

SECTION IV

EXPANSION OF THE BRIDGEHEAD

On 16 September 1944, the 2d Bn 317th Infantry reverted to Division Reserve after being relieved by the 2d Bn 319th Infantry in the afternoon of that day. The 1st Bn maintained its position on LANDREMONT RIDGE, repelling one local counterattack at 1720. The 3d Bn in the vicinity of LA PALAISE was under heavy enemy artillery fire during the afternoon 16 September 1944. At 1730, the enemy attempted a counterattack, but was driven off.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry, with one company of medium tanks of CCA 4th Armored Division, continued its advance to the west from NOMENY at 0315, 16 September 1944. At 0900, this Battalion was attacking STE GENEVIEVE and was mopping-up in the town at 1100. "E" Company (Reinforced) 317th Infantry moved in to hold STE GENEVIEVE.

The 1st Bn then turned north, and attacked through the FORET DE FACQ. Medium resistance was encountered. At 2130, the Battalion was about one mile short of its objective, the vicinity of MORVILLE-SUR-SEILLE. Positions were consolidated for the night.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry maintained road blocks in the vicinity of VILLE-AU-VAL and provided Regimental Reserve.

The 3d Bn, on MOUSSON HILL, was under heavy enemy artillery fire at 0510 and at 0700 was repelling an enemy counterattack. The Battalion held its position on the hill and the supply route was re-opened to MOUSSON HILL by the advance of the 1st Bn 319th Infantry that day. Supply trains reached this Battalion at 1945, 16 September 1944. Ambulances, loaded with food, medical supplies, and water were rushed in to solve the critical shortage in supply.

The 1st Bn 319th Infantry, in position vicinity of LOISY, received an enemy counterattack from the vicinity of STE GENEVIEVE at 0550, 16 September 1944. By 0730, the counterattack was repulsed. Again at 0830, the enemy attacked the left flank of the Battalion from a northeasterly direction. However, the attack was repulsed, and strong patrols were sent out to engage the enemy. At 1415, this Battalion began the attack to seize ATTON and the ultimate objective of LESNENILS. ATTON was entered at 1725, and

cleaned out by 1750. Seizure of ATTOM opened supply route to 3d Bn on MOUSSON HILL. The objective was reached against moderate resistance at 2200.

The 2d Bn was patrolling the river line from BELLEVILLE to POMPEY. The 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was given the mission to relieve the 2d Bn on the morning of 16 September 1944, and to continue the outpost of the river with motor patrols and observation posts. The 2d Bn then moved to the vicinity of LOISY taking up the defense of the STE GENEVIEVE-LOISY sector and relieving the 2d Bn 317th Infantry. The Battalion then reverted to Regimental Reserve.

The 3d Bn 319th Infantry remained in Division Reserve south of BEZAUMONT with one company in position just west of LANDREMONT.

The 691st Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the 80th Division for reinforcement against enemy armored attacks, closed into the Division area on 16 September 1944.

On 17 September 1944, the 317th Infantry was to expand the Division bridgehead within its zone. The 1st Bn, on LANDREMONT RIDGE, attacked at 1430, 17 September 1944 to seize LANDREMONT and the high ground north and northeast of that town.

At 1605, this Battalion was fighting against stubborn enemy resistance on the knob of the hill north of LANDREMONT. Positions were dug in at 1830 just 600 yards from the crest of the hill.

Meanwhile, the 2d Bn, in Division Reserve in the vicinity of BEZAUMONT, began movement at 1305 to the southeast, with HILL 351 as its objective. The Battalion was east of VILLE-AU-VAL at 1450 and by 1722 was moving up HILL 351, encountering medium resistance. The top was reached 1815. Defensive positions were immediately prepared and heavy enemy artillery fire was received at 1830.

The 3d Bn 317th Infantry, in the vicinity of LA PALAISE, was to move south on MILLERY, 17 September 1944. Movement towards the town began at 1440 against stubborn enemy resistance. Heavy enemy mortar and small arms fire stopped the Battalion on the north edge of MILLERY.

The 1st Bn 318th resumed its attack on MORVILLE-SUR-SEILLE at 0530 from a position about one mile west of the

town. Elements of the Battalion fought their way into MORVILLE-SUR-SEILLE by 0700 and at 0725, the town was in our hands. Heavy enemy artillery fire fell on the Battalion at 1012. By 1610, elements of the 3d Bn 319th Infantry had relieved the 1st Bn 318th Infantry from its position in the vicinity of MORVILLE. The 1st Bn then began movement to the vicinity of LOISY, closing into that area at 0400, 18 September 1944.

The 318th Infantry reverted to Division Reserve and concentrated in the vicinity of LOISY. The 2d Bn maintained road blocks. Enemy forces, estimated at two squads, attempted to infiltrate past the road block at VILLE-AU-VAL but were engaged in a skirmish and retreated. The 3d Bn moved from MOUSSON HILL 17 September 1944 to the vicinity of LOISY.

The 319th Infantry took up the defense of the northern sector of the bridgehead on 17 September 1944. The 1st Bn, in its advance northward through FORET DE FACQ, had captured in addition to many enemy prisoners, four 75mm howitzers, one 57 mm anti-tank gun, and thirteen heavy machine guns. LESMENILS was occupied and outposted with one company of the 1st Bn while the balance of the battalion took up defensive positions northeast of MOUSSON in the FORET DE FACQ.

During this operation, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion, reinforced by the 315th Field Artillery Battalion and the 176th Field Artillery Battalion, was in direct support of the 1st Bn 318th Infantry and the 1st Bn 319th Infantry.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry moved from the vicinity of LOISY to PONT-A-MOUSSON occupying and outposting the town as well as MOUSSON HILL.

The 3d Bn moved from the vicinity of BEZAUMONT to relieve the 1st Bn 318th Infantry in the vicinity of MORVILLE-SUR-SEILLE. Due to enemy action from the high ground northeast of MORVILLE-SUR-SEILLE, the Battalion occupied the eastern edge of FORET DE FACQ west of MORVILLE-SUR-SEILLE. A reinforced platoon was sent to patrol the vicinity of PORT-SUR-SEILLE.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry, in position north of LAND-REMONT, sent patrols to the knob of the hill at 0840. It was found that the enemy had withdrawn to the northeast. Upon discovering this, the Battalion was ordered to move

on MT TOULON and SERRIERES at 1030. The 3d Bn was to clear the BOIS DE CHAPITRE and the town of MILLERY. The 2d Bn was to remain in its position on HILL 351.

By 1410, the 1st Bn had advanced to the ground northeast of LANDREMONT and then turned woutheast towards SERRIERES and HILL 340. Heavy enemy fire was received by this Battalion a little later from HILL 340 on the Battalion's right and the BOIS DE MANCHE-SEILLE on the Battalion's left. At 1830, when darkness fell and the objective had not been reached, the Battalion was ordered back to the vicinity of LANDREMONT, and then directed to move southwest to AUTREVILLE-SUR-MOSELLE.

The 2d Bn sent two combat patrols to the woods southeast of its position on HILL 351.

The 3d Bn, in position on the north edge of MILLERY, moved southeast towards the BOIS DU CHAPITRE leaving "K" Company (Reinforced) to seize MILLERY. By 1410, the Battalion had advanced to the western edge of BOIS DU CHAPITRE and "K" Company was well into MILLERY. The high ground in BOIS DU CHAPITRE was taken by the 3d Bn at 1730. Patrols were sent to the east.

The 1st and 3d Bns 318th Infantry were in Division Reserve in the vicinity of LOISY on 18 September 1944. The 1st Bn patrolled to the BOIS DU BAUZARD and the BOIS DE ST CLEMENT. Moderate resistance was encountered in the latter area.

The 2d Bn occupied STE GENEVIEVE RIDGE and LANDREMONT RIDGE. Road blocks were maintained within the Division bridgehead.

The 319th Infantry advanced to the east and protected the Division left flank on 18 September 1944.

The 1st and 3d Bns were ordered at 1215, 18 September 1944 to advance east to the line NOMEY-RAUCOURT-ST JURE. The 1st Bn advanced east of the SEILLE RIVER and north of MORVILLE-SUR-SEILLE as far as CREMINOT, but late in the evening of 18 September 1944 withdrew to the west to secure more commanding ground.

The 3d Bn received a counterattack in the area just east of FORET DE PACQ. The counterattack was successfully repulsed. Plans to advance to the east that day were dis-

carded but patrols were sent to determine enemy positions.

The 2d Bn protected the Regimental left flank and rear. One company was placed on MOUSSON HILL and a platoon occupied HILL 365, west of LESMENILS. The remainder of the Battalion occupied the vicinity of ATTON.

On 19 September 1944, the 2d and 3d Battalions 317th Infantry launched a coordinated attack on HILL 412 in the BOIS DE LA RUMONT. The 2d Bn, on the left, moved southeast from HILL 351, through the BOIS DU BUZION south of MOREY and thence through BOIS DE LA RUMONT. The 3d Bn moved from the high ground in BOIS DE CHAFITRE on the right of the 2d Bn. This coordinated attack was met by fanatical enemy resistance and the objective, HILL 412, was not reached that day.

The 1st Bn moved from the vicinity of LANDREMONT to the vicinity of AUTREVILLE-SUR-MOSELLE, maintaining the road block at MILLERY and sending patrols to the south of MILLERY.

The 318th Infantry, on 19 September 1944, continued to occupy and defend the center sector of the Division bridgehead east of the MOSELLE RIVER. "B" Company of the 1st Bn made a reconnaissance of the BOIS DE BAUZARD and BOIS DE ST CLEMENT moving past STE GENEVIEVE at 0530, 19 September 1944. By 0925, "B" Company, meeting no enemy resistance, was through the BOIS DE ST CLEMENT, however considerable enemy fire was drawn. One enemy tank was destroyed with bazooka fire. The remainder of the 1st Bn occupied STE GENEVIEVE and LOISY. The 2d Bn occupied positions along the STE GENEVIEVE-LANDREMONT RIDGE and maintained road blocks at VILLE-AU-VAL and AUTREVILLE-SUR-MOSELLE. The 3d Bn, in Division Reserve, occupied the vicinity of BEZAUMONT.

The 319th Infantry continued to protect the Division left flank. The 1st Bn anchored its left flank north of the road junction, 1000 yards southeast of LESMENILS, with the right flank of the Battalion extending along the eastern edge of FORET DE PACQ southward to the vicinity west of PORT-SUR-SEILLE. The 3d Bn, on the 1st Bn's right flank, defended the eastern edge of FORET DE PACQ down to the southern edge of that forest. The 2d Bn (minus "G" Company) remained in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of ATTON.

At 0650, 20 September 1944, the 317th Infantry continued its advance through the BOIS DE LA RUMONT towards its objective, HILL 412.

At 1007, the 2d Bn encountered heavy enemy machine gun and mortar fire in its zone of advance, while the 3d Bn was engaged in a fire fight with the enemy. The advance was slowed, but the objective, HILL 412, was taken by the end of the day.

The 1st Bn (minus "B" Company) moved southeast from the vicinity of MILLERY through the BOIS DU CHAPITRE at 0800, 20 September 1944, to mop up hostile infiltrating groups of enemy in the rear of the advancing 2d and 3d Bns.

"B" Company attacked to the south from MILLERY on 20 September 1944, with HILL 299 as its objective. Stiff enemy opposition was met but the objective was taken by 1800, 20 September 1944.

At 0700, 20 September 1944, the 1st Bn 318th Infantry moved from the vicinity of STE GENEVIEVE to occupy BOIS DE BAUZARD and BOIS DE ST CLEMENT. "A" Company advanced to the southwestern edge of BOIS DE BAUZARD by 0816, while "B" and "C" Companies were moving to the southeast from STE GENEVIEVE toward BOIS DE ST CLEMENT. "C" Company neared the western edge of BOIS DE ST CLEMENT at 0920, and was moving around to the south edge of the woods in order to sweep through from the south to the northeast. By 1025, "C" Company, with "B" Company following, had entered BOIS DE ST CLEMENT. Meanwhile, "A" Company had advanced into BOIS DE BAUZARD, not meeting any enemy resistance. A platoon was sent to the east into the area between BOIS DE BAUZARD and BOIS DE ST CLEMENT. By 1435 the Company had combed BOIS DE BAUZARD and occupied defensive positions in these woods. "C" Company was half-way through BOIS DE ST CLEMENT at 1325, and by darkness had swept through the entire woods. Very little enemy resistance was encountered in this operation.

The 2d Bn, on STE GENEVIEVE RIDGE and LANDREMONT RIDGE, continued to occupy defensive positions with "E" Company replacing "A" Company on STE GENEVIEVE. One platoon from "E" Company was sent to the vicinity of HILL 340 and SERRIERES to determine enemy disposition.

The 3d Bn, in Division Reserve north of BEZAUMONT, moved south to LA FALAISE, closing in at 2230. "I" Company was sent to occupy HILL 351, replacing elements of the 1st Bn 317th Infantry which had moved southeast through the BOIS DU CHAPITRE.

The 319th Infantry, on the Division left flank, moved

to the east with the mission of advancing to the LA SEILLE RIVER and sending patrols east of the river to CHEMINOT and EPLY. The 1st and 3d Bns advanced abreast out of FORET DE PACQ at 1000, 20 September 1944, the 1st Bn on the left, the 3d Bn on the right. The 1st Bn reached the LA SEILLE RIVER where it was stopped by heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. The 3d Bn advanced 1300 yards from the southeastern edge of FORET DE PACQ where it was halted by heavy enemy machine gun and mortar fire. Leading elements of the 3d Bn reached a position just west of BENICOURT.

On order from Division Headquarters, both Battalions withdrew to positions occupied before the attack had driven eastward that morning. Positions were consolidated for the night and reconnaissance patrols were sent to the west bank of the LA SEILLE RIVER.

The enemy, utilizing in part World War I positions, had strong defenses. Utmost use of natural obstacles, including the LA SEILLE RIVER, was made by the enemy.

The 2d Bn 319th Infantry, occupying the vicinity of ATTON and outposting MOUSSON, PONT-A-MOUSSON, and LESMENILS, remained in Regimental Reserve.

On 21 September 1944 the 317th Infantry continued to clear the BOIS DE LA RUMONT of scattered enemy groups. Patrols were sent to the east edge of the woods. The 1st Bn, in Regimental Reserve, was engaged in the BOIS DU CHAPITRE against groups of enemy attempting to cut off the supply lines to the 2d and 3d Bns. Constant infiltration by the enemy slowed down the advance of these two Battalions through the forest to their ultimate objective, the high ground west of MOIVRON and VILLERS-LES-MOIVRON. "B" Company still held HILL 299, south of MILLERY.

On 21 September 1944, the 1st Bn 318th Infantry, attached to the 319th Infantry, set up defenses of BOIS DE ST CLEMENT and BOIS DE MANCHE-SEILLE.

The 2d Bn 318th Infantry, occupying a defensive position on STE GENEVIEVE RIDGE and LANDREMONT RIDGE, was relieved by the 2d Bn 319th Infantry at 0700, 21 September 1944. The Battalion then assembled in the vicinity of BEZAUMONT, preparatory to moving south to BOIS DE LA RUMONT. Moving shortly after 0700, the leading elements of the Battalion were just north of AUTREVILLE-SUR-MOSELLE at 0915, on the high ground east of MILLERY at 1145, and then into

the BOIS DE LA RUMONT at 1320. The Battalion continued movement through the BOIS DE LA RUMONT that afternoon and reached the high ground on the eastern edge of the woods at 1725.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, leaving "I" Company on HILL 351, moved at the first light of dawn on 21 September 1944 from LA PALAISE southeast to BOIS DE LA RUMONT. By 1200 the Battalion was in the BOIS DU BUZION and BOIS DU CHAPITRE, south of MOREY and moving through BOIS DE AL RUMONT at 1320. Heavy enemy artillery fire slowed up the advance, but by 1725 the Battalion occupied the high ground on the eastern edge of the woods. Contact with the 3d Bn 317th Infantry on the right was made at 1735, 21 September 1944.

This movement of the 318th Infantry was preparatory to a coordinated attack to be launched by the 317th and 318th Regiments to secure MT ST JEAN and the high ground southwest of VILLERS-LES-MOIVRON.

The 319th Infantry, with the 2d Bn in Division Reserve, continued to protect the Division left flank.

The 1st Bn relieved elements of the 2d Bn in the vicinity of MOUSSON and LESMENILS and reconnoitered in force to the east on a line LESMENILS - EPLY. The 3d Bn consolidated defensive positions in FORST DE FACQ and reconnoitered in force to the line EPLY - CLEMERY.

The 2d Bn moved from the vicinity of ATTON to the vicinity of LOISY and at 0700, 21 September 1944, relieved the 2d Bn 318th Infantry on STE GENEVIEVE RIDGE and LANDREMONT RIDGE.

Mopping-up operations in the southwestern sector of BOIS DU CHAPITRE were continued by the 1st Bn 317th Infantry on 22 September 1944. "B" Company sent a reconnaissance patrol to CUSTINES and upon finding the town vacated by the enemy, established a road block in that vicinity. The enemy, being pinched out by the advance of the 35th Infantry Division from the south towards the 80th Division bridgehead, had withdrawn his forces from CUSTINES eastward toward LEYR.

Active patrolling by the 2d and 3d Bns in BOIS DE LA RUMONT preceded an attack to the east in column, with the 2d Bn leading at 1700, 22 September 1944. At 2035, heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire slowed the advance of the 2d Bn about 500 yards east of the BOIS DE LA RUMONT. Posi-

tions were consolidated for the night, and the attack was to be resumed the next morning.

At 2015, 22 September 1944, elements of the 2d Bn 319th Infantry relieved the 1st Bn 318th Infantry in the BOIS DE ST CLEMENT. The 1st Bn 318th Infantry then reverted to Division Reserve and moved west to concentrate in the vicinity of LOISY. Elements of "I" and "E" Companies launched a coordinated attack on MOREY at 1230, 22 September 1944. "I" Company, moving from its position on HILL 351, attacked MOREY from the west. "E" Company attacked from its position south of the town. MOREY was seized at 1427, 22 September 1944. "I" Company continued to hold MOREY while "E" Company rejoined the 2d Bn in BOIS DE LA RUMONT on the afternoon of 22 September 1944.

In conjunction with the 317th Infantry, the 2d and 3d Bns 318th Infantry launched an attack to the east of BOIS DE LA RUMONT at 1700, 22 September 1944. Stubborn enemy resistance was encountered and at 1850, the Battalions were held up by intense small arms and automatic weapons fire along the eastern edge of BOIS DE LA RUMONT. The 3d Bn deployed its forces along the edge of the woods with the 2d Bn to the rear. Patrols were sent to the villages of BELLEAU and SIVRY to determine enemy strength to the north.

The 319th Infantry continued to protect the Division left flank and occupy FORET DE FACQ. Mines were laid in front of anti-tank gun positions. The road leading east to PORT-SUR-SEILLE from FORET DE FACQ was also mined. "C" Company 305th Engineer Combat Battalion supported the 319th Infantry in this operation. Elements of the 2d Bn 319th Infantry relieved 1st Bn 318th Infantry in BOIS DE ST CLEMENT at 2015, 22 September 1944.

Moving forward against heavy mortar and artillery fire on the morning of 23 September 1944, the 2d and 3d Bns 317th Infantry advanced eastward. Heavy enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire from HILL 401, south of BRATTE, temporarily halted the advance. However, pushing forward against this enemy fire, the 3d Bn took HILL 401 and continued eastward towards HILL 418. At 1155, the 3d Bn was forced to dig in on HILL 401. The 2d Bn moved to the left of the 3d Bn and occupied BOIS DE LA TREMBLOUSE, south of BRATTE, at 1306. These positions were consolidated for defense.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry continued to mop-up scattered enemy groups in the BOIS DE CHAFITRE and BOIS DE LA RUMONT.

A road block south of MILLERY was also maintained by this Battalion.

The 318th Infantry in conjunction with the 317th Infantry, attacked in the morning of 23 September 1944. The 3d Bn 318th Infantry moved out of the eastern point of BOIS DE LA RUMONT towards BRATTE and MT ST JEAN. The 2d Bn followed the 3d Bn in this advance. They continued to advance against moderate enemy opposition.

At 1055, the 3d Bn had advanced to the eastern edge of BRATTE, while the 2d Bn moved to the western side of the town. Small groups of enemy were cleared from BRATTE and by 1215, both Battalions were northeast of the town and moving towards their objectives. By 1615, the 2d Bn was on its objective, the high ground south of MT ST JEAN (HILL 401). The 3d Bn occupied its objective, the woods LA HAIE, on the high ground west of MOIVRON.

"I" Company 318th Infantry, with elements on HILL 351 and in MOREY, was ordered to seize BELLEAU and HILL 340. One platoon of riflemen and one platoon of automatic weapons attacked HILL 340 at 1855 and by 1945, the hill was taken. A platoon occupied the hill and two squads occupied BELLEAU.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry remained in Division Reserve in the vicinity of LOISY. One platoon of "A" Company relieved the platoon of "F" Company 319th Infantry at LA PALAISE by 1200, 23 September 1944.

The 319th Infantry, protecting the north flank of the Division on 23 September 1944, consolidated and held its position. The 1st Bn outposted LESMENILS and occupied defensive positions along the eastern edge of FORET DE FACQ to a point west of PORT-SUR-SEILLE. The 3d Bn occupied the center sector of the Regimental Zone along the eastern edge of FORET DE FACQ from the right flank of the 1st Bn to a point just west of BENICOURT and north of the BOIS DE ST CLEMENT. "F" Company (minus one platoon) occupied BOIS DE ST CLEMENT on the right of the Regimental sector. "C" Company 305th Engineer Battalion laid mines and booby traps in the woods occupied by the 2d Bn.

The 317th Infantry continued on 24 September 1944 to organize the ground gained the previous day and carried out active patrolling to its front and flanks.

The 3d Bn, in position on HILL 401, south of BRATTE,

was ordered on 24 September 1944 to occupy the LA HAIE RIDGE northeast of BRATTE, between HILLS 357 and 360. The purpose of this move was to protect the right flank and rear of the 318th Infantry to its north. LA HAIE RIDGE had been occupied by the 3d Bn 318th Infantry the day before. Leading elements of the 3d Bn were on LA HAIE RIDGE by 1200, 24 September 1944. Patrols were sent eastward to MOIVRON where contact was made with the enemy.

The 2d Bn (minus "G" Company), meeting little enemy resistance, moved from BOIS DE LA TREMBLOUSE eastward to occupy HILL 418, the high ground southwest of VILLERS-LES-MOIVRON. Contact was made with the 3d Bn 134th Infantry (35th Infantry Division) to the south. "G" Company moved at 1600, 24 September 1944 to the vicinity of BRATTE with the mission of blocking hostile movement to the south from SIVRY, which was still held by the enemy.

The 1st Bn, having completed mopping-up operations in BOIS DE CHAPITRE and BOIS DE LA RUMONT, move on the morning of the 24th to occupy the old positions of the 3d Bn north of BRATTE. However at 1700, the 1st Bn was ordered to move to the vicinity of MOREY to protect the left flank of the 318th Infantry. At 1840, the 1st Bn was moving along the northern edge of BOIS DU BUZION, south of MOREY and by 2030 had closed into the vicinity of MOREY, taking up a defensive position there. Elements of "I" Company 318th Infantry were relieved on HILL 340.

At 0715, 24 September 1944, the 2d Bn 318th Infantry attacked from its position (HILL 401) to secure MT ST JEAN. The attack progressed to a point about midway between HILLS 401 and 396 (the objective) against heavy enemy resistance, but was then halted by hostile fire.

Launching a counterattack at 1020, 24 September 1944, the Germans cut off "F" and "G" Companies in the saddle of MT ST JEAN, leaving "E" Company on the northern edge of LA HAIE RIDGE.

The 3d Bn (minus "I" Company) moved from its position on LA HAIE RIDGE at 1050 to occupy this gap between "E" and "F" Companies which was held by the enemy. Hostile troops were cleared from this area and at 1910, "F" and "G" Companies withdrew from the saddle of MT ST JEAN to former positions on HILL 407. The 3d Bn then moved to HILL 357, south of the 2d Bn. These positions were maintained for the night.

The 1st Bn remained in Division Reserve in the vicinity of LOISY.

"I" Company 318th Infantry was relieved by elements of the 1st Bn 317th Infantry from its mission of holding MOREY and HILL 340. This company then reverted to Battalion control.

The 319th Infantry continued to organize its defense sector. Front lines along the Eastern edge of FORET DE FACQ were booby-trapped by "C" Company 305th Engineer Battalion. "I" Company relieved "K" Company from its position on the southeastern edge of FORET DE FACQ.

On 25 September 1944, the 317th Infantry maintained its positions occupied the day before. The 3d Bn remained in position on LA HAIE RIDGE, protecting the right flank and rear of the 318th Infantry.

The 2d Bn, on HILL 418, in conjunction with Combat Command "B" 6th Armored Division (which occupied the vicinity of ARMAUCOURT, east of VILLERS-LES-MOIVRON), made preparations to seize VILLERS-LES-MOIVRON on 26 September 1944.

The 1st Bn maintained its positions in the vicinity of MOREY and HILL 340, protecting the left flank of the 318th Infantry.

At 0800, 25 September 1944, the 2d Bn 318th Infantry launched another attack on MT ST JEAN. "E" (Reinforced by "K" Company) and "F" Companies led the assault. "G" Company was held in Battalion Reserve. The remainder of the 3d Bn followed the 2d Bn in column. Heavy enemy resistance was met and at 1175 the attack was halted. Intense enemy artillery barrages inflicted many casualties and both Battalions withdrew to their former positions.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry remained in Division Reserve in the vicinity of LOISY on 25 September 1944.

Elements of the 553d Division (German) occupying well dug-in positions had the high ground on MT TOULON and MT ST JEAN. For the most part, enemy combat teams, although part of a larger organization, operated as independent units. The replacement system used to reform these combat teams reflected the disorder into which the enemy organizations had been thrown. Prisoners were identified from many varied types of organizations. Units in contact were; elements

of the 3d Panzer Grenadier Division, 1119th and 1121st Panzer Grenadier Regiments (553d Division), 1553d AG Bn, 104th Regiment of the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division, 552d Regiment of the 462d Infantry Division, 49th SS Panzer Grenadier Brigade and the 132d Infantry Division.

The 319th Infantry continued to occupy defensive positions on the north flank of the Division Zone. Contact was made with the 5th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop in the vicinity of LESMEUILS.

The 808th Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the 80th Division, began relief of the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion on 0900, 25 September 1944. Relief was completed on the 26th.

In conjunction with Combat Command "B" 6th Armored Division, an attack on VILLERS-LES-MOIVRON and MOIVRON was launched by the 2d Bn 317th Infantry on the morning of 26 September 1944. Leading elements of this Battalion were moving along the railroad tracks north of LEYR at 0645. VILLERS-LES-MOIVRON was captured from the southeast, and the attack was continued towards MOIVRON.

At 1100, the Battalion met heavy opposition near the railroad tracks southeast of MOIVRON. The enemy laid down a terrific fire from heavy machine guns, mortar, and artillery. Fighting continued throughout the early part of that afternoon, but at 1405, the Battalion withdrew. Despite this withdrawal, artillery fire continued to harass our troops and by that evening, the 2d Bn withdrew to its former position, HILL 418, southwest of VILLERS-LES-MOIVRON.

During the night of 25-26 September 1944, the 3d Bn 317th Infantry relieved the 2d Bn 318th Infantry from its position on HILL 407. The 2d Bn then moved to BOIS DE LA TREMBLOUSE, south of BRATTE.

Attacking MT ST JEAN at 1000, 26 September 1944, the 3d Bn 317th Infantry encountered heavy hostile resistance. In the face of continued organized enemy resistance, the Battalion withdrew in the late afternoon 26 September 1944 to LA HAIE RIDGE, west of MOIVRON.

The 1st Bn 317th Infantry, in position on HILL 340, continued to defend that area from the highway northwest of HILL 340 to the village of BELLEAU.

Relieved from its position on HILL 407, on the night of 25-26 September 1944, the 2d Bn 318th Infantry took up a position in BOIS DE LA TREMBLOUSE, south of BRATTE, thus protecting the rear of the 3d Bn 317th Infantry against attack from MOIVRON and SIVRY.

The 3d Bn 318th Infantry, occupying LA HAIE RIDGE in the early morning of 26 September 1944, was ordered to move into Division Reserve in the vicinity of VILLE-AU-VAL. This movement was completed at 1830, 26 September 1944.

The 1st Bn 318th Infantry remained in Division Reserve in the vicinity of LOISY on 26 September 1944.

The 319th Infantry, protecting the north flank of the Division from LESMENILS southward to include BOIS DE ST CLEMENT, continued to organize and improve defensive positions.