

Panzer

UNIT: 1st Bn 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div.

PERIOD: 8 Nov - 4 Dec 1944.

ACTION: LORRAINE Campaign (SEILLE & NIED River Crossings)

SOURCE: Lt William P. Sweaney, S-3 1st Bn, then S-2.

PLACE AND DATE OF INTERVIEW: BAD WORISHOFEN, GERMANY, 1st Bn CP,
27 June 1945.

INTERVIEWER: Lt S. J. Tobin

| MAPS: 1/50,000 - Title | Sheet No | GSGS No |
|------------------------|----------|---------|
| METZ | 34-13 | 4471 |
| NOMENY | 34-14 | 4471 |
| ST AVOLD | 35-13 | 4471 |
| CHATEAU SALINS | 35-14 | 4471 |
| SAARGUEMINES | 36-13 | 4471 |
| SARRE UNION | 36-14 | 4471 |

Note: The Bn History was used as a basis for the interview.

At 0600 8 Nov, the 1st Bn moved out following an intense artillery preparation with the mission of taking AULNOIS (9631) and CRAIN COURT (963318). Co D 702d Tk Bn and one squad Co C 305th Engrs were in support. The Bn crossed the river in the vicinity of CHENI-COURT using the small bridge (954298) which had not been destroyed by the enemy. The attack progressed northward with B Co on the left and A Co on the right. B Co took AULNOIS against light resistance by 1000. Owing to the weather and the small bridge the tanks could not be brought up until a bridge had been built. A Co which had crossed the bridge behind B Co moved out to the right to protect the right flank of B Co. They were held up by MG and mortar fire coming from the high ground NE of AULNOIS. Meanwhile C Co crossed the river and joined up with B Co in AULNOIS. The tanks from B Co crossed a bridge built by the Engrs that morning and moved up to join the infantry shortly after noon. At 1500 the Bn launched its attack on CRAIN COURT with B Co on the right, C Co on the left supported by the tanks. CRAIN COURT was mopped up just before dark against stiff resistance. 80 PWs were taken in the town, 40 more PWs had been taken that morning in AULNOIS. Positions were consolidated for the night in CRAIN COURT. At 2100 C Co received a counterattack which pushed them back into the town and the enemy reoccupied several buildings..

F Co 2d Bn came up to reinforce C Co and together they held the position til morning. That night D Co 702d Tk Bn was relieved by C Co 702d Tk Bn.

The next morning 9 Nov, C Co attacked the positions which the enemy had regained. Only a few PWs were captured, the rest having pulled back during the night. A PW stated that approximately 200 Germans participated in the attack the night before.

At 1400 the Bn moved out with the mission of taking DELME RIDGE and the town of LIOCOURT (980355). ALAINCOURT (977342) was captured without resistance and six Germans surrendered with an anti-tank gun in the town. A bridge over a small stream south of the town (963329) was taken intact. The advance was continued and LIOCOURT was taken by about 1800. Slight resistance was met in the town. During the day 85 PWs, 2 anti-tank guns and one half-track were captured. Extensive mine fields and many booby traps had been placed along the forward slope of DELME RIDGE south of LIOCOURT. C Co lost three men, and a number of Germans were also killed in their own mine fields. On top of the ridge the Germans had extensive entrenchments. Lt Sweaney said he couldn't understand why the Germans had not defended in such well prepared positions. The Bn was consolidated along the ridge in the vicinity of LIOCOURT for the night. Several enemy vehicles and soldiers blundered into their lines during the night and were either shot up or taken prisoner.

The 2d Bn passed through the 1st Bn at LIOCOURT and attacked eastward on the morning of 10 Nov. The Bn remained in position at LIOCOURT during 10 Nov and moved the next night, 11 Nov, to an assembly area north of TINCERY (030347)

On the 12th of Nov the Bn moved to LUCY (072389) going by way of HANNOCOURT (051351) and FREMERY (076346) arriving at LUCY at 1930. The 1st Bn 318th Inf had taken the town a short time previously. The Bn vehicles moved into the town later that night.

The next morning 13 Nov the Bn jumped off at 0900 to take the high ground east of LUCY and clear the BOIS du BARON woods. This was done against very light resistance and the woods were outposted along a line from LESSE (1041) to (1240).

During the next day 14 Nov, positions were extended eastward to the BRULANGE (1342) DESTRY (158390) road.

On the 15th of Nov, elements of the 6th Armd Div were receiving counterattacks in the vicinity of LANDROFF (178415). To help contain these counterattacks the 1st Bn was given the mission of taking the high ground NW of the town and the COTE de SUISSE ridge. The attack jumped off at about 1530. Considerable enemy artillery fire was received in addition to small arms and mortar fire. Some tanks from the 6th Armd Div were also in on the attack. After a sharp fight the enemy was pushed off the ridge by about 1730. About 50 casualties were suffered, mostly from artillery. Positions were maintained on the ridge for the night and were subjected to enemy artillery continually. That night members of the Bn staff met with unit commanders of the 6th Armd Div to plan an attack for the next day. The 1st Bn was to attack to the NE with the mission of taking CHEMERY (158454) and ADELANGE (1846). The attack was planned to jump off at 0900, however due to heavy artillery resistance which held up other units they did not start til 1100. The attack jumped off with A Co on the right and C on the left. B Co had the mission of taking EINCIVILLE (171435). Considerable casualties were suffered from artillery fire from the leading companies. The towns were defended but were overcome without trouble. C Co took CHEMERY, A Co took ADELANGE and B Co took EINCIVILLE during the afternoon. 240 PWs were taken in EINCIVILLE which was the location of the enemy CP. Ten officers were captured including the regimental commander of the enemy unit. Positions were consolidated in the area taken that day and the Bn remained in the vicinity until 20 Nov.

On 20 Nov elements of the Bn moved into VAHL (189481) and PONTPIERRE (2050). No resistance was encountered and the towns were occupied for the night.

On the 21st of Nov the Bn moved into FAULQUEMONT (1750) closing about 2300. The next morning 22 Nov, they relieved the 1st Bn 318th.

During the 22d and 23d the Bn remained in position holding a line roughly from REDLACH (174537) to GOLDINHOLTZ (181522).

On the 24th of Nov the 2d Bn 319th moved through the 1st Bn pushing out farther to the north. That afternoon and evening the 1st Bn pulled its units back into FAULQUEMONT.

The next morning 25 Nov, the 1st Bn was in regimental reserve during the attack. They followed the attacking elements and spent the night near LAUDREFANG (188544).

The next day 26 Nov, they moved out following the 3d Bn and went into DOURDHAT (216560). During the night B Co moved into VALMONT (242546). Later that night C Co moved by truck up to the town with B Co. During the night A Co held positions east of DOURDHAT when the 3d Bn was pulled back.

The next day 27 Nov, the Bn jumped off to attack ST AVOLD (2557) at 0800. First elements entered the town about 0900 finding it deserted. A civilian said that the Germans had moved out the night before. During the afternoon the 1st Bn pushed out to the east to the vicinity of HOMBOURG HAUT (3059) and MACHEREN (300564).

On the 28th, the Bn attacked to the east clearing HOMBOURG HAUT and seized BETTING (3359) and BENING (347596) by late afternoon. Only slight resistance was met during the day. Positions were maintained in this area during the remainder of the period.