps to push the enemy north and east of the SEIBLE RIVER along a line CLEMERY—LETRICOURT.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry was relieved by the 3d Bn 328th Infantry at 1700, 5 October 1944. "L" Company 328th Infantry relieved "E" Company 319th Infantry at 2130 from its position on the left flank of the Division zone in the vicinity of LESMENILS.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry then moved south to relieve the 3d Bn 318th Infantry from its position in the vicinity of MOREY, BELLEAU and HILL 340. This relief was accomplished by 0510, 6 October 1944. The 3d Bn 318th Infantry then reverted to Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of BEZAUMONT.

The remaining regiments made no change in their troop dispositions on 5 October 1944.

The 176th Field Artillery Bn (4.5 inch Gun) was relieved 1766 from attachment to the 404th Field Artillery Group (attached 409640 to 80th Division) and became general support artillery. The 2556 Field Artillery Bn (105mm Howitzer) was attached to reinforce the fires of Division Artillery and render general support.

Field Order Number 13, issued at 2330, 5 October 1944, in conjunction with other XII Corps units, provided for the Division to attack in two phases and drive the enemy to the north and east of the SEILLE RIVER. The first phase was to begin 0615, 8 October 1944 and the second phase was to begin at 0615, 10 October 1944. The ground gained was to be organized for defense.

In phase one, the 317th Infantry (minus 2d Bn), with "D" F 0 13 Company 702d Tank Bn attached, was to attack and seize MT ST P-I JEAN, and relieve elements of CCB 6th Armored Division in MOIVRON and JEANDELINCOURT. The 2d Bn was to support the attack with fire from a position west of BRATTE.

The 318th Infantry with "B" Company 702d Tank Bn attached, was to seize the high ground in the vicinity of CLEMERY and HILL 220.3 to the southeast.

The 319th Infantry was to attack and seize MT TOULON.

The 328th Infantry was to complete relief of the 319th Infantry and support the attack of the 318th Infantry.

The 702d Tank Bn (minus two companies) was to precede the 319th Infantry with their mission to neutralize hostile forces in SERRIERES and LIXIERES and protect the northern flank of the 319th Infantry, with particular attention to the western and southern edges of BOIS DE LA FOURASSE.

Two batteries of the 633d AAA AW Bn were to support the attack by fire on MT TOULON and HILL 400. M-51 mounts for this purpose were emplaced on the northern edge of BOIS DE CHAPITRE.

CCB 6th Armored Division was to attack and seize MOIVRON objand JEANDELINCOURT, blocking enemy approaches on a line from JEANDELINCOURT to the SEILLE RIVER.

The 134th Infantry, 35th United States Infantry Division, was to attack and secure the high ground in the vicinity of 1-1013 FOSSIEUX, to the right of the Division sector.

Phase Two of the attack provided for the 317th Infantry PI to seize CHENICOURT and LETRICOURT, the 318th Infantry to 10 oct seize MANONCOURT, the 319th Infantry to seize the high ground south of NOMENY and ABAUCOURT.

Attachments to the 80th Infantry Division for this coordinated attack were:

328th Infantry Regiment, 702d Tank Bn, 633d AAA AW Bn, 808th Tank Destroyer Bn,
"C" Company, 86th Chemical Bn,
"C" Company, (Coll) 114th Medical Bn, 433d Quartermaster Truck Company, 2d Platoon, 60th Field Hospital, 1st and 2d Sections, 2d Platoon of the 3041 Quartermaster Grave Registration Company.

The 1117th Engineer Group, 129th Ordnance (MM) Company, and "C" Company 602d Tank Destroyer Bn were to be in direct support of the Division.

Eight field artillery Bns were to render general support to the Division, four of these reinforcing the fire of the 80th Division Artillery. They were as follows:

404th Field Artillery Group, (Reinforced fire of 80th Division Artillery), 255th Field Artillery Bn. (105mm Howitzer), 512th Field Artillery Bn, (105mm Howitzer), 775th Field Artillery Bn, (4.5 inch gun), 974th Field Artillery Bn, (155mm Howitzer) 278th Field Artillery Bn, (240mm Howitzer), 731st Field Artillery Bn, (155mm gun), 741st Field Artillery Bn, (8 inch gun),

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176th Field Artillery Bn, (4.5 inch gun).

Thus were formulated the plans of the 80th Infantry
Division to drive the enemy north of the SEILLE RIVER, attacking as part of a large scale attack by the XII Corps on
8 October 1944.

The 80th Division sector was comparatively quiet during the day 6 October 1944. The 318th and 319th Regiments began to make readjustments of positions on the night 6-7 October 1944, in preparation for the attack on 8 October 1944.

"E" Company 317th Infantry relieved "B" Company in the line south of BELLEAU, closing into its original position at 2045, 6 October 1944.

XIX Tactical Air Corps rendered air support to the Division, with one squadron of P47's bombing JEANDELINCOURT and strafing MT ST JEAN at 1405, 6 October 1944. Then again at 1700, another squadron bombed and strafed MOIVRON.

"C" Company 86th Chemical Mortar Bn fired white phosphorous on MOIVRON and SIVRY on 6 October 1944. The town of SIVRY was observed burning after this firing.

"D" Company 702d Tank Bn, which had been attached to the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, was released to Bn control.

lst Bn 318th Infantry shortened its main line of resistance from the BOIS DE ST CLEMENT and BOIS DE MANCHESEILLE to the BOIS DE BAUZARD, which it had previously secured.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of VILLE-AU-VAL, moved to occupy the BOIS DE MANCHE-SEILLE on the right of the 1st Bn, closing into the new area at 0045, 7 October 1944. The 3d Bn, in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of BEZAUMONT, moved to a new area in the rear of the 2d Bn, closing in at 0300, 7 October 1944.

The 328th Infantry completed the relief of the 319th 328/26DN Infantry at 0155, 7 October 1944.

The 1st and 3d Bns of the 319th Infantry moved to an assembly area in the southern part of FORET DE FACQ, just

north of STE GENEVIEVE. The 1st Bn closed in at 0200, 7 October 1944 while the 3d Bn closed in at 0300, 7 October 1944.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry remained in its defensive position in the vicinity of MOREY, BELLEAU, and HILL 340, on 7 October 1944.

bombed and strafed MT ST JEAN at 1230, 7 October 1944. 864 TAC fragmentation bombs were also dropped on the BOIS DE LA

At 0600, 8 October 1944, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry, from its position south of BELLEAU in the BOIS DE LA RUMONT, MT ST attacked to the northeast with the mission of seizing MT ST Jean (HILL 400). At 0630, the Bn was crossing the SIVRY— 400) MOIVRON road. By 0710, "A" and "B" Companies had moved over HILL 400 to defilade positions and immediately began to organize for defense.

The 3d Bn jumped off at 0615 from a position between BRATTE and VILLERS-LES-MOIVRON with the mission of seizing the southern part of MT ST JEAN (HILL 407). Heavy enemy resistance was met, and progress was slow. By 0710, the attack had progressed to the southern slope of the objective, where enemy machine gun and much small arms fire was encountered. Despite this, at 1430, "K" Company 317th Infantry, with "L" Company following, was moving forward on HILL 407. By 1605 mopping-up operations by "K" Company were in progress. Organized resistance by the enemy on MT ST JEAN was no longer in existance.

"I" Company 317th Infantry, in Bn Reserve, was ordered at 0850 to move to MOIVRON to relieve elements of CCB 6th Armored Division. "I" Company was held up about 400 yards southwest of MOIVRON by enemy small arms and mortar fire, but by 1210 about two-thirds of the company had fought its way into the town. By 1425, "I" Company was setting up a perimeter of defense in MOIVRON.

Meanwhile, "B" Company 317th Infantry was on its way to JEANDELINCOURT, moving at 1310 from HILL 400 (MT ST JEAN). Elements of "B" Company entered JEANDELINCOURT at 1600, and the remainder of the company closed in shortly thereafter, thus completing the relief of elements of CCB 6th Armored Division.

After a thirty-minute artillery preparation, which

included support fire from the Regimental Cannon Company 80840 and "B" Company 808th Tank Destroyer Bn, the 1st and 2d Bns 318th Infantry jumped off at 0615, 8 October 1944.

The 1st Bn attacked to the northeast from the BOIS DE BAUZARD with the mission of capturing LES QUATRE FERS, BENICOURT, and CLEMERY. "B" Company 702d Tank Bn was in direct support of the 1st Bn.

Aided by the direct fire of the tanks, the 1st Bn 318th Infantry, with "A" and "B" Companies abreast and "C" Company in reserve, was able to take LES QUATRE FERS by 0715, and by 0800 was on the outskirts of BENICOURT. In the face of moderate enemy resistance the 1st Bn reached the high ground in the vicinity of CLEMERY by 1130. "A" Company took up defensive positions on the high ground east of CLEMERY, "B" Company occupied the high ground west of the town, while "C" Company, in Bn Reserve, moved to an area just south of CLEMERY.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry met heavier hostile resistance in attacking MANONCOURT and HILL 208 to the north of the town. Although the battalion had elements on the western edge of MANONCOURT by 0715, a German pillbox and a dug-in tank slowed the advance. "E" Company 318th Infantry by-passed MANONCOURT on the west side and took HILL 208 at 0907, 8 October 1944. "F" Company, assaulting the enemy's positions in MANONCOURT, ran into heavy mortar and small arms fire. Elements of "F" Company 318th Infantry were fighting in the streets at 1123, and with the help of direct fire weapons of one platoon from "B" Company 808th Tank Destroyer Bn, enemy strong-points in the church and Chateau of MANONCOURT were cleaned out. By 1300, the 2d Bn x reported its mission completed. HILL 208, north of MANON-COURT, and the town itself were cleared of the enemy.

Meanwhile, the 3d Bn, which had been in Bn Reserve in the BOIS DE MANCHE-SEILLE, moved to a reserve position at 0825, 8 October 1944, in vicinity of the crossroads northwest of LIXIERES (HILL 220).

At 0615, 8 October 1944, 319th Infantry attacked with MT TOULON as its objective.

The 1st Bn and 3d Bn, assembled in the southern part of BOIS DE MANCHE-SEILLE, moved southeast towards MT TOULON.

The 1st Bn moved to attack MT TOULON from the north, while the 3d Bn attacked the hill from the northwest.

"B" Company, 1st Bn 319th Infantry turned to the left to attack LIXIERES, and this company was fighting in the town at 0845.

The fighting for MT TOULON progressed so rapidly that the 319th Infantry called at 0639 for the artillery and supporting fire to be lifted from the hill.

The 3d Bn seized MT TOULON at 0655 against moderate resistance. The 1st Bn, moving on MT TOULON from the north, cleared the enemy from the area between LIXIERES and MT TOULON. By 0845, "A" and "C" Companies, 319th Infantry had fought their way to the northern slope of MT TOULON and began to organize the ground for defense.

The 2d Bn, holding the ground in the vicinity of MOREY, BELLEAU and HILL 340, proceeded to clear out the enemy from the area west and south of MT TOULON, including the towns of SERRIERES and SIVRY.

"E" Company attacked SERRIERES on the morning of 8 October and was fighting on the outskirts of the town at 0642. At the same time "G" Company was engaged in clearing a pocket of resistance between HILL 340 and SERRIERES. By 1020, "B" Company was mopping up LIXIERES and "F" and "G" Companies prepared to move east on SIVRY.

Enemy machine gun fire was received between BELLEAU and SIVRY at 1320 by "F" and "G" Companies but the attack continued on. The town of SIVRY was seized by 1430. Then the 2d Bn reorganized at SIVRY and moved at 1815 to positions on the northern slope of MT ST JEAN (HILL 396).

The 1st Bn organized a defensive line from HILL 220 (northwest of LIXIERES) to the northern edge of LIXIERES and thence eastward along the LIXIERES-JEANDELINCOURT highway to HILL 229. "B" Company was in Bn Reserve.

The 3d Bn reverted to Regimental Reserve on the afternoon of 8 October 1944 and assembled in the vicinity of SERRIBRES at 1610.

The 328th Infantry (26th United States Infantry Division sion) continued to hold the northern sector of the Division Zone from LESMENILS to PORT-SUR-SEILLE.

Over 1200 prisoners were captured on 8 October 1944. The enemy was badly disorganized by the attack of the 80th

Division on 8 October 1944, and the remnants of the 553d Division (German) withdrew from the front of the Division. German To reestablish a line the German LXIII Corps rushed all available troops into the area. The 17th SS Reconnaissance of the Division left flank, as did the Anti-Tank Company of the 48th Division (German) while the Fuesilier Bn Agence of the 559th Division withdrew into our right flank. The 38th SS Regiment moved into the area NOMENY-CLEMERY to temporarily fill the gap left by the decimated 553d Division.

In view of the successful attack on 8 October 1944, the Commanding General, H. L. McBride, directed that Phase Two of Field Order 13 would be effective 0600, 9 October 1944, instead of 10 October 1944.

Phase II F/613

At 0600, 9 October 1944 the 1st Bn 317th Infantry advanced northeast from MT ST JEAN behind CCB 6th Armored Division with the vicinity of LETRICOURT as its objective. Leading elements of the Bn were heading northeast out of JEANDELINCOURT at 0715 with CCB preceding. The advance was unopposed and the Battalion passed the road and rail junction east of JEANDELINCOURT at 0746.

008 6 AD

Slight enemy resistance was encountered near the BOIS DE BRASQUIN by CCB at 0855 but the advance continued to the northeast, the enemy troops having been destroyed.

The 1st Bn continued to follow CCB and occupied the western part of the BOIS DE BRASQUEN at 0920. At that time CCA 6th Armored Division passed through CCB. CCB then moved westward from the area just north of BOIS DE BRASQUIN to advance through to BOIS DE LA FOURASSE.

The advance of CCA 6th Armored Division progressed rapidly and by 1330, elements of the combat command were just south of LETRICOURT where enemy resistance halted forward movement.

of LETRICOURT, by 1450 at which time the 1st Bn began moving from BOIS DE BRASQUIN to consolidate the ground gained by the armor.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry following the 1st Bn, moved into BOIS DE BRASQUIN at 1450.

By 1510 CCA held a line from the southwestern edge of deal6 AD BOIS DU HTE DES TRAPPES, thence along the northern edge of

the woods to the western outskirts of LETRICOURT, thence south to the edge of CHENICOURT. This line was held until elements of the 1st Bn 317th Infantry relieved CCA from their positions. By 2345, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry had completed relief of CCA and occupied the BOIS D' AULNOIS.

The 3d Bn, in BOIS DE BRASQUIN, began movement northward at 1635 and late on 9 October 1944 took up a reserve position in the BOIS DE CHENICOURT.

The 2d Bn (motorized) remained in Division Reserve in the vicinity of VILLE-AU-VAL.

The 318th Infantry continued to occupy the positions gained the previous day, these positions were strengthened to support the advance of the 319th Infantry on 9 October 1944 by fire with particular attention to the vicinity of NOMENY.

The 1st Bn held the vicinity of CLEMERY and the 2d Bn continued to defend the vicinity of MANONCOURT. The 3d Bn remained in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of HILL 220 and HILL 212 (northwest of LIXIERES).

319th Infantry, employing the 1st and 2d Bns attacked at 0600, 9 October 1944.

The 905th Field Artillery Bn and the 315th Field Artillery Bn laid down a barrage from 0545 to 0600 and 4.2 mor- c | 86 cm 8N tars from "C" Company 86th Chemical Mortar Bn fired a barrage until 0615.

Moving northeast from the vicinity of MT TOULON and LIXIERES, the 1st and 2d Bns advanced abreast with the 1st Bn on the left. "C" Company 702d Tank Bn, in the 1st Bn sector, was prepared to support the advance of the 2d Bn with fire on the BOIS DE LA FOURASSE.

The progress of the 1st Bn, to the west of BOIS DE LA FOURASSE, was rapid. At 0730, the Bn was but a 1000 yards short of its objective, the vicinity of FME DE LA BORDE, south of NOMENY. The objective was taken by the 1st Bn at 0925, with "A" Company on the left, "C" Company on the right, and "B" Company in Bn Reserve.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, advancing through the BOIS DE LA FOURASSE, did not make such rapid progress. At 0715, this Battalion had advanced 400 yards northwards into the BOIS DE

LA FOURASSE. By 0730, the troops had reached the railroad, crossing through the forest southeast to northwest. At 1030, CCB 6th Armored Division entered the woods to precede the 2d Bn. Moderate enemy resistance was overcome, and by 1430, dob 6 AD 9 October 1944, the 2d Bn reached its objective, the high ground north of BOIS DU HTE DES TRAPPES and west of LETRI-COURT. Here the ground was consolidated for defense.

Heavy enemy artillery fire was received by the 2d Bn at 1530. All elements of GCB were relieved in the Battalion sector on the evening 9 October 1944.

"C" Company 702d Tank Bn, which had preceded the 1st Bn, returned to an assembly area in the civinity of LANDRE-MONT at 1100, 9 October 1944.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry, which was in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of SERRIERES, began movement at 1300 to an assembly area in the BOIS DE LA FOURASSE. The Battalion closed at 1800. "L" Company, 3d Bn 319th Infantry then moved northward to close the gap between the 1st and 2d Bns.

The 317th and 319th Regiments established contact at 1900, 9 October 1944.

A small counterattack coming from the vicinity ABAU-COURT-LETRICOURT on the evening 9 October 1944, was repelled by the 2d Bn 319th Infantry.

During the afternoon 9 October 1944, one platoon each of "C" Company 86th Chemical Mortar Bn reverted from general support of the Division to direct support of the 317th and 319th Regiments.

The 328th Infantry continued to protect the Division left flank on 9 October 1944.

During the day 9 October 1944, the 315th Field Artillery Bn, which was supporting the 319th Infantry in the attack, fired its 10,000th round of HE since its arrival in FRANCE.

SECTION II

CONSOLIDATION OF DEFENSIVE POSITIONS WEST OF THE SEILLE RIVER

10

On 10 October 1944, the 317th Infantry continued to hold the ground gained the previous day. The 1st Bn occupied BOIS D' AULNOIS and the surrounding ground southwest of LETRICOURT. The 3d Bn 317th Infantry in regimental reserve, continued to occupy BOIS DE CHENICOURT. "I" Company outposted the town of CHENICOURT with one platoon. The 2d Bn 317th Infantry (motorized) remained in Division Reserve in the vicinity of VILLE-AU-VAL.

Contact with elements of the 35th United States Infantry 35 Poly Division was made at 1105, 10 October 1944, in the vicinity of AJONCOURT.

There was no change in positions of the 318th Infantry on 10 October 1944. The 1st Bn occupied defensive positions in the vicinity of CLEMERY; the 2d Bn occupied defensive positions in the vicinity of MANONCOURT; the 3d Bn, in Regimental Reserve, remained in the vicinity of HILLS 212 and 220, northwest of LIXIERES.

On the other hand, the enemy in the 319th Infantry sector was quite active. Three enemy tanks attacked "G" Company 2d Bn, in position on the high ground north of BOIS DU HTE DES TRAPPES, at 0850. The attack was successfully repulsed, with Tank Destroyer fire knocking out one tank, and forcing the other two tanks to withdraw. Artillery fire destroyed one of the two retreating tanks. Again at 1005, four enemy tanks supported by infantry attacked the 2d Bn area. Aided by heavy artillery fire, the enemy tanks and infantry forced the withdrawal of the 2d Bn to the northern edge of the BOIS DU HTE DES TRAPPES where the enemy attack was repulsed.

A counterattack was immediately planned by the 319th Infantry. The 3d Bn, minus "L" Company, and reinforced with one company of tanks from the 702d Tank Bn, and two platoons of "C" Company 602d Tank Destroyer Bn, was to move along the

702 TILBN 602 TD BN

eastern edge of BOIS DU HTE DES TRAPPES, then northwest along the road north of the woods to HILL 211, thence southwest to the western edge of BOIS DU HTE DES TRAPPES.

The 3d Bn (reinforced) closed into its original position at 0005, 11 October 1944.

The 1st Bn, holding defensive positions in the vicinity of FME DE LA BORDE (southeast of NOMENY) held its position during the day 10 October 1944.

The 328th Infantry continued to protect the Division 38/26'00 left flank, occupying defensive positions from LESMENILS to PORT-SUR-SEILLE.

Field Message Number 1, issued 1700, 10 October 1944, provided for the organization of the Division Defensive sector. Readjustment of regimental sectors was to take place on "D" Day, date of which was not announced. The 317th Infantry was to occupy the northern sector of the Division zone; the 318th Infantry was to occupy the center sector; the 319th Infantry was to occupy the southern sector. The 328th Infantry was to be relieved by the 317th Infantry. Initial movement of troops was to take place on the night of "D" Day.

The Division front, as of 0755, 10 October 1944, cov-

The Division continued to improve and strengthen its defensive positions on 11 October 1944. There were no changes in Regimental and Battalion dispositions.

Six enemy aircraft were engaged by elements of the 633d / * AAA AW Bn. No damage to planes was observed.

The Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, informed his organization commanders that 12 October 1944 was "D" Day. Desired Readjustment of the regimental positions was to begin on the night 12-13 October 1944.

The XIX Tactical Air Corps bombed the BOIS DE SECOURT, XXXXX northeast of NOMENY, at 1215, 12 October 1944.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry, occupying positions in the vicinity of BOIS D' AULNOIS, southwest of LETRICOURT, was relieved at midnight 12-13 October 1944 by the 3d Bn 319th Infantry which had been in Regimental Reserve. The 1st Bn

317th Infantry then marched to the vicinity of LEYR, where it entrucked at 1335, 13 October 1944 and detrucked in the northern part of FORET DE FACQ at 1700, 13 October 1944.

The 2d Bn 317th Infantry which had been motorized as Division Reserve in the vicinity of VILLE-AU-VAL, moved by marching at 1000, 13 October 1944 to the northern part of FORET DE FACQ. It closed at 1500, 13 October 1944.

The 3d Bn, 317th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve in BOIS DE CHENICOURT, marched to JEANDELINCOURT at 2145, 12 October 1944, where it entrucked and moved to FORET DE FACQ, detrucking at 0330, 13 October 1944.

The 318th Infantry, scheduled to occupy the center sector of the Division zone, had little moving to do in order to readjust its zone.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of HILLS 212 and 220, northwest of LIXIERES, relieved the 1st Bn 319th Infantry in the vicinity of FME DE LA BORDE (southeast of NOMENY) at 0200, 13 October 1944.

The 1st and 2d Bns remained in their defensive positions; the 1st Bn in the vicinity of CLEMERY, the 2d Bn in the vicinity of MANONCOURT.

The 319th Infantry occupied the southern sector of the Division zone on 13 October 1944. The 3d Bn which had been in Regimental Reserve in BOIS DE LA FOURASSE relieved the 1st Bn 317th Infantry from its positions in the vicinity of BOIS D' AULNOIS at midnight, 12-13 October 1944.

The 2d Bn continued to occupy a defensive position on the high ground north of BOIS DU HTE DES TRAPPES.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, having been relieved by the 3d Bn 318th Infantry from its defensive position in the vicinity of FME DE LA BORDE (southeast of NOMENY) at 0200, 13 October 1944, moved to the BOIS DE LA FOURASSE as Regimental Reserve.

At 1900, 13 October 1944, the 2d Bn 317th Infantry be- 328 2600 gan to relieve the 3d Bn 328th Infantry from its position on the left flank of the Regimental zone between LESMENILS and MORVILLE-SUR-SEILLE. By 2200 relief of this Battalion was accomplished.

The 2d Bn 328th Infantry, occupying defensive positions 328/260w

on the right side of the regimental zone in the vicinity of PORT-SUR-SEILDE, was not relieved by the 3d Bn 317th Infantry until 0230, 14 October 1944.

The 1st Bn 328th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve at 308 26 m FORET DE FACQ, moved at 1625, 13 October 1944 to a new assembly area in the vicinity of JEZAINVILLE, west of the MOSELLE RIVER and closed in at 1700 12 Colored MOSELLE RIVER and closed in at 1700, 13 October 1944.

The entire 328th Infantry Regiment closed in the vicin- 208 IN ity of JEZAINVILLE at 1200, 14 October 1944 and was relieved Televed from attachment to the 80th Infantry Division.

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The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, occupying defensive positions on the high ground north of BOIS DU HTE DES TRAPPES, was relieved by the 1st Bn 319th Infantry (Regimental Reserve) at 2015, 13 October 1944. The 2d Bn then moved to BOIS DE LA FOURASSE in Regimental Reserve, closing in at 2200.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry holding defensive positions in the vicinity of CLEMERY, was relieved by elements of the 3d Bn 317th Infantry at 2325, 13 October 1944. This Battalion then moved into Regimental Reserve in the vicinity east of LIXIERES.

"C" Company 602d Tank Destroyer Bn, which had supported the 317th and the 319th Regiments in clearing the enemy from the western side of the SEILLE RIVER, closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of LANDREMONT at 0755, 14 October 1944, and was released from support of the Division.

The organizations of the Division having completed adjustments of their positions in compliance with Field Mes-FM sage Number 1, dated 10 October 1944, continued to occupy and strengthen defensive positions west of the SEILLE RIVER.

Elements of the 2d Infantry (5th United States Infantry 2016 5" DV Division) occupied the ground on the left flank of the 80th Division, while elements of the 134th Infantry (35th United 1341NF /35"DIV States Infantry Division) occupied the ground on the right flank of the Division.

Operations during the remainder of 14 October 1944 were confined to improving defensive positions and conducting active patrolling. Trip flares were installed along the Division front.

The Division continued to occupy and defend its posi-

tions west of the SEILLE RIVER on 15 and 16 October 1944. There were no changes made in troop dispositions.

The number of field artillery missions was reduced to a minimum. Firing by field artillery battalions was limited to targets of opportunity and necessary registrations to insure accurate fires in event of an emergency or enemy attack. Curtailment of artillery ammunition allowances forced the Division to use the guns of the 702d Tank Bn and the 808th Tank Destroyer Bn to reinforce the fire of the field artillery battalions. These two battalions fired harassing and indirect fire missions.

The 1431st Fortress Bn replaced elements of the 38th SS Regiment during the latter part of the month. Identifications of the 1431st Fortress Bn was made on 20 October 1944. Two regiments of the 48th Infantry Division, the 126th and 127th, appeared to fill the gap left by the 553d Division. Elements of the 127th Regiment (48th Infantry Division) were first identified on the Division front on 16 October 1944. A little later elements of the 126th Regiment were identified. The 128th Regiment of the 48th Infantry Division did not appear in the Division zone during the defensive phase of the SEILLE RIVER action.

At 0700, 17 October 1944, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve, moved westward from the FORET DE FACQ to PONT-A-MOUSSON where the troops were given rest and rehabil- xx itation. This Battalion closed in the vicinity of PONT-A-MOUSSON at 1225, 17 October 1944.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, in defensive positions north of BOIS DU HTE DES TRAPPES, was relieved by the 2d Bn at 1800, 17 October 1944. The 1st Bn then reverted to Regimental Reserve.

The 702d Tank Bn and 808th Tank Destroyer Bn continued gath to support the Division Artillery, firing harassing and interdiction missions.

On 18 October 1944, the 1st Bn 317th Infantry in Regimental Reserve at PONT-A-MOUSSON, began movement from the town at 1500, to relieve the 3d Bn from its positions on the line between MORVILLE-SUR-SEILLE and CLEMERY.

Relief of the 3d Bn began at 1835, 18 October 1944, and was completed by 2130 that night. This Bn then began movement to PONT-A-MOUSSON as Regimental Reserve, and closed

into that vicinity at 0045, 19 October 1944.

During the afternoon 19 October 1944, the XIX Tactical Air Corps bombed the BOIS DE SECOURT (northeast of NOMENY), dropping 216 fragmentation bombs.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, having been relieved by the 2d Bn on the previous evening, closed into the vicinity of BOIS DE BRASQUIN (east of JEANDELINCOURT) at 1955, 19 October 1944.

Infantry regiments continued to occupy and improve defensive positions on 19 October 1944.

A total of 3,226 enemy mines were removed by the 305th MNRS Engineer Combat Battalion during the operation from 8 October 1944 to 19 October 1944.

The 5th United States Infantry Division, on the Division's left flank, was in the process of being relieved by Reliable elements of the 95th United States Infantry Division on 45 NF DIVISION 19 October 1944.

The 35th United States Infantry Division continued to 35° Do

On 20 October 1944 elements of the 95th Division continued to relieve elements of the 5th United States Infantry 3th Old Division on the 80th Division left flank.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of BOIS DE BRASQUIN, at 1955, 20 October 1944, relieved the 3d Bn occupying the vicinity of BOIS D' AULNOIS. The 3d Bn then reverted to Regimental Reserve.

The 317th and 318th Regiments made no changes in their troop dispositions on 20 October 1944. Active patrolling was conducted east of the SEILLE RIVER.

On 21 October 1944, "C" Company 86th Chemical Mortar C.86 CMAN Bn, which had been attached to the Division, was relieved from attachment at 0900.

The situation was static on 21 October 1944. The 702d 102 TX Tank Bn and the 808th Tank Destroyer Bn firing indirect missions continued to reinforce the fire of Division Artillery.

On 22 October 1944, the 3d Bn 318th Infantry, in posi-

tion south of NOMENY in the vicinity of FME DE LA BORDE, was relieved by the 1st Bn which had been in Regimental Reserve east of LIXIERES. Relief was completed at 2345, 22 October 1944 with the 3d Bn reverting to Regimental Reserve.

Regiments of the Division continued to occupy and improve defensive positions on 23 and 24 October 1944.

The 95th United States Infantry Division completed the 95th relief of the 5th Infantry Division on 23 October 1944.

Adjacent units of the 80th Division now were the 95th Infantry Division on the left flank and the 35th Infantry

Division on the right flank.

Heavy rains on 23 and 24 October 1944 caused flood conditions along the MOSELLE RIVER. The river overflowed its banks in many places. The width of the river varied from 100 yards to 600 yards.

PLOOD (Moselle)

Front line Bns of the 317th and 319th Regiments were relieved on 25 October 1944.

At 1335, 25 October 1944, the 3d Bn 317th Infantry began to move from the vicinity of PONT-A-MOUSSON to relieve the 2d Bn. Relief began at 1900, and was completed shortly thereafter, enabling the 2d Bn to close into a reserve position in the vicinity of PONT-A-MOUSSON, that evening.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, holding the high ground north of BOIS DU HTE DES TRAPPES, was relieved by the 3d Bn which had been in Regimental Reserve. Relief was completed at 1640, 25 October 1944. The 2d Bn reverted to Regimental Reserve.

CCA 6th Armored Division, which had been in XII Corps Reserve southeast of LEYR, was relieved by CCR 6th Armored Division on 26 October 1944. Relief began on the morning of the 26th and was completed by 1300 that day.

COR/64 AD

COR then assumed the responsibility for the mission of counterattacking in the zone of the 80th and 35th Infantry Divisions.

The Division continued to occupy and strengthen its fefensive position west of the SEILLE RIVER on 26 October 1944. Infantry regiments continued to occupy and improve their defensive positions and conducted technical and tac-

tical training.

The 633d AAA AW Bn, in addition to providing anti-air-craft defense, provided aircraft identification instructors 633 to organizations of the Division from 26 October through 29 October 1944.

During the night 26-27 October 1944, PONT-A-MOUSSON, on the MOSELLE RIVER, was shelled by a 280mm rail-mount gun. The XIX Tactical Air Corps, during this defensive phase, unsuccessfully conducted a search for it. Prior to this incident, PONT-A-MOUSSON had been shelled on the nights of 17-18, 21-22, 22-23 of October 1944. No damage to military installations occurred.

October 27, 28 and 29, 1944 saw no change in troop dispositions.

Active patrolling was conducted to the front and flanks of the Division zone. Some patrols of the 318th Infantry made penetrations of over 1,000 yards inside the enemy lines. RIVER were made in rubber boats manned by the 305th Engineer Combat Battalion.

Technical and tactical training was conducted by the infantry regiments. Bazooka and small arms range firing, woods fighting, village street fighting, river crossing tactics, use of demolitions, excape and evasion methods were part of the training during this defensive phase whenever a battalion constituted regimental reserve.

On 30 October 1944, the 1st Bn 319th Infantry, occupying the vicinity of BOIS D' AULNOIS southwest of LETRICOURT, was relieved at 1900 by the 2d Bn which had been in Regimental Reserve. The 1st Bn then reverted to Regimental Reserve.

A little later that evening, the 1st Bn 318th Infantry, holding defensive positions in the vicinity of FME DE LA BORDE, south of NOMENY, was relieved by the 3d Bn. Relief was completed at 2232, 30 October 1944. The 1st Bn reverted to Regimental Reserve.

Field Message Number 1, issued 1330, 30 October 1944, provided for the 319th Infantry, with "C" and "D" Companies 702d Tank Bn and "A" Company 808th Tank Destroyer Bn to

attack of 1 November 1944 with the mission of clearing hostile forces west of the SEILLE RIVER in the ABAUCOURT-LETRI-COURT area. Upon completion of this mission the Regiment was to return to its present defensive position. Small groups of troops were to be left in observation at known crossings over the SEILLE RIVER.

The 905th Field Artillery Bn was to render direct support to the 319th Infantry with the 314th Field Artillery Bn and the 315th Field Artillery Bn reinforcing the fire of the 905th Field Artillery Bn. In addition, one platoon of "A" Company 808th Tank Destroyer Bn was to fire indirect fire missions under supervision of the 905th Field Artillery Bn.

314

On 31 October 1944, the Division was occupying defensive positions along the west bank of the SEILLE RIVER from LES-MENILS in the north to AJONCOURT in the south.

The 317th Infantry occupied the northern sector of the Division Zone. The 3d Bn was on line along the SEILLE RIVER from the vicinity of DESMENILS to MORVILLE-SUR-SEILLE. The 1st Bn occupied the right sector of the Regimental zone along the SEILLE RIVER from MORVILLE-SUR-SEILLE to CLEMERY. The 2d Bn was in Regimental Reserve on 31 October 1944.

The 318th Infantry occupied the center sector of the Division zone on 31 October 1944. The 2d Bn on the line between CLEMERY and the railroad, east of MANONCOURT, occupied the left sector of the Regimental zone. When MANONCOURT was taken (8 October 1944), the 2d Bn had organized and defended this area throughout the month. The 3d Bn was on the line in the vicinity of FME DE LA BORDE, south of NOMENY, occupying the right sector of the 318th Infantry zone. The 1st Bn constituted the regimental reserve on 31 October 1944.

The 319th Infantry held the southern sector of the Division zone on the last day of the month. The 2d Bn occupied defensive positions in the vicinity of BOIS D' AULNOIS, southwest of LETRICOURT. This area was the right flank of the Division as well as the right flank of the Regimental zone. The 3d Bn occupied the left sector of the regimental zone, holding the high ground north of BOIS DU HTE DES TRAPPES. The 1st Bn was in Regimental Reserve on 31 October 1944.

During the latter part of October 1944 when artillery ammunition was rationed, the 702d Tank Bn and the 808th Tank Bottoyer Bn reinforced the fires of Division Artillery by

firing interdiction and harassing missions.

The 702d Tank Bn fired 4,444 rounds of HE ammunition during the period 16-31 October 1944.

The 808th Tank Destroyer Bn expended 5,907 rounds of HE on indirect fire missions during the period 10-31 October 806 1944. This same Battalion canabalized a German 7.5 cm Pak 40 gun and fired 30 rounds of HE and 10 rounds of APC on direct harassing missions in the vicinity of NOMENY and RAUCOURT.

The Division Artillery, curtailing its expenditure of ammunition on 14 October 1944, fired 1553 rounds during the period 14-31 October 1944. Ammunition expended by Division Artillery during the period 1-13 October 1944 totaled 12,694 rounds. Total artillery ammunition expended for the month was 14,247 rounds of both 105mm and 155mm.

The 80th Signal Company laid approximately 80 miles of 80 field wire during the month, and the supply of wire was increased by picking up approximately 200 miles of field wire.