

80th Division After Action Report  
For September, 1944

ADVANCE TO THE MOSELLE RIVER

SEPTEMBER

1st

In compliance with the 80th Division FO #10. 31 Aug 44, 80th Division moved at 0900 by marching, on assigned objectives in the direction of COM-Mercy. 317th Inf occupied 1st objective vicinity E of SEIGNEVILLE, at 0230, prior to forward movement 1st Sept. 318th Inf had seized its 1st objective 2100, 31 Aug. vicinity of BAR LE DUC and continued its forward movement from there.

XII Corps ordered 80th Division, at 1235, to relieve 4th Armored Division on high ground E COMMERCY, to seize ST MIHIEL and occupy high ground Corps N Boundary to line - VOID-PAGNY-SUR-MEUSE-MENTIL-4-TOUR. 1st Bn 319th Inf reverted to Division Control.

Resistance was met during the forward movement. Hostile small arms and artillery fire was encountered. 317th Inf and 318th Inf crossed the MEUSE RIVER and occupied a bridgehead vicinity of COMMERCY. 319th Inf reached the W side of the MEUSE RIVER, E of St Mihiel, 1 Sept, and reconnoitered possible sites for crossings.

2nd

317th Inf established an outpost line on the left sector of bridgehead. 318th Inf completed relief of 4th Armored Div at 1200 and became the Division Reserve upon the arrival of the 319th Inf. 319th Inf crossed the MEUSE R. in the vicinity of St MIHIEL; seized APREMONE; reached its objective at 1530, and established outpost in the right sector of the bridgehead.

3rd

80th Division extended and strengthened its bridgehead at COMMERCY. 317th and 319th Inf expanded and continued to outpost the bridgehead within their respective zones. 318th Inf remained in Division Reserve.

INITIAL CROSSING OF THE MOSELLE RIVER

4th

The 80th Division extended its COMMERCY bridgehead and advanced to the E. 317th Inf advanced to the vicinity W. of PONT A MOUSSON and prepared for an attack across the MOSELLE R. 318th Inf (-1st Bn attached to CCA 4th Armored Div) advanced to the E in the center of the Division zone of advance. CCA 4th Armored Div, with 1st Bn 318th Inf attached, followed 317th Inf to the E. 3d Bn CT 319 attacked at 0700 successfully forcing a crossing of MOSELLE R and seized its objective, the high ground E of TOUL, at 1900. Remainder of CT 319 moved to the vicinity of TOUL, closing in at 2000.

5th

1st, 2d and 3d Bns of 317th Inf attempted separate crossings of MOSELLE R. 1st Bn went across canal at 1045 S of PONT A MOUSSON, but was unable to cross MOSELLE R. 2d Bn attempted crossing in vicinity of BENDIERES, but was unable to do so due to hostile fire consisting of automatic fire, mortar, and artillery. One (1) platoon of "C" Co 317th Inf moved across the canal at 1605, but the enemy subsequently made the position untenable. 3d Bn was also prevented from crossing due to hostile fire.

318th Inf launched an attack on Hill 326 with elements of 3d Bn, but made only limited progress toward the objective. Heavy resistance was encountered.

CT 319 (employing the 3d Bn) attacked GONDREVILLE and VILLY DE SEC. Final objectives were not reached but the action resulted in strengthening the bridgehead.

6th

80th Division continued mopping up of enemy resistance W of the MOSELLE R within the Division sector, maintained bridgehead at TOUL and prepared to force additional bridgeheads across the MOSELLE R.

3d Bn 317th Inf had elements of Cos "L" and "I" across the MOSELLE R by 0425, but these units were forced back across the river under heavy enemy pressure by 1100. 2d Bn 317th Inf crossed the canal with two Cos, but was unable to force a bridgehead across the river. 1st Bn 317th Inf met considerable small arms fire and was unable to initiate a crossing.

318th Inf (-1st Bn) continued mopping up operations W of MOSELLE R, seized HILL 326 at 1530, and attacked hostile forces in and around PT DE L'AVANT-GARDE.

3d Bn CT 319 renewed its attack on FORT DE VILLY LE SEC, but failed to reach its objective.

7th

317th Inf continued to prepare for a crossing of the MOSELLE R. 318th Inf captured MARECHES at 2040 and continued to mop up resistance W of the MOSELLE R. CT 319 (1st Bn) swept woods BOIS DE LIVERDUN. 2d Bn outposted line from edge S of BOIS DE LIVERDUN to the left flank of 3d Bn (LIVERDUN). 3d Bn held bridgehead E of MOSELLE R E of TOUL.

317th Inf continued patrolling of the river line and preparations for the attack. 318th Inf continued attack in vicinity of MARECHES and BILLEVILLE. Enemy counterattacked at MARECHES and gained some ground. CT 319 continued to hold bridgehead E of TOUL. LIVERDUN was seized by elements of 1st Bn at 1830.

9th

317th Inf continued preparations for a river crossing. 318th Inf continued mopping up operations in vicinity of MARBACHE and BELLEVILLE, seizing both towns and regaining ground lost the previous day. Enemy retook LIVERDUN but Co A Ct 319 captured town of LIVERDUN again at 2100 and consolidated positions for the night with plans to mop up the town in the morning.

10th

317th Inf and 318th Inf continued mopping up operations and preparations for river crossing. CT 319 (3d Bn) enlarged bridgehead vicinity TOUL seizing FORT VILLEY LE SEC and the towns of VILLEY LE SEC and GONDERVILLE. Co A continued mopping up in the vicinity of LIVERDUN.

11th

80th Div completed its preparations for a river crossing at DIEULOUARD. CT 319 prepared to attack FORET DE HAYE and NANCY. FO#11 issued at 1700 provided that the 80th Division (Reinf) (less 319th Inf, and 1st Bn 318th Inf (attached 4th Armd Div) attack at 0400, 12 Sept, force a crossing MOSELLE R in the vicinity of DIEULOUARD, establish bridgehead PORT A MOUSSON to MILLERY. CT 319 as part of TF SEBREL was to advance on NANCY from the vicinity of TOUL.

317th Inf was to seize the high ground across the River E of DIEULOUARD with the 318th Inf (1st Bn) crossing later and moving N to high ground E of PORT A MOUSSON. 1117th Engr Gp supported the bridging operations.

The order of crossing was to be (1) 317th Inf with minimum essential light vehicles and TDs (2) 313th FA Bn (3) 318th Inf with minimum essential light vehicles and TDs (4) tanks in direct support 318th Inf (5) tanks in direct support 317th Inf (6) 314th FA Bn (7) 512th FA Bn (8) other units on call.

#### BRIDGE HEAD ESTABLISHED ACROSS THE MOSELLE RIVER

12th

317th Inf: 2d and 3d Bns attacked river line at 0400 abreast with 1st Bn in reserve. By 0920 the foot elements had reached their objectives on the high ground E of Dieulouard, and were consolidating their positions. Hostile artillery, mortar and small arms fire opposed the crossing.

318th Inf (-1st Bn) concentrated in a forward assembly area and crossed the R. Co. "G" continued to outpost river line in the vicinity of Marbach.

CT 319th outposted river line in its zone with one Bn and continued reconnaissance in force to the E along the G-edge on Foret De Haye. Mopping up operations were continued in the vicinity of Liverdun.

13th

The 80th Division maintained its bridgehead E of the Moselle R in the Vic E of Dieulouard against a strong counterattack at 0555. The estimated strength of the enemy was two hostile Bns and fifteen tanks. The main counterattack was repulsed at 0535.

The 317th Inf organized and consolidated its positions. 1st Bn on the high ground W of Landremont repelled counterattack from the SE. 2d Bn (1) on St Genevieve Ridge repelled counterattack from NE. "G" Co. was forged from high ground at St Genevieve. This position was restored at 1450 by an attack with tank support. 3d Bn received small arms and artillery fire and repelled infiltration of hostile patrols.

The 318th Inf received the main hostile counterattack in the vicinity of Loisy. Co "F" at the road block N of Loisy was forced to the S by strong hostile action at 0600. The enemy seized Loisy and struck S in the direction of Beaumont. The Regimental CP S of Loisy was overrun. The counterattack was repulsed at 0635 and by 0930 the enemy was cleared from the area S of LOISY. At 1510 3d Bn had retaken LOISY and reestablished the road block N of the town. Co "g" maintained its road block at VILLE AU VAL and "Q" Co maintained its road block E of BEAUMONT against light counterattacks.

CT 319 reconnoitered W edge of FORET DE HAYE. 2d Bn 319th Inf Co "Q" 318th Inf Atchd, outposted river line in zone from BELLEVILLE to POMPEY inclusive. 3d Bn maintained bridgehead E of TOUL until relieved by 1st Bn. 3d Bn then assembled in CT Reserve.

CCA 4th Armd Div passed to the E through 80th Div Bridgehead beginning 1700.

14th

80th Division extended and consolidated its bridgehead on the high ground E of the MOSELLE R.

317th Inf: 2d Bn extended bridgehead to SE capturing the high ground in the vicinity of FALAISE, but enemy counterattacked in force and retaken the position. 1st Bn consolidated its position NW of LANDREMONT. 2d Bn consolidated its position on ST GENEVIEVE RIDGE.

318th Inf: 3d Bn attacked MOUSSON HILL 0900 and reached the castle on top of the hill at 1350. It then threw back a counterattack. 2d Bn was in reserve. "Q" Co reverted to 318th Inf from the mission of patrolling river line.

CT 319 maintained bridgehead W of TOUL and cleared roads N of LIEBARDUN.

15th

317th Inf: 2d Bn seized the high ground at LANDREMONT. Enemy forces including tanks counterattacked and dislodged 2d Bn from its position on ST GENEVIEVE RIDGE. 3d Bn attacked and recaptured high ground at FALAISE and consolidated its position there.

318th Inf: 1st Bn released from attachment to CCA 4th Armd Div, moved at 1700 to the W from ARRACOURT with one Co of medium tanks of CCA in support. Hostile forces were encountered in the vicinity of NOMENY at 1700. Heavy fighting took place and temporarily held up advance. The Bn halted for the night in the vicinity of NOMENY. 2d Bn maintained road blocks and provided Regt Reserve. 3d Bn on MOUSSON HILL continued its defense of that position, repelling enemy counterattacks. Hostile forces occupied ATTON, cutting 3d Bn supply lines. Ammunition, food and blood plasma were flown and dropped on 3d Bn position by Arty Liaison planes.

CT 319, as part of Task Force SEBREE, advanced E toward NANCY, one mile, starting at 0600. At 1345 CT 319 reverted to 80th Division control. 3d Bn moved E of river in vicinity of VILLE AU VAL in Division Reserve.



## EXPANSION OF BRIDGEHEAD

16th

317th Inf: 1st Bn maintained its position on LANDREMONT RIDGE. 2d Bn reverted to Regt'l Res upon being relieved by 2d Bn 319th Inf. 3d Bn vic LA PALAISE repelled counterattack which started at 1730.

318th Inf: 1st Bn with one company of medium tanks of CCA 4th Arm Div continued its advance to the V from MOREY and seized ST GENEVIEVE at 1100. This Bn then turned N and attacked through FORET DE FAGG. Medium resistance was encountered. 2d Bn maintained road blocks and provided the Regt'l Res. 3d Bn remained in position holding MOUSSON HILL. Supply lines to this position were opened during the after noon by the advance of the 1st Bn 319th Inf.

319th Inf: 1st Bn advanced on and seized its objective NE of MOUSSON HILL at 2200 meeting moderate resistance and seizing ATTON enroue. This opened the supply route to 3d Bn 318th Inf. 2d Bn moved to the vicinity of LOISY in Division Reserve. 3d Bn moved to vicinity of BEZAUMONT.

17th

317th Inf: 1st Bn extended its position in the vicinity of LANDREMONT RIDGE. 2d Bn seized its objective at MOREY. 3d Bn attacked MILLERY but was held up at edge of town by enemy resistance.

318th Inf: 1st Bn reached its objective in vicinity of MORVILLE SUR SEILLE at 0700. 2d Bn maintained road blocks. 3d Bn moved to vicinity of BEZAUMONT.

319th Inf: 1st Bn occupied and outposted LESSEUILS. 2d Bn occupied and outposted PONT A MOUSSON. 3d Bn advanced from BEZAUMONT to vicinity PONT SUR SEILLE and MORVILLE but was forced by enemy action to set up defenses on E edge of FORET DE FAGG.

18th

317th Inf: 1st Bn moved to seize the high ground vic MT TONLON. Heavy enemy resistance was encountered and the 1st Bn was ordered to move S to AMTERVILLI. 2d Bn patrolled vigorously to the E and SE and improved its position. 3d Bn captured MILLERY and cleared out the BOIS DE CHAPITRE.

318th Inf: 1st Bn and 3d Bn were in Division Res. 2d Bn occupied road blocks.

319th Inf: 1st Bn and 3d Bn attacked at 1815 to seize and occupy line ST JURE, RAUCOURT, MOREY. Hostile resistance prevented the success of the mission. 2d Bn continued in position in the vicinity of PONT A MOUSSON.

19th

317th Inf: 2d and 3d Bns advanced abreast through BOIS DE LA RUSANT, but were held back by hostile small arms and mortar fire. 1st Bn moved to protect the right flank and rear of the Regt.

318th Inf: 1st Bn reconnoitered BOIS DE LE CLEMENT in force. 2d Bn occupied positions along ST GENEVIEVE RIDGE. 3d Bn was in Division Reserve.

319th Inf: 3d Bn extended its right flank to tie in with Regt'l Boundary on the right. 1st Bn anchored left flank on road junction 1000 yards E of LESEUILS.

2d Bn (-) in Regtl Res.

#### 20th

317th Inf: 2d and 3d Bns continued to advance through BOIS DE LA RUMONT against heavy hostile resistance. 1st Bn protected Regtl right flank and rear and engaged in mopping up hostile infiltrating groups in rear of advancing 2d and 3d Bns.

318th Inf: 1st Bn moved at 0700 to seize BOIS DE LA CLEMENT and successfully completed this mission. 2d Bn continued to hold ST GENEVIEVE - LA RUMONT RIDGE. 3d Bn moved to LA LON, placing "I" Co at LE MIN-A VERT.

319th Inf: at 1000 1st and 3d Bns advanced abreast to reconnoiter in force the line of the LA SEILLE R. Heavy hostile fire was encountered and both Bns returned to former positions. 2d Bn remained in Regtl Reg.

#### 21st

317th Inf: 2d and 3d Bns cleared hostile resistance in the S part of BOIS DE LA RUMONT. 1st Bn protected right flank and rear of the Regtl Zone.

318th Inf: 1st Bn attached 319th Inf, set up defenses of BOIS DE ST CLEMENT. 2d Bn upon being relieved by the 2d Bn 319th Inf at 0700 from positions on S T GENEVIEVE - LA RUMONT RIDGE, moved to BOIS DE LA RUMONT preparatory to a possible attack to be launched by the 317th Inf and 318th Inf to secure MT ST JEAN and the high ground N of LA YR. 3d Bn moved F at first light to clear BOIS DE LA RUMONT of scattered enemy elements, preparatory to the attack.

319th Inf: 2d Bn reverted to Div res and took positions generally in line ST GENEVIEVE and LA RUMONT. 319th Inf (-2d Bn) held former position eastern edge of FORET DE FAC.

#### 22nd

317th Inf: 1st Bn continued to mop up hostile forces in the SW of the BOIS DE LA RUMONT. 2d and 3d Bns continued attack through BOIS DE LA RUMONT against heavy hostile mortars and AF fire.

318th Inf: 1st Bn reverted to Div Res. 2d and 3d Bns continued to mop up resistance in vicinity BOIS DE LA RUMONT.

319th Inf: Continued to protect Division left flank and to occupy FORET DE FAC.

#### 23rd

317th Inf: 1st Bn continued to mop up hostile forces in rear of 2d and 3d Bns. 2d and 3d Bns continued attack to the E against heavy mortar and artillery fire.

318th Inf: 2d and 3d Bns attacked in conjunction with 317th Inf and seized objectives S of MT ST JEAN. 1st Bn remained in Division Reserve.

319th Inf: Consolidated and held its position protecting the N flank of the Division.

#### 24th

317th Inf: 1st Bn moved to position in vicinity of MOREY with the mission of protecting left flank of 318th Inf. 2d Bn consolidated its position N of MOIVRON and protected right flank of 318th Inf. 3d Bn consolidated its position on the high ground S of BRUTTE.

318th Inf: 7d Bn, supported by 3d Bn, attacked MT ST JEAN but was unable to seize it due to enemy resistance. 1st Bn was in Division Reserve.

319th Inf: Continued to hold positions, protecting Division left flank.

#### 25th

317th Inf: maintained positions and prepared for attack on 26 Sept 44.

318th Inf: 2d Bn followed by the 3d Bn continued attack on MT ST JEAN without success. 1st Bn remained in Division Reserve.

319th Inf further organized defensive positions on the N Flank of the Division.

#### 26th

317th Inf: 1st Bn attacked and seized HILL 340 at 1900. 2d Bn attacked from NW, captured VILLERS and continued attack to seize MOIVRON and JEAN-BELINCOURT in conjunction with elements of CCB 4th Armd Div. Heavy fighting resulted and Bn was unable to take objective. 3d Bn attacked MT ST JEAN encountering heavy organized resistance and was forced to consolidate a position S of the objective.

318th Inf: 2d Bn remained in position to protect left flank of 317th Inf. 1st Bn and 3d Bn in Division Reserve.

319th Inf continued to organize defensive positions.

#### CONSOLIDATION OF THE BRIDGEHEAD

#### 27th

317th Inf occupied and improved its defensive positions.

318th Inf: 1st Bn relieved elements of 2d Bn 319th Inf in the BOIS DE BUZARD, BOIS DE ST CLEMENT and BOIS DE RANCHE SEILLE. 2d and 3d Bns remained in Division Reserve in the area of LANDREMONT and VILLE AU VAL.

319th Inf continued to improve and organize defensive positions.

#### 28th

80th Division consolidated ground gained and organized defensive sector E of the MOSELLE RIVER.

317th Inf organized and defended the southern sector on the high ground S of MOREY, BELLEAU, BRATTE and VILLERS LES MOIVRONS.

318th Inf organized and prepared to occupy and defend the Res Battle positions (ST GENEVIEVE-LANDREMONT-PALAIN RIDGE).

319th Inf organized and defended the northern sector and prepared the Battle Position in the vicinity of PONT A MOULSON.

#### 29th

317th Inf continued to occupy and improve its defensive position.

318th Inf: 1st Bn occupied and organized its defensive sector. 2d and 3d Bns remained in Division Reserve.

319th Inf continued to occupy and improve its defensive position. Elements of the 1st Bn seized HORVILLE SUR MELLE 0740.

30th

317th Inf continued to strengthen its defensive position. 1st Bn was relieved by elements of 3d Bn 318th Inf and 2d Bn 317th Inf.

318th Inf further consolidated its position. 3d Bn relieved elements of 1st Bn 317th Inf.

319th Inf continued to improve its defensive position.

~~SECRET~~

DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1966 PRISONERS WERE CAPTURED AND 46 ENEMY TANKS WERE DESTROYED.