

AFTER ACTION REPORT

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION

NOVEMBER 1944

LST

The 317th Inf abd 218th Inf continued to occupy and improve their defensive positions.

At 1330, the 319th Inf with Cos "C" and "D" of the 792d Tk Bn and Co. "A" of the 808th TD Bn in direct support. launched a coordinated attack to clear the area Abaucourt (U910340) - Letricourt (U940310). The attack achieved tactical surprise and all hostile forces within the area were killed or captured. The 319th Inf employed the 2d and 3d Bns in this attack. At 1445, both Abaucourt and Letricourt and the high ground commanding those localities had been seized. Patrols advanced to the Seille R in this sector and reconnoitered for possible crossing sites.

During this operation, 162 prisoners were captured, 148 enemy were killed. 21 MGs, 130 rifles, 1 AT rifle, 7 - 80 MM Mortars and 2 AT guns were captured.

2nd - 7th Nov Incl

During this period, Infantry Regiments continued to occupy and improve defensive positions W and S of the Seille River.

Active patrolling was conducted, which developed hostile positions.

The 702d Tk Bn and 808th TD Bn supplemented artillery by firing harassing and interdiction missions.

All units conducted training and made plans for future operations.

8th

At 0600, the 80th Inf Div launched a coordinated attack, crossing the Seille River. This attack was preceded by a 60 minute artillery preparation. Bridges were constructed at Clemery (U8633) and Port Sur Seille (U8435). The towns of Aulnois (U9530), Rounes Eply (U8636) Raucourt (U8835), and Graincourt (U9531) were seized. The attack was halted at dark and preparations made to continue the attack at 090630 Nov.

9th

The attack was renewed at 0630 with a five (5) minute artillery preparation. The towns of Mailley (U9035) Nomeny (U8933), Phlin (U9335), Ressaincourt (U9037), St June (U8939), Seacourt (U9339), Liocourt (U9835) were liberated.

The 319th Inf supported by tanks seized the Se nose of Delme Ridge.

9th

The bridge at NOMENY was completed at 2100 after some difficulty due to the flooded condition of the SEILLE RIVER.

370 prisoners were captured and many Germans killed.

The advance was halted at dark and preparations made to continue the pursuit the next morning.

10th

The pursuit was continued at 0900. The towns of SOLGNE (U9441), BECHY (U0043) TRAGNY (Q0040), MONCHEAUZ (U9738), JOVILLE (U9837), THIMOVILLE (Q0140), BACOURT (Q0237), and TINCRY (Q0234), were seized and liberated.

All Infantry elements of the Division advanced approximately eight (8) miles. Adverse weather and road conditions slowed the advance.

Approximately 350 prisoners were captured.

The advance was halted at dark.

11th

The pursuit was continued with three (3) infantry regiments abreast; seizing five (5) towns during the day: FLOCOURT (Q0342), ST EPVRE (Q0542), MORVILLE SUR NEID (Q0439), PREVOCOURT (Q0435), HANNOCOURT (Q0535).

The 317th Inf with elements of 8th Armd Div. seized the bridge intact across the NIED RIVER at HAN SUR NEID.

At the close of day, all three (3) regiments were in position along W bank of the NIED RIVER.

398 prisoners were captured.

12th

The 317th Inf crossed NIED R during early morning hours and guarded the bridge at HAN SUR NEID from E and W.

The 318th Inf extended bridgehead E of NIED R and seized towns of LUCY (Q0138), LESSE (Q1041), CHENOIS (Q0940), continuing the pursuit to the N.

The 319th Inf extended the bridgehead E of NIED R relieving elements of 318th Inf at LUCY.

The pursuit was continued throughout the day.

127 prisoners were captured.

13th

The 80th Div continued to expand its bridgehead E of the NIED R.

The 317th Inf seized the town of ARRIANCE (Q0947).

The 318th Inf continued to hold ground gained on 12 Nov 44.

The 319th Inf advanced within its sector, clearing the BOIS DE CHICOURT, BOIS DE NEUTCHER, BOIS DE LESSE, ROUGE DOIS, and the BOIS DE SRIGNEURUS.

68 prisoners were captured.

14th

80th Inf Div maintained its bridgehead E of the NIED R. Units moved to establish MLR S of FALQUEMONT. 3d Bn 317th Inf attacked and seized the high ground NE of ARRIANCE (Q0947).

The 318th Inf occupied THIOURT (Q1344) and THONVILLE (Q1443).

The 319th Inf, in conjunction with elements 6th Armd Div, repelled enemy counterattack vic LANDROFF (Q1741) and the COTE DE SUISSE (Q1642).

Preparations were made to execute FO #15, this Headquarters.

8 prisoners were captured during period.

15th

An attack was launched to secure an MLR to protect left flank of XII Corps. Approximately 131 prisoners were captured.

3d Bn 318th Inf attacked 0900 to seize the high ground forming MLR, and at the close of the period, were approaching CHEMERY (Q1545). This attack was met by very heavy enemy artillery concentrations.

The 319th Inf attacked at 0930 to secure high ground E of CHEMERY and to clear BOIS DE ZANTE (Q1942) and to seize the town of VILLER (Q2043).

Substantial gains were made during the day, and the attack was halted at darkness.

16th

The MLR positions were secured as directed by FO #15. The following towns were liberated: CHEMERY (Q1545), ADELANCE (Q1745), BOUSTROFF (Q1845), VILLER (Q2043), and LINCEVILLE (Q1743).

Over 683 prisoners were captured.

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17th

80th Inf Div continued to occupy defensive positions, protecting left N flank of XII Corps.

176 prisoners were captured, making a total of 2512 prisoners.

18th

The 80th Inf Div extended IIR to N and NE and continued to protect left N flank of XII Corps.

28 prisoners were captured during the period.

19th

The 80th Inf Div continued to occupy defensive positions protecting N left flank of XII Corps.

Infantry regiments advanced to the N to maintain contact with hostile forces. Active patrolling continued to develop hostile positions...

20th

The 80th Inf Div reconnoitered in force N to NIED ALLEMANDE R establishing bridgeheads N of the river at FAULQUEMONT (C1749) and PONT FIERRE (C2049). Patrolling continued to develop hostile positions in Division zone.

Seven (7) towns were liberated: GUSSELING HILFENING (C2147), PONT FIERRE (C2049), FAULQUEMONT (C1749), VAHL-LES-PAULQUEMONT (C1848), MAINVILLERS (C1247), CRUHANGL (C1430), and ELVANG (C1352).

38 prisoners were captured during the period.

21st

The 80th Inf Div enlarged its bridgehead N of NIED ALLEMANDE River and continued to protect N left flank of XII Corps.

Infantry regiments continued to patrol actively to front and flanks.

Preparations for / and movement was in progress to execute directives of FO #17, this headquarters.

Approximately 55 prisoners were captured.

22nd

Infantry regiments completed occupation of defensive positions as provided in FO #17, this headquarters. Active patrolling to develop enemy positions continued.

38 prisoners were captured.

NOVEMBER
28th - 24th

Infantry regiments expanded the bridgehead N and NE NIED ALEN HANDE R, and continued preparations for attack to the E.

Active patrolling was continued to develop enemy positions.

25th

The 80th Inf Div (Reinf) launched a coordinated attack at 0800 with three (3) regiments abreast.

The 317th Inf breached the MAGINOT LINE vicinity (Q212530). FORTS LAUDINGFANG and TETING WOODS were captured and mopped up.

The 318th Inf breached the MAGINOT LINE and captured FORTS HAMBIDENSTROFF, KIER FORT, and BAMBELSH. Heavy enemy resistance was encountered.

The 319th Inf breached the MAGINOT LINE and captured FORTS KIN-ELLING, N-KIN-SELLING, S-KINSELLING, and FOUR VEETS.

The attack was preceded by a five (5) minute artillery preparation.

70 Ad Tk Bn, 808th TD Bn, and 610th TD Bn supported the attack of the infantry regiments.

The towns of LAUDINGFANG (Q2054) and HAMBIDENSTROFF (Q1656) were seized.

All initial objectives had been reached by close of the period.

597 prisoners were taken.

26th

The Division continued the attack to seize objectives as directed. The attack was preceded by a ten (10) minute preparation.

The 317th Infantry seized the towns of Valmont (Q2854) and the high ground 1500 yards SE of that locality. The 80th Cav Bn Tr in FALSCHVILLER and attacked and seized the high ground 1000 yards SE of that locality.

The 318th Inf seized the HILLS 345, 322 (Q1959) and 405 (Q1759). Five (5) enemy counterattacks were received and repulsed. A sixth was formed at 1700. Artillery fire (TOT-Time Fire) with six (6) Bns were placed on enemy troops forming for the attack. The counterattack did not develop.

The 319th Inf continued to attack to seize ST AVOLD (Q2551). Heavy enemy resistance was encountered. The 2d and 3d Bns had advanced to within 1500 yards of the city.

The 42d Cav Sqn protected the Division left flank and maintained contact with the 95th Inf Div. Obstacles, swollen streams and blown bridges greatly restricted movement.

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26th

The 808th TD Bn supported the attack by indirect fire under the supervision of Division Artillery.

The 702d Tk Bn and the 610th TD Bn supported the attack. Thirteen (13) pillboxes of the MAGINOT LINE were destroyed by the 610th TD Bn.

The attack was halted at dark and preparations were made to continue 270000A.

27th

The 80th Inf Div continued the attack and gained approximately seven (7) miles of ground.

The 217th Inf attacked 0800A. During the day the towns of ALTVILLER (Q2633), ERENWSILER (Q2756), MACHERN (Q3056) and GENGEBUSCH (Q3457) were liberated.

Two (2) Bns, 318th Inf, held their positions on the Division N flank until relieved by elements of the 5th Inf Div.

The 1st Bn, 318th Inf attacked at 1000A and cleared the FORST-DE LONGVILLE (Q2058) and closed in ST AVOLD which had previously been liberated by the 319th Inf.

The 319th Inf attacked at 0900A seizing ST AVOLD. After passing through that city they advanced 4000 yards to the N gaining contact with retreating hostile forces.

Division Artillery fired 120 missions. Four (4) enemy batteries were destroyed.

The attack was supported by the 702d Tk Bn and the 610th TD Bn.

The 808th TD Bn fired indirect missions under the supervision of Div Arty.

Preparations were made by all units to resume the attack to drive to and cross the SAAR RIVER.

28th

The 80th Inf Div (Reinf) continued the advance against hostile resistance gaining eight (8) miles of ground and capturing eighty (80) PWs. Four (4) towns were liberated: GENWEILER (Q3156), OBERHONBURG (Q2959), HELLELING (Q3058), NIEDER HOMBURG (Q3059).

2d and 3d Bns, 318th Inf assembled for the night in LONGVILLE LES ST AVOLD (Q2058) which had been seized previously.

Thirty-six (36) artillery missions, including six (6) TOTS were fired in support of the attack.

After gaining two (2) miles the 317th Inf, during the afternoon and night of 28 Nov, engaged hostile forces in bitter fighting SE of and in the town of PFARREBERSWEILER (Q3657).

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29th

80th Inf Div (Reinf) continued the attack to the E against strong enemy resistance. Bitter fighting developed.

The 319th Inf drove enemy forces from the town of BENINGEN (Q3555) and liberated the town.

317th Inf continued to engage hostile forces in the vicinity of PFARREBER-SWEILER until relieved by ELms of the 319th Inf. 317th Inf then moved to positions in Division Reserve.

Fifty-five (55) PWs were captured and three (3) enemy tanks were destroyed.

The 305th Engr C Bn searched town of ST AVOLD for time-bombs previously reported by a captured enemy agent. One (1) time-bomb was found and removed.

30th

80th Inf Div (Reinf) after having, in six (6) days, advanced eighteen (18) miles against determined and bitter enemy resistance, halted the advance to rehabilitate personnel and equipment preparatory to continuing the advance.

80th Inf Div Arty fired its first rounds into Germany.

GENERAL

During the period covered by this report many enemy were killed and wounded; three-thousand-nine-hundred-forty-three (3943) Germans were captured, bringing the total number captured since becoming operational to nine-thousand-two-hundred-thirty-seven (9237) Prisoners of War.