

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 316TH INFANTRY
APO 80, FRANCE

L-284

7 November 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT

MONTH OF OCTOBER

Phase I Patrol activities and battles to improve our positions after bridge head across Moselle had been secured.

1-7 Oct

We initially supported these operations by placing trains in Battalion control to support their battalions from individual bivouacs. Battalion Train Bivouacs were necessitated also by the fact that sufficient bivouac area to accommodate the entire Regimental Train could not be found on this side of the Moselle, due to the huge concentration of supporting troops. The Regimental Train less the Battalion Trains moved to Loisy.

The auxiliary Class V DP which we used to support the River Crossing, we displaced forward to defiladed area in vicinity of Ville-au-Val and after expending it we went back to basic loads. By this time the safety of the bridge head was no longer in the balance.

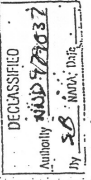
During this period great stress was placed on feeding as many hot meals as possible. The tactical situation was in a state of constant flux, and attempting to change from a "B" to an operational ration in keeping with a battalions tactical situation was difficult. The only solution to these problems was anticipated needs by the battalions, and the shifting of rations within the organization to meet our needs.

Close rationing of gasoline limited vehicle movement and in consequence rigid supervision of use of transportation was invoked. We received an occasional allotment of diesel oil for immersion heaters and sometimes we had difficulty in preparing hot meals, due to this condition.

Browning Automatic Rifles and Heavy Machine Guns were our major items lost. We hadn't received any replacement on Browning Automatic Rifles from the Battle of Argentan until October 10th. The rifle companies were frantic in their demands for replacement of this item. Rifle company commanders claim this weapon is incomparable.

Tripods, cradles for heavy machine guns; 60-MM mortars, grenade launchers M-7 and unit watches became critical items to replace. Also field range parts and immersion type heaters were impossible to replace at this time.

SECRET



SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 318TH INFANTRY
APO 80, FRANCE

7 November 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT

8-9 October 1944 Attack to secure West Bank of Sailla.

9-31 October 1944 Patrol activity of the Sailla.

During these phases the bulk of the Regiment was in a fairly static situation. There was little change in Class I, excepting that we fed hot meals to all troops excepting the most advanced elements. Replacement on individual clothing and equipment was excellent. We started to catch up on our shortages in major items of equipment. Class III was more closely rationed, and vehicle activity curtailed. First echelon maintenance was stressed and a system of inspection and checks to assure maximum maintenance was inaugurated.

An intensive salvage program was launched and an operating plan for battle field recovery was put into effect. The plan specifies that battle field recovery will be continuous both during and after battle. Battalion collecting points will be established in vicinity of Battalion motor pools from whence the Battalion S-4 will evacuate through normal channels.

In all past operations a great deal of major items recovered were reconditioned by armorer-artificers in the Train Bivouac and evacuated forward to the combat echelons.

By the 24th of October we had practically completed our authorization of Browning Automatic Rifles, and the needed replacement of other major items was negligible.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 480972032
By 30 10001 DAF

SECRET

AFTER ACTION REPORT - OCTOBER 1944

318TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

S-3 SECTION

L-284

Phase I - Patrol Activity and Action to Improve Our Positions After the Bridge-head Across the MOSELLE Had Been Secured.

On 1 October 1944, the 1st Battalion was continuing to clear the BOIS DE MANCHE SEILLE and BOIS DE TEMPAVERT of the last enemy elements. The 3d Battalion was occupying and holding the high ground vicinity HILL 340, MOREY and BELLEAU. The 2d Battalion less Company E was in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of VILLE AU VAL. Company E was occupying the high ground from RHILL FALAISE to ST GENEVIEVE.

On 2 October Company B sent out two (2) platoons to capture RENAISSANCE FARM and LES QUATRE PERS. The attacks were made the night of 1-2 October. The attacking units did not secure the objectives because of very heavy resistance. The morning of the 2d, Capt WILLIAMS employed two (2) platoons of Company C in a pincer movement to take FARM DE FRANCE, and adjacent woods. The attack was completely successful and one whole enemy company was captured or killed. Our casualties were very light. The same night a platoon from Company I made an attempt to capture SERRIERES. They were unable to overcome heavy machine gun fire, but did capture two (2) prisoners.

Between 1 October and 5 October one special object of concern was whether or not Company I, which had previously taken HILL 340 could hold it. During the period the HILL was subject to continuous shelling. Over 500 rounds fell. No one was killed. At the same time the enemy made many local attacks on 3d Battalion Road Block at BELLEAU. All were thrown back. During the entire period 1st and 3d Battalions received moderately heavy artillery fire.

On 5 October the Engineers began digging in the forward Regimental Command Post in BOIS DE BAUZARD and plans for the coming attack were given the Battalion and separate unit Commanders by Col MEVICKAR. During the night the 3d Battalion was relieved by 3d Battalion of the 319th Infantry and moved to BEZAUMONT as Regimental Reserve. During the night 6-7 October, 1st Battalion moved approximately 500 yards North into positions in the BOIS DE BAUZARD which it had previously

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: ASD 72037
By: 28
Date: 10/10/00

On 2 October Company B sent out two (2) platoons to capture RENAISSANCE FARM and LES QUATRE PERS. The attacks were made the night of 1-2 October. The attacking units did not secure the objectives because of very heavy resistance. The morning of the 2d, Capt WILLIAMS employed two (2) platoons of Company C in a pincer movement to take FARM DE FRANCE, and adjacent woods. The attack was completely successful and one whole enemy company was captured or killed. Our casualties were very light. The same night a platoon from Company I made an attempt to capture SERRIERES. They were unable to overcome heavy machine gun fire, but did capture two (2) prisoners.

Between 1 October and 5 October one special object of concern was whether or not Company I, which had previously taken HILL 340 could hold it. During the period the HILL was subject to continuous shelling. Over 500 rounds fell. No one was killed. At the same time the enemy made many local attacks on 3d Battalion Road Block at BELLEAU. All were thrown back. During the entire period 1st and 3d Battalions received moderately heavy artillery fire.

On 5 October the Engineers began digging in the forward Regimental Command Post in BOIS DE BAUZARD and plans for the coming attack were given the Battalion and separate unit Commanders by Col McVICKAR. During the night the 3d Battalion was relieved by 3d Battalion of the 319th Infantry and moved to BEZAUMONT as Regimental Reserve. During the night 6-7 October, 1st Battalion moved approximately 500 yards North into positions in the BOIS DE BAUZARD which it had previously secured. The 2d Battalion moved into the BOIS DE MANCHE SEILLE on the right of the 1st Battalion. During the night of 7-8 October the Regimental Command Post moved into the BOIS DE BAUZARD and the 3d Battalion moved in behind the 2d Battalion as Regimental Reserve.

- 1 -

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: AFD 97037
By: 26 Date:

SECRET

Phase II - Battle to Secure the West Bank of the SEILLE RIVER vicinity MANONCOURT.
(8-9 October 1944)

At 080615 October 1944, the 80th Division launched a coordinated attack to secure the area west of the SEILLE RIVER vicinity MANONCOURT, to secure high hills, MT TOULON and MT ST JEAN and to clear the BOIS DE FOURASSE. The 318th Infantry occupied the Division left sector. The 1st Battalion attacked to the Northeast with the mission of capturing "LES QUATRE FERS", BENICOURT, and CLEMERY. It was on the Regimental left flank. The 2d Battalion on the right attacked toward MANONCOURT and HILL 208. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve in the BOIS DE MANCHE SEILLE. After a thirty (30) minute artillery preparation, which included support fire from the Regimental Cannon Company and Company B, 808 Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 1st and 2d Battalions jumped off exactly on schedule. The 1st Battalion had the support of Company B, 702d Tank Battalion in its attack.

Aided by the direct fire of the tanks, Col TOSI, 1st Battalion Commander, was able to quickly take LES QUATRE FERS with Company A. Then, using part of his tanks and Company B as a flanking force he went on to take BENICOURT and CLEMERY by 1135.

Maj GARDNER was able to push Company E around to the North of MANONCOURT and take HILL 208, his objective by 0907. However, Company F ran into heavy mortar and small arms fire which held up the taking of MANONCOURT. The chateau was finally captured with help of the direct fire weapons of one (1) platoon of Company B, 808 Tank Destroyer Battalion. A total of 170 casualties were reported for the operation. Over 340 prisoners were taken. The Division attack continued on 9 October. All 318th Infantry objectives were taken 8 October.

On 10 October Col McVICKAR sent the following message to all men of his command:

"The 318th Infantry Regiment has added another victory to its record - ARGENTAN, CHALONS SUR MARNE, MOSELLE Bridgehead and now CLEMERY and MANONCOURT. You have advanced in the face of severe artillery, mortar and machine gun fire with determination and devotion. Your courage has carried every objective. You have taken over 340 prisoners in this single engagement. You may well be proud of your victorious record and this successful fight - fine work."

Phase III - Patrol Activity East of the SEILLE to Determine Enemy Strength and Dispositions.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: 4807032
By: 38
Date: 1000-000

and HILL 208. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve in the BOIS DE MANCHE SKILLS. After a thirty (30) minute artillery preparation, which included support fire from the Regimental Cannon Company and Company B, 808 Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 1st and 2d Battalions jumped off exactly on schedule. The 1st Battalion had the support of Company B, 702d Tank Battalion in its attack.

Aided by the direct fire of the tanks, Col TOSI, 1st Battalion Commander, was able to quickly take LES QUATRE FERS with Company A. Then, using part of his tanks and Company B as a flanking force he went on to take BENICOURT and CLEMERY by 1135.

Maj GARDNER was able to push Company E around to the North of MANONCOURT and take HILL 208, his objective by 0907. However, Company F ran into heavy mortar and small arms fire which held up the taking of MANONCOURT. The chateau was finally captured with help of the direct fire weapons of one (1) platoon of Company B, 808 Tank Destroyer Battalion. A total of 170 casualties were reported for the operation. Over 340 prisoners were taken. The Division attack continued on 9 October. All 318th Infantry objectives were taken 8 October.

On 10 October Col MEVICKAR sent the following message to all men of his command: "The 318th Infantry Regiment has added another victory to its record - ARGENTAN, CHALONS SUR MARNE, MOSELLE Bridgehead and now CLEMERY and MANONCOURT. You have advanced in the face of severe artillery, mortar and machine gun fire with determination and devotion. Your courage has carried every objective. You have taken over 340 prisoners in this single engagement. You may well be proud of your victorious record and this successful fight - fine work."

Phase III - Patrol Activity East of the SEILLE to Determine Enemy Strength and Dispositions.

During the night of 12-13 October the 1st Battalion moved back into LIXIERES in Regimental Reserve giving its sector over to the 317th Infantry. At the same time the 3d Battalion moved into an area just south of HUNENY vicinity FERME DE

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: 5010-108
by: 58 MDD/bag

SECRET

L-289

LABORDE. It took over a portion of the 319th Infantry sector. On the 13th the Regimental Command Post moved out of the woods into LIXIERES.

During the rest of the month two (2) things were emphasized - aggressive night patrolling across the SEILLE and training in rear areas. On the night of 22-23 October the 1st and 3d Battalions changed places. At no time did the 2d Battalion move out of its positions vicinity MARCHICOURT, but it did keep continuous rotation of its reserve Company.

The rear area troops received specialized training in bazooka firing, woods fighting, village and street fighting, river crossing tactics and the use of demolitions. Twice during the period a representative from SHAEF gave an escape and evasion lecture to all replacements. The lectures were given on the Southeast slope of MT TOULON. Street fighting instruction was carried on in BELLEAU. Reserve troops during the period received passes to NANCY and PARIS. Cannon and Antitank Companies were able to take care of ordnance and maintenance problems. Cannon Company was able to get ordnance repair work done on four (4) of its six (6) guns.

During the last two (2) weeks of the month each of the front line battalions sent at least one, and often as many as three combat patrols across the river almost every night. Patrols made penetrations of over 1000 yards inside the enemy lines. They brought back exact locations of enemy positions. Essential data on the SEILLE RIVER was brought back for compilation. One patrol got into the heart of HEMMY. Several patrols reached the outskirts of ROUVES. Most patrols crossed in rubber boats supplied by the 305th Engineers. Casualties were very light. Only one man was definitely given up as missing in action. One Prisoner of War was taken by Lt SMITH of Company E and a patrol of twenty-nine (29) men who dragged him out of his foxhole Northwest of ROUVES.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: 48 CFR 1.103
By: 58
Date: 10/10/01

and evasion lecture to all replacements. The lectures were given on the southeast slope of MT TOULON. Street fighting instruction was carried on in BELLEAU. Reserve troops during the period received passes to NANCY and PARIS. Cannon and Antitank Companies were able to take care of ordnance and maintenance problems. Cannon Company was able to get ordnance repair work done on four (4) of its six (6) guns.

During the last two (2) weeks of the month each of the front line battalions sent at least one, and often as many as three combat patrols across the river almost every night. Patrols made penetrations of over 1000 yards inside the enemy lines. They brought back exact locations of enemy positions. Essential data on the SEILLE RIVER was brought back for compilation. One patrol got into the heart of MURMAY. Several patrols reached the outskirts of ROUVES. Most patrols crossed in rubber boats supplied by the 305th Engineers. Casualties were very light. Only one man was definitely given up as missing in action. One Prisoner of War was taken by Lt SMITH of Company E and a patrol of twenty-nine (29) men who dragged him out of his foxhole Northwest of ROUVES.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: 48D 9/2/03 Z
By: 38 NOD: bae