

UNIT: 1st Bn 318th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div.

PERIOD: 8 Nov - 4 Dec 1944.

ACTION: LORRAINE Campaign (SEILLE & NIED River Crossings)

SOURCE: Capt Edward E. Hueske, S-3, 1st Bn 318th Inf.

PLACE AND DATE OF INTERVIEW: OY, GERMANY, 1st Bn CP,
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INTERVIEWER: Lt S. J. Tobin.

MAPS: 1/50,000 - <u>Title</u>	<u>Sheet No</u>	<u>GSGS No</u>
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Notes The Bn Unit Journal was used as a reference during the interview.

On the morning of 8 Nov the 1st Bn was on the right of the regimental sector. The mission for the attack was to cross the SEILLE River, take the MONTIGNY ridge and the town of MAILLY (909356). The heavy rains during the day previous had raised the river several feet during the night and created a severe obstacle for the crossing. The attack jumped off at 0530. The Bn crossed the SEILLE River in the vicinity of (915328). The crossing was made against very little opposition. The first wave went over in assault boats and later on a foot bridge that the engineers put in. As the Bn had been in position in the area several weeks they knew where the enemy gun positions were and their approximate strength. The 1st Bn attack progressed rapidly along the MONTIGNY ridge and Hill 217 overlooking MAILLY shortly after noon. Positions were consolidated on the high ground about 1600. The enemy launched a counterattack from MAILLY which was beaten back by extremely accurate artillery. 17 enemy dead could be seen on the slope after they retreated. Positions were consolidated on the hill for the night. During the rest of the night the Bn brought up supplies and evacuated their wounded. This was extremely difficult because of the mud and flooded condition of the river. All supplies and evacuees had to be moved by hand. Mud and water was

wait

~~wait~~ deep. Casualties for the day were approximately 100 men. Stiff resistance had been met in the town of NOMENY. The CO of A Co was killed by MG fire from emplacements in the vicinity of (903351) and his company disorganized by the heavy resistance from the town. Considerable trouble was had with the radios as most of them had gotten wet during the river crossing.

The next morning 9 Nov, the Bn jumped off to take MAILLY at 0700. Slight resistance was overcome, 15 prisoners were taken and the town was cleared by 0800. From MAILLY they attacked eastward to take PHLIN (932358) with A Co on the left and B Co on the right. Slight resistance was met and the woods and the town were cleared by 1500. Ten PWs were taken. B Co 702d Tk Bn joined them at PHLIN. A company of infantry was mounted on the tanks and sent to take THEZEY ST MARTIN (945345). The town was occupied and outposted for the night. No enemy were found in the town.

On 10 Nov the Bn attacked to the NE with the tanks and the infantry. The towns of VULMONT (950372) and FOVILLE (965361) were taken practically without resistance. The attack was continued on to DELME RIDGE. Considerable resistance was met from positions on the ridge. The enemy had elaborate entrenchments, booby traps and several mine fields. They also had 3 anti-tank guns in dug-in positions. These anti-tank guns opened fire on the tanks that were accompanying the infantry, but missed them. They were promptly knocked out by the tanks. The slope of the ridge itself was somewhat rocky and relatively dry providing good flotation for the tanks. After losing their anti-tank guns the enemy retreated from the top of the hill and abandoned their positions. The ridge and the town of JUVILLE (982378) were taken by nightfall and 100 PWs taken during the day's operations. Positions were consolidated on the ridge and the town of JUVILLE for the night. By this time many of the men were suffering from trench foot and blisters. All men had to wade through water crossing the SEILLE River two days before and had not yet been able to get dry. The weather was very cold and damp. Some 35 men were evacuated that night with trench foot and blisters.

On 11 Nov the Bn jumped off with the mission of taking MORVILLE

(048396). Heavy resistance was met in BOIS JUVILLE woods (0039). This was cleared up by 1030. Some 15 casualties were suffered while fighting in the woods. They reached MORVILLE about noon and engaged in a fight until dark before taking the town. The Germans had several 75mm anti-tank guns at the time and many automatic weapons. The CO of C Co was killed and three other officers were wounded in the fight for the town. Just before dark the town was cleared, 20 PWs were taken and the rest driven out. Positions were consolidated in MORVILLE for the night.

On the 12th of Nov, the 1st Bn moved out and crossed the NIED River and went to the town of BAUDRECOURT (0641) which had been taken previously by the 6th Armd Div.

The 319th Inf was having trouble with the town of LUCY (072388) at the time and the 1st Bn was ordered to take the town. LUCY was taken against light resistance by 1700. The tanks of the 702d Tk Bn fired on the town and the infantry went in and took about 100 PWs. Later that evening, the 1st Bn of 319th Inf relieved the 1st Bn 318th Inf on the outposts of the town and the 1st Bn 318th went into billets in LUCY.

On 13 Nov the 1st Bn continued its attack taking CHENOIS (093407) against slight resistance, moved through LESSE (9041) at 1115 and took HOLACOURT (905422) by 1500. Little resistance was met during the day. The Bn set up defensive positions along the VATIMONT-ARRAINCOURT road for the night.

The next day 14 Nov, the Bn made a tactical march from HOLACOURT to BRULANGE (132419). The Bn remained in the town during 15 Nov.

On the 16th they moved to THICOURT (136440) and took up defensive positions remaining there until 20 Nov in reserve.

On 20 Nov the Bn moved through FAULQUEMONT (1750) to a position in the vicinity of COTE des CHARBONNAGES and occupied positions overlooking TRITTELING (184538). They remained in the area in reserve until 27 Nov.

On the morning of 27 Nov, the 1st Bn passed through the 2d Bn and attacked to clear the woods NE of LONGEVILLE. They combed the area without finding any opposition. TAC air had been active during

the few days previous and had done a great deal of damage to the installations and buildings in the area. After passing through the woods, they spent the night in the buildings (2558) north of ST AVOLD.

After staying in position during 28 Nov, the Bn moved up to GUENVILLER (317569). The 317th Inf had a counterattack at FAREBERS-VILLER and elements of the Bn moved to the high ground overlooking the town. Positions were maintained during 29 Nov and the Bn moved into SEINBOUSE (340576) relieving elements of the 317th Inf. The Bn remained in the area until the division moved south to the SARRALBE area.